
COMMON SENSE II

Capitalizing on the familiarity and influence of Thomas Paine’s “Common Sense” pamphlets that provided American colonists with exposure to the conversation of great thinkers in the pre-Revolutionary period, this paper assumes the name COMMON SENSE II. Similarly, today’s series of pamphlets strives to give a direct response to great political events and ideas of our time.

September 2019 Moral Leadership Issue Volume 14 Issue 9

The New “Moral Order”

By Valerie Conner

I can’t think of a moral code that does not include two things: the concept of “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you,” and a preference for order. Moral leadership involves doing the first and maintaining the second.

Right now this country—we—are not doing unto others as we would have them do unto us.

- ◆ Would we really like to be turned away at the county line as we are trying to move for a better job?
- ◆ Would we really like to “camp” on concrete floors with a metal blanket, no hygiene, little food, and separate from our loved ones?
- ◆ Would we really like to be deported from the only country on Earth that can provide us our life-saving medical treatment, even though we are in the country legally?
- ◆ Would we really like to be refused information about reasonable healthcare?
- ◆ Would we really like to be denied a job, a place to live, education, and a feeling of being accepted because we are “different” from the bullies doing the denying?
- ◆ Do we really want to live on an inhospitable Earth because powers that be are playing with everyone’s future for their own short-term profit?
- ◆ Do we really want to live in a society where “facts” are denied, distorted, and discarded?
- ◆ Do we really want to live in a nation that alienates our allies and is willingly subservient to our adversaries?
- ◆ Do we really want to continue to live in a country whose leader insists on casting us as helpless victims and encourages us to be hateful and afraid?



Independent Reader

Not only do these conditions make our existence deplorable, they create disorder. Chaos or disorder results when organizing principles are absent or discarded. Without order we have nothing on which we can depend. In international affairs, for example, without the reliability of pacts, treaties, and trust, we have no way of planning for our future security and are all alone against possibly every other nation and rogue entity in the world. In short, chaos is bad; order is good.

In classical Greek and Elizabethan tragedy, the otherwise good and gracious king (or a thane in the case of *Macbeth*) has a fatal character flaw that causes his downfall. (Because he is not otherwise of good character, Trump cannot be a tragic figure—pathetic, but not tragic.) After much tumult and death, a new moral order is established. The unstated assumption is that that new order will not be as grand as the one replaced for a long while.



Even if impeachment or the 2020 election gets us back on a moral track, we will have irretrievably lost a lot by allowing our country to go down this self-destructive path. Yet, it is imperative

The Gathering Storm

By Patrick West

In the gathering storm
Upon the Earth
And upon the child of man
The children of earth—waiting
Our tears run down like
rain
And lo the rain is now
But Plastic rain
What have we done?



Whatever Happened to Our Moral Leadership?

By Vicki Andrews

Moral leadership: What does it mean? Leadership is easy enough; that's the people calling the shots, running the business, the country, the world. According to some dictionaries, "moral" means "beliefs about right behavior and wrong behavior" (*Merriam-Webster*). Relating to or concerned with the principles or rules of right conduct or the distinction between right and wrong (*Dictionary.com*), concerned with the principles of right and wrong behavior, holding or manifesting high principles for proper conduct (*Oxford Dictionaries*).

Now, let's look at what's happening to our country since Donald Trump became President. Have we had moral leadership? Have we become a more moral country?

There are many difficult issues facing us as citizens of the United States in 2019. Many issues raise the question of where is our moral leadership. For example:

- ♦ Many people will die or suffer needlessly because they are unable to afford appropriate healthcare.
- ♦ Many families are struggling to purchase necessities on inadequate incomes.
- ♦ Many children go to bed hungry at night and go to school hungry the next morning.
- ♦ Many of our elders, people who have worked hard all their lives, are struggling to survive on fixed and limited incomes.
- ♦ Many people are dealing with mental health issues and/or addictions without adequate treatment, medication, or supportive services.
- ♦ Racism, sexism, abysmal treatment of immigrants, the list goes on, are rampant.

