

# Graffiti for intellectuals



SIMON SAYS



AUGUST  
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By Si Frumkin

## WITH FRIENDS LIKE THIS...

**“Tell me** WHO YOUR FRIENDS ARE AND I WILL KNOW WHO YOU ARE” IS GOOD ADVICE. TODAY IT IS JUST AS RELEVANT AS IT WAS THOUSANDS OF YEARS ago. We are about to pick a stranger to be the President of the U.S. It is essential to know who his friends are so that we may know who he is. Soon it may be too late.

The trusted friends of Barack Obama, a man who wants to be President do not reflect well on him.

There is Pastor Jeremiah Wright whom Barack loved, admired and respected for two decades. He is a racist, blames America for most of the evil on this planet including AIDS, 9/11 and the oppression of blacks worldwide. He praises and honors Farrakhan – an anti-Semite, a befuddled proponent of a space ship that is in orbit, manned by evil scientists and teaches that the evil white people were created to destroy and oppress the wise and benevolent blacks.

There is Michael Pflieger, the rogue white Catholic priest who repeatedly came to Wright's and Obama's church to preach hatred of "whitey" and accuse America's whites of racism that is supported and incited by the corrupt and deceptive white government. Pflieger's Sta. Sabina church has hosted many fiery black activists including Farrakhan, Sharpton, and candidate Obama himself whose relationship with Obama is close – churchgoers have stated that he and Wright were Obama's "moral compasses." There was more than selfless friendship involved. Between 1995 and 2001, Pflieger contributed \$1500 to Obama. Obama returned the favor after his election to the U.S. Senate – a federal grant of \$225,000 for Pflieger's Sta. Sabina church.

Other old friends are the two lovable terrorists Bill Ayres and his wife Bernardine Dohrn. They were leaders within the Weather Underground, an American terrorist group that bombed police stations, the Pentagon, the Capitol and other locations between 1970 and 1972. They were arrested after a bomb that was to be placed at a dance in an army base exploded prematurely. They were tried and released on a technicality – government's "illegal surveillance." Bernardine was more important

than Bill – she bragged eventually that she was on top of FBI's "most wanted list" while he was on the very bottom. They never recanted or apologized – in 2001 he said, "I feel we didn't do enough." In the 1990s, Ayres and Dohrn hosted a number of fundraising meetings for Obama – a friend and a neighbor. Rezko, the Syrian-born and recently convicted neighbor of Obama, also hosted Obama fundraisers at his home. Rezko had close ties to an international Middle East arms merchant who had recently transferred \$250,000 to him.

The most recent friends, however, are the three individuals selected by Obama to search for a suitable vice-presidential candidate. They are not Obama's close friends but their selection is a good indication of his ability to select reliable advisors.

One of them is Jackie Kennedy's daughter Caroline. She is an

inoffensive woman who never had a real job. Her accomplishments are the publication of a collection of her mother's poems, several forgettable books and the christening of the aircraft carrier "John F. Kennedy."

Her two colleagues are very different. James A. Johnson, is a former head of Fannie Mae, a federally chartered mortgage institution that bought most of its mortgages from the recently discredited Countrywide Financial Corporation with whose CEO, Angelo Mozilo, he had a very close and profitable relationship. A decade ago, after he resigned from Fannie Mae he was granted very favorable financial rates on \$2 million mortgage obligations with Countrywide. He served on several commissions that granted enormous bonuses to a number of retiring business executives

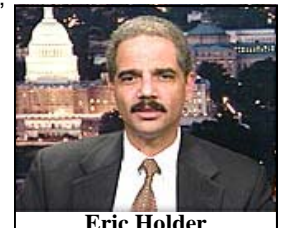
– some of them former Congressmen and Washington bureaucrats. On June 10, when this was exposed, there were denials of wrongdoing and righteous outrage from Obama's campaign. Two days later Johnson resigned from the commission.



