

The Record

New York's Republican



Marty Golden

The New York State Senator from Brooklyn and the opportunity we must seize upon...

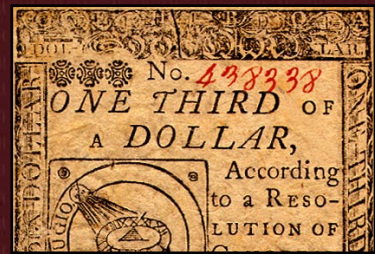
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Around the City...

Commentary from the Editor



Around New York you might have heard a whisper about what's going on in DC this week. This week the Supreme Court heard arguments in the court case *District of Columbia vs. Heller*. The Court said that Americans do have the right to own firearms. They also said that the government does have a right to regulate those firearms. However, they have not decided on whether Washington DC's gun ban goes too far. The conservative-leaning court's decision, which is not anticipated for several months, is expected to have a far-reaching impact on laws on the use and control of guns. Pro-gun activists battled back against anti-gunners outside the court all week, and the two sides are likely to be at it for quite some time.

The importance of the Second Amendment cannot be overstated. It gives the citizens of our nation the means to protect every other amendment in the Constitution. Without the Second Amendment how would we stand up to a government that decided it has had enough of a media outlet's "free speech"? How would we protect ourselves and our families against people who mean to rob us, invade our homes, and threaten our lives? To give you just one example of how vital firearms are to our security, we look to an astonishingly overlooked fact by the liberal media. The FBI's annual Uniform Crime Report (annual crime statistics compiled from all 3,054 counties in the U.S.) shows that in 2006 there were 10,177 gunshot deaths, yet there were 2.5 million crimes de-escalated by armed citizens. Obviously you won't hear this fact and many more like it on CNN or MSNBC but the FBI compiles this data every single year. We can rely on the police for some protection, but in the middle of the night with someone crawling in your window, do you think they'll be there in time? With over 90 million gun owners in America, our

right to protect ourselves is fundamental, which is why *District of Columbia vs. Heller* is one of the most important court cases of our time.

While protecting us individually is a right, protecting ourselves and constantly modernizing our national defense is a must. Anthony Genovese writes about our national defense and the Navy's DDG-1000 Destroyer program on page 12 of this issue. It is a crucial program that will allow the U.S. Navy to remain



Republican Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno receives a copy of February's issue of *The Record*, with him gracing the cover.

the untouchable force it is.

We also have New York State Senator Martin Golden and New York State Senate hopeful John Chromczak contributing. They both have a lot to say about the current state of New York politics and about the opportunity the Republican Party has coming up in November. We need to capitalize on the unethical behavior of the Democrats in Albany and win some elections. Winning elections in and around New York City is doable but it will require the work and cohesiveness of our Party here in the City. As Eliot Spitzer failed to remember Douglas MacArthur's famous line, "You are remembered for the rules you break." our steamrolling ex-Governor has given us quite a momentum boost and we need to put all our efforts into winning all upcoming elections.

Senator Golden spoke at last month's

New York Young Republican meeting and really showed what a great orator he is. Being a former New York City Police officer and public servant of our City for many years, many in the crowd wondered if he'd be a candidate for Mayor in 2009, but that is still to be seen.

There is much more in our pages this month but before I wrap things up, I want to inform you about something totally ridiculous on the other side of the Country. A California court recently declared that "parents do not have a constitutional right to home school their children." This ruling was issued by the 2nd District Court of Appeals and effectively bans families from home schooling the 166,000 children affected by this state ruling. The ruling also threatens parents with criminal penalties for daring to home school their children. It also says that if you wish to home school your children (after jumping through many hoops), the parent must be a credentialed teacher. This is such a lopsided ruling it is nearly beyond words. To start, private school teachers are not required to be credentialed teachers, but now homeschooling parents have to be? Also, home-schooled children are shown to do much better on standardized tests than their public-schooled counterparts, and in many cases, up to 40% better. If any state should be contemplating such government encroachment into our private education lives it definitely should not be California. Their public school system is one of the worst in the Country; the illiteracy rate in California is a shocking 24% while the public school dropout rate is 30%. With this ruling clearly being an activist one, it will hopefully be overturned when appealed.

I hope you enjoy this month's Record and as always, feel free to email the Committee at publications@nyyrc.com if you want to get involved or have something to say.

- Kellen Giuda

The Record is a monthly Republican news, analysis, and lifestyle magazine. The articles published in *The Record* are written by members of the New York Young Republican Club or by persons approved by the NYYRC Publications Committee.

Published by the New York Young Republican Club's Publications Committee, the views expressed in *The Record* are not those of the New York Young Republican Club, the Executive Board, the Committee Chairpersons or the Board of Advisors.

One of our Four

State Senator Marty Golden fights for the New Yorker in Albany

By New York State Senator Martin J. Golden

As one of the only four members comprising the Senate Majority's New York City delegation, I understand the importance of fighting for the interests of New Yorkers. My colleagues and I are facing a battle in November to keep the Senate under our control. It is a battle that is both crucial and winnable. For the sake of New York's future, the slipping of power from Republicans to Democrats that we have all witnessed is of great concern. Disenchantment with the Republican Party comes from the top and although it shouldn't affect us locally, it does. While changes in power come in tides and waves, handing over the last bastion of Republican power in the state would be a mistake on the part of all voters. Not only would it have an immediate negative effect on how peoples' expectations are met at the statewide level, but it would be potentially difficult to win back either house of the Legislature with redistricting following our next census.

I know I am preaching to the choir and you all understand as clear as day the importance of maintaining Republican control of the Senate. I know you won't let us down with your efforts in the upcoming election, and you will all be out there helping us hold power in New York State and especially in New York City, which could be quite a battleground in November.

New York City is so unique from the rest of the state. You might scorn the crowds in Grand Central every morning or pass by the Empire State Building when you go out to grab a sandwich on your lunch hour. While I can get to these destinations from my district easily by hopping on a subway or bus, many people come from around the world round to marvel at these sights. Besides the tourism that our city is home to, the services and amenities that are provided to New Yorkers from the government that make living here possible are also well above par. From the transit system that transports you about your day to the events and concerts held in city parks on summer evenings, life in the city is a blessing and I am honored to be someone who plays a role in making it this way.

I have been proud to serve New Yorkers my entire career. I was proud to serve them on the streets as one of New York's finest during my career as a Police Officer. I was proud to serve them in the City Council and I am now proud to represent them in Albany as a State Senator. Advocating for the interests of my constituents, people that I have gotten to know and care about throughout my career in public service is and always has been of the utmost importance to me. While Republicans have the majority of seats in the Senate statewide, this is unfortunately not the case in the city. Of the city's twenty five Senate seats we hold only four. This can sometimes make our job difficult when we try to uphold the interests of our constituents among members of our own conference who represent people with completely different agendas than us cityfolk.

The budget proposed this year by former Governor Spitzer met with resounding disapproval. Everyone agreed before the release of this document that we were in the red. The same Governor who announced a \$4.4 billion deficit released a budget that increased spending by more than twice the rate of inflation!

