

insurance has become one of the most untouchable aspects of the welfare state. It has led people to believe that they have a right to a constant income stream. We were much better off in the old days, when wages were tied to productivity. There was no profit to be gained from endlessly looking or waiting for a job. But now, lazing around pays "double indemnity."

When George Bush was confronted with growing unemployment a year before the election, he gave in to media and congressional pressure and extended unemployment benefits. Lo and behold, three months later, joblessness was an even greater problem. If the Democrats had sought to create the appearance of a falling economy, badgering Bush to subsidize unemployment was just the thing.

We may yet see this program explode out of control. It has been a long time since we have had a serious and sudden all-round recession, or depression, as they used to call it, before that word was outlawed as politically incorrect. If we have a depression, possibly under the Clintons, and as many people begin drawing on their insurance as are eligible, we will see a real fiscal crisis and a spiraling loss of jobs.

Such a situation would look very much like a bank run. Every one will want what has been promised. But everyone will know that all claims cannot be paid without bankrupting the Treasury.

But government has still another insurance policy to sell you: against want in old age.

Under the free market, the best protection against poverty among the elderly was a high savings rate during one's productive years, and a large family. Social Security—the most insidious form of government insurance except perhaps Clinton's medical nationalization—subverted both savings and children, with horrifying economic and social consequences.

Today, Social Security is widely recognized as a Ponzi or pyramid scheme, although a very successful one for Washington, D.C., since it has harnessed an influential dependent class to the state. Social Security, and the related Medicare, constitute insurance fraud on a massive scale. Recipients get checks for far more than they paid in (and their Money was spent long ago). It's "triple indemnity."

Social Security has also caused intergenerational warfare. It has turned the people society ought to look to for leadership and wisdom—the elderly—into a hysterical lobby demanding ever-greater handouts at the expense of the young.

Alan Greenspan "saved" Social Security once in the 1980s by raising its flat income tax perpetually, but everyone knows the scheme cannot last, as fewer and fewer workers pay for more

and more retirees. What young person today believes that Social Security will take care of him in *his* old age?

Social Security is going bankrupt, and as with all these phony insurance plans, that may be the only hope we have for middle-class welfare reform. It will cause middle-class people to start having children, and

start saving, again. It may even cause the middle class to sever its co-dependency relationship with the state.

Maybe Americans will come to see that whether the government is providing insurance for banks, workers, the elderly, or the sick, we will get more of what we're subsidizing, whether it's non-responsibility, non-work, or non-health.

Premiums do not match risks, tax-payers are looted, the beneficiaries transfer their loyalty from the family and other private institutions to the state, massive quantities of public and private resources are wasted, and we are a much poorer society in every sense.

With private insurance, we would know that fraud was involved. With the public sector, we can know that *legal* fraud is the necessary foundation. And despite promises to the contrary, we can know that the middle class is the ultimate victim. ■

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P.C. Watch

by L.H.R., Jr.

Ozone: It's a White Thing

"A lot has been said recently about the thinning of the ozone layer," wrote David Bush in *Interrace* (9-10/93), an Atlanta magazine. "Interestingly, it turns out that the whole issue is really of concern to fair-skinned Caucasians."

In fact, "it is possible that 'lard-white skin' just will not make it in this new world reality!" That's why "fair-skinned individuals" should choose "a mate who will contribute a darker complexion to the genetic makeup of their offspring."

To promote "interracial coupling," the government should "establish summer camps and work camps where majority children would encounter minority children in a relaxed atmosphere, away from social constraints. Majority girls would participate in camps" with "minority boys, and vice versa," without "prejudicial pressures or obsolete taboos." In addition, "the public should be educated about the positive aspects of a darker complexion" through government-funded television ads. (*Harpers*, 12/93)

American Writers

When she received the 1993 Nobel Prize in literature, Toni Morrison "delivered a lovingly wrought paean to language and to the sublime vocation of 'word work,'" said reporter John Darnton in the *New York Times* (12/8/93). "Those with long memories compared it to

the 1950 lecture by William Faulkner."

