

THE CONTINUING CRISIS

R. Emmett Tyrrell, Jr.



September began on a very depressing note for liberals throughout the United States. September 1 was the third day after the internment of Sen. Edward Kennedy, who died August 25 of natural causes, but his gravesite was absolutely still—no stones disturbed, no telltale burial garments scattered about, no signs of supernatural shenanigans anywhere. Perhaps he really is gone. Over at the White House the Prophet Obama must have breathed a sigh of relief and gone back to consultations with his travel agent on where next to make a pest of himself. At the end of the month he went to Copenhagen, Denmark, to present Chicago's case for being host to the 2016 Olympics. His eloquence persuaded the International Olympic Committee to reject Chicago in the first round, a setback!

Truth be known, September was beyond depressing for our glassy-eyed liberals. Support for health care reform dropped to the low 40 percent. The Prophet's approval rating dropped below 50 percent, and the bizarre fantasmas that always decorate a modern Democratic administration began making their painful appearances. There was Mr. Van Jones, the president's environmental czar who it was revealed had (1) signed a petition implicating the previous administration in 9/11, (2) advocated clemency for death row inmate Mr. Mumia Abu-Jamal, a 1981 cop killer, and (3) become a Communist in the 1990s *after* the fall of the Soviet Union. There is no word yet on which of his taxes he failed to pay. He resigned. Also resigning was Mr. Yosi Sergeant, the National Endowment for the Arts spokesman caught on tape exhorting artists in a conference call to produce propaganda for the president. Then there was Mr. Kevin Jennings, director of the Department of Education's Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools and founder of the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network (GLSEN). Known as the administration's "safe schools czar," he, in the late 1980s, counseled an

underage boy on how to have sex hygienically with an older man whom he had met in the usual public lavatory. Mr. Jennings later wrote about it, and in his 2006 autobiography, *Mama's Boy, Preacher's Son: A Memoir*, poetized about drugging himself into stupefaction and "spending hours watching the planes take off and land at the [Honolulu] airport, which is actually quite fascinating when you are drunk and stoned"—and only semi-literate.

Yet there was good news too. From halfway around the world the newly elected mayor of the Indian metropolis of Khaikheri, Mr. Dharmveer Bhoora, 56, has devised a plan for paying off President Obama's mounting federal debt. A veteran panhandler, Mayor Bhoora continues to stand at a busy Khaikheri intersection, cup in hand; cadging largess from the passing citizenry. "I am responsible now for looking after the development of the village," a confident Mr. Bhoora asseverates midst the flies, the dust, and the lounging cows, "and part of the money I make out of begging will also be utilized for undertaking developmental projects in the village." Why did President Obama not promise this when he signed his \$787 stimulus bill? But there is always time for him to stand in front of the White House, cup in hand. What else is he going to do in his remaining years as president?

In September, the American left discovered the only pimp and prostitute unworthy of their approval—even though the pimp stole his grandmother's chinchilla coat and the prostitute suggested that she would use a government home loan to operate a bordello for underage illegals from Central America. What caused the left's disapproval? Was it the couple's insufficient regard for condoms? Was it their narrow focus on heterosexuality? No sex with animals or the recently deceased? No, it was that they were engaged in a sting operation at ACORN

offices across the country, where they taped community organizers encouraging their involvement in what law enforcement officials call "human trafficking." Worse, the cunning couple are in cahoots with the "Vast Right-Wing Conspiracy," and September 27 on *Meet the Press* ex-president Bill Clinton confirmed that the Conspiracy is assailing our green-horn president "as virulent[ly] as ever." That vote in Copenhagen confirms it. There has been another outbreak of jellyfish tossing in Madeira Beach, Florida. On September 8, Mr. Keith Edward Marriott was arrested after he pretended to drown and then began throwing jellyfish at teenaged bathers. And here is a very odd story. In Papua New Guinea an unidentified banana cult leader was accosted by local police for promising banana growers that their banana crops would increase tenfold if they copulated in public, a common practice in the area, so what is the big deal? The leader fled into the nearby jungle after police officers were distracted by his naked followers.

In news from Holy Islam, CBS News reports that "Al Qaeda has developed a new tactic that allows suicide bombers to breach even the tightest security." Yes, the reports said "breach" and "tightest." According to CBS News's Miss Sheila MacVicar, one of Saudi Arabia's most wanted terrorists, Mr. Abdullah Asieri, managed to blow himself up along with a goodly number of Saudi security personnel by having one pound of explosives and a detonator inserted into his rectum, which brings to mind the old joke from the Borscht Belt: "wrecked 'em? Hell, it killed 'em!" As to whom Mr. Asieri's accomplices were in secreting the explosives within his person, Saudi officials remain mum. Possibly the investigation is being left to the fabled Saudi Religious Police, for it is an infamy to the Holy Koran to tamper with another person's rectum. Another alumnus of the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp has suffered a mishap. Former detainee Mr. Fahd Saleh Suleiman al Jutayli, who was repatriated to his native Saudi Arabia in 2006, apparently got into some roughhouse in northern Yemen with units from the Yemeni army and died of gunshot wounds late in the month. That kind of thing never happens in Gitmo, and possibly the Obama administration will keep the camp open if only for the detainees' safety. In Royaltown, Illinois, just south of bucolic Mulkeytown, police report that young Richard Chekevdi, 6, is in "good spirits and very social, talkative, and polite," after spending two years hidden

behind a wall in his grandmother's home. That is how the ever-upbeat Illinois State Police Master Sergeant Stan Diggs put it after authorities, acting on a tip, plucked the young man from his maternal grandmother's wall. The old hen was protecting him from an allegedly abusive father.

