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RECLAIMING CITIZENSHIP HISTORY AND FAITH

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Cognitive Dissonance & Dominionism Denial

[Frederick Clarkson](#)

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Wed Apr 26, 2017 at 07:05:54 PM EST



There is new research on why people are averse to hearing or learning about the views of ideological opponents. Based on evaluation of five separate studies, the research is not about dominionism denial *per se*.

But the findings tend to support the experience many of us have had -- in which people do not want to know what the religious and political right thinks and is doing, even when they arguably have a strong self interest in better understanding the strengths and weaknesses of formidable opponents. The research also helps to explain that ever-strange and stirring stew of dominionism denial and the wider pooh poohery about the ongoing reality of the strengths and resilience of the Christian Right.

Science Daily reports that people anticipate that what they would hear from opposing views would "induce cognitive dissonance."

This suggests that for some journalists, academics, think tankers, and political professionals -- that cognitive dissonance may also have to do with anticipating being confronted with the fact that that they have been wrong about a lot of things, and in some cases, for a long time.

(326 comments, 512 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Will the Air Force Do Anything To Rein In Its Dynamic Duo of Gay-Bashing, Misogynistic Bloggers?

[Chris Rodda](#)

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Tue Apr 18, 2017 at 02:09:49 PM EST



"I always get nervous when I see female pastors/chaplains. Here is why everyone should as well:

"First, women are not called to be pastors, and since a chaplain is supposed to be a pastor in uniform--it exposes their rebellion.

"Second, the office is permitted for men only, and women are prohibited from teaching (1 Timothy 2:12).

"Third, people should be very worried when they see women pastors/chaplains teaching. Why? It could be God's judgment upon them (Isaiah 3, "...and women rule over them!")"

The above are the words of Captain Sonny Hernandez, an Air Force Reserve chaplain for the 445th Airlift Wing at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, posted as a comment on a blog post by Air Force Lt. Col. Jonathan Dowty on his "[Christian Fighter Pilot](#)" blog -- a blog on which Lt. Col. Dowty has provided his readers with a steady stream of misogynistic, gay-bashing, Islamophobic, and other very "Christian" posts for over a decade.

In the post that Chaplain Hernandez was commenting on, titled "[Kansas Army National Guard Commissions Female Chaplain](#)," Lt. Col. Dowty had expressed his opinion that female chaplains are not acceptable, writing: "... there are some who advocate that chaplains should be able to meet the needs of *all* of their troops, and a `minority' chaplain actually undermines that cause. While every Christian denomination represented in the military accepts a male pastoral leader, a substantial percentage do not accept *female* pastoral leaders."

(171 comments, 1159 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

The Legacy of Big Oil

[wilkvir](#)

...

Respect for Others? or Political Correctness?

The term "political correctness" as used by Conservatives and Republicans has often puzzled me: what exactly do they mean by it? After reading Chip Berlin's piece here--<http://www.talk2action.org/story/2016/7/21/04356/9417> I thought about what he explained.....

[MTOLincoln](#) (229 comments)

Fear

What I'm feeling now is fear. I swear that it seems my nightmares are coming true with this new "president". I'm also frustrated because so many people are not connecting all the dots! I've....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (84 comments)

"America - love it or LEAVE!"

I've been hearing that and similar sentiments fairly frequently in the last few days - far FAR more often than ever before. Hearing about "consequences for burning the flag (actions) from Trump is chilling!.....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (167 comments)

"Faked!" Meme

Keep your eyes and ears open for a possible move to try to discredit the people openly opposing Trump and the bigots, especially people who have experienced terrorism from the "Right" (Christian Terrorism is.....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (142 comments)

More aggressive proselytizing

My wife told me today of an experience she had this last week, where she was proselytized by a McDonald's employee while in the store.

[ArchaeoBob](#) (139 comments)

See if you recognize names on this list

This comes from the local newspaper, which was conservative before and took a hard right turn after it was sold. Hint: Sarah Palin's name is on it! (It's also connected to Trump.)

[ArchaeoBob](#) (130 comments)

Unions: A Labor Day Discussion

This is a revision of an article which I posted on my personal board and also on Dailykos. I had an interesting discussion on a discussion board concerning Unions. I tried to piece it.....

