

Thayer's

Wild Bunch II

By J E Ted Thayer

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

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Thayer's Wild Bunch II

INDEX

Flyleaf	2
Index	3
Photo Credits	5
Preface	6
Jan 01, 2015 Epitaph for Hope & Change	7
Jan 08, 2015 An Old Man's Epiphany	14
Jan 15, 2015 There's Something About Writing	17
Jan 22, 2015 What If ...	18
Jan 29, 2015 Where is the News?	21
Feb 05, 2015 How to Make a Board	24
Feb 12, 2015 End-times Not Women's Work!	28
Feb 19, 2015 Too Many Laws	30
Feb 26, 2015 Retribution	33
Mar 05, 2015 Words and Phrases	35
Mar 12, 2015 A Box of Chocolates	37
Mar 19, 2015 The Problem ...	39
Mar 26, 2015 About Vaccinations	43
Apr 02, 2015 Hail Mary Softball	54
Apr 09, 2015 Christian Brain Food	58
Apr 09, 2015 House of Cards	60
Apr 16, 2015 Dumb	63
Apr 23, 2012 The Ga'an Can Help	65
Apr 30, 2015 We're in Deep Kimchi!	69
May 07, 2015 From Around the Ether ...	73
May 14, 2015 From ...	81
May 21, 2015 Try This ...	88
May 28, 2015 Where Next?	94
Jun 04, 2015 Is College Still Worth the Cost?	97
Jun 11, 2015 My Stars!	101
Jun 18, 2015 \$15 per Hour!	105
Jun 25, 2015 Trump This!	113
July 02, 2015 Hell in a Handbasket	127
July 09, 2015 Summer Rain	133
July 16, 2015 Sensational	137

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

INDEX (Con't.)

July 23, 2015 Trump Card	142
July 30, 2015 Silent Majority	147
Aug 06, 2015 Steenking Debates?	151
Aug 13, 2015 BOHICA!	153
Aug 20, 2015 Ooftah!	158
Aug 21, 2015 EXTRA:	162
Aug 27, 2015 Ruining the Party?	165
Sep 03, 2015 Anchor Babies a Problem?	167
Sep 10, 2015 Tasty!	170
Sep 17, 2015 The Fonz	174
Sep 24, 2015 Magnetism	175
Oct 01, 2015 Only Thirteen	177
Oct 08, 2015 VW Power	179
Oct 15, 2015 Smarter Than a 3rd Grader	182
Oct 22, 2015 Formidable CO2	186
Oct 29, 2015 Recess!	189
Nov 05, 2015 A Cool Speedometer	195
Nov 12, 2015 Iwo Jima Memorial	197
Nov 19, 2015 Time for Action!	202
Nov 26, 2015 H.D. Crash	207
Dec 03, 2015 Get Trump	210
Dec 10, 2015 Is That All There Is?	213
Dec 10, 2015 NYP – Hillary Lied!	215
Dec 17, 2015 Are You Paying Attention?	217
Dec 24, 2015 A Visit from St. Nicholas	223
Dec 31, 2015 Happy New Year!	225

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

PHOTO/GRAPHIC CREDITS

Page	Source	Year
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Preface	http://www.tedthayer.com	2014
39	Fox News - Gallup March 5-8, 2015	2015
40	Washington Post 3-14-15	2015
54-55	Kris Mukai – New York Times 8-6-14	2014
58	Charisma News 4-3-15	2015
78	Grissino-Mayer	1996
79	NOAA	2015
83	ADOT 5-5-15	2015
93	Business Insider/Haley Petersen 5-18-15	2015
94	Business Insider/Haley Petersen 5-18-15	2015
107	Facebook – Storm is Coming	2015
174	Happy Days – ftw.usatoday.com	2015
174	Happy Days ca. 1978	1978
215	New York Post	2015
220	Lt Col Ralph Peters – Facebook	2015
221	Lisu – Townhall.com	2015

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Thayer's Wild Bunch II

PREFACE

January 1, 2015

<http://www.tedthayer.com/default.html>

TedThayer.com



J E Ted Thayer | 01-08-2015

THIS WORK ...

is a compilation of The Wild Bunch commentaries published via email broadcast pretty much every Thursday as well as occasionally on the TedThayer.com website in 2015.

As I stated in Wild Bunch I, I love to write, so I save most of my stuff. This became an easy way to write some history and keep it safe. To me, it's interesting to see how facts and opinions change over time.

Each chapter is one week's offering without the above banner.

Enjoy.

January 1, 2015

EPITAPH FOR HOPE & CHANGE

National Review Online

Victor Davis Hansen | December 16, 2014

A perfect storm brought into power Barack Obama, a previously little-known Illinois community organizer. He had at best a mediocre record as a state legislator and rookie senator. Yet he quickly dazzled the liberal establishment. Joe Biden and Harry Reid were wowed by his sounding and behaving like a white liberal, while retaining the ability to turn on his supposedly authentic black persona when needed. That he had no record of achievement was seen as an advantageous clean slate. Teleprompted glibness was preferred to ad hoc repartee, as if an entire presidency could be scripted and Photoshopped with backdrops of Greek columns and Latin mottos.

In general, since World War II the American electorate has not voted into the presidency Northern liberals like Obama — or any Democrat (except JFK) without a Southern accent. A drawl apparently offered voters in the past some superficial reassurance of centrism. In the last five decades, Northern progressive candidates — Hubert Humphrey, George McGovern, Walter Mondale, Michael Dukakis — all failed, whereas Southerners like Lyndon Johnson, Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, and Al Gore all won the popular vote.

But the events of 2008 were exceptional, and were hyped as 1932 all over again: as evidence of the failure of market capitalism and the need for a neo-socialist correction. The McCain–Palin lead late in the campaign collapsed after the September financial meltdown, as Wall Street excess was, fairly or not, tied to the supposedly rich, uncaring Republican establishment. John McCain, we were told, did not even know how many houses he owned. The successful surge in Iraq was

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

still dubbed by the media a failure and did not assuage American anger at the costly war. After Iraq, Katrina, and the failed reform of Social Security, incumbent president George W. Bush had grown abjectly unpopular.

McCain, in the manner that Adlai Stevenson had distanced himself from an unpopular Harry Truman, ran as much against Bush as he did against Obama. In 2008, there was no incumbent president or vice president on the ticket; it was the first orphaned and wide-open election since 1952. Obama ran on his iconic status as the would-be first black president. For the most part, he hid his spread-the-wealth agenda. A plumber did better than establishment journalists at prying out a smidgen of Obama's worldview. The media helped reduce Obama's Chicago friends such as Bill Ayers, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, and Tony Rezko to complete strangers. To evoke them was tantamount to racism.

The result was a full-fledged liberal presidential agenda of a sort not seen since the New Deal. Harry Truman and John F. Kennedy were more centrists and realists than progressive true believers. In other words, since the 1940s voters have not trusted the left wing of the Democratic party to run the country. And for good reason. Barack Obama's signature achievements — rammed through a Democratic Congress or enacted by questionable executive orders — now lie in ruins.

A therapeutic foreign policy, adorned by apologies for and contextualization of past American conduct, has turned the Middle East into Somalia and empowered Vladimir Putin, the Chinese apparatus, and soon-to-be nuclear Iran. The defense budget will reach record lows, as money still shifts from military deterrence to more social programs and entitlements.

Old allies either are ignored or put under suspicion, while new ones such as Turkey seem to resent the U.S. more deeply the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

more that they are courted. After Obama, the American idea of a red line, step-over line, or deadline will be comic. The war against terror has been reduced to a war against unnamed individuals who sometimes commit workplace violence or cause manmade disasters. In Obama Farm, waterboarding three confessed terrorists at Guantanamo Bay is a crime against humanity; blowing up 3,000 suspected terrorists and anyone nearby through Predator drone assassinations is the stuff of presidential joking at Washington banquets.

At home, a natural recovery after a deep recession was aborted by massive government borrowing that was wasted on abetting crony capitalists and shoring up collapsing union and pension funds. Before he is through, Obama may well have borrowed more than all previous presidents combined. In the surreal context of the present, slashing defense and raising taxes to reduce trillion-dollar-deficits to half-trillion-dollar deficits — still higher than any other before Obama — are dubbed fiscal progress.

Never has a modern president been so pampered by the press, and never has the press been so disrespected for its obsequiousness. After Obama, what will the press do? Will it investigate some future Republican abuse of executive orders, deplore serial crippling deficits, complain of a government hostile to the media, expose scandals in the IRS or VA, lament the decline of U.S. prestige abroad, tally up “illegal” Predator assassinations, chronicle bombing without congressional approval, talk of a McCarthy-like administration tapping reporters’ communications and computers, whine about an anemic “jobless” recovery, chart how a president deliberately misled the country about health care, amnesty, or dangers in the Middle East? Will it demand that the next presidential candidate release his college transcripts and medical records or details about his associates?

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Near-zero interest rates have shifted hundreds of billions of dollars in lost passbook-interest income from the middle class to Wall Street and the big banks. The Affordable Care Act gets worse each month. Its embarrassed architects must lie about their own authorship of the law. Its congressional supporters, at least those still in office, rue their votes. Everything that was once branded a lie about Obamacare — you'll lose your doctor and your health plan, you'll pay more, doctors will opt out — has proved all too true.

Illegal blanket amnesties have nullified federal immigration laws, which for now apply only to those who do not speak Spanish, are not from south of the border, and wish to enter the U.S. legally. Cabinet secretaries such as Eric Holder, Kathleen Sebelius, Hilda Solis, Lisa Jackson, and Timothy Geithner will be remembered at best as monumental failures; lesser appointees and consultants — Anita Dunn, Jonathan Gruber, Van Jones — are the stuff of late-night comedy.

To the extent that Obama enjoys some successes, they largely came despite, not because of, his efforts. Enacting cap-and-trade and canceling the Keystone Pipeline did not come to pass, nor did the attempts to realize Steven Chu's dream of European-level gas prices or Obama's own hope for skyrocketing electric rates; banning new fracking and horizontal drilling on federal lands did not stop private entrepreneurs. The completely unforeseen bonanza of new gas and oil production on private lands has lowered energy prices and for a while mitigated the effects of Obama's economic plan. How ironic that what he tried to stop is countering what he succeeded in implementing.

The promised most transparent presidency in history turned out to be the most hostile to journalists and the most corrupt since Richard Nixon's. Old standby bureaucracies — the IRS, the GSA, the VA, the CIA, the NSA, and the Secret Service — are

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

mired in scandal or suffering from public mistrust. The suspense is not over whether such scandals will tarnish Obama's legacy, but only over how long after he leaves office will it take before the full picture of his ends-justifying-the-means way of governance becomes known. There is something like a Bill Cosby aura around this administration — a feeling that when the media and the liberal establishment are no longer invested in the day-to-day operations of the Obama administration, only then we will learn things that we would rather not. When Al Sharpton no longer visits the White House, will he be sent to jail for tax fraud?

Obama won election to the presidency twice by skillfully slicing up the electorate into aggrieved groups, all supposedly warred on by rich, white, heterosexual men. But after the constructed wars against minorities, women, the environment, and gays, we are left mostly only with psychodrama. The war on women sputtered out with the buffoonery of failed candidates like Wendy Davis in Texas and Senator Mark Udall of Colorado, a.k.a. Senator Uterus. In the age of the Duke lacrosse scandal, if there were not fantasy rape allegations at the University of Virginia or in Lena Dunham's mythographic memoir, then they would have to be invented, given the McCarthyesque climate created on our campuses.

Race relations have not been worse in over a half-century. For some reason, liberal polemical arsonists never quite figured out that each time they stooped to heated racist rhetoric about a new coalition of noble minority voters sweeping away a tired old culpable white electorate, they turned off another working-class white Democratic voter — all on the suspect premise that blacks and minorities would turn out in droves for liberal white candidates and their elitist agendas, as they once had for Barack Obama. They assumed that Obama was building them a permanent new coalition; instead he took for granted that he was building a one-time movement only for himself.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Of course, amid the wreckage of hope and change, Obama complains that racial animosity now fuels hostility to his administration — this from a president who garnered more white votes than most previous white Democratic presidential candidates. Only in the age of Obama could racism be defined as 40 percent of the white vote going for a black candidate, while 5 percent of the black vote went for a white candidate.

Such a climate should not have been unexpected, given that the Obamas entered the national scene with rhetoric and associations like “downright mean country,” “raise the bar,” “for the first time [i.e., when Obama was elected] . . . I’m really proud of my country,” Jeremiah Wright, “typical white person,” and the clingers speech. The natural result of all that was soon to be the stupidly acting Cambridge police; Trayvon Martin, the boy who looked like the son Obama never had; and slamming Ferguson at the U.N. — while black unemployment, graduation, illegitimacy, and crime rates were either unaffected by Obama’s presidency or grew worse despite his often racialized rhetoric. We now witness an entire grievance movement highlighted by a slogan — Hands up, don’t shoot — that is most certainly untrue.

The above symptomology is not a partisan tirade, given that the Americans who voted Obama into office twice, and ensured a Democratic Congress from 2006 to 2010, have now come to the same conclusion. The president’s approval ratings hover at 40 percent. Almost single-handedly, Obama has done to the Democratic party far more damage than Herbert Hoover did to the Republican brand. Not in 70 years have Democratic numbers in the Congress been so bleak. State legislatures and governorships are more Republican than at any time in a generation.

Perhaps the strangest thing about this liberal implosion is that

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the Republicans have done little to earn such prominence, given that they have no national program and have failed entirely to offer a populist counter-agenda. Instead, they needed only to watch in glee as Obama created a new alliance between the 1 percent who were to be immune from the ramifications of their own destructive policies and a growing subsidized underclass — with utter disdain for those in between who did not have either the Martha's Vineyard taste of the liberal elite or the romantic empathy of the poor.

How odd again that just being against Obama has so far led to a Republican renaissance. In the end, the epitaph of the Obama administration will be written that it really did “fundamentally transform America” — though in ways that Barack Obama would have hardly wished.

January 08, 2015

AN OLD MAN'S EPIPHANY

J E Ted Thayer | 01-08-2015

I'll be 74 years old this Sunday. Which means that I will have exceeded by four the biblical three-score-and-ten years allotted each of us who make it that far. That means that any day I could keel over dead as a stone. I do hope it's not when I'm out somewhere.

I've seen the great work emergency services people can do. Folks badly injured in traffic crashes, kids who hurt themselves playing, older folks who couldn't walk because they just got tired and couldn't make it home are rescued every day. These are the people who, without immediate care, could die in just minutes.

But, I've also seen how it happens many times in rural areas. A guy keels over. Somebody calls 9-1-1. In about five minutes, a fire truck shows up with an ambulance and a cop car right behind it. An EMT jumps out and does a quick assessment, decides to start CPR. Another EMT joins in, bringing oxygen, IVs, a backboard, blankets and a crash bag. A link is established with the ER at the hospital, a mere mile away. At about eight minutes a crowd of people surround the scene - they're mostly emergency services - police, firemen and Emergency Medical Technicians. At ten minutes they open the back of the ambulance; the EMTs are still doing CPR because the Portable Shock Unit is still in the fire truck because their link to the hospital hasn't called for it. At twelve minutes they're still there, just a mile away from the ER. At fifteen minutes, they call it - IT being time to quit ... the guy is dead. They load him on a gurney and load the package into the back of the ambulance. After a few more minutes they slowly drive away, followed by a parade of emergency vehicles and spectators.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Two EMTs stay to pick up the mess that's made whenever people are injured or die this way.

I've seen this dance happen several times at the golf course. Every time, without exception, the guy might have been saved if somebody had sense enough to throw him in the back of a pickup truck, start CPR, and take him to the hospital just a mile away. But that just isn't how we do things, now is it?

The afternoon following Christmas I had an epiphany - a realization of sorts. According to *Cambridge Dictionary* online: *A moment when you suddenly feel that you understand, or suddenly become conscious of, something that is very important to you.* Well, duuuuhh!

I was napping comfortably in my recliner after a morning of golf with friends. It had been cold out there - 28 degrees - when we hit the first tee. After nine holes, two of us had had enough. The sun was out and, if you stood still, it was nice - warm and comfortable. But the wind had come up so the chill made it almost unbearable - like, your fingers couldn't hold the club from the cold. So we retired to the clubhouse for some sort of alcoholic liquid warmth. Ahhhhh. Much better ...

When I got home to my little park model mobile home, I kicked back in my recliner chair and took a nap. After a while I woke up, but I couldn't move! I could see the popcorn ceiling in the living room, but couldn't move my eyes. I tried to cry out, but nothing happened. My wife walked into the room and pattered around behind me, finally sitting down in her own recliner. I tried to speak again and nothing came out. I was dying and couldn't do anything to save myself! Is this how it happens, I wondered? After a seemingly interminable few seconds, I gasped. It was a huge breath - and I was alive again! And thankful.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

It truly was an epiphany. because we live *seven miles* from the hospital! Ah, well. As Peggy Lee sang so many years ago ...

Is that all there is? Is that all there is?
If that's all there is, my friends, then let's keep dancing.
Let's break out the booze and have a ball ...
If that's all ... there ... is.

Claudette and I will be married 53 years next Tuesday (01-13-2015). Isn't that great? She's put up with my nonsense for all these years! There's no doubt about it - she's a saint!

Enjoy life, troops. Semper Fi.

January 15, 2015

THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT WRITING

J E Ted Thayer | 01-15-2015

I write a column each week and sometimes publish a good one from another writer. Last year I saved the broadcasts and created a 224-page book from them - *Thayer's Wild Bunch*.

You're welcome to read it online at this link:

<http://www.jetedthayer.com/Thayer's Wild Bunch.pdf>

I finished my first book *Caca Pasa* last spring and published as a Kindle on Amazon.com. The thing was a triumph, albeit not a best-seller. The pdf version of it can be read now that the publishing agreement is complete.

<http://www.jetedthayer.com/caca pasa 06-15-2014.pdf>

I'm working on my third book which more than likely will take two or three years to complete, much like *Caca Pasa* did. The first book was a compendium of stories written about my life and its adventures in more-or-less chronological order. I've posted *¿Quien Sabe?* online also - so you can view its progress. It's a bunch of stories collected from visits with friends and acquaintances that will be complete at 224 pages.

<http://www.jetedthayer.com/Quien Sabe.pdf>

No longer a child, unless you consider the childish things I'm inclined to do on occasion, I don't know how many years are reserved for me by the Great Architect of the Universe. So I'll just keep cranking away, using up my golden years one page at a time ... because there's something enormously gratifying about creative writing.

C'est la vie , troops. Semper Fi.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

January 22, 2015

WHAT IF ...

J E Ted Thayer | 01-22-2015

Once upon a time

Theme from 1962 musical *All American*
Music by Charles Strouse, lyrics by Lee Adams

*Once upon a time, a girl with moonlight in her eyes
put her hand in mine and said she loved me so.
But, that was Once upon a time - very long ago.*

*Once upon a hill, we sat beneath a willow tree
counting all the stars and waiting for the dawn.
But, that was Once upon a time. Now, the tree is gone.*

*How the breeze ruffled through her hair!
How we always laughed as though tomorrow wasn't there!
We were young and didn't have a care!
Where ... did it go?*

*Once upon a time, the world was sweeter than we knew.
Everything was ours - how happy we were then.
But somehow, Once upon a time ... never comes again.*

What a wonderful, melancholy work of extraordinary word-smithing closely coupled to a brilliant score! The first time I heard it was in the '60s, when Tony Bennett recorded the hit tune from the 1962 Broadway show *All American*. His was a minor adult-contemporary offering compared to his monster *I Left My Heart in San Francisco*.

Lee Adams crafted the lyrics for the Broadway show starring Ray Bolger (the scarecrow in the classic 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*) and Eileen Herlie (perhaps best known for her

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

continuing role as Myrtle Fargate in the popular television soap-operas *All My Children*, *One Life to Live*, and *General Hospital*.) Charles Strouse's musical arrangement adds multiple dimensions and brilliant color to Adams' lyrics. Hear the Bolger/Herlie recording at <http://youtu.be/ExXTH7IwtSk>

I heard the song again not long ago and it brought back fond memories of my own times many years ago. Fleeting thoughts of those sweet early days with Claudette brought back both poignant and joyful recollections.

Leaving Claudette in Gilroy, California in the fall of 1961 and heading out for Klamath Falls, Oregon some eight hours and 415 miles away, was memorable. We clung tightly to each other for a time and she wept, so concerned that I wouldn't come back for her.

It happened again when I returned at Christmastime to present her with an engagement ring and a promise to return in January to take her as my bride. Watching her clutching the front of her collar with one hand and wiping away tears with the other brought a lump to my throat. We were so young and so in love.

It's beyond me how it must have been for her, early on in our marriage, when I left for work each morning before six. She was always up before me, pattering in the kitchenette of that converted multi-story ginger-bread house, making fresh coffee, toast and jam. She always had a soft kiss and lingering hug for me when it was time to leave. It wasn't until several years ago, after more than a half-century of marriage, that I learned she had never been alone on her own. She must have been terrified, not knowing anyone in that strange new town so far from home.

We lived in North Bend, Oregon for a while. North Bend is on the coast, just down the highway from Coos Bay. I have some

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

great early memories of that time - probably the best being the bathtub! We rented a two-story apartment from the upstairs owners. It was an old place with parts of the bathroom elevated to accommodate the plumbing. It might have been a shop and garage at one time with the living quarters above. Many old west properties were constructed with the business at street level and the home above. Back in the day, Coos Bay and North Bend were far from modern.

The elevated part of the bathroom supported an old claw-footed bathtub. Both of us were enthralled with it because neither of us had ever seen anything like it before. It was one piece of enamel-clad cast iron raised above its pedestal on four sturdy legs. At the end of each leg was a round glass orb the size of a billiard ball. Each of the four legs was fashioned into a claw surrounding and protecting the glass ball, a very popular and expensive option in its day.

Getting into the thing was something of a chore because its pedestal was some eight or ten inches off the floor. One had to step onto the pedestal and then step up another five or six inches into the tub. We were still not that accustomed to seeing each other in the buff, so to speak, so taking a bath in that thing was a new kind of adventure! Maintaining one's modesty while mounting and dismounting that monster was an embarrassment for the bather and an entertainment for the viewer! But, it sure was nice - for both of us - taking a bath in that old tub!

Oh, to relive those sweet days with that beautiful creature by my side - once upon a time, so very long ago.

Enjoy every bit of today, troops. Semper Fi.

January 29, 2015

WHERE IS THE NEWS?

J E Ted Thayer | 01-29-2015

Exactly what happened to cause otherwise professional news organizations to switch from hard, in-depth news coverage to endless hours of fluffy pap? Who cares if a football may have been under-inflated? Is it a capital offense? Will there be thousands (or even tens) of people suffering agonizing deaths because of this incredible transgression?

Continuous news phenomena was pioneered in 1972 when ABC Sports provided non-stop coverage of the September 5th Palestinian terrorist kidnapping of eleven Israeli athletes at the Summer Olympics.

When the race for the moon was engaged between the USA and USSR, television news covered five Mercury space flights and ten Gemini flights between 1961 and 1966 virtually from launch to splashdown.

Probably the first continuously unfolding television news story came one bit at a time as CBS' Walter Cronkite reported on the assassination of President John F. Kennedy beginning November 22, 1963.

Perhaps it was the O.J. Simpson murder trial that tipped the scales for continuous coverage. Simpson's June 17, 1994 joyride was more than likely when it dawned on the media that it takes fewer reporters and less skill to concentrate on a single story *ad nauseum* for months at a time. They covered it - start to finish and more - until long after the verdict came in on October 3rd, 1995.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

How much air time did that worthless **Christy Bridgegate** story take?

Will **Paula Deen** ever recover from allegations of racism and sexual harassment?

Remember the **Jodi Arias** trial? You should ... it still grabs the headlines going on two years later!

How many replays were there of reporters and so-called experts detailing exactly what happened in the shooting death of **Trayvon Martin**? Do you recall, after all that, who was accused and acquitted?

How many talking heads covered the loss of **Malaysian Air flight MH370** for how many months?

Do you remember the coverage of the **NASCAR** crash coverage that crucified driver Ken Stewart for the death of Kevin Ward?

With all the endless coverage of the **Ferguson** riots, can you recall the name of the vindicated officer?

How 'bout our **President**? All he has to do is fart and there's a news team on it!

Over and over every freakin' day!

Ever notice that Monday's news is almost always a recap of Saturday and Sunday? And how 'bout that "stock" footage that goes into an endless loop at the drop of a hat! East-coast prime time is daytime in the west, so forget the expense of live Mountain and Pacific time coverage - just replay the last three Eastern hours!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

I'm so glad other folks are finally picking up on this media thing.

I daresay there are more news stories available each day than any network could possibly air! So, why do they keep feeding us blather when there's so much real news out there?

My friends, I contend that we should be bombarding these lazy culprits with volleys of email, demanding much more hard news reporting and way fewer sleazy, repetitious, opinionated, "in-depth" talking heads.

Here are some links if you are so inclined:

ABC	http://abcnews.go.com/comments
ALJAZ	http://america.aljazeera.com/tools/contact.html
CBS	http://www.cbsnews.com/contact-us/
CNBC	http://cnbclca.custhelp.com/app/ask/
CNN	http://www.cnn.com/feedback/
FOX	http://insider.foxnews.com/contact-us
HLN	http://www.hlntv.com/hln-contact-us
MSNBC	http://www.msnbc.com/contact/general
NBC	contact.nbcnews@nbcuni.com

Stay on top of it, troops. Semper Fi

February 05, 2015

NOTE: The following is fun to read out loud

HOW TO MAKE A BOARD

by Dave Barry

Most of what I know about carpentry, which is almost nothing, I learned in shop. I took shop during the Eisenhower administration, when boys took shop and girls took home economics, a code name for "cooking". Schools are not allowed to separate boys and girls like that any more.

They're also not allowed to put students' heads in vises and tighten them, which is what our shop teacher, Mr. Schmidt, did to Ronnie Miller in the fifth grade when Ronnie used a chisel when he should have used a screwdriver. (Mr. Schmidt had strong feelings about how to use tools properly.) I guess he shouldn't have put Ronnie's head in the vise, but it (Ronnie's head) was no great prize to begin with, and you can bet Ronnie never confused chisels and screwdrivers in later life. Assuming he made it to later life.

Manual Instruction

Under Mr. Schmidt's guidance, we hammered out hundreds of the ugliest and most useless objects the human mind can conceive of. Our first major project was a little bookshelf that you could also use as a stool. The idea was that someday you'd be looking for a book, when all of a sudden you'd urgently need a stool, so you'd just dump the books on the floor and there you'd be. At least I assume that was the thinking behind the bookshelf-stool. Mr. Schmidt designed it, and we students sure know better than to ask any questions.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

I regret today that I didn't take more shop in high school, because while I have never once used anything I know about the cosine and the tangent, I have used my shop skills to make many useful objects for my home. For example, I recently made a board.

I use my board in many ways. I stand on it when I have to get socks out of the dryer and water has been sitting in our basement around the dryer for a few days, and has developed a pretty healthy layer of scum on top (plus heaven-only-knows-what new and predatory forms of life under-neath).

I also use my board to squash spiders. (All spiders are deadly killers. Don't believe any of the stuff you read in "National Geographic".) If you'd like to make a board, you'll need:

Materials:

- A board
- Paint

Tools:

- Chisel
- Handgun

Get your board at a lumberyard, but be prepared. Lumberyards reek of lunacy. They use a system of measurement that dates back to Colonial times, when people had brains the size of M&Ms. When they tell you a board is a "two-by-four", they mean it is NOT two inches by four inches. Likewise, a "one-by-six" is NOT one inch by six inches. So if you know what size board you want, tell the lumberperson you want some other size. If you don't know what size you want, tell him it's for squashing spiders. He'll know what you need. Mister Handy, you should paint your board so people will know it's a home carpentry project, as opposed to a mere board. I suggest you use a darkish color, something along the lines of spider guts.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Use your chisel to open the paint can. Have your gun ready in case Mr. Schmidt is lurking around.

Once you've finished your board, you can move on to a more advanced project, such as a harpsichord. But if you're really going to get into home carpentry, you should have a home workshop. You will find that your workshop is very useful as a place to store lawn sprinklers and objects you intend to fix sometime before you die. My wife and I have worked out a simple eight-step procedure for deciding which objects to store in my home workshop:

My wife tells me an object is broken. For instance, she may say, "The lamp on my bedside table doesn't work." I wait several months, in case my wife is mistaken. My wife notifies me she is not mistaken. "Remember the lamp on my bedside table?" She says. "Yes?" I say. "Still broken," she says. I conduct a preliminary investigation. In the case of the lamp, I flick the switch and note that the lamp doesn't go on. "You're right," I tell my wife. "That lamp doesn't work." I wait 6 to 19 months, hoping that God will fix the lamp, or the Russians will attack us and the entire world will be a glowing heap of radioactive slag and nobody will care about the lamp anymore.

My wife then alerts me that the lamp still doesn't work. "The lamp still doesn't work," she says, sometimes late at night. I try to repair the lamp on the spot. Usually, I look for a likely trouble spot and whack it with a blunt instrument. This often works on lamps. It rarely works on microwave ovens. If the on-the-spot repair doesn't work, I say: "I'll have to take this lamp down to the home workshop." This is my way of telling my wife that she should get another lamp if she has any short-term plans, say, to do any reading in bed. If you follow this procedure, after a few years you will have a great many broken objects in your home workshop. In the interim, however, it will look barren. This is why you need tools. To give your shop an

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

attractive, non-barren appearance, you should get several thousand dollars worth of tools and hang them from pegboards in a graceful display.

Four Basic Tool Groups

Basically, there are four different kinds of tools

Tools You Can Hit Yourself With (hammers, axes).
Tools You Can Cut Yourself With (saws, knives, hoes, axes).
Tools You Can Stab Yourself With (screwdrivers, chisels).
Tools That, If Dropped Just Right, Can Penetrate Your Foot (awls)

I have a radial arm saw, which is like any other saw except that it has a blade that spins at several billion revolutions per second and therefore can sever your average arm in a trice. When I operate my radial arm saw, I use a safety procedure that was developed by X-ray machine technicians: I leave the room.

I turn off all the power in the house, leave a piece of wood near the saw, scurry to a safe distance, and turn the power back on. That is how I made my board. Once you get the hang of using your tools, you'll make all kinds of projects. Here are some other ones I've made: A length of rope. Wood with nails in it. Sawdust. If you'd like plans for any of these projects, just drop some money in an envelope and send it to me and I'll keep it.

Dave Barry is a Pulitzer Prize-winning American author and columnist, who used to write a nationally syndicated column for *The Miami Herald*. He has also written numerous books of humor and parody, as well as comedic novels, according to *Wikipedia*.

February 12, 2015

END-TIMES NOT WOMEN'S WORK!

J E Ted Thayer | 02-12-2015

Inundation and conflagration at the whims of nature, break-outs of horrific diseases, and the spread of barbarism across the world accompanied by the cruel eradication of hundreds of thousands of civilian souls in the name of Allah are just a few of the horrors that, according to any number of clerics, point to the end of time as we know it. However, one notable apostolic preacher declares that when it comes to the Antichrist, women are without sin

The likes of John Hagee, Greg Laurie, Joel Osteen, Benny Hinn, Billy Graham, William E. Sangster, Norman Vincent Peal, Jimmy Swaggart, even such historical notables as Martin Luther and John Calvin preached the ever-increasing presence of the Devil - the Antichrist - toward the end-days.

Fuller graduate Dr. Jim Dixon, in an April 2011 article in *The Christian Post* written by Michelle A. Vu, says that "... *many details about the more popular topics regarding the end times, such as the Antichrist, the rapture, and the millennium rule of Jesus are more speculative.*" Vu continues, "*Although scholars and pastors give definitive answers sometimes about these prophecies, the Bible is unclear about the exact details and it is not necessary to be in agreement.*

"Regarding the Antichrist, what is clear is that that he will be against Christ, try to take Jesus' place as the king of kings, try to gain power of the entire world (2 Thessalonians 2:1:10), and be consumed by hatred (Revelation 12).

"What is unclear is if the Antichrist is a single person or another kind of entity."

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Evangelists like Jim Dixon preach regularly about the end-times, although few if any have addressed the role of women when time as we know it comes to an end.

According to Dr. Dixon, respected senior pastor of the 10,000-member Cherry Hills Community Church in Highlands Ranch, CO, "*Sometimes the Antichrist is called 'he' and sometimes 'it' or 'they'. The Antichrist, however, is never 'she' . . . so women are off the hook!*"

Try to remain calm, men. Semper Fi.

February 19, 2015

TOO MANY LAWS

J E Ted Thayer | 02-19-2015

I read somewhere the other day that there are so many laws that none of us can leave our homes without committing at least three felonies. Can you imagine that?

For as long as I can remember, elections were won and lost on issues. Issues define the direction of the law because lawmakers are elected (so we think) to tackle issues and make things better for everyone.

It matters little what state you live in, legislators meet to debate the issues and solve their constituents' problems. They spend a lot of time writing new laws and trying to figure out how to create a balanced budget. One way they solve problems is to give state employees the power to make laws on their own - they're called Administrative Law. A new law is written by the legislature, but the rules and regulations implementing it are written by administrators and their employees. The same penalties a new statute authorizes are written into Administrative Law.

The big difference between Administrative Law and Statutory Law is that each has a separate judiciary empowered to enforce the statutes/laws/rules/regulations.

On the one hand, the statutes passed by the legislature and approved by the Governor or the President are enforced by state and federal courts from the lowly Justice of the Peace upward through the Superior Courts, state and federal Appellate Courts and as high as the United States Supreme Court- a working appeal process for every citizen, including corporations.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

On the other hand, Administrative Law judges have powers of interpretation and enforcement most citizens never heard of, but which can have huge effects on individuals or companies and their employees. Violators of administrative law usually run afoul of rules as diverse as food handling minutae, permissible land use, extensive permitting processes, and employment conditions. The Administrative Law appeals process, depending on the state or federal department or division, can drag a case out almost indefinitely before it is allowed to move into the state or federal appeals process.

An example of bad Administrative Law at the federal level is the power of the IRS to seize assets without benefit of a court-ordered warrant. Congress never authorized warrantless search and seizure because it's specifically forbidden in the Constitution. Instead, the Congress authorized the IRS to write rules and regulations to help it collect taxes.

Another bad Administrative Law allows state and federal authorities to enforce environmental rules applicable to navigable waters in dry washes and creekbeds and on private land where rainfall normally causes muddy pastures and puddles. "Navigable Waters" described by federal statutes are the continuously running streams and rivers, most lakes and the east and west coasts - navigable by a ship, boat, skiff and/or canoe. Yet, Administrative Law covers washes and dry creekbeds in the Southwest as "navigable" and pastures wet from rain as "protected wetlands."

I think the time has come when we should demand that state and federal lawmakers eliminate as many laws as they create, and require the same of state and federal administrations. It's time we stopped being lawmakers and lawbreakers. I say we should require elected officials to spend at least half of their time reducing the number of laws we are expected to follow

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

without question - but, of which we know little, if any.
Whadaya think o' them apples?

Question authority. Semper Fi.

February 26, 2015

RETRIBUTION!

J E Ted Thayer | 02-26-2015

Minors are not punished publicly for their indiscretions before they reach their majority.

