

Thayer's

Wild Bunch III

By J E Ted Thayer

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

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PREFACE

January 1, 2016

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TedThayer.com



J E Ted Thayer | 01-01-2016

THIS BOOK ...

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 2016. Later in the year it was also published on Mondays.

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 a week's offering without the website banner shown above. It being an election year, on June 16th we switched to two columns each week.

Enjoy your reading.

January 7, 2016

HERE IT COMES!

To be truthful, I have no idea what "it" is. It's just that there is so much crazy stuff in the air you could almost choke on it!

First of all, the Iranians have so much as declared war on the Saudis in response to Saudi Arabia's execution of 47 terrorists, including Shia Muslim cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr, the majority of whom were involved one way or another with al-Qaeda. The executions happened simultaneously at twelve different locations around the country. Sunnis rule Saudi Arabia and Shi'ites rule Iran. The two Muslim sects have a tradition of hatred for one-another. The executions fanned that flame. There are predictions that there will be war, drawing the US and Russia into direct conflict. The scuttlebutt has it that Russia, China and Iran will team against the US, Saudi Arabia and Turkey in a face-off over oil, forcing US crude to upwards of \$200 per barrel. Earlier this week February futures for US Brent crude, the international benchmark, were selling for just over \$37 per barrel. A year ago it was selling for \$58.72. The largest producers of mid-east oil are Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates, small countries that can hardly afford to participate in a war over their products. Their greatest concerns are over water, which is fast becoming a treasured commodity in their parched part of the world. An extremely dangerous situation could result over closure of the straits of Hormuz, located between the UAE and Iran, because it would cut off access to those key oil producers and likely force the two opposing sides and their allies into facing each other at gunpoint.

Second ... there is great concern in political circles that President Obama intends to spend the majority of his remaining time in office circumventing the Congress and the

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Constitution by issuing Executive Orders restricting Americans' rights to bear arms, limiting the exercise of free speech and association, and further modifying enforcement of immigration law. The President has made it clear that his Orders will be obeyed without question. In an interview with MSNBC News he stated that any Border Patrol or ICE agent who attempts to enforce immigration laws that contradict his edicts would face serious consequences. Presidential edicts will produce effects on America's economy at the same time other world economies, including China and the EU, struggle to stay in the black. Even as issues work their way through the Courts over exceeding its authority, the EPA will be encouraged to further ramp up its war on coal, petroleum products and CO₂. Senator Jeff Sessions, who serves as chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and the National Interest, said Monday that Obama has "announced another brazen, illegal executive action" that would allow for hundreds of thousands of additional foreign workers to be licensed to replace American workers at lower pay. The President's 181-page order, which makes it easier to obtain a newly created green card that carries automatic renewal, was introduced on New Year's Eve. Meanwhile, according to a Monday article in the Washington Post, "In response to President Obama's plan to restrict gun rights, House Speaker Paul Ryan said he thinks 'the president is at minimum subverting the legislative branch, and potentially overturning its will. This is a dangerous level of executive overreach, and the country will not stand for it.'" In an emotionally charged announcement Tuesday at the White House, the President revealed the details of his Executive Action to the cheers of enthusiastic supporters. There is also some speculation around political circles that Executive Orders will turn up later this year modifying voting rights and registration procedures in controversial ways. After all, we're in an election cycle.

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Finally, El Niño has begun dropping precipitation across the West. It's welcome in some quarters, not so much in others. Southern and Central California have been drowned in torrents of rain, raising concerns of mudslides caused by runoff from hillsides scarred by wildfires. The good news is that snowfall in the Sierras is approaching normal with several feet of the white stuff in just the first few waves of precipitation. The prospect of above-normal snowfall is a precursor to breaking the driest five years in California history. Depleted groundwater cannot recharge without deep Sierra snow to feed the Golden State's rivers and reservoirs. In the Northwest, normally home to rain and snow in the winter, El Niño has caused flooding at the normally dry Portland Zoo and pushed the Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Cowlitz and Chehalis Rivers to flood stage. In parts of Washington State, over two feet of rain have fallen in the last four weeks. They say it rains somewhere in Oregon every day of the year, but residents haven't seen rain and snow like this in over two decades. In the meantime, Western and Central Arizona have been getting whacked. Normally dry washes are running bank-to-bank, the interstate highway system so far is holding up fairly well, but street flooding has brought traffic to a halt in limited areas of Yuma, Phoenix and Wickenburg. Most areas of the desert Southwest handle heavy rains fairly well because drainage systems are built to handle summer thunderstorm runoff. How they will handle precipitation from this year's drenching from El Niño remains to be seen.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

January 14, 2016

WHY IT'S NUMBER ONE.

Some twenty-eight percent of Americans are concerned over economic problems including the economy in general, unemployment, the so-called gap between rich and poor, and the incredible quantity of money the federal government is taking out of the economy with no intention of paying it back. Eighty-three percent see non-economic problems as most important. The greatest concern is terrorism. But nothing gets the American peoples' blood boiling like their Government.

For some time, both Pew Research and the Gallup Poll have consistently reported a growing concern of Americans is the ever-increasing size and intrusive scope of their Government. Growing dissatisfaction with Government comes in second only to worries about terrorism. The third largest concern is the economy. Of the three, the Government consistently creates real aggravation in the population. Terrorism creates fear. The economy creates worry. But only the stupidity and ubiquity of appointed Government employees, laws, rules and regulations can create real table-banging rage in a majority of Americans.

The polls and pollsters apply numbers to rank our problems. Theirs is the science of statistics. If emotions ranging from enthusiasm to anger were measured as part of polling, it would come close to becoming an art. The mainstream media is a contributor to the rankings coming out of the polls by virtue of the subjects they cover. For example, the economy was number one just after the "bubble" burst in 2009. When terrorism topped the news cycle, it topped the polls. Guns and crime have also been in the top ranges of poll results. But one constant goes mostly un-reported - Americans' slowly growing exasperation with Government.

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Inversely proportional to that increasing anger is the dramatic fall in the electorate's trust in the Congress.

Two politicians have successfully tapped potential voters by complaining about the Government. Both Democrat Presidential contender Bernie Sanders and Republican candidate Donald Trump have turned out crowds numbering in the tens of thousands because they share unabashed disdain for the ever-increasing intrusion of Government into the lives of all Americans. Old guard politicians turn out hundreds of folks at their rallies, but Trump and Sanders understand what the polls don't show. Americans are furious! Both of them and the people they attract know the biggest issue is the Government. And that's why their crowds are so enormous.



Wanta know how ubiquitous American's anger is? (Love that word - means found everywhere - as in ubiquitous comestibles - like sugar, salt and pepper!) Just strike up a conversation with someone and ask if they've had any interesting experiences with the government lately. Oh, you

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know ... taxes, licenses, rules, regulation, registration, police, legal procedures and so forth. Most will have some kind of juicy tidbit to share about a problem they've had with the Government. And most will fume about it. The reason people are so rankled is because they're frustrated. They know there's nothing they can do about it. One of the reasons our beloved country was created is so that every man could truly be the master of his destiny. The explosive growth of Government, however, has gutted the meaning of the American Dream.

Calderon de la Barca said "La Vida es sueño. Y los sueños, sueños son." (Life is a dream. And dreams themselves are merely the dreams of dreams.) Nothing changes, although everything does, and we don't seem to have any say about it! That, in a theatrical nutshell, is why America's number one issue is its Government.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

January 21, 2016

HE DOESN'T HAVE A PLAN

Last time, you'll recall, we wrote about America's anger with its government. Now, I'd like to concentrate on the negative political rhetoric that has been steadily adding to that anger.

Joseph Goebbels has been credited with the remark, "If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it." Hitler is said to have originated it in his book *Mein Kampf*. There are any number of sources claiming the statement came from President Bill Clinton. The fact is there are over 500,000 sources of dubious claims relating to who originated the famous quote. Be that as it may ... when it comes to political discourse ... outright lies, distortion, fabrication and embellishment have become integral to the game.

What the politicians don't yet understand is that American people are not stupid. Most can detect a lie when they hear it. Any mother can tell when her child is fabricating a story - it doesn't take very much sophistication - just experience. Learning the differences communicated in the cries of a baby is part of the sixth sense that mothers develop about their kids. Mothers are better equipped; therefore, to detect the lies generated by political candidates and their handlers. Men, on the other hand, are a little slower to pick up on untruths, generally recognizing only the most egregious distortions and even then, only if they see and hear them in person. This ability to detect deception is something we're good at - meaning it's hard to pull the wool over an American's eyes.

Still, politicians - especially Progressives - keep telling The Big Lie. There are plenty of examples that illustrate this theory. Here are a few:

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Global Cooling, Global Warming, Climate Change Call it what you will, this bloated B.S. started long before Al Gore picked it up and ran with it. Call me a "Denier" if you want, but the facts are clear that Climate Change is real. It's a given. It's Mother Nature at work. And it's completely dependent on regular and natural cycles driven by the sun creating changes in the heating and cooling of the oceans which are the engines of atmospheric change. El Niño and La Niña are products of regular, eleven-year sun cycles. Quantities of particulate matter in the atmosphere come from blowing dust, tornadic and volcanic activities - all are awesome creations of Mother Nature that dwarf the supposedly cumulative activities of mankind.

The Global Cooling panic began in the '70s during the Jimmy Carter Administration. That was followed by Global Warming warnings in the '90s and the release in 2007 of Al Gore's Oscar-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*. The dubious science used to document claims of Global cooling on the one hand and Global Warming on the other, forced Gore to back away from his premise of impending gloom and doom caused by atmospheric heating. Today his lectures, including a prestigious TED talk and an address at Climate Summit 21, all refer to Climate Change. Still the basic contention is that man is causing Climate Change.

The Big Lie about Cooling began in the '70s, changed to Warming in the '90s, and changed again after the turn of the Century. The basis of the Big Lie is Humans Cause Climate Change. It's a premise - a theory - a postulate, if you will, lacking long-term, unbiased, un-adjusted, publicly published data subjected to traditional scientific scrutiny. The fact is that the Climate Change lie has been told for so long that most governments have become convinced it's true. The only people who benefit from The Big Lie are Al Gore and his ilk

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who take advantage of a bottomless public trough to fill their pockets with illicit booty provided by a hoodwinked United States Congress.

You can keep your Doctor. This whopper was detected early on, but it and other outright bald-faced fabrications convinced the Democrat majority in Congress to pass the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010. The worst part was that Nancy Pelosi was so confident gullible Democrats would go along with the President's lie she said, "*We have to pass the Bill so you can find out what's in it.*" After the Bill was passed and signed into law, we began to figure out what a monstrous bunch of lies the President kept repeating and embellishing. "*You can keep your Doctor. You can keep your policy. It will drive down the cost of medical care. It will improve the quality of medical care.*" The whole idea behind the PPACA was based on fiction, distortions, deception, deliberate falsehoods, hyperbole and prevarication - in short, bald-faced lies!

Well, here it is 2016 ... and we all know what a bill of goods we were sold. The quality of care has declined, Doctors are quitting their practices or not participating, co-pays and deductibles are out of sight, and basic premiums are up by huge amounts. The website designed to help new customers is still not operating in accordance with contractual expectations. The lies are catching up with the politicians.

Listen: One of the biggest insurance providers in the country (United Healthcare) announced that it is suspending marketing and may not participate in Public Exchanges after this year because of losses that translate to 26 cents per share.

Sooner or later, the Congress is going to have to fold this program because it was based on an out-of-the-blue invention fabricated by back-room money-grubbers and their lackeys

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working to dip into that ever-present bottomless public trough filled by the Government.

He doesn't have a plan. Another Big Lie. This first example shows that party affiliation doesn't matter much when it comes to this off-the-shelf political jargon. Jeb Bush was the guest on MSNBC's Morning Joe December 16th, 2015. Host Joe Scarborough asked him, *"What was the most important exchange that showed your vision for how America is going to protect itself in Donald Trump's vision?"* Bush responded, *"Well, the simple fact is **he doesn't have a plan**. He's not a serious candidate."* I don't know how anyone could understand Scarborough's question in the first place, it was so convoluted. Second, claiming that Trump didn't have a plan showed pretty clearly that Bush had never been on the Trump website and read the very specific details there about each of his key proposals.

*"**He doesn't have a plan**"* is no better phrase than "moving forward" ... a stupid way to use up time while formulating a response. And its utterance is always a lie based on ignorance or the need to redirect attention. For example, on Twitter December 21st, former US House Oversight Committee Chairman Darrell Issa posted *"The President's plan for a stable Afghanistan is naive and deadly. He woefully underestimates the terrorist threat."* To which veteran conservative Connie Hair responded, *"**He doesn't have a plan**, only absurd ROE that are getting our soldiers killed."* (ROE is the acronym for Rules of Engagement.)

"Moving forward," by the way, topped The Plain English Foundation's inaugural list of annoying words and phrases in 2010. Executive director Neil James noted at the time that the phrase had to win because it showed the election had been driven "more by focus-group research than political leadership. Just when we thought this business cliché had

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dropped from use, Julia Gillard robotically repeated the phrase more than 20 times during her announcement of the election."

It doesn't have to be a politician using the phrase. On August 28th of 2014, after President Obama revealed at a press conference that, "*We don't have a strategy yet. We need to make sure that we've got clear plans. As our strategy develops, we will consult with Congress.*" columnist Geoffrey Grider wrote, "*President Obama acknowledged Thursday **he doesn't have a plan** for defeating Islamist militants in Syria.*" Apparently Reporter Grider wasn't paying attention at the presser. There is a huge difference between a plan and a strategy. A plan describes a specific goal; a strategy describes in detail how to get there. A good analogy might be the difference between a Law created by the Congress (Plan) and the volumes of Administrative Law required to implement it (Strategy). But then, there is a penchant for the press to play gotcha by using word-craft to change the meaning of a simple statement.

In my estimation, when someone uses the phrase "***He doesn't have a plan***" it's a demonstration of either a high degree of ignorance or a subtle disdain for that person.

Finally, there is the smile. I don't know exactly when this faux facial expression officially came into vogue, but it galls me every time I see it. Today we hear serious discussions of controversial premises, with participants sharing opinions and chiding each other for their opposition, all the while grinning like Cheshire cats! What used to be raised eyebrows and fingers in the air has changed to speaking with wide smiles and broad grins while delivering angry rhetoric. It's as if serious verbal intercourse in some way has become a jovial exercise for clowns. We could emulate renowned thinker and orator William F. Buckley. Now, he had style, bless his heart!

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Keep your powder dry, troops; it's not really The Big Lie. It's just another way to get your goat! Sorta like Lies, Damned Lies and Statistics!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

January 28, 2016

EL CHAPO VS PENN

Mainstream Media complains they didn't get the interview with El Chapo. I'm so sorry for the poor babies! They were so peeved that they complained Sean Penn must have broken some law by meeting with Juakin Guzman, whose nickname is Mexican for Shorty. Guzman, Mexico's most-wanted Drug Lord, was captured and imprisoned in Mexico, but escaped last July through a tunnel built by his men. He wasn't captured until some time after he met with Penn.

According to the *Washington Post*, Guzman escaped from Mexico's highest-security prison last July by sneaking through a tunnel. But even before then, his representatives had gone looking for journalists and actors to tell a life story that had grown into legend after his two escapes from federal prison. In Kate del Castillo, a famous Mexican actress, his team found a potential partner for a Chapo film. The actress presented the possible project to Penn, the American actor who instead offered to write a magazine article about the drug lord, according to his account. In October, Penn flew to Mexico. The meeting with the drug lord took place in a lush nature reserve associated with the Autonomous University of Sinaloa, in the foothills outside Cosala. With the meeting arranged by Penn and Castillo, authorities zeroed in on Guzman. Intelligence officials were monitoring the actor's communications and photographed them as they met the men who would take them to the trafficker. Penn wrote about the encounter, without naming the location, in his piece published in *Rolling Stone* after Guzman's capture. The military had a capture mission planned for the day that Penn met Guzman, according to Mexican news reports. But it was postponed until January 8th, four days later. Two 50 Calibre sniper rifles

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from the ATF's notorious Fast and Furious were discovered in a large cache of weapons at Chapo's hideout.

In the *Rolling Stone* article, according to *Reuters*, Penn said he was not allowed to record his in-person conversation with Guzman. The Mexican fugitive later sent Penn a 17-minute video of answers after security issues stymied plans to hold a follow-up interview in person, and it does not contain the reported comments. Penn, who met Guzman along with Mexican actress Kate del Castillo, wrote that Guzman proudly volunteered information on his illegal activities. "I supply more heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine and marijuana than anybody else in the world. I have a fleet of submarines, airplanes, trucks and boats," Penn quoted Guzman as saying. A government spokesman said on Tuesday that Mexico was not directly investigating Penn or del Castillo but rather the circumstances around the meeting.

Why the media would complain about Penn scooping them is beyond me. Any competent reporter could have done the job, but del Castillo probably didn't know any as famous as actor Penn. I can say that with some certainty because as a local DJ in Tucson I met on numerous occasions at his home in mid-town with the infamous Joe Bonano, his son Bill (The Capo) and his grandson "Little" Joe, and at the Grace Ranch with Pete Licavoli, another noted boss of La Cosa Nostra (The Mafia). Like Penn, I knew the reputations of these people, especially The Capo (Enforcer) and that of Teddy Licavoli, a skilled "paper-hanger" who spent a lot of prison time for kiting bad checks. He got me for \$100 just after being released from prison. I was so angry when the check bounced, his Grandfather gave me his promise of anything I ever needed if I wouldn't break the kid's knees and throw him into traffic on East Speedway. Except for Teddy, these men treated me with respect and welcomed me into their homes. Theirs was a business and they made a good living at it.

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When not at work they were gentle, loving family men who doted on their offspring and their friends. Law Enforcement in Tucson and Pima County knew of my relationships with these people and let it be. So, I don't think Sean Penn will have any problems with the Law either.

It's too bad the Mainstream Media can be such children when it comes to scoops!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

February 4, 2016

NEED AN IDEA?

Each week for going on three years, I've had to come up with a new subject for my column. Every now and then "writer's block" kicks in. That's a nightmare for anybody who does this for a living. It took almost three years to write my first 230-page book, *Caca Pasa*. After almost ten months, the second book, *¿Quién Sabe?* is not yet a hundred pages. Thank heavens I don't depend on writing for a living. I do it because I can ... and to keep my mind in shape.

Fortunately, I learned a long time ago how to create stuff out of thin air - it's almost like meditation. It requires you to relax, close your eyes and think of nothing. Unlike meditation, which requires clearing the mind and concentrating on removing all thought, creation requires concentration on the absence of thoughts. There is a difference. Removing all thought puts the body into a state of elevated awareness of itself. Absence of thought puts the mind in a state that forces the same level of elevated awareness of the mind rather than the body. Thinking about not thinking forces the cobwebs out of the cracks and crevices of the memory, and with them long forgotten inklings. I like to call them baby inkles - the germs that create ideas.

The art of developing ideas from inklings can be a complex journey. In a roundabout way, by virtue of some creative wordsmithing, let me explain how it works.

When I was a Manager at the University of Arizona's Instrument Shop in Tucson, it was my job to oversee the research and development of tools and instruments as well as the methodologies for their use by Principal Investigators. People who do experiments that lead to mostly insignificant

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scientific discoveries are called Principal Investigators. Most, like the ones I was privileged to work with did significant yet quite mundane work. Very few made earth-shaking discoveries.

A Principal Investigator, or PI as he or she is called, is the lead individual responsible for creating a premise, acquiring funding to do the necessary research, and heading a team to do it. The objective is to begin with a premise or theory, and finish by proving it true or false based on the research and the data it produces. A PI is generally a gifted, educated and inquisitive person, either with a PhD or working on one.

My function involved developing gizmos to help these folks do their research. I headed a team of engineers that did the heavy lifting, so-to-speak. Our products were not shelf items - you couldn't go to Wal Mart or Home Depot and pick one up. They had to be created out of thin air. (Oh, man! It was a hellava great job!)

Here is the story of a specific gizmo we created at the UofA: A PI called and asked if I could come to his Lab and discuss how my people might help him fix a problem. He was the Head of the Animal Lab, where they did experiments with rats to prove or disprove the efficacy of new drugs, if memory serves me correctly. This was the Lab that was the center of controversy involving animal rights activists - the Animal Liberation Front (ALF) - back in the day, with resultant vandalism and break-ins at the Labs. At that time, rats were trained - conditioned, if you will - to participate in experiments by subjecting them to electrical shocks from bars on the floor of their cage until they learned to be still. The problem was that about three-quarters of the rats died from the conditioning. The Lab also used monkeys and other mammals that required conditioning. The PI theorized that my guys could come up with a way to condition animals without hurting them. Right there was the seed, the inkling, if

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you will, of an idea. What a challenge ... what a great reward if we could prove his theory correct!

The team was convened over pizza to brainstorm. First, they wanted one of the conditioning cages to see first-hand exactly how it worked. Alternating quarter-inch bars across the bottom of the cage were connected to either side of a variable 110 volt AC source that could be switched on and off. The thing plugged straight into a regular wall socket! People who wouldn't dare stick their fingers in a lamp socket were routinely doing just that to their animals! No wonder the animal rights people were raising such a stink! Right then, the question changed to an inkling. What could we develop that we wouldn't be afraid to use on ourselves? It would have to be something uncomfortable that posed no danger. The seed was beginning to germinate.

The suggestion of using a TENS pain-control device came up. TENS is the scientific acronym for Transcutaneous Electronic Nerve Stimulator. That's a medical device that electronically stimulates nerves through the skin near a painful area of the body, telling the brain to create endorphins, its own natural pain-killers. A TENS is most commonly prescribed for joint, back or post-operative pain. A TENS operates close to the same frequency as the painful "buzz" you feel when your hand or foot goes to sleep. The lower the "buzz" goes from there, the more comfortable it becomes - finally causing muscle contractions at the lowest speeds. Armed with this information, the team decided to try to modify a TENS device to duplicate the "buzz" of a sleeping foot. Nobody ever died from that!

To make a long story short, we created a giant TENS device that hooked directly to the bars in the conditioning cage. It exactly duplicated that "sleeping foot buzz", the intensity of which could be continuously varied. The maximum strength

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was no more than any of us could stand. We all tried it, all got "buzzed" full blast, and we even tried it on the PI at the Lab! He put a rat into the thing, clicked it on and slowly turned up its strength. The rat started moving its little feet around at one point. When the strength was turned up full, the animal danced - literally danced around inside the cage! It was definitely uncomfortable. After a while its dancing slowed and finally stopped. The rat looked exhausted - but still very much alive! After a month of training all sorts of mammals, the PI wrote that 100 percent of his animals were conditioned successfully. Not one death occurred. The procedure used, which has a very obscure scientific name, appeared to tame the animals some and helped them more easily adapt to their new experimental environment.

We had taken a Principal Investigator's theory, formulated an idea from it, and ended up creating a completely unique life-saving gizmo out of thin air! What a rush!

Need an idea? Kick back, loose your mind, and get busy!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

February 7, 2016

DONALD TRUMP - WHO HE REALLY IS

by Chuck Yeager | January 2016

According to Snopes.com and other fact-checkers, the following article was NOT written by the retired USAF General Chuck Yeager. The article has been posted on a variety of blogs and web sites, with the earliest iteration being published to Doug Johnson's Horse Sense blog on 4 July 2015. Johnson's article wasn't particularly popular, but the majority of its content soon started circulating via e-mail and online forums, where it was commonly attributed to an "unknown author." Chuck Yeager's name was eventually tacked on to the essay, first by Catholic.org in August, and later by Gary Forbes, but this form of credit was undertaken without the USAF General's knowledge or approval.

The criticisms of Trump are amazingly missing something.

They are lacking in negative stories from those who work for him or have had business dealings with him. After all the employees he's had and all the business deals he's made there is a void of criticism. In fact, long term employees call him a strong and merciful leader and say he is far more righteous and of high integrity than people may think.

And while it may surprise many, he's actually humble when it comes to his generosity and kindness. A good example is a story that tells of his limo breaking down on a deserted highway outside of New York City.

A middle-aged couple stopped to help him and as a thank you he paid off their mortgage, but he didn't brag about that. Generous and good people rarely talk of charity they bestow on others. But as much as all this is interesting, the real thing that people want to know is what Donald Trump's plan is for America.

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It's funny how so many people say they don't know what it is, or they act like Trump is hiding it. The information is readily available if people would just do a little homework. But, since most Americans won't do their own research, here, in no particular order, is an overview of many of Trumps positions and plans:

1.) Trump believes that America should not intervene militarily in other country's problems without being compensated for doing so. If America is going to risk the lives of our soldiers and incur the expense of going to war, then the nations we help must be willing to pay for our help. Using the Iraq War as an example, he cites the huge monetary expense to American taxpayers (over \$1.5 trillion, and possibly much more depending on what sources are used to determine the cost) in addition to the cost in human life. He suggests that Iraq should have been required to give us enough of their oil to pay for the expenses we incurred. He includes in those expenses the medical costs for our military and \$5 million for each family that lost a loved one in the war and \$2 million for each family of soldiers who received severe injuries.

2.) Speaking of the military, Trump wants America to have a strong military again. He believes the single most important function of the federal government is national defense. He has said he wants to find the General Patton or General MacArthur that could lead our military buildup back to the strength it needs to be. While he hasn't said it directly that I know of, Trump's attitude about America and about winning tells me he'd most likely be quick to eliminate rules of engagement that handicap our military in battle. Clearly Trump is a "win at all costs" kind of guy, and I'm sure that would apply to our national defense and security, too.

3.) Trump wants a strong foreign policy and believes that it must include 8 core principles (which seem to support my

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comment in the last point):

American interests come first. Always. No apologies.

Maximum firepower and military preparedness.

Only go to war to win.

Stay loyal to your friends and suspicious of your enemies.

Keep the technological sword razor sharp.

See the unseen.

Prepare for threats before they materialize.

Respect and support our present and past warriors.

4.) Trump believes that terrorists who are captured should be treated as military combatants, not as criminals like the Obama administration treats them.

5.) Trump makes the point that China's manipulation of their currency has given them unfair advantage in our trade dealings with them. He says we must tax their imports to offset their currency manipulation, which will cause American companies to be competitive again and drive manufacturing back to America and create jobs here. Although he sees China as the biggest offender, he believes that America should protect itself from all foreign efforts to take our jobs and manufacturing. For example, Ford is building a plant in Mexico and Trump suggests that every part or vehicle Ford makes in Mexico be taxed 35% if they want to bring it into the U. S., which would cause companies like Ford to no longer be competitive using their Mexican operations and move manufacturing back to the U.S., once again creating jobs here.

6.) Trump wants passage of NOPEC legislation (No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act – NOPEC – S.394), which would allow the government to sue OPEC for violating antitrust laws. According to Trump, that would break up the cartel. He also wants to unleash our energy companies to drill domestically (sound like Sarah Palin's drill baby, drill?) thereby increasing domestic production

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creating jobs and driving domestic costs of oil and gas down while reducing dependence on foreign oil.

7.) Trump believes a secure border is critical for both security and prosperity in America. He wants to build a wall to stop illegals from entering put controls on immigration. (And he says he'll get Mexico to pay for the wall, which many have scoffed at, but given his business successes I wouldn't put it past him.) He also wants to enforce our immigration laws and provide no path to citizenship for illegals.

8.) Trump wants a radical change to the tax system to not only make it better for average Americans, but also to encourage businesses to stay here and foreign businesses to move here. The resulting influx of money to our nation would do wonders for our economy. He wants to make America the place to do business. He also wants to lower the death tax and the taxes on capital gains and dividends. This would put more than \$1.6 trillion back into the economy and help rebuild the 1.5 million jobs we've lost to the current tax system. He also wants to charge companies who outsource jobs overseas a 20% tax, but for those willing to move jobs back to America they would not be taxed. And for citizens he has a tax plan that would allow Americans to keep more of what they earn and spark economic growth. He wants to change the personal income tax to:

Up to \$30,000 taxed at 1%

From \$30,000 to \$100,000 taxed at 5%

From \$100,000 to \$1,000,000 taxed at 10%

\$1,000,000 and above taxed at 15%

9.) Trump wants Obamacare repealed. He says it's a "job-killing, health care-destroying monstrosity" that "can't be reformed, salvaged, or fixed." He believes in allowing real

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competition in the health insurance marketplace to allow competition to drive prices down. He also believes in tort reform to get rid of defensive medicine and lower costs.

10.) Trump wants spending reforms in Washington, acknowledging that America spends far more than it receives in revenue. He has said he believes that if we don't stop increasing the national debt once it hits \$24 trillion it will be impossible to save this country. Even though he says we need to cut spending, he does not want to harm those on Medicare, Medicaid, or Social Security. He believes that the citizens have faithfully paid in to the system to have these services available and that the American government has an obligation to fulfill its end of the bargain and provide those benefits. Therefore, he wants to build the economy up so that we have the revenue to pay those costs without cutting the benefits to the recipients. He disagrees with Democrats who think raising taxes is the answer and says that when you do that you stifle the economy. On the other hand, when you lower taxes and create an environment to help businesses they will grow, hire more workers, and those new workers will be paying taxes that become more tax revenue for the government.

11.) Trump also wants reform of the welfare state saying that America needs "a safety net, not a hammock." He believes in a welfare to work program that would help reduce the welfare roles and encourage people to get back to work. And he wants a crackdown on entitlement fraud.

12.) Trump believes climate change is a hoax.

13.) Trump opposes Common Core.

14.) Trump is pro-life, although he allows for an exception due to rape, incest, or the life of the mother.

15.) Trump is pro 2nd Amendment rights.

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16.) Trump's view on same-sex marriage is that marriage is between a man and a woman, but he also believes that this is a states' rights issue, not a federal issue.

17.) Trump supports the death penalty.

Trump believes that there is a lack of common sense, innovative thinking in Washington (Hmmm. looks like he believes in horse sense!). He says it's about seeing the unseen and that's the kind of thinking we need to turn this country around. He tells a personal story to illustrate the point:

"When I opened Trump National Golf Club at Rancho Palos Verdes in Los Angeles, I was immediately told that I would need to build a new and costly ballroom. The current ballroom was gorgeous, but it only sat 200 people and we were losing business because people needed a larger space for their events. Building a new ballroom would take years to get approval and permits (since it's on the Pacific Ocean), and cost about \$5 million. I took one look at the ballroom and saw immediately what needed to be done. The problem wasn't the size of the room; it was the size of the chairs. They were huge, heavy, and unwieldy. We didn't need a bigger ballroom, we needed smaller chairs! So I had them replaced with high-end, smaller chairs. I then had our people sell the old chairs and got more money for them than the cost of the new chairs. In the end, the ballroom went from seating 200 people to seating 320 people. Our visitors got the space they desired, and I spared everyone the hassle of years of construction and \$5 million of expense. It's amazing what you can accomplish with a little common sense."

On top of his saving years of construction and \$5 million in expenses, he also was able to keep the ballroom open for business during the time it would have been under remodeling, which allowed him to continue to make money

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on the space instead of losing that revenue during construction time.

Donald Trump's entire life has been made up of success and winning. He's been accused of bankruptcies, but that's not true. He's never filed personal bankruptcy. He's bought companies and legally used bankruptcy laws to restructure their debt, just as businesses do all the time. But he's never been bankrupt personally. He's a fighter that clearly loves America and would fight for our nation.

Earlier I quoted Trump saying, "I love America. And when you love something, you protect it passionately – fiercely, even." We never hear that from Democrats or even from most Republicans.

Donald Trump is saying things that desperately need to be said but no other candidate has shown the fortitude to stand up and say them.

Before we criticize someone because of what the media is saying, maybe we should consider what they have to offer. What are they bringing to the table? Researching their background independently of what the news says. What's their bio? What is Obama's bio? If you researched him prior to becoming President, would you have hired him to work for you or run your business?

Charles Elwood "Chuck" Yeager is a retired brigadier general in the United States Air Force and record-setting test pilot. After flying P-51 Fighters during World War II, Yeager became a test pilot of many types of aircraft, including experimental rocket-powered aircraft. On October 14, 1947, at an altitude of 45,000 ft, he flew the experimental Bell X-1 at Mach 1, becoming the first human to officially break the sound barrier.

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February 11, 2016

INCOMPETENT OR STUPID?

Dr. Tim Daughtry, a former clinical psychologist turned conservative writer and speaker, wrote the following for *TownHall.com* a couple of weeks ago:

"Few in the conservative movement would share Trump's assessment that the nation's disastrous course stems from managerial incompetence. Conservatives largely view Obama, not as a bumbling incompetent, but as a dedicated leftist who uses Alinskyite tactics to subvert the Constitution that the left has long seen as a barrier to their socialist agenda. Obama does not misunderstand the Constitution; he disdains its limits on governmental power. If Hillary Clinton escapes indictment for her mishandling of top-secret information, it will not be because Attorney General Loretta Lynch is incompetent; it will be because the law does not serve the left's agenda.

"To conservatives, our borders are not open because Obama and his allies are too incompetent to secure them. Our open borders serve the left's internationalist goals, and they serve the left's strategy of swamping our political system with millions of leftist voters from the third world. If illegals were likely to vote Republican, our borders would have been secured on January 21, 2009.

"Porous borders, unchecked federal power, and declining respect for America abroad are not the blunders of incompetent managers; they're checkmarks on a leftist agenda that the Democrats have executed quite well for decades."

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Incompetent? I don't think so. I'm fond of Donald Trump portraying them all as stupid. It's not incompetence that makes administrators blow at the last minute every unspent penny of their budget "so we can justify an increase in the next round." That's plain stupid! It's not incompetence that makes a clerk who doesn't know the minutiae in the Administrative Code say "you can't do that." It's stupidity!

One of the managers I worked under at a local radio station absolutely deplored the word stupid, which I thought was stupid on her part. It separates the men from the boys, the experienced from the beginner, the wheat from the chaff, if you will. As an adjective, stupid is an order of magnitude more powerful than incompetent.

Incompetence is only a lack of understanding or experience. Stupid is the lazy person who will not explore to find out "why not?" It is possible to be extremely competent at a particular task, but be too lazy to learn how to do well the other stuff that comes with the job. That's stupid. The better a guy is at his job the more likely he will be have it after his company downsizes.

For my money, there are four levels to get to stupid.

Illiterate is the person who has no schooling. This is someone who simply doesn't know any better. Someone who can't read or write could be a genius at making music, for instance. Illiterate folks are generally soft-spoken and polite and they don't talk a whole lot.

Uneducated folks are the ones who just barely made it through school and probably dropped out. These are the people who weren't motivated and probably got Ds and Fs on their Report Cards. You know these folks mostly by the way

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they speak and their inability to spell. Uneducated people seem to be more aggressive and coarse than others.

Incompetent in my mind is lazy. Incompetence says that a person doesn't know how to do a job and is too lazy to learn it or to ask for help learning it. Most incompetent people have been placed in positions for which they are not suited and generally are terrified to admit their shortcomings to superiors. Incompetent folks tend to bluster.

Stupid people are the ones who constantly make bad decisions. The administrator who inflates a budget request instead of seeking efficiency is stupid and more than likely incompetent. The clerk who makes up rules on the fly or simply says "You can't do that" instead of asking a superior for advice or researching a question is stupid. Generally speaking, stupid people are the ones who sustain the Peter Principle.

According to *Wikipedia*, The **Peter Principle** is a concept in management theory formulated by Laurence J Peter in which the selection of a candidate for a position is based on the candidate's performance in their current role, rather than on abilities relevant to the intended role. Thus, employees only stop being promoted once they can no longer perform effectively, and "managers rise to the level of their incompetence." You find this in government a lot because stupid people are making the promotional decisions. Furthermore, The Peter principle is a special case of a ubiquitous observation: Anything that works will be used in progressively more challenging applications until it fails. This is the "generalized Peter principle." Now, that's really stupid!

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February 18, 2016

OFF A CLIFF

February 3rd, just before the New Hampshire Primaries, *Investors Business Daily* published a shocking editorial predicting that Obamacare is on its way to falling off a cliff.

"Obamacare was supposed to be on a roll by now, promising 20 million signing up, low cost and stable premiums. Turns out it's on a roll all right. It's rolling towards the cliff.

"Insurance giant Aetna (AET) has joined a growing number of insurers warning that the ObamaCare exchanges are failing in just the way critics said they would. This year's anemic enrollment won't help.

"This week, Aetna CEO Mark Bertolini warned that "we continue to have serious concerns about the sustainability of the public exchanges." Aetna lost more than \$100 million last year on the 750,000 enrollees it has through ObamaCare exchanges.

"Bertolini's warning comes after UnitedHealth Group (UNH) announced that it might pull out of ObamaCare entirely next year, after getting hit with a \$475 million loss in 2015. It expects to lose another \$500 million this year. Last fall, CEO Stephen Hemsley said that 'we can't really subsidize a marketplace that doesn't appear at the moment to be sustaining itself.' That, he said, 'basically is an industry-wide proposition.'

"Anthem (ANTM) CEO Joe Swedish said on his earnings call last week that 'we aren't experiencing the overall market

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growth on the public exchange that we projected when we laid out our five-year plan.'

"And Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina, meanwhile, expects to lose \$400 million on its first two years of ObamaCare. It was able to get rate increases in the state that averaged 32.5%.

"That's not to mention the fact that more than half of the non-profit insurance co-ops that ObamaCare created have since failed.

"Turns out that not only is ObamaCare failing to attract enough young and healthy, it has also encouraged others to game the system by waiting until they get sick to sign up for coverage, outside the three-month open enrollment window.

"Aetna and UnitedHealth say that these people use more health care than those who sign during open enrollment and in many cases drop coverage once their medical bills get paid.

"This, by the way, is precisely what ObamaCare critics predicted would happen. Guaranteeing insurance coverage to everyone, no matter how sick, and charging those with preexisting illnesses artificially low rates, provides an enormous incentive to cheat. States that had tried these reforms ended up creating premium 'death spirals' and wrecking their individual markets.

"ObamaCare's designers knew this was a risk. But they figured that the limited enrollment window, plus the mandate penalty, would take care of it. Clearly, they were wrong.

"So the administration is now promising that it will get tougher on those trying to exploit the 'special enrollment' exemptions built into the law to avoid buying insurance until

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they need it. Whether it will do so is debatable, since the administration is clearly more interested in goosing enrollment numbers than it is program integrity.

"If there's any good news in all this, it is that ObamaCare's unraveling is happening now, just as voters are trying to decide whether to elect someone who promises to 'build on' ObamaCare, or someone who wants to end the misery."

On February 5th, *TownHall* Columnist *Gretchen Hamel* wrote about the dire importance of discussing US Government fiscal policy during the 2016 election cycle. To paraphrase:

"In the midst of the election circus and pageantry, it seems once again fiscal policy issues have taken a backseat. The non-partisan CBO analysis of our projected debt and deficit doesn't mince words - the deficit only continues to get larger. In 2012 the US national debt reached \$16 trillion. January 28th this year it hit an unprecedented \$19 Trillion. With no end in sight, it's time to address the fiscal elephant in the room with real policy objectives.

"An Iowa Caucus entrance poll found government spending was the top issue for GOP voters. But, responsible fiscal policy doesn't make for good talking points. Nonetheless, the CBO report's implications are troubling at best.

"Growth in spending liabilities - such as Social Security and ObamaCare - will outpace growth in revenues over the coming 10 years. The CBO report estimates that if we continue down this road, by 2026 our annual deficit will reach a mammoth \$1.4 trillion. The trouble with out-of-control spending is that the train keeps moving even when the tracks run out. History shows that spending carries its own

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momentum and once it is outpaced by its revenue source, politicians look to bring in more revenue by raising taxes.

"American small business owners create the vast majority of our country's jobs. They're the ones who need to know what they can expect in the way of taxes and interest rates. Simply raising taxes puts the burden of the debt on their shoulders and forces them to make the tough choices that often come down to growing or paying higher taxes. From last year to this, the \$3.4 trillion rise in revenue is a bakery not adding employees because the increase in taxes didn't allow for growth. When our leaders fail to cut back on spending, the buck literally gets passed down to all of us.

"What is clear is that our deficit woes are not the symptom of a lack of revenue, they are evidence of a systemic problem - the government simply spends too much. It's frustrating to see the topic practically brushed under the rug."

Whoever wins the 2016 election will inherit this \$1 trillion a year deficit problem. We all deserve workable ways to keep America's train on the tracks and under control today, keeping it from falling off the cliff at the end of the tracks tomorrow.

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February 25, 2016

LIAR, LIAR!

A number of my readers have complained about the lies told by today's politicians. Perhaps the reason Sanders and Trump attract such huge and adoring crowds is that they speak their minds with conviction and seem to fabricate much less stuff than others out on the stump.

Michael Kinsley of *Vanity Fair News* penned the following about lies earlier this month:

"A great political lie should not be complicated. Subject matter is important. A run-of-the-mill lie may concern itself with some minor or ancient indiscretion. A somewhat grander lie will be about a matter of policy, such as saying you have always supported Medicare when as a governor you opposed it. [...] At its best, it will involve sex - or, rather, as Clinton would have it, it will not involve sex. Or - and this is the truly glorious part of his lie - whether or not it involves sex will become the very issue. A great political lie, when it works, performs triple duty. It deceives people about the subject at hand. It deceives people about the character of the politician in question. And it provides a distraction.

"It is good to be focusing on lies again, because our next president will be a liar. How do I know? Every candidate who survives into election year is a proven liar. [...] Hillary Clinton has [lied], and so have all those Republicans, including, of course, Donald Trump. Still, I would rather have a congenital gaffer as president than a congenital liar. It would be nice not to have to make the choice."

On a lighter note:

April 26, 2014 | *New Yorker*

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WASHINGTON (The Borowitz Report) - In a landmark decision, the Supreme Court of the United States declared on Tuesday that lying by politicians is protected by the First Amendment because it is an expression of their religion. By a 5-4 majority, the Court struck down an Ohio law that would make it harder to lie in political ads, arguing instead that "any attempt to restrict or punish lying by politicians is an unconstitutional infringement on a religion they have practiced for decades."

The Court's decision won praise from politicians of both parties, with many saying that the Justices' recognition of lying as a religion was "long overdue."

Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Roberts argued, "For politicians, lying is a religious observance akin to attending a church or a synagogue, except that they do it seven days a week."

Borowitz is a humorist who writes a column for the New Yorker Magazine.

February 9th ***FoxNews.com*** author ***Douglas Schoen*** wrote:

"We are living in a time when trust in Americans institutions has collapsed. A recent Pew survey shows that less than 20 percent of Americans trust the government always or most of the time. And a CNN poll showed that 60 percent think the American Dream is unachievable today.

"Against this backdrop, it's no surprise that America is in revolt. Honesty and trustworthiness matters more than whether a candidate has experience or can win in November according to voters. And the establishment isn't delivering anything resembling what the American populace desires in their political leaders."

