

Has the Media Corrupted More Conservatives Than DC?

There's a school of thought (one that I subscribe to) that believes that most people who run for public office do so out of a genuine desire to help their fellow citizens. They come in with earnest principles and an honest platform, but if they end up in Washington, and stick around too long, they begin to view politics as a career, and no longer a public service.



The allure of special interests and the growing hunger to stay in power changes people. It corrupts them. They compromise their principles, and though not every politician falls into this trap, plenty of them do.

The public at large is aware of this, which accounts for much of the “anti-establishment” resentment that presidential candidates like Donald Trump and Bernie Sanders have benefited from.

In fact, Trump struck a chord early on with many Republicans by declaring that his personal wealth and his resistance to outside donors (the latter of which was never really true), would preclude him from being corrupted by outside forces. In a way, the point made sense. Not *a lot* of sense, being that Trump has built his brand off of doing whatever it takes to *expand* his net worth – not be *content* with it, but Trump presented the narrative with enough conviction that it worked.

Voters on the political right have been particularly sensitive

to the notion of Washington robbing their representatives of their principles. They elect candidates who promise to shrink government, defend the constitution, and protect individual rights...then they watch those leaders (even when in the majority) preside over government expansion and the additional loss of freedoms.

From this frustration arose anti-establishment movements like the Tea Party, and the embrace of outsider politicians like Ted Cruz, who promised to pull "RINOs" and "squishy Republicans" back into line in Washington. Influential conservatives on television and radio hailed (and even campaigned for) these efforts, demanding ideological purity within the Republican Party. They cheered on the government shutdown of 2013. They celebrated the removal of Eric Cantor. They pressured John Boehner into stepping down from his Speakership. And they did all of these things in the name of principled conservatism, a message on which they had the Republican base largely behind them.

It's been less than seven months since Boehner retired, and the political landscape within the establishment GOP has certainly changed since then. But instead of a principled conservative now leading the party, it's being led by the presumptive presidential nominee Donald Trump, a big-government, constitutionally disinterested, unprincipled autocrat who recently responded to the questioning of his conservative beliefs with, "...at this point, who cares?"

How did this happen? How did a man who personifies so much of what the Republican base disdained for so long wind up as their standard bearer?

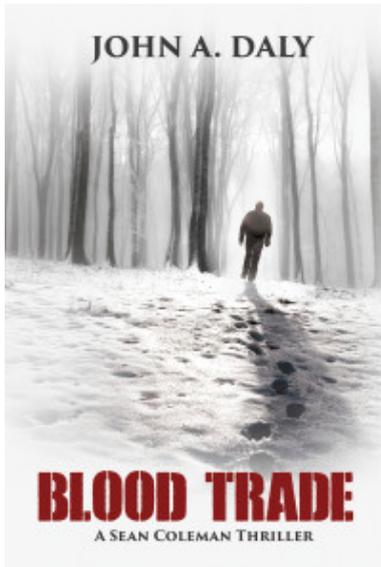
As it turns out, there's a force in American politics that is even more effective at corrupting and killing conservative principles than Washington DC. It's called the conservative media.

Some of the nation's loudest and most influential conservative voices over the past several years haven't belonged to politicians. They've belonged to media personalities. That observation might not reflect well on the leadership of the Republican Party, but it's the reality. And among those media conservatives are some who've built a large, loyal following of like-minded listeners who've come to trust them.

It was people like Rush Limbaugh who cheered on the government shutdown in the name of debt control. It was people like Sean Hannity who ad nauseam labeled those who opposed it as *RINOs* and *fake conservatives*. It was people like Laura Ingraham who called for the heads of Republican leaders deemed not conservative enough to represent the party. Whether or not you agreed with the methods and strategies they supported, you would have had a hard time questioning the principles behind them.

So when these people (and several others), suddenly shelved those ideals to promote, normalize, and run interference for the candidacy of Donald Trump (a man far more liberal and dishonest than any of the Republican politicians they've bastardized over the years), their collective efforts managed to convince a lot of otherwise conservative-leaning folks that the evolution from principle to personality was a righteous one.

The motivations of these ringleaders vary. Some of them have longstanding personal friendships with Trump. In other cases, ratings are the goal; Trump's a proven ratings juggernaut. I wouldn't even rule out the presumption of political favors and appointments with a few select people. Regardless, their advocacy has been compelling enough to convince a lot of their fans that Trump is indeed a conservative, regardless of his past and the contrary things he regularly says.



