

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievance.

— The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution

ANOTHER VIEW

Extend the law

With the recent signing of "Demarion's Law" by Gov. Brad Henry, Oklahoma parents may feel a tad bit more secure in leaving their children with a day care.

The law requires all child care facilities "in order to maintain or obtain a license, to carry a minimum of \$200,000 of liability coverage for each incident of negligence that leads to any injury to a child that occurs while the child is on the premises or in the care of the child care facility."

Three-year-old Demarion Pittman's life was irrevocably altered the day in August 2007 that a child care worker left the young boy in a hot car for several hours after an outing. The child suffered extensive brain damage and his medical costs already have climbed past the \$1 million mark.

His case brought out that the state Department of Human Services did not require child care facilities to carry liability insurance. It's an almost unheard of oversight in this litigious age.

House Bill 2863 by Rep. Mike Shelton is a great start in rectifying this situation for all Oklahoma parents who must use child care facilities.

But the Oklahoma Foundation for Consumer & Patient Rights recently brought up this point: Why don't legislators extend the same legislation to nursing homes?

"When it comes to child care centers and nursing homes, a person's age determines whether they can be mistreated without financial consequences," stated Jeff Raymond, executive director of the nonprofit consumer advocacy group. "How can that possibly be right? Why wouldn't we offer the same protections to our elderly, who need just as much care and assistance?"

We agree with Raymond. He notes that a bill with similar requirements for nursing homes passed out of the Senate last year but was killed in committee in the House.

As Demarion's case clearly shows, if something tragic happens, medical costs can mount quickly. The \$200,000 liability insurance for day cares is a good start, but we have to ask the state why our children and seniors are worth so little?

We believe businesses should be required to carry \$1 million in liability insurance. These days it doesn't take much to reach those heights in medical costs after a tragedy.

— The Edmond Sun

TODAY IN HISTORY

The Associated Press

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.

On this date:

In 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812.

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

In 1935, Sen. Huey P. Long, "The Kingfish" of Louisiana politics, died in Baton Rouge two days after being shot.

In 1939, Canada declared war on Nazi Germany.

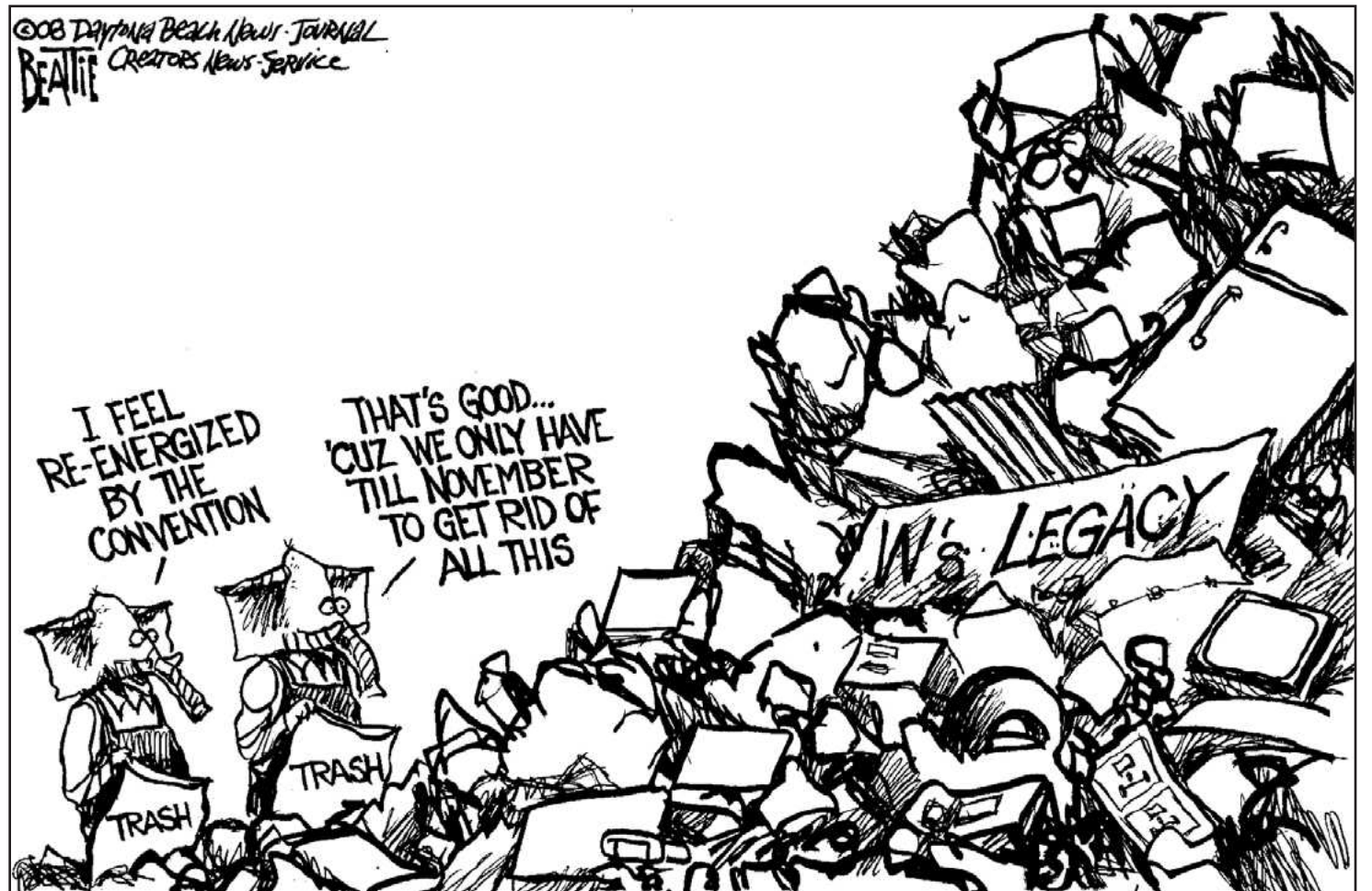
In 1945, Vidkun Quisling was sentenced to death in Norway for collaborating with the Nazis (he was executed by firing squad in October 1945).

