



# The JOURNAL

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Thus says the Lord: Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. –Jeremiah 6:16

## From The President's Desk

Some of us remember the picture of the early Pilgrims on their way to church with a Bible under one arm and a musket in the other arm. The issue of guns and gun control, of course, is still with us and now there is an effort to down-play the importance of guns in early America.

The following material from Vin Suprynowicz's pen addresses the issue and speaks to the significance of the Second Amendment. The left has never trusted the American people's judgment when it comes to taxes, guns or Christianity. Anyway, here is how Suprynowicz sees the scenario being played out today.

"Some publicity has been generated by the prominent play given leftist college professor Garry Wills' review of the new book 'Arming America: The Origins of a National Gun Culture,' by *The New York Times*. I have not yet received a review copy of 'Arming America,' by Michael A. Bellesiles, though the folks at Alfred A. Knopf have promised me one. Both Bellesiles and Wills embrace the theory that the old notion of America being 'an armed nation' from 1750 to 1850 – that America was conquered and defended by a rural, civilian populace mostly armed – is a myth. They go further, asserting that this myth has been invented on purpose by a modern right-wing conspiracy which they call 'the gun cult.' I think it would thus be fair to characterize 'Arming America' as an anti-gun book.

"Bellesiles, a colonial historian at Emory University, examined more than 1,000 probate records from New England and Pennsylvania for the years 1763 and 1790, discovered only 14 percent of these estates conveyed firearms to the decedent's heirs, and that 'over half of

them were unusable.’

"From that, both Bellesiles and his happy reviewer, Wills of Northwestern University, conclude that only 14 percent of Americans in the period 1763 to the Civil War owned firearms.

"What Bellesiles has proved, Wills instructs us, is that, ‘Before the Civil War. . .the average American had little reason to go to the expense and trouble of acquiring, mastering and maintaining a tool of such doubtful utility as a gun.’

"Clayton Cramer, who earned his master’s degree in history at Sonoma State University in 1988, has been on the trail of Bellesiles’ thesis for some time. He explodes it completely in his recent essay ‘Gun Scarcity in Antebellum America’ ([www.ggnra.org/cramer//GunScarcity.pdf](http://www.ggnra.org/cramer//GunScarcity.pdf)). Rather than extrapolating from probate records, Cramer goes to original, contemporary sources.

"He finds Philip Gosse, an English naturalist visiting Alabama in the 1830s, writing: ‘The long rifle is familiar to every hand: skill in the use of it is the highest accomplishment which a southern gentleman glories in; even the children acquire an astonishing expertness in handling this deadly weapon at a very early age.’

"Gosse goes on to note that marksmanship skills were so ‘universally high’ that young men had to resort to ‘curious tests’ to prove their skill, such as driving a stout nail halfway into a post, whereupon the young men ‘stand at an immense distance and fire at the nail: the object is to hit the nail so truly on the head with the ball as to drive it home.’ Yep. I guess those southern boys had pretty much never seen a rifle before. Touring the young nation in 1831, Alexis de Tocqueville reported that in Tennessee, ‘There is not a farmer but passes some of his time hunting and owns a good gun.’

"In 1839, Englishman Charles Augustus Murray wrote for his British readership of visiting a farmhouse in rural Virginia: ‘Nearly every man has a rifle, and spends part of his time in the chase.’ Nor was this merely a rural phenomenon. In Charles H. Haswell’s ‘Reminiscences of New York by an Octogenarian’ (1896), he recalls that in February of 1836 a mob gathered to burn ‘Saint Patrick’s Church in Mott Street.’ The effort came to naught, however, because, ‘The Catholics . . . not only filled the church with armed men,’ but put so many armed men on the walls that Haswell describes the roof-line as appearing ‘crenellated with them.’

