

STUFF THAT SEEMED INTERESTING AT THE TIME

Hello Family and Friends:

...another Sunday...

...and...

...some Stuff that Seemed Interesting at the Time...

All the best...

Don

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REMINDER ON DONTURNER.WORDPRESS.COM STUFF

Folks, as I’ve mentioned before, “Stuff” now sits up every Sunday at the following URL:

<http://donturner.wordpress.com/>

Typically “out there” by noon on Sundays – sometimes earlier, sometimes later.

Presently, I send out a blind cc from one of my gmail accounts to notify folks – but this often gets “kicked out” as potential SPAM by some of the Corporate and AOL filters. That is the reason I don’t send it from my primary account.

Therefore, though I will continue to send a “bcc” to folks on my mailing list over time I would suggest you simply check that site for the latest or learn how to establish a RSS feed.

BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA – THE SAVIOR OF SOCIALISM – PRAISES CHINA STUFF

Check out this video clip from 22 Aug 08 where Barack Hussein Obama – you know, the savior of socialism guy – praises China’s infrastructure over the U.S.’s

<http://obamaisacommie.wordpress.com/2008/08/22/obama-praises-communist-government-of-china/>

Yep, what an inspirational leader. Loves China, loves the Socialists, consorts with Communists. I’m not completely against him yet since he hasn’t embraced Fascism – but then again he is a benefactor of the “Chicago Machine” (a.k.a. Daley’s Reelection Process).

Hmmm, China as an apirational icon for the United States. Is this the same China that:

- Routinely imprisons people without legal representation?
- Has a capital city so full of pollution that they had to curtail most normal day-to-day activities so they could on a “clean” face for the Western visitors?
- Who restricts Internet access to its Citizens?
- Has over 10,000 chemical plants dumping into the Yangtze River which is not one of the most polluted rivers in the world?
- Has complete control over its Citizen’s lives? Housing, Income, Healthcare, everything! Don’t like it, how about a little “time out” in the “reeducation center” – i.e., read “PRISON” for the rest of you.

NANCY PELOSI QUOTING A BIBLE – BUT NOT THE BIBLE STUFF

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) is fond of quoting a particular passage of Scripture. The quote, however, does not appear in the Bible and is “fictional,” according to biblical scholars.

In her April 22 Earth Day news release, Pelosi said,

“The Bible tells us in the Old Testament, ‘To minister to the needs of God’s creation is an act of worship. To ignore those needs is to dishonor the God who made us.’ On this Earth Day, and every day, let us pledge to our children, and our children’s children, that they will have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink, and the opportunity to experience the wonders of nature.”

Cybercast News Service repeatedly queried the speaker’s office for two days to determine where the alleged Bible quote is found. Thus far, no one has responded. ...

Claude Mariottini, a professor of Old Testament at Northern Baptist Theological Seminary, told Cybercast News Service the passage not only doesn’t exist - it’s “fictional.”

“It is not in the Bible,” Mariottini said. “There is nothing that even approximates that.”

THE CASE AGAINST BARACK STUFF

Just finished a book entitled “The Case Against Barack Obama: The Unlikely rise and Unexamined Agenda of the Media’s Favorite Candidate” by David Freddoso, political reporter for *National Review Online*.

Interesting read, some of the highlights include:

- Obama has the answer to the War on Terrorism? When in Iraq he refused to meet with General Petraeus, when asked why, Obama snapped back “I haven’t - look, it’s just a flippant comment, it’s not designed to actually talk about substance. It’s a political comment that doesn’t get anywhere.” Why go to Iraq Senator Barrack Hussein Obama – the savior of socialism – if you aren’t going to actually talk to folks who know?
- Who are Obama’s counselors?
 - Cornel West – Africa-American professor at Princeton University who calls himself a “progressive socialist.” He constantly writes about the use of Marxism for Freedom Fighters. He applauds Hugo Chavez as a great man.
 - Another of advisor is Robert Malley who had to resign when it was revealed he had been meeting with the terrorist group Hamas.
 - Another one is Jodie Evans who in June 2008 on Kansas radio show praised Venezuelan strongman Chavez and said “Why is being a communist anti-American?”

I could go on and on, but basically Obama:

- “Forced” his way into his first elected seat by having the other candidates – including the incumbent – thrown off the ballot.
- Four years in Springfield, Illinois and he enters and wins a U.S. Senate seat only to start running for President the very first day.
- Has been integrated into the “Chicago Machine”

Again, what is 47% of America thinking?

Want to be informed? Read the book.

YOU MUST BE LIBERAL IF STUFF

Thanks Dick

With apologies to Jeff Foxworthy, you just might be a liberal if...

