



First Friday News & Views

November 2013

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*The Monthly Newsletter
of the First Friday
Breakfast Club, Inc.*

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▼ The next FFBC Meeting is 7:00am,
Friday, November 1, 2013, at Hoyt
Sherman Place, 15th & Woodland,
Des Moines, IA

▼ RSVP by October 30 to
JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com,
or phone 515-288-2500

Know When You're Being Insulted

By Jonathan Wilson

What's in a name? If Shakespeare's quote about roses is to be believed, then nothing. The label does not determine the substance -- that was Shakespeare's point. And it's true, generally, but not in every context.

In the political arena, the labels matter. Not because they determine the substance in the political context, but because, whatever the substance, the label can drive outcomes regardless of the substance. I can remember my college years when we were going through a cyclical period of paranoia over our national security precipitated partly by the Russian launch of Sputnik I, the first earth-orbiting satellite -- first, as in before the United States. Tax dollars were tight, as always, but there was interest nonetheless in implementing a college student loan program despite the money shortage. And thus was born the *National Defense Student Loan Program*. It had everything to do with student loans with, at best, a tenuous connection to national defense.

The same was true in the early 1960s when Iowa adopted its first statute governing condominium ownership of real estate. The law is called the "Horizontal Property Act," because the then-governor said he wouldn't sign the law if it were called the "Condominium Act." He was afraid half the Roman Catholics in Iowa would think the state was endorsing birth control.

The same is true today. So called "Obamacare" was adopted with the label, Patient Protection and Affordability Act. Not all that catchy, but the label was intended to make it more palatable -- more passable by Congress. Its opponents have taken to calling it "Obamacare," not for any substantive reason (almost anything would have been an improvement upon the broken healthcare system we've had), but only because there is so much unfocused hostility toward Obama in some quarters that naming it after him motivates some voters. It provides them with a pretext to express their conscious and unconscious racism. It's instructive that those who oppose it have failed to offer anything better. I'm betting there wouldn't be a handful of folks among the Obamacare opponents who could describe its key, objectionable provisions in any detail.

There are myriad examples of politically motivated labeling.

Call taxes on gigantic estates "death taxes,"
and you'll find supporters who haven't a prayer of *Continued on p. 2*

Know When ...

Continued from p. 1

ever accumulating a large enough estate to incur the tax. Never mind that the tax works to reduce the number of unproductive second and third generations of deadbeats with inherited wealth who are born on third base and go through life thinking they hit a triple.

Call a mean-spirited and unconstitutional piece of legislation the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), and it can get passed by Congress, it can get signed into law by the President, and it can be the law of the land creating second class citizens for more than fifteen years until it is finally appealed to the US Supreme Court.

While both political parties are guilty of this practice, the Republicans seem to be far better at it.

It's manipulative -- sadly effective -- and insulting. The insult is to the American electorate. The phenomenon carries with it a sad commentary upon how policy makers and politicians perceive American voters.

Be reminded every time you see legislation so labeled or a politician makes a specious argument in public debate -- or misstates the obvious facts -- you and your fellow citizens can know what is thought of you.

It's Marathon Time!

by Bruce Sanders Lehnertz

As I write this, I am looking forward to the IMT Des Moines Marathon this weekend. Not as a runner. Not this year. But as an enthusiastic spectator and supporter. I'm volunteering with Drake to support runners with, what I imagine will include water, GU packs, Gatorade, etc.

My very first Marathon experience was when my best friend, and fellow FFBC member, Rick Davis, was running in Chicago. I went as his "support crew." Get him to the Start; take the gear that kept him warm before the race; hit a couple of points along the route to cheer him on, and meet him at the Finish.

Initially, I was shocked that he was doing it. But I thought it was great for him, though I also considered it befitting a description like "Lunacy."

It happened at the 20-mile mark. So many people running, smiling, strong, happy, excited; and hundreds of spectators wildly cheering them on. They looked great, and they were having a great time!!!

Afterward, I was shocked that I wanted to do it.

I started reminding myself: I'm not a runner. I ****HATE**** running!

I ignored the urge. It didn't go away.

I tried talking myself out of it. It didn't go away.

I know! My doctor. He'll tell me it's a bad idea!

His prognosis: "You'll love marathoning!" Then he told me he'd run 4 of them.

He was right. I ran 3 marathons in the succeeding 13 months. The last was 10 years ago. I think it's time I start thinking about where my next is.

October is a great month to start training, too.