My colleagues in the Senate and I fought against this hypocrisy so that New Yorkers would not be saddled with the exorbitant and

unnecessary taxes and fees that according to Spitzer's budget would have been placed on everything from alcohol, cigarettes, banks, gas, HMOs, insurance companies and bottled drinks. The removal of the gas tax cap, which I opposed, would have significantly raised the price of gasoline at a time when the prices at the pump are already much too high for the average New Yorker.

The members of the Majority conference were vocal in our opposition to the executive budget by issuing press releases. Due in part to our persistence, many newspapers seemed to agree that this budget plan was not in the best interests of New Yorkers. The faults in the executive budget were a matter of simple math and common sense.

Due to an unfortunate and unrelated turn of events, we no longer have to worry about dealing with Eliot Spitzer's obvious lack of common sense. This being behind us, we are now going into budget negotiations with a new Governor and a renewed sense of optimism.

Deciding on a budget that both the executive and the legislature find suitable is a complicated bargaining process. Added to the complications is

the need to cut corners this year. Last year was tough enough, dealing with a new governor. Even negotiations with Governor Pataki, a fellow Republican, led to discord. Our leader, Senator Bruno has always made it a priority to submit an on-time budget. Cities and towns rely on this in order to construct their own budgets appropriately. I firmly believe that despite the distractions Albany faced this month, we will be able to accomplish this for 2008.

The Senate released and passed our 2008 budget last week. Not only did we correct many of the flaws presented in the executive budget, but we passed a spending cap that would bring more accountability to Albany in the future by requiring the Governor to submit a budget that does not exceed 4%. If this cap were in place five years ago, taxpayers would have



Senator Marty Golden listens to a worker following the Ground Zero press conference regarding the proposal to construct a memorial for the workers of 9/11 within the World Trade Center Museum.

been spared \$13.1 billion. This cap is a long term fix to a potentially major spending problem. In the short term, our budget reprioritizes spending and corrects the flaws of the 2008 executive budget.

The family budget is more important than the State budget. We represent you and the interests of your family. You come first. Our spending plan addresses the needs of hard-working New Yorkers without creating or increasing taxes and fees. It is our hope that this plan will serve as a blueprint for the final State Budget. We have been able to provide necessary tax relief to businesses and property owners in addition to rejecting the increase on the Personal Income Tax that was proposed by the Democrats in the Assembly.

In addition to keeping more of our hard earned dollars in your wallets and bank accounts, our budget plan places significant emphasis on healthcare and education. Taking care of our sick and elderly in quality hospitals and nursing homes and paving the way for our future generations by providing them with a meaningful education are two crucial duties of the state. The health care cuts that Governor Spitzer dealt out last year were devastating to many area hospitals. We need an efficient system for supporting hospitals and nursing homes for our sick and elderly. Our plan has restored the funding to make this a reality.



Senator Marty Golden, with Eugene Canapi, the President of the Asian Jade Society, pose for a photo with supporters. Senator Golden was honored as the 2007 Man of the Year.

Adequate funding for public education is getting increasingly difficult, yet remains as necessary as ever. Through cutting hundreds of millions of dollars in education aid, the executive budget broke a promise to students and families. Our education budget fixes this, restoring the funds needed to make educational opportunity a reality to every child. Broken promises were a trademark of the Spitzer administration. Now is the time to start fresh by piecing these promises back together and delivering what is deserved to the people of New York.

Working with an executive who realizes the benefits of governing with the Legislature, as opposed to governing despite the Legislature is certainly an important first step toward agreement on any matter.

Representing the people of the state in the capacity that I do is a job that brings me endless pride and joy. For me, representing does not just mean going to parades in my community, cutting ribbons at new businesses and sitting in my chair on the Senate floor during session. It means listening to the people that elected me, advocating for their rights and defending their interests to the best of my ability. This is what I have done every year that I have been in office and this is what I will continue to do, both during this year's budget process and as long as my constituents keep choosing me to be their representative. □

Martin J. Golden currently represents the 22nd New York State Senate district

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William Buckley

By Richard Brownell

The passing of William F. Buckley Jr. on February 27 has generated a great deal of reflection on his remarkable life and the impact he has had on American politics and ideology. In recalling his writing, his magazine, his television show, his political adventures and misadventures, one item above all that deserves continued reflection is the conservative movement Buckley so eloquently championed. In recognizing without dispute that Buckley was the father of modern conservatism in America, it is worth pondering what will happen to the movement he created.

Sure enough, there will never be another William F. Buckley. He possessed a keen intellect, a sharp wit, a zest for living, and a warm heart that set him far above his contemporaries in public life. Most politicians and their advocates are lucky enough to exhibit even one of these qualities at any given time, and rarely with the sincerity or depth that came with ease to Buckley. While he was a rare breed, Buckley's voluminous writings and his tireless cultivation of the conservative base will assure that the movement will go on and, I believe, thrive.

True conservatives can look at the current state of affairs and maybe think that I am incorrectly interpreting the situation. John McCain's campaign for president has given proof to movement conservatives that they have no champion on the national level. This is simply not true. McCain is no Ronald Reagan, but the Right has to stop believing that every GOP presidential candidate is going to fit that unique mold, otherwise they

will be eternally disappointed. McCain's voting record was more reliably conservative than either of his two major opponents, Mitt Romney and Mike Huckabee. For the sake of pragmatism, in 2008, that will have to be enough.

The bitterness of the argument forwarded by the punditocracy that McCain doesn't deserve the conservative vote has begun to subside. In fact, there is no reason to believe that conservatives will simply stay home

in November, so long as they can be convinced that McCain will not drift off the reservation. Despite McCain's lack of wisdom on campaign-finance reform and immigration reform, the alternative is too much for any sane person to bare: a left-wing administration that will drive up tax rates and wreck an already shaky economy and unilaterally give up the fight against America's enemies abroad.

We have a lot to be thankful for in Buckley's laying out such a clear-cut case for conservatism over the years. Without him, America would be a much different place. Ronald Reagan may never have risen to national prominence. The Limbaughs and Coulters and Hannitys of the world would likely not exist, and the breadth and scope of conservatism's reach would be much more narrow. And there would be no National Review with which to excoriate the left for their many faults. □

Richard Brownell, a columnist for the Patriot Post at www.patriotpost.us, is currently writing a book on the Cold War for Gale Cengage Learning.



No President could ignore the father of our movement. Buckley inspired every modern Conservative leader.

Democrat, in less than two years, to resign his post amid scandal. As if Albany isn't corrupt enough?

So what did we learn? Not to ask prostitutes to cross state lines? No, we knew that! Not to allow Democrats with egos the size of Eliot Spitzer's in power? Yes!

Next time, we must fight harder, speak with more voters and remind folks that this is what happens when Democrats get in positions of power. We need to remind folks that lower taxes and less government are the initiatives of the Republican Party. We need to remind folks that the Governor, the Assemblymen and Senators work for us, are paid by us and must represent our wishes.