- You think Dan Quayle is the dumbest Vice-President we ever had because he believed a flash card that misspelled "potato," but think Obama is a genius despite the fact he believes we have more than 57 states.
- You'd be more upset about your favorite candidate being endorsed by the NRA than the Communist Party.
- You think the same criminals who use guns in the commission of a crime will just hand them over to comply with the law if guns are made illegal.
- You know that 86% of all income taxes are paid by the top 25% of income earners and you still feel that the rich "aren't paying their fair share of the taxes."

- You put a higher priority on oil pipelines possibly inconveniencing a few caribou than you do on lowering the price of gas for everyone in the country by drilling ANWR.
- You're worried that Osama Bin Laden might not get a fair trial if we capture him, but want George Bush thrown in prison for being too zealous in protecting us from Al-Qaeda.
- You get infuriated when you hear about the CEO of a Fortune 500 company making tens of millions of dollars, but don't see a problem with an actor, basketball player, or trial lawyer making the same amount.
- You're constantly seeing subtle, coded racism in campaign ads, but see nothing racist about blacks being promoted over more qualified white applicants because of Affirmative Action.
- You think it's obscene that oil companies are allowed to make 8.3 cents per gallon in profit with gas prices this high, but would never suggest cutting the 13 cents per gallon they pay on taxes to reduce the price of gas.
- You think George Bush is a chickenhawk because he wanted to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan despite the fact that he only served in the National Guard, but you don't think the same about Barack Obama, who has never served in the military and probably couldn't find either country on a map without help.
- You think protesting outside of abortion clinics is extremism and should be illegal, but carrying around giant puppet heads while wearing a t-shirt that compares Bush to Hitler is just exercising your First Amendment rights.
- You think the case for global warming is proven without a shadow of a doubt, but that we need another century or two worth of evidence to figure out if capitalism and free markets work better than socialism.
- You believe the best way to fix the government screwing something up in the market is with...drumroll, please...more government intervention.
- You think the first thing we should have done when Russia invaded Georgia was to take the matter to the United Nations, where Russia sits on the UN Security Council.
- You spend your days criticizing the use of private jets, SUVs, and luxurious houses that consume enormous amounts of resources and then ride in an SUV to the airport, get on your private plane, and fly home to your luxurious house.
- You have more nice things to say about countries like Cuba and France than you do about your own country.
- You think the war in Iraq is unwinnable, but victory in the war on poverty is going to happen any day now if we can just get the Democrats back in charge.
- You won't even support English as our national language, but can't seem to understand why people worry about tens of millions of illegal aliens changing our culture.
- You think censorship is absolutely wrong; except when it's applied to conservatives on college campuses or on talk radio via the fairness doctrine.
- You get more upset about an American soldier accidentally killing a civilian than you do about a terrorist deliberately blowing up a school bus full of kids.
- You think Fox News is hopelessly biased to the right, but MSNBC, CNN, NBC, ABC, and CBS call it right down the middle.
- You think the real hero of the Cold War was Mikhail Gorbachev.

- You couldn't care less about what Americans in states like Kansas or Virginia think of you, but you would be greatly upset if a Frenchman gave you a dirty look because you're an American.
- You think kids in public schools should have to watch Earth in the Balance and read Heather Has Two Mommies, but no piece of literature with the word "Jesus" on it should be allowed within a hundred yards of a school.

BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA'S SOCIALIST PHILOSOPHY STUFF

Good article I read this week.

Barack Obama's Socialist Philosophy

by Jacob G. Hornberger

The central point of Barack Obama's economic plan is to tax the rich in order to give money to the poor. Of course, this is nothing more than the core philosophy of the welfare state. It is also the core principle of socialism.

What Democrats (and Republicans) have a difficult time facing is the philosophical roots of the New Deal, the federal program that abandoned the economic philosophy of laissez faire in favor of the welfare state. American welfare-state advocates attained many of their economic ideas from two primary sources: Benito Mussolini and Joseph Stalin, both of whom were highly admired by leftist American intellectuals and politicians in the 1930s.

Mussolini's economic philosophy was fascism, which was a system in which the government left private property under private ownership but subjected it to government control. Stalin's economic philosophy was socialism, which involved taking property from the rich in order to redistribute it to the poor.

During the 1930s, American leftists were traveling to fascist Italy and the socialist (and communist) Soviet Union not only to pay homage to Mussolini and the fascists and Stalin and the socialists but also to gain ideas from them for use in the United States. Many of the fans of fascism and socialism ended up serving in the Franklin Roosevelt administration or as founts of ideas for FDR.

The irony (and hypocrisy) is that U.S. officials often rail against foreign regimes that engage in socialism. For example, consider Iran in 1953. The Iranian regime nationalized the oil industry, which means that they cancelled British ownership of oil rights in Iran and transferred such rights to the Iranian government. That action is what ultimately caused the CIA to oust the democratically elected prime minister of Iran from office and install the brutal dictatorship of the Shah of Iran.