The age of majority (16, 18 , 21 years) used to be what separated minors and adults - the line in the sand that described the difference between children and parents. Somehow over the years that has changed - leading us to areas of law and behavior not heard of in decades past.

I think it all started with Monkey bars.

Back in the day, maybe fifty years ago, I recall a big political stink about monkey bars and teeter-totters when some parent complained that playground blacktop was not a suitable landing material in case of falls. After threats of litigation, school districts all over the country replaced the blacktop or dirt beneath their playground equipment with wood shavings or sand.

Then one day a couple decided to sue because their child had fallen off the monkey bars and broken his arm. Even though a teacher was on playground duty to supervise and to maintain order, and even though the monkey bars had soft sand beneath to cushion inevitable falls, the parents won their suit because the school district knew or should have known that kids could break arms and legs by falling off playground equipment. As a result many school districts removed swings, slides, monkey bars, teeter-totters, merry-go-rounds and other equipment from their playgrounds.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Then the problem expanded. It happened after kids figured out they could get away with unacceptable behavior without suffering corporal punishment. Perhaps it was the subject matter of the 1955 social commentary film *Blackboard Jungle*. Based on the novel of the same name by Evan Hunter, the movie set the example for incorrigibility. I believe it was this that eventually precipitated a lawsuit over alleged child abuse, the results of which effectively banned corporal punishment. All of a sudden, kids everywhere began pressing the issue of discipline, in educators' faces screaming, "You can't touch me!"

Now, children get away with assault, bribery and extortion, individually and in gangs, without suffering more severe repercussions than verbal warnings from teachers or administrators, lunch detention, in-school suspension or - heaven forbid - expulsion for some finite period.

Today, I have a few questions for you. How is it that minor children can commit adult crimes without immediate retribution? When did we decide that it was acceptable for children to act like animals? When did we accept the fact that school districts would rather settle a beef with some parent for cash and a change of policy than attack the root cause of the problem? When did the people who are supposed to set the examples for our children decide it was better to cave in to the tyranny of the few? When did we stop holding parents responsible for the irresponsible actions of their minor children? And, please, somebody tell me exactly when we decided that the courts could or should take the place of parents?

Reports of my early demise are unfounded. Semper Fi.

March 5, 2015

WORDS AND PHRASES

J E Ted Thayer | March 5, 2015

Here are some political words and phrases increasingly in use.
Feel free to quote me!

NOTION was used by our grandmothers and great-grandmothers in a generally negative connotation, as in: "If you get a *notion* to stay out late tonight, you'd better find a different place for breakfast!" *Notions* were also useful homemaker supplies found in general or variety stores ... items such as thread, pins, needles, buttons, yarn, thimbles, fabrics, all things generally having to do with embroidery, sewing, or knitting - also known as *sundries*. Today, politicians, in particular the President, refer to political ideas or expectations as *notions*.

NOTION (*Webster*)

An individual's conception or impression of something known, experienced, or imagined;

An inclusive general concept;

A theory or belief held by a person or group;

A personal inclination or whim;

Obsolete: mind, intellect;

Plural: small useful items, sundries

MOVING FORWARD is part of a quote attributed to Henry Ford: "*If everyone is moving forward together, then success takes care of itself.*" In a 1991 paper Donohew, Lorch and Palmgreen assert that "*The high sensation seeker has a tendency to move forward and explore novel and intense stimuli ...*" This catchy phrase may have been first introduced as political rhetoric in November of 2006 by then Senator Barack Obama in his "*A Way Forward in Iraq*" remarks before the Chicago Council on Global Affairs. It became the theme of the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

2012 Democrat Party Platform - *Moving America Forward*. Since that time *moving forward* it has become part of the American political lexicon.

ABSOLUTELY CLEAR is another phrase that has become commonplace in the jargon of American politicians. President Richard Nixon used it repeatedly. "*Let me be perfectly clear about that ...*" was an integral part of his vocabulary, especially in his last years as POTUS. More recently, President Barack Obama has taken to using the phrase "*Let me be absolutely clear ...*" or "*To be very clear ...*" And his Press Secretaries have been using the phrase extensively of late.

FORWARD-LEANING is another strictly American political phrase. President Bill Clinton in his 2004 book "My Life" wrote of John Kennedy: "*On Wednesday, July 24, we went to the White House to meet the President in the Rose Garden. President Kennedy walked out of the Oval Office into the bright sunshine and made some brief remarks, complimenting our work, especially our support for civil rights, and giving us higher marks than the governors, who had not been so forwardleaning in their annual summer meeting.*" As near as I can determine, **forward-leaning** refers to politicians who, moving forward with some degree of certainty, will explore a commitment to a positive course of action sometime in the foreseeable future!

Endeavor to have influence. Semper Fi.

March 12, 2015

A BOX OF CHOCOLATES

J E Ted Thayer | March 12, 2015

Forest Gump asserted in his 1994 movie, *"Mama always said that life was like a box of chocolates. You never know what your gonna get."*

I love the idea of devouring one day at a time, kinda like chocolates - or maybe prime rib. Each new day brings with it nuances and flavors not experienced before. The taste of a new morning is cause to pause and give thanks for the privilege of being alive - especially when you consider the incredible odds of life anywhere in the Universe existing at all.

In his 1989 book *Norwegian Wood*, Haruki Murakami exclaimed, *"You know, they've got these chocolate assortments, and you like some but you don't like others? And you eat all the ones you like, and the only ones left are the ones you don't like as much? I always think about that when something painful comes up, 'Now I just have to polish these off, and everything'll be OK!' Life is a box of chocolates."*

Every new day brings with it, as Webster describes, *"a special opportunity to do something that makes you proud."* Sometimes just dragging one's self out of a funk to enjoy the sun on one's face becomes a succulent cause for pride - mainly because there are so many souls around us who are not so fortunate as to know the how of it.

Ah, the tiny bit of mouthwatering delight that comes with making someone else smile, the pleasure of doing almost anything right the first time, and knowing that the taste of perfection is always just beyond reach - attainable only in the mind.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

The delicious onset of night is also a cause for appreciation ... every evening the slowly creeping diurnal rotation of the earth brings with it luscious new sights in the skies - as well as fresh new sounds in the air as little creatures prepare to bed down. It brings to my gut an urge to cry out, as Jimmi Hendrix opined so long ago, "*Excuse me while I kiss the sky.*"

Sometimes, as my daily feast of the senses comes to a close, I wonder what will happen to the box once the chocolates have gone. Who will inherit my Whitman's Sampler to savor the moments of joy cached in the empty candy cups so carefully ensconced inside?

Greet each day as a surprise, troops. Semper Fi.

March 19, 2015

THE PROBLEM ...

J E Ted Thayer | March 19, 2015

President Ronald Reagan, in his Inaugural Address January 20, 1981, said, *"In this present crisis, government is not the solution to our problem; government is the problem."*

It appears that in some thirty-four years, nothing has changed. On March 14th, Fox Business News' Neil Cavuto tweeted the following Gallup Poll results:



On August 12th, 1986 President Reagan quipped, *"The nine most terrifying words in the English language are: I'm from the government and I'm here to help."*

Social Security was just fine until the congress approved the idea of using the Social Security Trust Fund as the leverage to pay for programs normally operated with General Fund moneys. I'll bet the predicted monetary crisis - caused by multi-trillion dollar bugets passed without the income to back them - will be traced back to the day the government began borrowing big bucks from itself.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

If you want bungling, delays and incompetence just put the government in charge!

When the 2009 Stimulus Package - supposedly the way out of the "Great Recession" - was passed by the new Democrat-controlled Congress and signed into law by President Obama, it was mostly on the basis that government money would stimulate the economy through funding thousands of "shovel-ready" projects.

It didn't take long for it to dawn on Stimulus proponents that there were hardly any "shovel ready" projects actually ready to go. They discovered that it would take years worth of jumping through hoops and red-tape cutting before federal regulatory agencies would allow pending projects to proceed.

Take the Resolution Copper project. Once operational, this mine will provide billions to the Arizona economy, making it the third largest provider of copper in the world! Even with some help from Congress - finally - Resolution has yet to post the hundreds of job openings that will come with the project. No thanks to the Stimulus Program.



Then, there's the California Bullet Train. Despite cost overruns, lawsuits, public opposition and a projected completion date 13

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

years behind schedule, Governor Jerry Brown broke ground January 6th on what will be the most expensive public works project in United States history. If every penny committed to the project is added up, it will come out more than \$30 billion short. Republicans in Congress have vowed not to commit a dollar more than President Obama approved in 2012. So much for that "shovel ready" project!

And don't forget the super-train project that will supposedly run from southern California to Las Vegas.

Even though the Obama administration had been eager to develop new high-speed rail corridors across the U.S., and former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood had publicly blessed the proposed train, known as XpressWest, the U.S. Department of Transportation suspended its review of a \$5.5 billion loan request critical to building the project between the Southern California desert community of Victorville and the Las Vegas Strip, leaving the future of the project in jeopardy. That Stimulus Program sure has been just ducky for western states, you think?

How about the Keystone Pipeline? You think it could attract any Stimulus money? Dream on! Even though the U.S. State Department (don't get me started!) approved the project, the President effectively blocked its construction on federally-controlled lands. Meanwhile, America's private lands have provided not just right-of-ways for new oil pipelines, but also new oil reserves, the development of which promise to make North America energy-independent, a net exporter of petroleum products. In the interim, the job-creation and economic stimulus the Keystone would provide go nowhere - and oil spills from rail traffic are exasperating experts.

Even with the positive effects of "Quantitative Easing" touted by Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen, economic gurus blame

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the snail-speed economic recovery from the "Great Recession" on our political leaders' inability to understand the negative effects of Keynesian economic practices and over-regulation of the free market. Even though most Americans have seen gross average annual incomes decline by some \$5000, we've been fortunate ... we haven't yet seen the crushing inflation and government price controls that dominated the Carter administration.

In his concluding remarks of the famous debate with President Jimmy Carter on October 28, 1980, Reagan laid it out loud and clear: *"Next Tuesday all of you will go to the polls, will stand there in the polling place and make a decision. I think when you make that decision, it might be well if you would ask yourself, are you better off than you were four years ago?"*

Try to keep everything in perspective, troops. Semper Fi.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

March 26, 2015

A dear friend and I have been having an ongoing discussion about the pros and cons of vaccination. She is what "they" call a *denier*. I'm more like a *survivor* with a learned aversion to Flu Shots, so its easy for me to see her points. But I'm also a very crusty, very experienced broadcast and print journalist.

I've been reading a lot about vaccines and vaccinations, seeking "*the truth*" - as if that's something that can be found online anymore. I finally found what appears to be an unbiased article on the subject written by a reasonably talented and credentialed journalist employed by the *San Francisco Chronicle*. Read on ...

VACCINE DENIERS:

INSIDE THE DUMB, DANGEROUS NEW FAD

Why a San Francisco community is disregarding mainstream medicine and putting its children at risk

By [Lessley Anderson](#) on October 21, 2013 11:40 am
[The Verge](#)

In San Francisco's upscale Pacific Heights neighborhood, some 200 students from kindergarten to the eighth grade attend classes at the private San Francisco Waldorf School. On any given afternoon outside of the cheerful, modern white building, parents congregate to wait for their kids. Chit-chat includes the typical fodder like play dates and birthdays, or who was cast in the school play. But occasionally the topic of illness arises — which is where things can take a turn towards the atypical. You might, for instance, hear about “chicken pox parties,” where healthy kids come over to sick kids' houses to catch the disease.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Of course, there's a vaccine for chicken pox. It's been available since 1995, and is part of every state's recommended vaccine schedule, which the majority of US children receive. But SF Waldorf represents an unusual population: only 35 percent of incoming kindergarteners are up to date on all their vaccinations, one of the lowest rates in San Francisco for a school of its size and vastly lower than the national average of 95 percent. Which puts SF Waldorf firmly in the crosshairs of a national debate.

A vast minority of parents across the country, around 1.8 percent, opt out of vaccines by citing either religious or philosophical reasons. And these non-vaccinators have, in recent years, been the subject of intense media scrutiny. In part, you can blame a former Playboy bunny: Jenny McCarthy, who ABC recently hired as a new host on *The View*, has waged an ardent, vocal campaign against "toxins" in vaccines that she believes were responsible for causing her son's autism.

Recent outbreaks of preventable illnesses have only added more fuel to the fire. This year, 16 states have reported cases of measles, making 2013 the second worst year for the disease since 2000. In August, the illness struck 21 people linked to a single Texas megachurch that eschewed vaccinations. And just last week, a new study concluded that vaccine refusals were largely to blame for a 2010 outbreak of whooping cough in California.

The issue of vaccination invariably provokes polarized debates, often manifesting in online comment sections and on Twitter and Facebook. Often, the levels of savagery and vitriol are on par with those surrounding debates about abortion and gun control. Anti-vaccinators are typically branded as naïve simpletons, while pro-vaccinators are slammed as being reactionary reductionists.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

The reality, like most things, is more nuanced. At the SF Waldorf School parents are educated, liberal-leaning, wealthy enough to afford the \$20,200 a year for kindergarten, and often working in technology, law, and other white-collar professions that demand critical thinking skills. But some of them are also treating flawed, precarious medical advice as gospel — and disregarding the health of an entire community in so doing. Looking at the decisions of these parents to stray from standard medical advice, and also at the community of doctors and educators who support them, provides a unique window into one of our country's most taboo topics.

'Not fully proven on some level'

When Rebecca* and Mike became pregnant with their daughter, Laura, the issue of whether to give her the standard childhood vaccinations seemed like a choice between life and death. But not in the way you might assume.

Rebecca, who asked that her name and the names of her family members be changed, has a family history of autoimmune dysfunction. Her father died of scleroderma, and her sister suffered from PXE — both rare but serious diseases that manifest in the skin. Rebecca was afraid that vaccines, which by design stimulate the body's immune response, might unintentionally trigger a disease that Laura may have been predisposed to inherit.

"I was afraid that her immune system was at risk of reacting against her," Rebecca says. "And my questions about that were not answered in a convincing way by the medical establishment."

"It's my responsibility to be very vigilant."

Rebecca and Mike didn't vaccinate Laura for anything. When she enrolled at SF Waldorf, they signed what is known as a

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

“personal belief exemption” or a PBE — a piece of paperwork that allows parents to opt out of some or all of the vaccines required by the state for entrance into kindergarten. In the US, 18 states offer PBEs and 22 offer exemptions based on religion.

Laura's parents say they did not take the decision lightly. “As someone who has chosen a different path, it's my responsibility to be very vigilant,” Rebecca says. At the slightest sign of illness, her daughter goes right to bed, is fed bone broth, and stays there. Rebecca doesn't take Laura on trips to countries with high incidence of serious disease, like polio or measles. (This year, the United States has had 173 cases of measles. By contrast, the Republic of Georgia had 7,000.)

Health concerns weren't the only factor behind Rebecca's decision: she's also suspicious about the true motives of pharmaceutical companies that profit from the sale of vaccines. “It makes it hard to feel there are neutral, trustworthy sources of information,” she says.

Rebecca's fears about government and Big Pharma collusion, along with her theory that vaccines trigger autoimmune disorders, are not uncommon among her fellow parents at SF Waldorf. Although the more infamous fear that vaccines cause autism isn't as much of a concern (more about that in a minute), parents do worry that the shots might trigger allergies, asthma, and even type 2 diabetes.

Waldorf is an educational system developed by Rudolf Steiner, an early 20th-century Austrian philosopher, which espouses to create well-rounded children through experiential learning and “age appropriate” content. Children are taught the arts and handicrafts, like woodworking and weaving, along with their academic subjects. The use of computer and TV screens at SF Waldorf is, if not forbidden, strongly disfavored — so no *Angry*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Birds or Mickey Mouse, even at home. Team sports are discouraged until the sixth grade.

There is nothing intrinsically Waldorfian about opting out of vaccines, and the school takes no official stance on the issue. (In fact, several parents and school administrators complained that connecting the issue with the school was unfair and misleading, and objected to the premise of this story.) And yet, it is true that SF Waldorf tends to attract parents who trend towards organic food and alternative health care — acupuncture, herbal medicine, and homeopathy — and who prescribe to the adage of the body-as-temple. For some of them, vaccines are — at best — a necessary evil. And at worst, they're just evil.

“I was very influenced by naturopathic medicine,” says John, an SF Waldorf parent who also asked that his name be changed. “They talk about: vaccines are going to be very strong in supplanting the body's natural ability to develop immunity.” John and his wife did vaccinate against polio, measles, mumps, and rubella, but they opted out of chicken pox and flu vaccines for their two kids. “They should still be exposed to some things,” John says. Both of his children partook in chicken pox parties: they were sent to the home of a child with the illness, shared a lollipop, and soon after came down with chicken pox themselves.

Parents like John vaccinate selectively, while other parents space shots out rather than follow the vaccination schedule prescribed by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Others delay vaccinations by several years, believing the more mature their kids' immune systems are, the better they'll be able to withstand the onslaught of foreign agents. “I delayed vaccinations until my kids were crawling,” says Jane*, an SF Waldorf parent with three children. “I believed that while my children were cocooned in the nice little lair of

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

my sling that they didn't need vaccinations, and if there was any potential for some kind of injury that it was just better to wait." Jane's kids are now fully vaccinated.

By skipping or delaying vaccinations, parents put their own kids — as well as fellow SF Waldorf students and community members — at risk of serious illness. But the school "supports the parents' right to choose," says Cory Powers, the grade-school administrative coordinator at SF Waldorf.

Administrators also take great pains, Powers adds, to communicate that parents who opt out of vaccinations should prepare for heavy responsibilities: someone infected with measles will face a minimum 18-day quarantine, as recommended by the San Francisco Department of Public Health. That's a lot of days to take off work to care for a sick kid.

"When the parent comes and signs a personal belief exemption, we tell them that if you make that choice, it's not a frivolous or casual one," Powers says. But for the most part, she notes, parents who choose to skip or delay vaccinations are the opposite of frivolous. Rather, she describes them as "choosing extremely consciously and holistically."

"These are people who are also questioning GMOs," Powers says. "Things that are not fully proven on some level."

What science says

But there's a big difference between not eating GMOs and not getting a vaccine. If I don't eat a corn chip at my local taqueria because I have doubts about the lack of research on GMOs and believe it's because science and the government are in Monsanto's pocket, I'm not going to put my dining companions at risk of disease. But if I decide not to vaccinate my kid, I make him a potential carrier. He may be able to fight off measles, mumps, rubella, and other illnesses — but what if he

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

spreads a disease to somebody who, for whatever reason, isn't so lucky?

If I decide not to vaccinate my kid, I make that kid a potential carrier.

Much like any medication, vaccines aren't 100 percent effective or 100 percent safe. Even the CDC spells this out right on its website. But they exist (and are widely used) because the potential harms of not using them are far greater than any associated hazard. Take, for instance, the MMR (measles, mumps, rubella) vaccine. The CDC estimates that for every 1,000 children in a developed nation who get measles, 1–2 will die. By comparison, for every 3,000–4,000 cases of MMR vaccination, the CDC estimates there will be a “small increased risk” of febrile seizures among children under seven.

The medical establishment, to date, has found no evidence of neurological or autoimmune disorders having been caused by vaccines. The most famous claim, that the MMR vaccine causes autism, was intensively studied and debunked. Andrew Wakefield, the British surgeon behind the original hypothesis, was long ago discredited and stripped of his medical license. Other parents have worried that thiomersal, a preservative containing mercury that was used in vaccines until 2001, causes autism. The preservative was removed from most vaccines as a purely precautionary measure, and subsequent studies have failed to find a shred of evidence for the thiomersal–autism link.

Chicken pox parties also lack medical backing. The idea that it's healthier to become immune by catching an illness, rather than getting a vaccine, isn't supported by scientific research. “There is absolutely no evidence for — good science or any theoretical evidence for — the idea that a natural infection

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

makes your body stronger,” says John Swartzberg, a clinical professor at the UC Berkeley School of Public Health.

“Natural infection challenges the body with a lot more foreign protein than a vaccine, so it’ll put a lot more stress on the body. Becoming very ill is not good for the body.”

But decades of research, statistics, and ongoing assurances from scientists and government agencies still can’t convince some parents. Politicians can be bought, the thinking goes. The peer review system in scientific journals is corrupted by Big Pharma influence. Scientists aren’t studying vaccines hard enough, because the money lies in convincing the public that they’re safe when they’re actually not.

“It becomes a question of faith,” says Colin Phipps, a chiropractor in San Francisco who doesn’t believe in vaccines and speaks on panels about the topic. “Do you have faith in the CDC? The FDA? Big pharma? Science not driven by profit or motive? Do politicians have our best intentions at heart? Or do you have faith that the body is built to deal with pathogens in the universe?”

For at least some physicians in San Francisco, addressing the vaccination fears of parents has become a difficult balancing act. “I think vaccines have become a scapegoat for our fears about medicine, the government, and mistrust of authority,” says Dr. Julia Getzelman, whose pediatric practice attracts some vaccine skeptics. Getzelman perceives vaccines as “one of the 20th century’s greatest health successes,” and considers the concerns of parents to be “nebulous” in nature.

But that doesn’t mean she forces vaccines on her patients: some of the children Getzelman sees follow an amended vaccine schedule, one that’s contrary to CDC recommendations. “Nobody in the mainstream supports the alternative vaccine

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

schedule — there's no science behind it," Getzelman admits. "But when you're on the front line of trying to individualize care, it doesn't necessarily always fit with the mainstream."

The guy in the iron lung

In America, we live in a *pax romana* with regards to disease. It might not seem that way sometimes, what with our rising rates of autism, cancer, kids dying from peanut allergies, and so on. But as recently as 50 years ago, there were no preventative measures for mumps, which can make men sterile. Or rubella, which can cause serious birth defects if contracted by a pregnant woman in her first trimester. Measles killed hundreds of people a year, and hospitalized 20 percent of those who caught it — most of them children. Those who grew up in the 1950s remember going to the county fair and gawking at "the guy in the iron lung" paralyzed from polio. The specter of disease was real and present.

Today, we have what's known as "herd immunity." That is, enough people have been vaccinated that they protect the unvaccinated, or those whose vaccinations fail. The chances of an American getting these formerly common childhood illnesses are very slim. The chances of dying from them are even slimmer. Not because the diseases aren't serious, but because they aren't nearly as prevalent.

In fact, herd immunity is actually *why* some parents don't vaccinate. "When you think of it that way, it's hard to want to get vaccinated when you hear anecdotally about things going wrong from vaccines," says Dr. Justin Davis, a San Francisco physician.

Time and time again, you get the message: rewards come to those who think out of the box.

Davis also points out an irony he perceives among his patients. Many of them consider themselves "global participants" —

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

they bike, recycle, and generally take proactive measures to protect the environment. But when it comes to vaccines and immunity, these parents utilize resources more selfishly. He is somewhat sanguine about this. "I take longer showers than I should, and I drive a car and take airplanes. Who am I to say how people of privilege should choose to use the resources available to them?" Davis says. Of course, there's an inherent problem with that position: "If everybody were to [opt out of vaccinations]," he admits, "there would be huge ramifications."

One of the tenets of a Waldorf education is to teach self-reliance, independence, and critical thinking skills. "They're saying, be educated before you just go along with the herd," says one parent. Clearly, this same type of impulse also leads some parents to question the status quo with regards to vaccines.

"People on the pro-vaccinations side think that people who don't vaccinate, or vaccinate selectively, are crazy and uninformed," says John, the parent whose kids got chicken pox from the lollipop. "I think that the people who make these decisions are actually the most well-informed parents, and they're generally working with their healthcare providers to make these decisions."

Questioning authority is an impulse that can often serve you well. And that truth is held in particularly high regard in the Bay Area. After all, this is the land where Apple computer was born and "Think Different" became a mantra. Where the expression "disruption" became the tech-term-du-jour to describe companies that were either breaking or skirting the law. Where Bradley Manning was elected Grand Marshal of the San Francisco Gay Pride Parade. Time and time again, you get the message: rewards come to those who think out of the box.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

But when well-educated, high-performing people choose to engage in risky, self-serving medical behavior, it also begs the question: what made them feel so alienated from mainstream Western medicine to begin with?

The answer, according to vaccine advocate Dr. Paul Offit, largely comes down to how medical practitioners are perceived. In his takedown of alternative medicine, *Do You Believe In Magic*, he writes:

“Practitioners of modern medicine can appear callous and insensitive. Patients feel more like a number than a person. That’s where alternative healers come in: they provide individual care, because they care ... Where modern medicine is spiritless and technological ... alternative medicine is spiritual and meaningful.”

It is not surprising that a class of person deeply involved in searching for and expressing their own individual uniqueness — and that of their children — would be turned off by a cookie-cutter approach to health. And it’s not surprising that in their disaffection, they’d turn away and seek, as one parent put it, “other modalities.”

And that’s when the doubts begin to creep in.

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Perspective, troops. Perspective. Semper Fi.

April 2, 2015

A friend sent this a coupla weeks ago. Had to reprint it.

HAIL MARY SOFTBALL

By [TARA CLANCY](#)

The New York Times

August 6, 2014 6:54 pm

We're down by one, two outs, no men on, no men anywhere: This is bantam-division softball, and we're 11-year-old girls. Michelle, our best player, is approaching the plate, helicoptering the bat over her head like this is the World Series and not just another Catholic Youth Organization game on a garbage-strewn blacktop in a far-flung corner of Queens. Michelle scans the handful of dads behind the backstop and is surprised to see hers. A soft-spirited man but a serious alcoholic, he turned up only five minutes ago. But when they lock eyes, he smiles and musters the "you can do it" fist pump, and that's all it takes. Michelle stamps into the box, curls her lip and smacks the first pitch into left field for a double. As the pitcher winds up again, Michelle sprints off to steal third. After just two strides the pitcher eyes her and rockets the ball to the third baseman. It should be over.



But then Michelle does something that no one on our team, or the other team, has ever seen before. She slides. On asphalt.

We aren't the Bulldogs, or the Tomcats, or even the Lady Bulldogs or Lady Tomcats. We are St. Gregory the Great.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II



The teams in the Catholic Youth Organization didn't have any nicknames or mascots; they were just named after the church. The more colorful ones in our division in the early '90s were Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and St. Pancras, named for the 14-year-old martyr beheaded by Emperor Diocletian. That day when Michelle slid into third we were playing the Immaculate Conception Youth Program. It was us against the greatest miracle of all time. This being New York City, not every team in our league had access to cars, and any given Saturday, you'd see two girls tag-teaming a duffel bag of equipment the size of a sixth grader up the subway stairs, sweat-soaked before the game even began. Most others crisscrossed the borough in a caravan of tiny sedans smashed full of girls, a floral arrangement of arms, bats and banners poking out the windows as they flew down the Van Wyck Expressway. The league represented what seemed like every neighborhood and ethnic group, regardless of creed. I remember a Muslim girl who wore a ball cap over her hijab and a long-sleeve shirt under her St. Something or Other jersey.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

My team, St. Greg's, was made up of Clancys, Kellys and Donaghues, with a sprinkling of Italian girls. Most of our fathers were cops or construction workers, but come Saturday they became coaches and cheerleaders, sipping beers concealed in sports bottles between shouts of "Eh! You gonna take a swing sometime this year!" and "Atta girl! Drive that ball right through her!" That they took it so seriously was always more of a good thing than bad.

I recently called my father, who never missed a game, to ask him about Michelle's first slide on asphalt. "It was all her idea, Scooter," he said. "She was crazy, that one, but a damn good ballplayer!"

We played on "hardtop" because we were girls. Competition for fields and courts in the city has always been tight. (For years I played basketball at night on a court inside the compound of the Creedmoor Psychiatric Center.) So even the 9-year-old boys' baseball teams — whose pitchers' 45-mile-per-hour fastballs barely matched ours — outranked us, and were given dominion over the few dirt fields.

As it turned out, sliding on asphalt didn't really involve much sliding. Done perfectly, you traveled mere inches, tearing a hole in your pants and removing only the first layer of skin from your leg. Done wrong, you hit the ground with such force that you instantly stopped dead, then crab-walked the rest of the way in shame. But if it's 1991 and you're an 11-year-old girl playing on asphalt, you succeed because no one expects you to care enough to try. Your opponent just stares at you in shock until the gobsmacked umpire throws out his arms and yells, "Safe!?"

As Michelle writhed on the ground, all of us in the dugout jumped to our feet, grabbed the chain-link fence and shook it as hard as we could, roaring. Meanwhile, one by one the girls on

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the field threw their gloves to the ground and screamed “You can’t do that!” To which a mom added, “Disgusting! Who tells a young girl to slide on concrete?” I think somebody’s grandma even screamed, “God will punish you for this!”

Afterward, the umpire and coaches met on the mound and debated for a good 10 minutes. Ultimately, they agreed. There was no written rule against sliding on asphalt, so the call stayed, but it was officially deemed “a pretty stupid idea” and would be discouraged going forward.

We lost to Immaculate Conception that day, but we weren’t deterred. Most of the girls on my team would go on to slide and dive on asphalt in just about every following game. It was as if we had rechristened ourselves Our Lady of Perpetual Scrapes. Risking contusions and concussions, our thighs covered in bruises the size of watermelons, we were possessed by the spirit of the desperation play — to win, to prove that we could play as hard as the boys, as hard as each other, to shock the grandmas and annoy the moms, to impress the dads who made it to every game and, maybe more so, the dads who only made it to a few.

The Hail Mary, suicide squeeze, flea-flicker. In the rare event that a desperation play actually works, it’s usually guaranteed a hallowed place in the annals of sports history — and a fantastic name. But Michelle’s asphalt slide was given neither. And whether or not the tactic is still remembered on the blacktops of Queens, there is now little chance of its being repeated. This spring, for the first time, all Catholic Youth Organization girls’ softball games were played on dirt.

Tara Clancy, a writer and performer, is working on a memoir.

Ah, Spring!. Semper Fi.

April 09, 2015

COULD THIS PASTOR'S STRATEGY SHUT DOWN ATTACKS ON CHRISTIAN BUSINESSES?



C J Conner | 4/1/2015

Last week, Arlene's Flowers in Washington was fined \$1,000 for declining a request to provide floral arrangements for the religious wedding service of gay men that she had served secularly for years. Citing her Christian convictions against participating in pagan rituals, grandma Barronelle Stutzman failed to prevail in her religious freedom case.

Faithful American Christians are increasingly under attack across the country by the gay lobby. Religious freedom is being radically and swiftly eroded. Remember the Houston 5, whose sermons and emails were subpoenaed as a repercussion of their opposition to the radical gay lobby in Houston, Texas.

It is a mark of national shame that the Religious Freedom Bill in Indiana, a Bill that mirrors President Clinton's Federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act, is being exploited by the gay lobby during Holy Week. The country has been forced into a national conversation on deviant sexuality during the holiest time of year for Christians.

"Even radicalized jihadis have put war on hold during Ramadan," said Rev. CJ Conner, Author of *Jesus and the Culture Wars: Reclaiming the Lord's Prayer*.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"I'm encouraging Christian pastors, churches, florists, bakers and boutique merchants to join together in concrete and deliberate steps to take a stand and protect the principle of American Christian Liberty," said Conner.

Here's how:

Florists, Bakers, and Other Wedding-Related Businesses

Christian merchants who serve weddings can protect their religious liberty by only offering their services to Christian Churches in exclusive, binding contracts. Merchants can continue to provide all other services as usual, but protect the free practice of their faith by contracting exclusively and specifically with Bible believing congregations to provide wedding services for their members.

Merchants would not be limited to only one faith community, but would be free from offering wedding services to the general public.

Faithful Christian Congregations

Congregations who rent space out for wedding related events or services as an outreach ministry should modify their organizational by-laws so that their facilities are only available for use to confirmed members of the congregation. This is a good general rule of thumb for every congregation. As the gay lobby expands its agenda to target Christians and houses of worship directly, congregations that rent their space to any couple are at risk for costly legal action if they do not also rent to gay couples.

Congregations should also begin to identify Christian florists, bakers, caterers and wedding boutiques that share their values and enter into exclusive, binding contracts for the service of

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Christian weddings. This will help ensure the success of Christian-owned businesses while also protecting the religious liberty of Christian wedding merchants and congregations.

"The burgeoning agenda of the gay lobby will soon turn to other targets on the horizon, including the 'fair use' of sacred worship spaces. In fact, the Alliance Defending Freedom/Faith has warned that the next battle-front for Christian liberty could well be where churches charter Boy Scout Troops. Congregations that allow the Boy Scouts to use their facilities either for rent or for free are at risk of legal liability should they refuse to perform a gay marriage on the basis of religious liberty. The Boy Scouts have embraced the gay lobby and their agenda

"It is telling that during this penitential season the nation has been embroiled in a discussion over sin. I urge Christians to pray for the leaders of the gay lobby, that the Resurrected Lord may lead them out of their darkness and into His light, that they might repent, and God might forgive them for their persecution of Christians," said Rev. Conner.

For faithful Christians, we are called to the same long-suffering as our Lord Jesus who gave His all for us on the cross on Good Friday. To the extent that we can peacefully side-step and not engage the gay lobby at all, we will be free for gospel missions to be a holy blessing to our communities and the world."

HOUSE OF CARDS*

J E Ted Thayer | April 9, 2015

... really left us hangin' this time with the third season's final episode ... very much like the last 1980 CBS TV episode of *Dallas* "*Who shot J.R?*"**

Claire, the President's wife, leaves him after she is betrayed. The fact that she had an abortion was leaked (without documentation) to the President's Primary Election opponent. This happened some time after explicit instructions were given to destroy her personal journal. It was not destroyed, but instead held by the President's one-time Chief of Staff, who returned it and burned the offending page in the oval office in front of the President after declaring his allegiance. The last scene has Claire exiting, stage-right-forward, towards a future (or not) for which we all must wait another year.

The former Chief of Staff spent the entire season tracking down a woman who had beaten him so badly he was deformed and almost died. With help extorted from a deep-background sleuth he finds her, kidnaps her, and takes her to the desert where he intends to murder her. Instead, after he digs a fresh grave, she talks him out of it and is released to walk some twenty miles to the nearest town. Near the end of the episode there are two scenes that question what actually happened at the end: First, we see him turn his vehicle around and head down the road toward her. In the second, he is seen shoveling dirt into the grave. It isn't clear whether he ran her over and killed her, gave her a lift to the town, or picked her up and returned to the grave-site to destroy any traces of them having been there.

I don't know, but this episode may go down as one of the great cliff-hangers of all time!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

**House of Cards* is a *Netflix* series produced by and starring Kevin Spacey. All episodes are available for viewing one-at-a-time or in series. The new phrase "binge-watching" was coined by early watchers of the hit series three years ago after a second *Netflix* hit *Orange is the New Black* was released. *Netflix* is a \$7.99/mo subscription internet movie service that began decades ago as a mail-order DVD rental service.

** The great question hovering over the shooting of J.R.Ewing wasn't revealed until the fourth season eight months later. *Dallas* was a CBS prime-time soap-opera for 14 seasons between 1987 and 1991.

Try to maintain. Semper Fi.

April 16, 2015

DUMB

J E Ted Thayer | April 16, 2015

No one in the whole world is as dumb as a leftist student at the University of California.

Ben Stein - Fox News Outnumbered 03-10-2015

I don't know about that ... I keep running into them at much less prestigious locations.

