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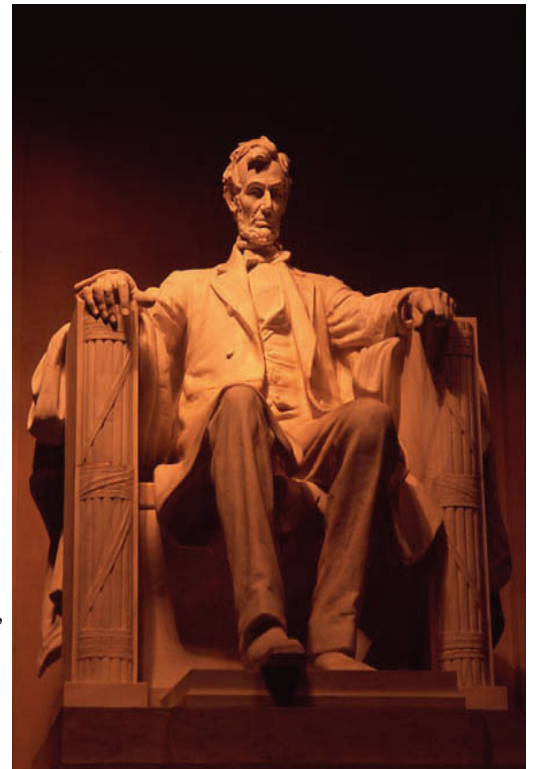
Free Enterprise Foundation Acknowledges:

- Alcoa for under writing the printing of this newsletter and the FEF luncheon materials.
- Baker Motor Company for the support of the FEF and it's Fellows and signing up as the first sponsor of the FEF 1st Annual Golf Tournament.
- All sponsors of the FEF luncheon.

A Word From The Founder... "Last Best Hope"

Writing to Congress near the end of 1862 in the depths of a bitter national struggle with the outcome seriously in doubt, Abraham Lincoln called the country to its rendezvous with destiny:

"Fellow citizens, *we* cannot escape history. We of this Congress and this administration will be remembered in spite of ourselves. No personal significance, or insignificance, can spare one or another of us. The fiery trial through which we pass, will light us down, in honor or dishonor, to the last generation. We *say* we are for the Union. The world will not forget that we *say* this. We know how to save the Union. The world knows we do know how to save it. We- even *we here*- hold the power, and bear the responsibility. In *giving* freedom to the *slave*, we *assure* freedom to the *free*- honorable alike in what we give, and what we preserve. We shall nobly save, or meanly lose, the last best hope of earth."



In starkly setting the stakes, in calling for the best in us all, Lincoln concisely stated what has from our founding made us different from the rest of the nations of the world. This new world accepted for itself, rising from the aspiration of its peoples the responsibility to always seek for the best that was in us, not just for ourselves but for the many nations from which we sprang.

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P.O. Box 21569 ~ CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA ~ 29413
(843) 953-4944 ~ www.FreeEnterprise.tv

The Free Enterprise Foundation is a Charleston based academic business institute that inspires and promotes responsible and ethical practices in the global economy





The First Annual Free Enterprise Foundation Award Luncheon

By Doug Wilkes

The Free Enterprise Foundation (FEF) hosted its First Annual Awards Banquet on March 1st of 2006 at The Citadel Holliday Alumni Center. The banquet began with the posting of our nation's colors by The Citadel Honor Guard, the Pledge of Allegiance, and an invocation from The Citadel's Regimental Religious Officer Cadet Kelly. Following opening remarks from FEF President and CEO Robert E. Freer, Jr., Mr. Mack I. Whittle, Jr. was awarded the Free Enterprise Foundation Award for Civic and Ethic Responsibility. Mr. Whittle received the award from two distinguished members of the Board of Directors of the Free Enterprise Foundation: Mr. Tommy Baker, President of Baker Motor Company and Mr. Bill Finn, CEO of AstenJohnson and Chairman of the Foundation.



Maj. Gen Livingston, Mr. & Mrs. Mack Whittle, and Mr. Bill Finn.

The Free Enterprise Award recognizes South Carolina business and civic program leaders who have a positive impact on their communities. Whittle currently serves as President and CEO of The South Financial Group as well as chairman and CEO of Carolina First Bank. He is a member of the Greenville Hospital System's Office of Philanthropy and Partnership Chairman's Council, a member of the SC Department of Education's task force to evaluate strengths and weaknesses in the public high school curriculum and a member of the USC Board of Trustees.

Following the award presentation, the Honorable Jeff Shane, U.S. Undersecretary of Transportation gave an enlightening speech on national transportation policy and the current issues surrounding our nation's ports and the United Arab Emirates. Shane was appointed by President Bush as Under Secretary of Transportation for Policy in March 2003 following his confirmation by the United States Senate. In this position, he supervises the Department of Transportation and serves as principal policy advisor to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. The full proceedings can be found on our website: www.FreeEnterprise.TV.