The solutions are there, but with the current government, led by a President who does not seem to have a functioning moral compass, what can we do? A President without a moral compass and a Congress seemingly unable to stand up to him to protect the people who are suffering are leading us to disaster.

As serious as the above problems are and the number of people suffering because of them, I believe the major issue of our time is the climate destruction, the climate devastation we are facing. On this issue also Congress seems unable to overcome the power that the current President has assumed



to lead us toward what some are now calling Climate Armageddon.

The Amazon Rainforest, the "lungs of the planet," are being destroyed by fire, and we watch helplessly. The President of the United States plans to open 16.7 million acres of Tongass National Forest in Alaska, the planet's largest intact temperate rainforest, to corporate exploitation.



Bulldozers will tear through the heart of the Sonoran Desert for Trump's border wall, paid for by money meant for necessary projects around the country. The Environmental Protection Agency has authorized emergency use of bee-killing pesticides on 14 million acres. Since Trump took office, we have been careening down the path of destruction; he seems to delight in doing everything he can to remove protections that were put into place to save the Earth and increase the damage being caused both to the Earth and to humanity.

It's easy to blame this planetary crisis—this planetary catastrophe, the potential extinction of millions of species, perhaps life on Earth as we know it—on Donald Trump. Everything he has been doing since becoming President seems to be directed at further destruction of the planet; however, I see an even bigger cause of impending doom, and that is our apathy. The apathy of the people of the United States, the people who are accepting this—maybe they are grumbling to themselves and their friends, maybe even lying awake now and then at night—but how many are standing up, speaking out, writing letters, making phone calls, demonstrating, cutting down on airplane travel, switching to solar or wind power, pledging to drive fewer miles per day, *etc.*? There is so much to be done, and we are the ones who must do it!

We now have a chance to stand up and speak out for the Earth. A global Climate Strike has been called for Friday, November 20, 2019. Around the world people will be leaving their jobs, leaving their schools, leaving the comfort of their homes, and joining together to demand action on climate change. This began with the children of the world, led by 16-year old Greta Thunberg of Sweden, who have been walking out of classes on Fridays to show their concern for the future of the world.

Now adults are joining them for—at least—this one day. Some people will be protesting pipelines or oil companies or banks that fund them; some will be standing on street corners or in city parks or in state

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or federal office buildings with signs and banners. Some will do positive actions for the Earth, plant a tree, start a pollinator garden, help neighbors insulate their home, something positive that's not in their normal routine, something that can help build a better planet, slow down global warming, raise awareness of the many crises facing our planet. Everyone who can should do something special on Friday, November 20, 2019 to show we want to leave a livable planet to future generations. The time for apathy, for business as usual, is over. Now is the time for action!

Understanding Our Not So Representative Government

By Eric Grimsrud

In trying to address any issue of national importance, including climate change, it is essential to understand what our present political system is and where it came from. In particular, it is necessary

to understand why, in a country that claims to have a one-person, one-vote electoral



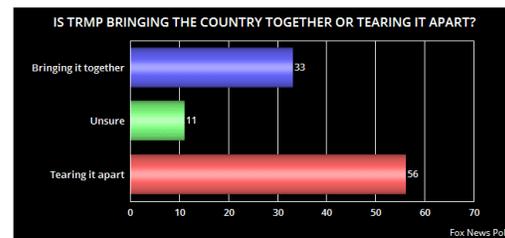
Equalvotes.us

process, aren't the interests of the low-to-middle income citizens more evident. After all, the low-to-middle income groups constitute the vast majority of Americans. So why, for example,

would the bulk of workers have salaries and benefits that are typically much less than 1% of those of the CEO's and upper management class? Since the extremely wealthy constitute less than a few percent of our total population, why are our tax laws so disproportionately favorable to them? Why does the sum total of the bottom 50% of our population make so much less than that of the top 5%, while that bottom 50% struggle to secure basic amenities, such as healthcare and university educations for their children? While some might think these enormous differences are justified, it is nevertheless an enigma to ponder how we came to have this contradictory system: a one-person, one-vote electoral system along with vast differences in personal incomes and benefits. I will give that explanation my best shot here.