Take the burger joint downtown. I walked in and ordered "*a couple of hamburgers with everything on them to take home with me.*" The teen behind the counter (not quite yet a woman in full bloom) then asked three questions: "*How many is a couple? ... Will that be with everything? ... Do you want them to go?*" When I handed her a twenty, she asked her manager if it was alright to give out pennies with the change recommended by the computer. She had obviously not yet attended a college or university. This sweet young thing was about as dumb as a box of rocks! The girl fit the dumb blonde stereotype to a tee except that she was a brunette!

Now, I wouldn't think of being sexist here. There are plenty of young men who fit the bill completely. For example: I needed to replace a few bolts in my extensive car-care collection, so I popped into the auto parts store with one, showed it to the kid with the tussled hair behind the counter and asked "*Can I have half-a-dozen of these bolts on my credit card?*" This fine young man, more than likely just out of high school, replied with three questions: "*How many is half-a-dozen? ... What kind of vehicle is it? ... Will that be cash or charge?*" I'll bet hard cash that this ol' kid's rock-box was just chock-full of fresh cow-pies!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Then, there was the clerk behind check-out at the drug counter. You have to give the name and birthdate of the recipient to pick up drugs and I was there to get an order that my wife had called in. As I stepped up to the counter the girl asked, "*May I help you, sir?*" "Yes," I said, "*I'm here to pick up an order for Claudette Thayer - T-H-A-Y-E-R 4-14-1937.*"

Then - I swear to God! - she asked, "*And who would that be for, sir?*" She was NOT a blonde!

The problem is ... we keep running into more and more of this kind of service from an exponentially-expanding number of dumb people. I hate to be picky here, but the vast majority of them are quite young and still plagued with pimples. If you give them a twenty and a one for a six dollar purchase they get confused and can't figure out the change is fifteen bucks! Lord, help us if the bill is a buck-and-a-quarter and you present a five and two-bits! (What're two bits?)

These are people who are capable of texting at lightning speed (even while driving), have a gazillion equally-quick-fingered friends on Facebook, and drop the f-bomb like popcorn while talking on their cell-phones waiting in the check-out line at Wal Mart. These are the ones who - except at work - prefer to dress in shabby hand-me-downs but almost always have brand-new iPhones held up to their ears. Then there are the others who don't drive. They seem to like over-sized basketball attire and either black lace-ups or suede work-boots. Few smoke ... probably because there's no money left after paying for all those giant sodas!

They're gregarious. If you can somehow fit in between the iCalls and selfies, they're fun to talk with! Age doesn't seem to present a barrier. Each generation has its peculiarities and this one is no different, I guess. It's just that they're so dumb!

Now, try to be understanding, troops. Semper Fi.

April 23, 2015

THE GA'AN CAN HELP

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE CONTENTION THAT OAK FLATS IS HOLY GROUND

J E Ted Thayer | April 23, 2015

The claim by members of the San Carlos Apache Tribe that territory in and around Oak Flats between Globe and Superior is "*sacred land*" is, at best, highly suspect - based on text from the World-Wide-Web's *Wikipedia*, the *Arizona Republic* and journalist *Shane Murphy's* biography of my great grand uncle, northern Arizona's historical icon John Hance.

According to *Wikipedia*:

"On December 14, 1872, President U.S. Grant established the San Carlos Apache Reservation. [...] In March 1875, the government closed the Yavapai-Apache Camp Verde Reservation and marched the residents 180 miles to the San Carlos Apache Indian Reservation.

"More than 100 Yavapai died during the winter trek. After the Chiricahuan Apache were deported east to Florida in 1886, San Carlos became the reservation for various other relocated Apachean-speaking groups. These included the Pinal Coyotero of the northern Gila River area, the former San Carlos Apache bands Aravaipa (also Arivaipa or Tsee Zhinnee), Pinaleño (also Pinal Apache or Tiis Ebah Nnee), Apache Peaks (also called Bichi Lehe Nnee), and San Carlos proper (also Tiis Zhaazhe Bikoh or 'Small Cottonwood Canyon People'), the former Canyon Creek, Carrizo Creek and Cibecue bands of the Cibecue Apache."

Researcher *Shane Murphy* writes:

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"John Hance did a little of everything but most of it involved wagons. Army surgeon William Corbusier described this to good effect: 'John Hance . . . delivered hay and other supplies at the post [Fort Verde] and the [Cottonwood Indian] agency.'

"It's odd that Corbusier doesn't mention the Hance brothers' participation in the Yavapai, Apache, and Hualapai removal to San Carlos during February and March, 1875. But, then, their route was different than his. The army surgeon traveled overland, via the strenuous southern route through snowy mountain passes and across swollen winter rivers, tending as best he could the 3,000 Indian men, women, and children who were able to walk, carrying only what they could never bear to leave behind. The Hance wagon train, loaded with twenty-five forlorn souls, proceeded west, up Copper Canyon, and then turned south past George's Cienega Ranch to join the rudimentary Black Canyon route into Maricopa at Hayden's Ferry, then to Globe and eastward. By their participation in the Yavapai removal and the Navajo return to the Four Corners, John and George Hance were involved in two of the most significant forced migrations in American history." (Republic article below)

From the *Arizona Republic*, April 15, 1931

"George Hance [my great-grandfather] later wrote (the following text has been slightly rearranged): 'John and I owned a bull train of eight teams (eight wagons, each pulled by two or more bulls). (At Camp Verde, Special Commissioner L. E. Dudley) hired us to haul the 'baggage' and the helpless Indians to Hayden's Ferry on the Salt River and to San Carlos (now under San Carlos Reservoir). They numbered about 3,000 and several hundred of them were helpless women and children, aged, lame and blind. The rest of them went by way of foot and by way of Payson, old Fort Reno (near Fort McDowell), and Fort Thomas to the San Carlos agency.' "Writing after he had

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

suffered a stroke, George confused the number of Indians traveling by wagon to San Carlos with the Navajo return to the Four Corners."

It's my contention that San Carlos Apaches never existed until the federal government created their land grant reservation between Superior and Safford. The real Gila and Graham County Apaches were bands of *Tsee Zhinnee* and *Tiis Zhaazhe Bikoh* natives. Claims that an independent or sovereign Apache Nation existed before that time is malarkey. That there were any sacred (other than burial) sites between the two towns before the consolidated San Carlos Tribe existed is a story as tall as any that John Hance, well-known for his whoppers, could have concocted.

Oak Flats only exists as a bone of contention because the gullible white-eyes from the federal government actually bought into the idea that Mount Graham was a "*sacred site*" revered by "*traditional*" San Carlos Apaches. The two areas have been heavily promoted as "*sacred sites*" only since non-natives sought to develop them (Mt. Graham for world-class telescopes and Oak Flats for world-class copper mining.)

It's a fact that since 1874, members of as many as thirteen different Apache bands or tribes have inhabited the San Carlos reservation. Even though all of its natives believe that traditional Mountain Spirits (*The Ga'an*) reside in virtually all of the southwest's mountains, the purveyors of the Mount Graham and Oak Flat fables have tailored their stories to fool around with non-believers. The fact is that the Mount Graham and Oak Flats myths are the product of a collaboration between the "*trickster*" and a few native ne'er-do-wells who have been unable to take and hold tribal political power.

Using the supposedly traditional "*Apache Way*" for years, native fakirs have been pulling the wool over the eyes of not

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

only dupes from divisions of the US government (such as the BIA and the EPA) and the United States Congress, but also some unsuspecting members of other native tribes across the country including some Navajo and Hopi natives living in areas like Bylas, Peridot, San Carlos, SevenMile and Cutter!

I think it's time for the truly dedicated members of the long-consolidated San Carlos Apache Tribe to develop the courage to stand up to those who shout falsehoods. With a little spiritual help from *The Ga'an*, the *In'deh* majority should be striving for movement forward and jobs for all residents of the San Carlos Apache Reservation!

Maintain integrity, troops. Semper Fi.

April 30, 2015

WE'RE IN DEEP KIMCHI!

J E Ted Thayer | April 30, 2015

I got involved in a coupla things a few weeks ago that got my dander up! One was about the LGBT movement, the other involved Talking Points.

Let's start at the beginning. I get this email every morning from *Townhall.com*, a conservative web journal to which many very good writers offer submissions. It also displays political cartoons from about thirty of the best in the business. I write this, my own column *The Wild Bunch*, and distribute it free every Thursday to my email subscribers. I also participate in some pretty lively political discourse with friends and acquaintances via email on intermittent occasions.

So, a coupla weeks ago I get this *Townhall.com* post and it's got an article in it about the LGBT movement by radio journalist Liz Harrison titled "*Gays in America and Overcoming the 'Ick' Factor.*" Don't EVEN get me started!

She opines, "[...] *It has been a bizarre balancing act that involves a group of people defining themselves by their sexual proclivities, while simultaneously keeping the actual sex acts out of view. Now that the movement is trying to force changes in religious doctrine to find their lifestyle acceptable, that balancing act is going to be more difficult to maintain. The bottom line is that religions consider gay sex – sodomy, if you prefer – a sin. [And most states consider it a crime.] The wall that the gay rights movement built to hide what they do in bed from the public view will need to come down at least a little to win this battle. Even people that are supportive of gay rights would not necessarily want to see what the people they support do in bed. Call it the “ick” factor if you like, but it is a simple*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

fact of life that gay activists have avoided facing so far. [...] It was fine and even fashionable to support gay rights when one didn't have to think about anyone actually engaging in gay sex. No one should be surprised if we end up seeing some people admit to at least a little revulsion toward gays, assuming that the dialogue truly does turn to the actual sins involved. Arguably, the ball is in the court of religious leaders now. The question is, are they willing to speak explicitly about sin for the sake of protecting religious liberty?"

Now, I'm perfectly happy to leave other people alone as long as they do the same for me. I guess I'm sorta Libertarian that way. But when they start pressing my buttons, wanting me to accept crime and sin as a way of life and support forcing the issue in our courts, well don't expect me to support their Talking Points in any way, shape or form! The principles upon which our great country was founded include individual freedom - for certain. But, by the same token, the excesses we humans seem to concoct at the drop of a hat must be tempered by the other founding principles of morality and responsibility. Ms. Harrison hit the nail on the head. It is time for our religious leaders - including Jesse Jackson, Al Sharpton, Jeremiah Wright (whose names alone make me cringe), Benny Hinn, Billy Graham and his son Franklin, Pat Robertson, and yes, even The *Apostolic Nuncio* of the Holy See to the United States and the Organization of American States (OAS) H.E. Archbishop Carlo Maria! - to take the battle to those who would interfere for even one second with our religious liberty!

Now, on to the next battle!

The Liberals who interrupt and talk/yell over other talk-show guests the most - like Susan Estrich, Juan Williams, and Kirsten Powers - can't hold a candle to Bob Beckel, who has probably dropped more f-bombs than any other tv commentator in history! Be that as it may ... people love Estrich's scratchy voice

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

- and the possibility that Beckel will go ballistic any second. The other great Liberal on tv is Alan Colmes - he's the one who always has the raised eyebrow when things get the least bit dicey. While I personally detest liberalism, these are people everybody loves to hate - great, personable Liberals who would die before stooping to Talking Points. For that, each has my undying respect and admiration.

What busts my butt are the idiots who insist on quoting Talking Points as the gospel on any political subject. Take the economy, for instance. Liberal Talking Points claim that the American economy has been growing at a robust rate for years and we're through with the great recession. Conservative Talking Points claim that real income for the average middle-class American has not kept up with inflation and that economic growth is about half that needed to increase wages and create jobs. Liberals say we're doing fine; conservatives say we're goin' to Hell in a hand-basket. So, the question is, Whose Talking Points are right?

The answer is, Both! You see, to a Liberal, *critical thinking* is the art of creating or finding ways to criticize political opponents and/or their Talking Points and using that information to debunk Conservative arguments. To a Conservative, *critical thinking* is the art of logically dissecting the arguments of political opponents and/or their Talking Points and using that information to debunk Liberal arguments. Both sides are right according to their Talking Points - and both are wrong ... simply for using Talking Points in the first place!

Talking Points completely bypass the whole idea of argument in the first place. Constructive argument is what politics - in its purest form - is all about. The *Cambridge Dictionary* defines *argument* as "*the reasons for your opinion about the truth of something or an explanation of why you believe something should be done.*" To me, people who use Talking Points to

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

support arguments are idiots ... because they don't comprehend *critical thinking* - or are too lazy to use it to create original arguments of their own.

Whatever political subject is in the crosshairs, when stimulating intellectual discussion is tossed aside in favor of Talking points, we're in deep kimchi!

Remember the Force Continuum, troops. Semper Fi.

May 07, 2015

FROM AROUND THE ETHER

Doug Giles | April 26, 2015

Giles, the Big Dawg at *ClashDaily* and Co-Owner of *The Safari Cigar Company*, wrote the following on becoming a grandfather: *"Yep, I would love nothing more than to leave a mark, as an 'old man,' on my posterity that'll fill [my grandson] with courage, honor, loyalty, a hardwork ethic, selflessness and a sense of God and country that will further this grand experiment in self-governance and do [it] with hope and a big, devilish/confident grin on his face."*

DickMorris.com | April 28, 2015

Reviewing Grover Norquist's new book *End The IRS Before It Ends US*, Morris writes: *"Norquist backs both a Fair Tax and a Flat Tax. But in advocating a Flat Tax, he makes the point that only where the rich pay more does the tax rate rise. For example, Massachusetts, the poster state for liberalism, has a flat tax of 5.25%. Despite constant liberal attempts to raise it, the increases never pass because all would have to pay for the hike. In Illinois, as well, the rate never goes up because it applies to everyone. Overall, in the eight states where there is a flat tax, the average top rate is 4.54% while the average top rate for the graduated tax states is 7.15%."*

**DEMOCRATIC
UNDERGROUND.COM**

| February 5, 2008

"Humans originally existed as members of small bands of nomadic hunter/gatherers. They lived on deer in the mountains during the summer and would go to the coast and live on fish and lobster in the winter.

"The two most important events in all of history were the invention of beer and the invention of the wheel.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"Beer required grain and that was the beginning of agriculture. Neither the glass bottle nor aluminum can were invented yet, so while our early humans were sitting around waiting for them to be invented, they just stayed close to the brewery. That's how villages were formed.

"The wheel was invented to get man to the beer.

"These two were the foundation of modern civilization and together were the catalyst for the splitting of humanity into two distinct subgroups:

1. Liberals

2. Conservatives

"Some men spent their days tracking and killing animals to BBQ at night while they were drinking beer. This was the beginning of what is known as the Conservative movement. Other men who were less skilled at hunting learned to live off the conservatives by showing up for the nightly BBQ's and doing the sewing, fetching, and hair dressing. This was the beginning of the Liberal movement.

"Some of these liberal men evolved into women. Others became known as girlie-men. Some noteworthy Liberal achievements include the domestication of cats, the invention of psychotherapy, group hugs, and the concept of democratic voting to decide how to divide the meat and beer that Conservatives provided.

"Over the years Conservatives came to be symbolized by the largest, most powerful land animal on earth, the elephant. Liberals are symbolized by the jackass for obvious reasons. Some modern Liberals like lite beer (with lime added), but most prefer white wine or imported bottled water. They eat raw fish but like their beef well done. Sushi, tofu, and French food are standard Liberal fare. Another interesting evolutionary side note is that many Liberal women have higher testosterone levels than their men.

"Most college professors, social workers, personal injury attorneys, journalists, Hollywood film makers, group therapists and community organizers are Liberals. Liberals meddled in

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

our national pastime and invented the designated hitter rule because it wasn't fair to make the pitcher also bat.

"Conservatives drink real beer. They eat red meat and still provide for their women.

"Conservatives are big game hunters, rodeo cowboys, lumberjacks, construction workers, firemen, medical doctors, police officers, engineers, corporate executives, athletes, members of the military, airline pilots, and generally anyone who works productively. Conservatives who own companies hire other conservatives who want to work for a living.

"Liberals produce little or nothing. They like to govern the producers and decide what to do with the production. Liberals believe Europeans are more enlightened than Americans. That is why most of the Liberals remained in Europe when Conservatives were coming to America. They crept in after the Wild West was tamed and created a business of trying to get more for nothing.

"Here ends today's lesson in world history.

"It should be noted that a Liberal may have a momentary urge to angrily respond to this post.

"A Conservative will simply laugh and be so convinced of the absolute truth of this history that it will be shared immediately to other true believers and just to piss off more liberals."

J E Ted Thayer | May 1, 2015

The United States of America was founded on the principle that government has no business meddling in matters of religion.

French colonists emigrated to America some fifty years before the Mayflower in an effort to be rid of religious persecution. To escape the tyranny of the Church-State, English pilgrims and worshipers from Holland followed, first anchoring at Cape Cod on November 11, 1620. Of the roughly 130 passengers and crew aboard the Mayflower, only about 68 survived to reach

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Plymouth on March 21, 1621. These brave souls paid with their lives to assure religious freedom for all who followed.

Although it wasn't created until December 15, 1791 (just over 170 years after the landing at Plymouth Rock), the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution specifically prohibits the Congress from creating laws that would intervene in religious matters: "*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;*"

For the above reasons, I predict that the Supreme Court will refuse to allow the Federal Government to intrude into the "marriage problem." I further believe the Court will leave it a states' rights issue under the Tenth Amendment: "*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.*"

THE BLAZE | April 30, 2015

Glenn Beck on Thursday predicted that 50 percent of congregants would fall away from their churches within five years [if gay marriage is legalized](#) by the Supreme Court.

"What does your church do if they are currently saying 'No, we aren't going to marry same-sex couples.' What happens?"

Beck asked on his radio program. *"They lose their tax exempt status and a lot of them will fall away."*

Beck said his own church likely won't give in on the issue, and will either be forced to *"shut down"* or say, *"we would rather have our church in houses and be on the run."*

Churches will either shut down, Beck predicted, or they will be under so much pressure that people will choose not to attend.

"Persecution is coming. If this goes through, persecution is coming," Beck warned. "I mean serious prosecution. Mark my words. ... If gay marriage goes through the Supreme Court and

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

gay marriage becomes fine and they can put teeth in it, so now they can go after the churches, 50 percent of our churches will fall away, meaning the congregations. Within five years, the congregations, *50 percent of the congregants will fall away from their church because they won't be able to take the persecution.*"

Beck said *"the stigma of going to church will be too much,"* and people won't want to risk their jobs, their livelihoods or their reputations.

"50 percent. Mark my words," Beck repeated. *"Within five years, 50 percent of the people that you sit next to in church will not be there ... because they'll say, 'I can't do that. I will lose my job. People are picketing at my house. I just can't do that.'"*

Beck has repeatedly made it clear that he believes [the government should have no hand in marriage](#), and if a church wants to marry a gay couple, it should have the right to do so. But he also doesn't believe a church should be forced to marry a gay couple.

"[It's] about the principle," Beck's co-host Stu Burguiere agreed. *"You can't go to a church on any issue and change their mind by force of the government. That is the most basic thing we've done in this country."*

J E Ted Thayer | May 4, 2015

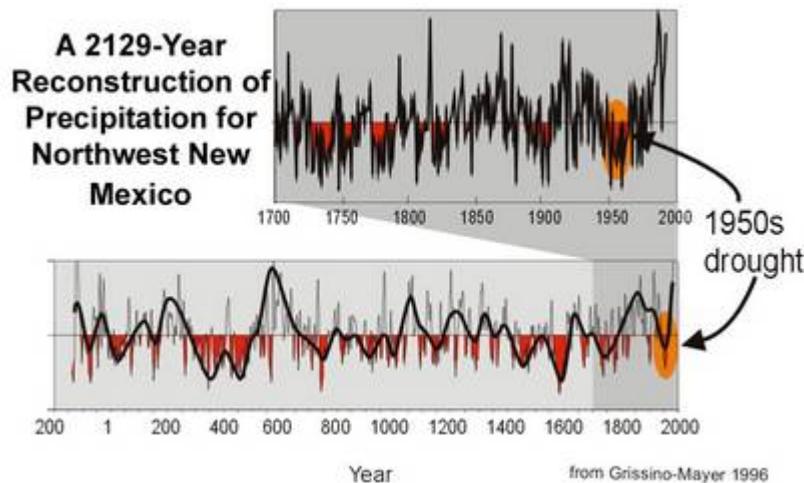
I have it on good authority that weatherwise we in the Southwest are in for an interesting year. California could well find itself toward the end of its half-decade drought and desert climes could find flash-flooding the norm this summer and fall.

Last summer we had a strong El Nino trying to develop in the Pacific, warming waters in the central Pacific and causing welling of warm waters off the west coast. The necessary jetstream activity didn't develop to sustain a strong weather pattern

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

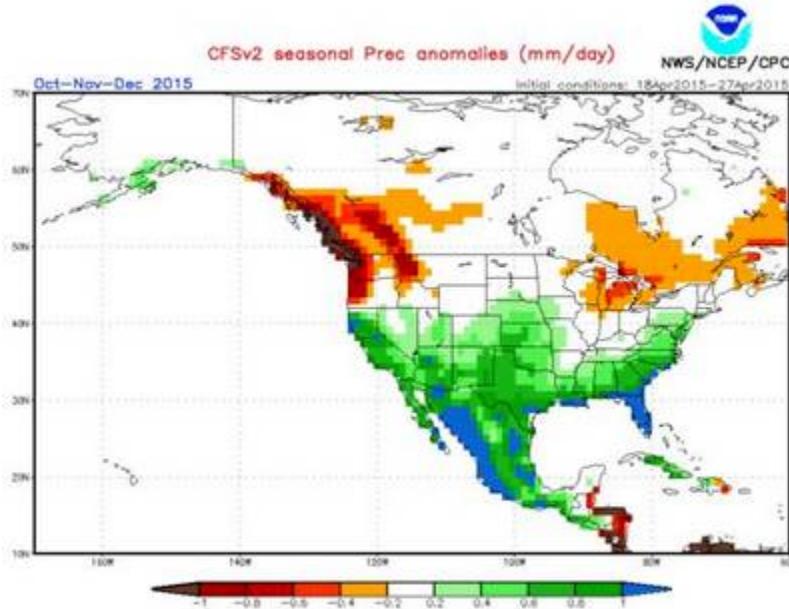
so California was left high and dry again, worsening its drought.

This year, however, pointers are in place for a big El Nino: Juvenile seabirds have been dying off in large numbers because of decreases in their main food source, plankton that normally thrives along the west coast. And corals have been "bleaching" all over the Pacific because of the warmer currents. Some proponents of Global Climate Change are blaming human influences on the continuing California drought and the die-off of a number of species in the western US. Others say deviant weather is naturally-occurring. In 1996, an interesting chart was created by Grissino-Mayer that depicts the cycles of drought in northwestern New Mexico over some two millenia: The chart below depicts El Nino predictions developed this



spring by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Note that drought conditions move up the west coast into Washington state and the west coast of Canada as a result.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II



The last large southwest El Nino created rains from early 1992 through the Spring of 1993 that did significant damage across Arizona. The *2013 State of Arizona HMPR Assessment* reviews 1993 as follows:

"Winter 1993. A persistent El Nino established new record rainfalls and storm intensities throughout the State. Warm temperatures caused snowmelt which exacerbated the runoff over large areas, and rivers, creeks, and washes overflowed their banks, causing extensive erosion. Stream flow velocities and runoff volumes exceeded historic highs. Many flood control channels and retention reservoirs, filled to capacity, diverted water to emergency spillways; in some cases, reservoirs were breached, causing extensive damage. Damages were reported in almost all counties of the State. Gila County sustained severe damage – several homes in Winkelman Flats were completely destroyed by the Gila River; many homes in Tonto Basin and Verde Lakes were severely damaged or destroyed. Bridge crossings on the lower Gila River became impassable, isolating families on the north side. Thousands of acres of valuable

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

farmland were inundated, destroying crops. Releases from Painted Rock Dam on the Gila River were frequent. A presidentially declared disaster was issued; damages were widespread and significant, impacting over 100 communities. Damages exceeded \$400 million; eight (8) deaths and 112 injuries were reported to the Red Cross."

El Nino and its cousin La Nina are weather patterns that develop within regular eleven year cycles that wax and wane, overlapping a separate cycle of precipitation and drought. Those sun-driven cycles vary in strength creating peaks and valleys that encourage or prevent precipitation across the central Pacific, northern Mexico and the southern United States.

Weather experts are predicting a much larger than normal El Nino this year and into early next year - one that will bring very wet weather to Baja California and northwestern Mexico, as well as higher-than-normal precipitation over southern California, Arizona and New Mexico. Southern Florida is in for a wet one also because the unusual weather pattern is slowly setting up to deliver copious rains all the way across the southern United States.

All that remains to be seen.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

May 14, 2015

FROM ...

ADOT | May 05, 2015

PHOENIX — Motorists who travel regularly on US 60 between Globe and Phoenix need to be aware of a series of upcoming improvement projects that will impact traffic on the highway this summer.

The Arizona Department of Transportation is investing nearly \$65 million in four critical projects in Pinal/Gila counties that will start this year and build upon efforts to upgrade the US 60 corridor, which is a major transportation route connecting the Phoenix metropolitan area and the communities of Florence Junction, Superior, Globe, Miami, San Carlos and Show Low.

“Improvement projects planned this summer along the US 60 corridor will ultimately enhance safety for motorists,” said ADOT Globe District Engineer Jesse Gutierrez. “Some of the projects will require significant traffic restrictions, so it will be important for motorists to allow extra travel time and plan ahead when construction starts.”

ADOT will work to minimize the traffic impacts by scheduling work hours on overlapping projects at different times of the day as much as possible. A detailed schedule of traffic restrictions will be released to the public prior to the start of construction.

The first project along US 60 will start in June, when ADOT will build a new westbound climbing lane and widen shoulders along a 13-mile stretch of US 60 from the Oak Flat area to the town of Miami (mileposts 229-242).

This \$13 million safety improvement project will make it easier for motorists to pass large trucks and slow-moving vehicles

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

whose speed drops because of the sustained grades along this stretch of highway from Devil's Canyon to the Oak Flat area (mileposts 230-232).

When this project starts, blasting operations will require intermittent full closures of the highway.

Later in the summer, ADOT will convert the last remaining two-lane roadway segment on US 60 between Phoenix and Superior into a modern, four-lane divided highway. The \$45 million US 60 Silver King/Superior Streets project just west of Superior (mileposts 222-227) is expected to take two years to complete and will include improving the urban section of highway in Superior. The five-mile-long widening improvements will improve traffic flow and enhance safety on US 60.

East of Superior at milepost 228, ADOT will replace the antiquated lighting in the US 60 Queen Creek Tunnel with a new light-emitting diode (LED) lighting system. This will be the first tunnel in Arizona to have this LED technology. The new lighting system will improve visibility within the tunnel, which was originally built in 1952, by using an adaptive control system that will adjust the lighting level based upon ambient light and weather conditions outside the tunnel.

ADOT expects to replace the lighting system beginning this summer, which will require new conduit and wiring in the quarter-mile-long tunnel. The total project cost is estimated to be \$3.8 million.

The final project on US 60 is a \$3 million rock mitigation project along mileposts 228-229, where crews will remove loose boulders along this very rocky and steep section of highway adjacent to the Queen Creek Tunnel.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

ADOT works to inform the public about planned highway restrictions, but there is a possibility that unscheduled closures or restrictions may occur. Weather can also affect a project schedule. To stay up to date with the latest highway conditions around the state, visit the ADOT Traveler Information System at az511.gov or call 5-1-1.



Another Cool Cowboy Poem (To be read out loud!)

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Jake, the rancher, went one day to fix a distant fence.
The wind was cold and gusty and the clouds rolled gray and dense.

As he pounded the last staples in and gathered tools to go,
The temperature had fallen, the wind and snow began to blow.

When he finally reached his pickup, he felt a heavy heart.
From the sound of that ignition, he knew it wouldn't start.

So Jake did what most of us would do if we had been there.
He humbly bowed his balding head and sent aloft a prayer.

As he turned the key for the last time, he softly cursed his luck.
They found him three days later, frozen stiff in that old truck.

Now Jake had been around in life and done his share of roaming.
But when he saw Heaven, he was shocked!
It looked just like Wyoming.

Of all the saints in Heaven, his favorite was St. Peter.
So they sat and talked a minute or two, Or maybe it was three.
Nobody was keeping' score -- In Heaven, time is free.

'I've always heard,' Jake said to Pete, 'that God will answer prayer,
But one time I asked for help, well, he just plain wasn't there.

'Does God answer prayers of some, and ignore the prayers of others?
That don't seem exactly square -- I know all men are brothers.

'Or does he randomly reply, without good rhyme or reason?
Maybe, it's the time of day, the weather or the season.

'Now I ain't trying to act smart, it's just the way I feel.
And I was wonderin', could you tell me --What the heck's the deal?'

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Peter listened very patiently and when Jake was done,
There were smiles of recognition, and he said, 'So, you're the one!

'That day your truck wouldn't start, and you sent your prayer a flyin',
You gave us all a real bad time, with hundreds of us tryin'.

'A thousand angels rushed to check the status of your file,
But you know, Jake, we hadn't heard from you in quite a long while.

'And though all prayers are answered, and God ain't got no quota,
He didn't recognize your voice, and started a truck in Minnesota.'

Now, from my favorite Libertarian commentator:

Disobey!

[John Stossel](#) | May 13, 2015

Charles Murray, already controversial for writing books on how welfare hurts the poor, on ethnic differences in IQ and on (less controversial, but my favorite) happiness and good government, has written a new book that argues that it's time for civil disobedience. Government has become so oppressive, constantly restricting us with new regulations, that our only hope is for some of us to refuse to cooperate.

Murray's suggestion -- laid out in "By the People: Rebuilding Liberty Without Permission," will make some people nervous. He argues that citizens and companies should start openly defying all but the most useful regulations, essentially ones that forbid assault, theft and fraud.

He writes, "America is no longer the land of the free. We are still free in the sense that Norwegians, Germans and Italians are free. But that's not what Americans used to mean by freedom."

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

He quotes Thomas Jefferson's observation that a good government is one "which shall restrain men from injuring one another (and) shall leave them otherwise free to regulate their own pursuits."

But our government today tries to do much more.

While we try to invent new things, government constantly seeks new ways to control us. The number of federal crimes on the books is now 50 percent larger than back in 1980 -- a time when many people mistakenly thought the U.S. would *cut* the size of government.

Murray says, correctly, that no ordinary human being -- not even a team of lawyers -- can ever be sure how to obey the 810 pages of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, 1,024 pages of the Affordable Care Act or 2,300 pages of Dodd-Frank.

What if we all stopped trying? The government can't put *everyone* in jail. Maybe by disobeying enough stupid laws, we can persuade judges that only rules that prevent clear, real harm to individuals should be enforced: "no harm, no foul."

Law is not always the best indication of what is good behavior. Riots in places such as Ferguson and Baltimore remind us that even cops sometimes behave badly.

No one wants to see law break down so completely that people get hurt, but historian Thaddeus Russell reminds us that many freedoms we take for granted exist not because the government graciously granted liberties to us but because of lawbreakers.

Bootleggers, "robber barons" who did things like transporting ferry passengers in defiance of state-granted monopolies and tea-dumping American revolutionaries ignored laws they opposed. Sometimes these scofflaws loved liberty *more* than our revered Founders did. George Washington led troops against whiskey makers to enforce taxes.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

More recently, Uber decided it would ignore some cab regulations. It's good that they did because Uber usually offers better and safer service. Today, Uber is probably too popular for government to stamp out.

Edward Snowden knew the legal consequences he'd face for revealing NSA spying on American citizens but did it anyway. I'm not yet sure if he did the right thing, but conservatives and leftists alike should admit that sometimes laws ought to be bent or broken.

Instead, each political party defends civil disobedience unless the people doing it are people that faction doesn't like. The right loves ranchers who resist federal land managers but doesn't like people who flout immigration laws. The left likes pot smokers but whines about corporations ignoring ridiculously complicated environmental regulations.

Maybe most of these laws should be ignored by most of us.

Politicians themselves don't always play by the rules. My last column was about how the Clintons get away with breaking rules. But I made a mistake that I must correct: I said the Clinton Foundation donated only 9 percent of its money to charity. Sorry, that was wrong. The Clintons and their flunkies were worse than that.

In 2013, the Foundation collected \$144 million but spent only \$8.8 million on charity. That's only *6 percent*.

When Bill and Hillary say they want to "help people," they're talking about themselves. I don't want to be forced to obey such people.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

May 21, 2015

TRY THIS!

J E Ted Thayer | 05-21-2015

This gem came in the email the other day from an old friend. Being a Walmartian myself, I just *had* to include it this week!

Jennifer, a manager at Wal-Mart had the task of hiring someone to fill a job opening. After sorting through a stack of resumes she found four people who were equally qualified. Jennifer decided to call the four in and ask them only one question. Their answer would determine which of them would get the job.

The day came and as the four sat around the conference room table, Jennifer asked, "What is the fastest thing you know of?"

The first man replied, "A THOUGHT. It just pops into your head. There's no warning."

"That's very good!" replied Jennifer. "And, now you sir?", she asked the second man.

"Hmmm...let me see ... A blink! It comes and goes and you don't know that it ever happened. A BLINK is the fastest thing I know of."

"Excellent!" said Jennifer. "The blink of an eye, that's a very popular cliché for speed." She then turned to the third man, who was contemplating his reply.

"Well, out at my dad's ranch, you step out of the house and on the wall there's a light switch. When you flip that switch, way out across the pasture the light on the barn comes on in less

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

than an instant. Yep, TURNING ON A LIGHT is the fastest thing I can think of."

Jennifer was very impressed with the third answer and thought she had found her man. "It 's hard to beat the speed of light," she said. Turning to BUBBA, the fourth and final man, Jennifer posed the same question.

Ol' Bubba replied, "After hearing those other guys' answers, it's obvious to me that the fastest thing known is DIARRHEA."

"WHAT!?" said Jennifer, stunned by the response.

"Oh sure," said BUBBA. "You see, the other day I wasn't feeling so good, and I ran for the bathroom, but before I could THINK, BLINK, or TURN ON THE LIGHT, I had already pooped my pants."

BUBBA might just be the new greeter at a Wal-Mart near you!

Speaking of Wal Mart ...

Some years ago the major bakers changed the recipe for sandwich bread. I was raised on Wonder Bread (builds strong bodies twelve ways) and my kids ate Rainbo Bread. Both had a nice, fluffy taste.

Then in 2009 Wonder sold to Hostess ... it went off the shelves for a while and when it returned the recipe had changed. The bread became pastey and took on a musty flavor (that used to make me want to Ralph!) Been searchin' for a good sandwich bread ever since.

Well ... I found Orowheat Jewish Rye for my ham sandwiches surrounding low-sodium Boar's Head ham with Dijon mustard and Best Foods Mayo at Fry's/Kroger's.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Although there doesn't seem to be a really good commercial sandwich bread available anymore, I recently ran into the Wal Mart baked-fresh-daily Italian and French breads. God! They're good! The Wal Mart Italian needs only a taste of butter to go with your pasta and sauce and seafood and red wine!

The French bread (slathered with butter) goes with peanut-butter and jam - and Balogna - and Salami - and BLTs - and just about anything else you can pile on! Wal Mart has hit pay-dirt! Their fresh-every-morning baked bread has all the others beat hands down! AND ... it's only a BUCK! Take my word for it.

