

THE REAL NEWS

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THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IS “THE CHILDREN.” EVERY POLITICIAN CAMPAIGNS THROUGH ISSUES WITH THE PLEDGE THAT THE SOLUTION IS “FOR THE CHILDREN.” AT PHOTO OPS, THEY KISS BABIES. BUT THEY NEVER CHANGE THEM. THEY USE THE MOST INNOCENT TO GET ELECTED. THE POLITICIAN’S ONLY GOAL IN LIFE IS TO KEEP POWER. PROMISE TO SPEND MORE MONEY, ALLEGELY ON THE CHILDREN, BUT TAKE AWAY RIGHTS IN THE END, TO ALLEGELY PROTECT THE CHILDREN. WHAT HAPPENED TO THE PROTECTORS?



“What is the use of physicians like myself trying to help parents to bring up children healthy and happy, to have them killed in such numbers for a cause that is ignoble.”

Dr. Benjamin Spock

“The world is, for the most part, a collective madhouse, and practically everyone, however ‘normal’ his facade, is faking sanity.”

John Astin

BABY ON BOARD

An infant is the second most vulnerable person on the planet. The most vulnerable is the infant's parent, who is easily spooked into fear about their child by smooth talking, authoritative personalities. There are those who claim to "know" everything that there is to know about raising a child. Some of those "experts" in reality let their undocumented nannies and au peres raise their young children just long enough for the gene pool to be banished to private boarding schools. They are collectively called "know-it-alls," our nation's elite problem solvers; we generically call them politicians.

The spectrum of the protectorate includes those who believe that it takes a village to raise a child; which really means that a parent(s) does not have the basic skill set to raise their own child without some intervening control and guidance. The other side of the spectrum is that group that believes that the Stepford Wives was a documentary; the quaint suburban bliss of a flash frozen 1950s Leave It to Beaver society. They fed on the mainstream malaise of child rearing in the late 20th century: too many couples had a child as a fashion accessory; to keep up with the neighbors or kin who drive the latest gold plated Lexus. They remind this current parental focus group that there is no owner's manual given to them in the delivery room. You have been handed a needy, crying, abstinent, demanding, cash sucking human being; don't look in the mirror, you will see the resemblance of the selfish parent or yet, the so-called expert politician. A baby cannot help him or herself; a child only reaches the age of reason at seven. Their parents, and who they choose to listen to on parenting, at times have lost all reason or common sense.

There are a few natural rights instilled in the American way of life. One was the fundamental right to raise your child as you saw fit. It was an absolute right. A parent had the sole authority to raise their child in the means, manner, religion and disciplinary setting that parent chose to instill his or her values. The family unit is the foundation of any civilization. The family is where the next generation learns the rules of society, what is expected of them, how they are to behave, how to achieve their goals, and what to respect. It was only a generation ago when one could load up an Olds Vista Cruiser station wagon with 11 people, zip along the interstate at 75 miles per hour, with the kids bouncing from seat back to seat back unrestrained by car seats or seat belts. If a kid got out of line, there would be a corporal punishment. But current parents can no longer do this (at least in public) because those in the know have legislated against it. Discipline comes under the vagueness of certain aspects of child abuse in the minds of the sociologists who believe that no parent should be allowed any physical discipline of a wayward child. Car seat laws are mandatory requirements for the protection of young children. Even though required, most are installed incorrectly. But in both aspects, it is outside forces telling parents how they are supposed to raise their children, under the threat of criminal citation.

Another mandatory requirement of a parent is a child's education. A child must go to school or the parent will be punished by local officials. Child labor laws in the early industrialization of America fundamentally changed the economic dynamics of the family unit. In third and second world societies, every member of the family unit is needed to contribute cash or services to the family in order for the family to survive. It could be working the fields, working in a factory, selling goods in a marketplace. When government mandated that children could not work dangerous jobs, or any job at all before the age of 15, the family unit had a problem. What to do with the children if they were not going to work? Government provided the answer by mandating that all children need to attend public schools. Education was the means of the lower classes to better their lot in life; to end the cycle of poverty of unskilled labor-factory jobs to intellectual skilled jobs or professions. In the old country, many immigrant families could not send their children to school because that was reserved for the noble classes. Education was another promise of new opportunity in America. In the past few decades, some parents have become fed up with the state of public education. Many parents are concerned that their children were not learning the basic math and science fundamentals. Many were concerned that the schools were not teaching but indoctrinating a secular, social driven governmental policy of dependence. So parents, falling back on their fundamental right to raise their children as they see fit, used private schools or home schools to educate their children.

