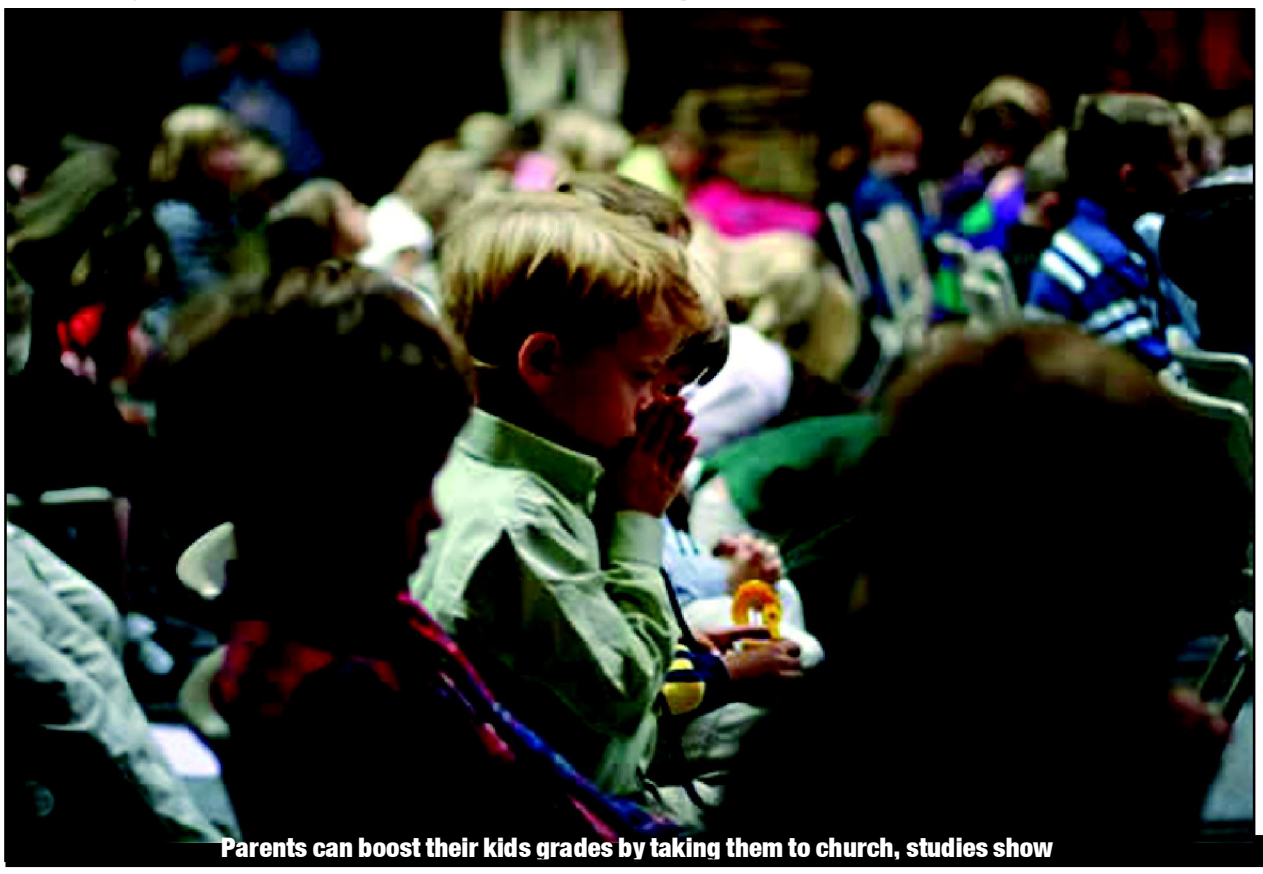
Do bureaucrats just sit around writing crazy new rules? ~ PAGE 3

Why do kids who go to church do better at school?



Parents can boost their kids grades by taking them to church, studies show

by Billy James Hargis II, publisher

Do kids who go to church do better at school?

Absolutely and the effect is dramatic, writes Dr. Pat Fagan. In a study just released, he cites independent findings by more than 100 social scientists who have published their own studies over the last two decades establishing the profound effect that attending church has on kids' performance at school.

Church kids have higher grade point averages – scoring 14.4 percent higher than non-attenders. Church kids also spend more time on their homework, according to the studies.

Dr. Fagan is the director of the Center for Research on Marriage and Religion and Senior Fellow at the Marriage and Religion Research Institute in Washington, D.C.

His findings show that church attendance is one of the most effective ways to impact low-income students. Additionally, 75 percent of college students who become more committed to their faith during their college years perform above average.

In his report, "Religious Practice and Educational Attainment," he lists numerous scientific studies that show that a student with solid faith is able to deal with the conflicts

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Christian Crusade

Volume 58 October 2010 Number 10

Venezuela's voters defy their dictator

compiled by the *Christian Crusade* staff

Venezuelan strongman Hugo Chavez has suffered his first election setback in years, losing his two-thirds majority in the National Assembly.

Castro and Chavez

Chavez's "roller-coaster is going down," declared Carlos Ocariz, a mayor that is part of the anti-Chavez Coalition

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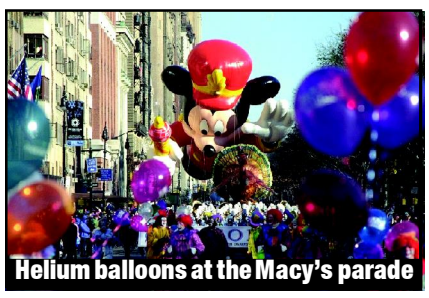
Why squander America's strategic helium reserves?

by Keith Wilkerson, managing editor

The world is running out of helium – but the U.S. government is squandering our strategic stockpile.



Helium balloons at the Macy's parade

We're almost giving it away, selling it below market value – when all predictions are that the price is about to skyrocket 20- to 50-

continued on page 2

How long must we shrug off this double standard?

compiled by the *Christian Crusade* staff

Why is it OK for Muslims to burn Bibles and just fine for the Pentagon to burn Bibles ... but in the media there is such uproar about some preacher at a tiny church in Florida who wanted to burn a Koran?

Why have we become so used to this absurd double standard? Why is it fine to kick around Christians, but every-

Protesting in Holland

one must treat Muslims with awe and respect – for fear that they be offended?

For example, an Obama Administration spokesman at the Pentagon recently defended the U.S. Army's seizure and destruction of Bibles owned by American soldiers serving in Afghanistan.

The fear was that Muslims would be offended. Well, what

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Did Saudis sabotage Iran's nukes? Israel?

by Keith Wilkerson, managing editor

Who attacked Iran's nuclear program?

For years, the Islamic Republic of Iran has defied pressure from the U.S., the European Community, the Arab world and the U.N. to halt its *jihad*-driven efforts to build an atom bomb. Why? Because of Iran's admitted support of terrorists worldwide.

If Iran gets the bomb, so does al-Qaida, Venezuela,

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Communists, comics march on Washington

by Billy James Hargis II, publisher

Attempting to make a mockery of the Tea Party rallies and Glenn Beck's March to Restore Honor, three counter rallies have been announced just in time for Election Day.

Longtime U.S. Communist Party official Angela Davis and Black Panther head Stokely Carmichael – both who have

Stephen Colbert, left, and John Stewart

been out of the limelight since hippies faded away in the 1970s – were billed to appear at the first event.

It was scheduled for October 2 and billed as "One Nation Working Together."

The other two rallies were scheduled by Comedy Central cable TV channel comedians Jon Stewart and Steven

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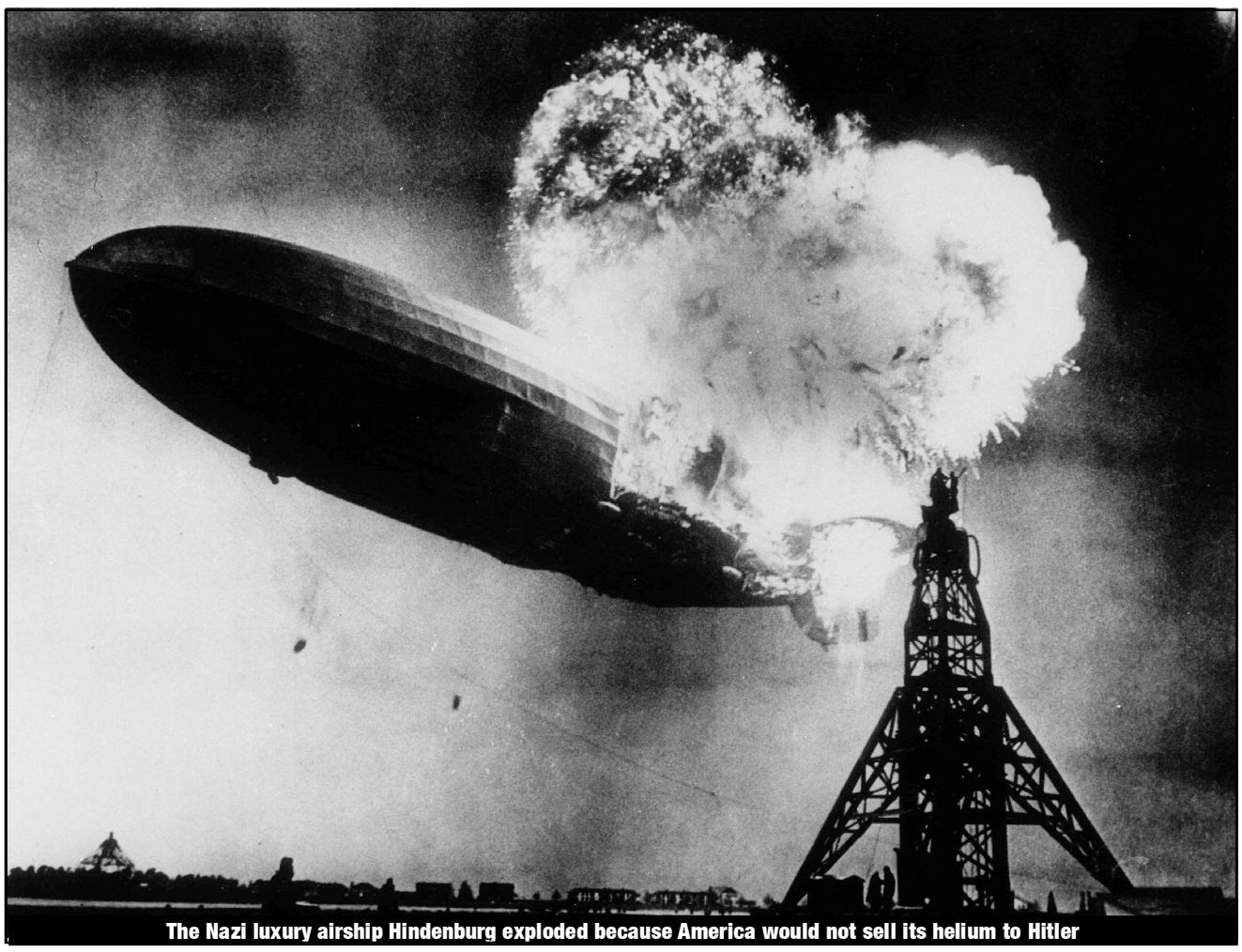

The Nazi luxury airship Hindenburg exploded because America would not sell its helium to Hitler

Why squander America's strategic helium reserves?

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fold.

The price of a helium party balloon could reach $100. Scientists predict that the world's supply of this lighter-than-air gas will be gone by the year 2015.

Yet with disaster on the horizon, the U.S. government is mismanaging America's reserves without apology.

There is just so much helium on our planet. It is common on Uranus and Neptune and even on the moon. But there's very little here. Because it is lighter than air, whenever it is released into the atmosphere, it rises higher and higher until it dissipates into space.

Most of the helium on earth has been guarded for decades in an underground salt dome near Amarillo, Texas, stockpiled by the U.S. government.

Back in 1925, the U.S. recognized that helium was vital to U.S. interests. It was strategic to keep it out of Nazi hands turning World War II, forcing Hitler to fill his zeppelins with highly explosive hydrogen – resulting in such disasters as the zeppelin *Hindenburg* disaster.

The U.S. then kept helium out of Communist hands during the Cold War, impeding the development of Soviet missile research.

However, in 1996, Congress ordered that all of the helium held in America's reserves be sold before 2015 – and at bargain-basement rates. That's particularly bizarre since once it's gone, it will be incredibly expensive to replace.

It will be far too expensive to have helium-filled cartoon characters in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade. The gas will be far too precious for such a frivolous use. When it occurs naturally on Earth, it is found in natural gas. Historically, U.S. natural gas has been rich in helium while natural gas in other parts of the world have very little helium.

So, with scientists yelling warnings, has the U.S. government halted the sell-off of America's helium reserve?

No, not even though a number of scientific studies have called for immediate action. Once America's helium stockpile is depleted, purging the fuel tanks of the world's ballistic missiles and space rockets will be come far more costly and difficult. The cost of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for medical diagnostic purposes will become prohibitive.

Arc welding may disappear since helium is needed to create an inert atmosphere around the flame. Helium is also vital for leak detection – although hydrogen can be used, but has problems, including being highly explosive.

Helium is inert – it won't burn or mix with any other element. So, it is nonexplosive and completely safe.

NASA uses it to pressurize space shuttle fuel tanks. Deep-sea divers depend on it to prevent the nitrogen "bends."

Kennedy Space Center alone uses more than 75 million cubic feet annually. Liquid helium, which has the lowest melting point of any element at -452 degrees Fahrenheit, cools infrared detectors, nuclear reactors, wind tunnels and superconductive magnets.

So, why is America almost giving away its helium? That's an absolute mystery. Apparently Congress decided that the government had no business being in the helium business – although it has no problem being in the mortgage, automobile, student loan and banking business – to name just a few.

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Venezuelan voters turn on Socialist dictator

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for Democratic Unity, according to journalist Ryan Mauro. "Ocariz and other Venezuelan opposition activists had reason to be hopeful. Hugo Chavez's transformation of Venezuela into an anti-American harbor for drug traffickers and terrorists ran into resistance" in the national elections.

"The Venezuelan opposition took away the two-thirds majority in the National Assembly held by Chavez's party," wrote Mauro, "winning 52 percent of the vote. All of Chavez's dirty tricks to undermine his opponents failed to prevent voters from acting to arrest their country's decline into dictatorship."

"Chavez, after suffering his worst setback at the ballot box since taking office in 1999, may seek to strengthen his grip on the economy and undermine opponents ahead of the 2012 presidential election," reported Charlie Devereux and Corina Rodriguez Pons in *BusinessWeek* magazine. "Chavez's United Socialist Party of Venezuela, while securing 98 of 165 seats in National Assembly elections Sept. 26 after the redrawing of electoral districts, lost the two-thirds majority needed to pass key legislation by itself. The opposition took 65 seats and says it won 52 percent of the popular vote. Authorities didn't release an official vote count."

"Predictably, Chavez declared victory," wrote Mauro, "because he still holds a majority in the National Assembly. He mocked the celebrations of the opposition, saying it was he who won. "It has been a great election day and we have obtained a solid victory: enough to continue deepening Bolivarian and democratic socialism. We need to continue strengthening the revolution!" he proclaimed on the Internet social network Twitter.

"The state-controlled news media," reported Mauro, "played an obedient tune, describing the election as showing the country as 'red, very red.'"

"Chavez has experienced defeat just once before in 12 elections," reported Devereaux and Pons.

Thor Halvorssen, President of the Human Rights Foundation, said that although what the Venezuelan democratic opposition "pulled off is extraordinary" and "exceptionally significant," Chavez still has the power to bring Venezuela down the path to tyranny.

He may look to regain political momentum by increasing state control of the economy, boosting spending on social programs and cracking down on opponents, according to economic analysts at Barclays PLC and Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

"Already, the government has stated today that they have a three-fifths majority and that this is sufficient to pass an 'Enabling law' granting Chavez wide powers. The government of Venezuela manipulates rules, laws, and institutions as it sees fit," said Halvorssen.

It remains to be seen how Chavez will react to his loss, but he can be counted on to act in an undemocratic fashion. In 2008, he hamstrung the newly-elected mayor of Caracas because he was an opponent.

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Crowds testify to Norman Rockwell's unique greatness


Rockwell masterpiece "The War Hero"

compiled by the *Christian Crusade Newspaper* staff

Lines of tourists snaked around in front of the Smithsonian Institution as thousands of visitors waited their turn to stand in awe in front of familiar images of a nation of patriotic citizens unencumbered by want or fear, free to speak their minds and worship as they chose.

In the alley behind a big city tenement, the neighbors rejoiced as a shy boy came home from World War II. In a Thanksgiving Day kitchen, a U.S. serviceman humbly showed his grandmother that he'd learned how to peel potatoes while fighting for freedom.

In a bus station lobby, a stern old lady offers grace next to her innocent grandson as the coarse regulars of the coffee shop gawk.

These are Norman Rockwell's America. Although his vast body of work has often been dismissed by art critics, Rockwell remains America's most enduring and popular artist – far outselling the critically acclaimed such as Andy Warhol.

Now, more than one hundred years after his birth, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., held a special retrospective, "Telling Stories: Norman Rockwell from the Collections of George Lucas and Steven Spielberg."

Lines of tourists snaked from the show's entrance into the Old Patent Building's Kogod Courtyard to see familiar images that the two filmmakers have collected over the last three decades.

Inside, visitors jostled for space in front of familiar Rockwell paintings that provoked, not the hushed reverence that one would expect at a museum, but movie-theater reactions – outbursts of laughter, expressions of emotion.

Rockwell would have loved it. He always thought of himself first and foremost a commercial illustrator. Hesitant to consider it art, he harbored deep insecurities about his work – particularly when he was panned by the mainstream press.

However, what was obvious this summer was that Rockwell's work will endure. This summer, he tapped into the nostalgia of 21st Century Americans who are longing for a time that was kinder and simpler.

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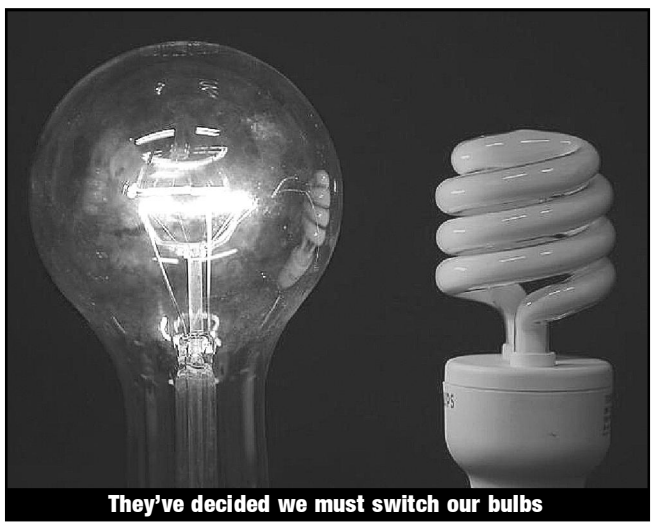
Do bureaucrats just sit around making up rules?


They've decided we must switch our bulbs

compiled by the *Christian Crusade Newspaper* staff

How much regulation will U.S. citizens tolerate?

Despising bureaucrats is an American tradition. Back in 1773, tossing King George's tea into Boston Harbor wasn't just a protest against taxes. It was a statement about how much interference in our daily lives our ancestors would put up with.

In 1794, the first real test of the authority of the federal government came during the Whiskey Rebellion, when Treasury Secretary Alexander Hamilton tried to fund the national debt by taxing homemade whiskey.

Today, the Obama Administration seems intent on testing whether that same backbone still exists. The list of grievances that Americans hold against their government seems to grow by the half-hour as bureaucrats add new volumes of regulations.

Some of the new federal rules seem preposterous

After all, do we really need bureaucrats telling us that we must switch from incandescent lights to fluorescent? Or that we must maintain a certain Body Mass Index – basically making it against the law to be overweight?