Today, what are Obama and other Democrats calling for as a solution to high oil prices? They're calling for confiscation of oil revenues from oil companies, or what they call a "windfall profits tax." (Never mind that the oil prices are largely a reflection of a crashing dollar brought about by out-of-control federal spending, which Democrats have enthusiastically supported.)

Confiscating revenues from the oil companies deflects attention away from the federal government and toward an easy scapegoat.)

What's the difference in principle between nationalizing an oil company and stealing its revenues? Isn't the difference one of degree rather than principle? Iranian officials steal all of the company and U.S. officials steal a portion of the company. And they do it in the name of equalization and the people.

One year later — 1954, the CIA ousted the democratically elected president of Guatemala, Jacobo Arbenz, and installed a brutal military general in his stead. Arbenz's crime? He was a socialist who confiscated unused land owned by United Fruit Company, a U.S. corporation doing business in Guatemala, and redistributed it to Guatemalan peasants. That was a super no-no in the eyes of U.S. officials, especially given that United Fruit was a contributor to the political campaigns of many U.S. congressmen. Yet, Arbenz's socialist philosophy was no different in principle from that of President Franklin Roosevelt, whose New Deal philosophy was based on taking from the rich in order to give to the poor.

The ardent devotion to socialism among American liberals is one reason that they have long had a deep sympathy toward Fidel Castro. Castro carried out socialist principles to their logical conclusion. The state took ownership of everyone's property and then redistributed the largess to everyone. Cubans who owned large mansions, for example, had them confiscated, whereupon poor people were permitted to move in to the houses. All businesses, large and small, were nationalized for the interests of the nation and the people.

How is that different from Obama's dream of taxing the rich in order to equalize people's economic condition? Castro confiscates and redistributes 100 percent. Obama wants to confiscate and redistribute, say, 30 percent. Big deal. The difference is one of degree, not one of principle. Socialism is socialism.

At least the Cuban people recognize that they live under a socialist order. The American people have permitted themselves to be convinced that their system continues to be "free enterprise." In fact, when you confront an ordinary American with the fact that public (i.e., government) schooling and government-provided health care are the core elements of Fidel Castro's system, they're likely to say, "You mean Castro is finally adopting free enterprise?" The sad plight of the American people can be summed up with the words of Johann von Goethe: "None are more hopelessly enslaved than those who falsely believe they are free."

Mr. Hornberger is founder and president of The Future of Freedom Foundation.

BARACK HUSSIN OBAMA – SAVIOR OF SOCIALISM – HUMOR

"Barack Obama now says he is open to offshore oil drilling. So, apparently, when he promised change, he was talking about his mind." --Jay Leno

"Italy is designing clothing based on how Barack Obama dresses. And I said, well, yes, that will connect him with the angry working-class voters." --David Letterman

"After a quick meet-and-greet with King Abdullah, Obama was off to Israel, where he made a quick stop at the manger in Bethlehem where he was born." --Jon Stewart, on Barack Obama's Middle East trip

"Barack Obama gave a speech in Germany and 200,000 people showed up. There were so many Germans shouting and screaming that France surrendered just in case." --Craig Ferguson

"Today in Berlin, Barack Obama spoke to a crowd of over 200,000 people. In fact, he was so eager to please the Germans; he promised he'd name David Hasselhoff as vice president." --Jay Leno

"Obama's camp initially agreed that the cartoon was, quote, tasteless and offensive. Really? You know what your response should have been? It's very easy. Here, let me put the statement out for you. Barack Obama is in no way upset about the cartoon that depicts him as a Muslim extremist, because you know who gets upset about cartoons? Muslim extremists. Of which Barack Obama is not. It's just a f**king cartoon." --Jon Stewart, on the New Yorker Cartoon controversy

"Barack Obama's two daughters are very excited, because I guess Barack Obama promised the kids that after the election he's going to get them a dog. That's the thing, they're all excited, he's going to get them a dog after the election. And the good news -- Jesse Jackson has offered to neuter it, so I think that's terrific." --Jay Leno

"The other day the plane that Barack Obama was on had some mechanical difficulties and was forced to land. Well, the National Transportation Safety Board did an inspection on the plane, and you know what they found? The bolts on the plane were fine, but apparently Jesse Jackson had taken some of the nuts off." --Jay Leno

"I'm sure you know by now, Jesse Jackson was overheard saying, and I'll put this more delicately, that he wanted to cut Barack Obama's testicles off. And Jesse has been on several news programs the last couple of days, explaining what he meant by those comments. Do you need to explain that?" --Jay Leno

"Insiders claim that even though Jesse Jackson supports Barack Obama publicly for president, privately he doesn't like him. You know, it's kind of like Bill with Hillary." --Jay Leno

"Today Jesse tried to reach out to Obama, and Obama said, 'Keep your hands where I can see them!'" --Jay Leno

"Jesse Jackson also said he thought Barack Obama was talking down to black people by lecturing on things like fatherhood and being a responsible husband. Jesse thought it was insulting, not only to him, but to his former mistress and their lovechild." --Jay Leno

"Barack Obama is now denying that he is email pals with the beautiful actress, Scarlett Johansson. Remember that story? They were saying that Scarlett Johansson and Barack Obama were emailing each other. He says no, it's not true. In fact his exact words were 'I did not have textual relations with that woman.'" --Jay Leno

THE EXISTENTIALIST WATSON AND HOLMES STUFF

HOLMES AND WATSON

Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson went on a camping trip.

