

from other pens...

Reflections on what is happening

Having a three-day weekend left some time to reflect on things going on in the country. Here are our thoughts on some of those.

- President Bush keeps saying that if we “cut and run,” the terrorists will follow us back over here. If that were to be the case, then why don’t we just turn around and shoot them.
- Howard Dean, chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has cast aside Sen. Joe Lieberman’s independent bid to win re-election in November. Dean knows something about this because just a few short years ago he was cast aside in his bid to win the Democratic presidential nod.
- Secretary of State Rice says she is not interested in seeking the Republican presidential nomination in 2008. Looking closely at that comment, she could mean that 2012 might be a better fit. However, if the Republicans retain control of the White House in the 2008 election, the new president might have someone else in mind to be secretary of state. If a Democrat moves into the oval office, Condi’s gone. She’s probably the most popular Republican at this point. 2008 would be her best fit.
- Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld continues to dodge the bullet, despite mounting calls for his resignation. He survives behind the shield of the only person who could inflict a fatal wound — the president. And that isn’t going to change.
- Democratic Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton (we could never figure out why she stuck her maiden name in the mix) is, without question, campaigning for the presidential nomination in 2008. Rest assured she is being prompted by the former chief executive, husband Bill Clinton. Early betting is if she wins the nod, she probably won’t win the prize. Just the thought of Hillary and Bill back on the trail (again) will cause a flashback.
- Democratic Sen. Joe Biden is dusting off his presidential tux. He wants that job worse than anything. But the name *Biden* isn’t near being household in stature. There’s just something about the man that does little to excite.
- Republican Sen. John McCain could be a good presidential fit. But some analysts (those paid experts who many times come across as stupid) are starting to mention his age. The good senator is 70. And what’s wrong with that? Maybe we need a little age in the mix. And McCain is, without question, a household word.
- Republican Sen. Bill Frist, the majority leader, is strongly considering a bid for the 2008 presidential derby. And as much as he is in the spotlight, it’s a good bet a majority of people couldn’t tell you who he is if you held a card in front of their face with the name FRIST on it. They would say, “OOPS, you misspelled *first*.” (Or is it Fist?)
- The administration’s new pitch is, “We’re safer, but not yet safe.” Explain, please!
- The *experts* tell us that the Democrats will control the House after the November election and fall short of taking over the Senate. Don’t bet your last \$ on those predictions.
- Will there be an October surprise? Some *experts* think the surprise will be President Bush bringing home some troops from Iraq. Don’t think so. Even though the war in Iraq will be an hot issue at the polls in November, look for Rumsfeld and Bush to strike a deal wherein Rumsfeld will step down. Rumsfeld himself is an issue and his leaving would appease many who blame the defense boss for all the bad that has happened in Iraq.

How do you see all of this playing out?

Tom Dreiling

The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

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Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association
National Newspaper Association
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Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year’s Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: star-news@nwkanssas.com. Advertising questions can be sent to: goodlandads@nwkanssas.com

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad. SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$24; six months, \$42; 12 months, \$76. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$34; six months, \$49; 12 months, \$84. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$119. (All tax included.)

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Decent men need not apply



michael reagan

• making sense

The message was loud and clear: there is no longer any room for the likes of Joseph Lieberman in the Democratic Party.

Forgotten were Lieberman’s decades of service to his party, his vice presidential candidacy in 2000, his years of loyally voting for his party’s liberal measures in the U.S. Senate and his incredible decency. All that counted in this week’s Connecticut primary was his support of the war in Iraq and his refusal to go along with the cowardly cut-and-run group that has taken over his party.

In their eyes, this was the unforgivable sin, and for committing it he earned the scorn of the left-wing crazies who have managed to take control of the party of Harry Truman, Scoop Jackson and John F. Kennedy. He simply had to go.

I may disagree with many of his liberal political positions but I bow to no one in recognizing the undeniable fact that he is that rarest of all politicians — a decent, honest, deeply religious man whose word could always be trusted.

In a sane political party those qualities alone would earn him the loyalty, support and respect of his fellows, but in the party of Howard Dean, Michael Moore, George Soros and MoveOn.org, those don’t matter. In that party, decent men and women need no longer apply.

There has been much talk and all kinds of proof that a crazed, well-financed segment of the Democratic Party had taken control. What happened in Connecticut Tuesday showed it to be a fact. From this point forward, only those willing to sign on to the hate-America Stalinist

policies of the party’s now-dominant left wing will survive.

The rest will follow Joe Lieberman into the new Gulag reserved for those Democrats who refuse to bow their knees to the reigning monarchs of the extreme left and insist on putting principle above party.

I trust that most of my fellow Americans are as shocked as I am over this turn of events. There is no longer a rational dialogue between the two major parties, or even within the Democratic Party itself. The deranged babbling of the Soros-MoveOn.org loonies is now the only language spoken.

This is a disaster for the Democrats. It has converted what was a legitimate — if frequently wrong — political party where seemingly rational political policies were advanced, into a cabal of unhinged ideologues where no dissent is permitted.

It could also be a disaster for the nation should the loonies of the Democratic left prevail in the fall elections. To begin with, we would quickly witness a replay of Vietnam — a war we won on the battlefield but lost in the halls of Congress which, while claiming to support our troops, slashed the military budget to the bone, de-funding the war.

The end result was the creation of a communist regime in Saigon, and the imprisonment and death of a million Vietnamese. A once-free nation was condemned to slavery under the brutal Hanoi dictatorship.

If the crazies gain power on Capitol Hill, we can expect to see their cut-and-run policies put into play by the simple expedient of choking off the money required to fight the war. With our troops withdrawn, we could expect to see Iraq and the entire region descend into chaos, depriving us of our vital Mideastern oil supply lifeline.

Moreover, should we flee our solemn commitment to help pacify Iraq and secure for the Iraqi people a stable democracy, what other nation would be able to trust us to keep our promises? Taiwan would see itself as defenseless and Japan would be forced to go nuclear to defend itself. The message would be loud and clear to all — Uncle Sam is not a trustworthy ally.

The left has already made it clear that they plan to harass the president and start impeachment proceedings in the middle of a war, no less. They make it plain they will increase taxes and cripple the economy, and return to their cherished goal of imposing a socialist system on the American people.

The Connecticut primary was a red flag warning us of what’s ahead.

Mike Reagan, the eldest son of the late President Ronald Reagan, is heard on talk radio stations across the nation. E-mail comments to mereagan@hotmail.com.

The immigration ‘crisis’



bill steigerwald

• newsmakers

Is illegal immigration the national crisis it’s been whipped up to be?

If you listened only to the Tom Tancredos, Pat Buchanans and Lou Dobbses of the world, you’d think we are about to have our economy ruined, our culture subsumed and our fiscal future bankrupted by the 11 million to 20 million illegal immigrants living, working and hiding among us.

But Tony Snow, the upbeat conservative pundit-turned-presidential-press-secretary, and the libertarians at *Reason* magazine don’t buy into that immigration doomsday.

While acknowledging the obvious social and economic problems illegal immigrants cause, Snow argues in a column that immigration — legal and illegal — “is not the pox neo-Know Nothings make it out to be.”

Snow’s column is part of *Reason*’s current package of proimmigration essays, “Immigration Now, Immigration Tomorrow, Immigration Forever,” sprinkled with some facts about illegal immigrants often drowned out by the political hype and semihysteria:

Percentage of illegal immigrants who got here by jumping the Mexican or Canadian border: 60. Percent who overstayed their tourist or educational visas and therefore wouldn’t be stopped by border fences: 40.

Percent of illegals who are unemployed: 5.5. Percent who pay income taxes, Social Security and Medicare: 66. Percent who send their children to public schools: 10. Percent who

receive food stamps or unemployment assistance: 5. Percent of Latino households that are Spanish-free by the third generation: 80.

Researcher-analyst Steve Camarota of the Center for Immigration Studies, which favors “a pro-immigrant, low-immigration vision,” says some of these statistics are a little off. Camarota uses the figure 55 percent for illegals who pay payroll taxes, for instance, and he seriously doubts that only 10 percent of illegals send their kids to public school.

Camarota has estimated that illegals create a net annual benefit of \$7 billion for Social Security and Medicare together. “But,” he says, “here’s the kicker: They impose a drain on the rest of the federal budget of \$17 billion for a net drain of \$10 billion.” The big question is whether they use Medicaid, he says, “and most of them do.”

Reason uses its facts to argue for an efficient, humane, freedom-oriented system that would allow Latino immigrants and others to come, work, pay taxes, easily cross and recross our

borders or pursue full-time citizenship.

As long as immigration is run by a government agency, which means it’ll be politicized and bureaucratized, and as long as we have our welfare state, that hope is just another libertarian pipe dream, of course.

Meanwhile, it’s still a free country — pretty much.

You can rail about the fact that illegal immigrants broke the law to get into the U.S., or about the horror of having to hear those Spanish phone messages. You can lose sleep worrying that 32 Latino radicals somewhere in California aim to reconquer the Southwest for Mexico or that illegals are costing taxpayers \$10 billion a year — in a \$2.57 trillion federal budget.

You can even send your congressman an e-mail demanding that we start searching house to house for illegals, erect a gazillion-dollar fence on our southern border and start issuing new ID cards so every employer can become a private-sector immigration cop.

But with the economy growing, unemployment almost nonexistent and crime at 20-year lows, just don’t call our immigration problem a national crisis.

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