Will Americans put up with government "experts" telling them that it is unhealthy for school children to have a best friend? That it promotes "unhealthy" individuality and keeps kids from adhering to "healthy" social pressures?

Do Americans really want the government to make it illegal to buy or sell raw milk –that has not been pasteurized? Do they back Food & Drug Administration policies that are now forcing small and organic farms to use high-tech equipment that they cannot afford and do not need?

What about reported proposals such as Senator Christopher Dodd's "Livable Communities Act" that would empty out America's rural areas, giving government incentives for everybody to leave the low-crime countryside and move to big cities?

And will Americans tolerate threats from Obama Administration bureaucrats that anyone making false or misleading statements about the government can be prosecuted? A letter has been circulated nationwide from Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius threatening "zero tolerance" for "misinformation."

And who says that Washington, D.C., has the authority to decide what appliances Americans can have in their kitchen?

"In mid-September, Cathy Zoi, an Assistant Secretary of Energy, said that the U.S. Department of Energy has a 'mandate' to issue regulations about what household appliances should be available to Americans in the future," reports author Alan Caruba.

"While speaking at the inaugural meeting of the recently reestablished Secretary of Energy Advisory Board, Zoi pointed to four tactics the Obama administration intended to use to advance the 'deployment of clean energy.' The first three were government subsidies, special tax incentives, and low-interest government-backed loans for green energy projects.'

"We're going to make people save money for themselves," said Zoi. "Among the projects is 'harvesting/dewatering technology for algal biofuels,' money devoted to algae as a source of power."

"I have a great idea how to save billions," writes Caruba. Shut down the Department of Energy."

"Corporate leaders are slamming the president over taxes and the uncertain effects of his policies, and the executives' siege mentality is holding back the economy," according to Michael Brush, writing for *MSN Money*. "Is fear of President Barack Obama one reason we're stuck with sluggish economic growth?"

Are U.S. business leaders afraid?

"That's the message the CEOs of several major companies are sending out. In unusually vitriolic attacks on a sitting president, including references to Communist Russia and Adolf Hitler, CEOs have complained they can't predict what Obama will do next – and how his new regulations and taxes might hit their companies.

"We don't know what the latest great idea from Obama will be.

"Therefore, we are hunkering down," says Cypress Semiconductor Chief Executive Officer T.J. Rodgers, echoing public comments over the summer from CEOs at companies such as Intel and Verizon.

"He said that because of Obama, CEOs are focusing on their core businesses and hiring less, to control costs and risks. 'CEOs are uncertain, so they don't want to have the liability of adding a lot of employees,' Rodgers said.

"There's certainly a lot of uncertainty out there as we approach November's

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Do bureaucrats just sit around making up rules?

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midterm elections. Next year's tax rules are in limbo.

"The effects of health care and financial reform have yet to be seen. And then there's what many perceive as an anti-CEO message in Obama's rhetoric – aimed mostly at chiefs of big banks and health insurers but also at hunkered-down execs in general."

"Obama uses political rhetoric to demean me and my motives, but the fact is, I am completely happy with my motives and the morality of my decisions," Rodgers said. "My moral responsibility is to protect and grow the investment of shareholders."

Intel CEO Paul Otellini, referring to the Obama administration, said in an August speech to the Technology Policy Institute's Aspen Forum, "I think this group does not understand what it takes to create jobs."

Verizon CEO Ivan Seidenberg, in a June speech at the Economic Club of Washington, accused Obama of creating an "increasingly hostile environment for investment and job creation."

'It's amateur hour in Washington'

Rodgers said he had "started out happy with Obama because we had broken through the white male barrier" and made "a step forward for equality." But Rodgers added: "I have become deeply disappointed with him. It is amateur hour in Washington. The guy hasn't got a clue about the economy, how jobs are created, how wealth is created. It reminds me of the Jimmy Carter years, only worse."

Blackstone Group CEO Steven Schwarzman seemed to compare the Obama administration to Hitler by saying in a recent private meeting that Washington's push to increase taxes on private-equity firms is war, "like when Hitler invaded Poland in 1939," according to *Newsweek*.

"I don't remember corporate leaders speaking out this vehemently in the past," said investment advisor Gary Shilling. "People in these positions don't get there unless they know how to keep their mouths shut when they need to."

Shilling speculated that CEOs need a scapegoat for the poor economy and that the administration 'has mishandled things to the point where it has volunteered itself' for the job.

"Much more than any time that I have seen in my career, business is concerned about specific policies and ideas coming out of Washington," said Fred Fraenkel, the chairman of the investment policy committee at Beacon Trust and former director of global research at Lehman Brothers.

Meanwhile, is it true the Obama administration has banned incandescent light bulbs?

No more light bulbs?

"Beginning January 1, 2012," writes Caruba, "government rules will make it impossible to purchase a 100-watt incandescent light bulb. After that, in time, all such light bulbs will be phased out leaving Americans with only dim, over-priced, mercury-filled light bulbs. And they will be made overseas, primarily in China."

Congress has banned traditional light bulbs, citing the need to reduce "greenhouse gas emissions" to reduce global warming.

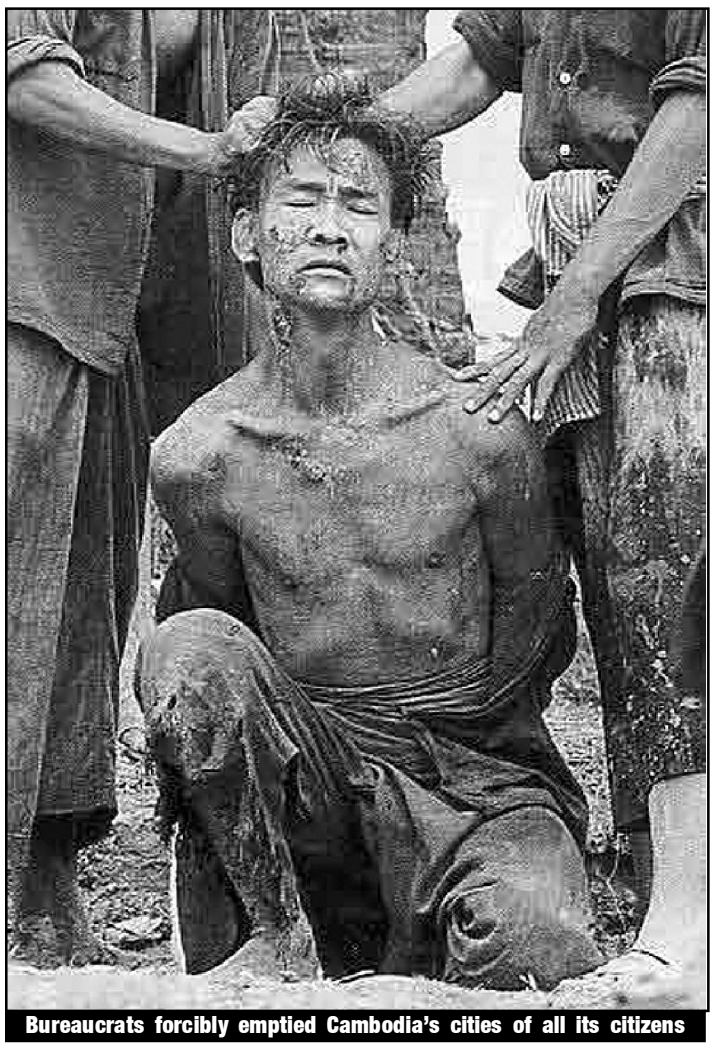
"It's the same Congress that had already determined how much water your toilet can use to flush," writes Caruba. "It's the same Congress that determined rules that determine how many miles per gallon your automobile must achieve. It's the same government that requires ethanol be added to gasoline, thus reducing the mileage a gallon of adulterated gasoline can produce, while also driving up the cost of gasoline as well as of corn, a food product, used to produce ethanol.

"It's the same Congress that has blessed a Renewable Electricity Standard that requires utilities to use electricity produced by wind and solar power even though both sources also require 24/7 backup by traditional coal-fired, natural gas, or nuclear plants because they cannot be relied upon to generate electricity in a predictable fashion or during periods of peak capacity.

Who decided bureaucrats know more than you or me?

"It's the same Congress," writes Caruba, "that initiated Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, two 'government entities' that purchased the sub-prime mortgage loans that banks and mortgage loan firms were required to make to people who clearly could not afford to repay them. The result is the financial crisis that occurred when those 'bundled' mortgages turned out to be 'toxic,' worthless paper sold to investment firms and banks as assets."

In early September, the *Washington Post,* published an article, "Light bulb factory closes; End of era for U.S. means more jobs overseas." It reported that "The last major General Electric factory making ordinary incandescent light bulbs in the United States is closing this month. The remaining 200 workers at the plant will lose their jobs.'



Bureaucrats forcibly emptied Cambodia's cities of all its citizens

"In June," writes Caruba, "the *Washington Times* reported that the Federal Trade Commission released 91 pages of regulations that will force manufacturers to revise their packaging and make costly compact fluorescent bulbs appear more appealing to consumers."

In what may be the most absurd intrusion yet, a mandate is in the works making it politically incorrect for children to have a best friend.

Who said they can interfere in children's friendships?

Nationwide, the Department of Education has wreaked havoc on kindergartens throughout America by handing down new rules to government-run Headstart preschool programs.

Headstart rules require that pre-schools receiving government funding "provide an environment of acceptance that supports and respects gender, culture, language, ethnicity and family composition.

The rules also stipulate that programs must "provide a balanced daily program of child-initiated and adult-directed activities, including individual and small group activities; and planning for routines and transitions so that they occur in a timely, predictable and unrushed manner according to each child's needs, supporting each child's learning, using various strategies including experimentation, inquiry, observation, play and exploration."

In a number of states, Headstart programs have interpreted these rules in such a way that structured teaching has been banned. Instead, the three- and four-year-olds are allowed to roam the facility at will, deciding for themselves if and when they wish to visit a station where teaching the alphabet or colors is offered. The teacher sits at the station and instructs the students only when they choose to sit and learn rather than play with toys or climb on playground equipment.

Bureaucrats are ruining Headstart

The result is that kindergarten teachers dread the arrival of Headstart students. The initial mandate that the program was to give low-income and underprivileged preschoolers a "head start" helping them to be ready for kindergarten. Instead, Headstart kids think they can roam the kindergarten classroom at will and take part in lessons only when they feel like it.

And now these same "experts" are declaring that teachers and principals should prohibit public school children from having best friends.

For the last decade, the federal government has launched numerous initiatives intended to ban bullying – with questionable effectiveness.

But now, "I think it is kids' preference to pair up and have that one best friend. As adults – teachers and counselors – we try to encourage them not to do that," says Christine Laycob, speaking to the *New York Times* about why "best friends" are a bad thing.

"Parents sometimes say Johnny needs that one special friend. We say he doesn't need a best friend," says Laycob.

"By 'we'," writes author Mark Steyn in the *National Review* magazine, "she means the expert opinion of 'educators.'

"Granted that 'educators' seem to have minimal interest in education, and that therefore it would be unreasonable to expect them to regard, say, American students' under-performance in everything from math to music as a priority, one is still impressed by their ability to conjure hitherto unknown crises to obsess over.

"The tone of the *Times* piece is faintly creepy – not least in its acceptance of the totalitarian proposition that it's appropriate for 'experts' to re-engineer one of the most building blocks of our humanity: the right to choose our friends.

"We conservatives have been wasting our energy arguing the difference between equality of opportunity and equality of outcome," writes Steyn. "The statists have moved on, and are now demanding equality of basic human relationships, and starting in nursery school.

"Much of the contemporary scene owes its origins to silly little fads among 'educators' that seemed too laughable to credit only the day before yesterday.

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"The lessons we learn in childhood stay with us. The Battle of Waterloo, they used to say, was won on the playing fields of Eton.

"But in British schools today competitive sports have been all but abolished. It was recently reported that in one children's soccer league in Ottawa any team that racked up a five-goal lead would be deemed to have lost, and the losing team declared the winners, to spare their feelings."

"In an essay on democracy for the *New Criterion,*" writes Steyn, "Kenneth Minogue began by 'observing the remarkable fact that, while democracy means a government accountable to the electorate, our rulers now make us accountable to them. Most Western governments hate me smoking, or eating the wrong kind of food, or hunting foxes, or drinking too much.'"

The distribution of our friends does not always correspond, as governments think that it ought, to the cultural diversity of our society. We must face up to the grim fact that the rulers we elect are losing patience with us.'

Whatever happened to limited government?

"What to do?" asks Steyn. "Give me a boy till seven, said the Jesuits, and I will show you the man. Give me a boy till seventh grade, say today's educators, and we can eliminate the man problem entirely."

"Americans know how to solve their problems through initiative, limited government and hard work, not through the nanny state," says *American Spectator* editor R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr.

"We've all heard the comment: 'I'm from the Government and I'm here to help you,'" writes radio host Derry Brownfield. "I can think of very few instances where the government actually helped me.

"In fact, most of their help has turned into government interference that only hinders an individual from using common sense.

"There is no doubt we all want clean air, clean water and nutritious food; but when government becomes involved we seem to get the exact opposite.

"The FDA wants to control everything we eat and has produced a 'legal brief' stating that we have no right to consume or to feed our children any particular food. The brief reads: 'There is no deeply rooted historical tradition of unfettered access to food of all kinds. To the contrary, society's long history of food regulation stretches back to the dietary laws of biblical times.

"Modern food safety regulation in the United States has its roots in the early food laws of the American colonies.' The FDA then sites a Virginia law passed in 1873, saying farmers are not allowed to skim the cream off milk before selling it."

However, writes Brownfield, things have gotten ridiculously out of hand

Bureaucrats don't care, they just enforce their rules

"I consider John Munsell a friend," writes Brownfield. "He was a guest on my radio program in 2003.

"John ran a small meat processing plant in Montana where he had his problems with government authorities in 2003, when he realized he was purchasing contaminated meat from ConAgra. As soon as John realized the meat he had purchased was contaminated with E. coli, he called the USDA's Food Safety & Inspection Service.

"Instead of tracing the meat back to the seller, the inspectors found John guilty of having contaminated meat in his possession and took action against him.

"John explained that he had purchased the meat from the large multinational corporation, ConAgra, and it arrived in that condition. The inspector insisted that since the problem was in his cooler, he was the person to be blamed.

"The bureaucrats at FSIS refused to trace the meat back to ConAgra. John stated that FSIS only performs trace-back when there are illnesses. Unless people get sick from consuming the ground beef the FSIS will not trace it back to the original source, even if they have a positive test sample, even if it avoids illness."

"When we study what is really taking place within the bureaucratic agencies of our federal government, the question arises: Do these agencies care?"

"Step by step, no leap by leap, we are being observed, watched, analyzed, sold out and tracked," writes columnist Dr. Laurie Roth. "We all must do our small part in getting back our country and freedom."

Back toward the end of the Vietnam war, Cambodian madman Pol Pot enforced his insane vision that the country of Cambodia would be better off if its cities were emptied of people. Hundreds of thousands of Cambodians were forced at gunpoint to vacate all the country's urban areas, including the capital, Phnom Penh.

What followed was mass starvation and genocide.

Now, liberals in Congress are debating legislation that would empty America's rural areas, forcing the population to move to the big cities.

"A social engineering bill to restrict residence in the suburbs and rural areas and force Americans into city centers has passed the United States Senate Banking Committee and is on the fast track to passage in the Senate," reports author Bob Livingston.

"The bill is called the Livable Communities Act and it was introduced by outgoing Senator Christopher Dodd. It seeks to fulfill the United Nation's plan Agenda 21, adopted at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992.

"This bill is designed to destroy your community," warns Livingston.

According to the non-profit American Policy Center the bill:

- Is a blueprint for the transformation of our society into total Federal control.
- Will enforce Federal Sustainable Development zoning and control of local communities.
- Will create a massive new "development' bureaucracy.
- Will drive up the cost of energy to heat and cool your home.
- Will drive up the cost of gasoline as a way to get you out of your car.
- Will force you to spend thousands of dollars on your home in order to comply.

"The idea of these social engineering initiatives," writes Livingston, "is to force people to live in a congested area in high rise buildings with housing on the upper floors and stores on the bottom. The whole area will be linked by mass transit creating the 'utopian' communities loved by socialists.

"Obama is – not surprisingly – an advocate of this type of nonsense. And his cabinet is populated by elitists who think they know better than you how you should live."

Such politicians have "turned the California Dream into a nightmare," writes columnist Joel Kotkin.

"California has long been a destination for those seeking a better place to live. For most of its history, the state enacted sensible policies that created one of the wealthiest and most innovative economies in human history.

"California realized the American dream but better, fostering a huge middle class that, for the most part, owned their homes, sent their kids to public schools, and found meaningful work connected to the state's amazingly diverse, innovative economy.

"Recently, though, the dream has been evaporating.

"What went so wrong? The answer lies in a change in the nature of progressive politics in California.

Just look at how government is ruining the state

During the second half of the twentieth century, the state shifted from an older progressivism, which emphasized infrastructure investment and business growth, to a newer version, which views the private sector much the way the Huns viewed a city – as something to be sacked and plundered.

"The result is two separate California realities: a lucrative one for the wealthy and for government workers, who are largely insulated from economic decline; and a grim one for the private-sector middle and working classes, who are fleeing the state.

"California did an enviable job in traditional approaches to conservation – protecting its coastline, preserving water and air resources, and turning large tracts of land into state parks.

"But California's environmental movement has become so powerful that it feels free to push its agenda without regard for collateral damage done to the state's economy and people. With productive industry in decline and the business community in disarray, even the harshest regulatory policies often meet little resistance in Sacramento.

"Business leaders need to get back in the game and remind voters and politicians alike of the truth that they have forgotten: only sustained, broadly based economic growth can restore the state's promise."

"All nations must evolve," writes Caruba, "but America is moving toward less freedom of choice, more control over the choices that a free market requires. It is rejecting its founding principles and it is doing so based on lies."

And we see the decline of our nation all around us.

Why must we ensure a double standard?

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about the Christians?

When the U.S. was helping in the retaking Kuwait, U.S. chaplains stationed in Saudi Arabia were ordered to remove the crosses on their collars – so no Muslims would be offended.

Why was no one worried Christians would be offended?

When a Pentagon report was issued on last year's Fort Hood shootings – in which 12 were killed and 31 were wounded when U.S. Army psychiatrist Major Nidal Malik Hasan allegedly opened fire at an awards ceremony – all mention was deleted that he is a Muslim or that he yelled "Allah is Great" as he opened fire. Why? Because we certainly don't want to offend any Muslims. But why doesn't our government care about offending Christians?

At the Congressional Hispanic Caucus meeting September 15, Barack Obama didn't give a second thought to Christians' sensibilities wen he quoted from the Declaration of Independence. He declared, "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; endowed with certain unalienable rights: life and liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

What he left out is highly offensive to Christians. The Declaration proclaims: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

Obama omitted any reference to God. This is America's president who in a speech in Turkey declared: "Whatever we once were, we're no longer a Christian nation." Is that true? According to the American Religious Identification Survey by the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, 76.5 percent or 159 million Americans identify themselves as Christian and 1.3 percent are Jewish.

Only 0.5 percent are Muslim, followers of Islam.

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Papers written in Arabic burn in Denmark

How long must we endure this double standard?

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That's one-half of one percent.

So, why does political correctness demand that we walk on eggshells, taking enormous care not to offend Muslims, one-half of one percent of Americans – but ignore the feelings of more than the three-fourths of our population who are Christian?

When the North Carolina legislature asked Pastor Ron Baity to serve as a guest chaplain at the state house, the minister of Berean Baptist Church was honored to agree. What he didn't know was how short-lived that honor would be. During the last week of May, when Pastor Baity was scheduled to open the session in prayer, a House clerk asked to first review the text.