(Excuse me while I loose my tin-foil hat ...)

Now, an acquaintance asked what I thought about the Jade Helm Exercises. In my years of experience in broadcasting, journalism, emergency services and politics, I found one constant: Failure to verify facts by consulting a number of trusted sources, over time leads to gross and hurtful mis-statements that are taken as facts later. Let me elaborate:

I gave the program at a Rotary Club meeting a couple of decades ago - the premise is still the same, all these years later.

I explained how simple it would be to ruin Mayor Stan Gibson with a simple question: "Is it true that you beat your wife?" The resulting headline, of course is 'MAYOR DENIES WIFE-BEATING'

The meat of the story is all about his avoidance of run-ins with the law over his many years of public service. The police chief, an old friend, denies ever having any problems - ever - with the Mayor.

When a neighbor is interviewed about the Mayor's denial of wife-beating, the answer is printed as, "Well, of course Stan

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

and his wife have been married forever and we've lived next door most of that time. They, like my husband and I, have had our differences over time. And we haven't always been very quite about it!"

Other parts of the story describe how he has kept his temper under control at the office - attested by city employees.

The paper in neighboring Safford picks up the story and trumpets, "WIFE-BEATING MAYOR PART OF POSSIBLE COVER-UP." They had dispatched a reporter who snooped around, continuing to get negative answers to the key question. Nobody could (or would) confirm the veracity of the original story.

Phoenix papers catch the stories and send reporters. One visits the Mayor, asking pointed questions about how he and his wife get along. His "famous" temper kicks in and he threatens to throw the reporter out of his office "if he can't be more respectful ..." The new headline goes something like, "NOTORIOUS TEMPER DOGS GLOBE MAYOR."

Not long after that, TV trucks, crews and reporters from the major networks line up across the street from the Mayor's home - The story goes national! "RURAL MAYOR THREATENS MEDIA!"

This is exactly how stories such as Jade Helm get picked up and go viral - each new article feeds off the one before and expands on its sensationalism. Intelligent journalists know how to fact-check from the get-go, so for the most part, the mainstream ignores this type of story. The basis for the original story began innocently enough some years ago with a White House press release about the President's use of Executive Orders.

Look it up: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jade_Helm_15_conspiracy_theory
So that's my take on Jade Helm.

UNDER ARMOUR PULLS T-SHIRT

[Hayley Peterson](#) | May 18, 2015

The "Band of Ballers" T-shirt [displays] a graphic [below] resembling the flag-raising at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

Under Armour is facing a public backlash for selling a T-shirt that compares basketball to the famous flag-raising at the Battle of Iwo Jima during World War II.

The "Band of Ballers" T-shirt is imprinted with the silhouettes of men raising a basketball hoop.



The company has pulled the shirt from its website and stores after an onslaught of complaints, [The Wall Street Journal reports](#).

The company apologized for the shirt Saturday on [Twitter](#). *"Under Armour has the utmost respect and admiration for active-duty service men and women and veterans who have served our country," the company said. "We deeply regret and apologize the release of a shirt that is not reflective of our commitment to support and honor our country's heroes. We have taken the necessary steps to remove this shirt, and any*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

related shirts, from all retail and ensure this doesn't happen again."

J E Ted Thayer | May 19, 2015

Email to Fox News Comments:

I can't understand [anyone] being offended by Under Armour's tee shirt depicting [young people] hoisting a hoop. To me it's a testament to one of the things that holds [disadvantaged] neighborhoods together ... cooperation and teamwork. When the base [of a street basketball hoop] is filled with water before erection, it takes several strong people working together to stand it upright - just as it took several Marines working together to erect our flag at Iwo Jima. What an allegory! [What better example could there be for kids to emulate?] I say right-on Under Armour!



Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

05-28-2015

WHERE NEXT?

John Nantz, a Washington D.C. expert versed in law and law enforcement, penned the following passages this week:

"America desperately needs a helmsman whose loadstar is the Constitution and whose compass' cardinal direction is drawn to the magnetic of celestial truth. . . . He is no patriot that seeks to subvert the Constitution, and he is no man of honor who breaches his oath to defend and preserve it. . . .[R]ecent history has taught us that pretenders may all too easily assume the office that was once held by the titan, George Washington. In this desperate time, we would do best to listen to the advice of the father of our country, *'To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian.'*"

Over two pages of extremely difficult rhetoric aimed at the highly-educated, Nantz opined that our President is an inexperienced lightweight, flaunting his disdain for free-enterprize and liberty, all the while directing our Ship-of-State toward the rocks of ruin. Somehow, short of mutiny, we must take the helm and change its course from certain disaster to that charted by the founders of this great land. Nantz concludes that we must somehow choose the next President of the United States of America with an eye toward the Christian ethics upon which our great country was founded.

I don't know about you, but the way things have been going lately just scares the dickens out of me. More and more, through Executive Orders circumventing Congressional approval, the government is intruding into our lives - both directly and indirectly - with tacit approval from the Courts and the Congress.

Just this week we learned that the EPA had attempted to mandate that coal-fired power plants recover and store carbon dioxide underground, an unproven pseudo-scientific method

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

proposed some years ago but never tested or put into cost-effective commercial practice. A sharp lawyer caught the bureaucratic edict before it could be put into effect and demanded that the Courts bring it to a halt. Only an attorney could have decoded the governmental gobbledygook in the EPA rule, which was designed to drive up the consumer price of electricity, a goal revealed by the President in a January 2008 interview with the *San Francisco Chronicle*. He stated flatly, *"Under my plan of a cap and trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket."* According to a June 2014 *Newsmax* article, *"The Obama administration is determined to accomplish through an EPA-spearheaded presidential executive order what it has failed to accomplish through legislation. Only four years ago a comprehensive climate change cap-and trade bill passed by a Democrat-controlled House of Representatives was rejected by a Democrat-controlled Senate. There's absolutely no way that such a plan could muster either the House or Senate votes necessary for passage today."* We lucked out, troops.

Then there's the Supreme Court. Lawrence Hurley of the *Reuters* Washington Bureau reported this spring, *"The first part of the arguments [before the US Supreme Court April 28th] focused on whether the Constitution's guarantees of due process and equal protection under the law mean states must allow gay couples to marry. The second concerned whether states must recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states. ... [Justice] Kennedy sounded conflicted about the centuries of history in which marriage has been limited to opposite-sex couples. 'This definition has been with us for millennia, and I think it's very difficult for this court to say, oh well, we know better.'" The question in my mind has to do with the whole concept of whether the government (state or federal) has the right or authority to delve this deeply into the lives of its citizens. Again, it appears that tacit approval is directing the*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Ship-of-State closer each day to being dashed on the rocks of ruin.

Some conservative news outlets appear to be the only ones trying to protect our rights. Except for a few well-publicized American heroes, the citizenry seems to have lost its ability to fight back. When public schools enacted policies that banned displays of patriotism and, in some school classrooms, the Pledge of Allegiance and the American flag, it was the news media who rallied the troops to the cause. We Americans have become complacent, allowing government to get away with banning seasonal religious displays in public buildings and on public property, as well as the removal of tributes to historical figures and American Veterans in our parks, public and private! It seems like no change of seasons goes by without some story about one government entity or another bullying some poor soul who has neither the courage nor the wherewithal to fight this sort of despotism. Only with exposure under the bright lights of the press are bureaucrats cowed into backing off. The answer to the question of Where Next? was stated between the lines above. In short, we can halt our country's moral and ethical decline, starting at the very top of our governmental pecking order, by insisting that our next President listen to the advice of the father of our country, *"To the distinguished character of patriot, it should be our highest glory to laud the more distinguished character of Christian."*

OK. Try this: I would love to go to a McDonald's Drive-in and get a hamburger and a vanilla shake - for \$1.00. I recall when you could go to McDonald's and get a burger for fifteen cents and EITHER a vanilla OR a chocolate milk shake for another two bits. The chocolate was just vanilla with chocolate syrup blended in! It seems to me that McDonald's has out-grown its roots. Why not a burger and a shake for a buck? Micro-McDonald's?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

June 4, 2015

IS COLLEGE STILL WORTH THE COST?

Bruce Bialosky* | May 31, 2015

With debt soaring for college loans and the current generation of post-graduate college students being hogtied by their loan burdens, the question of how much sense this all makes comes to one's mind. Well, a couple of noted individuals did a detailed analysis of that and came to their own conclusions. Jaison R. Abel, research officer, and Richard Dietz, Assistant Vice-President for Regional Analysis of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, cast their eyes on this issue.

Unfortunately, repeated requests for an interview were turned down. Their study -- named Do the Benefits of College Still Outweigh the Costs? -- brought to mind one immediate question which is why the New York Fed looked at this issue in the first place.

They came to the conclusion that "once the full set of costs and benefits is taken into account, investing in a college education still appears to be a wise economic decision for the average person." Once you review their charts and graphs you may come to the same conclusion. The unanswered questions still remain that may make it not so for many college attendees.

Their findings stated that on average, workers with a bachelor's degree earn well over \$1 million more than high school graduates during their work career. A question that would be nice to get answered is whether that is because of the college education or because of the nature of the individuals involved? Certainly many professions restrict your entry into them without a college degree, but that does not mean that the person

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

who succeeds in college succeeds in life financially *because* of the college degree. We do not have to lurch to Bill Gates or Mark Zuckerberg (both Harvard University dropouts) to know that people who attend even superior colleges don't often need to attend college to be financially successful in life. When the population of college attendees typically includes the smartest and most motivated people in our country, it follows that they would have higher lifetime earnings than the population as a whole.

But also notice the authors noted that the average earnings are \$1,000,000 higher. Let us consider over a 40-year career that would be about \$25,000 per year. There certainly are many people who will have either zero increased earnings or something like \$10,000 per year on average. Those increased earnings will increase to a higher level as their careers propel forward, leaving these degree holders with little or no increased earnings in the first few years of their career and many harnessed with \$60,000 to \$100,000 of debt for student loans. I have counselled two young adults in recent weeks with debt exceeding \$150,000 for advanced degrees.

This mountain of debt has been documented as being a stall on this generation acquiring homes because of the burden that decreases loan capacity. Also, for many of these people, their burden of debt is stifling them from taking risks to start their own businesses. Both of these issues, home purchases and business starts, are reflective of the costs of college, the debt incurred to attend college, and the resulting sometimes meager increased earnings culminating in casting a giant shadow on the future of many of these young graduates.

One of the questions I wanted to address to the authors of the study was whether people receiving some of the proliferation of degrees that leads them to unknown careers was really worth the time and money to attend college. They did include a

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

section entitled Does Your Major Matter? They clearly stated that certain majors have a greater economic return, while they likewise stated that other majors still gave a great rate of return on investment. What we don't know is how many of those degrees end up being totally useless because jobs are not available in any shape or form.

As a society we have put a tremendous distorted premium on attending college. Many high school students are told through societal norms that their lives will be a failure if they do not attend college. We have completely de-emphasized training for jobs that are lucrative, but not needing of a college degree. Many of those positions have gone begging in our current environment.

We currently have a person considering running for president for the first time since President Harry Truman who did not graduate from college. Governor Scott Walker attended college for three years, but did not finish. Not finishing college has brought some to question his qualifications to be president. Last time I checked that was not one of the items listed in the Constitution. And the doubters have discounted that his vast experience in government over the last 20+ years might actually be more important than that last year of college. A typical analysis was done by Albert Hunt in Bloomberg entitled Can Walker be President without a College Degree? A discussion like this crystalizes the distorted emphasis on that magical piece of paper.

The authors should have been open to a deeper analysis. It would be nice to address the trillion dollar noose around the neck of college grads for the cost of college. But none of that was done and more needs to be looked at before we continue to give this unbridled premium to colleges -- societally and financially.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

**Bruce Bialosky is a columnist for townhall.com, the founder of the Republican Jewish Coalition of California and a former Presidential appointee.*

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June 11, 2015

MY STARS!

J E Ted Thayer | June 11, 2015

I was outside the other night taking the trash out to the street, something I do every Sunday and Wednesday evening. For no particular reason, I looked up, checking out the sky. "My goodness!" I thought, "Far out!"

In an earlier book I had written about my adventures as a Boy Scout. But, I don't fully recall the joy of sky-watching. Maybe it's just something that comes with age. I really don't know. At any rate ...here we go.

In my youth, as a Cub Scout I think, I learned how to find my way if I got lost by using the North Star to assure travel in a predictable direction. That education also included identifying constellations scattered across the heavens such as Orion, Cassiopeia, the Big Dipper and the Pleiades - better known as the Seven Sisters.

I learned that finding the North Star was as easy as locating the Big Dipper and following a line from the two stars in the outer lip of its "bowl" to the first star in the "handle" of the Little Dipper. That's Polaris, the North Star. You know you've located the proper constellations if you see both Dippers pouring into each other!

Polaris is more accurate than a compass because the North Star is always positioned directly over Earth's geographic North Pole - unlike a compass, which points to its magnetic North Pole, located near Ellesmere Island in northern Canada. Making a compass even less accurate is the fact that the magnetic North Pole moves! Yes! ...as much as fifty miles a year toward the northwest! Polaris, on the other hand, has remained solidly

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

anchored in the same spot in the heavens since eons before dinosaurs walked the Earth.

Using the North Star for direction finding works only in the Northern Hemisphere. In the Southern Hemisphere another constellation, the Southern Cross, is commonly used to show lost souls the way.

When we are young – before puberty – we see the best we will ever see. Hormones affect the lenses in young eyes as puberty approaches, dimming visual acuity, crispness and clarity ever so slightly. Only adults who have had lens implants as a result of cataracts see as well as they did when they were children. That's my situation.

Lens implant surgeries more than two decades ago drastically improved my vision. I remember being stunned by the sudden brilliance, contrast and clarity. My wife had the same surgery some time ago and was equally stunned. On a trip to Tucson one weekend, Claudette ooo'd and aah'd at each new view around every bend in the road. She said she didn't know Arizona landscapes were so beautiful because she had never really seen them. That's pretty much the way it is with me, especially since I suffered the detached retina a number of years ago. I cherish that clarity of vision even more because it comes from my "good" eye alone. Maybe that's why star-gazing has returned to my vocabulary.

I remember lying on my back on the grass in the front yard at home in Monterey. I recall lying on my back on the chaise lounge in the patio. And I remember lying on my back in my sleeping bag on the ground out camping. While it goes without saying that those were opportunities to star-gaze, I can't say that was foremost in my mind at the time. It was better to watch for shooting stars! There was a time when my girlfriend and I kicked back on a blanket on the beach gazing at the stars. That

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

was good ... watching the stars ... romantic. Both of us were camp counselors, so we were versed in the location of the constellations, and we pointed them out. But I don't recall anything spectacular or particularly outstanding about the skies above us in the summers of the '50s.

We were driving northbound in California's central valley about dusk one evening in the early '60s when something strange ... a bright white light – like a star – rose straight up from the horizon into the sky and appeared to almost stop, suspended. We pulled over to the roadside and got out to take a look. The light crossed the sky above from north to south, much like an airplane but faster, and disappeared straight down into the southern horizon. After some thought, it dawned on me that what we had just seen was a satellite, high enough that the sun lit it up from above. There was a good possibility that it was Echo 1, the first telecommunications satellite, predecessor to the Bell Telephone Laboratories Telstar project. Now, that was a trip! Seeing the future!

Other than the moon, the brightest objects in the night sky are the planets - Jupiter, Venus and Mars, which almost line up in a line with Jupiter highest and Mars closest to the horizon. One other bright object in the sky is actually a star – Sirius. They call it the Dog Star for its prominence in constellation Canis Major. All four of these bright lights are the first to appear in the skies just after dusk. Usually Venus and Jupiter appear first and brightest as the night comes.

These days, I like to stop and look to the skies with my remaining good eye, the one with the razor-sharp vision. How nice to peer at the stars and imagine what it would be like to see them again with two eyes. It would likely be twice as clear and the stars surely would twinkle twice as brightly as they do now ... better than I recall from my youth.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Ah, yes. While one is forced to accept the vicissitudes and inclemencies of life ... we can appreciate the contrast so fittingly imposed upon us by the splendor of the night skies!

The above article is an excerpt from Ted's book ¿Quién Sabe? which can be accessed and read online via <http://www.tedthayer.com> as it is being created.

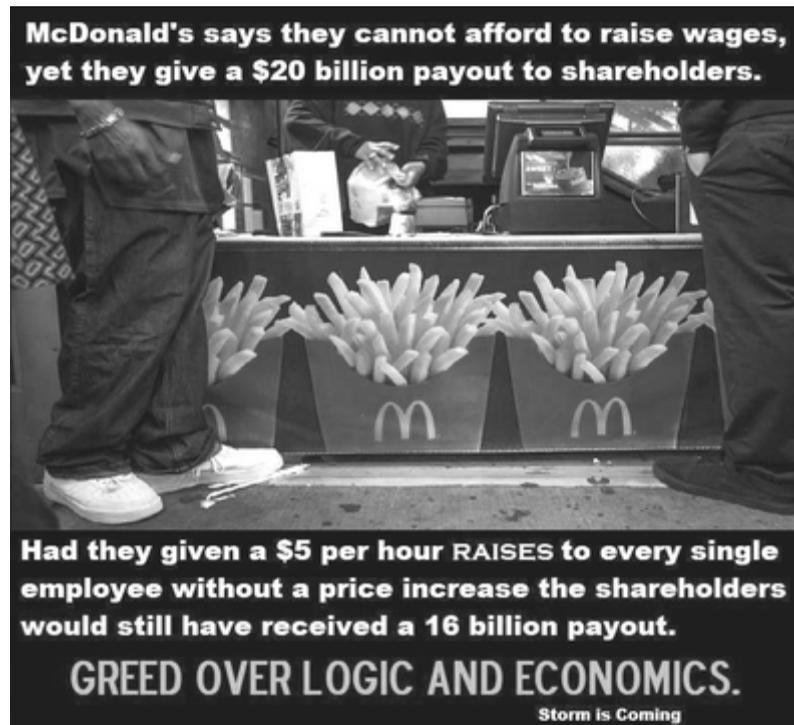
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June 18, 2015

\$15 PER HOUR!

J E Ted Thayer | June 18, 2015

This time around, we peer at Facebook and join the more or less lively discussion on the idea of a \$15 minimum wage, followed by a college student's tome on liberal v. conservative. I've left out most of the names ... 'cause they don't really matter. And grammar has been corrected - for the most part. Enjoy.



Liberal nonsense shows abject ignorance [about] the simplest form of capitalism - the best economic model ever devised.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

... if these people were paid a living wage then their attitudes would be better. Most are probably working 2 or 3 jobs to make ends meet. Working long hours. Get a grip on reality! Those of you that look down your noses at McDonald's employees are the entire reason they are all so miserable. As a newly single parent that stayed home, I took the first job I could get, it was McDonalds. Even with 17 years of previous restaurant and management experience, they hired me at minimum wage. I wasn't just flipping burgers and whistling while I worked. On a graveyard shift, I was one of two workers with one manager on duty. I was the prep cook, the dishwasher, the cleaner, the backup cashier and assisted with anything and everything else. I was given one 15 minute break in an eight hour shift. There was no down time. Ever.

The fast food job you had to put yourself through college doesn't exist anymore. People are attempting to support their families with these jobs, sometimes working two or three jobs. Maybe attempt some compassion for people instead of being such a-holes. Not everyone is given the same opportunities as you. Not everyone has the ability to go to college, and some of us who did, still end up in those jobs because life isn't easy. Starting over after five years as a stay at home mom means none of the former experience is valid.

I'm impressed. You know your stuff, [but] I'm still going to eat meat. Sorry. ...you have some very valid points. I don't like any corrupt or arrogant person. Anyone who uses a charitable foundation for profit is - well - Reprehensible. Corrupt bankers. Politicians. Etc. I say, If you can, bring ANY charges against them. They should be held in jail until proven guilty. Just like any regular person who cannot afford bail or hire an attorney. That is how it's done in our justice system. You can be held for YEARS! It's a lose, lose for the poor. Win, win for the fortunate. And you're only one step away from losing everything when you involve cops or lawyers.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

I worked for \$450 a month when I started out as a full-time radio disc jockey back in 1961. After taking on some professional credentials I lost my \$575/mo job and went to work as an apprentice for \$1 per hour. In 1967 I moved to another state for \$650 a month as an engineer/disc-jockey. My first raise put me in another tax bracket, so I asked for a \$5/mo pay cut! That \$1/hr job set me up to roll for the next several decades as an expert in engineering and electronics. Now I get \$50 per hour for my work and I'm worth every penny because I'm an experienced expert in my craft. Had I never got that apprentice job for a buck an hour, I would not have learned how to become an expert. I don't think that guy would have hired me today for \$15/hr. He'd be out of business! There is a lot to be said for paying a "living" wage, but first - the employee must understand the value of experience and expertise. No government edict can make that happen. Only a free labor market.

Hard to believe there [are] so many people that don't think minimum wage should be raised to at least \$15 a hour. Skilled or not. Due to inflation over the last 20 years, \$15 a hour today is the equivalent of minimum wage in the 90s. Y'all ...better wake up and quit with "corporations deserve to make whatever they can at any cost" mentality. Trust me. The rich don't need the common man's protection from the government. They already own it. That kind of ignorant thinking will only continue to cripple working class America.

Raising the minimum wage is the stupidest thing I have ever heard. Minimum wage jobs are not meant to be full time jobs. Raising minimum wage will raise the prices of everything else in stores and restaurants and the normal working class will not be able to afford the raised prices. People who flip burgers ... can't even get the order right half the time. Thought they deserved more.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

I love seeing this line of BS. The minimum wage was specifically meant to be a living wage, as in anything less than that at full time was effectively slavery ... you'd be working for less than the cost of living. Get educated, fool[s].

There's a myth in this country that if you're poor, it's because you are too lazy or too stupid to be rich. When you work 35-40 hours/week and your salary is still below the poverty line, something is wrong. Corporations (McDonald's specifically) actively encourage their impoverished workers to seek public assistance, which means their obscene profits are partly due to shortchanging workers and partly to grifting taxpayers. Over the last 40 years productivity has doubled while wages have remained stagnant. Everyone in America deserves a raise.

Everyone makes bad choices, including the wealthy. (See Enron, Lehman Brothers, Bear Stearns--basically anyone in finance in 2007.) But having a workforce is part of the cost of doing business and should not be foisted on taxpayers.

... from what I hear from multiple sources completely across the political spectrum, is that people in this country are full up with both politicians AND corporations that put self interest and excessive profits above the best interests of people in general.

And, I have a degree in business so I understand economics quite well.

... you make a salient point. I don't believe it's as bad as you think, though ... or we'd have anarchy by now. I'm not one to condemn McDonald's for giving kids a place to learn the great American work ethic, and to strive to better themselves; and I don't begrudge McDonald's shareholders "their fair share" because that's what they get to pay to those greedy bastards in Washington! Furthermore, I prefer to lump McDonalds in with the oil companies and Microsoft and Apple and Warren Buffett - all of whom return hundreds of millions of boxcars-full of donated goods, services, goodwill, medicine, and plain old cash from their egregious profits and the interest paid to them from

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

their cash reserves. Without the hard work, determination and donations from "rich" Rotarians and the likes of Bill and Malinda Gates, Polio would more than likely be ravaging most third-world countries. Millions of American school children would never have discovered at an early age the magic of computers and the internet. Without Ronald McDonald and the billions of dollars poured into helping sick kids, we'd all be the poorer for it. I think you're wrong about paying a higher wage at McDonalds because the thing that drives our economic engine is the quest to improve, to learn, to earn not just wages but a reputation that in the end is the reason workers get raises. I would rather see no minimum wage at all ... it was a bad idea to begin with ... the market is supposed to drive the cost of labor - not the government. I completely agree with you ... that Washington and our country's bureaucrats have driven us into the ditch, and it's going to take a massive political struggle to get us back on track - but McDonald's wage structure is not our business, nor that of our government. I think that's the point.

... you sound like an idealist, and I respect that. However, in the "real" [world] (whatever the hell that is...) I don't think it holds water. The issue really isn't what kids working at MickyD's earn, it's the poor schmucks working at Walmart who can't make enough for rent and groceries that are the actual issue; not to mention the mega-banks, and other multi nationals who not only pay no taxes but actually receive refunds, along with the billionaires who are buying our democracy out from under us that are the real issue.

[In closing ...] with variables like these our economic free market system has about as much of a chance as a virgin in an ISIS camp ...

SEPARATION AGREEMENT

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

John J Wall | 02-26-2009

Dear American liberals, leftists, social progressives, socialists, Marxists and Obama supporters, et al:

We have stuck together since the late 1950's for the sake of the kids, but the whole of this latest election process has made me realize that I want a divorce. I know we tolerated each other for many years for the sake of future generations, but sadly, this relationship has clearly run its course.

Our two ideological sides of America cannot and will not ever agree on what is right for us all, so let's just end it on friendly terms. We can smile and chalk it up to irreconcilable differences and go our own way.

Here is our separation agreement:

--Our two groups can equitably divide up the country by landmass each taking a similar portion. That will be the difficult part, but I am sure our two sides can come to a friendly agreement. After that, it should be relatively easy! Our respective representatives can effortlessly divide other assets since both sides have such distinct and disparate tastes.

--We don't like redistributive taxes so you can keep them.

--You are welcome to the liberal judges and the ACLU.

--Since you hate guns and war, we'll take our firearms, the cops, the NRA and the military.

--We'll take the nasty, smelly oil industry and the coal mines, and you can go with wind, solar and biodiesel.

--You can keep Oprah, Michael Moore and Rosie O'Donnell. You are, however, responsible for finding a bio-diesel vehicle

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

big enough to move all three of them.

--We'll keep capitalism, greedy corporations, pharmaceutical companies, Wal-Mart and Wall Street.

--You can have your beloved lifelong welfare dwellers, food stamps, homeless, homeboys, hippies, druggies and illegal aliens.

--We'll keep the hot Alaskan hockey moms, greedy CEO's and rednecks.

--We'll keep Bill O'Reilly, and Bibles and give you NBC and Hollywood .

--You can make nice with Iran and Palestine and we'll retain the right to invade and hammer places that threaten us.

--You can have the peaceniks and war protesters.

-- When our allies or our way of life are under assault, we'll help provide them security.

--We'll keep our Judeo-Christian values.

--You are welcome to Islam, Scientology, Humanism, political correctness and Shirley McClain. You can also have the U.N. but we will no longer be paying the bill.

--We'll keep the SUV's, pickup trucks and oversized luxury cars. You can take every Volt and Leaf you can find.

--You can give everyone healthcare if you can find any practicing doctors.

--We'll keep "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" and "The National Anthem."

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

--I'm sure you'll be happy to substitute "Imagine", "I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing", "Kum Ba Ya" or "We Are the World".

--We'll practice trickle-down economics and you can continue to give trickle up poverty your best shot.

--Since it often so offends you, we'll keep our history, our name and our flag.

Would you agree to this? If so, please pass it along to other like-minded liberal and conservative patriots and if you do not agree, just hit delete. In the spirit of friendly parting, I'll bet you might think about which one of us will need whose help in 15 years.

Sincerely,

John J. Wall
Law Student and an American

John Wall - speaker, writer, producer, cum laude graduate of UMass Amherst - allegedly wrote the above essay for his weekly audio program "Marketing Over Coffee" that discusses marketing, sales and technology.

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06-25-2015

TRUMP THIS!

J E Ted Thayer | 06-25-2015

A little over a week ago Donald Trump threw his hat into the ring to become the Republican Presidential Nominee. It was something he had wanted to do for some years and you could tell he relished the idea.

Trump was the only candidate I've heard in decades who spoke comfortably off the cuff based on the subjects suggested on 3x5 cards (a tool many speakers use to stay on point and direct the content of their speeches.)

The difference between Trump and your regular, everyday, run-of-the-mill political candidate are memorized talking points. Many politicians use 3x5 cards with notes that help remind them of the rote that goes into a good speech.

Others, like the late Teddy Kennedy, carry binders containing plastic-encased pages with the exact words to be spoken on almost any subject - a fine crutch because a speech on almost any subject can be readied with just the shuffling of a few pages. Many great political movers and shakers have used this method very successfully.

Trump used 3x5 cards to help guide him through subjects in the order he wanted them included in his extemporaneous announcement. Some said Trump was bombastic; others were reminded of Fidel Castro's long-winded lectures back in the early days of his Cuban administration. But, ya gotta admit, the guy gives a hellofa speech!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

A few clips courtesy of Rush Limbaugh:

LIMBAUGH: *I'll tell you something that happened. I was riveted watching this for a whole host of reasons and the phone rang, and I got mad because when there's a secondary noise in the room, I can't hear what I'm trying to hear. Like two people talking at the same time, I'm not able to comprehend either of them. So I'm watching, I've got the sound up, which is very rare, and the phone started ringing, and nobody in the rest of the office here picked it up, and I just yelled, "Answer the [blank, blank] phone," 'cause I wanted to hear what Trump was saying. And I stopped myself. Wait a minute. Look what just happened here. There hasn't been a single other person give a political speech in years that if the phone rang and interrupted 'em I'd have been mad.*

TRUMP: *Our country is in serious trouble. We don't have victories anymore. We used to have victories, but we don't have 'em. When was the last time anybody saw us beating, let's say, China in a trade deal. They kill us. I beat China all the time. When did we beat Japan at anything? They send their cars over by the millions, and what do we do? When was the last time you saw a Chevrolet in Tokyo? It doesn't exist, folks. They beat us all the time. When do we beat Mexico at the border? They're laughing at us, at our stupidity.*

TRUMP: *They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people. But I speak to border guards, and they tell us what we're getting, and it only makes common sense. It only makes common sense. They're sending us not the right people. It's coming from more than Mexico. It's coming from all over South and Latin America and it's coming probably -- probably -- from the Middle East. But we*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

don't know 'cause we have no protection and we have no competence. We don't know what's happening.

TRUMP: I would build a great wall, and nobody builds walls better than me, believe me, and I'll build 'em very inexpensively. I will build a great, great wall on our Southern border, and I will have Mexico pay for that wall. Mark my words. Nobody would be tougher on ISIS than Donald Trump. Nobody. I will find within our military, I will find the General Patton or I will find General MacArthur, I will find the right guy, I will find the guy that's going to take that military and make it really work.

TRUMP: We have to rebuild our infrastructure, our bridges, our roadways, our airports. You come into LaGuardia airport, it's like we're in a Third World country. You look at the patches in 40-year-old floor, they throw down asphalt, and they throw -- you look at these airports, we are like a Third World country, and I come in from China, and I come in from Qatar, and I come in from different places, and they have the most incredible airports in the world. You come back to this country and you have LAX, disaster. You have all of these disastrous airports.

TRUMP: All of my life, I've heard that a truly successful person -- a really, really successful person -- and even modestly successful, cannot run for public office. Just can't happen. And yet that's the kind of mind-set that you need to make this country great again. So, ladies and gentlemen, I am officially running for president of the United States, and we are going to make our country great again.

TRUMP: I will be the greatest jobs president that God ever created. I tell you that. I don't need anybody's money. I'm using my own money. I'm not using the lobbyists. I'm not using donors. I don't care. I'm really rich. I'll show you that

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

in a second. And, by the way, I'm not even saying that in a braggadocios way. That's the kind of mind-set, that's the kind of thinking you need for this country. [Trump's net worth, not counting his off-shore holdings, is something on the order of \$8,000,000,000 - that's what he said he'd be filing with the FEC - \$8 billion]

My wife Claudette watched the thing. She commented later that she hadn't seen anybody speak as forcefully and straight-from-the-hip since Ronald Reagan.

Speaking of Ronald Reagan:

John Nantz, a graduate of Regent University School of Law and a Washington D.C. expert versed in law and law enforcement, writes political prose comprised of difficult rhetoric aimed at the highly-educated. He penned the following early this month for *Townhall.com*.

WHERE IS THE SHINING CITY...?

John Nantz | June 7, 2015

By degrees, we are losing the shining city upon a hill. All that glittered golden in the warm light of Liberty is tarnished in the dank and humid fog expelled by a ubiquitous bureaucracy and an army of apparatchiks. What once shone with the brilliance of limitless opportunity, enterprise, and self determination is now dull with corrosion wrought by a bolshevik class envy, a manufactured racial discord, and a dehumanizing dependance on the dole. The beacon of freedom seems to cast a paltry glow where thickly gathers smoky clouds of doom, summoned by prophets preaching withdrawal, capitulation, and resignation. In

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the swirling shadows, race-hustlers and demagogues scuttle, crab-like, on the shores where once yearning masses gathered to participate in free enterprise and assimilate with the culture of profit, plenty, and piety. But, as of old, democrats clatter eagerly on their foul claws to erode the Republic's span to Liberty's shore.

Ronald Reagan was fond of describing America as "a shining city upon a hill", a phrase originally made part of political discourse by John Winthrop, a leading Puritan figure in the founding of the Massachusetts Bay Colony who, in his sermon, *A Model of Christian Charity*, envisioned the colony "as a city upon a hill," watched by the world. Winthrop's phrase was, in turn, an homage to Christ's description of Christian living, which should serve as a beacon of truth in a world shrouded in the darkness of original sin. ... During his lifetime, Ronald Reagan exemplified the qualities of rugged individualism and self determination that were traditional hallmarks of the American experience. He believed in the inherent nobility of our constitutional republic and in the rightness and goodness of our influence among the ancient capitals of the world. Even in death, Reagan's legacy burns as a smoldering coal, birthing Liberty's sacred flame in those who draw close.

Recently, I visited the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library, located in Simi Valley, California. It's situated on a rise among the spartan beauty of desert hills, rolling toward an infinite horizon like a roiled sea made of sand, stone, and scrub brush. Wide swaths of green front a colonnade, accented by flowering bushes and manicured trees. But, for all the natural beauty, the real treasures are the artifacts which lie inside, memorials to a significant life lived artfully, passionately, and with aplomb. The library houses a huge variety of things—some are intimate like the love letters written to Nancy, or the new suit that President Reagan wore the day he was shot by the left-wing psychotic John Hinkley Junior. There is a room stocked full of

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

equipment and tack used by Ronald and Nancy Reagan on their ranch—things that naturally accumulate around a self-possessed man and woman, acquainted with adventure and imbued with indomitable vitality. Beautifully accoutered saddles are on display alongside utilitarian rigs within a large plexiglass cube. Below, a large collection of belt buckles jewel the perimeter of the saddle case. Not surprisingly, a specially commissioned Smith & Wesson .44 magnum revolver is displayed proudly, engraved with President Reagan's signature and images from his life and presidency. The gun was a gift from Leopold J. Deters, president of Smith & Wesson. Much of a person's character can be divined from examining what one does with leisure time. Reagan spent his free hours in robust pursuits, on his ranch, doing rugged things. It is a testament to a boldness of spirit and to a fondness for work and a self-assuredness in a challenging environment.

The library also houses the Boeing 707 that served as Air Force One for President Reagan. Also, Marine One is on display and the presidential limousine, accompanied by one of the Secret Service vehicles used in the motorcade. Photographs and films record for posterity the magnitude of the threat posed by the Soviet Union, the "Evil Empire," and by its satellite states. Reagan's diplomatic posture is stated succinctly on a display placard:

"We had to bargain with the Russians from strength not weakness. If you were going to approach the Russians with a dove of peace in one hand, you had to have a sword in the other."