If we do not convey this message clear enough, we may have another self proclaimed "F'ing Steamroller" who wants to "change Albany" but only ends us steamrolling the voters, and himself. □

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What a difference a few weeks make. In February, Republicans across the state were bemoaning the fact that we may lose our long-standing control of the state senate. Although many of us tried to keep spirits high by saying we were going to win the special election in the 48th Senate district, the reality of that loss shook our party to its very core. We could lose the last stronghold of power we have in the state. With only two seats standing between us and the Democrats taking complete control of state government there was growing anxiety among the Republican base about what our future holds in the next election cycle. But March was just around the corner, bringing its perennial promises of budgetary drama that could give us a chance to grab the spotlight and aggressively push our solutions to the state's massive fiscal problems.

Then Client 9 made a surprise introduction to the people of the state of New York. In fourteen months, Gov. Spitzer went from a 70% approval rating to admitting that he supported prostitution rings for the past ten years. His sudden implosion boggles the mind. But, I'm not going to focus on Eliot's indiscretions, his abysmal leadership style, or the damage he's done to our state in one short year. I'm glad he's gone. Justice will be served. Like all of New York, my thoughts and prayers are with his wife and family during this extraordinarily difficult time in their lives.

Now back to us Republicans and our current situation. We need to start regaining our momentum. We need to start winning seats: in the Senate, Assembly, and in countywide offices across the state. In the last edition of The Record, Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno wrote that "it's critically important for our party to survive and prosper in New York State.....because we bring values to the table that provides our society with balance, results, and accountability in government." I couldn't agree with him more. This is the single most important reason why we as a party need to become more aggressive in getting our policies and message out to the voters. It isn't going to be easy but it can be done.

Over the past year we have heard and read a good deal of political punditry as to why the Republican Party has been on a downward trend for the last several years. Some of its true some of it isn't. But it can be boiled down to one specific reason: the voters of New York have become so cynical, so exhausted with the political dysfunction in our city and state,

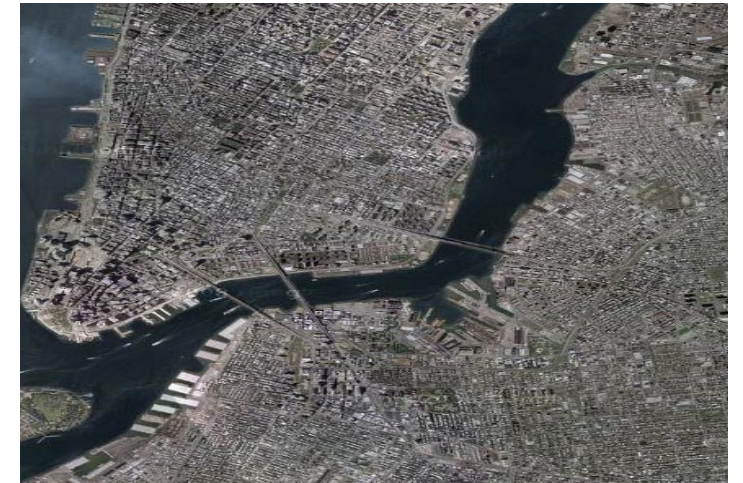
The 25th

By John G. Chromczak

Candidate for NY Senate in the 25th District

that they no longer see a difference between Republicans and Democrats. It's difficult to believe but it's nonetheless true. NYPost State Editor Frederick U. Dicker called our party the "doppelganger" (copycat) of the Democratic Party. (NYPOST "Small Change" 02/28/2008) The media constantly mentions Sen. Bruno's working relationship with SEIU as "being in bed" with big labor. Almost every news article or television clip that mentions an elected Republican is based on their reaction to a democratic proposal or issue.

All of this is about to change. We are going to regain the momentum of being that party that continually fights for, works for, and protects working families across our state. We will let the people of our great state know that there are significant and real differences in how our two parties govern and in what direction we want the state to move in. No longer, should we allow the media or the Democratic Party to define our vision, our beliefs, or our philosophies. We, the Republican



New York State's 25th Senatorial District

Party, need to be more proactive, aggressive, and energetic in getting our messages out to the voters.

This calls for bold proposals on education, health care, job creation, and true tax reform in our state. The Republican Party must propose legislation this year that gives real and effective ethical reform in state government. The time is now to let the voters know that it is our party that can and will end the gross ethical lapses that keep occurring in Albany. The public's desire for significant and real reform in this state is so strong, so vast, that it's up to us to harness that energy and use it for the common good of all New Yorkers!

As some of you have heard, and soon all of New York City will know, that I am going to run for the State Senate this November in the 25th District. It's an area that comprises both downtown Manhattan and Brooklyn, the LES, Battery Park, Brooklyn Heights, and Carroll Gardens. The 25th is a district that has changed quite dramatically over the past ten to twenty years and it has been poorly served by its long serving senator Martin Connor. If there was ever a geographical area in the state that has the potential to set the tone and direction of New York's financial competitiveness it's this district. It needs a Republican. The issues that are important in the 25th district are one's that a Republican knows how to deal with: the ineffective government control of the WTC site, the MTA Fulton St. subway fiasco, development of Pier 40, Governors Island, and the Brooklyn water front, and a growing crisis in the shortage of affordable housing.

Over the course of the next few months I will release bold and innovative proposals that will work to solve many of these issues and problems. I believe our party can and will be the party that solves some of the most compelling issues in our state. This year I, and every other candidate, need your help to create enough momentum to put our party back in the forefront of state government. I invite you to donate to my campaign, volunteer your time, and spread the word about our vision for the city and state. We can push back against the Democrats but it is going to take a united front from our party. I encourage you to view my website at www.johngchromczak.com or www.johnnyo8.com and read about my vision for not only the 25th Senate District but for our state in general. In working with State Senators Martin Golden, Serf Maltese, Frank Padavan, and Anthony Lanza (and hopefully Peter Koo who is running for the senate in Queens) the Republican conference will ensure that New York City and New York State will become more competitive with the ever changing world and will continue to be a great state to create a business and raise a family. This year the Republican Party will live up to our state motto "EXCELSIOR".aiming higher! □

John G. Chromczak is running for State Senate this November in the 25th District.



New
York
News

Molly Casey

On Location: The Political Climate in Egypt

There is nothing like a visit to a country under the rule of a dictator to make one appreciate Democracy. Such were my sentiments after a recent trip to Egypt. While I never felt threatened or unsafe at any time during my weeklong stay, the opinions of our tour guides, drivers and waiters who live under the oppressive rule of Mohamed Hosni Mubarak made me appreciate the leaders and the system of government that we have here at home. Ok well maybe not Spitzer, but we don't have to worry about his dictatorial tendencies and aspirations anymore now do we?

Egypt's official status of semi-presidential republic is, according to those who live under it, not accurate of the actual governmental structure. Driving in and around Cairo you won't see any traffic lights, crosswalks or any other mechanisms conducive to safe driving but you will see plenty of posters of Mubarak. These posters are haunting because their presence reeks of propaganda.

