



“YOU SHOULD TRUST WALL ST. TO SHINE A LIGHT ON ITS OWN SHADY BEHAVIOR.”

# Hatred Of The Rich

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

My late father was a man of strong opinion. He despised phonies, cowards and liars. He named names — sometimes in very close proximity to those being singled out. A veteran of World War II, he recognized a weasel when he saw one.

But my dad never denigrated rich people in general.

We lived in Levittown, N.Y., where everybody had pretty much the same — that is, not much. We ate tuna casserole, hot dogs and Hamburger Helper. My parents never owned a new car.

Ten miles away, my dentist, a college classmate of my father's, lived in Garden City. Lovely place, filled with rich people. My father often drove us through there and never said a disparaging word about the fine lawns and shiny foreign cars. America was the land of opportunity, and Garden City proved it.

But that was then. Today, many Democrats believe the wealthy are bad to the bone. A new Gallup poll asks: "Do you think the U.S. benefits from having a class of rich people or not?"

An amazing 46 percent of self-described Democrats answered "or not."

When I asked two left-leaning pundits about this, they said it is all about "income inequality." They asked me whether my father would approve of that. I said he most likely would reject the entire concept of "income inequality" by giving the pundits the same advice he gave me: "If you don't like what they're pay-



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ing you, work someplace else." And I followed that advice, moving 10 times in 15 years on my way up the television news ladder. It wasn't easy, but if I thought my employer was hosing me, I began looking around.

That's how capitalism is supposed to work. America is mandated to provide "equal opportunity," not equal outcomes. The boss man can pay what he wants. It's our choice whether to take it or leave it.

President Obama doesn't seem to get that. He often puts forth that wealthy Americans are not paying their "fair share," that somehow the fix is in, and the rich folk are gaming the system at the expense of working people. But for two years, Obama had an adoring Democratic Congress that did absolutely nothing to further the concept of "income equality." The reason? It's unconstitutional. The feds cannot dictate salaries and benefits in the private marketplace. Obamacare is an attempt to breach that constitutional wall. We'll soon see what the Supreme Court says.

Capitalism is no beach day. The strong and sometimes ruthless prosper. The poorly educated and unfocused often fail. For many Americans, failure is unfair and unacceptable in a "just" society. But my dad knew and accepted the truth of capitalism: Some will win big, some will lose big, but most will live comfortable lives in the middle. Just as he did.

*Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Pinheads and Patriots: Where You Stand in the Age of Obama."*

# Faux-Raging For A News Story

BY KATHLEEN PARKER  
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WASHINGTON — What a difference four years make.

When Barack Obama was running for president, he successfully managed to distance himself from the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, leaving his Chicago church during the campaign and shrugging off suggestions that the preacher's fiery rhetoric had any effect on him over the 20 years of their close friendship.

How close? Wright inspired the title of Obama's book "The Audacity of Hope." He conducted the Obamas' wedding ceremony and baptized the Obama girls. He led the family in prayer on the day Obama announced his candidacy for president.

Four years later, the mere mention of Wright by political opponents is considered racist.

Just ask Republican political strategist Fred Davis. Or his once-potential client, billionaire Joe Ricketts. Davis prepared a proposal for an ad campaign for Ricketts' consideration titled "The Defeat of Barack Hussein Obama: The Ricketts Plan to End His Spending for Good" — and all hell broke loose.

The proposal, which highlights the Obama-Wright relationship and resembles an ad rejected the last go-round by the McCain campaign, has made tsunami waves thanks to a story on The New York Times' front page. Who leaked the 54-page proposal may be the most interesting aspect of this story, but we may die without knowing. Or we can watch closely the career paths of various actors in the next several months.

The intent of the ads was to shine a light on how Obama's character was formed and why he should not be re-elected. They were not a good idea, obviously, but they also were never ads. They were a proposal born of a sense among Republicans that Obama's relationship to Wright was never sufficiently vetted.

The question of Obama's character pertains to his denial of the degree of that relationship, not that he found a father figure in Wright when he was still in his 20s. Nevertheless, to question Obama's character based on his association with Wright at this point seems too much too late.

Obama has a record as president and can be challenged on that record. Raising Wright now would have been a serious miscalculation and would have been interpreted as attempting to inspire racial animus. But it is unfair to smear Davis as a racist, as some have



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suggested. He obviously created a proposal based on his sense that this would appeal to Ricketts, who said upon viewing the rejected McCain ad: "If the nation had seen that ad, they'd never have elected Barack Obama."

