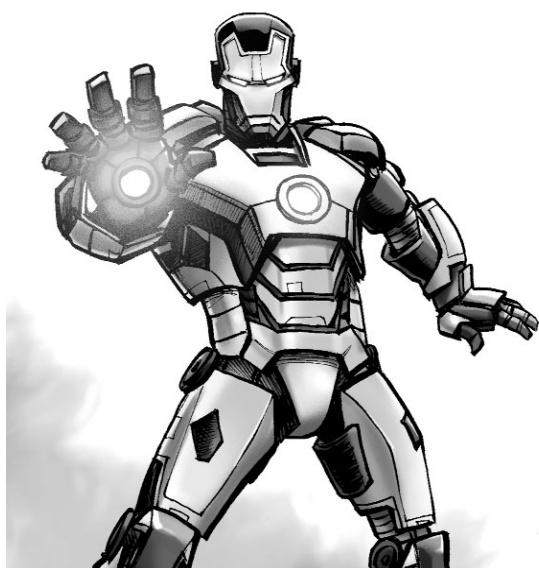
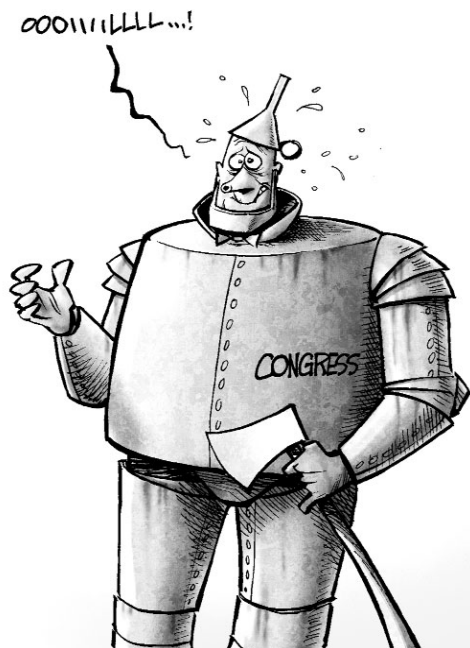


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## IRON MAN



## TIN MAN



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OPINION | OTHER THOUGHTS

## State Shouldn't Pay For Memberships

CAPITAL JOURNAL, Pierre (April 26): Heard any really bad ideas lately from the South Dakota Legislature? We have.

The Legislature's Executive Board, dominated by Republicans, decided this week that the state treasury should pay the \$100 memberships for all 105 South Dakota legislators in an organization called the American Legislative Exchange Council, and also foot the bill for unlimited out-of-state trips to ALEC events by state lawmakers who serve on ALEC committees.

That's an issue because ALEC - described on its own website as "a non-partisan membership association for conservative state lawmakers" - is not nonpartisan in the sense that an organization such as the National Conference of State Legislatures is.

There is widespread criticism of ALEC from watchdog groups and Democratic-leaning groups who say the organization gets much of its funding from corporations that stand to benefit from the model legislation that ALEC presents to state lawmakers.

It may be that ALEC truly tries to be nonpartisan, but part of what people are objecting to is that this group might allow the unseen hand of the corporations to influence what goes on in our states.

Only imagine how incensed Republicans would be if we had a Democratic-dominated Legislature and those lawmakers decided to pay memberships to a left-leaning group and travel to conferences where lawmakers could get research help and discuss model legislation on, say, labor and the environment and business regulation. What if that group called itself "a nonpartisan membership association for liberal state lawmakers," would that raise concerns? Would we pay for our lawmakers' memberships in that organization and fund committee members' travel to its events?

Well, we have exactly that situation on the other side of the aisle.

If corporations want to whisper sweet nothings in the ears of South Dakota legislators, let them come to Pierre and follow the process our Legislature has set in place for lobbying. Or at the very least, let's conserve some state funds and let the so-called conservative lawmakers pay their own membership bills. Don't ask the state to pay for it, because that makes a mockery of conservative ideology.

South Dakotans should not foot the bill so that our lawmakers can go off and flirt with ALEC.

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## War's Grim Reality

BY BILL O'REILLY  
Creators Syndicate

Living in the shadows of the ongoing war on terror are 1,715 American military people who lost limbs in Iraq and Afghanistan. A few of those brave folks lost all four limbs when bombs blew apart their bodies. In addition, there are now at least 20 new amputee victims because of the brutal terror bombing in Boston.

When reality sinks in and the injured realize how dependent they are without all of their limbs, often there are severe psychological consequences. Many of the soldiers and Marines who lost limbs were self-reliant achievers who lived life on their own terms.

The bombs changed all that.

When I visit Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C., I am struck by the determination of the amputees to put their lives back together. But the rehab process is exceedingly difficult for them and their families. Sometimes the wounded warrior feels guilty that his or her condition is bringing emotional pain to friends and family. You can see that in their eyes. They don't feel sorry for themselves so much, but they are sad for those who love them.