After a good meal and a bottle of wine, they lay down for the night and went to sleep.

Some hours later, Holmes awoke and nudged his faithful friend. "Watson, look up and tell me what you see."

Watson replied, "I see millions and millions of stars."

"What does that tell you?"

Watson pondered for a minute. "Astronomically, it tells me that there are millions of galaxies and potentially billions of planets. Astrologically, I observe that Saturn is in Leo. Horologically, I deduce that the time is approximately a quarter past three. Theologically, I can see that God is all powerful and that we are small and insignificant. Meteorologically, I suspect that we will have a beautiful day tomorrow. Why, what does it tell YOU?"

Holmes was silent for a minute, then spoke.

"Watson, you fool. Some jerk has stolen our tent."



EXISTENTIALISM DEFINED STUFF

Okay, I used the word "Existentialism" and Virginin in the front row wants to know what that really means. Hey, only here to serve folks.

...

Existentialism is a philosophical movement which posits that individuals create the meaning and essence of their lives, as opposed to it being created for them by deities or authorities or defined for them by philosophical or theological doctrines.

It emerged as a movement in twentieth-century literature and philosophy, most notably Søren Kierkegaard and Friedrich Nietzsche, though it had forerunners in earlier centuries. Fyodor Dostoevsky and Franz Kafka also described existential themes in their literary works. It took explicit form as a philosophical current in Continental philosophy, first in the work of Martin Heidegger and Karl Jaspers in the 1930s in Germany, and then in the work of Jean-Paul Sartre, Albert Camus, and Simone de Beauvoir in the 1940s and 1950s in France. Their work focused on such themes as "dread, boredom, alienation, the absurd, freedom, commitment, and nothingness" as fundamental to human existence. Walter Kaufmann described existentialism as "The refusal to belong to any school of thought, the repudiation of the adequacy of any body of beliefs whatever, and especially of systems, and a marked dissatisfaction with traditional philosophy as superficial, academic, and remote from life".



The philosophers [Søren Kierkegaard](#) and [Friedrich Nietzsche](#) are considered fundamental to the existentialist movement, though neither used the term "existentialism". They predated existentialism by a century.

Although there are some common tendencies amongst "existentialist" thinkers, there are major differences and disagreements among them (most notably the divide between atheistic existentialists like Sartre and theistic existentialists like Tillich); not all of them accept the validity of the term.

EXISTENTIALISM HUMOR STUFF

While we're on the subject...

The First Law of Philosophy: For every philosopher, there exists an equal and opposite philosopher.

The Second Law of Philosophy: They're both wrong.

Descartes is sitting in a bar, having a drink. The bartender asks him if he would like another. "I think not," he says and vanishes in a puff of logic.

What is Mind? No Matter.

What is Body? Never Mind.

The French existentialist Jean-Paul Sartre was sitting in a cafe when a waitress approached him: "Can I get you something to drink, Monsieur Sartre?"

Sartre replied, "Yes, I'd like a cup of coffee with sugar, but no cream".

Nodding agreement, the waitress walked off to fill the order and Sartre returned to working. A few minutes later, however, the waitress returned and said, "I'm sorry, Monsieur Sartre, we are all out of cream -- how about with no milk?"

A boy is about to go on his first date, and is nervous about what to talk about. He asks his father for advice. The father replies: "My son, there are three subjects that always work. These are food, family, and philosophy."

The boy picks up his date and they go to a soda fountain. Ice cream sodas in front of them, they stare at each other for a long time, as the boy's nervousness builds. He remembers his father's advice, and chooses the first topic. He asks the girl: "Do you like potato pancakes?" She says "No," and the silence returns.

After a few more uncomfortable minutes, the boy thinks of his father's suggestion and turns to the second item on the list. He asks, "Do you have a brother?" Again, the girl says "No" and there is silence once again.

The boy then plays his last card. He thinks of his father's advice and asks the girl the following question: "If you had a brother, would he like potato pancakes?"

LOL...okay, you gotta be a little "off" like me to appreciate this humor but sometimes when the world is crazier and crazier it helps to have a warped sense of perspective – allows you to see things clearly.

