

Subject: Point Commentary Schedule: Monday, July 3rd, 2006 - Sunday, July 9th , 2006
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Date: Thu, 29 Jun 2006 13:41:10 -0400
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ND's and News Staff:

Attached to this email are the scripts for the week of July 3, 2006.

Direct questions regarding satellite issues to Alan Almond at 410.568.1719. Satellite feed information can be found at the sbgnet.com web page (click "news", then "satellite", then "permanent satellite feeds").

Direct questions regarding The Point contact Dina Nesheiwat at 410.568.1567 or Ashley Dougherty at 410.568.2138.

Topic suggestions can be directed to Dina Nesheiwat or Mark Hyman at 410.568.1565.

Running times include 1 second of tail at commentary's end.

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POLITICAL RACE CARD IN BROOKLYN

The ugliest political race in America is taking place in Brooklyn. The 11th Congressional District has been represented by 12-term Congressman Major Owens. His retirement has led to a Democratic primary filled with anti-Semitism and racism.

Three black candidates, Owens' son Chris, state Senator Carl Andrews and City Councilman Yvette Clark face off with white City Councilman, David Yassky. Major Owens called Yassky a "colonizer." Al Sharpton labeled the Jewish Yassky "greedy" and likened him to a racist thug. Sharpton added to the racially-charged climate when he said the notion that a white man could "speak for black people is beyond insulting." Chris Owens called Yassky's candidacy "incredibly disrespectful."

Sharpton called for two of the blacks to step down to guarantee the white candidate won't get the nomination. Congressman Charlie Rangel criticized the possibility Yassky could win the September 12th primary. Rangel said, "All this stuff about giving voters the most choice, that's ridiculous." City Councilman Al Vann sent an appeal to black elected officials asking them to oppose the candidacy of "a white individual." The district is 60% black, 20% white and the rest mostly Hispanic.

Congressman Owens called on national Democratic Chairman Howard Dean and New York Democratic Chairman Herman Farrell to designate the 11th Congressional District a black seat. Sharpton demanded Senators Chuck Schumer and Hillary Clinton take a public position on a white candidate running for a seat held by a black.

The blatant racism in this election is repugnant. Reverse the races and change the location to say, Tennessee or Texas and the story would have made national headline news. But in New York, the New York Times soft-peddled the racial bigotry in a story buried on page 5 in the second section of the paper.

And that's The Point.

I'm Mark Hyman.

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AMERICA'S BIRTHDAY 2006

Our country's birthday is a good day to remind ourselves of what our nation offers to the rest of the world.

World War II hero and later four-star Admiral Arleigh Burke said the following more than fifty years ago.

"America's most important role in the world, almost from the day our country was born, has been the role of moral leadership. . .

"Teach our young people to believe in the responsibility of one to another; their responsibility to God; to the peoples of the world. Teach them to believe in themselves; to believe in their worth as human beings; to believe in leading the world out of the darkness of oppression.

"Teach them to believe that no one owes us a living, but that we owe much to others. Teach them to believe in the priceless heritage of freedom, and that it must be won anew by every generation.

"And teach them to believe in the United States of America. The hope of the world lies here, in our physical power, our moral strength, our integrity, and our will to assume the responsibilities that history plainly intends us to bear."

Happy Fourth of July.

I'm Mark Hyman.

ANATOMY OF A SMEAR

A couple of weeks ago I discussed an article by investigative journalist Tom Lipscomb concerning nutty protest mom Cindy Sheehan.

A tactic of the Angry Left is to attack the messenger if they can't discredit the message. That is why several websites have called Lipscomb a liar who can't be believed. They claim he wasn't a Pulitzer prize nominee as he said he was. Their evidence? The Pulitzer website doesn't list his name. Well, these critics are either lazy, dishonest or both.

Pulitzer receives 1400-1500 nominations in fourteen journalism categories each year. The organization lists on its website 2-3 names for each category of which one is designated the "winner" and the others are called "nominated finalists." Tom Lipscomb was nominated in the 2005 "Investigative Reporting" category by the New York Sun for his work exposing fabrications by John Kerry during the 2004 campaign. Lipscomb didn't finish among the top three. The Pulitzer staff told The Point they prefer the term "entrant" rather than "nominee" for anyone not selected among the top three. But they acknowledge it is common practice for newspapers to refer to everyone entered as having been nominated.

These are the facts. But the Angry Left are not interested in facts. The mission of every Angry Left

nutcase with a website is to smear those with whom they disagree especially when the facts are indisputable. As they are in this case. They don't like Lipscomb because he doesn't march in goose step to their line of extremist thinking nor does he echo the discredited positions of the partisan press.

