



# ROSSMOOR NEWS

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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## Republican Perspective

*By John Littig*

Say It Ain't So, Al

Former Vice President Al Gore was co-founder and part owner of Current TV. Now I've never seen Current TV, but I'll take Howard Kurtz's word that Gore's purpose was to create a "talking head channel to the left of MSNBC." In any event, the enterprise flopped, and the owners put it up for sale.

They sold it to Al Jazeera, which is itself owned by the emir of oil-rich Qatar. The new owners plan to re-launch Current TV as Al Jazeera America. Forbes reports that much of the detail "remains cloaked behind the deal's burqa," but apparently Gore will do quite well from this sale. Some estimates say his share will be as much as \$100 million.

So what's wrong with that? Well, two things. First, Al Jazeera has a history of providing an anti-America, anti-Israel, pro-terrorist platform. Second, this sale results in the nation's most prominent environmentalist making a huge profit from petrodollars.

As to the first point, the litany of Al Jazeera's bias is too long to list. But Matthew Philbin provides examples in [newsbusters.org](http://newsbusters.org), as does Howard Kurtz in [cnn.com](http://cnn.com). And Dave Marash, formerly of Nightline, cited anti-American bias as a reason he quit Al Jazeera.

After the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, Osama bin Laden periodically issued videotaped exhortations to his fellow jihadists. Al Jazeera provided the outlet for bin Laden's messages.

Lest you think that Al Jazeera's anti-American position is distasteful or even irrelevant to Gore, consider this. Al Jazeera was not the only bidder for Current TV. Conservative commentator Glenn Beck tried to buy the network. Implying he was willing to outbid the emir, Beck said that he was rebuffed not because of money but because of his ideological mismatch with Gore. Beck says he was told, "The legacy of our network is important to us and we are sensitive to networks not aligned with our point of view." So apparently Gore feels better aligned with bin Laden's network of choice than with a conservative American.

Now as to the second point, Gore shared the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize for his fight against global warming. He is America's (if not the world's) chief crusader against fossil fuels, having written a book, produced a movie and lectured repeatedly on the subject. But his huge payday from this sale is, in fact, oil money - from the Emir of Qatar. Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a dean at Yale's School of Management, was quoted in Forbes: "It's reeking with irony Š It seems to be at least a paradox in terms of his positions on sustainability and geopolitics."

"Irony" and "paradox" seem like mild characterizations. For the high priest of the climate-change industry to profit from petrodollars - "hypocrisy" is a better fit.

The New York Post reports that on Jan. 7 the Current TV staff was called to a meeting to learn about the sale and be introduced to their new bosses. Gore did not show up. The Post article said "The displeasure with Gore among the staff was thick enough to cut with a scimitar."

One Current TV staffer is quoted as saying, "Of course Al didn't show up. He has no credibility. He's supposed to be the face of clean energy and just sold (the channel) to very big oilŠ.(we) never even took big oil advertising."

It's hard to believe that a man who was vice president and came so close to being elected president of the United States would make such a deal. But the ex-vice president has made his deal, and Al Jazeera will have a pathway into American living rooms. Unless, of course, other carriers follow the example of Time Warner Cable, which immediately dropped Current TV upon its sale.

Shoeless Joe Jackson was among the eight Black Sox players accused of conspiracy to fix the 1919 World Series. Legend is that when he was leaving the grand jury proceedings, a boy pleaded "Say it ain't so, Joe." And Joe is said to have replied "Yes kid, I'm afraid it is."

When I first heard of the Al Jazeera deal, I thought "Say it ain't so, Al." How sad that the former vice president would do this.

John Littig can be emailed at [jslittig@aol.com](mailto:jslittig@aol.com).