

# Eye on the World

## *Dec. 31, 2011–Jan. 1, 2012*

This collection of short news items is from the “Eye on the World” section of the Church of God Big Sandy’s Web site, churchofgodbigandy.com. It was posted for the weekend of Dec. 31, 2011–Jan. 1, 2012.

**Compiled by Dave Havir**

**Luke 21:34-36**—“But take heed to yourselves, lest your hearts be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness, and cares of this life, and that day come on you unexpectedly. For it will come as a snare on all those who dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch therefore, and pray always that you may be counted worthy to escape all these things that will come to pass, and to stand before the Son of Man.”



An article by Chana Ya’ar titled “Bill Clinton: Iran Might Give Fissile Material to Terrorists” was posted at israelnationalnews.com on Dec. 22, 2011. Following is the article.

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Former US President Bill Clinton says Iran is more likely to have terrorists do its dirty work than to launch a nuclear war itself.

Clinton offered the assessment during an interview with Fox News journalist Bill O’Reilly Wednesday [Dec. 21] on the Fox television network to promote his latest book, *Back to Work*.

Although not present at security briefings “since Hillary became Secretary of State,” Clinton said the latest report by the United Nations IAEA nuclear agency, revealing Iran’s ambitions to develop a nuclear weapon, was “the biggest unkept secret in the world.” What to do about it, on the other hand, he said, is a more complex matter.

“Dealing with it is complicated. That’s what the Israelis think too. When you ask yourself what are your options here . . . I do not believe the president should take any military option off the table,” he stated.

“The Iranians, I think, would be crazy to launch a nuclear weapon because their whole society would disappear,” Clinton said. However, he noted, Iran does not necessarily need to launch a nuclear weapon on its own in order to wage war—and, in fact, probably wouldn’t do so.

“What I think would happen is, if you have all this fissile material, then you give it to a terrorist group and they have a series of suitcase bombs and that could terrify and paralyze the world without creating a nuclear cloud over Jerusalem, and it’s really a deeply troubling thing,” Clinton said.

Nevertheless, he said, there is also “more than one way to skin a cat,” when trying to find a way to eliminate the Iranian nuclear threat.

With a hint of a grin, Clinton commented, “They set ‘em back pretty good, whoever gummed up their computer capacities.”



A Reuters article titled “Iran Navy Starts 10-Day Wargame in Strait of Hormuz” was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 24, 2011.

It said: “Iran began 10 days of naval exercises in the Strait of Hormuz on Saturday [Dec. 24], raising concern about a possible closure of the world’s most strategic oil transit channel in the event of any outbreak of military conflict between Tehran and the West.

“The military drill, dubbed ‘Velayat-e 90,’ comes as the tension between the West and Iran is escalating over the Islamic state’s nuclear program.”

The article quoted Habibollah Sayyari (Iranian Navy commander) as saying: “The enforcement of the decision to close of the Strait of Hormuz is certainly within Iran’s armed forces’ capability, but such a decision should be made by the country’s top authorities.”

The article later quoted Mr. Sayyari as saying: “Displaying Iran’s defensive and deterrent power as well as relaying a message of peace and friendship in the Strait of Hormuz and the free waters are the main objectives of the drill. It will also display the country’s power to control the region as well as testing new missiles, torpedoes and weapons.”

The article later said: “*Velayat* is a Persian word for ‘supremacy’ and it is currently used as a title of deference for the Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.”



An article titled “Iran Says It Warns Off Foreign Helicopter Near Naval Maneuvers” was posted at cnn.com on Dec. 26, 2011.

It said: “Iran’s Navy ordered a helicopter from an unspecified foreign country to leave the area of maneuvers it is conducting in the Persian Gulf, the semi-official Fars News Agency reported Monday . . .

“The incident occurred Sunday, according to Fars.”



An article by Ramin Mostaghim and Paul Richter titled "Iran Navy Chief Says Closing Gulf to Oil Traffic Would Be Easy" was posted at latimes.com on Dec. 28, 2011.

It said: "Iran's top naval commander said Wednesday that closing the Persian Gulf to oil tanker traffic would be 'easier than drinking a glass of water' but that his nation would not do so for now."

The article quoted Habibollah Sayyari as saying: "Closing the Strait of Hormuz for Iran's armed forces is really easy . . . or, as Iranians say, it will be easier than drinking a glass of water. But right now we don't need to shut it as we have the Sea of Oman under control, and we can control the transit."

The article continued: "In Washington, the Pentagon's chief spokesman, George Little, warned that interference with the passage of vessels through the Strait of Hormuz 'will not be tolerated.' "

The article quoted Mr. Little as saying: "This is not just an important issue for security and stability in the region, but is an economic lifeline for countries in the gulf."

The article quoted Mark Toner (a State Department spokesman) as saying: "[The threat was] more rhetoric from the Iranians . . . . I'm saying at this point it's pure speculation."

The article quoted Ali Akbar Javanfekr (a media adviser to Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad) as saying: "What does the West expect us to do when we are threatened and attacked? Should we just throw our hands up and give in? Mr. Rahimi's reaction was a defensive reaction and we are right to do so."

The article later said: "Alireza Nader, an Iran specialist at Rand Corp., said the Iranian language was intended to warn the United States and allies against proceeding with the additional harsh economic sanctions they have been preparing."



An article titled "Iran Says Ready to Expand Military Links With Iraq" was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 25, 2011.

It said: "Iran stands ready to expand its military and security ties with Iraq, its armed forces chief of staff said Sunday, a week after the exit of US forces from the neighbouring Arab country.

"General Hassan Firouzabadi hailed the 'forced departure' of the US and allied forces that he said 'was due to the resistance and determination of the Iraqi people and government,' the state Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

"The statements were made in messages Firouzabadi sent to his Iraqi counterpart, Lieutenant General Babaker Zebari, and to Iraq's acting defence minister, Saadun al-Dulaimi, IRNA said."



An article by Eli Lake titled "U.S., Israel Discuss Triggers for Bombing Iran's Nuclear Infrastructure" was posted at [thedailybeast.com](http://thedailybeast.com) on Dec. 28, 2011.

It said: "When Defense Secretary Leon Panetta opined earlier this month that an Israeli attack on Iran's nuclear facilities could 'consume the Middle East in a confrontation and a conflict that we would regret,' the Israelis went ballistic behind the scenes.