And the fact Lipscomb was nominated for uncovering John Kerry's fraudulent claims must anger them to no end.

And that's The Point.

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BODY ART

Nearly one of every two 18-29 year olds has either a tattoo or a body piercing. This is according to a survey in the Journal of the American Academy of Dermatology. Thirty-six percent have at least one tattoo. About 14% have a piercing somewhere other than their ear lobe.

Such “body art,” is especially popular with young people. But they don’t always understand the dangers posed especially from piercings. The American Dental Association has claimed oral piercings pose significant health risks not often disclosed. The ADA recommends people “skip the mouth jewelry and let your healthy smile make your fashion statement.”

Piercings are generally easier to correct than tattoos. Tattoos may be removed by laser, surgery, dermabrasion, and cryosurgery – none of which is certain and most leave some permanent scarring.

I would like to know what the average age will be of people who, years later, look at their tattoos and piercings – especially those in plain view – and ask themselves, “What on Earth was I thinking?”

And that's The Point.

I'm Mark Hyman.

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SHORT TAKES – JULY 7TH, 2006

Political Correctness. That was behind an Oregon State Bar Association 2001 mandate that all 12,500 attorneys take 45 hours of mandatory diversity training every three years. The bar voted 2-1 this spring to end the mandatory training that included silliness such as having non-lawyers from the Mexican consulate lecture attorneys on how to keep illegal aliens in Oregon.

Political speech. A federal judge ruled that was what was on Thomas Sypniewski's t-shirt. In 2001, then-high school senior Sypniewski was suspended for three days for violating the Warren Hills, New Jersey School District's anti-harassment policy. He wore a t-shirt listing the ten reasons why someone might be considered a redneck sports fan, such as "Your bowling team has its own fight song." Last month, a federal judge ordered the school district to pay the \$600,000 in legal fees Sypniewski incurred in fighting his suspension.

Political suicide. That is what Massachusetts state Senator Jarrett Barrios may have committed. The senator is pushing legislation that would ban serving marshmallow spreads in school lunch programs. Barrios was enraged to learn his third-grade son was served a Fluff-a-nutter sandwich. Marshmallow Fluff, the foodstuff at the center of Barrios' anger, is a product of a Lynn, Massachusetts family-owned

business that is located in Barrios' own senatorial district.

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MAILBAG – JULY 8th, 2006

In this week's mailbag, it's a potpourri of comments.

Mike in Milwaukee, Wisconsin asked, "What is 'The Point' after all? To narrow issues down into the tyranny of the bullet point, or to actually explore as many avenues as possible?" Kendra in San Antonio emailed, "Your point makes me sick." Gregory in Columbus, Ohio wondered, "How much time has he spent in the military? ... He's using military issues to [promote] himself." Craig in Asheville, North Carolina observed, "You are obviously a biased, gung-ho military at any cost kind of person who will do anything to support the military establishment."

Skip in Lincoln, California wrote, "Right on! Keep them coming!" Robert in Dayton, Ohio commented, "We need more Americans like you in the media to speak up." Fred in South Paris, Maine observed, "I'm just not going to watch the biased local news if I can't see Mark Hyman's two minutes or so." Kathy in Greenville, South Carolina observed, "The news [media] metabolizes the thought process and socially engineers and molds all the masses to arrive within a quadrant of thinking that is not, as you say, critical thinking." I said that?

Finally, B.C. from Charleston, West Virginia asked "[Were] you ever outed by people in the White House

while working for the CIA like Joe Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame was?"

You can share your comments by logging onto the web at www.newscentral.tv and click on "The Point."

I'm Mark Hyman.

RACE MATTERS

Stanford University Professor Shanto Iyengar conducted an experiment for the Washington Post. It focused on race when handing out government money. 2300 participants took part.

Each participant read an identical story of a fictional Katrina victim. The difference was a photo was changed so that the victim was either male or female, black, white, Asian, Hispanic, and light or dark-skinned for each race.

Participants were allowed to decide how much and in how many categories of government aid the victim could receive. Amounts ranged from \$200 to \$1200 per month for a minimum of three up to 18 months.

Overall, victims received a combined total of about \$1500 a month for 12 months. Most of the study participants were identified as Democrat and liberal. Only 12 percent were Republican. Democrats offered just over \$1500 a month for 13 months compared to Republicans who offered \$1200 per month for nine months.

Republicans were consistent in giving the same amount of money for the same length of time regardless of race of the fictional victim. Not true for Democrats. Democrats gave whites a total of \$1500

more than they had authorized for the black, Hispanic and Asian victims to receive.

The study found Republicans to be more frugal with government aid and color blind in treating all victims the same regardless of race. On the other hand, Democrats were more generous in doling out government money, but for them, race mattered.

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