First, try to imagine the challenge presented to the Republican Party in preparing for elections. Their main objective today is to keep as much money as possible in the pockets of the top 5% via the passage of legislation favorable to them. In order to do that they need to gain control of Congress and the Presidency. But how can they do that if their main issues benefit only the top 5% of the voting public? If they were honest in expressing their real objective, they would be hammered at the polls.

The GOP's answer to this has been to get as many votes as they can from various splinter groups in the country by endorsing the fringe issues that are



of central importance to those groups. Thus, we find the Republicans lead-

ing the charge on various controversial side issues that are of little importance to the wealthy. These issues might concern abortion, religion, gender and racial inequality, gun control, and immigration policies, for examples. Some of these are hot button issues and have great potential for securing votes from the so-called "base" of our new-age Republican Party. Thus, this new Republican Party now consists of a few multimillionaires and a massive collection of odd-ball, single-issue enthusiasts.

Then Trump enters this scene and becomes a superstar within the Republican Party, because he is so widely admired by "his base," who bring in those odd ball votes. While his antics in present-

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ing himself and the phony issues of his party are viewed as deplorable by Democrats and independents, they are a source of delight for the Republicans. The worse Trump behaves and the more irresponsible his views, the more his base loves him. In his way, Donald Trump has helped the Republicans win offices throughout the USA during the last several years and has simultaneously made our country appear to be that “basket of deplorables” indeed. In addition, he has caused his base to vote against issues that are actually of great importance to them, such as basic healthcare and education for their children.

While you might wish that the traditional Republicans would be more than a little ashamed of the new President, there has been very little evidence of that so far. After all, Trump has helped them win votes and secure offices in D. C., all of which allows the main objective of the top 5% to be achieved. Thus, the traditional Republicans are hesitant to criticize this “golden goose” who provides for them the misplaced and irresponsible votes of Trump’s base.



Without use of real information, Trump has skillfully fooled his base supporters with falsehoods and one-liners repeated endlessly and with great assurance. He has perhaps not yet raised himself to the level of our planet’s very best spell-binding BS-er, Adolf Hitler, but he appears to be getting there. His mesmerized audiences do resemble those of the Fuhrer in the 1930’s, and while Hitler required considerable police and military assistance to achieve the highest office in Germany, Trump has done this merely by BS-ing.



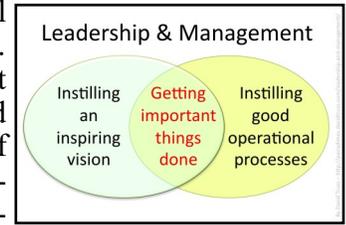
Manurevah.com

In summary, our government is the way it is largely because of one well-organized political party whose main interests are merely the maintenance of the status quo and wealth for the top 5%. All of this has been accomplished by getting the votes of a vulnerable fraction of lower income Americans who don’t realize they are being taken for a ride by a President who cares less about them and our country than he does the maintenance of this own ill-gotten wealth and reputation.

Leadership in a Democracy

By Bob Passi

Leadership is, of course, of utmost importance in making any political system work effectively. In a democracy that leadership is supposed to represent the will of the citizens of that democracy, but it is always a strange amalgam David Truss of that will, political expediency, the plans of that leader, and the influence of the most powerful members of that society.

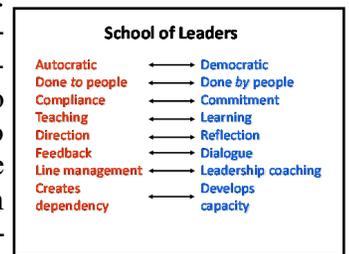


It becomes clear, however, when leadership begins to represent only a segment of society and self-interest takes over and that segment accrues more power and influence in the policies and direction of the society or nation. Often legislation is created to consolidate and institutionalize that power and, in the process, begins to normalize the new structure.