When she noticed the last line, she said, "We would prefer that you not use the name of Jesus. We have some people here that can be offended."

But it was Pastor Baity who was most offended. When the clerk raised the issue with House Speaker Joe Hackney, Pastor Baity said plainly, "My faith requires that I pray in His name. The Bible is very clear."

In the end, Hackney decided that the pastor could offer his prayer – but that it would be his last one. After that, Baity's services would "no longer be needed."

"When the state tells you how to pray, that you cannot use the name of Jesus – that's mandating a state religion," says Baity. "They talk about not offending other people but at the same time, if they are telling me how to pray – that's the very thing our forefathers left England for."

What if it was the other way around?

Imagine the international uproar if an Islamic cleric had been told he could not mention the name of Allah.

"The media storm over an obscure Christian pastor in Gainesville, Florida, who decided to have a 'Burn the Koran' day on September 11 has raised some serious questions," writes journalist Alisa Craddock.

"What happens when a Muslim cleric calls for the beheading of a Dutch politician? Not much," notes journalist Larry Elder. "What happens when an American pastor no one ever heard of threatens to burn a Koran? It ignites an international outcry.

"Terry Jones, pastor of a 50-member church in Gainesville, Florida, threatened to burn the Koran as a protest against the proposed construction of a mosque near the site of the World Trade Center. Democrats and Republicans denounced Jones. General David Petraeus, U.S. commander in Afghanistan, warned that Jones' action would put American troops in Iraq and Afghanistan at risk, and he personally telephoned the pastor to dissuade him."

Yet, notes Elder, we do not act like anything is wrong or even out of the ordinary when Muslim officials call for the murder of "those who would desecrate the Koran or who would draw a cartoon of Muhammad or who would otherwise 'disrespect' Islam."

He cites the case of one of Australia's foremost Muslim clergymen, who recently called for the beheading of Dutch politician Geert Wilders.

In the past, the Sydney-based Feiz Muhammad has challenged Muslim parents to ensure that their young children become violent radicals. He has publicly blamed female non-Muslim victims of rape by Muslim males as being to blame for wearing immodest clothing – they went in public without head coverings.

De Telegraaf, the Netherlands' largest newspaper, posted an audio clip in which the cleric refers to Wilders as "this Satan, this devil, this politician in Holland" and proclaims that anyone who talks disrespectfully about Islam should be killed by faithful Muslims.

We are all used to civil libertarian groups such as the ACLU vigorously defending vile speech – such as entertainers' rights to use profanity on television. So, asks Elders, "where are the free-speech groups" defending Wilders, who has dared to speak out against Islam's abuse of women?

"If a proposed Koran burning generates international news and condemnation, isn't the call by an Australian Muslim cleric for the beheading of a democratically elected politician worthy of a few moments on the network nightly news?"

After all, the media went ballistic over Jones' call to burn the Koran, notes Elders.

"'How dare this pastor of some church nobody ever heard of show insufficient respect for Islam?' they demanded. Then," notes Elders, "the same media ignores proclamations of *jihad* or religious war on non-Muslims that demands replacement of all non-Islamic governments, as well as the conversion of all to Islam, by force if necessary."

Offensive acts by Christians are denounced on the evening news and on the front pages of the *New York Times*. Offensive acts by Muslims are ignored. Excuses are offered for such incidents as the Fort Hood shootings or the fact that the Beltway Sniper a few years ago was a Muslim.

Why such a double standard?

Dr. Fred Gottheil is an economics professor at the University of Illinois. He calls himself a "Keynesian-type economist" who is "not afraid of deficit spending" – not exactly Reaganesque. In January 2009, some 900 academics signed a four-page petition calling for a U.S. abandonment of the support of Israel. Gottheil learned that many of the petition signatories belonged to faculty from women's and gender studies departments. He decided to conduct an experiment.

Would the same professors sign a "Statement of Concern" over the anti-human rights, anti-gay, anti-woman practices in the Muslim Middle East? Gottheil composed a four-page document citing evidence of atrocities, along with the names of Muslim clerics and scholars defending these violations of human decency. He e-mailed his statement to 675 signers of the anti-Israel petition.

What happened? "The results were surprising," Gottheil said, "even though I thought the responses would be few. They were almost nonexistent."

His colleagues would not denounce Islamic atrocities – although they clamored to denounce Israel.

"Why?" asks Elders. "A denunciation of Muslim practices suggests a superiority of American values and culture. The left finds this objectionable."

Gottheil put it this way: "If leftist 'progressives' really cared about women, gays and lesbians, then they would be fighting for their rights in places where such rights are really violated – like under Hamas in Gaza and under the mullahs in Iran. But doing so would legitimize their own society and its values and therefore completely cripple their entire identity and life purpose, and so their purported concern for women, gays and lesbians has to go out the window."

"It is a bizarre and dangerous double standard," writes Elders, "that allows a Pastor Jones to become more notorious than a Feiz Muhammad."

Why did Jones want to burn a Koran?

"His motivation," according to Craddock, "is, according to his own words, to raise awareness among the people of this country that Islam is not what it is pretending to be. He wanted to send a message to radical Islam that we don't want them to do here what they are doing in Europe – namely impose *shari'a* law."

Jones noted that when Muslims are a tiny minority, they are peaceful, but as their numbers grow, they begin asserting themselves and imposing their beliefs and culture on the country in which they've settled.

"In addition," writes Craddock, Jones points out quite correctly the countless offenses against Christians in Muslim countries, of the murder of Christians, burning of Churches, and desecration of our holy books and objects around the world."

Jones "has challenged the Islamic world that if they wish Americans to be sensitive to their religious sensibilities, then he wants the Imam responsible for the so-called 'Ground Zero Mosque' to show like sensitivity to the people of this country who lost loved ones in an Islamist Terror attack on the World Trade Center, and not construct two blocks away what is essentially a monument to Islamic Jihad's victory."

Yes. Several hundred Bibles had been printed up in

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the local Pashto and Dari languages, and sent by private donors to American Christian soldiers and chaplains who requested them – for distribution to American troops on overseas military bases.

According to military regulations, such Bibles can be given by soldiers as gifts during their off-duty time, handed out to Afghani citizens who welcome servicemen into their homes. The Bible can be given out as an expression of American gratitude for Afghani hospitality, promoting the democratic ideals of freedom of religion and freedom of the press. The new Afghani Constitution specifically allows the freedom to print and distribute Bibles or any other religious material.

However, the Obama Administration ordered the Bibles gathered up and burned.

The order came after the Muslim controlled al-Jazeera television network had obtained video footage of the Bibles, held by American soldiers while listening to a chaplain on the Bagram Air Base – inside the base chapel. The sermon encouraged evangelistic outreach and personal witnessing.

The Obama Administration was embarrassed. Such values of freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly and freedom of speech are offensive to extremist Muslim groups. The footage also angered a small group of American atheists, who demanded the chaplain be punished for "proselytizing" because he simply repeated Jesus' words to "Go and make disciples of all nations" in church.

Imagine if they had burned Korans!

Incredibly, the al-Jazeera video shows the chaplain properly explaining U.S. Central Command's General Order Number One, which prohibits forcing religious conversions by threats or weapons, but fully permits soldiers of any religion to engage in non-threatening, voluntary conversations about their faith.

It also allows giving private gifts, including books, to Afghani citizens during off-duty hours in their unofficial capacity.

The Afghani Constitution specifically protects freedom of the press and religion, so no laws were broken by our troops.

Al-Jazeera even admitted the Bibles could have been useful in helping soldiers learn the Pashto and Dari languages of the Afghan people.

Instead, these privately owned Bibles were confiscated and burned. U.S. military spokesman Major Jennifer Willis told Reuters reporters, "I can now confirm that the Bibles shown on al-Jazeera's clip were, in fact, collected by the chaplains and later destroyed. They were never distributed."

After World War II, General Douglas MacArthur pleaded with Christians to send missionaries to Japan – a land that was devastated and dispirited. The divinity of the Emperor had been discredited and the people were distraught. McArthur told Christian leaders that they had a rare window of opportunity to transform Japan.

"We must have 10,000 Christian missionaries and a million Bibles," said McArthur, according to Rodger R. Venzke, author of *Confidence In Battle – Inspiration In Peace*.

But now, things have changed

"The speed with which our President is working to dismantle and collapse this government and its Judeo-Christian culture," writes Craddock, "and given his Muslim roots, it is no wonder people suspect him.

"He has shown preferential treatment to Muslims, including halting the prosecution of the accused bombers of the USS Cole.

"If you are familiar with the 12th Imam prophecies, the world must be brought to utter ruin before the 12th Imam can return. Is our president, who has shown disdain for our Judeo-Christian heritage, our history and achievements, and shown outright contempt for our allies, working with Islam to collapse our economic system and de-develop our country?"

Does that explain the preferential treatment given to the sensibilities of one-half of one percent of America's population – at the expense of 72 percent? Or what is going on in Europe?

There, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel says that Germans have failed to grasp how Muslim immigration has transformed their country and will have to come to terms with more mosques than churches throughout the countryside, according to the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* daily newspaper.

"Our country is going to carry on changing, and integration is also a task for the society taking up the task of dealing with immigrants," Merkel said. "For years we've been deceiving ourselves about this. Mosques, for example, are going to be a more prominent part of our cities than they were before."

Germany, with a population of 4-5 million Muslims, has been divided by a debate over remarks by the Bundesbank official Thilo Sarrazin, who says Turkish and Arab immigrants are failing to integrate and are swamping Germany with a higher birth rate.

No one dares to speak out

However, Merkel's remarks represent the first official acknowledgment of concerns that Germany, like other European countries, is destined to become a stronghold of Islam.

In France, 30 percent of children age 20 years and below are Muslims. The ratio in Paris and Marseille has soared to 45 percent. In southern France, there are more mosques than churches.

The situation within the United Kingdom is not much different. In the last 30 years, the Muslim population there has climbed from 82,000 to 2.5 million. Presently, there are over 1,000 mosques throughout Great Britain – many of which were formerly churches.

In Belgium, 50 percent of the newborns are Muslims and the Islamic population hovers around 25 percent. A similar statistic holds true for the Netherlands.

In Russia, one in five inhabitants is a Muslim.

And the Muslim world is fully aware of what is going on. Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi recently stated that "There are signs that Allah will grant victory to Islam in Europe without sword, without gun, without conquest. We don't need terrorists; we don't need homicide bombers. The 50 plus million Muslims in Europe will turn it into the Muslim continent within a few decades."

In each country, officials are coming under political pressure to institute *shari'a,* Islamic law, which makes it legal for a husband to brutalize his wife or wives, puts the blame in cases of rape on the victim and allows "honor killings" in which someone who converts to Christianity may be murdered by family members.

Under *shari'a*, Muslim men have more rights than Muslim women, who have more rights than Christian or Jewish men. Even lower on the scale are Christian and Jewish women, then Hindus, New Agers and atheists. Muslim men are permitted to own and sell non-Muslims as slaves. They are prohibited from engaging in friendships with non-Muslims. Lying and cheating non-Muslims is permitted if it advances the spread of Islam.

So, what do we do?

"What do we do about a religion that wants to conquer and dominate us?" asks Craddock. "The only real remedy is a robust and publicly endorsed Christianity: a code of freedom in Christ, not the slavery of Islam. Our God gave us free will. We must submit to Him voluntarily, or we will eventually submit to Allah forcefully. It's our choice. Only a return to faith and family values will preserve our country."

"I have watched with a great deal of curiosity the feeding frenzy created by the White House regarding the burning of the Koran by a pastor in Florida," writes conservative columnist Dave Daubenmire. "I am always leery of where it is the media is trying to take me.

"First of all, they want us to know that Pastor Terry Jones shepherds a 'small congregation' in Gainesville, Florida, as if behavior is validated by the number of followers that one has. Evidently Joel Osteen's version of the Gospel is better than Pastor Jones' because he has such a large following.

"You certainly realize that this whole event was driven by the White House, don't you? Don't you find it troubling that the President, Hillary, Eric Holder, General Petreaus and Robert Gates weighed in on this insignificant Pastor's behavior? Why would they choose to blow oxygen on that small fire? The President ignores appeals for his birth certificate but speaks out on a small-potatoes pastor? Tell me you are not that stupid.

Drawing parallels

"It didn't happen by accident. I would say that there is a direct connection to the Ground Zero Mosque and the White House's attempt to show us how intolerant Christianity is: 'You see now don't you? Christians can be radical too ... but they don't represent all of Christianity. It is a 'fringe' group. Most Christians are moderate and tolerant.'" – that's the message, says Daubenmire.

"Do me a favor. Reread that last sentence and substitute 'Muslim' everywhere you see 'Christian.' That is the agenda. Except they fail to point out that a radical Christian is willing to die for his faith, while a radial Muslim wants to kill for his.

"The actions of sacrificial Christians and the actions of radical Muslims bear no resemblance.

"Of course, 'moderate' Christians always jump into the media trap. They fall all over each other to let the world know that 'lunatic' Pastor Terry Jones does not represent 'their' Christianity. Whatever that means!

"But that is the heart of the problem: 'their' Christianity. Too many have remade God in their image." writes Daubenmire, "Sadly, there are many different versions of Christianity in the world today, and each one claims to speak for God – most a figment of their imagination.

"Let me ask you a troubling question that perhaps you haven't had the courage to ask yourself. What if God really did tell Pastor Jones to burn the Koran? As I listened to a 'moderate Christian' talk show host this morning speak for Christianity and its virtues, among the most important was 'respect' and 'tolerance' for 'other religions' and especially their 'holy books.' I couldn't help but ask myself a piecing question.

What would Jesus do?

"Does Jesus respect and tolerate other religions?" asks Daubenmire. "Did Jesus die to merely share the platform with the other religious headliners? Are His followers supposed to put Muhammad, Buddha and the boys on equal footing with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

"Does Jesus respect Islam? Would a follower of Jesus ever burn a book? Most Christians say no. Ever wonder what the Bible says?

"In Acts 19, Paul orchestrated the burning of books on witchcraft which 'mightily grew the word of God and prevailed.'

"Would you object to the burning of the Satanic Bible, or are Christians supposed to 'respect' and 'tolerate' it as well? Which 'holy' book has led more people to hell, the Satanic Bible or the Koran?

"Standing up for Jesus in the public square has become 'intolerant.' But Acts 4 tells us: 'Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.' John 14:6 is clear: 'Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.'"

Indeed, in the Ten Commandments, God proclaims: "I am the Lord thy God which has brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me."*

"No other gods," writes Daubenmire. "Here is the point. If 'religion' is merely to be used as a set of values by which we live our lives, then I suppose it doesn't matter which one you choose. But if heaven and hell are real, and there really is life beyond this world, then 'religion' takes on a whole new perspective.

"Christianity is not a popularity contest.

"If the Bible is true, then all other roads lead to hell."

"I think it is time Christians stopped worrying so much about being nice and started being honest. Does Jesus respect Islam or is He jealous? It would behoove us to know the correct answer.

On the other hand, writes *San Ramon Valley (California) Herald* newspaper reporter Lisa Gardiner, "Islam isn't in America to be equal to any other faith but

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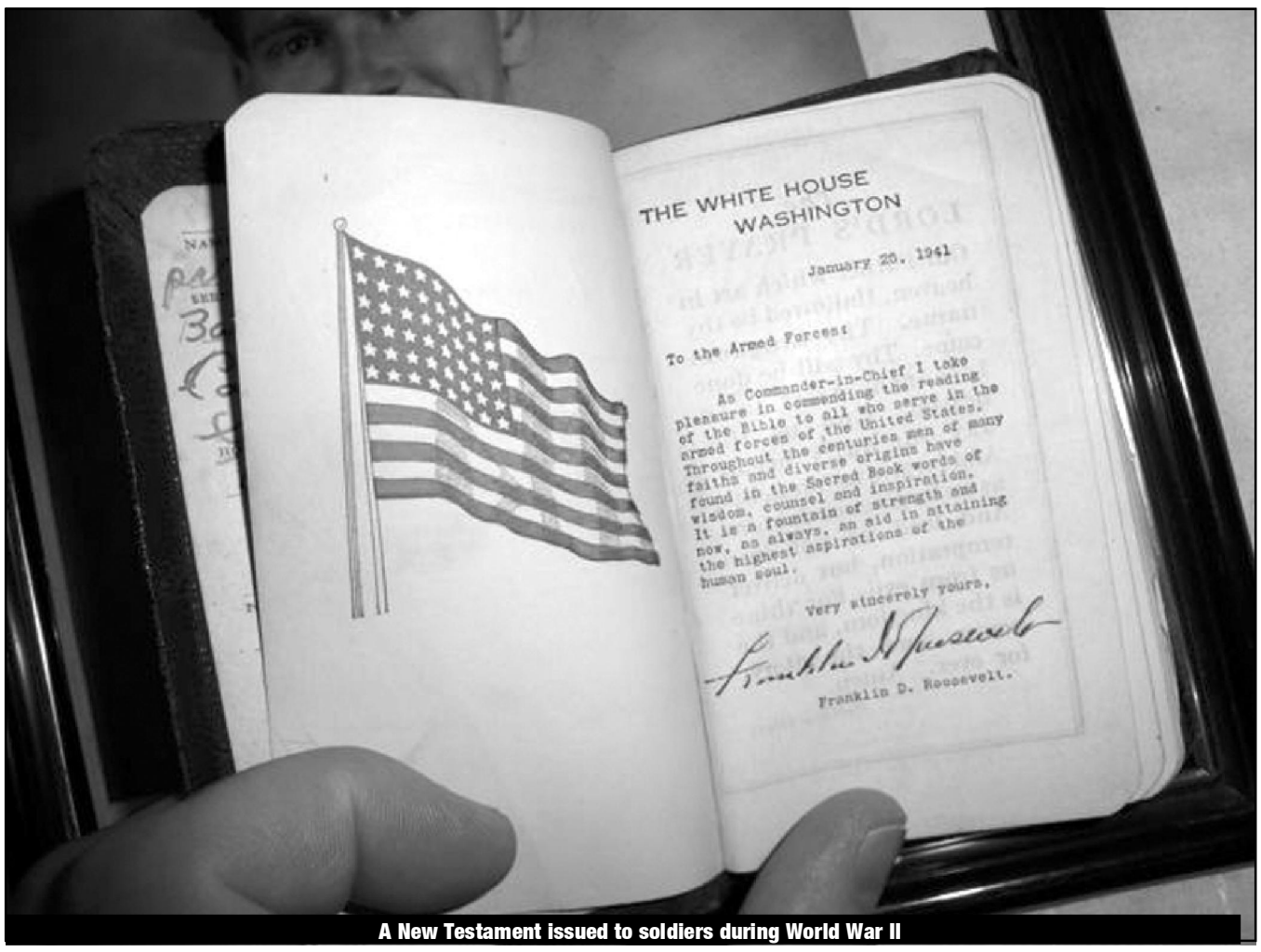

A New Testament issued to soldiers during World War II

How long must we endure this double standard?

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to become dominant. The Koran, the Muslim book of scripture, should be the highest authority in America, and Islam the only accepted religion on Earth."

She noted how Americans have been intimidated into silence. She cited lawsuits filed against the *Washington Times,* the *Los Angeles Times,* the *National Post, National Review,* various talk radio hosts, and even several college newspapers.

"It is really impossible to know how many people have been intimidated with these lawsuits," agrees columnist Andrew Whitehead, who was sued in 2004 for writing a column denouncing Islam.

According to Daniel Pipes, director of the Middle East Forum, Muslim leaders frequently meet with members of Congress and the administration on an unofficial basis.

Their goal is to ban all criticism of Islam

"With the threat of Islamaphobia in their back pocket," he notes, Muslim lawyers "have been able to steer the media's narrative" as well – branding anything negative about Islam as "hate speech."