[Xulon](#) (141 comments)

Extremely obnoxious protesters at WitchesFest NYC: connected to NAR?

In July of this year, some extremely loud, obnoxious Christian-identified protesters showed up at WitchesFest, an annual Pagan street fair here in NYC. Here's an account of the protest by Pagan writer Heather Greene.....

[Diane Vera](#) (122 comments)

Capitalism and the Attack on the Imago Dei

I joined this site today, having been linked here by Crooksandliars' Blog Roundup. I thought I'd put up something I put up previously on my Wordpress blog and also at the DailyKos. As will.....

[Xulon](#) (181 comments)

History of attitudes towards poverty and the churches.

Jesus is said to have stated that "The Poor will always be with you" and some Christians have used that to refuse to try to help the poor, because "they will always be with.....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (137 comments)

Alternate economy medical treatment

Dogemperor wrote several times about the alternate economy structure that dominionists have built. Well, it's actually made the news. Pretty good article, although it doesn't get into how bad people could be (have been).....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (79 comments)

Evidence violence is more common than believed

Think I've been making things up about experiencing Christian Terrorism or exaggerating, or that it was an isolated incident? I suggest you read this article (linked below in body), which is about our great.....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (186 comments)

Central Florida Sheriff Preached Sermon in Uniform

If anyone has been following the craziness in Polk County Florida, they know that some really strange and troubling things have happened here. We've had multiple separation of church and state lawsuits going at.....

[ArchaeoBob](#) (75 comments)

Demon Mammon?

An anthropologist from outer space might be forgiven for concluding that the god of this world is Mammon. (Or, rather, The Market, as depicted by John McMurtry in his book *The Cancer Stage* of.....

[daerie](#) (104 comments)

Anti-Sharia Fever in Texas: This is How It Starts

The mayor of a mid-size Texan city has emerged in recent months as the newest face of Islamophobia. Aligning herself with extremists hostile to Islam, Mayor Beth Van Duyne of Irving, Texas has helped.....

[JSanford](#) (102 comments)

Tue Apr 18, 2017 at 01:58:12 PM EST

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[More Diaries...](#)



The media is ablaze with the upcoming publication of David Grann's book, *Killers of the Flower Moon*. The shocking non fiction account of the Osage Indians in the twenties is almost unbelievable. This tragic saga is the deadly account of greed, murder, racism, and the impact of oil money on the nation.

(97 comments, 755 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Gimme That Old Time Dominionism Denial

[Frederick Clarkson](#)

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Sat Apr 15, 2017 at 11:04:08 PM EST



Over the years, I have written a great deal [here](#) and in other venues about the explicitly theocratic movement called [dominionism](#) -- which has been an ideological catalyst for the contemporary Christian Right.

That is one of the reasons why I am looking forward to reading the new book by Pulitzer Prize winning journalist Frances FitzGerald, [The Evangelicals: The Struggle to Shape America](#). The book has received mixed reviews according to a discussion of those reviews by Richard Ostling, a retired writer for the evangelical magazine, *Christianity Today*. But in her new book, FitzGerald apparently discusses the theocratic dominionism of the late R.J. Rushdoony and the influential Christian Reconstructionist movement he led.

This has apparently alarmed Ostling.

(92 comments, 671 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

History Advisor to Members of Congress Completely Twists Jefferson's Words to Support Muslim Ban

[Chris Rodda](#)

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Mon Apr 10, 2017 at 02:43:46 PM EST



Pseudo-historian David Barton, best known for his misquoting of our country's founders to promote the notion that America was founded as a Christian nation, also has a habit of telling some pretty tall tales about his own life. There was his claim of being a [college basketball star](#), his claim of having been a [translator for the Russian women's national gymnastics team](#), and most recently his claim of [having an earned doctorate](#). But while most of Barton's bio-embellishing claims have either been proven to be false or are so far-fetched that they are just impossible to believe, there is one that is unfortunately all too true - that he advises many members of Congress on historical subjects. This isn't just another bogus claim made up by Barton to exaggerate his achievements and impress his audience. It has been repeatedly confirmed by members of Congress who have praised Barton by proclaiming that he is their go-to guy when they need historical examples to use in their arguments on current issues and legislation.