As the shift in leadership occurs, the society begins to stratify. There is a distinction between those who have power and those who no longer do. There begin to be degrees within that power structure which further classify people. A hierarchical structure is being formed with its concomitant development of temptations of abuse of power. Someone once said, “Why would you ever want power if you couldn’t abuse it?”

Those on the bottom are open to abuse and exploitation from all those ranked above them and so on up the system.

Those above make demands that the next level must find ways to satisfy, so they begin to force solutions on those below them to stay in favor with their superiors. It quickly becomes a system open to corruption and any variety of “gaming the system” for organizational or personal advantage. Opportunists seem to come out of the woodwork.



Leading learner

Authoritarian systems have found any number of schemes to justify the power and convince their publics that it is somehow right and just, and that their governments are designed to support and maintain those structures. And, as always, a national story or narrative is created to further those ends.

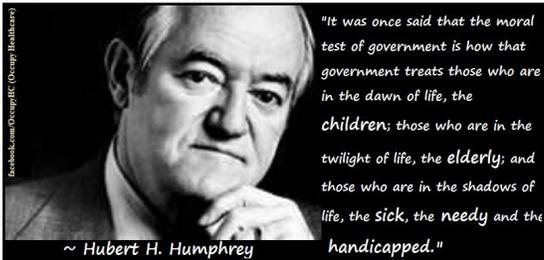
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Now let's look at that weighty word *morality*. We usually think of morality as operating within some set of norms accepted by a community of people. That might be a social community, a religious community, or almost any kind of organized structure or ideology. Once you establish the goals and priorities for your group, you can then set up a morality that fits with those goals and priorities. At that point, the group can decide what actions are moral within their framework and which are not and which deserve censure or rejection. One only has to look at the abuses that were justified and deemed moral within the Western framework of Christianity. The same is true for any belief structure.



But back to leadership in a democracy. The generative source of good democratic leadership is a desire to represent the true needs and desires of an entire populace, putting personal gain or self-aggrandizement on the back burner. It is, indeed, a sacred calling to serve a higher end: the health and nurturing of a sustainable democracy. It is a leadership



that recognizes the need to attend to those within the society who

are at the greatest disadvantage and to keep the beacon of hope and inspiration burning for all.

The distinctions are quite clear. One kind of leadership is about gain for self and special others—an aristocracy of the chosen—which guides the government to support and protect those interests. Democratic leadership is about serving the society including all of its diversity, which guides the government to support the health and sustenance of the entire society.

The payoff is a unifying impulse and the release of the synergy and creativity, the resilience and energy of an entire society. It is almost impossible not to be aware of which form is in charge and which of those systems leads to unity and sustainability of a democratic citizenry.

The Chaos Seekers

By Mary Drewes

On September 4th, the New York *Times* ran an interesting article on personalities who are drawn to “chaos incitement” and express that need for excitement by willingly spreading misinformation. In the past, these chaos seekers were on the outer fringes of society, unable to exercise influence, but with the advent of social media, they now have a bullhorn to disseminate false news. The article was based on an award winning study done by three political scientists, two from Denmark, one from the U. S. The scientists asked questions such as, do you fantasize about natural



Tim Seeley

disasters? And should society be burned to the ground to identify disrupters? It became clear during the course of the study that “these disruptors do not share rumors because they

believe them to be true. For the core group, hostile, political rumors are simply a tool to create havoc.”

I suspect most of us have encountered individuals who would meet the definition of chaos seekers, someone with a need to throw a wrench into every conversation to get people stirred up and arguing. In the old days, it was relatively easy to avoid being in close proximity with people such as this, but in the age of Twitter, we are not only bombarded with hostile political rumors and misinformation, but it is now also coming from the leader of our country. As constituents, we are unable to escape his daily hateful and venomous rhetoric. All we can hope for is that constituents will have grown tired of the constant controversy by election time and return to truth telling and sound, moral leadership.