"Does Wills embrace Bellesiles’ evident nonsense because it confirms preconceived notions he wants desperately to believe? If so, was he a miserable choice to provide *Times*’ readers with a reasonably skeptical analysis of the flaws in Bellesiles’ methodology? Were Joe Stalin’s men ever any better at revising truth and history – cutting unwanted middlemen out of the old photos and sliding Comrade Joe over till he appears to be whispering in Lenin’s

attentive ear? As to the flaws in Bellesiles' method, they should be fairly obvious. My own grandfather died only a decade ago, after a long infirmity. He left no written will that my mother can recall, and conveyed no firearms through probate. Bellesiles would thus conclude Clarence Edward Higginbotham never owned any guns, and had no skill in their use. In fact, my grandfather was an accomplished and dedicated deer hunter, with a large gun closet. He taught me to shoot the rifle. As he grew older, he entrusted these weapons, one at a time, to friends and relations. If he, a 20th century resident of Ohio, saw no need for a will to convey these familiar but valued assets, how much less occasion did the average frontier American of the late 1700s have to bring lawyers and courts into the transfer of household goods to the next generation? Finally, for the sake of argument, let us ask: If it could be demonstrated that only 14 percent of antebellum Americans had been churchgoers, could we therefore safely conclude the notion of Americans having long been a God-fearing people has been newly cooked up by some weird right-wing cult? And would it therefore become more acceptable to infringe the First Amendment freedom of religion – the Second Amendment being the real target of the bizarre revisionism we have been examining here today?

"Americans without guns! These guys *must* be college professors."

*The Gazette*, Sept., 21, 2000, p. M6

### **Month In Review**

Q "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. Therefore whoever resists the authority resists the ordinance of God, and those who resist will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same. For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil. Therefore you must be subject, not only because of wrath but also for conscience' sake. For because of this you also pay taxes, for they are God's ministers attending continually to this very thing."  
—Romans 13:1-6

Q "We ought to give thanks for all fortune: if it is "good," because it is good, if "bad" because it works in us patience, humility and the contempt of this world and the hope of our eternal country."

—C.S. Lewis, August 10, 1948

Q "Theology teaches us what ends are desirable and what means are lawful, while Politics teaches what means are effective."

—C.S. Lewis, *God in the Dock*

Q "If we ever start in teachin' to our children, year by year,

How to live with one another, there'll be less o' trouble here.

If we'd teach 'em how to neighbor an' to walk in honor's ways,

We could settle every problem which the mind o' man can raise.

What we're needin' isn't systems or some regulatin' plan

But a bigger an' a finer an' a truer type o' man."

—Edgar A. Guest, *Better Sort O' Man*

Q "In public schools we strain out the gnat of graduation prayers and swallow the camel of quasi-secular religion in the curriculum."

—Ralph Gillman, *First Things*, October 2000, p. 11

Q "Though we speak of the left's "long march" through the institutions of bourgeois democracy, we do not usually recall that one of the most important of those institutions captured by the left, not quite completely but very nearly so, is the Supreme Court. For the last half century the Court has been a revolutionary force in American culture and politics. In this it is abetted by some state courts applying state constitutions, which are unreviewable by federal courts. One has only to recall the Hawaiian and Vermont courts that found in their constitutions the right to same-sex marriage. But the federal courts, and particularly the Supreme Court, have taken the lead in remaking America.

"To cite only a few instances, there have in other terms been decisions redefining the family, altering the composition of state and federal legislatures, striking down restrictions on

contraception in the course of creating a right of privacy, protecting pornography, adopting rules rendering it virtually impossible to prosecute obscenity, refusing states the authority to support all-male military academies, creating special rights for homosexuals, limiting school disciplinary procedures, banishing religion from public life, protecting foul language in public as well as speech advocating violence and overthrow of the government, and, of course, inventing a right to abort.

"The long march continued during the recent term of the Supreme Court. Missouri's limit on statewide campaign contributions was upheld over First Amendment objections in order, among other things, to equalize political power (*Nixon v. Shrink Missouri Government*), while nude dancing, in this case prohibitable, was entitled to considerable protection as "expressive" behavior (*Erie v. Pap's P.M.*). Yet the Court struck down student elections permitting speech that might be used for prayer prior to high school football games (*Santa Fe School District v. Doe*). At some point, parody is the only appropriate response. Theodore Olson, a leading Supreme Court critic, was prompted to suggest that the students should dance nude before the games since naked dancing is preferred to prayer as a form of expression.

"*Santa Fe School District* showed two prominent aspects of the Court's non-constitutional value system; though it invoked the Establishment Clause, the decision ran directly counter to that clause's historical meaning and, for good measure, demonstrated deep suspicion of "majoritarian" decisions. Chief Justice William Rehnquist's dissent justly observed that the majority opinion was "bristling with hostility" toward religion. The militant secularism, itself a religion established by the Court, was an instance of leveling since some students might be "offended" if prayer took place. That other students might be offended by government exclusion of prayer of any type counts for nothing in the Court's jurisprudence.