It would be as if the White House succeeded in banning any criticism of Barack Obama as threatening national security.

"The struggle for civil rights forged a national commitment to preserving free speech in the face of hostile audiences," writes Daniel Huff. "It is alarming how quickly the Koran controversy has melted that resolve."

Huff is the Director of the Legal Project at the Middle East Forum. A lawyer, he previously served as counsel to the Senate Judiciary Committee.

"Initially," he writes, "everyone from Mayor Bloomberg to the White House affirmed a right to burn the book even as they condemned the act. Then General David Petraeus got involved, followed by the FBI, and now Supreme Court.

"Justice Stephen Breyer says Koran burning may not be protected speech after all. The key to this rapid reversal was General Petraeus' warning that Koran burning 'could endanger troops' and the war effort. Although styled as a request not a demand, his comments laid the legal foundation for compelled government censorship.

"The reason is that the Constitution permits the government to censor speech if necessary to achieve a compelling government interest," notes Huff. "This is a very high standard, but the fact that the nation's top commander made a rare public appeal for restraint will be cited as strong evidence that avoiding offense to Muslims is essential to the national interest.

"Once this dangerous premise is accepted, the door is open to court injunctions against speech that inflames Muslim sentiment in strategically important locations."

That has already started. The New Jersey Transit Authority recently fired an 11-year veteran employee for burning the Koran at a 9/11 rally.

How can this be?

Ordinarily," notes Huff, "a government employee cannot be dismissed for expressing personal views on a matter of public concern unless it interferes with the orderly functioning of the workplace.

"In a series of cases arising out of civil rights demonstrations, the Supreme Court explicitly held that free expression cannot be limited 'simply because it might offend a hostile mob.'"

The Supreme Court knew that they couldn't create "the heckler's veto." They couldn't ban any free speech that might offend somebody.

So, how is burning the Koran different? Years ago in a famous case, the Supreme Court ruled that Nazis had the right to march through a Jewish neighborhood in Skokie, Illinois. In another cased, "Dunlap v. City of Chicago," officials had denied demonstrators a permit to march in a predominantly white area because every prior similar protest in the vicinity had resulted in violence.

"When they sued," writes Huff, "the district court not only ordered the city to permit the parade, it also demanded officials provide policemen 'in such numbers as are required to afford adequate protection' to the marchers.

"When the violence officials feared materialized, the court allowed a suit against the city for providing insufficient police protection.

"The argument that speech should be censored to prevent violence was rejected in the civil rights context and it should not be accepted now.

"That is what made it so frustrating," writes Huff, to hear Obama "denounce Koran burning for fear of offending Muslims, but insist the First Amendment rights of the Ground Zero Mosque planners trump the 'extraordinary sensitivities around 9/11.'"

Basically, the non-Muslims opposing the Ground Zero Mosque "are being punished for not being violent," writes Huff.

"Insisting Americans curb their First Amendment rights in deference to Muslims, but not asking Muslims to do the same when Americans are offended creates a privileged status for Islam," he adds.

That's what the extremists want

"Their goal is to impose a radical brand of Islamic law on society at large," writes Huff. "Censoring speech that insults or critiques Islam is the first step in this process and the U.S. government should not be doing it for them.

"Curbing free speech rights buys only temporary appeasement and comes at a high cost. Not only do we compromise our principles, but it emboldens extremists who will conclude the Administration is fearful of retaliation."

An enormous problem is that American and European officials do not understand the Muslim worldview, says author Bruce S. Thornton. "The great historian of Soviet Russia, Robert Conquest, once wrote something about the dangers of naive diplomacy that I'm reminded of daily.

Conquest wrote: "We are still faced with the absolutely crucial problem of making the intellectual and imaginative effort *not* to project our ideas of common sense or natural motivation" onto the Soviets.

In other words, just because an American or a British general makes a decision based on facts, did not mean that a Soviet general would do the same. His motivation might be politics – particularly when he was given no choice but to follow party policy by a political officer who had veto power over his every decision.

Not everybody does it like we do

During World War II, American leaders did not know that Japanese chain-of-command was fractured by zealots. A general might announce a course of action, only to be undermined by colonels or even lieutenants who defied him because they believed he was being cowardly. In the Allied command structure, such actions would be mutiny. In the Japanese system, it was just something commanders had to handle – fighting not only the enemy, but their own ambitious staff members.

People from different cultures misunderstand their opponents, wrote Conquest. Cultures misunderstand other cultures. They assume that the light of their own parochial common sense is enough.

"They frame policies based on illusions."

America's 30-year struggle with Islamic jihad has been defined by just this sort of failure of imagination, says Thornton. He is the author of the *Decline and Fall: Europe's Slow-Motion Suicide.*

"The diplomatic pathology has much deeper roots," he warns, "and reflects a larger set of assumptions about human and state behavior going back to the Enlighten-

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ment – what we can call utopian universalism. In this view, all peoples are essentially rational and want the same political and social goods, particularly personal freedom and material prosperity."

But that's not true, he says

"If they behave irrationally or destructively, blame this on the fact that they have not yet been educated to their true interests. They remain mired in ancient superstitions, particularly those of religion, ethnic loyalties, and nationalism. Yet in time," Western diplomats believe, "the progress of knowledge, technology, and global trade will sweep away these impediments to happiness."

This is not true at all when dealing with Islam, he writes. Nevertheless, American policy pretends it is.

U.S. diplomats fervently believe that "the same global progress that has led to international law, international courts of justice, and transnational institutions like the United Nations will, eventually liberate people from irrational loyalties and violence."

American policy makers are convinced that "diplomatic discussion and engagement, predicated on a global 'harmony of interests' and mediated by transnational organizations, will replace violence as the means for resolving conflict," writes Thornton.

That's a serious mistake, he says

"These ideals reflect a particular history – that of the West – beginning in ancient Greece and Jerusalem and developed further by the Romans and Christianity.

"Within the West itself," writes Thornton, "this 'moralizing internationalism,' as historian Corelli Barnett calls it, was exploded by the carnage of the twentieth century, in which nationalist and ethnic loyalties, incoherent political religions like fascism and Communism, and finally a renewed religious fanaticism have created mountains of corpses.

"The critical intellectual error in this utopian view is the assumption that because all peoples are capable of desiring goods such as freedom and prosperity, then these will trump all others."

Christian philosopher Michael Novak has written that there is "universal hunger for freedom," one that all peoples can satisfy with the right political values and institutions.

"But," notes Thornton, "people and nations have other 'hungers' as well: to follow God's will, to get rich, to acquire power and prestige, or to take revenge on an enemy. If we dismiss these, then we will construct policies based on illusions, policies doomed to fail and thus compromise our security and interests.

"Diplomatic engagement demands an effort of imagination." Policymakers must recognize these motivations, writes Thornton, "no matter how strange or repellent."

It is a mistake to "dismiss them or subordinate them to our own" way of thinking.

Remember the Third Reich

"This failure of imagination in international relations was apparent long before our current conflict with modern jihadism," he continues. "The Allies created the League of Nations, the ineffectuality of which was clear long before the rise of Adolf Hitler. Hitler manipulated masterfully these delusions, especially the desire for peace, and used the diplomatic "engagement" at Munich to take another step toward his aim of an Aryan empire.

"Expansionist Soviet Communism was abetted by the delusions of Cold War diplomacy predicated on false assumptions about Soviet motives.

"British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain failed to imagine that Hitler and the Germans, fired by fascist passions and the lust for recovering lost prestige and power, were eager for conflict and had spent most of the interwar period preparing for it," writes Thornton. "Worse yet, this ignorance of true motives puts one at a disadvantage when dealing with an aggressor, who can conceal his aims under the pretext of diplomatic negotiation (as Hitler did), thus buying time and misdirecting his adversary by the duplicitous endorsement of ideals he knows are important to the West."

Now, we are making these same mistakes all over again as we deal with the Muslim world, he advises.

"Despite the examples of these historical failures, we have made the same mistakes in our conflict with Islamic jihad, starting with the Iranian Revolution in 1979," writes Thornton. "Rather than attempting to understand the religious motives of Islamic jihadists, which they clearly articulate and link to their reading of traditional Islam, we reduce them instead to our own secularized, materialist beliefs.

"In the West today, religious faith is often dismissed as a Marxist 'opiate' or a Freudian 'illusion,' a mere compensation for more significant material causes such as education, economic advancement, or political freedom. Religion is trivialized into a mere lifestyle choice or source of private therapeutic solace. Shaped by these prejudices, we assume Islam functions similarly for Islamists as Christianity does for today's Christians, and so cannot be the prime mover of their murderous deeds."

Policies based on illusions

Thus we refuse to believe that, in the 21st century, a major world religion could serve as the primary motivating force for jihadists around the world.

"Such has been the failure of imagination plaguing our encounter with violent jihad," advises Thornton. "Armed with these reductions of the Islamist cause to our own prejudices and ideals, President Obama has attempted to 'engage' the Islamic world with a diplomatic outreach predicated on American guilt – as if sufficient American penance will dissuade jihadists from their religious fanaticism.

"Yet for all of the efforts at a new beginning he made during his speech last year in Cairo, for all the 'extended hands' and solicitous letters to Iranian leaders touting their religion and civilization, Obama has reaped little but contempt. Iran continues its march toward nuclear weapons. As it has in the past, the failure of diplomatic imagination has blinded us to our enemy's motives, leading us to policies based on illusions – and putting our national security at risk."

Commies, comics marching on Washington

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Colbert. The two have daily "faux news" or fake news shows in which they parody the day's current events. Stewart is blatantly liberal in his stand-up routines and skits on "The Daily Show."

"The Colbert Report" is supposedly conservative. It spun off of Stewart's show, where Colbert had played a bumbling reporter who usually lost arguments by posing absurd challenges to liberal dogma.

Now on his own show, Colbert plays a blustery right-wing pundit. How much of his act is sincere is open to speculation. He is highly supportive of the U.S. military, even going through a few days of boot camp and receiving an enlistee haircut on camera.

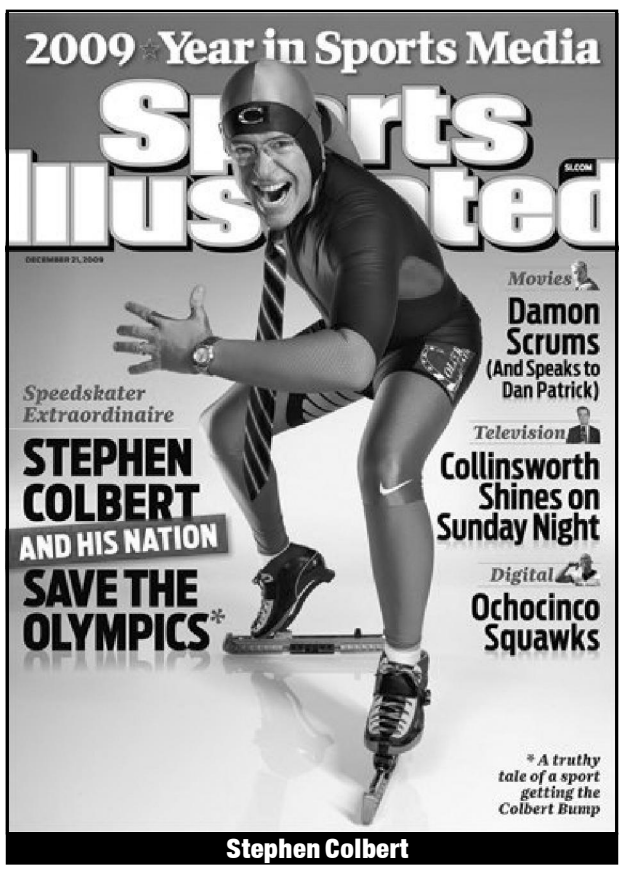
Lampoons conservatives

He frequently features actual soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen in a respectful manner and has broadcast from Iraq, where he conducted USO-type shows for the troops. However, far too often, he has fun lampooning the right wing.

Within hours of Stewart announcing he would hold a "Rally to Restore Sanity" on the weekend before the November 2's Election Day, Colbert proclaimed that he would hold a counter-rally, the "March to Keep Fear Alive," scheduled at the same time and place as Stewart's rally.

"In a nifty two-for-one," reported Gloria Goodale of the *Los Angeles Times,* "fans of Comedy Central's late night 'fake news' block now have both Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert headed to Washington – on Halloween weekend, no less.

Promoted on popular Internet social networking sites such as Twitter, Reddit and Facebook, the two "dueling rallies," quickly had thousands of people pledging to attend one or the other. Within days of announcing the simultaneous rallies, Stewart bragged that he already had more people pledged to attend the event than had come to Glenn Beck's "Restoring Honor" rally at the Lincoln Memorial.



Stephen Colbert

The two rallies "could easily produce a tally of more than a million followers, but it has yet to be seen whether the current pace can continue or whether these people will actually show up," wrote columnist Jay Tower.

On the liberal Internet news site the *Daily Beast,* the editors proclaimed "unless Stewart's rally significantly under-produces from its current numbers, it will undoubtedly be larger than Beck's. Stewart has sold his rally as an effort to give a voice to more reasonable moderates, who he claims make up a larger percentage of the population."

Dueling rallies?

"Stewart argued that the current political discourse in America is dominated by those who advocate the most extreme viewpoints, and with the loudest voice. While not specifically mentioning Beck, his reference seemed clear. Colbert will likely be mocking personalities like Beck with his 'March to Keep Fear Alive.'"

Colbert enthusiasts had been pushing for their "leader" to host what they had been calling a "Restoring Truthiness" rally as a satirical counterweight to Beck's event on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. But, in a move that political commentator Jeffrey Jones called "very smart indeed," the two comics opted instead to headline supposedly competing rallies.

"In the spirit of the spooky season, the two may be donning the cloak of fun and games," wrote the *Daily Beast* but as Stewart says, he has a grown-up goal: to revive the moderate center of our civic discourse.

"The decision to join forces speaks volumes about their underlying motivations," said Jones, author of *Entertaining Politics: Satiric Television and Political Engagement.*

"The event is set on the doorstep of the November 2 election, which makes its potential impact with younger voters undeniable," says Ari Berman, a political correspondent for the *Nation.* "The younger demographic, which came out so effectively for Obama in 2008, has been noticeably disaffected in this midterm election. It's possible that a major event hosted by two media figures with such caché

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Crowds testify to Norman Rockwell's unique greatness

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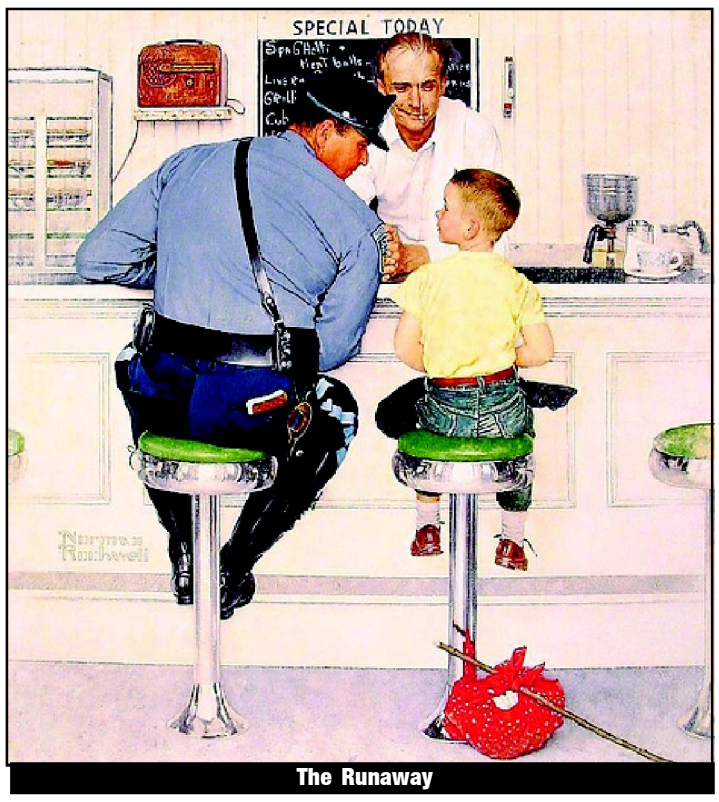
Rockwell created visual stories that expressed the wants of a nation. He helped clarify our nation's vision through the dark days of World War II, then the Korean War, and the confusion of the Civil Rights marches and the Vietnam war.

His prolific career spanned the days of horse-drawn carriages to the Apollo 11 moon landing. While history was in the making all around him, Rockwell chose to fill his canvases with the small details and nuances of ordinary people in everyday life.



The Runaway

He caught the essence of the American spirit.

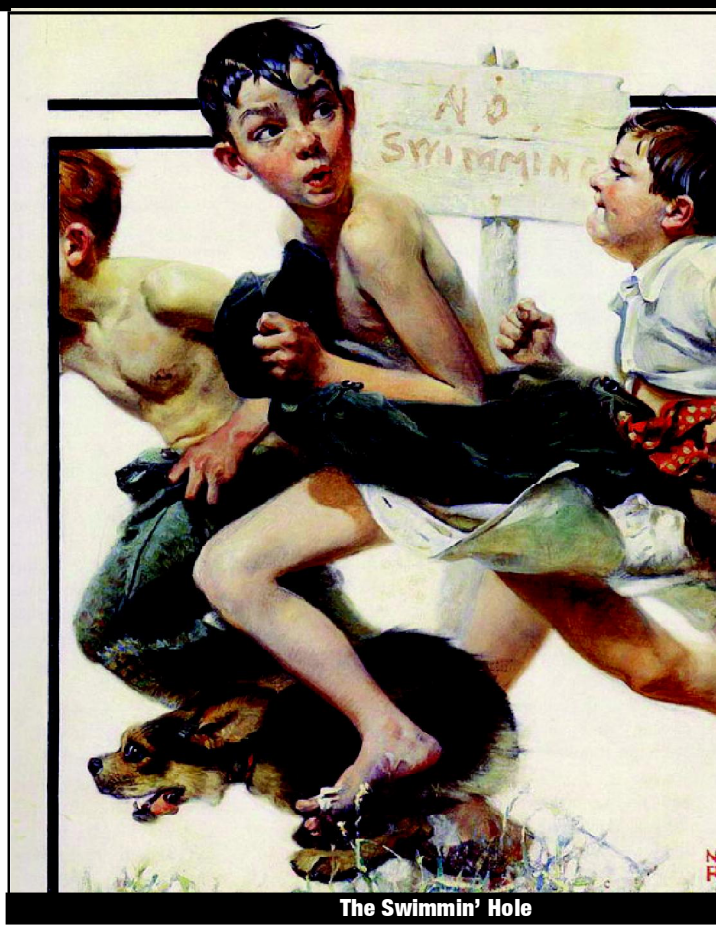
"I paint life as I would like it to be," Rockwell once said. Patriotic, idealistic, innocent, his paintings evoke a longing for a time and place that America yearns for today.

According to Spielberg, "Rockwell painted the American dream–better than anyone."

Freedom From Want

"Critics would likely seize upon the sight" of the long lines at the Smithsonian "to observe that popular approval does not equal artistic quality," writes Ryan L. Cole, "especially when the art in question is insufficiently socially aware.

Certainly that was the view of *Washington Post* art critic Blake Gopnik, who in reviewing the Smithsonian exhibition derided Rockwell as "the cowardly, 'aw, shucks' epitome of Middle America.



The Swimmin' Hole

Rockwell "doesn't challenge any of us, or himself, to think new thoughts or try new acts or look with fresh eyes," wrote Gopnik. "From the docile realism of his style to the received ideas of his subjects, Rockwell reliably keeps us right in the middle of our comfort zone."


Kitchen Patrol Duty

And that's why he is famous and loved and revered – and why you probably never heard of Gopnik before reading this article. The Smithsonian show, drawn from the collections of moviemakers Lucas and Spielberg, confirms that Rockwell had a deep understanding of America's character and a masterly ability to convey it to canvas.

