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For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures.

—I Corinthians 15:3 (NKJV)

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

A number of years ago one of my favorite writers (Harold O. J. Brown) wrote an article entitled “Religious Self-Destruction.” He began by stating “Although some Christians of fundamentalist Protestant or ultra-montane Catholic persuasion display a kind of pious smugness, there are others who seem constantly to be embarrassed by the very fact that they exist, sometimes going to the extent of self-flagellation. Anti-Catholic ex-priests are a thorn in the side of Roman Catholicism; scholars from a fundamentalistic, evangelical, or pietistic Christian background, such as Rudolf Bultmann and John A. T. Robinson, are an embarrassment to conservative Protestantism. Jewish people have the luxury of looking on such wayward Gentiles with benign indifference, but they too have not been spared the attacks of religiously and racially anti-Jewish Jews.”

Well, evangelical Protestants have another name to add to their list and every Summit student attending one of our Secular Humanist/Marxist schools of “higher” education needs to pay attention to him. His name is Bart D. Ehrman and his vocation is teaching religion at the University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill), while his avocation is destroying the faith of evangelical Christians.

And he knows evangelical Christians very well, having attended Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College (B.A., 1978). In fact, his PhD from Princeton Theological Seminary involved studying under another one of my favorite scholars (Bruce M. Metzger), which makes this whole episode even more embarrassing. Metzger was a Greek scholar as well as a New and Old Testament scholar.

Ehrman says he fell off the evangelical wagon trying to reconcile the problem of evil and suffering with a God of love and compassion. Personally, I never had that struggle once I realized: (a) that God could never be the author of sin and moral evil, and (b) the human race, blessed/cursed with a free will, can more than explain the sin and moral evil of the world.

Anyway, that’s another discussion for another day. This month let’s turn our attention to Jerry Newcombe’s (Coral Ridge Hour) analysis of Ehrman’s further plunge off a cliff of his own making. For those who wish further material on this subject, I would direct you to a chapter-by-chapter analysis of Ehrman’s book by Ben Witherington (Asbury Theological Seminary) entitled “Forged—Bart Ehrman’s New Salvo.” It may be read online at: www.patheos.com/community/bibleandculture/2011/03/30/forged-bart-ehrmans-new-salvo-the-introduction.

Here’s Mr. Newcombe’s take on Dr. Ehrman’s latest betrayal of the Gospel in particular and Christian young people in particular. His article is titled “Is the New Testament Forged?”:

A new book by a major New Testament scholar is sure to make mincemeat of many people’s faith. Needlessly.

The scholar is the iconoclastic Dr. Bart Ehrman, who teaches religion at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

The book is called *Forged: Why the Bible’s Authors Are Not Who We Think They Are*. Ehrman said on a radio broadcast that about 75% of the New Testament documents are supposedly forged. They’re frauds.

Dr. Sam Lamerson is a conservative New Testament scholar who teaches at Knox Seminary in Ft. Lauderdale. (By the way of full disclosure, I earned a theology degree there). He heard Ehrman on a radio broadcast say words to this effect: “I want to be the scholar that uses the F-word about the Bible. I want people to know that these books were forged.”

“Forged” is a strong word. Several of the New Testament books claim no authorship at all. Church tradition has attributed them to various writers, but the biblical text itself does not claim authorship for these particular books. For instance, none of the four Gospels (of which tradition names the writers as Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) actually have the names of the authors at the beginning of their documents.

But if a document is anonymous, how could it be a forgery?

Dr. Mike Licona, a rising star in New Testament scholarship, has been reading an advanced copy of *Forged*. He told me that the most prolific biographer of antiquity is widely held to be Plutarch (as in *Plutarch’s Lives*), yet of all the 50 or so existing manuscripts we have of Plutarch, none of them are signed.

Were they forgeries? By Ehrman’s definition, it would seem so. But no serious scholar holds that view.

Dr. Licona, who has debated Ehrman twice, told me, “What we’re seeing from Ehrman [in *Forged*] is not new information. It may be new to many readers who aren’t used to looking at the academic stuff, but it’s not at all new.”

Ehrman goes on to assert that many New Testament books that do claim authorship within the text, such as Ephesians, Colossians, and the letters of Peter and James, are not written by the claimed authors. It should be noted that this is not based on manuscript evidence. It’s based largely on the style of the text, and there are many conservative scholars who are not convinced by these arguments. Thus, Ehrman is stating liberal opinion as fact.

Ironically, Ehrman even states in his own book, “Virtually all of the problems with what I’ve been calling forgeries can be solved if secretaries were heavily involved in the compositions of the early Christian writings.” [p. 134]

But that’s exactly what happened.

Conservative scholars note that many of Paul’s writings begin with his name...and that of a co-author, such as Timothy, Silas, or Sosthenes.

Dr. Lamerson, who interestingly worked his way through seminary by doing magic tricks, knows sleight of hand when he sees it (or in this case, hears it). He said, “Of course, being forged is very different from having a secretary or having someone help you with the text or not knowing who wrote the text because their name simply isn’t included.”