Something about the ever-present images of Mubarak just didn't seem right to me. "Is he your President?" I asked our guide, Nadir on our drive from the airport to the hotel. We had just returned back to Cairo from a cruise that took us from Aswan to Luxor. Along the way we weaved through villages where horse carts and camels were transportation and children dressed in rags would chase you through the marketplace, crying until you would give them five Egyptian pounds for twenty filthy bookmarks. We were tired and looking forward to getting into the city where we could have a cup of hibiscus tea and check into the hotel where we would stay for the duration of the trip.

"Ha! He is called our President. But he is not a President, he is a dictator," Nadir scoffed. He continued to tell me how the so-called "elections" don't matter because the National Democratic Party controls the results. Opposition parties, of which nearly twenty exist, do not stand a chance.

Many others who I spoke to following our conversation that night echoed Nadir's sentiments. While apathy was common, those who had an

opinion on the state of affairs agreed that they do not have the option of choosing their Executive, which is supposed to be a characteristic of a Republic.

The Egyptian Parliament and local offices have representatives from other recognized parties, but the activity of these parties remains stifled by the Executive, making goals of higher office unrealistic. Mubarak has been in power since 1981, more than a third of Egypt's years as a Republic. During the same period of time the United States of America has seen



President George Bush speaks during a press conference with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak after their meeting at Camp David, Saturday, June 8, 2002. President Bush said "We spent time talking about the Middle East and we share a common vision of two states living side by side in peace. And I appreciated so very much listening to his ideas as to how to achieve that objective."

five Presidents, three of whom served the maximum of two terms.

One morning as I walked into the Ramses Hilton free continental breakfast, I picked up the Egyptian Daily News. I sat down with my guava juice and pastry and read the cover story in horror- members of the political party the Muslim Brotherhood were arrested because they attempted to run for city council. In my experience working on campaigns, attack ads on the radio run by the opposition are a crisis. These people were taken into custody for trying to exercise a right that they are supposedly entitled to.

It is an unfortunate situation and without the proper system of government there really is no easy way to give the people the representation they are purported to have. I would highly recommend Egypt as a vacation spot. There is no end to the history you can experience and learn and sights to be seen. But it does feel good to return to a country where my vote counts and everyone has a chance to participate. It feels even better to call a country like that home. □

The 2008 Useless Package

By Matthew Bucklin

Commentary on
regulation, economy and the
markets...

Faced with a possible recession (and astoundingly low approval ratings), The President and Congress passed a historic \$168 billion stimulus package. The stimulus is a mix of rebate checks, business investment incentives, and housing assistance. Rebate checks of \$600, plus \$300 per child, will go to individuals making under \$75,000 a year, those who have not paid Federal income taxes, veterans, elderly, and the unemployed. This stimulus package is the largest ever and was passed in record time, but many believe will do little more than increase our national debt and temporarily placate the American masses.

A recession is more than two consecutive quarters of GDP decline. Recessions are typically caused by weak demand when consumers and businesses are uncertain about the future, and lasts less than a year. The government has two tools to combat recession, monetary and fiscal stimulus. Monetary stimulus is implemented by the Federal Reserve. The Fed will decrease interest rates and increase the money supply to stimulate demand. Monetary stimulus is always the first option because it can be enacted overnight but it is a blunt tool reaching only those able to borrow and spend. Fiscal stimulus is implemented by the Federal government and is any altered policy to give extra money to businesses and consumers. Decreasing taxes or sending rebate checks is typical fiscal stimulus, which can be more targeted but is generally too slow to boost the economy before recession hits.

Ben Bernanke, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, has done his part by dropping interest rates and infusing cash into the banking system. Now the Federal government has gotten involved. Since the current recession is uncertain this is neither wise nor necessary. If there is a recession, fiscal stimulus may ease today's downturn but the enormous debt will exacerbate future problems. And if there is no recession, this stimulus will only increase inflation.

The ideal stimulus package is one that increases demand without negative externalities. Generally I refrain from prescriptive writing, but most "experts" suggestions are contradictory and colored by political bias. That being said, since GDP is made up of four parts - consumption, investment, government spending, and net exports - the government should create policy to stimulate each.

To increase consumption, the government should immediately send rebate checks to low and no income Americans. This group is most likely to immediately spend the entire rebate, sparking the highest level of stimulus, without any expectations of future handouts.

Investment would increase if the tax code temporarily allowed businesses accelerate the depreciation of new capital. Another idea pertinent to our current situation, is to temporarily relax restrictions on commercial building to immediately boost the slumping construction sector. The residential housing market is flooded, but the commercial market has room for expansion.

The government should immediately break ground on a large number of infrastructure projects. This will also help the construction sector, boost wages for all service jobs, and add to our long-term capital accumulation.

To boost net exports, the United States might peg the dollar to keep it artificially lower than it already is. A weak dollar will make American goods and services relatively cheaper to the rest of the world. This move is not permitted by WTO members but China is doing it successfully without

repercussions.

Unfortunately recessions are inevitable. So, the other preferable option is for the government to forget stimulus and focus on something it has neglected, long term economic growth initiatives. That means paying down the national debt, investing in education, capital, and infrastructure, and creating the policies and foundations necessary to remain competitive in the global economy. □

MODERN ECONOMIC CRISIS' COMPARISON

By Manish Maheswari

Current Crisis - 2008

Economic Decline: So far, two consecutive months of job loss.
Monetary Stimulus: The Fed cut interest rates by 2.75% in 2007 and 2008, and put \$200 billion into the credit markets.
Fiscal Stimulus: \$168 total stimulus, rebate checks, business investment incentives, and housing assistance.

2001 Recession

Economic Decline: GDP growth was 0% in the third quarter of 2001.
Monetary Stimulus: The Fed cut rates by 5.5% from May 2000 to June 2003
Fiscal Stimulus: \$38 billion dollars of rebate checks, the Bush temporary tax cuts.

1990 - 1991 Recession

Economic Decline: GDP decline less than 1% in the fourth quarter 1990.
Monetary Stimulus: The Fed cut interest rates by 5% from 1990 to 1992.
Fiscal Stimulus: None

