

**Subject:** Point Commentary Schedule: Monday, November 20th, 2006 - Sunday, November 26th, 2006

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**Date:** Wed, 15 Nov 2006 15:29:15 -0500

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ND's and News Staff:

Attached to this email are the scripts for the week of November 20, 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.

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**Commentary - Kelo Effect.doc**

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**Commentary - Kerry's Slander Buddy.doc**

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**Commentary - ACORN's Phantom Voters.doc**

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**Commentary - Thanksgiving 2006.doc**

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**Commentary - Short Takes - November 24th, 2006.doc**

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**Commentary - Mailbag November 25th, 2006.doc**

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**Commentary - Urban Sprawl Makes Good Neighbors.doc**

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## KELO EFFECT

Not talked about very much was what happened during the mid-term elections and in recent weeks regarding the disastrous Kelo v. New London decision. Kelo was last year's 5-4 Supreme Court opinion that local governments could seize private property and sell it to developers if it meant generating more tax revenue.

Since the Kelo decision, more than two dozen state legislatures have enacted laws attempting to stop eminent domain abuse. Ten states overwhelmingly approved measures that did the same thing. Voters in Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Michigan, Nevada, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Oregon, and South Carolina passed referendums or constitutional amendments to curb eminent domain.

Not all measures passed successfully. Proposals to protect private property rights were defeated in California, Idaho and Washington where voters in the cities outpolled suburban and rural voters. Municipal associations and environmental groups actively campaigned against private property safeguards.

The California measure was defeated 52-48 percent. The League of California Cities campaigned against Proposition 90. League president Maria Alegria said, "this measure would have undermined our efforts to

rebuild California's infrastructure and build the affordable housing our cities need."

But localities have been seizing private property in order to generate higher taxes from high-end construction including commercial businesses, retail stores and hotels. New development is not for low income or affordable housing.

And that's The Point.

I'm Mark Hyman.

Log on to [www.newscentral.tv](http://www.newscentral.tv) and tell me what you think.

## THANKSGIVING 2006

Earlier this month, the voters indicated they were unhappy with about three dozen incumbent members of Congress. The majorities in the House and Senate shifted from Republican to Democrat.

In January, the 110th Congress will convene and there will likely be changes in legislative priorities. And all of this has happened peacefully. The campaign rhetoric may have been heated and partisan bickering may continue. But in this country we can resolve our differences without bloodshed. This is saying a lot. It is not true of so many of the world's other nations where civil unrest and strife take over when one government is forced out.

This is a reminder of how wonderful our country is. And for this, we are all thankful.

Let this Thanksgiving be a day of reflection and celebration with family and friends for all that we have and enjoy.

I'm Mark Hyman.

## URBAN SPRAWL MAKES GOOD NEIGHBORS

Suburbanites take heart. You are a chummier group than the city folk.

The topic of urban sprawl has been the focus of discussion by urban planners and municipal governments for several years. Among the criticisms is the decline in open spaces and farm lands and the growth in traffic congestion and commuting times as suburbs grow larger. Bolstering criticism of the suburbs is the argument that suburbanites lose their neighborliness and become less active when they leave the cities.

Not true, according to Jan Bruecker, an economics professor at the University of California at Irvine. Bruecker conducted a study only as economists do with scads of formulas, tons of data, and tables that are meaningless to us mere mortals. The study used lifestyle information from 30,000 people nationally.

Bruecker found that for each 10 percent decline in population density, there was a 10 percent increase in the likelihood that suburbanites would chat with their neighbors. There was a 15 percent increase they would join a club oriented around a hobby.

This does not mean there may be other valid reasons to control urban sprawl. However, the supporting

argument than suburbanites are less friendly and less interactive than city dwellers appears to be wrong.

And that's The Point.

I'm Mark Hyman.

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## KERRY'S SLANDER BUDDY

It's been three weeks since John Kerry referred to our troops as stupid. Not everyone who agrees with Kerry ran for cover.

In an editorial for Rhode Island's Providence Journal, Charles Pinning wrote a "false truth is being spread: that most of our military personnel and our troops are bright, motivated young people." He likened Americans who thought of our servicemen and women as smart to the Nazis. He continued, "Most of our military personnel in Iraq are kids who come from socio-economic backgrounds that weren't putting them on a path to college." Happy to avoid the Vietnam draft himself, Pinning wrote of Vietnam vets: "Most who enlisted to fight that war either needed a job or weren't too bright, probably both."

