

The First Edition

Volume 3, Issue 37

Common Sense Opinion For Ravalli County *And Beyond!*

March 2011

CLASS WARFARE

America's two major political parties are battling each other and there is internal friction within the parties. American politics is ugly these days. As a conservative and member of the Republican Party I disagree with Democrats on most issues. Their view of what America should be is totally different from my own.

For years I have observed and been disgusted by the way Democrats use class warfare as a tool to help hold on to political power. They have voting blocs and cater to the wishes of those various groups. This requires a constant juggling act because the perceived interests of one group may not always coincide with the interests of another of their constituent voting blocs.

But there is one very successful weapon available to them. It taps into a universal flaw. Envy is a human failing. Everyone is susceptible to it. That unfortunate reality allows Democrats to wage class warfare. Hatred of the rich is an emotion that afflicts not only the poor and welfare dependent, but working Americans who are considered middle class.

Democratic politicians portray the rich as villains. They claim that people became rich by stealing money from the poor and the middle class. Even though it is a silly notion, their constituents believe this. What is amazing to me and apparently eludes their followers is that many of those left wing politicians are multi-millionaires. Nevertheless they routinely stir up class hatred of the "rich."

But it appears that they do not mean that all rich people have robbed the poor to become rich. Aside from excusing themselves for being millionaires, they obviously do not begrudge the millions of dollars that professional athletes earn. Nor do they resent their multi-millionaire movie star supporters.

Instead they direct their vitriol toward successful heads of banks and non-bank institutions. In the scenario they draw for their followers, these capitalists are evil and greedy. Too many Americans buy into that. I have a suggestion for those people.

With salary in mind, look into the mirror and ask what level of income your experience and skills qualify you for. Unless you are young and in extraordinary physical condition we can assume that you will eliminate pro football and basketball from consideration

Michael Vick of the Atlanta Falcons football team has earned 23.1 million dollars annually. In 2009 Cleveland Cavaliers basketball player LeBron James' salary was \$14,410,581. Per game he made \$175,000.

I have heard people say that it is not fair for athletes to make the money that they do. I believe that argument to be complete nonsense, totally irrational and certainly motivated by envy. Now personally I wouldn't pay fifty cents to watch Michael Vick or LeBron James at work. When it comes to actors, Charlie Sheen earns 1.8 million dollars for each episode of *Two and a Half Men*. I have never seen a single episode. But I think I remember hearing somewhere that you charge what the traffic will bear.

While you are looking in to that mirror, ask whether you could do what those athletes or Charlie Sheen can do. They are earning money for their employers. Obviously they earn enough



Continued on Page 4 - CLASS WARFARE

The First Edition

A MISSION STATEMENT

The First Edition encourages anyone and every one with a letter or an article that they wish to share with members of the community to submit that material to us for publication. We are primarily a forum that allows different points of view to be presented to readers.

There is no question about my political orientation. I am a conservative and my writing reflects that point of view. I regret that those who disagree with my views choose not to respond to them in The First Edition.

Guidelines for publication are included in every issue. We do maintain editorial authority and exclude only material that is profane or potentially libelous.

THE FIRST EDITION GUIDE LINES FOR EDITORIALS ARE:

- The First Edition will not change the wording of letters or articles submitted for publication. Profanity or potentially libelous remarks will not be published.
- A verifiable name and address must be attached to letters.
- Submitted articles may appear on our website; www.first-edition-online.com
- Please send letters and editorials to The First Edition, P.O. Box 1116, Hamilton, MT 59840, or email them to editor@first-edition-online.com

NULLIFICATION

"This is so frustrating," Representative Clark exclaimed. "I am so tired of being lied to." I chuckled to myself as I had seen this before. Beginning in 2006, opponents would twist one of my column points into an unrecognizable declaration, attribute it to me, and then attack me for it. If you are a skimmer rather than a consumer of the news, you may actually believe I hate puppies, babies, and whooping cranes. Unfortunately, politics and lying are forever inseparable. Hitler taught the world a big lie will become the truth through repetition. World War II introduced the world to nuclear weaponry, but the atomic energy is child's play compared to the destructive energy of the state sponsored lie. Little Boy and Fat Man leveled Hiroshima and Nagasaki only once while the lie can be detonated over and over again.