"Michael Oren, Israel's ambassador to Washington, lodged a formal diplomatic protest known as a *démarche*. And the White House was thrust into action, reassuring the Israelis that the administration had its own 'red lines' that would trigger military action against Iran, and that there is no need for Jerusalem to act unilaterally."

It later said: "The stakes are immensely high, and the distrust that Israelis feel toward the president remains a complicating factor. Those sentiments were laid bare in a speech Netanyahu's minister of strategic affairs, Moshe Ya'alon, gave on Christmas Eve in Jerusalem, in which he used Panetta's remarks to cast doubt on the U.S.'s willingness to launch its own military strike.

"Ya'alon told the Anglo-Likud, an organization within Netanyahu's Likud party that caters to native English speakers, that the Western strategy to stop Iran's drive for nuclear weapons must include four elements, with the last resort being a military strike."

The article quoted Mr. Ya'alon as saying: "The fourth element of this combined strategy is the credible military strike. There is no credible military action when we hear leaders from the West, saying, 'this is not a real option,' saying, 'the price of military action is too high.' "

The article continued: "The lack of trust between the Israeli and American leaders on Iran has been a sub-rosa tension in the relationship since 2009. Three U.S. military officials confirm to *The Daily Beast* that analysts attached to the Office of the Secretary of Defense are often revising estimates trying to predict what events in Iran would trigger Prime Minister Netanyahu to authorize a military attack on the country's nuclear infrastructure. Despite repeated requests going back to 2009, Netanyahu's government has not agreed to ask the United States for permission or give significant advanced warning of any pending strike.

"The sensitive work of trying to get both allies on the same page intensified this month. Israeli Defense Minister Ehud Barak visited Washington last week to go over Iran issues; and the undersecretary of state for political affairs, Wendy Sherman, and a special arms control adviser to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, Robert Einhorn, were in Israel last week to discuss Iran as well. Panetta for his own part has revised his tone on the question of Iran's nuclear program, telling CBS News last week that the United States was prepared to use force against Iran to stop the country from building a nuclear weapon.

"The new diplomacy has prompted new conversations between the United States and Israel over what the triggers—called 'red lines' in diplomatic parlance—would be to justify a pre-emptive attack on Iran's nuclear facilities."

It later said: "Last week in a CBS interview, Panetta said Iran's development of a nuclear weapon is a 'red line.' White House advisers have more recently broached the subject more specifically in private conversations with outside experts on the subject."



A Reuters article by Sherine El Madany titled "Egypt Islamists Take Two-Thirds of 2nd-Round Vote" was posted at reuters.com on Dec. 24, 2011.

It said: "Egypt's two leading Islamist parties won about two-thirds of votes for party lists in the second round of polling for a parliament that will help draft a new constitution after decades of autocratic rule, the election committee said Saturday [Dec. 24].

"The party list led by the Brotherhood's Freedom and Justice Party (FJP) won 36.3 percent of the list vote, while the ultra-conservative Salafi al-Nour Party took 28.8 percent, pushing the liberal Wafd party into third place."

It later said: "Analysts say poor coordination among non-Islamist groups has divided the liberal vote, sometimes handing the majority to an Islamist by default."

It later said: "In the first round of the poll, the Brotherhood's FJP won about 37 percent of list votes and Nour about 24 percent.

"The complex electoral system gives two-thirds of the 498 elected seats to lists and the rest to individuals.

"The FJP said it had won 40 of the 60 individual seats up for grabs in the second round, similar to its first-round showing."



An article titled "Egypt Court Orders End to 'Virginity Tests' " was posted at Breitbart.com on Dec. 27, 2011.

It said: "A Cairo court on Tuesday ordered the Egyptian army to stop forced virginity tests on female detainees.

"The Cairo Administrative Court ruled in favour of Samira Ibrahim, who took the army to court over the practice, slammed by rights groups as 'torture.'

"She was one of several women subjected to forced virginity tests when they were detained during a March demonstration."



An article by Josh Rogin titled "Obama Administration Secretly Preparing Options for Aiding the Syrian Opposition" was posted at foreignpolicy.com on Dec. 28, 2011.

It said: "As the violence in Syria spirals out of control, top officials in President Barack Obama's administration are quietly preparing options for how to assist

the Syrian opposition, including gaming out the unlikely option of setting up a no-fly zone in Syria and preparing for another major diplomatic initiative.

“Critics on Capitol Hill accuse the Obama administration of being slow to react to the quickening deterioration of the security situation in Syria, where over 5,000 have died, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights. Many lawmakers say the White House is once again ‘leading from behind,’ while the Turks, the French, and the Arab League—which sent an observer mission to Syria this week—take the initiative to pursue more aggressive strategies for pressuring the Assad regime.”

It later said: “The administration does see the status quo in Syria as unsustainable. The Bashar al Assad regime is a ‘dead man walking,’ State Department official Fred Hof said this month. So the administration is now ramping up its policymaking machinery on the issue.

“After several weeks of having no top-level administration meetings to discuss the Syria crisis, the National Security Council (NSC) has begun an informal, quiet interagency process to create and collect options for aiding the Syrian opposition, two administration officials confirmed to *The Cable* [at foreignpolicy.com].

“The process, led by NSC Senior Director Steve Simon, involves only a few select officials from State, Defense, Treasury, and other relevant agencies. The group is unusually small, presumably to prevent media leaks, and the administration is not using the normal process of Interagency Policy Committee (IPC), Deputies Committee (DC), or Principals Committee (PC) meetings, the officials said. Another key official inside the discussions is Hof, who is leading the interactions with Syrian opposition leaders and U.S. allies.”

The article mentioned the following options.

- “Establishing a humanitarian corridor or safe zone for civilians in Syria along the Turkish border.”
- “Extending humanitarian aid to the Syrian rebels.”
- “Providing medical aid to Syrian clinics.”
- “Engaging more with the external and internal opposition.”
- “Forming an international contact group.”
- “Appointing a special coordinator for working with the Syrian opposition as was done in Libya.”

It later said: “A power vacuum in the country, loose weapons of mass destruction, a refugee crisis, and unrest across the region are just a few of the problems that could attend the collapse of the Assad regime, the official said.”

The article quoted an official as saying: “This isn’t Libya. What happens in Libya stays in Libya, but that is not going to happen in Syria. The stakes are higher. Right now, we see the risks of moving too fast as higher than the risks of moving too slow.”