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This disingenuous validation of Trump's philosophical credentials, along with the candidate's populist appeal, has contributed to what columnist Charles Krauthammer recently called an "ideological earthquake." The aftershocks from that earthquake have led to a rhetorical sea-change that has been nothing short of mind-numbing.

Suddenly, it's the anti-Trump conservatives that are "RINOs." It's the grassroots conservatives that are the "establishment types." Former right-wing heroes like Newt Gingrich have jumped onto the Trump Train, and are railing against "Washington elites" (which in Gingrich's case displays a stunning lack of self-awareness). Even Tea Party champion, Sarah Palin, is now using her media clout to campaign on behalf of Trump (and his fiscally liberal platform) against the Republican Party's leading voice on entitlement reform, Paul Ryan.

We have witnessed a breathtaking exodus of conservative thought over the past year, in large part because of the self-

serving decisions of conservative-media figureheads to pervert it. To listen to them continue to accuse “establishment” Republican politicians of compromising their principles is now laughable, considering that they’ve now done arguably more to derail the conservative movement.

They have become the corrupt politicians that they have excoriated for years – once true believers in the cause, but now motivated by self-interest to preach one belief system while demonstrating another. If only there were media term-limits; I kid.

It should be noted that other, less known media conservatives have stepped up to grab onto the loose reins of this driver-less stagecoach. Several appear to be admirable, principled people who ironically never believed (nor called for) a purity test for the Republican Party in the first place. I’ll likely profile some of them in a future column.

Hopefully, they’ll earn themselves a larger platform, and one day stage their own anti-establishment take-over of the old guard.

Gnomes In The News

I recently saw a photo taken during a September event called the People’s Climate March in New York City. There was Jane Goodall in the front rank holding a couple of stuffed toy monkeys, thus making herself more readily recognizable to caption writers who might not otherwise recall that she spent a large portion of her life eating, sleeping and hanging out, with gorillas.

Apparently nothing much has changed because there she was

linking arms with such primates as France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, NYC Mayor Bill De Blasio and none other than the king of the chimps, Al Gore.

I would say that Ms. Goodall enjoyed better company in the old days. But you could readily see why some people are convinced that apes and people are closely related. Looking at De Blasio and Gore, you would almost swear they're human.

Another name that's been in the news lately is Bill Cosby, who has cancelled some TV appearances because he doesn't wish to be asked about the rape accusations that have been hurled his way by a number of women. Frankly, I have no way of knowing if he sexually assaulted all of them or any of them. But what I do know is that back in the 1970s, a friend of mine was Cosby's publicist and on more than one occasion, when I was in my friend's office, Cosby, who was already a husband and father, would phone from wherever he was finishing up a gig – often Tahoe or Vegas – to say he was coming to town and to line up some women.

That doesn't make him a serial rapist, but it does explain why I never bought the wholesome Cosby image used to peddle Jell-O and family values to a gullible public.

Speaking of women, I think someone needs to point out to Nancy Pelosi, Hillary Clinton and Valerie Jarrett, that politics is a rough and tumble game. If you can't take it, perhaps you should take up macramé. What you don't get to do is play the game and also referee, tossing a penalty flag for sexism every time you're forced to play defense. Perhaps if you weren't so personally offensive, it wouldn't be necessary. It would also help if your notion of sexism was based on gender and not politics so you didn't always turn a blind eye to it or even participate when its victims were Republicans like Condoleezza Rice, Sarah Palin and Michele Bachmann.

Is it just me or is everyone sick and tired of hearing about glass ceilings being shattered every time some left-wing female sneezes? I mean, this is 2014, for god's sake. In case you haven't been paying attention, women have been ruling nations and commanding armies for centuries. The list includes the likes of Cleopatra, Queen Elizabeth I, Joan of Arc, Mary Queen of Scots, Catherine II, Queen Victoria, Indira Gandhi, Benazir Bhutto, Golda Meir, Margaret Thatcher and Angela Merkel.

For years now, I have regularly been receiving a June, 1920 quote attributed to H.L. Mencken of the Baltimore Sun: "As democracy is perfected, the office of the President represents, more and more closely, the soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folk of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be occupied by a downright utter fool and complete narcissistic moron."

The people who pass it along to me obviously know my opinion of Barack Obama. What they don't seem to grasp is that the source of the quote obviously had the same elitist contempt for his fellow Americans, whom he identified as boobs, that we've now seen time and again from Prof. Jonathan Gruber.