"At the same time, the Court held in *Mitchell v. Helms* that the Establishment Clause allowed government to donate materials and equipment to both secular and religious schools. Apparently, religion is toxic in public but allowable if practiced in a private enclave, where, like pornography, it is safely out of sight of those offended by the unseemly spectacle.

"The decision that the Boy Scouts have a constitutional right called "expressive association" to bar an open homosexual from serving as an assistant scoutmaster (*Boy Scouts of America v. Dale*) surely was heavily influenced by fear of pederasty, not in Dale's case but as inevitably flowing from a general rule applicable to all homosexuals. Today, of course, this is a fear that dare not speak its name. What is remarkable is that, even in this context, four Justices would have upheld a law that courted precisely that danger. In other contests, and even in this one, with the departure of one member of the majority, homosexuality will become a favored category of persons. In part, it already has in the Court's jurisprudence."

Q "Some [investigators of the Columbine High School shootings] focused on the killers' belief in their own superiority, as though they constituted a two-man master race.

"Some point to the fact that as the killing began, [gunman Eric] Harris tore off his trench coat to expose a white T-shirt reading 'Natural Selection.' Their writings stress their bond, including statements like. . . 'We're the only two people who seem to understand the meaning of life.'

"'They do consider the human race beneath them,' one investigator said. [In his journals,] Harris 'talks a lot about natural selection and that kind of leads into this admiration of Hitler and Nazism and their "final solution" – that we, the human race, have interrupted or disrupted natural selection by inventing vaccines and stuff like that.

"In one of his writings, he talks about that: 'It would be great if there were no vaccines, because people who should have died would have died, and we wouldn't be perpetuating this kind of stuff.'"

—*The Washington Times*, September 24, 1999, p. A2

Q "The corrections page of the *New York Times* has lately been more reliable reading than the front page. First, the *Times* had to retract a sensationalistic report about the North Pole melting. Then it ran a lengthy correction taking back most of what it had reported in a story about how cities were, in reaction to the Boy Scouts' policy on gays, banning the Scouts from parks, schools, and other sites. Not so. Our own Melissa Seckora, writing in *National Review Online*, was the first to blow the journalistic whistle, reporting that the cities cited by the *Times* hadn't banned the Scouts, and also showing that the paper's story was as wrong in its thrust as in its particulars: There is no great public backlash against the Scouts. The organization continues to enjoy high ratings in opinion polls—but there clearly exists a backlash in the newsroom of the *Times*."

—*National Review*, September 25, 2000, p. 8

Q "Throughout a good part of the history of the twentieth century, fascism, however it was understood, was taken to be an unmitigated evil by Western scholarship. "Marxism," in its various guises, was not. Any suggestion that Mussolini's Fascism and "communism," in

whatever form communism manifested itself, might share affinities was repugnant to Western scholarship.

"As a consequence, for a very long time, any 'Western scholars who had the temerity to link Mussolini . . . with Communism in any way . . . risked harassment.' Only with the definitive collapse of Marxist and Marxist-Leninist systems in the 1980s and 1990s were more and more Western academics prepared to tell us, without much equivocation, that 'Bolshevism and [Mussolini's] Fascism were heresies of socialism,' having both arisen out of the revolutionary aspirations of intransigent socialists. Only then were we told that they shared ideas concerning society, revolutionary, and the mass mobilization of persons. That, it has been argued, is attested to by the fact that at the founding of the Fascist movement, and throughout its initial revolutionary phase, the largest number of Mussolini's 'theoreticians' were former communists and intransigent Marxists. In fact, we are not told that much of the ideological inspiration of Fascism came from revolutionary socialists, and that Mussolini, like V.I. Lenin, was a leader of radical Marxists. More than any other socialist before the First World War, Mussolini resembled Lenin."

—A. James Gregor, *The Faces of Janus*, p. 10

Q "At the 55th annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly in New York City on September 5-9, 2000, called the Millennium Assembly and Summit, far-reaching plans are underway to turn the corner from a world of sovereign, independent nation-states to a world of disparate peoples subordinated to the supreme authority of the United Nations. These plans call for the total restructuring of the mission and powers of the United Nations.