It later said: "The option of establishing a humanitarian corridor is seen as extremely unlikely because it would require establishing a no-fly zone over parts of Syria, which would likely involve large-scale attacks on the Syrian air defense and military command-and-control systems."

It later said: "Rhetorically, the administration has been active in calling for Syrian President Bashar al-Assad to step aside and protecting the rights of Syrian protesters, despite the lack of clear policy to achieve that result . . .

"On Tuesday, Dec. 27, the administration hinted at stronger action if the Syrian government doesn't let the Arab League monitors do their work."

The article quoted State Department spokesman Mark Toner as saying: "If the Syrian regime continues to resist and disregard Arab League efforts, the international community will consider other means to protect Syrian civilians."

It later said: "The Syrian National Council (SNC), the primary organization representing the opposition, has been very clear that it is seeking more than rhetorical support from the United States and the international community. An extensive policy paper, titled 'Safe Area for Syria,' edited by SNC member Ausama Monajed, laid out the argument for armed intervention by the international community to aid Syrian civilians . . .

"But Washington is uncomfortable acting in concert with the SNC: Officials say there is a lack of confidence that the SNC, which is strongly influenced by expatriate Syrians, has the full support of the internal opposition. U.S. officials are also wary of supporting the Syria Free Army, made up of Syrian military defectors and armed locals, as they do not want to be seen as becoming militarily engaged against the regime—a story line they fear that Assad could use for his own propaganda, officials said.

"There is also some internal bureaucratic wrangling at play. This summer, when the issue of sending emergency medical equipment into Syria came up in a formal interagency meeting, disputes over jurisdiction stalled progress on the discussion, officials told *The Cable*. No medical aid was sent.

"So for now, the administration is content to let the Arab League monitoring mission play out and await its Jan. 20 report. The officials said that the administration hopes to use the report to begin a new diplomatic initiative in late January at the U.N. Security Council to condemn Assad and authorize direct assistance to the opposition.

"The officials acknowledged that this new initiative could fail due to Russian support for the Assad regime. If that occurs, the administration would work with its allies such as France and Turkey to establish their own justification for non-military humanitarian intervention in Syria, based on evidence from the Arab League report and other independent reporting on Assad's human rights abuses.

"This process could take weeks, however, meaning that material assistance from the United States to the Syrian opposition probably wouldn't flow at least until late February or early March. Between now and then, hundreds or even thousands more could be killed."

It later said: "Andrew Tabler, a fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, said that the administration was caught off-guard by how the opposition became militarized so quickly. The administration's message had been to urge the opposition to remain peaceful, but that ship has now sailed, he said."

The article quoted Mr. Tabler as saying: "We have a pretty strong policy of not engaging the Syria Free Army directly, because earlier it was agreed that peaceful protesters had the moral high ground over the regime and were more able to encourage defections. But there was no clear light at the end of that peaceful protest strategy. We assumed, incorrectly, that the civil resistance strategies used in Egypt and Tunisia were being adopted by the Syrian opposition, but that didn't happen."

It later said: "Most experts in Washington have a deep skepticism toward the Arab League monitoring mission. For one thing, it is led by a Sudanese general who has been accused of founding the Arab militias that wreaked havoc in Darfur. Also, many doubt that 150 monitors that will eventually be in Syria can cover the vast number of protests and monitor such a large country.

"The Assad regime has also been accused of subverting the monitoring mission by moving political prisoners to military sites that are off-limits to monitors, repositioning tanks away from cities only when monitors are present, and having soldiers pose as police to downplay the military's role in cracking down on the protesters."

The article quoted Tony Badran (of the conservative Defense of Democracies) as saying: "It seems awfully risky for the U.S. to be putting its chips all in on that mission."

The article continued: "Badran said that the Arab League monitoring mission just gives the Assad regime time and space to maneuver, and provides Russia with another excuse to delay international action on Syria."

The article quoted Mr. Badran as saying: "Now you understand why the Russians pushed the Syrians to accept the monitors. It allows the Syrians to delay the emergence of consensus."



An article by Simeon Kerr titled "Saudi Arabia Sets Lavish Spending Figure" was posted at ft.com on Dec. 27, 2011.

It said: "Saudi Arabia has approved a stimulus budget for next year, after raising spending by one quarter in 2011 as part of efforts to damp down the potential for social unrest in the Gulf region's biggest economy.

"The kingdom, bolstered by record high government revenues in the past 12 months, is set to spend considerably more in 2012 than it did this year, analysts say, with big increases expected in health, education and transport infrastructure.

“The Saudi authorities late on Monday estimated the 2012 budget expenditure at SR690bn (\$184bn), but analysts say the kingdom regularly spends—and raises—more than indicated in the budget, which is usually based on a conservative oil-price estimate.”

It later said: “In 2011, the government overspent the budgetary allocation by 39 per cent—raising real spending by about 25 per cent—as one-off payments in the first quarter aimed to keep a lid on possible unrest via a generous welfare package.

“As the Arab revolts swept the region in the first three months, Riyadh paid out a two-month salary bonus to government employees, costing SR35bn–40bn, while also raising the minimum public-sector wage and hiring an extra 60,000 staff for the interior ministry.

“The kingdom could easily afford this. The real gross domestic product rate was 6.8 per cent in 2011, the highest level since 2003, and preliminary data shows the government earned a record SR1,110bn this year.”



An Associated Press article by Lekan Oyekami and Jon Gambrell titled “Nigerians Fear More Church Attacks After 39 Killed” was posted at myway.com on Dec. 26, 2011.

It said: “At a Nigerian Catholic church where a terror attack killed 35 people on Christmas, women tried to clean the sanctuary ahead of Mass on Monday while one man wept uncontrollably amid the debris.

“Outside St. Theresa Catholic Church, crowds gathered among the burned-out cars in the dirt parking lot, angry over the attack claimed by a radical Muslim sect and fearful that the group will target more churches.”

It later said: “At least 52 people were wounded in the attack, said Slaku Luguard, a coordinator with Nigeria’s National Emergency Management Agency. Victims filled the cement floors of a nearby government hospital, some crying in pools of their own blood.

“On Christmas, attacks by the radical Muslim sect left 39 dead across Africa’s most populous nation. A bomb also exploded amid gunfire in the central Nigeria city of Jos and a suicide car bomber attacked the military in the nation’s northeast.

“After the bombings, a Boko Haram spokesman using the *nom de guerre* Abul-Qaqa claimed responsibility for the attacks in an interview with *The Daily Trust*, the newspaper of record across Nigeria’s Muslim north. The sect has used the newspaper in the past to communicate with public.”