For another thing, Mencken finally fell out of favor, even with the boobs, when he made his affection for Adolf Hitler a little too obvious in the 1930s. And, finally, at the time he wrote those lines, the President was Woodrow Wilson and in a few months would be Warren G. Harding, two of the very worst rodents to have ever planted their rumps in the Oval Office. So, far from being prescient, Mencken was seemingly unaware of what was taking place right under his shnoz.

As for Obama, whom I grant is even worse than Wilson and Harding, in defending his use of executive action to defer the deportation of illegal aliens, he said he had to do what he had to do because Congress wouldn't do what he wanted.

However, for five years, he was telling Hispanic groups that he lacked the constitutional authority to do the very thing he is now threatening.

And because most congressional Hispanics have their lips glued to Obama's butt, they never asked why he didn't simply pass legislation during his first two years in office, when the Democrats had a stranglehold on the House and Senate.

But, then, my fellow Jews in Congress never confront Obama over the fact that at the same time he spits on Israel, he invariably plays up to Muslims and Arabs, both here and abroad.

Clearly, at least for Jewish and Latino Democrats, an essential part of the congressional initiation process is voluntary neutering.

By now, we all know that the unemployment rate has become a joke. All people have to do is drop out of the labor market in order to make an 11% unemployment rate appear to be a mere 5.8%. But recently, a poll disclosed that 40% of women, 28% of men and 39% of young people, don't even want a job. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that 93% of all adults (86 million people) who aren't in the work force don't wish to be in the work force. And so long as Uncle Barack is willing to redistribute wealth by taxing those who are working to subsidize those who aren't, that number will only keep growing.

Once the Republican mission in Congress goes from stopping Obama in his tracks to actually doing something to reverse America's decline, they will have to do something about programs that feed, clothe, house and hospitalize, the able-bodied.

That also includes the millions who have committed fraud in order to receive monthly disability checks. If I were in charge, I would send an inspector to the home of everyone

collecting one of those checks. And unless the recipient could prove what particular disability he's afflicted with, the inspector would be authorized to hit him with a sledge hammer, thus legitimizing his claim.

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“The Nanny Media” and “Que Sera Sera”

We all know that Obama's federal government wants to control us from the cradle to the early grave mandated by the Affordable Care Act, but they wouldn't have nearly so easy a time of it if it weren't for the complicit media. As I have said in the past, if I could control the media, I'd be willing to let the Democrats control the House.

I mean, look at the fawning way the media continues to treat Hillary Clinton even after she first boasted about how impoverished she and Bill were in 2001, at least for the first two seconds after leaving the White House before \$20 million in book advances took effect, and then stated that “companies and corporations don't create jobs.” If a potential Republican presidential candidate had tried to get away with such unmitigated nonsense, the media would turn him or her into a laughingstock. They managed to do it with Sarah Palin, even though the line about being able to see Russia from her front porch was delivered by Tina Fey during a “Saturday Night Live” sketch and never by Mrs. Palin.

Speaking of Mrs. Clinton, someone sent me a cartoon depicting Hillary as the Wicked Witch of the West melting after Dorothy splashed her with a bucket of water. It could explain why the person often described as the Smartest Woman in the World has so far refrained from accepting the ice bucket challenge.

According to a recent study, the estimate of non-citizen votes in 2008 was 1.2 million, which was believed to represent 6.4%, of illegal aliens. Having taken math when it was still taught in the public schools, I was able to determine that rather than the oft-repeated 11million "living in the shadows," the number would actually be 19 million. And, frankly, since the same 11 million figure has been kicking around for about 20 years by those looking to grant them amnesty, I expect the actual number is closer to 25 million.

Even though we know for a fact that a great many of those who have been released from Guantanamo by Bush and Obama returned to the war zone and have been killing Americans for the past several years, I have no idea why we ever bother capturing Islamic terrorists. It's not as if when they capture our soldiers, they place them in POW camps. They don't have POW camps. They only have mass graves. So I will support Obama's plan to close Gitmo, but only if its inmates are sent off to their perverted Paradise and not back to the war zone.

As my readers know, I am a proponent of capital punishment, not merely for murderers, but for rapists and child molesters. My reason in those cases is revenge for the victims. But I would also execute those who were guilty of perpetrating election fraud. One reason is that I think that anyone subverting the election process deserves to die because he is attempting to disenfranchise legitimate voters of their most precious constitutionally guaranteed right. My other reason is because I believe such a punishment could actually deter those contemplating this form of villainy, whereas I'm not at all sure it works with those depraved enough to kill, rape or molest, the innocent.

