OCTOBER 10, 2010 THESKEPTICARENA.COM

A PRO-OBAMA ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN BY FRANK SCHAEFFER. SCHAEFFER'S ARTICLE GAVE A LONG LIST OF POINTS, OR CLAIMS, THAT ARGUED FOR A POSITIVE VIEW OF OBAMA'S FIRST 2 YEARS IN OFFICE.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED, YOU CAN READ THIS ARTICLE BY DOWNLOADING THE WORD DOCUMENT ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PODCAST AT "THESKEPTICARENA.COM/ARCHIVES" AND SELECT SHOW #123.

HOWEVER, I AM NOT GOING TO DISCUSS SCHAEFFER'S ARTICLE. THIS SHOW IS NOT ABOUT POLITICS, IT IS ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS. WHAT I AM GOING TO DISCUSS IS AN EMAIL I RECEIVED THAT RESPONDED TO SCHAEFFER'S ARTICLE, WRITTEN BY SOMEONE WHO IS OBVIOUSLY ANTI-OBAMA.

THIS SHOW WILL NOT TAKE SIDES REGARDING PRESIDENT OBAMA. BUT THE EMAIL RESPONSE TO SCHAEFFER'S ARTICLE WAS A PERFECT EXAMPLE OF IRRATIONAL THINKING AND PROVIDES GREAT TRAINING FOR ALL CRITICAL THINKERS.

THE EMAIL BEGINS:

MANY MANY BAD THINGS HAVE BEEN SAID ABOUT ALL OUR PRESIDENTS AT ONE TIME OR ANOTHER.

(GREAT START DUDE, SO FAR WE ARE IN TOTAL AGREEMENT).

THE INCOMING PRESIDENT ALWAYS INHERITS THE COUNTRY AS IT IS. I HAVE A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHAEFFER'S COMMENTS WHICH SEEM TO BE MADE WITHOUT SUPPORT. MEANING HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF OBAMA ARE ASSUMING HE IS RIGHT.

(DUDE, NOW YOUR GRIP ON RATIONALITY IS STARTING TO LOOSEN. WHY WOULD ANYONE GIVE DESCRIPTIONS OF SOMEONE UNLESS THEY WERE ASSUMING THEY WERE RIGHT? I'VE NEVER HEARD ANYONE PRESENT ARGUMENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME, ASSUME THEY WERE WRONG.

AND WHY WOULD GIVING DESCRIPTIONS, BASED ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THOSE DESCRIPTIONS WERE RIGHT, "SEEM" TO INDICATE THAT THEY WERE MADE WITHOUT SUPPORT?

WHICH ONES WERE MADE WITHOUT SUPPORT? HOW DO YOU KNOW THEY WERE MADE WITHOUT SUPPORT?).

BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I MADE MY OPINIONS OF CLINTON, BUSH, AND OBAMA LONG BEFORE THEY BECAME PRESIDENTS.

(OH, I BELIEVE YOU DUDE. THAT WAS A PERFECT DESCRIPTION OF HOW THE IRRATIONAL MIND WORKS. IRRATIONALS FORM THEIR OPINIONS LONG BEFORE MOST OF THE DATA ARE IN. THEN THEY DEFEND THOSE OPINIONS AGAINST ALL EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY NO MATTER HOW STRONG THAT EVIDENCE MAY BE).

AFTER SEEING THEM IN ACTION MY OPINIONS I FOUND WERE TRUE AND SUPPORTED BY THE FACTS OF THEIR EFFORTS.

(DUDE, THAT PROVES MY LAST STATEMENT. WHEN IRRATIONALS FORM OPINIONS, ALL FUTURE EVIDENCE WILL BE DISCARDED IF IT IS CONTRARY TO THEIR BELIEFS, AND ACCEPTED GLADLY IF IT SUPPORTS THEIR OPINION - NO MATTER HOW WEAK THAT SUPPORTING EVIDENCE MAY BE.

IT IS SAFE TO SAY, THAT ALL YOUR OPINIONS ARE ALWAYS FOUND TO BE TRUE AND SUPPORTED BY "FACTS." WHEN YOUR OPINIONS ARE NEVER CHANGED BY NEW INFORMATION, THAT IS HOW YOU KNOW THAT YOUR MIND IS CLOSED SHUT).

OF COURSE MY OPINIONS ARE FORMED NOT FROM FIRST HAND EXPERIENCE BUT FROM WHAT THE MEDIA ALLOWS US TO SEE AND OR READ.

(DUDE, THAT IS TRUE FOR NEARLY ALL OF US. THAT IS WHY THE DEVELOPMENT OF CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS IS SO IMPORTANT. THEY ARE THE KEY TO PROTECTING US AGAINST THE LIES THAT THE MEDIA CONSTANTLY BOMBARDS US WITH).