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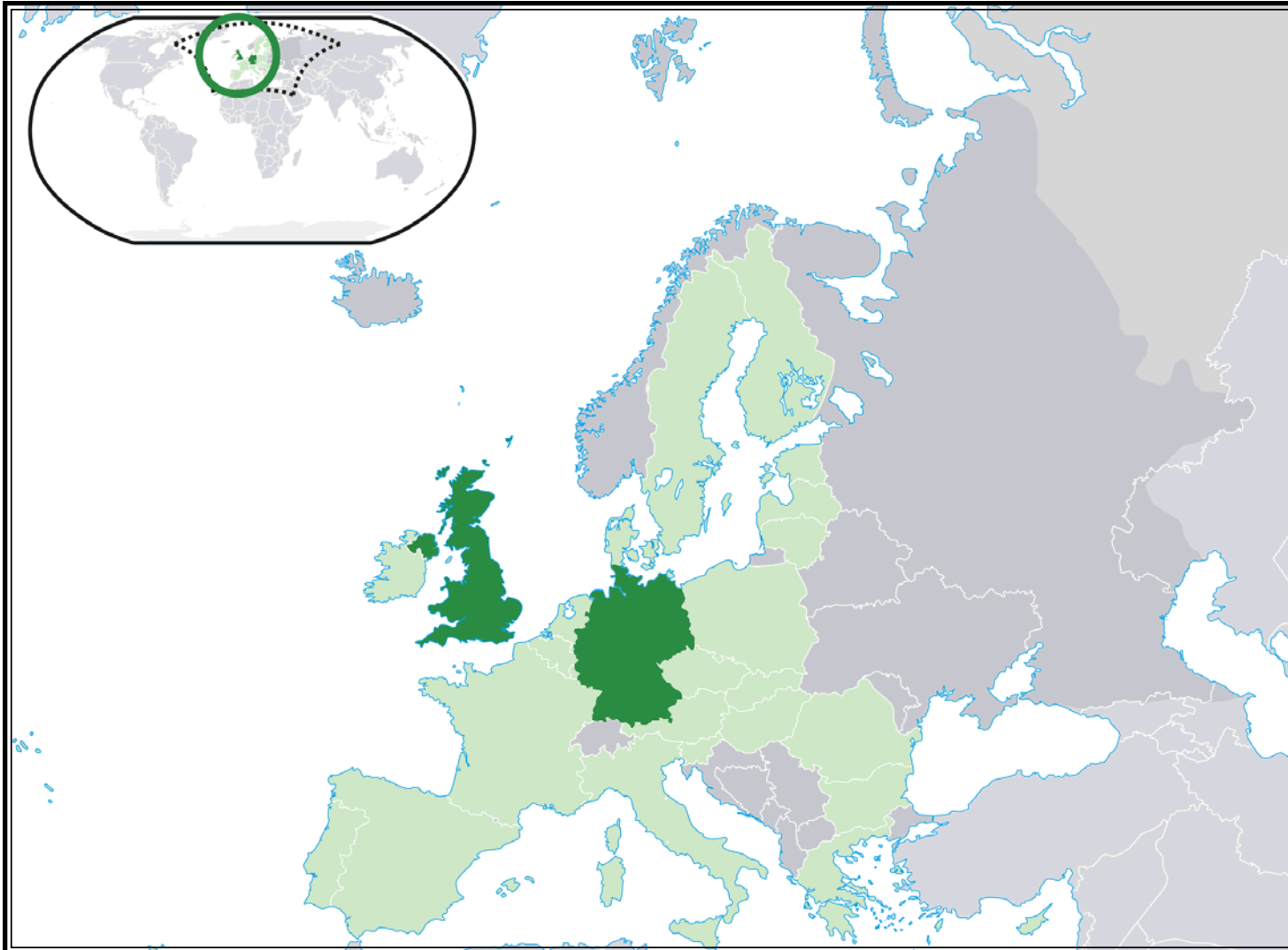
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Political Commentary from around the Globe each month. Local issues reported by local participants.

Reporters:

United Kingdom, Nitesh Palana: Nitesh is in his 20s and is a London based lobbyist. He is involved with the British Conservative Party, the main center-right political party in the UK, and has had experience in both campaigning in general elections and advising the Party on Trade and Industry.

Germany, Mischa Hecker: Mischa is President of the Capital City Section of the Young Professionals of the Free Democratic Party of Germany.



Can You Afford to Not Pay Tax?

Nitesh Palana, London

Earnest Hemmingway once wrote "the very rich are different from you and me... they have more money". They also have a better choice on which car to drive, where to live and where to pay tax. Double tax treaties or double tax agreements mean that individuals with income sources from multiple countries can often choose which country they wish to pay taxes on their incomes; the country they 'reside' in or the country in which they earn money. These treaties are mainly used by contractors who work abroad and most countries require individuals to live in their home country for a certain number of days or live abroad for a number of days, but the rules are also used by international businessmen.

The Rise of the "Linke"

Mischa Hecker, Germany

The Socialist Party from the former soviet satellite state GDR (East Germany) is back. Sure, they have changed their name – now they are called "Linke" (Left) – but the actors are still the same.

In the recent elections they have been able to win seats in the Bundestag (Parliament) and in several state parliaments. While they have consistently won nearly a third of the seats in East Germany since reunification, they have recently succeeded to gain a foothold in West Germany. This was fundamentally supported by the electoral system of proportional representation, which enables smaller parties to play a significant role, but the major factor was former chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. By trying to position his Social Democrats (SPD) in the middle of the political spectrum, he made room for the Socialist Party to rise on the left. The constant electoral potential of German angst and egalitarianism manifests itself in the comeback of the Socialist Party "Linke". Ironically, in the country of the export champion they strengthen the fear of social decline due to the advancing globalization. Besides the absurd collectivist ideas they promote, it smacks distasteful that a big proportion of the main protagonists learned their skills in the Moscow cadre schools decades ago. The mainstream party line doesn't support communist ideas openly anymore, but favorable expressions of backbenchers about the GDR and the East German secret service – the Stasi – reveal their cast of mind.

The rise of the Socialist Party "Linke" shakes the German party system. Since 1945 Germany was ruled from the middle of the political spectrum with the Free Democratic Party (FDP) – liberal in the original connotation – forming coalition governments with the Conservatives or the Social Democrats. The development of the Green Party in the 1980's created two national blocks with the Liberals and Conservatives on one side and the SPD and the Green Party on the other side. Those who won the independent voters in the center gained the majority of seats in Parliament. Nowadays the left-leaning Green Party and Social Democrats (SPD) struggle with how to deal with the new competitor. The Socialist Party "Linke" promotes ideas comparable to those the two others fought for a decade ago, but by confessing that, the Socialists would somehow gain legitimacy. But after federal elections the Socialist Party is close to forming

DIE LINKE.

Logo of the German political party Die Linke

coalition governments in some states and the same scenario can't be ruled out for the federal level. In any case, they put pressure on all parties and cause a general swing to the left. Their pacifist and collectivist ideas threaten the German membership in EU and NATO the moment they gain power in Germany.

This trend is not an exclusively German phenomenon. In many former Soviet satellite states behind the fallen Iron Curtain the old cadres are on their path to regain power. The reasons are as complicated as they are different. But one feature is evident: A nostalgic glorification of the past due to perceived economic decline. But the path heads in the wrong direction: Only personal and economic freedom – not the anachronistic misled supporters of an impossible Utopia – raise prosperity and democratic awareness. □

In theory, this should mean that those earning money from multiple countries should either live in a country where tax is very low or make all their money in countries where tax is low. That way they can pick one and be taxed a small amount. Yet, there are 45 billionaires in New York, 23 in Los Angeles, 20 in Moscow, 19 in London and 18 in Hong Kong. None of these places are known for their very low taxation; in fact, the basic rate of income tax in the UK is 20%, the top rate is 40% and corporation tax is 28%. Therefore it seems surprising that only one of the Britain's top five billionaires is British and a significant number of Britain's 65 billionaires are not British.

