

made me realize I had been naïve to think the story could be a window; it was actually more like a mirror: People read into it what they wanted, filtering it through their preconceptions. In that sense, the story failed. Yet it did provoke debate and prompt some reader reflection. On such a polarizing topic, that may be the best we reporters can hope for."

SIMON'S STORY generated another reaction from pro-lifers that she didn't mention, namely: Why didn't she note that this Fayetteville abortionist has long claimed to be friends with Bill and Hillary Clinton and claims to have served as Hillary's doctor around the time he started up his abortion practice? LifeSiteNews.com raised this issue shortly after Simon's story appeared, reporting that William Harrison has written that "I have known Bill and Hillary Clinton personally since they both moved to Fayetteville to teach at the University of Arkansas Law School in the early '70s. I met Hillary first

as her physician and she soon introduced me to her then-boyfriend, Bill."

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Writer Tom Bethell, a media fellow at Stanford's Hoover Institution, lowers the boom on dubious science reporters and scientists in his trenchant and much-needed recently released book, *The Politically Incorrect Guide to Science*. Bethell notes that supposedly skeptical reporters often serve as conveyor belts for scientific fraud and wobbly theories. Though they usually make a great show of questioning authority, reporters do frighteningly little of that when government scientists and "experts" appear before them to hawk politically correct science.

"Senior officials from the National Institutes of Health have been known to call television producers and tell them that certain views, if publicized, could endanger the health of the nation," writes Bethell. "Journalists sometimes think it's downright unsafe to

WHAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TOLD ABOUT GUN CONTROL

By SAM PAREDES

America has a grand tradition of representative government: of serious people assembling to find common ground within all shades of opinion, to thrash out our differences not with brute force like dark age Neanderthals, but thoughtfully, with devotion to truth in service to the common good. Witness it first hand. Sit face to face with members of our Legislature. See high principle applied daily in a feast of reason and flow of soul.

Well, not exactly. Actually, I have tried something less ambitious — merely raising the topic of the Founding Fathers' foresight in including in the Constitution the Second Amendment's guarantee of our right to keep and bear arms as a daunting obstacle to tyranny. I have seen the august members' eyes all

but glaze over when I mention the Constitution. They call it a "living, breathing document," and they treat it as a thing long dead: explaining that our Founding Fathers have little relevance "today," that "today's" elected officials "know better" — in their humility, a humility that nothing short of profound ignorance can achieve, they wearily take to be self-evident their superiority of mind over those children of a bygone era: Washington, Franklin, Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison.

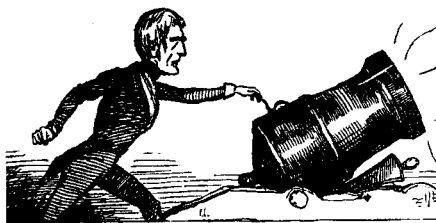
But our Founding Fathers knew the threat of tyranny is never really removed, so much so that both Federalists and anti-Federalists support-

ed the protection of unfettered ownership and use of firearms in the U.S. Constitution.

I know that many past and present legislators have an undying love for our Founders and of the big three — the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, and the Bill of Rights — but often as no more than artifacts of a dead past, not "living, breathing" guides for "today." It's as if America's founding were a painting on the wall. Suggestions that the concerns that shaped it hold more than symbolic relevance "today" provoke a reaction as uncomprehending, appalled, even panic-stricken, as if Washington's or Franklin's painted likenesses came suddenly to life, walked out of their portrait and into the room talking of freedom and slavery.

If our children are to know American peace and freedom, we will have to do better than that. *CPR*

Sam Paredes is executive director of Gun Owners of California. For more information go to www.gunownersca.com.



question the experts. Actually, it's unsafe not to."

Not long after Bethell's book was released came vivid confirmation of its points from South Korea. The cloning claims of South Korean scientists — claims the American media had trumpeted as evidence of a glorious Stem Cell Future that a reactionary America under George Bush refused to join — turned out to be bogus. Yet the same journalists who uncritically treated this fraud as ironclad proof of scientific progress offered no apologies that I saw. They expressed no regret at having gratuitously bashed the president for possessing the circumspection and skepticism they lack. In many journalistic quarters, a profound silence greeted news the South Korean government had discovered that all the stem cell lines from the alleged clones didn't exist. The scant coverage that did follow this report tended to be muted and largely ignored the media's previous glowing embrace of the claim.

The media treat doctors and scientists as a "white-coated priesthood," writes Bethell. "If only the skepticism with which they view the uniformed officers of the Department of Defense could be extended to the uniformed officers of the Public Health Service."

Scientists have long known that sympathetic, credu-

lous liberal reporters are useful dupes for any new alarmist claim modern science wishes to peddle. The key for these scientists is to make their declarations as dogmatic as possible while concealing their own doubts, and the media will swallow their claims whole.

BETHELL QUOTES Stanford climatologist Stephen Schneider, winner of a MacArthur Fellow "genius" award in 1992, saying: "We have to offer up scary scenarios, make simplified, dramatic statements, and make little of any doubts we might have. This 'double ethical bind' we frequently find ourselves in cannot be solved by any formula. Each of us has to decide what the right balance is between being effective and being honest. I hope that means being both."

It usually doesn't. But that's okay, some environmentalists reason, since bad science can serve good ends. As Christine Steward, former Canadian Minister of the Environment, says in another revealing quote culled in the book, "No matter if the science is all phony, there are collateral environmental benefits ... Climate change [provides] the greatest chance to bring about justice and equality in the world." CPR



Those in power over us

The army corps' 'navigable waters' canard

The federal high court can end a notorious abuse of both private property and the Constitution.

M. DAVID STIRLING

THE FEDERAL bureaucracy's notorious abuse of power under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to deprive property owners use of their own land may finally be reigned in. On February 21 in the United States Supreme Court, Pa-

cific Legal Foundation attorney M. Reed Hopper directly challenged the federal government's longstanding intentional misinterpretation of CWA, which mandates federal regulatory jurisdiction over "wetlands" "adjacent" to "navigable waters" (*i.e.*, a river, lake, or stream), as an excuse to send government agents to harass private property owners attempting to use their own land whenever and wherever any water is present in any quantity, even temporary puddles or ponds from seasonal precipitation. PLF is represent-

Mr. Stirling is vice president of Pacific Legal Foundation (www.pacificlegal.org), a public interest legal organization that has defended private property rights and challenged environmental excesses in the courts for 33 years. He may be reached at mds@pacificlegal.org.