Ehrman likes to tout that he’s a former evangelical, who went to Moody Bible Institute and Wheaton College. Ehrman then went on to Princeton Seminary where he began to have some doubts about his faith. His faith finally shattered when he was teaching at Rutgers University. Now he’s an agnostic.



So why are Bart Ehrman and other liberal scholars even concerning themselves with this stuff if they don't believe it?

Amazingly, Jesus made a warning that fits here (if the Gospel of Matthew is to be believed—and, no, it wasn't forged; it just isn't signed). He admonished those who “shut the kingdom of heaven in men's faces.” He said, “You yourselves won't go in, but you prevent others from going in.”

I'm concerned that many people will hear Bart Ehrman and think that he speaks for all the scholars. He does not.

Many people might miss the Gospel because they take Ehrman's word as Gospel. It is not.

It is liberal opinion repackaged well for a mass audience.

For anyone needing a scholarly rebuttal to Bart Ehrman's 2011 book, feel free to read Terry L. Wilder's excellent article called “Pseudonymity and the New Testament,” which appears in a 2001 book, *Interpreting the New Testament: Essays on Methods and Issues*. (Indeed, his arguments aren't new.)

Dr. Paul Maier, a professor of ancient history at Western Michigan University and a first rate scholar of the New Testament and its history, told me, “Both [Ehrman] and his publisher [HarperOne] are guilty of cheap sensationalism with little or no regard for the truth.”

Ehrman's book went on sale today (March 22, 2011). Just in time for Easter, he, his publisher, and the lackeys in the media who go for all the anti-faith iconoclasm get another chance to try and cash in. What a friend we have in Jesus.

—Jerry Newcombe is the senior producer and host of The Coral Ridge Hour. He has also written or co-written 21 books, including *The Book That Made America: How the Bible Formed Our Nation*. Jerry co-wrote (with Dr. Peter Lillback) the bestselling, *George Washington's Sacred Fire*. He hosts the website www.jerrynewcombe.com.

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—David A. Noebel

BIBLICAL CHRISTIANITY

Moreover, brethren, I declare to you the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received and in which you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast that word which I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.

For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He rose again the

third day according to the Scriptures, and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve. After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep. After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles. Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time.

For I am the least of the apostles, who am not worthy to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. Therefore, whether it was I or they, so we preach and so you believed.

—Paul, The Apostle, I Corinthians 15:1–11 (NKJV)

When you have realized that our position is nearly desperate you will begin to understand what the Christians are talking about. They offer an explanation of how we got into our present state of both hating goodness and loving it. They offer an explanation of how God can be this impersonal mind at the back of the Moral Law and yet also a Person. They tell you how the demands of the law, which you and I cannot meet, have been met on our behalf, how God Himself becomes a man to save man from the disapproval of God.

—C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

Why in God's name do you expect to be accepted everywhere? How is it that the world couldn't get on with the holiest Man that ever lived and it can get on with you and me? Are we compromised? Have we no spiritual stature? Have we no righteousness that reflects on their corruption?

—Leonard Ravenhill

The national assault on Judeo-Christian morality mirrors what is going on in communities all over the country.

For example, the usual suspects at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) are intent on tearing down a banner in a Rhode Island high school that encourages good behavior.

Here's the text of the banner, which has hung in Cranston High School West's auditorium since 1963:

Our Heavenly Father,

Grant us each day the desire to do our best,

To grow mentally and morally as well as physically,

To be kind and helpful to our classmates and teachers,

To be honest with ourselves as well as with others,

Help us to be good sports and smile when we lose as

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well as when we win,

Teach us the value of true friendship,

Help us always to conduct ourselves so as to bring credit to Cranston High School West.

Amen

The ACLU and a single complainant are frothing at the mouth because of the references to “Our Heavenly Father” and “Amen.”

Those words make Rhode Island’s ACLU lawyers shudder like hobbits exposed to the black language of Mordor. Fortunately, school officials have told the ACLU to take a hike. The usual threat of ruinously expensive lawsuits appears to have failed—for now.

From the halls of Congress to high schools in Rhode Island, the culture war has not slowed a bit despite lack of coverage in major news media.

At bottom, the culture war is really about whether America will remain a God-fearing nation—and a nation with respect for the rule of law. Despite promises by the left that we can have respect for the law without respect for God, history is replete with contrary evidence.

Let’s hope and pray that the courage and clarity exhibited by school officials in Cranston, RI, filters up to the national level.