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What concerns me - and many others - is the fact that the right to tell outright lies has been upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court as central to the First Amendment's guarantee of free speech - it being especially important that those we elect to high office feel absolutely confident there will be no prosecution, much less persecution, for whatever words they utter on the campaign trail.

Our job as the electorate, as well as that of the Fourth Estate, is to ferret out lies and call the perpetrators out. One of the ways both we and the media can do that is to employ the catchy query posed by one of my friends. To paraphrase, "What are you prepared to do if you are elected and your promises don't come to fruition?" What a fabulous question!

One way to get to the truth is to visit the candidates' websites and do your homework. Read their plans. Contrary to contentions that "He doesn't have a plan," campaign websites for the most part contain very detailed proposals ranging from tax plans, economic growth stimulation, housing, defense and immigration - to healthcare, environmental protection, crime control and terrorism suppression.

Generally, what campaign websites don't contain - in my estimation - is a description detailing exactly how the proposals will become law. This is where candidates tend to fall short - how will their promises be brought to fruition? Does a failure to perform become a lie? ¿Quién Sabe?

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March 3, 2016

THE LAFFER CURVE

Some of what follows is a little heady, but it's necessary if you want to understand fully what's been happening to our economy and how its ills can be cured.

According to *Wikipedia*, "the term 'Laffer curve' was reportedly coined by Jude Wanniski (a writer for The Wall Street Journal) after a 1974 dinner meeting at the Two Continents Restaurant in the Washington Hotel with Arthur Laffer, Wanniski, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and his deputy press secretary Grace-Marie Arnett. In this meeting, Laffer, arguing against President Gerald Ford's tax increase, reportedly sketched the curve on a napkin to illustrate the concept. Cheney did not accept the idea immediately, but it caught the imaginations of those present. Laffer professes no recollection of this napkin, but writes: *'I used the so-called Laffer Curve all the time in my classes and with anyone else who would listen to me.'*

"Laffer himself does not claim to have invented the concept, attributing it to 14th-century Tunisian scholar Ibn Khaldun [...], the fourth Caliph, in [a] letter to the Governor of Egypt.

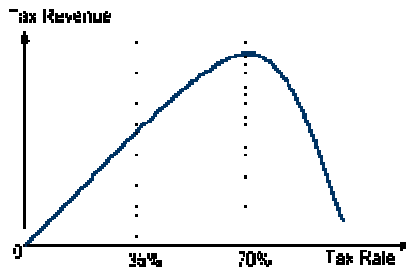
"If the tax-payers complain to you of the heavy incidence to taxation, of any accidental calamity, of the vagaries of the monsoons, of the recession of the means of irrigation of floods, or destruction of their crops on account of excessive rainfall and if their complaints are true, then reduce their taxes. This reduction should be such that it provides them opportunities to improve their conditions and eases them of their troubles. Decrease in state income due to such reasons should not depress you because the best investment for a ruler is to help his subjects at the time of their difficulties.

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They are the real wealth of a country and any investment on them even in the form of reduction of taxes, will be returned to the State in the shape of the prosperity of its cities and improvement of the country at large. At the same time you will be in a position to command and secure their love, respect and praises along with the revenues."



What the Laffer Curve describes is that as tax rates rise there comes a point where revenues peak, after which they begin to decline as the rates continue to rise. The chart above shows that point to be roughly 50%. In reality, the curve is not symmetrical but rather, warped toward a peak at 70%.



Actually the absolute top *combined* federal, state and local tax rate is closer to 73% as demonstrated in 1924 by then Secretary of Treasury Andrew Mellon who wrote: "*It seems difficult for some to understand that high rates of taxation do not necessarily mean large revenue to the Government, and that more revenue may often be obtained by lower rates*" [...] Stating that "*73% of nothing is nothing,*" he pushed to reduce

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the top federal tax bracket from 73% to 24%. President Ronald Reagan did as much in the 1980s in order to boost the US economy and increase federal revenues after the so-called Carter recession.

The Laffer Curve doesn't just apply to tax rates. Business is subject to the same kind of monetary limitations, albeit goods or services. Where there is healthy competition each has a maximum that consumers are willing to pay before curtailing purchases or buying from the competition.

I found out how the Laffer Curve works in the '70s when I owned a retail TV service business. Porta-Tronics began servicing TV sets in Tucson homes in the Fall of 1971 for \$7.50 per service call. If we couldn't repair the set, the call was free and we'd refer to a shop nearby. We scheduled one service call per hour and were swamped with business from day one. We made payroll easily and profited from 50% mark-up on parts, mostly tubes that routinely failed in TV sets those days.

I belonged to the Arizona State Electronics Association (ASEA) in the '70s and learned about the Laffer Curve at one of the Association's annual conclaves. The seminar was about how to maximize profits and grow your business. In essence, the message was: Regularly add an employee when your appointment hours are maxed-out and raise your service call rate until the average quantity of service calls just begins to decline. At that point several employees should have been added and gross receipts should have increased significantly.

Well, I took that lesson and put it to work. From a cold start with me doing the service calls and my wife handling the telephone and scheduling the service calls, Porta-Tronics peaked in 1975 with six employees and a rate of \$15.00 per service call. We coined the phrase "The Fast Fifty" that year,

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referring to the average tab per service call. We were still marking up parts by 50%, but labor was up 100% from 1971 and the top hourly wage was \$7.00. We were clearing a net profit of \$25.50 per service call. Eight calls a day done by five service employees produced an annual net profit (before office and transportation expenses) just over a quarter-million dollars per year!

The Laffer Curve works. Let's hope the next President of the United States figures that out.

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March 10, 2016

INCOME TAX

Income Tax Rates – Recessions – Presidents 1800s to 2016

Year	Top Tax Rate	Recessions	Presidents
1861- 1895	Varied 2-10%	1896-97	1897-1901 McKinley (R)
1895-1912	None	1899-00	1901-09 T Roosevelt (R)
Income Tax	Unconstitutional	1907-08	
1912	16 th Amendment	1910-11	1909-13 Taft (R)
1913	7%	1913-14	1913-21 Wilson (D)
1916	15%		
1917	67%		
1918	77%		
1919	73%	1918-19 Post WWI	
1922	58%		1921-23 Harding (R)
1924	46%	1923-24	1923-29 Coolidge (R)
1925	25%	1929-1933 Great Depression	1929-33 Hoover (R)
1932	63%		1933-45 F Roosevelt (D)
1936	79%	1937-38	
1941	81%		
1942	88%	1945	
1944	94%	1949	1945-1953 Truman (D)
1946	91%	1953	
1952	92%	1958	1953-61 Eisenhower (R)
1954	91%	1960-61	1961-63 Kennedy (D)
1964	77%	1969-70	1963-69 Johnson (D)
1965 Tax Reform Act	70%	1973-75	1969-74 Nixon (R)
1982	50%	1980-82	1974-77 Ford (R)
1987	38.5%		1977-81 Carter (D)
1988	28%	1991-2001 was the longest period	1981-89 Reagan (R)
1992	31%	of growth in US history	1989-93 G Bush (R)
1993	39.6%		1992-2001 Clinton (D)
2000	46.7%	2001	2001-09 GW Bush (R)
2003	41+%	2007-2009 Great Recession	2009-17 Obama (D)
2013	46+%		

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

Since penning last week's broadcast about the Laffer Curve, I began to wonder if there was any correlation between the top Income Tax rates, recessions, and the political party of the President.

So, I went online and poked around looking for the data to create a table listing those things. What I came up with is on the preceding page. See if you can find any correlation.

Of the 19 recessions listed above, 13 happened with a Republican in power, 6 under a Democrat.

The eight lowest tax rates (0 to 46%) adopted during those recessions happened under Republican administrations, just one with a Democrat sitting in the White House.

The highest tax rates (70 to 94%) were equally split in recession years between Republican and Democrat presidents at five increases each.

The lowest tax rates listed above (0 to 50%) were split equally between Republican and Democrat Chief Executives with six each. However, the Democrats own the highest taxes, sweeping eleven of the 14 top rates (58 to 94%) over the years.

The highest top income tax rate was 94% during World War Two with Democrat Harry Truman in the Oval Office. Overall, the highest taxes were levied during the years involving the First and Second World Wars, the Korean Conflict, and the Viet Nam War.

After the 16th Amendment was ratified, the lowest top income tax rate of 7% was imposed in 1913 with lame duck Republican President Howard Taft in the White House.

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

The Income Tax was first proposed in 1861 to support the Civil War. President Lincoln signed it into law 1862 with a 3% tax on income between \$600 and \$10,000 and 5% on higher incomes.

The law was repealed as unconstitutional in 1872 but it resurfaced in 1894. In a landmark case the following year, the U.S. Supreme Court found the Income Tax unconstitutional. There was no income tax during the seventeen years between 1895 and the ratification of the 16th Amendment in 1912: *"The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes on incomes, from whatever source derived, without apportionment among the several States, and without regard to any census or enumeration."*

Today's Federal Income Tax rates come in seven brackets spanning a low of 10% on adjusted income up to \$9,275 for a single person - to a top marginal rate of 39.6% on income over \$415,050. The personal exemption for 2016 is \$4,050 and the Standard Deduction is \$6,300.

To sum up, there appears to be a direct link between Democrat administrations and Income Tax increases, lending credence to the phrase "tax and spend liberals." On the other hand, any good politician could argue successfully that an intimate correlation exists between Republicans and recessions! Be that as it may, the data clearly shows that war and high taxes go together, no matter which Party holds the highest office in the land.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

March 15, 2016

RUSSIA LEAVING SYRIA?

This week it was announced that Putin is removing his Russian troops from Syria. Why? It's an important question that Vlad is no way gonna talk about with us Westerners!

I think there is a lesson to be taken from the past to explain the sudden orders for departure. And there's probably no way that US planners and politicians will pay attention to that lesson.

How many years did the USSR spend in blood and treasure in Afghanistan? The Afghanistan War raged from December of 1979 to February of 1989. Something like 850,000 to 1.5 million civilians died and millions of Afghans fled to neighboring countries. But the Mujahideen would not give up. Eventually, the Russians decided that the price to capture and hold this barren country was not worth it ... and they pulled out.

Putin, I think, has recognized the same situation in Syria, and decided that's enough. After all, it costs a small fortune to fight wars ... something the Russians are hard-pressed to provide. Between the Syrians and ISIL, there's too high a price to pay to support Assad & Co. to any more than a political stalemate.

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his is a wide-open opportunity for the United States to do what our citizens have been foaming at the mouth about for decades: Put a force of 25- to 50-thousand troops on the ground in Syria, kill every ISIL fighter they can find and then continue across Iraq and into Iran, Yemen and The Sudan if necessary, wiping out ISIL/ISIS participants wherever and whenever found. That done, pull out and leave no peace-keepers. Let the Islamic nations take care of the mess left

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

behind. They were the ones who put up with ISIS/ISIL's barbaric butchery ... they should handle the after-glow of their stupidity.

This will also send a very clear message to the world: Don't mess with us, or else!

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March 17, 2016

SAY WHAT?

Just when was it that the stars of the Food Channel started calling the spicy dip made with avacados GWOK-ah-molie? I even heard it called GWOK-a-MOLE. For as long as I can remember it's been WALK-ah-MO-lay. In most latin countries the "G" is silent, leaving the "U" pronounced as a hard "W". Somehow, the change using the hard "G" has become ubiquitous. The blatant bastardization of the name of this yummy delight makes my ears hurt.

Guacamole was first created from the fruit of the Central American Avacado tree by the Aztecs sometime in the 1300s, before Mexico was Mexico, and before it was referred to as "a salad of alligator pear" in the 1900s. According to *Wikipedia*, "The name comes from an Aztec dialect via Nahuatl - *āhuacamolli* [a:waka:mol:i], which literally translates to "avocado sauce." This unique word combines the ancient *āhuacatl* and *molli*.

Guacamole is traditionally made by mashing or dicing several ripe avocados and folding in diced tomato, onion and garlic, a splash of lemon or lime juice, followed by a pinch of red chili or cayenne pepper. Avocado flesh turns black when exposed to air for any appreciable length of time, so the dip should be sprinkled with lemon juice, covered and refrigerated to keep it fresh.

Those of us who treasure the tasty treat prefer to use Fritos Scoops to eat it with because we can always be certain there's not a piece of your chip left in the stuff after it's been dipped!

Have you noticed that younger, less experienced radio and television newscasters tend to butcher place names regularly?

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For instance, one of the hosts on the Fox News Channel chided the younger reporters for calling the Western State Na-VAAH-dah rather than Neh-VAD-uh during the primary election broadcasts.

You can always tell when a new employee is doing the weather on local TV by the way they display their ignorance. You'd think a newbie would take pride in doing homework while preparing for a radio or TV broadcast. There's an old adage that preparation for a program should take at least as long as the broadcast itself. But no! We have a street here in Globe, Arizona called Ruiz Canyon. It doesn't take long before a new announcer tries to impress everybody by saying it in proper Spanish - Roo-EESE Canyon. This is the Southwest, after all. Sorry, but it's REESE Canyon!

KIKX-AM in Tucson some time ago received a commercial for an event that was to be held in Ajo, a small town some miles across Southern Arizona. The announcer pronounced it AY-joe. The spot was sent back with a note to pronounce it AH-hoe. The second version came back pronounced a-HOE! They finally got it right the third time.

Then there's the illicit pronunciation of the Northwestern State of Oregon as Or-eh-gone rather than OR-ih-gun. An Oregon tributary of the Columbia river, the Willamette, the locals call the Will-AM-it. The profane pronounce it as WILL-a-mit. One of the most beautiful places in the world is Yosemite (Yo-SEM-itty) National Park in California. I about fell over the first time I heard an out-of-stater pronounce it YAHZ-mit. I've also heard it called YOZE-might.

I put the root of most mispronunciations at the the feet of bureaucrats. Mispronunciation of places and things has become rampant as our primary and secondary education systems have dumbed down over the years. It's not much

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better at the collegiate level either. Somehow, our children (and their children) are not being taught to explore the spelling and pronunciation of the vast assortment of words, places and things in our great country. Sorta like the way simple mathematics and cursive writing have gone. Sad losses to our American language and culture.

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March 24, 2016

WHY IT DOESN'T MATTER

The other day I was asked why Donald Trump has done so well during this election cycle, attracting tens of thousands to his rallies, garnering massive support, and turning out record numbers of Republican voters that include people who, before this year, have never even registered to vote.

How is it that nothing negative seems to stick to him? This is the guy that began his campaign by calling illegal Mexican immigrants criminals and rapists. This clown said Senator John McCain was no hero because he was captured in Viet Nam and never tried to escape. Railing against a slanted debate question, Trump fired back at Fox News Hostess Megyn Kelly, charging that she had "blood coming out her ... wherever." Fellow GOP candidate Carly Fiorina's face was portrayed unkindly in another stinging Trump insult. And he even mocked physical disabilities of a New York Times reporter. He said he would not allow Muslims to come to the United States. Trump even quoted World War Two Italian dictator Benito Mussolini, repeating the 70-some-odd-year-old vow, "It is better to live one day as a lion than 100 years as a sheep." During the weekend before Super Tuesday he was charged repeatedly by the Main-Stream Media with failing to denounce Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke. The very same weekend, Trump fought high-pitched, insult-laden verbal battles with Senators Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz. Then former Republican Presidential candidate Mitt Romney entered the fray, echoing Rubio's charges that Trump is a con-man and fraud and repeating just about all the negatives leveled at him since the campaign began. Then came the charges of Trumped-up violence at his rallies. The prediction of both the Republican and Democrat elites appears to be that if Trump is elected, it's Armageddon!

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Well ... Trump didn't call all illegals rapists - he also said "not all of them." McCain was one of the first victims of Trump's revenge - his ability to call out folks who disrespect him - after McCain had criticized him. Megyn Kelly had singled out Trump for a pointed sexism question during the August 7, 2015 debates. In a CNN interview the next day in obvious frustration he retaliated, "She gets out and she starts asking me all sorts of ridiculous questions. You could see there was blood coming out of her eyes, blood coming out of her ... wherever." Of course, the MSM took his remark in the worst possible light because he was speaking off the cuff, as usual. Even with his "persona" jab, Trump was responding to Carly Fiorini's criticism of his momentum during another debate, "Look at that face! Would anyone vote for that? Can you imagine that, the face of our next president?" A New York Times reporter wrote a negative article about him, so Trump ridiculed him back in a goofy kind of way. Perhaps the worst presentation of his speaking style was the inflamitory hatchet-job NBC did on his proposition to ban Muslim immigration. The news outlet completely left out the pointed disclaimer, "until we can figure out what [the Hell] is going on." Of course, Trump's exhortation about lions and sheep was never meant to inject facism into the political arena, but that was the conclusion the MSM wanted its readers/listeners/viewers to believe. And the David Duke flap was made up completely. Trump was baited by CNN. When asked about his 2000 campaign cycle knowledge of Duke and his past, Trump said, "I disavow." After the CNN program, Trump reiterated this stance on Twitter. But CNN and the rest of the MSM still shouted that he would not disavow Duke after technical problems in a later interview left him uncertain about the question. And, as we all know, the verbal battles on the pre-Super-Tuesday elections weekend were not started by The Donald, but rather Marco Rubio. I kinda liked the "small hands" remark, myself! At least the back-and-forth insults were entertaining. You know, I might even pay good money

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to hear those guys participate in some "Yo mama so ugly" exchanges. It seems like Romney's appearance on the stump has made little difference - every time trump is attacked, his poll numbers go up. And the disturbances at the hands of SEIU, MoveOn and "Black Lives" have done nothing more than create another Main Stream Media frenzy and solidify support among The Donald's fans. Two mind-boggling figures turned up last week ... Republican and Democrat candidates and an assortment of Political Action Committees opposed to Trump have spent some \$35.2 million in negative TV ads. There have been just \$232,000-worth of pro-Trump ads so far this cycle.

So, why does Trump's popularity continue to rise? How does he get away with saying things that would completely disqualify any other candidate? Well, it seems pretty clear to me. The media (and now Mitt Romney) hang on every word he utters and then hysterically quote them out of context on radio and TV and in the newspapers. The reason The Donald's support grows after every supposed faux pas or out-of-context accusation is that Americans are actually a lot smarter than the media believe. After all, it was no less than the esteemed Senator Harry Reid who went on the Senate floor and lied about Mitt Romney's taxes - and when he was asked about the lie after the election told a reporter "He didn't win did he?" Trump followers knew it was a lie. They all appreciate someone who articulates their concerns. His fans love him because he's politically incorrect and he talks just like the guys and gals down at the bar! And they know that if he wins the Republican nomination, both the press and the Democrats (and perhaps Romney and the elites) will be coming for The Donald's scalp with every out-of-context word and lie ever written or reported about him from time immemorial. They also know, as Derek Hunter wrote earlier this month, "It's not journalists unearthing secrets these days; it's advocacy groups armed with Freedom of Information Act

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requests." Trump has always remained neutral until someone picked on him. So, it's pretty clear why he has so many followers. He speaks his mind - and he don't take no Sh*t!

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March 31, 2016

PAC LAWS UNFAIR

Election Laws regarding interaction between candidates and Political Action Committees are unfair to everyone - the candidates, the PACs and the electorate. This has been brought home vividly during this 2016 election cycle.

The Federal Election Commission's brochure *Coordinated Communications and Independent Expenditures* provides guidance relative to who can and cannot communicate with whom and how that communication can or cannot happen. In part, "When financing communications in connection with federal elections, it is important to understand that the rules differ significantly depending on whether the communication is coordinated with a candidate or party committee or is produced and distributed independently. In general, amounts spent for coordinated communications are limited, but independent expenditures are unlimited."

The *FEC Record* stated recently, " On October 9, 2014, the Commission approved final rules that permit corporations and labor organizations to finance independent expenditures and electioneering communications. The rules were promulgated in response to a Petition for Rulemaking filed by the James Madison Center for Free Speech petitioning the Commission to revise its regulations in response to the Supreme Court's decision in *Citizens United v. FEC*, [...] which invalidated the ban on corporate independent expenditures and electioneering communications."

The long-held, yet controversial conservative tenet that Corporations exist as individuals, is supported by *Citizen's United*. What the SCOTUS said, in so many words, is that

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when it comes to political activities, a corporation can do anything any individual can do. This opened the floodgates of funding for PACs and made it critical that candidates have no communications at all with PACs having unlimited expenditures. Candidates are breaking election laws and can suffer severe penalties for having intercourse with Unlimited Expenditure PACs. On the other hand, candidates can chat all they want with PACs having coordinated communications. The so-called Unlimited PACs can get away with all kinds of lies, misdirection and deceit. Absolute fabrications about candidates and their campaigns have become accepted practice, albeit distasteful to most voters. It seems at this point the word is "Take no prisoners!"

There are all kinds of examples of harm done for the sake of political advantage.

The really dirty politics may have come into full bloom in early February when Ben Carson accused Ted Cruz of spreading rumors that Carson was throwing in the towel, a charge that cost Carson votes in the Iowa Caucuses. Cruz personally apologized for his campaign's shenanigans after learning that the Carson camp had announced he was going home for a few hours to shower and get a change of clothes!

A February *Vanity Fair News* article reads "Voters in South Carolina received a robocall, recorded in Spanish, that targeted Rubio for allegedly supporting amnesty for illegal immigrants. [Just] 5 percent of South Carolinians are Hispanic, and [...] 72 percent of them speak Spanish at home. As the *Huffington Post* noted, the woman on the recording heavily emphasizes the words 'Marco Rubio,' 'amnistía,' and 'inmigración ilegal,' words that an English-speaking Republican would grasp immediately. 'The recording is most likely an effort to make non-Spanish-speaking voters believe that Rubio is calling Hispanics and promising amnesty,'

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reporter **Igor Bobic** speculated. The Cruz campaign denied that they were behind the call, which emphasized that Cruz, unlike Rubio, was against amnesty."

Another *Vanity Fair News* article dated February 19th states, "At least one attack was so deplorable that South Carolina television stations decided not to air it. That ad, produced by a pro-Cruz super-PAC, implied that Rubio's immigration record - including alleged support for 'sanctuary cities' - bore responsibility for the mass shooting in San Bernardino last December."

Politico recently reported that Cruz' campaign sent a complaint to South Carolina television stations asking them to stop airing a super-PAC-funded ad portraying Cruz as "weak" on national security and immigration, saying that the stations were liable for making a "flatly false factual claim." The PAC that paid for the ad was the American Future Fund.

According to a March 3rd *Politico* article, "Marco Rubio and his campaign are accusing Ted Cruz's campaign of spreading rumors that the Florida senator is dropping out of the race, after an email bearing Cruz's likeness was sent to supporters in Hawaii. [...] The email in question carried the subject line 'WASTED VOTE?: Big Trouble for Marco Rubio - Advisors Tell Him to Drop Out,' purportedly citing 'multiple news sources' but only referencing a report by CNN [...] that cited 'some advisers' suggesting that Rubio drop out of the race before the March 15 primary in his home state of Florida."

Republicans aren't the only ones doing illicit battle. Comes now a March 25 *Salon* article, "With allegations of voter suppression in Arizona, as well as questions about the Clinton campaign's tactics in Iowa, Nevada, and other states, some historical context is needed. In 2008, *The Atlantic* published an article explaining 'dirty politics' and voting 'irregularities'

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titled '*Obama Manager Accuses Clintons of Widespread Dirty Politics*'. David Plouffe [said] the Obama campaign was investigating more than 200 reporters of irregularities in Nevada. 'We currently have reports of over 200 separate incidents of trouble at caucus sites, including doors being closed up to thirty minutes early, registration forms running out so people were turned away, and ID being requested and checked in a non-uniform fashion. This is in addition to the Clinton campaign's efforts to confuse voters and call into question the at-large caucus sites, which clearly had an affect on turnout at these locations. These kinds of Clinton campaign tactics were part of an entire week's worth of false, divisive, attacks designed to mislead caucus-goers and discredit the caucus itself. Sound familiar? Every single one of the voting irregularities Plouffe complained about in 2008 have been experienced by the Bernie Sanders campaign."

Just before Easter family members became fair game when, according to *The Hill*, "Trump accused Cruz of having ties to a super-PAC that published an ad [...] featuring an image of Melania Trump posing nude in a magazine in 2000. Cruz called Trump a 'sniveling coward' after the businessman shared a photo of the women in an apparent comparison of their looks." It's unfortunate that even *The Hill* couldn't get the facts straight.

Almost all of the presidential candidates have accused others in the race of directly orchestrating untruths that actually came from super-PACs. *The National Enquirer* ran a story about Cruz' alleged marital infidelity, the same week as the now infamous Melania picture, in an obvious ploy planted by a super-PAC to get Cruz to act as juvenile as Trump. As Newt Gingrich said in a broadcast interview late last month, it was "utterly stupid" for Trump to "get sucked into" a dirty trick like that. His re-tweet of a super-PAC-generated response was a bone-headed move on Trump's part. And for

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Cruz to fall for any of it was light-years beyond stupid. Gingrich had some very sage advice for The Donald: "The answer was simple: Melania was a supermodel on a professional shoot for a very famous [British GQ] magazine. He's very proud of her, and she'll be a very beautiful first lady. Now, if he had just said that and moved on, then the Cruz campaign would have looked stupid, the issue would have been over ..."

I believe that the American electorate sees through all the bombast and vitriol and knows full well that the candidates can have absolutely no relationship with unlimited PACs - even through second or third parties. Be that as it may, you can expect more inventive fabrications funded by super-PACs with the candidates trapped in the clefts of nearby political rocks, so to speak - very much like the ruffians who murdered the ancient Masonic Grand-Master Hiram Abif - severally accusing themselves and excusing each other of fomenting hate and discontent.

My friends, this spectacle is only made possible by FEC rules governing PAC behavior. If you think it's bad now, wait 'til the run-up to the 2016 General Election!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

April 7, 2016

TRUMP vs OBAMA

I was listening to Rush Limbaugh in the car on the way to town the other day, when a guest on the 'phone presented an interesting observation. The Trump campaign seems to be doing the same thing for the GOP this year that the Obama campaign did for the Democrats in 2008.

Wow! No wonder the Republican elite are having such a cow about Trump! Almost single-handedly The Donald is "transforming America" in much the same way Obama did to win his first four years as President. The Republican base is excited - and growing by leaps and bounds. Democrats are switching parties, leaving Hillary's lackluster campaign to wallow in its deceit. Independents are turning out in droves in the states where they have "open" Primaries. And the GOP has seen incredible growth with more young people and blue-collar workers registering Republican than ever before.

Meanwhile, Clinton sounds like a tired old crow while Sanders, with his pie-in-the-sky promises of free stuff, draws "yuuuge" enthusiastic crowds. Hillary seeks to perpetuate the Obama legacy while Bernie wants to move the country even further to the left. Clinton appears to be ignoring Sanders at this point, focusing instead on The Donald, claiming to have received more votes than Trump. Yet, Republicans have been turning out close to double the amount of Democrats at the polls. In a two-way Dem contest against a three- or four-way GOP bout, she is probably right. If Kasich bails (which he's said he won't do) Trump by himself could approach the turnout of the combined Democrats. That may be an overstatement, but as "The Love Goddess" Judy Tenuta used to say, "It could happen!"

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The parallels between the 2008 elections and this year's political cycle are astounding.

Just the vast quantity of people attending Trump rallies is formidable. His supporters shout down dissenters - and there have been a few, what with SEIU, Move-On and Black Lives operations. Similar to Obama's easy style, Trump gets the trouble-makers out with the admonition "Don't hurt 'em."

Growth in the number of registered Republicans and Independents this time around has mirrored that of Democrats before the 2008 elections.

In the electioneering and promises department both men have bitten off more than they can chew. According to *Politifact's Obameter* Obama has delivered on only 45% of his promises and broken another 22%. Trump's proposals to build the wall on the southern border, get illegal aliens to self-deport and come back legally, rebuild the U.S. Military, transform ObamaCare and restructure the Income Tax ... are just a tad on the grandiose side. It's not very likely that Trump will be able to make all that happen in the first four years if he gets elected.

Obama seemed to appear out of nowhere with little experience except as a "local organizer", a stint in the Illinois Legislature and one term in the U.S. Senate. Trump also has little experience to qualify him for the Oval Office, although he's said repeatedly that creating his vast commercial empire more than qualifies him for the job.

"It's like deja vu all over again!" **Yogi Berra 1961**

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April 14, 2016

HE PULLED A TRUMP!

It was former President George W Bush's Press Secretary Dana Perino who exclaimed on Fox News' O'Reilly Factor the evening of April 7th that former President Bill Clinton "Pulled a Trump" when he called out Black Lives Matter protesters for not telling the truth. The first "black" President set aside Political Correctness at a Clinton campaign event to point out the stupidity of the black activist group for encouraging little black kids to hit the streets at thirteen to commit murder and mayhem and then complain that they're being discriminated against because they're black.

Clinton told the Philadelphia protesters that his 1994 criminal justice reform bill helped crack down on gangs who were killing African-American children. "I talked to a lot of African-American groups. They thought black lives mattered. They said take this bill because our kids are being shot in the street by gangs. We had 13-year-old kids planning their own funerals," the 42nd U.S. President said.

In response to a shout from a Black Lives protester that "Black youth are not super predators", Clinton yelled, "I don't know how you would characterize the gang leaders who got 13-year-old kids hopped up on crack ... and sent them out onto the streets ... to murder other African-American children. Maybe you thought they were good citizens ..." Leaving any pretense of Political Correctness aside, he fumed, "You are defending the people who killed the lives you say matter. Tell the truth. You are defending the people who cause young people to go out and take guns."

Good grief! How could a former President of the United States possibly stoop to call a spade a spade (so to speak)?

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How awful! How could the great protector of black communities across the country completely abandon the idea that black people are victims of white America? How could he possibly turn away from the fact that blacks are disproportionately murdered in the streets and hidden away in huge numbers in prisons across this country? It's was easy.

The old master at word-smithing broke out of his well-healed PC cocoon and let fly with unvarnished honesty for a change. Very much akin to something declared decades ago by that great American World Heavyweight Champion Mohammed Ali, absolutely crystal-clear truth floated like a butterfly into the Clinton Rally and, like an angry bee, delivered a stinging rebuff to the Black Lives Matters protesters: "Tell the truth!" Good for Bill Clinton! He "Pulled a Trump!"

The very next day, unfortunately, America's believers in the "Big Dog" were shocked when Clinton returned to the cocoon and apologized for stepping in Hillary's stuff.

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April 21, 2016

BIG YEAR FOR AZ VOTERS

I wanted to know whether statements about voter registration and turnout in this election cycle were breaking records. Living in Arizona, I was interested to see how my state has been faring since maybe 2010. Say, the 2010 General Election. Turns out there's plenty of data.

Since January 2010 the Democrat Party of Arizona has suffered in a massive way. In 2010 registered Arizona Democrats numbered 1.002 million. By January of this year they were down some 8.5% to 917 thousand.

Republicans also lost in strength since 2010 when they had 1.131 million registered voters. The Arizona GOP had 1.105 million registered voters in January of this year, a drop of about one per-cent.

The big winner in voter registration over the last six years was "Other." That category is composed of voters who do not belong to any organized party recognized by the State of Arizona. This includes Independents and so-called registered PNDs (Party Not Declared). This unorganized bunch numbered a total of 982 thousand in 2010. By January of this year "Other" had grown by an astounding 22.3% to 1.201 million.

The 2014 General Election was the turning point for Independent voters (Other) in Arizona. There were 936 thousand Democrats, 1.114 million Republicans and 1.157 million Others.

Total voter registration in Arizona has grown from 3,146,418 in 2010 to 3,254,397 this year, an increase of just over

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100,000 – about three per-cent. It certainly appears that in just over six years Arizona has changed from a Red state to solidly Independent.

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April 28, 2016

DEMOCRACY OR REPUBLIC?

Back in January of 2003, Alexander Marriott of *Capitalism Magazine* wrote the following:

"It has become annoyingly commonplace for republics, whether they are the United States or the State of Nevada, to be referred to as democracies, without regard to the meaning of the word or the implications it brings with it ...

"A republic is a government in which a restricted group of citizens form a political unit, usually under the auspice of a charter, which directs them to elect representatives who will govern the state. Republics, by their very nature, tend to be free polities, not because they are elected by the citizens of the polity, but because they are bound by charters, which limit the responsibilities and powers of the state. The fact that people vote for representatives has nothing to do with making anything free. The logical consistency and rationality of the charter, as well as the willingness of the people to live by it, is what keeps people free.

"A democracy is government by the majority. There is still a restricted group of citizens in a democracy, but this group rules directly and personally runs the state. The group may delegate specific tasks to individuals, such as generalships and governorships, but there is no question that the ruling force in a democracy is not a charter (if there even is a charter), but the vote of the majority. Democracies are free only if the people know what freedom is and are consistent in their application of it. If they don't know this, or more appropriately, if a majority

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of the people don't know this, then a democracy could be just as tyrannical as the worst dictator ...

"As should be plain, there is a giant difference between the two systems of government. One of the main fears at the Constitutional Convention of the United States was that the government they created would be too democratic (causing Alexander Hamilton to suggest a restricted monarchy), because it was quite obvious, then and now, that any majority could vote itself anything it wanted, be it property or executions ...

"But the more pernicious effect is that people actually begin to attribute and incorporate tenets of democracies into our republican structure. Things like referendums and ballot initiatives. These are not only irresponsible but entirely illogical. Why should we be making decisions we elect people to make? What legitimacy is gained from getting a majority of voters to pass anything? If 70% of voters vote to ban gay marriage, does that make it right? If 51% of voters vote to ban smoking, does that make it right? If 99.99% vote to redistribute property, does that make it right? The answer to all of these is 'NO!' absolutely not. Truth isn't determined by how many adherents one can get to go along with you. This is why democracy should be fought off wherever it shows its ugly face, it can and will be used to justify anything a majority of voters wants. Theoretically, a majority could vote for selective free speech, or to have certain unpopular people thrown out of the country or killed. There is no law in a democracy except whatever the majority of people say is the law.

"In the long run though, a democracy will always become a tyranny, either by majority, or if the majority screw things up so badly and a tyrant seizes power from

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the ensuing chaos. The overriding characteristic of democracy is subjectivism and that is its fatal flaw. In other words, reason is irrelevant, whatever the majority wants, it gets and regardless of how unprincipled or objectionable it may be. Rights cannot exist in such a system in the long run because they can be voted away on a whim at any time. So if you're interested in freedom at all you must cast away an ugly term like democracy and accept that freedom requires reason, objectivity, and law, which can only be satisfied by a republican government."

The three branches of our federal government are the Legislative (represented by the Congress), the Executive (with the President as Chief) and Judicial (comprised of District, Appellate and Supreme Courts). Congress is *elected*, the President is *selected*, and Judges are *appointed* by the President and seated if *approved* by the Senate.

I wrote a short treatise on Facebook last month in answer to a post calling for abolishing the Electoral College in favor of a Popular Election. In a lot fewer words I wrote that a Popular Election is the democratic means of reaching the will of the Majority, while the Electoral College is a way our Republic selects its top leadership.

The founders of the United States fought bitterly over the two ways of choosing their leaders and they finally made two wonderful compromises. In the first, they created the House of Representatives, a body steeped in the greatest tradition of democracy. The house is comprised of a quantity of political representatives in proportion to the populations of the states ... less populous states have fewer representatives than the more populous states ... it's the democratic way to have majority rule. The Senate, on the other hand, is the way a republic operates - by giving each state an equal say in how

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

things are done. The balance between Republic and Democracy is obtained by virtue that both houses of Congress must agree for anything to become law.

The second compromise was necessary to balance the power of the Congress, the Presidency and the Supreme Court. It required a novel way to select the President, the guy who signs the vast majority of legislation from the Congress into Law. They came up with the Electoral College, a cross between republican and democratic ways of allocating power.

The Electoral College is composed of a quantity of delegates chosen by voters in the General Election in accordance with each state's laws. Each Electoral College Delegate is charged to carry a vote for the Presidential Candidate they represent by virtue of their election. Delegates are awarded to each state on the basis of their number of current members of Congress. Today there are 435 House members and 100 Senate members. Three additional Delegates represent the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.), making a grand-total of 538 members in the Electoral College. The elections at the state (republic) level *select* those who will *elect*, with an absolute (democratic) majority of no less than 270 in the 2016 Electoral College, the candidate who will hold the highest office in the land. Thus, both the ideals of a republic and those of a democracy are pressed into service to choose the Chief of the Executive branch of the United States.

This is why we call America not a Democracy nor a Republic, but rather a democratic Republic. And this is why we all "pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands."

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

May 5, 2016

WE VOTE FOR DELEGATES?

Last time, we discussed why we have the Electoral College in America. There have been questions about why we vote for delegates and not candidates? One person was incredulous that he was voting not for President, but rather for an unknown delegate who will vote in his place.

We've always voted for delegates. It's just that this election cycle has raised interest in the process. Trump has helped fuel that interest by causing discussion about how the state parties choose the delegates to their conventions. Some do Primaries, some do Caucuses and others, like Arizona, do Presidential Preference Elections. Each state and each Party organization has its own rules about how delegates are selected to go to their State Party Conventions.

By the way, there are only four state-recognized (organized) parties in Arizona: Democrat, Green, Libertarian and Republican. There used to be an organized Independent Party, but they were so diverse they couldn't stay organized and recognition was dropped by the state.

Everybody knows, I'm assuming, that the National Party Conventions choose the Presidential Candidates to represent them. Finite numbers of Delegates selected by their Parties at the state level attend the National Conventions and vote to determine who will be the National Party's Presidential Candidate.

So far, the candidates running to be nominated for President haven't gotten into deep discussions of how the Electoral College Electors are chosen. Let's look a little closer at the process.

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According to *Archives.gov*,

"The process for selecting Electors varies throughout the United States. Generally, the political parties nominate Electors at their State party conventions or by a vote of the party's central committee in each State. Each candidate will have their own unique slate of potential Electors as a result of this part of the selection process.

"Electors are often chosen to recognize service and dedication to their political party. They may be State-elected officials, party leaders, or persons who have a personal or political affiliation with the Presidential candidate.

"On Election Day, the voters in each State choose the Electors by casting votes for the presidential candidate of their choice. The Electors' names may or may not appear on the ballot below the name of the candidates running for President, depending on the procedure in each State. The winning candidate in each State - *except in Nebraska and Maine*, which have proportional distribution of the Electors - is awarded all of the State's Electors. In Nebraska and Maine, the state winner receives two Electors and the winner of each congressional district receives one Elector. This system permits the Electors from Nebraska and Maine to be awarded to more than one candidate."

As you can see, the exact details depend on the state in which you live. Each state is delegated an exact amount of Electors based on the quantity of their Congressional Delegation. It's the way we do representation in a *Republic*. Arizona has nine Representatives and two Senators, making a Delegation of eleven.

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

To review last week's column, there are 435 House members and 100 Senate members. Three additional Delegates represent the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.), making a grand-total of 538 members in the Electoral College. Thus, a majority vote of at least of 270 in the 2016 Electoral College will pick our next President.

Each of Arizona's recognized political parties selects their Electors pretty much from those who have politicked for the position. Those are the people you're voting for in the General election. ie: Your vote for president is a vote for the Electors selected by the party Central Committee, usually during the State Party Convention, or by the Convention Delegates themselves. Depending on the party rules, there is a "pecking order" among Electors, relating to who is chosen to fill the eleven slots and a few alternates - sometimes by election, sometimes by lot or drawing - to attend the Electoral College. If there is a Republican victory, eleven Republicans will go to the Electoral College. A Democrat majority would see eleven Democrats going. Green Party Electors? Probably not so much - Out of 3,297,880 registered voters in Arizona, there are only 4,382 as of March. Libertarians, too, would be hard-pressed to be represented in the Electoral College. There are only about 25,000 of them here.

The process varies a little from state to state, but it all comes out pretty much the same all over. Your ballot ***Democratically*** helps select an eleven person Arizona Electoral College Delegation based on the majority's choice for President in the Voting Booth.

In other words - in each state (except Nebraska and Maine), the popular vote for President results in the majority's representation in the Electoral College. That's the ***Democratic*** way we do it in our American ***Republic!***

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May 10, 2016

EXTRA - CAN TRUMP WIN?

Finally figured out why Trump is such a hit with middle-class Republicans and Independents. It's the same reason Ronald Reagan was such a powerhouse.

The way Donald Trump speaks says it all. His message is always up-beat and even the supposed negatives, for the most part, are presented in positive ways. Donald Trump is no Ronald Reagan, by any stretch of the imagination! But his positive way of presenting himself is somewhere between Barry Goldwater and Ronald Reagan. What's more, he has such a great time with it. He just exudes fun while he's doing his thing!

For instance - to paraphrase - he said, "We are going to build a wall - a Trump Wall - a wall so big that nobody can get over it. And we are going to send all the illegals home to Mexico and they can come back if they do it the right way." Nothin' negative there. What he proposed made most Latinos very angry, but the language he used made everybody else happy for two reasons: First, he has a plan, albeit very simple, unlike anybody in the Congress or the Establishment would dare propose - an actual doable solution to our country's burgeoning problem of illegal immigration. Second, he presented it in a simple, clear, concise and positive way. No beating around the bush like other politicians do - just flat-out, in-your-face, here it is - deal with it.

Now, compare the rants of Ted Cruz in Wisconsin that created a landslide win for Trump. All he did was rant about what a bad guy Donald was. He railed about Trump's foibles and called him every name in the book, including pathological liar. Cruz' attitude and delivery lost Wisconsin

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

for him - bigtime! Instead of concentrating on his own positive proposals for America in general, and Wisconsin in particular, he ranted about Trump and what a bad guy he was. Nobody wants to hear that kind of nonsense. As a result he turned a good shot at winning Wisconsin into a crushing defeat.

I have no idea who will win the General Election this November 8th. Hillary Clinton certainly has some huge numbers on her side. But, I'm not sure she can "pivot" (as they're saying these days) and become the positive leader for which the entire country is yearning. Can Hillary open up and speak frankly with the media? Will she follow Trump's lead by personally using social media to her advantage? Will she originate calls to radio and cable TV news shows like the Trumpster? Will Clinton stay at arm's-length from the press or embrace it? Will Hillary finally accept standing invitations from the conservative media to appear on shows like Sean Hannity, O'Reilly, Glenn Beck and Rush Limbaugh? The Donald has obtained over \$2 Billion in free air time using those techniques. So the question is, can Hillary make the switch from her negatively-charged public persona to America's Sweetheart?

Meanwhile, Trump has his work cut out for him. Can he keep the positives coming, keep putting on a great, fun show at his rallies, and humiliate "crooked Hillary" like he did "lyin' Ted"? Can he make the electorate - not just the Republicans - feel comfortable about his proposed plans for America's future? Will he be able to get hard-core Washingtonians like Jeb Bush, Lindsey Graham and Speaker Paul Ryan on board the Trump Train? Will Donald and Hillary figure out a way to call a truce early on and seriously and truthfully discuss the major issues of our time? Without boring us all to death?

