



SPOTLIGHT

I Can't Wait to be Sued

Recently, Gov. Jeff Landry of Louisiana signed a bill into law that mandates that every public school and university in the state must display the Ten Commandments in their classrooms. The new law even specifies the size of the poster or plaque, requiring that it be at least 11" by 14" and be written in a large, easily readable font.

Within minutes of the bill's signings, groups such as the ACLU, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and the Freedom from Religion Foundation announced their intention to sue the State of Louisiana and Gov. Landry in particular. His response was, "I can't wait to be sued," because he knew that he was standing on solid constitutional ground.

"Our public schools are not Sunday schools, and students of all faiths - or no faith - should feel welcome in them," the aforementioned groups said in a joint statement. "The law violates the separation of church and state and is blatantly unconstitutional. The First Amendment promises that we all get to decide for ourselves what religious beliefs, if any, to hold and practice, without pressure from the government. Politicians have no business imposing their

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The Dangers of Echo Chambers

For the record, I hate Morning Joe and detest Anderson Cooper 360. The same goes for virtually every other program and talking head on CNN and MSNBC. However, from time to time, I will tune into both networks for several reasons... and I encourage you to do the same.

First and foremost, living in an echo chamber where everyone agrees with each other and spouts the same information can be dangerous. You wind up thinking that we're all on the same page when survey after survey and election after election prove otherwise.

Polls show that our nation is divided right down the middle, with about one-third of Americans identifying as conservative, one-third identifying as liberal, and one-third calling themselves moderate. More specifically, a Gallup poll conducted in January 2024 showed 27% of registered voters were Democrats, 27% were Republicans, and 43% were Independents (I assume the other 3% were members of a third-party).

Believing that we all think alike and will vote accordingly can lead to overconfidence and scores of lost elections.

A second reason for occasionally watching the liberal news networks is so that we can learn what they are thinking and what their strategy is. I coached a men's softball team that

ministered in prisons for more than 30 years and every time we entered a new institution and warmed up for a game, I was looking for an edge. That meant that during batting practice, I would watch to see what their hitters' tendencies were - did they pull the ball with power or take an outside pitch to the opposite field? Likewise, were they fast runners and good fielders... and how strong were their throwing arms? By the time the game started, I knew how best to position myself on defense at second base and on which outfielders I could take an extra base on offense.

Knowing my opponents better than they knew themselves is how a marginally-talented athlete like me was able to play and excel at a relatively high level for so many years... and part of the reason why our team won far more games than we lost.

The same goes for elections. Opposition research is helpful in winning campaigns, but so is watching the other side intently and learning everything you can about their tendencies, strengths, weaknesses, and motivations. Elections often come down to a handful of votes and a few small percentage points, just like ballgames usually are determined by a close call, a clutch hit, or an outstanding defensive play. Getting that psychological edge can make all the difference, whether it's on the ball field or at the ballot box.

With such an important election in November - and the White House, the Senate, and the House all up for

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Dumbing Down the Military

News Flash: Men and women are equal, but they are not the same. God made men and women to be unique and complementary, one sex possessing traits and attributes that the other lacks and vice versa. For instance, men are usually physiologically taller and stronger, whereas women are often more sensitive and nurturing. On average, women outlive men by about five years and yes, only biological women can give birth.

Equal but different... and I for one am extremely grateful for that!

In our 39-year marriage, I have been the primary wage earner, and my wife has been the primary caregiver. For us, that tradeoff works well, and our three well-adjusted adult children, three wonderful in-law children, and six precious grandchildren are proof positive.

But what about other areas of life besides marriage? To me, men and women are equally capable when it comes to excelling in school, succeeding in business, and serving in public office. However, in areas such as athletics, it is best for men to compete against other men and women against other women. Which begs the question: what about military service?

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I Can't Wait to be Sued

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preferred religious doctrine on students and families in public schools.”

So what if the phrase “separation of church and state” isn’t included in the U.S. Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, the Federalist Papers, or any of our other founding documents? The closest any of them comes is the First Amendment in the Bill of Rights, which simply states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof...”

Which begs the question: How can posting 10 laws handed down by God to Moses - and which have been used for centuries as the foundation for western civilization and society in general - be considered establishing a religion? After all, both English Common Law and the U.S. Constitution are based on the Magna Carta, which was first drafted by the Archbishop of Canterbury in 1215 to - among other things - protect church rights.

Sounds to me like one of the primary purposes of English and American laws is to protect organized religion from the government, not the other way around. In fact, that was the exact purpose of Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to the Baptist Association of Danbury, CT written in 1802, in which the phrase “separation of church and state” was coined. Simply put, President Jefferson wanted to assure the Baptist ministers that the federal government would not interfere in any way with their freedom of religious expression. Perhaps to prove his point, Jefferson allowed the U.S. Capitol to be used for weekly church services and he was a regular attendee.

Which begs a second question: How could anyone be opposed to teaching young people that murder, adultery, stealing, lying, and coveting is wrong... and that honoring one’s parents is right?

Which, in turn, begs a third: Why is it wrong to promote a belief in a Supreme Being to whom we owe homage and obedience, but it is OK to shove evolution, sexual deviance, gender dysphoria, and other liberal propaganda down our school children’s throats?

For the record, macro evolution is an unproven theory based on a foundation of sand. So why is it accepted - and almost universally taught - as scientific fact? Has anyone seen a monkey magically transformed into a human? And who was alive millions of years ago to record such nonsense?

If the religions of humanism and hedonism can be shouted from the rooftops of our public schools, then so should the 10 Commandments be allowed to be posted. Better yet, let’s start teaching them, reciting them aloud, and putting them into practice.

I think Thomas Jefferson would approve. After all, he wrote in the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom that “Almighty God hath created the mind free” and even referred to God as the “holy author of our religion.”

In a nutshell, Jefferson - and the rest of our Founding fathers - recognized God’s existence and that America was founded on solid Judeo-Christian principles. Departing from that belief (and that belief system) is a recipe for disaster, chaos, and both cultural and societal demise.

Dumbing Down the Military

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When the U.S. military opened combat roles to women and made other areas of service available that were previously off-limits, Progressives cheered and feminists roared while some others withheld their judgment until the dust settled. Well, enough time has passed since many of the gender-based barriers were removed, so how did things turn out?

First, let me say that - based on the number of women who have served bravely and effectively in certain combat roles in certain combat theaters - there is no doubt that women play a vital part in America's military preparedness. I applaud each and every one of them, and thank them sincerely for their service.

However, a deeper analysis of military data raises a few questions... and more than a few eyebrows. In a 2017 report, only 25% of female recruits entering Marine Corps boot camp met the physical requirements for those jobs, a test known as the MOS Classification Standard. By comparison, the pass rate for male recruits was 96%.

The gender-neutral standards at boot camp and MOS schoolhouses are designed to "give a reasonable assurance" that Marines are physically fit enough to do the jobs for which they are training, said Brian McGuire, deputy director of the Marine Corps' Force Fitness Division.

The Army ran into a similar problem in 2021 when 54% of female recruits failed the gender-neutral Combat Fitness Test. So what did

Congress do? They lowered the physical fitness requirements for both men and women to artificially inflate the pass rates. Women are now required to "run" two miles in under 23 minutes. Basically, that is the equivalent of a slow jog or a brisk walk. Pushups? Would you believe just 10?

Lowering the bar means that, as I approach my 65th birthday in September, I could pass the Combat Fitness Tests with flying colors. And that, my fellow Americans, is wrong. Sure, I am

fairly fit for someone about to qualify for Medicare, but do you really want to entrust your nation's defense to someone eligible for Social Security benefits?

Dumbing down our military by lowering standards isn't the answer and the United States Armed Forces isn't the place for social experimentation. We want - and need - the best, brightest, and fittest people in uniform, whether that meets DEI and gender equity standards or not.

(As an aside, I applaud the heroic efforts of the Secret Service agents who put their lives on the line to protect President Trump in Butler, PA last month. However, did you see what I saw when they were trying to shield President Trump after he stood up and prepared to exit the stage? There was a gaping hole - wide enough for a canon ball, let alone a bullet to pass through - because one of the female agents was about a foot shorter than the former president. Once again, I would think that a minimum height requirement would be necessary for Mr. Trump's personal detail. Unfortunately, Kimberly Cheatle, the Director of the U.S. Secret Service, has stated

that her #1 goal for the agency is to ensure that at least 30% of all agents are women. IMHO, that is an arbitrary, misguided, and potentially dangerous goal. Political candidates and officeholders don't care about the age, race or gender of their personal bodyguards, they just want to be kept safe; so let's start picking the best and most qualified personnel instead of trying to meet some ridiculous and politically correct quotas).

Hang 'em High

In the 1976 satirical film Network, longtime news anchor Howard Beale (portrayed by Peter Finch in his final screen role) is told that his program is being canceled due to low ratings. A despondent Beale responds by announcing to his live audience that he will commit suicide on-the-air the following week.

Network officials want to fire him on the spot, but the head of the news division intervenes when Beale promises to apologize. However, instead of issuing the apology, Beale urges his viewers to throw open their windows and shout, "I'm as mad as hell, and I'm not going to take this anymore!" Beale's unhinged rant causes ratings to temporarily soar, but when they eventually fall again, a network executive arranges for him to be assassinated on air by a terrorist organization.

Well, folks, I am not suicidal, nor do I consider myself to be

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unhinged. However, I readily admit to being "as mad as hell" and refusing to take it anymore. So, what drove me to the edge, but not quite over it?

On June 22nd, a car was stolen from the Red Oaks Waterpark in Madison Heights, Michigan. Deputy Bradley Reckling, a veteran investigator who had recently joined the auto theft unit at the Oakland County Sheriff's Office, was one of three officers searching for the stolen vehicle. Around 10:50 PM, Deputy Reckling spotted the stolen 2022 Chevrolet Equinox and began trailing it in an unmarked cruiser.

Suddenly, the thieves stopped, got out of the stolen car, and opened fire on Reckling, hitting him in the head and chest. Though the perpetrators were quickly apprehended and arrested, Deputy Reckling died of his wounds, leaving behind a pregnant wife and three other chil-

dren, ages 5, 4, and 1. Reckling's widow will now have to raise those precious girls on her own and they will grow up without their loving father.

Since there is zero doubt about the murderers' guilt, here is my "I'm as mad as hell" recommendation...

The three killers should be granted a 15-minute trial, pronounced guilty, sentenced to death, and publicly hanged the same day. No appeals, no last meals, and no mercy. Just a short visit from a prison chaplain to explain God's plan of salvation and then on with the execution.

The American people - and law enforcement officers in particular - shouldn't have to take this kind of lawlessness anymore. I say "hang 'em high" in the town square as a lesson to all current and future criminals... and I think Howard Beale would agree.

(Look for "Howard Beale's America" at www.daleglading.com.)

The Dangers of Echo Chambers

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grabs - Republicans need every edge we can get... even if it means watching Jim Acosta, Dana Bash, John Berman, Wolf Blitzer, Brianna Keilar, and Jake Tapper until you puke.

Saving our republic trumps a sick stomach every time.



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