Barack Obama and Rezko

The third V.P. committee member is Eric Holder, a Deputy Attorney General during the Clinton administration. He created a scandal in connection with the pardon granted during the last hours of the Clinton presidency of the fugitive billionaire Marc Rich. Rich had

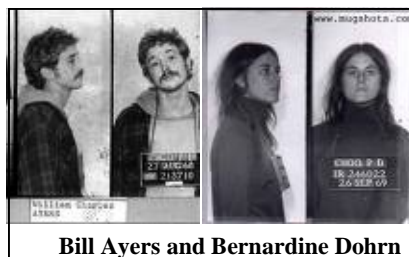
moved to Switzerland to avoid prosecution for racketeering, wire fraud, 51 counts of tax fraud, evading \$48 million in taxes and illegal trading with Iran. Seventeen years later, on the advice of Holder, Rich contacted Jack Quinn, the Clinton's former Presidential Counsel to lobby his old boss. Clinton discussed the matter with Quinn and asked him to submit a pardon petition to Holder for his recommendation. Holder approved it and Clinton signed it. In 2002, a Congressional Committee reported that Holder was a "willing participant in the plan to keep the Justice Department from knowing and opposing" the Rich pardon.



Eric Holder

Holder maintains to this day that he hadn't paid enough attention to the pardon, something he now regrets. In other words, he either did or didn't know what he was doing. In either case, is he a good choice to be entrusted by a possible future President with one of the most important tasks there are?

So, tell me who your friends are and I will tell you who you are. In the case of Barack Obama, unfortunately, the conclusion is obvious. \$



Bill Ayres and Bernardine Dohrn

# A BLACK CONSERVATIVE'S LAMENT

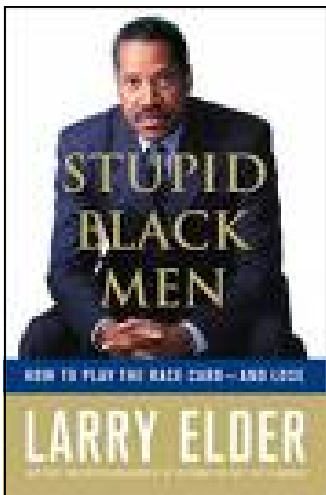
Larry Elder, Townhall, July 31, 2008

## Oh, no, not ANOTHER "BLACKS IN AMERICA" NEWS SPECIAL!

ONE OF THE CABLE NETWORKS RECENTLY PUT TOGETHER ANOTHER ONE OF these "specials" on what it's like to be black in America. The network asked a conservative friend of mine to participate. He sent the following letter and I replied.

Dear Larry,

OK, Larry, I grew up a bit last night. Those (unflattering descriptive deleted) at that news network on cable used me like a two-dollar whore! I interviewed with them for almost 10 hours, and all that talk was whittled down into five-second sound bites



that put me in a rather negative light. Part of our talk was about the crack epidemic. I spoke about the way we are fighting this drug war, which we should approach as a health issue as opposed to a law enforce-

ment problem. I talked about the impact single parenthood has on crime rates. I talked and talked. They edited it all down to, "If you don't want to go to jail, don't sell crack." I am really angry.

The "wretched blackness" slant was so clear. I was on live for the half-hour preceding the beginning of the program. They ran a long segment with a black comedian/actor, talking about how he tells his son each and every day about how to talk to the police and how black men must be wary of cops. They cut to me, and I said that I was certainly in agreement that we need to talk to our children about respecting authority, but I also wondered if the comedian/actor talked to his son about the proper color shirt to wear in case some knuckleheads have a dislike of the color red or blue. The truth is that his son has

more to fear from other young black men than he does from the police. I then quoted a homicide statistic: 94 percent of black homicide victims are killed by other black people. It was dismissed by the moderator so we could focus instead on how racist the cops are. Unbelievable.

It should not surprise me, then, that producers and editors would give liberal, hypersensitive blacks room to make their points -- even if they were factually untrue. They spoke to a professor from Columbia, who was droning on about how the legacy of slavery is to account for blacks' out-of-wedlock birthrate. Slavery?! This nonsense was seconded by another panelist. When I corrected them and said that the out-of-wedlock rate was lower during Jim Crow eyes began rolling, and my point was ignored in order to move on. And I was reduced to sound bites. Had to vent a bit.

--Your friend.

Dear friend,

My sister-in-law, an almost-recovered victim (thanks, at least in part, to me) called me during the show. She asked whether I was watching it, and I said no -- I knew what to expect. BMW -- bitching, moaning and whining. I asked my sister-in-law why they didn't spend four hours on the "experience" of Chinese-Americans? Americans of Chinese heritage are among our country's most successful -- despite being the first ethnic group to be specifically excluded from legal immigration to America, by laws enacted in 1882, and despite mistreatment and discrimination including many anti-Chinese laws passed in places like San Francisco, which were designed to protect the "native" laundry business.