The United States is a great country, but we do have our failings. Providing for the severely wounded should be a top priority, but it is not. Responding to a lack of urgency on the part of the Defense Department and the Department of Veterans Affairs, a private organization called The Independence Fund was started in 2007 to provide support for amputees. And now something amazing has happened.

A small company in Michigan has invented the Action TrackChair, an all-terrain wheelchair that can literally go anywhere — on sand, in the forest, through shallow streams, you name it. The chairs are a high-

tech marvel. Small switches give physically challenged folks almost full mobility and an acute sense of independence — thus the name of the fund.

The chairs cost about \$15,000 each, and therein lies the problem. The federal government is broke after wasting billions of taxpayer dollars on misguided overseas nation-building projects, social justice boondoggles here at home and failed green energy investments like Solyndra. Just this week, *The New York Times* reported that the CIA is giving millions of dollars in cash to Hamid Karzai, the corrupt leader of Afghanistan. Karzai is a guy who would make Al Capone blush. If you took just 20 percent of the Karzai payoff money, you could buy every American military amputee a TrackChair.

But that's a pipedream. Not gonna happen. So we the people have to help our wounded warriors regain a semblance of control over their lives, because the federal government will not.

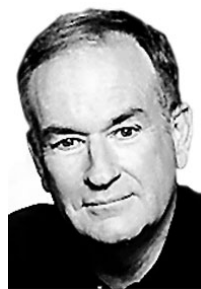
I hope you check out the website independencefund.org. We all need to right this wrong. The technology is available to help amputees, and there is no reason on Earth why every single person who needs a TrackChair shouldn't have one.

So let's make this happen, people! We are Americans. We owe it to those who sacrificed their bodies for our country to do everything we can to help them.

Finally, I've discussed the situation with President Obama and believe that in the weeks to come a national effort will be launched to help the grievously wounded and their families.

That story: still developing.

*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."*

Bill  
O'REILLY

## A Sad Case For 'Future Danger'

BY LEONARD PITTS JR.  
Tribune Media Services

If the state of Texas executes Duane Buck, it'll be because he is black.

Well, mainly it will be because in 1995, he shot his ex-girlfriend, Debra Gardner, and her friend, Kenneth Butler, to death at Gardner's Houston home, and also wounded his own step-sister, Phyllis Taylor. But it will also be because he's black.

In Texas, they have this rule: a jury contemplating the death penalty must evaluate the likelihood a defendant poses a future danger to the community. Jurors in Buck's trial were told he poses said danger because he is a black man.

Mind you, this came from a defense witness, whose ultimate finding was that Buck himself represented little danger. But, said psychologist Dr. Walter Quijano, "It's a sad commentary that minorities, Hispanics and black people, are overrepresented in the criminal justice system."

When asked by the prosecutor whether "the race factor, black, increases the future dangerousness," Quijano answered, "Yes."

So Buck sits on death row awaiting an appeals court ruling on his bid for a new sentencing hearing. Not a new trial, you understand. No one disputes his guilt — or the monstrosity of his crime. But about the sentence, there is plenty dispute, enough that his surviving victim and Linda Geffin, a prosecutor who helped convict him, both think he should get a new hearing. In 2000, Sen. John Cornyn, then Texas attorney general, identified six capital cases, including Buck's, in which Quijano gave similar testimony and conceded the state erred in allowing race to be used as a sentencing factor.

The other five defendants — all black or Hispanic — received new sentencing hearings. All were re-sentenced to death. Buck was denied a new hearing.

Why? Bucks' attorney, Christina Swarns, director of the Criminal Justice Project at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, says the only explanation she's heard "is it's because Quijano was called as a defense witness. That would sound like a plausible explanation, if not that Quijano was called as a defense witness in two of

the other cases in which they did concede error."

Sara Marie Kinney, a spokesperson for the Harris County DA, says there's a difference: in Buck's case, the offending testimony came on direct examination — "not on cross." In other words, the defense brought it up first. Whatever. There is something viscerally ... wrong in relying upon so flimsy a rationale to justify so blatant an appeal to bias.

But race, argues Kinney, was not the only factor in the jury's decision. Buck, she notes, "was a violent offender who systematically killed these people. ... He checks all the boxes for the appropriate penalty being the death sentence."

Quijano, by the way, stands by his testimony. He told *The New York Times*, "The literature suggests ... correlation" between race and threat. It is not, he said, "the blackness of the person that is causing the violence. It is what goes with it. Poverty, the exposure to lack of education, exposure to criminal elements."

Psychology professor John Monahan, whose writings Quijano cited among the "literature," told *the Times* his work supports no such conclusion. Race, he said, "plays at most an extremely small role" in predicting future violent acts.

