

Freedom Talk

The Journal of Truth & Virtue

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Making America Whole Again



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An Inheritance That Will Neither Spoil Nor Fade

We must strive to preserve what God has given us for our children

KELLY WALKER
NOV 21, 2025 • PAID

There came a time when the colonists' countless appeals to the British Crown led nowhere. Patriots like John Hancock were wealthy, successful, and could easily have "played the game" indefinitely. But they reached a moral line they could no longer cross—a point where corruption, abuses of English Common Law, and violations of the Anglosphere's heritage of liberty made silence intolerable.

I find myself at a similar crossroads. Yes, I have the skills and ability to rebuild my life

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Kelly John Walker

As Editor-in-Chief, Kelly brings over two decades of professional experience to lead the FreedomTalk.



Madame Publius

Nom de plume of a regular contributor with excellent insights into our Founding Principles.



By Gregory Lyakhov

Gregory is one of the youngest nationally syndicated columnists in the US, covering politics, education, and public policy.



Geno Young

Geno is a 29-year-old Black conservative author from Chicago's South Side and former congressional candidate. Author of *Sex, Drugs, And Illiteracy: The Death of Education In America*, he uses firsthand experience to expose failures in education and advocate for greater accountability in America's classrooms.



Dr. Robert Renteria

Robert Renteria an internationally recognized author, U.S. Army veteran, and civic leader whose work inspires youth through education, leadership, and overcoming adversity.



Alden Sykora

Alden Sykora is a Catholic conservative writer and commentator from Long Island whose early interest in politics led her into advocacy, public discourse, and media. She is entering Hillsdale College as part of the Class of 2030.

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Making America Whole Again

By Kelly John Walker



Every Independence Day, my family re-watches Mel Gibson's *The Patriot*. The end of the movie is inspiring: Benjamin Martin returns home after the devastation of the Revolutionary War to find that friends and neighbors—black and white—are raising the timbers of his family's house together. The war has taken much from them, but it has not destroyed their capacity to hope, rebuild or stand beside one another.

It is a fitting picture for America today.

Our nation has been through similar devastation after years of demagogues, political opportunists and pushers of ideology have worked relentlessly to divide us—by race, class, religion, sex, geography and political affiliation. Their influence depends upon keeping us angry, suspicious and afraid of one another. Division has become both a political strategy and a profitable industry.

Yet the America portrayed by its loudest and most bitter voices is not the America most of us experience every day.

Most people in our neighborhoods and towns don't hate one another. We work together, worship together, coach one another's children, lend tools, share meals and stop to help when someone is in trouble. We may vote differently and disagree deeply, but disagreement does not have to become contempt. Politics has sown division into our culture, but it has not completely erased the deeper bonds of neighborliness, shared experience and common humanity.

Unfortunately, the loudest voices often set the tone. But it's time for more of us to refute their rhetoric with truth and love. We must reject the narrative that Americans are destined to remain hostile tribes fighting over the wreckage of a once-united country. It need not be so.

E pluribus unum: out of many, one. That founding vision challenges us to rebuild a single nation where we all can live, work and dream.

In this issue, we explore what that work demands. "Faith, Culture, and the West" considers how Christianity can engage other cultures without surrendering truth or succumbing to pride. Madame Publius challenges dangerous compromises with unconstitutional power. Dr. Robert Renteria calls Republicans to build genuine relationships across racial and cultural lines, while Geno Young warns conservatives against allowing racial contempt to undermine their purpose. Finally, Alden Sykora presents Justice Clarence Thomas as the "happy warrior"—steadfast in conviction without surrendering joy.

While our nation is fractured, I like to think she is not beyond repair, that we may yet become whole again through the principles upon which this "great experiment" was founded.

As the Revolutionary War drew to a close in 1783, George Washington issued a circular letter to the thirteen states—effectively his farewell prayer for the new nation:

"I now make it my earnest prayer, that God would have you, and the State over which you preside, in his holy protection; that he would incline the hearts of the Citizens...to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another...and finally, that he would most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind, which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without an humble imitation of whose example in these things, we can never hope to be a happy nation."



Faith, Culture, and the West

Why the lingering influence of the Gospel in ancient India matters

From 1990 to 1991, I taught young adult Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims, and Christians in Sri Lanka—just off the southern coast of India. Even then, the cultural controversy regarding the anglosphere's influence on the Indian subcontinent was unmistakable. In 2026, that tension has not disappeared; it has become more politicized, and far less informed.

