

*Editor's Note: In his last column, Pat Buchanan asked to hear from readers about TAC's presidential endorsement dilemma. These replies are representative.*

## PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

Pat asks "What does TAC do?" (June 7) Well, I cannot see giving the nod to the current occupant of the world's highest office. The lies he told regarding Iraq alone ought to bar an endorsement. And let's not forget that his administration is stocked to the rim with neocons who have grander plans for our troops and our tax dollars. No thank you. Clearly John Kerry is no prize, but he may be the only thing between us and perpetual war. On the other issue of the day, immigration, it's a tie. No matter who wins, America loses.

BILL SHANNON  
*Elmhurst, Ill.*

## THIRD PARTY CONSERVATIVE

I would encourage TAC to do as I and many other conservatives are doing and support Michael Peroutka, the presidential candidate for the Constitution Party. He is running on the issues of defending the borders, stopping free trade, bringing the boys home, and stopping abortion. He is the only conservative candidate who will be on the ballot in 40+ states.

JONATHAN GRUBBS  
*Sanford, Fla.*

## AMERICA FIRST

Pat requested input on the presidential endorsement. I'm backing Nader. He is seriously confused in many ways, but I think in his heart he puts America first—ahead of Israel, India, and China.

BILL POLONEY,  
*Cinaminson, N.J.*

## FOUR MORE YEARS

There is no other choice. You know it and I know it. Steady leadership in times of change: President Bush! I urge you and readers of *The American Conservative* to vote for President Bush!!

GEORGE W. REED  
*Richmond, Va.*

## BREATHE FREE OR DIE

I can tell you this 65-year-old who cast his very first vote for "In Your Heart You Know He's Right" Barry Goldwater has decided not to vote at all. This decision has not been made lightly, but I simply refuse to be held captive again to those who believe that holding your nose while voting for the lesser of two evils ought to be enough to garner my vote. It is bad enough to be told to hold one's nose while voting for the president, but I feel as though I have been holding my nose for four years already.

R. MOFFITT  
*via e-mail*

## OLD HABITS DIE HARD?

As a faithful liberal reader, I know that every issue of TAC would lead a nonpartisan to conclude that this presidency has been an unparalleled disaster. Even to question whether or not to oppose Bush shows that the chow bell has rung and it's time to line up at the trough.

PHILIP MARQUIS  
*Lower Gwynedd, Pa.*

## THE LBJ OPTION

The solution to this horrible dilemma is for President Bush and Vice President Cheney to acknowledge their obvious mismanagement and withdraw from the upcoming election—a truly courageous and honorable thing to do for their country. Such a selfless act is the only opportunity they're going to have for history to recall them in a positive way.

JOHN A. CURRY  
*Columbus, Neb.*

## GETTING IT STRAIGHT

I read your article (May 24), about the American Embassy in Bucharest and would like to correct some misinformation carried in the Romanian newspaper *Bucharest Business Week* and repeated indirectly in the article.

Your article implies that I and others in the U.S. Embassy approved Kurt Treptow's appointment to the Fulbright Commission Board of Directors knowing that he was a pedophile. This is not true. Treptow was asked to join the

Board as he had had a Fulbright grant, had been in Romania for years, and ran an academic publishing center. None of us knew anything about Treptow's other activities and would certainly not have appointed him if we had.

The scandal about Treptow's pedophilia broke some months after he had joined the Board. It is a sad episode, but it did not happen in the way *BBW* alleges. The article similarly repeats *BBW's* allegations about "publications" of my work by Treptow's center being related to influence peddling. I was invited to present a paper on the role of the American Center in Bucharest in the 1980s, but there was no money involved and no "influence peddling."

Why has *BBW* been making these charges? Perhaps because Sean Hillen, its editor, was on the Fulbright Board and headed the search committee for the position of director. After selecting candidates to be interviewed, Mr. Hillen put his own application forward. He was not chosen for the position.

Almost immediately he began a dirty campaign against the embassy. *BBW's* circulation is minimal, but having the allegations appear in the pages of a respectable American magazine is another matter entirely.

