

By Wladyslaw Pleszczynski

# You've Got A Friend

**"A**merican Spectator is Back!" You don't have to take my word for it, because the headline wasn't mine but rather that of the liberal left's favorite website, *MediaWhoresOnline.com* (which the dainty James Carville always seems to refer to as Media Horses). It linked to a *Washington Post* item in June about our magazine's return to Tyrrellian editorial control. Below it, MWO, as the site likes to refer to itself—the middle word of the full title being more often applied to the proprietors themselves, rather than their insufficiently left-wing targets—added two paragraphs of choice commentary. The second one read:

This is both good news and bad news for MWO and our readers. The good news: Think of all the MWO-worthy material. The bad news: Think of all the MWO-worthy material.

These guys are regular First Amendment chillers. But at least the opening paragraph was marginally wittier, if still a terrible imitation of classic Spectatorese:

Howard "Mistah" Kurtz reports that our friend Wlady Pleszczynski and Partner in Slime R. Emmett Tyrrell plan to relaunch the New Old American Spectacle, the Scafe-oid scandal sheet whose claims to fame are stories written by David Brock, who now says his work for the Spectacle was produced back in the day when he was a member in good standing of the Cult of the Soulless, consumed with the fame and fortune that accompanies writing about President Clinton's sex life.

Now many things can be said about this salvo, and I promise to say them, but I must begin by expressing disappointment at MWO's inability to toe the party line it established when it became America's leading defender of and apologist for David Brock and his recent attack memoir, *Blinded by the Right*. So what's up with its acknowledgment of "President Clinton's sex life"? When Brock's subtext makes it clear Clinton had no sex life? (Unless maybe in the case of Juanita Broadrick, where Brock's assignment was to attack the idea she was raped.)

Then there's that hurtful reference to me as MWO's "friend." Yes, hurtful. How can they call me that, lead me on, when no one knows who MWO comprises? (Like all true lefties, they talk big but hide in anonymity.) What's more, it's so Washington to call everyone a friend, so conventional and bourgeois, so unimaginatively unleft-wing. Don't they worry about losing their edge? But on top of everything else, it didn't dawn on them that if anyone was anybody's friend, we at the Spectator were David Brock's friend, and he was ours.

Much has been made on MWO and other knee-jerk pro-Clintonite sites such as *The American Prospect Online* of the right's unwillingness to give serious attention to Brock's book. They've almost

pleaded for conservative reviews, clearly a first in American journalistic history. But with a few exceptions, the right hasn't swallowed the bait precisely because there's no reason to argue on the left's term and explain when we stopped beating our wife. A book written in bad faith disqualifies itself. Even fanatical liberals like Molly Ivins when not denouncing Clarence Thomas' alleged taste for centerfold while winking at Bill Clinton's consensualism, have expressed distaste for Brock's gratuitous betrayal of his former friends.

That Brock could be one sick puppy came to mind this spring when it was reported he had checked into a psychiatric ward last summer. Predictably, the comrades of the MWO denounced these reports as invasions of privacy and hysterically compared Brock's plight to the great Soviet dissident Vladimir Bukovsky's when he was locked up in a psycho ward by the KGB (at a time when MWO's forerunners would have all sided with the KGB). But those who once thought of Brock as a friend could only wonder: what kind of new friends, if any, he now had.

A few scenes from happier days always come to mind. In them David is usually smiling and clearly happy, not a condition of being that came easily to him. In one he's at the Fairfax Hotel. It's the book party for his best-seller *The Real Anita Hill*. He's as warm and sweet and grateful as I've ever seen him.

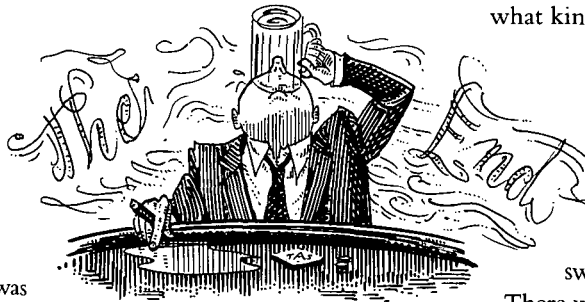
There was real kindness in his eyes.

In another he has hopped onto the desk of our assistant publisher and is playfully rearranging the seating for our upcoming annual dinner—or maybe it was for the special tribute to Ben Stein when Ben turned 50, at which David placed his boyfriend at a table behind his, while he made sure to be seated with Laura Ingraham.

One evening he came into my office to watch *McNeil-Lehrer* and pumped his fist and exclaimed "Yes!" when the screen showed Senator Phil Gramm on the Senate floor laying into Hillary's health care scheme.

David loved the political fray. He also enjoyed the recognition he'd earned. Once he described running into Bob Woodward, who complimented him. With some amusement David participated in a fashion shoot for *New York* magazine, appearing in an expensive dark-blue, double-breasted suit along with such trendy figures as ABC's Cokie Roberts and high-powered Moynihan aide Lawrence O'Donnell. I didn't want to depress him, but I always thought he looked better in dark green.

Long before it might have been fashionable, he was a close pal of Ann Coulter's, whom he now slanders as an anti-Semite. I mention her in part because of David's now chronic attacks on the right for practicing "checkbook journalism," even though he's the only journalist I know who could afford to own a home in Georgetown and a beach house in Delaware. His memoir was published by Crown, which it turns out has now published Coulter's new book, *Slander: Liberal Lies About the American Right*. Talk about checkbook journalism. Will David now break with his own publisher? A former friend would like to know. 🐾



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# A Demilitarized Palestinian State Should Israel, should the world, rely on it?