—Robert Knight, *The Washington Times*, Mar 28, 2011

ISLAM

The House Committee on Homeland Security, chaired by Rep. Peter King (R., NY), opened hearings on the radicalization of American Muslims. Melvin Bledsoe, a Memphis businessman, told how his son Carlos converted to radical Islam in college, traveled to Yemen, then killed a soldier at a recruiting station in Arkansas. Extremism, he said, “is a big elephant in the room, but our society continues not to see it.” Abdirizak Bihi, a Somali immigrant from Minnesota, described his nephew Burhan Hassan’s joining an Islamic militia in Somalia. American Muslim clerics threatened Bihi with “eternal fire and hell” if he went to authorities. The press mentioned them, but showcased Rep. Keith Ellison (D., MN), who wept over the “smear[ing]” of Mohammed Salman Hamdani, a former NYPD cadet killed on 9/11 while helping rescuers. In mid-October the FBI and the NYPD, wrongly believing that Hamdani was still alive, briefly investigated him, and New York papers reported on it. Two weeks later he was singled out for praise in the Patriot Act. So that is the smear that Ellison believes should derail investigations into Carlos Bledsoe, Burhan Hassan, and others who continue to be tempted into becoming America’s enemies. Carry on, Representative King.

—*National Review*, Apr 4, 2011, p. 4

EDITOR’S NOTE For an in depth look at the Muslim infiltration into our own Pentagon, carefully read *Muslim*

Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That’s Conspiring to Islamize America by David Gaubatz and Paul Sperry. The Muslim Brotherhood reaches into the biggest offices in the U.S.

The left seeks to overthrow whatever it sees as dominant, successful, happy, and our own, and to raise up whatever it sees as marginal, oppressed, miserable, and alien. White Western Christian democratic society is dominant, successful, and our own, therefore it must be toppled, and the left will reflexively side with anything that threatens to topple it.

Didn’t David Horowitz write a book called *Destructive Generation*, about the left? What part of the word “destructive” do Horowitz and other conservatives not get? The left seeks to destroy our civilization. *Ultimately there is no positive good at which the left aims*, including the left’s own supposed goods of equality and freedom for all. Therefore it should not be surprising that leftists welcome, or refuse to oppose, the entry into the West of a force [Islam] that will destroy not only the mainstream, “oppressive” Western culture, but the leftist aspects of modern Western society as well, including feminism and homosexual rights. In its heart of hearts, the left doesn’t believe in feminism and homosexual rights. It believes in the destruction of the West. Feminism and homosexual rights are the means by which they have sought to bring about that destruction. And since the destruction promised by Islam will be even greater than the destruction brought by feminism and homosexual rights, when push comes to shove the left will choose Islamization over feminism and homosexual rights. Even Bruce Bauer, a rare anti-Islamization homosexual, is so hostile to Christianity and conservatism that I think in the end he will side with Islamization against anything that smacks of Western traditionalism.

—Lawrence Auster, *View from the Right*, Mar 27, 2011

Violence in the name of Islam is well-attested in nations in which Muslims are dominant, and it is non-Muslim minorities that suffer the exclusion. It does not do to argue that religion has no relevance to such events.

In Muslim-majority Pakistan on December 3, Pakistani imam Maulana Yousuf Qureshi, in his Friday sermon, offered a \$6000 bounty to anyone who would murder Asia Bibi, a Christian woman who has also been accused of “blaspheming Allah.” Pakistani minister for minorities Shahbaz Bhatti and Punjab governor Salmaan Taseer were subsequently assassinated because of their opposition to Pakistan’s blasphemy laws.

These laws are supported by Pakistan’s Islamic elites. The killer of Salmaan Taseer, Mumtaz Qadri, was praised by religious leaders from mainstream schools of Pakistani Is-

lam, and when he was being led to court on January 6, 400 Muslim lawyers showered him with rose petals, offering him their legal services free of charge.

There has also been a rush of recent assaults on Copts and their places of worship in Egypt, sparked by a wild tirade by a leading Egyptian cleric.

Closer to Australia, there have been well-publicized attacks on Ahmadiyah Muslims in Indonesia, including brutal murders. These were undoubtedly influenced by a theological belief that Ahmadiyah adherents are apostates from true Islam. Although prominent Indonesian leaders were quick to express abhorrence for the attacks, many Indonesian Muslims have called for Ahmadiyahs to be outlawed.

These events demonstrate the ugly effects of stigmatizing minorities, and it would be deplorable to simply-mindedly extrapolate the religious views of Pakistani, Egyptian, or Indonesian Muslims and apply them to Australia.

However, it is irrational to insist that any and everyone who seeks to expose the religious roots of such hatred must themselves be decried as haters.