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Aftermath of *Roe v. Wade*

By Nancy Rudd

Part I

In 1986, I had an ectopic (tubal) pregnancy even though I had been using birth control. It wasn't known for four months. By the time my doctor discovered it, the fallopian tube had ruptured, and I had emergency surgery and a blood transfusion. The lab couldn't find proof of a fetus in the ruined fallopian tube; tests still indicated that I was pregnant.

I had taken many different medications in four months of trying to find out what was going on and seeing other doctors. I had also had the surgery. I know that a fetus can be affected by everything that happens to the mother, so my husband and I were worried that something would be wrong with a child carried to term. For a full day, we were considering an abortion—not because we couldn't provide for a child or I was young and unmarried, the stereotypical assumption for why many women seek the procedure. We were concerned about serious birth defects.

I also found out that whatever the Latin name for "ectopic pregnancy" that was listed on my whiteboard above my bed must have translated to abortion. When the night shift nurses came on duty, my nurse asked me if I'd considered the baby that I had killed. I replied that I had just had emergency surgery, and I hadn't had time to think about anything. She looked at me and said with anger, "Well, you had better consider it!" For the rest of the shift, she refused to take care of me.

I realize now that I should have said something and called her out for her unprofessional and personal attack. I didn't because I felt that I could handle it. I should have thought about other women who might not have been able to handle the pressure of an overreaching, angry, opinionated, unprofessional nurse who brought her personal vendettas to work with her. It taught me the lesson that I follow to this day. If I don't stand up against an injustice, I am complicit in any further behavior by that person. The following day, we found out that there were small pieces of fetal tissue in the tube. It was a relief that we didn't have to consider abortion anymore. I felt bad for all of the women who didn't have a last minute reprieve. Even though I was relieved, for a long time I wondered, almost daily, about the gender of the child and what he or she would have added to our family.

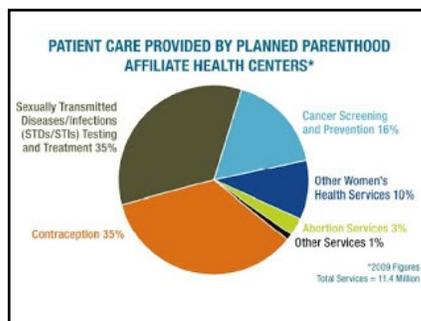


Part II

I think that most of us are pro-life. Most women really don't want to have an abortion. The difference between being pro-life as a progressive is that we believe in a woman's choice during pregnancy but still believe that if she chooses to have a baby, funding will not be cut to various programs that might give her help raising her child. Conservatives generally believe the opposite, losing interest in support after the child is born.

The National Abortion Federation compiles statistics on violence committed by anti-choice protesters. These statistics are for Canada and the United States from 1977 through 2018: They report that there have been 17 attempted murders, 383 death threats, 153 instances of assault and battery, 13 individuals wounded, 42 bombings, 173 arsons, and 3 kidnappings. Eleven people have been killed as a result of violence, and many other crimes have been targeted at abortion providers. Anti-choice extremists are considered a domestic terrorist threat by the U. S. Department of Justice.

First, consider that places such as Planned



Parenthood, do not just provide abortions. In fact, a recent statistic for Planned Parenthood was that 97% of their services were NOT abortions, and both women and men use

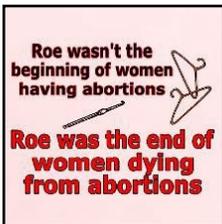
their services. There is an erroneous belief that legalizing abortion in 1973 was a mistake, and if overturned it would mean fewer abortions. In the 1950s, 1,200,000 unsafe abortions were performed **annually** in the U. S., and the rate of abortions, according to the Guttmacher Institute, declined between 1990 and 2011. This wasn't a continual decline as some years were basically the same. In



these years, women in poverty had an increase of abortions of 18%, and for women

of means the abortions decreased 24%. Of course the availability of reliable contraceptives is another factor during those years.