Today's political battlefield has split into two reactionary errors: the Left's sneering parody of "Western imperialism," and the Right's sometimes careless assumption that Western Christianity is superior to all others. Both approaches strip down history into slogans; both miss what God may be doing on a global and historic scale.

The Left's error: vilifying Western Culture

Much of the modern progressive critique decries what it sees as centuries of western political, ethnic, and colonial hegemony, as if the West brought nothing of value to the East. That just simply isn't true.

But ignorance isn't confined to the Left. Many conservatives who reject anti-white identity politics still fall into a mirror-image error: assuming that *Western* Christianity is alone the conduit for God's redeeming love, leading to salvation. That's not just theologically sloppy—it's historically false.

India's Surprising Christian Roots

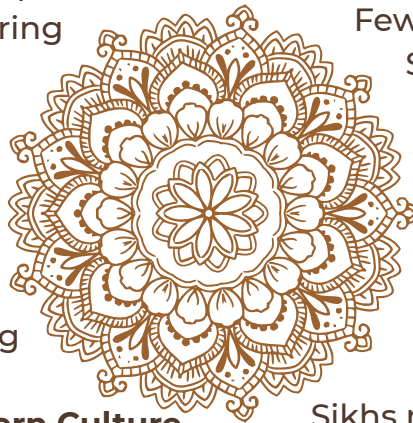
Some reforms introduced to India by the British were objectively constructive. The outlawing of *sati* (the burning of widows) in 1829 ^[1], and the eventual legal dismantling of the caste system ^[2], were necessary and humane. But those advances accompany the richness of India's own spiritual and philosophical heritage.

Few Americans know, for example, that Sikhism, the faith of Assistant Attorney General, Harmeet Dhillon, is unapologetically monotheistic, affirming one eternal, formless God ^[3]. Even *Diwali*, commonly assumed to be a polytheistic celebration, has radically different meanings across Indian traditions.

Sikhs mark it as a celebration of liberation from tyranny, just as Jews celebrate the Maccabean victory during Hanukkah ^[4].

The Gospel likely reached India more than 1,900 years before the British did. Ancient Christian communities in Kerala trace their roots to Thomas the Apostle's arrival in 52 A.D. ^[5]—a tradition supported by archaeology, liturgy, and writings from the early Church.

India has never been a spiritual blank slate waiting for the West to enlighten it; God has been working in India for 2,000 years—just not in ways that our culture fully understands.



(Author's note: Notice here that I'm discussing the development of relationships with Christ among cultures, not claiming all religions are equal—a view I find nonsensical. There may be many paths, but there is only one Door.)



Thomas the Apostle preaching to an Indian ruler. Ancient Christian tradition holds that Thomas carried the Gospel to India in A.D. 52—nearly two millennia ago.

When Christians behave like Pharisees

If some on the Left are guilty of cultural self-loathing, some on the Right risk the opposite: a triumphalism that confuses Western culture with the Gospel itself. It is entirely possible to stand against globalist Marxism while still recognizing that God is not a cultural nationalist—and has never confined Himself to Europe or America. Since Jesus walked the earth, His Spirit has been at work in quiet corners of the world.

The same God who walked the Hebrews out of polytheism and toward Covenant has been working in Asia for millennia, meeting people at the level of spiritual development they were ready to receive—just as Paul did in Athens (Acts 17). And while Christ is the door to the Father, He may be calling people from other cultures in ways we cannot fully understand.

Acts 15 makes the point unmistakably. When the early Church confronted the question of Gentile converts, the apostles refused to make them adopt the full Mosaic law or become culturally Jewish.

They required only that believers abstain from idolatry, sexual immorality, meat from strangled animals, and blood (Acts 15:19–20, 28–29). Salvation came through the grace of Jesus Christ—not cultural conformity (Acts 15:10–11). The Gospel could enter a culture, purify what was sinful, and redeem what was good without erasing the people themselves.

If Christians today refuse to see this, we risk becoming modern Pharisees: defending the Kingdom while missing the King.

Avoiding the false choice

Yes, the Left's anti-white, anti-Western identity politics are destructive. But the answer is not the equal and opposite error of pretending that God only speaks English, quotes Augustine, and votes Republican. God wills that all people be saved (1 Timothy 2:4). The question is whether we will cooperate with that mission—or get in the way of it.