The red tsunami in last fall's election swept a new breed of public servant into legislative chambers across America. Stereotypically, they are brave constitutionalists and they terrify progressive and progressive-lite advocates of Marxism. In Montana's House we may only number 38, but these fresh

patriots make me more optimistic than ever America will survive. (We could use dozens more in 2012.) The first half of our 62nd legislative session was pockmarked with deceptions propagandized in the media, so here is the truth from the trenches. Caution: Readers desiring to teach-the-world-to-sing should avoid the remainder of this column because the truth will make you feel neither enlightened nor special. Let's start with a simple review of American civics.

Our founders designed our republic with two distinct separations of power along the horizontal and vertical axis. With the exception of Senator Chuck Schumer, most Americans recognize the horizontal balance of power between the Executive, Legislative and Judicial branches of government. Neither holds supremacy over the remaining two. It is the vertical separation which confuses some Americans.

In our unique American republic, forming the base of the vertical axis is the people and their consent to be governed. We always have, and must remain, the sovereign ultimate arbiter of all government power. Second only to the people in this

vertical separation, are the fifty united, yet independent states. Last and intentionally smallest in terms of power, lies the federal government and every founding document purposely obstructs the growth of this tier. A progressive century long degradation has disrupted this vertical separation and the central government has become tyrannically massive and oppressive. Today, it is not just the right of the states' legislatures to call this shift into question; it is our obligation to do so.

This session we have introduced multiple bills nullifying three unconstitutional federal laws. (Nullification is the new "n-word to the Left.") During debate opponents rose and preposterously declared "It was nullification which South Carolina used to start the Civil War. You can't just ignore laws you don't like just because you want Montana to secede." Although wrong on all three points, the media reported the above lies as fact. The big state sponsored fabrication went viral, our governor went national and citizens were left consuming news which simply wasn't true. Let me explain nullification.

Continued on Page 4 - NULLIFICATION

Op-Ed



POLITICAL GAMES

Oh Boy, Let the Games Begin. The left finally has a new issue that they can exploit. It was fun to watch it develop. It started with a few letters to the editor from our prominent left wing leaders about the evils of the big oil corporations and how we must resist this tyranny of the big rigs.

It is all about rallying support and getting dupes to agree with a particular issue. It might be the project for a new Safeway store and fighting St. Pat's Hospital on their planned expansion, or some other issue that people can be recruited to put people in a position where they are likely to take extreme measures to make their point. It might be to oppose big oil or the plight of the buffalo in Yellowstone Park. Get people to feel strongly about an issue and then lead them to your standard to gain power.

They will provoke all sorts of crazy actions to achieve their goal of more publicity and feelings of empowerment. Today we are seeing all sorts of Guerilla Theater, with people painting tire treads on their faces and holding up signs while the rigs go by at Lolo. It's a chance to get all walks of people involved in the conflict. They even have the Indians involved in this issue. The Missoulian has published all sorts of articles dealing with the safety and planning of this operation but it falls on deaf ears. It's a cause. Damn the facts. Get a confrontation going to establish power. Somehow we seem to say it is OK to take four rigs down this historic path of commerce but the succeeding rigs aren't OK. I guess it is because you can paint ExxonMobil as a bigger target than ConocoPhillips. It will just give them time to find some publicity seeking person who will prostrate himself in front of one of the rigs or provoke an arresting officer into hitting him with a baton. One leftist was quoted after a demonstration in the Bay Area, "Once a demonstrator is hit in the head with a baton he will be a leftist for life."

It's a shame we have these people who have this hidden agenda, but it's an even bigger shame that more people don't step up and reject their manipulations.

Warren Little, Missoula

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Op-Ed

Continued from Page 1 - CLASS WARFARE

money for those employers to justify the money they are paid. Vick, James and Sheen make a profit for the companies they work for.

Now I want you to ask yourselves what the qualifications are for these people to make the money they do. Do you have the abilities that they have? Would people pay to see you play football or basketball? Can you act well enough for people to pay you for your own TV show?

Now consider some of the qualifications necessary to hold the position of CEO of a major financial company.

1. Do you have the ability to manage large groups of people? Some of these companies have hundreds of thousands of employees.
2. Do you understand and can you manage complex financial instruments?
3. Do you understand the complexities of a major corporation?

4. Do you understand how to operate and manage in a huge, highly regulated industry?

5. Do you understand the responsibility as CEO to the share holders in a publically owned company? (In an industry that is regulated by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).)

I ask you to question that person in the mirror. Can you honestly say that you meet the criteria listed above, which probably do not cover all of the requirements of the position?

The next time you hear some braying Democrat, multi-millionaire ranting about how the rich are robbing you, go and look into the mirror. And while you are there understand that these CEOs make small change compared to successful athletes and actors.

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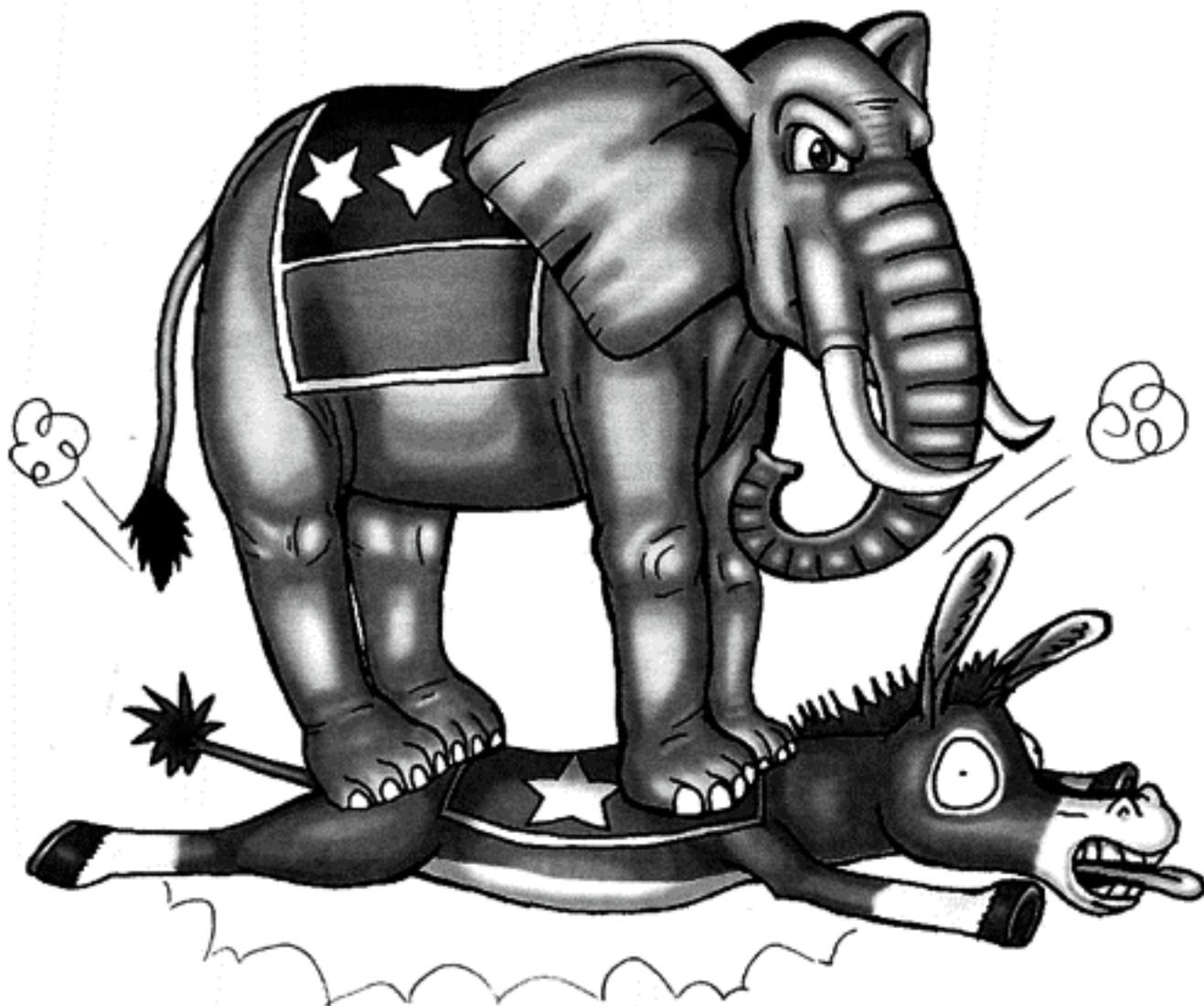
Continued from Page 2 - NULLIFICATION

Read and study Article VI, clause 2, followed by the Tenth Amendment of our Constitution. With that knowledge, read Madison's and Jefferson's words in the Kentucky and Virginia Resolutions of 1789 where they introduce the concept of nullification in response to President Adam's Alien and Sedition Act. Re-read all the above because you must know this cold. Now let me address all three big lies.

Lie #1 - Nullification and the Civil War: The only time nullification was used in reference to slavery was when the northern states nullified the Federal Fugitive Slave Act. Since no federal law prohibiting slavery existed in 1860, it was impossible for South Carolina to use nullification to secede. (The Left obscures the facts with hysteria.)

Lie #2 - Ignoring laws. It's not a question of like or dislike, nullification is based on constitutionality. If the federal government endows themselves a new power not enumerated in Article I, section 8 of our Constitution, they are violating America's eternal founding document and must be called to question. Since the three horizontal branches of government are equal, we must turn to the vertical axis to find the entity capable of questioning federal usurpation of power - namely the states

Lie #3 - Secession. Deeply rooted



in every patriot is the love of our great republic and our goal is not succession, it is restoration. America was born the beacon of liberty to the entire world and only by restoring her to those founding principles will she beam once again. It was not socialized healthcare, greenhouse gas

regulation, or wolf re-introduction which made America great.

IT WAS FREEDOM! To such we must return.

By Krayton Kerms, DVM
Montana State Representative
HD 58 (R), Laurel

Op-Ed

Crawling Through **THE MUD**

So they slowly started crawling through the muck and the mud with one goal in mind – freedom. Freedom to fly, freedom to love, freedom to die.

They've been waiting all winter, building up supplies and plotting their escape. With spring weather around the corner, they've put their plans into motion.

Being patient by nature, they aren't going to be rushing through this. There's too much at stake. Hundreds of them moving into position, getting ready to strike, with little notice from the outside world.

Me and a few others have been tracking every inch of their movements, but their plot goes largely ignored. You haven't heard about this on CNN or Fox News. The New York Times and USA Today haven't sent any reporters to cover this massive buildup. After all, somebody's gotta cover Charlie Sheen's insane rantings about his denial and megalomania.

I'm not saying there's a media conspiracy or anything, but I'm not saying there's not.

They're out there right now...hiding...waiting for the moment to arrive when they'll attack. Within a couple of weeks they'll be swarming everywhere.

What could this invasion be? Aliens? Killer robots from the future? Mormons?

Of course I'm talking about skwalas – the large stoneflies that hatch in late March/early April. Being the first major hatch of the year, they provide a good meal for large trout that have been relatively dormant over the winter.

Skwalas spend most of their life as nymphs crawling around on the bottom of the river. As the spring weather warms the water temperature to the mid-40's, they turn their little antennae toward the bank and start the long crawl to the shoreline. This journey can take a few weeks depending on weather conditions and fluctuations in water levels.

When the conditions are right, they climb out of the water onto the rocks and into the bushes and hatch into adult stoneflies. Then they fly around, reproduce and die. And the next year-long cycle begins.