School boards, like most government agencies, are slow to react to trends. Private and home schooling is a condemnation of the public education system. Parents are willing to pay twice (tax dollars for public schools and private savings for private tuition) to get their children to a place where they can receive a quality education. And the former is part of the problem; there is a lack of accountability when the public educators are not hurt when a parent takes their child out of public school because the parents are still paying into the public school funds. With the modern family unit having a negative birthrate (less than 2.0 children), the majority of homeowners being single persons, the public education tax base has grown to its highest level with a plateaued enrollment. Yet, the need for increase funding is never ending.

Part of the problem with educating baby is that the federal government puts so much strings attached to federal education dollars, administrative costs are prohibitive. Programs such as special education, no child left behind, after school programs, national testing standards displace independent, parent imputed in the education of their children into a regulatory bureaucracy abyss. And in the end, after a university degree, last year's graduates have no guaranteed job; no real prospects for a high paying profession with security for life. Most graduate with six figure student loan debt and the prospect of returning to their high school job at the burger joint while waiting for an acceptance letter to arrive at their parent's house. Public officials don't accept that responsibility; they blame it on the parents.

LOBBYIST FOOD CHAIN

From Webster's New World Dictionary for the American Language:

Lobbyist: a person who tries to get legislators to introduce or vote for measures favorable to a special interest he represents.

Bribe: 1. anything, especially money, given or promised to induce a person to do something illegal or wrong. 2. anything given or promised to induce a person to do something against his wishes.

The Abramoff scandal has hit Washington D.C. as a cold winter gale would send a shiver up the spine of a unclothed homeless man. Congressmen are looking over their shoulder wondering if the prosecutors fishnet will catch them. They are wondering if former Congressman Duke Cunningham's wearing a wire before his plea deal on public corruption charges will lead to more indictments. But for once, the spotlight is on the dirty national secret business called career politics.

Incumbents have culled their elected positions as careers when in essence the founding fathers felt that the central government should be a limited public service. Most of the first Congressmen left early because their stipends were too small, and their businesses at home needed their attention. But the concept of public service has turned into private gain by the modern politician. The elected have created their own money machine, salted themselves with high pensions, haute office spending, unaccountable perks of office, and a social club of elitists out of touch with the daily lives of their constituents. They only pander to the public when they need their votes to get re-elected. The daily grind is fundraising; thousands of dollars an hour, millions of dollars a year, are funneled into the domain of the official's campaign coffers.

Lobbyists and special interest groups give politicians money. Money talks. Money brings access. Money helps buy elections. Money is the currency of political power. An elected official who votes on legislation which affects every single person, industry, community or relationship can count on at least two sides, a yes or no group. The groups must curry favor with the politician in order for their views to be heard. So a clever politician blows with the wind and never makes up his mind; or changes it as the register rings at his campaign office. It is not about beliefs or principles; it is about cash flow. A bill that could cost an industry millions of dollars in new regulatory costs could easily be done away with after a few thousand in contributions, a weekend



retreat with some elected officials, or a shopping spree for a spouse; friends don't backstab friends, do they? More and more the lobbyists are literally in bed with the politicians; wives are on lobby firm staffs representing clients who have a stake in pending legislation. The movement of money is a family business. Elected officials can get their friends and family members on boards, commissions, set up legislation to get their lawyer-accountant-consultant kin more work, or set up the next round of lobbyist cash contributions to be shared among the family business partners.

A Washington official is making \$125,000/year but living the lifestyle of a multimillionaire. Most Senators are millionaires; few, if any, recuse themselves from their private business affairs and their public trust. Some politicians came to Congress and left millionaires. The rotten smell is not necessarily the decaying tidal silt of the Potomac River.

Politicians want to be influenced. They have their arms open wide because they wield power (their vote) which has value to special interests. The whole framework of legislation is not what is in the national good, but which special interest group won the Game and got the most votes. Congress won't outlaw, reform or change the lobbyists role because that would hurt their personal bottom line.

It is not bribery because the politicians say its not. With a 95 percent retention rate, incumbents have no fear of losing their political careers, unless they get too greedy or too stupid to care.

FEED LOT CHILDREN

Politicians want to control, everything. It is the nature of the beast, politics. It is the supply and demand of alleged solutions to problems. But the elected officials control both ends of the equation, for their benefit first.

In order to succeed, a politician needs to have an enemy in which a cause can unite voters to his or her own side. Abraham Lincoln was the first to exploit a moral cause in his quest for the presidency, slavery.

Today, politicians scramble to find villains in which to seize the news soundbite spotlight from their opponents. For example, elected officials have been harping on the "crisis" of obese children in America. They claim that there is an appalling dietary scandal sweeping this country that puts average school children at high risk. The demon in story: fast food franchises. They are claimed to be the devil's current house of worship. Caloric cholesterol central. Hell on earth. Pure greasy evil.