In 1948, American-born Mildred Gillars, accused of being Nazi wartime radio broadcaster "Axis Sally," was indicted in Washington for treason. (She was later convicted, and served 12 years in prison.)

In 1963, 20 black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1977, convicted murderer Hamida Djandoubi, a Tunisian immigrant, became the last person to date to be executed by the guillotine in France.

In 1983, John Vorster, prime minister of white-ruled South Africa from 1966 to 1978, died in Cape Town at age 67.



Winning the struggle of life

Thousands of older Oklahomans suffered the 1930s depression, living below the bottom rung on the economic ladder. Many of them then served honorably in uniform during World War II or the Korean conflict or both.

These people learned being poor, wearing worn-out and patched clothes, eating what they raised or foraged from nature while desperately trying to find a job is not fun. When you can't afford to buy badly needed items, life becomes depressing, miserable, embarrassing and fuel for an inferiority complex. Feeling inferior when in such a position is logical, as you feel the world has turned against you and try as you may, nothing improves.

All of that back in the '30s and '40s resulted in a determined people willing to do whatever necessary to get above poverty and stay there. Many then managed their economics for those non-working days, retirement, when they would need once again be unable to work. The primary goal was to maintain their pride and avoid the embarrassment of accepting handouts, which most considered a badge of failure.

So, most took advantage of opportunities, like the benefits well earned by serv-

ing in military service. With part-time work and often wives working for meager pay, many finally landed that degree, a degree never dreamed of a few years prior, since most knew "poor people's kids don't go to college." Degree or not, they went to work, and for the first time ever, the light at the end of that poverty tunnel began coming into view.

They fed, clothed and educated their children while often assisting their own parents. They seldom changed jobs. Most lived slightly below their economic means, regularly tucking a few bucks under the mattress; because, they knew that if they lived long enough they would need that extra.

Vacations were short, mostly visiting parents. Life was good, better than most of them could have dreamed a few years prior.

For the most part, that generation fought and won a war on two fronts. They



OTT JOHNSON

built the interstate highways, put a man on the moon, worked hard and saved for the future.

Their present problem? With their children and grandchildren grown and making their own way, on occasion at least, seldom suffering the hardships of the older generation, responsibility now frequently appears to have become an endangered species.