The article quoted the spokesman as saying: “There will never be peace until our demands are met. We want all our brothers who have been incarcerated to be released; we want full implementation of the Sharia system and we want democracy and the constitution to be suspended.”

It later said: "Boko Haram has carried out increasingly sophisticated and bloody attacks in its campaign to implement strict Shariah law across Nigeria, a multi-ethnic nation of more than 160 million people. The group, whose name means 'Western education is sacrilege' in the local Hausa language, is responsible for at least 504 killings this year alone, according to an Associated Press count."

It later said: "Targeting Boko Haram has remained difficult, as sect members are scattered throughout northern Nigeria and the nearby countries of Cameroon, Chad and Niger.

"Analysts say political considerations also likely play a part in the country's thus far muted response: President Goodluck Jonathan, a Christian from the south, may be hesitant to use force in the nation's predominantly Muslim north."



An Associated Press article titled "Medvedev: Test of Much-Heralded New Missile Done" was posted at ap.org on Dec. 27, 2011.

It said: "A ballistic missile that is to be a cornerstone of Russia's nuclear arsenal has completed its rocky test program and will be commissioned by the military, President Dmitry Medvedev announced Tuesday during a meeting with military officers.

"The Bulava ICBM, intended to arm a new generation of nuclear submarines, is a three-stage missile that can carry up to 10 individually targeted warheads at a range of 8,000 kilometers (5,000 miles)."

It later said: "Russian officials have billed Bulava as a new-generation weapon, capable of dodging any potential missile defenses, thanks to its quick start and an ability to perform unusual maneuvers in flight. The Bulava would replace Soviet-built missiles approaching the end of their service lifetimes.

"The Russian navy also has finished building the first of a new series of nuclear-powered submarines to be armed with the new missile, the Yuri Dolgoruky. Several other such submarines are under construction."



An article titled "Brazilian Economy Overtakes UK's, Says CEBR" was posted at bbc.co.uk on Dec. 26, 2011.

It said: "The Centre for Economics and Business Research (CEBR) said its latest World Economic League Table showed Asian countries moving up and European countries falling back.

"The CEBR also predicted that the UK economy would overtake France by 2016."

The article quoted Douglas McWilliams (CEBR chief executive) as saying: "I think it's part of the big economic change, where not only are we seeing a shift from the west to the east, but we're also seeing that countries that produce vital commodities—food and energy and things like that—are doing very well and they're gradually climbing up the economic league table."

It later said: "A report based on International Monetary Fund data published earlier this year also said the Brazilian economy would overtake the UK in 2011.

"Brazil has a population of about 200 million, more than three times the population of the UK.

"Brazil's economy grew by 7.5 percent last year, but the government has cut its growth forecast for 2011 to 3.5 percent after the economy ground to a halt in the third quarter, with analysts blaming the country's high interest rates and the worsening situation in the eurozone.

"And although Brazil currently sells more to China than it imports, Brazilian manufacturers have complained that their industries are being affected by cheap mass-produced goods from the Asian giant.

"The CEBR also said that Russia moved up one spot in its league table to ninth in 2011, and predicted that it would rise to fourth spot by 2020.

"It predicted that India, the world's 10th biggest economy in 2011, would become the fifth largest by 2020.

"And it said European countries would drop down the table, with Germany falling from fourth in 2011 to seventh in 2020, the UK from seventh to eighth, and France from fifth to ninth."

Here are the rankings for 2011.

1. US; 2. China; 3. Japan; 4. Germany; 5. France; 6. Brazil; 7. UK; 8. Italy; 9. Russia; and 10. India.

Here are the projected rankings for 2020.

1. US; 2. China; 3. Japan; 4. Russia; 5. India; 6. Brazil; 7. Germany; 8. UK; 9. France; and 10. Italy.



An article by Cahal Milmo titled "Watch Out for the Icebergs, Cruise Re-creating *Titanic's* Fateful Voyage Is Sold Out" was posted at independent.co.uk on Dec. 27, 2011.

It said: "For some, it might sound too much like tempting fate—and for others, it smacks of 'disaster voyeurism.' But for more than 2,000 *Titanic* enthusiasts, the chance to mark the centenary of the maritime disaster by sailing on a large cruise ship to commemorate the sinking on the very spot of the tragedy is proving difficult to resist.

"A British company has almost sold out two cruises for people to mark the anniversary on 15 April by following the route of the *Titanic* to where it struck an iceberg.

"The booming demand for *Titanic*-related travel has led to another travel company offering the chance to explore the wreckage of the ill-fated vessel

in a Russian-built submarine next summer at a cost of \$59,000 (£37,000) per person.”

It later said: “Such is the interest in places on the MS *Balmoral*, the vessel retracing the journey of the maiden voyage of the *Titanic*, that a waiting list for cancellations has closed.

“Some of those who have booked berths costing up to £5,995 are having costumes made to recreate the appearance of the original passengers, while there have also been requests from musicians to audition for places on the string quartet that played as the flagship of the White Star Line fleet began to list.”

It later said: “The culmination of restaging the *Titanic’s* voyage—which will see the *Balmoral*, a chartered vessel belonging to the cruise line Fred Olsen, sail to the point off Newfoundland, Canada, where the ship collided with an iceberg—will be a memorial service at 2.20am on 15 April, the moment when what was then the world’s largest passenger ship sank.

“A second vessel chartered by the cruise company to carry 694 people will also meet at the site of the sinking after sailing from New York en route to Southampton. And plans are being made for the wireless radio station at Cape Race in Newfoundland, which received the *Titanic’s* SOS in morse code, to repeat the message.

“Among those on board the *Balmoral* will be relatives of victims and survivors of the *Titanic*, including Philip Littlejohn, the grandson of Alexander Littlejohn, who was a steward in the first-class section of the vessel and survived by rowing away one of the 16 lifeboats on board. The small number of lifeboats meant that barely a third of the ship’s complement of passengers and crew could ever have been saved.

“The attention to detail for the recreated *Titanic* voyage means that passengers will dine on the same menus offered to the 1,514 people who died and the 710 who survived when the ship struck an iceberg at 11.40pm. Among the items from the 11-course first-class dinner to be offered will be oysters, roast squab and sautéed chicken Lyonnaise.”