DID YOU KNOW STUFF

- The two longest one-syllable words in the English language are "screached" and "strengths."
- Great Britain was the first county to issue postage stamps. Hence, the postage stamps of Britain are the only stamps in the world not to bear the name of the country of origin. However, every stamp carries a relief image or a silhouette of the monarch's head instead.
- Images for picture stamps in the United States are commissioned by the United States Postal Service Department of Philatelic Fulfillment.
- Artist Constantino Brumidi fell from the dome of the U.S. Capitol while painting a mural around the rim. He died four months later.
- Since 1896, the beginning of the modern Olympics, only Greece and Australia have participated in every Games.
- There were no squirrels on Nantucket until 1989.
- Blueberry Jelly Bellies were created especially for Ronald Reagan.
- Will Clark of the Texas Rangers is a direct descendant of William Clark of Lewis and Clark.
- When ocean tides are at their highest, they are called "spring tides." When they are at their lowest, they are called "neap tides."
- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- The last NASCAR driver to serve jail time for running moonshine was Buddy Arrington.
- Many Japanese golfers carry "hole-in-one" insurance, because it is traditional in Japan to share one's good luck by sending gifts to all your friends when you get an "ace." The price for what the Japanese term an "albatross" can often reach \$10,000.
- The difference between male and female blue crabs is the design located on their apron (belly.) The male blue crab has the Washington Monument while the female apron is shaped like the U.S. Capitol.
- It takes a lobster approximately seven years to grow to be one pound.
- The ridges on the sides of coins are called reeding.
- The lot numbers for the cyanide-tainted Tylenol capsules scare back in 1982 were MC2880 and 1910MD.
- Montpelier, Vermont is the only U.S. state capital without a McDonalds.
- The Roman emperor Caligula made his horse a senator.
- At latitude 60 degrees south you can sail all the way around the world.
- A Chinese checkerboard has 121 holes.
- The hyoid bone, in your throat, is the only bone in the body not attached to another bone.
- Mice, whales, elephants, giraffes and man all have seven neck vertebra.
- Sunbeams that shine down through the clouds are called crepuscular rays.
- Very small clouds that look like they have been broken off of bigger clouds are called scuds.

- On a dewy morning, if you look at your shadow in the grass, the dew drops shine light back to your eye creating a halo called a heiligenschein (German for halo.)

CHANGE WE MUST CONFRONT STUFF

Thanks MB

George Will is one of the great thinkers and commentators of our age. You may not always agree with his perspective – but if you disagree you must on “feeling” and not “logic” since his latter capacity is so far greater than most.

...

Change We Must Confront

by George Will

WASHINGTON -- Last August, John McCain's campaign was a guttering candle, out of money but flush with half-baked ideas that were unlikely to be improved by further baking. Anyway, to have many ideas is to have too many for a campaign's concluding sprint, and McCain's revival has not been robust enough to bring him even with Barack Obama. Now McCain's rejuvenated hopes rest on his ability to recast this election, focusing it on who should lead America in a world suddenly darkened by Russia's war of European conquest.

To begin the recasting, he should weed from the unkempt garden of his political thinking the populism which often seems like mere attitudinizing redeemed by insincerity. His silliness about sinful Wall Street and exploitative corporations cannot compete with Democratic entrees in the nonsense sweepstakes. Furthermore, his populism subverts his strength -- the perception that although he is an acquired taste, he is serious, hence incapable of self-celebratory froth such as "we are the ones we've been waiting for."

McCain's populism, if such there must be, should be distilled into one proposal that would be popular and, unlike most populism, not economically injurious. The proposal, for which he has expressed sympathy, is: No officer of any corporation receiving a federal subsidy, broadly defined, can be paid more than the highest federal civil servant (\$124,010 for a GS-15). This would abruptly halt the galloping expansion of private economic entities -- is GM next? -- eager to become, in effect, joint ventures with Washington.

Next, McCain should make an asset of an inevitability by promising two presidential vetoes. The inevitability is enlarged Democratic congressional majorities in 2009. Americans suffer political astigmatism. They squint at Washington, seeing an incompetent cornucopia that is too big but which should expand to give them more blessings. Their voting behavior, however, generally conforms to their professed suspicion about unchecked power in Washington: In 31 election cycles since the restoration of normal politics after the Second World War, 19 of them produced divided government -- the executive and legislative branches not controlled by the same party.

Two Democratic priorities in the next Congress would placate two factions that hold the party's leash -- organized labor and the far left. One is abolition of workers' right to secret ballots in unionization elections. The other is restoration of the "fairness doctrine" in order to kill talk radio, on which liberals cannot compete. The doctrine would expose broadcasters to endless

threats of litigation over government rules about how many views must be presented, on which issues, by whom, for how long and in what manner.