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You know what I want to see? Probably the same thing you'd like to see: A debate between Hillary and The Donald live on all the TV channels and networks in front of a crowd of eighty-thousand at the Rose Bowl Stadium in Pasadena, California! Wow! Follow that a couple of weeks later with a second debate at Sun Devil Stadium in Tempe, Arizona in front of some 60,000 screaming fans. Then, sometime in late September do a third one at Lambeau Stadium with a crowd of some seventy-five-thousand in Green Bay Wisconsin. Now that would be something! Wouldn't it?

Can Donald Trump's showmanship and inventiveness beat Hillary's well-oiled machine? We've got six months, two Primaries and endless punditry to go, so I'm not holding my breath, troops!

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Thayer's Wild Bunch III

May 12, 2016

YADA YADA YADA!

The thing is ... there are these people who insist on speaking at some kinda Star-Trek light-speed! You hear them on radio and TV, buzzing like a hive little bees. There are a lot of them in commercials - mostly at the end. But they're mostly fake, speeded up electronically, so as to fit in the "fine print."

For my money, the best of the fast-talkers are auctioneers. Their skills are demonstrated in an old 1956 Country tune delivered by Leroy Van Dyke here: <https://youtu.be/FltdgMQCYVI>

I remember a story that made CBS 60 Minutes some years back about this guy who claimed to be the fastest talker in the world. His name is James Maschitta and his verbosity rated an incredible 586 words per minute. There's an interview on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/4X4Fy8YqysY>

Five years after Maschitta claimed the Guinness World Record for fast talking, he was gunned down by Steve Woodmore, a British electronics salesman and comedian, who prattled off at a rate easily an order of magnitude more than many typists - some 637 words per minute! Here he is at a mere 603 words per minute in a 1990 TV interview: <https://youtu.be/oJBeEJ3Udgo>

There's this girl. OMG! Trisha Paytas claims 650 WPM: https://youtu.be/JATuY_dVSUK

But, then ... the most hateful of the fast-talkers are participants on radio and TV news-talk shows. They argue points as if they had just had a big hit of speed (methamphetamine). You know, gotta get it all out before we wet our tighty-whities! The worst part is most of them are

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

rude and prone to interrupt other guests, hosts and even moderators.

Normally, when men talk over each other it's difficult to figure out what is being said; maybe it's the tenor of the male voice - I don't know. But when women step on each other it's horrible; like Hillary Clinton, they raise their voices and the resultant screeching sounds much like a gaggle of geese or a rafter of Turkeys! When you've got a couple of super-fast-talkers it's just impossible. I have no idea why the hosts and moderators of radio and TV shows put up with this nonsense. Even in the political debates this year, candidates routinely interrupted each other. But at least they spoke at reasonable speed and clearly enough to be understood! Be that as it may ... I rage at the boneheads in top management, live on the air, and in the journalistic trenches who allow this kind of blatant disrespect of others. It's beyond me why educated adults put up with this kind of behavior. Our children may not behave this way at home, at school or in public! Why adults?

I guess you could say many of us older TV watchers and radio listeners would like to return to the days of yesteryear when we had the likes of Walter Cronkite, Arthur Godfrey, Larry King, Paul Harvey and Don McNeil. Nobody dared interrupt those people - out of respect. Every last one of those folks spoke like human beings!

I still have trouble comprehending why the hosts and producers of today's radio and television programs allow this rude and unbecoming manner of communication. As for me, I can do without interrupters and fast-talkers. Unlike the world record holding speed-talkers and auctioneers (which I adore) they make my ears hurt!

Question: How many of us will be deaf by the end of this election cycle?

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Thayer's Wild Bunch III

May 19, 2016

VISITING DOCTOR PROGRAM

Have you ever scrunched down in a doctor's office, waiting for what seems like an eternity to be seen for an ever-fleeting moment? What a stupid question! Who among the unwashed of us has not been required to piss away their valued time in some doctoral netherland?

A friend and I were commiserating about the time we'd spent in waiting rooms. In some sort of perverted way, that sounds like corporal punishment, doesn't it? You've been a bad boy, Johnny. Go to the Waiting Room!

My friend remarked that "Nowadays, there's less wait time when the snowbirds are gone." He went on, "If they'd bring the doctors with them there'd be no increase in wait times." With the new V.A. Clinic in town, wait times actually are down to less than a half-an-hour.

Snowbirds, by the way, are usually retired or well-to-do older folks from the northern climes of the country - Montana, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin - who like to spend their winters in the southwest.

I think there must be some requirement that patients spend at least twenty minutes cooling down before being checked by their doctor ... so they are able to reach their at-rest mode (with lowest blood-pressure and slowest respiration rates ... and time to go tinkle if necessary.) Anything more than thirty minutes might account for an increase in "white coat syndrome", a condition of elevated blood-pressure that physicians routinely poo-pooed not that long ago.

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We won't go into why most medical facilities are kept cooler than other indoor environments, another cause for elevated blood-pressure. With a long wait, many patients also become anxious or aggravated, accounting for even higher blood-pressure.

White Coat Syndrome is the phenomenon in which patients' blood-pressures elevate significantly whenever they are around doctors, nurses, hospitals, clinics, medical labs or any other place associated with medicine, including pharmacies or drug counters in rare cases. "White coat" victims routinely have normal blood pressure when they or their relatives take their readings at rest at home.

This is a cold, hard fact for me ... I know. At home I normally run about 125/70, quite healthy for an old geezer like me. But at the doctor's office I've been known to get into the upper ranges of what's considered the "safe" blood-pressure range (140/80) because I usually get cold, and the wait is usually more than a half-an-hour, so I get aggravated, too. A ten or fifteen minute wait in comfortable surroundings finds my doctor's office pressure in the 130/75 range.

Let's just assume for the moment that the snow-birds bring with them the aggravation of longer waiting room stays. More patients makes for longer waits. It just comes with the territory. Now what would happen if their doctors came with them? Shall we say just enough to take up the slack? Was my friend right? Would more doctors make a difference?

A large percentage of snowbirds are retired men who have served in the military. They utilize the services at the V.A., creating long winter wait times. Now, if the medical staff at the V.A. could be augmented by a Visiting Medic program, that could relieve the pressure, so to speak.

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The Visiting Nurse program works pretty well. Nurses who like to see the country slowly contract their services, usually for six months at a time, and later move on to another location. In just twenty-five years, a good nurse could work, live in and become familiar with all fifty states! This program accommodates nursing shortages that routinely show up in rural areas.

So, why not create a Visiting Doctor program? Might even relieve Affordable-Care-Act-induced physician shortages! Maybe we could turn this into a political issue ... Naaaah!

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May 26, 2016

GEO H W WAS RIGHT!

The following information is from *History.com*.

"Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion and occupation of neighboring Kuwait in early August 1990. Alarmed by these actions, fellow Arab powers such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt called on the United States and other Western nations to intervene ...

"On November 29, 1990, the U.N. Security Council authorized the use of "all necessary means" of force against Iraq if it did not withdraw from Kuwait by the following January 15. By January, the coalition forces prepared to face off against Iraq numbered some 750,000, including 540,000 U.S. personnel and smaller forces from Britain, France, Germany, the Soviet Union, Japan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, among other nations ...

Hussein defied United Nations Security Council demands to withdraw from Kuwait by mid-January 1991, ... and early on the morning of January 17, 1991, a massive U.S.-led air offensive hit Iraq's air defenses, moving swiftly on to its communications networks, weapons plants, oil refineries and more. The coalition effort, known as Operation Desert Storm, benefited from the latest military technology, including Stealth bombers, Cruise missiles, so-called "Smart" bombs with laser-guidance systems and infrared night-bombing equipment.

"The Iraqi air force was either destroyed early on or opted out of combat under the relentless attack, the objective of which was to win the war in the air and minimize combat on the ground as much as possible.

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"By mid-February, the coalition forces had shifted the focus of their air attacks toward Iraqi ground forces in Kuwait and southern Iraq. [A massive allied ground attack ensued] ...

"With Iraqi resistance nearing collapse, Bush declared a ceasefire on February 28, ending the Persian Gulf War. According to the peace terms that Hussein subsequently accepted, Iraq would recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and get rid of all its weapons of mass destruction. In all, [of Hussein's 300,000 troops,] an estimated 8,000 to 10,000 Iraqi forces were killed, in comparison with only 300 coalition troops.

"Though the Gulf War was recognized as a decisive victory for the coalition, Kuwait and Iraq suffered enormous damage ... Saddam Hussein was not forced from power. In the immediate aftermath of the war, Hussein's forces brutally suppressed uprisings by Kurds in the north of Iraq and Shi'ites in the south ...

"In 2002, ... President George W Bush issued an ultimatum on March 17, 2003, demanding that Saddam Hussein step down from power and leave Iraq within 48 hours, under threat of war. Hussein refused, and the second Persian Gulf War - more generally known as the Iraq War - began three days later."

With the above in mind, I want to explain why President Georger H W Bush was right to call off Operation Desert Storm after just 42 days rather than chase the remains of the Iraqi Army back to Baghdad and capture Saddam Hussein.

A continuing history of war, jihad, terrorism and unrest in the Middle East since February 28th, 1991 should be adequate

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

evidence that HW's decision was correct, even though he was subsequently criticized for not capturing Saddam Hussein.

American foreign policies over the years have encouraged radical Islamists, supported the eventual rise of ISIS and led to the spreading of the belief that Islam shall conquer the world. The method by which ISIS spreads its tentacles is not so much by war, but rather by the ISIL policy of eliminating non-Islamic males and impregnating non-Islamic females. This objective is already growing the beginnings of many millions of hybrid ISIL children indoctrinated in the ways of radical Islam, both in the Middle East and Europe.

Unless this twisted ISIL theory of world domination is put down, its policy of population control will surely spread through Russia, into the East Pacific, Australia and China, slowly spill through Africa and finally take the Americas.

While Saddam Hussein ruled his country with a cruel iron fist, he kept the rise of radical Islam under control. His violent mistreatment of the Kurds and Shi'ites and his refusal to allow UN weapons inspectors on his soil precipitated President George W Bush's bilateral action with the British that became the Persian Gulf War in late March of 1993.

Over the years, America's convoluted tampering in Syria and Egypt, as well as the precipitous withdrawals from Iraq and Afghanistan, has allowed the spread of radical Islam not only in the Middle East, but also into Europe. Had the United States left well enough alone and stayed out of the region after the Iraqis were chased from Kuwait, there is every reason to believe that 9/11 may never have happened.

And that is why I believe that George H W Bush was right.

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June 2, 2016

WHO IS LYING?

Basic training for law-enforcement officers includes the ways and means of lie-detection. Detectives, Detention and Corrections Officers as well as those in command positions are especially versed in the art of ferreting out lies.

That old gag that you can tell when a lawyer is lying (his lips are moving) is being applied to politics during this election cycle. If it comes from Washington or a candidate or the mainstream media it has to be a lie!

I was trained to be a Gila County Detention Officer just after the turn of the Century. During training we were taught how to tell if someone (namely an inmate or suspect) was lying or not. Just because law-enforcement officers know the techniques, it doesn't preclude members of the public from mastering those detection methods.

So, let's revue one of the simplest ways to tell if someone is telling you whoppers. It's called "Visual Accessing Cues", a phrase originally coined by Richard Bandler and John Grinder in their book *"Frogs into Princes: Neuro Linguistic Programming (NLP)."*

You're looking at the face of another person sitting (or standing) opposite you. A "normally organized" **right-handed** person will move his or her eyes certain ways in response to your questions. The person's right side is on your left, his left is your right.

So ... HIS left means YOUR right. Right? Right. Got it?

Good! **Right is Righteousness! Left is Lies!**

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A person who looks **up** to (your) **right**, is trying to **recall** something **Visual**. (Vr)



Looking **straight right** means he's trying to **remember** a sound - **Audible**. (Ar)



Looking **down** to the **right** means he's **internally** trying to **remember** some **Feeling** or event. (Ai)



Looking **up** to the **left** means he's trying to **invent or concoct** something **Visual**. (Vc)



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Looking **straight left** means he's trying to **imagine** or **concoct** something **Audible**. (Ac)



A person looking **down** to (your) **left** is **Fabricating** a feeling or story ... ie: **He's lying! (F)**



Right is **reality**, memory, recollection - **up** visual, **straight** audible, **down** a feeling or event.

Left is **imaginary**, creative, evasive - **up** sights, **straight** sounds, **down** fabrications (lies.)

Remember: The above lefts and rights are predicated on the person being **right-handed**. A person who is **left-handed** will be **opposite** from the above examples

Now, you're supposedly equipped with the basic tools to tell who is truthful or not. This thing is wonderful when you have teenagers ... and even better when you're confronted with one of those lyin' politicians!

Read more at http://www.blifaloo.com/info/lies_eyes.php

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June 9, 2016

WHAT'S NEXT?

I don't generally get into things theological - it's not my way. But, some stuff has happened this year that could use some exploration now before it gets worse. I was raised in a Christian home. My dad was a Christian Scientist. My mom was Presbyterian. She prevailed when it came to Church and our studies until Dad was required to accept The Apostle's Creed, which he did not.

The Apostle's Creed is an oath affirming a belief that Christ *"was conceived of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty, from whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead."*

My dad said he simply could not accept that God would sacrifice His only son to save the souls of all mankind and then send him to Hell for dying on the cross - even though He finally brought Jesus back to sit at His right hand! My dad couldn't understand why any father would punish his son for losing his life - and then forgive him after a couple of days!

My siblings and I went to Sunday School and learned the Catechism. *"In the Beginning, God created the Heavens and the Earth, and the Earth was without form and void ..."* Every American Christian and Catholic kid knows those words from Exodus and can recite the twenty-third psalm. My my dad was fully supportive of our religious education. He just could not join the Church because membership required belief in the Apostle's Creed.

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That did not hinder our family's long-held Masonic belief in God, The Great Architect of the Universe. The Good Lord answers all prayers offered up with praise from those who believe. Both sides of the family have Masonic roots dating back many generations including the founding fathers of both The United States and the State of Arizona.

Freemasons must only profess a belief in a Supreme Being, leaving the door open for "good men and true" of all faiths. Between the teachings of the Protestant and Catholic Churches and the faith-based roots of the Knights of Columbus and the Freemasons we have, for the most part, had order and peace in our country for the majority of our 2.4 centuries as a Republic. Please excuse me. It certainly is not my intent to demean those of other beliefs such as Jews, Buddhists, Muslims and Native Americans. It is what it is.

At any rate, that brings us to today. It appears that we are being overrun by crazies!

We have organized mobs led by paid trouble-makers funded by large national organizations - they say SEIU is one of them - with the sole purpose of disrupting the peace and harmony of folks with whom they disagree politically or philosophically. Black Lives Matter was founded on a blatantly false premise; the George Soros-funded Move-On.org is always in the mix; and the Occupy Movement (once Occupy Wall Street) is still busy disrupting the order of things. There's even *a craigslist* ad that you can "Get paid \$15 an hour to protest at the Trump Rally."

The abortion issue, as law, was settled decades ago yet there has been a continuous drum-beat since that time (January 22nd, 1973) to reverse Roe v. Wade. It comes up every election cycle. And the opponents and proponents get more aggressive and gruesome each time. In the overall picture of

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Life, the Universe and Everything, it gets down to religious beliefs, not politics. But these zealots now appear to be trying to suck the Oxygen out of the room twenty-four-seven!

The big challenge facing us is that most organizers are unable to keep their protesters from turning violent, vandalizing property and being aggressive toward Law Enforcement. This behavior encourages local criminal elements to take trouble to the neighborhoods. And every now and then, some unfortunate soul pays with his life.

Thus far, no elected official, council or law enforcement agency has come up with a viable way to quickly and effectively curb civil disturbances that have paid mob rule at their core.

We now know that Christian businesses cannot refuse service to LGBT couples. In fact, case law was made last year - and upheld - when a Christian bakery refused to make a Wedding Cake for a gay couple. The courts found that the owners were unlawfully discriminating against the couple! When was the last time a Jewish Deli was chastised for refusing to serve a Gentile a ham & swiss sandwich? You don't hear much about Kosher ham, now do you? Indeed. Have you ever heard of a Muslim restaurant being sued for refusing to serve a cowboy some pulled pork? Crazy!

Comes now, The President, demanding that our public schools allow our offspring - male and female, child and adolescent, Kindergarteners and Eighth-graders, as well as adult males and females attending High Schools and Colleges - go to the bathroom, dress and shower together so that a miniscule amount of youngsters who don't feel comfortable with their sexual identity can use any facility they please. This edict, the POTUS proclaims, will be obeyed or funding for federal education programs, such as school lunches, will

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be withheld. Does this mean that all of a sudden our childrens' welfare is being held hostage by The President of The United States of America? What's wrong with this picture? What have we been up to for the last 240 years?

There are many more examples of the craziness taking our beloved country by storm. Somehow, I hope that my readers will not be offended by these rants - but rather, will try to find common ground with their political opposites, agree to disagree, and figure out together how to eliminate these unholy issues from our neighborhoods, towns, cities, states and our beloved USA.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

June 16, 2016

CAN DEAD PEOPLE VOTE HERE?

Public records, including Death Certifications and Voter Registration records, are processed in a very specific way when a person passes away in Arizona. Can the way the process happens open the door to voter fraud? Well, let's see.

When a person dies, the funeral home or other authority handling the body creates an electronic Death Certificate based on the medical record declaring the decedent's passing. The attending physician signs the Death Certificate package and transmits it to the local County Health Department's Vital Records office for disposition. Most of this information is entered directly into the ADHS Vital Records database. The process of data entry notifies Arizona's Department of Health Services about the death automatically.

The Health Department is charged with keeping the record of death and it creates certified copies of the original Death Certificate for \$20 per copy as required. The way Gila County does its Death Certificate data-handling is via the same procedures used state-wide, a fact supported by both the Pima and Maricopa County Health Departments.

Neither the County Recorder, Assessor nor Treasurer is notified of the death. The Recorder is responsible for keeping Voter Registration records and the offices of the Assessor and Treasurer owe their existence to living business, property and home owners. Still, there is no official notification to these County authorities except through the Secretary of State, and then only to the Recorder. It's the law because death records, like health records, are not public information.

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Quoting state law now, Arizona's Department of Health Services supplies the Secretary of State *"a record of the death of every resident of the state sixteen years of age and older reported to the department within the preceding month ..."* It goes on, *"The record shall be used by the secretary of state for the sole purpose of canceling the names of deceased persons from the statewide voter registration database."* Another section requires that *"The name of each deceased person shall promptly be canceled from the statewide voter registration database and the secretary of state shall notify the appropriate county recorder and the recorder shall cancel the name of the person from the register."* The meaning of "shall" is pretty clear - it must be done ... but when?

The way the law reads, it shouldn't take much more than a month or so for the name of a deceased person's name to be removed from the state and county Voter Registration Rolls. While any entity in a document's chain of custody can blame lack of timely action on any number of things, the Secretary of State's office revealed that most delays are due to incomplete information in a decedent's Vital record. Missing information can delay the required notification by as much as six months.

Gila County Recorder Sadie Jo Bingham said that her office just recently received notification from the State of a Payson resident who passed away in October of 2015. "Sometimes it takes a few months to get all the information for them to transfer to us. We receive daily updates from the MVD and other counties through HEI but not ADHS records," she wrote in a May email. Bingham said her office receives notifications monthly from the Secretary of State's office. As a result, her people scan the newspapers for obituaries - even though it's sort of a hit-and-miss proposition. Turns out that's nothing new. The Pima County Recorder said the same thing

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

about her people using papers' obituaries to clear the voter rolls. The Social Security Administration also supplies several reports each year detailing residents who have passed away and are no longer receiving benefits.

Can dead people vote here? Yes! Just about anybody can vote as a "phantom" by absentee/early ballot. All it requires is a signature and the ballot is delivered by the US Postal Service. No ID required, no hoops to jump through. All ya gotta do is make sure the old person is on the Early Voter rolls before they pass. But voting for a dead person is a felony, and so is forgery.

Employees in County Recorders' Offices are trained and certified as handwriting experts charged with looking at all absentee/early ballots, so forged signatures need to be very good. A place like Gila County doesn't have enough people, much less voters, to make such a criminal enterprise profitable, but Pima County with its history of organized crime and Maricopa county, the home of legislators convicted of accepting money-filled paper bags, could be ripe for the pickin'.

But, according to *The Washington Post*, a student journalism project based at Arizona State University analyzed 2,068 alleged fraud cases from 2000 to 2012 [nationally] and found a total of 10 cases of alleged voter impersonation. They found that "while fraud has occurred, the rate is infinitesimal, and in-person voter impersonation on Election Day, which prompted 37 state legislatures to enact or consider tough voter ID laws, is virtually non-existent."

So, do dead people vote in Arizona? The fact is that dead people *can* vote in Arizona, although there is little, if any, evidence that they actually *do*. The Secretary of State's office says that only one case of voter fraud has been investigated in

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the recent past. It was a woman from out-of-state who received an absentee ballot and returned it by mail without marking or signing it. She voted in her home state and was not prosecuted by Arizona.

At this writing, it's clear that dead people across Arizona are not being removed from the Voter Registration Rolls as timely as the law reads on its face. And it appears that a lack of complete information in Arizona's Vital Records is the likely culprit.

The question remains - should something be done about this issue before the end of the 2016 election cycle? Probably not.

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The NOAA Weather Service has generously declared that the Arizona's Monsoon Season began yesterday, June 15th, and will continue until September 30th. Please take note.

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The Arizona Silver Belt has not published one of my columns in the last three weeks, so I'm dropping that weekly contribution. Apparently there is some strong opposition because today's column didn't make it. No problem. We'll just drop the local media and ramp it up a little.

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I've been writing two columns a week for more than a month, now. So, beginning next Monday, there will be two broadcasts - one on Monday and one on Thursday. Hope you enjoy my emails, troops. And thank you so much for your loyal support!

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

June 20, 2016

SUMMER, HOT DOGS AND THUNDERSTORMS

Summer arrived officially this morning ... June 20th at 6:34am EST - to be exact. (That would be 4:34am our time here in the Mountain West.) The Summer Solstice, as it's called, brings with it some of the great questions of our time, what with vacationing, camping and picnics and all.

For instance: Why are there ten hot-dogs in a package and only eight buns? Well, the hot-dog part is pretty simple and it goes back to the beginning of commercial hot-dog manufacturing and sales. Each hot-dog weighs one-tenth of a pound. You get ten dogs in a one-pound package. Makes it easy for everyone. Jumbo hot-dogs come eight per one-pound package.

But that's not why buns come eight to a package. That's a whole 'nuther story! Bakers have always favored multiples that will make up a dozen. The pans that buns are baked in come in sizes that can handle 4, 6, 8 or 12 units. Most bakers settled on eight as the magic number for hot-dog buns. Actually, there are areas of the country where packages of ten hot-dog buns are available. They don't out-sell the eight-packs, though.

In early 2013 the NOAA Weather Service generously declared that the Arizona Monsoon Season begins on June 15th and ends September 30th. So, how come they call our summer rains the *Monsoon*?

I recall vacationing in central Arizona back in the late 40s and early 50's in late July or early August. My folks would load up the Chevy Woody (station wagon) and traipse across

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California and Arizona to visit relatives at Cottonwood and Mayer, and old friends at the Orme Ranch and on the Hopi Reservation. 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.

We always ran into the summer rains. 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. Sooner or later, we'd have to roll up the windows to avoid getting wet.

One summer we drove through a sandstorm in the Mojave desert. It was a dilly! The car had to have a new paint job and windshield. A Phoenix weatherman came up with a new word for it some years back. Now, we call a sandstorm *Haboob*.

In the late 60s Tucson TV weatherman Michael Goodrich 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. Some time later, a still-wet-behind-the-ears Phoenix NOAA weathercaster brought us the *Monsoon*. Nobody remembers his name.

Sometime in the mid 70s or early 80s, the the NWS began to call the water rushing down the washes and creek beds *Flash Floods*. 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. In 1995, after decades of waffling on the issue, Arizona's Legislature passed ARS 28-910, the "Stupid Motorist Law", 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,*

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including groundwater or overflow of water, may be liable for expenses of any emergency response," it says.

I don't recall flash floods - 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. The next morning 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 rumbling with dirt and rocks. There was no mention of flash flood. Just "*The creek came down.*" 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.

Call them what you will - *Chubascos, Monsoons, Haboobs* - the NWS has, for the most part, dropped those fancy words from official forecasts. Now they're just *Thunderstorms*.

Did you ever notice the special smell of summer thunderstorms? Could it be the dust washing out of the air? Or the scent of newly wetted Mesquite bushes? Is there some sort of chemistry in the 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. It's just Summer in the Southwest.

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June 30, 2016

ALL ABOUT "SAFE SPACES"

This July is a landmark in the annals of higher education. It's when the resignations of Nicholas Christakis, Yale's residential Silliman College master and his wife Erika, the school's associate master, become effective. The resignations came as the result of a heated battle between students and the administration over so-called "safe spaces."

Last October, Erika Christakis reacted to a directive from the school's Intercultural Affairs Committee asking students to refrain from donning Halloween costumes that might be offensive to others. She emailed opposing students, reminding them that living in a free society means sometimes having to put up with offensive stuff: "Whose business is it to control the forms of costumes of young people? It's not mine, I know that." That didn't go over well with students who, in retaliation, attempted to get Mrs. Christakis and her husband fired.

Not long after the failed attempt to have the couple removed, an unsettling video appeared on national television. It depicted Nicholas Christakis attempting to talk to a large group of angry students surrounding him on a college walkway, demanding apologies and explanations for why their "safe space" pleas hadn't been heard. Out of nowhere a female student got in Christakis' face, yelling a profanity-laced lecture of what his job involved. "It is your job to create a place of comfort and home for the students who live in Silliman," the student yelled, "Do you understand that?" When Christakis disagreed, she screamed, "Then why the [expletive] did you accept the position? Who the [expletive] hired you? You should step down!" You can watch the

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YouTube video of this disturbing encounter here:
https://youtu.be/9IEFD_JVYd0

In December the couple cancelled their spring semester courses but elected to stay on in their administrative roles. Then, in February, Erika Christakis told the *New York Times* that she was thinking about returning to her work in early childhood education because preschool students “don’t try to get you fired.”

The last straw came after some of the graduating Silliman College seniors refused to accept their diplomas from Nicholas Christakis. He and his wife tendered their resignations effective in July.

Nicholas is returning to his research and teaching at Yale as the Sol Goldman Family Professor of Social and Natural Science. Erika will be taking up her favorite - early childhood education.

This scenario is terribly unfortunate because "safe spaces" has become a wide-spread cause célèbre since last year. It seems to take political correctness to mind-boggling extremes. Today, some groups of students are defending their so-called "safe spaces" with the same tactics as paid protesters use at political gatherings.

Some of the most prestigious institutions of higher learning have adopted the proposition that students are entitled to "a non-judgmental and non-biased space to have an open platform about any prejudicial concerns they may be experiencing." These include Loyola, James Madison, Claremont, U.C.Berkely, University of Chicago and Kent State, as well as Stanford and Yale.

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The following excerpt from Northwestern University President Morton Shapiro, published last January 15th in the *Washington Post*, may explain what "safe spaces" are all about:

"For more than four decades, we have had a building on campus called the Black House, a space specifically meant to be a center for black student life. This summer some well-intentioned staff members suggested that we place one of our multicultural offices there. The pushback from students, and especially alumni, was immediate and powerful. It wasn't until I attended a listening session that I fully understood why. One black alumna from the 1980s said that she and her peers had fought to keep a house of their own on campus. While the black community should always have an important voice in multicultural activities on campus, she said, we should put that office elsewhere, leaving a small house with a proud history as a safe space exclusively for blacks.

"A recent white graduate agreed. She argued that everyone needed a safe space and that for her, as a Jew, it had been the Hillel house. She knew that when she was there, she could relax and not worry about being interrogated by non-Jews about Israeli politics or other concerns. So why is the Black House an issue in the eyes of some alumni who write saying that we should integrate all of our students into a single community rather than isolate them into groups? I have never gotten a single note questioning the presence of Hillel, of our Catholic Center or any of the other safe spaces on campus.

"I'm an economist, not a sociologist or psychologist, but those experts tell me that students don't fully embrace uncomfortable learning unless they are themselves comfortable. Safe spaces provide that comfort. The irony, it seems, is that the best hope we have of creating an inclusive

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community is to first create spaces where members of each group feel safe."



I attended NAU in 1958 and don't recall feeling in need of a "safe space." Now, why is that?

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June 27, 2016

OUR CRAZY UNCLE JOE

Earlier this summer I peddled nomination papers for one of our local candidates. It doesn't matter who - for our purposes here - because we try to maintain some rational balance between conservative and liberal ideologies. While I come from historically conservative Arizona stock, I appreciate the liberal approach to things political. (Remember, I spent nine years as the Vice-Chair of the Gila County Democrat Party - much to my Sainted mother's chagrin.)

When you're out getting signatures on Nominating Petitions, you have many occasions to interact with folks from every walk of life. I got to listen to middle-aged working guys, young kids just starting their families, and older folks barely able to walk but still sharp as tacks. Around twenty per-cent of the folks I spoke with wanted nothing to do with politics and another twenty per-cent weren't even registered to vote. At about two-thirds of the places I visited nobody was home. I'd say that around half of the people who signed the petitions were interested in the process. Most weren't very interested in the local races, but rather wanted to chat about the Presidential candidates.

There is angst and loathing out there, folks! Hillary Clinton is despised by all but die-hard Democrats, who embrace her as they would a close family member. Bernie Sanders is admired for his tenacity, if nothing else, but mostly regarded as "a little too far out there." Donald Trump is the flip-side of the Hillary coin, loved as a brother or abhorred as the spawn of Satan. There is one person that, almost to a man, everyone I listened to admired - Vice-President Joe Biden! Yes. Everybody's Crazy Uncle Joe!

Thayer's Wild Bunch III

If there is one politician on the face of the earth that most everyone admires, it's Joe Biden. This guy would have run and beat the tar out of every Democrat candidate - had he not lost his son. With a war over policies threatening to break out at the Democrat National Convention next month, there is hope that Biden will step forward and heal the great rift that has been developing all summer. The President of the Senate knows his stuff. He understands how government works, both from the inside and as just a regular guy on the outside. Joe's penchant for saying non-political stuff when he's expected to be Vice-Presidential has earned him the nick-name Crazy Uncle Joe.

What I heard out there in our neighborhoods this summer was a yearning from all sides for a President like Joe Biden. He has the "just like us" qualities that attract huge crowds to Trump yet he shares the "insider" know-how of Mrs. Clinton. He understands the trials and tribulations of the young people attracted to Bernie Sanders. Joe Biden combines all the attributes of the other candidates with the hands-on experience of a real pro - and "the folks" get it.

If our Crazy Uncle Joe changed his mind and stepped forward at the Democrat National Convention, not only would he be the Democrat candidate for President, he could also win the Presidency. Perhaps by the widest margin since the Warren G. Harding landslide in 1920!

I'm looking forward to watching the 2016 Democrat National Convention at the Wells Fargo Center in Philadelphia next month, the week of July 25th-28th. It should rival the most exciting conventions in the past, especially if Our Crazy Uncle Joe steps into the arena. As Judy Tenuta, our country's most beloved Love Goddess, has exclaimed in the past, "I'm into Astral Projection! It could happen!"

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June 30, 2016

THE 60s COULD RETURN

"When P.C. world and Trump world collide ... it's likely that the campuses will erupt this fall in political disturbances of a sort not seen since the early 1980s - not out of affection for Hillary Clinton but out of fear and loathing of Trump," wrote *Real Clear Politics* contributor Charles Kesler in a June 10th article. "If he is *elected*, the next four years may be one long demonstration, perhaps rivaling the '60s.

"Debbie Wasserman-Schultz, the head of the Democratic National Committee, got to the heart of the matter when she tweeted, 'Trump's racism knows no bounds,' wrote Kesler, "where 'racism' is the Left's all-purpose condemnation for political incorrectness.

"Political correctness is a serious and totalist politics, aspiring to open the equivalent of a vast reeducation camp for the millions of defective Americans who are products of racism, sexism, classism, and so forth. This is most conveniently accomplished on college campuses, where few people expect toleration or civil equality these days; but it can also take place in police departments, coal mines, the human resources divisions of major corporations, on social media, and in political campaigns.

"... in 2016 the ascendance of P.C. liberalism raised issues more fundamental, principled, and passionate than the think-tank-approved litanies of tax, spending, and foreign policy reforms. Trump alone was willing, eager even, to embody political incorrectness, to own it, not merely to patronize it. And most politically incorrect of all, he got people to laugh with him as he did it.

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Kesler continued, "... there is nothing political correctness stands for so much as the denigration of America, its history and principles."

Will we see a repeat of the disturbances of the 60s and 80s? It's entirely possible, because there are so many organized protest groups funded by the likes of SEIU and George Soros. Instead of hand-crafted signs and posters at political demonstrations, today we see commercially printed placards and banners prominently scattered throughout the crowds. Many of today's protesters are paid to participate and agitate, and even some to incite violence.

Wikipedia reminds us of the happenings in 1968: "Chicago's mayor, Richard J. Daley, intended to showcase his and the city's achievements to national Democrats and the news media. Instead, the proceedings became notorious for the large number of demonstrators and the use of force by the Chicago police during what was supposed to be, in the words of the Yippie activist organizers, 'A Festival of Life.' Rioting took place between the Chicago Police Department, who were assisted by the Illinois National Guard, and peaceful demonstrators. The disturbances were well publicized by the mass media, with some journalists and reporters being caught up in the violence. Network newsmen Mike Wallace, Dan Rather and Edwin Newman were assaulted by the Chicago police while inside the halls of the Democratic Convention."

Will unruliness dominate the remainder of this election cycle? I think it's probable based on what's happened so far. While Clinton never attracted large crowds, Sanders and Trump had massive gatherings that attracted trouble-makers early on, culminating of late in well-funded, well-organized, potentially violent mobs. Sanders' liberal socialist style was not very conducive to organized demonstrations, so he attracted few demonstrators until the Nevada Democrat Party

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Convention, when violence broke out on the floor. Starting about the time of his Tucson rally, Trump's rhetoric and flaunting of political correctness became a magnet for well-organized political dissidents.

Disruption and agitation are the goals of the organized dissidents, keeping rally-goers away - as happened with the road-block at Fountain Hills, Arizona - and pitting physically violent agitators against innocent bystanders - as happened in San Jose, California. So far, no full-blown riots have occurred and there has been no wanton destruction or looting of private property as a result of violence at political demonstrations. Police cars, on the other hand, have not fared as well, considering the damage done to Police cruisers at an Orange County, California Trump rally.

The Republican National Convention is coming up July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio and the Democrat Convention will be July 25-28 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. There is every reason to believe that there will be wide-spread violence and clashes with police outside the Quicken Loans Arena in Cleveland. There are also predictions that verbal floor fights inside the Wells Fargo Center could easily turn to violence spilling out onto the streets of Philadelphia, pitting Convention-goers against well-organized and paid protesters and the cops.

A March 16th, 2016 *Gawker.com* headline reads, "The Republican National Convention Could Be a Perfect Storm for Militarized Police Violence." An April 22nd *US News and World Report* headline reads, "Riot Training Readies Reporters for Convention Violence - As passions rage, reporters are being taught to avoid street violence from protesters, 'party militants' and police."

Hold onto your politically correct hats, troops. It could be a bumpy ride this Summer!

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July 4, 2016

IT TAKES GUTS

Political correctness is wrecking free speech. As a creative writer and author of regular email broadcasts that showed up a few times as a column in the local paper, I've been forced on at least one occasion to forgo publishing due to my stubbornness over political correctness.

One of my columns in the paper not long ago was pulled because of PC. I wouldn't back down from the editor's request to delete a saying attributed to a translation in 1542 by Nicholas Udall, a phrase coined in an even earlier translation by 15th century Dutch Renaissance humanist Desiderius Erasmus. "Calling a spade a spade" would be wrong to include in the column, especially since it was an observation that could offend others. We agreed to disagree.

To be fair, being an editor is a tough job - it requires balancing good taste, good writing and good reporting in the product while maintaining good feelings in the community and the paper's advertisers. It takes a thick hide to run a newspaper. It takes guts. (The politically correct insist on calling it intestinal fortitude!)

It seems like there are only so many outspoken public figures who want no part of political correctness: Joe Arpaio, Lawrence Whitney, Sam Elliott, Charley Daniels, Clint Eastwood, Joe Biden and Donald Trump to name a few.

Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio is a fellow who makes no bones about being politically incorrect. "America's Toughest Sheriff" has been a thorn in the establishment's side for as long as he's been in elected office. He's been re-elected over and over because, while the PC police hate him, the regular folks worship him. Arpaio was the guy who erected

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Tent City in the hot Arizona desert and berated those who complained, noting that "If our boys in uniform can stand the heat in the middle-east, so can my inmates in the jail." Then he rubbed everybody's nose in it by issuing his inmates pink underwear because they were "acting like a bunch of sissies."

Daniel Lawrence Whitney (Larry the Cable Guy) on an episode of CBS' 60 Minutes some time back exclaimed that political correctness had gone way too far. He said, "It's gotten way outta control. You know. I really think that we're at a point in this country where people really need to take the thumb outta their mouth and grow up a little bit and realize there's a lot bigger problems out there than what a comedian did a joke about."

Is there any person of character who doesn't respect Clint Eastwood? He told Germany's Der Spiegel magazine, "I don't want to be politically correct. We're all spending too much time and energy trying to be politically correct about everything." This, while he was out promoting the movie "Gran Torino" in which he plays a racist character who slowly reforms through his relationship with his Korean neighbors. Clint Eastwood shared his opinion of Donald Trump in a huge way earlier this year, speaking on Trump's behalf in California, Arizona, and Nevada. Asked in a December *Extra* interview about the likelihood of his showing up at the 2016 Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Eastwood said, "They might not want me this year because I'll be talking to chairs and doing something stupid."

Our Vice-President, Everybody's Crazy Uncle Joe, earned his reputation for incorrectness by speaking his mind, more often than not the unvarnished truth, whether or not there was a live microphone in the vicinity.

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For his part, Donald Trump became the presumptive Republican presidential nominee, mostly on the basis of his brash, in-your-face, tell-it-like-it-is way of public speaking. The people loved it because it's not politically correct to talk the way the rest of us do over a couple of beers. Critics called his manner un-presidential, yet tens of thousands show up for Trump rallies. There was a huge uproar about his complaints regarding the Judge presiding over the Trump University civil trial. It looks like he was eventually convinced to reign in his rhetoric a little bit, read the tele-prompter and be a little more PC. You know - Presidentially Correct! It takes guts, folks.

But then, you must be wondering if Sam Elliott, Charley Daniels and I were concerned about how long it would take before Trump unloaded on Bill and Hillary Clinton. Naaaaaaah ...

Enjoy Independence Day! Have a beer and celebrate political incorrectness, people!

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Thayer's Wild Bunch III

July 7, 2016

MILK AND REFRIGERATORS

Back in 1999, I was diagnosed with a form of colon cancer. It was a difficult time that quickly depleted my savings and credit, and while surgery brought the threat to a halt, it also brought my ability to pay to a halt. I had to declare bankruptcy.

Bankruptcy is tough - at least for those of us raised in the early parts of the 20th century. It comes with shame. Shame that you couldn't take care of yourself and your family. Shame accompanied with the stigma that you couldn't make it the American way. It comes with crushing guilt. Guilt that deforms happy days into depressing hours for those in its steely grip.

America's justice system allows folks trapped by misfortune to escape the bonds that not so long ago sent people to debtors' prison. Unpayable obligations can be forgiven and new lives begun because we are allowed to start over with the help of our American Federal Courts.

Our attorney directed that we stop paying everything but the space rent, utilities and insurance. The cars were free and clear, as was our home. We were to pay him two-hundred dollars a month while we worked through the bankruptcy. Every remaining penny was to go to create the documentation for the bankruptcy procedure. We ended up with a huge binder crammed full of documents including detailed descriptions of all of our assets, our liabilities and everything that would be subject to the bankruptcy proceedings.

Every family going through bankruptcy is entitled to a year's worth of "supplies", which our attorney said is equivalent to

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what would be needed to survive for one year if we were moving from the frontier to settle in the West a hundred-fifty years ago. That means the housing, transportation, food, clothing, tools and equipment necessary to survive for one year. Wow! Talk about a hand up! It's truly the start of a new life!

Well, we got carpet and drapes, replaced old furniture and bedding, obtained two-weeks-worth of underwear and socks (we had plenty of other clothing), bags, boxes and cases of canned, dried and frozen food as well as the equipment needed to store it, which included a new Gibson refrigerator and matching freezer from Hi-Tyme Appliance Center in Miami. This business of gathering up a year's worth of supplies took quite a while, consuming all the spare cash from the time we filed until it was time to go to the final hearing before the Federal Court in Phoenix.

The legal proceedings, roughly eight months after the initial filing, were uneventful. And then, all of a sudden, we were out of debt - no credit card bills, no medical bills, no contracts - starting out on a new life from scratch!

I wrote this little treatise for three reasons. First, folks should know that bankruptcy is not as horrible and shameful as it was once perceived - it grabs families in debt, hauls them up by their bootstraps and gives them all the tools necessary to make a complete new start in life. Second, Gibson makes a fantastic refrigerator. Third, Fry's supplies Kroger brand milk and half-and-half that can last literally for months, if properly stored.

For some reason I don't quite understand, Claudette had taken but one small glass of milk from the quart she bought on February 29th. For similar reasons, I had not used any of the half-and-half purchased in mid-January. I was in the fridge

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cleaning out the unused leftovers in early June when I noticed the date on the milk. Claudette said to throw it out - it had to be bad after three months. I decided to taste it instead. It was still fresh and sweet as if bought the day before! I poured my wife a small glass and she tasted it. "Great!" she exclaimed. And here it was the first week in June! Then I turned my attention to the half-and-half. It, too, tasted fresh and sweet.

This tale leads me to one irrefutable conclusion: If we had not gone bankrupt and been put in the position of having to buy a new refrigerator over fifteen years ago, we would have had spoiled milk and putrid half-and-half last month! The Lord sure works in mysterious ways. You think?

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July 11, 2016

JACKSONIAN NATIONALISM

I read a *Real Clear Politics* article not long ago originally penned by Nicholas Gallagher of the *National Review*. It was titled "Trump's Jacksonian Nationalism is Wake-Up Call." For those of us used to monikers like Republican, Democrat, Liberal and Conservative, this is a little heady.

