



First Friday News & Views

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The Monthly Newsletter
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The Truth About Job Creation By Jonathan Wilson

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For all their claims to business acumen and understanding of capitalism, those advocating preservation of tax breaks for the wealthy in the name of job creation have inhaled deeply and are blowing smoke. The fact is that we can give tax breaks to the rich until the cows come home and the only jobs created will be for their bankers, brokers, and financial advisors. Correction: it will also add low paying jobs at luxury hotels where they go on vacation and fancy restaurants where they eat and become even fatter fat cats.

That trickle down that you feel from tax breaks for the rich is anything but jobs. And it's not rain water either. More like processed water for the poor and middle class, if you know what I mean. George H.W. Bush was right; trickle down is, more politely put, voodoo economics.

Tax breaks for the rich come with no strings attached. There's nothing to keep the already rich from investing in job creation – in China, South Korea, or Taiwan. With profit and getting-even-richer as the driving motivations, that's exactly what they are most likely to do. It's what I'd advise them to do. The mere receipt of a tax break will not motivate them to incur expensive overhead that comes with adding jobs in this country.

If we give a tax break to the owner of a taxicab company, there's no reason for the owner to add additional taxicabs and employ more drivers. If the demand for taxicab rides remains static, the tax break and more money in the owner's pocket creates no incentive whatsoever to hire more drivers. Double the number of available passengers, however, and there will be a traffic jam of taxicabs hitting the streets. The taxicab company owners will be advertising for more drivers.

Same is true of virtually every profit motivated employer. Such employers do whatever they can to *avoid* creating more jobs. To the contrary, they try to maximize the productivity of the existing workforce. When, and only when, the existing workforce can't keep up will a job be added.

Ours is a consumer driven economy. I wonder how much unanimity there has to be on that truth in order for it to sink in and make a difference in our public dialogue on tax policy. In a consumer driven economy, *demand* creates jobs. Pure. Simple. As demand goes up, pressure mounts to satisfy it. At first it may be met by longer hours and more over-time for those already employed. As demand continues to go up more employees have to be added by existing employers until the available room is exhausted. And as demand goes up even further, existing businesses expand

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▼ The next FFBC Meeting is 7:00am, Friday, March 3, 2017, at Hoyt Sherman Place, 15th & Woodland, Des Moines, IA

▼ RSVP by March 1 to JonathanWilson@davisbrownlaw.com, or phone 515-288-2500

Wilson, Cont'd from p. 1 add even more employees, not to mention the jobs needed to build the expansion space. And new businesses get started that hire employees of their own.

This is not the perennial quandary of figuring out which came first the chicken or the egg. Demand is the not-so-secret ingredient. It comes first. Investment capital follows demand. Banks happily lend money to those with a credible business plan and demonstrable demand for identified goods and/or services.

The Sheriff of Nottingham should have been so clever as to disguise his benevolence for the rich with the pretext of job creation.

By contrast, if we give tax breaks to the middle class and the poor whose numbers are legion in this country and growing fast, they will be most likely to spend it right here at home on goods and services. That creates demand for goods and services, and lots of it. That demand demands jobs to meet it. In any economy as complex as ours, there are obviously many moving parts, but if the objective is – as it should be – to create jobs, the choice between tax breaks for the rich or tax breaks for the poor and middle class is a no brainer.

Perculating up is the path to our collective prosperity.

Briefs & Shorts

Be sure to RSVP by March 1 for the March 3, 2017, meeting by calling 515-288-2500, or on line at: JonathanWilson@DavisBrownLaw.com. Our speaker in March will be Bob Warren, the Executive Director of Hoyt Sherman Place. You are encouraged to invite some of your friends to attend!!

Thanks to Rick Davis for introducing our February speaker,

Drake University
political science
professor Dennis
Goldford.



Robert Warren

Be sure to peruse the front table for a book you might like to read. **Book donations are always welcome.**

Thanks to Scott Kuknyo for helping coordinate the book exchange. Thanks for Steve Person for going out of his way to help get out the last issue of our newsletter.



Consider a tax deductible contribution to the FFBC scholarship fund, or a tax exempt testamentary gift, or both. We're all

going to die, and we can't take it with us. Contact Jonathan Wilson for details.

Thanks to those who gave to the scholarship program, and a special thanks to those who helped with our celebration party.