I find it singularly bizarre, even for Obama, that the same Commander-in-chief who refuses to have boots on the ground in Iraq, Syria or Iran, in order to combat Islamic terrorism, has no problem sending 3,000 soldiers to Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone, to combat Ebola, although the former falls within their job description and the latter doesn't.

When you hear knucklehead Ben Affleck claim that only a few bad apples are guilty of Islamic terrorism, it's easier to take than when fellow knuckleheads like George Bush and Barack Obama spouted the same foolishness. But the irony is that super knucklehead Bill Maher got into trouble with his own demented base when he had the temerity to argue the point with Affleck.

So it was that after inviting fulltime Christian-basher Maher to be the commencement speaker at UC Berkeley, 3,000 students signed a petition uninviting him. I suppose this means that in the future, Maher will stick to insulting Christians and lay off those marvelous peace-loving Muslims.

How nutty is California? Well, Jerry Brown and his flying monkeys up in Sacramento recently set aside \$9.2 million so that state universities can subsidize illegal aliens, and another \$3 million with which illegal aliens can pay attorneys to assist them in fighting deportation.

Speaking of which, the Mexican who recently killed two sheriff deputies had been deported twice after being arrested on drug charges. The truth of the matter is that threatening to deport Hispanic criminals in lieu of jailing or shooting them is about as effective as threatening to throw Br'er Rabbit in the briar patch.

Apple's CEO Tim Cook has announced that he's not only a homosexual, but proud to be one. It's the pride that confuses me, even though his rationale is that being gay has taught him what it's like to be a member of a minority and has made him

tougher. He even thanks God for making him a homosexual. Frankly, that strikes me as terribly naïve. As I see it, when you're as wealthy as Mr. Cook, you can easily afford to pay other people to be tough on your behalf. For another, I suppose being short and bald in a nation where most people are neither makes me a member of a minority. But it would never enter my mind to be particularly proud of it or to consider sending God a thank-you note.

Our little dog Angel hates the mailman with a vengeance and starts barking her head off every time he slips his daily offerings through the slot in our front door. It's as if she's convinced he's trying to contaminate our living space. And inasmuch as his delivery consists almost entirely of bills, flyers and letters pleading for donations to the likes of Ben Carson, Rick Santorum and Newt Gingrich, I share her displeasure.

But the other day, I found myself listening to her bark, which sounds as if it's being made by a dog three or four times her size, and wondering if it fools other dogs. I also wondered if dogs can tell each other's gender by their barks, the way we can usually determine gender by our voices. I realize that if I were a congressman, I could get a study funded for about \$750,000 in tax dollars to find out the answer, but I can't and, being a conservative, I wouldn't. But if anyone knows the answer, please send me an email.

Finally, whatever else you say about this administration, you can never accuse its members of lacking gall. Imagine someone in the inner circle of the White House actually having the chutzpah to call Bibi Netanyahu a big pile of chicken poop.

Nobody, and I mean nobody, has ever had a more intimate relationship with the stuff than Barack Obama. And that definitely includes Colonel Sanders.

Que Sera Sera

In the words of an old tune introduced by Doris Day in "The Man Who Knew Too Much," what will be, will be. I am writing this three days before the mid-term elections. The polls suggest that the GOP will wrest control of the Senate from Harry Reid's sweaty grasp, but they also indicate that in several races, the Democrat is running 10-15% ahead of Obama's approval numbers. If you were ever in doubt, this alone should convince you that millions of our fellow citizens are fatheads.

I mean, when Obama's approval numbers range between 30 and 40%, when 60% of the nation believe America is going to hell in a hand basket, and, yet, those who have voted for Obama's policies 97% of the time still have a good chance of being re-elected, contagion by Ebola is the least of our problems.

In one of my recent polls, I asked if the GOP would gain control of the Senate, and, if so, would it make any difference. A number of the Tea Party faithful thought we'd recapture the Senate, but it would make no difference at all, and took offense when I referred to them as misguided. Even though I pointed out that at the very least, Obama would finally be compelled to veto House bills and could no longer pretend the House was filled with "obstructionists," and that he would be prevented from placing any more Kagans or Sotomayors on the Supreme Court, they still insisted it didn't matter.