A Christianity that scorns other cultures is not defending truth. It is defending pride. And pride—the oldest sin—is not a virtue western Christianity should embrace.

[1] British Governor-General William Bentinck outlawed sati in 1829. [2] Indian Constitution, Articles 15 & 17 (1949)—abolition of caste discrimination. [3] Sikhism: Mul Mantar, Guru Granth Sahib, opening verse. [4] Sikh Diwali=Bandi Chhor Divas; Jewish Hanukkah= liberation from Seleucid oppression. [5] Indian Christian tradition of St. Thomas; referenced in Acts of Thomas, Eusebius, Church history.

Taking The Fifth on America's Stockholm Syndrome 🗣️

Madame Publius

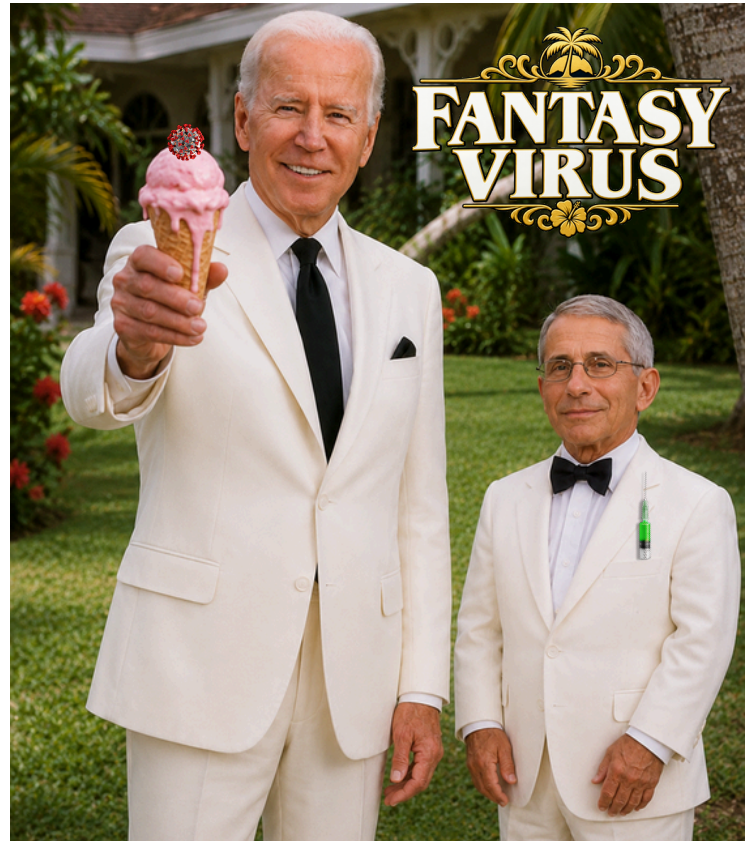
During his recent Senate hearing, Dr. Anthony Fauci invoked, more than one hundred times, what he termed to be his rights under the 5th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Unfortunately, few people have highlighted the blatant contradictions to those claims. Worse still is the fact that there has been no uprising from a constitutionally anaesthetized public against such tyrannical actors as Fauci.

Politicians, judges, and bureaucrats habitually ignore the express language of our U.S. Constitution, only to cling to the specifics of the 5th Amendment, when their own personal safety is at risk. One of the more obvious contradictions lies in the fact that these same bad actors will simultaneously refuse to recognize or protect the basic rights of American citizens. This inconsistency becomes even more of a problem because now we have members of the Democrat party, who identify as Democratic Socialists, calling for the complete abolition of our Constitution.

Yet, we continue to pay our taxes, vote in their unconstitutional democratic elections, and pledge our allegiance to the corrupt political party establishment that provides life support to these tyrants. We tell ourselves that we must be tolerant of every kind of political philosophy because that's the American thing to do, in spite of the fact that our U.S. Constitution strictly forbids any other form of government except a "Republican Form of Government."^[1] Allowing for the complete destruction of our constitutional way of life in this way can only be described as Stockholm Syndrome. Like Fauci, we refuse to discuss our condition as it will incriminate us for declining to fight for the "Republican Form of Government" given to us by the Framers.

As undeniable victims to their tyranny, it's obvious that we've clearly developed unwarranted sympathies toward our captors. Otherwise, without a doubt, we would have watered the Tree of Liberty with its "natural manure" long ago.