Moreover, it is specious in the extreme to act as if poverty, crime and ignorance are some natural outgrowth of blackness. They are not. They were imposed upon black people by generations of oppressive law, policy and custom. To act as if they are somehow endemic to blackness is like accusing a woman of walking funny after you have cut off her feet.

What we have here, then, is but the latest example of a "justice" system bloodied and soiled by racial bias. If Duane Buck is killed, it will be in part because an "expert" stoked a jury's fear of the scary black man. That is not just wrong.

It is obscene.

*Leonard Pitts is a columnist for The Miami Herald, 1 Herald Plaza, Miami, Fla., 33132. Readers may contact him via e-mail at lpitts@miamiherald.com.*

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## By The Associated Press

Today is Monday, May 6, the 126th day of 2013. There are 239 days left in the year.

**Today's Highlight in History:** On May 6, 1863, the Civil War Battle of Chancellorsville in Virginia ended with a Confederate victory over Union forces.

**On this date:** In 1840, Britain's first adhesive postage stamp, the Penny Black, officially went into circulation five days after its introduction.

In 1882, President Chester Alan Arthur signed the Chinese Exclusion Act, which barred Chinese immigrants from the U.S. for 10 years (Arthur had opposed an earlier version with a 20-year ban).

In 1910, Britain's Edwardian era ended with the death of King Edward VII; he was succeeded by George V.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration began operating under an executive order signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

In 1937, the hydrogen-filled German airship Hindenburg burned and crashed in Lakehurst, N.J., killing 35 of the 97 people on board and a Navy crewman on the ground.

In 1942, during World War II some 15,000 Americans and Filipinos on Corregidor surrendered to Japanese forces.

In 1954, medical student Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile during a track meet in Oxford, England, in 3:59.4.

In 1960, Britain's Princess Margaret married Antony Armstrong-Jones, a commoner, at Westminster Abbey. (They divorced in 1978.)

In 1962, in the first test of its kind, the submerged submarine *USS Ethan Allen* fired a Polaris missile armed with a nuclear warhead that detonated above the Pacific Ocean.

In 1987, CIA Director William J. Casey died at age 74.

In 1996, the body of former CIA director William E. Colby was found washed up on a southern Maryland riverbank, more than a week after he'd disappeared.

In 2002, Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn was shot and killed in Hilversum, Netherlands. (Volkert van der Graaf was later convicted of killing Fortuyn and was sentenced to 18 years in prison.)

**Ten years ago:** Florida Sen. Bob Graham launched his campaign for the 2004 Democratic presidential nomination by accusing President George W. Bush of retreating from the war on terrorism to "settle

old scores" between the Bush family and Iraq's Saddam Hussein. (Graham dropped his bid five months later.) White House budget chief Mitchell Daniels announced his resignation. Kmart Corp. emerged from bankruptcy after more than 15 months of Chapter 11 protection.

**Five years ago:** Barack Obama swept to a convincing victory in the North Carolina Democratic primary while Hillary Rodham Clinton eked out a win in Indiana. A Georgia man who'd killed his live-in girlfriend was executed; William Earl Lynd was the first inmate put to death since the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of lethal injections. Kobe Bryant won his first MVP award after leading the Los Angeles Lakers to the best record in the Western Conference.

**One year ago:** Vice President Joe Biden told NBC's "Meet the Press" he was "absolutely comfortable" with gay couples who marry getting the same civil rights and liberties as heterosexual couples. Socialist Francois Hollande defeated conservative incumbent Nicolas Sarkozy to become France's next president. Greek voters turned against mainline parties that had backed the tough terms of the country's massive international bailout. Actor George Lindsey, "Goober" on "The Andy Griffith Show," died in Nashville at age 83.

**Today's Birthdays:** Baseball Hall-of-Famer Willie Mays is 82. Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., is 79. Rock singer Bob Seger is 68. Singer Jimmie Dale Gilmore is 68. Gospel singer-comedian Lulu Roman is 67. Actor Alan Dale is 66. Actor Ben Masters is 66. Actor Gregg Henry is 61. Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair is 60. TV personality Tom Bergeron is 58. Actress Roma Downey is 53. Rock singer John Flansburgh (They Might Be Giants) is 53. Actor George Clooney is 52. Actor Clay O'Brien is 52. Rock singer-musician Tony Scalzo (Fastball) is 49. Actress Leslie Hope is 48. Rock musician Mark Bryan (Hootie and the Blowfish) is 46. Rock musician Chris Shiflett (Foo Fighters) is 42. Actress Stacey Oristano is 34. Actress Adrienne Palicki is 30. Actress Gabourey Sidibe is 30. Actress-singer Naomi Scott is 20.

**Thought for Today:** "No man chooses evil because it is evil; he only mistakes it for happiness, the good he seeks." — Mary Wollstonecraft, British writer and philosopher (1759-1797).

## FROM THE BIBLE

*God has highly exalted Him and bestowed on Him the Name this is above every name. Philippians 2:9. Portals of Prayer, Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis*