



## SPOTLIGHT

### ***Dale's Top 10 Most Important Issues***

No politician has ever accomplished everything he or she set out to do. There are simply too many variables and too many unknowns. Plus, unless you are a president whose party also controls both houses of congress, you are constantly fighting the opposition and/or compromising to achieve the proverbial half-loaf that we are told is better than none (and it usually is).

That being said, a candidate should have a set of core beliefs as well as a list of goals that he wants to achieve. Otherwise, as Zig Ziglar once said, if you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time.

And so, without further ado, here are the 10 issues that are most important to me.

1. Abortion. As an evangelical Christian, I am convinced that America is risking – if not already under – God’s judgment for murdering 63 million babies in the womb over the past 50 years. I also understand that the United States is not a theocracy, nor should it be. Therefore, I would seek to outlaw abortion, but would settle for a strict federal ban on all abor-

*continued on page 2*

### ***Hostages, Homeowners, and Dishonorable Men***

Unless there is a strong “draft Dale” movement somewhere on the horizon - and my wife would kill anyone who tried - I don’t intend to ever run for public office again. The advantage of such a situation is that it allows me the freedom to say what I want, both publicly and personally, and not worry about where the chips may fall.

Such is the case with hostages, homeowners, and dishonorable men. Got your attention now?

In the first instance, I realize the importance of rescuing American citizens who are illegally detained and/or imprisoned abroad. Sometimes it requires the Airborne Rangers or the Navy Seals to extricate them and sometimes there is a simple prisoner swap with or without monetary considerations.

However, if the people in question were warned by the State Department not to travel to a hostile country ruled by a USA-hating regime and they do it anyway, is it still our obligation to bail them out of their predicament? I haven’t formed a hard and fast position myself, but I think this question needs to be addressed in Washington DC, so we don’t continue to fly by the seat of our pants every time an American is taken captive overseas. Plus, if people knew that they might be held indefinitely by

dictators and terrorists, maybe they would exercise more discretion when it came to their international travel.

In the second circumstance, I see people continuing to build homes as close to the ocean as possible... or in other floodplain areas. It must be nice to look out your large bay window and see the waves crashing against the shore or the pelicans swooping in to grab their evening meal. The same goes for constructing a house along the mighty Mississippi or other locations that are prone to flood on a regular basis.

Usually, when the first big storm rolls in and the house gets flooded, insurance companies and/or the federal government come to the homeowner’s rescue. But what about the second or third time? Who pays for the homeowner’s stubborn refusal to build on higher ground... just the person in question via higher insurance premiums or do all policy holders - and all taxpayers - combine to foot the bill? I am not sure of the exact answer but again, I would love to see officeholders at the state and federal levels address the situation before the next hurricane hits.

As for dishonorable men, I for one am sick and tired of having to pay for men who irresponsibly father - and I use that term lightly - babies out of wedlock. Knowing that Uncle Sam will pick up the price tag of the delivery room, offer free daycare, and

*continued on page 3*

## IN THIS ISSUE...

 **The Superman Syndrome Gone Haywire... page 3**

## Dale's Top 10 Most Important Issues

*continued from page 1*

tions after 18 days... which is when the fetal heart starts beating. If that timetable isn't politically feasible just yet, then we should seek some kind of consensus (perhaps 6-weeks) and look to roll things back from there.

2. Border security. I can't see any reason why a patriotic American with one iota of common sense would oppose the construction of a wall along our southern border. To allow unfettered immigration into our country is not only a recipe for disaster, but also for national suicide. And, although it may sound heartless, illegal immigrants should be rounded up and returned to their country of origin... with that sending nation being billed for any and all costs incurred.

3. Crime. America stands at the precipice of not only lawlessness, but also civil war. Without resorting to draconian measures, we need to restore order in our inner cities and across the rest of our fruited plain. Violent criminals need to be locked up – sometimes permanently – and murderers should be executed. As for looters, car jackers, rapists, and drug dealers... throw the book at them!

4. Uncontrolled spending. Simply put, our federal government needs to stop spending more than it brings in. No more credit cards for Uncle Sam, period! And no, the answer isn't to increase revenues. The solution is to drastically cut spending. I don't care what the economic doomsdayers say: we need to reduce the federal budget by at least 2% per year for the next

20 years.

5. Energy independence. The United States has existing coal reserves to serve our energy needs for the next 200 years. We also have lots of natural gas and shale oil at our disposal. It's time to drill, baby, drill while developing alternative sources of energy such as wind and solar. And yes, we need to build some new oil refineries and nuclear power plants ASAP.