By promising to veto both of these forthcoming assaults on fundamental freedoms, McCain would give specific content to voters' usually unfocused fear of one-party government. Then, having delighted conservatives, who have thus far curbed their enthusiasm for him, he should make this challenge:

He should ask Obama to join him in a town meeting on lessons from Russia's aggression. Both candidates favor NATO membership for Georgia and Ukraine, perhaps Vladimir Putin's next victim. But does Russia's behavior cause Obama to rethink reliance on "soft power" -- dialogue, disapproval, diplomacy, economic carrots and sticks -- which Putin considers almost an oxymoron? Does Russia's resort to military coercion, and its arsenal of intercontinental ballistic missiles, cause Obama to revise his resistance to missile defense? Obama, unlike McCain, believes Russia belongs in the G-8. Does Obama think Russia should be admitted to the World Trade Organization? Does Obama consider Putin helpful regarding Iran? Does Obama accept the description of the G-8 as an organization of the largest "industrialized democracies"? Does he think China should be admitted?

McCain, like Republicans generally, reveres Ronald Reagan. But such reverence seems to involve an obligatory sunniness, which suits neither McCain nor this moment. A great political thinker of the last century, Raymond Aron, was right: "What passes for optimism is most often the effect of an intellectual error." McCain must convince voters that Obama's complacent confidence in the taming abilities of soft power is the effect of liberalism's scary sentimentalism about a dangerous thing, human nature, and a fiction, "the community of nations."

McCain is hardly the change many people have been eagerly waiting for, but Putin is part of the change we must confront. Until Russian tanks rolled into Georgia, it seemed that not even the Democratic Party could lose this election. But it might if McCain can make it turn on the question of who is ornery enough to give Putin a convincing, deterring telephone call at 3 a.m.

CONFRONTED WITH TWO CHOICES STUFF" (NOT WHAT YOU THINK :-)

Should I get a dog...?



...or have children?



HOW MANY TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB STUFF

How many existentialists does it take to change a light bulb?

Two. One to change the light bulb and one to observe how the light bulb symbolizes an incandescent beacon of subjectivity in a netherworld of Cosmic Nothingness.

How many Marxists does it take to change a light bulb?

None. The lightbulb contains the seeds of its own revolution.

How many Episcopalians does it take to change a light bulb?

Six. One to change the bulb, and five to form a society to preserve the memory of the old light bulb.

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Generally only one, but some rooms we can't even get into since 1933.

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Are you kidding?! Why would we let them do that?! The broken bulb is a national treasure, pointing to our rich, rich history and culture. No, we would rather build a shrine there, and charge admission to see the 'ancient luminosity device'...hmmm, maybe we could even sell little figurines...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Actually they are afraid to do it...they think that if they remove the top layer bulb, that they will disturb the (presumed) earlier bulbs that are screwed in beneath the one that is currently showing...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, but it will take years and years of initial site study...we have to first correlate all the surrounding furniture and domestic devices, and then decide whether the anthropological theory about the bulb being a cultic object (based on its central location in the room, its being up out of reach--symbolizing transcendence, and its obviously sun-like shape) is a correct socio-economic understanding...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

All of them. One to change the bulb, and the rest of them to weep about what Thiering, Allegro, Baigent and Leigh will write about it...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

No amount of them can do it, but for an underground antiquities dealer it only takes 5 minutes...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

501--one to take the old bulb out, and 500 to proclaim that it confirms the biblical record...

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

501--one to take the old bulb out, and 500 to proclaim that it dis-confirms the biblical record...(so much for the univocity of the archaeological record, eh?)

How many archaeologists does it take to change a light bulb?

Well, actually, it only takes a couple to remove the old bulb, but then they get so involved in studying the old bulb (especially in trying to correlate its appearance with all other burned-out bulbs within a 1000 km radius), that they never get around to putting the new bulb in...

How many Daniel Dennett's does it take to change a light bulb?

Depends on how many versions of the light bulb there are, matched up with the number of versions of Dennett...

How many David Chalmers does it take to change a light bulb?

Whoa! Now THAT's a hard problem!

How many David Chalmers does it take to change a light bulb (version 2)?

I am not sure we can even APPROACH the light bulb with the existing tools...we will need to develop different sorts of human limbs for that probably...

How many Roger Penrose's does it take to change a light bulb?

I don't know the exact number, but I am sure it must be some rather elegant prime...

How many zombies does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one, but I am sure it does it differently than we do.

How many Godelians does it take to change a light bulb?

Three, but don't ask me to prove it.

How many Strong Cartesian Dualists does it take to change a light bulb?

I am not sure they actually can. I had 12 of them in here yesterday trying it, but even with all dozen of them standing on each other's shoulders, they STILL couldn't reach the light bulb!

How many epiphenomenalists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only one--and all he or she has to do is to rearrange the furniture on the floor.

How many eliminative materialists does it take to change a light bulb?