Even the most fervent advocates of a Palestinian state are virtually unanimous that such a state should be "demilitarized," since it might otherwise imperil, or perhaps even endanger, the very existence of Israel. "Demilitarization," it is believed, would obviate any military threat to the State of Israel.

## What are the facts?

**Israel threatened by enemies.** Israel is a very small country. Including the Golan and the "West Bank," it is only one-half the size of San Bernardino County in California. Israel has been in a "cold peace" with Egypt since 1978 and has also concluded a peace treaty with Jordan.

Other Arab states are still in a declared or undeclared state of war with Israel. Iran, Moslem though not Arab, is the most determined and deadly of them all. It lurks in the background, its foremost military and political objective being the destruction of the state of Israel.

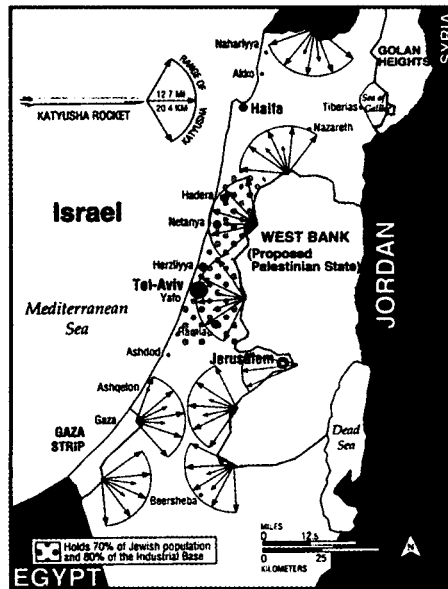
The "Palestine Liberation Organization" (PLO), now transformed into the "Palestinian Authority" (PA), is a terror organization that has two immutable purposes, namely: to kill as many Jews as possible; and to demolish Israel, the Jewish State, and to replace it with "Palestine". And "Palestine" means "from the River to the Sea," as Arafat never ceases to explain to his followers. It is almost incredible that supposedly levelheaded and well-intentioned people would have entered into a "peace agreement" with such an organization.

Subsequent developments of course have proven the folly of it. The Palestinians have never kept a single one of the solemn promises they made when they signed on to the "Oslo Agreement"; specifically, they have never forsworn the clauses in their "covenant" that call for the destruction of Israel. They have utterly disregarded and violated the limitations imposed on the number of their "police" (army), the restrictions on armament, and, most importantly, the promise not to use violence in order to attain their

political goals. Without any provocation, they launched their bloody "intifada," now well into its second year, equipped with heavy armaments smuggled into the territory (98% of the "West Bank" and Gaza) allotted to them by the goodwill of Israel. This armament would have been greatly enhanced had the Israelis not intercepted the KARINE A, a ship laden with over fifty tons

of the most advanced weaponry.

**The myth of demilitarization.** The assumption that "Palestine" would be demilitarized is not tenable. The Arab nations would not allow it, even if the Palestinians themselves so desired. Also, the Palestinian entity would have thousands of trained soldiers, camouflaged as police. They could be helicoptered in minutes to positions on the border with Israel, with armored forces from Syria reaching them within the same night. But such mobilization of the "demilitarized" Palestine wouldn't be required. The weapons of preference of Arab terrorists are the Soviet-made Katyushas, highly effective missiles, truck-mounted and mobile, ideal for hit-and-run raids against Israel. Israel could not prevent them from flooding Palestine. A look at the map makes



A Palestinian state—demilitarized?

clear that these rockets, short-range though they may be, would dominate the heartland of Israel. Easily moved and hidden along Israel's new eastern borders—to be increased from less than 40 miles in length to over 200 miles—these Katyushah rockets would rain destruction over most of Israel. They would cover in their entirety Israel's narrow waist that holds 70% of the Jewish population of the country, 80% of its industrial base, its only international airport, and its most important military installations.

A Palestinian state next door to an Israel that would only be nine miles wide at its vulnerable waist, and that could be cut in two by one thrust of a tank column, would leave Israel in constant mortal danger. The Palestinians have proven that they do not want peace -- they want to destroy Israel. Giving them an independent country, even against solemn promises of demilitarization, would ring the death knell for the Jewish State. Only fuzzy thinkers and incurable optimists can believe that an independent Palestine would become a peaceful neighbor of Israel. If Israel ceded the Gaza Strip -- the invasion route since before biblical times -- and Judea/Samaria (the "West Bank") to its sworn enemies, it would make the country indefensible and Israel would have laid the groundwork for its own destruction. Tanks, warplanes, and missiles would only be needed for the final mopping-up process. In the meantime, mortars and Katyushas located on the Judean ridges -- Israel's proposed new borders -- would suffice to paralyze life and industrial and military activity in Israel. One can only hope that ultimately Israel's leaders and the world -- even those who are well-intentioned and wish for Israel's survival -- will understand this danger and that they will not press Israel to make further concessions that will endanger its very existence.

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# FLAME

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5th draft

1:15am. Still not good enough.

Carleen Hawn, Associate Editor

**Never settle.<sup>TM</sup>**