We've clearly forgotten that the Founders revolted and went into full blown war when their tyrannical overlords simply levied the first direct tax on the Colonists.



Our symptoms become even more apparent when one realizes that even the very suggestion that we behave as our forebearers makes most of us run for cover. Others display their indignant looks at the mere mention that we must exercise what the Declaration of Independence argues to be our "duty to throw off such Government." Like hostages behave towards their abusers, we sit politely in our corners only to venture out every election cycle to affirm our continued support of their tyranny even though our Constitutional Republic was never designed to operate as a democracy. In true fashion as Stockholm Syndrome sufferers, we also reject and oppose those who try to save us from the tyranny that emanates from the democracy deception.

If Fauci's recent Senate hearing proved anything, it's that the ruling class still believe that we are and will always be their constitutionally illiterate taxpaying slaves. Why else would Fauci claim protections for his rights under our Constitution, while he and the rest of the political class so readily deny us our God-given rights as was so readily apparent during the COVID madness and the weaponization of government against parents attending their local school board meetings?

Besides, our Constitution does not even grant power to Congress nor the President to regulate any matters of our personal health or education let alone empower government to impose lockdowns or vaccine mandates. Those agencies are unconstitutional, and their restrictions had no basis whatsoever in our Constitution. Yet, we, for the most part, took the abuse and complied all too willingly and ignored the victims of their tyranny.

Madison, aka the Father of our Constitution being its chief architect, explained that the powers of the national government are “few and defined” and confined mainly to “war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce.”^[1] The 10th Amendment affirms this fact as it clearly iterates that the “powers not delegated to the United States...are reserved tothe people.” In other words, if the power is not written down in our Constitution for government to wield, then, it is NOT there.

Yet, just a few days ago, our coping mechanisms became manifest once again as we acquiesced to Fauci’s claim to his rights guaranteed under the Fifth Amendment of our U.S. Constitution for his protection. Although he and the rest of the political class refuse to recognize our 10th Amendment protections against an ever increasing, centralized government that now regulates every aspect of our lives without any constitutional authority whatsoever.

Unless we come to terms with our “duty” as clearly laid out in the Declaration of Independence, judges and politicians will continue to ignore our unequivocal God-given rights such as those expressed in the 2nd Amendment and elsewhere in our Constitution. Presidents will continue to ignore the express language of our Constitution that only gives power to the Congress “to declare war”^[2] and will continue to wage war on his own cognizance.

Judges will continue to make law from the bench in clear violation of their constitutional powers much like they did in *Roe v. Wade* and in so many other decisions. The Executive Branch will continue to violate the “sacred maxim of free government”^[3] also known as the principle of Separation of Powers through their administrative courts and lawmaking bodies.^[4] whole.

Without this sacred principle, Madison explained, it “may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny,”^[5] because one branch of government is exercising all three powers of government.

The DOJ will continue to weaponize government against American citizens and continue to refuse to redress that weaponization in any meaningful way so that their victims might be made

Congress will continue to pass laws that regulate anything and everything without any constitutional authority. Congress will also continue to authorize worthless paper money in clear violation of our Constitution until our economy implodes like a financial nuclear bomb.

In truth, most of us have become willing victims to their abuse, which in turn has facilitated the destruction of our Constitutional Republic. We allowed the most important Republican Institution, also known as the U.S. Senate,^[1] to become anti-Republican through its democratization. This change and our unconstitutional democratic elections for President have destroyed the “double security”^[2] that was created by the Framers to keep control of the national government in the hands of the states or the people. Those two changes placed the power of control into the hands of the corrupt political parties. The oligarchy that controls the political party structure has been working diligently to destroy our Constitutional Republic clandestinely for a long time until some are now openly advocating for the overthrow of our Constitution with their democratic socialism in clear violation of the Guaranty Clause of Article IV.

Our Constitution, Madison attests, was directed “through the finger of that Almighty hand”^[3] and, as such, it needs no apologies since it has born enough righteous fruit to validate Madison’s attestation. The U.S. Constitution has been the means of fostering more freedom and liberty throughout the world than any other political document in history, which is why the tyrants oppose it and want to destroy it completely.