An article by Andrew Restuccia titled “Despite GOP Opposition, Light Bulb Standards Will Phase In on Jan. 1” was posted at thehill.com on Dec. 29, 2011.

It said: “New light bulb efficiency standards will begin phasing in on Jan. 1 despite intense opposition from conservatives, who have blasted the rules as a textbook unnecessary federal regulation.

“While Republicans secured inclusion of a measure blocking funding for enforcement of the standards in a year-end spending bill, energy efficiency groups say the provision will have little practical impact. The Energy Department rules will nonetheless go into effect at the start of 2012.”

The article quoted Jack Gillis (spokesman for the Consumer Federation of America) as saying: "The [spending bill] cut funding for enforcement; however, the law is still in effect. It is our expectation that companies will still comply with the law."

It later said: "Steven Nadel, executive director of the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, said companies have been preparing for the new light bulb efficiency standards since Congress passed the 2007 energy law requiring traditional incandescent light bulbs to be 30 percent more efficient starting in 2012."

It later said: "While the measure prevents DOE from enforcing the standards through fiscal year 2012, Nadel said that states can still require companies to follow the efficiency rules."

It later said: "Inclusion of the measure blocking funding for the light bulb standards in the broader year-end spending bill was a political victory for Republicans, who have been targeting the regulations for months."



"Eye on the World" comment: The following two articles discuss the Occupy Wall Street (OWS) movement.



An Associated Press article by Ryan J. Foley and Mike Glover titled "Occupy Activists Meet in Iowa, Plan Caucus Events" was posted at ap.org on Dec. 27, 2011.

It said: "Hundreds of Occupy activists from at least 10 states were expected to participate in a 'People's Caucus' near the Capitol to plot activities between now and the Jan. 3 caucuses.

"The activists are promising to interrupt candidates at events and camp out at their Iowa campaign offices. They say they want to change the political dialogue, but critics fear their tactics could tarnish Iowa's reputation for civil political discourse ahead of the contest.

"Activists say mass arrests are possible."



An article by Penny Starr titled "Tournament of Roses to Occupiers: You Can't March in Our Parade" was posted at cnsnews.com on Dec. 28, 2011.

It said: "Although an Occupy Wall Street protest group in Pasadena, Calif., tried to get a slot to march in the Rose Parade on Jan. 2, officials with the parade said no. The group now plans to march down the street behind a group of police cars that mark the end of the parade.

"In November, the Occupy group announced its plans to 'occupy' the parade, but the Pasadena Tournament of Roses provided a statement on Wednesday to CNSNews.com saying that protesters would 'not be taking part in the Rose Parade' because only official entries, approved by the tournament well in advance of the event, can take part in the event."

The article quoted Lt. Plhunte Riddle of the Pasadena Police Department as saying: "The Tournament of Roses has the exclusive authority to issue permits for the entries in the parade. Occupy has not been issued a permit."

The article continued: "Instead, the activists can walk down Colorado Boulevard along with countless other people who throng the streets when the parade concludes."

The article quoted Mr. Riddle as saying: "They will be allowed, just like any other spectator or any other demonstrator, to fall in at the completion of the parade behind our four police cars that trail the parade. That doesn't give them placing, that doesn't give them a permit—no permit is needed as long as they don't infringe on other individuals that every year gather in the street and walk."

It later said: "Michael Alexander, president and co-founder of the Tea Party Pasadena Patriots and its political action committee, TEAPAC, said he doesn't think the protesters will have much impact and described the Occupy efforts as a 'movement in decline.'

"Alexander said his group debated whether to stage a counter-demonstration but it was decided that it was wrong to 'politicize' the beloved parade."

It later said: "Alexander said changing the status quo in Washington and around the country will not happen by following a parade."

The article quoted Mr. Alexander as saying: "The real demonstration is going to be at the polls in November and at every other election in between. That's where this battle will be fought—not in petty street theater."



An article by Jeff Kunerth titled "Defense Department Agrees to Allow Muslim Cadets to Wear Hijabs" was posted at orlandosentinel.com on Dec. 22, 2011.

It said: "The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) announced today [Dec. 22] that the Department of Defense will begin allowing Muslim and Sikh students who wear an Islamic head scarf (hijab) or a turban to participate in the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC)."

The article quoted Nihad Awad (CAIR National Director) as saying: "We welcome the fact that Muslim and Sikh students nationwide will now be able to participate fully in JROTC leadership activities while maintaining their religious beliefs and practices."

It later said: "In October, the Washington-based Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization wrote to Defense Secretary Leon Panetta after a 14-year-

old Muslim student at Ravenwood High School in Brentwood, Tenn., was forced to transfer out of a JROTC class when her commanding officers told her she could not wear hijab while marching in the September homecoming parade.

“CAIR requested constitutionally protected religious accommodations for the girl and for future Muslim JROTC participants.”

The article quoted a Dec. 19 letter from Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army Larry Stubblefield to CAIR as saying:

“I have been asked to respond on behalf of the Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta to your October 13, 2011, letter concerning Miss Demin Zawity’s request to wear a religious head covering (hijab) while participating in an Army Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) event at Ravenwood High School.

“Based on your concerns, the Army has reviewed its JROTC uniform policy and will develop appropriate procedures to provide Cadets the opportunity to request the wear of religious head dress, such as the turban and hijab. This change will allow Miss Zawity and other students the chance to fully participate in the JROTC program. Additionally, a representative from the U.S. Army Cadet Command will contact Miss Zawity and provide her the opportunity to rejoin the Ravenwood High School JROTC unit.

“The Army prides itself in being a diverse organization, comprised of individuals from many faiths and religions. We appreciate you bringing this matter to our attention.”



An editorial by Walter Williams titled “Gullible Americans” was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Dec. 28, 2011. Following is the article.

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National Transportation Safety Board Chairwoman Deborah Hersman has called for states to mandate a total ban on cellphone usage while driving. She has also encouraged electronics manufacturers—via recommendations to the CTIA—The Wireless Association and the Consumer Electronics Association—to develop features that “disable the functions of portable electronic devices within reach of the driver when a vehicle is in motion.”

That means she wants to be able to turn off your cellphone while you’re driving.

With very little evidence, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration claims that there were some 3,092 roadway fatalities last year that involved distracted drivers. Americans ought to totally reject Hersman’s agenda.