This guy Gallagher writes that Trump has awakened a long-sleeping giant in traditional American politics that doesn't show its head when things are going well. "*When Jacksonians take up politics, they do so with a vengeance, and Jacksonian uprisings have overturned the American political order more than once. But Jacksonians tend to be quiet politically when things are going well. ... In the past, Jacksonians have been found at the heart of the Confederacy, but they also formed the core of the Union Army, and later the one that defeated Hitler.*"

Jacksonian Nationalists are a cross-section of Americans many pundits would describe as blue-collar workers. Gallagher: "*... structural shifts in the economy, from globalization to automation, have been breaking down traditional sources of blue-collar and clerical employment, even as 50 years of mass immigration - a large chunk of it not sanctioned by law - have altered the nature of the American folk group. The latter has weakened social cohesion, and the former not only grates on Jacksonians' sense of economic security but undermines their very identity as industrial workers and providers.*"

Gallagher is even more to the point with this powerful pronouncement, "*The Jacksonian sense of common American identity enables self-governance, charity, and neighborliness;*

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for many - including groups that the GOP has been trying to court for years, such as Hispanic Americans and single women without college degrees - it gives important meaning to life."

This is all well and good for the Republicans, but what about the Democrats? Well, I contend that this bunch of patriotic Americans also populates the Bernie Sanders wing of the Democrat party. Blue-collar and clerical workers have been the meat and potatoes of the Democrat party from time immemorial, comprising the vast base of Union support. While the Union bosses have come out for Hillary Clinton, the Jacksonian base has pretty much stuck with "the Bern."

This is not to say that the Millennials, who comprise the remainder of Sanders' supporters, don't have any influence in the process. Far from it. The Jacksonians and the Millennials together have downsizing, declining income and joblessness in common. These are powerful forces not likely to transfer to the Clinton camp without a battle when the time comes.

The Jacksonian Millennials, we'll call them, have been pushed aside over the last decade by the ever growing tentacles of Big Government. And they know it. Millennials are the bunch in their twenties and thirties that haven't been able to secure work befitting their education. They've seen the job market shrink since the Great Recession of 2008-2009 and they've seen the real median American household income decline from \$57,936 in 2007 to \$53,657 in 2014, a decrease of over \$4,200. And, that income gap, as expected, widened to over \$5,686 as median income dropped to \$52,250 when the final reports came in for 2015!

The Jacksonian Nationalists, meanwhile, have stood helplessly by as Big Government stripped them of their jobs.

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These are the Auto Workers pushed out when the Feds stepped in to "save" General Motors. These include the 1400 United Technology workers laid off after Carrier Air Conditioning announced it was closing its Indianapolis plant, as well as the UTEC plant in Huntington, and moving to Monterrey, Mexico. These are the guys told by Hillary Clinton during a CNN Democratic Townhall event last March, and in person at a West Virginia campaign event in May, "We are going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." These are the folks that comprise a whopping chunk of America's "Silent Majority."

Will the Jacksonian Millennials band together with the Jacksonian Nationalists next week during the Republican National Convention? Or will they join forces to support Hillary Clinton during the Democrat National Convention the week of the 25th? Or maybe something in between?

It's a good bet we're gonna find out before November 8th!

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July 14, 2016

PARTY LOYALTY

There is an underlying hatred just below the surface of today's social media. Actually, a lot of it is floating right there on top, visibly present - much like flotsam and jetsam. Democrats and liberals are at war with Republicans and conservatives. It appears, however, that most of us are sitting out this world-class hassle, waiting for the real action to actually get under way during the National Party Conventions.

Before all the fun starts, you might want to brush up on the difference between Democrats and Republicans, between liberals and conservatives, and how their basic ideals differ.

A conservative political party traditionally supports business and opposes high taxes and government involvement in industry. Republicans, Libertarians and Independents have traditionally supported conservative principles.

A liberal political party believes in or allows more personal freedom and development towards a fairer sharing of wealth and power within society. The Democrat and Green parties generally support liberal causes. Several liberal parties are organized at state levels rather than nationally.

Some quotes from a 2010 *Student News Daily* article "*Conservative vs. Liberal Views*":

"Conservatives believe in personal responsibility, limited government, free markets, individual liberty, traditional American values and a strong national defense. Believe the role of government should be to provide people the freedom necessary to pursue their own goals. Conservative policies

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generally emphasize empowerment of the individual to solve problems."

"Liberals believe in government action to achieve equal opportunity and equality for all. It is the duty of the government to alleviate social ills and to protect civil liberties and individual and human rights. Believe the role of the government should be to guarantee that no one is in need. Liberal policies generally emphasize the need for the government to solve problems."

"NOTE: The terms "left" and "right" define opposite ends of the political spectrum. In the United States, liberals are referred to as the left or left-wing and conservatives are referred to as the right or right-wing. On the U.S. political map, blue represents the Democratic Party (which generally upholds liberal principles) and red represents the Republican Party (which generally upholds conservative principles)."

You can read the entire article, which also lists prominent liberal and conservative issues, at this address:
<https://www.studentnewsdaily.com/conservative-vs-liberal-beliefs/>

We should note that left and right also refer to where on the floor members of the US House and Senate are seated. Generally speaking, moderates populate the middle with conservatives on the right and liberals on the left facing the main podium. The more conservative or liberal the member, the closer the seating is to the sides. Thus, the left and the right wings of the Congress.

This article was supposed to address party loyalty. I'm pretty much convinced that party loyalty belongs mostly to the elites, the elbow-rubbers and the Establishment.

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The majority of the folks I know, whatever their political persuasion, are of the same mind - they despise the Establishment. The majority of them look on Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid as left-wing loons. By the same token, Rand Paul and Jeff Flake are considered right-wing nut-jobs. And they blame the government for most of our country's ills. Both the HHS and the EPA are ruining America's economy with their crushing rules and regulations, they say.

Professional people are more candid about their hatred of big government, but blue-collar workers are openly hostile when it comes to the Establishment and slimy way it's been sticking it to America's working-class. There is no party loyalty when it comes to the two greatest issues facing the citizens of the United States: Employment and the economy.

I've come to the conclusion that the outright fabrications foisted on us make the hatred run deep. Information that comes from the government can't be trusted. For instance - people who haven't been able to find productive work and have used up their unemployment benefits are removed from the labor statistics. The government says we have a nice 4.7% unemployment rate, but one in five families have no breadwinner and some 95 million people are out of work - almost a third of the workforce!

Our economy is booming according to the Establishment. To boom, economies must be growing an average of 4 to 5%. We haven't averaged half that in the last twelve months - just 2.025%. In fact, the first quarter of this year it averaged 0.8% (eight-tenths of one percent!) The government isn't talking about recession yet, but we've had the requisite three quarters in a row of declining growth. A year ago growth was 3.9%; the 3rd quarter of 2015 it dropped to 2%; by the fourth quarter it was down to 1.4%; the first quarter of this year

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posted the 0.8%. Still pointing toward recession, they had mistakenly forecast 1% growth.

Is it any wonder jobs and the economy are the most pressing issues in this election cycle? Is it any wonder the elites and the Establishment are held in such low esteem? The disgust is simply apolitical, across both major parties. Party loyalty this time around? Not so much.

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Thayer's Wild Bunch III

July 18, 2016

COMING IN SECOND

I was an athlete at Monterey Union High School (CA) from late 1953 through early 1958.

I played center and end on the JV football team as a Freshman. Center - because I understood how to take out the guy in front of me. End - because I didn't like to get hit and would step out of bounds rather than get trashed by some big bruiser! It was great fun, but because I was a freshman on the second string, I didn't get put in a lot.

Later, because the coach asked me, I tried out for basketball team. Basketball was the pits what with all the running up and down the court. It seemed like a big waste of effort at the time. I was over six-foot-one and the coach was extremely disappointed when I didn't show for the third day of tryouts.

I didn't letter my Freshman year.

I made the Block M club (lettered) my sophomore, junior and senior years as a member of the MUHS swim team. I specialized in the 100 yard Breaststroke and 100 yard Butterfly, competed in the Individual Medley and held down one leg of the 100 and 200 yard Relays. As a sophomore and junior I also participated on the diving team. The competition was fierce!

One of my team-mates - Tim Dougherty was his name - was a world-class breast-stroke and butterfly artist who lived in Pacific Grove. Tim and I traded winning the Breast-stroke and Butterfly each week. We were ferociously competitive. When he came in first, I'd be second, then the next week I'd win and he'd be second.

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We set all sorts of CCAL (Coast Counties Athletic League) records until this big ol' kid from Watsonville came along with the dolphin kick and it was Tim's turn to win. We and coach Marcial Guera complained that the dolphin was not a legitimate part of the Butterfly, but were overruled by the officials. So yeah, Tim got gypped out of a big win. That big kid from Watsonville liked Freestyle better than Butterfly, so we finally got relief from his prowess. He was the Freestyle favorite in every meet from that point on. He had a kick that looked like rooster-tail from a speed-boat!

Coach Guera wanted us to try the dolphin kick. And we did. Not so good. Both of our times changed for the worst. So, we agreed that more practice to build strength and speed was probably the right way to go. Instead of mixed laps we concentrated on breaststroke and 'fly and we cut the time "bobbing" in half. This was back in the days before the one-minute Butterfly record had been broken. After a month both Tim and I were pushing the 60 second mark hard. In timed sprints we both were hitting 63 seconds, faster than the minute-eight we were hitting regularly before the new routine. A five second improvement in a few weeks is incredible!

I remember both of us beating the world Breast-stroke record at one meet - neither of us realized it until someone mentioned that we had come in under a minute - something like 59-point-some-thing-or-other seconds and the Olympic record at the time was like 61.02 seconds (1.01.02). Tim out-touched me that time. Coach Guerra supported our personal goals to beat each other alternating weeks - it helped us break records.

In the summer of 1956, they were having Olympic Tryouts up at Fremont to qualify candidates for the Olympic Trials in Detroit coming up in August. Monterey took along a

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contingent of swimmers. Both Tim and I entered the 100-yard Breast-stroke, although it was my turn to win. There was no thought of coming in second. We were there to qualify for the Olympic Trials! A kid from the Santa Clara team out-touched me in the semi-final by 1/100th of a second or I would have made the Trials! Tim came in third by a hair. Sadly, neither of us made it to the semis in the Butterfly. The kid from Santa Clara made it, though! Tim and I commiserated over our mutual losses but found solace in the fact that finally, both of us had broken the 60 second barrier. I was just beginning my Junior year and Tim was all primed to become a Senior.

Finally, we were beating the guy from Watsonville. Tim would win one week and I'd win the next week. It was tough for both of us coming in third - but it happened on a number of occasions. The cool thing is we started setting records! While I don't recall the occasion at this advanced age, I'm sure Tim beat the 100 'Fly world record again at least once in '57.

I lost track of Tim after high school except for some emails a while back. He passed away at the age of 76 July 20th last year. His obituary noted that he set two unofficial world records in the Breaststroke before graduating from MUHS in 1957. Other than what I've written here, I never heard of any world records set by Tim Dougherty. I found out why on Google. There are no longer any records of our swimming exploits.

According to Wikipedia, *"In 1952, the national federations of the United States and Japan proposed at the FINA Congress the separation of records achieved in long-course and short-course pools, however it was four more years before action to came into effect with Congress deciding to retain only records held in 50 m pools as the official world record listings."* Now, only times from meets held at swimming

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pools in multiples of 50 meters are reported for FINA record-keeping.

Monterey, Watsonville and Santa Clara had world-class Swimming and Diving programs with CCAL records falling at almost every meet. Earlier this year a kid from the San Francisco Bay Area shattered the 100 yard 'fly with a time of 49.25 seconds. Too bad his time won't count as an official 100 meter world record. In retrospect, second place wasn't so bad after all.

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July 21, 2016

HOLD YOUR INVESTMENTS

A little less than a month ago the world went into a tail-spin as the United Kingdom voted to withdraw from the European Union. (Actually the Scots elected to stay on board with the EU.) The stock market (Dow-Jones Average) dropped from 18,004 Thursday night, June 23rd, to 17,393 at the close on Friday the 24th. It was a precipitous drop of 611 points. The following Monday the bloodbath continued with the Dow dropping another 261 points to 17,132. The experts were saying it could take a few days before the dust settled and the market stabilized. Sure enough, the market rallied on Tuesday, climbing 269 points to close at 17,401. By Friday the Dow was almost back to the high a week earlier, hitting around 17,950.

On Wednesday I had advised friends to hold tight - no matter what.

With the market run-up from Tuesday the 23rd from 17,450 or so to over 18,000 Thursday night, it was pretty obvious to me that there would be a sell-off no matter what happened with the Brexit. New highs are almost always followed by sell-offs or profit-taking, especially on Fridays. The successful day-traders and program-traders are attracted to buy or sell when there's a 300 point or more difference between the Dow's high and low. Brexit meant the sell-off would be about twice what anybody would expect with a normal profit-taking Friday. And so it was.

The main-stream media was all over the market drop like stink on caca - all week-end! My people were having a fit. And I simply advised hold on. There was a huge hit to 401(k)s and 509 college funds, averaging two to five percent. The pundits said the world markets lost over two-trillion

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dollars. That was the bad news. The good news? It's cheaper to buy devalued stock! Just don't sell low. In fact, don't sell at all! If the market is down over 900 points, you might want to ask what your 401(k) broker is buying.

Here's why you hold your investments: You have a portfolio of quality stocks (and hopefully some tax-free municipal bonds). The share price is of little consequence ... share prices only affect your net worth - the difference between your assets and liabilities. You (or your broker) invested in certain stocks and bonds for favorable returns-on-investment. That's the only reason to have stocks and bonds - the amount of dividends and interest those companies are paying you to use your money. No matter what the stock value happens to be, you're not losing money if the dividend itself doesn't drop. Remember: Your net worth means nothing other than supporting your claim to be a good credit risk!

The world's most successful investor, Warren Buffett, observed, "Long ago, Ben Graham taught me that 'Price is what you pay; value is what you get.' Whether we're talking about socks or stocks, I like buying quality merchandise when it is marked down." Buffett also said, "Successful investing takes time, discipline and patience. No matter how great the talent or effort, some things just take time: You can't produce a baby in one month by getting nine women pregnant."

Bottom line: Leave your holdings alone. Don't sell just because the day-traders and program-traders are having a heyday. And if you're lucky enough to get a dividend distribution during a market low, you're making money because you're buying low. Interest and dividends are the core of your retirement accounts, not the intrinsic value of a share of stock!

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Monday, July 25, 2016

RNC, WHAT HAPPENED?

Well ... The Republican National Convention was July 18-21 in Cleveland, Ohio. They finished all their political hob-gob and hoopteedoo. So what happened?

Monday: Anti-Trump protesters made a lot of noise trying to get a rule-change proposition passed so that committed Trump delegates could be released before the first ballot. The measure failed on a voice vote.

Blind miracle-girl Marlana VanHoose kicked off the evening's program by bringing down the house with a heart-rending acapela rendition of the National Anthem. And then

...

According to *Mediaite*'s Josh Feldman:

Rudy Giuliani delivered a barn burner of an RNC speech ... exciting the crowd as he talked up Donald Trump and trashed Hillary Clinton.

After delivering some very strong remarks about sticking up for police officers, he very passionately declared, "I am sick and tired of the defamation of Donald Trump by the media and by the Hillary Clinton campaign! He is a good man!"

Giuliani defended Trump on his ability to fight radical Islamic terror—adding "I did not say all of Islam! I did not say most of Islam! I said Islamic extremist terrorism!... And they're coming to get you!"—and said Clinton would fail to keep America safe.

He said that her and President Obama's failure to identify America's enemies hurts our ability to fight terrorism.

Giuliani went down the gamut from Iran to Benghazi to refugees, declaring, "Who would trust Hillary Clinton to protect them? I wouldn't, would you?! Donald Trump will change all of that and more!"

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He said that her experience "is exactly the reason" she shouldn't be president.

Former Navy Seal, the Lone Survivor, Marcus Luttrell spoke from the heart about how Donald Trump is the choice to ***Make America Safe Again*** - the theme of the first day of the RNC. Watch this hero speak via YouTube here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wkWGTsASdqY>

In a first of its kind introduction, a silhouetted Donald Trump appeared from a cloud of light to bring on his wife Melania who delivered a speech about family, friends and teamwork in keeping America safe.

RealClearPolitics reported, "It is kindness, love and compassion for each other that will bring us together -- and keep us together," she said to an adoring crowd, after being briefly introduced by her husband, who broke protocol by appearing on the convention's opening night. "Donald intends to represent all of the people, not just some of the people, and that includes Christians and Jews and Muslims. It includes Hispanics and African-Americans and Asians, and the poor and the middle class." She stunned the Convention-goers with her beauty, grace and intelligence ... and not once did she refer to herself.

Tuesday: Was all about the theme ***Make America Work Again***. After the required balloting, Donald Trump was officially declared the 2016 GOP Presidential Candidate. A cadre of prominent Republicans addressed the Convention including House Speaker Paul Ryan, New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, Tiffany Trump, her brother Donald, Jr. and Dr. Ben Carson.

Paul Ryan had already endorsed Trump in a Janesville Wisconsin ***Gazette*** Op Ed on June 2nd, "I feel confident he

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would help us turn the ideas in this agenda into laws to help improve people's lives. That's why I'll be voting for him this fall," Ryan wrote. So, his talk to the GOP Convention focused on party unity.

Tiffany Trump received good reviews for her talk about her dad, but her brother Donald, Jr. got the big razzberry from the pundits for spending a third of his speech on the Democrats' and Hillary Clinton's bad points instead of revealing more about his dad and where he wants to take the country. Fact is, though, he brought down the house, calling her the first president "who couldn't pass a background check."

Governor Chris Christie, one-time New Jersey Attorney General, prosecuted the case against Hillary Clinton. The roaring crowd of Republicans found her guilty on all charges.

Dr. Ben Carson gave an inspirational pep-talk about political correctness and common sense. He contrasted Hillary Clinton, whose hero and mentor, Saul Alinski, was a believer in Lucifer, with our country's founders, believers in God, the Creator. As usual, Carson did good! Watch his talk on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xh8LOdq66IU>

Wednesday: *Make America First Again*. Featured speakers were conservative radio talk show host Laura Ingraham, Astronaut Eileen Collins, a line-up of star-power including Scott Walker, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Eric Trump, and former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich with his wife Calista. The featured speaker was Donald Trump's running mate, Indiana Governor Mike Pence.

Ingraham called out the press for failing to do its job. She called out the Democrats for picking Hillary as the best they could do. She called on the GOP to "give the power back to

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the people!" Watch her spiel on YouTube if you like:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sqNhDVcvsrg>

Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker came out with a new slogan and new orange and white signs in the crowd proclaiming, "America Deserves Better ... than Hillary Clinton."

Marco Rubio showed up in a video preceding Ted Cruz, who appeared to a standing ovation. *Freedom matters* was the theme of his address in which he declared "Enough is enough." "Voters are overwhelmingly rejecting big government," he said. "And to those listening ... don't stay home in November." Even though his message was positive over all, Cruz was roundly criticized by the media for failing to endorse Donald Trump, something not overlooked by the folks in the audience who were less than enthusiastic by the end of his message. Cruz, with all of the other candidates in the Republican Primary, had pledged to support the Party's nominee.

Eric recognized his dad. And then he heaped it on. He sounded a lot like Bobby Kennedy. In short, his address was a political Kick Ass and Take Names. "My father is running for you."

Calista Gingrich introduced her husband Newt, who espoused the importance of bringing the party together and the crushing need to protect the United States from terrorism. He went on to attack the repressive conditions we are forced to live under today. And he promoted law and order first. He proclaimed that "We can make America safe again. We can make America work again. We can make America first again. And we can make America great again!"

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House Speaker Paul Ryan stepped up to the mike to introduce the Vice-President Elect as a conservative "you can trust", Governor Mike Pence. Pence touted Donald Trump's "Independent spirit" and he said that "We will always stand with those who stand on the thin blue line of law enforcement." He said of Trump's children ..."You can't fake good kids!" He exclaimed that when Donald Trump becomes President the change will be "Yuuge!" And he ragged on Hillary Clinton ... blah blah blah ... finally declaring that "American stands with Israel." "And we will make America great again."

Thursday: The final night of the RNC was highlighted by the appearances of former NFL Quarterback Fran Tarkenton, Jerry Falwell, Jr. and Ivanka Trump, all speaking to the theme for the day *Make America One Again*.

Evangelical Leader and President of Liberty University Jerry Falwell, Jr. was among the first to take the stage for the evening. He set the tone for the night by reminding everyone that this country exists because of the grace of god and our faithful reliance on Him through our two-hundred-fourty year history.

Straight from Maricopa County, Arizona, "America's Toughest Sheriff" Joe Arpaio was also one of the first to speak at the podium Thursday night. In a brief address he was unequivocal in his support for Donald Trump.

And then came a big surprise. It was unscheduled speaker Black Pastor Mark Burns, who whipped the crowd into a multi-colored All Lives Matter frenzy of support for Donald Trump. (Where this guy came from, and who slipped him into the schedule will probably never be made public, but it was a welcome breath of fresh air!) Watch this You-Tube video

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showing the transition between Arpaio and Burns:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mFmKvpbNoRc>

After everybody calmed down a bit, it was time for NFL giant Fran Tarkenton. Tarkenton called Trump a team player, team leader and great coach, someone who always does what he promises.

RNC Chair Reince Priebus took to the stage to rip Hillary Clinton, repeating the litaney of her allegedly unethical and illegal activities over the years, declaring that to her the "oval office is just another cash cow." He declared that "now is the time to stop it" and Donald Trump is "the one who can make it happen." And he reiterated that "if terrorists want to take us down, we will take them down!" He wrapped it up with "Let's stop Hillary Clinton. Let's elect Donald Trump."

Finally, it was time for GOP Presidential Candidate Donald J. Trump to step up to the podium, introduced by his talented daughter, entrepreneur and business partner. Before she would let him speak, Ivanka Trump heaped praise on her dad, to him "What matters is ability, effort and excellence." She said as a millennial she was not Republican or Democrat, but one who knows what's right. And then Ivanka introduced her dad as the "People's Champion."

Trump's nomination acceptance brought the entire stadium to its feet. The whole purpose behind the *Make America One Again* theme was to unite the Republican Party and set the stage for American unity and focus on the future. Well, The Donald nailed it. Safety, Prosperity and Peace. Law and Order. "We cannot afford to be so politically correct anymore!" "An attack on law enforcement is an attack on all americans!" "I am the law and order candidate." "We are going to defeat the barbarians of ISIS." Bottom line: "America First." "America is back - bigger and stronger and

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better than ever before." "We are going to start winning again!"

Friday morning the New York Post quoted Trump's best line, "Remember ... all of the people telling you that you can't have the country you want are the same people' who told you that Trump could never make it to this point."

If you've got an 1:32:49 to spare here are Arizona's ABC15 videos of Ivanka and The Donald:

Ivanka - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SchGydwBVgg>

Donald - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4CVTuOyZDI0>

The Democrat National Convention starts today and will run through the 28th in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

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Thursday, July 28, 2016

THE LARGEST BLOC

The US Census provided some stunning information the other day about America's registered voters. It revealed that 3% of them have no political affiliation. 26% are Republicans. 29% are Democrats. And the remaining 42% call themselves Independent.

Even being immersed in politics and journalism, I had no clue that the great unwashed mass is composed of Independents! Holy smokes! What an epiphany! This election cycle could be a turning point in American history because there actually is a Silent Majority.

These are the people who are fed up with government interference and political correctness. These are the ones who own firearms and know how to use them. These are the ones who could control the horizontal and vertical in our future. These are the blue-collar workers, the clerical staffs and the folks who stand behind the counters at McDonalds and Circle K stores. Is it any wonder that the movers and shakers of the major political parties are at each others' throats?

There are a number of "Independent" parties. Among them are the Tea Party with its diversified groups scattered across the country, the Libertarians, the Green party, the Reform party as well as the fully organized Independent party. These are all referred to as "third" parties. There are so many of them, and they are so splintered, that Independent voters can't be counted on as a Bloc.

This leaves the Democrats, presumed to be the strongest Bloc of voters, even though they are also splintered, as are the Republicans, the presumptive number two Bloc. By

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splintered, we mean there are degrees of loyalty to a party's basic tenets or principles. These can be broken into roughly five groups ... the Far Left, Left, Center, Right and Far Right. The Left and Far Left are generally Progressive while the Right and Far Right are Conservative. The Center Democrat tends to progressivism and the Center Republican leans toward Conservatism. This splintering is what makes political campaigns so challenging.

The trick to getting elected, aside from creating the best fundraising program, is finding the largest common denominators among the many splintered parties, prioritizing them and stressing them as the attributes of the campaign. This election cycle's common denominators include the economy, jobs, the military, immigration, energy and the government.

Progressives have prioritized their issues with government assistance in the lead followed by the economy, jobs, immigration, the military and energy conservation. Conservatives are looking to the economy as their number one issue followed by jobs, overbearing government, the military, immigration and energy management. The party that has correctly matched its priorities to the largest Bloc of voters will win probably the election.

The key question is which combination of splinter groups will form the largest Bloc? That begs the question: Which Presidential candidate will corral the most diverse collection of voters?

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Monday, August 1, 2016

DNC, WHAT HAPPENED?

The Democrat National Convention was in session all week in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania at the Wells Fargo Center. It started off with a bang ... DNC Chair **Debbie Wasserman Schultz** was forced to submit her resignation after *WikiLeaks* released thousands of emails from the DNC database proving that Schultz had been working to "rig" the Primaries for Hillary Clinton, just as **Bernie Sanders** had charged early in the campaign. Schultz removed herself from public participation in the Convention and vowed to step down Friday from her position as Democrat National Committee Chair. Former Mayor of Baltimore and Secretary of the DNC **Stephanie Rawlings Blake** was pressed into service to be the acting Convention Chair and she brought the Convention to order. A trial balloon was floated early in the week that **Vladimir Putin's** Russians were responsible for the hacked DNC emails and were sharing them with *WikiLeaks* as well as the Trump campaign.

Hundreds of angry Sanders supporters demonstrated at Philadelphia City Hall and worked their way down the street to the Wells Fargo Center. A spokesman said they would be walking out of the Convention Thursday, staging a mass exodus from the Democrat Party to the GOP.

Disruption and agitation are the goals of organized dissidents and so it was as the DNC came to order and began their business. The Convention Chair **Marcia Fudge** had to chew some butt to make it clear to the Party's revelers that order would be maintained and that everyone was expected to behave like Democrats. There were obviously two rowdy Democrat factions at odds, having a wonderful time alternately yelling, booing and cheering at each other.

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Monday: *United Together*

Entertainer **Eve Langoria** wowed 'em and called out the Latino community to support Hillary Clinton in introducing Senator **Cory Booker**. "When we are indivisible we are invincible!"

First Lady **Michelle Obama** came out and wowed 'em. It was what was expected, and she exceeded their wildest expectations - probably her best presentation - ever. Watch the whole speech here on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/4ZNWYqDU948>

Massachusetts Senator **Elisabeth Warren** came out and was the dressed-in-red mama, blaming Republicans for saying "no" and put them on notice that the Democrats "are coming for you." She went after Donald Trump about "a stupid wall that will never get built. Another late-night infomercial. And equal pay for equal work. We must get big money out of politics."

Vermont Senator **Bernie Sanders** burnt down the house. He tried real hard "to be an honor to her tonight." He praised Michelle Obama as well as the gazillion Americans who funded his campaign. "This election is not about all the things the media keeps discussing. This election is about where we were seven-and-a-half years ago; running up one and a half trillion dollars in debt." "Hillary Clinton must be the next President of the United States of America." Watch Bernie's speech here on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/9rtXaPV5SYM>

Tuesday: *A Lifetime of Fighting for Children and Families*

After a roll-call vote of the states, as expected, **Hillary Clinton** was made the official 2016 Democrat Candidate for President by acclamation on a motion by Bernie Sanders ...

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with that a huge portion of the Sanders contingent got up and walked out. After the commotion subsided, US House Democratic Leader **Nancy Pelosi**, as part of the Democratic Women of the House, addressed the audience that remained. Following Pelosi's chat, a parade of prominent Democrats addressed the Convention explaining why "I'm with her." Meanwhile, Bernie supporters were in the streets demonstrating their unhappiness.

The Mothers of the Movement - **Black Lives Matter** - stepped up to support Clinton. They included Gwen Carr - Mother of Eric Garner; Sybrina Fulton - Mother of Trayvon Martin; Maria Hamilton - Mother of Dontré Hamilton; Lucia McBath - Mother of Jordan Davis; Lezley McSpadden - Mother of Michael Brown; Cleopatra Pendleton-Cowley - Mother of Hadiya Pendleton; and Geneva Reed-Veal - Mother of Sandra Bland. To a mother, they also stood up for America's Law Enforcement community. It was standing ovation time!

Planned Parenthood showed up in the form of Action Fund President **Cecile Richards**, looking for equal pay for women, affordable child care, and abortion rights reform, asserting that "Come this November, women are going to be more than an inconvenience!"

Former President **Bill Clinton** was Tuesday's feature. It was a great story about how he got her to marry him and how her advice was always on point and "how she always moved the ball forward." He exclaimed, "Actually doing the work is hard." At one point, he called America's military a "national treasure." He appealed to "those who have more tomorrows than yesterdays" to make sure that **Hillary Clinton** is the next President. As one television commentator noted, "He was glorious fun to listen to."

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Meanwhile TV pundits were chattering about two pieces missing from the Tuesday DNC speech line-ups: No mention by Bill Clinton of the happenings in 1988 (the Lewinski affair and his impeachment) and no mention of the impact of ISIS and its widespread terrorist activities.

Something else was not as prominent as a few commentators thought it should be - American Flags. There were a total of ten American Flags on the stage ... five facing the left and five facing right. No televised presentation from the Convention Monday and Tuesday on any network, including C-SPAN, had an American Flag visible on camera.

Wednesday: *Working Together*

The revelers were out in force Wednesday evening, cheering and booing and being rowdy! At one point a large group of them were chanting "Trump Trump Trump Trump!" In response another bunch were shouting "Chump Chump Chump Chump!" The bunch that had walked out Tuesday were out on the street, sweating in sweltering heat that had hit Philadelphia for the Convention.

Former Congressman, CIA Director and Secretary of Defense **Leon Panetta** bragged on Hillary Clinton as strong and smart and courageous. He said Clinton was clear when the time came: "We have to go after Ben Laden." Panetta said Clinton has laid out a comprehensive plan to protect America. And he said that she is the most prepared person who has ever run for President of the United States. As he spoke, demonstrators were at it again, shouting "No More War! No More War!" to counterpoint "USA USA USA USA!"

Second Lady of the United States, **Dr. Jill Biden**, took the podium next to thank everyone for allowing her and her husband, **Vice-President Joe Biden** to serve. With that she introduced a video of him made earlier. **The VP** talked about

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marriage and cancer and the space program and sexual assault and the continuing civil rights battle. "I'm more optimistic of America's chances today that I have ever been in my entire life," he said in the video. And then to the "Rocky" movie theme, he hit the stage. He said over the last eight years the Bidens and the Obamas have become family. He called Michelle "Incredible" and said she had given the best speech of the week. He reminisced about his departed son, Bo Biden, who he said was the one face missing from the crowd that night. He praised "the unbreakable spirit of America." And then he launched into a tirade against Donald Trump, stating "This guy doesn't have a clue about the middle-class." And the crowd started cheering "Papa Joe Papa Joe Papa Joe!" Biden shared that nobody who has ever run for President in the history of this country was less prepared than Donald Trump. "The twenty-first century is going to be the American century," he said, closing with, "We are America, and we own the finish line!"

Former New York Mayor and media mogul **Michael Bloomberg** appeared later to explain that he was not there as a Democrat or Republican, but rather as an Independent. He was there to explain why he endorsed Hillary Clinton. He declared that "We must unite to defeat a dangerous demagogue." He said, "Those of us with our names on the door know we are only as good as our word, but not Donald Trump. I'm a New Yorker and I know a Con when I see one!" He went on to trash Trump and pitch Clinton. He said, "This is not reality television ... this is reality!" In short, Bloomberg killed 'em!

Vice-Presidential Candidate and Virginia Senator **Tim Kaine** was next up, following another video. He accepted the party's nomination to the Democratic Presidential ticket and gave a nice chat about hard work, faith and family. And then he ripped into Trump ... again and again and again, reciting the

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littany of distrust, painting Clinton as the saviour of America. He was very good and he spoke fluent Spanish, "Si, se puede. Yes we can!" To which the crowd responded, "Si, se puede!"

It was a long video that introduced President **Barack Obama**. The place went nuts when he came out on the stage to the podium. And he said, "I love you back!" He talked about the Presidential ageing process; how his girls had grown; how Michelle hadn't aged a day. He reviewed America's progress over the last eight years and, as expected, bragged on the accomplishments of the Obama administration. "Yes, we've still got more work to do." "This is not your typical election ..." And then it was after the Republicans again and further on to support Hillary Clinton. "She knows what's at stake." "She never, ever quits." "There has never been a man or woman more qualified to be in this office." "And then there's Donald Trump," he said. "Don't boo ... vote!" For Hillary Clinton. And he urged everyone to vote - not just for President, but also for Mayors and other elected officials. "We can't afford to stay home," he said. And he launched into a few more "Si, se puedes" The President left no stone unturned in his Wednesday evening address. And then Hillary showed up to give him a big hug! And we finally got to go to sleep for the night.

Thursday: *Stronger Together*

The first half of the fourth day of the DNC was mostly pap. Lots of political blah blah coupled with fantastic entertainment including **Carol King** and **Tito Fuentes' daughter** and her drummers. The former three-term 52nd New York Governor's son - Governor **Andrew Cuomo** - was there to cheer-lead his compatriots. He done good.

There was something else ... the delegates had heard the chatter on radio and TV about the missing American Flags.

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Thursday there were thousands of them in all sizes waved by the delegates ... and scattered all around the inside of the Wells Fargo Center.

Dallas County Sheriff **Lupe Valdez** gave a stirring speech praising her Deputies and law enforcement officers across the country. She, too, done good. Black Lives Matter activists interrupted a moment of silence for the fallen Blue lives. It was a black moment that thoroughly discredited the BLM movement.

Finally, after **Katy Perry** sung her monster hit "Roar", **Chelsea Clinton** hit the stage to introduce her mom. Chelsea said her "wonderful, thoughtful, hilarious mother ... regardless of what was happening in her life, was always there for me." She told a story about a special desk drawer in which her mom left notes whenever she was going to be away. When Hillary went to France, for instance, there was a note in the drawer all about the Eiffel Tower. She said, "That feeling of being valued and loved ... that's what my mom wants for every child ... it is the calling of her life." And she wound up with "Mom, Grandma would be so, so proud of you tonight. To everyone watching here and at home, I know with all my heart that my mother will make us proud as our next president." That was followed by another video ... one about "The Woman." And then Chelsea announced, "Ladies and Gentlemen ... my mother, my hero, and our next President ... Hillary Clinton."

Hillary Clinton, to cheers of "Hill-ar-y Hill-ar-y Hill-ar-y!", stepped up to the microphone, thanked just about everyone on the face of the earth, and did a quick review of the Convention.

To Bernie Sanders' supporters she exclaimed, "I want you to know ... I've heard you ... Your cause is our cause." Referring

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to the Party Platform, she said, "We wrote it together ... now, let's go out and make it happen together!" She continued the theme of the last day of the Convention ... We are all *Stronger Together*.

Clinton ripped into her rival Donald Trump and observed that "He's taken the Republican Party a long way - from Morning in America to Midnight in America. He wants us to fear the future and fear each other. Well, you know, a great Democratic President, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, came up with the perfect rebuke to Trump more than eighty years ago during a much more perilous time," she exclaimed. "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself!"

And then she tied the Republican and Democratic issues together by proclaiming that "We will not build a wall - instead, we will build an economy where everyone who wants a good job can get one. And we'll build a path to citizenship for millions of immigrants who are already contributing to our economy. We will not ban a religion, we will work with all Americans and our Allies to find and defeat terrorism." "So," she said, "don't let anyone tell you that our country is weak - we're not. Don't let anyone tell you we don't have what it takes - we do. And most of all, don't believe anyone who says, 'I alone can fix it.' Yes, those were actually Donald Trump's words in Cleveland and they should set off alarm-bells for all of us." "He's forgetting - every last one of us - Americans don't say I alone can fix it. We say, We'll fix it together!"

Later she went on to declare, "Democrats - we are the Party of working people. ... My primary mission as President will be to create more opportunity and more good jobs with rising wages right here in the United States. ... I believe our economy isn't working the way it should because our Democracy isn't working the way it should. ... That's why we

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need to appoint Supreme Court Justices who will get money out of politics and expand voting rights, not restrict them. And if necessary, we will pass a Constitutional Amendment to overturn Citizens United."

Pretty much the rest of her acceptance speech was composed of platitudes, closing with the following: "Yes, the world is watching what we do. Yes, America's destiny is ours to choose. So, let's be stronger together, my fellow Americans, let's look to the future with courage and confidence. Let's build a better tomorrow for our beloved children and our beloved country, and when we do, America will be greater than ever."

Watch Clinton's Acceptance Speech here on YouTube:
<https://youtu.be/HNEIQ8olnro>

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August 4, 2016

CLINTON VS. TRUMP

Now that the Republican and Democrat Conventions are finished and the candidates are getting out on the stump to do battle, we ought to take a look at the differences between the Clinton and Trump campaigns. In substance, they appear to be light-years apart with few areas of agreement. In fact, the differences are not that black and white, perhaps confusing voters when it comes to choosing their President.

Hillary Clinton is an habitual liar. That was a grey area until the evidence was presented by FBI Director James Comey. It became clear after the media compared her public statements with the hard evidence collected during the email investigation. During a Democratic debate in February, Clinton said, *"I never sent or received any classified material."* Later, as evidence began leaking to the media, she spun her statement adding that she never sent material *"marked"* classified. There is no such marking as *"Classified."* There are only four markings: *Confidential*, *Secret*, *Top Secret* and *Top Secret/SCI* (Sensitive Compartmented Information - used by participants in what are called *Special Access Programs*.) In total, the investigation found 110 emails in 52 email chains containing information that was classified at the time it was sent or received. Eight chains contained Top Secret information, the highest level of classification, 36 chains contained Secret information, and the remaining eight contained Confidential information. There are no grey areas in this continuing controversy. Hillary is a flat-out liar. Period.

Donald Trump fabricates stories. This doesn't get him off the hook, though. He is called a pathological liar by his detractors. Rather than blatant barefaced lies, he makes up

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whoppers, effectively stretching the truth. His story complaining that the Judge in the Trump University litigation had a conflict of interest (because he is Mexican) was a whopper! Coupling building a wall across our southern border to the Judge's Mexican family heritage as a conflict of interest was ludicrous. For starters, US Judge Gonzalo Curiel was born a US Citizen in East Chicago, Indiana (really, not Illinois) in 1953. In addition, his parents, Salvador and Francisca, emigrated from Mascota, Mexico. They married in 1946 and later became US citizens. The whole family, including the Judge's three brothers, are American Citizens. Then, there's the deal speculating why Muslim Khizer Kahn's Gold Star wife Ghazala didn't get to speak at the DNC. That took up at least five news cycles. Remember when he tweeted, "While Bette Midler is an extremely unattractive woman, I refuse to say that because I always insist on being politically correct."? Yeah, Trump is most definitely a liar!

If there is a difference between Clinton and Trump lies, it's substance and severity. There are vast differences between Clinton's statements involving America's Security and Trump's loosely veiled rants. Both candidates are able to claim things that seem to be facts, but turn out to be only perceptions in the minds of the beholders. Both are highly skilled crafters of American language. The fact remains ... they're both liars!

Meanwhile, the mainstream media perpetuates the proposition that all politicians are liars.

If there is a *major* difference between the two Presidential candidates, it would be presentation.

Hillary Clinton appears as an angry harpy much of the time. Her grinding, screechy rhetoric rings rough, especially when she raises her voice, feigning excitement. Unfortunately,

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when she maintains a steady and measured presentation, it's boring. Both Clinton and the Democratic Party's Platform attack Trump at every juncture. In fact, the 2016 Platform mentions Trump by name a record 35 times.

Clinton's attacks give Trump exactly what he needs, though - free exposure. Presentations from the Trump camp are upbeat and fun, for the most part. He tries hard to be America's cheerleader.

Meanwhile, Hillary has done a great job holding the media at arm's-length, choosing instead to purchase advertising to avoid the pitfalls of un-rehearsed, off-the-cuff public remarks. Lately, it seems like that may have changed. Though she refused to have anything to do with Fox News during the Primaries, her very first interview after the Democrat National Convention was with Chris Wallace on that cable/satelite news outlet so bitterly hated by the Clinton campaign.

The Clintons are said to be worth something like \$100,000,000 (100 Million) while Trump's net worth is estimated at \$4,500,000,000 to \$10,500,000,000 (4½-10½ Billion).

Money has traditionally been the difference between winners and losers in the political arena. Trumpisms have kept The Donald center-stage since June 16th of 2015, the day he declared his candidacy. Trump has obtained something in the range of two Billion dollars worth of free exposure via mainstream TV, radio and print media because of his peculiar way of addressing the issues his minions endorse. Trump entered June with \$1.3 Million in his campaign coffers, compared to Clinton's \$42.5 Million. The Trump campaign moved into high gear, announcing a take of \$55 Million after a string of joint Republican National Committee fundraisers.

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Clinton's campaign, on the other hand, announced proceeds of \$68.5 Million in June.

Expect the Clinton campaign and its PACs to spend lavishly on negative ads across America in the months to come. Clinton realizes that she is not a crowd magnet and prefers to deliver carefully prepared remarks, rather than unpredictable quips off-the-cuff. Typical Clinton audiences range in the hundreds for the most part. Trump, in contrast, revels in improvisational speaking, stirring crowds in the thousands into pro-America, pro-Trump frenzies. Trump's exaggerated, in-your-face, guy-at-the-end-of-the-bar manner of public speaking attracts the main-stream media like flies to carrion. This is how and why Trump gets Billions in free exposure. Even when he speaks "presidentially" using a teleprompter, there's the media - clamoring.

This election cycle is shaping up to be like no other in American political history. So, as of right now, it appears likely that on November 8th America's voters will have to choose between a pair of rich, lyin' trash-talkers!

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Monday, August 8, 2016

THE SUPREME COURT

This election cycle has much more at stake than political philosophy. Both major parties believe this year is the tipping point for America's future. One party wants to continue expanding the reach of government and grow the ideals of progressivism. The other seeks to rein in the intrusive power of Government and encourage commercial and industrial enterprise.

Both parties seek better lives for their supporters. Republicans want to reduce the size and reach of government, fix the economy and grow jobs by simply unleashing the optimism of American entrepreneurial spirit. Democrats want the Government to help grow the economy and ensure that all Americans are guaranteed equal rights, including job opportunities and wages no matter their race, color, religion, country of origin, age, physical infirmity, physical or mental limitation, sex, genetic information, reproductive condition, or sexual orientation. Those sets of ideals, in so many words, pretty well define the basic tenets of the two major American political parties.