"To achieve this goal, the UN is scheduled to consider at least two actions, by consensus rather than by formal vote: adoption of the Earth Charter, a document whose text has evolved through several drafts since the Earth Summit in 1992, and adoption of a Declaration authorizing a new UN commission to implement recommendations to bring about global governance. Global governance means world government by incremental steps, chipping away at national sovereignty one treaty at a time, one world conference at a time, one UN commission at a time.

"A portion of the Millennium Assembly is designated as the Millennium Summit, which President Bill Clinton and 160 heads of state are expected to attend, the largest gathering of heads of state in history. Also meeting at the same time at the New York Hilton will be Mikhail Gorbachev and his State of the World Forum, hoping to help induce heads of state to concur in the Millennium Assembly's historic actions. Gorbachev has been promoting world government ever since his 1992 speech at the Churchill Memorial in Fulton, Missouri, where he called for a 'global structure,' 'a democratically organized world community,' a

‘restructured’ United Nations with ‘armed forces’ and ‘substantial funding,’ and ‘some mechanism tying the UN to the world economy.’

"The Earth Charter’s advocates talk as though it were the ‘Magna Carta’ of a new regime, but it’s not a regime of freedom from arbitrary kings like King John at Runnymede in 1215. It’s a charter to submit Americans to global dictators possessing unprecedented powers.

"The UN Millennium Assembly and Summit and its actions should be a major issue in the current presidential campaign since Al Gore has been an enthusiastic supporter of the Earth Charter during its years of development. Republican leaders have yet to be heard from.

"The Earth Charter demands that we ‘demilitarize national security systems’ (i.e., eliminate our armed services and their weapons). The Charter proclaims that its ‘Way Forward’ requires ‘a change of mind and heart’ as we move toward ‘global interdependence and universal responsibility.’

"The Charter demands that we adopt ‘sustainable development plans and regulations’ (i.e., to subordinate human needs to the global fads enforced by environment dictators), and that the UN ‘manage the use of renewable resources such as water, soil, forest products, and marine life. . . [to] protect the health of ecosystems’ (i.e., not the health of mere humans).

"The Charter demands that we ‘act with restraint and efficiency when using energy’ (i.e., reduce U.S. energy use and lower our standard of living). The Charter requires that we ‘eradicate poverty,’ ‘promote the equitable distribution of wealth within nations and among nations,’ and ‘relieve them of onerous international debt’ (i.e., redistribute U.S. wealth around the world and cancel the debts owed by recipients of U.S. foreign loans).

"The Charter exhorts us to affirm ‘gender equality’ and ‘eliminate discrimination in . . . sexual orientation’ (i.e., adopt the feminist and gay agendas). The Charter demands that we ‘integrate into formal education [i.e., assign a UN nanny to monitor our schools] . . . skills needed for a sustainable way of life [i.e., indoctrination in how we must subordinate sovereignty to the UN dogma of sustainability].’

"The Charter affirms that ‘all beings are interdependent’ (i.e., personal freedom is irrelevant" and ‘every form of life has value regardless of its worth to human beings’ (i.e., animals, plants and insects, but not unborn babies). The Charter demands that we ‘ensure universal [i.e., global] access to health care that fosters reproductive health [i.e., abortion and contraception] and responsible reproduction [i.e., UN-dictated population control].’

"The Earth Charter won’t be a treaty that the U.S. Senate can accept or reject. It will be ‘soft law,’ a policy document like the UN Declaration on Human Rights, which has no legal standing but gives globalists such as Bill Clinton and global environmentalists such as Al



Gore the perch from which they exhort us to ‘fulfill our international obligations’ (even though Americans never accepted such obligations)."

—*The Phyllis Schlafly Report*, September 2000, p 1, 2

Q "I just wanted to write to thank you for having such a profound influence upon my life. I came to summit as a high school student during the summers of 1994 and 1995. I was not really sure what I was supposed to be getting out of those two weeks, but now it has become very real to me. During some of the teaching sessions we talked about abortion and one afternoon I had the opportunity to be part of a group, led by Dr. Noebel, to stand outside of a pro-abortion facility holding a sign that said "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart.' What a turning point in my life! I went from not really caring about abortion, since it didn't affect me, to being completely absorbed in the pro-life cause.