Briefs & Shorts

• Be sure to RSVP for the November 1 meeting no later than October 30. Either call Jonathan at 288-2500, or e-mail him at JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com. Our speaker will be Jody Jenner, President and CEO of Broadlawns Medical Center.

• Thanks to Mike Smith for his introduction of our October speaker, Brad Anderson, candidate for Iowa Secretary of State.

• If your company or organization contributes to United Way, you may designate FFBC as a recipient of your contribution.

Be sure to peruse the front table for a book you might like to read. Book donations are always welcome. Thanks to Barry McGriff for coordinating the book exchange.



3-D BEL AMI

Review by Gary Kaufman

It was Andy Warhol who said that 3-D should only be used in horror movies and porn. Of course now the studios have expanded far beyond that. But for all the new 3-D movies being released, I still had never seen a 3-D porn movie and was curious about them. So when I found out that Bel Ami had released a gay bareback porn movie in 3-D, I just knew I had to allocate time and money to get one. "That ought to really bring the boys in," I thought! Of course it took some time to get all the components. Not only do you need to obtain the DVD but also need to invest in a 3-D Blue Ray DVD player and a 3-D monitor. I bought an LED monitor as the 3-D glasses do not require batteries, are much less expensive, and you can even use those 3-D glasses they hand out in theaters.

The company making this movie not only spent the extra bucks for the 3-D but also gave the viewer something to look at. They did this by providing incredibly exotic locations and settings for shooting the scenes. The film opens with two men standing in an open air bath shower placed in front of a stone wall in a space that has giant palm branches reaching out from potted plants. The 3-D effect is truly pronounced in this setting while the two play with the palm fronds, a long rod, and each

other. You feel as though you could reach out and feel the contours of their sculptured bodies – the 3-D is so good. They then proceed to go to a large draped canopy bedroom next to the outdoor shower and carry on.

The second couple cavorts first in a stairway which has richly textured backgrounds including 3-D art works, sculptures, granite walls, and a velour pillow. The couple then moves to a bedroom with a richly decorated Chinese dresser and glass sculptures. It is the third couple that gets the most lavish setting. They have a terraced garden to cavort in that has a reflecting pool featuring a pagoda bed on one end of the rectangular pool. The boys disrobe each other and then swim the length of the pool. The overflow of the pool goes over a wall that overlooks the property below. They stand to admire the view but then quickly move to a pagoda bed that is also on the other side of the pool. The fourth scene begins with a couple playing footsie in an oval tub in a marble-walled room with probably the largest artistic cockring you have ever seen, hanging on the wall. Reminds you of the "What knockers!" line from **Young Frankenstein**. Again, spectacularly done.

I highly recommend this 3-D porn experience should you decide to invest in 3-D. See what Andy Warhol was talking about!

In the **Detroit Free Press** it was reported that on Wednesday, September 18, 2013, two automobile drivers, both with permits to carry concealed weapons, shot and killed each other in a road rage incident. Seems like a slow and inefficient way to build a majority in favor of greater gun control.

When chemists die, they barium.

I'm much more upset about Breaking Bad's shutdown than about the government's.

IF A VACUUM REALLY SUCKS, IS THAT A GOOD THING?

The world is full of nice people. If you can't find one, be one.

REAL FACEBOOK STATUS UPDATES

Just a reminder that mammogramming your boobs is more important than Instagramming them.

The best sign of a healthy relationship is no sign of it on Facebook.

The Titanic is a great lesson of why just the tip can get you in a lot of trouble.

SAYING SORRY DOESN'T ALWAYS MEAN YOU ADMIT THAT YOU'RE WRONG, IT ONLY MEANS THAT YOU VALUE YOUR RELATIONSHIP MORE THAN YOUR PRIDE.



Voter Turn-out vs. Voter Suppression

by Bruce Carr

Our guest speaker on October 4, the First Friday of October, was Brad Anderson, a Democrat who last January announced his candidacy to become Iowa Secretary of State. Anderson, who lives in Beaverdale with his wife and children, partners with Brad Link and Chris Diebel in Link Strategies, a downtown management and political research firm which has worked for several successful campaigns including Sen. Tom Harkin, Reps. Bruce Braley and Dave Loebsack, Sens. Jeanne Shaheen of New Hampshire, Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota, Claire McCaskill of Missouri, and Rep. Gabrielle Giffords of Arizona.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina, where he studied political science and criminal justice, Brad grew up in a Republican family and never really picked his own side of the political aisle until he finally hit upon the mantra that guided him to this day: Fairness. “That’s the one thing that drives me more than anything else,” Anderson said. “In college I learned how lucky I was and how many breaks I had been given. It was all about getting to know people with different backgrounds from me. It crystallized in me that some of those people needed an advocate, and I realized the Democratic Party really represented what I believed in.”