WHEN OBAMA'S DATE OF BIRTH BECAME A QUESTION I TOOK NOTICE.

(DUDE, THAT IS EXACTLY MY POINT. HIS DATE OF BIRTH BECAME AN ISSUE AFTER HE TOOK OFFICE. AS YOU ADMITTED, YOUR OPINION HAD ALREADY BEEN FORMED. NOW, BY YOUR OWN ADMISSION, EVIDENCE THAT COMES INTO YOUR MIND WHICH CONFORMS WITH YOUR PRESUPPOSITIONS GETS "NOTICED").

WHEN HIS PLACE OF BIRTH BECAME A QUESTION I CONTINUED TO WATCH.

(DUDE, DID IT EVER DAWN ON YOU THAT HE NEVER COULD HAVE RAN FOR PRESIDENT IF THIS WERE TRUE?

GUESS NOT.

WITH 50 MILLION REPUBLICANS SEARCHING DESPERATELY FOR SOMETHING TO KEEP HIM FROM BECOMING PRESIDENT, AND HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF THEM BEING LAWYERS, HOW IS IT POSSIBLE NOT ONE PERSON "NOTICED" THIS AND FORCED HIM OUT OF THE RACE? AND IF TRUE, HOW COULD HE STILL BE HOLDING OFFICE ...

HE COULDN'T.

YOU HAVE TO BE UTTERLY DEVOID OF ALL COMMON SENSE TO SUBSCRIBE TO THIS THEORY. THE ONLY KIND OF WINGNUTS WHO ARE GULLIBLE ENOUGH TO FALL FOR SOMETHING THIS WEAK ARE THE MORONS WHO ARE ALSO HOLOCAUST DENIERS, CLIMATE CHANGE DENIERS, AND PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN ANALLY PROBED BY ALIENS.

I'M SURE YOU ARE INCLUDED IN AT LEAST ONE OF THOSE THREE GROUPS).

WHEN HIS CHOICES OF PAST FRIENDS (REV. WRIGHT) HIT THE NEWS I WAS STILL WATCHING.

(DUDE, I NOTICE YOU ARE VERY PERCEPTIVE AND "WATCHING" WHEN THE NEWS CONFORMS TO YOUR BELIEFS. I ALSO NOTICE THAT YOU DON'T SEEM VERY "WATCHING" WHEN THINGS DON'T MAKE HIM LOOK BAD. I GUESS THAT IS YOUR IDEA OF BEING OBJECTIVE?

DID YOU HAPPEN TO NOTICE ANY OF HIS OTHER CHOICES FOR FRIENDS?

APPARENTLY NOT).

WHEN I HEARD THE FIRST LADY SAY ON NATIONAL TV, "NOW I HAVE REASON TO LOVE AMERICA" MEANING AFTER HER HUSBAND (OBAMA) AND FAMILY MOVED INTO THE WHITE HOUSE I LISTENED.

(DUDE, I TOO FOUND HER REMARK OFFENSIVE. BUT WHAT HAS THE FIRST LADY GOT TO DO WITH ANYTHING?).

WHEN THE NOW PRES. OBAMA WAS SEEN ON NATIONAL TV NOT PLACING HIS HAND OVER HIS HEART DURING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM I WATCHED.

(DUDE, WHEN YOUR MIND IS SET IN STONE, AS YOURS OBVIOUSLY IS, YOU ONLY "WATCH" AND "NOTICE" WHEN HE DOES THINGS YOU CAN CRITICIZE. YOU ARE VIRTUALLY BLIND THE REST OF THE TIME ... AS THIS EMAIL PROVES EVERY TIME YOU START A NEW SENTENCE).

WHEN OBAMA SAID OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM SHOULD BE RE-WRITTEN SO AS NOT TO INSULT ANYONE I LISTENED.

(DUDE, LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT: YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE IT IS OKAY FOR OUR NATIONAL ANTHEM TO INSULT PEOPLE? SO ACCORDING TO YOUR MORAL CODE, IF THE WORD "NIGGER" WERE IN THE ANTHEM, IT SHOULD BE LEFT IN THERE?).

WHEN OBAMA'S AUNT (HIS FATHER'S SISTER) WAS FOUND ON THE STREETS AND IN THIS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY I LISTENED. WHEN OBAMA SAID HE DIDN'T REALIZE HIS AUNT WAS HOMELESS I LISTENED.