Sixty thousand a year is poverty? Not! Get serious. Taxpayers expected to pay for the unearned college education of the younger generation or for the medical expense of those choosing not to buy health insurance. The masses are taking responsibility for their own. It's past time for the others to take responsibility, forget about politicians dealing out hard-earned tax, and enjoy the feeling of being self-supportive.

In addition, I once thought Gene Stipe was the only Oklahoma politician who practiced buying our vote with our money. Unfortunately, he isn't.

Just some things to think about. Thanks to those serving and those who have served in the armed forces for preserving our freedom.

Ott Johnson is a Perkins writer.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Obey and live

I am appalled by the needless deaths of five of our local residents in recent days. All would be alive today except for the violation of traffic laws. A driver's license does not mean you are a skillful driver, but it does mean that you are familiar with traffic laws. Obey the traffic laws and live.

Ival C. Hesser
Stillwater

Thunder from Olympus

During the "Saddleback" debate between Obama and McCain, unusual

seismic tremors, lightning and thunder were observed on ancient volcanic Mount Olympus, the home of the Greek gods, worshipped by Hippocrates, the father of modern medicine. The thunder occurred when Obama was answering the question "when does life begin?" Obama answered "that is above my pay grade."

Hippocrates was the first to deduce that human life was sacred, that physicians should do no harm and abstain from abortions. Thus the Hippocratic Oath.

About four years ago, a dispute occurred in Obama's home state of Illinois. A 9-month fetus survived an abortion attempt slipping by the abortionist(s) into this world, to be tossed into the garbage as dead, but retrieved by a compassionate nurse who noticed the infant

was alive in need of comfort. She cradled and shielded the infant for 45 minutes, despite objections from "doctors" wanting to "finish" the job. The nurse was brought up for disciplinary action. A firestorm of anger raged between nurses and physicians.

As a result the "Born Alive" bill was introduced in Illinois giving abortion survivors the right to medical care. Obama voted against the Born Alive bill.

If the ancient gods are not disturbed, could it be "nature" itself? It is not above anyone's pay-grade to know right from wrong especially when evil stalks the nurseries dressed in white coats.

Sidney Williams MD
Medical Director
Williams Clinic

ARGUS HAMILTON

HOLLYWOOD — God bless America, and how's everybody?

President Bush went biking with Washington Redskins coach Jim Zorn Sunday. They hit it off. The great thing about having the most powerful job in Washington is you can meet anybody you want, and for some reason Jim Zorn wanted to meet the president.

The Treasury Department seized Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac Sunday and put them in government conservatorship. It didn't poll well. Most Americans feel that Sarah Palin should be allowed to run for vice president without having her kids taken away.

Toyota began advertising new cars that run on alternative fuels on Sunday. One experimental car was driven across the country last year powered only by French

fry oil. The only drawback is they had to stop every thousand miles to change the ketchup.

Sarah Palin agreed to be interviewed by Charlie Gibson on ABC News this week. The campaign hasn't allowed her to do any interviews or make any unscripted appearances until now. If Tom Brady had been protected like this, he would still be a quarterback.

The New York Times on Monday put to rest rumors that Sarah Palin's baby is really her grandchild. Her family is under relentless investigation. The only way to keep Sarah Palin's baby out of the news is to leak that John Edwards is the father.

John McCain and wife Cindy will be on The View Friday. Don't dismiss celebrity culture. McCain's surged 10 points in the polls ever since he adopted Paris

Hilton's offshore drilling plan and named Britney Spears' mom to be his running mate.

Cindy McCain was reported Monday to have worn \$400,000 in jewelry at the GOP convention. She wore Oscar de la Renta dresses. It proves there's no business in the world that's as recession-proof as selling beer in Arizona.

Oprah Winfrey's magazine suffered cancellations from GOP women and profilers Monday when she wouldn't let Sarah Palin on her show. It frees Oprah to run different kinds of articles. Watch for a cover story soon on How Your Children Can Help Greta Van Susteren's Ratings.

Argus Hamilton is the host comedian at The Comedy Store in Hollywood.



LETTERS

The NewsPress reserves the right to edit for clarity and length although every effort will be made to preserve the writer's meaning.

Letters cannot be libelous. Letters should be legibly

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Letters cannot exceed 250 words. Longer letters will be edited.

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