Anderson’s first political campaign after graduation was as a researcher for John Edwards’s U.S. Senate bid in 1998. Those winning coattails suddenly provided Anderson with “all sorts of opportunities” in the political world. Some dozen-plus years later, he found himself in Iowa working for President Obama’s re-election effort, to dovetail effectively with down-ballot congressional and state legislative races. His role as communications director during Obama’s 2008 Iowa campaign had



convinced him that the Democrats’ overall team concept could be improved upon. So he emphasized a grassroots (rather than top-down)

approach to inspiring volunteers. “I made sure that everyone was on the same page and crystal-clear in terms of goals and purpose,” Anderson said. “Then they could really take the reins on their own turf and devise their own tactics and strategies.” The result: 43,000 more Iowa votes for Obama in 2012 than in 2008.

Democrats have said that a fundamental reason for Obama’s win was that they concentrated on encouraging more Iowans to participate in the election, while Republicans were driven by a need to weed out the voter rolls -- and this became Anderson’s initial and continuing beef with Iowa Secretary of State Matt Shultz. “Throughout the course of the 2012 campaign the incumbent did his best to waste taxpayer dollars and intimidate Iowa voters,” Anderson said. “We fought back by working hard to build an organization that made calls, knocked on doors, and turned out Iowa voters in record numbers.”

Voter fraud is practically a non-issue, Anderson continued. There are 681,000 eligible Iowa voters who did *not* vote in 2012. The biggest threat to the integrity of Iowa voting laws is the current Secretary of State. Anderson would instead devote his energies to improving the processes of county election boards with such aids as electronic poll books, and to more important Secretary-of-State responsibilities, such as better oversight of 28E agreements. Brad can be reached at www.andersonforiowa.com.

The fortune you seek may be in a different cookie.
Anonymous



“Half this game is ninety percent mental.” Philadelphia Phillies manager, Danny Ozark

“The word ‘genius’ isn’t applicable in football. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein.” Joe Theisman, NFL football quarterback and sports analyst

You make holy water by simply boiling the hell out of it.

Letter from Grandpa

MY M.O. *continued from page 8*

Dear Christine:

I'm disappointed in you as a daughter. You're correct that we have a "shame in the family", but mistaken about what it is.

Kicking Chad out of your home simply because he told you he was gay is the real "abomination" here. A parent disowning her child is what goes "against nature".

The only intelligent thing I heard you saying in all this was that "you didn't raise your son to be gay". Of course you didn't. He was born this way and didn't choose it any more than he being left-handed. You however, have made a choice of being hateful, narrow-minded and backward. So, while we are in the business of disowning our children, I think I'll take this moment to say goodbye to you. I now have a fabulous (as the gay put it) grandson to raise, and I don't have time for heartless B-word of a daughter.

If you find your heart, give us a call.

-Dad

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David Cassidy. In the book, Jones claims that her character "was destined to become the first working mother on TV...." I would take issue with that statement, since I recall that Diahann Carroll portrayed a working mother nurse in the 1968 TV series, **Julia**. Perhaps Shirley Jones meant she was the first WHITE working mother in a TV series.

Anyway, Jones is surprisingly candid about her first husband, Jack Cassidy, and how well endowed he was. He even turned her on to "poppers" while having sex. He likely was a bisexual since he reportedly had affairs with both men and women. After his grisly demise in a fire, she later married the comedian, Marty Ingels. They have remained together for over thirty years. Jones's description of her love of orgasms and masturbation made this reader a little queasy, but I appreciate her honesty. She certainly did turn out to be the vixen that Harold Hill always thought she was in **The Music Man**. Sadly, this is not a very good book. Interesting at times, but mediocre at best.

From the Pastor's Pen –

First v. Twenty-first Century Sexuality

By Rev. Jonathan Page

Not long ago a distraught gay friend reached out to me. He had formed a close romantic attachment to an evangelical Christian. Sadly, their promising relationship was cut short because the evangelical could not justify his relationship in light of the New Testament texts that supposedly condemn homosexuality. Abruptly, the relationship ended, crushing the hopes of my good friend. I must confess that this really pissed me off. Here was a seemingly good relationship that had been dashed because of bad Biblical scholarship.