—Mark Durie, *The Age*, Mar 24, 2011

Pakistan's blasphemy law decrees the death sentence for insulting Islam. So vague a charge can be made to cover almost anything, and it plays perfectly into the hands of fanatics as they set about making Pakistan their Muslim caliphate. The government has not actually executed anyone for blasphemy, but scores of Christians and Ahmadi Muslims, considered heretics by the majority Sunnis, are in detention facing trial under the law. In January, Salmaan Taseer, the governor of Punjab, was shot dead for campaigning against the blasphemy law, and the second high-profile victim of this same cause of reform is Shahbaz Bhatti, minister for minority affairs, a Catholic and the one and only Christian in the cabinet. In a video, he took the position that death threats from Muslims would not deter him and he was ready to die to defend the rights of Christians and other minorities. This came sadly true. As he was on his way to a cabinet meeting, gunmen fired on his car, dragged him out, and pumped at least eight bullets into him. Escaping, they left leaflets saying they were acting for the local Taliban and al-Qaeda because the government had appointed an "infidel Christian" to an important position. Asif Ali Zardari, the nominally secular Pakistani president, has dropped moves to reform the blasphemy law. Not everyone has Shahbaz Bhatti's fortitude.

—*National Review*, April 4, 2011, p. 11

SOCIOLOGY

In another blow to the "gay marriage is inevitable" narrative, legislation recognizing same-sex marriage has failed in Maryland. All signals had pointed to a different end: The bill had passed the state senate and Democratic governor Martin O'Malley had promised to sign it. But in the house,

where there are 98 Democrats and 43 Republicans, the bill could not muster the 71 votes required for passage and was sent back to committee, an action that effectively killed it for this year. What changed was an outpouring of opposition, most notably from black church members. The wave of the future isn't hitting Maryland's shore.

—*National Review*, Apr 4, 2011, p. 6

Owen and Eunice Johns are a couple in their early sixties living in Derby, England. They have four children and six grandchildren of their own, and since their nest emptied they have been foster parents to 15 other children. Social workers have praised them as "kind and hospitable people" who "respond sensitively to youngsters." But when the Johnses recently applied to foster more children, the municipal authorities turned them down. The Johnses appealed to Britain's highest court, but they lost there too. The High Court judges ruled that Biblical Christian beliefs may be "inimical" to children—the Johnses, Pentecostalist Christians, consider homosexual activity sinful—and they upheld a submission by Britain's sinister Equality and Human Rights Commission that children risk being "infected" by Christian moral beliefs. Mrs. Johns said, "All we were not willing to do was to tell a small child that the practice of homosexuality was a good thing." Said Mr. Johns: "We wanted to offer love and stability and security to a vulnerable child. Eight-year-olds we have looked after want to play, not talk about their sexuality." In that respect they are quite unlike the people who serve on human-rights commissions.

—*National Review*, Apr 4, 2011, p. 12

When the presidential candidates get to New Hampshire, they'll also be facing the battle to redefine marriage. And, once again, homosexual activists have only themselves to blame for advocating the state Legislature to narrowly pass same-sex marriage in 2009.

At the first opportunity—and with a strong assist from New Hampshire-based Cornerstone Action, as well as CitizenLink and the National Organization for Marriage—Granite State voters threw out offending legislators in dramatic fashion. As a result, it's now possible that marriage advocates could repeal same-sex marriage with a two-thirds majority in both houses of the Legislature, enough to override an expected veto from Gov. John Lynch.

While marriage advocates were pushing for a repeal vote this year, legislative leaders chose to delay it for reasons completely unrelated to presidential politics. Consequently, the vote to repeal will likely occur in January, which happens to be just one month before the New Hampshire pres-

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idential primary.

For Kevin Smith, president of Cornerstone Action, that represents an opportunity to turn lemons into lemonade. “With the Republican leaders choosing to delay the vote... I’m going to turn it into a national issue and get the candidates to sign a pledge saying whether or not they will support traditional marriage,” Smith told *Citizen*. “(The timing) wasn’t by design ... but if the opportunity presents itself—which it looks like it’s going to—then we’ll certainly make it an issue.”

—John Paulton, *Citizen* magazine, Apr 2011, p. 7

The marriage debate has moved beyond Iowa and New Hampshire. Several states continue to wrangle with the issue, including efforts to pass marriage amendments in key swing states like Indiana, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania.

But the real wild card—which will have dramatic national implications—is likely to be one of a few percolating court cases on marriage, specifically the challenge to California’s Proposition 8 marriage amendment passed by voters in 2008 and the challenge to the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA). The Obama administration announced on Feb 23 that it would not defend DOMA. This obviously could impact the entire nation.

Tom Minnery, senior vice president for government and public policy at CitizenLink, said if the government is allowed to choose not to defend its own laws, the US would face legal chaos.

“The Obama administration has been bold in its open aversion to this law, demonstrated by its previous poor defense of DOMA and dismantling of DOMA in administrative policy,” he said. “If the administration can pick and choose what laws it defends, which law is next?”

“Voters in 31 states have voted to defend marriage, and Americans ought to be able to count on their president to do the same.” An additional 12 states have laws protecting marriage.

At the moment, the Prop. 8 case appears to be on track to get to the U.S. Supreme Court in time for a ruling in the summer of 2012—just ahead of the fall elections. There’s no word yet on the timing of the DOMA challenge.

The specter of the high court dealing with marriage during a presidential election year could even force President Obama off of the rhetorical fence he now occupies—saying he believes marriage is between a man and a woman, while opposing all efforts to keep it so.