Now as you all know, I'm a live-and-let-live sort of guy. But when the Tea Party muddied the waters in Louisiana, where Bill Cassidy was trying to defeat three-term Sen. Mary Landrieu, by placing a second Republican candidate, Rob Maness, on the

ballot, it merely ensured that Cassidy wouldn't be able to avoid a runoff by receiving the necessary 50% of the vote.

In spite of Sarah Palin's prediction that Maness would win the election, the reality is that Cassidy will be forced to run and win all over again in December. By that time, with control of the Senate possibly in the balance, the DNC will be able to flood the state with money and high-profile Democrats, including not only the Clintons and a gaggle of actors and rock stars, but will very likely manage to roll out the late Huey Long for a few meet-and-greet barbecues.

At times I've been asked if I'm not afraid of offending disenchanting Democrats and so-called Independents by never pulling my punches when it comes to ridiculing liberals, and even throwing the occasional jab at Tea Partiers. The answer is that I'm not even slightly fazed. I'm not a politician trolling for votes, so I can afford to be honest. I seek only to enlighten and amuse.

The reason I write so often is because I sincerely believe those on the Left are out to destroy America, to fundamentally change what, at most, required only a little tweaking. But even writing as often as I do, and covering a variety of items in each piece, I keep falling behind. What's more, I suspect that would be the case even if I concentrated all my efforts to exposing Eric Holder, the vilest and most dangerous racist in America, and the toxic dump he has made of the Justice Department.

As for my relationship to the Tea Party, I happen to share their beliefs, just not their stubborn agenda. I wish everyone agreed with my politics and theirs, but I know that's not the case. Therefore, I always say that philosophically, I'm a conservative. But, politically, I'm a Republican, which means I will always vote for the Republican candidate in a general election. And when, as in Louisiana, there are two Republicans on the same ballot, I will vote for the one I'm convinced is

able to defeat the Democrat.

I even vote early by mail because I realize that at some point everybody dies, and I wouldn't want to pass away just before Election Day and miss out on the chance to vote against the Democrats. In fact, the only drawback to being a Republican is that, unlike those on the Left, we don't get to keep on voting long after we've been buried.

The fact is I used to be a Democrat. Having been raised in the home of Russian-Jewish immigrants, how could it have been otherwise? But thanks to Jimmy Carter, I finally came to my senses just as the Party took leave of its own.

We've gone from being a nation of, by and for the people, to one that is of, by and for, the political hacks and their multitude of hand maidens contaminating the federal bureaucracy. In particular, the folks at the EPA and the IRS would have been right at home in the old Soviet Union, dancing to Stalin's tune.

If I had been running a GOP Senate race, I would have produced a TV ad in which the Democrat's face would have morphed into that of Harry Reid, and then into Obama's mug, before reverting to his own. For as Obama said on two separate occasions, no matter how much space Senate Democrats tried to put between themselves and the President, his policies were on every ballot.

Recently, Hillary Clinton told a cheering crowd of liberal dolts that "companies and corporations don't create jobs." And because her staff is apparently as dumb and as lazy as the slackers who comprise her base, it took them three days to get around to explaining she didn't really mean what she said.

It's bad enough that Mrs. Clinton made such an utterly stupid remark, but it must have been particularly galling to the folks at NBC after they'd gone to the trouble of creating a \$600,000-a-year job specifically for Chelsea.

It is now three days later. It's Election Night and I can not only breathe more easily, but my unlikeliest fantasies have been exceeded. The GOP has gained control of the Senate, no matter what happens in Virginia and Alaska, and Harry Reid, like one of Cinderella's coachman as the clock struck midnight, has been transformed back into a mouse with a rotten personality.

The GOP has apparently picked up a dozen seats in the House and have even added to their governorships, not only defeating Charley Crist in Florida, but Jimmy Carter's grandson in Georgia.

But, perhaps most satisfying of all, they unseated the incumbent governor in Illinois, in spite of both Obamas campaigning for Pat Quinn, and the Republicans won in Arkansas, although both Clintons figured their charisma alone could carry Mike Beebe across the finish line.

As the Clintons and the Obamas have shown repeatedly in the past, their coattails are even shorter than those of Batman's arch nemesis, the umbrella-wielding Penguin.

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Buckle Up For A Bumpy Ride

Anyone who believes that the GOP will have a newly chastened Obama to deal with in 2015 must be living in one of those states where marijuana was recently legalized. After all, the same guy who referred to the 2010 midterms as a shellacking

for the Democrats dismissed the even more impressive 2014 drubbing with a shrug and "The Republicans had a good night."