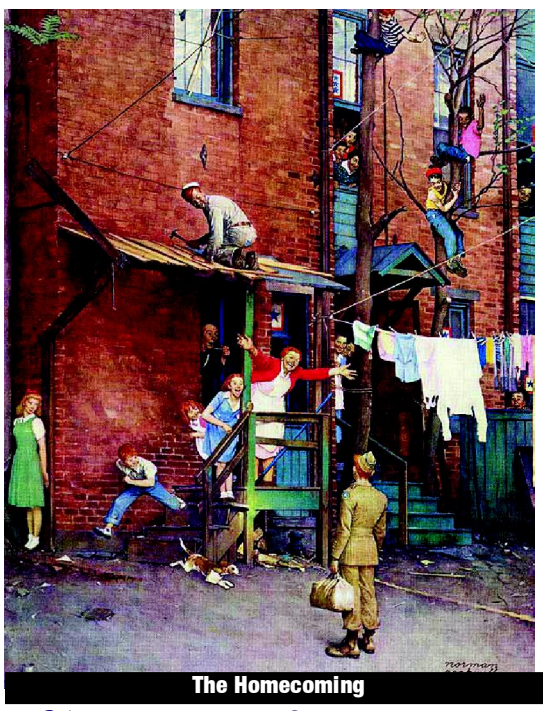
His vision focused on our virtues, not our sins.

"But only in the self-loathing landscape of contemporary intellectual thought would that be cause for criticism," writes Cole.

Working from meticulously staged photographs, Rockwell used small, easily recognizable scenarios to create plot-driven vignettes of American life.

His paintings, prints, and sketches celebrate family, tradition, democracy, and freedom. Here are malt shops and marbles champs; young boys running away from home and young men returning from war; romance, new and old; and inspirational national figures, past and present.

These are not snapshots from a whitewashed fantasy but



The Homecoming

pictures from a world that still exists, full of values and principles we still need.

In "The Runaway," from 1958, a young boy sits perched on a soda-fountain stool, his worldly belongings folded into a knapsack resting on the floor; he chats with a sympathetic policeman and an amused soda jerk. Despite the title, it's doubtful the boy will end up far from home, but his flight represents a youthful desire for independence.

In Rockwell's famous "Homecoming," a G.I. is greeted by a tenement full of friends and family at war's end. It recreates a scene that played out thousands of times for those lucky enough to return home from combat. With a few changes, it still plays out today.

To Gopnik and other critics, this rendering is emblematic of all that is wrong with Rockwell. Why celebrate interchangeable Americans participating in harmless, small-scale civic duty?

Because in America, as Rockwell knew, democracy is most often found in school-board, city-council, and town-hall meetings.

It takes courage to stand up in a crowd of friends, family, and neighbors and make an argument for or against something.

Rockwell was right to celebrate those willing to take public stands on issues; without them, the American idea falls apart.

"Near the exhibit's exit," reports Cole, guests were encouraged to put down their thoughts in a small spiral notebook. A quick glance through the pages shows the words 'memories,' 'laughter,' 'tears,' and 'inspiring' used repeatedly, and all followed by 'thank you.'

"Let there be no doubt: Rockwell's work still holds the power to move its viewers, to stir their imaginations, and beam back a bit of their own reflection.

"It continues to remind Americans of the ideals and dreams that we share."

Commies, comics marching on Washington

continued from page 1

among younger voters 'could easily help to mobilize action in time for the election,' he said. One thing is certain, 'all the media will be there, so it will be sure to get coverage.'"

"If team Colbert-Stewart stays with its strong suit, namely comedy, this could affect the election," agrees political scientist Saladin Ambar of Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. "The president is often at his best when he is funny.

"As the whole Tina Fey-Sarah Palin episode demonstrated, humor can destroy an image or candidate as well as any 15-minute stump speech. As the Democratic base struggles with an enthusiasm gap, perhaps Stewart can at least give a good many on the left reason to get involved beyond the logical and very real possibility of Dems losing the House."

Humor can stir the passions

"Voting is an illogical action," Ambar added, "and humor can stir the passions as much as anything."

"But this is precisely the challenge the pair faces in mounting what is arguably an event without precedent," said Syracuse University media pundit Robert Thompson. "When have we ever seen something like this?"

History shows many powerful rallies by people with clear points of view, from Martin Luther King Jr., "even Glenn Beck," he said.

But Stewart and Colbert are operating with multiple levels of communication – from the serious, underlying message that Stewart seems to desire to the joke-within-a-joke persona of Colbert's supposedly conservative talk show.

"Their fan base will come expecting comedy, and delivering that in this kind of setting will be the biggest challenge they face," said Thompson. "It's entirely possible this could end up being the very kind of thing that both he and Colbert do so well at skewering."

Jon Stewart

Old hippies and anti-war activists

Saying Grace

Meanwhile, the October 2 rally featuring aging ex-hippies and Communists was eclipsed by the comedians' stunt.

That march's message was that the U.S. should immediately withdraw from Iraq and Afghanistan, that all military aid to Israel should be ended, and that Iran has the right to develop nuclear weapons. Attendance was said to be "disappointing."

Former executive director of Veterans for Peace Michael McPhearson was one of the key organizers of the event. "I'm not all that concerned if you're a Republican, Democrat, or Marxist or Communist, whatever," he said. "I just want us to work together to make our country better. That's what I look at – not if you're a socialist."

He said he designed the event to counter the Tea Party events and Beck's rally. When asked about the involvement of Communist groups, McPhearson shot back, "What is radical? We are trying to bring everybody together under one tent. In the United States everybody has a voice and speaks their opinion."

"He said the Tea Party has its own share of controversial people," writes Cliff Kincaid of the media watchdog group Accuracy in the Media.

McPhearson described the purpose of the rally as "to demonstrate our recommitment to change."

The "national campaign manager" of the October 2 demonstration was listed as the Reverend Leah Daughtry, whose website lists her as "a nationally recognized teacher, preacher, speaker, organizer, leader and Democratic strategist." Her work for the Democratic Party included serving as Chief Executive Officer of the 2008 Democratic National Convention Committee and Chief of Staff of the Democratic National Committee.

"The mainstream media, however," noted Kincaid, "can be expected not to highlight the fact that the Democratic Party and its constituency groups running the rally, have made common cause with Communist groups dedicated to the destruction of the American system."

Black Radical Congress

McPhearson participated in the 2008 national convention of the Black Radical Congress, a gathering that included representatives of the Communist Party, the Freedom Road Socialist Organization, and the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America.

The theme of the event was "Forging a Black Liberation Agenda for the 21st Century." McPhearson said he spoke to the gathering.

McPhearson works out of New Jersey for the National Conference for Community and Justice and is married to Deborah Jacobs, executive director of the New Jersey ACLU, in a ceremony that received sympathetic coverage for the two "peace activists" from the *New York Times*. The paper even ran a photo of them holding hands in front of the Statue of Liberty.

Official "partners" of the October 2 rally included the AFL-CIO, Service Employees International Union (SEIU), National Council of La Raza, the Campus Progress affiliate of the Center for American Progress, the American Federation of Teachers, Pax Christi, Rainbow Push, Color of Change, United for Peace and Justice, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Queers for Economic Justice, and ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism).

"ANSWER," writes Kincaid, "is a Communist front that switched its affiliation from the Workers World Party (WWP) to the Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) when members of the former left to join the latter.

Communist front that changed its name

"For example, Brian Becker is a former WWP member who joined the PSL and now functions as the national coordinator of ANSWER. Its website promotes the October 2 rally, supports accused traitor Bradley Manning, urges the release of five imprisoned Cuban spies, and promotes a book calling Israel a pawn of the U.S. 'empire' in the Middle East.

Although McPherson's group claims to represent veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, Veterans for Peace has helped organize demonstrations directly in support of Bradley Manning, the Army soldier and troubled homosexual activist charged with leaking classified information to WikiLeaks. Officials say his actions undermined the war effort and risk the lives of American soldiers.

When leftist "historian" Howard Zinn passed away earlier this year, VFP paid tribute to him, noting that Zinn had been a member of the organization since the late 1980s. Zinn was exposed through his FBI file, released after his death, as a secret Communist Party member who lied about it to the FBI.

Liberals wonder if Obama mentally ill


Barack Obama

compiled by the *Christian Crusade Newspaper* staff

Some observers have quit wondering whether President Obama is an inexperienced ideologue intentionally trying to sabotage America so that he can bring on a socialist New World Order.

Instead, several – including liberals – are beginning to ask whether he is mentally unstable.

"Obama in just twenty months has developed a reputation for being petulant and unusually sensitive to the normal run-of-the-mill criticism," notes author Victor Davis Hanson.

Citing a recent *Forbes* magazine article by college president Dinesh D'Souza, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich told *National Review* magazine that the problem may be that Obama is operating from a "Kenyan, anti-colonial" worldview that is irrationally and perhaps even unintentionally hostile to the United States.

Others have a different theory

"Does the narcissism of this man know no bounds?" asked psychiatrist and Pulitzer prize-winning columnist Charles Krauthammer. After all, Obama greatly exaggerates his achievements, expects constant praise and admiration, believes he's special, doesn't appear to concern himself with other people's feelings and expresses disdain for those he feels are inferior – all textbook symptoms of Narcissistic Personality Disorder.

"The most dangerous thing about having a narcissist in a position of power is his unwillingness – perhaps his inability – to ever admit error," observes Jack Kelly, a former high-ranking Pentagon official.

Gingrich said that D'Souza made a "stunning insight" into Obama's behavior – the "most profound insight I have read in the last six years about Barack Obama. What if Obama is so outside our comprehension, that only if you understand Kenyan, anti-colonial behavior, can you begin to piece together his actions? That is the most accurate, predictive model for his behavior." D'Souza is the president of King's College in New York City and the author of *The Roots of Obama's Rage* from Regnery Publishing.

Does Barack Obama suffer from an "empathy deficit?" The question was recently asked in the arch-liberal Internet news site *The Daily Beast* by journalist Kirsten Powers.

"The president who has talked most about the power of empathy suddenly seems to be lacking in it himself," observes Powers. She served in the Clinton Administration from 1993-1998 and has been published in the *Wall Street Journal, USA Today,* the *New York Observer, Salon, Elle* magazine and *American Prospect* magazine.

"Ironically, it was Obama who used the phrase 'empathy deficit' in a 2008 speech when he diagnosed the United States as suffering from the disorder," writes Powers. "In a plea for unity, candidate Obama said lack of empathy was 'the essential deficit that exists in this country.'

"He defined it as 'an inability to recognize ourselves in one another; to understand that we are our brother's keeper; we are our sister's keeper; that, in the words of Dr. King, we are all tied together in a single garment of destiny.'

"Yet, as president," says Powers, "Obama has demonstrated an almost pathological incapacity to connect with American's fear and despair over the future Whether it was the Gulf oil spill or a woman's heartbreaking pleading at a recent town hall meeting, Obama's much ballyhooed coolness seems more icy than reassuring.

"He believes empathy is critical to being a good Supreme Court Justice, declaring his opposition to now Chief Justice John Roberts because, he said, Roberts was short on that important quality. In defining what he looks for in a Supreme Court Justice, Obama put empathy at the top of his list: 'I view that quality of empathy, of understanding and identifying with people's hopes and struggles, as an essential ingredient for arriving at just decisions and outcomes.'

"Indeed, the Center for Building a Culture of Empathy has chronicled the nearly 60 speeches, debates, interviews and writings where Obama has lectured Americans on the importance of empathy," writes Powers.

In his second autobiography, *Audacity of Hope,* he wrote that empathy "is at the heart of my moral code, and it is how I understand the Golden Rule – not simply as a call to sympathy or charity, but as something more demanding, a call to stand in somebody else's shoes and see through their eyes."

"In nearly every commencement speech he delivers, Obama offers students some version of this line and decries the nation's "empathy deficit."

Does he have an empathy deficit?

At a 2008 rally in Westerville, Ohio, Obama said, "One of the values that I think men in particular have to pass on is the value of empathy. Not sympathy, empathy. And what that means is standing in somebody else's shoes, being able to look through their eyes. You know, sometimes we get so caught up in 'us' that it's hard to see that there are other people and that your behavior has an impact on them."

"Nothing brought this problem into relief like the two Obama supporters who confronted the president at a recent town hall meeting expressing total despair over their economic situation and hopelessness about the future," writes Powers. "Rather than expressing empathy, Obama seemed annoyed and proceeded with one of his unhelpful lectures.

"No wonder a recent ABC/*Washington Post* poll found nearly half of all Americans don't believe he understands people like themselves. A CNN/Opinion Research Corporation poll found that only 42 percent of Americans approve of how Obama's is doing his job. A solid majority of all Americans – 56 percent – say that Obama has fallen short of their expectations.

His job is to care

"Some Obama backers will cry that it's not Obama's job to be Empathizer-in-Chief. This could not be more misguided," writes Powers. "In fact, one of the most important roles of a president is an ability to lead the electorate through tough times. If he can't do that, then he will lose power and the ability to enact policies.

"No former president better proves this point than FDR. Jonathan Alter recalled in *Newsweek,* "In February of 1933, with the banks closed and millions of Americans wiped out, FDR used his 'first-class temperament' to treat the mental depression of Americans without curing their economic one.

"In the days following his 'fear itself' Inaugural and first 'Fireside Chat,' the same citizens who had lined up the month before to withdraw their last savings from the bank (and stuff it under the mattress or tape it to their chests) lined up to redeposit patriotically. This astounding act of ebullient leadership marked the 'defining moment' of modern American politics…"

Advice from Bill Clinton

One former President, Bill Clinton, told *Politico* that Obama is "being criticized for being too disengaged, for not caring. So he needs to turn into it. I may be one of the few people that think it's not bad that lady said she was getting tired of defending him.

"He needs to hear it. You need to hear. Embrace people's anger, including their disappointment at you. And just ask them to not let the anger cloud their judgment. Let it concentrate their judgment. And then make your case."

Obama has "got to realize that, in the end, it's not about him," said Clinton. "It's about the American people, and they're hurting."

"Exactly," said Power. "Hopefully Obama is listening."

During a recent public appearance, the President departed from his prepared remarks to accuse critics of "talking about me like a dog."

How dare they!

This protest "was his strangest so far," says Hanson. "The wonder is not that Obama is angry at criticism, but why he is so surprised in a weird 'how dare they?' fashion."

The problem is narcissism, says Hanson. Author Jeffrey Kuhner writes that Obama "is a self-absorbed narcissist who portrays himself as a political messiah – the anointed one." Dr. Sam Vaknin, the author of the *Malignant Self Love,* also believes that "Barack Obama appears to be a narcissist."

Vaknin is a world authority on narcissism. He understands the disorder and describes the inner mind of a narcissist like no other person. When he talks about narcissism everyone listens. Vaknin says that Obama's language, posture and demeanor, and the testimonies of his closest, dearest and nearest friends suggest that the Senator is either a narcissist or he may have narcissistic personality disorder.

Vaknin explains: "Narcissistic leaders are nefarious and their effects pernicious. They are subtle, refined, socially-adept, manipulative, possessed of thespian skills, and convincing. Both types, cerebral and somatic, equally lack empathy and are ruthless and relentless or driven."

These were the very traits that distinguished Hitler and Khomeini.

"Many of these traits can be seen in Obama," notes Vaknin. "As for his ruthlessness, perhaps his support of legislation to let babies die if they survive abortion, gives a glimpse into his soul, that he may lacks empathy, does not value life, and if in the position of power can be ruthless."

They are self-worshipers

"Narcissists need power to show their ruthlessness. Considering the fact that Obama neglected his own half brother, George Hussein Obama, who lives on one dollar per month in Kenya, we can't vouch for Obama's empathy or say he is a caring person.

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"This is a person," notes Gingrich, "who is fundamentally out of touch with how the world works, who happened to have played a wonderful con, as a result of which he is now president.

"I think he worked very hard at being a person who is normal, reasonable, moderate, bipartisan, transparent, accommodating – none of which was true," said Gingrich.

"Narcissists have only one issue," says Vaknin. "They want power and will do and say anything to get it. Their words mean nothing to them. They do not intend to keep them.

"They look into your eyes and swear on a stack of Bibles that they are not going to do something when that is exactly what they intend to do. They break their promises when it suits them and annul their treaties when they can get away with it.

Narcissists are pathological liars

They lie even to themselves. Ironically, they are the first to believe their own lies. When normal people lie, they show signs of distress. Narcissists don't. They can pass any polygraph test with flying colors. It is this conviction that fools people around them making them believe in their truthfulness and sincerity. In a twisted way they are sincere because, although they are conscience that they are not truthful, they believe in their own lies. This is difficult to understand and even more difficult to explain, but for a narcissist fantasy and reality are intertwined. The narcissist's delusional thoughts of grandiosity are real to him.

"Obama is in the great tradition of Edison, Ford, the Wright Brothers, Bill Gates – he saw his opportunity and he took it," Gingrich says. "The American people may take it back, in which case I may or may not be the recipient of that, but I have zero doubt that the American people will take it back. Unlike Ford, the Wright Brothers, et cetera, this guy's invention did not work."

Vaknin writes: "Narcissists use anything they can lay their hands on in the pursuit of narcissistic supply. If God, creed, church, faith, and institutionalized religion can provide them with narcissistic supply, they will become devout. They will abandon religion if it can't."

Narcissists are often callous and even ruthless. As the norm, they lack conscience. A man who lives in luxury, who raised nearly half a billion dollars for his campaign (something unprecedented in history) has no interest in the plight of his own brother. Why? Because, his brother cannot be used for his ascent to power. A narcissist cares for no one but himself.

Narcissism is all about image. Vaknin says, "The narcissist is shallow, a pond pretending to be an ocean. He likes to think of himself as a Renaissance man, a Jack of all trades. The narcissist never admits to ignorance in any field – yet, typically, he is ignorant of them all. It is surprisingly easy to penetrate the gloss and the veneer of the narcissist's self-proclaimed omniscience."

Narcissists are empty in substance but full on promises. Obama has not proposed a single concrete workable plan, but he has raised the hopes and expectations of millions of people with his promises. The glorious tomorrow that he offers is no more real than the Styrofoam Greek columns that adorned his image during his acceptance speech.

Narcissists hide their illness well

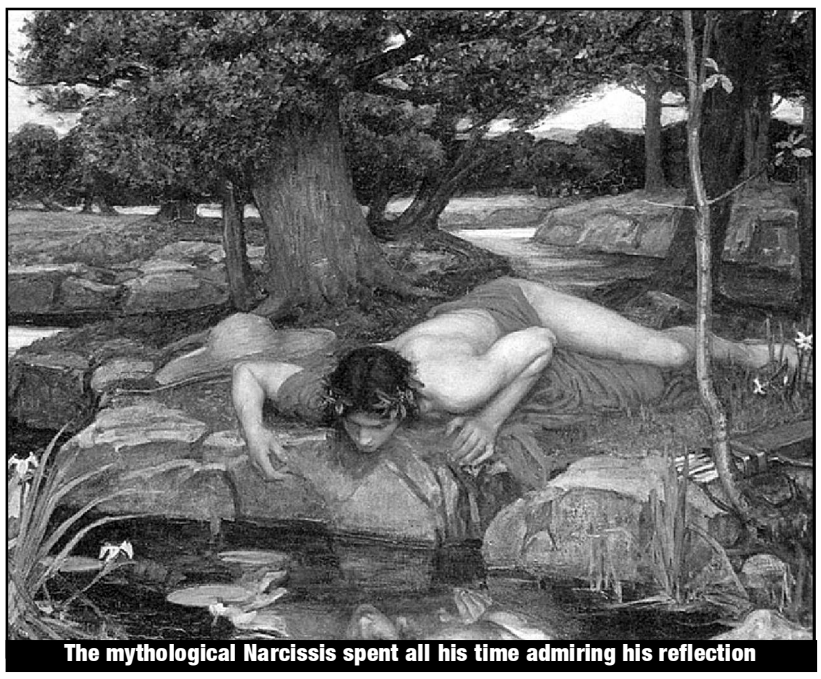
Vaknin says, "When the narcissist reveals his true colors, it is usually far too late. His victims are unable to separate from him. They are frustrated by this acquired helplessness and angry at themselves for having failed to see through the narcissist earlier on."