(DUDE, YOU DO A LOT OF LISTENING, BUT ALMOST NO THINKING. TRY FORMING A THOUGHT ONCE IN A WHILE. YOU MIGHT FIND THAT IT WON'T HURT YOUR HEAD HALF AS MUCH AS YOU THINK IT WILL - AT LEAST NOT ONCE YOU GET USED TO IT).

I COULD GO ON AND ON ABOUT ALL OF OUR PAST PRESIDENTS AS I HAVE ABOUT OUR CURRENT ONE.

(DUDE: FROM WHAT I HAVE READ, I WOULD RATHER BE SPARED THE TORTURE OF LISTENING TO ANY MORE RANTING FROM A MIND THAT FORMS OPINIONS AND THEN LOCKS ITSELF SHUT. IF YOU ARE GOING TO GO THROUGH LIFE LIKE THAT, WHY EVEN HAVE A BRAIN? WHY NOT JUST DONATE IT TO SOMEONE WHO WOULD ACTUALLY PUT IT TO USE?

YOU OBVIOUSLY HAVE NO USE FOR IT).

I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE ACTIONS OR COMMENTS I HAVE SEEN AND HEARD FROM THE OBAMA'S HAS ANYTHING TO DO WITH THE OUTGOING PRESIDENT. (BUSH).

(DUDE. YOU LOST ME. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?)

IT IS MY OPINION THAT WHEN ANYONE SAYS OR DOES SOMETHING THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT AND NOT SOMEONE ELSE. TO BLAME SOMEONE ELSE FOR ONE'S OWN ACTIONS IS JUST NOT ACCEPTABLE.

(DUDE, SO WHY DIDN'T YOU GIVE EVEN ONE EXAMPLE OF OBAMA DOING THAT?

PROBABLY BECAUSE HE HASN'T BEEN BLAMING BUSH FOR THE 2 WARS AND DEPRESSION THAT ALL BEGAN DURING BUSH'S TERM. PERHAPS YOU CAN POINT US TO SOME VIDEO OR OTHER EVIDENCE WHERE OBAMA HAS DONE THIS?

I DIDN'T THINK SO).

WHEN I ARRESTED A BAD GUY FOR DRUGS AND THEY SAID MY FRIEND GAVE THEM TO ME I LISTENED WHILE I TOOK HIM TO JAIL. MANY MANY PEOPLE I HAVE PUT IN JAIL CLAIMED TO BE INNOCENT OF THE CRIME OR THE CRIME WAS THE FAULT OF SOMEONE ELSE. WHEN ANYONE IS NOT A TRUTH SPEAKER THEN WHAT ARE THEY? CLINTON WAS IMPEACHED FOR LYING BEFORE A GRAND JURY, REMEMBER?

(DUDE, IT'S FUNNY HOW YOU REPUBLICANS CAN RECALL A DEMOCRAT WHO WAS UNSUCCESSFULLY IMPEACHED A DECADE AGO, BUT ODDLY, FORGOT TO MENTION THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENT WHO LEFT OFFICE IN DISGRACE TO AVOID IMPEACHMENT IN THE SEVENTIES.

BUT TO BE FAIR, MANY DEMOCRATS WOULD DO THE SAME THING TO A REPUBLICAN.

LIKE I SAID, IRRATIONALS ONLY REMEMBER AND "NOTICE" WHAT THEY WANT TO REMEMBER AND NOTICE. EVERYTHING ELSE GETS CONVENIENTLY FORGOTTEN. YOU IRRATIONALS ARE SO PREDICTABLE.

BUT THEN, HOW HARD IS IT TO READ THE MINDS OF LITTLE CHILDREN?).

OH, BEFORE I FORGET, IN THE 25 YEARS OF BEING A POLICEMAN AND MAKING HUNDREDS OF ARRESTS, I NEVER PUT AN INNOCENT PERSON IN JAIL.

(DUDE, ARROGANCE IS ANOTHER HALLMARK TRAIT OF THE IRRATIONAL MIND. YOU COULDN'T POSSIBLY KNOW WHETHER OR NOT YOU JAILED AN INNOCENT PERSON UNLESS YOU WERE AS ALL-KNOWING AS THE INVISIBLE GHOST YOU WORSHIP).

AS A DETECTIVE MY SUCCESS OF WINNING A CRIMINAL CASE WAS IN THE 98TH PERCENTILE.

(DUDE, THAT IS BECAUSE CASES DO NOT PROCEED FORWARD UNLESS PROSECUTORS KNOW THEY HAVE A STRONG CASE. ALL PROSECUTORS AND DETECTIVES HAVE HIGH WINNING PERCENTAGES).