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Job Sanger

Again, according to the Guttmacher Institute, no study has been done to find out if improving socioeconomic conditions would decrease the number of abortions. So let's look at the number: 7 of 10 women who had an abortion lived in households that made less than \$22,000 per year. In 2004, three fourths of women surveyed said that they had an abortion because they couldn't financially care for a child. Access to free or affordable birth control would help, but 9% of all women who use birth control still conceive. Birth control choices are getting more numerous and more effective.

The Supreme Court in 2016 struck down a Texas law requiring that an abortion be performed in a surgical suite and doctors be required to have hospital privileges at an area hospital in case of complications. Less than .3% of women who have an abortion require hospitalization for complications. **Interestingly, higher risks of death occur for vasectomies and childbirth, and these are not required to be performed in a surgical suite.**

In order for President Obama to have the Affordable Healthcare Act passed by Congress, he had to negotiate with Republicans to leave out federal funding for abortions for Planned Parenthood. Women in the United States have also been held hostage by the Hyde Amendment. The Hyde Amendment, passed on September 30, 1976, is a ban on federal funding for abortion. From 1981 to 1993, an amendment was added that allowed federal funding for an abortion when the life of the mother would be in danger if the fetus were carried to term. The last amendment on October 22, 1993 was to add "except in cases of rape, incest, or threat to a woman's life." The Hyde Amendment



ARRA News Service

would restrict funds that are allocated by the Department of Health and Human Services. This means that women in poverty who receive Medicaid are the women who are affected. The 2016 Democratic platform and those Democrats left running for the nomination for President in 2020, all support a repeal of the Hyde Amendment.

The U. S. Supreme Court has held that states may constitutionally ban or restrict abortions after the point of fetal viability, except where necessary to preserve a woman's life or health. Viability is defined by the Supreme Court as the capacity for

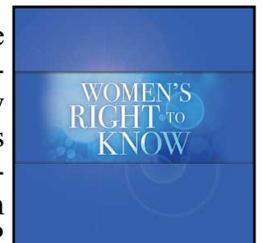
meaningful life outside the womb, albeit with artificial aid. The "physical health" is defined as when a woman suffers from a "substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function." Wow! Just imagine the worst case scenarios of those two definitions!

Many states have adopted oppressive laws. Alabama has the strictest law, passed in 2019, which is a near total ban on abortion. If a doctor performs the procedure, he/she faces felony charges, even in cases of rape and incest. At around six weeks of pregnancy, a fetus has a detectable pulsing sound that ends up becoming the fetal heartbeat. This happens sometimes before a woman knows she is pregnant. Georgia, Kentucky, and Ohio have passed "heartbeat laws."

Alaska, Colorado, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New Mexico, Oregon, Vermont, and the District of Columbia do not have laws restricting abortion. They recognize a woman's right to make a choice.

We can solve the problem by voting for a Democratic President and Democratic Senators and Representatives so they can:

- ◆ Repeal the Hyde amendment.
- ◆ Codify *Roe v Wade* into law. This would mean that the Supreme Court would have to overturn the federal law instead of eroding the interpretation of *Roe*.
- ◆ Repeal the gag rule. The global gag rule bars organizations that take aid money from the United States from providing or discussing abortion. This has been reinstated by every GOP President since Reagan. Pacatholic.org
Trump is responsible for the domestic gag rule, which bans any organization in the U. S. that receives federal family planning funds from referring to or providing patients an abortion. Although a Democratic President can accomplish this with an executive order, that order can be overturned without Congressional action by a succeeding Republican President. A law is better, which needs a Democratic Congress.
- ◆ Appoint only federal and U. S. Supreme Court justices who support *Roe v Wade*.

