

THE FRONT LINE

The other campaign

The Bill Simon campaign is alive and well — no, we're not, for the moment, talking about the professional operatives, the belatedly geared-up TV spots, or the media's endlessly re-spun clichés that pass for campaign "news." *That* Simon campaign is bumping along through what might charitably be called a "rough patch."

But there is another Simon campaign: one made up of real people more interested in the direction of the state than in the partisan horse-race political reporters obsess over. This Simon campaign is routinely ignored by the establishment press. Not fitting the stereotype, it simply can't be seen.

The most dramatic recent example was the Simon endorsement by 22 of 32 chapters of the Mexican American Political Association. As *CPR* contributor George Neumayr wrote August 19 on www.americanproowler.org: "As of Monday, no major California paper had reported ... the endorsement." Also missing were reports "that aides to Gray Davis tried to scuttle these chapters' endorsement of Simon by tweaking MAPA's convention rules. But that didn't work, so they unsuccessfully attempted to cancel its convention."

Media myopia is old news. The real story is of Democrats moving to the GOP — confirmed by Latino surveys showing President Bush trouncing former Vice President Gore in hypothetical match-ups (50 to 35 percent in a Latino Coalition survey that Gore won, 54 to 28, a year ago).

This other Simon campaign is also visible, to eyes that are open, in the governor's



low approval within his own Party. Few Californians applaud Davis's breathtaking ability to outdo even Pete Wilson as a crass self-promoter, resolutely placing the state's interests behind his own. Wilson, for instance, would never have thought of simply walking away from the state budget fiasco as Davis has done this year as a matter of political expediency.

The other Simon campaign can be seen in San Diego, where County GOP Chairman Ron Nehring has performed

the miracle of eliminating Republican bickering and where huge crowds of enthusiastic activists turn out for monthly county Party meetings that used to fit into phone booths.

It was visible in Stockton at the president's mid-August visit there that quickly sold out its original venue and had to be moved to a converted airplane hanger to accommodate the throng. The major media, busy mouthing the herd-ordained "arms-length," "tepid" line about Bush's visit, couldn't hear the president say "the breath of fresh air for Sacramento, California, is Bill Simon," or the applause the line generated.

The other Simon campaign was evident in the president's call to "trust local people" on education and his statement that "if you believe every child can learn, then you need to ask the question: is it working? Is every child learning? ... that's why I am such a strong supporter of accountability. And Bill joins me," or his statements that "government can hand out money, but it cannot put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives" and that "when a government spends money, it's not the government's money. It's your money."

This other Simon campaign — the incumbent's real foe — is alive and well. It is the people of California. If Simon's consultants ever hook up with it, Davis is in trouble. **CPR**

Diego, an atheist objected to a cross displayed on private property on a hilltop in La Jolla. The common theme is the attempt by some atheists to purge religious symbols and expression from the public square. These atheists are not content to reject a belief in God on a personal level; they wish to impose their eccentric views on the rest of society — the overwhelming majority of whom are religious. This is an unprecedented campaign of censorship — to forbid Christians to profess publicly their belief in God.

Paulson, decided by a 7-to-4 vote, is an even greater affront to common sense, and a more serious threat to our nation's religious heritage, than the Pledge case because it represents the *en banc* judgment of the Ninth Circuit, not just the idiosyncratic views of two judges. (*Newdow* was decided by a 2-to-1 vote.) And, more ominously, *Paulson* reveals that the Ninth Circuit is controlled by the crackpot element characterized by Stephen Reinhardt (although Reinhardt did not participate in the *en banc* ruling). In other words, ultra-liberal rogue judges are not an aberration on the Ninth

Circuit; they formed the majority in two recent critical rulings.

THE *PAULSON* story begins in 1954, when the San Diego City Council permitted a private group, the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association, to erect a 43-foot high concrete cross atop Mt. Soledad as a tribute to veterans of World War I, World War II, and the Korean War. (Coincidentally, 1954, when patriotism and piety were still in fashion, was the same year Congress added the words "under God" to the Pledge of Allegiance.) Mt. Soledad is a prominent landmark in San Diego's La Jolla area, near the Pacific coast, with breathtaking vistas of the surrounding country. At the top of the hill, where the cross was erected, is a 170-acre city-owned park. The hilltop is an attractive location for a monument, and the Memorial Association was not the first group to think of displaying a cross there. Less durable versions made of wood and stucco were erected in 1913 and 1934, but they were destroyed, first by vandals and then in 1952

WHAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT GUN CONTROL

By SAM PAREDES

It's becoming increasingly apparent that "gun control" is more than just a political idea ... it's a disorder. It's a disease that warps the mind and robs it of common sense. Like prolonged marijuana use, constant exposure to "gun control" mumbo-jumbo makes a mind increasingly witless. For example:

Earlier this year, seven 4th grade school boys from Denver were caught playing "soldiers vs. aliens" and were given detention for a week. Their crime? They were using their fingers as pretend weapons — violating the school's "zero tolerance" weapons on campus policy. Principal Darci Mickle of Dry Creek Elementary School called all of the boy's parents to have them picked up from school and informed them they were being punished for their

display of violent and aggressive behavior. One of the parents, learning that Mickle had also asked the boys if firearms were kept in their home, said, "It's none of her business"

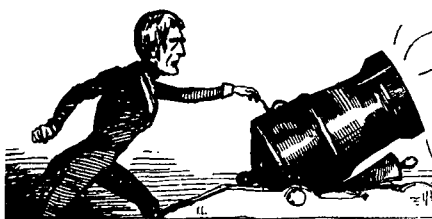
Unfortunately the sickness is not limited to the United States — here's another case: On a fine Saturday in Ashington, Northumberland, UK, three 12-year-old children were seen running around the back streets of their neighborhood. They were taking turns playing James Bond and his enemies. Fear struck two retirees who looked in horror as they saw the kids chasing each other

with toy guns. This prompted local police officers to call in for backup before confronting the kids. It took three patrol cars to surround and apprehend these dangerous criminals.

They were arrested, fingerprinted, and required to provide *DNA samples* for police records. The children's parents and a civil rights organization (called Liberty), said this was "a gross overreaction and abuse of the children's rights." A police spokesman said the girl and two boys were issued a formal reprimand, which required fingerprinting and sampling because this was considered a "recordable offense." The girl's father said, "they were only doing what kids their age have done for years." The arrest will remain on police records for three years but the fingerprints and DNA samples will be kept for life. All for playing a game.

It's a sickness, I tell you.

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