Why doesn't the cable network, I asked her, do a show on the "experience" of

Japanese-Americans, also some of the most prosperous of all Americans -- despite the World War II "relocation" camps and California's anti-Japanese laws, once passed to prevent them from owning farmland?

I don't compare this in kind or in degree to slavery, but it's 2008 -- with a black man possibly on the brink of attaining the presidency of the United States. Can we move on? The problems of the "black community" have to do with the welfare-state-induced breakdown (or, more accurately, non-formation) of the family. This causes a disinterest in education, and leads to poor values, reckless and irresponsible breeding, as well as a lack of the job skills necessary in an information-age society. We also have grievance groups -- black "leaders"; the oh-so-sympathetic media; fear- and guilt-laden whites who refuse to say (as they do to their own children) work hard and play by the rules; and many reluctant blacks who refuse to preach the message of "no excuses, hard work" for fear of being labeled "Uncle Toms."

I told my sister-in-law that nearly half of Harvard's black freshman class consists of blacks from the Caribbean or Africa -- areas less prosperous with far less opportunity. Care to explain that? I told her that I bet many of the "talking heads" live comfortable middle-class lives or better -- some, no doubt several, tenured college professors who, not so deep down, believe that they were smart enough or worked hard enough to have made it, but the other poor SOB's, well, they need a more compassionate government, a less racist society to pull them through.

So, try to relax. Thanks to editing, they can make anyone sound like Elmer Fudd.

--Larry

Israeli journalist Aaron Klein had interviewed terrorist leaders who were quite open about their motivation, goals and beliefs. He was interviewed in the July 25-31 issue of the International Jerusalem Post. Here is the final question and answer of his interview with the Jerusalem Post. I think it sums up much of the problem:

Jerusalem Post: *But how do they (the terrorists) envision their own society, in the event that their goals of defeating Israel and the U.S. are achieved?*  
Klein: *That's just it. They have no plan beyond the jihad. Look, there are a million and a half Arabs in Gaza - some would say trapped there. Can you imagine if there were a million and a half Jews trapped there? They'd build Sin-*

*gapore. When I ask the terrorists about why they haven't built anything in Gaza, they say that they can't build anything until they get all their land back. They don't seem to have a long-term plan beyond that.*

Sad but true...



# OBAMA'S NAIVE BERLIN SPEECH

Dennis Prager, Townhall, July 29, 2008

**To better** UNDERSTAND SEN. BARACK OBAMA, HIS SPEECH BEFORE 200,000 GERMANS IN BERLIN is one good place to start. As we shall see, however, it does not leave one secure as to the senator's understanding of history, of America's role in the world, and what to do about evil, among other important issues.

Obama: "At the height of the Cold War, my father decided, like so many others in the forgotten corners of the world, that his yearning -- his dream -- required the freedom and opportunity promised by the West."

Promised by the West? Or promised by America? It wasn't "the West" that Obama's father went to; it was America. During the Cold War, it wasn't "the West" that led the fight to preserve Western freedom; it was America. Obama concedes this point in his next sentence: "And so he wrote letter after letter to universities all across America until somebody, somewhere answered his prayer for a better life."

Obama's speech was a paean to the West and especially to Germany in fighting for freedom during the Cold War. Throughout his speech he equated the German contribution to defeating Communism with that of America

Obama: "And you know that the only reason we stand here tonight is because men and women from both of our nations came together to work, and struggle, and sacrifice for that better life."

