

KeyOpinion



These Are the Things I Wonder About

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Contributing Columnist

There are many things I wonder about, many that confuse me. Our view of Iraq is one such thing.

President Bush is preparing to reveal his new plan for Iraq and you can be sure the Democrats are preparing to tell him they don't like the new one any more than the old one. I guess the goal is a stable unified Iraq.

My problem is no one seems to be able to explain to me just why a unified Iraq is such a good idea. Forgive the observation, but when Iraq was unified and stable it raised particular hell throughout the Middle East. They attacked Israel in 1967 and 1972.

Iran's turn came in 1980. Iraq and Iran fought against each other for 10 years with more than a million casualties.

Kuwait's turn came in 1990, but that didn't work out so well.

Finally, Iraq's ruling Sunni minority turned inward and commenced to slaughter the Kurd's and the Shia all the while aiding terrorism throughout the region.

Iraq seems to be on its way to separating into three regions. Let them. The Kurds will run the northern districts, the Shia will be in charge in the south, and the Sunni will be left with a barren patch of blood soaked ground around Baghdad and the western desert (Kurds and Shia applaud). Then we can get the troops home (Democrats applaud).

President Bush can meet them holding a sign saying, "Mission Accomplished, Sort Of" (Republicans breath sigh of relief.)

It may leave Iraq in a mess but as P.J. O'Rourke observed, "... it's a mess without a military to fight aggressive wars. A mess without the facilities to develop dangerous weapons. A mess that can't systematically kill, torture, and oppress

millions of its own citizens. It's a mess with a message - don't mess with us!"

On the home front there is a new movement in economics, reports the New York Times. It is called "reality-based economics."

The economist promoting this new approach is George A. Akerlof who explains, "You think about problems in the world and you ask: can government do something about that?" He later identifies the wealth gap as a problem something government can do something about.

I wonder about the current focus on what is called, "the wealth gap." The solution seems to be some type of government intervention that would reduce the gap between rich and poor. This has been thought of before - it was called socialism.

The Soviet Union tried this approach and the result was a uniformly poor and depressed nation where even today many of the inhabitants can be found face down in the vodka bowl.

Cuba is another prime example of the benefits of "narrowing the gap." There are wealthy Cubans but they can be found only in Miami and in the American League, and this is important, if they throw left-handed. Look at the NFL today. Parity has given us 29 average teams and maybe one or two decent teams. Gone are the days of the 50's Browns, the 60's Packers, the 70's Dolphins and Steelers. Now we have an amorphous mass of mediocrity and the NFL wonders why TV viewing numbers are down. Face it; gaps are what make life interesting and only the very naive or the very mendacious talk of a beneficent equality in wealth, or anything else. Truth is no real alternative. Asking the government to narrow the gap is not much different than asking the

post office to manage the economy. Not a good bet.

Do you ever wonder about American's rush to energy independence? If you have been thinking about it have you possibly noticed that we have made not one bit of progress? Oh yes, we want energy independence, but we don't want drilling in coastal waters, drilling in the Artic wasteland, power lines running across the desert or prairie, or dams across our rivers. Alternative energy is problematic as wind mills are unsightly and have engendered law suits by the neighbors (including environmentalist extraordinaire Ted Kennedy), coal or coal gasification is taboo because of the cost and emissions, solar is not dependable, and on and on and on. So we continue to listen to our leader's talk of achieving energy independence with conservation and new technology coming on line sometime in the future. Meanwhile, in the present we are forced to import more and more oil and natural gas. We are lying to ourselves and seem to be operating under the principle that if enough people agree to the lie it

ceases to be a lie.

I can't quite understand our leader's reluctance to appreciate the corrosive effect of our politically correct reaction to Muslim complaints about how they are treated in our society. MSNBC has reported that Muslim cab drivers in Minneapolis refuse to pick up passengers, who are carrying liquor or who have dogs. Muslim anti-defamation groups complain about treatment of Muslims and surveillance of even the most radical mosques.

Does anyone ever ask them if they worry about offending us? I was very offended when the planes crashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. I was very offended by the flying imams who seemingly acted in such a manner as to be kicked off an airplane and later filed a discrimination suit. I am very offended when they won't pick up a person using a Seeing Eye dog. I am very offended by people from a culture where owning a Christian Bible is a beheading offense, and who then come here and complain because we ask them to not act like malicious fools on an airplane.

And, what is their problem with dogs? Can't these people get anything right? For them, it's alright to send an 11-year-old boy into a crowded restaurant with a bomb, but they think something is wrong with dogs?

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