The reason for this anomaly in the UK dates back to 1799 when rules were introduced for people to avoid paying tax on income earned from land owned in the colonies, unless they brought it back to England. In 1914, the rule was attached to the idea of 'non-domiciled residents', to allow those born in the colonies to live in the UK. This set up the "pick where to get taxed" situation. Today it is used by a much wider category of people; people that live and do business in the UK, but are born abroad or 'can demonstrate that their permanent home is abroad'. This is one of the reasons that the UK attracts so many rich foreign residents. However, from the next tax year, the Chancellor (Secretary of State for Finance) has introduced a £30,000 (\$60,000) annual charge in the recent budget for



Will multi-millionaires and billionaires head somewhere else besides London as people speculate that the first "non-dom" tax plan will lead to more? Time will tell.

those that have lived in the UK for seven years or more and wish to benefit from the current non-domiciled rules or face complying with an existing UK tax structure.

The changes will mean that some billionaires and international businessmen will be affected, but it could also have an effect on people who have decided to relocate from America to the UK and those on moderate incomes who work in one country but are domiciled for tax purposes in another. UK business leaders and even one Government minister is afraid that the changes will make it harder to attract top investors and business people to London and the UK. Although the £30,000 levy will be a mere inconvenience for the billionaires who most likely already spend far more than on business class plane fares or lunches, the fear is that it will discourage others on moderate incomes or millionaires from investing or settling in the UK.

It is easy to see how the system is unfair for British people who see rich foreigners enjoying all the benefits of British life, but only paying a fraction of the tax, but these people are often the reason that jobs are created and money is made. The British government claim that there were 11,000 people who had asked for non-domiciled status two years ago; it is likely that very few of these people only reside in the UK because of a favourable tax regime, the majority live here because of the freedoms and safety offered to citizens, the amenities, the transport links, the British way of life and a whole range of other reasons. However, London is not the only city in the World that offers these benefits; New York and Los Angeles are very similar. The question for any city or country is "should we have lower taxation for the super rich to attract them to live and invest in our city?" □

CALENDAR

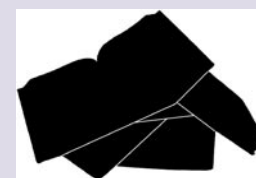
There are many events each month around NYC. From political meetings, lectures, book signings, and social events, just watch www.nyyrc.com/calendar for all of them. If you wish to submit an event please contact publications@nyyrc.com.

				March 20	21	22
				NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
		Luncheon address by U. S. Senator Arlen Specter, Ranking Member of the Senate Judiciary Committee; author of <i>Never Give In: Battling Cancer in the Senate</i> TIME: Reception & Lunch at 12 noon; Remarks at 1 PM, March 25th LOCATION: The Bar Association of Nassau County's Great Hall 15th & West Streets in Mineola, New York For Directions Call 516-747-4070		Zeldin For Congress Zeldin for Congress Event - www.zeldin08.com March 27th, 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm With Special Guest - Hon. Rick Lazio Residence of Thomas Kenniff - 529 East 85th Street, Apartment 2B, New York City Contribution Levels - \$1,000, \$250, \$125 RSVP - 631-772-1070		
30	31	April 1	2	MET REPUBLICAN CLUB:	3	4
				Thursday, March 6th 2008 6:30PM- 9:00PM First Thursday Monthly Social Join us for our monthly informal social. New and prospective members are encouraged to attend. \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members Refreshments and light food served.		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
	WNRC²: Feb 4. 6-8pm. First Monday Reception...an ideal time to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to introduce friends and colleagues to our beautiful clubhouse...and just enjoy a warm and festive get-together.		NYYRC MONTHLY SOCIAL. LOCATION TBD.			
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
	friends and colleagues to our beautiful clubhouse...and just enjoy a warm and festive get-together.			NYYRC MONTHLY MEETING¹		
20	21	22	23	24		
	WNRC²: Feb 4. 6-8pm. First Monday Reception...an ideal time to catch up with old friends and make new ones, to introduce friends and colleagues to our beautiful clubhouse...and just enjoy a warm and festive get-together. Members / Non-Members No Charge.					

¹ The New York Young Republican Club holds their monthly meetings every third Thursday of every month at the Women's National Republican Club Headquarters @ 3 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10001. www.nyyrc.com

² The Women's National Republican Club holds all their events at their headquarters located @ 3 West 51st Street, New York, NY 10001. Please see www.wnrc.org for more information on all events.

For more information about any events listed here please contact publications@nyyrc.com.



BOOK REVIEW | *Vast Conspiracy*

Book/Movie/Art Review offers you the latest thoughts, inspirations and trends with a Republican bend

The Official Handbook of the Vast Right Wing Conspiracy: The Arguments You Need to Defeat the Loony Left
By Mark W. Smith

Have you ever found yourself locked in a choke-hold by a screaming liberal where no amount of reason, fact or logic can dissuade your attacker? Too often you say? Well then! This book is tailor made for you.

A few nights ago I was literally surrounded at a table by five liberals hurling venomous accusations, their eyeballs shooting poisonous arrows and even a rough, sharp jabbing of a woman's pointed finger into my flesh. What was the hatred about? I was trying to dissuade them from their insane belief that socialism is "the answer" to America. They felt certain this would solve any and all of our country's problems. I also was trying to reason with them as they were claiming President Bush had "set up" the bombing of the World Trade Center and that he was "evil".

*Well I am glad to report that a trusty guidebook has now arrived, which will lead you through the dark and murky morass of liberal chicanery, self-deception and downright madness. Authored by Mark W. Smith, who also wrote *Disrobed: the New Battle Plan to Break the Left's Stranglehold on the Courts*, you'll be able to fend off any liberal attack and turn the attack on them.*

Talking points were developed from the results of polls taken from conservative readers of the publication Human Events and the most pressing topics are in the order voted.

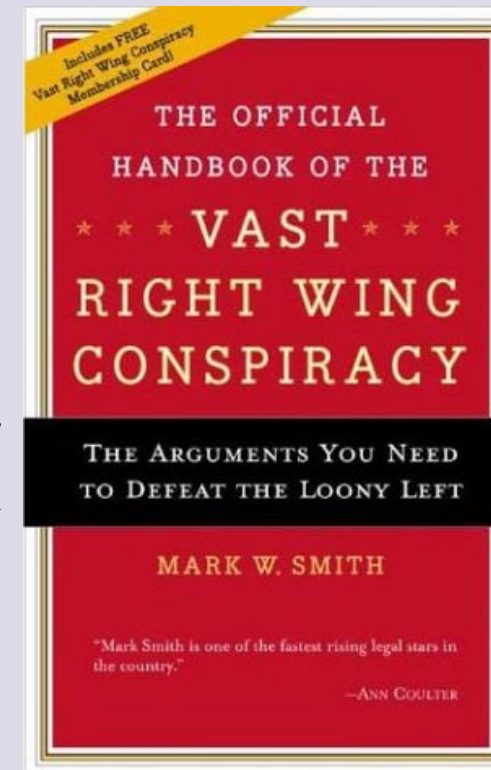
Issues that were identified cover illegal immigration, the war on terror, federal spending, the courts, taxes, intrusiveness in government, the Iraq war, Social Security, abortion and media bias.