As for the two-thirds of registered who didn't bother voting, Obama said, "I hear you." At first, that struck me as truly bizarre. He hears what people who aren't talking are saying? But then I took a look at those ears of his and decided that, like our dog Angel, who apparently has the ability to hear the mailman even when he's three houses away, Obama's jug handles aren't merely decorative.

Furthermore, he let us know that his idea of compromise was for the Republicans to tell him which of his bills and policies they were ready to support. Compromise should be the last thing on the minds of Boehner and McConnell. After all, they just received a mandate that dwarfs the one Obama boasted he had after winning a squeaker in 2012. And in 2009, lest we forget, the Great Compromiser took his rightful place at the top of the list of Bad Losers. Or as one of my readers, Algirdas Carneckis, put it, "I would love to be there to hear John McCain tell Obama: 'We won, you lost.'"

One lesson I assume the Democrats learned after Mark Udall in Colorado and Wendy Davis in Texas got thumped is that the phony GOP War on Women is officially over and, happily, its last two victims were those who waged it incessantly.

Fortunately, the GOP ran gaffe-free campaigns. The only wrong note that I was aware of was an email signed by Sarah Palin, seeking contributions to help Rob Maness win the Senate race in Louisiana. It arrived the day after Maness received 14% of the vote, running a distant third to Landrieu and Cassidy.

On the other hand, Tea Party favorites Rand Paul, Mike Lee, Marco Rubio and Ted Cruz, all did themselves proud, campaigning far and wide for Republicans of every persuasion.

I also received an email from a friend of mine, letting me know that I should rejoice because 33% of my fellow Jews

actually voted for Republican candidates. It seems that in midterms, we average just 26% and that 2014 marked a 30 year high. That sound you hear is me pounding my head against a wall.

If I were John Boehner or Mitch McConnell, I would urge House and Senate Republicans to pass every bill on their wish list along to the White House. Give America a chance to see Obama in action, vetoing legislation that calls for finally closing the border; drilling for oil on federal land; building the Keystone pipeline; cutting corporate taxes; deconstructing the Affordable Care Act; whittling the EPA down to a manageable size; getting the federal government out of the education racket; and bulking up the military and using it to actually win any war in which we have a legitimate reason to be engaged.

Obama has spent four years damning the House Republicans as obstructionists, claiming they're the reason nothing got done. Now that he can no longer use Harry Reid as his own personal goalie, making sure that legislation he dislikes never reaches the Senate floor, let alone his desk, even the dumbest liberals will get a gander at what true obstructionism looks like.

If Obama carries through on his threat to make illegal Latinos legal, House Republicans can retaliate by cutting funding for the Democratic base's pet projects, and they should start with Planned Parenthood and the National Endowment of the Arts. In fact, they should do that even if Obama backs off on his threat.

I know that the Democrats keep trying to convince us that open borders are the main concern of Hispanics. I don't believe it. Their chief concern is the economy, and additional cheap labor only serves to undercut their earning power.

After all, Mexico is nearby. If they miss their relatives so

damn much, they can always go down and visit them.

The folks who really champion illegal aliens are Latino politicians who are looking to inflate their influence; the Catholic Church, which seeks to fill its pews and collection plates; and the folks – Democrats and Republicans, alike – who own hotels, restaurants and large farms, and want a steady flow of cheap labor.

Those who have a vested interest in keeping the borders porous portray those of us who argue that a sovereign nation either maintains control of immigration or it is no longer a sovereign nation as racists. Their contention is that we simply hate Mexicans and Central Americans and wouldn't be at all concerned if the illegal aliens were all from Sweden. Well, the fact is that we now have upwards of 20 million illegal Hispanics in America. To give you a better sense of that number, if every person living in the Nordic nations – Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland and Norway – packed up today and moved, lock, stock and leverpastej, to America, the total number would only be 25 million.

We keep hearing we shouldn't shut down our borders, even though every other nation on earth regards protecting its homeland as its first order of business, and that these Hispanics are all hard-working and wish to pay their own way. But the fact is they don't; most of them depend entirely or in great part on the largesse of American taxpayers for their health care, their schooling and their welfare checks. Even if you ignore the numbers who are involved in crime, there is still a perception in their ranks that America is one big juicy piñata.

Finally it is time to report the results of the latest Prelutsky poll, which asked respondents whether they identify themselves as Tea Party or Republican.