Reagan drove the Soviet Union to extinction, prodded by the razor's edge of his Star Wars Defense Initiative (SDI). From a position of power, Reagan collapsed the Evil Empire under the weight of America's titanic economic engine; he literally slew the Soviet bear with the unbounded dynamism of free

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

enterprise. Capitalism stood astride the tattered husk of Soviet communism and the socialism of European fellow travelers, dupes, and operatives. The dissonance is profound, standing amid the artifacts of Reagan's and America's triumph when recognizing that in the short span of twenty-six years, a rube like Barack Hussein Obama should occupy the office of President and espouse the failed economic and social philosophies of the socialists that Reagan had soundly discredited and defeated. The same monolithic, establishment media complex that harangued Reagan now lauds the socialist buffoon Obama.

But, what struck me as most profound, among all the objects of Reagan's revolution and unequivocal success, was a large rectangular slab of concrete covered in graffiti and erected in indisputable testament to the power of one man's courage and conviction.

Behind the Reagan Library and facing the rear portico, a large segment of the Berlin wall stands, affixed by steel tabs to a concrete pad. Behind the approximately 4 foot wide and 11 foot tall slab, the vast typography of Simi Valley undulates, unhindered to the horizon. A photograph of President Reagan standing on one side of the slab and of Lech Walesa, who served as Poland's President from 1990-1995, standing on the other side is on display just inside the doors leading out to the monolith. The photograph bears a plaque and this quotation: ***“Whatever else history may say about me...I hope it will record that I appealed to your best hopes, not your worst fears, to your confidence rather than your doubts.”***

Simply put, when America takes a stand, refuses to run from the empires of evil, dynasties of misery, murder, and oppression crumble before us. This is because our “best hopes” are for the promises of Liberty to us and to our posterity and our “confidence” is in the rightness of our cause and in the God

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

in whom we trust. It isn't complicated or sophisticated, much to the displeasure of big government bureaucrats and media stool pigeons who are only able to thrive within fetid clouds of confusion, fear, and ignorance. Reagan's success is to be found in the strength of his character and in the object of his faith. Subsequent to Hinkley's assassination attempt, President Reagan said, "***Whatever happens now, I owe my life to God and will try to serve Him in every way I can.***" (Ronald Reagan Diary, March 1981)

Reagan's faith was in the God whose promise is Liberty and in the America defined by the Constitution.

With this conviction, Reagan confronted the evil of his time, boldly named the enemy and set out to utterly defeat it. The result of this formula was success—the resurgence of global democracy. Obama's policies of conciliation, withdrawal, and equivocation have resulted in the horrors of ISIS and a global power shift in favor of empire and oppression. When you do the simple arithmetic, it's really easy to see how Obama is a failed president, and why.

"We know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak. It is then that tyrants are tempted." Ronald Reagan, Republican National Convention, July 17, 1980

Though the future may seem bleak because establishment figures appeal to our worst fears and assail us with doubts, America is still a city on a hill waiting for her patriots to reclaim their shining heritage and to bathe the Republic once again in the golden light of Liberty. The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library still contains sacred embers, ephemeral sparks that are the residue of a life lived in the noble service of our miraculous birthright. If you are tempted to feel that patriotism is lost, that the future is dark, make the pilgrimage, if

you are able, and touch your smoldering torch to the brazier of President Reagan's legacy and watch as the Reagan revolution blossoms into flame once again.

RONALD REAGAN'S D-DAY SPEECH

Townhall.com Staff | Jun 06, 2015

Editor's note: The following is the speech, delivered on June 6, 1984, that President Ronald Reagan gave 31 years ago ... in Normandy, France -- [June 6th], the 40th anniversary of D-Day. The text was provided by the Ronald Reagan Library and Museum.

"We're here to mark that day in history when the Allied armies joined in battle to reclaim this continent to liberty. For 4 long years, much of Europe had been under a terrible shadow. Free nations had fallen, Jews cried out in the camps, millions cried out for liberation. Europe was enslaved, and the world prayed for its rescue. Here in Normandy the rescue began. Here the Allies stood and fought against tyranny in a giant undertaking unparalleled in human history.

"We stand on a lonely, windswept point on the northern shore of France. The air is soft, but 40 years ago at this moment, the air was dense with smoke and the cries of men, and the air was filled with the crack of rifle fire and the roar of cannon. At dawn, on the morning of the 6th of June, 1944, 225 Rangers jumped off the British landing craft and ran to the bottom of these cliffs. Their mission was one of the most difficult and daring of the invasion: to climb these sheer and desolate cliffs and take out the enemy guns. The Allies had been told that some of the mightiest of these guns were here and they would be trained on the beaches to stop the Allied advance.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"The Rangers looked up and saw the enemy soldiers -- the edge of the cliffs shooting down at them with machineguns and throwing grenades. And the American Rangers began to climb. They shot rope ladders over the face of these cliffs and began to pull themselves up. When one Ranger fell, another would take his place. When one rope was cut, a Ranger would grab another and begin his climb again. They climbed, shot back, and held their footing. Soon, one by one, the Rangers pulled themselves over the top, and in seizing the firm land at the top of these cliffs, they began to seize back the continent of Europe. Two hundred and twenty-five came here. After 2 days of fighting, only 90 could still bear arms.

"Behind me is a memorial that symbolizes the Ranger daggers that were thrust into the top of these cliffs. And before me are the men who put them there.

"These are the boys of Pointe du Hoc. These are the men who took the cliffs. These are the champions who helped free a continent. These are the heroes who helped end a war.

"Gentlemen, I look at you and I think of the words of Stephen Spender's poem. You are men who in your `lives fought for life . . . and left the vivid air signed with your honor.'

"I think I know what you may be thinking right now -- thinking *'we were just part of a bigger effort; everyone was brave that day.'* Well, everyone was. Do you remember the story of Bill Millin of the 51st Highlanders? Forty years ago today, British troops were pinned down near a bridge, waiting desperately for help. Suddenly, they heard the sound of bagpipes, and some thought they were dreaming. Well, they weren't. They looked up and saw Bill Millin with his bagpipes, leading the reinforcements and ignoring the smack of the bullets into the ground around him.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"Lord Lovat was with him -- Lord Lovat of Scotland, who calmly announced when he got to the bridge, '*Sorry I'm a few minutes late,*' as if he'd been delayed by a traffic jam, when in truth he'd just come from the bloody fighting on Sword Beach, which he and his men had just taken.

"There was the impossible valor of the Poles who threw themselves between the enemy and the rest of Europe as the invasion took hold, and the unsurpassed courage of the Canadians who had already seen the horrors of war on this coast. They knew what awaited them there, but they would not be deterred. And once they hit Juno Beach, they never looked back.

"All of these men were part of a rollcall of honor with names that spoke of a pride as bright as the colors they bore: the Royal Winnipeg Rifles, Poland's 24th Lancers, the Royal Scots Fusiliers, the Screaming Eagles, the Yeomen of England's armored divisions, the forces of Free France, the Coast Guard's 'Matchbox Fleet' and you, the American Rangers.

"Forty summers have passed since the battle that you fought here. You were young the day you took these cliffs; some of you were hardly more than boys, with the deepest joys of life before you. Yet, you risked everything here. Why? Why did you do it? What impelled you to put aside the instinct for self-preservation and risk your lives to take these cliffs? What inspired all the men of the armies that met here? We look at you, and somehow we know the answer. It was faith and belief; it was loyalty and love.

"The men of Normandy had faith that what they were doing was right, faith that they fought for all humanity, faith that a just God would grant them mercy on this beachhead or on the next. It was the deep knowledge -- and pray God we have not lost it -- that there is a profound, moral difference between the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

use of force for liberation and the use of force for conquest. You were here to liberate, not to conquer, and so you and those others did not doubt your cause. And you were right not to doubt.

"You all knew that some things are worth dying for. One's country is worth dying for, and democracy is worth dying for, because it's the most deeply honorable form of government ever devised by man. All of you loved liberty. All of you were willing to fight tyranny, and you knew the people of your countries were behind you.

"The Americans who fought here that morning knew word of the invasion was spreading through the darkness back home. They fought -- or felt in their hearts, though they couldn't know in fact, that in Georgia they were filling the churches at 4 a.m., in Kansas they were kneeling on their porches and praying, and in Philadelphia they were ringing the Liberty Bell.

"Something else helped the men of D-day: their rockhard belief that Providence would have a great hand in the events that would unfold here; that God was an ally in this great cause. And so, the night before the invasion, when Colonel Wolverton asked his parachute troops to kneel with him in prayer he told them: Do not bow your heads, but look up so you can see God and ask His blessing in what we're about to do. Also that night, General Matthew Ridgway on his cot, listening in the darkness for the promise God made to Joshua: ***'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.'***

"These are the things that impelled them; these are the things that shaped the unity of the Allies.

"When the war was over, there were lives to be rebuilt and governments to be returned to the people. There were nations to be reborn. Above all, there was a new peace to be assured.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

These were huge and daunting tasks. But the Allies summoned strength from the faith, belief, loyalty, and love of those who fell here. They rebuilt a new Europe together.

"There was first a great reconciliation among those who had been enemies, all of whom had suffered so greatly. The United States did its part, creating the Marshall plan to help rebuild our allies and our former enemies. The Marshall plan led to the Atlantic alliance -- a great alliance that serves to this day as our shield for freedom, for prosperity, and for peace.

"In spite of our great efforts and successes, not all that followed the end of the war was happy or planned. Some liberated countries were lost. The great sadness of this loss echoes down to our own time in the streets of Warsaw, Prague, and East Berlin. Soviet troops that came to the center of this continent did not leave when peace came. They're still there, uninvited, unwanted, unyielding, almost 40 years after the war. Because of this, allied forces still stand on this continent. Today, as 40 years ago, our armies are here for only one purpose -- to protect and defend democracy. The only territories we hold are memorials like this one and graveyards where our heroes rest.

"We in America have learned bitter lessons from two World Wars: It is better to be here ready to protect the peace, than to take blind shelter across the sea, rushing to respond only after freedom is lost. We've learned that isolationism never was and never will be an acceptable response to tyrannical governments with an expansionist intent.

"But we try always to be prepared for peace; prepared to deter aggression; prepared to negotiate the reduction of arms; and, yes, prepared to reach out again in the spirit of reconciliation. In truth, there is no reconciliation we would welcome more than a reconciliation with the Soviet Union, so, together, we can lessen the risks of war, now and forever.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"It's fitting to remember here the great losses also suffered by the Russian people during World War II: 20 million perished, a terrible price that testifies to all the world the necessity of ending war. I tell you from my heart that we in the United States do not want war. We want to wipe from the face of the Earth the terrible weapons that man now has in his hands. And I tell you, we are ready to seize that beachhead. We look for some sign from the Soviet Union that they are willing to move forward, that they share our desire and love for peace, and that they will give up the ways of conquest. There must be a changing there that will allow us to turn our hope into action.

"We will pray forever that some day that changing will come. But for now, particularly today, it is good and fitting to renew our commitment to each other, to our freedom, and to the alliance that protects it.

"We are bound today by what bound us 40 years ago, the same loyalties, traditions, and beliefs. We're bound by reality. The strength of America's allies is vital to the United States, and the American security guarantee is essential to the continued freedom of Europe's democracies. We were with you then; we are with you now. Your hopes are our hopes, and your destiny is our destiny.

"Here, in this place where the West held together, let us make a vow to our dead. Let us show them by our actions that we understand what they died for. Let our actions say to them the words for which Matthew Ridgway listened: ***'I will not fail thee nor forsake thee.'***

"Strengthened by their courage, heartened by their value [valor], and borne by their memory, let us continue to stand for the ideals for which they lived and died.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"Thank you very much, and God bless you all."

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07-02-2015

HELL IN A HANDBASKET

The State - it sounds so 1984. So . . . Orwellian.

Cambridge Dictionary - State: One of the political units that some countries are divided into; a state is also a country or its government.

Webster's - Synonyms: commonwealth, country, land, sovereignty, nation

Therefore, dear friends, **the state** is a nation or one of its political units - meaning that a law referring to "**the state**" or "**The State**", unless it is specific to a particular political unit (ie: the Government of United States or the individual States of the United States), refers to BOTH the Federal AND State governments when it comes to implementation and enforcement. So sayeth a 6-3 majority of the US Supreme Court.

June 27th, *Townhall* columnist Devon Herrick wrote: *In the majority opinion, Roberts acknowledges the health care law contains numerous drafting errors, saying "The Affordable Care Act contains more than a few examples of inartful drafting." Roberts apparently thinks drafting errors are trivial matters that should be overlooked. Justice Scalia, on the other hand, understands the root cause of the "inartful drafting." That is, congressional Democrats' hurried, partisan work resulted in sloppy legislation with numerous errors. In Scalia's opinion, the errors are egregious enough to warrant congressional action to fix Congress' mistakes. In his dissenting opinion, Scalia noted the majority displayed "no semblance of shame" and suggested the health care law should be more accurately called "SCOTUScare," after the*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Supreme Court "...rewrites the law to make tax credits available everywhere." *In Scalia's opinion:*

"The somersaults of statutory interpretation they have performed ("penalty" means tax, "further [Medi-caid] payments to the State" means only incremental Medicaid payments to the State, "established by the State" means not established by the State) will be cited by liti-gants endlessly, to the confusion of honest jurisprudence."

Herrick continues: *There are probably a significant number of Red State Republican lawmakers who are quietly breathing a sigh of relief— knowing they won't have to face the political fallout from poor constituents losing their subsidies. Yet, the Affordable Care Act still contains numerous structural flaws that must be addressed. A decision for the plaintiffs would have created an opportunity for Republicans to work with Democrats to fix the ACA's numerous problems and work out a compromise that is truly bipartisan.*

Chief Justice Roberts explained his reasoning thusly:

"Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them. If at all possible, we must interpret the Act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter."

In closing, Herrick says: *Thanks to Roberts and his more liberal colleagues, the flaws that existed in Obamacare will continue to plague the American people. These need reform— preferably sooner rather than later. How ironic, then, that in trying not to destroy the insurance markets Roberts helped retain a poorly-designed health care law that is well on its way to destroying the insurance markets.*

For your edification, here is the text from the last few paragraphs of the SCOTUS' ruling in KING v. BURWELL on June 25th, 2015:

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

We have held that Congress “does not alter the fundamental details of a regulatory scheme in vague terms or ancillary provisions.” *Whitman v. American Trucking Assns., Inc.*, 531 U. S. 457, 468 (2001). But in petitioners’ view, Congress made the viability of the entire Affordable Care Act turn on the ultimate ancillary provision: a sub-sub-sub section of the Tax Code. We doubt that is what Congress meant to do. Had Congress meant to limit tax credits to State Exchanges, it likely would have done so in the definition of “applicable taxpayer” or in some other prominent manner. It would not have used such a winding path of connect-the-dots provisions about the amount of the credit.

Petitioners’ arguments about the plain meaning of Section 36B are strong. But while the meaning of the phrase “an Exchange established by the State under [42 U. S. C. §18031]” may seem plain “when viewed in isolation,” such a reading turns out to be “untenable in light of [the statute] as a whole.” *Department of Revenue of Ore.v. ACF Industries, Inc.*, 510 U. S. 332, 343 (1994). In this instance, the context and structure of the Act compel us to depart from what would otherwise be the most natural reading of the pertinent statutory phrase.

Reliance on context and structure in statutory interpretation is a “subtle business, calling for great wariness lest what professes to be mere rendering becomes creation and attempted interpretation of legislation becomes legislation itself.” *Palmer v. Massachusetts*, 308 U. S. 79, 83 (1939). For the reasons we have given, however, such reliance is appropriate in this case, and leads us to conclude that Section 36B allows tax credits for insurance purchased on any Exchange created under the Act. Those credits are necessary for the Federal Exchanges to function like their State Exchange counterparts, and to avoid the type of calamitous result that Congress plainly meant to avoid.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

In a democracy, the power to make the law rests with those chosen by the people. Our role is more confined—"to say what the law is." *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, 177 (1803). That is easier in some cases than in others. But in every case we must respect the role of the Legislature, and take care not to undo what it has done. A fair reading of legislation demands a fair understanding of the legislative plan.

Congress passed the Affordable Care Act to improve health insurance markets, not to destroy them. If at all possible, we must interpret the Act in a way that is consistent with the former, and avoids the latter. Section 36B can fairly be read consistent with what we see as Congress's plan, and that is the reading we adopt.

The judgment of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit is *Affirmed*.

GOP presidential hopeful Rick Perry, in a statement issued last Thursday, said he disagreed with the high court. "It was never up to the Supreme Court to save us from Obamacare."

So now, dear friends, saved or not, we all belong to Obamacare. Lock, stock and barrel. Those who were not partaking of the benefits of Medicare a few years ago are stuck with higher medical costs, higher premiums, fewer doctors, longer waits, and (if you're really lucky to be poor) the benefits of Federal or State Medicaid. Almost half the beneficiaries of the Affordable Care Act are now subsidized by **The State**. The rest are blessed with higher costs, deductibles and premiums tied to less quality and poor service. And the United States Supreme Court said that's just fine as frog's fur by a six to three majority.

And the Republicans are relieved because now they don't have to figure out how to "fix" the law foisted on us by master

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

prevaricators the likes of Nancy Pelosi ("*We have to pass the bill so you can find out what is in it.*"); Harry Reid, who used the "Budget Reconciliation" rule with a 51 vote majority instead of the previously required 60 votes to pass *The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*; and President Barack Obama ("*You can keep your Doctor; And if you like your current insurance, you can keep it.*")

Oh, yeah ... and now same-sex marriage is protected by the 14th Amendment.

Near as I can tell, this place is goin' to Hell in a Handbasket!

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07-09-2015

SUMMER RAIN

Ah, the smell of summer rain in the desert! What an extraordinary jolt to the senses!

I recall vacationing in central Arizona back in the late 40s and early 50's. My folks would load up the Chevy Woody (station wagon) and traipse across California and Arizona to visit relatives at Cottonwood and Mayer, and old friends at the Orme Ranch and on the Hopi Reservation.

We always went on vacation in late July or early August. And we always ran into the summer rains - especially in the deserts of southern California and central Arizona. Back then they weren't called *Chubascos* or *Monsoons* or *Haboobs*. It was usually, "Look at the size of those raindrops!" or, "Wow, that's a good one!" They were just the summer storms that made the creeks and washes come down.

I remember looking over the front seat behind mom and pop at the grand dessert vistas with huge puffy white clouds billowing off in the distance. Sooner or later, we'd have to roll up the windows to avoid getting wet. Those were the days when you strapped a canvas drinking water bag to the front bumper and you drove with all the windows open to keep the heat at a minimum.

One summer pop decided to rent one of those in-the-passenger-window air-operated auto swamp coolers. It was ok, but the person (my mom) sitting next to it was uncomfortably cool, and it only worked at highway speeds.

Then there was the summer we drove through a sandstorm in the Mojave desert. It was a dilly! The car had to have a new

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

paint job and windshield when we got back home to California. A Phoenix weatherman came up with a new word some years back, so now we call a sandstorm a *Haboob*.

I moved my little family to Tucson in the late 60s. Michael Goodrich, a TV weatherman in the Old Pueblo, brought with him the *Chubasco*. That's what they call summer squalls with thunder and rain along Baja California and in Central and South America. The name is not Mexican, but rather originated from the Portuguese-speaking natives of Brazil. Goodrich made a name for himself and remained in Tucson, not moving on after a few years as so many other broadcasters had done.

Some time later, just before Y2K I think, a still-wet-behind-the-ears Phoenix NOAA weathercaster brought us the *Monsoon(s)*. Nobody remembers his name.

I think the weather people have dropped all the fancy words for the most part and just call them *Thunderstorms* anymore.

I don't recall flash floods. At least that's not what they called them back in the day. One summer we were at the T-Anchor ranch visiting Uncle Charlie and Aunt Verde. Just after we were bedded down for the night a huge storm blew in with lots of thunder and lightning and torrents of rain. My little brother and I had been stashed in the bunk-house for safekeeping - just the two of us. Talk about scared! I thought we were gonna get blown up and Billy was sure we'd be blown away. Hiding under the covers is uncomfortable when it's still 85 degrees or so inside. We survived. The next day after breakfast Uncle Charlie said we'd have to wait an hour or two before going on our way. He said, "The creek came down last night so you'll have to wait a while." So, we got to ride horses and went out to see the water still rushing by, all brown and rumbly with dirt and rocks. There was no mention of flash flood. Just "*The creek came down.*"

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

That's how it was in Tucson many years later. "*The Rillito just came down*" was a good reason to go stand on the banks of the normally dry Rillito River and gawk at its dangerous growling splendor.

Sometime in the mid 70s or early 80s, they began to call the water rushing down the washes and creek beds *Flash Floods*. I wouldn't swear to it, but I think the words were coined by the EPA or the Corps of Engineers. With the influx of new residents to Arizona, it became important to educate folks about the dangers of the great Southwest. Since the newbies had mostly used mass-transit to get around in their hometowns, the first thing people from New York, New Jersey and Chicago did was go out and buy a car! Natives had to learn defensive driving very quickly as a result. It seemed like not a summer's day went by for the longest time before at least one poor soul got stuck in a swiftly-running wash or creek crossing. Fortunately, there were not that many fatalities.

Since the days of the Great Migration to the Southwest, summer TV and Radio has been peppered with PSAs warning about the dangers of Flash Floods. Both Phoenix and Tucson passed ordinances making folks who had to be rescued from cars stranded in flash floods liable for the cost. Arizona's Legislature passed the "Stupid Motorist Law" in 1995 (ARS 28-910), making it a crime to attempt to cross a flooded crossing, creek or ford which was barricaded. Any person "*driving a vehicle into any area that is temporarily covered by a rise in water level, including groundwater or overflow of water, may be liable for expenses of any emergency response,*" it says.

Call it what you will. *Chubasco, Monsoon, Haboob*. Could it be the smell of dust washing out of the air? Or the scent of newly wetted Mesquite bushes? Is there some sort of chemistry in the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

air involving Ozone? I don't know. Who cares? It's really of no consequence in the overall picture of *Life, The Universe and Everything*. There is just something very special about the smell of summer rain in the desert.

The above tome was recently added to my book-in-progress, Quien Sabe, which you're welcome to read at <http://www.jetedthayer.com/>

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07-16-2015

SENSATIONAL!

Donald Trump has dynamited the wall of silence created by political correctness. His blunt language has tickled the fancy of conservative Americans across the whole country! It has also raised the hackles of both Republican and Democrat leaders, who condemn his crass statements blaming stupid politicians for the sorry state of the economy. Maybe one thing coming out of the criticism of The Donald by the mainstream media and politicians of all stripes is the realization that Liberals and Conservatives can actually agree on all sorts of stuff!

Something came up at the Trump rally in Phoenix last Saturday afternoon ... something many of us (who are still alive all these years later) haven't heard since the reign of President Richard Nixon and his Vice-President Spiro Agnew. The thing that crystalized the American electorate back in November of 1969 was the idea that there was a ***Great Silent Majority*** yearning for a government that lived up to its high ideals, a government that would respond to their needs as laborers, business owners, homemakers, professionals, even school children. Last Saturday afternoon Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio noted during the run-up to candidate Trump that the one thing that kept putting him back in office (and the federal spotlight) was his election - over and over again - by the ***Silent Majority***. When Donald Trump wound up his remarks to an audience of over 10,000 (and another 13,500 watching on YouTube streamed live from Phoenix Fox-10) he invoked the political spectre from so many decades ago ... the power of the ***Silent Majority!***

It will come as no surprise to me if that electoral majority of old is either poo-poo'ed by the mainstream media or ignored altogether. ***Silent Majority***. Pish-tosh!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

One thing: Liberals speak differently than Conservatives and vice-versa. Each truly believes the other is in possession of neither their faculties nor their facts. Both look on the other as a finger-pointer and both unwittingly use fighting words to express firmly-held contentions. Most of the time both are right and both are wrong - right in their mutually-held beliefs in the people of our great country, wrong in pointing out one person, action or administration to blame for our ills. We all share the credit for our country's accomplishments and we must all shoulder the blame for those things that are so sorely in need of improvement. We improve our stations in life as well as the application of our liberties by finding common ground in our suggestions for solutions.

It is for certain that the future of our country rests in the hands of a *Silent Majority*, yearning for common ground that will take us to full employment, out of debt, and housed safely in the promised land!

If you'd like to view the entire Fox 10 three-hour, 22-minute Trump rally at Phoenix on video, click this YouTube addy:
<https://www.youtube.com/embed/yMQYzKhsnGM>

WHAT TRUMP DID NOT SAY...

John Warren | Jul 13, 2015

The case Donald Trump and every Republican candidate have failed to make is that unrestricted immigration increases the poverty levels of native-born Americans and bars growth of the middle class.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Consider these gleanings from the Department of Homeland Security [*DHS*], the Bureau of Labor Statistics [*BLS*], and others:

1. As of 2000, “unauthorized” immigrants amounted to 8.5 million, and is just under 12 million today (*DHS*).
2. The annual cost “in outlays for services and benefits to illegal aliens and their families” is about \$113 billion (*Federation for American Immigration Reform*).
3. As of 2013, there were 41.3 million immigrants in the US, and 19 million, or 46%, reported Hispanic or Latino origins. “Immigrants” are defined as naturalized citizens, lawful permanent residents, refugees and asylees, those on temporary visas, and the “unauthorized” (*DHS & Migration Policy Institute*).
4. Hispanic-Latinos make up over 48% of the foreign-born labor force, and over 40% have less than a HS diploma, while less than 10% of native Blacks fall into that category. More than 75% of the Hispanic-Latinos are in their prime earning years, between the ages of 25 and 54 (*BLS*).
5. As of 2012, foreign-born Hispanic-Latinos earned over \$100 less than their native counterparts, a fact suggesting foreign-born persons are willing to work the same jobs for less money (*BLS*).
6. Compared to native-born Blacks, foreign-born Hispanic-Latinos have 4-5 times the presence in construction and maintenance jobs, and occupy a over a fourth of management and professional jobs. Similarly, again compared to native-born Blacks, they occupy a third of sales and office jobs, and about 60% of service, production, and transportation positions (*BLS*).

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

7. According to Chapman & Bernstein in 2003, "poverty rates fell faster for immigrants than for natives" (*Economic Policy Institute*).

8. *BLS* says that the employment to population ratio has shrunk from 64.4% in 2001 to 59.3% in 2015. Are many more millions unemployed, retired, or on welfare?

9. Hourly earnings of production and nonsupervisory employees rose, cumulatively, 24% from 2001 to 2008, but only 17% from 2008 to 2015 (*BLS*).

So much for the myth that illegal immigrants take jobs nobody else wants. Tell that to the unemployed Black maintenance, service, construction, office and sales workers. Jobs that used to help lift families out of poverty have shifted from native Blacks to foreign-born Hispanic-Latinos, a substantial number of whom are undocumented. Because they work for lower wages, pay for peers, supervisors, and at least two layers above are depressed, and with unfettered immigration, there's no hope for improvement.

Semi-skilled Whites, Blacks, and Hispanic-Latinos work at lower wages than what they should have been in a normal progression over the past 7 years. Low-skilled Blacks, Hispanic-Latinos, and Whites who might have qualified for jobs taken by immigrants are subsisting on welfare, or are charity clients. Other millions have glommed on to state and local government jobs. Whatever their economic shelter, the latter groups generate additional taxes for the very people whose jobs have been directly affected by illegal immigration. The Hall of Hypocrisy: Wealthy Republicans *and* Democrats who thrive on a low wage environment, and Democrats who have pandered for votes to Hispanic-Latinos for three generations, have no interest in immigration reform, and Blacks foolishly support their own social demise.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

If Republicans cannot unite Middle Class Whites, Blacks, and Hispanic-Latinos with a plan for border security and immigration legitimacy, wages will remain stagnant, poverty rates will grow, government will expand, and class warfare will rule.

This set of realities is not intended to be anti-Hispanic-Latino. On the contrary, they are a noble, hard-working people who contribute to our culture. It is, however, anti-illegal alien, no matter their origin, because their presence dilutes the value of the American workforce. Extending a welcome to millions of illegals serves only to un-employ native Blacks, Hispanics, and others, and to condemn them to the lifetime poverty that welfare guarantees.

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Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

07-23-2015

THE TRUMP CARD

Last week I wrote about Donald Trump's effect on national politics. So far, only two candidates out of a plethora of Presidential hopefuls have been turning out crowds of 10,000 or more. Both Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders have been wowing 'em with their populist ability to tap into the deepest feelings of most Americans. I saved an article from July 12th, the day The Donald killed 'em in Phoenix. Doug Giles, editor of ClashDaily and the co-owner of the Safari Cigar Company, wrote this treatise about why he likes Trump.

[Doug Giles](#) | Jul 12, 2015

Thank God The Donald's in the Presidential mix for 2016.

So, why doth I thank Christ Jesus for The Donald's presence in this next election? Well... it's not because of the hairdo, but it's principally because he's a refreshing, equal opportunity offender who has perfected and joyfully given the middle finger to the media and the appropriate political hacks both on the Left and the supposed Right.

Yep, what I primarily dig about Donald is he doesn't give a shiitake mushroom about Hillary or whomever Rove is trying to prop up and considers the likes of Karl and the Hildebeest to be slimy chunks of corn that are culpable for this abysmal America mess.

Some of my Facebook "friends" have been giving me grief, asking me if I "really believe Trump could become President" with that tsk-tsk tone of typed, social-media emoticon derision; and if I would "really vote for him for president?"

Would I vote for him if it boiled down to him versus Hillary?
Uh, duh. For that matter, I'd vote for Donald Trump's turd

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

before I would vote for that nasty, vile, corrupt-to-the-core, long-toothed, lardy hagfish otherwise known as, Hillary Rodham Clinton.

To answer the question if I know in July of 2015 if Donald will get the GOP nod and knock out Hillary or whomever in the forthcoming general election: no... I do not know. My crystal ball ain't that clear, Queequeg.

I would have never thought that a junior state senator from Illinois who's only accomplishment was writing two books about himself and being a community organizer for a non-profit group that was cool with giving home loans for whorehouses for underage sex-slaves from El Salvador would've ever gotten to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, but he did.

What I do know is, amidst the field of GOP pretenders and snoozers, he and Ted Cruz are the only ones that make me stop packing all my earthly crap and moving to Chile.

What unmistakably comes across when I watch Donald is not only are his wife and daughter gorgeous, but he loves America and he hates those that hate us, our freedoms, our founding docs, our prosperity and our national security; and he is not nice about it. He's not trying to be everybody's buddy. He's not worried if some CNN piss-ant doesn't like his "tone". Trump understands we're economically, militarily and culturally screwed and our day doesn't need another politically correct weathervane but a patriotic lightning rod to lead us.

I, for one, dig the fact that Trump straight up shows disgust and derision towards all of our enemies, both foreign and domestic, and his goal is not to sweet talk them but expose and hammer them like a loose board at The Property Brothers' house.

A lot of whiners with boldness envy think that DT is too bombastic and arrogant. What many take for pride I take as confidence based in many years of building stonking mega-

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

businesses; and what many take for bombast I give to a deep zeal to make America exceptional again.

Win or lose, Trump will definitely shore up, embolden and weed out our GOP contenders. He will ferret the phonies from amongst us, for sure. They won't be able to ignore him. He's here to pick a fight with the Left and the Right. He's not a politician. He's not a butt-kisser. He's not afraid of the media. He's not afraid of HRC and he's not afraid of The GOP; and his expertise has earned him billions and as you can tell... I'm glad he's tossed his hat into the ring.

Note: When Arizona enacted SB1070 all the Mexican laborers I knew left for New Mexico. Not long after the Supreme Court overturned key parts of the law, they all came back! Go figure.

Another note: In an ABC candidate forum hosted by Fox News associate Frank Luntz, Donald Trump said he didn't consider Arizona Senator and former Viet Nam POW John McCain to be a war hero. Trump blurted, "*He's not a war hero. He was a war hero because he was captured. I like people who weren't captured.*" The uproar that followed came from the other Republican presidential contenders, Liberals, Centerists, and Conservatives across the country, and even Luntz himself on CBS Face the Nation the next day. To be fair, Senator McCain had blasted The Donald following his rally in Phoenix. McCain told reporters, "*This performance with our friend out in Phoenix is very hurtful to me ... because what he did was he fired up the crazies.*" Trump apparently felt obligated to return the rhetoric in kind on behalf of his Arizona crazies.

This wasn't the only time McCain had been trashed about his war hero status. Back in January of 2000, in a post on Salon.com, then US Senate candidate and liberal comedy icon Al Franken wrote, "*I have tremendous respect for McCain but I don't buy the war hero thing. Anybody can be captured. I*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

thought the idea was to capture them. As far as I'm concerned he sat out the war." There was no uproar then. In fact, in his book *Lies: Lying Lies, and the Liars Who Tell Them*, as well as in a 2004 *Air America* radio interview, Frankin expanded on his McCain remark, "*So, I like John McCain. Anyway, I'm doing the White House Photographers Dinner, and I go into my little McCain riff. 'Hey, I like John McCain. And I really think he's courageous. I mean, his stance on campaign finance reform and tobacco. Wow. That takes guts. But this whole war hero thing - I don't get it. I mean, as far as I'm concerned, he sat out the war. I mean, anyone can get captured! Am I wrong, but isn't the idea to capture the other guy?'"*

My little McCain riff? The White House Photographers Dinner? Are you kidding? Where was all the wailing and gnashing of teeth back then?

McCain was shot down over Hanoi in October of 1967 during his 23rd bombing sortie over North Viet Nam. Badly injured, he was captured almost immediately, and in spite of his injuries spent almost all of his five-and-a-half years in the *Hanoi Hilton* being beaten and tortured regularly. Not particularly heroic compared with the accomplishments of Audie Murphy or Roy Benavidez. However, in 1968, in a truly heroic gesture, he refused an offer of early release because it would have meant leaving other POWs behind who had been held captive longer than he. McCain was finally released in 1973 as a result of the Paris Peace Accords.

The recipient of the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, three Bronze Stars, a Navy Commendation Medal and the Purple Heart, Captain John Sidney McCain III received seventeen medals and decorations over his distinguished career in the US Navy.

The basic qualification for consideration for the Congressional Medal of Honor is that the potential recipient "*distinguishes*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

himself conspicuously by gallantry and intrepidity at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty ..." McCain was never put in for the Congressional Medal of Honor.

A POW's basic *call of duty* includes: To resist by all means available, make every effort to escape and aid others, give only name, rank, service number and date of birth, and to evade answering further questions. Acceptance of parole or special favors is forbidden.

Will a truce be forthcoming in the war of words between Senator McCain and The Donald? Will it just fade away like the Al Franken routine? ¿Quien sabe? The mainstream media always has better fish to fry. I'm betting there's another hoop-dee-doo just over the horizon. Stay tuned!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

07-30-2015

SILENT MAJORITY

The Daily Mail - *This Day in History*: November 3, 1969

President Richard Nixon goes on television and radio to call for national solidarity on the Vietnam War effort and to gather support for his policies; his call for support is an attempt to blunt the renewed strength of the antiwar movement.