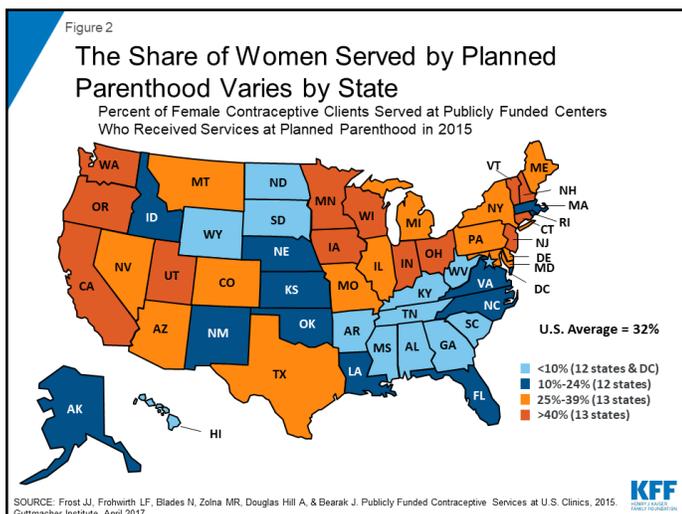


The United States should not be a place where only men have free choice with what they do with their bodies. We simply CAN'T return women to back alley abortions and the Dark Ages. It's time for moral leadership.

The Lie That Is the Obria Group

By Gary Burt

Because of Trump's gag rule, we've learned that Planned Parenthood and similar clinics will no



longer have access to Title X funds. What's even scarier and more dysfunctional, according to the People for the American Way, are the so-called clinics, such as the Obria Group, now receiving those funds.

Since 2014, the Obria Group, a California nonprofit affiliated with Obria Medical Clinics, has been masquerading as a healthcare group, but now has begun expanding its network of fake, anti-abortion centers to become a national chain. These Obria "health centers"—like thousands similar to them across the country—are created to confuse and manipulate pregnant women with the goal of preventing them from learning about or accessing abortion services. Not only do their clinics give false information about abortion, but they also REFUSE to provide evidence-based contraceptive choices to their patients including oral contraceptives, IUDs, or condoms—the very tools that help prevent unplanned, unwanted pregnancy and abortion.

Who's funding Obria? Currently, WE are! Title X is a crucial government program that since 1970 has helped four million low income Americans access hormonal birth control, family planning services, and reproductive healthcare. This year, the Trump Administration made extreme changes to the program, and this now allows Obria to qualify for federal "family planning" funding. In 2019 the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) awarded \$1.7 million to Obria in Title X funding and an additional \$1.7 million for each of the grant's subsequent two years.

These anti-abortion centers run by groups like Obria aim to replace Planned Parenthood clinics

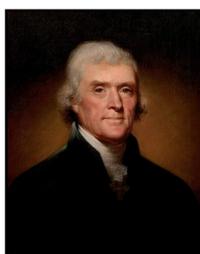
and leave millions of LGBTQ members, people of color, low-income, and rural Americans without access to reproductive healthcare. This is a deceptive and dangerous shift away from comprehensive medical and sexual healthcare—including birth control—and it will have a disproportionately devastating impact on poor women regardless of their color.

Anti-birth control, anti-abortion women's "health centers" should NEVER receive title X funding. No federal funding should go to groups that withhold information, lie, or promote completely bogus services like "abortion reversal."

The people who run the Obria Group have no interest in communication with others. What they want is to rule others. They are not a medical group; they are a religious group, hiding behind the façade of a medical group. The Obria clinic system is not a "pro-life" group; it's a "forced birther" group. What they intend to do is control people who happen to think, look, or act differently from what they do.

This religion-based conservative group is, in fact, xenophobic in nature. When conservatives in groups like this realize they cannot win democratically, they will not abandon conservatism. They will abandon democracy, which is what is happening here, thanks to Trump.

Thomas Jefferson wrote:



Religious institutions that use government power in support of themselves, and force their views on persons of other faiths, or of no faith, undermine ALL our civil rights. Moreover, state support of an established religion tends to make the clergy unresponsive to their own people, and leads to corruption within religion itself. Erecting the wall of separation between church and state, therefore, is absolutely essential in a free society.

Because the Obria Group is really a religious group, they have NO interest in being responsive to the real needs of the people they are supposed to be serving. Essentially the Obria clinic system is nothing more than a religious wolf in sheep's clothing, interested only in controlling those who are not like them. Those who run the group are fear-based personalities. On the surface, they will act like they are compassionate and loving, but that is only if you agree with their rules and demands.