To ignore our God-given Constitution along with the imperative need to restore it in order to pursue other methods of change will only hasten our demise. We cannot make our country whole again until we first restore our God-given Constitutional Republican Form of Government.^[4]

[1] U.S. CONST. ART. IV, §4 [2] The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 45, ¶6 [3] U.S. CONST., ART. I, § 8, cl. 11. [4] Madison, The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 47, ¶21 [5] Otherwise known as federal regulations [6] Madison, The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 47, ¶13 [7] Madison, The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 63, ¶10 [8] Madison, The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 51, ¶19 [9] Madison, The Federalist Papers, Ltr. 37, ¶14 [10] U.S. CONST., ART. IV, § 4.



one PEOPLE, one Party

Dr. Robert Renteria



Let me share my perspective—and the viewpoints of many others—on why we Republicans are not resonating with the general public or with people of different ethnicities. This is a major reason we are losing political races year after year.

I have lived in Illinois for more than 35 years. The Republican Party here, as well as in several other states, has a terrible brand. We must recognize what caused this self-inflicted wound and determine what it will take to heal it.

I have a saying: “IF WE BREAK BREAD, WE GO RED!”

First, we must stop saying we are the party of and for the people when some perceive us as the party of and for white people. Yes, I said it—and as painful as it sounds, we have a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to turn things around.

Illinois and other states are looking for real leaders who do more than talk the talk—leaders who walk the walk and lead.

The Republican Party is not sufficiently missional or relational. Too many Republicans remain inside their own sandbox, which has become a comfortable but shortsighted place for some in the party. Over the past three years, I have taken a close and personal look at our lack of genuine, reciprocal relationships with minority communities.

Here in Illinois, Republican candidates and officeholders often repeat a stale script: “I am a Christian conservative, married with children, and I own my own business. I am going to save Illinois and fight for you. Can I count on your vote—and can you donate to my campaign?”

The answer is no. I have never seen you. I don’t know you. My family doesn’t know you, and nobody in my community has seen you before.

We must water the flowers, or our party will wilt and die. We are not nurturing relationships with voters in our communities. No holding hands, no flowers, no candy, no dinners or movies—so why would anyone want to vote for us?

We must move from making promises about what we will do on day one to doing the work and serving our communities now—win, lose or draw.

The Republican Party must take the necessary steps to embrace and become woven into the wonderful fabric of Hispanic and Black American communities. We are hardworking people; we love our children and families, pay taxes and adore our God immensely. Many are more conservative than some self-proclaimed Republican purists.

Republicans must do more than say we love tacos and margaritas. That is tacky and tasteless. If we are truly Christian conservatives, we must take a chapter from the Good Book, follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ and love all God’s people.

We must look in the mirror and be honest. The time has come to accept that we are often perceived not as an inclusive party, but as an exclusive one. It is time to turn the page and begin a new chapter—to learn how to love one another. We can no longer be only the party of country-club or champagne Republicans. We must become a Republican Party of all the people. We must come together regardless of age, race, religion or economic background—as members of one human race and one nation under God.

The Republican Party will not win more local or statewide races in Illinois and many other states if we do not wake up and recognize that we are now the minority in many political districts.

We must invest in relationships and become genuinely involved in our communities. We must be authentic, sincere, compassionate and caring. Unfortunately, the Republican Party's reputation among many residents is that we are snobbish, disingenuous and even tolerant of bigots and racists. Those are not simply my words; they are opinions I have heard from residents across the state and country. Countless people have told me that Republicans care only about money, votes and being seen.

I know Republicans who walk in parade after parade, year after year. That is not necessarily building relationships. Too often, it is merely being seen, and taking selfies for social media.

When I asked Republican leaders why there are not more minorities in the party, one answer I received was, "We don't travel in the same social circles."

That is precisely the problem.

If you are a Republican tired of losing political races, I invite you to have an open and honest conversation with me. Let's sit down and break bread together. Let's discuss how we can change the narrative surrounding the Republican Party by building community, developing relationships, being transparent, loving our neighbors and living as disciples of Christ.

I am a servant leader, not a professional politician. I care about people over politics. The public increasingly views politics like dirty diapers: both sides are full of something unpleasant. People believe politicians are disingenuous and dishonest.

I challenge those who truly want to unite people and build a Republican Party that is genuinely of and for the people to reach out to me. Some readers may find this conversation difficult to swallow, but it is time to address the elephant in the room.

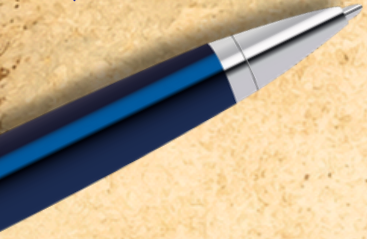
For far too many years, the Republican Party has buried its head in the sand and ignored this issue. It is time to lift our heads, face the truth and begin building relationships with all the people we hope to represent.