"Oppressive language," said Morrison, "does more than represent violence; it is violence." Such language can even cause "tongue suicide." In America, "children have bitten their tongues off and use bullets instead to iterate the voice of speechlessness."

Tagging

"Hook up, calm down, know what you're gonna do—and then bust," said a tagger named Nuke to a packed undergraduate classroom at UCLA, where he is lecturing on graffiti art. "Some look at the Los Angeles River bed and see a pox of tangled

ganglia, a lurid mess of bulbous letters and oversized chicken scratches," said reporter Shawn Hubler (*Los Angeles Times*, 11/18/93). "But to the connoisseur, issues abound: the fluid New York style versus the more linear Los Angeles approach, the challenge of can control, the issue of tips. The shallow derivativeness of the post-Chaka era. Not to mention that it is, ahem, against the law."

The class was World Art and Cultures 130, taught by visiting professor Judith Baca, "an arts activist" who said she wanted to explore the "fine line between community sensitivity and censorship."

Nuke and his colleague Duke,

Rating Senate Republicans

— Nafta: The Noble Ten —

Everyone talked about the House vote on Nafta (Nov. 17), but nobody paid attention to the Senate vote three days later. And yet that vote, 61 to 38 for Nafta, is highly significant; for Nafta failed to pass by a two-thirds vote. And that means that Nafta is unconstitutional, for the Constitution provides that any treaty to pass, requires a two-thirds vote of the U.S. Senate. It is precisely because Franklin Roosevelt and later scoundrel Presidents could not get two-thirds approval for many of their treaties that they concocted the "executive agreement," which is in every respect like a treaty and yet requires only a simple majority of both houses. And yet the Constitution recognizes no such animal as "executive agreement." Nafta is unconstitutional!

The Senate Democrats turned down Nafta by 28-27; once again, the monstrous Republicans took on the task of "saving the Clinton presidency." Republicans backed Nafta by 34 to 10. The heroic and noble Ten should go down in song and story, along with the House 43. The other 34 are renegades, and Clinton-Trilat Cartelists, and should be treated accordingly.

The Anti-Nafta Ten:

Alaska: Ted Stevens
Idaho: Dirk Kempthorne, Larry Craig
Maine: William S. Cohen
Montana: Conrad Burns
New Hampshire: Robert Smith
New York: Alfonse D'Amato
North Carolina: Lauch Faircloth, Jesse Helms
South Carolina: Strom Thurmond

who also lectured, belong to Earth Crew, a "group of environmentally concerned artists" who will only use spray paint without CFCs.

"In New York, they had to bust things quickly because they were working on subways. Here, we have more time," said Nuke. "We're more into the line, getting that can control." Then there is the nozzle. Often it's the "basketball tip" from an unnamed aerosol product, a sort of "poor man's airbrush that creates a swath of paint as broad as a basketball."

"Then there is the matter of the notorious tagger Chaka, who was arrested a few years ago for spraypainting his name on thousands of lamp-posts, road signs, underpasses, curbsides."

Nuke and Duke look sad. After Chaka, they said, "taggers began to value 'quantity over quality,' and the true visionaries of the medium were overshadowed," men such as Angst, Hex, Slick, Anger, Risky, Power, Skill, Toon, and Teck. But do not despair. "The ones that have heart," Duke told the class, "will stick on the game."

The Grapevine

In her book *I Heard It Through the Grapevine: Rumor in African-American Culture* (University of

California Press, 1993), Professor Patricia A. Turner of UC Davis explores the rumors common in all segments of the black community. These include the ideas that Kentucky and Church's Fried Chicken add

sterilizing chemicals to their batter, that whites invented AIDS and crack for anti-black purposes, that menthol cigarettes are designed to give black men cancer, that Reebok gives its profits to the South African government, and that the white men murdered black boys in Atlanta to perform medical experiments on them.

Such rumors have been common ever since West Africans thought white slave owners were cannibals (like black slave owners). And the stories are useful, offering "the African-American community a way for coping with and responding to a hostile dominant culture. As rumors are named and shared, blacks have developed a powerful mechanism for absorbing and sometimes surmounting racial oppression."