Davis, whose creativity is widely acknowledged, was obviously aware of the possible racial sensitivity, which is why he also hoped to include prominent African-Americans, such as radio host Larry Elder, questioning Obama's character. Whites cannot do this without suffering the consequences now in play.

From a strategist's perspective, Wright is nearly irresistible. Colorful and outrageous, his views are the stuff of political operatives' dreams. As he confirmed for an audience at the National Press Club in 2008, Wright believes, among many other headline writers' delights, that the government created AIDS as a means of genocide, that U.S. Marines are like Roman Legionnaires, and that the terrorist attacks of 9/11 were merely chickens coming home to roost.

If you're a Fred Davis, ignoring such statements and the influential relationship of its speaker to the president of the United States would be like ignoring unemployed Americans who long ago lost their jobs when Bain Capital rode into town.

The leaking of the document and the prominent display of the story have been a boon to Obama. They provided yet another welcome distraction, as well as a helpful fundraising tool, and smeared Romney by association.

The power (and hubris) of individual political donors and their offspring — the ads they want to sire — may become the tragedy of this election season. Romney is nothing like a racist, yet suddenly he is forced to distance himself from ads about which he knew nothing. And we now can agree that resurrecting Wright for any purpose would do more political harm than good.

Ricketts apparently would agree. He has distanced himself from the proposal faster than Obama distanced himself from Wright. And poor Mitt Romney had to repudiate an ad campaign that never was, that probably never would have been, and over which he had zero control.

And thus ends another faux controversy about non-ads in the very strange universe known as American Politics.

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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

## Reducing Hours Beats Closing Post Offices

**RAPID CITY JOURNAL (May 16):** When the U.S. Postal Service held meetings last year to explain to rural residents that they were going to lose their post offices, postal officials were met with a storm of criticism.

Residents of Caputa, Vale, Reva and 23 other West River towns were stunned to learn that they were going to lose their post offices. For many rural towns, the loss of the local post office represents the loss of the town's identity.

Recently, the Postal Service backed away from plans to close up to 3,700 low-revenue post offices this month, citing community opposition. That is welcome news. South Dakota would have lost as many as 80 post offices.

Closing rural post offices would have forced residents in sparsely populated areas to travel many miles farther to pick up or send mail and use other postal services.

The Postal Service said it would reduce full-time staff and keep low-revenue post offices open for shorter hours with access to retail lobbies and post office boxes. No offices would be closed, but more than 13,000 post offices will have their operating hours reduced to two to six hours a day.

The new strategy will require regulatory approval and the Postal Service will seek community comment on the proposal, which could take several months. The USPS said its plan would be completed by 2014 and would save the agency \$500 million a year.

The Postal Service has been losing money but does not receive federal funding.

Reducing the hours that low-revenue post offices are open is a better option for saving money than closing them, especially in rural areas of the country. In western South Dakota, closing many rural post offices would have forced residents to drive many miles to reach the closest post office.

Rural Americans need the same opportunity to access mail service that other Americans have, even if the hours of operation are limited in many postal facilities.

The U.S. Postal Service still needs to address its revenue problem, but forcing rural Americans to bear the brunt of the cost of its budget problems was the wrong approach.

## Too Fallible For Death Penalty

**LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR (May 13):** The case of the crooked crime scene investigator in Douglas County provides another glaring example of why the criminal justice system cannot be trusted to apply the death penalty.

Humans not only make honest mistakes, sometimes they plant evidence and lie.

The conviction of former CSI chief David Kofoed for tampering with the evidence in a double murder case was upheld earlier this month by the Nebraska Supreme Court.

Kofoed was convicted for planting a speck of blood in a car belonging to a suspect in the case. His bogus evidence resulted in two innocent men being held in jail for several months. Police even wrung a false confession out of one of them.

Fortunately for the two men, the case against them unraveled before they were tried. DNA evidence found on a ring and marijuana pipe found in the home belonged to a pair of Wisconsin teens. They later pleaded guilty to killing a Murdock couple while looking for money during a road trip.

If you think the Kofoed case is one of a kind, think again. Just do an Internet search for "crime lab scandal."