KIKI SKAGEN MUNSHI  
*via e-mail*

## RELIGION OF PEACE?

I am disappointed in the defeatist and pacifistic articles appearing in *The American Conservative*. You don't have to like David Frum to understand that the West's confrontation with radical Islam is a real clash of civilizations. Please stop always taking the Muslims' side.

Muslim extremists are murdering our people all over the world. Even without Israel/Palestine, the Muslims have many countries that are exclusively their own. We don't have to give them ours.

JOHN ELLIS  
*Harvard, Ill.*

*The American Conservative* welcomes letters to the editor. Submit by e-mail to [letters@amconmag.com](mailto:letters@amconmag.com) or by mail to 1300 Wilson Blvd., Suite 120, Arlington, VA 22209.



AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

[ COVER ]

## Ralph Nader: Conservatively Speaking

Pat Buchanan sits down with the long-time progressive to talk about the Middle East, immigration, taxes, abortion, and why conservatives should consider his candidacy. **Page 6**

[ WORLD ]

## Iran Builds a Bomb

BY ERIC S. MARGOLIS Will Washington act to preserve Israel's nuclear monopoly in the Middle East? **Page 11**

[ IDEAS ]

## The Perils of Hegemony

BY OWEN HARRIES America is learning a bitter lesson: liberal democracy is not an exportable commodity. **Page 14**

COVER PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY

### COLUMNS

**28 Fred Reed:** All loyalty is local.

**39 Taki:** My dinner with Pamela Gross-Finkelstein

### NEWS & VIEWS

**4 Fourteen Days:** America's Best Friend—and Iran's; Sen. Hollings's Opus; Don't Bank on Offshoring

**13 Deep Background:** Israel's Abu Ghraib "Assistance"; Al-Qaeda's Hit List

### ARTICLES

**21 Marian Kester Coombs:** Overcoming the motherhood deficit

**25 John B. Roberts II:** Trading America's jobs for India's allegiance

### ARTS & LETTERS

**29 Steve Sailer:** California samples "A Day Without a Mexican."

**30 R.J. Stove:** *The Red Millionaire* by Sean McMeekin

**32 Leon Hadar:** *The Choice* by Zbigniew Brzezinski

**35 Matthew Barganier:** *Deliver Us From Evil* by Sean Hannity

**36 Mark Gauvreau Judge:** Appreciating Joe Jackson

[IRAQ]

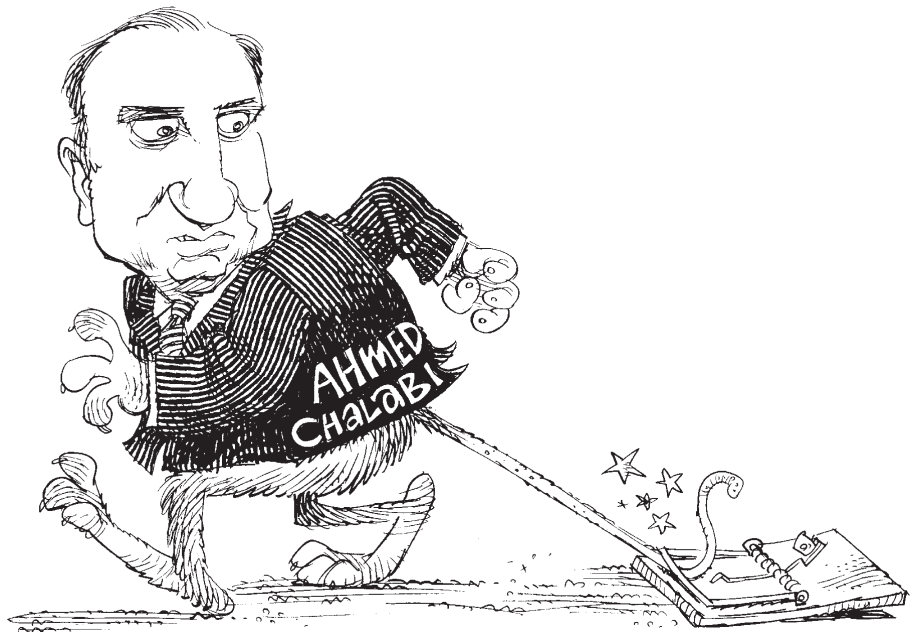
## BENEDICT BLEEPING ARNOLD, PERHAPS

*Pace*, David Frum, but Ahmed Chalabi is no “James bleeping Madison.” Far from building a country, on his word we leveled one—and paid him over \$33 million for the privilege.

Just five months ago, the self-described “hero in error” was watching the State of the Union as a guest of First Lady Laura Bush. Now comes word that Iraqi police, accompanied by U.S. soldiers, have raided his home, seizing computers and files.

This isn’t the first cloud to pass over the Pentagon’s pick to run postwar Iraq. Chalabi, who hadn’t lived in Iraq since childhood, was convicted in Jordan of embezzling \$22 million and his weapons “intelligence” has proved an elaborate farce. Yet we escorted him into Baghdad, put him in charge of the new Finance Ministry, and until recently paid \$340,000 per month for his questionable services.

With *Newsweek* reporting that “Chalabi and his entourage told Iranian contacts about American political plans in Iraq” and with word out that the leaked documents came from Doug Feith’s office, this would seem a good time for the neocons to reconsider their taste in friends. But so far they seem unburdened by fact or sound strategy. *National Review Online* published a piece by Michael Rubin slamming “inside-the-beltway rumor mongering [that makes] clear the irrational contempt and ignorance that many professional pundits feel for any proponent of Arab democracy.” He defends Chalabi—or tries, insofar as “he has never kissed the hand of Saddam Hussein” might be considered a defense—and attacks Paul Bremer, who authorized the raid, for “playing the politics of personal vendetta.” Ditto neocon darling Laurie Mylroie, who condemns the “outrageous, and totally uncalled for, raid” and asks



DARRYL CAGLE www.caglecartoons.com

her first good question, “Just what is the U.S. doing in Iraq?” For his part, Chalabi maintains that he is still “America’s best friend in Iraq”—which may mean that we’re in deeper trouble than we realize.

[POLITICS]

### FOXMAN VS. FRITZ

In a *Charleston Post and Courier* op-ed that was unusually pointed for sitting senator, Ernest Hollings (D-S.C.) parsed the reasons given for George W. Bush’s loopy decision to invade Iraq. One by one Hollings went over them—the so-called al-Qaeda tie, Baghdad’s nuclear weapons program, the idea that Iraqis would welcome American troops with open arms. None hold up under scrutiny, and Hollings now wonders if Bush and Co. really believed their own case for war. But there is one reason, Hollings observed, that does make sense—both for domestic political reasons and in neocon strategic terms: invade Iraq in order to remake the Middle East for Israel’s benefit.

The domestic political plus for George Bush was confirmed by the rapturous reception he received at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee’s annual Washington conference in mid-May. (The president’s boilerplate speech was interrupted 67 times by standing ovations.) Democratic strategists mope off the record that Bush’s real target is not

Jewish voters—a comparatively small number—but Jewish donors, who make up an estimated 50-70 percent of the Democratic Party’s large contributors. If Bush can partially neutralize them by catering to Ariel Sharon’s wishes, the Democratic Party would be in sorry competitive shape.

The Mideast strategic gambit is less concrete, but the basic idea is that if the U.S. would establish an Iraqi regime that made peace with Israel on Sharon’s terms—a neocon fantasy that Ahmed Chalabi successfully exploited in his many years inside the Beltway—how would Israel not be delighted?

Hollings’s exercise in political analysis caused an instant uproar. The ADL’s Abe Foxman demanded that the senator “disavow” his remarks. Why on earth should he? There may be something incorrect or unbalanced in Hollings’s analysis—but if so, let Foxman point it out and criticize it rather than flinging around discussion-ending accusations about “age-old anti-Semitic canards.” Free speech should be the American way, especially about an issue as important as the Iraq disaster.

[ECONOMICS]

### DON’T BANK ON IT

To a businessman’s ears, offshoring customer-service call centers may seem like sweet music. But to customers it sounds