It’s the camel’s nose into the tent. Down the road, we might expect mandates against talking to passengers while driving or putting on lipstick. They may even mandate the shutdown of drive-in restaurants as a contributory factor to driver distraction through eating while driving. You say, “Come on, Williams, you’re paranoid. There are already laws against distracted driving, and it would never come to that!”

Let's look at some other camels' noses into tents.

During the legislative debate before enactment of the 16th Amendment, Republican President William Taft and congressional supporters argued that only the rich would ever pay federal income taxes. In fact, in 1913, only one-half of 1 percent of income earners were affected. Those earning \$250,000 a year in today's dollars paid 1 percent, and those earning \$6 million in today's dollars paid 7 percent.

The 16th Amendment never would have been enacted had Americans not been duped into believing that only the rich would pay income taxes. It was simply a lie to exploit American gullibility and envy.

The fact of the matter is that the founders of our nation so feared the imposition of direct taxes, such as an income tax, that Article 1, Section 9 of the Constitution says, "No Capitation, or other direct, Tax shall be laid, unless in Proportion to the Census or Enumeration herein before directed to be taken."

It was not until the Abraham Lincoln administration that an income tax was imposed on Americans. Its stated purpose was to finance the war, but it took until 1872 for it to be repealed.

During the Grover Cleveland administration, Congress enacted the Income Tax Act of 1894.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled it unconstitutional in 1895.

It took the 16th Amendment (1913) to make permanent what the founders feared.

Another camel's nose in the tent lie that's threatening the economic collapse of our country is the Medicare lie. At its beginning, in 1966, Medicare cost \$3 billion. The House Ways and Means Committee, along with President Lyndon Johnson, estimated that Medicare would cost an inflation-adjusted \$12 billion by 1990.

In 1990, Medicare topped \$107 billion. That's nine times Congress' prediction. Today's Medicare tab comes to \$523 billion and shows no signs of leveling off. The 2009 Medicare trustees report put the unfunded Medicare liability at \$89 trillion.

The 1966 Medicare cost estimate was simply a congressional and White House lie to get the American people to buy into their agenda. But not to worry; the real Medicare crisis won't hit the nation until today's beneficiaries and political supporters are dead. It's today's children who'll bear the burden of our profligacy.

But back to the proposed cellphone ban. NTSB Chairwoman Hersman said: "It's going to be very unpopular with some people. We're not here to win a popularity contest. We're here to do the right thing."

C.S. Lewis warned us about people like Hersman, saying: "Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.

“It would be better to live under robber barons than under omnipotent moral busybodies.

“The robber baron’s cruelty may sometimes sleep, his cupidity may at some point be satiated; but those who torment us for our own good will torment us without end for they do so with the approval of their own conscience.”



An editorial by Michelle Malkin titled “The Year in Obama Scandals—and Scandal Deniers” was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Dec. 28, 2011. Following is the article.

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With 2011 drawing to a close, it is time to account. As an early-and-often chronicler of Chicago-on-the-Potomac, I am amazed at the stubborn and clingy persistence of President Barack Obama’s snowblowers in the media. See no scandal, hear no scandal, speak no scandal.

Dartmouth College professor Brendan Nyhan asserted in May—while Operation Fast and Furious subpoenas were flying on Capitol Hill—that “one of the least-remarked-upon aspects of the Obama presidency has been the lack of scandals.” Conveniently, he defines scandal as a “widespread elite perception of wrongdoing.”

So as long as left-wing Ivy League scribes refuse to perceive something to be a scandal—never mind the actual suffering endured by the family of murdered Border Patrol Agent Brian Terry, whose death came at the hands of a Mexican cartel thug wielding a Fast and Furious gun walked across the southern border under Attorney General Eric Holder’s watch—there is no scandal!

Self-serving much?

*Mother Jones*’ Kevin Drum likewise proclaimed: “Obama’s presidency has so far been almost completely free of scandal.”

This after the year kicked off in January with the departure of lying eco-radical czar Carol Browner. In backroom negotiations, she infamously bullied auto execs to “put nothing in writing, ever.” The previous fall, the White House’s own oil spill panel had singled out Browner for misleading the public about the scientific evidence for the administration’s Draconian drilling moratorium and “contributing to the perception that the government’s findings were more exact than they actually were.”

The Interior Department inspector general and federal judges likewise blasted drilling ban book-cooking by Browner and Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who falsely rewrote the White House drilling ban report to doctor the Obama-appointed panel’s own overwhelming scientific objections to the job-killing edict.

In February, federal judge Martin Feldman in Louisiana excoriated the Obama Interior Department for defying his May 2010 order to lift its fraudulent ban

on offshore oil and gas drilling in the Gulf. He called out the administration's culture of contempt and "determined disregard" for the law.

This spring saw rising public anger over the preferential Obamacare waiver process (which I first reported on in September 2010). Some 2,000 lucky golden ticket winners were freed from the costly federal mandates—including a handful of fancy restaurants in Aloha Nancy Pelosi's San Francisco district, the entire state of Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid's Nevada, and scores of local, state and national Big Labor organizations, from the Service Employees International Union and Teamsters on down.

Meanwhile, as *The Hill* newspaper reported last month, other not-so-lucky Republican-led states seeking waivers, such as Indiana and Louisiana, were rejected. But it wasn't just Republicans objecting to the president's arbitrary Obamacare fiats. In July, congressional Democrats turned on the monstrous federal health bureaucracy known as the Independent Payment Advisory Board.

The constitutionally suspect panel—freed from normal public notice, public comment and public review rules—would have unprecedented authority over health care spending and an expanding jurisdiction of private health care payment rates.

Obama's health and human services secretary, Kathleen Sebelius, faced separate legal questions over her overseer role in a hair-raising document-shredding case when she served as governor of Kansas.

In October, a district judge in the Sunflower State suspended court proceedings in a high-profile criminal case against the abortion racketeers of Planned Parenthood. Bombshell court filings showed that Kansas health officials "shredded documents related to felony charges the abortion giant faces" and failed to disclose it for six years.

That same month, Bloomberg News columnist Jonathan Alter gushed: "There is zero evidence . . . of corruption. Where is it?"

Alter's declaration of the "Obama Miracle" came just weeks after the politically driven half-billion-dollar Solyndra stimulus "investment" went bankrupt, prompting an FBI raid and ongoing criminal and congressional probes of the solar company funded by top White House bundler and visitor George Kaiser.

As Solyndra and an avalanche of other ongoing green subsidy scams erupted, so did the LightSquared debacle—a federal broadband boondoggle involving billionaire hedge fund managers and Obama donors Philip Falcone and George Soros.