The other day I was down at the river picking up rocks, checking to see what was underneath. The Skwalas were definitely making their way toward the shore.

That got me to thinking.

The slow, deliberate march of the Skwalas is kinda like the march of American settlers across the continent. Steadily moving from the Northeast to the West and Southwest. First, crossing the Appalachians into the Ohio, Kentucky

and Tennessee areas. Then following Lewis and Clark to the Pacific Ocean.

That trend is still going on today as more folks are moving into the Southwest and Rocky Mountain states. Figures from the 2010 census show that growth in Nevada, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, California and Texas has changed the overall outlook of where Americans live.

Geographers like to pinpoint the "mean center of population" for the country. I reckon that's because it gives geographers something to do while they're waiting to see if the troubles in Libya will mean the maps will have to be redrawn.

On a computer map of the United States, they place virtual pushpins where each person lives. Thanks to the Illinois court system, they know to put Rahm Emanuel's pin in Chicago. Then using some sort of regression analysis (that's right, I read Michael Crichton's books), they calculate the middle point of the population.

After the 2000 census, it was located in Phelps County, Missouri, home to the Missouri School of Mines and Metallurgy and a small winemaking industry. The official 2010 results won't be out 'til next month, but the early buzz among geographers says it will move slightly south and west to Texas County, Missouri.

The Wikipedia entry for Texas County talks about how pioneers came and set up saw mills and rafted timber down to St. Louis. The entry states, "Life of the pioneer was happy and carefree; he knew nothing of food shortage, for he raised his own provisions, and with his trusty gun he could shoot various wild game."

I'm betting a pioneer didn't write that.

So how does moving the heart of America's heartland affect us? Do we all suddenly like timber more than metallurgy and wine? I don't think so.

But it does mean that there are now more people living in the West than the Midwest. Congressional seats and electoral votes, along with political power, are going to shift that way. Within a few decades, Arizona will have more electoral votes than Ohio.

But to the average American who spends most of his time crawling through the mud and the muck hoping to one day fly free, it doesn't make a whole lotta difference.

I don't know, I guess I think too hard about these things.

Dusty Winslow

Op-Ed

Sarah Palin continues to face political fire

I have never seen a political figure as hated as Sarah Palin. The former governor of Alaska has been subjected to the most disgusting, vicious attacks on a politician that I can remember in my lifetime. Not even Richard Nixon, when his presidency was falling apart, had his family attacked the way Democrats attack Palin's family. She has also been attacked by too many Republicans who apparently see her as a threat to their agendas.

Comedians have incorporated insulting jokes about Governor Palin into their routines. David Letterman is dedicated to telling the most derogatory and cruel jokes he can come up with about Governor Palin and her family. Letterman, a left wing ideologue, is a disgrace to comedy.

One thing always astonishes me on the few occasions that I watch him. His audience always laughs at what he says. The man stopped being funny a long time ago. I wonder what kind of people find his vicious remarks about Governor Palin amusing. It may be that their sense of humor is reflective of the general degeneration of our culture.

One thing is certain. The mention of Sarah Palin sends many on the political left into a hateful frenzy. There is something very strange about that response. Just what is it about Palin that generates this kind of hatred?

I think that I can answer that question. Sarah Palin is feared like no other Republican politician. Democratic feminists know that she represents things that they abhor. She is a conservative woman who is also a Christian. She is comfortable with her views and says so. But that is only part of the reason for Democrats fearing her.

Back in 2008 Alaska, for the first time since 1964, Democrats had a chance of electing a governor. But Sarah Palin won the office. Her popularity in Alaska ran between 74% and 80% before John McCain picked her as his running mate.

Many Republicans in Congress resent her popularity and view

her as an outsider. Of course some of them have presidential aspirations of their own. In addition to that, some Republicans are simply too far to the left politically to accept the specter of Palin as president.



Carl Rove has been exceptionally hostile in his remarks about Governor Palin. He and many other Republicans constantly make condescending statements about her, claiming that she has a place on the political stage, but is just not qualified to be president. I have even heard complaints about her voice being too high pitched and the type of clothing she wears.