But, there was something that happened in July that took most Americans by surprise. In a statement that ran contrary to the highest ideals of judicial ethics, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg exclaimed in an interview, *"I can't imagine what this place would be - I can't imagine what the country would be - with Donald Trump as our president ... For the country, it could be four years. For the court, it could be - I don't even want to contemplate that."*

Some time ago New York University School Professor of Law and expert in legal ethics Stephen Gillers wrote an essay about the Code of Judicial Conduct - which, incidentally,

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doesn't apply to the Supreme Court. In Gillers's view, it *should* apply ... and he cites the provision that judges should not "make speeches for a political candidate, or publicly endorse or oppose a candidate for public office" or "engage in any other political activity." Justice Ginsberg just blew that caveat out of the water! At the same time she revealed that she's a hard-core far left progressive, with a fairly predictable stance on SCOTUS decisions of the future - not information to which we're supposed to be privy.

Judges everywhere else in America can not only lose their jobs, but also be disbarred from the practice of law for ignoring the provisions of the Code of Judicial Conduct. Why Ginsberg thought the SCOTUS is above the lofty tenets of the CJC is beyond me! It appears that she thinks just like the rest of the appointed heads of our government's departments and divisions - if there is any way to get away with something, no matter how untoward or shady, let 'er rip!

After a huge uproar from the justice community, Ginsberg apologized for speaking out of turn. What this tacit acceptance of Ginsberg's brief run out-of-bounds means in the long run is whether the Supreme Court will remain the Third Leg in the United States' balance of power - between the Legislative, Executive and Judicial branches of government - or use its massive influence to change America and the lives of its citizens in ways nobody can possibly imagine.

This election cycle isn't about Hillary Clinton or Donald Trump, the Republican or Democrat ideology, or even that of Independent thinkers. It's about the Supreme Court of the United States. Will it continue to interpret existing laws in accordance with Article III of the U.S. Constitution or, outside of that lofty Charter, will it be free to create new laws and regulations in the future? The next President will decide.

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Thursday, August 11, 2016

THE CANDIDATES I LIKE

They've been asking who I like in the political arena for months. And my answer has always been the same: I haven't made up my mind. We still have three months to go and there's a lotta water gotta flow under the bridge before we get to vote. Be patient.

We're not settled on all of the candidates yet because the Primaries aren't until late this month. But, there are a few in the crowd of local, regional, and national folks I do think have something great to offer us peons out here in the boonies.

I don't reside inside Globe's City limits, but let's start with retired Globe Fire Chief **Al Gameros**. For Globe Mayor, he's my boy! **Gameros** has a proven track record of management and service to the citizens of Globe and Southern Gila County. There is another strong candidate - **James Gillette** from Payson. Word on the street is he's trying to take Globe into a position to move the County Seat to Payson. Not gonna happen ... but it's an interesting continuation of a movement that started decades ago and has failed every time because of the untenable costs involved. Talk about skullduggery! Give me **Gameros**.

I only have one preference for Globe City Council, and only because he worked so hard to get on the ballot. Through no fault of his own, **Alexis Rivera** didn't make it and has to run as a write-in for District One Council Member. **Rivera** would be my choice for the job.

For District Two County Supervisor I like **Fred Barcon**. He has a great track record of promoting community development. He's been in the background for years,

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unheralded for his leadership because of his ability to make things happen from behind-the-scenes. For decades **Barcon** has been at the helm (or on the board) of the Gila County Industrial Development Authority (IDA). He and his cohorts on the IDA have been responsible for millions of dollars in development grants for Southern Gila County. **Barcon** and the gang brought a ton of money into Gila County by virtue of the restructure of bonds to the mining community in Southern Gila County; the interest has been a source of funding for other development grants over the years.

Barcon is running against a very strong Central Arizona familia. **Mike Pastor** has been the Gila County District Two Supervisor for years ... and has managed to do absolutely nothing for his constituents. He once exclaimed that he did not want to be roped into siding, one way or another, on Miami Sewer System issues. And he dropped the ball with the Tonto Creek bridge, which had been set up for success and completion with help from the Arizona Congressional Delegation. Like the Miami Sewer, he wanted no part of it. When we had a flood out where I live, we called our Supervisor and asked for help. But neither **John Marcanti** nor **Mike Pastor** knew who our Supervisor was ... and they both wanted to argue the point! Well, we ended up in a conference with **Pastor**, even though **Marcanti** is our County Supervisor! What a joke. At least **Fred Barcon** has a track record of active participation and making things happen! *(Disclosure in full here, troops: I'm the webmaster for www.BarconforSupervisor.com.)*

I'm also partial to some of Gila County's incumbents including County Attorney **Bradley Beauchamp**, Recorder **Sadie Jo Bingham**, Division One Superior Court Judge **Bryan Chambers**, Assessor **Deborah Hughes** and Treasurer **Debora Savage**. In addition, one of my favorite people and politicians is District One County Supervisor **Tommie**

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Martin. She's running for her fourth consecutive term. I don't live in her district, but she's got my total support!

Paul Gosar was the last politician who did stuff for us until political gerrymandering did him out of his representation of Gila County in Congressional District One. We've been stuck with **Ann Kirkpatrick** since then. A do-nothing liberal who represents more than half the landmass of Arizona, Democrat **Kirkpatrick** is running for **John McCain's** U.S. Senate seat. Lord, help us! She is one of those politicians who run away from the media when they start to ask hard questions. A fine example of how she operates happened on CNN earlier this month when she was asked twice by anchor **Brooke Baldwin** if she thinks **Hillary Clinton** was "trustworthy." Both times she completely evaded the question. Our Arizona war hero **John McCain** is still my boy. And for **Kirkpatrick's** Congressional District One replacement, I'm quite partial to Pinal County Sheriff **Paul Babeu**. He speaks his mind and is not afraid of anyone or anything.

David Cook, a Gila County Republican rancher, has worked incessantly to establish a national name for himself. **Cook** is running for one of two seats in the Arizona House of Representatives from District 8. His competition includes Democrat **Carmen Casillas** as well as Incumbent Republican **Thomas Shope, Jr.** Former House member, Republican **Frank Pratt**, is running for a seat in the Arizona Senate. I like **David Cook** as the choice for one of the House seats. **Carmen Casillas** will have my vote in the General for the remaining seat.

For what it's worth, even though I have nothing to do with Maricopa County, Arizona ... America's Toughest Sheriff, **Joe Arpaio**, is my favorite elected Law Enforcement Officer.

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I'd love to recommend some folks in other parts of the West, but I don't know enough about the players and their backgrounds to make any informed choices. Sorry, troops.

It's still WAY too soon to decide on a vote for President. Or any of the rest, for that matter. Are there any politicians that I'll recommend between now and then? Will it make a difference? Probably not. We'll all get to choose on November 8th, just about three months from now.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, August 15, 2016

WOODRUFF'S A KNUCKLEHEAD

Judy Woodruff is a knucklehead. She's has been an on-and-off TV news anchor over the years for CNN, NBC and PBS. Liberal pinhead is how I think Bill O'Reilly would describe her. On Fox's *Happening Now*, the day after the Republican National Convention, she said in so many words that the media's job is "skepticism." She's flat-out wrong!

The media's main function is to report facts - the news - what is (or has been) happening in the last day or so. The media's job is not digging for dirt. What Woodruff inferred is that every reporter's job is to make every story an exposé. But, every reporter is not a great exposé writer. Unfortunately, almost all of today's journalists have that very same liberal hatchet-job mind-set.

THAT's what's wrong with the media. THAT's why Trump picks on the media, especially the bunch that follows him around. THAT's why Hillary Clinton keeps the press at arms-length. And THAT's why the media is held in such low esteem. Every American knows that there are just so many Carl Kolchaks in this country, yet it appears that every reporter thinks he or she can be a better journalist than the one Darren McGaven played in the hit TV show "The Night Stalker."

This is no joke. It's serious business. The two most influential bodies in the world are the United States Congress and the mainstream media. 69% of the public rates the Congress as unfavorable. Only six per-cent of Americans profess trusting the media. The *American Press Institute* reported in mid-April that "The study reaffirms that consumers do value broad concepts of trust like fairness, balance, accuracy, and

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completeness. At least two-thirds of Americans cite each of these four general principles as very important to them.” The most essential quality for media institutions is accuracy, with 85 percent of respondents saying it’s extremely or very important for them to get the facts straight. Seventy-six percent said that timeliness is critical.

I did plenty of news reporting in my broadcasting career. Every day I had to troll for news, write reports and read live on the air what the wire services provided as well as what I had written. It was a grind for the most part, but every now and then, there turned up a little clue in my work that something wasn't being reported. That was the exposé part at work.

It was important to have at least two independent sources of information for a story to pass muster. It had to be the truth, unvarnished. I'd put a few notes away for later use and keep pecking away at the edges - sometimes for months on end - until I could put together a story. Most of the time it was nonsense ... not news, not anything, just a hunch that didn't turn out.

What I tried to do was kinda what Paul Harvey tried to do. Collect the important local, regional and/or national news and present it in a way that made it interesting and informative ... a way that would survive the scrutiny of the ages. Instead of reporting the raw, dry news as the Associated Press (AP) and the United Press International (UPI) used to do, I did my best to tell stories that would have people's ears stuck to their radios. I wanted my listeners to be so involved in my stories that they would shoo their chatty children out of the room or implore visitors to be quiet for a few minutes while they listened. THAT's journalism. THAT's the deal! No sensationalism. Just great stories the way your mom and dad told 'em to you! The way Paul Harvey told 'em.

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Few of today's journalists would let a story that took six months to develop go to waste - it would be reported, no matter the consequences. That's part of the deal these days that puts the mainstream media in such disregard. The consequences of a story don't matter anymore. Even if there are no independent sources. Even ... if it took just seconds to write.

News in its truest form is the reporting of things that happen every day. News is the stuff that informs. Every great reporter is really writing about history. What the America I live in wants is real, in-the-trenches, honest-to-God journalism - not frumious fabrications that excite the emotions - and certainly not gotcha exposés! The real nuts and bolts and red meat of today's news doesn't need hysteria. It simply requires the delivery of interesting information. In short, it needs a professional reporter's innate ability to tell great stories.

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Thursday, August 18, 2016

WHO WINS?

Back in the '70s, in Tucson, I was an active participant in Republican politics. I came with a Republican heritage pre-dating Arizona's admittance to the United States on Valentines Day, February 14th, 1912. My Great-grandfather, George Hance, was the first Secretary of the Republican Party of the Territory of Arizona, before it became the 48th state. It's a heritage I've always been proud of, even after becoming a rural Gila County Democrat in 1993. My political participation in southern Gila County included nine years as Vice-chair of the Gila County Democrat Party and two unsuccessful runs for County Supervisor, one as a PND Independent. It only took four decades for it to sink in ... the winners are the ones with the most votes! Duh.

You may ask why I'm penning this little treatise at this late date. Well, somebody needs to get it in writing that, above all else, voter turnout is the most important thing in politics. Let me reiterate with vigor: ***Voter turnout is the most important thing in politics.***

The Party Platform is a document that lays out what a particular party or candidate wants as the basis or baseline for an election campaign. However, if voter turnout is not a prominent bullet point in the platform (and it seldom is) the odds are about even as to who wins. This is especially important in places where Independents outnumber the Democrats and/or the Republicans. Even in non-partisan elections like School Boards and City Councils, and even Bond elections, getting voters to go to the polls is critical to winning.

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Back in the '70s, Tucson was a "Red" city - Republicans and conservatives ran things. The left, mostly Democrats, busied themselves with a Progressive agenda that included the greening of the city's landscapes, especially spaces on and around highways, thruways and freeways. Bike paths were demanded with every street or road improvement. Over the years the Progressive Liberals succeeded in taking political power from the GOP and Tucson went "Blue." One reason the change happened was the Democrat Party had learned how the Republicans turned out the vote and went them one better. Using Saul Alinski's book *12 Rules for Radicals*, they put Community Organizers to work with the goal of overwhelming the system with Democrats.

Back in the day, the GOP elected Precinct Committeemen to ride herd on registered Republicans. It was the job of every Committeeman to stay in touch with every registered voter in the Precinct and be sure each made it to the polls. In addition, each Committeeman was charged with ferreting out unregistered residents in the Precinct and doing their best to get them registered as Republicans. Tucson was growing by leaps and bounds at the time and there were ample opportunities to meet and register new neighbors. It was tough, though ... most new residents were loyal Democrats from places like Chicago, New York and New Jersey.

(Many of these new residents from the East had used mass-transit all their lives, and the first thing they had to do in Tucson was buy a new car! As a result, Tucson's automobile dealers thrived and the old pueblo's old-timers quickly learned defensive driving!)

Most voters actually believe that the issues matter. Ask any Community Organizer and they'll tell you forget the issues ... they mean nothing ... the only thing that matters is motivating the people to vote for "The Cause" - "La Causa" if you will.

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What The Cause actually is - doesn't matter. Whatever turns the voters on is The Cause, and it alone will motivate them to go to the polls on election day. The issues have little to do with voter turnout. It's an emotional attachment to "The Cause" that turns out the vote, no matter the voters' political persuasion. One more time, troops: ***Voter turnout is the most important thing in politics.***

Who wins? The candidate or cause that turns out the largest, most motivated crowds. That's who.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, August 22, 2016
STICKS AND STONES

"Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never harm me." according to *The Phrase Finder*, "is a stock response to verbal bullying in school playgrounds throughout the English-speaking world. It sounds a little antiquated these days and has no doubt been superseded by more streetwise comebacks. ... The earliest citation of it that I can find is from an American periodical with a largely black audience, The Christian Recorder, March 1862: *Remember the old adage, 'Sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never harm me'. True courage consists in doing what is right, despite the jeers and sneers of our companions.*"

Yeah. Right.

The point here? This finger-pointing and name-calling has got to go. People who can't think for themselves pick up all the trash from others who spew hatred. A logical argument will always impress people, but regurgitating spiteful garbage spewed by some ultra-progressive pinhead shows lack of class and disrespect for others. (Gee, ol' Ted ... why don't you just blurt out your real feelings?)

Pray tell, who was the unbridled wit who first came up with the now oft-repeated "racist, sexist Islamophobe with a massive ego"? Recently, radio commentator Dennis Prager said the left is now calling all Republicans and Conservatives SIXHIRB. (That would be Sexist, Intolerant, Xenophobic, Homophobic, Islamophobic, Racist and Bigoted. We'll avoid conjecture about where the "massive ego" part originated.)

Presenting falsehoods as truth is an old progressive trick used to rile up ignorant folks who don't recognize it as sophistry. Saul Alinski's book *12 Rules for Radicals* is a primer on this

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sophisticated and effective political technique. Another source for this progressive way of political slight-of-hand is found in the writings of Cloward and Piven who, in 1966, called for overloading the U.S. public welfare system in order to precipitate a crisis that would lead to a replacement of the welfare system with a national system of "a guaranteed annual income and thus an end to poverty."

Vladimir Ilyich Ulyanov [Lenin], leader of the 1917 Russian Bolshevik Revolution, is said to have coined the saying "*A lie told often enough becomes the truth.*" That historic quote is fully in play today and the perpetrators usually do so wearing a grin like the Cheshire Cat! What's so confounding to the casual observer is that the followers of oft-told fabrications blindly believe them to be based on proven facts! Those "facts" are more often than not based on the politically-charged observations of biased players beholden to the elite in one way or another.

For example, you constantly hear the assertion that "*It's been proven that trickle-down economics doesn't work.*" In a December, 2011 speech, President Obama said, "*Here's the problem: It doesn't work. It has never worked.*" Well, President or not, he was wrong. Writer David Atkins *DemocraticUnderground.com* June 29, 2014: "*Trickle-down economics is a proven failure.*" Atkins is also mistaken, a fraud.

Capitalism has always worked because the riches at the top have to "trickle down" to create new business opportunities - new factories, new jobs, new inventions and innovations - by providing the necessary investment capital. Without that very basic part of capitalism, there would be no growth in business and jobs because there would be no trickle to invest. [I want you to remember that statement "*no trickle to invest.*"] Banks won't generally loan startup money for unproven ventures. In

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short, the folks with the money want to make more, so they invest in new ventures that they believe will create even more money, more growth, more opportunities, more jobs.

However, Federal intervention with higher taxes, interest manipulation and greater regulation has stifled investment, and today roughly 40% of private money sits invested (on- and off-shore) in precious metals and cash instead of the new ventures that create jobs and opportunities. This Federally-driven set of disincentives drives "outsourcing" and the rich have been taking their money elsewhere ... as Ford Motor Company and Carrier Air Conditioning moving to Mexico clearly demonstrates. As a direct result of these policies, the statement *"It's been proven that trickle-down economics doesn't work"* is still out there, a bold-faced lie, becoming more true every time it's uttered, just as Lenin said it would almost 100 years ago.

Now ... on to the next schtick or stone. A coupla weeks ago the buzz on conservative radio and TV was the un-mitigated bias against Donald Trump on the part of the MSN (the Mainstream Media.) The media has always tried to be fair when it comes to reporting political news. But this election cycle, it seems like the major news outlets - ABC, CBS, NBC, PBS, MSNBC, CNBC, CNN, WAPO, NYT, Huff PO, TIME, and huge swaths of Social Media - have been all in for Hillary Clinton.

The MSN has been ignoring the big headline stories about Clinton in favor of cherry-picking Trump's bones. Trump, who prefers to speak off-the-cuff, has been the target of MSN's noxious nit-picking, while Clinton's falters, foibles and outright fabrications have gone unreported. The clue to the MSN's bias is the incessant reporting of anything conforming to, as Dennis Prager noted, "SIXHIRB."

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Over the last week, however, the unfettered support for Clinton faltered as Trump made major changes in his election team, put the teleprompter to work, and was finally cleared to be himself, delivering at least three block-buster policy speeches. Both Clinton and Obama failed to trek to Louisiana for up-close and personal views of the flood damage while Trump not only visited, but also brought an eighteen-wheeler with him, loaded with relief supplies. Meanwhile, more bad news surfaced for the Clinton Camp as information was released tying the former Secretary of State, the U.S. State Department, and the Clinton Foundation to "Pay to Play" allegations. The MSN was all over both Trump and Clinton by the end of the week.

It seems to me that "Fair and balanced" is becoming hard to make out these days on Fox News. Of course, Donald Trump and Megyn Kelly have been at each others' throats for a long time, and there's been a visible shift in news and commentary delivery toward the left since Roger Ailes' departure in July as Chairman and CEO. But then, there's Sean Hannity, who is unabashed in his admiration of "The Trumpster." And Lou Dobbs? Oh, for God's sake! Dobbs is so pro-Trump, it makes me sick! No doubt about it, Fox News is awfully hard to read these days. Has Fox become part of the MSM? ¿Quién Sabe?

And then there's my wife. Oh, puh-leeze! Every time President Obama or Hillary Clinton comes on TV, there she is screaming at the top of her lungs. I'm glad there are no rocks in our house or the TV would be complete trash! She's come up with a thing that may rival Dennis Prager's "SIXHIRB." She shouts "MFPOSSOB!" (Sorry, troops. You're gonna have to figure that one out for yourself!)

Sticks and stones ... but sometimes they sure can make your blood boil, eh?

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Thursday, August 25, 2016

CASH BACK?

So, how many credit card offers have you received in the last year? Did any of them offer you a fixed interest rate (instead of variable, tied to the U.S. Prime Rate)? OK. And, how many wanted to bribe you with "Cash Back" offers? Just think of it! 1%, 1½%, 2% Cash Back! Wow! And all ya gotta do is buy lotsa stuff!

Now, if you could talk your credit card company into a FIXED interest rate would that be good? What if they stopped promoting cash back and applied the difference to the interest rate? Jeepers! Just think ... if you could get a 9.9% fixed rate with a three per-cent cash back reduction, could you get a 6.9% rate? No frills. No hoop-tee-do. Would that wind your alarm clock?

What they are doing now is like the free glasses in the laundry soap deal! Free glasses ... but you pay more for the soap! The only way you get cash back is by buying stuff ... and if you don't pay off the bill each month you get charged interest for your trouble. It's the old Shell Game taken to new heights. For banks and credit card companies it sure beats the Hell outa Three Card Monty!

I recall about a gazillion years ago, during the Jimmy Carter Recession (1977-1981), Arizona's general usury cap of 18% was lifted because of a Supreme Court Ruling. According to James M. Ackerman, *Interest Rates and the Law: A History of Usury, 1981, Arizona St. L.J.61 (1981)*:

"After 1776 All of the States in the Union adopt a general usury. Most states set the interest limit at 6%.

"Early 1900s A move to deregulation causes 11 states to eliminate their usury laws. Nine more states raise the usury

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cap to 10% or 12%. Banks are not making personal loans. 'Salary Lenders' fill the need by 'purchasing' a worker's future wages in exchange for a high fee - equal to a lending rate of 10% - 33%.

"1916 A Uniform Small Loan Law allows specially-licensed lenders to charge higher interest rates - up to 36% - in return for adhering to strict standards of lending.

"1945-1979 All states adopt special loan laws that cap interest at higher than the general usury rate - at 36% - but cap it nevertheless.

"1977 The federal government passes the 'Community Reinvestment Act' (CRA) which requires banks to invest in their communities.

"1978 The US Supreme Court decides that national banks may export the state interest rate law of their home state into any state where they do business. In response, South Dakota eliminates its interest rate caps. Several credit card issuing banks move to South Dakota and operate nationally with no interest rate cap."

Most of the credit card offers I've seen in the last decade range from 9.99% to 24.99%. I was able to obtain a very reasonable fixed rate on my bank's credit card, but my variable rate with one of England's most respected banks sits a full two points less. I budget to pay off both cards each month. Of course, whether you have fixed or variable interest, a high credit score helps a lot!

Credit scores? The following is from
<https://www.cafecredit.com/credit-score-range/>

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Poll at www.userylaw.com: What's the highest interest rate you currently have on a credit card?

5% to 10%	4%
10% to 15 %	2%
15% to 20%	3%
20% to 25%	4%
25% and up	87%

Cash back? For 87% of card holders, that looks like a really dumb idea. Buy more, pay more, save more! That's the same mentality that says it's great to buy stuff that's on sale because of all the money you save!

To be fair, I have a friend who has a Cash Back Rewards Card and he puts it to use any time he moves money. He pays all his bills and buys all his stuff using the card, so he runs up a tab you wouldn't believe! But ... he pays the card off each month so he doesn't have to pay any interest. And he keeps the (cash back) "rewards" and trades them in for birthdays, vacations, Christmas and what have you. He told me he recently traded cash back rewards for Shopping Cards at different businesses for 2016 Christmas gifts. The thing is, he pays off his bills every month, doesn't have to pay any interest, and reaps the rewards earned with his Cash Back benefit!

To each his own, I guess. But Cash Back? I don't think so. Stupid idea for most folks.

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Monday, August 29, 2016

THE BIG LIE

Last week we discussed sticks and stones. In that broadcast we touched on Vladimir Lenin's famous quotation, "*A lie told often enough becomes the truth*," and we examined the falsity of the statement, "*Trickle-down economics is a proven failure*." Today, we explore what I consider to be the biggest lie of all time: "*The greatest threat to our security is Climate Change*."

The Big Lie was perpetuated January 15, 2008 in a campaign speech delivered by then Democrat Presidential Candidate Barack Obama. "*[The] immediate danger [of oil-backed terrorism] is eclipsed only by the long-term threat from climate change, which will lead to devastating weather patterns, terrible storms, drought, and famine. That means people competing for food and water in the next fifty years in the very places that have known horrific violence in the last fifty: Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia. Most disastrously, that could mean destructive storms on our shores, and the disappearance of our coastline*." That statement was, of course, based on the premise by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore in the 96 minute Academy Award-winning documentary *An Inconvenient Truth*, which was released January 24, 2006.

In June of 2007, the **US Supreme Court** held that greenhouse gases are pollutants that may be lawfully regulated by the EPA. The ubiquitous CO₂ is considered a greenhouse gas. The most common EPA-regulated greenhouse gas is CO₂ (81%), followed by Methane (11%), Nitrous Oxide (6%) and Flourinated Gasses (3%).

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However, **NOAA** (The National Oceanographic & Atmospheric Administration) lists Water Vapor (H₂O) as the most common greenhouse gas. Eric Fetzer, an atmospheric scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California argues, "Water vapor is the big player in the atmosphere as far as climate is concerned." Yet, according to Gore, Carbon is the cause of Climate Change - brought about by humans.

On July 24, 2014 the **BBC** published the following article on its website:

Climate change is "the biggest challenge our civilisation faces", says former US Vice President Al Gore.

Mr Gore sat down with the BBC's Jon Donnison in Australia, where his organisation, The Climate Reality Project, was holding training sessions to educate future leaders in the fight against climate change.

Australia's conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott is viewed by many as a climate change sceptic and once described the science behind human-induced global warming as "absolute crap".

"We're way past time where it's responsible for any national leader to reject the science behind the climate crisis," Mr Gore said.

Eight years after he released the film An Inconvenient Truth, Mr Gore said we have come a long way in awareness of global warming, but there is still much more to be done to find solutions.

On February 10, 2015 **ABC's Jonathan Karl** asked **White House** spokesman **Josh Earnest**:

"KARL: [The president] was asked if the media overstate the level of alarm people should have about terrorism, as opposed to longer-term problems of climate change and epidemic disease. He said "absolutely." [...] So, climate

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change is more of a clear and present danger to the United States than terrorism?

"EARNEST: Well, I think even the Department of Defense has spoken to the significant threat that climate change poses to our national security interests."

A ***Business Inverstors Daily*** article dated January 22nd this year listed five examples to demonstrate that Gore has been running a racket for the last ten years. For one, a decade ago Gore told an ***Associated Press*** reporter, *"Unless drastic measures to reduce greenhouse gases are taken within the next 10 years, the world will reach a point of no return."* He claimed that we were in *"a true planetary emergency."*

Well, here we are today, with more arctic ice than ten years ago; no significant change in average world temperature in the last twenty years; losses from natural disasters lower in 2015 than in 2014 and lowest since 2009; atmospheric CO₂ levels at only 401 parts per million; and a British judge finding that *An Inconvenient Truth* contained nine errors and directing that it not be shown to students unless it included a notice pointing out the errors. Total natural disaster losses for 2016 aren't yet known, but they appear to be on plane with the floods, tornados, and earthquakes world wide in the 2014-2015 period.

Some critical information should be presented at this juncture. Toxic levels of CO₂ are reached at 5% concentration or 50,000 ppm, a condition never found in nature except in or near an active volcano. A crowded auditorium with poor ventillation can develop concentrations of 1% or 10,000 ppm. Most humans can't detect the presence of CO₂ until it exceeds 2% concentration. Normal ground-levels of CO₂ routinely run 300 to 400 ppm; acceptable indoor levels average 600 to 800 ppm, a concentration of 0.06% to 0.08%. The EPA recommends continuous exposure

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to no more than 1,000 ppm. And OSHA limits TWA CO₂ exposure to 10,000 ppm. There's more at http://doomedglobe.com/Pages/co2_toxicity.htm

Here are some additional facts germane to this presentation: Excess levels of CO₂ (above 10,000 ppm) can easily induce respiratory acidosis which may be disbursed by ingestion of fresh air (Oxygen.) According to a **HealthLine.com** posting, *"Respiratory acidosis, also called respiratory failure or ventilatory failure, is a condition that occurs when the lungs can't remove enough of the carbon dioxide (CO₂) produced by the body. [...] Normally, the lungs take in oxygen and exhale CO₂. Oxygen passes from the lungs into the blood. CO₂ passes from the blood into the lungs. However, sometimes the lungs can't remove enough CO₂. Acute respiratory acidosis occurs quickly. It is a medical emergency. Left untreated, symptoms will get progressively worse. It can become life-threatening."*

There's something educated people but apparently few atmospheric scientists understand: CO₂ is converted to Oxygen by plants in a process called photosynthesis. Plants require our CO₂ to thrive and we require their Oxygen for the same reason. CO₂ promotes growth of green plants, which are the root source of food for most of the life on this planet. Obviously, calling CO₂ a major pollutant is akin to blaming tennis elbow on eating!

So, how the **United States Supreme Court** came to the conclusion that CO₂ is a major pollutant that can be regulated by Government is way beyond my small-minded comprehension. I firmly believe they confused Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) with Carbon Monoxide (CO), the noxious gas commonly emitted by gasoline engines, natural gas stoves and heaters, and all open fires. Carbon Monoxide and Oxides of Nitrogen (NO_x) are regulated by the EPA to control

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pollution caused by auto emissions. Colorless, odorless CO is harmful in amounts over 100 ppm, a level at which most smoke detectors sound an alarm. **OSHA** standards prohibit worker exposure to more than 50 parts of the gas per million parts of air averaged during an 8-hour time period. **CO₂** is found routinely at concentrations up to 800 ppm indoors, but that level of CO creates dizziness, nausea and convulsions within 45 minutes, unconsciousness within 2 hours, and death within 2-3 hours.

We all know the world is going to Hell in a handbasket, but if Al Gore's *"true planetary emergency"* is upon us with a mere 401 ppm average of **CO₂** world-wide when it takes over 10,000 to make us sick, somebody needs to go back to high school and re-take chemistry! Worse, there is little effort to educate the world about the real dangers of Carbon Monoxide. As of now, I score Al Gore's report card a solid "F" with his bogus racket pushing ***The Big Lie***. Confused? Refer to Lenin: *"A lie told often enough becomes the [Inconvenient] truth."*

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Thursday, September 1, 2016

WHAT ABOUT IMMIGRANTS?

Our President Barack Obama, and his former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, want to allow more immigrants to enter The United States of America. They are talking 620,000 people who claim to be "religiously oppressed refugees."

We're talking about hundreds of thousands of people from countries so backward that adequate vetting is all but impossible - no birth certificates, no citizenship papers, no legitimate visas or passports. And the vast majority is coming from places in the middle-east that are under siege from hostile Islamic factions. The majority of these people are not women and children ... they're men roughly 18 to 28 years old ... men too cowardly to stay home and defend their homes and homeland. They bring with them the mistaken idea that ISIS and Shariah Law are acceptable in America. They've brought terror, rape and pillaging wherever they've moved in Europe; why would we accept that in the United States? Because, Obama and Clinton insist!

Let's dig a little deeper. Most of these "religiously oppressed refugees" come with little more than the clothes on their backs, expecting to be met with open arms and a hearty handout. They come with nothing, expecting housing, food, healthcare, education and jobs. Few if any come with entrepreneurial spirit, looking to start afresh by creating a new business to support themselves, friends and family. Few, if any, are ready to accept the requirements imposed by the U.S. Constitution for eventual citizenship - learning the English language, pledging allegiance to the United States America, and most important, assimilating into the great American melting pot. Instead, our government ships them to enclaves where they can set up their own forms of

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governance enforced by whatever law they decide applies. Most are looking for welfare from the State and come with little, if any, allegiance to America. Yet, the gates to the United States of America - the Promised Land - are thrown wide open for people who can't meet the most basic vetting criteria required by law!

We haven't come close to identifying the rest of the problem: minor children from South and Central America, swarming our southern border, overwhelming U.S. Immigration Services, and instead of being returned to their homelands, allowed to stay as refugees threatened by terror and oppression. They, too, have little in the way of identification documentation and are almost impossible to vet adequately. Many are allowed to stay because they can supposedly identify relatives living in the United States as US citizens or as visitors here to work or be educated. A rush of new minors is expected this Fall, as the climate begins to moderate.

"Refugees" are accepted into our country on the basis that they want not only refuge from terror and oppression, but also to become US citizens. Requirements for citizenship include fingerprinting and passing an FBI criminal background check as well as a test administered by the USCIS. Their website www.uscis.gov describes some of the most important things required to become a Naturalized citizen:

"USCIS requires applicants to be fingerprinted for the purpose of conducting Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) criminal background checks. All applicants must have background checks completed before USCIS will schedule an interview. If you are 75 years old or older at the time of filing, you are exempted from the fingerprint requirements, but are subject to all other background checks."

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"The US citizenship test includes 100 civics questions. Generally, applicants will be asked up to 10 questions from a list of 100 civics questions. In order to successfully pass the exam it will be necessary to answer at least six of ten random questions correctly.

"The English language portion of the test has three parts: reading, writing, and speaking. An individual's ability to speak basic English will be determined by the USCIS officer conducting the interview. Applicants will be required to read aloud one of three sentences correctly for the reading portion of the exam. Applicants will be required to write one out of three sentences correctly as well.

"You are not a U.S. citizen until you take the Oath of Allegiance at a naturalization ceremony. The oath is administered by USCIS at an administrative ceremony or by a judge in a judicial ceremony. A court has exclusive authority to conduct the ceremonies in certain USCIS districts."

How do we deal in the next year with 620,000 "religiously oppressed refugees" - much less a swarm of unaccompanied minor children from south of the border? How do we assure they all want to obtain green cards, assimilate and eventually become Naturalized citizens. Our political leaders haven't got a clue ... many could not pass the scrutiny and testing required to become Naturalized - yet, they promise "Comprehensive Immigration Legislation."

Give me a break! What exactly is wrong with enforcing the laws already on the books? Presidential edicts to the Border Patrol and INS/USCIS have given law enforcement a choice: Back off or find other work! The Courts have put the kibosh on Arizona Legislation and Maricopa County Sheriff Joe Arpaio's "illegal" enforcement of the laws on the books

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because "that's the Federal Government's job."
Comprehensive Immigration Legislation, my foot!

The problem isn't Illegal Immigration. It's not Arizona. It's not Joe Arpaio. It's the Executive Branch of the Federal Government and its blatant politicization of U.S. Immigration Law.

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Monday, September 5, 2016 - Labor Day
WORKFORCE ALBATROSS

It appears that the majority of the electorate is in favor of reducing the size and scope of the Federal Government and, at the same time, solving the problem of illegal immigration. Wresting control over the ever-burgeoning Federal budget and its accumulated trillions in debt is a must. Full enforcement of existing immigration law is equally important. The sticky wicket is that the solutions to each may be at odds with the common goal of economic prosperity. There is a risk of creating a huge workforce albatross around the necks of civilian America by way of lingering costs at the state and federal levels and another prolonged recession.

There are some scary numbers involved in stopping federal debt growth as well as curtailing the undocumented population. Suffice it to say, it doesn't look good. Hold onto your hats, troops, if you wanna keep reading. This is flat-out mind-boggling!

There were nothing but budget deficits between 1969 and 1998. The national debt climbed during that period from \$353 Billion to \$5.5 Trillion! From 1998 to 2001 (Bill Clinton was the President and there was a Republican Congress) there were four years of budget surpluses. The surplus in 2001 was some \$127 Billion (\$127,000,000,000) and the national debt was \$5.8 Trillion. There hasn't been a surplus since that time. Between 2001 and 2008 the national debt increased to \$10 Trillion. Between 2009 and today it has almost doubled again to some nineteen point five Trillion dollars! (\$19,500,000,000,000) At the current rate, the national debt by 2020 is projected to be \$21.3 Trillion. See the debt clock at <http://www.usdebtclock.org/>

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Back in 1969 there were something like 540 thousand illegal immigrants in the United States. By 2004 that number had increased (in 35 years) a little over 1700 per-cent to some 9.3 million! In 2008 people in the country without lawful documentation had increased to 11.6 million. Since then the official number of undocumented aliens has declined slightly to 11.3 million, which is substantially less than estimates of 14 million bandied about by political and media pundits.

Slashing the budget necessarily comes with reductions in the Federal workforce. With full-time federal workers average salaries in the \$80,000 range, layoffs will create ripple effects across the American economy and could lead to a mild recession. Layoffs will come with the cost of unemployment benefits as former federal employees seek to join the civilian workforce. Those benefits come with a huge range depending on what state is paying them.

Yes, unemployment benefits are paid by the states, and they vary widely - from some \$240 per week in Arizona to as high as \$993 per week in Massachusetts. The duration of payments can range between 19 and 72 weeks, depending on eligibility criteria. Close to a trillion dollars are currently allocated by the Federal government and shared with the states to cover former federal workers unemployment compensation.

Maximum unemployment compensation for a qualified worker in Massachusetts is roughly \$52,000, saving the federal payroll \$28,000. For a federal worker laid off in Arizona, the maximum year's worth of qualifying benefits would be about \$12,500, saving US taxpayers some \$67,500. Using just those basic numbers, the average savings the first year or so, we can say, is something on the order of \$47,750 per laid-off federal employee. (Remember, the government is paying unemployment benefits to these folks to the tune of almost a trillion dollars - but that amount is already in the

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budget.) The budget deficit has been increasing at a rate of about three-quarters of a Trillion dollars a year and we need to eliminate that increase somehow. How many people have to hit the bricks to make that happen? \$750 Billion (\$750,000,000,000) divided by \$47,750 will yield the answer. It works out to the incredible amount of 15,706,806 employees (fifteen point seven million)! The American workforce as of July was 159,287,000. So that means that roughly ten per-cent of America's workforce would have to be laid off just to curtail the growth of federal spending!

They say that illegal immigrants take the jobs that American workers won't do. One of the benefits of strict enforcement of immigration laws is the return of jobs to the American workforce. Many of the beneficiaries could well be the young people who have been shut out of the job market ... provided they will take the jobs that open up. But, not all undocumented workers are un-skilled. A significant number are employed in high-skill, high-pay positions. Can there be any certainty that those jobs would open up to laid-off federal employees? Are those jobs under-the-table and hence not reported? Would those employers risk the liability of exposing a non-existent job by filling it with a former federal employee?

The big question in this sort of double-pronged approach to curtailing government growth and suppressing illegal immigration is: Will there be enough jobs to take up the slack created by federal layoffs and either forced or self-deportations of illegals? Since the development and adoption of a federal budget as well as the process of deportation can take the better part of a year, will the resultant slowing of the economy create a recession?

On this Labor Day, 2016 it's important to remember that even if these processes were to begin in January of 2017, we

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wouldn't see the results for a year or more. Depending on whether federal regulation is tightened or eased and whether taxes go up or down, the depth and duration of a possible 2017-18 recession could be influenced by the level of federal layoffs and the degree of immigration control imposed on the population. The future of work in America depends on who next holds the country's highest office and what party holds the majority in the Senate.

Now, I think its time to forget that nonsense for the rest of the day (it being Labor Day and all) and kick back with a six-pack of ice-cold Bud. L'Chiam, troops!

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Thursday, September 8, 2016

ENDEAVOR TO PERSEVERE

Chief Dan George, in the movie "*The Outlaw Josey Wales*", was speaking about his visit to Washington, DC, dressed like Abraham Lincoln. Lone Watie had lost his closest family on the *Trail of Tears* and had joined others to speak with the great leaders of the United States. They wanted to know what to do next. The Secretary of the Interior gave them some advice.

The Chief tells the story this way:

I wore this frock coat in Washington, before the war. We wore them because we belonged to the Five Civilized Tribes. We dressed ourself up like Abraham Lincoln. You know, we got to see the Secretary of the Interior. He said, "Boy! You boys sure look civilized!" He congratulated us, and he gave us medals for looking so civilized. We told him about how our land had been stolen. Our people were dying. When we finished, he shook our hands and said, "Endeavor to persevere." They stood us in a line - John Jumper, Junior McIntosh, Buffalo Hump, Jim Pockmark, and me. I'm Lone Watie. They took our pictures, and the newspapers said, "Indians Vow to Endeavor to Persevere." We thought about it for a long time. "Endeavor to persevere." And when we had thought about it long enough, we declared war on the Union.

Endeavor to persevere. Probably the best personal, political and military advice of all time.

What if Brigadier General Anthony Clement McAuliffe had not taken that advice?

Wikipedia tells the story this way:

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"In December 1944, the German army launched the surprise attack that became the Battle of the Bulge. Major General Maxwell D. Taylor, commander of the 101st Airborne Division, was attending a staff conference in the United States, at the time. During Taylor's absence, McAuliffe commanded the 101st and its attached troops. At Bastogne, the 101st was besieged by a far larger force of Germans under the command of General Heinrich Freiherr von Lüttwitz.

"On December 22, 1944, von Lüttwitz dispatched a party, consisting of a major, a lieutenant, and two enlisted men under a flag of truce to deliver an ultimatum. Entering the American lines southeast of Bastogne (occupied by Company F, 2nd Battalion, 327th Glider Infantry), the German party delivered the following to Gen. McAuliffe:

To the U.S.A. Commander of the encircled town of Bastogne.

The fortune of war is changing. This time the U.S.A. forces in and near Bastogne have been encircled by strong German armored units. More German armored units have crossed the river Our near Ortheuville, have taken Marche and reached St. Hubert by passing through Hompre-Sibret-Tillet. Libramont is in German hands.

There is only one possibility to save the encircled U.S.A. troops from total annihilation: that is the honorable surrender of the encircled town. In order to think it over a term of two hours will be granted beginning with the presentation of this note.

If this proposal should be rejected one German Artillery Corps and six heavy A. A. Battalions are ready to annihilate the U.S.A. troops in and near Bastogne. The order for firing will be given immediately after this two hours term.

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All the serious civilian losses caused by this artillery fire would not correspond with the well-known American humanity.

The German Commander.

"According to those present when McAuliffe received the German message, he read it, crumpled it into a ball, threw it in a wastepaper basket, and muttered, 'Aw, nuts'. The officers in McAuliffe's command post were trying to find suitable language for an official reply when Lt. Col. Harry Kinnard suggested that McAuliffe's first response summed up the situation pretty well, and the others agreed. The official reply was typed and delivered by Colonel Joseph Harper, commanding the 327th Glider Infantry, to the German delegation. It was as follows:

To the German Commander.

NUTS!

The American Commander

"The German major appeared confused and asked Harper what the message meant. Harper said, 'In plain English? Go to hell.' The choice of 'Nuts!' rather than something earthier was typical for McAuliffe. Vincent Vicari, his personal aide at the time, recalled that 'General Mac was the only general I ever knew who did not use profane language. "Nuts" was part of his normal vocabulary.'

"The artillery fire did not materialize, although several infantry and tank assaults were directed at the positions of the 327th Glider Infantry. In addition, the German Luftwaffe attacked the town, bombing it nightly. The 101st held off the Germans until the 4th Armored Division arrived on December 26 to provide reinforcement.

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"For his actions at Bastogne, McAuliffe was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by General Patton on December 30, 1944, followed later by the Distinguished Service Medal."

Think of all the greatest American heroes ... General **George Washington**, the Father of our Country; **Alvin York**, World War I's "greatest civilian soldier"; USMC Corporal **Ira Hayes**, Pima Indian, revered WW II Iwo Jima Flag-raiser; and **Audie Murphy**, one of the most decorated American combat soldiers of World War II.