THE CASES I DID LOSE WERE NOT BECAUSE THE ACCUSED WAS INNOCENT BUT BECAUSE OF A LOOPHOLE IN COURT OR THE JUDGE'S OPINION THAT THE GUY WAS GUILTY WHILE THERE WAS INSUFFICENT EVIDENCE TO INDICT.

(DUDE, OR WHAT IS ALSO LIKELY, THOUGH YOU WOULD NEVER ADMIT IT - THAT YOU WERE WRONG. AS DEATH ROW HAS PROVEN OVER A HUNDRED TIMES, DNA SHOWS THAT COPS LIKE YOU AREN'T HALF AS BRIGHT AS THEY THINK THEY ARE).

POLITICS IS A TOUGH SUBJECT. IF MORE PEOPLE WOULD FORM THERE OPINIONS ON FACTS INSTEAD OF EMOTIONS THEN WE ARE HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

(DUDE, HOW CLUELESS DO YOU HAVE TO BE TO LECTURE OTHERS ABOUT THINGS THAT YOU YOURSELF ARE GUILTY OF? THE IRRATIONAL MIND OPERATES SOLELY ON EMOTION. FACTS ARE ANYTHING YOU SAY ARE FACTS. EVIDENCE WHICH CONTRADICTS YOUR PRESUPPOSITIONS ARE INSTANTLY DEMOTED AND NOT CONSIDERED FACTS.

YOU WOULDN'T KNOW A FACT IF IT ZINGED YOU IN THE NUTS).

I CAN'T BELIEVE SCHAEFFER'S COMMENTS THAT OBAMA WILL SUCCEED AND IS HEADED IN THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS BECAUSE OF WHAT SCHAEFFER SAYS OF PRES. BUSH' S ADMINISTRATION. IT JUST DOESN'T ADD UP.

(DUDE, IT WILL NEVER ADD UP IN YOUR MIND BECAUSE YOU HAVE ALREADY RIGGED THE OUTCOME IN ADVANCE. LIKE A TYPICAL IRRATIONAL, YOU FAILED TO ADDRESS A SINGLE ISSUE RAISED BY SCHAEFFER. INSTEAD YOU RESORTED TO AN EMOTIONAL, ILLOGICAL SERIES OF PERSONAL ATTACKS IN LIEU OF THE EVIDENCE THAT YOU DO NOT POSSESS.

YOU BEGAN THIS EMAIL BY STATING THAT YOU HAD A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT SCHAEFFER'S COMMENTS, YET THOSE QUESTIONS WERE NEVER ASKED. LIKE ALL IRRATIONALS, YOU SIMPLY AVOIDED ANY SEMBLANCE OF DEBATE AND WROTE A SCREED AGAINST SOMEONE YOU HAVE BEEN CONVINCED TO DISLIKE.

THE FACT THAT PEOPLE LIKE YOU ACTUALLY VOTE ... IS SCARY).

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THE SCIENCE SEGMENT

PHYSICS BREAKTHROUGH: FAST-MOVING NEUTRAL ATOM ISOLATED AND CAPTURED

IN A MAJOR PHYSICS BREAKTHROUGH, UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO SCIENTISTS IN NEW ZEALAND HAVE DEVELOPED A TECHNIQUE TO CONSISTENTLY ISOLATE AND CAPTURE A FAST-MOVING NEUTRAL ATOM -- AND HAVE ALSO SEEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED THIS ATOM FOR THE FIRST TIME.

THE ENTRAPMENT OF THE RUBIDIUM 85 ATOM IS THE RESULT OF A THREE-YEAR RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDED BY THE FOUNDATION FOR RESEARCH, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, AND HAS ALREADY PROMPTED WORLD-WIDE INTEREST IN THE NEW SCIENCE WHICH WILL FLOW FROM THE BREAKTHROUGH.

A TEAM OF FOUR RESEARCHERS FROM OTAGO'S PHYSICS DEPARTMENT, LED BY DR MIKKEL F. ANDERSEN, USED LASER COOLING TECHNOLOGY TO DRAMATICALLY SLOW A GROUP OF RUBIDIUM 85 ATOMS. A LASER-BEAM, OR "OPTICAL TWEEZERS," WAS THEN DEPLOYED TO ISOLATE AND HOLD ONE ATOM -- AT WHICH POINT IT COULD BE PHOTOGRAPHED THROUGH A MICROSCOPE.

THE RESEARCHERS THEN PROVED THEY COULD RELIABLY AND CONSISTENTLY PRODUCE INDIVIDUAL TRAPPED ATOMS -- A MAJOR STEP TOWARDS USING THE ATOMS TO BUILD NEXT-GENERATION, ULTRA-FAST QUANTUM-LOGIC COMPUTERS, WHICH HARNESS THE POTENCY OF ATOMS TO PERFORM COMPLEX INFORMATION-PROCESSING TASKS.