Many homosexual activists, who have grown impatient with the president’s position, hope that will happen. “On the

Democratic side,” writes one gay-identified blogger, “Obama needs to fully evolve on his support for marriage equality (or evolve back to his 1996 pro-marriage position).”

While the future of the Prop. 8 and DOMA cases are uncertain, there’s no doubt about the potency of the marriage issue in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Hurley is already seeing signs that the marriage battle is shaping the presidential race. He recently hosted GOP presidential hopeful Tim Pawlenty for several events in Iowa. The former Minnesota governor talked about marriage at every stop, says Hurley.

In the more socially liberal environs of New Hampshire, the presidential candidates have mostly been quiet on marriage so far. But Smith is not deterred. “We’ll make sure we make them talk about it as it gets closer to the primary,” he says.

If that ruffles feathers within the homosexual lobby and has them crying “conspiracy,” so be it, Smith says. “The states they targeted happened to be early primary states, so they kind of brought it upon themselves.”

—John Paulton, *Citizen* magazine, Apr 2011, p. 9

ABORTION

In mid-January, news broke of the arrest of Philadelphia abortionist Kermit Gosnell and nine of his employees on eight counts of murder and other charges. According to the Philadelphia district attorney’s office and detailed in a horrific 261-page grand jury report, Gosnell delivered at least seven babies alive and then killed them with scissors. He also was charged in connection with the death of an immigrant from Nepal who survived a 20-year detainment in a refugee clinic only to die in Philadelphia when she was overmedicated during an abortion.

It was a “House of Horrors,” prosecutors told the Associated Press, which reported that “Gosnell kept baby body parts on the shelves, allowed a 15-year-old high school student to perform intravenous anesthesia on patients, and had his licensed cosmetologist wife do late-term abortions.”

—Kristi Hamrick, *Citizen* Magazine, Apr 2011, p. 14–15

ETHICS

“You and the people that support the dictator have to die.” Who got that e-mail? Some chum of Qaddafi? No—the 18 Republicans in the Wisconsin state senate who supported Gov. Scott Walker (“the dictator”) in his fight to rein in public-union power. State officials say they are questioning a suspect, but there’s more. Two Republicans, state senator Randy Hopper and state representative Jeremy Thiesfeldt, were advised not to march in a St. Patrick’s Day Parade in Fond du Lac because of threats. State representative Michelle Litjens was threatened to her face when a goon shouted “You’re f***ing dead!” at her on the floor of the assembly. The goon was Democratic state representative Gordon Hintz, who non-

apologized when, as he put it, he realized his threat “may have been taken personally by someone.” Call Bill Clinton at the National Institute for Civil Discourse.

—*National Review*, Apr 4, 2011, p. 6

I have been silent the past few weeks as I watched the events unfold in Wisconsin. I have watched as elected officials attempt to do what they have been elected to do, and I have watched some elected officials abrogate their responsibility by leaving the state while the peoples business they were elected to do was being done without their cooperation. As I watched, I have been amazed by the way the MSM [Main Stream Media] is treating the American public. It's almost as if we live in Bizarro world where things we see happening are almost too unreal to believe. We have union thugs from across the country rampaging out of control as they trash what was once a very beautiful Capital building. We have a President who refuses to tell those doing the damage to stop. Instead he himself warns the lawmakers of Wisconsin that they are the ones out of control. In the wake of the Gifford shooting in Arizona, where Obama told the country we need to practice civility, he refuses to tell his henchmen to do the same. Then in the midst of it all we find out that people are sending death threats to the lawmakers who stayed in the state to do what the people elected them to do.

Unfortunately, if you get your news from ABC, CBS, MSNBC, NBC and NPR, NY Times, and other mainstream media (MSM) outlets, you would never know about the death threats, or about the way these thugs left the capital of Wisconsin in a mess. Obama needs to quit telling the duly elected officials in Wisconsin what to do, and start telling the unions, who overwhelmingly donate to him and the Democrats to step back and allow the peoples business to get done. Remember when he told Republicans to shut up because they lost? Well now he needs to tell his supporters the same thing. They lost and those who won are doing what they were elected to do.

So what about those death threats that Obama and the MSM is silent about? Well if you watch FOX News you would know about them. You could even watch an O'Reilly video as he tells you about the death threats the Republican lawmakers received last week. Imagine if those threats were targeted at the CA state legislature that refuses to cut taxes on the overburdened businesses and citizens of the state? Remember the way the MSM repeated the accusation that a Tea Party member yelled a racist epitaph at the Black Democrats last year? With no proof it ever happened, and even though they were ever present with video, we heard the lie repeated by the them ad nauseam. Yet here we have evidence of the left doing what they accuse the right of doing and the MSM refuses to report it, and Obama is silent on the matter.