Now, just three days from the fifteenth anniversary of that dark day in our nation's history, think about New York's **First Responders** trying to save others as the the World Trade Center Twin Towers collapsed around them on September 11, 2001. **America's finest**, the cops and the firefighters and the EMTs and the construction workers, all turned out to help during and after the al-Qaeda attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon. That day, while thousands died in the inundation and conflagration caused by commandeered aircraft, the bravest of the brave stood their ground. And in the weeks that followed we watched enthralled from the cheap seats in front of our television sets as "The Pile" slowly disappeared, one piece at a time, at the hands of our nation's heroes. It was all about American gallantry and heroism!

And, you know what? At their core, each and every one of those American heroes - McAuliffe, Washington, York, Hayes, Murphy and New York's First Responders - had the same basic credo: **Endeavor to persevere**.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, September 12, 2016

TRASH TALK

The political campaigns have turned into verbally negative free-for-alls. Or at least that's what they seem to have become. It's Insult City. "Bla-bla-bla is a limp-wristed racist criminal!" "So-and-so is a corrupt xenophobic biggot!" Sexist, Intolerant, Xenophobic, Homophobic, Corrupt, Islamapobic, Racist, Bigoted, Basket of deplorables. Isn't that just ducky? Isn't politics such fun? Yes! And they came up with a supposedly new political force - the Alt-right.

I got an email a few weeks ago from the Trump campaign (over RNC Chair Reince Priebus' signature). It contained a link to a questionnaire. I haven't received any communications from the Clinton people (even though once-upon-a-time I was supposedly a prominent Democrat.) So, I was inquisitive. It turned out to be quite a comprehensive survey, covering everything from soup to nuts. It covered prioritizing the main issues in depth. There were a lot of multiple choices, but most included "other" and a space for comments about it. I've taken written and over-the-phone surveys before, but this one was much more comprehensive than any I've ever seen.

One of the questions in the Trump survey was about presentation. Which do you want to see as the Trump campaign moves forward: (A) Negative attacks against Hillary Clinton, (B) Positive messages about the future of America, (C) No preference, or (D) Other. I chose (D) Other and submitted a comment that went something like this:

I want this negative stuff to stop! It's turning off the electorate. Part of what turned the voters on during the Republican Primary was Trump's positive, politically-incorrect presentation in the plain language they speak out on the golf course or down at the local bar. Trash-talk about

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Clinton does nobody any good because every mention of her is just like free advertising. Let the MSN do that stuff ... and they will - count on it! The most important point is to press the forward-looking issues and solutions that will benefit the vast majority of all Americans. The campaign makes progress every time ol' Ron Reagan's positive view of America surfaces. Try to keep that in mind.

Other than that answer, the ones I gave to the other questions were pretty much what the rest of the voting populace believes, whether leaning Left, Right, Hard Left, Alt-right, Democrat, Green, Libertarian or Republican. It was refreshing to have an opportunity to speak my peace. I hope all of the political campaigns will take that advice this time around.

So far, I still haven't heard from Hillary Clinton's people. Guess they just don't care.

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Thursday, September 15, 2016

GLUTEN FREE?

You should know that some of this stuff is the result of plagiarism ... yeah, I'm lazy!

At any rate ... First conceived in 1921 by the Taggart Baking Company, Wonder Bread grew into an iconic loaf, bleached-white, sugar-heavy and nutrient-enriched. Wonder Bread entered the market in the post-war era with a number of key advancements: Wonder Bread was the first to introduce the 1.5 pound loaf, a jump over the existing one-pounders of the time. And, in the 1930s, its makers were the first to the shelf with sliced bread, according to *Carolyn Wyman, Wisconsin Public Radio*. In the 1960s, Wonder Bread was advertised with the slogan "*Helps build strong bodies 12 ways*," referring to the number of added nutrients. In 1986, the lower-calorie Wonder Light bread was introduced. In 1995, Continental Baking was bought by Interstate Bakeries Corporation, later known as Hostess Brands.

In an announcement November 15, 2012, Hostess - the maker of Twinkies, Wonder Bread, Ho-Hos and a range of other sugary treats - let it be known that it was going to be shutting down all of its factories, fallout from a bankruptcy filing made back in January. Driving the company's financial woes, according to *The Christian Science Monitor*, is the fact that starting [in 2010], "for the first time in the US, sales of sliced wheat bread outsold sliced white bread - a blow to the Wonder Bread label." As locally-produced, artisanal or whole-food products regained popularity, the potential death of Wonder Bread was a symbol of the ongoing cultural shift in American eating. Well, they pulled it off. After a hiatus of some length Wonder Bread and Twinkies were revived!

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However, we now have another problem with white bread in general. It seems like about the same time Hostess took over the company, people started having problems with gluten. I've mulled over theories having to do with the sudden appearance of gluten sensitivity, and have been unable to find any evidence of it, but I think the Food and Drug Administration must have imposed some kind of new chemistry requirements on the manufacture of white wheat products, perhaps pertaining to preservatives and shelf life.

Is it gluten intolerance, celiac disease, or is it some kind of chemistry? I have no idea.

Nutrition Educator Kristen Michaelis:

First, let's be clear about what gluten intolerance is. It isn't a food allergy. It's a physical condition in your gut. Basically, undigested gluten proteins (prevalent in wheat and other grains) hang out in your intestines and are treated by your body like a foreign invader, irritating your gut and flattening the microvilli along the small intestine wall. Without those microvilli, you have considerably less surface area with which to absorb the nutrients from your food. This leads sufferers to experience symptoms of malabsorption, including chronic fatigue, neurological disorders, nutrient deficiencies, anemia, nausea, skin rashes, depression, and more.

If you remove gluten from the diet, the gut heals and the myriad of symptoms disappears. Depending on the level and degree of the intolerance (which can range anywhere from a gluten sensitivity to a full-blown celiac disease), it may be possible to eventually re-introduce properly prepared grains (sourdough that has fermented for up to a month, sprouted grains, etc) into the diet.

Diana Gitig, May 10, 2011 Scientific American:

The soft white winter wheat that was traditionally grown in the mid-Atlantic states is low in gluten, so it is great for

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pastry and cake flour but not so much for bread. Now, most wheat used in this country is hard wheat grown in the Midwest, and it is bred to yield flour that is consistent in taste and texture. Hard wheat contains twice as much gluten as soft wheat does, so it produces chewy loaves of bread with crunchy crusts rather than flaky pie crusts.

About the time the sale to Hostess happened I started having a hard time eating plain old every-day sandwiches - you know ... PB&J, Salami, Bologna, Ham & Swiss, Dagwood. I started feeling sick to my stomach after eating a sandwich made with white bread. And one time I couldn't finish my sandwich because I had to throw up. It was Wonder Bread.

I started trying other brands. Sunbeam. Sara Lee. Hostess. Then the store brands from Safeway, Wal Mart, and Fry's. Wal Mart's Generic Great Value and Fry's Pssst! brands caused the least trouble, but that twinge still remains. You need to understand that I just love 'mater samiches sprinkled with a little garlic salt with a side of cottage cheese topped with fruit salad. And I adore toasted cheese sandwiches with Lipton Noodle Soup. I can't eat a white bread tomato sandwich anymore because of the bread. But, I can eat one made with San Francisco Sour Dough!

I'm wondering what percentage of the American population is sensitive to white bread like me. Am I sensitive to Azodicarbonamide? The stuff is a dough conditioner, bleaches the flour and is considered safe in at up to 45 parts per million, but it's banned from use in Europe. Studies showed it could cause asthma or allergic reactions. Could it be Calcium propionate - the preservative that inhibits mold and bacterial growth? It's considered safe, but in the early 1990s it was linked to attention deficit disorder in children.

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There seem to be many things pointing to preservatives being added some time around 1995. And it seemed to worsen sometime in 2014. I don't know. What do you think?

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Monday, September 19, 2016

CLIMATE CHANGE RAGE

A few weeks ago (August 29th) I wrote a piece about Climate Change based on Vladimir Lenin's famous quotation, *"A lie told often enough becomes the truth."* We explored what I consider to be the greatest lie of all time, perpetrated by former U.S. Vice-President Al Gore, and perpetuated by President Obama: *"The greatest threat to our security is Climate Change."*

As expected, I received kudos from many readers and heat from a few avid detractors. A good friend accosted me a few days after the article was published on Facebook and in my twice-weekly email broadcast. He said he had shown the piece to his grand-children and that they were outraged! I was promoting the destruction of our world - the only place we can live - by calling the Al Gore postulate a lie, they charged. Apparently they convinced him, because he said, "You're my enemy." Holy crap! My good friend is now my enemy because his grand-children disagree with something I wrote?

My friend went on to berate and disrespect me in front of other friends and acquaintances. I finally replied that he was doing that Liberal attack thing by calling me names. He barged on with a fuselade of heat and challenged me to name one thing Gore claimed about Climate Change that wasn't true. So I implored him to go back and read what I had written on August 29th. He wanted no part of it. In short, I agreed to disagree.

Just a week earlier, I had presented this: "What's so confounding to the casual observer is that the followers of oft-told fabrications blindly believe them to be based on

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proven facts! Those 'facts' are more often than not based on the politically-charged observations of biased players ..."

What's heart-breaking to me is that this man's grandchildren have been taught that their world is going to die a horrible death if they don't participate by doing something about it right away. There is no more discussion or debate allowed on the issue. It's in stone. The hard part for me, as an academic, is the door is closed; the theses are published; questions are out of line; laws have been passed; taxes are being collected; the President has signed a treaty (which the Congress has refused to ratify); and our children and grandchildren are being brainwashed by a system that fails to encourage friendly debate and discussion without caveats. Well, I'm not blindly buying into some politically correct dogma demanded by children!

The point is not that there may be a change in the weather in another fifty years - there will be. There can be no argument on this issue. Weather - climate - happens. How it happens and why it happens and exactly what causes it to happen are all open to question and discussion every day in NOAA forecasting offices across America ... whether there is an unratified treaty or not!

To demonstrate the foolishness of the "Climate Change" thesis - for which Al Gore won an academy award - all we need to do is ask the Weatherman the same question today that I asked in a radio interview over two decades ago: "When you say there's a 50% chance of rain, does that mean it will rain 50% of the time over 100% of the forecast area? Or does it mean it will rain 100% of the time over 50% of the forecast area?" The answer you will get from the purveyor of the official NOAA climatological, meteorological prognostication, my friends, is, "Yes." Sure, it's a goofy answer, but it illustrates the fallacy: Our ability to predict the

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future of our weather is limited to dozens of hours and minutes, not decades and years.

Statistical probability depends on scientifically-gathered data, collected in controlled experiments vetted and accurately duplicated by the scientific community, not empirical data or testimonials. This is like postulating that the sky is blue because of CO₂. That theorem is completely debunked when you understand the thoroughly vetted scientific explanation that blue light generated by the Sun takes less time to get through the atmosphere than red light. Yet, even though the earth's atmosphere contains only 400 parts per million of the trace gas, hardcore Climate Change believers would take it as gospel if Al Gore asserted that the sky is blue because of CO₂.

The point is that no Al Gore nor any group of scientists can accurately predict the climate in fifty years any better than NOAA's National Weather Service can accurately predict next week's weather! A great example of this short-coming was the dire prediction the week of September 5th for downpours over the Southwest caused by the remains of hurricane Newton. A friend in Tucson posted on Facebook that they only got two tenths of an inch over a 24 hour period. Hardly a downpour - particularly when you consider that a typical Arizona thunderstorm can drop a quarter of an inch of rain in just 15 minutes! Still not convinced? Stop and ask yourself what happened to El Niño? We engineers (Yes, I am an engineer!) have a special name for the product of the art/science of weather-casting, as well as Climate Change. It's called a SWAG! Pray tell, what's a SWAG? When asked a similar question about whey, the Great Gildersleeve remarked, "Go ask your mother!"

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Thursday, September 22, 2016

CLASSIFIED?

(C) Confidential. (S) Secret. (TS) Top Secret. (TS/SCI) Top Secret - Sensitive Compartmented Information. Those are the four levels of US Government Information Classification. I held three of those levels. Confidential and Secret as a Hughes Aircraft Manufacturing Engineer on the Phoenix Missile program. On the Hughes TOW2B program and as a Marine Corps Hawk Missile Technician I held Top Secret clearance. Never even heard about the TS/SCI clearance - it was so secret nobody knew about it!

The thing about classified clearances, there is one question that everyone is versed in ... *Do you have a need to know?* That's what the big deal with Hillary Clinton and her word games about "classified" information is all about. Any discussion about classified information is held only on the basis of a *need to know*. It has nothing to do with an individual's clearance. People with clearances simply do not share information with anyone who doesn't share the same clearance level (or greater) and only if that person has positively declared a verifiable *need to know*.

When I first hired on to Hughes Aircraft, I was a "job-shopper" - a sub-contractor - looking for permanent employment. Part of the employment agreement was that I had to pass a pre-employment screening for Confidential clearance at minimum. This would allow me to work within the confines of the Phoenix Missile program as a Manufacturing Engineer. I was what they called a "Planner" - my job was to write the assembly planning instructions so the people on the assembly line would know how to build an assortment of parts and assemblies for the most current configuration of the Navy's Phoenix Missile.

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After six months as a Job Shopper I was hired by Hughes and asked to participate as a member of a "Tiger Team" of highly skilled engineers to build and roll out the first four deliverable Phoenix C+ Missiles. For my participation, it required a Secret classification. To obtain that Secret classification I had to go through rigorous background checks, much tougher and deeper than those required for the earlier Confidential clearance. Once again, the bottom line was "***Do you have a need to know?*** "

After the four C+ missiles had been rolled out to show the Navy we could do the job, Hughes transferred me to the TOW, TOW 2 and TOW 2A missile programs. I was assigned to FACO (Final Assembly and Check-Out) where the rocket motors and ordinance are mated to the wire-guided missile that was such a hit during Operation Desert Storm. It was touted for its ability to take out enemy tanks with ground personnel guiding it to its target like a model airplane. (TOW stands for Tube-launched, Optically tracked, Wire-guided.) It wasn't long before my clearance required another hike to Top Secret. They wanted me to work on the early development of the TOW 2B. It was a powerful missile based on the original, but with orders-of-magnitude more destructive power. (That's about as far as I can go in describing the thing because you don't have ***a need to know!***)

The point is, I know exactly what Hillary Clinton has been doing. She has been blatantly lying about her involvement with classified documents. Anyone who has ever dealt with classified information knows precisely what I'm taking about. Let me be specific: In all of my exposure to classified materials, I never once saw a document with a "header" as Clinton described. Those "headers" are commonly stamped on classified paper documents, but none of the documents I dealt with had any headers or markings declaring their classification. It was clear to all of the people who worked at

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Hughes Aircraft that they were working to build missiles that by their mere existence were classified Confidential, Secret or Top Secret.

Clinton, by claiming stuff that no civilian could possibly know, is playing the old three-card-monte game with the media. I was going to cut Clinton some slack because she is running for the highest office in the land, but she continues to fabricate stories about her relationships with classified government information. So, I have to cut her off. She belongs behind bars in a federal prison for a very long time. The other three candidates for President still have my ear at this juncture, but Clinton is *persona non grata* as far as I'm concerned.

In my book, Hillary Clinton is a criminal who has betrayed her solemn oath - the same one I took when I joined the US Marine Corps back in September of 1958 - to "***support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God.***"

Let me be very clear, "**So help me God.**"

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Monday, September 26, 2016
SUPERCILIOUSNESS

On the 14th of this month the **Wall Street Journal's Daniel Henninger** wrote a commentary on "*Les Déplorables*" ... "*the overwhelming majority [of whom] ... are fed up with the relentless, moral superciliousness of Hillary, the Obamas, progressive pundits and 19-year-old campus activists.*"

Les Déplorables. What a totally outstanding description of the *Silent Majority* that "America's Toughest Sheriff" Joe Arpaio and GOP Presidential Candidate Donald Trump have touted out on the stump!

Further down the page Henninger continued, "*The moral clarity that drove the original civil-rights movement or the women's movement has degenerated into a confused moral narcissism. One wonders if even some of the people in Mrs. Clinton's Streisandian audience didn't feel discomfort at the ease with which the presidential candidate slapped isms and phobias on so many people.*"

The piece continues in part, "*Hillary Clinton is the logical result of the Democratic Party's new, progressive algorithm - a set of strict social rules that drives politics and the culture to one point of view. A Clinton victory would enable and entrench the forces her comment [about the 'Basket of Deplorables'] represents.*"

And Henninger concludes, "*Her supporters say it's Donald Trump's rhetoric that is 'divisive.'*" Just so. But it's rich to hear them claim that their words and politics are 'inclusive.' So is the town dump. They have chopped American society into so many offendable identities that only a Yale freshman can name them all."

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Sure wish I had ol' Dan's gift of gab. Superciliousness, eh?

We may - or may not - get a snootfull of superciliousness* during tonight's Presidential Debate hosted by NBC Nightly News Anchor Lester Holt. Here's the debate schedule announced early this month by the non-partisan Commission on Presidential Debates:

First presidential debate @ 9:00pm ET:

Lester Holt, Anchor, NBC Nightly News

Monday, September 26, Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY

Vice presidential debate:

Elaine Quijano, Anchor, CBSN and Correspondent, CBS News

Tuesday, October 4, Longwood University, Farmville, VA

Second presidential debate (town meeting):

Martha Raddatz, Chief Global Affairs Correspondent and Co-Anchor of "This Week," ABC

Anderson Cooper, Anchor, CNN

Sunday, October 9, Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Third presidential debate:

Chris Wallace, Anchor, Fox News Sunday

Wednesday, October 19, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

The CPD televised debates will be carried live on ABC, CBS, C-SPAN, FOX and NBC.

**supercilious: behaving as if you are better than other people, and that their opinions, beliefs, or ideas are not important. (Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary & Thesaurus)*

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Thursday, September 29, 2016

TIME TO GET LOST

There has been another cop-on-black shooting. This time it was Tuesday in El Cajon, California.

According to **The Blaze**, "[El Cajon Poice Chief Jeff] Davis said the man refused to obey 'multiple instructions by the first officer on the scene' before and after pulling the object from his pocket. 'At one point, the male rapidly drew an object from his front pants pocket, placed both hands together on it, and extended it rapidly toward the officer, taking what appeared to be a shooting stance putting the object in the officer's face,' Davis said. An officer shot the man after he refused to comply with their instructions. He later died after being taken to a hospital for treatment." **Glenn Beck's** daily newsletter reported this morning that **Black Lives Matter** had organized protests around the city.

East County Magazine reported that "crowds clashed with police. While organizers of a march and vigil sought to keep the peace, some protesters reportedly threw bottles at police and chased a counter-protester wearing a Trump hat after he shouted racial slurs. A heavy police presence ... sought to prevent protesters from blocking interstate 8."

Whether the unrest in El Cajon will grow into full-blown rioting, property destruction and looting remains to be seen. If police can keep the ne'er-do-wells away from peaceful demonstrators, the organized activities can be low-key. But, they've been having problems all over the country with people acting crazy because of **Black Lives Matter**.

Let's explore BLM-organized unrest: There is no reason on earth that law enforcement folks can't keep order. No reason

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at all why people should be allowing the trashing their communities. What some bunch of misguided criminal rabble-rousers claim is wrong and therefore a valid cause for looting, property destruction and rioting is dispicable at best. Any person, black, white, pink or purple, unless they're just stupid, knows that you don't trash your home, your neighborhood and local home-grown businesses, or allow someone else to do it, just because you don't like the way the world is treating you. Especially when the perpetrators are local gang-bangers accompanied by thugs from out of town looking for an excuse to break into and loot businesses.

This is the scenario of late: A cop shoots a black guy; there are demonstrations, then - egged on by **BLM** - the criminal elements hiding their faces like ISIS terrorists, invade the demonstrators, trashing public and private property and looting businesses with the help of black "protesters" brought in from outside the local area. It doesn't matter to the **BLM** organizers whether the shooting was black-on-black or white-on-black.

An article published the 17th of this month by columnist **Allan West** claims that "70% of those arrested in the Charlotte protests don't even live in North Carolina. The riots weren't even sparked by a shooting that could even conceivably have racial undertones, as the man shot (Keith Scott) was shot by a black officer."

What the Hell is the matter with these people? I say to you, nothing at all. The folks that live in impoverished neighborhoods have every reason to be angry. When law enforcement won't expend the resources necessary to keep you and your family safe, shouldn't you be angry? Of course, but not to the point of allowing the trashing of your own neighborhood! Only a crazy person would do that. Only a rabble-rousing trouble-maker imported from out-of-town

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would pull something that abysmal! As I get it, most black folks can't or won't stop the rioting, property damage and looting because they're afraid of retribution from local gangstas.

How do you stop this nonsense? Read on ...

There's a crowd of folks peacefully protesting, but there's this bare-chested guy with a scarf tied around his head and face. He's screaming obscenities and jumping up and down, shaking his fist in the air right next to a couple of young girls.

Today's politically correct cops wait for violence to happen or they attempt to restrain movement of the demonstration out of a specific area. But the Man-in-Blue who lives in the neighborhood stops the disturbance before it becomes a problem. Our ol' boy sidles up to the troublemaker and asks him for some I.D.

"Sir, would y'all please come on over here an' show me some I.D.? Drivers license would be jus' fine, thank you."

(The cop takes a little guff but obtains the I.D.)

"Oh ... It says here you ain't from around these parts, huh? You be one o' them folks comin' on in here wearin' masks and makin' trouble, huh?"

(More guff from the perp ... no problem.)

"So, here's the thing, ol' dude: Y'all leave town right now and I won't hit you with disturbin' the peace. Got it? Y'all come back here, you be spendin' the night in my jail."

(Even more guff ... including threats.)

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"You wanta argue 'bout it, friend, I can hook you up right now for verbal assault on a Police Officer, instigating, threats and intimidation, as well as disturbing the peace. Want suma dat?"

(Lotsa "you cant make me" guff.)

"Y'all ever spend the night in jail in the South? Y'all partial to hot baloney sandwiches? Ever sit on one o' them stainless steel toilets? Yeah, we got a special spot in there jus' for folks like you. Time to get lost, ol' son. Y'all come back and we'll show you jus' how our jail works."

(Now it's the requisite yada yada yada and middle finger as the perp slowly backs into the night.)

"Oh, by the way - loose the face cover! Bye bye! Y'all stay away, now, hear?"

The good cop has the situation under control, the bad guy is outa here, the neighborhood and the protesters are safe. Isn't that how it's supposed to work? Sure used to, once upon a time ...

Let's hope El Cajon police rise to the occasion.

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Monday, October 3, 2016

LIBERAL VS. CONSERVATIVE

We have a great opportunity tomorrow evening to see and hear first-hand the stark contrast between today's Liberal philosophy and approach to things - and those of a Conservative.

Basically, a Liberal's approach to problem-solving is to have the government do as much as possible, while a Conservative would prefer the absolute least involvement with government.

"Hi, I'm from the government, and we're here to help."

President Ronald Reagan included those ten words in his July 28, 1988 remarks to representatives of the Future Farmers of America in the old Executive Office Building. They accurately define both Liberal and Conservative principles. On the one hand, the greeting states succinctly the Liberal approach to governance. On the other hand, it's the Conservative's tongue-in-cheek antithesis of the Liberal stance.

To the Liberal (or Progressive as many Democrats have called themselves since the days of President Woodrow Wilson), the government's roll is to assist all people in the United States with every aspect of their lives - from their birth to their upbringing and nutrition, their environment, education, healthcare, employment, housing, finance, safety, transportation, retirement, and eventually, their final arrangements.

To the Conservative, our government is the surest way to efficiently screw up any product, project or effort purported to make life better. To a Constitutional Conservative, the government exists to, in the words of the Preamble to the Constitution, *"establish justice, insure domestic tranquility,*

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provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

With help from Vice Presidential candidates Tim Kaine and Mike Pence tomorrow evening, we should be able to experience the things that confound both Conservative Republicans and Liberal Democrats when it comes to the care and feeding of our government and its works.

The night's debate will be hosted by CBSN Anchor Elaine Quijano. The debates are scheduled for 9:00pm to 10:30pm ET. Here's the debate schedule announced early last month by the non-partisan **Commission on Presidential Debates**:

Vice presidential debate:

Elaine Quijano, Anchor, CBSN and Correspondent, CBS News

Tuesday, October 4, Longwood University, Farmville, VA

Second presidential debate (town meeting):

Martha Raddatz, Chief Global Affairs Correspondent and Co-Anchor of "This Week," ABC

Anderson Cooper, Anchor, CNN

Sunday, October 9, Washington University St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Third presidential debate:

Chris Wallace, Anchor, Fox News Sunday

Wednesday, October 19, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

The CPD televised debates will be carried live on ABC, CBS, C-SPAN, FOX, NBC and the major cable news outlets. In addition, they will be streamed live via the internet from the major news networks as well as Twitter and YouTube.

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Thursday, October 6, 2016

ADVICE FOR DONALD TRUMP

Monday, I got an email survey from the Trump Campaign. It contained something on the order of twenty questions about what he should do in the upcoming debate. The last question asked if there was something I'd like to say to Mr. Trump. Here is the advice I gave:

"Donald, Hillary was successful in baiting you and getting your goat during the last two-thirds of the First Debate. Don't offer any answers to her goading - you'll lose both the Debate and the Election. DO NOT argue with her. DO NOT interrupt her. DO NOT let her get your goat! If you feel like you need to defend yourself, go on the offensive, but don't argue or interrupt. Instead, change the subject - be positive and DANCE!"

Early in the questionnaire, they wanted to know how I thought the First Debate went. I told them that Donald walked away with it in the first half-hour, but completely lost control and composure in the remaining two thirds and consequently lost miserably to Hillary.

All Trump had to do was pay no attention to Clinton's baiting, goading and trapping, effectively ignoring her and pursuing his own agenda. Everyone knows Clinton is a first-class liar, well practiced in that craft since her graduation from Wellesley College in 1969. Recognizing anything she has to say simply lends credence to it.

Debating is a skill that requires attention to the overall atmosphere of the venue. It also requires enormous discipline. There is never any need to go off point because of something the other side says or does. The primary job of a debater is to provide a stellar performance, show verbal command of the

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language as well as the subject at hand, and to demonstrate strength of character. In short - a strong, on-point performance usually wins the day!

Speaking of debate attributes, I haven't witnessed a greater demonstration than those displayed by Republican Vice presidential candidate **Mike Pence** Tuesday night. Democrat **Tim Kaine**'s constant interruptions - at least 71 of them - to repeat a litany of anti-Trump talking points seemed to bounce off Pence like water off a duck's back! Kaine did himself and Hillary Clinton a disservice and probably caused thousands, if not millions, to tune out - even as the moderator did a yeoman's job of controlling the direction of the debate. To quote the **Boston Globe's James Pindell**, "Moderator **Elaine Quijano**, of **CBSN** news, deserves an uninterrupted vacation after this." Meanwhile, Pence remained calm and composed for the most part, staying positive and on point, letting Kaine's negativity speak for itself.

Nobody gives much of a hoot about political correctness, who was insulted last, tax returns or beauty contests from twenty-some-odd years ago. And it's gotten so that most folks don't care much about basement computers, mayhem in the middle-east, special access fundraising, Saul Alinski or Gennifer Flowers. They do care very much about the future of our country and which candidate will be at the helm of our ship of state after the dust settles.

We'll find out this weekend how The Donald fares against Crooked Hillary.

Sunday night's debate will be hosted by ABC's Martha Raddatz and CNN's Anderson Cooper. The Town Meeting is scheduled for 9:00pm to 10:30pm ET at Washington University St. Louis. Here's the remaining debate schedule as

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announced early last month by the non-partisan Commission on **Presidential Debates**:

Second presidential debate (town meeting):

Martha Raddatz, Chief Global Affairs Correspondent and Co-Anchor of "This Week," ABC

Anderson Cooper, Anchor, CNN

Sunday, October 9, Washington University St. Louis, St. Louis, MO

Third presidential debate:

Chris Wallace, Anchor, Fox News Sunday

Wednesday, October 19, University of Nevada Las Vegas, Las Vegas, NV

The CPD televised debates will be carried live on ABC, CBS, C-SPAN, FOX, NBC and the major cable news outlets. In addition, they will be streamed live via the Internet from the major news networks as well as Twitter and YouTube.

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Monday, October 10, 2016

HE THAT IS WITHOUT SIN ...

At the end of last week the Mainstream Media were busy having a hissy fit over Donald Trump's locker room language surreptitiously recorded on video some eleven years ago.

Trump's lewd, sexist chatter was played over the air and quoted chapter and verse by every major news outlet. They had every talking head you could think of condemning him and calling for his resignation as the GOP presidential candidate. At midnight Friday, Trump went live with a brief apology: *"This was locker room banter, a private conversation that took place many years ago. Bill Clinton has said far worse to me on the golf course - not even close. I apologize if anyone was offended."* Later on, in response to the clamor from a cross-section of politicians and pundits, he told the **Wall Street Journal** there is *"zero chance that I'll quit."*

How many times has the MSM gone bananas over something Trump did or said, not only recently, but as many as twenty-five years ago? It started eighteen months ago, as he officially declared his run for the highest office in the land. Remember? The first shocker in his June 16th announcement was about illegal Mexican immigrants. Trump exclaimed, *"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."* During post-announcement remarks, he doubled-down with, *"And it's people from countries other than Mexico also. We have drug dealers coming across, we have rapists, we have killers, we have murderers."* That red-neck banter remains near the top of numerous anti-Trump talking points.

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Who knows if there is any credence to chatter out there that the Trump tape was given to the **Washington Post** as a way to dominate the news cycle over the week-end, thereby forcing the **WikiLeaks** release of some two-thousand revealing emails from the personal inbox of Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta, as well as excerpts from Hillary Clinton's Wall Street speeches, into the background. Talk about your October surprize!

Watching TV over the weekend was daunting. It seemed like every channel that broadcast news, including local and regional channels, was reporting in depth anything anyone submitted that involved outrage about the Trump debacle.

Late Saturday, things started to change. Facebook and Twitter began to pop with posts and tweets from folks standing up for Trump's informal locker room *faux pas*. *"Guys talk trash in the locker room all the time,"* they said. *"That's nothing - women do it, too!"* There was condemnation from every quarter against those who would publicly shame another when they had skeletons in their own closets. *"Get over the nonsense and talk about issues."* Columnist **Addison Riddleberger** wrote, *"I don't give a RIP about Trump's 'hot-mic moment ... You see, I don't care about rhetoric, inflammatory statements, or prior controversy. If you put aside every single scandal Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton have been a part of, one thing remains standing - policy."* Other comments included the biblical admonition Jesus Christ uttered to the crowd gathered to stone an accused adulteress, *"He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."* (Read the full King James Bible story from **John 8** below) *

It just seems like every time during this election cycle that things calmed down a little bit, there came another report about Trump that cranked 'em up again! The stories on the air the longest were beaten like a dead horse starting on a Friday

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and lasting all week-end. It was no different last week-end. The Sunday interview shows included the juiciest political fire from the likes of House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook. Featured Trump defenders included former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and his campaign manager Kellyanne Conway. They continued beating that poor animal up to (and during) the second presidential debate/townhall last night at Washington University St. Louis.

What I watched last night kept me awake, unlike the others. The way they went after each other was darned near refreshing! Someone said "He was an escape artist." Especially because it was, as Trump said, "a three-on-one." Well, both Trump and Clinton were pretty nasty. It was almost like the WWF without the folding chairs! I don't believe we learned anything new in the policy department, but we did learn that with more than thirty years in politics Clinton is still a rank amateur. Which amateur won the thing? ¿Quién Sabe?

Number three is coming up in a week or so. Both candidates have some work to do!

Third presidential debate:

Chris Wallace, Anchor, Fox News Sunday
Wednesday, October 19, University of Nevada Las Vegas,
Las Vegas, NV

* **1**Jesus went unto the mount of Olives. **2**And early in the morning he came again into the temple, and all the people came unto him; and he sat down, and taught them. **3**And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, **4**They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. **5**Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such

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should be stoned: but what sayest thou? **6**This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with *his* finger wrote on the ground, *as though he heard them not*. **7**So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. **8**And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. **9**And they which heard *it*, being convicted by *their own* conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, *even* unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. **10**When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, Woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee? **11**She said, No man, Lord. And Jesus said unto her, Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more.

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Thursday, October 13, 2016

ENOUGH!

All the presidential talking points have supposedly been laid on the table. Whether all the dirt has been dug remains to be seen. As of today anyway, there may be room for policy discussions. One thing's for sure: Our country's "little people" have had enough.

The elites in the congress, whose only allegiance appears to be to themselves rather than their constituents, are so wrapped up in themselves that they are missing the ground swell of anger in the trenches where the little people live.

The little people include the blue-collar worker just barely getting by while helplessly watching his job slowly regulated out of existence; the small business struggling to make ends meet as egregious rules slowly squeeze its life away, even as it valiantly competes with the giant Wal Mart just down the street; the new mom, fresh out of college, who can't find work that will pay enough for baby-food and clothing; the elderly couple whose Social Security hasn't kept up with the cost of three meals a day and are barely making it on one; the Viet-Vet clinging to today while trying to forget yesterday and having little expectation for tomorrow; the guy who was just laid off because his company is moving away; the construction worker who can't get to the next job because there isn't one ...

The little people are the backbone of our country, the strength and support of the American way of life. The little people can't understand why they are being burdened more and more each day by regulations from the elites ensconced in Washington and by rules imposed by the bureaucrats that infest our cities, counties and states. The little people live in the United States of America and they are tough as nails and

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proud - but they've just about had it. They're a lot like the folks in Britain who finally had enough and voted to leave the European Union.

In an opinion piece for **The Telegraph** on October 9th, UK Independence Party leader and Brexit poster boy **Nigel Farage** penned, *"I do not see the Brexit result in isolation. Instead, I believe we are witnessing a popular uprising against failed politics on a global scale. People want to vote for candidates with personality, faults and all. It is the same in the UK, America and much of the rest of Europe. The little people have had enough. They want change."*

The 1976 movie **Network** contains a rant by UBS news anchor Howard Beale that encapsulates exactly how the little people feel today. Watch: <https://youtu.be/ZwMVMbmQBug> or you can read the script below.

"I don't have to tell you things are bad. Everybody knows things are bad. It's a depression. Everybody's out of work or scared of losing their job. The dollar buys a nickel's worth, banks are going bust, shopkeepers keep a gun under the counter. Punks are running wild in the street and there's nobody anywhere who seems to know what to do, and there's no end to it. We know the air is unfit to breathe and our food is unfit to eat, and we sit watching our TV's while some local newscaster tells us that today we had fifteen homicides and sixty-three violent crimes, as if that's the way it's supposed to be.

"We know things are bad - worse than bad. They're crazy. It's like everything everywhere is going crazy, so we don't go out anymore. We sit in the house, and slowly the world we are living in is getting smaller, and all we say is, 'Please, at least leave us alone in our living rooms. Let me have my toaster

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and my TV and my steel-belted radials and I won't say anything. Just leave us alone.'

"Well, I'm not gonna leave you alone. I want you to get mad! I don't want you to protest. I don't want you to riot - I don't want you to write to your congressman because I wouldn't know what to tell you to write. I don't know what to do about the depression and the inflation and the Russians and the crime in the street. All I know is that first you've got to get mad. You've got to say, 'I'm a HUMAN BEING, God damn it! My life has VALUE!'

"So I want you to get up now. I want all of you to get up out of your chairs. I want you to get up right now and go to the window. Open it, and stick your head out, and yell, 'I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!'

"I want you to get up right now, sit up, go to your windows, open them and stick your head out and yell - 'I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore!'

"Things have got to change. But first, you've gotta get mad!... You've got to say, 'I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!' Then we'll figure out what to do about the depression and the inflation and the oil crisis. But first get up out of your chairs, open the window, stick your head out, and yell, and say it:

"I'M AS MAD AS HELL, AND I'M NOT GOING TO TAKE THIS ANYMORE!"

Enough.

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Monday, October 17, 2016 **GIVE US SUBSTANCE!**

Last week, you'll recall, we left the little people seething in the heartland. The hue and cry from these proud Americans is, "I'm as mad as Hell, and I'm not going to take this any more!" At first I didn't understand what the little people were about ... all loud and boisterous and everything.

There was a hint of something in the air on March 19th when Sheriff Joe Arpaio mentioned the great Silent Majority at a Trump rally in Fountain Hills, Arizona. Last week, Speaker of the House Paul Ryan all but disavowed Donald Trump, saying he would be concentrating on helping Republicans get re-elected and would not be stumping with the GOP presidential candidate. That got already-het-up House Tea Party members' attention. The second presidential debate brought it home, and I understand now why "I'm as mad as Hell, and I'm not going to take this any more!"

At this point, we all know the nasty talking points by rote we've heard them so much: Hillary Clinton is a criminal who shattered the laws governing U.S secrets, let Americans die in Libya and lied about it, set the stage for ISIS, connived with DNC operatives to rig the Primary against Sanders, lies compulsively, enabled "pay the Foundation to play with State", etc, etc. Trump, on the other hand, is a sexist, intolerant, xenophobic, homophobic, corrupt, Islamophobic, racist, bigoted, foulmouthed leader of an irredeemable basket of un-American deplorables, a man who doesn't pay his contractors, hasn't paid taxes for years and won't release his tax returns, etc, etc.

Right now, nobody cares about the candidates' war of words. It's not the language, stupid - it's the substance! America's little people are angry and they want the nonsense in

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Washington and on the campaign trail to stop. There was a British documentary last year called *We want our country back!* Well, that's exactly what our little people are saying!

What has been sorely missing in the presidential debates is the substance that voters will use to decide their vote on November 8th. Instead of zingers, America's little people need to hear the differences between the candidates' proposed policies, two of which stand out as examples of the dichotomies between them. Abortion. The Supreme Court. The policy differences involving these two subjects are so black and white, so stark, so obvious to the familiar, that un-informed folks need to hear crystal-clear accountings from the candidates - the real substance of their proposals - not crass, nasty digs, name-calling and not-so-veiled allegations. All Americans must clearly understand the potentially earth-shaking consequences resulting from their choices at the ballot box.

In the end, the primary difference between Clinton and Trump is the difference between Globalism and National Populism. Do we want a Hemispheric Order patterned after the European Union or do we want unimpeded American independence? In a nutshell, that's the choice. Let's hope that Chris Wallace will pry the meat-and-potatoes substance out of Hillary and The Donald on Wednesday evening.

Third presidential debate:

Chris Wallace, Anchor, Fox News Sunday

Wednesday, October 19, University of Nevada Las Vegas,
Las Vegas, NV 9:00pm ET



... and I'm still mad as Hell!

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Thursday, October 20, 2016

RES IPSA LOQUITUR

Res ipsa loquitur - the thing speaks for itself - is a Latin term used extensively in personal injury lawsuits. *Res ipsa*, as lawyers call it for short, is an evidentiary rule that allows circumstantial evidence, thereby placing the burden on the defendant to prove that he or she was not negligent.

The *innocent until proven guilty* basis of American *jurisprudence* is thrown out the window when *res ipsa* is invoked. An example of this doctrine can be found in the 1865 Scottish case of *Scott v London & Catherine Dock Co.* wherein the court held that sacks of sugar don't fall out of warehouses and crush passers-by without somebody having been negligent along the way.

Is Hillary Clinton negligent because of reams of evidence gathered over some three decades? Does this propinquity to the truth hold water for Donald Trump, buried under piles of sketchy evidence of past misdeeds? Is there no statute of limitations for this sort of *res ipsa* invoked by political campaigns, pundits and the Mainstream news media? Who is the least negligent among the candidates? Is this what our political system has come to today?

For better than a year polls across our nation have shown that both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump are despised by great majorities in the electorate. Is hatred or distrust suppose to be the basis for election of a President of the United States of America? Again I ask, is this what our political system has come to today?

From the get-go, back in June of 2015, inference, spite and vitriol have been the main themes put forth by the media as well as the campaigns and their candidates. *Res ipsa* has been

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invoked, helped by the candidates' charges of *a vast right-wing conspiracy led by the Republican Party and Donald Trump* on the one hand and *an alliance between elements of the administration, the Washington elites, the Clinton campaign, Russia and the Mainstream media* on the other.

Except for the fact that there have been no public executions as a result, politics hasn't been this bad since the days of *The Inquisition*! Even the political ramifications of the McCarthy-led Congressional investigations into the influence of Communism were not this bad. Good Lord! This thing is so out of control, our President is threatening cyber-war with Russia!

Wikipedia.com describes *McCarthyism* as "the practice of making accusations of subversion or treason without proper regard for evidence. It also means 'the practice of making unfair allegations or using unfair investigative techniques, especially in order to restrict dissent or political criticism.' The term has its origins in the period in the United States known as the *Second Red Scare*, lasting roughly from 1950 to 1956 and characterized by heightened political repression against supposed Communists, as well as a campaign spreading fear of their influence on American institutions and of espionage by Soviet agents."

Have both of the presidential campaigns stooped to *McCarthyism* driven by *res ipsa loquitur* as the way we the people are supposed to choose our next President? At this point, I don't know.

Did the performance at last night's presidential debate leave *res ipsa* up in the air? I don't think so ...

Both candidates were at each other's throats but, for the most part, they were civil. Hillary took The Donald's thunder by

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doing most of the interrupting, talking-over and goading ... and much to everyone's surprise, Trump remained pretty calm, taking Clinton's new brashness in stride. There were two times when moderator Chris Wallace lost control and it sounded much like one of those talk shows when everyone was talking over each other! When asked if they would accept the results of the election Trump refused to answer, saying instead, "I'll look at it at the time." Later, he added, "I'll keep you in suspense." The MSM has seized upon that as the big deal of the night, as expected. Other than that, it was a debate about immigration, economics, guns, abortion, Russian hackers, Syria's future and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Last night was about serious issues and it left little doubt where each candidate stood: Trump was very clearly the American nationalist, and Clinton came off clearly as the international progressive. The choices were finally laid out for all to see and, as the saying goes, "The thing speaks for itself - *res ipsa loquitur*."

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Monday, October 24, 2016

ABOUT THOSE MILLENNIALS ...

Well, not all the blowin' and goin' about the third presidential debate has gone away yet. There are still plenty of die-hards in the Mainstream Media. Now, though, it's time to grit our teeth and go for the finish line - November 8th.

I voted early by mail a little over a week ago. No ... I'm not going to tell you how I voted for anything or anyone on (or not on) the ballot. It's none of your business, just as your choices are none of mine. I simply want to tell you a few things I've observed among my peers, out on the street and on Facebook.

The sum of my observations could represent a microcosm of America's political mind-set. I can say this as a person with deep political roots in Arizona, a one-time leader in both the Democrat and Republican parties, and as a person who grew up under the Liberal umbrella of the Great State of California. I am very much versed in the differences between Progressive, Liberal, Moderate and Conservative politics.