Contact Dr. Renteria for speaking engagements, pricing and availability.
Email: robert@fromthebarrio.net Direct: 312-933-5619 Google: Robert Renteria

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Welcome to our new special section of FreedomTalk, highlighting American makers and manufacturers. These companies embody the Spirit that conquered the last great frontier. We want our readers to make it a point to get to know these brands and support their work.

Each month, we will feature stories of American businesses that promote the values we cherish.

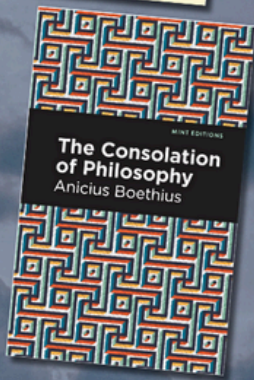
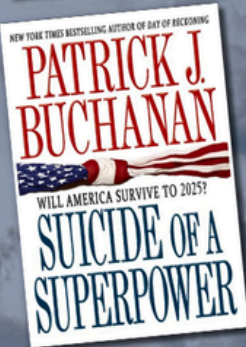
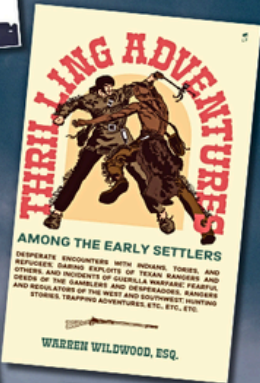
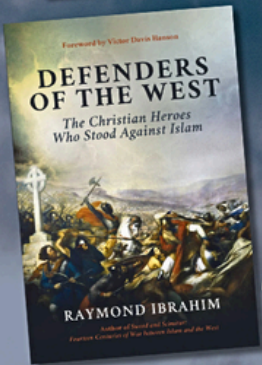
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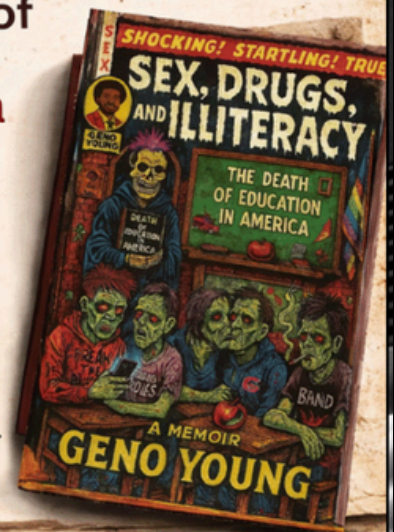
SEX, DRUGS, AND ILLITERACY:

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A BLACK MAN'S WARNING TO CONSERVATIVES 🔊

By Geno Young

If conservatives are serious about reclaiming America's largest blue cities, they must first confront an uncomfortable truth:

We cannot win them back without winning back more Black Americans.

That isn't identity politics. It's arithmetic. For decades, conservatives have correctly argued that the Left has trapped millions of Black Americans in a cycle of dependency, failing schools, broken families, and declining neighborhoods, while promising hope every election cycle. But if our goal is genuinely to persuade rather than merely to complain, then we must ask ourselves an equally difficult question: **Why are we making it harder for people to join us?**

I grew up on the South Side of Chicago. Race wasn't the defining conversation of my childhood. We certainly knew racism existed, but it wasn't the lens through which every disagreement was viewed. Increasingly, however, politics became organized around race, grievance, and competing identities. By 2016, Americans broadly believed race relations had deteriorated, with only 19% saying they were improving while nearly twice as many believed they were getting worse. A majority also said America should focus on what different groups

have in common rather than what divides them. It's safe to say that our First Black President did more to divide this nation than bring it together. Before he was even inaugurated, Michelle Obama stated that only after seeing the rise of her husband, did she feel "Proud" of America "For the first time." The Obama Administration pioneered an era of DEI, a hyper-focus on identity politics, equating sexual orientations/alternative lifestyle choices with the plight of Black Americans, appropriating the language of the Black Civil Rights Movement to further LGBTQ causes, and a cynical view of America as the root of the world's problems. Barack Obama ushered in an eight year long apology tour, while extorting foreign allies with (what we now call) DEI quota requirements in exchange for resources. Yes, Obama did that.