How anyone, especially Democrats, could claim that Palin is unqualified, when Barack Obama sits in the Oval Office is mind boggling. I recently talked to a Republican friend who said that Sarah Palin could not be elected because of all of the attacks against her, which made her unelectable. I couldn't believe he said that. Basically he was claiming that because the Democrats fear and hate her enough to maintain the steady stream of foul, unconscionable attacks on her and on her family, she was not electable, in his opinion.

What that means is that the Democratic tactic has been successful. Following his reasoning any time in the future Democrats become frightened of a Republican candidate they only have to launch another campaign of character assassination.

I want to assure Democrats and self serving Republicans that millions of Americans would welcome an opportunity to vote for Sarah Palin for president. If the incompetence, corruption and weakness of the current administration continue until 2012, Sarah Palin may indeed become the candidate who saves America from the total transformation Barack Obama and his radical advisors plan for this nation.

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Can you help?

The First Edition is attempting to reach as many readers as possible. In a previous issue I described some of the difficulties involved in maintaining our distribution sites. Due to those difficulties, some of them including vandalism, we have begun mailing the paper to readers.

This mailing increases the cost of publishing the paper. I am asking that readers who appreciate The First Edition contribute to the cost of mailing. Donations can be sent to The First Edition, P.O. Box 1116, Hamilton, MT 59840.

We appreciate your support and we are committed to making every issue more informative than the previous one. Thank you for your consideration.

Op-Ed

THAT'S MY STORY AND I'M STICKING TO IT!

... BUT I COULD BE WRONG

The Swallows have again returned to Capistrano, the Starlings have arrived in the Bitterroot, and a few Cuckoos have landed in Helena. Spear hunting? A bill carried by Senator Hinkle of Thompson Falls. Good Grief! Aren't there more important issues for the legislature such as the budget, jobs, economy, energy? If spear hunting is ok, maybe dynamite fishing will be next for Montanans.