I heard from 141 readers, 129 of whom called themselves

Republicans; a dozen, Tea Partiers. It should be said that at least 40 of the 129 had kind words to say about the Tea Party. The general feeling, at least from those who let me know they are true conservatives, was that the Tea Party serves to keep the GOP from veering too far away from basic constitutional principles.

The main objection, one I happen to share, was that those in the Tea Party too often appear to despise Republican moderates more than they do Progressives, and instead of following the sterling example of Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Marco Rubio and Mike Lee, and displaying a united front on Election Day, often seem willing to stay home and allow Democrats free rein to destroy America.

As I see it, if you're unwilling to settle for what you regard as the lesser of two evils, you are, it seems pretty clear, encouraging the greater.

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“The Midterm Miracles” and “Axes Of Evil”

Perhaps because I define myself as a optimistic pessimist or a pessimistic optimist, I was blindsided by the election results. As much time as I devoted to poring over the Senate races, I just couldn't see how the GOP could wind up with more than 51.

Perhaps, best of all, the liberals can't carry off their narrative, which was that they lost the Senate only because of the map. Anticipating defeat, they wanted to pretend it was simply because they happened to have so many Senate seats at risk in certain Republican-leaning states. But, thanks to God and in good part to Barack Obama, who has done so very much to destroy the Democratic brand, we even won gubernatorial races in Illinois, Maryland and Massachusetts.

In the end, it wasn't the map that defeated the Democrats, it was the American people. It was as if the Democrats went to a doctor for a physical and were told they had a terminal disease. And when they said they wanted a second opinion, the doctor told them they were also stupid.

One of my favorite races took place in Florida where Charlie Crist lost in his race for governor, meaning he can now get back to doing what he was born to do; namely work on his year-round tan and romance rich elderly widows.

But the list of great things that happened on November 4th is endless. For instance, political legacies took a thumping. In Georgia, where Sam Nunn's daughter and Jimmy Carter's grandson were running for the Senate and the governorship, they both lost. In Colorado, Udall lost. In Louisiana, Landrieu will lose in the December runoff. She always was going to lose, but thanks to a Tea Party candidate sucking off votes from the winner of the GOP primary, she will now be running when everyone in the state knows she will be a complete nonentity in the minority party. Even when she chaired the Senate Energy Committee, she was unable to get Obama to sign off on the Keystone pipeline, so who needs her keeping a seat warm in a GOP-controlled Senate?

Certainly among the priceless memories of the election was seeing Illinois electing a Republican governor in spite of both Obamas showing up to campaign for loser Pat Quinn, and seeing Arkansas elect a Republican governor and senator in

spite of the Clintons campaigning for losers Mike Ross and Mark Pryor. As the four of them have shown in the past, their coattails are even shorter than those of Batman's arch nemesis, the Penguin.

On Election Night, one of the highlights was listening to the various Fox News contributors, including Charles Krauthammer, Bret Baier and Steve Hayes, taking turns ridiculing Juan Williams after he insisted it wasn't a wave election for the GOP. Come to think of it, I don't know who took the final results the hardest – Barack Obama, Harry Reid or Juan Williams.

Speaking of Fox, I sometimes amuse myself by imagining what the Fox males would look like if, like their female colleagues, they all had to dye their hair blonde. I guarantee that even Geraldo Rivera, Alan Colmes, Juan Williams and Bob Beckel, are a lot easier to take if you can pull it off.

Although I'm sure the Democrats will try to play down the results, insisting as they have all along, in concert with the NY Times, that the elections were about nothing. But they were actually about quite a bit. For one thing, it was about stopping Obama in his tracks before he succeeded in totally destroying America. By all rights, the voters should have come to that conclusion a lot sooner – preferably when they had the option of Mitt Romney – but better late than never.

It was also about the GOP learning how to come up with candidates who didn't embarrass themselves or the Party. This time around, unlike 2012, we weren't stuck with anyone insisting she wasn't a witch or a couple of nincompoops who tried explaining the difference between legitimate and illegitimate rape.

After guaranteeing that Rob Maness would be the shocker of the evening by defeating both Mary Landrieu and Bill Cassidy for the Senate seat in Louisiana – and his winding up a distant

third, Sarah Palin proved that allowing one's ego to trump reality is a really dumb idea whether you're shooting elk or trying to elect unelectable candidates.

One of the major takeaways from the elections was that even low-information voters don't like being lied to, whether it's Obama's claiming we could keep our doctors and our medical insurance and that Republicans hate women or his stooges in Congress, all of whom have had their lips glued to his rump for nearly six years, suddenly claiming they couldn't pick the schmuck out of a police lineup.