While the pundits say this election rests on the preferences of women, blacks and Hispanics - the combination of which (107,303,000) represents roughly a third of America's population - I firmly believe that the election rests squarely on the backs of our country's young people, who comprise 31% of registered voters - some 69.2 Million of them. These young Americans range in age from 18 to 35 - and they're scared to death about their futures!

What defines the living American generations? According to **Pew Research** the generations include the Silent Generation - born between 1928 and 1945, the Baby Boomers - born

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between 1946 and 1964, Generation X - 1965 to 1976, and the Millennial Generation - people born between 1977 and 1992 - now ages 24 to 39. Pollsters have added 18- to 23-year-olds, today's college kids, to the definition of Millennials. The youngest of the true Millennials are the new mamas and papas just entering their mid-twenties, devoted to raising and providing for their children. The oldest Millennials are about to turn forty ... some of their most productive years lie just ahead.

The people I'm familiar with include the full range: Retired miners and construction people, older politicians from both major parties, middle-aged businessmen and women, young working people still unfamiliar with the wiley ways of the real world, and a passle of folks - mostly women - who work behind the counters at the drug store, the liquor store, Wal Mart and Fry's grocery store. There are also the people in my neighborhood which include the retired couple living next door, the owner of the Saloon up the street as well as his bartenders and servers.

The people who are employed by or have been elected to serve in the government are pretty much for Hillary Clinton. The higher up in the echelons of government, the more devoted they are to Clinton. The engineers and businessmen and women tend to be for Trump. Among professionals, those who have to deal with banks and the government on a more-or-less regular basis tend to lean toward Clinton. What surprises me is the quantity of people that work behind counters who express genuine concern for the future of the country. Most are worried that Trump will loose. Not that Clinton will win - that Trump will loose! I get the impression that the Millennials are so afraid that their lives will be influenced more and more by government regulation if Clinton is elected, they will turn out in droves to put Trump in the White House.

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What's crazy to me is that it's not just the Southwest that's talking like this. I heard from an old friend from New York the other day. He said, It's spooky. Nobody wants to talk about who they support and there are no Trump or Clinton political signs out there." This is New York City, the bastion of Democratic politics! My friend said pretty much the same thing I've been hearing - the under-lying tide is a huge ground-swell for Trump.

Victoria McGrane in **The Boston Globe** reported last week: "*Basically, Trump is everything wrong with America's culture, and Hillary is everything wrong with our government,* said **Janae Petitjean**, 19, a Wake Technical Community College student who will be voting for the first time this year."

That the Millennials will make the difference in this election came as a shock to me. It never crossed my mind how much government regulation affects their lives. They are required by law to buy health insurance they can't afford or face retribution from the IRS. Payroll taxes suck up about 35% of their paychecks and "transaction privilege" taxes consume more than 10% of their remaining spendable income. The cost of a roof over their heads takes about 50% while transportation, clothing and food suck up almost all that's left. For most of them that doesn't leave much for entertainment and socializing. They are blessed that their children fill that gap.

Think of it ... Millennials encompass the moms and dads just now putting their children into grade-school and the ones whose kids are just graduating from high school! I remember those years. And if I was between 18 and 39 now, I'd be scared to death, too! I grew up with the threat of nuclear war, raised my kids under the possibility of being called for duty in Cuba or Viet Nam, and endured the days of recession,

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deflation and fuel rationing in the '70s. But I don't know how I would have handled the stuff these people have to deal with today - even with Food Stamps.

Writing in the **National Review** last week, **Victor Davis Hanson** penned that "*[Hillary Clinton wants to expand US policies to include] a new intercontinental America of open borders and open markets, from Chile to Alaska, in the manner of the European Union expanse from the Aegean to the Baltic.*" Donald Trump, as I have come to understand it, wants to oversee the country's return to the nationalist conservative principles contained in the United States Constitution. Those two radically different goals show clearly why choosing this election cycle's President is turning out to be very scary for all Americans, not just the Millennials!

I wonder how many of them know they have the right to take time off from work, without penalty or retribution, to go vote? Good Lord, I hope they get it right!

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Thursday, October 27, 2016

THE MOST ACCURATE POLL

This morning I'm just going to say out loud what has been whispered by many over the last couple of weeks: *The polls are full of it - Trump will win the election.*

Ok, he said. Fair enough. But how and why? Seven reasons.

First of all, there is the **USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Daybreak** poll, which tracks about 3,000 eligible voters, sampling a different group of 450 across the country every day. The pool of participants have been selected to accurately represent the make-up of the voters in their area of the country based on US census data.

The daily data is averaged over the previous seven day's data and the results are posted in the wee-small hours of the morning every day. This "running" average, as it's called, lags the instantaneous opinions across the country by about five days, but it has proven to be extremely accurate. The **USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Daybreak** poll predicted Obama's win in 2012 within one-half of one percent. The poll conservatively predicted Obama winning by 3.32 percent. The actual margin turned out to be 3.85 percent.

The poll asks just three questions: *Who would you vote for?* *Who do you think will win?* and *Do you intend to vote?* These are simple, straightforward, insightful questions. There are no leading slants to these, as many other surveys contain. To view the latest **USC Dornsife** poll, go here:

<http://graphics.latimes.com/usc-presidential-poll-dashboard/>

There are claims that **USC Dornsife Daybreak** poll rates second to the **IDB/TIPP** poll. Check out **IDB/TIPP** here:

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<http://www.investors.com/politics/ibd-tipp-presidential-election-poll/>

Secondly, attendance at Trump rallies has consistently been in the tens of thousands. He's been seeing upwards of fifty-thousand people a day for the last week or so - having several rallies almost every day. The Main-Stream Media has consistently reported that Donald Trump doesn't have a ground game, a charge disputed by campaign manager Kellyanne Conway. Last month Ms. Conway told CNN, "Mr. Trump is an unconventional candidate, but I have an appreciation for [...] conventional tactics."

Trump really doesn't need a "conventional" ground game in the traditional sense. Political tradition has it that hundreds of volunteers fan out door-to-door or work phone-banks asking people to vote for their candidate, thereby showing that he (or she) cares about one-on-one communication with the electorate. However, out of a typical Trump rally almost all of the thousands in attendance will proselytize to curious neighbors who did not attend the event. This is the Trump game: Tens of thousands of supporters telling friends and neighbors what it was like at the rally - while several hundred of volunteers wear out shoe leather and dialing fingers!

Third, there is the "Bradley Effect." Polls consistently showed Tom Bradley, the black mayor of Los Angeles, leading in the 1982 California Governor's race. Bradley ultimately lost. Pundits theorized one of the reasons the polls were erroneous was that respondents said they intended to vote for Bradley because they didn't want to be perceived as racist for voting against the black candidate - creating the ***Bradley Effect***.

This election is so two-sided and intimidating that the ***Bradley Effect*** must be in play. Folks in the Clinton camp are so deeply entrenched that any Democrat who favors Trump is

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afraid of becoming an outcast and consequently says nothing or falsely claims to support Clinton. The same is true in the Trump camp. This shows up clearly on Facebook where there are a number of die-hard fans regularly putting up pro-one-candidate-or-the-other postings. They get very few *Likes*, no matter what the candidate, even though there are hundreds or even thousands of viewers online from one minute to the next. I put that phenomenon on the *Bradley Effect*.

Last time, you may recall, I wrote about an old friend who called from New York. He said, "It's spooky. Nobody wants to talk about who they support and there are no Trump or Clinton political signs out there."

Fourth, a large contingent of the black community will be turning out for Trump - perhaps twice as many as turned out for Obama in 2008, which would be in the 18 to 25% range. This is about tripple what the pundits expect. Trump's direct message to America's blacks has gained traction.

"Look at how much African American communities are suffering from Democratic control. To those I say the following: What do you have to lose by trying something new like Trump? What do you have to lose? You live in your poverty, your schools are no good. You have no jobs. Fifty-eight percent of your youth is unemployed. What the hell do you have to lose?"

Fifth, The WikiLeaks evidence of Clinton corruption is becoming very difficult to ignore. It keeps piling up day by day and many Democrats have begun toying with jumping ship. That would mean reduced turnout for Hillary or votes for some other candidate. It appears now that the Clinton corruption scandal could easily make Chicago's tradition of dirty politics look very much like Cowboys and Indians in comparison! As a result, according to their emails, the

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Clinton campaign machine has missed fund-raising goals three weeks in a row.

Sixth, is there anything more to say about what began as HillaryCare? With average premium increases of 25% across the nation, there have got to be a lot of people reconsidering for whom they will vote. It didn't help much when former President Bill Clinton called the program "the craziest thing in the world." What's more, it could easily be a bloodbath for Clinton in Arizona with 100% increases in premiums and only one ACA provider remaining in the state.

Seventh, Independents have been moving from "uncommitted" to Trump. Clinton and Trump are tied in the eyes of Independents today, compared to a fourteen point Clinton advantage as late as last week. With all of the above working on them, blocs of Independents will go for Trump.

And finally, Millennials appear to be so afraid that their lives will be increasingly influenced by government regulation if Clinton is elected, they will turn out in droves to put Trump in the White House. Most of them are worried. Not that Clinton will win - but that Trump will lose!

As of this writing, the **USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Daybreak** poll had Trump beating Clinton - 45.2 to 44.5 - a statistical dead-heat. Just over 85% of the poll's participants say they intend to vote this year. The **IDB/TIPP** poll had Clinton at 42.6 and Trump at 41.4 - very much within the margin of error.

THE MOST ACCURATE POLL is coming up November 8th. I have absolutely no idea what the results will be, of course, but based on what I've seen so far - coupled with the ***Bradley Effect*** - I think Donald Trump will win the 2016 Presidential Election, perhaps by a margin similar to what Obama had in

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2008. Trump himself said it last week, "This is going to be Brexit Plus. Brexit Plus." It could happen! But then ... both of us could be wrong.

FYI: Got word yesterday that Donald Trump, Jr. is having a rally at Arizona State University's Sun Devil Recreation Center Green Gym in Tempe from 2:00 - 3:00 this afternoon 10-27-2016. Doors will open at 1 PM. There's one hitch, though ... you have to reserve your spot!
[RSVP here](#) if you'd like to attend.

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Monday, October 31, 2016

IF YOU HAVEN'T VOTED ...

Well, it's just a week and a day away ... the 2016 General Election. Thank God! It's almost over!

Earlier this week I predicted that the *Bradley Effect* would kick in and put Donald Trump over the top for President. That remains to be seen, as they say. But, I'm with America's *Petite Flower and Love Goddess*, Judy Tenuta, when she proclaims, "It could happen!"

The *Bradley Effect*, you'll recall, is what pollsters came up with when heavily-favored Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley failed to win the California Governor's race in 1982. They claimed that the pre-election polls were erroneous because respondents said they would vote for Bradley when they didn't want to be perceived as racist for voting against him. The same effect could be true with Donald Trump because, while he isn't black, he's still an "outsider."

In a *New Yorker* article dated October 31, 2016, "Reporter at Large" **George Packer** wrote, "There's an ongoing battle among Trump's opponents to define his supporters. Are they having a hard time economically, or are they just racists? Do they need to be listened to, or should they be condemned and written off? Clinton, addressing a fund-raising dinner on Wall Street in September, placed 'half' of Trump's supporters in what she called 'the basket of deplorables' - bigots of various types. The other half, she said, are struggling and deserve empathy. Under criticism, she half-apologized, saying that she had counted too many supporters as 'deplorables.' Accurate or not, her remarks rivaled Obama's 'guns and religion' and Romney's 'forty-seven per cent' for unwise campaign condescension. All three politicians thought that

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they were speaking among friends - that is, in front of wealthy donors, the only setting on the campaign trail where truth comes out."

Trump and Clinton have been battling neck-and-neck in the polls for the last couple of weeks. The battle has been "nasty", as Clinton's cohort Elizabeth Warren called the campaign's women at rallies last week. "Nasty women are tough, nasty women are smart, and nasty women vote," Warren exclaimed. This, of course, is in retaliation for Trump's retort "Nasty Woman" during the final debate.

For sure, it's been another one of those crazy never-ending weekends. Friday, the FBI announced that the Clinton investigation was being continued because evidence uncovered in its Anthony Weiner probe appears "to be pertinent" to the Clinton case. A laptop computer reportedly belonging to the Weiner family allegedly contains hundreds of thousands of emails related to Weiner's wife, Hillary Clinton's closest associate Huma Abedin. News reports said there were thousands of "hits" for state.gov on the Weiner computer. Things were on hold for the weekend while the FBI sought a warrant for the machine and its contents. It's Monday morning and they're still beating this thing to death!

I was a broadcast news-guy for decades so I can recognize the FBI/Weiner story for what it is: Lazy national news departments. They don't dig for news from late Friday afternoon until early Monday. There is always plenty of news on weekends, but only a skeleton crew is working at most big news departments, so unless it's a disaster we don't hear about it until Monday. Friday's evening news is what they use on Monday mornings! Savvy political operatives know they'll get three full days of free coverage if they can break a story between ten and noon on Friday! (Question: Will the October

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Surprise promised by WikiLeaks happen a week late this Friday?)

At this point, it appears that the Clinton camp has been trying to ape the nastiness of the early days of the Trump Primary campaign better than a year ago. Clinton is calling FBI Director Jim Comey a scoundrel, a bought-and-paid-for republican, a Trump lackey because of continuation of the Clinton investigation. It's hard to tell whether the Clinton camp's bluster has merit or not. Instead, let's hope the girls will park their brooms tonight, get out with the kids and enjoy Halloween!

Meanwhile, back on the front porch, dressed in a white sheet, with his Trick-or-Treat bag at the ready, Trump has settled into an exciting, yet ghoulishly calm, presentation of the meat and potatoes of his "Contract with the American Voter" designed to make America great again.

This morning, the **USC Dornsife/Los Angeles Times Daybreak** poll has Trump ahead of Clinton 46.0 to 44.1. Meanwhile, the **IDB/TIPP** poll had Clinton 44.7, Trump 43.7.

Remember, you have the right to take time off from work, without penalty or retribution, to cast your ballot. Avoid the crowds! And as Arizona's iconic Democrat Governor Rose Mofford used to say ... "Vote early ... and vote often!"

Improvise - Adapt - Overcome. Semper Fi.

Thursday, November 3, 2016

THE BIG NUKE

So how are our candidates doing this morning? The **LA Times** has it Trump 47.5 Clinton 42.5 and the **IBD-TIPP** has Trump at 44.1 Clinton 44.0. **Lott & Stossel's Election Betting Odds** have Clinton at 69.7% and Trump at 29.2%, 2.4 to 1. See for yourself. Click the links below.

LA Times/USC Poll <http://graphics.latimes.com/usc-presidential-poll-dashboard/>

IBD-TIPP Poll <http://www.investors.com/politics/ibd-tipp-presidential-election-poll/>

Election Betting Odds <https://electionbettingodds.com/>

A good friend has been agreeing with Donald Trump for weeks saying that the election is rigged, that we are doomed because Hillary will win - even as the odds for a Clinton victory drop like a rock. Yesterday, I got an email from another good friend concerned about the possibility of rigged voting machines provided either directly or indirectly to Arizona's county election offices by the George Soros Organization. I forwarded her concerns to Gila County Elections so that she might be the recipient of "the straight dope" from our guy Eric Mariscal. I have every confidence that Arizona's election system will catch any sculduggery that might (or might not) be afoot.

While Donald Trump has been touting his "Contract with America's Voters", the Hillary Clinton campaign has gone ballistic. Early this week the 1964 black-and-white anti nuke commercial that the Lyndon Johnson Camp ran against Barry Goldwater surfaced again. It portrays a little girl picking the flower petals off a daisy to cue an announcer and the count down to a giant nuclear explosion in the child's eye. Although the spot ran only once before it was pulled, it got tons of play

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on literally all of the media back then. You can see it here: <https://youtu.be/fbIfVEboAzg> The 2016 Clinton spot features the now grown-up Monique: <https://youtu.be/AJzcvaguk5M>

The New York Times broke the story late Monday that the FBI investigation into alleged ties between key Trump advisers and Russian bankers, hacking of computers and emails belonging to Democrats, and the allegation that Trump had a secret channel to communicate with a Russian bank were all found to be unsubstantiated. The report says that two servers at Alpha Bank sent some 2,700 "look-ups" to a Trump Organization server last Spring, but it asserts those hits were more than likely marketing email or spam. According to **The Times**, "The most serious part of the F.B.I.'s investigation has focused on the computer hacks that the Obama administration now formally blames on Russia. That investigation also involves numerous [U.S.intelligence agency] officials. Investigators, the officials said, have become increasingly confident, based on the evidence they have uncovered, that Russia's direct goal is not to support the election of Mr. Trump, as many Democrats have asserted, but rather to disrupt the integrity of the political system and undermine America's standing in the world more broadly."

But as the week wore on, it just kept looking worse for Hillary Clinton, with another **WikiLeaks** bombshell. Not only had **CNN** contributor and interim Democratic Party Chairwoman Donna Brazile denied providing Clinton with a question before one of the debates, she also sent Clinton information about a second question. Brazile's contract with **CNN** was immediately terminated.

That wasn't all! The FBI has made it very public that there are multiple offices involved in the "pay-to-play" Clinton Foundation investigation. It appears that folks who were given limited immunity in the e-mail investigation have no

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such immunity in the Foundation investigation. And, it looks like a whole batch of little birdies are about to sing to save their little tail-feathers! FBI agents across the nation have made it clear how angry they are that their agency has been painted as corrupt because of the tidy relationships between Director Comey, the muckety-mucks at Justice, including US Attorney General Loretta Lynch, and the Clinton friends and family.

Meanwhile, back in the Jungle ...

The Cadets - 1956

The boys in the jungle had me on the run
When somethin' heavy hit me like an atomic bomb
When I woke up an' my head started to clear
I had a strange feeling I was with cookin' gear
I smelled somethin' cookin' and I looked to see
That's when I found out they was a-cookin' me!
Great Googamooga! Lemme outa here!

<https://youtu.be/Sv9QU9QUd5A>

That sorta sums up the pickle Hillary Clinton finds herself in just a few days before the election she's waited for all her life! Early in the week, pundits had her in possession of enough Electoral College votes to make the grade, and some twenty per-cent of the electorate had voted early. But between news Friday of the FBI Director's Weiner letter to Congress and **WikiLeaks'** revelation that Donna Brazile did provide at least two debate questions to Clinton, this election is getting more exciting every day! It just doesn't stop! Yesterday morning on Fox News, Associate Editor and columnist at RealClearPolitics A.B. Stoddard called Clinton an "ethical dumpster fire."

One other thing: What are the odds that the FBI finds the missing 33,000 Clinton emails on the Weiner laptop hard drive? There is not supposed to be any public information

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released relating to federal criminal investigations, but I'll put good money on a leak of some sort - soon!

The question on everybody's lips today just has to be, "Good Lord, what will it be tomorrow?"

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Thursday, November 7, 2016
ONE MORE DAY

How are our candidates holding up this morning? The **LA Times** has it Trump 48.0 Clinton 43.2 and the **IBD-TIPP** has Trump at 43.1 Clinton 40.7. **Lott & Stossel's Election Betting Odds** have Clinton at 81.8% and Trump at 17.9%, 4.6 to 1. Click the links below to see the latest.

LA Times/USC Poll <http://graphics.latimes.com/usc-presidential-poll-dashboard/>

IBD-TIPP Poll <http://www.investors.com/politics/ibd-tipp-presidential-election-poll/>

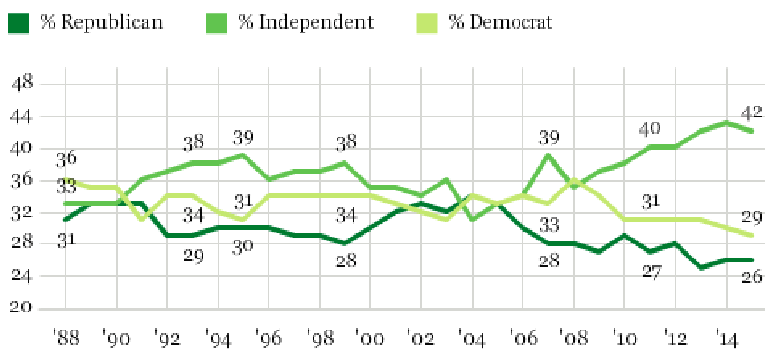
Election Betting Odds <https://electionbettingodds.com/>

Political author and pollster **Dick Morris** wrote in his column last Friday, "[Thursday] night, **CBS News** reported that the FBI discovered State Department emails on the laptop seized from Anthony Weiner. These emails are new to the FBI, not duplicates, and were never turned over to FBI. ... [The laptop] contained ALL of the Hillary Clinton emails that were originally on her personal server when she worked in the State Department. It had not yet been picked clean yet because no one knew it existed. That laptop housed the 33,000 emails designated as 'personal' that Hillary never turned over to the State Dept. and claimed to delete. ... The FBI recovered over 17,000 new deleted emails. And now they've recovered more on Weiner's computer." However, after intensive investigation by his people, FBI Director James Comey threw in the towel and called off the dogs. In a letter to Congress on Sunday, Mr. Comey noted that the FBI had reviewed the new emails and "we have not changed our conclusion that we expressed in July with respect to Secretary Clinton." Was this the October Surprise everyone has been expecting? ¿Quien Sabe?

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According to a January article by the **Gallup Poll**, **Tom Bonier**, CEO of **TargetSmart**, said national voter registration now stands at 200,081,377. With a total of roughly 324 million, that works out to almost two-thirds of the population (62%) registered to vote! The pundits are predicting a low turnout for the 2016 elections compared to 2008 and 2012. I'll bet they're wrong because **Gallup** found that people who identify as Independents (42%) outnumber those who identify as Democrats (29%) or Republicans (26%). Look how the ratio between the three identities has changed since 1988.

U.S. Party Identification, Yearly Averages, 1988-2015



Based on multiple day polls conducted by telephone

GALLUP®

Only when Republicans and Democrats are combined do they outnumber Independents! The big question the pundits raise is how many will turn out to vote? As a percentage, how many of the Independents, Republicans and Democrats will actually drag their sorry butts to the polls? You think the Independents' votes don't count? Think again.

Meanwhile, back at the ranch ... the "little people", the "forgotten people", the "silent majority" are gearing up to make a difference. They are the folks who used to enjoy the comforts and job security that almost guaranteed the "good

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life" supplied by Democratic administrations. Union membership was a guarantee of job security and a "fair share" of the American economic pie. But that way of life began to deteriorate in fits and starts as the government began dictating how things are done. It began with the well-intentioned Environmental Protection Act and has ground American life down almost to a halt with the Affordable Care Act. These folks haven't been able to catch a break since the "Great Recession" and an inept government stole their jobs and their way of life. These are the ones who are as mad as Hell and they're not going to take it anymore!

Dick Morris wrote Saturday that high school educated men are a growing force to be reckoned with. "In the [Fox] poll, [Trump] leads Hillary among these voters by 41 points (61-20). One week ago, he led by 31 points (59-29) and two weeks ago, his lead was only 16 points (48-32)." "By contrast", he penned, "Hillary has made some gains among high school educated women where she now trails by 21 points (53-32) having been 27 points back (58-31) previously."

I believe these so-called "blue-collar" Americans are motivated today to participate tomorrow in a system they've stopped believing in over the years. They are the ones who will change the basic character of our government ... almost overnight!

I may be way off the mark, but I believe - based on what I've observed over the last two or three years - that despite what the pundits and the politicians say, there will be a massive turnout of highly motivated Americans tomorrow at the polls across this country. These "little" people want to take back the jobs that have been crushed out of existence by the cruelty of an uncaring, bloated federal government. These "forgotten" people want to be able to afford a vacation like they used to

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before the government mangled their lifestyles. These people are members of the "silent majority" and they want to be able to afford to go out for dinner and a movie again. In short, these Americans want their lives and their country back.

Just think ... one more day and we're finally done with it! The 2016 election cycle has scarfed just about every second for the last two years. Hopefully, candidates for the 2018 midterms will hold their water until after our new President is sworn in on Friday, January 20th.

So that inquiring minds will know ... I voted early in favor of Gila County incumbents and picked the locals living closest for Arizona's House and Senate. I chose Babeu for U.S. Congress and both Flake and McCain for U.S. Senate. In addition, I'll bet I picked the winner for President!

I'm confident that you've become informed enough through the year to be able to intelligently select those candidates you feel are the best choices to make our local, state and federal governments work less for the privileged and the elite and more for us! Good luck tomorrow.

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Wednesday, November 9, 2016

EXTRA

How 'bout that election, folks! Wow!

It's **Donald Trump** (R) by a resounding margin - who woulda thunk it. Brexit II.

John McCain (R) was returned for another term as US Senator from Arizona.

Paul Babeu didn't make it as District One US Congressman – **Tom O'Halleran** (D) did.

Congratulations to new District 2 County Supervisor **Tim Humphrey** and new District 3 County Supervisor **Woody Cline**. Gila County's Board of Supervisors is now 100% Republican.

Congratulations also to **Paul Penzone** (D), the new Sheriff of Maricopa County. His win retires "America's Toughest Sheriff", Joe Arpaio - it was a good run!

And congratulations to **David Cook** (R), the new Arizona State House member from SD8!

Prop 206 passed, **Prop 205** did not. Arizona residents can look for increasing prices to pay for a rising minimum wage and mandated paid vacations for all workers. Those workers will not, however, be able to legally fire up a doobie on that vacation!

Whew! Thank God it's over!

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Thursday, November 10, 2016

WE'RE STILL HERE

So, there I was - out among 'em ... shootin' the breeze about how things were goin'. It struck me that most of the folks were sorta resigned to whatever was going to be was going to be. I asked one ol' boy, what with all the hoopteedoo about the election, how he could stay so cool and collected. He said, "Look who all came before us. They's been more come before us than we are today, an' we're still here, so guess it don't make that much diffrence, now do it?"

That got me to thinking. Have there actually been more people come before us in this world than are alive today? Is the wisdom of the ages really what makes things work?

I went lookin', and found out that since the dawn of civilization (about 10,000 BC) somewhere in the range of 108.3 billion people have walked the face of the earth. Today, there are some 7.4 billion of us among the living. That means the total population today represents about 6.8% of all the people born in the last 12,000 years. If you consider that hardly anyone lived past the age of fifteen until people began to raise crops, you would be correct in estimating that roughly 20% of all adult human beings ever born are alive today! This means that some 86.6 billion of our relatives never made it past age 15. Is that crazy, or what?!

Talk about your epiphany! At the ripe old age of 75, I've lived five times longer than 80% of the people who have ever stood upright! The Biblical allocation of threescore and ten means that I've successfully borrowed five years from the ol' grim reaper!

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Perhaps the realization that my longevity, compared to all the folks who ever lived, is why the election and all it's silliness simply hasn't phased me in the least. The ol' boy was right on!

If you get to feeling down about things just remember, "They's been more come before us than we are today, an' we're still here, so guess it don' make that much diff'rence, now do it?"

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Monday, November 14, 2016

SAFE?

I'm astounded that there are still Americans that don't know how our country works. Even more astounding is the fact that our Colleges and Universities are being overrun by young adults who have absolutely no idea how our society actually works in the real world. Boy, are they in for some huge surprises!

I keep seeing on Facebook what describes this situation in a nutshell: It compares Cops and Service men and women with Collegians. Our men and women in blue and in the services are ready to die to keep us safe. On the other hand, students demonstrate, riot and destroy property to force the creation of "safe spaces" so they can run and hide when offended.

These adult children are wasting their time creating havoc instead of a future for themselves. These are the kids who will graduate deeply in debt and with no job prospects. These are the kids who will have to sponge off the system or take jobs at fast-food outlets beneath their "station" while it slowly dawns on them that there are no safe spaces out in the real world. Worse, a number of these young people are easily misled by the likes of SEIU, Occupy, BLM and such. There are bad people lurking everywhere - murderers, rapists, thieves, drug addicts, thugs, anarchists and "community organizers" - out there waiting to take advantage of them.

Political Science and Liberal Arts do little to prepare students to build a life for themselves. In the first place, there are no jobs for inexperienced, wet-behind-the-ears whiners who wasted four years and tens of thousands of dollars of borrowed money on degrees no longer worth the paper on which they're written. A huge number of today's college grads

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have no idea what real work is all about and they have no idea of the value of a dollar, whether paper or plastic.

Their peers who attend vocational school come out with a real appreciation for the value of work and they graduate with real, marketable skills worth serious money. These are the kids who will make up the backbone of America in the future, just as blue collar workers have always done. These are the folks that elected Donald Trump.

The bratty collegians are the ones in the streets, unaware of a future with no safe spaces.

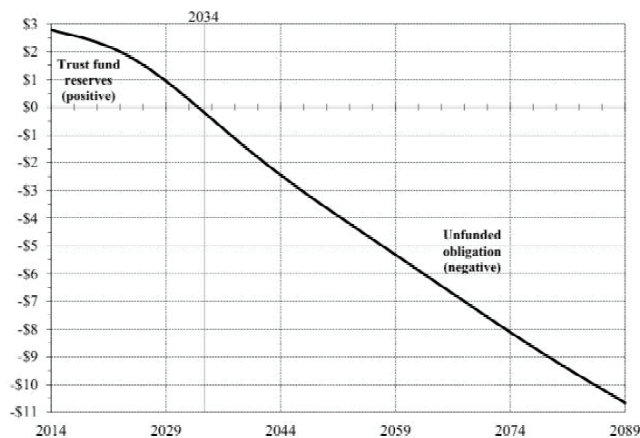


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Thursday, November 17, 2016
SOCIAL SECURITY 2017

Social Security is going to become a big deal in the next few years unless the Congress takes charge and fixes it. Domsayers are predicting that it will go in the toilet within two decades. Here's the straight dope from the folks that run the program:

Figure II.D6.—Cumulative Scheduled OASDI Income Less Cost,
From Program Inception Through Years 2014–89
[Present value as of January 1, 2015, in trillions]



Well, now ... it may not be as bad as some would think.

Here's some good information from the **Center for Budget and Policy Priorities**: "When Social Security needs to start cashing in its holdings of Treasury securities to meet its benefit obligations, the federal government will have to increase its borrowing from the public, or raise taxes or spend less. That will be a concern for the Treasury - but not for Social Security, as long as the solvency of the federal government itself is not called into question. Social Security will be able to sell its bonds just as any private investor might do."

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So how does that affect the annual benefit increase to account for inflation. Lookee here:

Table 2. Average CPI-W for the Third Quarter, 2007-2016
(cost-of-living computation quarters and COLAs)

Year	Average CPI-W for the Third Quarter	New Cost-of-Living Computation Quarter Established	Resulting COLA*
2007	203.596	yes	2.3%
2008	215.495	yes	5.8%
2009	211.001	no (215.495 of 2008 retained)	no COLA
2010	214.136	no (215.495 of 2008 retained)	no COLA
2011	223.233	yes	3.6%
2012	226.936	yes	1.7%
2013	230.327	yes	1.5%
2014	234.242	yes	1.7%
2015	233.278	no (234.242 of 2014 retained)	no COLA
2016	235.057	Yes	0.3%

Source: Created by CRS using data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Well, for every Yin there's a Yang. The history of how much loot Americans have been paying into the Sysem since its inception is interesting. Used to be - way back in the 1930s - that you paid just 2% of your earnings up to \$3,300 (\$66 per year). Now, to support the system you pay half of your 12.4% tax and your employer pays the other half - and adds another 2.9% - on your earnings up to \$118,500. That would be \$18,130.50 total. According to the SSA Press Office in Baltimore MD, the threshold increases to \$127,200 for 2017 - \$19,461.60 in SS/MC taxes.

And, self-employed folks get to pay the whole 15.3% of their earnings to Social Security and Medicare up to the new threshold of 127,200. Talk about an incentive to work for yourself!

In 2017, the average retired couple will receive something like \$2,260 in monthly Social Security Benefits - minus their Medicare Part B premium. Social Security is expected to go up by 3 tenths of one percent - about \$4.00 on average. The

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Medicare premium is expected to remain stable based on a "hold harmless" clause in the applicable law.

Just thought some of you old farts out there might find that interesting!

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Monday, November 21, 2016

AGREE TO DISAGREE

In 1994, prominent Phoenix TV sportscaster **John David Hayworth**, a Republican, became incumbent Congresswoman **Karen English**'s formidable opponent. J D Hayworth was one of America's best orators at the time, far and away a better speaker than Mrs. English.



Many folks thought Hayworth was one of the most bombastic story tellers since Senator **Beauregard Claghorn** of Charleston, South Carolina who was a regular on the **Fred Allen** radio show in the late '40s. According to **Wikipedia**, when Allen went calling, Claghorn would typically answer the door with, "Somebody, ah say, somebody knocked! Claghorn's the name, Senator Claghorn, that is. I'm from the South. Suh." Hayworth's photo sometimes turned up as Warner Brothers' Loony Tunes cartoon figure, the famous **Foghorn Leghorn**. Well, ol' J D fit the part so perfectly, Democrats at the time referred to him as **Claghorn Foghorn**!



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"*Agree to disagree*" was the by-word of the Hayworth campaign. The blustery J D (Arizona's own Foghorn Claghorn) beat the Democrats to death with that saying while they were trying to hold onto the House. Every time they took a shot he came back with something like, "There is no reason for this kind of rhetoric when it comes to American politics. If we can just *agree to disagree*, we can make great things happen."

Hayworth dominated the 1994 Arizona District One Congressional race because he was one of the best bloviators on the face of the planet! He coupled with House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** to promote the "**Contract with America**", a popular conservative approach to government that harkened back to the days of **Ronald Reagan**. J D Hayworth won the 1994 General Election walking away with a 13.1% margin, garnering 107,060 votes to English's 81,321. All because he was willing to *agree to disagree*!

Just think: If we could get the protesters and rabble-rousers across the country to team up with members of every political party and get them all to *agree to disagree*, there is no end to the cool things this country can achieve! Why not channel the dissenters' incredible energy into positive activities promoting economic growth and job creation?

The thing is ... that's the way it used to be: Members of Congress had knock-down drag-out verbal wars on the floors of the House and Senate. But at the end of the day, because they had *agreed to disagree*, they got together often as friends for dinner and drinks after work.

My wife said she couldn't understand how that could happen today with community organizers and thugs teaming up to make trouble all over the country egged on by Congressional leaders.

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Former Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid is the epitome of what drives the dissenters and rabble-rousers today. For example, this is the man who demanded that Mitt Romney prove he had always paid his taxes, an impossible thing to overcome that ended up costing Romney the 2012 Presidential election. When asked why he posed such a blatantly false premise, Reid responded, "We won the election, didn't we?" The Senator didn't stop his negative rhetoric with the 2012 election. This year, in the last days before his impending retirement, Reid's parting shots have included, "The election of Donald Trump has emboldened the forces of hate and bigotry in America. ... Watching white nationalists celebrate while innocent Americans cry tears of fear does not feel like America. ... Every news piece that breathlessly obsesses over inauguration preparations compounds their fear by normalizing a man who has threatened to tear families apart, who has bragged about sexually assaulting women, and who has directed crowds of thousands to intimidate reporters and assault African-Americans."

In 1991, a black Taxi driver, Rodney King, was mercilessly beaten by four Los Angeles police officers as others stood and watched. According to **Wikipedia**, "Four officers were charged with assault with a deadly weapon and use of excessive force. Three were acquitted of all charges. The jury acquitted the fourth of assault with a deadly weapon but failed to reach a verdict on the use of excessive force. The jury deadlocked at 8-4 in favor of acquittal at the state level. ... The acquittals are generally considered to have triggered the 1992 Los Angeles riots. ... During the riots, King made a television appearance in which he said 'Can we all get along?' The widely quoted line has been often misquoted as, 'Can we all *just* get along?' or '*Can't* we all just get along?' ... By the time the police, the U.S. Army, Marines and National Guard

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restored order, the riots had caused 53 deaths, 2,383 injuries, more than 7,000 fires, damage to 3,100 businesses, and nearly \$1 billion in financial losses."

Rodney King's 1992 plea "People, I just want to say, you know, can we all get along? Can we get along? Can we stop making it, making it horrible for the older people and the kids?" morphed into Hayworth's **agree to disagree**. And it came about because people rioted in LA streets to express their anger and frustration. That's not the way it's supposed to be ... but it's a good bet that's one of the reasons why Donald Trump is America's President-elect. We should all be hoping he can get the members of Congress to **agree to disagree** once again.

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Thursday, November 24, 2016

BEATING THE BUREAUCRATS

Contrary to popular belief, President Donald Trump's biggest challenge is not going to be the Congress. It will be the Bureaucracy. Government employees today outnumber those in the private sector by some 9.7 million. The general attitude a number of folks who work for the government, at all levels, can most easily be described as haughty - unfriendly and seeming to consider themselves better than other people. I can say this from experience, having worked at several levels myself.

According to **Betsy McCaughey** of the **New York Post** "Public unions are already digging in for a fight. After the election, J. David Cox, president of the **American Federation of Government Employees**, dismissed Trump's plans as more or less irrelevant. **AFGE** members have their own big-government agenda, and 'that never changes no matter who sits in the White House.' Protection of the status quo at any cost. ... Despite Congress enacting 'reforms' and President Obama appointing a new VA secretary in 2014, the bureaucracy continues to block giving vets access to civilian care. How hard is it to fire anyone at Veterans Affairs? One surgeon found guilty of abandoning a patient on the operating table and leaving the medical center still got an \$11,000 bonus. ... Trump's ability to fix the Department of Veterans Affairs, clean up IRS abuses, roll back job-killing regulations and get taxpayers their money's worth all hinge on uprooting the entrenched civil service. Newt Gingrich, a top Trump adviser, warns: 'If you don't fix this problem, nothing in government is going to work.'"

Perhaps the most exasperating thing is having to wait a half-an-hour or more to speak with someone and being told

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something like, "Oh, that won't do. Your ID is no good here - you have to bring your Birth Certificate." You ask, "Can I go home and get it and come right back to you?" The answer, of course, is, "Oh, heavens no. You can't do that. You'll have to take another number." Even when you've already paid your dues in Waiting Line Purgatory! You can expect something like this at the local Motor Vehicle Department, the Employment Office and sometimes even the Doctor's Office!

Sometimes, you've got nothing more than a simple request for help accomplishing some menial task required to get something else done. Perhaps how to fill out a particular application or something. You'll still run into, "Sorry, can't do that" or "That's not allowed." Don't it make your skin creep?

My experience with workers at the bottom and mid-levels of government supports the allegation that many make up rules when they don't know the policies, practices and procedures that apply to their their jobs - and are too lazy to find out. Lazy, because the smart thing would be to ask a superior for advice, rather than saying "you can't do that" to someone needing assistance. A number of government workers won't bother. Let me describe an experience I had as a mid-level manager at the University of Arizona some years ago. This is from my 2014 book **Caca Pasa** - page 144.

Autonomy and Problem-solving

A number of pages back we touched on the virtues of work with little or no supervision. Such employees are called autonomous. Workers who "have their own head" are usually great at solving complex problems and generally get to the roots of repetitive difficulties quickly.

My autonomy began in the fourth grade when Mrs. Clark put me to work on [a] bird project. I got to do a specific task

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exactly the way I wanted, solved the problems that came with it, and was richly rewarded for my labors. Autonomous problem-solving became a forte of sorts for me because it required finding root causes and then implementing workable solutions.

I found this particularly great for dealing with government employees. Running into that bureaucratic stone wall, "I'm sorry sir, but you can't do that" has always presented me with a challenge, usually minor. If my request is reasonable and doesn't break the law or cross purposes with policy, more often than not, I'll end up doing that "you can't do ..."

Take my introduction to the Management job at the University of Arizona. The first day at work, I asked the boss if there was anything he would like that he hadn't been able to accomplish through normal channels. He disclosed the deadbolts on the doors to his many research labs. He said he had tried every trick in the book, but was unable to find a way to keep new lab equipment from walking off just after school started. It seems that the engineering students made it a project every year to create a set of master keys that would open any door on campus and that's the black hole into which millions of dollars worth of equipment simply evaporated each fall. When he asked for help, the Facilities Management people told him those four magic words, "You can't do that." I told him that was right up my alley and that I'd try to have dead-bolts installed on all department lab doors before the end of the week. Oh, a double challenge: forbidden deadbolts in less than five days. Yesss!

I read the applicable parts of the UofA policy manual and then wrote work orders, one for each door, specifying that each share a common key, copies of which would go to the director, his assigns, the FM key desk, the University President and the campus Police Chief. The specifications

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also required a brand not presently used anywhere on the UofA campus. No sweat. All the bases were covered. Except one ... "You can't do that."

Government offices are notorious for clerks that make up rules based on rumor, innuendo or thin air. My girl had a firm grip on every reason on earth why deadbolts are not allowed anywhere on campus. She over-ruled every objection I came up with, so I finally pulled the rabbit out of the hat, "May I see your supervisor, please?" I guess nobody ever asked it quite like that, so she fluttered and flustered and disappeared down a hallway for a moment, returning with that other bureaucratic statement, "He's not in right now, sir." No problem. "Is his supervisor or manager in?" I asked. Paydirt! End-run! A few moments later I was ushered into the FM Director's office.

We had a nice chat over coffee – all about how the physics building was a challenge for the Facilities Management folks because of the many pipes and cables and tunnels and all. He was quite a knowledgeable guy. When I explained the project to him, he asked how we planned to keep the keys available in accordance with University policy. I told him the specs called for key copies to the UofA President, the key box at Facilities Management, and the Police Chief. He gave it thumbs up.

So ... I had read and understood University policy, created work orders with specifications, and obtained the go-ahead from the head dog. One final question, "Can we make this happen by Thursday?" The Director returned, "Overnight tomorrow, ok?" We had coffee a number of times after that.

I didn't see the boss the rest of the day and avoided him all day Tuesday. Before lunch Wednesday he came into my office, sat down in the chair across from my desk and asked,

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"How the Hell did you do it?" I laughed, leaned toward him and whispered, "It's a secret."

The story above supports my contention that many bureaucrats make up rules when they don't know the policies, practices and procedures that apply - and are too lazy to find out.

You can read **Caca Pasa** here: <http://www.jettedthayer.com>

Please be patient - it's big pdf file. And you do have my express permission to save it for another time.

Meanwhile - have a happy Thanksgiving!

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Monday, November 28, 2016

WHAT USED TO BE

Did you know that many Republicans used to be Democrats?
It's true!

I remember when Conservatives held that a woman should have full control of her own body. Conservative Republicans contended that abortion was something a woman should decide for herself. Democrats, on the other hand, held that even a fertilized ovum (zigote) in a woman's womb was precious life to be protected at all costs. That belief tied in neatly with the teachings of the Catholic Church, that contraception in any form is a mortal sin. And it is a fact that a majority of Catholics are Democrats - 44% according to **PewResearch**.