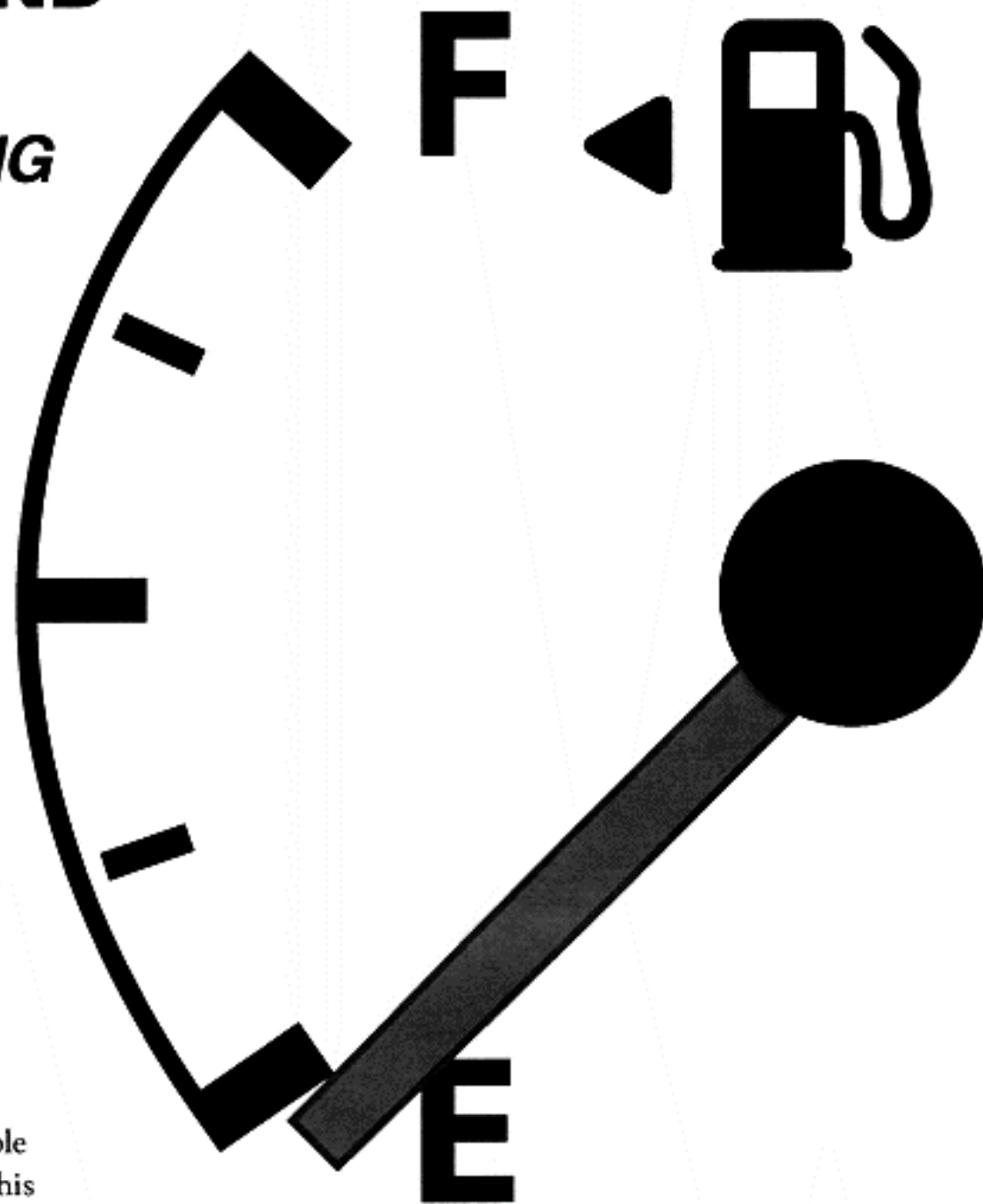
And the Nevada Nuthatch is perennial in that state. Harry Reid is proposing a huge government subsidy for the annual Cowboy Poetry gathering in Elko. The event has been successful for many years, all on its own merits and ticket sales. South Dakota might want to request federal funds to get more Hell's Angels to Sturgis each year. But, babes, booze and dope is all that is needed to gather the Bikers, without government aid.

Thanks to our representative from Victor, Gary MacLaren, HD 89, for his weekly update on the events of the 2011 Legislature in Helena. I continue to be disappointed in the wimps who advocate warehousing murderers who have been proven guilty above and beyond any shadow of doubt for their crime. SB 185 would repeal the death penalty in Montana. The current double murder case in Flathead County is a prime example of why the death penalty must remain an option for the court. This is not a Republican or a Democrat bill. This is a Candy A- - bill with support from both sides of the isle. Montana AG candidate Shockley is on the wrong side of this issue. Suggested reading would be Exodus 21:17 and Exodus 31:15. Not required reading for Atheists or Agnostics.

Jobs and the Economy. Aren't they tied together? How about energy development here at home, as the Middle East continues to escalate in turmoil? Montana is the Treasure State. Oil and Coal in addition to various metals. Regular gas now over three bucks in the Bitterroot. Up over 25 cents since the February issue of The First Edition. Shouldn't the President be taking prompt and positive steps to get oil and natural gas production from our nation's huge reserves moving for the benefit of the citizens?

And, how 'bout this? Recent reports are that Attorney General Eric Holder is siding with the ACLU to dumb down testing for fire and police applicants in some areas. The reason being tests are too difficult for minorities to pass. The proposal is to lower the passing score down to the 60 percentile level. That was an "F" when I went to school. Those fire and law enforcement people will be required to make important decisions in their respective jobs. Intelligence and knowledge is required.

Well, here's a suggestion, for minorities, majorities, punks and



dropouts: Get a haircut, pull up your pants, take off your hat, go back to school, sit up straight, shut your mouth and open your minds. Learn how to read, write and speak English. Don't need to get a PhD, but be able to answer correctly, who is buried in Grant's Tomb, what year was the War of 1812, and for whom is the Lincoln Memorial named?

Dave Hurtt

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