Each subject is broken down into "Liberal Lunacy" claims that we typically hear by the left such as, "We're heading for Armageddon unless the government halts global warming". Mark Smith takes this proclamation and proceeds to "provide conservatives with the critical information that you will need to win arguments for conservatism and American liberty as we head into the 2008 elections".

I also like Mark's addition at the end of the book of a long list of conservative authors, the books they have written, websites and blogs to read, as well as conservative think tanks currently on the scene. This is particularly helpful, as you can't find these books very easily nowadays.

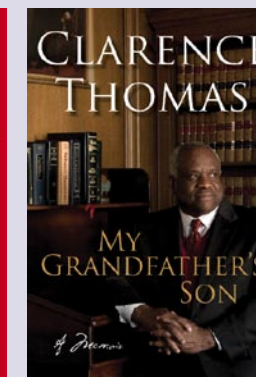
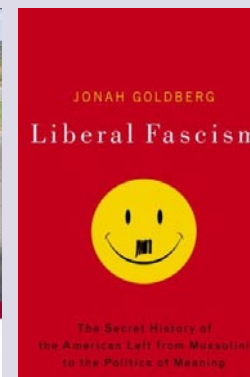
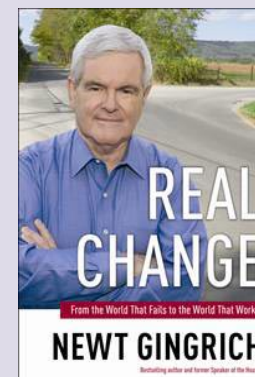
The Official Handbook is an easy read; one where you might actually bring your friends over across the aisle. And don't forget that it includes eight electoral maps, VRWC voting guide, and an election night scorecard. This book truly is a handbook and every Republican should be armed with it.

- Vivien Lewis



Past Book Reviews...

- Real Change
By Newt Gingrich
- Liberal Fascism
By Jonah Goldberg
- My Grandfather's Son
By Clarence Thomas
- Do As I Say, Not as I Do
By Peter Schweizer



There's a story in Washington not getting much play in the mainstream media, but one that is nonetheless important for the American people. It's about America's navy. Since the end of the Second World War it has been America, not Britannia that has ruled the waves. But with China significantly increasing its naval defense spending year after year, American naval supremacy may be at risk.

When President Bush leaves office in several months he will leave behind a navy 60 ships smaller than when he first took office. And the fiscal year 2009 Budget calls for cutting certain

naval production programs such as the Marine's LPD-17 (an amphibious transport dock) program for newer programs like the DDG-1000 (a guided missile destroyer). Northrop Grumman's DDG-1000 would phase out the DDG-51 which would become the older class of guided missile destroyers first initiated in the early eighties. This transition is not being taken lightly by the Congressional subcommittee dealing with this budgetary issue, the Sea power and Expeditionary Forces Subcommittee. Both ranking Democratic [Gene Taylor of Mississippi] and Republican [Roscoe Bartlett of Maryland] members are skeptical of commencing production.

Their apprehension deals mainly with the issue of cost and quantity. Both members lament the reduction of other naval programs for a more costly destroyer. The rationale for many Representatives is to stick with the DDG-51, which in their view is good enough and not sacrifice

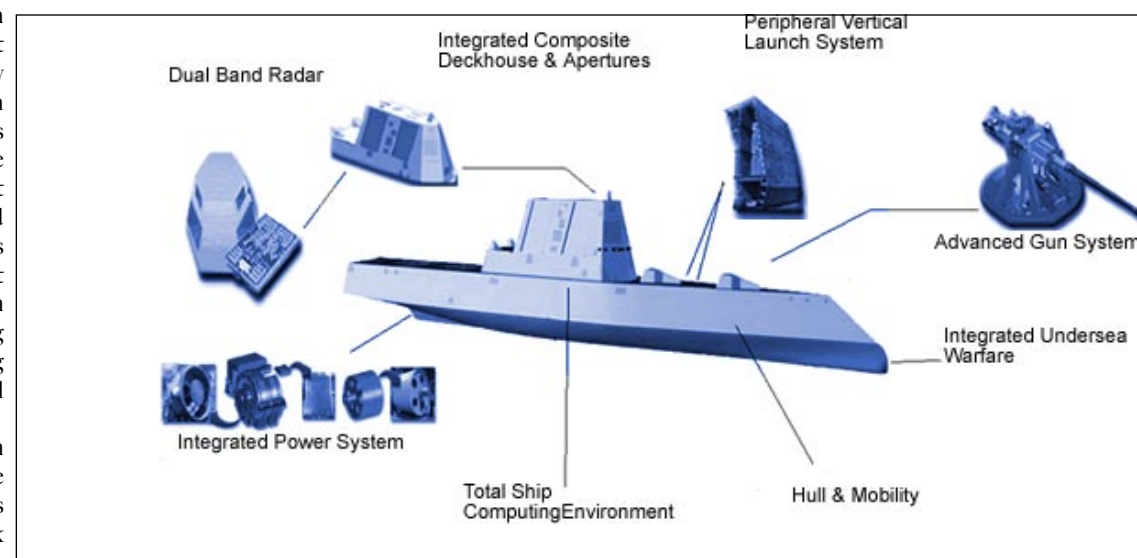
The DDG-1000: A Navy For a New Century

By Anthony Genovese

other ships for the newer DDG-1000. These congressional opponents theorize why we should spend more on a new ship and consequently cut back on other ships, when we can build the same old ship and not cut back at all. This is their preoccupation with quantity. Some even suggest making the DDG-51 nuclear powered to save money on expensive fuel costs that only seem to be rising. But once again, Congress is playing with the facts.

Congressional members are using the DDG-1000 as a way to placate to voters' interests in spending. Those congressmen calling for a nuclear powered DDG-51 to save money on fuel costs are failing to inform voters on the astronomical costs that coincide with upgrading these ships to this new fuel capacity. There is also the hefty fee associated with the training of navy crewmen to be compliant with a nuclear powered DDG-51. While the Northrop Grumman DDG-1000 may cost more to build than the Arleigh Burke DDG-51 class, nuclear fitting the latter would cost roughly the same as the newer class of ships.

Congressional opponents to the DDG-1000 are also misinforming voters on the necessity of a newer destroyer. While making way for the DDG-1000 may mean cutting construction of other ships there is an



You can learn more at www.ddg1000.com.

argument to be made regarding quality versus quantity. The DDG-1000 is a destroyer for a new century. As described by a navy website, it is tailor made for multi-mission surface combatants, and is outfitted for attacks on land and for coastal dominance. The new DDG-1000 also improves battle force defense crucial in buttressing the objectives of other military branches. It also is equipped with new radar systems that make it harder to detect by enemy or opposing forces' radar. Despite being 40% larger than an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer the radar signature is more akin to a fishing boat and sound levels are compared to the Los Angeles-class submarine. One of the ship's unique and newer features is its groundbreaking hull. Coinciding with its new radar system and tumble-home hull shape the DDG requires vastly less numbers of personnel to operate. While there is a debate about firepower between the existing battleships meant to be replaced by the DDG, to keep the old battleships at bay in case they are needed would only cost \$250,000 a year.