Pledging that the United States was “going to keep our commitment in Vietnam,” he said U.S. forces would continue fighting until the communists agreed to a fair and honorable peace, or until the South Vietnamese were able to defend themselves on their own. He said that he had already withdrawn 60,000 U.S. troops and would make additional reductions as the situation permitted. He also reported progress in the “Vietnamization” effort to increase the combat capability of South Vietnam’s armed forces so that they could assume more responsibility for the war. Having provided this perspective on the situation, he then appealed to the American people, calling on the “*great silent majority*” for their support as he worked for “peace with honor” in Vietnam.

A Gallup Poll survey carried out in the wake of the president’s speech indicated that 77 percent were in support of Nixon’s policy in Vietnam. Congressional reaction to the president’s speech was also overwhelmingly favorable.

Something very intriguing came up at the July Donald Trump Phoenix rally. The controversial Republican candidate wound up his remarks by invoking the power of the *Silent Majority*!

According to *TownHall.com* columnist Pat Buchanan (July 28th), "*Presidential primaries are minefields for the incautious, and Trump is not a cautious man. And it is difficult to see how,*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

in a two-man race against the favorite of the Republican establishment, he could win enough primaries, caucuses and delegates to capture 50 percent of the convention votes.

"[...] almost all of the candidates who will have dropped out by then will have endorsed the last man standing against Trump. [...] should Trump be nominated, his candidacy would make Barry Goldwater look like the great uniter of the GOP.

"Still, who expected Donald Trump to be in the catbird seat in the GOP nomination run before the first presidential debate? And even his TV antagonists cannot deny he has been great for ratings."

BOHICA? Mayhaps you've wondered what's in the Iran Nuke Deal? It's right here - attached above to this week's newsletter (as *full-text-of-the-iran-nuclear-deal.pdf*). Read it for yourself. If you'd rather not use the Drive space you can also read it online at the *Washington Post*:
<http://apps.washingtonpost.com/g/documents/world/full-text-of-the-iran-nuclear-deal/1651/>

My 'phone started acting up a while back so I started looking for a better VoIP adapter or service provider. A nice guy working for a reputable company took me up on my inquiry. We exchanged emails over the weekend, but I finally gave up when his company's best price for monthly VoIP telephone service came in at \$35 a month BEFORE all the taxes, tariffs and fees. I told the guy that the same or better service was available for about 60% of his best offer, so no thanks. Sunday evening I got an email from the company's CEO. Tom was his name and he put in a great pitch for the company's Amazing Service™, but to no avail. I responded to Tom with the following:

"Hi back to ya, Tom ... Thanks!"

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"When it comes to telephone service, only one thing matters. It works - ALL THE TIME.

"Before the Bell System was broken up, there was only one word. ThePhoneCompany. Everything worked all the time, or else. Unconditionally. Your 'phone broke or acted up, you made a call - they brought a new one - whether you needed one or not. It came with the monthly payment - guaranteed. You lost your phone book? No problem. Call 0 for Operator and she'd get the number for you. Later it was 411. Same deal. No problem. Everything worked all the time. You could count on it.

"After AT&T was broken up, prices went up, services began to come with a fee, and that unconditional guarantee went somewhere under the bed! Then the government started adding tariffs and taxes and fees and costs went through the roof - accounting now for upwards of 40% of all telephone service!

"I'm an old fart from out of yesteryear, when things worked all the time or else. Levis came with an unconditional warrantee - if a seam came loose or a rivet popped, you took 'em back for a brand-new pair on the house. Your car came with a warrantee from top to bottom for the first 12 to 24 months. Then Lee Iacocca came out with the 5 year or 50,000 mile warrantee. Your GE or Frigidaire refrigerator would work for fifteen or twenty years and after that you could get it repaired. Now they don't even warrant the compressor for more than three years!

"Computers and 'phones are throw-away items anymore. So the only thing left is RELIABILITY. Not service. You don't need service if the products and the infrastructure they use are reliable. The only time you need service is if the product or its infrastructure isn't reliable.

"So, thank you for the nice note, Tom. The only Amazing Service™ I need is a competitive price. The rest has to come with the territory.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"Best regards."

I went to my local internet provider Monday and asked what my monthly bill (including taxes, fees and tariffs) would be if I signed up for the \$19.95-a-month five-year deal. Our very own answer to Nancy Pelosi replied, "I don't know ... you'll have to wait for your first bill to find out."

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Thayer's Wild Bunch II

08-06-2015

STEENKING DEBATES?

There they are ... a bunch of 'em in the afternoon and a whole bunch in the evening. Debaters!

Fox News Channel tonight carries the elocutionary dances of seventeen Republican candidates lusting after the party's nomination for President of the United States. Seven of them vie for the winning edge in the 5:00pm Eastern Time debate. The remaining ten exercise their respective verbal pugilistics in the evening melee that begins at 9:00 o'clock ET.

Rather than blather on about what I might think of the performances by the participants, I thought it would be totally cool to get you, your ownself, involved in a poll of sorts. I don't believe that anybody in his right mind cares a whit what I think about these seventeen politicians. I do believe, however, that everyone who reads these weekly screeds has an interest in what happens to our country in the next year-an-a-half, and each of us would love to be thought of as someone who made a difference when push comes to shove. So could this be an opportunity to make a difference? Beats the Hell out of me! Let's give it a shot!

After you've watched the debates (assuming you're going to watch at least one of them), FORWARD your email back to me. When you select FORWARD, you'll be able to put your own scores on the list of candidates. Then enter To: tedthayer@cableone.net. I want to take the average of all the scores from the emails returned (Forwarded) to me as an addendum to next week's email. It just might be interesting - at least to some ...

Below are two lists of the participants in the debates in alphabetical order. Preceding each is my performance

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

prediction ... today ... BEFORE the debates ... on a ten-to-one scale: 10 is excellent, 1 is poor.

5 5pm Fiorina

1 5pm Gilmore

2 5pm Graham

6 5pm Jindall

3 5pm Pataki

6 5pm Perry

4 5pm Santorum

8 9pm Bush

7 9pm Carson

9 9pm Christie

6 9pm Cruz

5 9pm Huckabee

5 9pm Kasich

7 9pm Paul

8 9pm Rubio

10 9pm Trump

7 9pm Walker

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Thayer's Wild Bunch II

08-13-2015

BOHICA!

It appears that it was just another less-than-spectacular ho-hum why-bother Thursday afternoon and evening for most of the Wild Bunch.

Maybe a total of three of us watched the Fox News Republican Presidential debates last week. I should have known you guys have better stuff to do with your time than watch a TV show ... and submit a homework assignment, too! For some strange reason beyond my simple comprehension, most folks are bored to death with America's bi-annual election continuum that has become ... well - continuous! As *Saturday Night Live's* Rosanne Roseanna Danna used to say so gracefully, "*Nevermind.*" I won't be bothering you with any of that *we value your opinion* nonsense in the future.

With Hillary's server now in the hands of the FBI and Bernie's stage presence given up to female bullies from the Black Lives Matter movement, it appears that our crazy Uncle Joe is ready to step in to save the day! Praise the Lord! Maybe there'll be a *real* election next year.

Right this instant, though, we have much bigger fish to fry - hopefully there won't be that many of them falling from the sky!

BOHICA!

Back in May I wrote a piece predicting severe weather this year and into next caused by El Niño. What follows is the updated article.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

I have it on good authority that weatherwise we in the Southwest are in for an interesting year. California could well find itself toward the end of its half-decade drought and desert climes could find flash-flooding the norm this summer and fall.

As of this writing, one factor in the Southwest's summer weather patterns has not set up, even with the heavy summer rains so far - the Four-Corners low pressure system has not yet appeared. Centered over the border confluence of Utah, Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico, this counter-clockwise system literally sucks moisture from Baja California and the Gulf of Mexico across the Southwest, creating the powerful summer thunderstorm season.

So far, several places in Arizona and California have been hit by super-wet storms. Take Wickenburg - it was hit by heavy rains the weekend of July 18th. The National Weather Service logged more than three inches of rain in the rural Arizona city in just a few hours. What City Fathers assumed was adequate flood control turned out to be ineffective at containing the washes in two parts of town, inundating almost twenty homes and causing significant damage to some businesses and city infrastructure. That Sunday, the Tex Wash bridge on Interstate 10 in San Bernardino County, California collapsed from the force of gushing desert floodwaters, closing the California-Arizona transportation corridor. One person was hurt when his pick-up truck crashed off the bridge into the wash. The bridge, built in 1967, passed a March safety inspection. I-10 was reopened July 24th. One of those *Haboobs* finally hit Phoenix the other day, blowing things over, reducing visibility to near zero in places, and dumping copious precipitation on The Valley and points north. Southern California NOAA weather experts are saying El Niño could bring big rains to the Golden State, perhaps enough to break the drought but also causing flooding, mudslides and erosion.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

El Niño predictions developed this spring by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have drought conditions moving up the west coast into Washington state and the west coast of Canada as a result.

Last summer a strong El Niño tried to fully develop in the Pacific, warming waters in the central Pacific and causing welling of warm waters off the west coast. The necessary jetstream activity didn't develop to sustain the usually strong weather pattern so California was left high and dry again, worsening its drought.

This year, however, pointers are in place for a big El Niño: Juvenile seabirds have been dying off in large numbers because of decreases in their main food source - plankton that normally thrives along the west coast. And corals have been "bleaching" all over the Pacific because of the warmer currents. Some proponents of Global Climate Change are blaming human influences on the continuing California drought and the die-off of a number of species in the western US. Others say the predicted deviant weather is a naturally-occurring phenomenon caused by our sun.

The last large southwest El Niño created rains from early 1992, through the Winter and into the Spring of 1993 that did significant damage across Arizona. The *2013 State of Arizona HMPR Assessment* reviews 1993 as follows:
"Winter 1993. A persistent El Niño established new record rainfalls and storm intensities throughout the State. Warm temperatures caused snowmelt which exacerbated the runoff over large areas, and rivers, creeks, and washes overflowed their banks, causing extensive erosion. Stream flow velocities and runoff volumes exceeded historic highs. Many flood control channels and retention reservoirs, filled to capacity, diverted water to emergency spillways; in some cases, reservoirs were breached, causing extensive damage. Damages were reported

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

in almost all counties of the State. Gila County sustained severe damage – several homes in Winkelman Flats were completely destroyed by the Gila River; many homes in Tonto Basin and Verde Lakes were severely damaged or destroyed. Bridge crossings on the lower Gila River became impassable, isolating families on the north side. Thousands of acres of valuable farmland were inundated, destroying crops. Releases from Painted Rock Dam on the Gila River were frequent. A presidentially declared disaster was issued; damages were widespread and significant, impacting over 100 communities. Damages exceeded \$400 million; eight (8) deaths and 112 injuries were reported to the Red Cross."

El Niño and its cousin La Niña are weather patterns that develop within regular eleven year cycles that wax and wane, overlapping a separate cycle of precipitation and drought. Those sun-driven cycles vary in strength creating peaks and valleys that encourage or prevent precipitation across the central Pacific, northern Mexico and the southern United States.

Twenty-two years after the inundation and conflagration of the early 1990s, weather experts are predicting a much larger than normal El Niño this year and into early next year - one that will bring very wet weather to Baja California and northwestern Mexico, as well as higher-than-normal precipitation over southern California, Arizona and New Mexico. Southern Florida is in for a wet one also because the unusual weather pattern is slowly setting up to deliver copious rains all the way across the southern United States. Meanwhile, they're predicting abnormally warm and dry weather in the area around the Great Lakes.

All that stuff remains to be seen. Meanwhile, I want to tell you: Be prepared. That's the Boy Scout Marching Song!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Make sure you have a stash of at least a week's worth of non-perishable food and several cases of bottled water. Include a first aid kit and a week's worth of prescription medicines. You'll need warm clothing and weather-proofing ... boots or galoshes, ponchos, blankets, a shovel and an empty five-gallon plastic pickle or detergent bucket. You need batteries and flashlights - and don't forget a way to make a fire. Toilet paper, toiletries, and sundries are all good, too. The point is ... you need to be able to take care of yourself and family for a week without help from anyone.

There are doomsayers out there who insist on three months worth of supplies as well as personal firearms to protect you, your family and your stuff. I think a week is sufficient. Already have the firearms. Been there. Done that. 1992-93.

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Thayer's Wild Bunch II

08-20-2015

OOFTAH!

Last time, you'll remember, we were wrapped in the throes of pending disaster, waiting with baited breath for the latest climatological meteorological prognostication. For those of you among the un-initiated, that's the weather forecast - as described by Bill Drake, one of the great West Coast AM radio Program Directors of the '50s and '60s. At the end of the every "20-20" newscast on the Drake-programmed radio stations of the day, a young lady would announce at the top of her lungs, "*And NOW, the climatological, meteorological, PROGNOSTICATION!*"

Ok, then ... how 'bout this for a prognostication: Hillary bails, crazy Uncle Joe Biden announces, Lizzy Warren re-announces, Bernie Sanders is ushered outa town by political crowdies, and internet inventor Al Gore puts in for the pinnacle of political offices for the third time. While Trump keeps on keepin' on, poor ol' Rick Perry just can't get through an election cycle without shootin' himself in the foot, Doctor Ben Carson is attracting young folks like bees to honey, Carly Fiorina is busy taking no prisoners, and Jeb Bush is sorta treading water.

So the (alleged) criminal prepares for the eventuality of her day; everybody's crazy Uncle grins his merry way into a Big F'n Deal; the faux Indian woman readies herself to dance with the wolves; that loveable, screwy 73-year-old socialist Commie is shouted down (again) by Black Lives Matter crowdies; and the one individual on the face of the earth more responsible than anyone for Global Warming (*Climate Change*) makes the case for taxing America out of existence.

Meanwhile, The Donald's empire just keeeps on spreading; the long, tall bespectacled Texan's head has exploded; the affable Neurosurgeon has risen like cream toward the top; and HP's one-time alpha Bitch has herded most of the remaining nomination-

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

seeking flock into near-oblivion, except for poor ol' Jeb Bush - who can't decide between *looking forward*, *falling out*, or *skin in the game*.

Key Democrats have been working quietly in the background, preparing to take the headlines away from leading Republican contenders. At the same time, the mainstream media has been crucifying Donald Trump for speaking his mind and not mincing words.

As *Dragnet's* dead-pan Jack Webb would ask, "Does that about cover it, ma'am?"

I had a chat with a lady friend of mine the other day. We have been acquaintances for a long time and her husband is a Sheriff's Deputy that I've also known for many moons. This pair are wonderful folks and they live just down the road. She said something during our conversation that caught me a little off guard and forced me to put on my thinking cap.

My friend said she has a hard time understanding what Donald Trump is talking about when it comes to Mexicans in America. She said he makes her angry. There are huge differences between Mexicans, Messicans, Lantinos and Hispanics. Generally speaking, Mexicans are citizens of Mexico. Messicans, as I understand it, are American citizens with Mexican lineage. Latinos are people from Central and South America who speak mostly Latin-based languages. Hispanics have their deepest family roots in Spain. This legal vs. illegal immigration/emigration issue is a difficult subject for all Americans, whatever their citizenship, allegiance, heritage or status. My friend's distaste for Trump is believable, because hers is a bi-national heritage that blends her patriotism so deeply that loyalty is cultural, not national. The disgust for Trump and those who would preach a return to pre-Reagan US-Mexican relations is real and understandable.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

My good friend feels a kinship - a bond, if you will - with all people from our neighbor to the south who only want the best life they can make for their families. That's a universal maxim: Your job as a *patrón* - no matter the cost or repercussions - is to better the future of your family members and especially your progeny. This is very important to American citizens with family heritages based in Mexico - historical ties to the people who defeated the French army on Cinco de Mayo in 1862. The French, under Napolian III, sent an army to collect damages from the almost bankrupt Mexican Treasury after years of disputes with the United States, Britain, France and Spain ... and that rag-tag Mexican Army and its compatriots prevailed! Talk about national pride! Hell-of-a-deal, you think?

On the other hand - illegals, in my estimation, have ruined the "path to citizenship" for others from countries across the globe who have applied in good faith. The illegals are taking advantage, in a criminal way, of our American generosity. By criminal, I mean conspiring to circumvent American law and the spirit of the Fourteenth Amendment to our Constitution so as to take advantage of America's generous labor, housing, communications, nutrition, birth-right, retirement and health benefits. Americans never intended to care for the citizens of another country, except through foreign aid and organizations like the Red Cross and United Nations. Furthermore, the Congress and the majority of the States who ratified the 14th Amendment never intended anything such as "anchor babies". Rather, they sought to assure that all freed slaves had the benefit of citizenship after the Civil War. For the sake of discussion ... imagine if you can that in 1868 anybody remotely associated with the United States Congress and the States who ratified the Amendment was thinking about Mexican nationals. It wasn't until 56 years later, following a legal scrap in the US Supreme Court, that the Congress finally passed The Indian Citizenship Act of 1924. How is it that we now accept the demands of those who would invade us to steal America's

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

generous benefits instead of staying in their home country to fight for their own? That's what Trump's candidacy is presenting.

Since my friend's expression of concern, I've been listening more closely to Trump's elocutionary exercises relating to how we need to handle what - more every day - appears to be a broken American immigration system. I hope that, with exceptional leadership, the United States and Mexico will somehow come together to find a reasonable and kind way to solve this prickly dilemma that has the all-too-public capacity to tear families and national allegiances apart.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

EXTRA:

YOU AND I ARE MEMBERS...

The typical U.S. household headed by a person age 65 or older has a net worth 47 times greater than a household headed by someone under 35, according to an analysis of census data released Monday.

They like to refer to us as senior citizens, old fogies, geezers, and in some cases dinosaurs. Some of us are "Baby Boomers" getting ready to retire. Others have been retired for some time. We walk a little slower these days and our eyes and hearing are not what they once were. We worked hard, raised our children, worshiped our God and grown old together.

Yes, we are the ones some refer to as being over the hill, and that is probably true. But before writing us off completely, there are a few things that need to be taken into consideration.

In school we studied English, history, math, and science which enabled us to lead America into the technological age. Most of us remember what outhouses were, many of us with firsthand experience. We remember the days of telephone party-lines, 25 cent gasoline, and milk and ice being delivered to our homes.

For those of you who don't know what an icebox is, today they are electric and referred to as refrigerators. A few even remember when cars were started with a crank. Yes, we lived those days.

We are probably considered old fashioned and outdated by many. But there are a few things you need to remember before completely writing us off.

We won World War II, fought in Korea and Viet Nam.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

We can quote The Pledge of Allegiance, and know where to place our hand while doing so.

We wore the uniform of our country with pride and lost many friends on the battlefield.

We didn't fight for the Socialist States of America; we fought for the "Land of the Free and the Home of the Brave."

We wore different uniforms but carried the same flag.

We know the words to the Star Spangled Banner, America, and America the Beautiful by heart, and you may even see some tears running down our cheeks as we sing.

We have lived what many of you have only read in history books and we feel no obligation to apologize to anyone for America.

Yes, we are old and slow these days but rest assured, we have at least one good fight left in us.

We have loved this country, fought for it, and died for it, and now we are going to save it. It is our country and nobody is going to take it away from us. We took oaths to defend America against all enemies, foreign and domestic, and that is an oath we plan to keep.

There are those who want to destroy this land we love but, like our founders, there is no way we are going to remain silent.

It was mostly the young people of this nation who elected Obama and the Democratic Congress. You fell for the "Hope and Change" which in reality was nothing but "Hype and Lies."

You youngsters have tasted socialism and seen evil face to face, and have found you don't like it after all. You make a lot of noise, but most are all too interested in their careers or "Climbing the Social Ladder" to be involved in such mundane things as patriotism and voting.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Many of those who fell for the "Great Lie" in 2008 are now having buyer's remorse. With all the education we gave you, you didn't have sense enough to see through the lies and instead drank the 'Kool-Aid.'

Now you're paying the price and complaining about it. No jobs, lost mortgages, higher taxes, and less freedom. This is what you voted for and this is what you got. We entrusted you with the Torch of Liberty and you traded it for a paycheck and a fancy house.

Well, don't worry youngsters, the Grey-Haired Brigade is here, and in 2016 we are going to take back our nation.

We may drive a little slower than you would like but we get where we're going, and in 2016 we're going to the polls by the millions.

This land does not belong to the man in the White House nor to the likes of Nancy Pelosi, Harry Reid, and Eric Holder. It belongs to "We the People" and "We the People" plan to reclaim our land and our freedom.

We hope this time you will do a better job of preserving it and passing it along to our grandchildren.

So the next time you have the chance to say the Pledge of Allegiance, Stand up, put your hand over your heart, honor our country, and thank God for the old geezers of the "Gray-Haired Brigade."

I have no idea the above declaration's origination. A friend forwarded it to me. And I thought there might be a few of you older folks who would appreciate it.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

RUINING THE GOP?

J E Ted Thayer | 08-27-2015

For months we've heard the mainstream media, political hacks, Democrats and supposedly knowledgeable Republicans exclaim that Donald Trump is ruining the Grand Old Party.

I'm not a Republican, although I was once a Pima County Central Committee mover and shaker in the Tucson leg of the GOP. Gila County's Democrat Vice-chair position was mine for almost a decade. However, I re-registered some years ago as PND (Party Not Declared) because it seemed to me like the political parties were being run by an elite bunch of hacks who cared more about control than service. I ran for office twice and lost both times, once as a Democrat and once as a third-party candidate who supposedly garnered more nomination petition signatures than any other candidate in Gila County history! Those elections were lost because of voter apathy and my failure to organize and fund-raise adequately, but mostly because I failed to stump passionately and aggressively.

The last three words above - *passionately and aggressively* - are the keys to my downfall ... and to Donald Trump's success in his quest to lead the GOP to a Presidential landslide next year. His passion is unquenchable. And his aggressiveness is undeniable. So why are they saying he's ruining the Republican Party? For the same reasons I became PND and for the same reason our US Congress is approved by only eight per-cent (yes, 8%) of Americans - because an elite bunch of hacks care more about control than service. Trump could care less about control. He's a natural-born leader - he doesn't need control to make things happen. And he's passionate about service - he can afford to serve and he loves it!

So, why is he ruining the GOP? Because the highfalutin elbow-rubbers and money-grubbers at the top of every Republican Central Committee across the country, as well as the hacks at

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the RNC are getting their oxes gored by the best ox-gorer in the world! And they don't like it when the cream of the Republican crop doesn't float as well as The Donald's hair!

Trump is doing to the Republican Party what Ronald Reagan did back in the day - he's speaking plain English and calling a spade a spade. The Folks love his sense of humor and his ability to turn negatives into positives. They love how he wholeheartedly embraces the idea that "***We Can Make America Great Again!***" There is an innate understanding in the electorate that "***We***" means all of us, working together for the common cause - "***Make America Great Again!***"

Only two other Presidential candidates in recent times were so adored by populist crowds ... Barack Obama and Ronald Reagan. Both of them were Rock Stars! Both of them turned out crowds numbering in the tens of thousands. Both of them changed political history and both changed their political parties in major ways. In 1980 Reagan's campaign slogan was "***Are You Better Off Today Than You Were Four Years Ago?***" In 2008 Obama's slogan "***Yes We Can!***" hit a chord in the Latino community, becoming "***Si, Se Puede!***" Both men won land-slide victories and radically changed what political campaigns are all about. So it appears to be with Republican candidate Donald Trump.

Is Trump ruining the Republican Party? Or is he causing discomfort among the Party's old-guard elite, who despise change like a cat hates water? They know that 2016 is going to be a year of reckoning for the GOP and that Trump is busy setting their agenda and writing their platform. To be frank, I have no idea if Trump is good or bad for the Party, but he sure knows how to throw a good one! It's a long time 'til the 2016 primaries so just hang in there and enjoy the ride!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

ANCHOR BABIES A PROBLEM?

J E Ted Thayer | 09-03-2015

The "Anchor Baby" issue has me symied. What's the big deal, anyway? Well, um ...

Folks from outa town want their newborns to have access to benefits they themselves do not have. It's pretty simple from where I stand: All parents have a *duty* to do everything within their power to better the lives of their offspring. It's a given, a rule, a tradition passed down from generation to generation. However, this venerable parenting tradition happens to be overwhelming our cherished system of US safety nets.

There's got to be a fix to this dilemma, so let's explore what remedies might be available.

Ron Paul, the elder Congressman ran for President as a Libertarian in 1988. (That was the year George H W Bush beat Democrat candidate Michael J Dukakis.) Paul is not just a politician - he's a former member of the US House from Texas. His son is Republican presidential candidate Rand Paul, the first Senator to ever serve concurrently in the Congress with a parent. Ron Paul was a USAF flight surgeon and remains a Doctor of OBGYN. He gives speeches on college campuses promoting his Libertarian vision and he's a prolific writer on political and economic theory. In short, he knows his stuff!

Townhall.com recently published a column from Ron Paul suggesting that the "Anchor Baby" issue need not be an issue at all, but rather a challenge for the Congress:

"Congress has within its power the authority to clarify the 14th Amendment's definition of citizenship by making it clear that it does not grant citizenship by birthright. Article I, Section 8 of the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Constitution is very clear: Congress has the power, 'To establish a uniform rule of naturalization [...] throughout the United States.'

"This power has been used in the past to clarify birthright citizenship, including for the children of diplomats born on U.S. soil and foreign prisoners who may give birth while in jail. There is no reason Congress cannot provide further clarification of what the 14th Amendment means when it refers to 'subject to the jurisdiction' of the United States."

Dr. Paul goes on to suggest that the American progeny of all foreign-born non-citizens should be treated the same as the American-born children of foreign diplomats. That particular exception to the 14th ammendment was passed by the Congress, as was the Indian Citizenship Act of 1924.

That "Anchor Babies" are an issue at all is because of an interpretation by US Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals Judge Richard Posner who, according to Wikipedia:

"... remarked in a 2003 case that 'Congress would not be flouting the Constitution if it amended the Immigration and Nationality Act to put an end to the nonsense.' He explained, 'A constitutional amendment may be required to change the rule whereby birth in this country automatically confers U.S. citizenship, but I doubt it.' Posner also wrote that automatic birthright citizenship is a policy that 'Congress should rethink' and that the United States 'should not be encouraging foreigners to come to the United States solely to enable them to confer U.S. citizenship on their future children.'"

Constitutional law scholar Daniel Pines, writing in the National Security Law Journal, states, *"Most nations follow the principle of jus sanguinis, i.e., that a child's citizenship is determined by the citizenship of his or her parents. The United States, through the Fourteenth Amendment, adheres not only to jus sanguinis, but also to the principle of jus soli, namely that a child's citizenship is based on his or her place of birth."*

The Republican-controlled Congress could easily amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to include the phrase "*Children*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

born of non-citizens within the territorial limits of the United States are exempt from jus soli birthright provisions of United States Law." The only real question left to ponder would be the date of implementation or its retroactivity, with or without an emergency clause.

I'm stymied because, considering the current political atmosphere, a simple majority in the Senate might not be enough to get the President on board. Of course, a veto-proof 64 vote majority would guarantee its passage - something I see as unlikely at this point in our history. But it would certainly solve one of the stickiest domestic problems faced so far in the twenty-first century.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

09-10-2015

TASTY

Did you ever stop to think what turns your taste-buds absolutely in-side-out? Is it that first remembrance of pablum when you were an itty-bitty? How about a tug straight out of a new bottle of Jack Daniels? Ok, then. To phrase it differently ...

How could you go for a bowl of Kellogg's Corn Flakes swimming in half-and-half topped with a big glop of fresh strawberries and not one, but two, tablespoons of sugar?

Maybe it's a Ritz cracker topped with a sardine fresh out of one of those little blue and white tins. Not so much? How 'bout smoked oysters? On a Ritz - or straight with a tooth-pick.

Alright, let's get serious here! Think of steamed shrimp, clams, and mussels and raw oysters with a spicy seafood cocktail sauce and a dip made with red wine vinegar, salt, pepper and olive oil! Throw in a tossed salad topped with croutons, red onion slices and Italian dressing - and some big slices of San Francisco sourdough garlic bread - and then ... a big glass of Dago Red. C'mon!

Claudette says when she was a kid she loved to lay out on the path through her family's Victory garden, plucking baby carrots and radishes from their protective loam, as well as peas and green beans right outa their little shells, and eating 'em up! (She says she used to dispose of the carcasses by digging a hole in the dirt.)

Not tasty enough, you say? Red Blanchard, a west-coast radio personality of the fifties, pitched the Zorch Cow made with Belfast Old-fashioned Mug Root Beer and a whopping scoop of vanilla ice cream stirred into a tall glass. That was your classic Root Beer Float. Oh, boy!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Is there anything wrong with two pieces of bread, buttered on both sides, toasted, with a slice of Velveeta cheese melted inside? For that matter, how 'bout mac and cheese made with America's favorite?

Could you go for a big ol' plop of fruit cocktail with a double super-humongous-spoon-full of cottage-cheese on top, served with a 'mater sammich with real mayo and a sprinkle of garlic salt?

Then there's that T-bone steak, sizzling in its medium-rare perfection just off the barbecue. In the preparation, just the tiniest dusting of garlic salt always brings out that caveman flavor! So, if barbecue isn't your style, how about a big juicy slice of Prime Rib with a dollop of creamy Horseradish sauce on the side. Oh, mama!

Did you ever eat a lemon? With no sweetener? How 'bout a Grapefruit?

Food isn't the only challenge to the taste-buds. How about wet stuff?

Did ya ever just sip a shot of José Quervo - straight - with no lime or salt? Does Sun Tea over ice sweetened with a little sugar do something for you? Could ya do with a cool Mint Julep while sitting out there on the porch on a nice, warm summer afternoon? Can I get a big Amen for that one, brothers and sisters?

When it's dark, cold and foggy outside, have you ever tried Coffee, Kahlua and a Twist? Speaking of coffee ... while it takes a bit to get used to, there's nothing quite like a shot of Espresso. Have you ever experienced the delicate bubbly tingle of a tiny sip of Extra Dry André Champagne? Did you ever drink Carnation condensed milk straight out of the can? How 'bout Eagle Brand?

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

On a cold snowy night by the fireplace there's hardly a sensation like sipping from a warm mug of hot chocolate cupped in your palms. Did you ever get a strawberry milkshake mustache? There's nothing quite like an almost-frozen, super-cold Bud on a hundred-degree summer afternoon! For that matter, what is there in the whole world even remotely as refreshing and delectable as a sip of fresh water from a babbling brook high in the Sierras?

Not to be too gross ... But, when you were laboring in the sun out in the yard, did you taste the sweat that dripped down your face onto to your lips? Did ya ever taste dirt? How 'bout dog poop? When you were very young, did you ever eat a worm? Do you remember how old you were when you ate your first booger? Most folks can't recall at what age they first sampled it, but do you remember what your big toe tasted like? Don't even get me started on finger-nails!

There is nothing quite like a long piece of dry grass gripped between your teeth, is there? Twigs are good, too. Even for a non-smoker, there's nothing like the taste of a rum-soaked Crook. How many folks do you know brave enough to put just a pinch of Copenhagen between their cheek and gum? Speaking of gum - a fresh new chunk of Fler Double-Bubble, anyone? Fond memories go with Black-Jack, Dentyne, Cloves, Beaman, Wrigley's Spearmint, Double-Mint. Ever try a little wax coke-bottle? A straw with kool-aid powder in it? Hooray for pink and white Good & Plenty! Did you know that a Big Hunk kept in the fridge will crack into pieces instead of bending? And there's nothing in the world like a frozen Snickers bar. Oh, yeah!

The sensations created in the mouth range widely from sweet to sour, salty to acidic, soft to hard, wet to dry, delightful to disgusting! And then ...

Why is sucking your partner's fingers so sexy? Who but star-crossed lovers can say for sure? The sensitivity of our lips and

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

tongues began at the breasts of our mothers, heightened during our pre-teen years with that first tentative, feathery touching of lips - later tongues, remember? And it matured when we discovered the sensuousness of kisses ever-so-gently placed on private places all around our partners' bodies ...

Taste is just one amazing segment of our human senses. It runs the gamut of sensual delights from breakfast to bed-time. Try to imagine ... where would we be without it?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

09-17-2015

THE FONZ

I was trying to think what it is that keeps Donald Trump up in the political polls.

You remember Arthur Fonzarelli? "The Fonz" was the most respected, feared and loved character on the 1974-1984 Ron Howard TV series *Happy Days*. Fonzie was the guy who always made sure things were "right" - the go-to guy when anybody needed a hand. When something needed to happen, it was "The Fonz" who came to the rescue! C'mon, you guys. It's simple.



Fonzarelli was the Donald Trump of his day - right down to the hair!



So, could Donald Trump be the Arthur Fonzarelli of the 2016 Election Cycle? Heyyyy ...

09-24-2015

MAGNETISM

Here's the thing: Opposites attract - except in elections. Take that to the bank.

Not that long ago Donald Trump signed his "Loyalty Oath" for the Republican Party. He declared that he would be loyal to the conservative principles of the GOP. Trump has been on top of the heap for a few months, now ... and this didn't hurt him at all. In fact it drew more of the "New Silent Majority" into the Trump fold.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch, Jeb Bush was busy shooting himself in the foot. No sooner had Trump pledged his allegiance to the GOP than Bush blasted him for his stances on immigration. Bush ranted that Trump was proposing to round up millions of illegal immigrants and ship them out of the country with no plans for funding or organization. Those were very negative words coming from a fellow Republican Presidential contender.

The difference between the two campaigns is beginning to become obvious. The Old Guard (represented by Jeb Bush) hates the prospect of change and will bad-mouth it at the drop of a hat, even though the elected majority in the Congress sports the lowest approval rating (some eighteen per-cent) in recent history. The "New Silent Majority" (represented by Donald Trump, Carly Fiorina and Ben Carson) loves the prospect of a positive new future, free from government oppression, and support just keeps building. How two factions of the same Party could be so far apart is almost infathomable. But let's look at the numbers - the top three contenders, all outsiders, comprise over half of the GOP base's support according to Sunday's CNN/ORC poll. The remaining fifteen candidates muster a mere 47% - combined!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

CNBC's Larry Kudlow nailed it in a TownHall column late last week: *"... one of the reasons why the GOP base is angrily up in arms at the so-called political-class establishment is that nothing has gotten done, even with Republican majorities in the Senate and House.*

"I thought the House and Senate would pass a broad energy-reform bill that not only includes the XL pipeline, but removes limits on oil exports and drilling on federal land (that would lower gas prices at home and weaken Vladimir Putin's European stranglehold). But no bill emerged. A bill to repeal Obamacare with an alternative vision? Never happened. A corporate-tax-cut reform that slashes the rate, provides cash tax expensing for investment and brings more than \$2 trillion back home with a repatriation plan? Never happened. Ditto for immigration reform: never happened."

So, how is it that the same political party supports two opposites like Bush and Trump?

For a moment I thought, "Beats the Hell outa me!" But then, there it was. Right there emblazoned in the burning bush (to coin a phrase): ***The Establishment vs. The People***. Who always wins in the long run? The people, of course.

No entrenched government has ever survived in the face of an angry public because of two words. I recall them from my hippie days in the '60s. The words were emblazoned on bumperstickers, posters and graffiti from one end of this nation to the other! I'll bet a majority of Republicans (and a whole lotta Democrats) also recall ... ***Question Authority!***

Will Bush and his ilk "get it" before the Primaries? Maybe. We'll see. Stay tuned, troops.