6. Moral decline. I was tempted to rank this issue higher, but I realize that not everyone is as concerned about America's "slouching towards Gomorrah" as me... or Robert Bork when he coined that phrase. However, the need to restore the Judeo-Christian principles upon which America was founded and to reclaim the traditional values that have served us so well for more than 200 years has never been more urgent.

7. Education. In many ways, this issue goes hand-in-hand with #6, because without a moral foundation our public school system is doomed, and educators are fighting a losing battle. Respect for authority needs to be both taught and modeled, and school curriculums need to focus on the basics of reading, writing, and arithmetic... as well as science, civics and U.S. history. I would also recommend learning a foreign language at an early age instead of waiting until middle school or later.

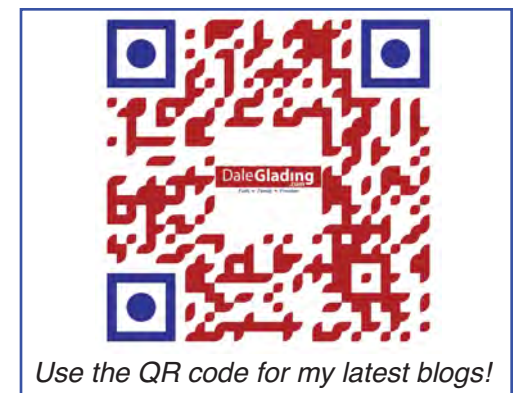
8. End the welfare system. How heartless, you say? On the contrary, I think that the most heartless thing our government can do (and does) is to create and foster a permanently dependent underclass. America was built on the dual concepts of equal opportunity and limitless potential, and we must return

to those guiding principles. If I were "king of the world," I would announce that we are phasing out all welfare programs over the next 10 years... end of story.

9. Strengthen our military. Ronald Reagan believed in "peace through strength" and "trust but verify" diplomacy. It worked then and it will work now. Follow the Gipper's gameplan to ensure that the U.S. military remains the world's most powerful fighting force, bar none.

10. Reform Social Security and Medicare. The "inconvenient truth," as Al Gore would say, is that our current Social Security and Medicare systems are not sustainable. Simply put, people are living an average of 20 years longer today than when Social Security was introduced under FDR. There were also 16 workers for each recipient in 1936, now there are just 2. The age at which full retirement benefits are available should be increased for people under 50, giving them adequate time to prepare. Enrollees should also be able to invest a portion of their Social Security account in stocks and bonds, which historically pay higher returns than the current program.

OK, here's one more. Abolish the IRS and institute a flat or a fair (consumption) tax. It is by far the simplest and most equitable way of collecting taxes.



## **Hostages, Homeowners, and Dishonorable Men**

*continued from page 1*

cover many of the other costs of raising a child, they are free to procreate at will. The same goes for single moms, many of whom know how to work the welfare system like Antonio Stradivari played the violin in order to get as many free benefits as possible... all at taxpayers' expense.

In all three cases, the question that demands to be asked and answered is: whatever happened to personal responsibility? If there are no negative consequences – and a lot of positive ones – for acting irresponsibly, where is the deterrent? Why not continue to rebuild in a floodplain as your property value soars if someone else pays the bill? Why not disregard State Department warnings if you know that,

if things hit the fan, the U.S. Cavalry will come riding to the rescue? And why not engage in premarital or extramarital sex if hardworking Americans are going to see that my children are well-cared for?

In the latter example, I know the “it’s not the child’s fault” arguments all too well and yes, I remain conflicted myself. But at what point are we enabling irresponsible behavior and even subsidizing it?

Maybe the answer is similar to the one given by Lt. Commander Montgomery Scott of Star Trek fame. “Fool me once,” he said of a fake Klingon attack, “shame on you. Fool me twice, shame on me.”

In other words, maybe hostages, homeowners, and dishonorable men should get a one-time exemption after which they are left to fend for themselves. Some may call that insensitive, whereas others may call it tough love. The older I get,

the more I find myself siding with the tough love crowd.

In the meantime, please allow me to close with two of my favorite Ronald Reagan quotes that I think apply well to the questions at hand...

“No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we’ll ever see on this earth.”

The Gipper also said the following: “Government’s view of the economy could be summed up in a few short phrases: If it moves, tax it. If it keeps moving, regulate it. And if it stops moving, subsidize it.”

I sure do miss Ronaldo Magnus (translated Ronald the Great) as Rush Limbaugh used to call the best president of my lifetime.