So the politicians create a studio back lot image that America's children are grouped in corrals and being force fed cheeseburgers, fries and onion rings until they can tip the scales a few revolutions like cattle in pens outside the slaughterhouse. They base this fearful image on a few disconnected facts. First, children eat more fast food meals now than a generation ago. Maybe once a month, if you were good, parents would take the family to McDonald's for Saturday lunch. Now, a parent has a choice of either cooking breakfast or giving a child \$5 to buy an egg muffin on the way to school. Second, they will find statistical studies that the number of overweight children has increased since the last study. But there are more children than the last study. But they don't use the images of the athletic children, the lean basketball players, gymnasts, ice skaters, track and field runners. American public school emphasis for the last two decades has not been education, but sports. Society in general has put sports and its stars ahead of science and engineers. So politicians don't show the growing number of student-athletes in action. Why? Because they disprove the point of their campaign.

It is the campaign, whether it is right or wrong, that is the point. With a campaign, a politician gets recognition, which begets support, with begets financial campaign donations, which leads to buying advertising and electioneering, which secures an incumbent's position of power, which has its own monetary and other perks that would make the average voter green with envy.

Today's children are depicted as chickens who never touch the ground during their childhood. Instead the caged are force fed until they almost explode. Yes, they are being force fed, political tripe, if they listen. The demographic called "soccer moms" would dispute the claim that their children are sedentary eating machines. Modern moms have bus schedules to get their children to-from soccer games, gymnastic practices, music lessons, scout activities, basketball camps, volleyball try-outs, cheerleading practice . . . the amount of outside school activities almost equals in-school time for some children.

If there are issues with children's weight, who should deal with it? Common sense would say the child and his parents because this would be the starting and ending point of the discussion. For the parent, it is the choice of getting up earlier in the morning, making breakfast and packing lunch boxes versus setting out cash and letting the children feed themselves in the open market. For the child, it is a matter of personal discipline and self-worth. Children who are depressed could eat more, leading to image issues, nasty barbs at school by classmates, leading to more insecurity and more depression. But every child is good at something. If that is encouraged, a child can manage the aspects of his or her life. But that takes time. Time from a parent to take charge, find the positives in a child's stage of life, and to encourage that personal growth. It also takes the child's commitment as well. Student athletes train to be in the best sport shape of their lives because that is part of the personal growth needed in order to reach their goals in competition.

So it is the family unit that is the determining factor in solving this type of personal problem. The solution of obese children can be solved only from within the household. Parents cannot depend on fast food franchises to feed their children. Children cannot hide their emotional baggage inside a supersized value meal.

But the elected bodies of government want to substitute their programs for the family unit. They continue to preach that government is the answer to all your problems. And better yet, it won't cost you anything. Which is a totally false premise and pledge. Government creates no wealth or income; it only taxes its citizens to pay for programs, through overt (income) and covert (user fees) collection methods. A parent would have a better chance with a patent medicine sideshow barker than trusting the government to get their child back into student shape. So that's why medications are also government regulated.

PROBLEMS WITH NO REAL SOLUTIONS

If you look back on the timeline of your own life, you can see that all of the government's major programs, crisis management, and spending programs have created one, large burning money pit sinkhole.

From the library shelf, we turn to the 1986 edition of the *Best Editorial Cartoons of the Year*. Editorial cartoonists, recently in the news, usually document the realities of the current political, social and economic situations better than historians decades later. A review of the events twenty years ago with present day proves the point that there are problems with no real political solutions.

In 1986, the President had to deal with Muslim terrorists hijacking a plane, marine barrack bombings, and anti-American extremism abroad.

In 1986, famine was rampant in the third world, with Ethiopia having had a million people die in one year.

In 1986, the Philippines was in civil crisis, with a communist army attempting to consolidate control of the country.

Reagan and Gorbachev had a summit to decrease the prospects of nuclear war, and Reagan's expensive grand defense plan of "Star Wars."

Reagan's budget director resigned over the prospects of a huge national deficit created by massive defense spending programs of the administration without a corresponding tax increase.

Congress had the deficit, decrease in general revenue sharing, and social security cuts in costs of living increases. But is also passed a \$52 billion farm support bill.

The Defense Department was rocked with a scandal on the costs of simple items being thousands of times real value. Defense contractors were getting rich on the backs of the taxpayers. The Pentagon's \$18 billion annual pension program was called "a scandal." More than 12 people were charged with foreign spying in the United States.

The U.S. trade deficit grew and American became a net debtor nation. In five years, 1.7 million manufacturing jobs had been lost to foreign competition.

In the Middle East, one word described the situation: "terrorism." Syria, Palestine, and Libya were all major terror players in the region.

In 1986, the issue of tax reform was discussed but not fully passed by Congress.

Crime, gun issues, lenient courts coddling criminals were all news headlines in 1986.