10-01-2015

ONLY THIRTEEN

Hey! Can you believe it? Only thirteen months 'til the election!
My, how time flies!

The Republican field keeps shrinking - ever so slowly. Who's next? Quien Sabe?

The Democrat field may be increasing - ever so slowly. Is Veep Joe Biden in yet?

Why can't we find a way to reduce the number of candidates from each party to a maximum of three and launch bi-partisan debates *before* the Primary elections? Can you imagine that? Six candidates from the combined party pools debating the issues from more than just two basic perspectives? Can you understand how quickly talking points would fall by the wayside? Honest-to-goodness debates featuring the great issues of our time from a half-dozen folks with divergent views would be so refreshing!

Better yet, why not have *real* debates instead of those air-head gotcha news interviews so prevalent in past so-called debates? They would require one moderator with just two functions: Propose the subject to be discussed and keep debaters' times. A bi-partisan group of six randomly-picked civilians would be the judges - perhaps their coach as moderator with six members of the debate team from a nearby college or University. They could select a spokesperson who would award a winner's trophy and second and third place ribbons. Can you imagine that?

Such a spectacle would necessarily be difficult to organize because it would require both parties and the mainstream media to agree to coordinate implementation and interweave the added debates into an already semi-crowded schedule. Getting *elected* Republicans and Democrats to sit down together and seriously discuss today's issues is difficult at best ... one of the reasons the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Congress is held in such low esteem. Can you imagine the herculean task of getting *un-elected* candidates to come together in a bi-partisan debate environment?

Ah, well ... only thirteen more months 'til the election. Hang in there, troops!

10-08-2015

VW POWER

A number of State Attorneys General are suing Volkswagen for defrauding new owners of recent-vintage diesel-powered versions of its automobiles. There are also a batch of class actions pending against the worlds largest automaker. In addition, the EPA is considering an action of its own that could involve fines in the billions of dollars.

According to *ABC News*, "Volkswagen ... is accused by regulators of using illegal 'defeat device' software that causes 482,000 of its diesel cars in the U.S. to cheat on [emissions standards](#) tests. Volkswagen drivers are now filing lawsuits against the company.

"Ari Levin of New York, who owns a 2010 turbo-charged diesel Volkswagen Jetta, found out about the fraud on Friday when he heard the news on the radio. Levin said he feels duped by Volkswagen because the car was advertised as CleanDiesel and he has filed a lawsuit against Volkswagen's American manufacturer and distributor.

"Levin's attorney, Jay Rice, said Levin filed a class action lawsuit because Volkswagen *'has intentionally deceived and defrauded not only my client but the American consumer.'*

"Volkswagen *'intentionally installed into its software a defeat device so that when the vehicles were tested for emissions the vehicles showed that the emissions were proper,'* Rice said. *'But in reality when those vehicles were driven, the emissions were nothing like what they were represented to be.'*

"According to the Environmental Protection Agency, these cars released up to 40 times more nitrogen oxide than the emissions standard.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

"In Seattle, the consumer-rights law firm Hagens Berman has filed two class-action lawsuits, also against Volkswagen Group of America.

"The half-a-million people who own these cars are furious, and with good reason," Steve Berman, managing partner of Hagens Berman, said. 'Not only did they pay more for something they never received, but they've been victim to a tremendous act of deception. Volkswagen marketed these cars as clean, even calling them CleanDiesel, while knowingly implementing this software to cheat emissions tests. And it chose to target the group of consumers who care most about being environmentally conscious.'

"In Chicago, a class action lawsuit was filed on behalf of Micah Dorn, who bought a TDI Clean Diesel engine Volkswagen Jetta in 2013, according to the [Chicago Tribune](#). The suit was filed by attorney Robert Clifford. The other lead plaintiff is Peter Haralovich of Indiana, according to the Tribune."

For those of you so inclined, let's do the math. Back in 1975 the automotive standard for Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) was 0.4 grams per mile (.248 grams per kilometer). In 2000 the government mandated a new standard reducing that amount by 75% to 0.1 g/m (.062g/km). In 2004 the standard was revised again, dropping another 50% to 0.05 g/m (.031g/km). At that point, NOx emissions compared to 1975 had been reduced by a whopping 87.5%. And that was just for gasoline-powered cars ... diesel engines hadn't been heavily regulated until after 2005. Now, to be very technical, the EPA's claim that VW cars emitted over 40 times the required minimum means they were creating 1.24g/km, roughly five times the NOx emissions limit (for gas-powered cars) some 40 years ago.

Scientific American describes how the anomaly was discovered: "Last year, the International Council on Clean Transportation (ICCT) in Washington DC contracted scientists

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

from the Center for Alternative Fuels Engines and Emissions at West Virginia University in Morgantown to test emissions from three light-duty diesel vehicles under more-realistic conditions than are possible in the lab. To do so, the scientists fitted cars with a portable emissions measurement system to gather a continuous stream of data over a variety of US road types.

"The tests found that the levels of NO_x emitted by a Volkswagen Jetta were 15–35 times greater than dictated by the US standard (31 milligrams per kilometer), depending on road and driving conditions. Likewise, those for a Volkswagen Passat were 5–20 times greater."

Let me explain this in layman's terms: Volkswagen manufactured a bunch of Diesel-powered cars that get fantastic mileage and super-power - both claims that were true to buyers' delight. Their engineers figured out that they could easily pass yearly emissions tests by adding a software "patch" that automatically detects when emissions are being tested and dials the car computer settings back to the required standards. Once back in normal service the "patch" automatically kicks back in along with the enhanced power and mileage. Zowie! What shade-tree mechanic wouldn't give his first-born for a computer enhancement like that?

So, if I understand correctly ...VW is being sued for illicitly delivering better power and mileage to their customers whose sensibilities may have been damaged by alleged increases in nitrogen oxides emissions as much as five times those permitted in 1975. Their wallets are fattened by the "patch" so they want monetary damages!

Yepper!

10-15-2015

SMARTER THAN A 3RD GRADER

The first Fox 2015 Republican Debate had 24 million viewers, way more than the 18.9 million who actually voted in the 2012 GOP Primaries! The Republican Debate in mid-September garnered 22.6 million viewers on CNN, eclipsing a 1993 *Larry King Live* episode featuring Al Gore and Ross Perot, which had an historic 16.8 million viewers. In typical fashion, The Donald took credit for the record-breaking 2015 viewer participation on both television networks.

The first CNN 2015 Democrat Debate was Tuesday from Las Vegas. Anderson Cooper was the moderator with additional participation from Dana Bash and Juan Carlos Lopez. Reporter Don Lemmon posed questions submitted by Facebook visitors earlier in the week. Sadly, CNN missed the most important issues completely: There was no serious discussion of fiscal policy, much less the ever-increasing budget deficits. It was nothing but fluff around the very real ISIS threat to the US Homeland and the looming threat of a Nuclear Iran. Furthermore, they completely ignored the Planned Parenthood debacle.

There was word on the street yesterday that the candidates were told to go easy on Hillary so they'd all come out looking good. Democrats with whom I'm acquainted were jubilant. To me, however, it was like CNN went for the Touchdown with a huge hail-Mary pass, but Anderson Cooper and the powers-that-be fumbled it! Aww jeeze, Edith! Give me a break!

Hillary tried her best to make a good showing, but it was WAY boring. The mainstream media reported that Clinton won the event hands-down, even though she obfuscated almost every subject. Worse, in her most serious moments she was off-

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

putting with that trademark smirk and repeated Gender Card mentions of, "*The first woman President.*" Meanwhile, her husband Bill was watching the show in a room upstairs, trying his best to stay out of the limelight.

Bernie brought his gang along and they cheered a lot because he did good: He killed 'em with his remark aimed at Clinton before the subject was even broached, "*The American people are sick and tired of your damned email!*" Both CNN and Fox focus groups concluded that Sanders was the clear winner. Bernie's wife Jane thought he did well, too. And he certainly hit the nail on the head afterward when he declared it was "*more like a food fight than a political fight.*"

In my opinion of all the candidates, Jim Webb sounded more like someone who knew a thing or two ... unfortunately, the old Marine didn't come off as a charismatic and articulate leader.

According to *CNN Money*, "*The previous Democratic debate record was set in 2008, when Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama squared off in prime time on ABC. That debate had [...]10.7 million total viewers.*" Tuesday night's Nielson ratings came in at some 15.3 million, eclipsing the 2008 record. Soooooo...

"*It didn't work in the third grade - and it doesn't work now.*" That was Ann Romney speaking on Fox News' *Your World with Neil Cavuto* Tuesday September 29th. She was responding to Cavuto's query about name-calling in the current election cycle.

The pair was discussing Donald Trump's attack on Marco Rubio earlier in the week, calling him "*a clown*" in response to Rubio's Monday statement on NPR's *Morning Edition* that he had no interest in being "*a member or part of [Trump's] freak show.*"

According to *Variety*, in an interview with Fox News' *Bill O'Reilly*, "*Trump was asked whether it was a fair question*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

whether he will have to change his style to be 'kinder and more mature.'

"I think it is fair, but I don't think the word 'mature' is very appropriate," Trump responded.

"O'Reilly pointed to a clip of Trump in which he called rival Marco Rubio a 'clown' and asked whether that was 'presidential.'

"As he has before, Trump said he went on the attack only after being attacked. 'I am a counter-puncher. He hit me all of a sudden.'

"O'Reilly also pointed to Trump's high unfavorable ratings in the polls, but Trump said that he also has the highest favorable numbers and his negatives have been improving.

"I am actually a nice person. I try very hard to be a nice person," Trump said."

A week ago (October 8th) Trump went after Radio Host **Glenn Beck** for calling him a "schoolyard bully" who "does not reflect any of the values and principles that I see from Americans on both sides."

In response Trump tweeted, "Wacky [@glennbeck](#) who always seems to be crying (worse than Boehner) speaks badly of me only because I refuse to do his show--a real nut job!"

"I'm telling you, dealing with Donald Trump is like dealing with a third grader," Beck remarked. "And I'm not dealing with a third grader anymore because the world is on fire. You want to come on the show, great. You don't want to come on the show, great. I don't really care. Enough of the third grade politics."

Will the Democrats somehow cultivate an actually charismatic candidate? Will hosts/moderators ever stop playing nice with

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

some candidates and "gotcha" with others? Will the Republican candidates and their critics eventually graduate from third grade? We might live long enough to find out ... but I wouldn't hold my breath!

October 22, 2015

FORMIDABLE CO₂

The following from *TownHall.com* contributor Calvin Beisner.

Freeman Dyson, one of the world's top physicists, challenges climate alarmism though he's a liberal, a Democrat, likes the President and has a strong background in climate science. He believes increasing atmospheric CO₂ content does more good than harm and that President Obama "chose the wrong side" in the climate debate.

To the *UK Register* he explains that climate change "*is not a scientific mystery but a human mystery. How does it happen that a whole generation of scientific experts is blind to obvious facts?*"

Some of those "*obvious facts*":

- "*... the non-climatic effects of carbon dioxide as a sustainer of wildlife and crop plants are enormously beneficial,*
- "*... the possibly harmful climatic effects of carbon dioxide have been greatly exaggerated, and*
- "*... the benefits clearly outweigh the possible damage.*"

Asked by *The Register* 's reporter, "Are climate models getting better? You wrote how they have the most awful fudges, and they only really impress people who don't know about them," Dyson responded: "*I would say the opposite. What has happened in the past 10 years is that the discrepancies between what's observed and what's predicted have become much stronger. It's clear now the models are wrong, but it wasn't so clear 10 years ago. I can't say if they'll always be wrong, but the observations are improving and so the models are becoming more verifiable*"

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

So why have so many scientists and other intellectuals been blind to these facts?

Whereas scientific inquiry, an essential element of which is the skeptic's demand for evidence rather than [authority](#) or [consensus](#), has led to many great advances in our understanding of the world and how to thrive in it, Dyson explains, "*the thinking of politicians and scientists about controversial issues today is still tribal,*" i.e., it promotes "*tribal cohesion,*" feeling "*at home in a group that thinks alike,*" and for them, "*Thinking about scientific questions is still presented to the public as a competitive sport with winners and losers. For players of the sport with public reputations to defend, it is more important to belong to a winning team than to examine the evidence.*"

Dyson believes the tribalism of climate alarmists has roots in the U.S. government's initial steps to study the effects of CO₂ emissions:

"In the year 1978, the United States Department of Energy drew up a 'Comprehensive Plan for Carbon Dioxide Effects Research and Assessment', which fixed the agenda of official discussions of carbon dioxide for the next 37 years. I wrote in a memorandum protesting against the plan: 'The direct effects of carbon dioxide increase on plant growth and interspecific competition receive little attention. The plan is drawn up as if climatic change were the only serious effect of carbon dioxide on human activities. [...] In a comparison of the non-climatic with the climatic effects of carbon dioxide, the nonclimatic effects may be: 1. more certain, 2. more immediate, 3. easier to observe, 4. potentially at least as serious. [...] Our research plan should address these issues directly, not as a mere side-line to climatic studies.'"

"My protest received no attention and the Comprehensive Plan prevailed. As a result, the public perception of carbon dioxide has been dominated by the computer climate-model experts who

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

designed the plan. The tribal group-thinking of that group of experts was amplified and reinforced by a supportive political bureaucracy."

In the **Register** interview, Dyson made an important distinction: "Pollution is quite separate to the climate problem: one can be solved, and the other cannot, and the public doesn't understand that." The comment was in regard to coal as an energy source:

"China and India rely on coal to keep growing, so they'll clearly be burning coal in huge amounts. They need that to get rich. Whatever the rest of the world agrees to, China and India will continue to burn coal, so the discussion is quite pointless.

"At the same time, coal is very unpleasant stuff, and there are problems with coal quite apart from climate. I remember in England when we burned coal, everything was filthy. It was really bad, and that's the way it is now in China, but you can clean that up as we did in England."

In other words, coal can be burned cleanly, as it is in all high-income, industrialized societies, so long as CO₂ isn't considered "[dirty](#)," a "[pollutant](#)." And Dyson firmly believes, as he wrote in his foreword, that CO₂'s non-climatic effects are "*are overwhelmingly beneficial*," while its climatic effects are "*much less damaging than the effects predicted by the climate models, and have also been frequently beneficial.*"

Would somebody please tell all that to Bernie Sanders!

10-29-2015

RECESS!

Now, let me touch on one subject that's not getting much coverage so far this year. The signs are becoming stronger that another recession is just around the corner. Overall retail sales are not meeting expectations, and with them profit expectations are down for retailers across the country. WalMart, for instance, is projecting not the 2% growth expected earlier this year, but rather no growth. The WalMartians are blaming their flat-line projection on higher wages. Caterpillar is predicting a downturn caused by reduced orders for their products. The most telling of the projections come from the transportation sector. The trucking industry is experiencing a downturn blamed mainly on high inventories caused by lower than expected sales in the retail sector.

However ... according to Bill Gunderson of *TownHall Finance*, "*Through stock buy-backs, cost controls, layoffs, all-day breakfast, and whatever else it takes, corporations across America are exceeding analyst's somewhat gloomy forecasts. This is now starting to spread into to a full-blown, mainstream stock rally. It has seemingly come out of nowhere. This is still going to be the second quarter in a row of lower earnings than the previous year, but there have been numerous upside surprises coming from some of the most unlikely places! When is the last time McDonald's (no position) beat earnings estimates? The stock broke out like an internet stock or something! Pancakes to the rescue?*"

If the third consecutive quarter comes in with negative growth, as pundits have predicted, it will mark the beginnings of another recession. Be that as it may, according to *TownHall Finance*, "*For the U.S. economy as a whole however, [...] conditions are consistent with our definition of a*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

microrecession, where negative economic forces are too limited in either scale, scope or severity to qualify as a full recession [as might be officially determined by the National Bureau of Economic Research.]"

GOP IMMIGRATION DEBATE

Byron York in *TownHall.com* | 09-09-2015

Yes, Donald Trump deserves credit for putting immigration in the middle of the Republican presidential debate. But at the same time, Trump has focused much of the conversation either on side issues, like birthright citizenship, or on impossibilities, like the mass deportation of millions of illegal immigrants.

A more profitable debate might focus on issues raised in a new study from the Center for Immigration Studies, a group that favors limiting future levels of immigration. Under the wonky title "Welfare Use by Immigrant and Native Households: An Analysis of Medicaid, Cash, Food, and Housing Programs," the study could form the basis of a new debate over the number and type of immigrants coming to the United States in years to come.

Relying on detailed census data, the report finds that immigrant households make use of U.S. welfare programs -- food and cash assistance, Medicaid and housing programs -- much more than native-born households. "In 2012, 51 percent of households headed by an immigrant (legal or illegal) reported that they used at least one welfare program during the year, compared to 30 percent of native households," concludes study author Steven Camarota.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Camarota found that both newly-arrived immigrants and immigrants who have been in the U.S. for many years use welfare programs more than natives. Most of the immigrants in the study were working, and most were in the U.S. legally. The differences between them and natives, especially in some programs, were striking.

"Immigrant households have much higher use of food programs (40 percent vs. 22 percent for natives) and Medicaid (42 percent vs. 23 percent)," Camarota writes. "Immigrant use of cash programs is somewhat higher than natives (12 percent vs. 10 percent) and use of housing programs is similar to natives."

Camarota found that an immigrant's home country makes a big difference in whether he or she is likely to use welfare programs. "Households headed by immigrants from Central America and Mexico (73 percent), the Caribbean (51 percent), and Africa (48 percent) have the highest overall welfare use," he writes. "Those from East Asia (32 percent), Europe (26 percent), and South Asia (17 percent) have the lowest."

Education plays an important role in the story. Among households headed by an immigrant without a high school degree, 76 percent used welfare. Among those headed by an immigrant with a high school degree, 63 percent used welfare. And even among households headed by an immigrant with a college degree, 26 percent used welfare -- significantly higher than the figure (13 percent) for college-educated natives.

Critics immediately attacked the report, but without much effect. A blogger for the libertarian Cato Institute argued that it is unfair to compare immigrants, who tend to be poorer, to the native population as a whole, which tends to be better off; the suggestion was that poor immigrants should be compared only to poor natives. But the point of the study was to compare

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

immigrants to natives, which is a critical question when formulating immigration policy.

As far as that policy is concerned, the report raises several questions that could shape the Republican debate -- and perhaps the general election debate, too. The first is that illegal immigrants are generally less educated and use welfare more than legal immigrants, so it makes sense to a) make even greater efforts to stop illegal immigration, and b) quickly return immigrants who are caught crossing the U.S. border illegally.

The second question concerns legal immigrants. Federal policy today favors immigrants who have family members already in the U.S., with the result being the admission of large numbers of relatively uneducated, low-skilled immigrants. Almost all immigration reformers want to change that balance in favor of admitting more educated, high-skilled immigrants. But how will they do it?

Finally, there is the question of how many immigrants to admit into the U.S. altogether. Is the current number -- about one million legal permanent residents per year, in addition to hundreds of thousands of other sorts of visa holders -- the right amount? Should the country pass an immigration reform bill that greatly increases that number? Should the figure be reduced?

And what about this: It is not well known, but U.S. law (Section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) specifically forbids the admission of any immigrant who is likely to depend on public assistance. The Obama administration, like the George W. Bush administration before it, refuses to enforce the law. What should the next president do?

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

There are lots of other worthy immigration questions for Republican presidential candidates to consider -- the border wall, treatment of criminal illegal immigrants, cracking down on those who overstay visas and more. But this new report will be a crucial part of any GOP debate going forward.

Byron York is the chief political correspondent for The Washington Examiner.

CNBC ANYONE?

I doubt that anyone cares much at this point, but herewith are some observations on last night's "*Your Money, Your Vote*" GOP Debate from Coors Events Center at U.C. Boulder. You have to leave it to the knuckle-heads at CNBC to come up with a title that goofy for their event!

People tuned in all across the country to watch the "Kiddie Table" debate but instead got way more than an hour of idiotic blather on either side of the four-man debate, which lasted less than an hour in the middle of a three hour time-slot. Lindsey Graham was the star of the show. When asked about Russia and China he remarked, "Make me Commander-in-Chief and this crap stops." He went after the CNBC commentators over their stupid comments and questions, and then he went after the President, stating flatly, "You need someone in the White House that knows what he's doing."

In the main event, the CNBC commentators took it in the shorts when Ted Cruz finally had enough of their inane questions. After a particularly stupid question about the Debt Limit, he went after Carl Quintanilla. "The questions that have been asked so far in this debate illustrate why the American people don't trust the media," Cruz exclaimed. "This is not a cage match. And you look at the questions: *Donald Trump, are you a comic book villain? Ben Carson, can you do math? John*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Kasich, will you insult two people over here? Marco Rubio, why don't you resign? Jeb Bush, why have your numbers fallen?" Then he stuck it to the whole panel, "How about talking about the substantive issues people care about?" The folks in the Events Center crowd roared their approval.

CNBC and the mainstream media came under fire from most of the candidates, who were more colorful this time around, likely because of Donald Trump's allegedly rude remarks at a rally earlier in the week. Marco Rubio charged that "The problem is the mainstream media." Dr. Ben Carson, in an unusual fit of frankness, exclaimed, "This picking winners and losers is a bunch of crap." Chris Christy was interrupted during one of his answers, and shot back, "You you want to answer or do you want me to answer?" Carly Fiorina, commenting on Crony Capitalism, charged that "92% of jobs lost under Obama were women." She also noted that she would be "Hillary Clinton's worst nightmare." But it was Mike Huckabee who put the whole evening into perspective. Remarking about the lack of questions for the man at center stage, he said "Donald Trump would be a better President than Hillary ... and twice on Sunday!"

If there was a winner last night, it was America's voters who finally got a good look at the unvarnished *chutzpah* of the GOP's candidates. The mainstream media, especially CNBC, was clearly the loser.

11-05-2015

A COOL SPEEDOMETER

If technical stuff - even in lay terms - is too much ... scroll down for a good joke!

I finally found an excellent internet speed test - a free computer tool everyone should have.

<http://www.dslreports.com/speedtest> measures ISP delay, download speed and upload speed.

Delay (latency) is the amount of time it takes for your signal to get where it's going. If you understand that the speed of light is roughly 186 miles per milisecond (.001sec), you can measure the time it takes for a signal to get from your computer and get a response from the main server at your Internet Service Provider (ISP). Latency is measured in miliseconds and can run as much as 500ms (half a second) or more. Latency is also called Ping time. Latency is the reason you hear an echo when talking on a cell phone with someone just a few feet away ... it's the time it takes the signal to get from your phone, through the repeater system or satellite, and back to the other person's phone. Latency is the reason you see and hear delays of several seconds between local TV newspeople and reporters in distant places. A report from 1000 miles away will likely take a little more than five seconds.

Download speed is actually the number of pieces (bits) of digital information sent from your Internet Service Provider's (ISP) main server (Computer) to your computer in one second. 50Megs is slang for a download transmission speed of fifty million bits per second. The more Megs your ISP downloads in one second, the faster a website will appear on your monitor after you select it. This is why a connection by Telephone is so much slower than one made on the Cable or Satellite.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Upload speed is the number of bits that get from your computer to the ISP's main server in one second. 3Megs is slang for an upload transmission speed of three million bits per second. The more Megs your ISP uploads in one second, the faster that website will respond to your selection. The combination of upload, latency and download is how long it takes between your selection and the website to appear on your monitor. Down/Up speeds typically run 20Mb/5Mb for Cable, 12Mb/2Mb on Satellite systems, 8Mb/1Mb via DSL, and 40kb/15kb using a telephone or landline. (Telephone connections are so slow their speeds are measured in thousands of bits (kb) per second.)

Having a tool like the DSLreports speedometer makes it easy to tell if there is a problem with your internet connection. Click on the link in the first paragraph to see the Speedometer at work. ***DO NOT*** push any Download Button! If you like what you see, Bookmark it or save it to your Favorites.

Here's that joke:

A woman who had been happily married for decades was rummaging in a dresser drawer in the bedroom when she found a couple of old negatives. (For those of you among the un-initiated, negatives used to be a step in the making of photographs - in a dark room, after a roll of film from a camera was developed, the resulting negative was used to block bright light shown on photo paper, which was dipped in chemical solutions to bring out the picture and then hung up to dry. Negatives were returned to the customer and made it possible to create duplicates of many years later!) The woman took the negatives to the local Wal Mart and had photos created from them. When she picked them up a couple of days later she was elated - they were shots of her just after the wedding when she was still young and nubile. She sat on the couch next to her husband and held out the newly minted pictures. He took the first one and exclaimed, "Look at that! It's the old Ford!"

11-12-2015

IWO JIMA MEMORIAL

To me this is a spectacular time of the year. On the tenth of November my beloved Marine Corps celebrated its 240th Birthday, having been commissioned on that day in 1775. The very next day, the 11th, the whole country stopped to pay homage to its Veterans.

The Allied nations and Germany called an armistice, effectively bringing an end to World War One on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month of 1918. President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed it Armistice Day a year later. On June 4th, 1926, Congress passed a Resolution calling for all government offices to display the American Flag on Armistice Day. On May 13th, 1938 Congress passed a law making it a national holiday. Following the Korean War, the 83rd Congress amended the 1938 Act, striking the word "Armistice", replacing it with "Veterans". Public Law 380 went into effect June 1, 1954, making November 11th a day to honor American veterans of all wars.

I don't know where the following story came from ... but it has to be true. My good friend Mary Anne sent it to me so I'm passing it along to you. The writer must be a teacher, a member of a Masonic family or a Veteran's son or daughter. For any Veteran, this is a story that's very difficult to read out loud. If for no other reason than it's part of our Marine Corps' proud history, try reading it to your kids or grand-kids!

Each year I am hired to go to Washington, DC, with the eighth grade class from Clinton, WI where I grew up, to videotape their trip. I greatly enjoy visiting our nation's capitol, and each year I take some special memories back with me. This fall's trip was especially memorable.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

On the last night of our trip, we stopped at the Iwo Jima memorial. This memorial is the largest bronze statue in the world and depicts one of the most famous photographs in history -- that of the six brave soldiers raising the American Flag at the top of a rocky hill on the island of Iwo Jima, Japan, during WW II

Over one hundred students and chaperones piled off the buses and headed towards the memorial. I noticed a solitary figure at the base of the statue, and as I got closer he asked, 'Where are you guys from?'

I told him that we were from Wisconsin . 'Hey, I'm a cheese head, too! Come gather around, Cheese heads, and I will tell you a story.'

(It was James Bradley who just happened to be in Washington , DC , to speak at the memorial the following day. He was there that night to say good night to his dad, who had passed away. He was just about to leave when he saw the buses pull up. I videotaped him as he spoke to us, and received his permission to share what he said from my videotape. It is one thing to tour the incredible monuments filled with history in Washington, DC, but it is quite another to get the kind of insight we received that night.)

When all had gathered around, he reverently began to speak. (Here are his words that night.)

'My name is James Bradley and I'm from Antigo, Wisconsin My dad is on that statue, and I wrote a book called 'Flags of Our Fathers'. It is the story of the six boys you see behind me.

'Six boys raised the flag. The first guy putting the pole in the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

ground is Harlon Block. Harlon was an all-state football player. He enlisted in the Marine Corps with all the senior members of his football team.. They were off to play another type of game. A game called 'War.' But it didn't turn out to be a game. Harlon, at the age of 21, died with his intestines in his hands. I don't say that to gross you out, I say that because there are people who stand in front of this statue and talk about the glory of war. You guys need to know that most of the boys in Iwo Jima were 17, 18, and 19 years old - and it was so hard that the ones who did make it home never even would talk to their families about it.

(He pointed to the statue) 'You see this next guy? That's Rene Gagnon from New Hampshire.

If you took Rene's helmet off at the moment this photo was taken and looked in the webbing of that helmet, you would find a photograph...a photograph of his girlfriend Rene put that in there for protection because he was scared. He was 18 years old. It was just boys who won the battle of Iwo Jima . Boys. Not old men.

'The next guy here, the third guy in this tableau, was Sergeant Mike Strank. Mike is my hero. He was the hero of all these guys. They called him the 'old man' because he was so old. He was already 24. When Mike would motivate his boys in training camp, he didn't say, 'Let's go kill some Japanese' or 'Let's die for our country' He knew he was talking to little boys.. Instead he would say, 'You do what I say, and I'll get you home to your mothers.'

'The last guy on this side of the statue is Ira Hayes, a Pima Indian from Arizona . Ira Hayes was one of them who lived to walk off Iwo Jima. He went into the White House with my dad. President Truman told him, 'You're a hero' He told reporters, 'How can I feel like a hero when 250 of my buddies hit the island with me and only 27 of us walked off alive?'

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

So you take your class at school, 250 of you spending a year together having fun, doing everything together. Then all 250 of you hit the beach, but only 27 of your classmates walk off alive. That was Ira Hayes. He had images of horror in his mind. Ira Hayes carried the pain home with him and eventually died dead drunk, face down, drowned in a very shallow puddle, at the age of 32 (ten years after this picture was taken).

'The next guy, going around the statue, is Franklin Sousley from Hilltop, Kentucky . A fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. His best friend, who is now 70, told me, 'Yeah, you know, we took two cows up on the porch of the Hilltop General Store. Then we strung wire across the stairs so the cows couldn't get down. Then we fed them Epsom salts. Those cows crapped all night.' Yes, he was a fun-lovin' hillbilly boy. Franklin died on Iwo Jima at the age of 19. When the telegram came to tell his mother that he was dead, it went to the Hilltop General Store. A barefoot boy ran that telegram up to his mother's farm. The neighbors could hear her scream all night and into the morning. Those neighbors lived a quarter of a mile away.

'The next guy, as we continue to go around the statue, is my dad, John Bradley, from Antigo, Wisconsin , where I was raised. My dad lived until 1994, but he would never give interviews. When Walter Cronkite's producers or the New York Times would call, we were trained as little kids to say 'No, I'm sorry, sir, my dad's not here. He is in Canada fishing. No, there is no phone there, sir. No, we don't know when he is coming back.' My dad never fished or even went to Canada . Usually, he was sitting there right at the table eating his Campbell 's soup. But we had to tell the press that he was out fishing. He didn't want to talk to the press.

'You see, like Ira Hayes, my dad didn't see himself as a hero.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Everyone thinks these guys are heroes, 'cause they are in a photo and on a monument. My dad knew better. He was a medic. John Bradley from Wisconsin was a combat caregiver. On Iwo Jima he probably held over 200 boys as they died. And when boys died on Iwo Jima, they writhed and screamed, without any medication or help with the pain.

'When I was a little boy, my third grade teacher told me that my dad was a hero. When I went home and told my dad that, he looked at me and said, 'I want you always to remember that the heroes of Iwo Jima are the guys who did not come back. Did NOT come back.'

'So that's the story about six nice young boys.. Three died on Iwo Jima, and three came back as national heroes. Overall, 7,000 boys died on Iwo Jima in the worst battle in the history of the Marine Corps. My voice is giving out, so I will end here. Thank you for your time.'

Suddenly, the monument wasn't just a big old piece of metal with a flag sticking out of the top. It came to life before our eyes with the heartfelt words of a son who did indeed have a father who was a hero. Maybe not a hero for the reasons most people would believe, but a hero nonetheless.

One thing I learned while on tour with my 8th grade students in DC that is not mentioned here is . . . that if you look at the statue very closely and count the number of 'hands' raising the flag, there are 13. When the man who made the statue was asked why there were 13, he simply said, "the 13th hand was the hand of God."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

11-19-2015

TIME FOR ACTION!

The political leaders of the United States have gone stark-raving mad!

I can't believe that someone with a background of service like Bernie Sanders still actually believes that Climate Change poses the greatest threat to our country. This he proclaimed during last Saturday night's Democrat Debates after ISIS terrorists murdered over six score of unsuspecting civilians in Paris, France. And Hillary Clinton still refuses to call the cowards that planned and executed that heinous attack ... Islamic Terrorists. What the Hell is wrong with these people? Are they just crazy, or what?

Oh, I can't reserve these condemnations for those leftist ninnies and their supporters who for decades have been slowly redefining American culture with freedom-crushing laws and regulations, usurpation of the rule of law with "selective enforcement", and promotion and enforcement of "political correctness."

Shouldn't elected members of the Grand Old Party share condemnation as well for looking the other way as political crimes against our freedoms are imposed one by one and step by step? The Republican leadership has allowed run-away federal spending, oppressive socialist programs, and an executive branch of government that creates its own laws by fiat. How can these people, who were elected to rein in the excesses of years of Liberal control of our government, stand aside while blithely spewing platitudes?

GOP Presidential Candidate Dr. Ben Carson said at a campaign stop last Saturday, "If we're going to be bringing 200,000

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

people over here from that region - if I were one of the leaders of the global jihadist movement and I didn't infiltrate that group of people with my people, that would be almost malpractice." What? The brain surgeon is telling ISIS how to do their business? Give me a break!

Politico Magazine wrote Sunday, "... in a few short weeks, ISIL has flexed its terrorist muscles in an unambiguous manner. It claimed responsibility for the October bombing of a Russian passenger plane that killed 224. The group is also believed to have killed 44 people in a suicide bombing in Beirut just days ago. And after Friday night's complex attacks in Paris - in which three teams of operatives employing guns and suicide belts killed at least 129 people and paralysed the country - ISIL again took responsibility. In the months preceding all of this, ISIL had struck repeatedly around the world, in scores of small and large attacks, including a synchronized suicide bombing in Sana'a, Yemen, that killed more than 140 in March."

Donald Trump inferred that strict gun laws in France were partially responsible for the carnage of the Charlie Hebdo attacks back in January. While it is true that oppressive gun laws are partly responsible for the crime rates in Flint Mich., New Orleans La., and Washington DC, attempting to draw political capital from the murder of innocent civilians by Islamic terrorists in France is beyond the pale! Does this kind of rhetoric alert ISIS/ISIL cells already in America to what might be their best civilian targets? (I know...shame on me.)

According to a recent Cato Institute article, "The 31 states that have 'shall issue' laws allowing private citizens to carry concealed weapons have, on average, a 24 percent lower violent crime rate, a 19 percent lower murder rate and a 39 percent lower robbery rate than states that forbid concealed weapons. In fact, the nine states with the lowest violent crime rates are all right-to-carry states. Remarkably, guns are used for

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

self-defense more than 2 million times a year, three to five times the estimated number of violent crimes committed with guns".

Foreign Nationals are supposedly under routine surveillance here, required to produce their documentation and to report their situation whenever and wherever asked. If we are to maintain American security, those from outside our borders who are allowed to be here by virtue of a Visa or Work Permit must be required to adopt our ways and our language. American citizens are entitled to the protection of our Constitutional rights. Call it profiling, if you will, but practices and dress based on historical terrorism and mistreatment of humans cannot fall under the protection of our Constitution. Nor can criminal conduct of any sort.

People come to the United States for only one good reason: They want a piece of our action! They crave the opportunities that America offers. The good guys want to stay here and become citizens by adopting the requirements that result in eventual Nationalization. Of course, there are Foreign Nationals who just want to come here to work and support their families across our borders. But, the bad guys who sneak over our borders want to commit mayhem, involve themselves in lucrative organized crimes, or take from us that to which they are not entitled - including our lives.