Actually, I am afraid to ask them. The whole lot of them went outside last week, started a parade in which they were carrying signs like "I've lost my mind and I am PROUD of it" and "I've never had a mind ever" and "I am completely mind-less; just ask my colleagues"...would YOU feel safe approaching such a group?...I didn't think so.

How many neuroscientists does it take to change a light bulb?

Only the dumb ones could do it--the others could not pass the BBB (Brain-Bulb-Barrier)

2008 DARWIN AWARDS STUFF

You've heard of the Darwin Awards before? No, it is the awards given to those folks who through their stupidity remove themselves from the gene pool and therefore improve the overall intelligence of the homo sapien species.

Cases in point...

**Eighth Place**

In Detroit , a 41-year-old man, got stuck and drowned in two feet of water after squeezing head first through an 18-inch-wide sewer grate to retrieve his car keys.

Seventh Place

A 49-year-old San Francisco stockbroker, who 'totally zoned when he ran,' accidentally jogged off a 100-foot high cliff on his daily run.

Sixth Place

While at the beach, Daniel Jones, 21, dug an 8 foot hole for protection from the wind and had been sitting in a beach chair at the bottom when it collapsed, burying him beneath 5 feet of sand. People on the beach used their hands and shovels trying to get him out but could not reach him. It took rescue workers using heavy equipment almost an hour to free him. Jones was pronounced dead at a hospital.



Fifth Place

Santiago Alvarado, 24, was killed as he fell through the ceiling of a bicycle shop he was burglarizing. Death was caused when the long flashlight he had placed in his mouth to keep his hands free rammed into the base of his skull as he hit the floor.

Fourth Place

Sylvester Briddell, Jr., 26, was killed as he won a bet with friends who said he would not put a revolver loaded with four bullets into his mouth and pull the trigger. Third Place After stepping around a marked police patrol car parked at the front door, a man walked into H&J Leather & Firearms intent on robbing the store. The shop was full of customers and a uniformed officer was standing at the counter. Upon seeing the officer, the would-be robber announced a hold-up and fired a few wild shots from a target pistol. The officer and a clerk promptly returned fire, and several customers also drew their guns and fired. The robber was pronounced dead at the scene by paramedics. Crime scene investigators located 47 expended cartridge cases in the shop. The subsequent autopsy revealed 23 gunshot wounds. Ballistics identified rounds from 7 different weapons. No one else was hurt.

HONORABLE MENTION

Man using shotgun on lug nut injured

SOUTHWORTH, Wash. — A 66-year-old man trying to loosen a stubborn lug nut blasted the wheel with a 12-gauge shotgun, injuring himself badly in both legs, sheriff's deputies said.

From about arm's length, the man fired the shotgun at the wheel of a Lincoln Continental.

His injuries weren't life-threatening.

Associated Press

Paul Stiller, 47, and his wife Bonnie were bored just driving around at 2 A.M. so they lit a quarter stick of dynamite to toss out the window to see what would happen. Apparently they failed to notice the window was closed.

RUNNER UP

Kerry Bingham had been drinking with several friends when one of them said they knew a person who had bungee-jumped from a local bridge in the middle of traffic. The conversation grew more heated and at least 10 men trooped along the walkway of the bridge at 4:30 AM. Upon arrival at the midpoint of the bridge they discovered that no one had brought a bungee rope. Bingham, who had continued drinking, volunteered and pointed out that a coil of lineman's cable, lay nearby. They secured one end around Bingham's leg and then tied the other to the bridge. His fall lasted 40 feet before the cable tightened and tore his foot off at the ankle.. He miraculously survived his fall into the icy water and was rescued by two nearby fishermen. Bingham's foot was never located.

AND THE WINNER IS...

Zookeeper Friedrich Riesfeldt (Paderborn, Germany) fed his constipated elephant 22 doses of animal laxative and more than a bushel of berries, figs and prunes before the plugged-up pachyderm finally got relief. Investigators say ill-fated Friedrich, 46, was attempting to give the ailing elephant an olive oil enema when the relieved beast unloaded. The sheer force of the elephant's unexpected defecation knocked Mr. Riesfeldt to the ground where he struck his head on a rock as the elephant continued to evacuate 200 pounds of dung on top of him.

FINAL THOUGHT STUFF

Random Thoughts (as if I have any other)...

...music? Steve Forbert...you've heard his "Romeo's Tune" – but has a lot of other good "stuff"...check him out...thank me later...

...I've been spending the best part of the last year in Washington DC – actually Georgetown...now, as of this past Saturday I've accepted a position in DC again but just a block and a half from the White House...DC is a neat city – none quite like it in this country...

...tough getting old, now I need two surgeries – one on the right knee and the other on the right shoulder...I'm thinking about putting the orthopedic surgeon on retainer...

...only readers of the Bible understand the potential impact of the Russians invading Georgia...not sure what I'm talking about? Study the Magogs in the Bible... interesting... disturbing...