While members of Congress both Democrat and Republican alike may seek to oppose the DDG-1000, the destroyer for a new century, its clear their opposition is not one based on facts. The House of Representatives continually opposes the program but the Senate, in favor, continues to allocate it money. The navy needs to upgrade, reform and grow to maintain our advantage over other country's navies and adjust to future warfare. As our land forces continue their research with robotics and the Future Combat System, the navy must also not be content with ships with decades old technology. Outfitting older ships with costly technology not only doesn't save money it also runs the risk of making our armed forces lag behind. If America does not want to become inferior to nations like China in regards to naval supremacy we must not be afraid to use common sense and spend the time and money on next generation ships. □



Traveling Barackwards

By Matt de la Fuente

Prepare yourself. I admit it. I quite like Barack. He is young, enthusiastic, and attractive and his oratory sends something down my spine that could almost be called a shiver. Corny as it is, he reenergizes my faith in America the beautiful. A candidate that even looks like the America that I see walking around New York City. All coated with a healthy dose of optimism about someone untainted by the usual political mudslinging.

And yet...if acting is a matter of giving away secrets then Mr. Obama is the consummate artist. For as the campaign has progressed there have been certain questionable connections that have come to light, which have been all too briefly engaged with, before being quickly dismissed where they haven't been addressed at all. Indeed, if one can tell a lot by the company one keeps, Mr. Obama has some explaining to do.

Exhibit A: His Parents

He was abandoned by his father in infancy and brought up by a mother who everyone close to the Obama's notes as a decisive influence. Now, everyone knows the sins of the father should not be passed to the son, however, the fact remains that, according to a Chicago Tribune report, his mother was a "fellow traveler", if not a full blown Communist, who married into those views. Twice. Proceeding to write her doctoral dissertation celebrating the ability of the local culture to endure the onslaught of the evil capitalist system, "Peasant blacksmithing in Indonesia: surviving against all odds" and taking her son on her anti - American crusade around the world.

Exhibit B: His Wife

One would think that the choice of whom to spend one's life with is an important one, involving, at the very least, recognition of mutual interests and aspirations. Consequently, it does cause one to stop and wonder, how someone could be the first lady of a nation she believes is "just downright mean", "guided by fear" and "a nation of cynics, sloths, and complacents". Indeed, her February 18th comment that she felt proud of her country for the first time in her adult lifetime was interesting. Nothing about stopping genocide in the Balkans, nothing about liberating literally millions of people in Eastern Europe, nothing about beating Communism or helping lift millions of people across the world out of poverty by opening our markets. Nothing.

If this is the woman who Mr Obama has chosen to spend his life with, that is absolutely his choice. Whether she should be first lady is ours.

Exhibit C: His Religion

Obama was brought up in an Islamic milieu but the importance of that experience is probably exaggerated, as nationalism was still the dominant creed at that time and place. There is no real reason to question his insistence that, "I am a Christian. I am a devout Christian. I have been a member of the same church for 20 years. I pray to Jesus every night". Personally, I think it is an irrelevance, however, when dealing with an 'insurgent' candidate of whom one knows little. A citizen is at least entitled to ask how Sarah Hussein Obama, his grandmother, could go from a "strong believer in the Islamic faith" to a "Christian" in one year? Interestingly, according to most interpretations of Shariah law that would make him an apostate, punishable by death.

He has belonged to Chicago's Trinity United Church, which preaches what it calls a "Black Value System", for twenty years. This involves a "commitment to the black family," "dedication to the pursuit of education" and "disavowal of the pursuit of 'middleclassness', as well as honoring anti

- Semitic, Nation of Islam leader, Lois Farrakhan. Now, remnants of Chicago's "Black Nationalist" past such as these can be respected, but do we really want a President who has belonged to one for two decades? And isn't he supposed to be someone who will unite and transgress all of our 'racial sins'? Seems a bit contradictory to me.

EXHIBIT D: His Racial Grievances

In "Dreams from My Father", Obama writes of an intensely racially aware youth, sparked by a Life Magazine article and photographs detailing the efforts of an African American man's failed attempts to lighten his skin. There is just one minor problem. According to the magazine's historians, the article and photographs do not exist.

According to Mr. Kakugawa, a close Obama confidant in their youth in Hawaii, claimed that the many conversations that they had was not a "race thing...Barry's biggest struggles then were missing his parents...his feelings of abandonment. The idea that his biggest struggle was race is [bull]". But, that wouldn't make a very good 'narrative' would it?

EXHIBIT E: His Advisors

When they are unexceptional, they are appalling. When Austyn Goolsbee, his senior Economic advisor, discussed NAFTA with some Canadian diplomats, he attempted to assuage their fears about Obama's populist anti-free trade rhetoric, suggesting that it was mere talk for the voters. What a fantastic revelation for a candidate trying to convince people to 'believe' in him, no?

Then there is the now departed, Professor Power, who, in 2002, believed that it was perfectly acceptable to invade, conquer and define the borders of democratic countries. Then, in 2008, when questioned about it, said that her own statement, "makes no sense to me...The quote seems so weird". As a Harvard Professor, it must be tragic to not be able to recollect why you recommended a massive attack on an American ally, the gross violation of the very foundation stone of International Law and the imposition of a massive and costly American military force indefinitely. Those type of policy ideas obviously come and go like the wind.

Without a doubt, Obama remains an astoundingly gifted political speaker. So gifted, in fact, that his eloquence effectively masks the growing solipsism of his campaign. This is where Hillary's jabs might begin to make sense — because the more he pivots his campaign around himself as an agent of undefined change, the more her claims that the time isn't ripe for speeches but for solutions have something to attach themselves to.

A primary reason to vote for Barack Obama, we are told, is that he will change the face of America, literally. Having a man with a culturally and racially diverse background will-on day one-reconnect us to a world allegedly alienated by the policies of George W. Bush. And the fact that Obama's father was a (non-practicing) Muslim and that Barack lived for years as a child in Indonesia will help us improve, we're informed, our extremely troubled relations with the Muslim world. But Seth Gitell of The New York Sun attended a panel discussion at Brandeis University a week ago entitled "The Obama Phenomenon," where he discovered that the subject of Obama's identity is more problematic than his supporters would like to believe.

Obama's having a father raised as a Muslim doesn't mean he is a panacea for America's troubles with the Islamic world, far from it. While George W. Bush may be an infidel, he is not the son of an apostate. The latter is worse: an apostate actively turns his back on the faith, as opposed to never having chosen it. Such simple observations that Obama has never identified as a Muslim nor was ever raised as one will not save him, either. As Brandeis professor Ibrahim Sundiata says, "I think that people paint a too rosy picture of Obama being the world, that in the Muslim world, being the son of an ex-Muslim is apostasy and it is a very serious crime." Satire aside, it is disgustingly disturbing to me that Americans cannot see past the rhetoric and empty speeches. We all say our education system needs to be reformed; that Obama is doing this well is the proof. □



A Publication of the New York Young Republican Club Inc. Publications Committee

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