Closing remarks by Prof. Freer highlighted the day's events, gave a glimpse into the bright future of the Free Enterprise Foundation, and acknowledged our wonderful sponsors. The First Annual Free Enterprise Foundation Award Luncheon was a great success. FEF will hold its Second Annual Awards luncheon next year and offers this chance to our members and readers to nominate a candidate. Please email your nominations to Prof. Freer at robert.freer@citadel.edu.

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Psychotherapy for Aggressive Politicians

By: Dr. Leigh Thompson

This is the last of the articles left for us by Dr. Leigh Thompson and is offered in appreciation for his intellectual gifts and to his memory.

Animals conquer. They mark their territory and defend it. Herds have pecking orders. One goose leads the fight. The strongest eat first. It should be no surprise that humans engage in conflict, aggression, violence, and conquest. When we “civilize” aggression into “games” the urges still dominate - we laud the Super Bowl winner and the Heavyweight Champion.

We see such behavior in patients of all ages. Two year olds are struggling for power. Grade school kids fight in the yard. By high school there are gangs with lethal toys. In business we see power plays. In families we find destructive behavior. Most of the pain I've seen inflicted on patients came not from diseases or strangers, but from relatives.

One characteristic of such aggression is that the initial disagreement that triggered the conflict gets lost quickly in the rage to defeat, to punish, to conquer, to inflict pain. How many marriages founder on a rational problem only to degenerate into a bitter contest to see who can inflict the most damage, even at the cost of giving up the combatant's secure positions of value? Aggressors value an opponent's negative more than their own positives. In the hierarchy of human behaviors, rage trumps reason.

Our political life since the rage of the Civil War, that was as uncivil as any, has oscillated from decades of reason to decades of bitter partisan conflict. For more than a decade we have been slipping down the slippery slope of rage, with the “Blues” and “Reds” locked in combat. Damn reason, rage on. Who cares for our country, just score as many points as you can and leave as many wounded of the other color on the field. Perhaps it began with the “Borking” but the political knives have been sharpened ever since. Unlike football, there are no rules, no penalties, no referees, no penalties, and no ready replacements.

Jerome Frank, MD, the John Hopkins psychiatrist who founded group therapy, taught that you could understand that the apparently irrational behaviors of nations and political parties if you considered them to be grade school children fighting in the yard at recess. Caught up in the aggression, they suffer unnecessary wounds just to inflict damage on their opponents. The Cold War and Maximum Assured Destruction was such insanity. Can we, should we, endure four more years of red vs blue - a gouge here, a slice there, and damn the people with full contact politics?

As long as combatants are flinging accusations and pain at each other, it is hard to ferret out the actual problems and positions. So cease fire is the first order of business. That first step is often difficult. The combatants won't stop with each other. They argue about the seating at the table or the agenda to set the agenda for the agenda negotiation.



Meet our Management...

By Doug Wilkes

The last installment of meet our management...

Professor Robert Freer, Jr., also known as Robin, is the founder, along with Dr. Howard Rudd of the Free Enterprise Foundation. He is also its guiding light and CEO and handles all daily operations of the Foundation. Prof. Freer was astounded, as we all were, by the corporate scandals that rocked the United States market and economy at the turn of the century. The scandals of a few, led to the punishment of all large businesses. Now, most companies must comply with many new restrictions that have hindered the international competitiveness of this nation's companies. In a recent survey by NOP World, a well respected international marketing firm, CEOs received a 3% trustworthiness rating. Freer and the FEF would like to change these perceptions. Most companies across the country support non-profit organizations, require senior management to commit to community service, and promote ethics and values into their company's cultures.

Dr. Earl Walker has provided our readers with an insight into Prof. Freer and his background: "Robin Freer has a unique understanding of American capitalism and government. As a graduate of Princeton and the University of Virginia Law School, he has studied under the best minds in the world. In addition, he has enjoyed remarkable associations with the finest leaders the United States has produced, leaders such as Caspar Weinberger. As a Vice President and Corporate Counsel for Kimberly-Clark and co-founder of the Republican National Lawyers Association, Washington Episcopal School, and a number of other non-profits Professor Freer has developed a special understanding of organizational behavior. It is no surprise that Professor Freer is specially qualified to understand and comment upon the best that the United States has to offer."

In 2005 Professor Freer was named the first John S. Grinalds Leader in Residence at The Citadel School of Business Administration. Currently Professor Freer teaches Business Law and Ethics.

During his career, Professor Freer has served as a trial attorney for the FTC, assistant to two chairmen of that agency and later executive assistant to the general counsel of the United States Department of Transportation. When he left government he served on many boards of for-profit, not-for-profit and public corporations. Mr. Freer currently serves on several not-for profit boards. He also served as Commissioner of the President's Commission on White House Fellowship for eight years.