DR ANDERSEN SAYS THAT UNLIKE CONVENTIONAL SILICON-BASED COMPUTERS WHICH GENERALLY PERFORM ONE TASK AT A TIME, QUANTUM COMPUTERS HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO PERFORM NUMEROUS LONG AND DIFFICULT CALCULATIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY; THEY ALSO HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO BREAK SECRET CODES THAT WOULD USUALLY PROVE TOO COMPLEX.

"OUR METHOD PROVIDES A WAY TO DELIVER THOSE ATOMS NEEDED TO BUILD THIS TYPE OF COMPUTER, AND IT IS NOW POSSIBLE TO GET A SET OF TEN ATOMS HELD OR TRAPPED AT THE ONE TIME.

"YOU NEED A SET OF 30 ATOMS IF YOU WANT TO BUILD A QUANTUM COMPUTER THAT IS CAPABLE OF PERFORMING CERTAIN TASKS BETTER THAN EXISTING COMPUTERS, SO THIS IS A BIG STEP TOWARDS SUCCESSFULLY DOING THAT," HE SAYS.

"IT HAS BEEN THE DREAM OF SCIENTISTS FOR THE PAST CENTURY TO SEE INTO THE QUANTUM WORLD AND DEVELOP TECHNOLOGY ON THE SMALLEST SCALE -- THE ATOMIC SCALE.

"WHAT WE HAVE DONE MOVES THE FRONTIER OF WHAT SCIENTISTS CAN DO AND GIVES US DETERMINISTIC CONTROL OF THE SMALLEST BUILDING BLOCKS IN OUR WORLD," DR ANDERSEN SAYS.

THE RESULTS OF THE LANDMARK STUDY HAVE BEEN ANNOUNCED IN THE JOURNAL NATURE PHYSICS.

DR ANDERSEN SAYS THAT WITHIN THREE WEEKS OF THE FIRST LABORATORY EXPERIMENT SUCCESSFULLY TRAPPING THE ATOM, NEW EXPERIMENTS PREVIOUSLY NOT THOUGHT POSSIBLE WERE UNDERWAY.

THE NEXT STEP IS TO TRY AND GENERATE A "STATE OF ENTANGLEMENT" BETWEEN THE ATOMS, A KIND OF ATOMIC ROMANCE WHICH LASTS THE DISTANCE, HE SAYS.

"WE NEED TO GENERATE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN THE ATOMS WHERE THEY CAN FEEL EACH OTHER, SO WHEN THEY ARE APART THEY STAY ENTANGLED AND DON'T FORGET EACH OTHER EVEN FROM A DISTANCE. THIS IS THE PROPERTY THAT A QUANTUM COMPUTER USES TO DO TASKS SIMULTANEOUSLY," SAYS DR ANDERSEN.

ONE ATOM IS SO TINY THAT 10 BILLION SIDE BY SIDE WOULD MAKE A METRE IN LENGTH. ATOMS USUALLY MOVE AT THE SPEED OF SOUND, MAKING THEM DIFFICULT TO MANIPULATE.

UNLIKE IONS, NEUTRAL ATOMS LIKE THE RUBIDIUM 85 ATOM ARE NOTORIOUSLY DIFFICULT TO PIN DOWN BECAUSE THEY CANNOT BE HELD BY ELECTRICAL FIELDS. IN RECENT TIMES, ONLY TWO OTHER TYPES OF NEUTRAL ATOM HAVE BEEN SEEN AND PHOTOGRAPHED BY SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD; THE RUBIDIUM 87 AND THE CAESIUM 133 ATOM.

DR ANDERSEN SAYS THAT FOR HIM PERSONALLY, THE BREAKTHROUGH HAS BEEN A MAJOR MILESTONE.

"I LEARNT AT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEE A SINGLE ATOM THROUGH A MICROSCOPE. WELL, MY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHER WAS WRONG," HE SAYS.

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RELIGION

TEXAS BOARD OF EDUCATION VOTES TO CORRECT 'PRO-ISLAMIC BIAS' IN TEXTBOOKS

THE TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVED A RESOLUTION TODAY THAT REQUIRES PUBLISHERS TO CORRECT A "PRO-ISLAMIC/ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIAS" IN FUTURE WORLD HISTORY TEXTBOOKS.