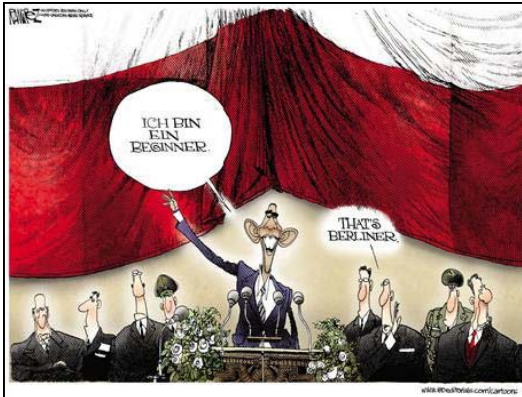
It is understandable and even expected that an American speaking in Germany will praise Germans. But even so, it is quite an exaggeration to state that the "only reason" he and they are standing in a free Berlin is because men and women from both countries sacrificed for that better life. Americans sacrificed far more than Germans. The sad truth is that, with some heroic exceptions, Germans on the right supported Hitler, and during the Cold War, Germans on the left fought the United States more than they fought the Soviet Union. When Ronald Reagan came to Berlin, tens of thousands of Germans -- many of them, one would surmise, of a similar mindset to those who came to hear Barack Obama -- protested his visit.

Obama: "The size of our forces was no match for the much larger Soviet Army. And yet retreat would have allowed Communism to march across Europe."

Isn't this exactly where we are regarding the retreat from Iraq that Obama and the De-

mocrats have advocated? Wouldn't retreat from Iraq allow militant Islam to march across the Middle East and beyond?

How is one to explain this? I have long believed that many liberals recognize evils only after the evil has been vanquished. Today, Democrats like Obama in his speech, regularly revile Communism. But from the late 1960s until the end of the Cold War they rarely judged Communism. They judged anti-Communists. Liberal Democrats routinely call Communism evil today, but when it was actually a threat, they reviled those who called Communism evil. Again, recall Ronald



Reagan and the virtually universal liberal condemnation of his calling the Soviet Union an "evil empire."

So, too, now, regarding today's greatest evil, to cite but one example, not one Democrat in any of their party's presidential primary debates

used the term "Islamic terrorism."

Obama: "Where the last war had ended, another World War could have easily begun. All that stood in the way was Berlin."

In his attempt to exaggerate the role of Berlin before his large Berlin audience, Obama made a claim that simply makes no sense. "Berlin stood in the way" of another World War beginning? How? If anything, Berlin was the flash point of East-West tension and therefore could have triggered a war.

Obama: "People of the world -- look at Berlin! Look at Berlin, where Germans and Americans learned to work together and trust each other less than three years after facing each other on the field of battle."

Germans and Americans "learned to work together and trust each other" only thanks to the fact that America and its allies vanquished Germany, overthrew its Nazi leadership, imposed democracy and freedom on Germans, and kept plenty of soldiers in Germany. Why does Obama not apply this lesson to Iraq? If Americans and Iraqis learn to work together and trust each other, it will also

thanks to America and its allies vanquishing the Islamic terrorists, overthrowing the Nazi-like regime of Saddam Hussein, imposing democracy and freedom on Iraqis, and keeping soldiers in Iraq for as long as needed.

Obama: "Look at Berlin ... where a victory over tyranny gave rise to NATO, the greatest alliance ever formed to defend our common security."

Obama did not want to offend his hosts by inserting an element of reality here: Many of America's NATO partners have been largely worthless in confronting evils from Communism to al-Qaida to the Taliban. A few weeks ago, leading German newsweekly Der Spiegel reported that German forces in Afghanistan are under strict orders not to shoot any Taliban forces unless shot at first. As a result, they refused to shoot a major Taliban murderer whom they had in their sights because his forces had not shot at the Germans and therefore allowed him to escape.

Obama: "People of the world -- look at Berlin, where a wall came down, a continent came together, and history proved that there is no challenge too great for a world that stands as one."

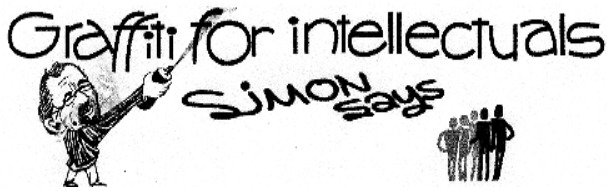
The wall came down because America stood strong, not because the world stood as one. What he said here is John Lennon-like fantasy, the opposite of reality, and as such, coming from the man who may well be the next president of the United States, a bit frightening.

Obama: "While the 20th century taught us that we share a common destiny, the 21st has revealed a world more intertwined than at any time in human history."

Of all the lessons taught by the 20th century, that we share a common destiny is not among the top 10. It is not even among the top 100. It is actually untrue and meaningless. Just to cite one obvious example, did those who lived under Communism and those who lived under democratic capitalism "share a common destiny"? What is he talking about?