Though human beings they may be, those in charge of the Obria Group are sad, pathetic excuses for human beings. As is the narcissistic, sociopathic male screwing up the country and making things like this possible.

At the Pearly Gates*

(Continued)

By David Bolstorff

You must be twins, St. Peter said to the next in line
And what are your names, if my asking of you would be fine
Because you look familiar, reminding me of someone I once knew
His name was Herod and he was mean through and through
My name is 'bully' one of the twins replied
My name is 'vindictive' said the other twin in a tone that wasn't sighed
Then St. Peter did say
I think two friends of yours will be here later on in the day
And if I remember correctly, 'manipulation' and 'deceit' are each one's name
Because usually it's 'the last two follow the first two game'
Trying to keep ahead of all the lies
So no one to each other can find any ties
Not the kind of attributes God wants in heaven to stay
So I will let Him know that you were hoping entrance just the same
And although I am not the judge I'm sure you will fit fine
In the other place reserved for those of that kind
Next!

And who are you, St. Peter said to the next in line
I'd rather not say was their response in kind
Because what I did in life I realize now was not so fine
As the planet and human race eventually will come to find
And what was that, St. Peter then did ask
I let greed capture my soul and become my earthly task
And the world became me and only me
What I wanted, and me only, you see
About no one else then did I really care
For me and mine was my only fare
And that greed led to the destroying of the world around
Until oil, pure water, clean air, forests, minerals, fish, and animals not to be found
I extracted every drop I could
From every resource that stood
Until there was nothing left for anyone else
And hardly anything left on anyone's shelf
And I know now that it was all in the name of me and greed
But that's not the story to the people I did feed.

Well, I'm not the judge, St. Peter did say, the Lord is that
And I don't presume to speak on His behalf
But I do know He felt very, very bad
To see His creation destroyed was for Him beyond very sad
With all the beauty and riches He gave to use
About which He also said never to abuse
Even though through Jesus you were told selfishness and greed are sin
Didn't you ever think that your children, grandchildren, and everyone's kin
Could someday need oil to live too
A tree to build a home from even a few
Clean air in their lungs
Pure water on their tongues
A park to explore
Good soil to grow more
Money is the root of all evil you were told
But instead for gain your soul was sold
And just look at what it has done
On the way to destroying almost all the riches and beauty beneath God's sun
So I don't know what God will say for that is up to Him
I do know that there is a place more beautiful and full than when the earth began
Maybe it is a place for only those who took care of the first one can enter in
But everything eventually is in God's hand

Well, Gabriel, I'm tired, St. Peter did say, and another day is done
Up here outside the gate of heaven's door beside God's sun
And it never seems to change, does it Gabriel, not for all, but for some
People ignoring and playing god in every which way
Until that is, their final day
When it is their turn to get in line for the gate
To come face to face with their eternal fate
Wishing then, why didn't I live my faith and life as one
Instead of all the selfish desires in my life, that instead were done
Hoping and praying that God will let them in
In spite of all their purposeful and un-repentant sin
When they chose to avoid the wrath of people
To face the wrath of God instead.
Good night, Gabriel, see you tomorrow.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—GET INVOLVED AND GET IT DONE!

Event

Date /Time

Location

DFL Headquarters Open (326-6296)
Itasca Progressive Caucus (259-4490)
DFL Central Committee
DFL Social Club & Lunch
DFL Pot Luck (Open to the Public)
Earth Circle
Itasca Working Families Alliance
GR Human Rights Commission
Circles of Support
Deadline for *Common Sense II*

Tues & Thurs 2-5 pm
3rd Tuesday 6:30 pm
4th Monday 6:30 pm
1st Wednesday Noon
3rd Wednesday 5:30 pm
3rd Saturday 2:00 pm
2nd Monday 6:30 pm
Last Wednesday 4:00 pm
Every Thursday 6:30 pm
October 4, 2019

DFL Headquarters
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DFL Headquarters
GR Public Library
Dutchroom
GR City Hall
811 NE 4th St.
conray@arvig.net