The smallest of the states in our country each issue hundreds of thousands of hunting permits each year. With all the big guns owned by those hunters, and assuming that no state issues less than 100,000 permits each year, the math works out to a five-million man armed militia, largest in the world - and that doesn't include the Army, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard and Marines. America's civilian militia is bigger than the four largest armies in the world - the United States, Russia, China and India - combined! This is why no foreign army will ever

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

invade the United States of America - there aren't enough soldiers in the world to hold our street-corners without being systematically picked off by American hunters.

While no organized military force would consider invading the United States, we need to be aware of the following: Radical Islamists, ISIS/ISIL in particular, want us to go after the American Muslim community and treat them as outsiders, with scorn, suspicion and disrespect. They want Americans to fear all Muslims. Should the ISIS/ISIL plot succeed, Traditional and Sharia will join together, despising all non-Muslims in the interest of self-preservation. The net result will be a united Islamic community bent on destruction of the American Infidels. This is how Islamic Jihad is planned to come to the American homeland.

The Barbary Coast Pirates learned over two-hundred years ago that terrorism and thuggery will be met with death at the hands of freedom-loving patriots. The US Marine Corps helped make that an historical fact. Today, however, our Commander-in-Chief waffles when it comes to a serious military commitment to stop the spread of ISIS/ISIL. Instead, over the strenuous objections at least twenty-six state Governors, he is proposing to throw our country's doors wide open to thousands of Syrian Nationals with no workable plan in place to vet their backgrounds before entry - effectively allowing ISIS/ISIL to cross our borders completely unhindered. Meanwhile, the Governors of eight states, including California, Hawaii and Connecticut let it be known that they welcome Syrian refugees. Be that as it may, the net effect of this new immigration policy will undoubtedly be an ever-increasing public suspicion that all American Muslims are Islamic terrorists in disguise - facilitating the gradual formation of that planned Muslim-American Jihad.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

Tuesday evening The Kelly File on Fox News had Morten Storm on as a guest to talk about Radical Islam. Storm, a terrorist-turned CIA double-agent, predicted that ISIS/ISIL will strike the United States within the next two weeks. He said copy-cats in America will do like their brothers did in Europe. He read passages from the Qur'an (Koran) and Sahih Muslim to drive home the notion that serious followers of Islam are given direction in scripture to kill women, children and babies in the quest to turn the whole world into a one-denomination society. Watch the stunning five minute segment here:
<http://youtu.be/JaM7qo2Dx4A>

I believe it's time to consider serious action. We will never defeat ISIS/ISIL and its evil unless we are willing to consider invading the privacy of people who came here from other countries - legally as well as illegally - unless they paid their dues and became Naturalized American citizens. What's more, those who travel to or through countries infested with radical Islamists need to be under the scrutiny of their neighbors as well as Law Enforcement Authorities upon their return. This vigilance, however, must never drive a wedge between us and our Muslim-American communities.

For certain, if we don't decide to take affirmative action to rid our country of cross-border criminals and undocumented Foreign Nationals, and require those here lawfully to obey the same requirements as those who seek American citizenship, we will surely suffer the radical Islamic terrorism spread by ISIS/ISIL. There is really no good reason for us to evade dealing harshly with those who would do us harm - especially on our shores. It's way past time for action.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

11-26-2015

H.D. CRASH

My computer took a dump the other day. I have seven (7) hard drives in my machine, so not all was lost ... just uncomfortably close.

Fortunately, I back up the critical stuff very regularly. All the websites were safe on a separate drive, as was the financial and accounting stuff. Movies, videos, pictures, photos and music are ensconced comfortably on a Book drive, as are additional back-ups of medical, finance, websites and documentation. Really, all that got lost was the stuff associated with Outlook Express - the Documents and Settings files containing saved email files and my Address Book.

The crash made it so the computer wouldn't fully boot up - it would get to the part just before the Welcome sign shows up and the little Windows tune plays, and then it would stop, go blank and re-start - all by itself - over and over again.

I'm a computer geek dating back to the early '80s. At the University of Arizona, I wrote software for the first desktop computer, an Altair (the precursor to the commercial versions of Apple and IBM-PC.) It was rack-mounted in a special desk that held the monitor and keyboard. (At the time, there was no Mouse.) The Altair had a row of switches on the front panel and they had to be set just so before power was applied. These switches told the Central Processing Unit (CPU) where to find its basic instructions, and how to access the big eight-inch floppy drive that had the Operating System and all the software on it needed to make the thing usable. I learned to write "code" for keyboard and printer drivers, operating system changes, and other tidbits that make computers do their thing.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

My home computer is a "gamer" with a three-drive boot display. It was bypassing the boot display so it wouldn't boot-up on my number two "D" drive. I found a work-around and was finally able to access "My Computer". The main number zero "C" drive was GONE! Oh, man. There was only one thing to do ... re- install my email on the number two drive and re-configure the desktop to emulate that which was lost. It wasn't as difficult to recover as King Solomon's Pass, but it was close and took all day - about ten hours to get things back close to normal.

After a number of tries, I found that I could access number zero - the drive that had crashed - so overnight I had a program scan the drive for errors and fix 'em. In the morning, it was hung up - halted right in mid-scan! I re-booted to the number two "D" drive and found that the main number zero "C" drive was available again and I could access the files on it. They were a mess! They were all just caches of gibberish. Sad. So I continued the work on the number two drive, which operated awfully slow compared to how it had before the crash.

Something else - I had not stashed the key codes to some of the lost software, so I had to contact manufacturers to get them sent via the new email setup. (I have a folder that contains all the key codes, but not the ones that were lost - go figure!) With the software re-installations, re-boot was required a number of times. Each re-boot seemed to take an awfully long time.

It turned out that the re-boot time was tied to that program I ran overnight. The extra time was taken by the program automatically re-starting where it left off each time I re-booted. At the end of the second day, I happened to access the main number zero "C" drive and found all the files intact! Whoah! Scarey!

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

With the files recovered, I was able to get my email files and Address Book back and transfer them to the second drive. As they say, the Good Lord helps them who help themselves. Being a geek helped a lot, but I think the continual praying was probably the most effective!

FYI: It pays to back up your key codes with copies in a special file on all drives for safekeeping (not to mention paper copies in a file cabinet somewhere), and it pays to back up your Documents and Settings file (where your email files and Address Book are stashed.) Backing up critical files should be automatic if possible - and done weekly at least.

If you found this little tome boring, I'm sorry. Being able to recover lost data and software is something not many computer owners know how to do. Because of the cost of what I was able to do, many folks just buy a new computer and start over.

I still haven't tried to boot-up the main drive again. For now the new main (C:) drive is number two and the new second (D:) drive is number zero. All the files on it that had not been backed up are now recovered and safe. But, trying to boot from it remains an adventure for another day.

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours from Claudette and ol' Terrible Ted!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

12-03-2015

GET TRUMP

Last week on the way home from shopping, I was listening to the car radio. It's rare that I listen to AM talk radio from Phoenix, but this time Sean Hannity was on the air. Actually, it was a guest host whose name escapes me completely.

This commentator claimed that the mainstream media was doing everything possible to destroy Donald Trump. The premise he posed was that the Liberal Media and Hard-core Republicans share the same goal - get Trump to quit the GOP. He quoted newspaper articles and commentary from the left and reported that a Super-PAC run by a former RNC mover and shaker was gearing up to run tv spots slamming Trump.

Trump complained last week that if the RNC was going back on its word to be "fair to him" he might just tear up his signed Pledge to support the eventual winner of the GOP nomination.

Armed with this theory that the far left and far right might be inadvertently joining forces, I decided to look for examples of "Get Trump" reporting by the mainstream media. So far, the slings and arrows aimed in The Donald's direction have been met with fierce vituperative attacks in retaliation. The *Huffington Post* claimed last week that Trump had attacked the media no less than 43 times so far in this election cycle.

The *Washington Post Fact-Checker* ran an article last week disputing Trump's claim that "thousands" of Muslims danced in the streets of Jersey City as the twin towers burned and fell. There was anecdotal evidence that dozens of people, mostly teens, were observed shouting and making noise. There were allegations that hundreds of people in the city were making a lot of racket, but the police disregarded the reports at the time.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

The Post could not find documentation to support Trump's claim of thousands. So, the paper gave him four Pinocchios.

The guest host on the Hannity Show had several callers who said they were in Jersey City that day and that there were lots of people on the roof-tops and in the streets demonstrating and carrying on. The police at the time were staying away from Jersey's Muslim neighborhoods because they were afraid of retaliation against the some 30,000 residents there. There were no cell-photos or videos of these activities because the only cell phone in use in late 2001, other than "the brick", was the Flip-phone, not capable of photos or video. Trump's story appears to be exaggerated, but true.

An article in *The Atlantic* quotes email from *New Day for America, L.L.C.* president Liz Mair: "*I was unaware that a six year-old crybaby with his training pants in a bunch was running for President using the name 'Donald J. Trump.'* The good news is, now we can all plan accordingly and ensure that if he wins, the White House is loaded up with juice boxes, he's afforded time for his afternoon nap so he doesn't get cranky, the President gives the State of the Union from the bouncy castle at Chuck-E-Cheese, and the Oval Office is stocked with Smurf toys for him to yell at when Vladimir Putin treats him unfairly." The fact that Liz Mair once served as Online Communications Director for the Republican National Committee caused Trump to complain that the RNC was going back on its word to "be nice."

The *Atlantic* article continues, "*The goal of convincing a Republican primary electorate that Trump is personally unequal to the job of president is unlikely to succeed. They've seen Donald Trump dominating and commanding all the other Republican presidential candidates (except Carly Fiorina) in one-on-one personal confrontations on the debating platform.*"

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

“Now the same party leaders who insisted that Sarah Palin could do the job of president, if need be, want to persuade the rank-and-file that Trump can't? Good luck with that.

"When a Jeb Bush, John Kasich, Chris Christie, or Marco Rubio attacks Donald Trump as an unfit commander in chief because of this wild statement or that (and Trump's statements can be plenty wild!), they miss the point. Reckless talk about the Iran nuclear deal, or the war in Syria, or the Russian assault on Ukraine may trouble voters—but the deal is made or unmade on a candidate's credibility on border security. On that issue, the elected-office Republicans have all crowded together where the party isn't, and Trump alone dominates the ground where the party is. He is the one positioned to attack them as naive and weak, not the other way around." The Atlantic article was attempting to show how Trump can be beaten. It appears to me that these people just don't get it: Only Trump can beat The Donald.

Mr. Trump threatened to run as an Independent if the RNC wasn't "nice" to him. The GOP elite want him out. They believe they possess the wherewithall and political clout to build any Republican candidate into a juggernaut that will annihilate any Democrat candidate. But, there is some truth to the axiom that if Trump did run as an Independent, he'd become the spoiler. That scenario happened in 1992 when Ross Perot gave the election to Bill Clinton over George H W Bush, and in 2000 when Ralph Nader took sufficient votes from Al Gore to hand George W Bush Florida's electoral college votes, a majority and the eventual win. Donald J Trump dressed as the spoiler would almost guarantee Hillary Clinton's Presidency.

12-10-2015

IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

When it comes to last Sunday evening's Presidential Address, **Peggy Lee** got it right over four-and-a-half decades ago:

Is that all there is?

Is that all there is?

If that's all there is, my friends,

Then let's keep dancing.

Let's break out the booze and have a ball

If that's all there is ...

Donald Trump said as much in a Tweet Sunday:

"Is that all there is? We need a new President - FAST!"

Other Republican candidates said much the same, calling the President's second address from the Oval Office in seven years "ineffective" and "nothing more than a political pitch for gun control."

Internet Magazine **Real Clear Politics** reported that, "*Obama did not propose or announce any major modifications to his strategy to degrade and defeat ISIS, also known as ISIL or Daesh. Instead, the president sought to discourage fearful Americans from discriminating against Muslims, and to encourage a confused and anxious public to unite in opposition to ISIS, much as the developed world joined forces following the 9/11 attacks carried out by al-Qaeda. [...] The president urged Muslims to root out any radical extremists in their midst.*"

Hillary Clinton had nothing to say about The Address, and instead continued her campaign for gun control and urged social media companies to join the fight against Jihad. The **Wall Street Journal** wrote of Clinton's rhetoric: "*They are now*

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

the most effective recruiter in the world,' she said. However skilled a corporation may be at recruiting, 'ISIS has them beat,' she said."

Conservative political commentators slammed the President's speech as an "*epic Fail*." And even politicians from the far left complained that the President didn't say anything to make "*Americans feel any safer*."

Charles Krauthammer, one of the most intellectual of today's political scholars, had this:

"Woody Allen said showing up is 80% of life. In that sense, he showed up, finally appeared to address the issue. I think that counts for something. As to the substance and tone, I think it's a complete failure. The substance, he announced nothing new on strategy on the ground. He argued against ground troops, which is a political point, but as to anything he's adding to his strategy, there was nothing to encourage any sense that we're going to do any better. [...] This idea that this distraction into gun control I think is really cynical."

Democrat Presidential contender **Bernie Sanders**, just as the President's Address ended, tweeted "*Happy Hanukkah*."

We need an inspiring leader, yet our POTUS just keeps on dancing. So far, that's all there is ...

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

December 10, 2015 - Special Edition

NYP - HILLARY LIED!

NEWYORKPOST 12-09-2015

Liar, liar, pantsuit on fire: Hillary Clinton still insists she didn't tell the grieving families of the Benghazi victims that an anti-Islam video was to blame.

Yet family members say she said just that, three days after the attack, at the Sept. 14, 2012, ceremony at Andrews Air Force Base.

George Stephanopoulos asked her Sunday if she'd told the victims it was about the film. Clinton gave a flat "no."

She added: "I said very clearly there had been a terrorist group, uh, that had taken responsibility on Facebook, um ..."

At least four family members disagree.

Tyrone Woods' father said he hugged Clinton and shook her hand. Then "she said we are going to have the filmmaker arrested who was responsible for the death of my son ... She said 'the filmmaker who was responsible for the death of your son.'"

Sean Smith's mother said Hillary is "absolutely lying ... She said it was because of the video." Smith's uncle backs her up.

Glen Doherty's sister agreed: "When I think back now to that day and what she knew, it shows me a lot about her character that she would choose in that moment to basically perpetuate what she knew was untrue."

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

“What she knew” refers to Clinton’s words to daughter Chelsea the night of the assault and the next day to Egypt’s prime minister, which made it plain the secretary of state knew full well that a terror group had long planned the attack.

The lie’s even in her words at the Sept. 14 ceremony: “We’ve seen rage and violence directed at American embassies over an awful Internet video that we had nothing to do with.”

Just why the administration united around this lie is another editorial. The disgrace here is Clinton’s refusal to admit her role — even pushing the fib to “comfort” the bereaved.

Stiff as the competition is, this has to count as her lowest-down, dirtiest lie of all.

12-17-2015

ARE YOU PAYING ATTENTION?

I've started paying attention to anyone claiming to speak for Americans. Maybe it was Donald Trump who put me up to it. You have to pay attention to what the man says - actually soak up the words - because as soon as they've cleared his mouth the media is all over them, explaining what they think he meant - ad nauseum. I've sat with friends and discussed the latest Trumpisms and had my lunch eaten and my hat handed to me a number of times with untruths that originated on some newscast somewhere. The fact is, Trump has taken to writing down and releasing what he wants quoted so there can be no mistake. And it's making the mainstream media crazy! I don't need to defend Trump or anyone else - each of us is entitled to speak our mind, mistaken, truthful or not - it's just that we've become so jaded by ubiquitous falsehoods that we no longer know how to call a spade a spade. So, I hereby pose the question: Are you paying attention?

At a rally aboard the USS Yorktown in Mount Pleasant, S C last week, Trump read (and released) a call for "a total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country's representatives can figure out what [the Hell] is going on." Are you paying attention?

We have the worst workforce participation rate in modern history. And we have the worst growth in Gross Domestic Product - ever - with seven years under 3 percent. The jobs and inflation numbers released by our government are pure, unadulterated fraud. You know the federal employment books are cooked. You know there are no decent full-time jobs and everything you buy costs way more than it did seven years ago. But, there's no inflation. Not according to The Government. And unemployment is approaching its all-time low, even

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

though over 94 million people are out of work. That's almost a third of America's population of 321 million, yet the unemployment rate is five per-cent. Do the math. Are you paying attention?

Our government will spend over nine-hundred-fifty billion dollars over the next ten years subsidizing America's farmers. Diversified, mixed-crop farmers can now insure whole operations without having to buy insurance for separate crops and livestock, as used to be the case. Organic farmers can also insure their specialty crops for actual value. Considering organic peaches are worth lots more than the regular kind, that's a pretty good deal. Sounds fine until you know that since the mid-90's seventy-five percent of subsidies have gone to the same consolidated bunch of commodity farmers who comprise just ten per-cent of all American growers! The school Lunch Program is also subsidized. The government dictates what school kids can eat by withholding the subsidy unless its edicts are obeyed. The quantity of food our kids are throwing out doesn't matter because Michelle Obama likes broccoli, whole wheat and spinach pie. I wonder if she put in for a subsidy for the White House garden. Are you paying attention?

Then there's Hillary Clinton. Leaks from government insiders are providing mounting evidence that she has consistently lied about her emails, claiming they were never confidential. There are side-bets on whether she'll be prosecuted. You and I both watched Clinton as she spoke to the Benghazi families on TV September 14th, 2012 at Andrews Air Force Base. However, last week when ABC News' George Stephanopoulos asked if she'd told the victims it was about the film, she stated flatly, "No. I said very clearly there had been a terrorist group, uh, that had taken responsibility on Facebook, um ..." The New York Post Editorial Board finally had enough and flat out called it her "low-down, dirtiest lie of all." Are you paying attention?

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

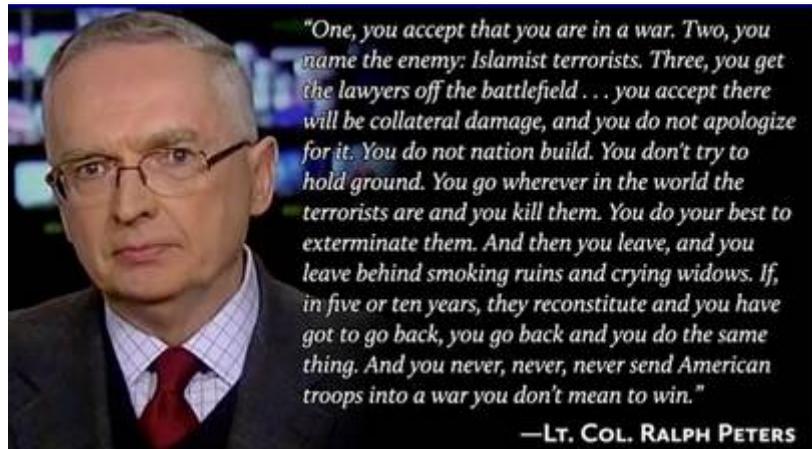
Don't even get me started on law-breakers! Lois Lerner and her IRS employees that went along with the idea of persecuting conservative groups and critics of the President have not been prosecuted. The IRS now has the task of regulating "Affordable Healthcare" (ObamaCare) subsidies granted to and premiums claimed paid by we the people. Executive Orders flaunting laws passed by the Congress and signed in the Oval Office are circumventing the Separation of Powers. As a direct result, Immigration Law is now essentially unenforced and the EPA has taken charge of things never granted its mantle by the Congress. Everybody is looking the other way - including the Congress and the Courts. Are you paying attention?

We know that our government, many of its employees and a good number of our elected and appointed officials can no longer tell the difference between truth and fiction. There's no black and white any more, only many shades of gray. Our behavior and that of our children is continually being shaped by government extortion, graft and corruption. We know anymore that prosecution of high crimes and misdemeanors only happens to those people who are out of political favor. Are you paying attention?

It's nice to know that ISIS is under control and the Red Line in the Sand appears to be holding up well. And it is impressive that Iran is now making its own Uranium for peaceful purposes and we should all be thrilled that both Iran and North Korea have joined us as members of the long-range ballistic missile club. Remember the days when Climate Change was not the greatest threat to our National Security? Are you paying attention?

Let's put it another way ...

Thayer's Wild Bunch II



Really, now. Are you paying attention?

I purposely posed a question in this short dissertation because that's what my Liberal friends do so very well. Did you ever notice that? Have you been paying attention?

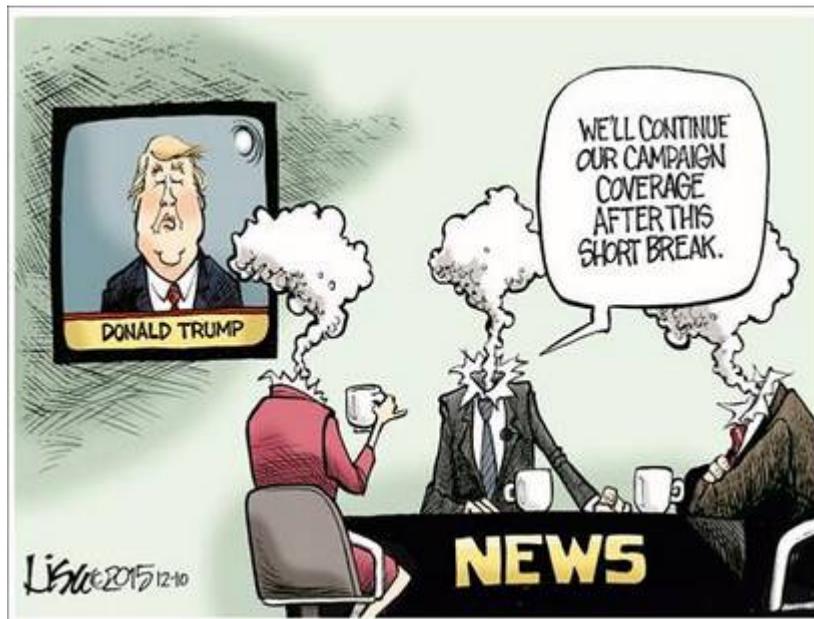
One of my good friends was ready to fight over Trump's "Muslims entering the United States" remarks last week. He opened with one statement and followed it with questions (to paraphrase): "Trump is an un-American fascist racist! What the f*** is the matter with him? Doesn't he get it? Shouldn't he get out of the Republican Party? Why do you think Mexicans and Muslims hate him so much? Doesn't he know that everybody hates him? Do you think the Democrats would have him? Did you know that only faggots support Trump? How 'bout it ... do you support Trump? You're not actually gonna vote for that traitor, are you?"

How do you get a word in edgewise in the face of a verbal fusillade like that? Especially knowing that you'll get no more than three or four words out before you're interrupted with another barrage of verbal abuse! You see it on TV news shows all the time ... the liberals always interrupt and always use

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

accusatory language and questions to make their points while they talk over anyone who has the floor. Allan Colmes is the master of this Liberal technique. Geraldo Rivera and Bob Beckel aren't far behind. But they're pikers compared to the likes of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid! It works really well. Just make a statement and follow it with a flurry of infuriating questions based on distorted facts, bogus information or misleading premises.

In summary, a Conservative will make a statement and support the point with discussion of the facts at hand. A Liberal will make an accusation followed by arguments couched in inflammatory questions and name-calling to make the point.



We watched this scenario develop last week as the media across the world (and many politicians) skewered Donald Trump. The typical Liberal reactions spread widely across the

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

board. He was vilified, called every name in the book - bigot, fascist, racist, demagogue - and allegations not based in fact were used to discredit him. His minimal defense included the irrefutable fact that ideology has been the main reason for stopping or restricting immigration over the years. For instance, the Immigration Act of 1924 did pretty much what Trump proposed by restricting Africans, Arabs and Asians. The conservative argument is pretty clear in the face of liberal distortions hurled at Trump. Islam is not a religion - it's an ideology. Muslims - followers of Islam - like the followers of Communism, certainly can be banned from immigrating to the United States. The Internal Security Act of 1950 completely banned immigration by Communists. Furthermore, one seeking to immigrate to the United States begins with no Constitutional rights and the President is given broad powers to restrict entry by any immigrant. Trump's simple suggestion was distorted by inflammatory rhetoric pushed by the mainstream media - and the part about "until our country's representatives can figure out what is going on" was completely lost in the fray, thanks mostly to NBC News - which edited out that part!

Rather than argue the pros and cons of Donald Trump's proposition, I'm trying to make the point that truth, as well as civility, can be lost in the fog of debate unless the participants completely comprehend the subject at hand. So, again: Hello! Are you paying attention?

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

December 24, 2015 - Christmas Edition

A VISIT FROM ST. NICHOLAS

Clement Clarke Moore | 12-24-1822

1 'Twas the night before Christmas, when all thro' the house,
2 Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse;
3 The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
4 In hopes that St. Nicholas soon would be there;
5 The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
6 While visions of sugar plums danc'd in their heads,
7 And Mama in her kerchief, and I in my cap,
8 Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap-
9 When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
10 I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
11 Away to the window I flew like a flash,
12 Tore open the shutters, and threw up the sash.
13 The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
14 Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below;
15 When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
16 But a minature sleigh, and eight tiny rein-deer,
17 With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
18 I knew in a moment it must be St. Nick.
19 More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
20 And he whistled, and shouted, and call'd them by name:
21 "Now! Dasher, now! Dancer, now! Prancer, and Vixen,
22 "On! Comet, on! Cupid, on! Dunder and Blixem;
23 "To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
24 "Now dash away! dash away! dash away all!"
25 As dry leaves before the wild hurricane fly,
26 When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky;
27 So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
28 With the sleigh full of Toys - and St. Nicholas too:
29 And then in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
30 The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
31 As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
32 Down the chimney St. Nicholas came with a bound:

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

33 He was dress'd all in fur, from his head to his foot,
34 And his clothes were all tarnish'd with ashes and soot;
35 A bundle of toys was flung on his back,
36 And he look'd like a peddler just opening his pack:
37 His eyes ~ how they twinkled! his dimples how merry,
38 His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry;
39 His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
40 And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow;
41 The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
42 And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
43 He had a broad face, and a little round belly
44 That shook when he laugh'd, like a bowl full of jelly:
45 He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
46 And I laugh'd when I saw him in spite of myself;
47 A wink of his eye and a twist of his head
48 Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.
49 He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
50 And fill'd all the stockings; then turn'd with a jerk,
51 And laying his finger aside of his nose
52 And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose.
53 He sprung to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
54 And away they all flew, like the down of a thistle:
55 But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight-
56 Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night.

<http://www.tedthayer.com/Twas the Night Before Christmas.mp3>

Legend has it that Clement Clarke Moore wrote his immortal poem, A Visit from St. Nicholas, also known as The Night Before Christmas, for his family on Christmas Eve 1822. He never intended that it be published, but a family friend, Miss Harriet Butler, learned of the poem sometime later from Moore's children. She copied it into her album, and submitted it to the editor of the Troy (New York) Sentinel where it made its first appearance in print on December 23, 1823. Soon, the poem began to be reprinted in other newspapers, almanacs and magazines, with the first appearance in a book in The New York Book of Poetry, edited by Charles Fenno Hoffman, in 1837. It was not until 1844, however, that Moore himself acknowledged authorship in a volume of his poetry entitled Poems, published at the request of his children. One hundred and eighty years later it is the most-published, most-read, most-memorized and most-collected book in all of Christmas literature.

This historical note Copyright © April 2002 by Nancy H. Marshall.

12-31-2015

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

There are some things I'd like to discuss with you about the future.

Politically, I want to see more of Hillary Clinton on the news live or on the 'phone. So far she's been almost aloof from the crowds of clamorous reporters and commentators hanging on her every word - going so far as roping them off at a parade to keep them at bay. "The Pen" is set up far away from the front of the audience and she rarely takes questions except in intimate gatherings with a few people over coffee or snacks. Lately, she's caved in some because Donald Trump has been picking on her and she has appeared in a number of interviews with news commentators. Still, the crowds are staying away in droves. Unlike Trump - and even Bernie Sanders - Clinton draws crowds in the hundreds, rather than thousands. Last week she started a campaign against The Donald by making up tall stories using his bombastic style to gather controversy and headlines. Rather than continue picking fights with his republican peers, Trump has taken the battle to Clinton and her people. Trump has pretty much always been available to the press, which he calls "liars" and "bad people." He keeps them tied up in knots by actively soliciting interviews when not creating linguistic traps for them. Trump knows how to combine grains of truth with bawdy language that his fans just eat up. Meanwhile, Clinton has been unable to create controversy on her own without Trump stealing her thunder! So, in the new year I hope to see as much face time from Hillary as Trump has been getting by just being Trump. Maybe we'll learn more about Clinton that way than from all those ad nauseam reports questioning her character.

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

The news media, meanwhile, needs to stop asking politicians what they think about the latest remark from The Donald. Republican and Democrat candidates for The United States' highest office need to be heard proposing ideas and solutions to the pressing troubles of our time, rather than caving in to the mainstream media's manic quest for negative sound bites about Trump. Shouldn't the candidates be defending and detailing their proposals instead? I believe in our media's right to pester public figures in the quest to obtain grist for the latest news cycle. While it's true the First Amendment backs them up, I don't believe the media should have a right to create news out of lies, unconfirmed allegations and rumors - in other words creating fiction to be presented as fact. This is particularly vexing when you consider the likes of respected NBC News anchor and whopper-teller Brian Williams and the venerable CBS Evening News and Sixty Minutes anchor Dan Rather, both of whom fabricated details for news stories out of thin air! Scottish philosopher and historian Thomas Carlyle wrote in 1841, "Burke said there were Three Estates in Parliament; but, in the Reporters' Gallery yonder, there sat a Fourth Estate more important far than they all." So it is in these United States; we have three estates or branches of government - Legislative, Executive and Judicial - with the Press, bound by our Constitution, as a Fourth Estate charged with unfettered oversight of the other three. My wish for 2016, as unlikely as it appears on the face of it, is that the Fourth Estate somehow returns to its traditional journalistic role as unbiased fact-finder and reporter of unvarnished truth.

Education is the most contentious issue facing our country today. At the core is Common Core, another one of those mandated government programs assembled by so-called experts and designed to make all kids smarter by testing them regularly to a nation-wide standard. The idea, when it was first proposed, was to help kids from lower-income families rise from illiteracy to intelligence. It has resulted instead in a dumbing-down of

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

kids nation-wide. The most contentious issue facing local, state and national educators and politicians is the fact that dumb kids almost always come from ghettos and other similarly impoverished areas of our cities. How do you teach a kid from the ghetto to learn? How do you keep the gangsta life and drugs out of your schools and still educate the kids who bring them? One answer to learning has been the Charter school. Test scores over the years have shown that Charters have consistently done a better job of educating their students than the public schools. That's because Charters generally don't receive funding from local property taxes, but rather from state coffers which tend to be very tight at giving money away. Charters have to work/teach smarter and make every penny stretch to the max. It also means that discipline goes to the top of the list - no gangs, no drugs, no roughousing, no cussing, no grafitti, no baggy pants, no failing to do homework - and parents are brought into the fold, required to back up their kids in every way possible, including participation in mandatory student-teacher conferences. Parents are encouraged to provide their offspring the same level of discipline at home as they get at school. Real education begins when a child is not distracted from its primary task of learning how to learn. The amount of money spent per capita doesn't appear to make a difference. According to *Wallethub.com/edu*, based on standardized testing Grand Rapids, Michigan students' average scores are 84.99%, 2nd best in the nation with per capita funding of just \$1,234. On the other hand, Rochester, New York kids test scores average just 24% while per capita spending there is 2nd highest in the nation at \$3,176 per pupil. Rochester ranks 86th out of 90 most impoverished cities in America, with the 88th largest percentage of single-parent families. So there is some truth to the proposition that dumb kids almost always come from the ghettos and the poorest areas of our cities. Conservative politicians in the latest election cycle are clamoring to get the feds and the states out of the education business, allowing local school districts to determine their own testing standards and

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

taxing structures. That's not likely to happen anytime soon, so education will probably remain our most contentious issue for some time to come. I wish it wasn't so.

Americans are angry. Their anger is seething and simmering deep inside our country's soul. Evidence of that anger was expressed recently in a letter to the editor of a local newspaper penned by Gayl Overgaard, former Chairperson of the Gila County Democrat Party. Overgaard called for the President's impeachment, charging that "... now we are well on the way to major international tensions leading to war. Obama is determined to continue aggravating the Russians. He is a warmonger that needs to be removed from office." Those are some powerful fightin' words! Overgaard is one of the most liberal Democrats I've ever known. I served eight years with her as Vice-chair of the Gila County Dems. Most of my Democrat acquaintances are just as angry as my Republican and Independent friends. They're angry about the blatant manipulation of the laws, rules and regulations imposed on us by our government bureaucracy and its appointed and elected leaders. And they're enraged that our government manipulates facts - like the fiction that there is five percent unemployment when almost a third of our 321 million Americans are out of work. They're irate that ObamaCare (PPACA - The Patient Protection Affordable Care Act) hasn't cost Americans less, as promised, but has significantly increased costs, decreased services, and will become more expensive in the coming years. They are indignant that the President, while seeking to calm public fears about terrorist activities, speaks in meaningless platitudes rather than displaying convincing manly leadership. The folks are tired of politically correct speech and government-mandated restrictions on their American liberties. They are furious that they pay an average of sixteen percent for credit (3.5% for home loans, 29.99% for unsecured credit cards) while big banking institutions can borrow money from the Fed at one-quarter of one percent and get away with paying

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

a mere one-half of one percent on savings accounts. Faced with creeping tyranny every day in our beloved America, I hope we can calm down some in the coming year.

An uncertain future is making almost everybody crazy! Most of the folks I know are worrying about tomorrow and planning for disaster. Will the markets crash? What if the power grid goes down? Can terrorists really poison our water supplies? What about this Climate Change thing? People have been stockpiling food packaged to last twenty-five years. They are stashing water to last at least a month - just in case. Fearful that neighbors will steal their stashes, they've bought firearms and ammunition enough to outlast a serious siege. Out of the many families I know, most are hoarding cash in assorted denominations, as well as precious metals, as hedges against a collapse of the monetary system. There are a lot of people out there that have been doing their best to become completely self-sufficient ... just in case. Some are called survivalists. Others have done nothing more than adopt some of the best of the Mormon faith's best teachings, like keeping a year's-worth of supplies available to be able to take care of yourself and family and still be able to help your neighbors in tough times. Speaking of faith, I'm hearing a lot more today than in the past about the End Times. Are the Four Horsemen coming soon? Is Armageddon just around the corner? We all know that the Good Lord takes care of those to take care of themselves, so it seems only logical that having a workable plan in the face of disaster is probably a good thing - just in case. I think we all can do better in planning what happens in the face of a natural disaster - torrential rain, flood, tornado, hurricane, blizzard - as well as how to handle days or weeks without public access to power, fuel, food, water and communications. So, I guess having a plan for disaster can reduce one's worries about tomorrow. But, wouldn't it be great to know that the rest of the country is on the same page? So far, though, it doesn't appear to me that Jeh Johnson, DHS and the FEMA folks have a very

Thayer's Wild Bunch II

good grip on how to handle a real national disaster. Good idea to cross your fingers. Better to be ready.

Hey, Claudette and I wish you and yours a happy and prosperous 2016 filled with positive expectations and a little hands-on participation in shaping the future of our great nation.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thayer's

Wild Bunch II

By J E Ted Thayer