The Supreme Court issued an opinion on school prayer. Steroids were dispensed by the Grim Reaper and now part of the sports lexicon.

Health care issues included malpractice insurance costs skyrocketing, Medicare socializing medicine benefits like fast food drive thru windows was shown, and the promise of medical research finding cures was only a moment away.

In 1986, cartoonists ripped airline and airport security has extremely poor in the wake of hijackings and terrorist attacks.

Pollution was still a global issue, but nothing changed.

In the world of marketing, the worst disaster ever was the introduction of New Coke.

So in the past twenty years, millions to billions of dollars have been spent on these problems by government and others. Has terrorism, famine, world civil wars, U.S. communism cold war, federal budget deficits, tax reform, Defense department contractor scandals, trade deficits, debtor nation status, social security, health care costs, Medicare, airline security or pollution been solved??

Of course not.

Twenty years from now the same problems will confront us. They will survive because these issues have now been institutionalized, become the fabric of the American bureaucratic machine. The government sector of the economy is growing while the industrial sector of the economy is declining. Governments need issues in order to support patronage hiring and spending of tax dollars. To solve a problem means to eliminate a segment of your voting bloc, and that is not good for an incumbent to do.

Because of the droning and repetitious nature of campaign speeches, most Americans have been brain dead to the cause and effect of the rhetoric to their daily lives when they enter the voting booth. Drilled as a civic duty to cast a ballot, they are conditioned to vote within the two-party system, which guarantees no change in the way the bureaucracy will operate in the future. If the nation was run like the founding fathers, who left to run their own farms and businesses, career politicians do not have the private sector skill sets to survive. So career politicians help create the business of government problem solving in lieu of personal independence in order to keep themselves richly employed and powerful.

STARTING A NEW NATION

Running a virtual nation is the goal of the staff of cyberbarf.com (<http://www.cyberbarf.com>) through the on-line simulation Nation States web site (<http://www.nationstates.net/clintonia-rogtaden>).

BABY GROWS UP



In the global timeline of 230 years, Miss Liberty would be about 23 years ago. She is a sassy, self-assured, woman of the world, who has the poise, charm and boldness to get what she wants, when she wants, and where she wants. Others would find her personality brash, high maintenance, pop celebrity gone wild. Others would envy her power, style, youth and beauty; so much so that they would rather destroy her than to be with her.

At best, Miss Liberty was a demanding child. Given the prospect of early freedom, she took control of her own destiny at an early age. She learned the concept of bartering with guilt to

get the compromise that she wanted in the first place. People showered her with presents as she was the gifted child with the bright future. Things would come easy for her. She was bright, smart, witty, alluring and viciously charming in the right circles. But in other places she was a nosy busy-buddy, a meddler, a snake in the grass. Some could consider her having split personalities at times; an unwelcoming global Madonna complex.

Miss Liberty has turned into a jet-setter. She likes to make an impression on all parts of the world. She has an incredible appetite for adventure, conflict and danger. She seems to get herself into and out of trouble on a routine basis. It may come from her original upbringing of her estranged parents who competed for her affection.

She was spoiled as a child because of her isolation from the other children of her age group. She was the center of her own universe for such a long time, even a modern Copernicus would claim the world would revolve around her. That may be her strength and her weakness: she does not understand why others do not love her, but she loves her self and her principles so deeply that criticism sheds off her like rain upon a steep roof. She can take a punch, and give a counterpunch knockout. Under the youthful, athletic exterior lies a tough broad who is willing to mix it up to get her way.

She has acquired expensive tastes and habits. She literally burns through her allowance and trust funds before the next pay period. She is addicted to debt, charge cards, and letting tomorrow pay for the moments of today. She is a carefree, materialistic spirit who will continue to consume to feed her fashion conscious desires.

She has a hypnotic effect on the media watchers at home. She is the good, All-American girl. With a flirty wink, and sly smile, she can get away with murder. For everyone would want to be her. She is the fun-running, carefree future that everyone wants but few will have the opportunity to attain. She has no prospect of settling down for that could cramp her lifestyle of the rich and powerful. She rarely shares the spotlight with others, unless it gives her the chance to upstage the event and walk away with the majority of the applause.

She can be a vaudeville chameleon. She can change from the sweet girl next store to a rabid badger. If you get on her bad side, she is hard to win back. She will hold a grudge for a long time. She may be petty with her foes, nasty to her rivals, but warm to her friends. When put to the task, she could disarm an entire nation with the flash of a little skin.

The story of Miss Liberty is one of coming-of-age. How will a young, confident woman handle the pressures, the economics, the extremes of the 21st Century civilization? Will she change with the Times or will she be the Change for the this time? Only time will tell with this young lady because she is now at a critical stage of her personal development: fully educated but untethered adulthood.