(MY COMMENT: THE EVANGELICAL TEXAS SCHOOL BOARD STRIKES AGAIN BY DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST - IGNORING TRUTH AND SPREADING LIES. YOU HAVE TO BE AN IMBECILE TO BELIEVE THAT IN CHRISTIAN AMERICA THE TEXTBOOKS HAVE AN ANTI-CHRISTIAN BIAS OR TO BELIEVE THEY ARE PRO-ISLAMIC. THIS IS SIMPLY ANOTHER IN A LONG LIST OF ATTEMPTS BY THE CHRISTIAN FAR RIGHT TO TURN AMERICA INTO A THEOCRACY - SPECIFICALLY, A CHRISTIAN THEOCRACY).

THE RESOLUTION, WHICH NARROWLY PASSED 7-6,

(MY COMMENT: THAT JUST HAPPENS TO BE THE MAKEUP OF THE SCHOOL BOARD: THE GHOST WORSHIPPERS HAVE JUST ENOUGH VOTES TO PASS ALL THESE CRAZY, UN-AMERICAN RULES.

LAST YEAR THEY ATTACKED EVOLUTION, EARLIER THIS YEAR THEY REWROTE HISTORY, AND NOW THEY ARE ATTACKING OTHER FAITHS. IF NOT FOR OUR SECULAR LAWS, THEY WOULD STILL BE BURNING WITCHES).

CITES INSTANCES OF AN ALLEGED EMPHASIS ON UNFAVORABLE EVENTS IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY AS TOLD IN SCHOOL TEXTBOOKS, WHILE CLAIMING THAT THE SAME TEXTBOOKS GLOSS OVER SIMILAR EVENTS IN ISLAMIC HISTORY.

(MY COMMENT: "ALLEGED" IS THE OPERATIVE WORD HERE.

"UNFAVORABLE EVENTS" IN CHRISTIAN HISTORY IS A EUPHEMISM FOR CRUSADES, INQUISITIONS, WITCH BURNINGS, HERESY AND BLASPHEMY EXECUTIONS, SLAVERY, AND OTHER "UNFAVORABLE EVENTS."

THE REASON SIMILAR ISLAMIC EVENTS ARE GLOSSED OVER IS BECAUSE THEY WERE NOT PART OF AMERICAN HISTORY).

"WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS PROHIBIT AND SEND A CLEAR MESSAGE TO THE PUBLISHERS THAT [THE BIAS] SHOULD NOT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE," BOARD MEMBER TERRI LEO SAID.

(MY COMMENT: AH, TERRI LEO, GHOST WORSHIPPER EXTRAORDINAIRE. NOW THERE'S A REAL NON-BIASED SOURCE. REGARDING ISLAM, THE BIAS SHE SPEAKS OF IS NOT HAPPENING NOW. BUT AFTER WATCHING HER AND HER IGNORANT COHORTS REWRITE AMERICAN HISTORY EARLIER THIS YEAR, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT SHE PLANS TO ENSURE A POSITIVE CHRISTIAN BIAS IN ALL FUTURE TEXTBOOKS).

THE LONE STAR STATE HAS A REPUTATION FOR DICTATING WHAT PUBLISHERS, WHICH MUST ABIDE BY STATE POLICY OR PROBABLY FORFEIT SIGNIFICANT SALES, CAN INCLUDE IN TEXTBOOKS. NEVERTHELESS, BECAUSE ALL OF THE TEXTBOOKS CITED IN THE RESOLUTION HAVE NOT BEEN USED IN TEXAS SCHOOLS SINCE 2003, IT IS UNCLEAR WHAT IMMEDIATE EFFECT THE POLICY WILL HAVE ON PUBLISHERS.

"THIS IS A COSMETIC EXERCISE," BOARD MEMBER MAVIS KNIGHT TOLD THE AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN.

KATHY MILLER, PRESIDENT OF THE TEXAS FREEDOM NETWORK, A LIBERAL ORGANIZATION OPPOSED TO THE POTENTIAL POLICY, SAID AFTERWARD THAT THE RESOLUTION WAS POLITICALLY MOTIVATED.

(MY COMMENT: I WOULD DISAGREE WITH MILLER. I THINK IT WAS RELIGIOUSLY MOTIVATED).

MILLER SAID IN A STATEMENT, "BOARD MEMBERS REJECTED NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES TODAY TO PASS A RESOLUTION THAT CALLED ON PUBLISHERS TO TREAT ALL RELIGIONS WITH BALANCE AND ACCURACY IN THEIR TEXTBOOKS."

(EVANGELICALS HAVE NO INTENTION OF TREATING ALL RELIGIONS FAIRLY AND THERE IS THE PROOF. THEY WILL CONTINUE TO ATTACK ALL NON-CHRISTIANS UNTIL EVERYONE IN AMERICAN DRESSES IN A CHRISTIAN BURKA).