Election Post-Mortem

By Bruce Carr

Our guest speaker on Friday, February 3, 2017, was Dennis Goldford, known to many as the political commentator for KCCI-TV, who gave us a cogent analysis of last year's political campaigns and the November election. His remarks were concise and chock-full of pithily-expressed interpretation, much of it discouraging and all of it highly fascinating, and it quickly won our full attention.

Goldford accused the Democrats of running a criminally incompetent campaign, citing as one example Hillary Clinton's failure to campaign in Wisconsin (which she lost) after April. In addition to being the most-hated Democrat, he said, she never managed to articulate a compelling rationale for her candidacy. "Other than the fact that she desperately wants to be president ... what would Hillaryism mean to the country?" he wrote already in May.

The most reliable voter in this election turned out to be the voter who feels he's been robbed of his job and his country, the voter of fear and rage – the "Little Man" of country singer Alan Jackson's song, who laments, "Now the court square's just a set of streets / That the people go round but they seldom think / 'Bout the little man that built this town / Before the big money shut 'em down / And killed the little man / Oh the little man." This voter is older, white, rural, male, and likely southern, and he now votes Republican; as Goldford quipped, "The Republicans, once the party of Abraham Lincoln, are now the party of Jefferson Davis."

Nor, post-election, does Goldford see much quick relief from Trump-in-office. Asked about the possibility of impeachment, he sees only "Profiles in Cowardice" from Congressional Republicans – and anyway, he said, "beware the Ayatollah Pence" (who is clearly no friend of ours....). You can listen again – or for the first time – to all of Professor Goldford's talk to us by going to our Web site, <ffbciowa.org>, and clicking on the "Speakers" tab.

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Dennis Goldford earned his B.A. in political science and philosophy from the University of Michigan, an M. Litt. in philosophy from Oxford University, and an M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the University of Chicago. Since 1985, he has been associated with Drake University, where he teaches in the areas of political theory and constitutional law, and since January 2015 he has served as Flansburg Fellow at Drake's Harkin Institute for Public Policy & Citizen Engagement. His books include *The American Constitution and the Debate over Originalism* (Cambridge, 2005), *The Iowa Precinct Caucuses: the Making of a Media Event* (with co-author Hugh Winebrenner, University of Iowa Press, 3rd ed. 2010) – which argues that the media have given a value to the Iowa caucuses completely out of proportion to the reality of their purpose and procedural methods – and *The Constitution of Religious Freedom: God, Politics, and the First Amendment* (Baylor University Press, 2012). He regularly participates on scholarly panels at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association, the Midwest Political Science Association, and the Iowa Association of Political Scientists. He has served as a manuscript reviewer for various journal and book publishers in political science, and he regularly provides political and election analysis for KCCI-TV and a wide range of regional, national, and international print and broadcast news media. Dennis Goldford can be reached at dennis.goldford@drake.edu or by telephone at (515)271-3197.

PRESIDENT PUTIN?

By Gary Kaufman

It seems that the American voters have elected our own President Putin. First Trump threatens to lock up his political opponent in the election. Then, both the FBI and CIA come out with information indicating that the real Putin tried to influence the U. S. election in favor of Mr. Trump; Trump characteristically denies it. The intelligence community is trying to verify that the Russian government had embarrassing information on candidate Trump and after Trump's people talked with Putin's people nothing was ever released. Trump calls for any such investigation to be halted and even denies the need for a non-partisan investigation into Russia's involvement. At his first press conference he accuses CNN, a very respected news agency, of broadcasting "fake news" and refused to answer any questions from them. This indicates to the press that he won't give them information if they print anything unfavorable about him. Sound like Russia? He appoints a number of Generals and his buddy billionaires to administer the government. He now has a solid majority so he can appoint whoever he wants to the judiciary. I guess the government is now yours, Mr. Trump. Or should I say President Putin?

Non-Traditional

By Brian Taylor Carlson

Recently, I did a five-hour interview with a potential employer. The days leading up to the interview became hours, which became minutes. I spent the time mentally preparing. I knew in my heart I was qualified for this position. But there was still that self-doubt that we all feel when we are under scrutiny.