If the 20th century did teach something, it taught that evil must always be fought.

The speech reveals a man who has good will and noble desires, but who may be dangerously naive regarding the lessons of history and what to do about evil. □



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# **DRILLING AND BLISSFUL IGNORANCE** Charles Krauthammer, 8/01/08

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi opposes lifting the moratorium on drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and on the Outer Continental Shelf. She won't even allow it to come to a vote. With \$4 gas having massively shifted public opinion in favor of domestic production, she wants to protect her Democratic members from having to cast an anti-drilling election-year vote. Moreover, given the public mood, she might even lose. This cannot be permitted. Why? Because as she explained to Politico: "I'm trying to save the planet; I'm trying to save the planet."

A lovely sentiment. But has Pelosi actually thought through the moratorium's actual effects on the planet?

Consider: 25 years ago, nearly 60 percent of U.S. petroleum was produced domestically. Today it's 25 percent. From its peak in 1970, U.S. production has declined a staggering 47 percent. The world consumes 86 million barrels a day; the United States, roughly 20 million. We need the stuff to run our cars and planes and economy. Where does it come from?

Places like Nigeria where chronic corruption, environmental neglect and resulting unrest and instability lead to pipeline explosions, oil spills and illegal siphoning by the poverty-stricken population -- which leads to more spills and explosions. Just this week, two Royal Dutch Shell pipelines had to be shut down because bombings by local militants were causing leaks into the ground.

Compare the Niger Delta to the Gulf of Mexico where deep-sea U.S. oil rigs withstood Hurricanes Katrina and Rita without a single undersea well suffering a significant spill.

The United States has the highest technology to ensure the safest drilling. Today, directional drilling -- essentially drilling down, then sideways -- allows access to oil that in 1970 would have required a surface footprint more than three times as large. Additionally, the U.S. has one of the most extensive and least

corrupt regulatory systems on the planet.

Does Pelosi imagine that with so much of America declared off-limits, the planet is less injured as drilling shifts to Kazakhstan and Venezuela and Equatorial Guinea? That Russia will be more environmentally scrupulous than we in drilling in *its* Arctic?

The net environmental effect of Pelosi's no-drilling willfulness is *negative*. Outsourcing U.S. oil production does nothing to lessen worldwide environmental despoliation. It simply exports it to more corrupt, less efficient, more unstable parts of the world -- thereby increasing net planetary damage.

Democrats want no oil from the American OCS or ANWR. But of course they do want more oil. From OPEC. From where Americans don't vote. From places Democratic legislators can't see. On May 13, Sen. Chuck Schumer -- deeply committed to saving just those pieces of the planet that might have huge reserves of American oil -- demanded that the Saudis increase production by a million barrels a day. It doesn't occur to him that by eschewing the slightest disturbance of the mating habits of the Arctic caribou, he is calling for the further exploitation of the pristine deserts of Arabia. In the name of the planet, mind you.

The other panacea, yesterday's rage, is biofuels: We can't drill our way out of the crisis, it seems, but we can greenly grow our way out. By now, however, it is blindingly obvi-

ous even to Democrats that biofuels are a devastating force for environmental degradation. It has led to the rape of "lungs of the world" rainforests in Indonesia and Brazil as huge tracts have been destroyed to make room for palm oil and sugar plantations.

Here in the U.S., one out of every three ears of corn is stuffed into a gas tank (by way of ethanol), causing not just food shortages abroad and high prices at home, but intensive increases in farming with all of the attendant environmental problems (soil erosion, insecticide pollution, water consumption, etc.).

This to prevent drilling on an area in the Arctic one-sixth the size of Dulles Airport that leaves untouched a refuge one-third the size of Britain.

There are a dizzying number of economic and national security arguments for drilling at home: a \$700 billion oil balance-of-payment deficit, a gas tax (equivalent) levied on the paychecks of American workers and poured into the treasuries of enemy and terror-supporting regimes, growing dependence on unstable states of the Persian Gulf and Caspian basin. Pelosi and the Democrats stand athwart shouting: We don't care. We come to save the planet!

They seem blissfully unaware that the argument for their drill-there-not-here policy collapses on its own environmental terms. ☹