The Democrats' contention, over a period of a couple of decades, was quietly turned over to the GOP as the Party endorsed womens' rights, a Liberal - and thus Democratic - platform in support of **Planned Parenthood**. Over the same period, the Republican Party slowly moved to endorse the proposition that life of the unborn is sacred. I recall arguing with good friends in the '90s about this very issue. My Protestant Conservative Republican contention was that groups of elected men have no business deciding what women should or should not do with their bodies. My Catholic Liberal Democrat friends were adamant that all life is sacred and should therefore be protected by law. This was long after the historic 1973 **Roe v. Wade** U.S. Supreme Court decision upholding a woman's right to choose.

The battle to overturn Roe v. Wade became a Liberal cause embraced by the Democrats and became more important with each ensuing election cycle. Republicans, siding with the

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Conservative SCOTUS, fought back tooth and nail, dragging with them the religious right. But in the last few election cycles the battle has changed sides. Now, it's the Democrats who embrace Roe v. Wade and Planned Parenthood, the Republicans who are lining up to fight for fetus' rights!

Abortion is not the only issue that used to belong to the Democrats. Union support was almost a guarantee for any Democrat. With the **Green** and **Climate Change** movements promoted by Democrats and liberal administrations, millions of once avid Union workers were put out of work. And when they tried to speak up about it, they were shouted down.

People who once looked forward to mining coal, drilling for oil and manufacturing things like automobiles and white goods have found themselves unemployed and unsupported by the Democrat Party. Over the years Liberal policies were enacted that restricted any activity that could possibly cause '70s **Global Cooling**, '90s **Global Warming**, and lately Climate Change. William Buckley Jr. said, "Liberals claim to want to give a hearing to other views, but then are shocked and offended to discover that there are other views." Blue collar workers, the majority of whom were Union members, found themselves out in the cold. These are the folks that made the difference in the 2016 elections. These are the folks that Democrat presidential candidate Hillary Clinton told, "We're going to put a lot of coal miners and coal companies out of business." These are the folks whose employers folded their tents and moved to Mexico and other foreign countries, displacing some 5.1 million American workers. With no support from their Party, miners voted to get their jobs back! So did many other blue collar workers, both Union and non-union. Once-upon-a-time they were all staunch Democrats.

Another thing that has changed - and hardly anyone noticed. Republicans used to turn out the vote by canvassing

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neighborhoods, knocking on doors, handing out pamphlets and putting fliers under auto windshield wipers at the Mall. This time around the Democrats, lead by the Clinton Machine, spent millions upon millions on their "ground game" as it's called. It sounded like they had people in every nook and cranny of every state, and while they did gain six seats in the House and didn't lose any ground in the Senate, they lost the Presidency. In the Senate, Democrats pulled up shy of taking back a majority once led by Nevada's **Harry Reid** and the gains in the House were not enough to win back the majority once led by Californian **Nancy Pelosi**.

Pundits said the reason the Democrats didn't do better is that down-ballot incumbents tried to distance themselves from the very negative Clinton campaign and its closeness to President Obama. Meanwhile, the Republicans lost ground for the same reason - distance from the Trump camp.

The thing that clinched the Trump victory was his ability to attract crowds numbering in the tens of thousands ... something completely unfamiliar to Republicans. The Trump ground game consisted of helping the RNC man offices in key states and counting on rally-goers to tell friends, family and neighbors about their experience. The Democrats lost the Presidency because they did what Republicans used to do back in the day, and it didn't work! Even with hundreds of millions of dollars spent on regional and national television.

Apparently, the DNC doesn't get it. According to **Symone Sanders**, former spokeswoman for Senator Bernie Sanders' presidential campaign, "In my opinion, we don't need white people leading the Democratic Party right now." The message the Democrat Party should be working on for next time is for "working-class people, white people, black people, brown people, gay people, straight people, to improve opportunity

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for them to grow their wages, to have security, economic security."

If Ms.Sanders represents what the Democrats intend to stand for, they're in for a rude awakening. If you combine the voting power of all the groups the Democrats targeted this time around, they still don't constitute a clear majority of the electorate. White middle-class blue collar workers who were left out in the cold by their party are where they need to concentrate efforts to win them back. Those are the people who elected Donald Trump.

So, there you have it - three reasons why a significant number of Republicans used to be Democrats. Abortion, Union Support and the Ground Game.

There is a silver lining to all of this. Word is that President-elect Donald Trump got a call the other day from **Ford Motor Company** Chairman Bill Ford, who told him the automaker had decided they would not be moving production at a Kentucky plant to Mexico. **FMC** builds the Ford **Escape** and **Lincoln MKC** SUV at its Louisville assembly plant in Kentucky. It employs about 4,700 people. **Ford Motors** also has a truck plant there where pickups and larger SUVs are manufactured. United Technology workers who were laid off after Carrier Air Conditioning announced it was closing its Indianapolis plant, as well as the UTEC plant in Huntington might want to take heart - Mr. Trump and UTEC/Carrier have been talking about perhaps not moving to Monterrey, Mexico.

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Monday, December 1, 2016

SEATTLE'S MINIMUM WAGE LESSON

How long has the campaign to raise the minimum wage to \$15 been going on? Has it produced success? The folks in Seattle are saying "No" today because it has come with dire consequences even before they hit the magic \$15 wage!

Seattle Mayor **Edward B. Murray** formed the **Income Inequality Advisory Committee (IIAC)** to address a cornerstone priority of an opportunity agenda: a meaningful increase in compensation for Seattle workers. The 24 person committee, co-chaired by representatives from the **Seattle Hospitality Group** and **SEIU**, came back with recommendations for Seattle City Ordinance No. 124490, which passed the City Council unanimously on June 2, 2014 and was signed into law by the Mayor the next day.

Seattle's **KIRO-7-TV** reported that the mandated wage increase in April of 2015 caused some unexpected reactions. The phased-in raise to \$11 per hour pressed employers to cut back hours to make up for the increase. This came on top of worker cutbacks from full-time to part-time as a way to pay for the mandated costs of the Affordable Healthcare Act. The increase to \$13 this year didn't make it any easier for Seattle businesses.

Cutbacks weren't enough for some workers. Executive director of **Full Life Care** in Seattle **Nora Gibson** observed that people feared that with increased pay they would lose their subsidized housing, so they asked that their work hours be cut to keep them eligible for government subsidies. In other words, they found themselves making too much money to qualify for free stuff!

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In January, the minimum wage is scheduled to jump to the full \$15 per hour. Imagine how many workers are going to be asking for further reductions in hours. How many workers next year will be on the job half the time they were working when they made \$7.50 an hour! Just to stay eligible for government subsidies like section 8 housing, cell-phones, food stamps, WIC, AFDC and Medicaid.

Capitalism, which rewards hard work and raises the standard of living, causes "income inequality." Mandated minimum wage increases make it possible for workers to choose to work less or make more, thus relieving some of the disparity between "the classes." To pay for increased labor costs, employers have had to adapt to higher overhead and raise consumer prices. In the economics world, they call this inflation! Who woulda thunk it?

The Stock Markets go crazy whenever **The Fed** talks about increasing the prime rate to curb inflation, yet lawmakers and commissions driven by ignorant demonstrators, impose minimum wages that in Seattle clearly cause inflation! Clearly? (He challenged.) Prove it!

Ok. The annualized **Consumer Price Index** rose nationally by three tenths of one per-cent this year (the rate used to justify no increase in Social Security benefits). Over the same period, the **U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics** says the **CPI** in the Seattle metro area increased by 2.4% - eight times the national average!

More! In April of 2015, when the \$11/hr mandate went into effect, the Seattle CPI change rate jumped from roughly 0.5% to 2.1% in December, some 4.2 times the April rate. In April the national rate was 0.1% a fifth of Seattle's 0.5% rate. Seattle's December change of 2.4% represents better than two times an order-of-magnitude more than the December

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national rate of *negative* 0.1%. So over a twelve month period between April of 2015 and April of this year, the national CPI growth rate increased from minus .1% to .3% while Seattle's rate jumped from 0.5% to 2.4%.

Economists say that sustained growth of 4% to 5% annually will create a booming economy. On the other hand, growth of eight to twenty-four times the base in a one year period creates serious inflation that takes money out of everybody's pockets. That's Seattle's problem with more on the way in January of 2017. And the pundits say minimum wage increases don't cause inflation. Pfeh!

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Monday, December 5, 2016

MOSTLY MAN-MADE

The **Washington Post** published an article a couple of weeks ago written by **Bjorn Lomborg**, president and founder of the **Copenhagen Consensus Center**. Lomborg wrote, "It should not need to be restated in 2016 that climate change is real and mostly man-made." That statement makes me so crazy, I could beat my head against a brick wall!

"Mostly man-made," my foot. Lomborg's use of the adverb "mostly" just busts my chops!

Thomas Freedman of the **New York Times** asked President-elect Donald Trump, "Do you think climate change is caused by human activity?" Trump replied, "I think there is some connectivity." Freedman reported that Mr. Trump "is not clear 'how much,' and what he will do about it 'depends on how much it's going to cost our companies.' Trump said he would study the issue 'very hard' and hinted that if, after study, he was to moderate his views, his voice would be influential with climate skeptics." Last December, according to Freedman, when asked where he stood on climate change, "the president-elect did not hesitate for a second: 'I'm looking at it very closely. ... I have an open mind to it. We're going to look very carefully. ... You can make lots of cases for different views. ... I will tell you this: Clean air is vitally important. Clean water, crystal-clean water is vitally important.'" At least our President-elect is willing to hear other views about the subject, rather than blindly following the propaganda being spread world-wide by Change advocates.

Now, I readily concede the fact that climate change is real. It is! And it does change regularly. The fact that the seasons

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wax and wane every year with absolutely no interference from mankind stands in stark rebuttal to the theorem that climate change is man-made.

Does Spring happen when the Vernal equinox comes around March 20th? How about the Summer solstice about June 21st? And the Autumnal equinox around September 22nd? We can't forget the Winter solstice on December 21st! It's not mankind that assigns the date the season changes between the 20th and the 22nd of the month ... it's the tilt of the Earth on its axis and the resultant seasonal effects as it orbits the Sun. The Sun is what drives the weather and the seasons.

The Sun's power is not subtle. It's so powerful that when there are lots of sunspots there are few large cyclonic storms developing over the Earth's oceans. Conversely, when there is little Sunspot activity, more Hurricanes and Typhoons form.

A study published in 2008 in **Nature**, the international weekly journal of science, suggests that more Sunspots mean less intense hurricanes on Earth. **Jeff Tolleson** wrote in the September 28, 2008 issue that "**James Elsner**, a Climatologist at **Florida State University** in Tallahassee, has analyzed hurricane data going back more than a century. He says he has identified a 10- to 12-year cycle in hurricane records that corresponds to the solar cycle, in which the Sun's magnetic activity rises and falls." Elsner theorized that during Sunspot storms more ultraviolet radiation reaches the Earth's upper atmosphere, warming the air aloft and decreasing the temperature differential between high and low elevations that otherwise would fuel hurricanes.

Degree Chemist and friend **Kenneth Zeigler** writes on **FaceBook** of the Suncycle that comes every now and then: "Through it all there are certain patterns, one is called **Maunder**. It is directly caused by the sun. This one may be

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coming at a good time ... the Maunder cycle is approximately 490 years long. It's beginning is evidenced by longer and longer solar minimums. Last minimum was one of the longest on record. 400 days without a single spot. The past maximum was almost nothing. Now we are half way between and the sun is quiet ... Folks, the sun is moving into the Maunder minimum, which will drive temperatures down. We are heading into a time of global cooling."

Sunspots cycle on average every eleven years and along with them the phenomena in the Pacific known as **El Niño** and **La Niña**. Mankind has no influence on them, yet the so-called "experts" blame human activities for elevated water temperatures that kill the coral polyps which create the basic structure of reefs. This die-off is called "bleaching."

Contributing Engineer **Tim Channon** wrote in **Tallbloke's Talkshop** "El Nino tends to occur away from the peak of the solar cycle. One of the outcomes of this is that the solar cycle's effect on temperature gets underestimated, because El Niño lifts global temperature at times of low solar activity, and is suppressed at times of high solar activity. La Niña often occurs near the peak of the solar cycle, bringing a couple of cold winters with it." In other words, it's not mankind that heats the oceans - it's the sun!

None of the above sounds very man-made to me! Between waning Sun-spot activity, El Niño and the Maunder, it sounds like we can look forward to increased numbers of powerful Hurricanes and Typhoons as the Climate Changes to cooling once again! Only a fool can claim that climate change is mostly man-made. Those of us who live at her mercy know that Mother Nature is more damaging to the earth than anything mankind can possibly gin up.

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This Wednesday, please take a few moments to remember the men still aboard the USS Arizona. Some 1,177 good men on the battle ship paid the ultimate price on December 7th, 1941 as the Empire of Japan conducted a surprise bombing raid on Pearl Harbor. In his address asking a joint session of Congress for a Declaration of War on Japan, President Franklin D. Roosevelt labeled it, "A date which will live in infamy." 2,403 perished in the sneak attack and another 1,282 were wounded. In just over two hours, the Japanese sank four battleships, destroyed 188 aircraft, three cruisers, three destroyers, eighteen ships in all, sunk or run aground. Making the attack even more despicable was the fact that America was not participating in a declared war at the time, technically making all of the those killed or wounded non-combatants. Some 49% of those killed in the raid were on board the USS Arizona. Tradition has it that the remains of survivors who have since passed away are returned to their ship so they might spend eternity with their brothers beneath the USS Arizona Memorial.

Yesterday - Sunday - two Air Force A-10 attack jets flew over the University of Arizona mall as part of a ceremony marking the 75th anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor and the dedication of the campus' new USS Arizona memorial. The planes belong to the 47th Fight Squadron at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The Tucson unit's predecessor was the 47th Pursuit Squadron based at Hawaii's Wheeler Field. It was decimated during the December 7th attacks, but not before its pilots shot down eight Japanese aircraft.

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Thursday, December 8, 2016 **CHRISTMAS BREAKFAST**

Yacking with friends and acquaintances as the holidays come and go has brought up something we all pretty much take for granted - food. Ah, yes ... mom's yummy super glue that holds most families together during the holidays!

I had occasion to chat with a gal that cooks goodies for the Country Club. She's good! We were talking about the Ugly Christmas Sweater contest for 2016. It will be a pot-luck accompanied by a White Elephant Gift Exchange. That got us talking about what our respective families do on Christmas morning. Some folks open all the presents before breakfast, some open some, have breakfast and then open the rest, some don't open any presents until their tummies are full! The White Elephant Exchange is a part of some folks' Christmas culture.

My lady-friend said that her brood opens all the presents before having breakfast. Afterwards, the kids can go play with their new stuff and the adults get on with the White Elephant Exchange. Each exchange gift is given a number and the adults draw lots for their gifts. No White Elephant gift costs more than ten dollars and none is off limits, suggestive, cheeky, funny - the goofier the better - just for fun!

We chatted a bit about what we had for Christmas breakfast and I told her about the traditional breakfast my family has had in the many decades since my mother was a child.

It's Cottage Eggs.

Scrambled eggs, bacon, boiled peaches and Champagne.

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Visit www.tedthayer.com and copy or print it for yourself.

Cottage Eggs

8 Extra Large Eggs	1 lb Bacon Strips	15oz can Peach Halves
1 heaping Tbsp Small Curd Cottage Cheese		1 tsp Prepared Mustard
1 level Tbsp Sour Cream		1 level Tbsp Mayonnaise
2 pats Salted Butter	As needed: powdered Cinnamon, Salt, Pepper	

Arrange Bacon strips in a large frying pan over medium heat til just crisping. Open Peach Halves and pour into small pot over medium heat. Crack eight eggs into a large bowl. Using a tablespoon, add one overloaded glop of Cottage Cheese, a level Tablespoon of Sour Cream, a level Tablespoon of Mayonnaise, a level teaspoon of prepared Mustard, and a few pinches of salt and pepper. Mix/blend thoroughly. Prepare a medium frying pan with two pats of Salted Butter at medium heat. Scramble the egg mixture til ready to serve. Make a pile of scrambled eggs in the middle of a large serving plate. Arrange the Bacon Strips around the pile of eggs. Place Peach Halves around the outside. Dust the Peach Halves with Cinnamon. Serve with Champagne. Will feed 6.

<http://www.tedthayer.com/Recipes/recipes2.html>

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Monday, December 12, 2016

PROP 206

Earlier this year, Arizona's electorate passed **Arizona Minimum Wage and Paid Time Off, Proposition 206**, a measure that raises the state's minimum wage and gives all workers one hour of paid sick leave for every 30 hours worked. The state's minimum wage today is \$8.05 per hour. It will rise to \$10.00 January 1st, \$10.50 in 2018, \$11.00 in 2019, and \$12.00 in 2020. As of 2021, the minimum wage will increase annually with the cost of living. Oh, heavens! An Arizona COLA! Does this mean we'll have to go with the Social Security COLA for the year?

The costs to business are daunting. What effect Prop 206 will have on consumer prices is not certain. The increase in 2017 gives minimum wage workers a 25% increase in pay. To pay for the mandated sick leave, employers will have to increase their payroll by 3.33% - bringing mandated increases in minimum wage based payroll to 28.33% ... overnight!

There are only three ways for a business to cope with an overnight 28.33% increase in payroll. First, cut work hours by a third, cutting a full-time worker from 30 hours to part-time twenty-one hours. Second, increase the price of goods and services by 30%. The third, and what most businesses will most likely opt for, is some combination of the two, perhaps a two-and-a-half hour cut in time coupled with a 15% increase in prices.

A friend of mine is in retail business. He probably represents how many businesses will be reacting to the costs of the new law. He's cutting out one part-time employee and increasing his own hours behind the counter to pay for the new scenario.

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He hasn't decided about increasing the prices of his goods, but he's grumbled about maybe having to do so.

One of the problems businesses will be running into is the increase in payroll taxes that employers will have to pay. The total amount employers must hock up in taxes and benefits every month inflate the total payroll by some 35-45%. Social Security and Medicare taxes (FICA) are evenly split between employer and employee at 7.65% each. The employer has to pay FUTA (unemployment tax) at a rate of about 6%. Don't forget the mandated costs of the Affordable Care Act. Add Workmens' Comp - Workers Compensation Insurance to assist workers injured on the job, mandated and administrated by the states. Top it all off with whatever benefits employers add to attract skilled workers - vacation time, payroll savings accounts, matching IRA contributions. A \$300 pay check (30 hours at minimum wage before deductions) could easily cost an employer some \$425 come January.

Back in the '70s I was saddled with FICA, FUTA, Workers' Comp, a good Health Insurance Policy and Term Life provided to my employees. I had to collect and pay the employees' State and Federal Withholding Taxes. Didn't have an IRA or other retirement program. And never paid for vacations. We just shut down at Christmas for two weeks. (Scrooge!) Gross payroll expenses were roughly 150% of Net payroll, a tad less than today's average take, I'll bet.

The "experts" are saying annual average inflation in Arizona should not be more than 2.85% per year through 2020. However, the whole payroll thing for small businesses will increase 28.33% come New Year's Day, affecting some 800,000 Arizona workers and heaven knows how many businesses. As I said, my friend hasn't decided whether or not to raise his prices ... yet.

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Thursday, December 15, 2016

WHAT ABOUT THE DOW?

I noticed a couple of things that happened the evening of November 8th this year. Early on, the **Dow** dropped some 200 points when it looked like **Hillary Clinton** might not sweep the election for President. But then, as the night wore on into the wee hours and it became clear that **Donald Trump** was going to pull the rabbit out of the hat, the Dow futures fell like a rock almost 750 points as the Asian markets recoiled and the Mexican Peso fell to record lows. But come the dawn and The Donald's astonishing win, the market gained back the overnight losses and added another 300 points to boot! A Hillary win was supposed to drive the markets up ... and Trump was a bad omen for the futures markets? What was all that about, anyway?

It took everybody a little while to figure out what was happening. The world markets, based on all the news and hoopla, were expecting a Clinton Railroad - a humungous win of the likes not seen in decades! They were poised for a massive roll-up that would rival anything ever seen before. But when they sensed that Hillary could actually lose the Presidential election, they started looking for ways to escape the inevitable losses. Thus, a massive decline in futures.

Futures are funny things - they're based on the old Capitalistic Supply and Demand theorem. If there is a bigger supply than there is demand, the price of a commodity has to fall so that people will buy because the price is low. If the supply is lower than demand, the price must rise to accommodate those still willing to buy at whatever the price. It's called Economics 101.

What happened election eve was that futures traders (figuring a Clinton win would create the shortages and massive profits

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that would come with her green, big-government proposals) got spooked and started bailing out.

When it became clear that Trump was going to walk with the election, traders jumped back into the markets, realizing that a Trump Administration would not only create new markets for American goods worldwide, but also new demands for basic commodities like copper, cotton, coal, oil and natural gas. Not only that, investors realized that lower corporate taxes would mean more opportunities for profits, and repatriation of American dollars would grow the value of the American market and the American dollar on a scale not seen since the Reagan years.

A while back I penned a tome on buying and selling stocks. In keeping with the advice in that article, when the markets began to bottom out - in the wee small hours of election night - smart investors started buying, seeing a future filled with dollar signs! The dawn brought a surge in the markets that pushed the Dow past the 19,000 mark and scrambled towards 20,000 - heights never seen before ... ever!

The Dow took a run at 20,000 Tuesday but pulled up shy - just over 19,900. Yesterday it was uncertain. Would there be profit-taking when it passed the 20,000 mark? Would the pending Fed interest rate announcement put some english on the deal? After all, Oil was down, Silver and Gold up, sure signs of uncertainty. The only thing that could have kept it from staying stable (or mixed), in my estimation, was the way Fed Chairman (ok, Chairwoman) Janet Yalen announced the change to the prime rate.

Everybody had the basic federal interest rate going up by 25 basis points (roughly a quarter of one per-cent) to a range of 0.50% to 0.75%, doubling what it had been for over a year to keep inflation at a minimum. That's exactly what was

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announced at 2:pm EST. A miscalculation on the Federal Reserve Board's part could have triggered profit-taking and huge sell-offs, sending the Dow into a tailspin. If the Fed guessed right, which they did on a 10-0 vote, the markets would continue growing with little or no worry about inflation and profit-taking would most likely be modest because it's so close to the end of the year.

The low yesterday was 19,748, the high cleared 19,914 after the Fed's initial announcement. In anticipation of the Fed's afternoon press conference, the Dow waffled. It finished the day at 19,756, down 118. Chalk up half of that loss to profit-taking and lower Oil, Gold and Silver. In all, not too bad! Still, no 20,000.

Today? The leading futures indicators - commodities including Oil, Gold and Silver - are trending down, indicating an increase for the Dow. Or not! Skeptics are saying the magic 20,000 won't come until January. Meanwhile, watch for Gas prices to increase soon. The national average for Unleaded Regular was \$2.22. Ehhhhhhh...

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Monday, December 19, 2016

THE ELECTORAL COLLEGE

I'm just blown away at the ignorance of the mainstream media and the political leadership of our country's political party leaders!

Why was it news when **Christine Pelosi** (the great interrupter, on **Fox Business** Channel with **Neil Cavuto Coast to Coast**) announced that fifty-one Electors (fifty Democrats and one Republican) were demanding a security briefing to get first-hand information about alleged Russian "meddling" in our Presidential election? Pelosi was asked "Exactly what do you want those Electors to do if they get the information you're looking for?" Just as her mother, **Nancy Pelosi**, might have said, Christine quipped, "I haven't seen it, so I don't know."

The fact is there is no public evidence that Russia was responsible for the hacks in the first place.

Wikileaks' Julian Assange, a guest on **Seam Hannity's** radio program last Thursday, told Hannity Thursday afternoon flatly, "Our source is not the Russian government." According to **Glenn Beck's** newsletter from **TheBlaze**, "Hannity asked Assange if he thinks that President Obama knows that the Russian government was not the source of the intel and is still purposefully spreading a false narrative in order to undermine President-elect Donald Trump's victory. Assange confirmed that he did believe that. There has still been no official report from any national intelligence agency confirming that the Russian government was behind the hacked emails."

In his final news conference, President Obama discussed the hacking in some depth, declaring it was the Russians, at the

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direction of President Vladimir Putin, who did it ... to destabilize the US election. Obama vowed that the US will make Russia pay for their meddling.

The Russian emails story was originally kited in the **Washington Post**, claiming an inside source at the **CIA** revealed that a "secret report" named Russia as the **DNC** and **John Podesta** hacker. The **Daily Caller** reported last Friday, "The excuse du jour [for the Clinton loss] is that a Russian computer hack delivered the victory to Trump." **Daily Caller** confirmed "The Washington Post ran a story attributed to a tip from the CIA that Russia hacked both Republican and Democrat Party computer systems and released only those damaging to Mrs. Clinton. ... A couple of things were suspicious about that story. For starters the CIA has no authority to investigate domestic matters and, second, the CIA talks to no one about anything at any time." Third, there is no evidence the RNC was ever hacked!

The fact of the matter is the CIA doesn't release "secret reports." The **FBI** said earlier it had no evidence linking Russia to the hacked emails. Late last week, **CNN** reported, "The CIA produces raw intelligence, the FBI moves more slowly to reach conclusions based on the intelligence and other investigative work." Editor **Andrew C McCarthy**, writing in the **National Review**, "...let's not pretend the Russia hacked the election farce is anything other than what it is: a scheme by the Democrat-media complex to rationalize a do-over - to persuade the Electoral College that it is not bound by the election results."

Late Friday, **Fox News** reported that they had confirmed that there was, in fact, Russian-backed hacking with "instructions from the highest levels." But then **Judge Andrew Napolitano** appeared out of the blue, stating unequivocally that it was NOT the Russians, it was the **NSA**! The NSA, he

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said, was the entity that furnished the emails to Wikileaks. At this point it appears that the *Russian Hacker* story may or may not be faux news.

Why did the mainstream media decry that the Electoral College would be thrown into disarray unless this issue was addressed before today? Why were news reports slanted to make viewers think the Electoral College was going to be a big brouhaha unless rogue political demands (security briefings) were met? Federal election law mandates that the final decisions in any controversies over appointment of states' electors were to be completed by last Tuesday, December 13th, so that their electoral votes can be presumed valid when presented to Congress.

So, where do they find these so-called "expert" ninnies (and politicians) writing and reporting trumped-up falsehoods? Don't any of these supposedly "educated" journalists know anything at all about the Electoral College and how it works?

I wrote about this last Summer. So that everybody knows what's going on today ... all over the country ... let's review the column from May 5th, 2016:

"Last time [April 28th], we discussed why we have the Electoral College in America. There have been questions about why we vote for delegates and not candidates. One guy I know was incredulous that he was voting not for President, but rather for an unknown delegate who will vote in his stead.

"We've always voted for delegates. It's just that this election cycle has raised interest in the process. Trump has helped fuel that interest by causing discussion about how the state parties choose the delegates to their conventions. And our one-time Governor has added fuel to the fire! The fact is some

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do Primaries, some do Caucuses and others, like Arizona, do Presidential Preference Elections. Each state and each Party organization has its own rules about how delegates are selected to go to their State Party Conventions. Many folks don't understand why we don't do it the same all over the country. Well, it's a *States' Rights* issue.

"By the way, there are only four state-recognized (organized) parties in Arizona: Democrat, Green, Libertarian and Republican. There used to be an organized Independent Party, but they were so diverse they couldn't stay organized and recognition was dropped by the state.

"Everybody should know that the National Party Conventions choose the Presidential Candidates to represent them. Finite numbers of Delegates selected by their Parties at the state level attend the National Conventions and vote to determine who will be the National Party's Presidential and Vice-Presidential Candidates.

"So far, the candidates running to be nominated for President haven't gotten into deep discussions of how the Electoral College Electors are chosen. Let's look a little closer at the process.

"According to *Archives.gov*,

'The process for selecting Electors varies throughout the United States. Generally, the political parties nominate Electors at their State party conventions or by a vote of the party's central committee in each State. Each candidate will have their own unique slate of potential Electors as a result of this part of the selection process.

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'Electors are often chosen to recognize service and dedication to their political party. They may be State-elected officials, party leaders, or persons who have a personal or political affiliation with the Presidential candidate.

'On Election Day, the voters in each State choose the Electors by casting votes for the presidential candidate of their choice. The Electors' names may or may not appear on the ballot below the name of the candidates running for President, depending on the procedure in each State. The winning candidate in each State - *except in Nebraska and Maine*, which have proportional distribution of the Electors - is awarded all of the State's Electors. In Nebraska and Maine, the state winner receives two Electors and the winner of each congressional district receives one Elector. This system permits the Electors from Nebraska and Maine to be awarded to more than one candidate.'

"As you can see, the exact details depend on the state in which you live. Each state is delegated an exact amount of Electors based on the quantity of their Congressional Delegation. It's the way we do representation in a **Republic**. [My state of] Arizona has nine Representatives and two Senators, making a Delegation of eleven.

"A short review from last week's [April 28th] column ... There are 435 House members and 100 Senate members. Three additional Delegates represent the District of Columbia (Washington D.C.), making a grand-total of 538 members in the Electoral College. Thus, a majority vote of at least 270 by the 2016 Electoral College will pick our next President.

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"Each of Arizona's recognized political parties selects their Electors pretty much from those who have politicked for the position. Those are the people you're voting for in the General election. ie: Your vote for president is a vote for the Electors selected by the party Central Committee, usually during the State Party Convention, or by the Convention Delegates themselves. Depending on the party rules, there is a "pecking order" among Electors, relating to who is chosen to fill [Arizona's] eleven slots and some alternates - sometimes by election, sometimes by lot or even drawing - depending on the rules - to attend the Electoral College.

"If there is a Republican victory, eleven Republicans will go to the Electoral College. A Democrat majority would see eleven Democrats going. Green Party Electors? Probably not so much - Out of 3,297,880 registered voters in Arizona, there are only 4,382 as of March. Libertarians, too, would be hard-pressed to be represented in the Electoral College. There are only about 25,000 of them here.

"Many folks believe that the Electoral College is at the Capitol in Washington DC, but according to *Archives.gov*, 'Generally, each state's Electors vote at their respective state capitols ...'

"To be clear about the meaning of the word - **College** is a □group of □people with a □particular □job, purpose, □duty, or □power who are □organized into a □group for □sharing ideas, making □decisions, etc. The 'Slate of Electors', as they are called, meet with the Governor and Secretary of State at the Arizona Capitol instead of in Washington DC [on December 19th. The results from the states are certified and forwarded to the Congress for final tabulation and

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certification of election.] The combined Slates of Electors from the 50 States and District of Columbia make up the 538 member Electoral College [even though they don't appear at the US Capitol.]

"[On January 6th, the Vice President, as President of the Senate, presides over the count and announces the results of the Electoral College vote. The President of the Senate then declares which persons, if any, have been elected President and Vice President of the United States.

"[If a State submits conflicting sets of electoral votes to Congress, the two Houses acting concurrently may accept or reject the votes. If they do not concur, the votes of the electors certified by the Governor of the State on the Certificate of Ascertainment would be counted in Congress.]

"The entire process from Election Day (November 8th) to Inauguration Day (January 20th) is described in explicit detail on the internet at <https://www.archives.gov/federal-register/electoral-college/key-dates.html>

"The process varies a little from state to state, but it all comes out pretty much the same all over. Your ballot **Democratically** helps select an eleven person Arizona Electoral College Delegation (Slate of Electors) based on the majority's choice for President in the Voting Booth.

"In other words - in each state (except Nebraska and Maine), the popular vote for President results in the majority's representation in the Electoral College. That's the **Democratic** way we do it in our American **Republic!**"

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Here's a video about it you can watch from the **Washington Post**. I'm sure they won't mind:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/video/c/embed/ecea6ede-bd35-11e6-ae79-bec72d34f8c9>

Why our news media - especially the mainstream media - doesn't get this, is beyond me.

Texas put Trump over the 270 mark today, even though he lost two votes to turncoats. No problem - Hillary lost four! Trump finished the Electoral College with 304 votes. January 6th, the results will be presented to the Congress by U.S. Vice President/Senate President Joe Biden for final tabulation and certification. What a show!

BTW: The Dow again failed to make the magic 20,000 mark. It closed today at 19,883.

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Thursday, December 22, 2016

WHY A 35% TARIFF?

Why are all the pundits and mainstream media so up in arms about President-elect Trump's threat (or campaign promise) to level a 35% tariff on goods imported from a company that leaves the US to set up shop elsewhere? As I read it, the reasoning behind Donald Trump's proposition is the same as it was before the imposition of the income tax - to encourage or protect US industry and industrial workers in the home market.

Before the advent of the income tax, tariffs were the largest source of income for the federal government.

According to **Wikipedia**, "Tariffs in United States history have played important roles in trade policy, political debates and the nation's economic history. The main goal of the tariff was money to pay the federal budget. Controversy arose over whether manufacturing interests were favored and consumer interests hurt by high tariffs. The 1st United States Congress, wanting a straightforward tax that was not too onerous and easy to collect, passed the Tariff Act of 1789. Treasury agents collected the tariff before goods could be landed, and what became the Coast Guard prevented smuggling. Tariffs were the largest (approaching 95% at times) source of federal revenue until the Federal income tax began after 1913. For well over a century the federal government was largely financed by tariffs averaging about 20% on foreign imports. There are no tariffs for imports or shipments from other states...

"The tariff issue was central to political party debates in the Second Party System, Third Party System and Fourth Party System, from the 1820s to the early 1930s. In general,

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Democrats favored a tariff that would pay the cost of government, but no higher. Whigs and Republicans favored higher tariffs to encourage or "protect" industry and industrial workers. Tariffs were generally low before 1860, and high after that. Since the 1930s, however, tariffs have been very low and have been much less a matter of partisan debate...

"The iron and steel industry, and the wool industry, were the well-organized interests groups that demanded (and usually obtained) high tariffs through support of the Republican Party. Industrial workers had much higher wages than their European counterparts, and they credited it to the tariff and voted Republican. President Grover Cleveland made low tariffs the centerpiece of Democratic Party policies in the late 1880s. His argument [was] that high tariffs were an unnecessary and unfair tax on consumers...

"The Republican high tariff advocates appealed to farmers with the theme that high-wage factory workers would pay premium prices for foodstuffs. This was the "home market" idea, and it won over most farmers in the Northeast, but it had little relevance to the southern and western farmers who exported most of their cotton, tobacco and wheat...

"Apart from wool and woolens, American industry and agriculture - and industrial workers - had become the most efficient in the world by the 1880s as they took the lead in the worldwide Industrial Revolution. They were not at risk from cheap imports. No other country had the industrial capacity, large market, the high efficiency and low costs, or the complex distribution system needed to compete in the vast American market...

"Tariffs up to the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act of 1930, were set by Congress after many months of testimony and negotiations. In 1934, the U.S. Congress, in a rare delegation

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of authority, passed the Reciprocal Tariff Act of 1934, which authorized the executive branch to negotiate bilateral tariff reduction agreements with other countries. The prevailing view then was that trade liberalization may help stimulate economic growth."

Wikipedia on the income tax, "The history of income taxation in the United States began in the 19th century with the imposition of income taxes to fund war efforts. However, the constitutionality of income taxation was widely held in doubt until 1913 with the ratification of the 16th Amendment."

Very simply stated, Democrats and the mainstream media despise Republican protectionism and the party's recent populist approach to governance. Remember that low tariffs were the centerpiece of Democratic Party policies in the late 1880s. President Grover Cleveland felt that high tariffs were unnecessary and an unfair burden on consumers. Maybe he was right ... or not.

Consider President-elect Trump's threat to slap a 35% tariff on goods from companies that move their factories off-shore to manufacture their products. American consumers' pocketbooks would surely suffer if they insisted on purchasing foreign-made products - perhaps out of brand loyalty. But, perhaps the savings realized by companies' lower overhead and labor costs could make up the price differential in the imported products, all the while delivering competitively-priced products to the rest of the world. At this point, it's hard to say whether the bottom lines of American companies that move off-shore would actually suffer from the proposed tariff.

The 35% tariff is a big enough stick that **Ford Motor Company** decided they would not be moving production from two Kentucky plants to Mexico - before Trump's

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inauguration. Although the automaker has had plants operating in Mexico for quite some time, Ford employs about 4,700 people in Louisville.

Upwards of some 1000 **United Technology** workers targeted for layoffs at the **Carrier Air Conditioning** plant in Indianapolis, Indiana and the **UTEC** plant in Huntington had their jobs saved - at least for the time being - as the result of an economic development agreement driven by the threat of the tariff on UT goods that were going to be made in Monterrey, Mexico.

Growing pressure to increase efficiency by deploying additional technology is throwing a dark shadow over today's on-the-line manufacturing jobs in this country. The American aerospace industry and defense contractors are coming under tremendous pressure to improve efficiency and cost-effectiveness utilizing robotics.

The P&L and Balance Sheets of American manufacturers are the driving forces that determine where and by whom their products are made. The first duty of any business is to deal in products that can be sold at a profit, benefiting consumers, workers, owners and stockholders. The sticky wicket for American workers is that offshore manufacturing requires far less labor and overhead, making foreign-made products highly competitive with those made stateside. Couple that fact with ever-increasing costs imposed by government regulation, and you have a ticket for disaster!

Trump has his fingers crossed that the proposed tariff and substantially lower corporate income taxes will work to bring manufacturing companies home, repatriate capital invested offshore, and create as well as save a significant number of American jobs.

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Monday, December 26, 2016

OOORAH!

Just over two weeks ago, Army won its 117th annual football game with Navy. It was the first Army win in fourteen years.

The 21-17 December 10th contest caused a lotta talk among fans on Facebook. After some preliminary sparring, participants got down to brass tacks. This is the real deal, folks!

Ray Van Buskirk: Why is it the Navy has a football team, the Army has a football team and the Air Force has a football team. Can anyone explain to me why in the hell the Marines don't have one? Just curious is all....

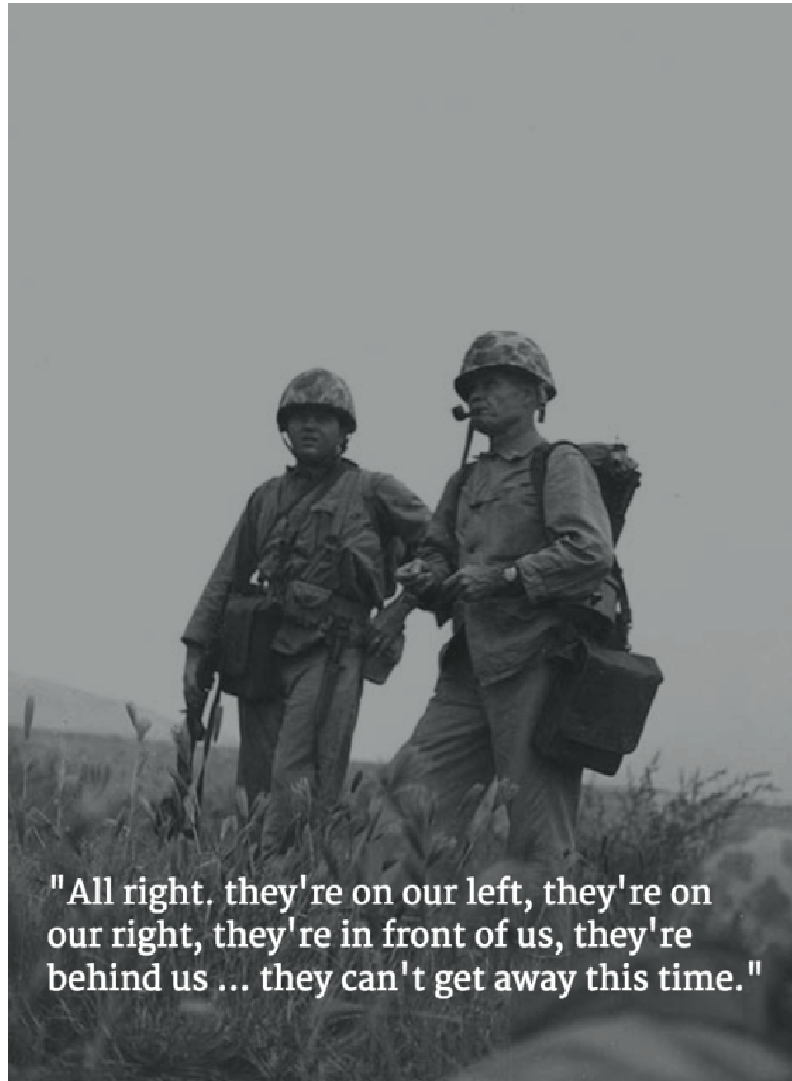
Shawn Macaulay: Marines are part of the Naval establishment.

Ray Van Buskirk: I think a Marine would beg to differ! But since we are splitting hairs the Air Force was origionally the Army Air Corp..... lmfao

Ted Thayer: I would beg to differ, Macaulay. But then, Marines don't beg! We guard the Navy and their ships. In return, the Navy gives us their Corpsmen, who we worship as saints. They won't allow us to play football because we eat footballs for a snack! We don't need to play football because when we want to play, there's always some kind of real skirmish going on somewhere else. They don't call us Devil-Dogs for nothin'. OooRAH! Semper Fi.

(Scroll down.)

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"All right, they're on our left, they're on our right, they're in front of us, they're behind us ... they can't get away this time."

LT. GEN. LEWIS "CHESTY" PULLER, USMC

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Thursday, December 29, 2016

A LATE CHRISTMAS GIFT ...

WHY YOUR VOTE COUNTS

I was sitting at the bar in the Saloon up the street, when a good friend sat down next to me. We are both Marines so we engaged in small talk and friendly banter for a few minutes on accounta that's what Jar-heads do. Then we got down to cases. (There are always "cases.")

My friend was having a problem: As an American voter, should he not vote at all if he has a problem with candidates for office? Of course, we both knew we were talking about the Clinton/Trump/you-name-it choice for President this year. He really did have a problem! And to compound the problem, his wife was having a hard time with the same deal.

We never shared how we voted on November 8th, but it was clear to me that he did vote.

He said he and his wife were involved in an on-going discussion about how to vote if you don't feel comfortable about the choice of candidates. Do you not vote at all, or do you simply hold your nose and vote for the best of the worst?

I got the impression he absolutely hated Hillary Clinton, but was uncomfortable NOT voting for the Democrat on the ticket. He sounded like he liked Trump, but was torn by his long-time loyalty to the Democrat party. He asked, if you don't like the choice of your party, should you vote for the opposition or not vote at all.

My answer was simple and straight-forward: ***If you don't vote, the one you don't support gets TWO votes - ONE from the opposition and YOURS.*** I contend that anytime you vote

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your conscience, you can't go wrong. When you have the opportunity, always take the time to work it out for yourself, and **go vote!** After all, it's what America is all about.

Have an incredible new year!

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Wild Bunch III

By J E Ted Thayer