As an early leader in the field of responsible corporate governance, he was chairman of the ABA Corporate Governance Subcommittee of the Section of Business, Banking and Corporation Law from 1980 thru 1982 and is a frequent contributor of articles on the role of values in corporate management. Freer has passed the NASDAQ Series 65 examination and is a registered investment advisor.

A Word From The Founder....

“Last Best Hope”

Continued...

Call it arrogant, call it prideful;... I call it magnificent! Our best leaders have always been attuned to that spirit universal to the American saga. Our frontier pioneers did not feel they were merely felling trees. They knew to a certainty that they were felling the shackles of outdated premises regarding their relationship to the nation which they, with their sweat and their individual initiative, were creating. They were showing the world a better way to live. In seeking freedom for the individual human spirit, they were seeking to provide the model for nation states everywhere to relate to its citizens.

In America, the citizen possesses the ultimate power, not the state. The citizen is primarily responsible for his or her welfare and has ceded only so much power to the state as agreed in a free and fair process. While in some quarters it is greeted derisively, it also cannot be denied that as a nation we have tried to be that “... last best hope of earth”, to which Lincoln, in the depths of our national agony, called us.

As a nation we have often demonstrated that when called, we will be our brother’s keeper. We have met the competing “isms” of the 19th and 20th century and triumphed. We have armed the democracies in war and rebuilt the world in peace. We have given generously of our treasury in time of famine and catastrophe abroad. While individuals may have fallen short from time to time, as a nation we have lived Lincoln’s creed and for that we should be proud.

If you read or listen to the mainstream media and believe the angst they peddle, you would believe as a people we are divided. We are not. Deep in our soul we resonate Lincoln’s summons. For too many generations have we harkened to freedom’s call. There is seldom a straight line in any human endeavor but in our current struggle against messianic terrorism, we will endure; we will succeed because we must.

The Free Enterprise Foundation has been created as an independent nonpartisan institute dedicated to preserving and promoting those enterprises and practices that are consistently the best in our free market economy.

The Foundation, a tax exempt 501 (c) (3) organization, relies on donors to provide both critical financial support but also intellectual leadership to the Foundation in its discourse on policy and extending the institutes out reach into the education of the public on the vital role of free enterprise and setting the highest standards of ethics and civic responsibility through study, research, the funding of scholarship, publications, and awards.

Please help us not only with your _tax deductible donation_, but by forwarding names and addresses of those who would enjoy being added to our mailing list.



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Psychotherapy for Aggressive Politicians

Continued...

Then the forum must listen to all stakeholders without prejudice in a calm thoughtful attitude. That is difficult as the combatants are suspicious and begin to identify the real problems and positions. Consider Iraq. The insurgents say they just want the U.S. to leave. The U.S. wants to go. If this were the real issue, would they cooperate to effect that goal? Family therapists are skilled at listening if the combatants will take the time and make the effort to participate. Our politicians prefer to use televised sound-bites to inflict pain and that forum rarely allows a calm, reasoned exposition or debate.

We are at a critical point on our slippery slope toward more combative partisanship. The Reds could use their slim majorities to force through their initiatives pushing the Blues into increasingly hostile, and bitter defensive and obstructionistic positions. Some of the Reds positions may represent the ardent wishes of only a few of the Red supporters, now clamoring for a reward for their support. Clearly these positions need to be articulated and considered fairly, but should they prevail because of an extra vote or two? Representative government means that our representatives should fairly reflect all those for whom they are the spokesperson.

If Congress is too partisan to serve as a forum, major issue could be considered by groups chosen with these three characteristics.

First, they should be nonpartisan, lacking the zealots who have already staked out their positions, but composed of contributors known for their creativity, candor, flexibility, and statesmanship. They should be zealous Americans, not Reds and Blues. In the current season it is hard to identify anyone who is not aggressively partisan, and unwilling to consider other viewpoints. Have you tried to have a calm discussion on abortion, taxation, welfare, or healthcare?

Second, they should agree to secrecy until they are all ready to sign a joint accord. Winning minor skirmishes in the press is aggression not negotiation. Third, the task should be framed broadly, excluding no possible solutions but allowing a fair exploration of all alternatives.

Most “commissions” are created to bury or delay problems with reports that are tombstones in the garden of reason. It is certain that Red and Blue will disagree with many proposals, and so the process must be carefully designed and perfectly executed. The combatants should be equally unhappy with the outcome. If the conclusions are well reasoned, perhaps the people will support them with sufficient vigor to ensure that they are not discarded or distorted by our partisan leaders.

Grade school combatants usually grow up and many become flexible adults. Some divorces are amicable. Politics can be for all the people. We are not doomed to partisan combat. As citizens we can make our preferences for good processes known. We can contribute to statesmen, not polarizers. The next time you hear “news” that is obviously partisan, remember Jerome Frank and think of the newsletter as a second grade bully drawing a line in the sand at recess.

Thank you, Leigh for a lifetime of contributions, you will be missed.

-Ed.