"A year ago I graduated from Baylor University and now I am in the process of opening a crisis pregnancy center in my hometown of Sequin, Texas, which has some of the highest teen pregnancy rates of the state. It has been so amazing to see God move in this town and to bring a community together to start this clinic. I thank you for starting that fire within me to love and fight for these unborn children and their mothers. Perhaps this can be an encouragement to your ministry and to the young people that inhabit your halls during the summer. Thank you again. Holly W. H."

Q "Newsflash to politicians: before the economy, environment, even education, come two-parent families. This was the message from a new Wirthlin poll released last week by the Alliance for Marriage, which touts itself as a ‘non-partisan, multicultural marriage coalition.’ According to the survey findings, 92 percent of Americans believe the country can move forward only if families and family values are strengthened.

"One-third of American children are raised without dads—leading to youth crime, drug abuse, teen pregnancy, and welfare, says director Matt Daniels. Advisory board member Rev. Walter Fauntroy, a former D.C. delegate who organized the March on Washington for Martin Luther King Jr., says behind the youth violence and hostility in the black community are ‘young boys who need their fathers.’

"The group's poll found that 87 percent of Americans want businesses to offer home-based work options and flexible hours, 78 percent support requiring counseling to married couples with children before a divorce is granted, and 76 percent back tax cuts for married couples with children. Fauntroy sums it up: ‘I love my daughter, and when she turns 13, and some

guy says to her, "Baby, I love you," she'll say, "I hear that everyday, what else is on your mind?" ' "

—*The Weekly Standard*, September 11, 2000, p. 5

Q "Designing a sustainable world award given by Global Green USA, the American affiliate of Green Cross International, the global conservation organization founded by former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, this award honored Heroes for the Planet, our regular series on environmental issues. Edited by Charles Alexander, the series will culminate just before Earth Day (April 22) in a *Time* special edition titled 'How to Save the Earth,' with articles by such distinguished conservationists as Edward O. Wilson and Richard Leakey, among others. The 2.8 million subscribers of our (kid) sister magazine *Time For Kids* will receive their own special issue, called 'Kid Heroes for the Planet,' featuring projects initiated by kids to save precious places from environmental hazards."

—*Time Magazine*, March 27, 2000, p. 8

Q "Yale University at New Haven, Conn., will be the site of 'Science and Evidence for Design in the Universe,' a conference hosted by the Rivendell Institute for Christian Thought and co-hosted by the Discovery Institute.

"This conference—which runs from Thursday November 2 through Saturday November 4 and features an impressive lineup of scientists and thinkers—is free to members of the Yale community and costs \$35 for non-Yale registrants.

"Among the speakers: Phillip Johnson, professor emeritus of law at UC Berkeley, addresses 'The Wedge of Truth: How Sharp the Edge?'; William Dembski, of the Polanyi Center at Baylor University, explains 'Why Specified Complexity Requires Intelligence'; and Paul Nelson (Ph.D., University of Chicago) analyzes 'The Logic of Common Descent.'

"Steve Meyer (Ph.D., Cambridge University) examines 'The Methodological Equivalence of Darwinism and Design'; Michael Behe, biologist at Lehigh University, argues that 'Design Critics and Proponents Analyze the Same Data'; and William Lane Craig (Ph.D., University of Birmingham, England; and D. Theol., University of Munich) speaks on 'The Fine-Tuning of the Universe and Cosmic Design.'

"Paul Chien of the University of San Francisco assesses 'The Cambrian Biota: Not What Darwin Expected'; Guillermo Gonzalez of the University of Washington investigates 'The

Correlation Between Habitability and Measurability'; and Martin Poenie of the University of Texas at Austin asks, 'Where Are Studies on the Origin of Life Taking Us?'

"Walter Bradley of Texas A&M addresses 'Thermodynamics and the Origin of Life'; Jonathan Wells (Ph.D., Yale; Ph.D., UC Berkeley) of the Discovery Institute critiques 'The Iconography of Evolution'; and David Derlinski of the Universite de Paris discusses 'Assessing Genetic Algorithms.'

"Any questions regarding registration, travel or accommodations should be directed to Yale University Conference Service at 203-432-0465. Questions about the conference program should be sent to Dr. Greg Ganssle at [geganssle@aol.com](mailto:geganssle@aol.com). Yale Travel Services can also assist with travel needs. Call toll free at 1-800-858-YALE."