"He was being the person he needed to be in order to achieve the position he needed to achieve," says Gingrich. "He was authentically dishonest.

"I think Obama gets up every morning with a worldview that is fundamentally wrong about reality. If you look at the continuous denial of reality, there has got to be a point where someone stands up and says that this is just factually insane."

"Obama's petulance, I think, more likely derives from a certain surprise," writes Davis, "leading to anger that originates from novel and sudden demands for accountability. Quite simply, no one has dared question Obama before – much less press him for deeds to match his mellifluous words.

"Did he really think he could talk his way through four years of the American presidency? Apparently, he did, and apparently he was almost right – given that rhetoric and sophistry earned him the presidency in the first place. In what follows, I hold some empathy for



The mythological Narcissis spent all his time admiring his reflection

Obama's pique; you see in some sense those around him suddenly changed the rules, and what in the past had been habit and custom no longer quite applied.

"We know Obama got into Columbia University," writes Hanson. "We have no idea what he accomplished there – or whether his undergraduate transcript merited admission to Harvard Law School. Obama may have charmed his way into the *Harvard Law Review,* but in brilliant fashion he seems to have guessed rightly that once there he would be singularly exempt from the usual requirements of quantifiable achievement."

Cut-throat tactics; anything to win

"Most candidates for state office do not sue to remove their opponents from the ballot," writes Hanson. "Obama petitioned (successfully) that most of them be disqualified in 1995. It is likewise rare for the sealed divorce records of a front-running primary rival to be mysteriously leaked, prompting a veritable uncontested nomination. But after Democratic rival Blair Hull imploded from such revelations, so did Obama's general election Republican opponent Jack Ryan, who dropped out of the race after his divorce proceedings were eerily likewise exposed. Lightning does strike twice in the same place for the blessed Obama.

"Throughout the Obama presidential odyssey, an enthralled media variously dubbed him a 'god,' confessed to tingling sensations when he spoke, and in vicious fashion turned on any politician who tried to question Obama's actual record of achievement – whether Hillary Clinton or Sarah Palin.

"There is no need to pursue the journalistic malfeasance that allowed the president of the United States to be inaugurated without any real past scrutiny. Suffice to say that any future presidential candidate who promises to cool the planet and lower the rising seas will be laughed out of contention – even if he puts 'yes, we can' into Latin on his pre-presidential seal.

"For some reason," writes Hanson, "Obama believed that those who expected after his campaign promises a real upturn in the economy, or fiscal responsibility, or inspired foreign policy would be satisfied, as they had in the past, merely with soaring rhetoric and superficial reassurance.

"Given all that, it is understandable both why America is very worried about what it has wrought – and why Barack Obama is miffed and lashes out.

"You would, too, if both accountability and criticism were novel experiences at 49."

"Barack Obama," writes D'Souza, "is the most anti-business president in a generation, perhaps in American history. Thanks to him the era of big government is back. Obama runs up taxpayer debt not in the billions but in the trillions. He has expanded the federal government's control over home mortgages, investment banking, health care, autos and energy. *The Weekly Standard* summarizes Obama's approach as omnipotence at home, impotence abroad.

"The President's actions are so bizarre that they mystify his critics and supporters alike. Consider this headline from the August 18, 2009 issue of the *Wall Street Journal:* "Obama Underwrites Offshore Drilling." Did you read that correctly? You did. The Administration supports offshore drilling – but drilling off the shores of Brazil. With Obama's backing, the U.S. Export-Import Bank offered $2 billion in loans and guarantees to Brazil's state-owned oil company Petrobras to finance exploration in the Santos Basin near Rio de Janeiro – not so the oil ends up in the U.S.

"He is funding Brazilian exploration so that the oil can stay in Brazil.

"More strange behavior: Obama's June 15, 2010 speech in response to the Gulf oil spill focused not on cleanup strategies but rather on the fact that Americans 'consume more than 20 percent of the world's oil but have less than 2 percent of the world's resources.'

"Obama," continues D'Souza, "railed on about 'America's century-long addiction to fossil fuels.' What does any of this have to do with the oil spill? Would the calamity have been less of a problem if America consumed a mere 10 percent of the world's resources?

"The oddities go on and on. Obama's Administration has declared that even banks that want to repay their bailout money may be refused permission to do so. Only after the Obama team cleared a bank through the Fed's 'stress test' was it eligible to give taxpayers their money back. Even then, declared Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner, the Administration might force banks to keep the money."

Repeating past mistakes

"The President continues to push for stimulus even though hundreds of billions of dollars in such funds seem to have done little," writes D'Souza. "The unemployment rate when Obama took office in January 2009 was 7.7 percent; now it is 9.5 percent. Yet he wants to spend even more and is determined to foist the entire bill on Americans making $250,000 a year or more.

"The rich, Obama insists, aren't paying their 'fair share.' This by itself seems odd given that the top 1 percent of Americans pay 40 percent of all federal income taxes. The next 9 percent of income earners pay another 30 percent.

"So the top 10 percent pays 70 percent of the taxes. The bottom 40 percent pays close to nothing. This does indeed seem unfair – to the rich.

"Obama's foreign policy is no less strange. He supports a $100 million mosque scheduled to be built near the site where terrorists in the name of Islam brought down the World Trade Center. Obama's rationale, that 'our commitment to religious freedom must be unshakable,' seems utterly irrelevant to the issue of why the proposed Cordoba House should be constructed at Ground Zero.

"Recently the *London Times* reported that the Obama Administration supported the conditional release of Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, the Lockerbie bomber convicted in connection with the deaths of 270 people, mostly Americans.

"This was an eye-opener because when Scotland released Megrahi from prison and sent him home to Libya in August 2009, the Obama Administration publicly and appropriately complained. The *Times,* however, obtained a letter the Obama Administration sent to Scotland a week before the event in which it said that releasing Megrahi on 'compassionate grounds' was acceptable as long as he was kept in Scotland and would be 'far preferable' to sending him back to Libya.

"Scottish officials interpreted this to mean that U.S. objections to Megrahi's release were 'halfhearted.' They released him to his home country, where he lives today as a free man.

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Barack Obama

Liberals wonder if Obama mentally ill

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"One more anomaly," writes D'Souza. "A few months ago NASA Chief Charles Bolden announced that from now on the primary mission of America's space agency would be to improve relations with the Muslim world. Come again?"

Very strange behavior

"Bolden said he got the word directly from the President. 'He wanted me to find a way to reach out to the Muslim world and engage much more with dominantly Muslim nations to help them feel good about their historic contribution to science and math and engineering.'

"Bolden added that the International Space Station was a model for NASA's future, since it was not just a U.S. operation but included the Russians and the Chinese.

"Obama's redirection of the agency caused consternation among former astronauts like Neil Armstrong and John Glenn, and even among the President's supporters: Most people think of NASA's job as one of landing on the moon and Mars and exploring other faraway destinations. Sure, we are for Islamic self-esteem, but what on earth was Obama up to here?

"Theories abound to explain the President's goals and actions. Critics in the business community – including some Obama voters who now have buyer's remorse – tend to focus on two main themes. The first is that Obama is clueless about business. The second is that Obama is a socialist – not an out-and-out Marxist, but something of a European-style socialist, with a penchant for leveling and government redistribution.

"These theories aren't wrong so much as they are inadequate," writes D'Souza. "Even if they could account for Obama's domestic policy, they cannot explain his foreign policy. The real problem with Obama is worse – much worse. But we have been blinded to his real agenda because, across the political spectrum, we all seek to fit him into some version of American history. In the process, we ignore Obama's own history."

"Here is a man who spent his formative years – the first 17 years of his life – off the American mainland, in Hawaii, Indonesia and Pakistan, with multiple subsequent journeys to Africa.

"A good way to discern what motivates Obama is to ask a simple question: What is his dream? Is it the American dream? Is it Martin Luther King's dream? Or something else?

"It is certainly not the American dream as conceived by the founders," writes D'Souza. "They believed the nation was a 'new order for the ages.' A half-century later Alexis de Tocqueville wrote of America as creating 'a distinct species of mankind.' This is known as American exceptionalism. But when asked at a 2009 press conference whether he believed in this ideal, Obama said no. America, he suggested, is no more unique or exceptional than Britain or Greece or any other country.

"Perhaps, then, Obama shares Martin Luther King's dream of a color-blind society.

"The President has benefited from that dream; he campaigned as a nonracial candidate, and many Americans voted for him because he represents the color-blind ideal. Even so, King's dream is not Obama's: The President never champions the idea of color-blindness or race-neutrality. This inaction is not merely tactical; the race issue simply isn't what drives Obama.

"What then is Obama's dream? We don't have to speculate because the President tells us himself in his autobiography, *Dreams from My Father*. According to Obama, his dream is his father's dream. Notice that his title is not Dreams of My Father but rather Dreams from My Father. Obama isn't writing about his father's dreams; he is writing about the dreams he received from his father."

So who was Barack Obama Sr.?

"He was a Luo tribesman who grew up in Kenya and studied at Harvard," writes D'Souza. "He was a polygamist who had, over the course of his lifetime, four wives and eight children. One of his sons, Mark Obama, has accused him of abuse and wife-beating. He was also a regular drunk driver who got into numerous accidents, killing a man in one and causing his own legs to be amputated due to injury in another. In 1982 he got drunk at a bar in Nairobi and drove into a tree, killing himself.

"To his son, the elder Obama represented a great and noble cause, the cause of anti-colonialism," writes D'Souza. "Obama Sr. grew up during Africa's struggle to be free of European rule, and he was one of the early generation of Africans chosen to study in America and then to shape his country's future.

"I know a great deal about anti-colonialism, because I am a native of Mumbai, India," writes D'Souza. "I am part of the first Indian generation to be born after my country's independence from the British. Anti-colonialism was the rallying cry of Third World politics for much of the second half of the 20th century. To most Americans, however, anti-colonialism is an unfamiliar idea, so let me explain it.

"Anti-colonialism is the doctrine that rich countries of the West got rich by invading, occupying and looting poor countries of Asia, Africa and South America. As one of Obama's acknowledged intellectual influences, Frantz Fanon, wrote in *The Wretched of the Earth*, 'The well-being and progress of Europe have been built up with the sweat and the dead bodies of Negroes, Arabs, Indians and the yellow races.'

"Anti-colonialists hold that even when countries secure political independence they remain economically dependent on their former captors. This dependence is called neocolonialism, a term defined by the African statesman Kwame Nkrumah (1909 – 72) in his book, *Neocolonialism: The Last Stage of Imperialism*.

"Nkrumah, Ghana's first president, writes that poor countries may be nominally free, but they continue to be manipulated from abroad by powerful corporate and plutocratic elites. These forces of neocolonialism oppress not only Third World people but also citizens in their own countries. Obviously the solution is to resist and overthrow the oppressors. This was the anti-colonial ideology of Barack Obama Sr. and many in his generation, including many of my own relatives in India.

"Obama Sr. was an economist, and in 1965 he published an important article in the *East Africa Journal* called 'Problems Facing Our Socialism.' Obama Sr. wasn't a doctrinaire socialist; rather, he saw state appropriation of wealth as a necessary means to achieve the anti-colonial objective of taking resources away from the foreign looters and restoring them to the people of Africa. For Obama Sr. this was an issue of national autonomy. 'Is it the African who owns this country? If he does, then why should he not control the economic means of growth in this country?'

Bringing down power structures

"As he put it," writes D'Souza, "'We need to eliminate power structures that have been built through excessive accumulation so that not only a few individuals shall control a vast magnitude of resources as is the case now.' The senior Obama proposed that the state confiscate private land and raise taxes with no upper limit. In fact, he insisted that 'theoretically there is nothing that can stop the government from taxing 100 percent of income so long as the people get benefits from the government commensurate with their income which is taxed.'

"Remarkably, President Obama, who knows his father's history very well, has never mentioned his father's article. Even more remarkably, there has been virtually no reporting on a document that seems directly relevant to what Obama is doing in the White House.

"While the senior Obama called for Africa to free itself from the neocolonial influence of Europe and specifically Britain, he knew when he came to America in 1959 that the global balance of power was shifting," writes D'Souza. "Even then, he recognized what has become a new tenet of anti-colonialist ideology: Today's neocolonial leader is not Europe but America. As the late Palestinian scholar Edward Said – who was one of Obama's teachers at Columbia University – wrote in Culture and Imperialism, 'The United States has replaced the earlier great empires and is the dominant outside force.'"

They believe the U.S. must be stopped

"From the anti-colonial perspective, American imperialism is on a rampage. For a while, U.S. power was checked by the Soviet Union, but since the end of the Cold War, America has been the sole superpower," writes D'Souza. "Moreover, 9/11 provided the occa-

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sion for America to invade and occupy two countries, Iraq and Afghanistan, and also to seek political and economic domination in the same way the French and the British empires once did.

"So in the anti-colonial view, America is now the rogue elephant that subjugates and tramples the people of the world.

"It may seem incredible to suggest that the anti-colonial ideology of Barack Obama Sr. is espoused by his son. That is what I am saying. From a very young age and through his formative years, Obama learned to see America as a force for global domination and destruction.

"He came to view America's military as an instrument of neocolonial occupation. He adopted his father's position that capitalism and free markets are code words for economic plunder. Obama grew to perceive the rich as an oppressive class, a kind of neocolonial power within America. In his worldview, profits are a measure of how effectively you have ripped off the rest of society, and America's power in the world is a measure of how selfishly it consumes the globe's resources and how ruthlessly it bullies and dominates the rest of the planet."

Brazil can drill offshore, but not America

"For Obama, the solutions are simple," writes D'Souza. "He must work to wring the neocolonialism out of America and the West. And here is where our anti-colonial understanding of Obama really takes off, because it provides a vital key to explaining not only his major policy actions but also the little details that no other theory can adequately account for.

"Why support oil drilling off the coast of Brazil but not in America?

"Obama believes that the West uses a disproportionate share of the world's energy resources, so he wants neocolonial America to have less and the former colonized countries to have more. More broadly, his proposal for carbon taxes has little to do with whether the planet is getting warmer or colder; it is simply a way to penalize, and therefore reduce, America's carbon consumption.

"Both as a U.S. Senator and in his speech, as President, to the United Nations, Obama has proposed that the West massively subsidize energy production in the developing world.

"Rejecting the socialist formula, Obama has shown no intention to nationalize the investment banks or the health sector," writes D'Souza. "Rather, he seeks to decolonize these institutions, and this means bringing them under the government's leash.

"That's why Obama retains the right to refuse bailout paybacks – so that he can maintain his control. For Obama, health insurance companies on their own are oppressive racketeers, but once they submitted to federal oversight he was happy to do business with them. He even promised them expanded business as a result of his law forcing every American to buy health insurance.

No tax rate is too high

"If Obama shares his father's anti-colonial crusade, that would explain why he wants people who are already paying close to 50 percent of their income in overall taxes to pay even more. The anti-colonialist believes that since the rich have prospered at the expense of others, their wealth doesn't really belong to them; therefore whatever can be extracted from them is just. Recall what Obama Sr. said in his 1965 paper: There is no tax rate too high, and even a 100 percent rate is justified under certain circumstances.

"Obama supports the Ground Zero mosque because to him 9/11 is the event that unleashed the American bogey and pushed us into Iraq and Afghanistan. He views some of the Muslims who are fighting against America abroad as resisters of U.S. imperialism. Certainly that is the way the Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi portrayed himself at his trial. Obama's perception of him as an anti-colonial resister would explain why he gave tacit approval for this murderer of hundreds of Americans to be released from captivity.

"Finally, NASA. No explanation other than anti-colonialism makes sense of Obama's curious mandate to convert a space agency into a Muslim and international outreach," writes D'Souza. "We can see how well our theory works by recalling the moon landing of Apollo 11 in 1969. 'One small step for man,' Neil Armstrong said. 'One giant leap for mankind.'

"But that's not how the rest of the world saw it. I was 8 years old at the time and living in my native India. I remember my grandfather telling me about the great race between America and Russia to put a man on the moon. Clearly America had won, and this was one giant leap not for mankind but for the U.S.

"If Obama shares this view, it's no wonder he wants to blunt NASA's space program, to divert it from a symbol of American greatness into a more modest public relations program.

"Clearly the anti-colonial ideology of Barack Obama Sr. goes a long way to explain the actions and policies of his son in the Oval Office," writes D'Souza.

"And we can be doubly sure about his father's influence because those who know Obama well testify to it. His 'granny' Sarah Obama (not his real grandmother but one of his grandfather's other wives) told *Newsweek,* 'I look at him and I see all the same things – he has taken everything from his father. The son is realizing everything the father wanted. The dreams of the father are still alive in the son.'

"In his own writings, Obama stresses the centrality of his father not only to his beliefs and values but to his very identity. He calls his memoir 'the record of a personal, interior journey – a boy's search for his father and through that search a workable meaning for his life as a black American.' And again, 'It was into my father's image, the black man, son of Africa, that I'd packed all the attributes I sought in myself.' Even though his father was absent for virtually all his life, Obama writes, 'My father's voice had nevertheless remained untainted, inspiring, rebuking, granting or withholding approval. You do not work hard enough, Barry. You must help in your people's struggle. Wake up, black man!'

He has continued his father's struggle

"The climax of Obama's narrative is when he goes to Kenya and weeps at his father's grave," writes D'Souza.

"It is riveting: 'When my tears were finally spent,' he writes, 'I felt a calmness wash over me. I felt the circle finally close.

"I realized that who I was, what I cared about, was no longer just a matter of intellect or obligation, no longer a construct of words. I saw that my life in America – the black life, the white life, the sense of abandonment I'd felt as a boy, the frustration and hope I'd witnessed in Chicago – all of it was connected with this small piece of earth an ocean away, connected by more than the accident of a name or the color of my skin. The pain that I felt was my father's pain.'"

"In an eerie conclusion, Obama writes that 'I sat at my father's grave and spoke to him through Africa's red soil.' In a sense, through the earth itself, he communes with his father and receives his father's spirit," writes D'Souza. "Obama takes on his father's struggle, not by recovering his body but by embracing his cause. He decides that where Obama Sr. failed, he will succeed. Obama Sr.'s hatred of the colonial system becomes Obama Jr.'s hatred; his botched attempt to set the world right defines his son's objective. Through a kind of sacramental rite at the family tomb, the father's struggle becomes the son's birthright.

"Colonialism today is a dead issue. No one cares about it except the man in the White House. He is the last anti-colonial.

"Emerging market economies such as China, India, Chile and Indonesia have solved the problem of backwardness. They are exploiting their labor advantage and growing much faster than the U.S. If America is going to remain on top, we have to compete in an increasingly tough environment.

"But instead of readying us for the challenge, our President is trapped in his father's time machine," writes D'Souza. "Incredibly, the U.S. is being ruled according to the dreams of a Luo tribesman of the 1950s. This philandering, inebriated African socialist, who raged against the world for denying him the realization of his anti-colonial ambitions, is now setting the nation's agenda through his dreams in his son.

"The son makes it happen, but he candidly admits he is only living out his father's dream.

"The invisible father provides the inspiration, and the son dutifully gets the job done.

"America today is governed by a ghost."

Who sabotaged Iran's computers?

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Hezbollah, Burma, Syria, Libya and any other crazies who will pledge to use it against America or Israel.

As a result, both Israel and the United States have studied the possibility of knocking out Iran's facilities with precision air strikes.