Abolish IQ

The Fairfax, Virginia, school system used to require an IQ of 140 for admission to its gifted program. That is now to be changed, because while minorities (Asians, Latinos, and blacks)

make up 30% of the population, they are only 11% of the gifted program, with most slots going to Asians. Now other talents may be substituted for IQ to bring about proportional representation. (*Washington Post*, 10/18, *Washington Times*, 12/2/93)

Where's the Flyswatter?

The federal government has added the first fly to its endangered species list: the Delhi sand fly of Southern California. "They talk about a fly becoming extinct, but so are jobs," May Frank Gonzales of Colton, where a hospital building project has been stopped by flyophilia. And people who harm or kill a fly may now be fined \$200,000 and sentenced to a year in jail. (*Washington Times*, 10/12/93)

Get a Housekeeper

The American Catholic bishops—many of whom are living embodiments of their own advice—have urged American men to "move beyond gender stereotypes." Forget what Scripture and Tradition teach about family structure and governance—be "equal."

Archbishop James A. Hickey of Washington, D.C., whom no one would accuse of being a gender stereotype, called the 5,000 word document, "Follow the Way of Love," the "affection and support" that families "deserve." Among the recommendations: men should share their feelings (Archbishop, here's what I think of you); women should stop being afraid to show anger (what planet do you live on, Archbishop?); children should be brought into family decision making (kids,

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should we give this money to the Archbishop's 115th fund appeal, or spend it on toys?); and men should do the housework (does this mean you're firing your housekeepers?).

The bishops, who apparently took their previous foreign policy positions because of pro-Communism, now in "The Challenge to Peace" urge an end to "isolationism" and the adoption of a policy of global interventionism by the U.S. government, along with much more foreign aid. (*Washington Post*, 11/15/93)

P.C. and the Professor

Matin Yaqzan, a tenured mathematics professor at the University of New Brunswick, has been suspended from his job and will probably be fired. "Free speech does not equal irresponsible speech," said the university's president, Robin Armstrong.

His crime? Yaqzan wrote a column for the university newspaper on date rape, which he said was different from stranger rape. Girls shouldn't be inviting boys to their rooms, he said. "If a promiscuous girl becomes a victim of an unwanted sexual experience, it would be more reasonable for her to demand some monetary compensation" than to "try to arouse the emotional response... that the word 'rape' evoked in yesteryear."

"A young girl and a young boy were chaperoned in the past for the obvious reason that a boy could not be expected to be a master of his sexual impulses... The use of the veil among Muslim women was initiated for similar considerations," said Yaqzan, a Muslim,

"it was not a plot to subjugate women."

When Canadian, British, and American journalists swarmed around his office, Yaqzan refused to talk, and then passed out a price list for interviews: \$5,000 for the local media; \$25,000 for national; and \$100,000 for British and U.S. There were no takers, but much additional umbrage. (*Washington Post*, 12/1/93)

Speaking the Slanguage

Two teenagers are overheard: "This jam is thick. Plenty of mad honey dips, dope system." "We phat. But I gotta flex. I be maxin' at the crib." "I'm easin' here." It's the language of the hip-hop generation. If you're mystified, the *Washington Post* (10/14/93) has the translations. Here are some: *Chopped*: ugly. *Crib*: home. *Diesel*: good-looking male. *Dope*: good. *Duggy*: well dressed. *Flex*: leave. *Lampin'*: relaxing. *Grip*: money. *Honey dip*: good-looking female. *Hooty*: car. *Jam*: party. *Joints*: sneakers. *Mackin'*: well dressed. *Mad*: good. *Phat*: good. *Shoot the gift*: talk. *Skeezer*: slut. *Skinz*: good-looking female. *System*: loud car stereo. *Thick*: good. *Think it ain't*: I agree with you. *To the curb*: dumped by your girlfriend.

You Don't Say

"WASP" is now forbidden at the *Los Angeles Times* ("may be pejorative"), notes Howard Kurtz in the *Washington Post* (11/29/93). So is "co-ed" ("considered derogatory to female college students") and "Dutch treat" ("an offensive reference to sharing expenses").