...have put together some songs of late that I'm listening to over and over again...curious?

▲	Name	Track #	Rating	Artist	Album
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bittersweet (Live)	11 of 13	★★★★★	Big Head Todd & The Monsters	92.9 Dave FM
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Liberty Line	6 of 11	★★★★★	Griffin House	Lost & Found
3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> I'm Yours	2 of 26	★★★★★	Jason Mraz	We Sing, We Dance, We Steal Things (Bonus Track)
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> That's Not What She Said to Me	7 of 11	★★★★★	Jeb Loy Nichols	Days Are Mighty
5	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The City	9 of 15	★★★★★	Joe Purdy	Grey's Anatomy (Original Soundtrack)
6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You Can Tell Georgia	2 of 11	★★★★★	Joe Purdy	You Can Tell Georgia
7	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Where Do You Go to (My Lovely)	14 of 14	★★★★★	Peter Sarstedt	The Lost Album
8	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Romeo's Tune	2 of 19	★★★★★	Steve Forbert	The Best of Steve Forbert - What Kinda Guy?
9	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Goin' Down to Laurel	11 of 19	★★★★★	Steve Forbert	The Best of Steve Forbert - What Kinda Guy?
10	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Come On Get Higher	2 of 12	★★★★★	Matt Nathanson	Some Mad Hope
11	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> You And Me	2 of 12	★★★★★	Lifehouse	Lifehouse
12	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 9 Crimes EXPLICIT	1 of 11	★★★★★	Damien Rice	9
13	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Falling Awake	1 of 12	★★★★★	Gary Jules	Gary Jules
14	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> First Day of My Life	6 of 10	★★★★	Bright Eyes	I'm Wide Awake It's Morning
15	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Belief	4 of 20	★★★★	John Mayer	Songs for Tibet - The Art of Peace
16	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice	1 of 14	★★★★	Gomez	How We Operate (Bonus Version)
17	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The Guy That Says Goodbye to You I...	5 of 13	★★★★	Griffin House	Flying Upside Down
18	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Can't Get It Right Today	5 of 11	★★★★	Joe Purdy	You Can Tell Georgia
19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Everything'll Be Alright (Will's Lullaby)	2 of 6	★★★★★	Joshua Radin	Live Session (iTunes Exclusive) - EP
20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> These Streets	5 of 10	★★★★	Paolo Nutini	These Streets
21	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hey There Delilah	1 of 6	★★★★★	Plain White T's	Hey There Delilah - EP
22	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Empty	2 of 12	★★★★★	Ray LaMontagne	Till the Sun Turns Black (Bonus Track)
23	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> City of Immigrants (feat. Forro In th...	4 of 12	★★★★★	Steve Earle	Washington Square Serenade

...good listening...

...Obama is being referred to in religiosity terms - even by the media...they absolutely love him...any doubt?

...

“ The feeling most people get when they hear Barack Obama’s speech, My, I felt this firmly up my leg. I don’t have that too often...

The Biblical term for it since we’re in a Biblical era, is deliverance. We’re being picked up and moved to where we have to be...

He’s the man with a global perspective because he comes from the world to us. He’s sort of a gift from the world in so many ways. ”

—Chris Matthews

“More than love. I mean it’s the kind of love that, anybody who’s been a 9th-grade boy understands this species of love. I think about you when I go to bed, too embarrassed to stand up, it’s sealed with a kiss love.”

—Tucker Carlson

...so now we know that Obama gives Chris Matthew a “thrill” up his leg and that Tucker Carlson is in love with him...

...Obama’s wisdom?

...

"I've now been in 57 states -- I think one left to go." --at a campaign event in Beaverton, Oregon (Watch video clip)

"It's not surprising, then, they get bitter, they cling to guns or religion or antipathy to people who aren't like them or anti-immigrant sentiment or anti-trade sentiment as a way to explain their frustrations." --explaining his troubles winning over some working-class voters

"In case you missed it, this week, there was a tragedy in Kansas. Ten thousand people died -- an entire town destroyed." --on a Kansas tornado that killed 12 people

...

Well folks, get to babysit the grandkids today – been several weeks since I've seen them and need to get a "grandkid fix"...

...have a great day pray for this country – we are at a pivotal point...

Reflectively Yours,

Don

EXPLANATORY – YET POIGNANT - DISCLAIMER

For those new to this mailing, this Stuff memo is an ongoing email that I periodically send out for no other reason than to synthesize all the "stuff" I read as well as express my views on the world in general and life in specific.

It serves as an intellectual catharsis, an emotional catholicon, and a spiritual revivification.

Bottom line, this is simply the way that I soothe the synapses.

If you decide you don't want to receive, simply reply with a "Thank You, No Thank You" and you'll be removed from the mailing list.