There is much that could be said in response to this common evangelical reaction. Plenty of

interpretations of the seven biblical texts that mention same-sex intercourse could justify my friend's relationship. But more than anything else, this evangelical, and others like him, need to consider how vastly different our contemporary views on sex and sexuality are from those that existed in the First Century. Any contemporary sexual ethic, from any theological viewpoint, must wrestle with this reality.

The best treatment I have read on First Century views on sexuality is found in Dale Martin's brilliant work, **The Corinthian Body**, which examines how different ancient conceptions of the body underlie the key controversies of 1 Corinthians. In that letter, the Apostle Paul chastises ...continued on Page 7



NEW AFFORDABLE HEALTH CARE OPTIONS

Iowa is a national leader when it comes to health insurance coverage for our citizens. We worked successfully in recent years to ensure all Iowa kids can see a doctor when they need to. Now we're making sure every Iowa adult also has access to affordable health care.

This was a top priority during the 2013 session. Our bipartisan work led to the [Iowa Health & Wellness Plan](#), which will begin providing health insurance coverage on January 1, 2014. Starting October 1, Iowans can sign up for the Iowa Health & Wellness Plan or for private coverage through the new "[Health Insurance Marketplace](#)."

These new health insurance options will:

- ✓ Make quality, affordable health care available to the 300,000 Iowans who are currently uninsured.
- ✓ Reduce the increase in health care costs for everyone.
- ✓ Focus on prevention and improving health, which will help Iowa become the healthiest state in the nation.

All plans will cover doctor visits, preventive care, hospital stays and prescriptions. Discrimination based on gender or pre-existing conditions is not allowed beginning in 2014. In addition, many Iowa families and small businesses will qualify for a break on their monthly premiums.

If you don't have health insurance or if you want to explore your options, go to www.healthcare.gov. The site will provide accurate, easy-to-understand information to answer your questions about premiums, purchasing insurance, qualifying for financial assistance and more. This official one-stop shop will help you review health care options, compare insurance plans and enroll in the coverage that is right for you.

To speak with someone about your health insurance options, dial the 24/7 call center at 1-800-318-2596.

Additional information

This is a legislative update from Senator Matt McCoy, representing west part of Des Moines, portions of West Des Moines and Cumming in northwest Warren County. For newsletters, photos and further information, go to www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/mccoy.

To contact Senator McCoy during the week, call the Senate Switchboard at 515-281-3371. Otherwise he can be reached at home at 515-274-0561. E-mail him at matt.mccoy@legis.iowa.gov.



Senator McCoy is an Assistant Senate Majority Leader, chair of the Commerce Committee and chair of the Transportation & Infrastructure Budget Subcommittee. He also serves on the Appropriations, State Government, Transportation and Ways & Means committees.

those in the church in Corinth, whom he calls the Strong, for their position on sex, table fellowship, the eucharist, and a host of other issues. It is eye-opening to learn what the ancients thought about sex and the body and to consider the implications of those views for sexual ethics today.

According to First Century Greco-Roman medicine, the body maintained its health through a proper balance of heat-cold, moist-dry, and the four humors (blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile). When an imbalance of these elements occurred, a person became sick, weak, or unstable. Either an excess or lack of water or spirit (*pneuma* in Greek) would also cause bodily symptoms. Sperm, which was assumed to be in both men and women, was a particularly potent distillation of the most powerful bodily fluids. People who were self-controlled could keep their sperm within themselves, thus increasing their vitality. Many authors thought that periodic discharge was also healthy. It was nearly universally accepted, however, that too frequent discharge of sperm led someone to be weak and sickly from the ensuing imbalance in bodily fluids.

The Apostle Paul appears to have had a distinctly different view of the body and, therefore, sex. Paul emphasized the dichotomy between *sarx* (flesh in English) and *pneuma* (spirit), *pneuma* here being a substance that gives the body its vital energy. In Paul's view of the universe, the heavens were made of *pneuma*, and in the heavens there was no flesh. Flesh (*sarx*) was a source of corruption to the *pneuma*. When someone became a Christian, the *pneuma* of Christ transformed, and became a part of, the convert's *pneuma*.