—NorCal Blogs, Mar 27, 2011

ECONOMICS

We are currently in the midst of a battle for the heart and soul of America. This war is being waged at our schools, the workplace, and in our communities. States struggling to moderate impossible debt and balance budgets are examining ways to free themselves from the fiscal and political shackles imposed by labor unions whose exorbitant pensions and benefits comprise the bulk of their debt. With the economy tanking and the fight over public union benefits and collective bargaining spreading across the United States, a totalitarian minority recognizes this as their make-or-break moment—their time to seize control of the social and economic environment by force rather than individual choice.

Hiding behind the labels of progressive, labor, and social justice, this totalitarian minority is intrinsically linked with Communist, Socialist, and Marxist ideologies. Their goal is to dismantle the foundations of our government and force the revolutionary transformation of America into their worldview. The Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), whose membership parallels the Congressional Progressive Caucus roster, describe their objective, “To achieve a more just society, many structures of our government and economy must be radically transformed through greater economic and social democracy.” [Sound familiar?]

To accomplish their goal Socialists infiltrated leftist organizations to the highest levels of leadership. The US labor movement has a strong history of Socialist leadership but in recent decades members of the DSA gained control of the largest US labor unions, AFSCME, SEIU, and the AFL-CIO, creating a resurgence of militant communist/socialist views among their ranks. AFL-CIO Chief Richard Trumka recently admitted his main goal is using unions to fundamentally change America into his progressive vision.

The enemy is within and poised to destroy America. While speaking this past weekend in a closed session at the 2011 Left Forum, an annual gathering of Marxists and hard-left radicals that included Barbara Ehrenreich, Cornel West, and Frances Fox Piven, former SEIU banking and finance director Stephen Lerner detailed the Left's secret plan to “destabilize” the country.

—Liz Blaine, NewsReal Blog, Mar 27, 2011

In the history of America, Socialists have never been as close to controlling the “commanding heights” as they've attained in the last two years. And they are not going to accept a peaceful reduction of their power or meekly submit to the rule of law and the will of the people. In the aftermath of the showdown in Wisconsin the Left is building a resurgence of

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militant activism to recreate their days of rage on a national scale. Issuing the call to “escalate protests” modeled on the Wisconsin demonstrations are none other than Marxists Frances Fox Piven and Cornel West, attending strategists to the Left Forum.

Piven, whose decades of writings outline a strategy for radical revolution, is a strong advocate for the dismantling of capitalism and the transformation of America’s constitutional republic into a socialist state. Promoting social and economic change through the exploitation of misfortune and national crisis, she champions the use of violence and Labor as the means to achieving the idea of socialist revolutionary transformation.

“For a century and a half progressives, socialists, and social democrats have relied on labor power—the idea of labor, the reality of labor—as really the pragmatic aspect of their theory. It was labor power that would create the force to realize both the social democratic agenda of governmental reforms and the socialist agenda of revolutionary transformation.”

In the December 2010 issue of *The Nation*, Piven openly called for the violent revolution in America she now orchestrates.

“So where are the angry crowds, the demonstrations, sit-ins, and unruly mobs?...

“Local protests have to accumulate and spread—and become more disruptive—to create serious pressures on national politicians. An effective movement of the unemployed will have to look something like the strikes and riots that have spread across Greece in response to the austerity measures forced on the Greek government by the European Union, or like the student protests that recently spread with lightning speed across England in response to the prospect of greatly increased school fees. We should hope for another American social movement from the bottom—and then join it.”

West, a militant activist and proponent of black liberation theology, sees the American dream as a menace to actual American democracy” and believes, “Marxist thought is an indispensable tradition for freedom fighters.” A frequent Featured Speaker at Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDS) conferences, West also appeared this past weekend at the 2011 YDS conference entitled “Their Crisis, Our Pain: The Democratic Socialist Response to the Great Recession.” This year’s topics echo the activist agenda being promoted widely by the Left to trigger the collapse of American capitalism.

—Liz Blaine, NewsReal Blog, Mar 23, 2011

MIDDLE EAST

Ruth and Ehud Fogel lived at Itamar, a settlement of 800 Israelis near the Arab town of Nablus on the West Bank, and one supposedly to be incorporated by agreement one day into Israel. In the middle of the night, one or more [Muslim]

Palestinians broke through the security fence and entered the Fogel home. The parents were then stabbed to death, and three of their children had their throats slit—the youngest a baby girl of three months. Palestinian activists are not sure whether these murders make them look good or bad. A cell of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade claimed responsibility, while Mahmoud Abbas, the president of the Palestinian Authority, called the killings “inhuman and immoral.” The rival movement of Hamas celebrated by handing out candy in Gaza. Several news outlets used the euphemism of “intruders” to describe the terrorists, or put “terrorist attack” in quotation marks, as though doubtful about the notion. The government immediately decided to build more homes on the West Bank. Such is Israeli outrage over these murders and the world’s indifference.