So, who are these members of Congress who run to David Barton when they need historical "facts" to justify their political agenda and legislation? Well, they are almost exclusively members of something called the Congressional Prayer Caucus, a House caucus founded in 2005 by former congressman Randy Forbes, with the help of David Barton -- a caucus whose numbers have ranged from ninety to well over a hundred members since its founding.

(101 comments, 3083 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

"Christian Fighter Pilot" Calls First Lesbian Air Force Academy Commandant a Liar

[Chris Rodda](#)

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Tue Mar 28, 2017 at 12:07:43 PM EST



In a new post on his "Christian Fighter Pilot" blog titled "[BGen Kristin Goodwin and the USAFA Honor Code](#)," Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Dowty has accused BGen (Select) Goodwin, who has been [nominated to be the Air Force Academy's next commandant of cadets](#), of being a liar. Dowty's basis for this accusation? Goodwin graduated from the Air Force Academy in 1993, but the policy of "Don't ask, don't tell" (DADT) wasn't

implemented until 1994. Therefore, according to LtCol Dowty, Goodwin, who is a lesbian, must have lied about her sexual orientation in order to join the Air Force, asking in his blog post: "How did Col Goodwin -- an open homosexual -- enter the Air Force without lying?"

(123 comments, 755 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

It's Time For The Religious Right To Embrace The `Mind-Your-Own-Business' Option

[Rob Boston](#)

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Tue Mar 28, 2017 at 11:56:36 AM EST



Every few years, someone in the far-right fundamentalist Christian community puts forth the argument that modern American culture has become so nasty and hostile to "traditional" Christians that it's time to withdraw.

They don't plan to go to a forgotten island somewhere. Rather, they would create a kind of community in internal exile. As much as possible, they'd form parallel structures, such as fundamentalist-oriented educational institutions and media channels, and tend to their own gardens.

(56 comments, 687 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Justice Alito And The Dangers Of Redefining `Religious Freedom'

[Rob Boston](#)

 print page

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Mon Mar 20, 2017 at 01:45:04 PM EST



Last week, Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito gave a speech to a group of Catholic lawyers that didn't get as much attention as it should have.

Alito addressed Advocati Christi, a group of Catholic lawyers and judges affiliated with the Catholic Diocese of Paterson, N.J. The Associated Press reported that the organization works to "provide an opportunity for lawyers learn about the Catholic faith and Catholic social teaching and to help them integrate these into their life and practice."

(154 comments, 734 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Sam Rodriguez: How Do You Like Your Anti-Immigrant President Now?

[Bill Berkowitz](#)

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Sat Mar 18, 2017 at 01:25:59 PM EST



Since President Donald Trump's immigration policy gave law enforcement officials unprecedented power to aggressively target immigrants in the country illegally, the nation's immigrant communities have been living in fear, from the threat of arrest, detention and deportation.

Department of Homeland Security documents "revealed the broad scope of the president's ambitions: to publicize crimes by undocumented immigrants; strip such immigrants of privacy protections; enlist local police officers as enforcers; erect new detention facilities; discourage asylum seekers; and, ultimately, speed up deportations," The New York Times' Michael D. Shear and Ron Nixon reported late last month.

"The message is: The immigration law is back in business," said a gleeful Mark Krikorian, the executive director of the Center for Immigration Studies, which supports restricted immigration. "That violating immigration law is no longer a secondary offense."

(74 comments, 951 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Catholic Right Leader Unapologetic about Call for

'Death to Liberal Professors' -- UPDATED

Frederick Clarkson

Wed Mar 15, 2017 at 11:33:15 PM EST

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Today, Donald Trump appointed C-FAM Executive Vice President Lisa Correnti to the US Delegation To UN Commission On Status Of Women. (C-FAM is a Catholic Right organization involved primarily in advocacy at the UN.) Three years ago, Correnti's boss, Austin Ruse, said that women's studies faculty "should be taken out and shot."