The goal would be to frustrate Iranian ability enrich uranium from which it would build an atom bomb.

Another danger of Iran gaining the bomb is President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's widely proclaimed belief – the subject of at least two speeches to the United Nations – that the long-awaited Shi'ite messiah, the "Hidden Imam," cannot return to earth until civilization is devastated by worldwide holocaust. Ahmadinejad is committed to causing such global destruction – in order to usher in worldwide submission to Iran's brand of Islam.

While no air strikes have occurred, the West has imposed crippling economic sanctions on Iran and has coordinated an intensive campaign to sabotage the Iranian nuclear program from within – uniting foreign agents and Iranian resistance fighters. They are driven by a growing yearning among Iranians to bring freedom to their nation tyrannized by powerful mullahs – the equivalent of Muslim bishops – who grip onto political power through fear and control of the Islamic courts.

Now it appears someone has infected Iran with one of the most sophisticated computer viruses ever seen, called "Stuxnet," which has knocked out more than 45,000 Iranian computers. The suspects? The United States, Israel, Germany and Saudi Arabia. All four have been completely silent.

"Iran admitted on September 27 it was under full-scale cyber terror attack," reported DEBKAfile, an Israeli news service that focuses on terrorist threats.

Iran's official IRNA news agency quoted Hamid Alipour, deputy head of Iran's government Information Technology Company, as saying that the "Stuxnet" computer worm "is mutating and wreaking further havoc on computerized industrial equipment."

Stuxnet was no normal worm, Alipour said: "The attack is still ongoing and new versions of this virus are spreading."

The computer virus, reported John Markoff in the *New York Times,* "was so skillfully designed that computer security specialists who have examined it were almost certain it had been created by a government and is a prime example of clandestine digital warfare."

The *Christian Science Monitor* said the Stuxnet worm was programmed to probe computers that it infected for extremely specific settings. Unless it identified industrial software systems made by Siemens, it remained largely dormant.

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Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad

Who sabotaged Iran's computers?

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Siemens AG is a German corporation founded in 1847 that is Europe's largest engineering conglomerate. The international offices for Siemens' three main business sectors, industry, energy and healthcare, are located in Berlin, Munich and Erlangen, Germany. The vast company has a total of 15 divisions and employs 420,800 people in nearly 190 countries. Its annual revenues exceed $100 billion.

Because Siemens is one of the top contractors continuing to work with Iran, Stuxnet was tailored to seek out Siemens programs – specifically attacking any Siemens software that was designed to assist Iran's nuclear program.

Stuxnet's appearance created a ripple of amazement among computer security experts worldwide. Too large, too encrypted, too complex to be immediately understood, it employed amazing new tricks, reported the *Monitor,* such as taking control of a computer system without a user taking any action or clicking any button.

Stuxnet is "a highly sophisticated computer worm built to destroy Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor," reported Robert McMillan of IDG News. He said security experts who have examined Stuxnet "have broken the cryptographic code behind the software and taken a look at how the worm operates in test environments. Researchers studying the worm all agree that Stuxnet was built by a very sophisticated and capable attacker – possibly a national government – and it was designed to destroy something big.

"Experts say it took a massive expenditure of time, money, and software engineering talent to identify and exploit such vulnerabilities in industrial control software systems."

The virus was designed with one purpose in mind

Significantly, Stuxnet apparently was not intended to help anyone make money or steal personal data. Instead, it apparently was designed with one mission in mind: to shut down Iran's nuclear program.

"Shortly before Russia inserted the fuel rods into Iran's Bushehr nuclear reactor on August 21," reports Ryan Mauro for the Internet news magazine *FrontPage,* "some experts warned it would be the last opportunity to destroy the facility and prevent Iran from going nuclear."

In the past Israel has attacked and disabled nuclear reactors in Iraq and Syria shortly before the nuclear facilities went on line. However, no military strike against Iran has been launched.

"Now we may know why," writes Mauro. "A 'cyber superweapon' had infiltrated the site's computer networks and is likely the reason why the reactor's operation has been delayed."

Apparently this is just the latest attack in a covert war that has delayed Iran from possessing nuclear weapons. As a result of earlier efforts, Iran's uranium centrifuges – used to refine nuclear fuel to the potency needed for an atom bomb – are only operating at 20 percent efficiency. Only about half of the centrifuges at Iran's Natanz nuclear facility are working at all.

"And they are breaking faster than they are being replaced," reports Mauro. "Part of the problem the Iranians face is that impurities supposed to be cleansed from the uranium before entering the centrifuges still remained, damaging the devices. This is extremely hurtful to the program, as Iran is running short on uranium and is being forced to find foreign suppliers and is working feverishly to increase production at its mine near Bandar Abbas. Operations to wreck the centrifuges have long been in motion. As far back as 1998, undercover CIA and Mossad operatives worked to sell to Iran faulty chemical substances that would later disable them. Mossad is Israel's equivalent of the CIA."

Top nuclear expert David Albright says U.S. labs tampered with vacuum pumps needed for the centrifuges that were then sold to Iran. They were rigged "to make them break down under operational conditions. If you can break the vacuum in a centrifuge cascade, you can destroy hundreds of centrifuges or thousands if really lucky."

In 2006, Iran arrested one of its citizens for allegedly causing "irreversible damage" by providing booby-trapped nuclear equipment on behalf of the Mossad. He was hanged in 2008.

Mossad, CIA suspected ... Saudis, too!

Foreign agents also are suspected of being involved in the assassination and disappearance of Iranian nuclear scientists as well. In January 2007, Dr. Ardeshir Hassanpour, a key scientist at the Isfahan uranium conversion site, "suffocated by fumes from a faulty gas fire while he slept," claimed the Iranian regime.

"Other sources are confident his death was caused by the Israelis," writes Mauro. "The Mossad is suspected in the deaths of at least two other scientists. The CIA and other intelligence agencies have also been hard at work in getting important officials to defect, and there have been other suspicious accidents damaging nuclear labs and Revolutionary Guards aircraft carrying sensitive materials."

However, the latest attack – the Stuxnet computer virus – has been extremely effective.

"It and other covert operations are causing incalculable damage to the Iranians' nuclear efforts, and the sophisticated nature of the virus means there may still be undetected damage," reports journalist Jay Tower. "It is often asked if and when Iran's nuclear sites will be attacked. Now we know the answer: They already have been."

Stuxnet is described as "a precision, military-grade cyber missile" unrivaled in its sophistication.

Cyber-security experts have marveled, describing it as "too large, too encrypted, too complex to be immediately understood, it employed amazing new tricks."

Other reports say the software is so sophisticated that it accomplishes both goals – and more. Apparently, it also lies dormant in some computers unless efforts are made to remove it. Then, it goes on a rampage, wiping out data and physically damaging the machine itself – something most viruses cannot do. Most can only damage software, not hardware.

The solution would seem to be to leave Stuxnet alone. However, the virus has an additional capability – it apparently can lie dormant for long periods, then be activated remotely – reprogrammed to do new and different damage.

So far, the target of its sabotage "is undoubtedly Iran's nuclear program," says Mauro. "Nearly 60 percent of the Stuxnet infections have occurred in Iran. It is specifically designed to infiltrate systems run by Siemens technology, which is what Iran uses for its nuclear reactors, and to shut down the Internet communications of the regime's opposition."

Stuxnet apparently was first spread initially by someone inserting a "memory stick" into the USB port of one of a number of sensitive computers.

"Memory sticks" are also called "flash drives." They are small and convenient – seldom more than four inches long and a half-inch wide. It is not uncommon for "flash drives" to be worn on U.S. college students' necklaces or keychains – since homework can be stored there to be completed on any computer at home, at the library or at a school computer lab. Likewise, "flash drives" are popular in such countries as Iran. A consultant or researcher can carry important reference material on a flash drive, eliminating the need to lug around a laptop computer.

Stuxnet spreads quickly whenever an infected flash drive is plugged into a computer. It moves swiftly through computer networks, infecting any computer connected to the infected system and jumping onto any flash drive plugged into an affected machine.

However, so far Stuxnet only attacks certain targets

When it finds Siemens software being used in the Iranian nuclear problem, it silently takes control of the computer, disabling it and transmitting its information over the Internet. But to whom? Researchers don't know.

Thus, it destroys Iran's computers as well as reveals whatever Iranian scientists were working on – providing valuable intelligence on how far along the Iranians are and what needs to be done next to stop them.

It is unclear which government is behind the attack, but Israeli officials have talked of their ability to use cyber warfare against Iran's nuclear program. Israel has a long history of successful covert operations meant to stall its enemies' efforts to acquire nuclear weapons capacity. One former cabinet member flatly stated in July 2009 that "We came to the conclusion that, for our purposes, a key Iranian vulnerability is in its on-line information. We have acted accordingly," according to Nauro.

Worldwide, computer security experts had become worried about Stuxnet as it spread throughout Europe and India. However, they were extremely puzzled that it did not do any damage. Then, they watched how it seeks out Siemens software – and, again, rarely does any harm unless the Siemens software is involved in the Iranian nuclear program.

Last year, the head of Iran's Atomic Energy Organization was fired after a major accident at Iran's nuclear facility in Natanz. In another "accident" in April 2006, equipment imported from Europe caused an explosion that destroyed 50 centrifuges

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at the site. Iran's nuclear chief admitted that it was caused by "manipulated" technology.

Computer warfare is not new

In the early 1980s, the U.S. blocked sales of advanced automated control software to the Soviets, who needed it to operate a pipeline bringing oil from Siberia. The CIA was tipped off to Soviet intentions to steal the software from a firm in Canada. So, CIA director William J. Casey worked with the Canadians to plant deliberately sabotaged software to automate the pipeline.

Once the pipeline was constructed, the software was used to trigger a massive explosion so powerful and devastating that it registered on earthquake-detecting seismographs worldwide.

In September 2007 Israeli planes destroyed a nuclear reactor deep inside Syria, days before weapon-grade uranium from North Korea was to arrive there and be loaded for processing. The planes released deep-burrowing bombs – and the bombs were guided to their targets by Israeli commandos who beamed the buildings targeted for destruction with infrared pointers.

Sabotaged software running Syria's electrical grid was the reason the Israeli planes, commandos, and several rescue helicopters were able to enter Syria, accomplish their mission, and retreat without being caught. Israel used sophisticated software attacks, made more effective by Israeli-designed microchips planted in Syria's radar and command-and-control computers. The result was to completely blind the Syrian military and government for about an hour and a half.

In the wake of the recent Stuxnet attack on Iran's computers, Iranian Revolutionary Guard deputy commander Hossein Salami has threatened military reprisals against whoever is responsible.

Salami "declared his forces had all the defensive structures for fighting a long-term war against 'the biggest and most powerful enemies,'" reported Israeli journalist Shoaib Yousuf. However, no reprisals were launched since the Iranians could not prove who had planted the virus.

But who did this? The Iranians do not know

The virus was created "in line with the West's electronic warfare against Iran," said Mahmoud Liayi, secretary of the information technology council of Iran's Industries Minister. Furious Iranian officials said that computer hackers – who enjoy "huge investments" from what he described as "a series of foreign countries or organizations" – had designed the virus.

That led to speculation that Iran's chief rival in the Middle East – Saudi Arabia – might have bankrolled the software's development. The Saudis belong to the Sunni branch of Islam and consider Iranian Shi'ites to be apostates and blasphemers. The Saudis are also very nervous about Iran having any nuclear capability and possibly challenging the Saudi's role as the guardians of the holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

DEBKAfile reported that Tehran has secretly appealed to a number of computer security experts throughout Europe with offers of handsome fees for finding ways to stop Stuxnet from spreading further havoc. However, no foreign experts are known so far to have agreed to help. Reasons cited by a few of the experts approached included Tehran's refusal to tell them which centers and systems are under attack or disclose the locations where foreign experts would work.

One concern expressed by experts was that Iran could become enraged with any visiting consultants – particularly if damage escalates once more when they attempt to remove the software.

DEBKAfile said the virus has infected most of Iran's important industrial complexes and military command centers, which Iran officially denies.

Yousuf confirmed that, indeed, a number of European computer experts have been approached for aid, but most have declined to come to Iran to help. Yousuf called the public appeal for help an indication that the Iranians are getting desperate.

One expert said: "The Iranians have been forced to realize that they would be better off not 'irritating' the invader because it hits back with a bigger punch."

Iranian officials who turned outside for help were described by another of the experts they approached as "alarmed and frustrated." It has dawned on them, reported Yousuf, "that the trouble cannot be waved away overnight but is around for the long haul. Finding a credible specialist with the magic code for ridding them of the cyber enemy could take several months.

Sitting back and hoping for the best

"After their own attempts to defeat Stuxnet backfired, all the Iranians can do now is to sit back and hope for the best," wrote Yousuf, "helpless to predict the worm's next target and which other of their strategic industries will go down or be robbed of its secrets next."

While it has been reported that the software has become more aggressive when tampered with, another speculation has been that Iranian engineers just don't know what they are doing – and have damaged their own computers while trying to fix them. That prompted speculation that Stuxnet gives false signals – tricking engineers into trying to fix inexistent problems – making problems worse.

Looking beyond Iran's predicament, the expert wondered just what it is that the people responsible for planting Stuxnet in Iran – and apparently continuing to offload information from its sensitive systems – plan to do next.

Stuxnet has been sensed in industrial facilities around the world, but was designed to go after several "high-value targets," said Liam O. Murchu, manager of security response operations at the Symantec Corporation, a U.S. software security firm.

Symantec reportedly is not worried that it will cause trouble in the U.S. In fact, global alarm over the deadly computer worm has toned down.

In mid-July the Wikileaks website reported that it had learned of a serious nuclear accident at the Natanz plant, perhaps attributable to the virus.

Officially, the head of the Bushehr facility announced in a public statement that Stuxnet was a complete failure and had affected only the personal computers of staff members, the British news service Reuters reported. The state-run newspaper, *Iran Daily,* reported that Iran's telecommunications minister, Reza Taghipour, said the virus had not penetrated or caused "serious damage."

Such claims were seen as Iranian attempts to save face.

Is Iran truly a threat to the rest of the world?

President Ahmadinejad made his annual address to the United Nations General Assembly in late September. Instead of preaching his usual sermon about the pending arrival of the Shi'ite messiah and Iran's divine mission to help him spread Shi'ite Islam worldwide, the Iranian president instead ranted on, accusing the United States of attacking itself on September 11, 2001.

"He reminded America and the free world just what a crazed worldview he holds," reported Mauro, "when he called for an investigation into whether the United States government was behind the attack on the World Trade Centers on 9/11. It was brilliant theater and a classic distraction technique to be sure. What he didn't want you and I to focus on was what his brutal, menacing regime is doing to its own people, to its neighbors, and to the world.

"Firstly," commented Deal Hudson, author of *Onward, Christian Soldiers: The Growing Political Power of Catholics and Evangelicals in the United States,* "I do not call Ahmadinejad 'president' because that would confer on him an honor he did not earn and does not deserve. He was not elected. He stole his position in what every Iranian knows to be a fraudulent election. He is not the duly elected president, but the puppet of the mullahs who have put him in place.

Iranian nuclear plant worker in full body veil

"Secondly, we must remember what happened after he stole the election and the process was exposed as a massive fraud against the Iranian people. Outraged Iranians took to the streets. These brave protests became known throughout the world as the Green Revolution or the Persian Awakening. The protestors were brave because they knew the nature of the regime they were protesting, and which they had voted to remove. They knew the ruthlessness and brutality of the mullahs and the man they had placed in power."

Iranians have pleaded for America to help them

"On June 24th, CNN recorded a call from a terrified Iranian girl, who told of democracy demonstrators being hacked with axes, shot, or thrown from bridges. She pleaded: 'You should stop this … you should help the people of Iran who demand freedom … you should help us … it's time to act.'

"She was pleading to America," writes Hudson. "She was pleading to us. I remind my fellow Americans of the brutal actions of the Iranian regime because in another instance their actions most definitely affect our vital national interests.

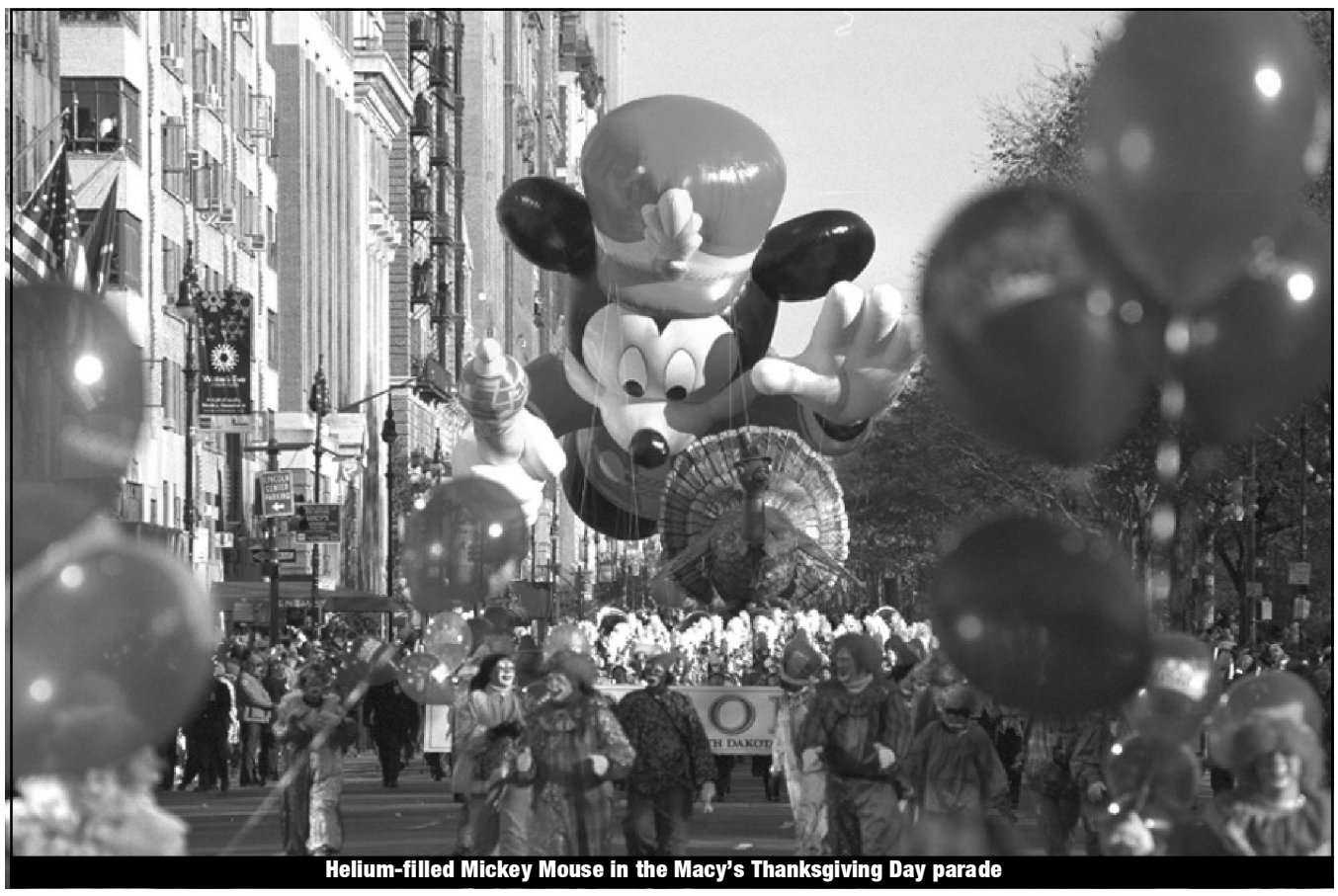
"The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) – a UN chartered organization not known to exaggerate – reported that Iran is denying its inspectors access to Iran's nuclear facilities, including one in Qum, discovered last year inside a mountain, deep inside a military base operated by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard.

