



# ROSSMOOR NEWS

WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA

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## Republican Perspective

*By Christopher Panton*

All Hail 2014! O Frabjous Day!

The idea for this column came to me while reading one of Thomas Sowell's recent columns. I have a lot of respect for Sowell and have tracked his oeuvre for, lo, these last 25 years. Not that I am slavish to his outpourings; we don't always agree, especially when he writes one of what I call his "lazy" columns, in which he bullet points a number of short, usually unrelated, paragraphs about miscellaneous subjects. It's almost as if, whatever just popped into his head, he slapped down on paper and immediately forwarded it to his syndicator.

But these languid efforts were not without some interest and occasional humor, with a rare insight thrown in for good measure. Perhaps I judged him too harshly. So I make amends by copying his errant format in this column. My bulleted paragraphs represent randomly selected, timely ponderings for this newly minted year.

- Krauthammer the King. What else could I possibly have started off with other than Husseinicare (name changed to protect the nowhere-near-innocent)? In a recent column in the Contra Costa Times, Charles Krauthammer laid out a chapter and verse compendium of the number of ways that the administration had tampered with its own health insurance law in a grossly illegal manner.

As an innocent bystander, I have to wonder why essentially nothing is being done at the highest governmental and judicial levels to correct - even prosecute - this flagrant theft of power by the chief executive and his minions. Obviously, we cannot expect the Democratic Party to make a move, as it sees the takeover of health care by the White House as an accrual of Democrat power. Woe betide them if we ever have another Republican president as, without any corrective action, this power shift is immutably inheritable.

Fact-based history is being made here but the trouble with history is that people tend to disagree about which facts are really facts (phase 1). Worse, the chest-beating, shrieking and finger-pointing can escalate to SmackDown levels when it comes to interpretation of the facts (phase 2) - assuming that combatants can even get past phase 1. Nowhere in

the world is this brainless process more finely tuned than in certain halls of government. Especially lately.

- Amerika the Barbaric. About the time that this column goes to press, the city of Walnut Creek's law banning smoking in your own home will go into effect. As a nonsmoker and scientist, I have taken a lengthy interest in how the politics of the so-called "health issues" around secondhand smoke (SHS) have reached hysterical levels while the habitually flawed science supposedly behind them has remained pathetic at best. The claim, sponsored by government entities, is that thousands of nonsmokers die or are seriously incapacitated by SHS in the United States each year. So far, I have been unable to uncover a shred of scientific evidence or any rigorous definitive study to support this claim, which currently appears to be not worth the paper it is written on.

I won't harp on about the disproportionate, constitutionally destitute, invasion of privacy that this law represents. But I will point out that, locally, the impetus behind it came, not from substantive, valid scientific evidence and data about dead and dying SHS victims, but from proponents who didn't like the smell of SHS, or that it got in their drapes, or that they were allergic to it. These are the kinds of issues that people routinely deal with every day in all other walks of life, without resorting to the level of societal violence unleashed by the almost totally Democratic Walnut Creek City Council.

As a practical matter, implementation of the law will rely heavily on neighbor ratting out neighbor, an egregious procedure endorsed and encouraged by city council demagogues. This approach is nothing more than a throw-back to the good old days of Nazi Germany and to the Soviet hegemony, and a welcome to modern-day North Korea where such aberrant dog-eat-dog behavior is a "best practice." From the Third Reich to Walnut Creek, via the Kremlin and Pyongyang, barbarism in all its venomous forms.

- Economist the Wise. A recent statistical analysis in the Economist revealed that in 2012, Obama beat Mitt decisively by 36 percentage points in the unmarried women cohort. So what, I hear you say. Well, unmarried women accounted for about a quarter of all votes cast in the presidential election. Oh yeah, and the old gender-gap saw about women's votes - the Romney deficit there was only 11 percent. So what? Well, the size of the unmarried women voting cohort is about 54 million. So what....yeah, yeah. Theoretically, this a bigger voting segment than the traditionally courted black and Hispanic voting communities combined (in reality, there is some overlap, of course).

A brand new case in point offers an object lesson in the application of these data to electoral strategy. In November's Virginia governor's race, Democrat Terry McAuliffe narrowly defeated Republican Ken Cuccinelli, who was expected to win. Cuccinelli was very vocal in his campaign about issues that are important to single women, such as his opposition to abortion and to no-fault divorce. As a result, in the single women category, McAuliffe stomped Cuccinelli by a thumping 42 percent margin - to which Cuccinelli's defeat is widely attributed.

Memo to the Republican National Committee: Your required reading is the Economist (established 1843), Volume 409, Number 8866, Dec. 14-20, 2013, page 42. Get on it! Now!

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