In September, two high-ranking witnesses—William Shelton, the four-star general who heads the Air Force Space Command, and National Coordination Office for Space-Based Positioning, Navigation and Timing Director Anthony Russo—exposed how the White House had pressured them to alter their congressional testimony and play down concerns about LightSquared's interference threat to military communications.

The White House continues to block efforts to gain information about the Federal Communications Commission's approval of a special waiver for the

company, even as new government tests this month showed that the company's "signals caused harmful interference to the majority of . . . general purpose GPS receivers."

The Obama White House closed out the year with Democratic Sen. Claire McCaskill of Missouri demanding a probe of the smelly \$443 million no-bid smallpox antiviral pill contract with Siga Technologies—controlled by big lefty donor Ron Perelman.

Then there was the small matter of massive voter fraud in Indiana, where a Democratic official resigned amid allegations that "dozens, if not hundreds," of signatures were faked to get Obama on the state primary ballot in 2008. And while Americans busied themselves with the holidays, White House and Democratic campaign officials were dumping more than \$70,000 in contributions from another deep-pocketed contributor—scandal-plagued pal and former New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine, who oversaw the collapse of MF Global.

All this—and so much more—yet erstwhile "conservative" journalist Andrew Sullivan of *Newsweek/The Daily Beast* scoffed, "Where are all the scandals promised by Michelle Malkin?"

There's none so blind as those who will not see.



An editorial by Thomas Sowell titled "Random Thoughts" was posted at [jewishworldreview.com](http://jewishworldreview.com) on Dec. 27, 2011. Following is the article.

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Random thoughts on the passing scene:

Talk show host Dennis Miller said, "I don't dig polo. It's like miniature golf meets the Kentucky Derby."

Nothing illustrates the superficiality of our times better than the enthusiasm for electric cars, because they are supposed to greatly reduce air pollution. But the electricity that ultimately powers these cars has to be generated somewhere—and nearly half the electricity generated in this country is generated by burning coal.

The 2012 Republican primaries may be a rerun of the 2008 primaries, where the various conservative candidates split the conservative vote so many ways that the candidate of the mushy middle got the nomination—and then lost the election.

Because morality does not always prevail, by any means, too many of the intelligentsia act as if it has no effect. But, even in Nazi Germany, thousands of Germans hid Jews during the war, at the risk of their own lives, because it was the right thing to do.

In recent times, Christmas has brought not only holiday cheer but also attacks on the very word *Christmas*, chasing it from the vocabulary of institutions and even from most "holiday cards." Like many other social crusades,

this one is based on a lie—namely that the Constitution puts a wall of separation between church and state. It also shows how easily intimidated we are by strident zealots.

If you don't like growing older, don't worry about it. You may not be growing older much longer.

What do you call it when someone steals someone else's money secretly? Theft. What do you call it when someone takes someone else's money openly by force? Robbery. What do you call it when a politician takes someone else's money in taxes and gives it to someone who is more likely to vote for him? Social Justice.

When an organization has more of its decisions made by committees, that gives more influence to those who have more time available to attend committee meetings and to drag out each meeting longer. In other words, it reduces the influence of those who have work to do, and are doing it, while making those who are less productive more influential.

Anyone who studies the history of ideas should notice how much more often people on the political left, more so than others, denigrate and demonize those who disagree with them—instead of answering their arguments.

The wisest and most knowledgeable human being on the planet is utterly incompetent to make even 10 percent of the consequential decisions that have to be made in a modern nation. Yet all sorts of people want to decide how much money other people can make or keep, and to micro-manage how other people live their lives.

The real egalitarians are not the people who want to redistribute wealth to the poor, but those who want to extend to the poor the ability to create their own wealth, to lift themselves up, instead of trying to tear others down. Earning respect, including self-respect, is better than being a parasite.

Of all the arguments for giving amnesty to illegal immigrants, the most foolish is the argument that we can't find and expel all of them. There is not a law on the books that someone has not violated, including laws against murder, and we certainly have not found and prosecuted all the violators—whether murderers or traffic law violators. But do we then legalize all the illegalities we haven't been able to detect and prosecute?

In the 1920s, Congressman Thomas S. Adams referred to "the ease with which the income tax may be legally avoided" but also said some Congressmen "so fervently believe that the rich ought to pay 40 or 50 per cent of their incomes" in taxes that they would rather make this a law, even if the government would get more revenue from a lower tax rate that people actually pay. Some also prefer class warfare politics that brings in votes, if not revenue.

Can you imagine a man who had never run any kind of organization, large or small, taking it upon himself to fundamentally change all kinds of organizations in a huge and complex economy? Yet that is what Barack Obama did when he said, "We are going to change the United States of America!" This was not "The Audacity of Hope." It was the audacity of hype.



“Eye on the World” comment: “Eye on the World” is not endorsing candidates in the presidential election. The following two articles were chosen because they reveal a major argument concerning whether conservatives should vote for a candidate who more closely reflects their point of view or for a candidate who is electable against a progressive like Barack Obama. History shows that a backlash against George W. Bush helped Mr. Obama in the 2008 presidential election. Time will tell if a backlash against Mr. Obama will help the Republican nominee in the 2012 election.



A video and excerpted comments titled “Mark Levin Calls Out So-Called Conservative Outlets for Supporting Romney” were posted at [therightscoop.com](http://therightscoop.com) on Dec. 8, 2011. Following are the excerpts.

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Levin says there’s only one way this country can be saved and it’s with a conservative. And Mitt Romney is NOT a conservative. He’s even using big government types as surrogates to attack Gingrich, and then pretends he’s not apart of it. And that’s what Levin can’t stand about the whole thing.

Levin also calls out so-called conservative outlets for constantly supporting Romney, who is not a conservative:

“There’s only one way this country can be saved, with a conservative! And it’s high damn time that so-called conservative pundits, and conservative outlets, and conservative websites, and conservative magazines start acting their role! And I don’t just mean in their fundraising appeals, how conservative they are, but I mean use their intellectual power, use substance to support a conservative!

“Romney is not a conservative. You’ve been going on and on about how Newt’s not a conservative. Great! So is *The Weekly Standard* going to endorse Santorum or Bachmann? Will *National Review* endorse Santorum or Bachmann? Will the *Wall Street Journal* editorial page, which has its own conservative problems with open borders and some other dumb\*\*\* positions that it takes, will it be backing Santorum or Bachmann? Or are they all going to rally behind Romney? Now all of a sudden they want conservative purity when they apply it to Gingrich, but they don’t want conservative purity when they apply it to Romney . . .