"Let there be no mistake. This is not a peaceful project. This is a nuclear military facility producing a nuclear weapon for the brutal Iranian regime. According to the IAEA, Iran continues to refuse to report on its advanced technologies aimed at developing advanced missiles with nuclear payloads. Iran is the leading state sponsor of terror. It repeatedly threatens our ally Israel, denies the Holocaust, and openly calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

"In another time and place," writes Hudson, "but facing the same brutal repression of freedom and human dignity, Soviet dissident and gulag prisoner Natan Sharansky warned: "How a government treats its own people cannot be separated from how that government could be expected to treat other countries."

"This is why I link Iran's human rights abuses to it nuclear weapons program. This is a regime built on terror. And it is very, very close to possessing nuclear weapons.

"We dismiss the actions of the mullahs and Ahmadinejad at our peril," warns Hudson. "Every day we fail to act, every day we are distracted, this brutal regime is one day closer to the most dangerous weapon in the world."



Helium-filled Mickey Mouse in the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade

Why are the feds squandering America's helium reserves?

continued from page 2

American natural gas is rich in helium, a phenomenon not occur in European natural gas. As a result, Nazi Germany had to use highly explosive hydrogen in its dirigibles, zeppelins, blimps and other lighter-than-air aircraft.

America's refusal to sell helium to Hitler infuriated the Fuhrer. The luxury airship *Hindenburg* was designed to use helium, but when efforts to get America to drop its embargo failed, the Nazis converted it to use hydrogen – which actually has better lift. As a result, the Hindenburg was able to add more compartments and house more passengers. However, hydrogen is extremely volatile.

The *Hindenburg* was destroyed in an spectacular explosion and fire on May 6, 1937 that was broadcast by radio worldwide.

The disaster severely dampened public enthusiasm about traveling in hydrogen-filled airships. Thirty-six people died in the accident, which occurred at Lakehurst Naval Air Station in New Jersey.

During the Second World War, helium was strategically important because of its use in military airships. The Allies made heavy use of helium-filled blimps to guard its naval vessels and coastlines – a strategy unavailable to the Axis forces.

During the Cold War, helium became even more important because of its uses in the purging of rocket fuel in intercontinental ballistic missiles.

In 1960, America's national reserve was established in the salt dome of a disused natural gas field 30 miles north of Amarillo, whose chamber of commerce declared the west Texas city the "Helium Capital of the World." In a park next to Interstate 40, Amarillo even has a monument to helium.

About a billion cubic meters is still stored there as well in pipelines that extend underground for more than 200 miles from Amarillo to a refinery and storage facilities in Kansas.

But it will soon be gone. The 1996 Helium Privatization Act directed that all U.S. government helium should be sold by 2015 at a price that would pay off the federal government's original investment in building up the reserve. The law stipulates the amount of helium sold off each year should follow a straight line with the same amount being sold each year, irrespective of the global demand for it, according to Professor Richardson, who won a Nobel Prize for his work on helium-3, a rare isotope.

He says the sell-off is a mistake.

"As a result of that Act, helium is far too cheap and is not treated as a precious resource," he said. "It's being squandered."

Richardson co-chaired an inquiry into the impending helium shortage convened by the U.S. National Research Council, an arm of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

Their report recommends that the U.S. government immediately reconsider its folly – and halt the sales.

"They couldn't sell it fast enough and the world price for helium gas is ridiculously cheap," Professor Richardson told a recent meeting of Nobel laureates from around the world at Lindau in Germany. "You might at first think it will be peculiarly an American topic because the sources of helium are primarily in the U.S., but I assure you it matters to the rest of the world also.'

Richardson says the price for helium will rise by between 20- and 50-fold. "Once helium is released into the atmosphere in the form of party balloons or boiling helium it is lost to the earth forever.

There are two kinds of stable helium. The most common form fills birthday balloons and the Goodyear blimp.

The other kind, helium-3, is missing a neutron. It is the fuel for a form of nuclear fusion that, in theory, could provide the world with a clean, virtually infinite power source. Gerald Kulcinski, director of the University of Wisconsin's Fusion Technology Institute, says that his research is already halfway there – however could halt if helium becomes too expensive.

Kulcinski is in charge of an "inertial electrostatic confinement device," an experimental low-power reactor that has successfully performed continuous deuterium- helium-3 fusion – a process that produces less waste than the standard deuterium-tritium fusion reaction.

"The next step, pure helium-3 fusion (3He-3He) is a long way off, but it's worth the effort," says Kulcinski. "You'd have a little residual radioactivity when the reactor was running, but none when you turned it off. It would be a nuclear power source without the nuclear waste."

If we ever achieve it, helium-3 fusion will be the premier rocket fuel for centuries to come. It could provide more power per unit of mass than anything else available. With it, rockets "could get to Mars in a weekend, instead of seven or eight months," says Marshall Savage, an amateur futurist and the author of *The Millennial Project: Colonizing the Galaxy in Eight Easy Steps*.

The problem? We may run out of inexpensive helium – and therefore helium-3 – before the fusion technology is even developed.

At our current rate of consumption, our reserves near Amarillo will be empty soon.

"'For the scientific community, that's a tragedy,' says Dave Cornelius, a Department of Interior chemist.

If the Texas strategic reserve is depleted, more can still be extracted from natural gas. However, once the reserve is gone, the price will go up. A major question is why the federal government doesn't sell helium at market prices.

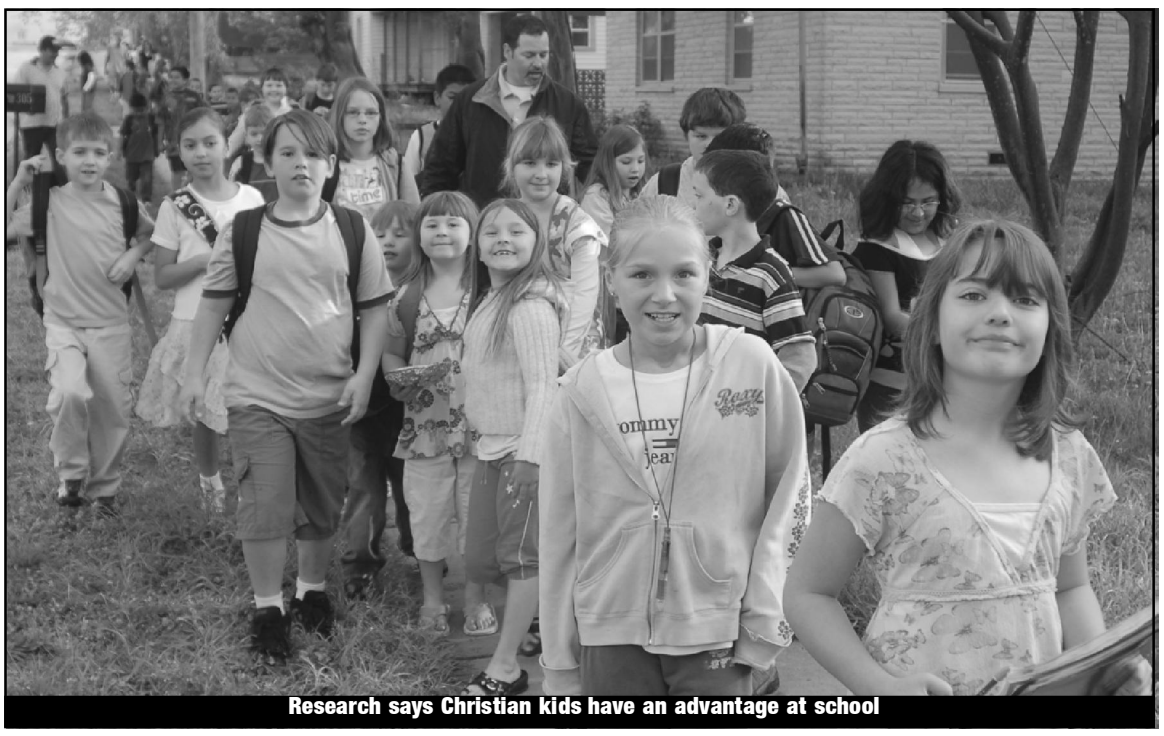
Incidentally, helium is common in the universe and there's a supply not far away from Earth. However, the cost of retrieving it may be prohibitive.

"'The moon is the El Dorado of helium-3,' says Savage. Every star, including our sun, emits helium constantly.

Implanted in the lunar soil by the solar wind, helium can be found on the moon. Professor Tim Swindle and his colleagues at the Lunar and Planetary Laboratory at the University of Arizona have already begun prospecting. Swindle has mapped likely helium-3 deposits on the moon by charting the parts of the lunar landscape most exposed to solar wind against the locations of mineral deposits that best trap the element.

But he admits that retrieving it is not going to be as easy as simply tapping the reserves in Texas.

Will balloons be a thing of the past once the helium reserves are depleted?



Research says Christian kids have an advantage at school

Why do church kids do better at school?

continued from page 1

affecting kids – and attain better academically, have better work habits and possess higher personal expectations of achievement.

Church-going kids have reduced "behavioral risks" such as drug abuse, gang membership, alcohol use or sexual experimentation.

His report is not light reading

The basis of his report is the findings of a large number of other researchers whose studies have confirmed the benefits of a personal faith.

For example, Dr. Fagan cites Chandra Muller and Christopher G. Ellison. Their study, "Religious Involvement, Social Capital, and Adolescents' Academic Progress: Evidence from the National Education Longitudinal Study of 1988," was published in 2001 in the journal *Sociological Focus*. Its findings were that religiously involved students spend more time on their homework and work harder in school.

That church-going students achieve more than non-churched kids was determined in a number of studies, including "Religion and the Well-Being of Adolescents," published in the *Journal of Social Issues* by M. J. Donahue and P.L. Benson, "Religion and Vulnerability Among Low-Risk Adolesecents," published in 2003 by Mark D. Regnerus and Glen H. Elder in *Social Science Research,* and in "Religious Involvement and Educational Outcomes: The Role of Social Capital and Extracurricular Participation," published in 2008 by J. L. Glanville, D. Sikkink, and E.I. Hernandez in *Sociological Quarterly*.

Why is all this research important?

We live in times in which long-established beliefs, such as that going to church is good for kids, is no longer assumed to be true.

Movies, TV shows and popular literature portray clergymen as sexual perverts, power-hungry tyrants and cult leaders. Church-going is seldom a norm in popular entertainment or literature. It is the rare TV family that regularly attends Sunday school. So Dr. Fagan set out to study whether the popular perception is true – that church is detrimental to kids. He found exactly the opposite. What is important is that he didn't do the studies himself. His task was to compile the findings of scores of independent researchers.

"The overall impact of religious practice is illustrated dramatically" throughout the studies that he cites. Some 81 percent of published studies showed the positive benefit of religious practice, 15 percent showed neutral effects and only 4 percent showed harm. Each of these systematic reviews indicated more than 80 percent benefit, and none indicated more than 10 percent harm," reported Dr. Fagan.

"Looking specifically at math and reading scores, students who frequently attend religious services scored 2.32 points higher on tests in these subjects than their less religiously-involved peers," he found, citing a study by Regnerus titled "Shaping Schooling Success: Religious Socialization and Educational Outcomes in Metropolitan Public Schools," published in 2000 in the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*.

"Parents' religious attendance is also a significant indicator," writes Dr. Fagan. He cites findings by Annebert Dijkstra and Jules L. Peschar reported in "Religious Determinants of Academic Attainment in the Netherlands," published in 1996 in the *Comparative Education Review*'s Special Issue on Religion. That study showed that Dutch students who held a strong Christian worldview and whose families attended religious services scored higher academically than those who did not.

Such findings point a clear path for America, says Dr. Fagan. "When policymakers consider America's grave social problems, including violent crime and rising illegitimacy, substance abuse, and welfare dependency, they should heed the findings in the professional literature of the social sciences on the positive consequences that flow" from faithful church attendance.

Additionally, there is ample evidence that the strength of the family unit is intertwined with" involvement with a local congregation. Churchgoers are less likely to be divorced or single and more likely to manifest high levels of satisfaction in marriage.

Church helps kids escape poverty!

Regular church attendance is particularly instrumental in helping young people to escape the poverty of inner-city life.

"Religious belief and practice contribute substantially to the formation of personal moral criteria and sound moral judgment," he says. "Regular religious practice generally inoculates individuals against a host of social problems, including suicide, drug abuse, out-of-wedlock births, crime, and divorce.

"Over the last decade," he writes, "research on the effects of religious practice has expanded. It now encompasses such areas as health, overcoming addictions, reducing crime, and reforming criminals."

However, he draws attention to the impact that church attendance and the practice of sincere faith has on good grades and success at school.

"For public policy, one of the most important potential effects of religious practice is educational attainment," he writes. "For some time, a small but growing body of research has consistently indicated that the frequency of religious practice is directly and significantly correlated with academic outcomes and educational attainment."

"Children who have greater religious socialization also have increased levels of educational attainment," according to Diane R. Brown and Lawrence E. Gary in their article "Religious Socialization and Educational Attainment among African Americans: An Empirical Assessment," published in 1991 in *The Journal of Negro Education*.

Furthermore, reports Dr. Fagan, "those who become more religiously involved during their high school years increase their academic ranking." That finding was made by Glen H. Elder, Jr. and Rand D. Conger, in their book *Children of the Land: Adversity and Success in Rural America,* published by the University of Chicago Press in 2000. In that same book, "a study of Iowa families," writes Dr. Fagan, "discovered that youth who in eighth grade are religiously involved will have higher academic competence in the twelfth grade."

Christian Smith, director of the National Study of Youth and Religion and Professor of Sociology at Notre Dame University, drawing on work done by Muller, Ellison and Regnerus, noted that the influence of church attendance and favorable perceptions of religion result in "positive school attitudes" which are evident from childhood, through late adolescence and into college.

Dr. Fagan goes on to cite more than 100 other such research papers.

"Other studies," writes Dr. Fagan, "confirm religion's beneficial effects on the academic performance of children in urban communities."

William Jeynes, Professor of Education at California State University Long Beach, found that "very religious" high school adolescents from urban communities fared better academically than non-religious adolescents.

Evidence contradicts Hollywood lies

The importance of Dr. Fagan's report is that it serves as a valuable guide for parents wanting the best for their children.

Contrary to the popular image of Hollywood parents who encourage their children to be agnostic or atheist, parents who want their children to achieve will get them into church. Another study that Dr. Fagan cites showed that students attending "weekly religious services were less likely to use drugs or alcohol, to engage in delinquent behavior, to get in trouble at school or to have poor grades when compared with their peers who attended church less than monthly or not at all."

"Youth who considered religion to be fairly important or very important in their lives were less likely to engage in risky behavior. For many of these youth, church attendance reinforces messages about working hard and staying out of trouble, orients youth toward a positive future, and builds a transferable skill-set of commitments and routines."

"Interestingly," reports Dr. Fagan, "Carmel Chiswick, Professor of Economics at the of Illinois at Chicago, found that 'people with high levels of religious human capital tend to select spouses who also have high levels, forming family units for which the home production of religious education is more efficient.'

"Frequent religious attendance is highly correlated with less sexual activity among those who are not married," wrote Dr. Fagan.

"Strong and repeated evidence indicates that the regular practice of religion has beneficial effects in nearly every aspect of social concern and policy. This evidence shows that religious practice protects against social disorder and dysfunction."

No other dimension of life in America does more to promote the well-being and soundness of the nation's civil society than citizens' regular attendance at church, says Dr. Fagan.

"As George Washington asserted," he concludes, "the success of the republic depends on the practice of religion by its citizens. These findings from 21st century social science support his observation."

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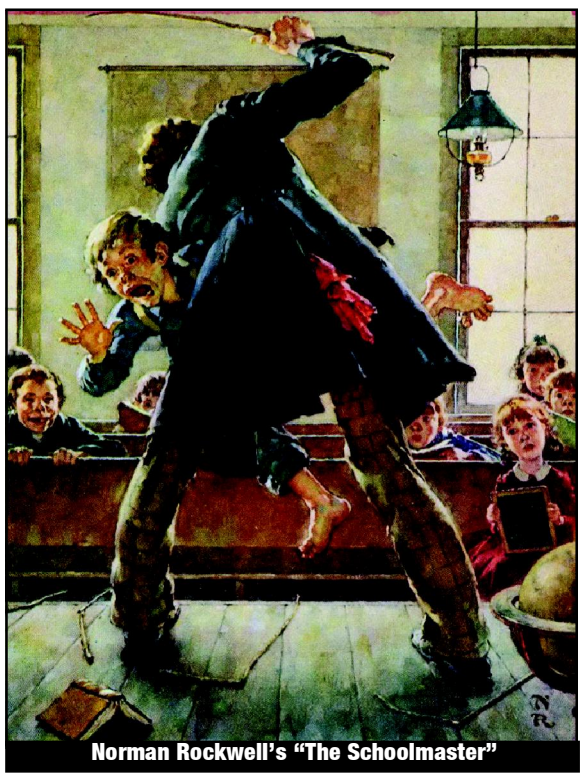
An Open Letter from our publisher **October 2010**

DEAR FRIEND:

Going to church is good for you. Everybody knows that, right? Well, in our increasingly unchurched society, no, everybody doesn't. As Christians, we know that the New Testament cautions us not to neglect assembling together with fellow believers. Now, research shows that regular church attendance does more than edify us, strengthen our faith and deepen our knowledge of God's Word.

Incredibly, research shows that regular church attendance also helps kids do better in their school work! Participating in church activities helps teens avoid drug abuse, gang membership and sexual experimentation. See our story starting on Page 1.

Elsewhere in this month's edition, we take a nostalgic look at the artwork of Norman Rockwell, and examine the double standard in which it becomes an international controversy should a Christian propose burning a copy of the Koran – but our own government orders Bibles destroyed! We also explore some of the bizarre government regulations being enforced on Americans today.



Norman Rockwell's "The Schoolmaster"

Also on page 1 is an incredible story that has been completely ignored by the "impartial" and "unbiased" mainstream media. It seems that the U.S. government is dumping America's strategic stockpile of helium onto world markets – even though once the helium is gone, it can never be replaced. My friend, we live in such dangerous times. What is going on? Why does the media look the other way on so many crucial topics? Here at *Christian Crusade Newspaper,* we are determined to bring you the truth.

And we are so pleased at the warm response from you as we have continued our expansion out onto the Internet.

My friend, we must shout warning in new and creative ways if we are to reach the millions searching for the truth!

Will you join us as a "Watchmen on the Web" – as a volunteer who helps us forward *Christian Crusade Newspaper* articles by e-mail to everyone that you know?

It can be so rewarding – hearing from your friends, receiving their thanks for your sharing reports that touch their lives. You can be a Watchman on the Web! Just send an e-mail to our editorial department at ChristCrew@aol.com and we will start sending you our best articles. You can help reach those who are not receiving the truth!

As always, after you read this newsprint version of *Christian Crusade Newspaper,* please make sure that it gets into the hands of someone who needs it! We cannot be good stewards and just throw away our copies! *Please pass yours on!* My friend, you are vital in this battle for truth and freedom! We depend on you!

Write to me! We are always so grateful if you can send us a gift of $5, $10, $25, $50, $100 or whatever you can. With your support, we are expanding our outreach!

Pray with me for America! The truth **must** be proclaimed! If you are a recipient of somebody else's *Christian Crusade Newspaper* and you are reading our pages for the first time, we'd like to offer you a gift.

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Please write to me today! Let us know what you think of this month's edition. *I want to hear from you!*

God bless you! Go with God!

Billy James Hargis II,
PUBLISHER AND PRESIDENT

Christian Crusade

The late Dr. Billy James Hargis with Mrs. Betty Jane Hargis and Publisher Billy James Hargis II

Volume 58 October 2010 Number 10

Freedom From Want

The Swimmin' Hole

Saying Grace