For my part, I have been euphoric ever since the 4th. Living, as I do, in California, jubilation is not an emotion I'm accustomed to experiencing in the aftermath of elections.

In spite of the fact that I don't drink and I don't smoke pot, I feel as if I'm floating on air. I'm not even on Cloud 9, people, I'm on Cloud 78. The truth is I can barely see Cloud 9 from this high up.

“Axes of Evil”

In New York City, yet another black convert to the Religion of Peace named Zale Thompson went after a few cops with an axe, which mirrors the way Mohammad, himself, went about converting infidels. It also suggests that Mr. Thompson might have misunderstood those two cheerleaders for Islam, George Bush and Barack Obama, and thought he was converting to the Religion of Pieces.

No doubt Obama will label the event workplace violence rather than Islamic terrorism because it was, one, violent and, two, the cops were working. It should remind us that while Obama

may not be a Muslim, as some people insist, he certainly has a soft spot in his heart and his head for those who are.

It also serves as a segue to a debate I recently had with one of my readers. In one of my articles, I had written a defense of capital punishment, and he took exception to it. His initial objection was based on the fact that over the years, a number of innocent people have been executed. I argued that the number has been inflated by those who oppose capital punishment, and who feel that their morality trumps the facts. Moreover, with DNA used so often to convict or acquit, I expect miscarriages of justice are even less likely.

Lest I think he was a typical sob sister, he let me know that he believed a life behind bars was worse than an execution. I disagreed. Perhaps if a life sentence meant solitary confinement, he'd be right, but it doesn't, so he's wrong. Prisoners get to play basketball, work out in the gym, watch TV, read books and even engage in conjugal visits. The last I heard, Charles Manson's friend Tex Watson had sired four little Watsons while behind bars.

He also pointed out that execution tends to be painful. I honestly don't care about that, and see no moral reason why those who have tortured and murdered people who have done them no harm should be provided with the same painless deaths we offer to our beloved cats and dogs. Besides, those engaged in the anti-capital punishment movement are always bringing the pain factor into the argument, using the electric chair, hangman's noose, firing squads and even the gas chamber as reasons to get rid of the practice. As a compromise measure, I am willing to let the painless Guillotine do the job for which it was invented.

I concluded by pointing out that polls indicate that a majority of people approve of capital punishment. But trial lawyers, left-wing judges and Eric Holder, have chosen to emphasize the notion that it is often poor defendants and

blacks who make up a majority of those executed. That's intended to prove the system is weighted against them, while the rest of us are supposed to ignore the inconvenient fact that those are the very people who commit most murders.

The hypocritical lawyers even try to use the fact that many defendants spend decades on Death Row, never knowing when their time will run out, as an excuse to eliminate the penalty. A more sensible solution is to limit the number of appeals to one, and insisting that the basis of the appeal involves new evidence.

I heard from another reader who agreed with my take on the so-called Noble Savage, which is that more often than not the native North American tribes were certainly savage, but rarely noble, and could literally be described as blood-thirsty, based on their cannibalistic diet.

His sarcastic conclusion was "If only we could all live in peaceful harmony with nature..." To which I replied in kind: "Ah, yes, where only the animals slaughter each other, and where Mother Nature sometimes wakes up cranky and unleashes a tidal wave or an earthquake, ignites a volcano or introduces some version of the Bubonic Plague."

Speaking of plagues, proving that she is a worthy successor to Obama, who once famously said, "If you've got a business, you didn't build it," Hillary Clinton told an appreciative audience of liberal loons, "Don't let anyone tell you that businesses create jobs."

That reminds me that someone sent out a hoax message announcing that Deanne Favre, the wife of former Green Bay Packers quarterback Brett Favre, was going to be the new Packers coach. She based her qualifications on the fact that she has been married to a Hall of Fame quarterback, even though she has never played a single quarter of football. The point of the hoax was that Hillary is essentially seeking the

presidency based on her own marriage license.

What else qualifies her? As First Lady, she tried and failed to push through HillaryCare. As a senator, she did nothing but manage to add an elective office to her resume. As Secretary of State, she pushed a re-set button with Russia, oversaw Obama's military withdrawal from Iraq and was at least a co-conspirator in the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi and the subsequent cover up.

At least Mrs. Favre is a looker!

Burt's Webcast is every Wednesday at Noon Pacific Time.

Tune in at K4HD.com His Call-in Number is: (818) 570-5443

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