You will be — or should be — appalled at the number of times that crime labs turn out to be providing inaccurate and phony evidence.

The problems crop up in New York, San Francisco, Houston and many points in between.

Sometimes the problem is sloppiness. Sometimes technicians are manufacturing evidence deliberately. Sometimes the science itself turns out to be untrustworthy.

Even the vaunted crime lab operated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has come under criticism on more than one occasion. In 2004 FBI lab technician Jacqueline Blake admitted to submitting false DNA evidence in 100 cases. FBI metallurgist Kathleen Lundy admitted to lying on the witness stand. To her credit, she admitted her testimony was false before the murder trial was over.

A 2009 report by the National Academy of Sciences was harshly critical of some of the science behind crime lab testimony, such as using marks on a bullet to determine whether a bullet came from a certain gun. Other than DNA technology, "no forensic method has been rigorously shown to have the capacity to consistently, and with a high degree of certainty, demonstrate a connection between evidence and a specific individual or source," the report stated.

The report concluded: "Substantive information and testimony based on faulty forensic science analyses may have contributed to wrongful convictions of innocent people."

The fallibility of the criminal justice system has been demonstrated again and again. Innocent people have been executed in the past and will be in the future. If you don't want blood on your hands, support repeal of the death penalty.

## TODAY IN HISTORY

**By The Associated Press**

Today is Monday, May 21, the 142nd day of 2012. There are 224 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 21, 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland; Earhart's achievement came on the fifth anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's solo flight to France.

**On this date:** In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at age 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

In 1892, the opera "Pagliacci," by Ruggero Leoncavallo, premiered in Milan, Italy.

In 1911, during the Mexican Revolution, the Treaty of Ciudad Juarez was signed by President Porfirio Diaz and revolutionary leader Francisco I. Madero; under the agreement, Diaz resigned his office and went into exile.

In 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS *Robin Moor* in the South Atlantic after allowing the ship's passengers and crew to board lifeboats.

In 1956, the United States exploded the first airborne hydrogen bomb over Bikini Atoll in the Pacific.

In 1959, the musical "Gypsy," inspired by the life of stripper Gypsy Rose Lee, opened on Broadway with Ethel Merman starring as Mama Rose.

In 1972, Michelangelo's *Pieta*, on display at the Vatican, was damaged by a hammer-wielding man who shouted he was Jesus Christ.

In 1982, during the Falklands War, British amphibious forces landed on the

beach at San Carlos Bay.

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during national elections by a suicide bomber.

**Ten years ago:** The State Department named seven states as sponsors of terror, with Iran at the top of the list; the report said that Sudan and Libya had taken some steps — but not enough — to "get out of the business." (The other countries named were Iraq, North Korea, Cuba and Syria.)

**Five years ago:** The Supreme Court ruled that parents didn't need to hire a lawyer to sue public school districts over their children's special education needs. The Food and Drug Administration issued a safety alert for the diabetes drug Avandia, marketed by GlaxoSmithKline, which disputed a report saying it was linked to a greater risk of heart attack.

**One year ago:** The apocalypse did not arrive, despite the prophecy of 89-year-old Christian broadcast group operator Harold Camping, who had been predicting the rolling global destruction of Judgment Day for years. Shackelford won the Preakness, holding off a late charge from Kentucky Derby-winner Animal Kingdom to win as a 12-1 underdog.

**Today's Birthdays:** Rhythm-and-blues singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 71. Rock musician Hilton Valentine (The Animals) is 69. Actor Richard Hatch ("Battlestar Galactica") is 67. Musician Bill Champlin is 65. Singer Leo Sayer is 64. Actress Carol Potter is 64. Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is 61. Actor Mr. T is 60. Music producer Stan Lynch is 57. Actor Judge Reinhold is 55. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 53. Actor Brent Briscoe is 51. Actress Lisa Edelstein is 46. Actress Fairuza Balk is 38. Rock singer-musician Mikel Jollett (Airborne Toxic Event) is 38. Rapper Havoc (Mobb Deep) is 38. Actress Ashlie Brillault is 25. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 22. Actress Sarah Ramos is 21.

**Thought for Today:** "Being frustrated is disagreeable, but the real disasters of life begin when you get what you want." — Irving Kristol, American writer (1920-2009)

## FROM THE BIBLE

*Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8.* Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis

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