“It’s time to back a conservative!”



An editorial by Ann Coulter titled “Only One Candidate Is Right on the Two Most Important Issues” was posted at [anncoulter.com](http://anncoulter.com) on Dec. 28, 2011. Following is the article.

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In the upcoming presidential election, two issues are more important than any others: repealing Obamacare and halting illegal immigration. If we fail at either one, the country will be changed permanently.

Taxes can be raised and lowered. Regulations can be removed (though they rarely are). Attorneys general and Cabinet members can be fired. Laws can be repealed. Even Supreme Court justices eventually die.

But capitulate on illegal immigration and the entire country will have the electorate of California. There will be no turning back.

Similarly, if Obamacare isn't repealed in the next few years it never will be.

America will begin its ineluctable descent into becoming a worthless Western European country, with rotten health care, no money for defense and ever-increasing federal taxes to support the nanny state.

So let's consider which of the Republican candidates are most likely to succeed at these objectives.

In order to allow Democrats to indignantly denounce Republicans who said Obamacare would add to the deficit, the bill was structured so that no good-ies get paid out immediately. That way, when the Congressional Budget Office was asked to determine if Obamacare was "revenue neutral" over its first 10 years, government accountants were looking at a bill that collected taxes for 10 years, but only distributed treats in the later years.

Starting at year 11, those accountants will be in for a big surprise when the government starts paying out Obamacare benefits without interruption.

Because of this accounting fraud, Obamacare can still be repealed. But as soon as all Americans have been thrown off their employer-provided insurance plans and are forced to start depending on the government for health care, Republicans will never be able to repeal it.

The vast complex of unionized government workers managing our health care from Washington will fight to keep their jobs (for more on this topic, see the Department of Education), voters will want their "free" government treats (for more on this topic, see Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security)—and, even if they don't, there won't be a private insurance market for them to go back to (for more on this topic, see IRS rules favoring employer-provided health care).

The only way to stop Obamacare is to beat Obama in 2012, and repeal it before the health care Leviathan is born.

Otherwise, starting in 2016, Republicans will run for office promising only to improve Obamacare. Newt Gingrich will be calling plans to reform it "right-wing social engineering."

All current Republican presidential candidates say they will overturn Obamacare. The question for Republican primary voters should be: Who is most likely to win?

2012 is not a year for a wild card. It's not a year for any candidate who will end up being the issue, instead of making Obama the issue. It's not a year for one wing of the Republican Party to be making a point with another wing. (And there are no Rockefeller Republicans left, anyway.) It's not a year to be gambling that America will vote for its first woman president, or that the country is ready for a nut-bar libertarian.

Running against an incumbent president in a make-or-break election, Republicans need a candidate with a track record of winning elections with voters similar to the entire American electorate.

Michele Bachmann, Ron Paul and Newt Gingrich have never had to win votes beyond small, majority-Republican congressional districts.

Jon Huntsman, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney and Rick Santorum have won statewide elections, but Huntsman and Perry ran in extremely red states that don't resemble the American electorate. Only Romney and Santorum have won a statewide election in a blue state, making them our surest bets in a general election.

But if Santorum wins, we lose on the second most important issue—illegal immigration—and he'll be the last Republican ever to win a general election in America.

Just as Americans ought to be able to learn the perils of a welfare state by looking at Greece, we ought to be able to learn the perils of illegal immigration by looking at California.

Massive legal and illegal immigration has already so changed the California electorate that no Republican can be elected statewide anymore. Not so long ago, this was a state that produced great Republican governors and senators like Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, S.I. Hayakawa and Pete Wilson.

If even Carly Fiorina and Meg Whitman, two bright, attractive, successful female business executives—one pro-life and one pro-choice—can't win a statewide election in California spending millions of their own dollars in the middle of the 2010 Republican sweep, it's *buenas noches, muchachos*.

And yet, almost all Republican presidential candidates support some form of amnesty for illegals in order to appeal to the business lobby.

Among the most effective measures against illegal immigration is E-Verify, the Homeland Security program that gives employers the ability to instantly confirm that their employees' Social Security numbers are legitimate. It is more than 99 percent accurate, and no employee is denied a job without an opportunity to challenge the records.

Although wildly popular with Americans—including Hispanic Americans—the business lobby hates E-Verify. Employers like hiring non-Americans because they can pay illegal aliens less and ignore state and federal employment laws.

Any candidate who opposes E-Verify is not serious about illegal immigration. If anything, E-Verify ought to be made mandatory to get a job, to get welfare and to vote.

Kowtowing to business (while pretending to kowtow to Hispanics), Paul, Perry and Santorum oppose E-Verify. As a senator, Rick Santorum voted against even the voluntary use of E-Verify.

Jon Huntsman claims to support E-Verify, but also wants to give illegals amnesty as soon as the border is sealed—as determined by someone other than us. Also, he gave driver's identification cards to illegal aliens in Utah. (You'd think a guy no one has ever heard of would be more careful about ID cards.)

Following his latest guru, Helen Kriebel, Newt Gingrich is for amnesty, combined with second-class status for illegals. Instead of giving illegal aliens green cards, Newt proposes giving them "red cards" so they can stay, take American jobs, have children, receive welfare benefits, attend public schools—and eventually be granted amnesty. The Republican primaries will be over before most voters realize what Newt's "red card" scheme entails.

Only Michele Bachmann and Mitt Romney aren't trying to sneak through amnesty for illegal aliens. Both support E-Verify.

Numbers USA, one of the leading groups opposed to our current insane immigration policies, gives Republican presidential candidates the following grades on immigration: Paul, F; Gingrich, D-minus; Huntsman, D-minus; Santorum, D-minus; Perry, D; Romney, C-minus; and Bachmann, B-minus.

And that was before Romney said last week that Obama's drunk-driving, illegal alien uncle should be deported!

That leaves us with Romney and Bachmann as the candidates with the strongest, most conservative positions on illegal immigration. As wonderful as Michele Bachmann is, 2012 isn't the year to be trying to make a congresswoman the first woman president.

Two Little Indians sitting in the sun; one was just a congresswoman and then there was one.



**Isaiah 55:6-11**—"Seek the LORD while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,' says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it."