That should have been a warning. Instead of moving toward Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of judging people by the content of their character, our politics drifted toward dividing Americans into categories of oppressors and oppressed. The result has been greater suspicion, greater resentment, and greater tribalism. Conservatives rightly criticize that worldview. But we must be equally willing to criticize it when it begins creeping into our own movement.





In recent years, I've watched a troubling trend emerge among some corners of conservative media. Terms like "13 percenters," "Black fatigue," or "It's always them" have become casual talking points, often earning applause online. Here's the problem, those phrases don't distinguish between the gang member destroying neighborhoods, and the Black husband working sixty hours a week to provide for his family. They don't distinguish between the father coaching Little League and the criminal looting a convenience store. They don't distinguish between the entrepreneur opening a business and the activist burning one down. Instead, they paint nearly twenty percent of the conservative coalition we should be building with one broad brush—using coded "Soft Bigotry" as a way to soften extremely ugly remarks.

That isn't conservatism. It's racism. And it's politically self-defeating.

Perhaps even more concerning is the rise of a new class of Black conservative influencers whose entire brand revolves around criticizing the Black community as a whole. Some have discovered that outrage is profitable. The more inflammatory the rhetoric, the larger the audience becomes. In chasing clicks and followers, they often mirror the language of the very online fringe that has never wanted Black conservatives—or, in some cases, Black Americans at all—to have a meaningful place within the movement. That should concern every conservative.

When fringe voices become louder than principled ones, they don't strengthen a movement, they shrink it. Every viral insult aimed indiscriminately at Black Americans makes it easier for Democrats to argue that conservatism has no place for people who look like me. That is a gift we should stop handing them.

President Donald Trump demonstrated that Republican gains among Black voters are possible. He didn't win a majority, but he made measurable improvements over previous Republican performances by emphasizing economic opportunity, entrepreneurship, criminal

justice reform, school choice, and patriotism rather than racial grievance.

Those gains showed that shared values can matter more than shared identity when people are invited into a movement instead of pushed away. The Trump 2024 Coalition was unstoppable. Anyone trying to convince you to sit out the midterms, that your vote doesn't matter, or that the military actions of this president is grounds to just roll over and cede control of this Republic to an unscrupulous band of America-Hating Communists parading under the euphemistic facade of "Socialism" is NOT (nor EVER was) a Conservative! (Here's looking at YOU — Mr. Fuentes, Mr. Carlson, Ms. Owens, Ms. Kelly, and Mr. Hodge 1 and 2...)

President Trump's gains are not guaranteed to continue. Coalitions require cultivation. The conservative movement should be the home of every American who believes in faith, family, hard work, safe neighborhoods, educational excellence, equal justice, personal responsibility and the dignity of earning success. Those values transcend race. But if we allow online tribalism to replace persuasion, we risk becoming exactly what we've spent years criticizing.

As we approach another critical election cycle, conservatives must draw a line in the sand—not against fellow Americans of different backgrounds, but against the voices inside our own coalition that profit from division. The Left cannot unite America by sorting us into competing racial categories. Neither can the Right.

The future of conservatism depends on something better: speaking truth without contempt, defending principles without prejudice, and remembering that the goal was never to win an argument on social media. The goal was always to save a republic. That work begins by remembering a timeless truth: Americans are strongest when we appeal not to the color of one another's skin, but to the character of one another's convictions.

Clarence Thomas, The Happy Warrior

By Alden Sykora



40th president of the United States Ronald Reagan's legacy is marked by many feats of history, from his victory over the Soviet Union, to his landslide reelection in 1984. It seems everyone from Thomas Massie to Donald Trump, praises the Great Communicator's lasting impact and memory as the steward of the resurgent right and master of a rhetoric that united the nation. America widely knew Reagan for his way with words, nicknaming him the "Great Communicator."

I plan every piece I write in a blue, five-subject, Five Star spiral notebook, its plastic cover adorned with free stickers I got from the Young America's Foundation (YAF) event I went to last July. My favorite Reaganism happens to be on one of those stickers on my notebook, which features a (partially edited) picture of Mr. Reagan holding a sign above his head that says "BE A HAPPY WARRIOR."