An authoritative study proves Pinning wildly wrong. Ninety-eight percent of post 9/11 enlistees have a high school education or better compared to just 75% for the general public. Sixty-six percent come from middle and upper income neighborhoods. Poor and stupid is the lie perpetuated by those who detest the troops and who find patriotism to be offensive. No doubt they hate cops and firefighters, too.

Pinning attacked critics of Kerry over his remarks and he also bashed Kerry for claiming it was really a botched joke. He called them "cowards and liars."

This from someone who bragged he avoided military service.

And that's The Point.

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## SHORT TAKES – NOVEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>, 2006

How'd that happen? Take 1. "Afghans remain optimistic about the direction in which the country is going" starts the first line of a 133-page report from The Asia Foundation. The Foundation conducted the most comprehensive survey ever of the people's attitudes in Afghanistan. USA Today accurately reported "Poll: Afghans express confidence in country's direction, security." However, the New York Times had a completely different point of view "Afghans Losing Faith in Nation's Path, Poll Shows."

How'd that happen? Take 2. Randy Wooten didn't win the race for mayor in Waldenburg, Arkansas, population 80, but he doesn't trust the Election Day vote totals. The incumbent and the other challenger each received 18 votes. Wooten, zero, even though he voted for himself, and presumably, so did his wife.

How'd that happen? Take 3. Sixteen hundred students participate in the Junior ROTC program at several San Francisco city high schools. The schools clearly benefit from student membership in the 90-year old program with the requirements the cadets attend classes, participate in academics and behave themselves. But the program may soon end. A majority of San Francisco school board members want to ban Junior ROTC, claiming it is homophobic, discriminatory and doesn't fit in with the board members' notion of public education.

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## ACORN'S PHANTOM VOTERS

Lost in the hubbub of the mid-term elections was the federal indictment of four ACORN workers who are alleged to have submitted thousands of fake voter registration cards in Missouri.

ACORN is the union-backed protest group that claims it registered more than one-half million new voters for the mid-term elections. And it claims to have signed up 1.6 million new voters since 2003.

In Missouri, four ACORN workers are suspected of submitting at least 15,000 and as many 40,000 fake voter registration forms. ACORN claims it had no knowledge of the scam, however, ACORN has been or is at the center of several fake voter registration investigations. In the last couple of years, authorities have been looking into phantom voter registration scams in Colorado, Florida, Louisiana, Minnesota, New Jersey, New Mexico, Ohio, and Virginia just to name a few states. ACORN workers are suspected of involvement in each scam.

Dead people, made-up people, fictitious addresses and single voters with hundreds of addresses listed have been registered in numerous jurisdictions.

Fake voter registrations and the ability of unknown individuals to vote without ever having to prove their

identities is the perfect scenario for rampant voter fraud.

Mandating voters to show government issued photo identification would solve most of this problem and would ensure clean and honest elections are conducted.

And that's The Point.

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## MAILBAG – NOVEMBER 25<sup>th</sup>, 2006

A few weeks ago, I announced that after more than five years and some 2,000 commentaries I am taking a break at the end of the month.

Over the years we've received a ton of viewer email. I've picked out a few at random that I found amusing, touching or silly. Corey in Columbus, Ohio emailed, "You...have a stupid haircut." Bob in Springfield, Illinois offered, "It is just so wonderful to hear the truth on the airwaves." Melissa in Madison, Wisconsin asked "we're wondering if you can make a 'Best of DVD?'" More than 20 years ago, I served in the Navy with William. Now in Durham, North Carolina he wrote that I was the "coolest officer on the ship next to LT Baker." No, I was way cooler than Baker. Dan in Franklin, North Carolina stated "You're one of those right-wing 'chickenhawks'!"

T-shirt maker Samuel in Canyon Lake, Texas offered, "I will be happy to help you with [t-]shirts... no charge." Don in Dublin, Ohio commented, "My wife and I listen to you when we purposely 'tune out' the other news!" Keith in Raleigh, North Carolina emailed "I find it truly offensive...your neo-Nazi, evangelical [expletive deleted] point of view." F.M. from Richmond, Virginia wrote "I'd like to start a 'The Point' fan club."

Continue emailing your comments and story ideas. I look forward to what's on your mind.

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