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## **The Superman Syndrome Gone Haywire**

Boys of my generation wanted to be one of three things: a professional athlete, a soldier, or – when we were really young – a superhero. And so, whenever we played baseball, we pretended we were Carl Yastrzemski with our hands held high or Pete Rose, batting from a crouched position and sliding headfirst into every base. Likewise, when we hit the hardwood, we were instantaneously transformed into Nate Archibald if we were small or Wilt Chamberlain if we were tall. On the gridiron, we identified with Joe Namath, Roger Staubach, Roman Gabriel, and Daryle Lamonica, especially if we

played quarterback in our pick-up games.

When we weren’t playing sports, we lived in the fantasy world of superheroes. My favorites were Superman, Iron Man, and Captain America... and I devoured any comic book that featured their various adventures. We also played “Army,” lobbing dirt bomb grenades at each other from behind rocks and trees.

However, when I reached a certain age, I stopped pretending that I was a comic book character, a professional athlete, or Sgt. Saunders from the TV series “Combat” and started to concentrate on becoming the best possible version of me. The Apostle Paul addressed that transformation in I Corinthians

13:11 when he wrote, “When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”

So, what does this have to do with modern-day politics? Well, hear me out, because I am about to connect some very important dots.

It is one thing for a 5-year-old to think he is the Incredible Hulk or for a 6-year-old to believe that she is Wonder Woman. However, if those same two kids reach their teen years and still have the same delusions, it is no longer cute. On the contrary, we would diagnose them as needing a cold dose of reality or, in a worst-case scenario, as suffering from a mental illness that

*continued on page 4*

## ***The Superman Syndrome Gone Haywire***

*continued from page 3*

required treatment.

And yet, Progressive teachers, sociologists, and politicians think there is nothing wrong with a 10-year-old boy thinking he is a girl or a 12-year-old girl believing she is a boy and then stopping puberty in its tracks with hormone infusions or forever mutilating their bodies via gender-reassignment surgery. There are even multiple cases of teenagers self-identifying as horses, cats, and other animals... and school administrators requiring staff and other students to address them as such.

As far-fetched as it sounds, students called 'furries' populate the hallways at schools in Meade County, Kentucky, not exactly a liberal bastion. As one grandmother put it, "They identify with animals. These people will hiss at you or scratch at you if they don't like something you're doing."

"The students are told they can't wear hats or Budweiser shirts in school, but they can wear cat ears, cat tails, masks, leashes. It doesn't make sense," she added.

Lest you think this is an isolated event, an 8th grader in Midland, Michigan told the school board at a recent meeting that she saw a student walking around the school with a long cat tail, cat ears and "little bells that jingled everywhere she went."

"I was also walking down the hallway three weeks ago when a boy wearing dog ears barked at me and

my friend as we passed," she said, adding that the boy left the school building on all fours.

And then there is the 9th grader in Melbourne, Australia who school administrators are allegedly supporting as she "begins her journey of identifying as a cat." According to Wellness magazine, "The non-verbal student is supposedly very bright and identifies with what is now known as the 'furries' subculture online." An unidentified source added that "No one seems to have a protocol for students identifying as animals, but the approach has been that if it doesn't disrupt the school, everyone is being supportive."

Not disruptive? The young lady doesn't talk, she meows... seriously! She also paints her face with fake whiskers and a black nose while wearing furry ears. Will someone please help this girl instead of exacerbating her mental illness?

Obviously, these students are crying out for attention and/or help. But so are kids who are "gender-confused," a clinical diagnosis that used to be called gender identity disorder by the American Psychiatric Association, which classified it as a mental illness that could and should be treated with counseling and medication, if necessary. Today, cowardly school administrators and parents who have lost control of their kids enable these children's irrational thinking and behavior.

Dr. Sharon Roberts at the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada says that her research shows between 12 and 17 per cent of 'furries' identify as trans and between 5 and 15 are autistic. Some data has even shown as much as 70 per

cent of 'furries' identify with the LGBTQIA+ community.

A friend of mine named Mike recently put this entire situation into the proper perspective. "If you had a child who was convinced that he was Superman - or who self-identified as a bird and said he could fly - would you allow him to climb on top of your roof and jump off?"

"Of course not," Mike answered his own question. "You would correct their behavior yourself if possible or seek professional help for them. But the one thing you wouldn't do is allow your child to continue in their delusion."

And yet, that is exactly what our schools - and far too many well-meaning but misguided parents - are doing today. Some call it gender-affirming care, but I call it reckless child abuse of the highest order.

Tragically and far too often, the end result of not confronting, containing, and correcting such behavior is a man-child acting out his fantasies and delusions via mass shootings in churches, schools, and shopping malls across America. Delayed help for a mental illness almost always has catastrophic consequences.

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