—*National Review*, Apr 4, 2011, p. 11

Erick Stakelbeck, CBN News Terrorism Analyst is reporting that new evidence has emerged that the Iranian government sees the current unrest in the Middle East as a signal that the Mahdi—or Islamic messiah—is about to appear.

CBN News has obtained a never-before-seen video produced by the Iranian regime that says all the signs are moving into place—and that Iran will soon help usher in the end times.

While the revolutionary movements gripping the Middle East have created uncertainty throughout the region, the video shows that the Iranian regime believes the chaos is divine proof that their ultimate victory is at hand.

According to Stakelbeck, the propaganda footage has reportedly been approved at the highest levels of the Iranian government.

It’s called “The Coming is Near” and it describes current events in the Middle East as a prelude to the arrival of the mythical twelfth Imam or Mahdi—the messiah figure who Islamic scriptures say will lead the armies of Islam to victory over all non-Muslims in the last days.

“This video has been produced by a group called the Conductors of the Coming, in connection with the Basiji—the Iranian paramilitary force, and in collaboration with the Iranian president’s office,” said Reza Kahlili, a former member of Iran’s Revolutionary Guards who shared the video with CBN News.

Kahlili, author of the book, “A Time to Betray,” worked as a double agent for the CIA inside the Iranian regime.

“Just a few weeks ago, Ahmadenijad’s office screened this movie with much excitement for the clerics,” Kahlili told CBN News. “The target audience is Muslims in the Middle East and around the world.”

The video claims that Iran is destined to rise as a great power in the last days to help defeat America and Israel and

A LOOK AT OUR WORLD

usher in the return of the Mahdi. And it makes clear the Iranians believe that time is fast approaching.

“The Hadith have clearly described the events and the various transformations of countries in the Middle East and also that of Iran in the age of the coming,” said a narrator, who went on to say that America’s invasion of Iraq was foretold by Islamic scripture—and that the Mahdi will one day soon rule the world from Iraq.

—Dan Wooding, Assist News Service (ANS),
Mar 28, 2011

HOMOSEXUAL ACTIVISM

Dutch Gay and lesbian soldiers, sailors, air force crew and other defence personnel who want to take part in this year’s Amsterdam Gay Pride event have been given permission to wear their uniforms on the parade through the city’s canals.

The ministry of defence says it’s backing ‘out in the open’ military participation during the week-long event. The homosexual representatives of the armed forces will have their own special boat in the famous Canal Parade, traditionally held on the afternoon of the first Saturday in August.

The boat is being organised by the Dutch Homosexuality and Armed Forces foundation, which represents gay military personnel. The organisation had asked the defence department to back its plan. In response, a ministry spokesperson said, “The military personnel will be taking part in their normal uniform <...> We have given permission.”

The Gay Pride organisers describe the move as “a massive sign to gays and lesbians in the armed forces that they can be themselves.” The ministry itself says the wearing of uniform “makes it clear which club you belong to. That raises your profile.”

The Amsterdam Canal Parade features dozens of decorated boats which tour some of the city’s famous canals, filled—often to capacity—with a ‘rainbow’ array of homosexual, bisexuals, and transgender participants plus their heterosexual friends. The event attracts tens of thousands of canal-side spectators. The parade is now reported to be the second most popular public event of the year in the Dutch capital.

In 2008, the then defence minister—from the small, strictly Christian Union party—refused to allow members of the military to take part in the event in uniform. In 2009, under a different minister, consent was given for them to do so as private individuals, but the minister—also from a faith-based party, the larger and more liberal Christian Democratic Alliance (CDA)—said he did not feel the Gay Pride event contributed to creating a positive image of people with a ‘different’ sexual orientation. The current minister of defence, Hans Hillen, is also a member of the CDA, but appears to have taken a different stance to that of those who held his job before him.

Amsterdam Pride week begins just days before the Canal

Parade, and includes cultural and sporting events, street parties and workshops and—on the city’s Homo Monument—an event known as the Drag Queen Olympics.

—Jan Dutchy, democraticunderground.com, Mar 22, 2011

American combat troops will get sensitivity training directly on the battlefield about the military’s new policy on gays instead of waiting until they return to home base in the United States, the senior enlisted man in Afghanistan said Thursday.

The Pentagon is launching an extensive force-wide program to ease the process of integrating open homosexuals into the ranks, including into close-knit fighting units.

Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, the top enlisted man in Afghanistan where 100,000 US troops are deployed, said that the sessions on respecting gays’ rights will go right down to the forward operating bases, where troops fight Taliban militants. ...No unit is exempted, he said.

“Our goal is to not allow a unit to return to home station and have the unit responsible for that,” he said. “While we own those soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines, we’re going to execute that training on the ground. We hope that it will have little impact on their combat and security operations here.”

Elaine Donnelly, who heads the Center for Military Readiness, said it is “ridiculous” to train combat Army soldiers and Marines as they are engaged in daily combat with tenacious insurgents.