Ruse launched into his eliminationist broadside as he guest-hosted a show on American Family Radio in 2014. His remarks so horrified the not easily horrified conservative Christian broadcaster that he was fired and banned from further appearances.

But Lisa Correnti and Austin Ruse rode out the crisis. -- FC

Austin Ruse doesn't understand why people were so upset when he said on a national radio program that university leaders "should all be taken out and shot."

Ruse was reacting to reports that a Duke University freshman had launched a career in porn, partly to pay for her college tuition. The Catholic Right leader who heads the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute (C-FAM) blamed less than one semester of exposure to women's studies for the freshman's choice of part time jobs.

Ruse initially apologized for his violent outburst, claiming, "I have dedicated my life and career to ending violence." But as I reported at the time, Ruse had nothing to say about the threats of violence and death against the student, (whose stage name is Belle Knox) about whom he pretends to care. While Ruse is still whining about the episode - he also still has nothing to say about the ongoing threats against young Belle Knox -- who is nevertheless bravely continuing her college education at Duke.

In any case, Ruse's latest comments demonstrate that when he made his original apology -- he didn't really mean it.

(101 comments, 885 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Controlling Information

wilkvir

Wed Mar 01, 2017 at 08:13:14 AM EST

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Yesterday I listened to Russ Limbaugh. Rush advised listeners it would be best that they not listen to CNN, MSNBC, ABC, CBS and etc. He warned them it would be too depressing and was not good for their mental health. He suggested they just allow him to listen to the "drive by media," and he would digest it and do the thinking for them.

(73 comments, 651 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Is Bannon Fifth-Columning the Pope?

Frank Cocozzelli

Mon Feb 27, 2017 at 03:11:21 PM EST

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In December 2016 I wrote about how White House chief strategist Steve Bannon, who likes to flash his Catholic credentials when it comes to economics, displays no interest in actual Catholic teachings on economics. Perhaps that is because his position is at odds with that of Pope Francis, and as recent news reports suggest, he may also have joined forces with Vatican opponents of the Pope's emphasis on refugees, tolerance, and spiritually.

(222 comments, 926 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Ross Douthat's Hackery on the Seemingly Incongruous Alliance of Bannon & Burke

Frank Cocozzelli

Wed Feb 15, 2017 at 08:39:13 PM EST

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Conservative Catholic writer Ross Douthat has dissembled again. This time, in a February 15, 2017 *New York Times* op-ed titled The Trump Era's Catholic Mirror.

Douthat's screed attempts to disparage the reform-minded Pope Francis by painting the Pontiff as a Catholic version of Donald Trump.

`So-Called Patriots' Attack The Rule Of Law

[Rob Boston](#)

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Wed Feb 15, 2017 at 11:32:36 AM EST



Every so often, right-wing commentator Pat Buchanan lurches out of the far-right fever swamp where he has resided for the past 50 years to offer all of us some pearls of wisdom.

His latest is an old standby: If you don't like a court ruling, find a way to shut down the court.

Buchanan got on this tear because President Donald J. Trump, you might have noticed, is having a little trouble with his ill-conceived executive order that attempted to impose a "Muslim ban" on immigrants and refugees. A federal court in Washington state put it on hold, a ruling that was later upheld by the U.S. 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. A separate federal court in Virginia also struck down application of the ban in that state, explicitly citing its church-state faults. (Americans United [has been involved](#) in all of these cases.)

(149 comments, 830 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

Bad Faith from Focus on the Family

[Frederick Clarkson](#)

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Sun Feb 12, 2017 at 09:04:59 PM EST



Here is one from the archives, Feb 12, 2011, that serves as a reminder of how deeply disingenuous people can be. Appeals to seek common ground can sometimes be just that. Other times, as we have seen too many times, it is a tactical deception. It is always good to be both open and wary. - FC

Focus on the Family says they now want to work with abortion rights organizations to reduce the number of abortions. Taken by itself, it would appear to be a remarkable change of approach by the fiercely antiabortion house that Dobson built -- but a few minutes on the Focus on the Family web site suggests that Focus on the Family is acting in bad faith.

(173 comments, 691 words in story)

[Here's the full story + discussion](#)

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