—*Human Events*, September 22, 2000, p. 24

Q "Nearly half of the schools participating in Milwaukee's private school-choice program had to return money to the state last year, according to the American Enterprise Institute. Under the program, low-income students are given vouchers to attend private and religious schools. As hard as they tried, the private schools just couldn't spend the \$4,894 they were given to educate each of their school choice children. St. John Kanty School, the lowest-cost school in the choice program, spent \$3,096 to educate each student last year. School administrator Lois Maczuzak explained, 'We don't have to pay for a huge administration and a lot of red tape.' Meanwhile, Milwaukee public school officials are preparing to approve a 2000-01 budget that comes to about \$9,500 per student."

—*Human Events*, September 22, 2000, p. 28

Q "Goddesses are having a bad day. Their Queen Mother, Gloria Steinem, not only is sleeping with the enemy, she has married one. A man, that is.

"At age 66, the big-haired, mini-skirted, erstwhile Playboy Bunny-cum-feminist founder of America's first real women's magazine last weekend exchanged vows and became 'partners' with a twice-married man.

"The woman who gets credit for one of the century's cleverest phrases – 'A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle' – has fallen in love, we can't resist saying *hook, line and sinker*.

"‘Though I’ve worked many years to make marriage more equal,’ Ms. Steinem said in a statement, ‘I never expected to take advantage of it myself. I’m happy, surprised, and one day will write about it, but for now I hope this proves what feminists have always said – that feminism is about the ability to choose what’s right at each time of our lives.’

"Talk about a win-win. Ms. Steinem, the champion of Choice, is merely making another personal selection. The feminists’ golden rule: Choice is always good, so long as it’s a woman’s.

"That’s what I love about feminism. It’s so . . . flexible. You want to fall in love and marry the man of your dreams? It’s a choice. You hate marriage as the institutionalized patriarchal enslavement of women we know it really is. A choice. You want children; you don’t want children. You want men to hold the door; you don’t want a man to come within a flagpole’s shadow. Choice.

"Feminism means. . . whatever.

"In which spirit, reaction to Ms. Steinem’s surrender to the patriarchal trap she historically hates (‘I can’t mate in captivity,’ she once said) has provoked mostly huzzahs and go-girls from the feminist phalange. ‘Whatever makes her happy,’ dominated *Ms. Magazine*’s bulletin board on the Web.

"But a few are ‘shocked’ and ‘disappointed’ that their heroine has caved in. Wasn’t it Ms. Steinem, after all, who in 1987 swore she would never marry, because in marriage a woman becomes a ‘semi-non-person’? Three words, Gloria: Never say never.

"It must be annoying to have your decision to marry scrutinized by outsiders. But when you build a career around eschewing the very institution you later embrace, chit-chat will hit the fan. As the always-demure Camille Paglia put it: ‘Gloria Steinem’s marriage is proof positive of the emotional desperation of aging feminists who for over 30 years worshiped the steely career woman and callously trashed stay-at-home moms.’

"One chat-room visitor, ‘Risotto,’ returned spin with spin. She said Ms. Steinem, by marrying past childbearing age at 66, is still breaking the rules, endorsing marriage for companionship, love and respect, above marriage for procreation and preserving the sexist status quo.

"Translation: If you’re a non-feminist in love, marriage is a form of indentured servitude wherein you must produce male offspring and submit to your male, ahem, ‘superior.’ If you’re a feminist of Ms. Steinem’s stature and fall in love, marriage is a political endorsement of higher principles. Got it.

"One the other hand, it is entirely possible that Ms. Steinem isn’t endorsing or advancing

anything other than her age. Brace yourself for this stunning insight, but it's possible Ms. Steinem has grown up, matured, relaxed her ideology.

"Her own justification is that marriage now is a choice (there's that word again) rather than an expectation, and that marriage today is more equal under the law.

"The latter may be true, though one could argue that equality under the law (no-fault divorce) has brought ruin to more women and children than to men. But marriage as we know it has always been a choice. It only became an expectation because so many people—mostly women—wanted it."

—Kathleen Parker, *The Washington Times*, September, 11, 2000, p. A12.

Q "As she awaits the premiers of her nationally syndicated television show today, radio call-in show personality "Dr Laura" Schlessinger has softened her words, but not changed her stance against homosexuality.