"IT IS HARD NOT TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MEMBERS WHO VOTED FOR THIS RESOLUTION WERE SOLELY INTERESTED IN PLAYING ON FEAR AND BIGOTRY IN ORDER TO PIT CHRISTIANS AGAINST MUSLIMS."

(MY COMMENT: ABSOLUTELY TRUE AND THEY DO THAT BECAUSE THEY ARE SAFELY ENSCONCED IN THE VAST MAJORITY. IN MUSLIM NATIONS THEY DO THEY SAME THING TO THE CHRISTIANS.

RELIGION WILL CONTINUE TO DIVIDE HUMANITY INTO WARRING TRIBES AS IT HAS ALWAYS DONE UNTIL HUMANS FREE THEMSELVES OF THE THREATS FROM THE SPIRIT WORLD).

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FAMOUS QUOTES

STEVEN WEINBERG (1933) 77 YEARS OLD.

HE IS AN AMERICAN PHYSICIST AND NOBEL LAUREATE IN PHYSICS FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS WITH ABDUS SALAM AND SHELDON GLASHOW TO THE UNIFICATION OF THE WEAK FORCE AND ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERACTION BETWEEN ELEMENTARY PARTICLES.

"THOUGH AWARE THAT THERE IS NOTHING IN THE UNIVERSE

THAT SUGGESTS ANY PURPOSE FOR HUMANITY,

ONE WAY THAT WE CAN FIND A PURPOSE IS TO STUDY THE UNIVERSE BY THE METHODS OF SCIENCE,

WITHOUT CONSOLING OURSELVES WITH FAIRY TALES ABOUT ITS FUTURE, OR ABOUT OUR OWN."

"RELIGION IS AN INSULT TO HUMAN DIGNITY.

WITH OR WITHOUT IT,

YOU WOULD HAVE GOOD PEOPLE DOING GOOD THINGS

AND EVIL PEOPLE DOING EVIL THINGS.

BUT FOR GOOD PEOPLE TO DO EVIL THINGS, THAT TAKES RELIGION."

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Obama Will Triumph -- So Will America

By Frank Schaeffer a New York Times best selling author

Before he'd served even one year President Obama lost the support of the easily distracted left and engendered the white hot rage of the hate-filled right. But some of us, from all walks of life and ideological backgrounds -- including this white, straight, 57-year- old, former religious right wing agitator, now progressive writer and (given my background as the son of a famous evangelical leader) this unlikely Obama supporter -- are sticking with our President.

Why?-- because he is succeeding.

We faithful Obama supporters still trust our initial impression of him as a great, good and uniquely qualified man to lead us.

Obama's steady supporters will be proved right. Obama's critics will be remembered as easily panicked and prematurely discouraged at best and shriveled hate mongers at worst.

The Context of the Obama Presidency

Not since the days of the rise of fascism in Europe , the Second World War and the Depression has any president faced more adversity. Not since the Civil War has any president led a more bitterly divided country. Not since the introduction of racial integration has any president faced a more consistently short- sighted and willfully ignorant opposition - from both the right and left.

As the President's poll numbers have fallen so has his support from some on the left that were hailing him as a Messiah not long ago; all those lefty websites and commentators that were falling all over themselves on behalf of our first black president during the 2008 election.

The left's lack of faith has become a self-fulfilling "prophecy"-- snipe at the President and then watch the poll numbers fall and then pretend you didn't have anything to do with it!

Here is what Obama faced when he took office-- none of which was his fault:

# An ideologically divided country to the point that America was really two countries

# Two wars; one that was mishandled from the start, the other that was unnecessary and immoral

# The worst economic crisis since the depression

# America 's standing in the world at the lowest point in history

# A country that had been misled into accepting the use of torture of prisoners of war

# A health care system in free fall

# An educational system in free fall

# A global environmental crisis of history-altering proportions (about which the Bush administration and the Republicans had done nothing)

# An impasse between culture warriors from the right and left

# A huge financial deficit inherited from the terminally irresponsible Bush administration.

And those were only some of the problems sitting on the President's desk!

"Help" from the Right?

What did the Republicans and the religious right, libertarians and half-baked conspiracy theorists -- that is what the Republicans were reduced to by the time Obama took office -- do to "help" our new president (and our country) succeed? They claimed that he wasn't a real American, didn't have an American birth certificate, wasn't born here, was secretly a Muslim, was white-hating "racist", was secretly a communist, was actually the Anti-Christ, (!) and was a reincarnation of Hitler and wanted "death panels" to kill the elderly!

They not-so-subtly called for his assassination through the not-so-subtle use of vile signs held at their rallies and even a bumper sticker quoting Psalm 109:8. They organized "tea parties" to sound off against imagined insults and all government in general and gathered to howl at the moon. They were led by insurance industry lobbyists and deranged (but well financed) "commentators" from Glenn Beck to Rush Limbaugh.