I recently graduated from college with two undergraduate degrees, and my 45-year-old go-getter spirit was looking to land a coveted spot in a major media corporation. The process seemed to take mere seconds instead of five whole hours. All-in-all, my experience wasn't nearly as terrifying as I had fantasized about in my panic mode.

That night, I heard a story about a teenager terrified about coming out to his parents for fear of repercussions. This teen has yet to graduate from high school. He was worried his parents would reject him and he could lose his future; a common theme among gay men who do face rejection and discrimination. I wished there were something I could do to make the process easier for him. My empathy for him derives from my own rocky coming out story, which ties directly into the recent job interview.

In high school, I worked at an Arby's restaurant. I started as a janitor, worked my way up to dishwasher, food prep, worked on the active food line, and then up to cashier and running the drive-through. By the time I was 18, I was poised to be a manager. I worked many hours, but I also kept my grades up, participated in extracurricular activities, and performed in concert choir and school musicals. I dreamed of going to college, but money was an issue. My mother was a single parent who mostly worked for minimum wage. She simply didn't have enough to pay for my college. I enlisted in the US Army through the Delayed Entry Program. This was in 1989, before *Don't Ask, Don't Tell*, and I had to

lie about my homosexuality. I wanted—and needed—to qualify for the Army College Fund and the Montgomery G.I.

Bill to help pay for college. I qualified for a military intelligence job with a top-secret security clearance and was to be trained as an electronics technician. I barely made it out of basic training; running and I have never been friends. After moving on to Advanced Individual Training, I needed to shed another minute off my running time, and I failed to do so. I was honorably discharged, without a single cent for college tuition.

During my time in the Army, I had my first gay experience with a guy I met there named Jason. We came out to each other in my car near Boston. We had never told anyone before, and it was one of the most beautiful moments in my life. What seemed like the weight of the world was lifted off our shoulders that night, and I will never forget it. We acted like we barely knew one another in public.

I enrolled in community college in Maryland, and got a job at Taco Bell. I was living with my father, until a letter came from Jason. My father found out by opening Jason's letter that had been spritzed with the cologne I had bought for him as a gift. The opened letter was on the coffee table as I walked into the house and my father was sitting on the couch glowering. We argued, and I left the house and stayed with a friend that night. The following day, I had classes and a shift at work. When I arrived home, I discovered my belongings in boxes on the porch with a note that read, "You have to find somewhere else to live. I can't have a queer for a son."

I lived in my car for a few days until my mother and stepfather let me move into their spare bedroom. I was also not out to them and had to keep my personal life hidden. Delmar, Delaware, where their house was, is a small town, and rumors fly; and the rumors flew. I came home one day to tension so thick it could be cut with a knife. I was given 20 minutes to pack my things and leave the house. In an instant, I was homeless, without family, without support, and had nowhere to go. I slept in my old Chevy Chevette that night. It was cold, windy, rainy, and I cried myself to sleep under an old afghan my grandmother had knitted. The next day, I went to the

Salisbury Zoo, washed up in the public restroom, drove to the community college and withdrew from classes, sold my books back for pennies on the dollar, and then I drove to Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

I knew Rehoboth was a gay town, but I didn't know it was about to transform my life. As I sat on a bench on the boardwalk, two gentlemen walked hand-in-hand toward me. As they passed, they both nodded and smiled. I was aghast that two men could show affection in public without being ridiculed. No one batted an eyelash. We struck up a conversation, and before I knew it, I was renting a room from two incredible lesbians, working at a rib joint on the highway, making killer money, and having an absolute blast in an accepting and loving gay community. This was unimaginable to a young guy who thought he had lost everything. But it was happening, and I set about creating my own family from the people around me, many of whom are still friends today. The restaurant business took me in, and took me to Key West, where I lived until I met my Iowan husband. And thinking about all these years of happiness and joy in accepting myself, and learning to deal with those who are incapable of acceptance, brought me back to thinking about the

story of the young man who is about to undergo some similarly difficult times.

Even though I wish I could do something for people who are about to go through potentially harrowing journeys of coming out, the truth is, there isn't anything I can do except to just be there. If I meet someone who is facing problems, I want to be just like the two gentlemen who befriended me in Rehoboth that late winter afternoon. I want to be able to point in the right direction and be friendly and supportive. I want to be able to help solve problems and connect people to others in the community who can be just as supportive and friendly. The only real way to thank those two gentlemen is to do the same for others. And I'm glad that life has turned out to be more beautiful than I had ever imagined. This young man is about to learn that truth, and I hope we are all there for him when it happens.

And my interview? Success. After 25 years as a restaurant professional, I'm now a food reporter for a major newspaper. My professional life is about to change dramatically. Sometimes, adult life as an out gay man can get off to a rocky start. Coming out is just one rite of passage that many of us go through. But I am here to let this young man know that no matter what happens, with enough hard work, perseverance, and the support of friends who are considered family, dreams do come true.

Truvada

By Jordan Duesenberg

Truvada, or PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis), or TasP (treatment as prevention) as it's also commonly called, is definitely a controversial subject within the gay community. I don't think anyone can argue that the ability to take a daily pill to prevent HIV infection that is 99% effective, is inherently a bad thing. But, of course, there are the arguments that it inspires more condomless sex, risking exposure to other STIs.

I'm a huge PrEP supporter, and I have no problem saying that I take Truvada daily for preventative measures (also I'll mostly be referring to Truvada as PrEP not TasP in this article, since that's how I personally use it). It gives me some peace of mind knowing that I always have that extra layer of protection. There's too much stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS, and that includes those that take PrEP for preventative measures, which I think is utterly ridiculous. I was just at a party the other night and found myself in a conversation with a couple of guys around my age that proceeded to generalize everyone who takes PrEP as promiscuous and only wanting to bareback with strangers. Part of me just wanted just wanted to comment on their lack of intelligence and maybe take a petty shot at something like their appearance, but I decided to take the moral highroad and bite my tongue and talked to someone else (I'm so strong!). Even after I did this, it really got me thinking, does daily PrEP use really inspire more condomless sex and, if so, what are the implications?

According to various articles on the internet (and everything on the internet is 100% true) condomless sex among MSM has been on the rise for the last decade. Conveniently, so have the rates of gonorrhea,



Senator Matt McCoy

HSB 92 - Limiting cities & counties from enacting a higher minimum wage & LGBT protections

Republicans have introduced HSB92, currently in Local Government committee in the Iowa House. It prohibits cities or counties from establishing a higher minimum wage than the federal minimum wage of \$7.25. Additionally disturbing is the provision that specifically prohibits a city or local government from enacting an ordinance or law that's broader anti-discriminatory practices than what is covered under our current state civil rights act. Cities across Iowa, including Des Moines, have passed broader civil rights protections and this bill would strip that right away. Republicans always talk about wanting home rule and local government control, but in

practice this bill does the exact opposite. We should be fearful that the reality of HSB92 is uniform conformation to the state's civil right statute, which could be changed to marginalize members of our communities. For instance it was not until 2007 when the state included protections to the LGBT community. I was instrumental in creating these protections and fear that they could be stripped away under our current legislature.

See copy of the bill here: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/docs/publications/LGI/87/HSB92.pdf>

Addressed Roosevelt Principal's Remarks on Iowa Senate Floor, January 31

On January 31st, I made remarks on the Iowa Senate Floor and read Roosevelt Principal Briggs's statement to the school, which highlighted his opposition to President Trump's unconstitutional immigration ban. It speaks to the level of compassion and respect that exists in the Des Moines Public Schools. My son, Jack, is a senior at Roosevelt High and has the gift to attend one of Des Moines' finest public schools and, despite lack of resources, our schools continue to produce outstanding results because of the faculty, staff, and administration that are currently under attack by Republicans who have gutted the right for them to bargain for healthcare, benefits, and salary. I applaud Principal Briggs and his support for immigrants and refugees, even in the face of intense opposition from Republicans.

"Good Morning Roughriders: January 30, 2017

I apologize for the interruption. Please place down your pens or pencils and listen to this announcement. This weekend, much of the world's attention was focused on an effort by the federal government to impose far-reaching restrictions on the ability of immigrants and refugees to come to the United States. From protesters at airports and on the streets, to lawyers and judges in courtrooms, there was a swift reaction by many in support of immigrants and refugees.

To all of our students who are immigrants or refugees – and to their friends and classmates and teachers who are also concerned because of these recent events – know that you belong here – Roosevelt HS and DMPS stands by you. As you know, TRHS is a school of such diversity, with a student body that encompasses over 40 different languages and cultures. Over the years, thousands of refugee students from around the world have attended school at DMPS. Many have labeled TRHS as the most diverse high school in the state of Iowa, which, in my opinion, is a strength and gift that we are to be extremely proud of, but also that we can use to grow as human beings. Each one of you is sitting here today because your parents or guardians wanted you to attend a real-world high school, that exposed you to various cultures, religions, languages, experiences, and beliefs...because understanding and respecting these differences is what allows each of us to grow into the respecting, accepting, and loving leaders of tomorrow. Because of your attendance at TRHS, I believe you possess, or will eventually possess, a unique perspective on life and the world -- one that will prepare you well for whatever conflict is thrown your way in the next few years.

For our students of immigrant families, we want to help you learn and succeed in school. We want to see you have fun and make friends and find your passions. We want to be there to celebrate that day when you walk across a stage to receive your diploma. We want to help you grow into the people you want to become. At TRHS, we welcome immigrants and refugees as our students and families, as our neighbors and friends. The entire district values our students, no matter where they might come from – this is your home and we are honored to serve you. The adults in the building are here to help in any way that you might need.

When children in Des Moines show up at our schools – no matter their place of birth or religion or language or skin color – they should know that they belong here and we stand by them. America is a country of immigrants; every one of us has roots which began in countries across the globe. America was built on the pursuit of freedoms, and it is our responsibility as citizens to stand-up for what we believe is right and just.

For our immigrant students, especially those of you who's home country is Iran, or Iraq, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, or Somalia...we are here to support you as this attempt to ban your family from our country is constructed by the federal government. I ask every TRHS student to stand by our friends, support them with unwavering love and empathy, and be respectful during this chaotic time. This is a time where Roughriders can show the world what happens when unity and love can overcome injustice. We love and respect each and every one of you and hope to prove that through our actions each day. Thank you for providing me a few minutes of your time.



Go Riders!"

PONDERABLES

Truvada

(Cont'd) from p. 5

This month our Ponderables are brought to us by **The Washington Post** that annually publishes the winning submissions to its contest, in which readers are asked to take any word from the dictionary, alter it by adding, subtracting, or changing one letter, and then supplying a new definition. (Thanks to Steve Person for finding these gems.)

1. Cashtration (n.): The act of buying a house, which renders the buyer financially impotent for an indefinite period of time.
2. Ignoranus: A person who's both stupid and an asshole.
3. Intoxicaton: Euphoria at getting a tax refund, which lasts until you realize it was your money to start with.
4. Reintarnation: Coming back to life as a hillbilly.
5. Bozone (n.): The substance surrounding stupid people that stops bright ideas from penetrating. The bozone layer, unfortunately, shows little sign of breaking down in the near future.
6. Foreploy: Any misrepresentation about yourself for the purpose of getting laid
7. Giraffiti: Vandalism spray-painted very, very high.
8. Sarchasm: The gulf between the author of sarcastic wit and the person who doesn't get it.
9. Inoculatte: To take coffee intravenously when you are running late.
10. Osteopornosis: A degenerate disease. (This one got extra credit.)
11. Karmageddon: It's like, when everybody is sending off all these really bad vibes, right? And then, like, the Earth explodes and it's like, a serious bummer.
12. Decafalon (n): The grueling event of getting through the day consuming only things that are good for you.
13. Glibido: All talk and no action.
14. Dopeler Effect: The tendency of stupid ideas to seem smarter when they come at you rapidly.
15. Arachnoleptic Fit (n.): The frantic dance performed just after you've accidentally walked through a spider web.
16. Beelzebug (n.): Satan in the form of a mosquito, that gets into your bedroom at three in the morning and cannot be cast out.
17. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
18. Passhole (n.): Someone who passes you on the highway and then slows down in front of you; or someone driving too slow who speeds up when you try to pass them.
17. Caterpallor (n.): The color you turn after finding half a worm in the fruit you're eating.
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chlamydia, and especially syphilis among MSM. Truvada was approved by the FDA in 2012, so I don't think its fair to place all the blame on PrEP for the last decade. You could argue that the lack of condoms in porn has something to do with this; let's be honest, when's the last time you've seen someone use a condom on Sean Cody? You could also argue that developments in medicine/healthcare long before prep have made HIV/AIDS a manageable disease versus a death sentence have also inspired this trend, especially with a whole new generation of gay young men who never knew HIV/AIDS as such. My point, PrEP isn't solely to blame for the rise of condomless sex, but it's definitely a variable.

So what does this mean? With the rates of condomless sex on the rise, should we be worried? In finance we often use a Mark Twain quote, "History may not repeat itself, but it certainly does rhyme." I was born in 1990, so I can't tell you about the relevant history from personal experience, but I do read and talk to people who lived in the '70s/'80s, and it's no mystery that the sexual culture in that pre-AIDS time was much more carefree. Bathhouses were institutions, STIs were curable (I even read a blog from a guy that said he and his friends used to call gonorrhea infection "the applause" since he was so used to being told he had "the clap"), etc. In today's climate, especially with Truvada, most STIs are curable (for now), we use Grindr and Scruff instead of going to bathhouses, and ultimately, times don't seem all that different. Unfortunately, our new nightmare of an Administration looks to be just as homophobic as the Reagan and Bush Administrations were in the '80s and early '90s. Add in the possibility of Planned Parenthood being defunded (and likely other health services) as well as the Affordable Care Act repeal, and this could all end disastrously.

I'm not trying to be alarmist, and I am really hoping nothing bad happens. I read about antibiotic resistant strains of STIs (such as antibiotic resistant strains of gonorrhea which have recently been a problem in Asia, the UK, and even in parts of the US), and really hope that does not become a bigger problem. I really hope that my generation doesn't have to bear witness to the devastation that a sexually transmitted infection can cause, especially when we should technically know better because of the AIDS crisis in the '80s/'90s. PrEP is a great thing and I encourage everyone who's at risk and think they could benefit from its use to talk to their doctor in order to receive more information. I don't believe there is a wrong or right way to have sex, and I also don't think anyone should tell someone else what they should or shouldn't do with their own body. I just encourage everyone to think more about their actions, and make sure they're not living in some false sense of safety because, let's face it, if Donald Trump can become our president, nothing seems out of the realm of possibility.

John Adams by David McCullough
Book Review by Steve Person

In a **Des Moines Register** editorial of January 9, 2017, Iowa's senator Chuck Grassley earned some well-deserved criticism: "When historians turn their attention to the Supreme Court and the manner in which politics play a role in the selection process, Grassley's name will be writ large. Fairly or not, his actions in 2016 are likely to be cited as an example of politically motivated obstructionism."

As chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Grassley steadfastly refused even to grant a hearing on President Obama's nominee to fill Antonin Scalia's seat after Scalia died suddenly last winter. At the time of the nomination, Obama had almost a year left in office. Grassley and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell employed the weak excuse that a Supreme Court nominee should not be confirmed in the final year of a lame duck presidency. If for no other reason than that, both should have been voted out of office in the November election, but, alas, that did not happen.

David McCullough's exceptional biography, **John Adams**, illustrates a stellar example of a true lame duck president executing his job as prescribed by the Constitution. In the contentious 1800 election, Adams received 65 electoral votes to Jefferson's 73 and Aaron Burr's 73. Obviously the loser, Adams continued his job as chief executive while the House of Representatives eventually chose Jefferson to be President (thanks largely to Alexander Hamilton). In those days, newly elected presidents took office on March 4. "On January 31, 1801, at the President's House, Adams signed (John) Marshall's commission as Chief Justice, *which the Senate confirmed without delay* (my Italics)."

If Grassley had been the assiduous student of history that he claims to be, he would have known that a President is **the** President until he leaves office and a new person is sworn in. That John Adams could nominate and have John Marshall confirmed in so little time underscores how truly awful our fractured republic has become. While Obama may have been considered a "lame duck" last year, he was not truly so until after the November 8, 2016, election. Grassley just didn't get it.

It's a pity history books aren't written by people like David McCullough. His ability to relate the lives of historical figures in clear and riveting language is testament to his skill as a writer. The public service of a man like Adams—when this country was in its infancy—makes the politicians of today pale by comparison. Adams literally spent years away from his wife and family, made numerous grueling sailings across the Atlantic to act as minister to France and England at a time when news and travel took months, and yet managed to keep in tact his sense of humanity. If you are a genuine student of history, **John Adams** should be on your reading list.