Sexual immorality (*porneia* in Greek) was bad because it polluted the spirit (*pneuma*); it polluted that substance within you that was heavenly and gave you your vital energy. Even sexual desire, because it is rooted in the flesh, could negatively affect the *pneuma*. Since the church shared the *pneuma* of Christ as one collective body, any potential pollutant within the church was a threat to the *pneuma* of Christ, which they all shared, and it therefore had to be expunged. The ideal for Paul was to eliminate sexual desire which, in turn, eliminated the risk of pollutant. If you cannot exercise enough

self-control to be celibate, you should get married to eliminate potentially harmful desire that caused you to burn with passion. In other words, the biggest risk for Paul was being horny because it polluted your spirit and, by extension, the spirit of Christ that you share. If you cannot eliminate being horny through self-control, get married.

It is important to note two things at this point. First, procreation was not a concern for Paul since he expected the second coming imminently. Maintaining purity was essential so that you could share in the kingdom when Christ came. Second, contrary to some overly simplistic views on First Century Judaism, there were a range of views on sex and the body. Some groups, like the Essenes and certain so-called Gnostic groups, were even more ascetic and dualist in their worldview than Paul. Other Jewish groups were far less concerned about sex and sexual desire.

It should not take long to realize that these two competing conceptions of the body and sexual desire bear no resemblance to contemporary views on sexuality. For Paul, same sex attraction, i.e. being gay, was the natural result of excessive sexual desire and caused, at least in part, by idolatry. No modern theorist on sexual orientation would affirm that logic. The notions of being sexually repressed or liberated would have meant nothing to Paul. Paul would have thought the notion of a healthy sexuality to be laughable. American Christians of all types rely on modern science and psychology in thinking through sexual relations whether they admit it or not. Given how alien First Century views on sexuality are from our own, at what point do evangelicals reconsider their views on sexual ethics? In particular, how many LGBT Christians must end their relationships in fits of self-loathing in the mistaken impression that they need to conform to the "true" Biblical views on sex? Thankfully, my friend has moved on from his disappointment over his ended relationship, but I do worry about his ex-boyfriend and others like him.

FFBC member Jonathan Page is senior pastor of the Ames United Church of Christ, 217 6th Street, Ames, Iowa. Sunday service is at 10:45. He can be reached at jon@Amesucc.org.



FFBC

*First Friday
News & Views
Des Moines, Iowa*

November, 2013

*First Friday
Breakfast Club*

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MADE ON A  MAC

MY M.O. (MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS)

by Steve Person

Definitely NOT Mrs. Paroo's Little Girl

I truly enjoy reading biographies, memoirs, and autobiographies. Some rise to the top, some sink with their own weight of self-importance, and some reveal experiences that really shock the reader. **Shirley Jones, A Memoir**, fits into the latter category.

Two things that make me question the quality of a memoir are the inclusion of an index and the words, "with So-and-So." In this case, Ms. Jones's memoir was "with Wendy Leigh." Red flag number 1. Red flag number 2 was the absence of an index. That makes me question the professionalism of the publisher, in this case, Gallery Books.

I have always liked Shirley Jones as an actress and a singer. She has a likeable quality that, on the big screen, equates to charisma, or "IT," as Clara Bow made famous in the silent era. I heard that when this book was first released, all copies had to be recalled because Joan Collins objected to a section that involved her and her then husband, Anthony Newley. According to Jones, Newley suggested that Shirley and her husband, Jack Cassidy, get naked and watch pornography with him and Joan after a dinner party at Newley's home. Shirley said it happened, Ms. Collins insists it didn't. By the time my copy of the book arrived, the offending section was still there, but Ms. Collins's name was substituted with "another woman." I was a little confused by Joan Collins's reaction, given that her reputation in Hollywood has been far from spotless. I guess the important part of that episode was that while it was suggested they do it, it didn't happen.

I remember my mother taking me to the Paramount Theatre in downtown Des Moines in the summer of 1962 to see **The Music Man** starring Jones as Marian Paroo, a small town Iowa librarian, and Robert Preston. I loved the film and still do. Thanks to the magic of camera work, Jones's pregnancy was kept well hidden. By that time, Jones was an Academy Award-winning actress. She won the supporting actress Oscar for her portrayal of a prostitute in the 1960 film, **Elmer Gantry**, based on Sinclair Lewis's book by the same name and a thinly veiled expose of the supposedly religious evangelical preacher, Aimee Semple McPherson, in the 1930s. That movie plays just as well today as it did back then.

Perhaps Jones is best known for her work in the 1970's television show, **The Partridge Family**, in which Jones stars as the musical mother of a singing family. The show made a teen megastar of Jones's stepson,

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