"As a result, homosexual activists have called for a showdown and vow to shut her down by pressuring corporate sponsors not to advertise and by staging widespread protests.

"Demonstrations that started yesterday and continue today are expected in 31 of the cities airing the weekday Paramount Television Group program.

"Mrs. Schlessinger, whose weekday radio show reaches an estimated 18 million listeners, sparked the uproar with her on-air references to homosexuality as 'deviant' and 'a biological error.' She has said repeatedly in interviews she bases her views on 'God's laws' as stated in the Old Testament.

"While she cites Scripture, her opponents are using the latest in communication techniques to drive her off the air, from taking out full-page newspaper ads to posting a Web site.

"John Aravosis, co-founder of [www.stopdrlaura.com](http://www.stopdrlaura.com), says that homosexual activists are also infiltrating her studio audiences.

"'The protests are going to last until the TV show comes off the air and Paramount drops its double standard on prejudice,' Mr. Aravosis said. 'She would never have a show on the air if she had said similar things about blacks or Jews.'

"The controversy has cost the radio show more than two dozen national advertisers since April, according to homosexual rights leaders who distributed a list of companies that

included Proctor & Gamble Co., Geico Corp., Kraft Foods, Xerox Corp., American Express Corp., AT&T, Gateway Inc., and Albertson's Inc.

"Mrs. Schlessinger has said her show has come under attack from 'folks who don't share our beliefs about what's right for children and the family.'"

—*The Washington Times*, September 11, 2000, p. 1

Q "Al Gore has challenged his presidential rival by announcing that the 'time for generalities without specifics. . . is just about over. It's time to put up or shut up,' he said.

"So let's fling down the gauntlet on education – the number one campaign issue, by all accounts. Dispense with the sound-bites about school choice, national standards, safe schools and investing in the future. Here's an opportunity for our education candidates to test their knowledge on the top education issues that real people are talking about, posed here as Q and A's (grading scale follows):

1. Why are school tests (including those from previous years) held tighter than the Pentagon Papers (i.e., exempted from the Freedom of Information Act) so that parents are refused access even after-the-fact?

2. What is it called when school tests and surveys ask children what magazines are in their homes, whether parents have a dishwasher, and the family's favorite vacation spots?

3. What is 'predictive computer technology,' and how is it useful to experts in determining a student's future employability under School-to-Work legislation?

4. What is the primary focus of college course work for prospective educators, including curriculum and testing specialists?

5. Describe a process called 'thought disruption' and explain how it affects learning.

6. What is 'cognitive dissonance,' and how does it compromise parent-school cooperation?

7. How have terms like 'remedial' and 'handicap' been redefined so that parents erroneously believe their child will get special help?

8. How 'individualized' is an IEP (Individual Education Plan), and what rights do parents have once they sign it?

9. What legal loophole permits the federal government to become involved in state and local curriculum?

10. What is a psychological 'marker' (used in behavioral screening devices), and why is strong religious belief considered a marker for mental illness?

11. What do education experts consider the primary purpose of education?

"Below are the answers to all of the above. They may well surprise readers of *The Washington Times*:

1. The rationale is that the validity of all tests and surveys will be compromised if a layperson sees any of them.

2. Psychographics: the study of social class based on the demographics of income, race, religion and personality traits.

3. By combining responses pupils provide via self-reports and situation-based questionnaires with psychographic data, statisticians can predict how a child will likely react to events in future years. This capability can be turned into a political litmus test by college and job recruiters.

4. Behavioral psychology.

5. Thought disruption, a technique launched in 1940s Germany, means interrupting the train of thought so that logic cannot proceed. The continual interruptions built into the school day impede a child's ability to concentrate.

6. "Cognitive dissonance" means an unresolvable conflict resulting from attempts to reconcile two opposing "truths" simultaneously. When educators discredit parental teachings, youngsters cannot choose between two opposing authorities.

7. These are buzz-terms for ware-housing kids deemed 'uneducable' by the system. Teacher training deals with emotions, not learning methodology.

8. Signing an IEP gives the school control over future education-related decisions and provides virtually no individualized help.

9. Compelling state interest.

10. Markers are risk factors. Firm religious belief has been linked to dogmatic, authoritarian,

and delusional personality.

11. To change the students fixed beliefs."

—B.K. Eakman, *The Washington Times*, September, 20, 2000, p. A19