Also banned are "mailman", "mankind," and "man-made," for obvious reasons. So is "the New World" ("Beware of this usage when referring to the ancient continent of North America stumbled upon by Christopher Columbus. It ignores the 2,000 separate cultures that already existed in the continent").

Other forbidden words include: "babe," "Chinese fire drill," "crazy," "ghetto," "gypped," "handicapped," "Hispanic," "Indians," "inner city," "lame," "male nurse," "normal," "powwow," "queer," and "welsher."

Darn, Heck, Pooh-Pooh

Adam and Julianna Seligman are suing Northwest Airlines under the Americans With Disabilities Act for asking them not to take a flight because they were shouting obscenities.

The Seligmans, who claim to suffer from Tourette Syndrome, which they say makes them swear, want a big settlement, regardless of what other passengers may have wanted. Reported the *San Francisco Chronicle* (10/22/93): "'Tourette is like any other disease,' said Seligman as he peppered his sentence with four-letter expletives under his breath. 'Just because we say 'Fuck you' doesn't mean we're throwing our rights out the door.'"

Casual AIDS

Paleo-libertarians have always opposed the forced integration of children with AIDS into schools. After all, blood is the major means of transmission, and schoolboys fight, bite, fall, and otherwise draw blood. Why

should non-infected students and teachers be put at risk for P.C. purposes? Now scientists have reported, very reluctantly, several cases of children being infected by AIDS through such means. Is the Establishment worried about healthy children? Of course, not. It is concerned that "needless panic" may work non-p.c. results. (*New York Times*, 12/5/93)

Geronimo

"Do they show him hanging little girls on meat hooks?" asked the original screenwriter John Milius about the new movie, *Geronimo, an American Legend*. The answer is, of course, no. Geronimo is an Indian hero and victim of demonic frontier whites. Too bad, said Milius, "I like Geronimo as he was, a human predator."

The Apaches were invaders of Arizona themselves, but only the white man trespasses in the new movie. The Apaches are not seen as the atrocity-happy thieves they were, but as noble redmen. For example, Geronimo's last raid in 1885 is shown as forced upon him by a trigger-happy Army officer. In fact, it was caused by an Army ban on the Apache practice of cutting off

the noses of disobedient wives.

After a lucrative career in Wild West shows, Geronimo died from pneumonia after falling off his horse in a drunken stupor and lying all night in a ditch. But none of this is shown in the movie either.

Final screenwriter Larry

Gross explains that the audience doesn't want history, it wants entertainment. P.C. entertainment, of course. (*New York Times*, 12/5/93)

T-Shirt Prohibition

"Among the under-21 crowd, they were all the rage, literally," wrote reporter Evelyn Nieves (*New York Times*, 11/16/93). "Blaring slogans full of

four-letter words and racial slurs in black letters about a foot long," the T-shirts sold in Newark, New Jersey, "were like boom boxes on full blast." So in October, the city council banned their sale to minors, and merchants had to give them "the plain-brown-wrapper treatment."

"Young men wearing shirts describing women as bitches and whores. Young women wearing shirts describing men as 'nig-gaz.' It was meant to hurt, and

it did."

Mr. Wali Hakim, "a self-described motivational speaker," was now selling "black sweat-shirts with the slogan, 'Born to Win,' boldly printed in white." "Unfortunately, the negative shirts sold faster than the positive ones." But the positive ones may help. "'Newark is a monkey-see, monkey-do place,' he said."

Black Conservatives

In a *Wall Street Journal* article (11/15/93), black conservative leader Robert Woodson quoted a survey to show that 33% of blacks think of themselves as conservatives. But David Bositis of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies in Washington, D.C., which did the survey, complained that Woodson thereby misled (*WSJ*, letter, 12/8/93). "Of the 33% of the black respondents who identified themselves as conservative, 79% favor affirmative action, 76% believe defense spending should be cut dramatically with the savings going to urban initiatives, 81% think too little money is spent on education, 83% favor Afrocentric education, 80% favor government initiatives helping young black males, two-thirds are Democrats, and 75% rate Jesse Jackson favorably. If this is Bob Woodson's profile of a black conservative, so be it, but he should make clear that black conservatism equates with government activism." ■

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