“It’s absurd because the military has more important things to think about in that dangerous part of the world,” she said. “For the administration to say this is more important than even with the troops we’re trying to train in that part of the world, I think it shows flawed priorities at best. It is ridiculous.”

The training is broken down into three tiers. The first tier is for specialists like chaplains, lawyers, and investigators. The second is for commanders in the field. The third is for the force at large, 2.2 million active and reserve troops.

—Rowan Scarborough, *The Washington Times*,
Feb 25, 2011

GEORGE SOROS

While the liberal and mainstream media get in a tizzy about who they deem as conspiratorial figures on the right such as Rupert Murdoch, Roger Ailes, and, most recently, the Koch Brothers, they often ignore a more shadowy figure who seems to have his tentacles in nearly every progressive organization and cause that seeks to undermine the American way of life.

Indeed, George Soros has given millions of dollars to leftist causes, including Moveon.org, which ran an ad that

mockingly referred to General David Petraeus as “General Betray Us,” National Public Radio, which in recent years ran programming mocking the Tea Party movement and made light of Michelle Malkin’s missing cousin. Soros also funds Media Matters, an organization that tries to find a right-wing boogeyman in every word uttered by the center-right; he also funds the Center For American Progress, which is the hub of often left-wing, statist policies advanced by the Obama Administration, and America Coming Together (ACT), a liberal 527 organization that seeks to get liberals to the polls.

Human Events conducted a poll during the week of March 14 to select the ultimate Demagoat—the single most destructive leftist demagogue in the country and our readers chose George Soros. *Human Events* solicited comments during the week of March 21 and used those comments to put together our first truly user-generated story, which is below:

George Soros is the most dangerous man in the world because, just like the crazy megalomaniacs in old fifties movies, he is deceiving everybody into believing that he is altruistic, when in fact, he is using his Open Society/Shadow Party to undermine the very fabric of American society.

Soros is the Puppet Master that funds many Progressive groups.

And while Soros can continue to spend his money on these organizations, he should not use money Americans pay in taxes to fund this pseudo-intellectual nonsense. To do so is irresponsible.

For example, National Public Radio (NPR), which he funds, is just considered by many to be “important news for important people.” To elites like Soros, all those other outfits, like Fox, are for “non-essential” people, like backwoods hillbillies who drive pick-ups, go to church, and vote Republican. Media Matters proves with each passing day that media *doesn’t matter*. But the upshot is, they’re probably single-handedly responsible for the birth of the blogosphere.

These organizations include Moveon.org, which needs to move on and Americans Coming Together which should be referred to as “Alinsky Cutting Throats, of conservatives.”

Some people say Soros’s dollars do not matter because no one pays any attention to any of the groups he funds. Soros cannot fund these groups forever, and natural selection will see these organizations fail when it comes to consumer choice. Quality will eventually conquer propaganda. Do the words “Air America” ring any bells?”

Another interesting note: Soros has a lot invested in Brazilian oil production. His puppet, Obama announced that the US would be investing and trading in Brazil’s oil development. Of course, Obama doesn’t want to drill here in the US. The connection is very clear.

Since Soros is out to destroy the USA like he has other countries, all of the organizations he funds are nothing but puppets for him, just like Obama. Obama went to Brazil to protect the Soros investment there in Petrobras.

Soros is a supranational force, who feels he’s beyond the

concerns of mere mortals. So long as he can feed his ever increasing need for money and power our republic and way of life are not safe, especially with the soulless minions who do his bidding. Vast sums of money create a lot of loyalty, but popular opposition may eventually derail his greed and crackpot ideology, and consign him to prison and oblivion.

The most effective way to blunt Soros and his mis-guided funding is to fight fire with fire—get out and picket every organization he donates money to, put out endless articles highlighting criminal practices his organizations are engaged in (even if they are just allegations), smear every organization that accepts funding from Soros (as the left is doing with the Koch brothers), highlight violence and incivility of Soros funded organizations, keep them completely on the defensive fighting allegations and lawsuits.

For instance, governors should announce that from now on every organization who willingly takes money from Soros will be shut down for collaborating with the enemy.

Indeed, the best cleanser is sunlight, so Soros should never be allowed to do anything in the dark.

Soros took the opportunity that America gives everyone and is now using it to destroy the opportunity for everyone in the future. Talk about biting the hand that fed him.

Soros has laid waste to countries by betting against their monetary structures. He made his fortune on other peoples misfortune and in fact helped to destroy them for his gain! His end game is to do the same to the United States, and that is why Soros stinks.

In the end, this guy is a self-deluded megalomaniac that wants the power of these wanna-be policy makers that really are only hate mongers with nothing better to do than allow legal abuse on a grand scale.

Without the millions Soros pours into progressive organizations and causes, such organizations could never be as organized as they produce their annoying army of rabble rousers who are hell-bent on making up for their insecurities by attacking conservatives and trying to destroy the conservative movement.

—*Human Events*, Mar 28, 2011, p. 12–13