The utterly discredited Roman Catholic bishops teamed up with the utterly discredited evangelical leaders to denounce a president who was trying to actually do something about the poor, the environment, to diminish the number of abortions through compassionate programs to help women and to care for the sick! And in Congress the Republican leadership only knew one word: "No!"

In other words the reactionary white, rube, uneducated, crazy American far right,combined with the educated but obtuse neoconservative war mongers, religious right shills for big business, libertarian Fed Reserve-hating gold bug, gun-loving crazies, child-molesting acquiescent "bishops", frontier loons and evangelical gay-hating flakes found one thing to briefly unite them: their desire to stop an uppity black man from succeeding at all costs!

"Help" from the Left?

What did the left do to help their newly elected president? Some of them excoriated the President because they disagreed with the bad choices he was being forced to make regarding a war in Afghanistan that he'd inherited from the worst president in modern history!

Others stood up and bravely proclaimed that the President's economic policies had "failed" before the President even instituted them! Others said that since all gay rights battles had not been fully won within virtually minutes of the President taking office, they'd been "betrayed"! (Never mind that Obama's vocal support to the gay community is stronger than any other president's has been. Never mind that he signed a new hate crimes law!)

Those that had stood in transfixed legions weeping with beatific emotion on election night turned into an angry mob saying how "disappointed" they were that they'd not all immediately been translated to heaven the moment Obama stepped into the White House! Where was the "change"? Contrary to their expectations they were still mere mortals!

And the legion of young new supporters was too busy texting to pay attention for longer than a nanosecond. "Governing"?! What the hell does that word, uh, like mean?"

The President's critics left and right all had one thing in common: impatience laced with little-to-no sense of history (let alone reality) thrown in for good measure. Then of course there were the white, snide know-it-all commentators/talking heads who just couldn't imagine that maybe, just maybe they weren't as smart as they thought they were and certainly not as smart as their president. He hadn't consulted them, had he? So he must be wrong!

The Obama critics' ideological ideas defined their idea of reality rather than reality defining their ideas-say, about what is possible in one year in office after the hand that the President had been dealt by fate, or to be exact by the American idiot nation that voted Bush into office - twice!

Meanwhile back in the reality-based community - in just 12 short months -- President Obama:

#Continued to draw down the misbegotten war in Iraq

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Thoughtfully and decisively picked the best of several bad choices regarding the war in Afghanistan

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Gave a major precedent-setting speech supporting gay rights (But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Restored America 's image around the globe

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Banned torture of American prisoners

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Stopped the free fall of the American economy

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Put the USA squarely back in the bilateral international community

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Put the USA squarely into the middle of the international effort to halt global warming

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Stood up for educational reform

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Won a Nobel peace prize

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Moved the trial of terrorists back into the American judicial system of checks and balances

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Did what had to be done to start the slow, tortuous and almost impossible process of health care reform that 7 presidents had failed to even begin

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Responded to hatred from the right and left with measured good humor and patience

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Stopped the free fall of job losses

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Showed immense personal courage in the face of an armed and dangerous far right opposition that included the sort of disgusting people that show up at public meetings carrying loaded weapons and carrying Timothy McVeigh-inspired signs about the "blood of tyrants" needing to "water the tree of liberty".

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

#Showed that he could not only make the tough military choices but explain and defend them brilliantly

(But that wasn't good enough for his critics)

Other than those "disappointing" accomplishments -- IN ONE YEAR -- President Obama "failed"! Other than that he didn't "live up to expectations"!

Who actually has failed...

...are the Americans that can't see the beginning of a miracle of national rebirth right under their jaded noses. Who failed are the smart ass ideologues of the left and right who began rooting for this President to fail so that they could be proved right in their dire and morbid predictions. Who failed are the movers and shakers behind our obscenely dumb news cycles that have turned "news" into just more stupid entertainment for an entertainment-besotted infantile country.

Here's the good news: President Obama is succeeding without the help of his lefty "supporters" or hate-filled Republican detractors!

The Future Looks Good

After Obama has served two full terms, (and he will), after his wisdom in moving deliberately and cautiously with great subtlety on all fronts -- with a canny and calculating eye to the possible succeeds, (it will), after the economy is booming and new industries are burgeoning, (they will be), after the doomsayers are all proved not just wrong but silly: let the record show that not all Americans were panicked into thinking the sky was falling.

Just because we didn't get everything we wanted in the first short and fraught year Obama was in office not all of us gave up. Some of us stayed the course. And we will be proved right.

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