In Austria, flatulence is apparently no excuse. Police in the city of Graz arrested a man for breaking wind while they were questioning him. Herr Hansi Sporer, 20, was fined \$65 for eliciting laughter from sharp-eared passers-by. "This is no accident," a police source reported. "He clearly intended to make a laughingstock out of the officers and deserved what he got." Though on young Sporer's behalf, it ought to be pointed out that the offense did take place in the metropolis of Graz. Alarmed perhaps by the growing influence of talk radio, the United Nations barred Madagascar's new leader from addressing it. He is Mr. Andry Rajoelina, a former DJ, who took over the island nation's government in a coup after years of mesmerizing the citizenry with his honeyed combinations. Could Mr. Rush Limbaugh be next? Finally, Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi may have a new means of transport up and down the busy halls of the Capitol. Honda has announced the development of an electric unicycle. The battery-powered unicycle would be perfect for zipping Madam Speaker to the ladies' room when the pressures of statecraft overwhelm—an exigency that occurs rather frequently these days. The Crisis continues. ☛





McChrystal Clear



Pentagon sources say that General **Stanley McChrystal**, the commander of U.S. and NATO forces in Afghanistan, accepted a speaking opportunity at London's International Institute for Strategic Studies in late September only after it became clear to him that he was not being heard inside the Obama administration on setting military strategy for Afghanistan.

The speech in London angered some Obama national security aides, who claimed that McChrystal, by going public with his concerns about the Afghan military theater, was attempting to "show up" President Obama, who hadn't responded to McChrystal's recommendations and request for Afghan support despite having them on his desk for more than a month when the general made his remarks.

"General McChrystal is not the kind of man who swerves into other people's lanes, and he wouldn't step out on the commander in chief, but I don't think people know just how frustrating the last few months have been for him and others," says a current Pentagon career official. "The invitation to speak just happened to be good timing, and hey, it got him within an hour's flight of meeting with the president, so it all worked out."

At the time, McChrystal revealed that he had spoken only once with President Obama in 70 days. Within two days of those comments, the White House set up a video conference with McChrystal, photos of which were released to the media within an hour of the conference's conclusion. Obama also met with McChrystal on Air Force One in Denmark before flying home from his failed bid to win the 2016 Olympics for Chicago.

According to other Pentagon sources, the recent video conference was initially supposed to be a small gathering of Obama, McChrystal, and other senior military and national security advisers, but quickly devolved into nothing more than a photo-op. "In three hours, the Afghanistan recommendations were not discussed in detail," says the Pentagon source. "You had between 50 to 75 people in that room, nothing could get done."

One of the people in that White House operations room was political adviser **David Axelrod**. According to Bush administration sources, **Karl Rove** was not a regular or even an occasional attendee at military briefings on the situation in Iraq and Afghanistan during the Bush years.

An ACORN Republican

At press time, **Dede Scozzafava**, the New York state pol who was handpicked by New York state Republican Party bosses—and cleared by the Republican National Congressional Committee—was mulling over placing her name on the Working Families Party line in the special election to fill new Army secretary Rep. **John McHugh**'s seat in New York's 23rd district.

That she would even consider running on both the Republican and the Working Families Party lines raises questions about not only Scozzafava, but also the RNCC's vetting of candidates. In New York, the Working Families Party has deep ties to the ACORN national organization. Scozzafava has run on the party line in the past.

"Regardless of who wins this race, the RNCC has to be looked at real hard," says a frustrated Republican National Committee staffer. "They clearly didn't do their job in vetting. That we have a liberal Republican endorsed by Daily Kos running in that race, when we had a perfectly fine conservative ready to run, it's mind-boggling how this happened. If we lose this race, it's the RNCC's problem."

According to RNCC sources, the decision to put the liberal Scozzafava on the ballot over conservative **Doug Hoffman**, who is now running only on the Conservative Party line, was made after the RNCC was shown a poll pulled together by district New York GOP officials that showed Scozzafava as a solid competitor. The accuracy of that poll and who produced it remains in question.

Tim, Mitt, and Meg

It's much too early, but political operatives in Washington are impressed with the team that Minnesota Gov. **Tim Pawlenty** is putting together. "He's drawing from the 2000 Bush team that did a lot of good