Much like President Trump and the "Make America Great Again" moniker, Reagan didn't create the saying, and he was not the first man to own the nickname. In 1807, English poet William Wordsworth created the phrase in the aptly titled poem *The Character of the Happy Warrior*. FDR used it later to describe Presidential nominee Al Smith at the 1924 Democratic National Convention. Though he neither created it, nor was the last person to use it, I believe there is a reason that the phrase belongs to the legacy of Ronald Reagan: his illustrious attitude coupled with his ideological gravitas made the Gipper the best example of a truly happy warrior.

Today, there are few political leaders I consider to be happy warriors, however my list grew by one person a few weeks ago, when, on June 29th, a clip of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas went viral across social media platforms. Walking through the halls of the Capitol the day before the Supreme Court released a plethora of highly anticipated decisions, Thomas laughed with his security detail as MSNOW congressional reporter Mychael Schnell bombarded him with questions typical of any legacy media reporter.

"Justice Thomas... Who are you meeting with this afternoon?"

"Oh, nobody!" Thomas laughs.

"So what are you doing up here?"

"Oh, just walking!" Smiles.

"No meetings in particular?"

Again, laughing, "None that I want to tell you about!"

"Do you want to give us a sneak peek of some of the decisions?"

"Uh, nope!"

The childlike grin on Thomas' face is enough to make me laugh every time I watch it.

I've watched (probably) hundreds of videos of congressional reporters chasing big names around the halls of the capitol to berate them with gotcha questions and statements meant to redden faces, so it wasn't the questions that I was interested in, but Thomas' unencumbered response that amuses me. If you haven't seen the video, I highly recommend watching it, because if I must choose one moment in recent history to exemplify the character of the happy warrior, it would be Clarence Thomas sauntering through the halls of the US Capitol on June 29th, 2026.

Thomas is certainly one of the more popular sitting justices among Conservatives but his history is not as well known among his fanbase.

*"He labours good on good to fix, and owes
To virtue every triumph that he knows..."*

-William Wordsworth, *The Character of the Happy Warrior*

Thomas, born in 1948, grew up in a poor, Gullah-speaking neighborhood of Savannah, Georgia. He set his sights only on becoming an ordained Catholic priest, but became disillusioned by the discrimination and racism that the Church tolerated. Later, Thomas went to Yale Law School in 1971, working for the Office of Missouri Attorney General (and eventual U.S. Senator) John Danforth upon his graduation. In 1981, Reagan himself beckoned Thomas to be the Assistant Secretary for the Civil Rights in the Department of Education before leading the EEOC just one year after. Finally, for the capstone of his career's rapid succession, President George H.W. Bush nominated Thomas in 1990 to fill the seat of the late Justice Thurgood Marshall who pioneered the way as the first black Supreme Court Justice. The Senate proceedings began shortly after for the (widely considered) less-than-qualified Thomas.

*...if he rise to station of command,
Rises by open means; and there will stand
On honourable terms, or else retire,
And in himself possess his own desire"*

Being a happy warrior requires one to balance buoyancy and gravity, hope and reality. Thomas' confirmation is among the most well-known in American history, as it was the first in which inconclusive allegations of decade-old sex scandals plagued the nominee's reputation. Americans predicted this would be the downfall of Bush's 43-year-old nominee. The happy warrior, however, had a different philosophy of mind.

*"But who, if he be called upon to face
Some awful moment to which Heaven has joined
Great issues, good or bad for human kind,
Is happy as a Lover; and attired
With sudden brightness, like a Man inspired;
And, through the heat of conflict, keeps the law
In calmness made, and sees what he foresaw"*

Famously, on October 11th, 1991, Thomas made his remarks concerning Hill's allegations:

"The Supreme Court is not worth it. No job is worth it. I am not here for that. I am here for my name, my family, my life, and my integrity... And from my standpoint as a black American, as far as I'm concerned, it is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks who in any way deign to think for themselves, to do for themselves, to have different ideas..."

Those who withstand attacks from the Left still repeat Thomas' words as a display of their resolve. The words themselves are masterfully assembled, but the manner in which he delivered them was what, I believe, led him to cross the finishing line by the narrowest margin in about 100 years.

Today, happiness is synonymous with the presence of perpetual pleasure and a shield from the gravity of the fallen world when, in fact, it is the exact opposite. True happiness hurts. It requires pain to cultivate and strength to maintain. It does not entertain, but sustains. True happiness yields virtue, which educates the righteous man on when he must joke and when he must work.

After 35 years, walking airily through the Capitol, humorously disregarding the jabs of the elitist media class, Thomas is no less a happy warrior.

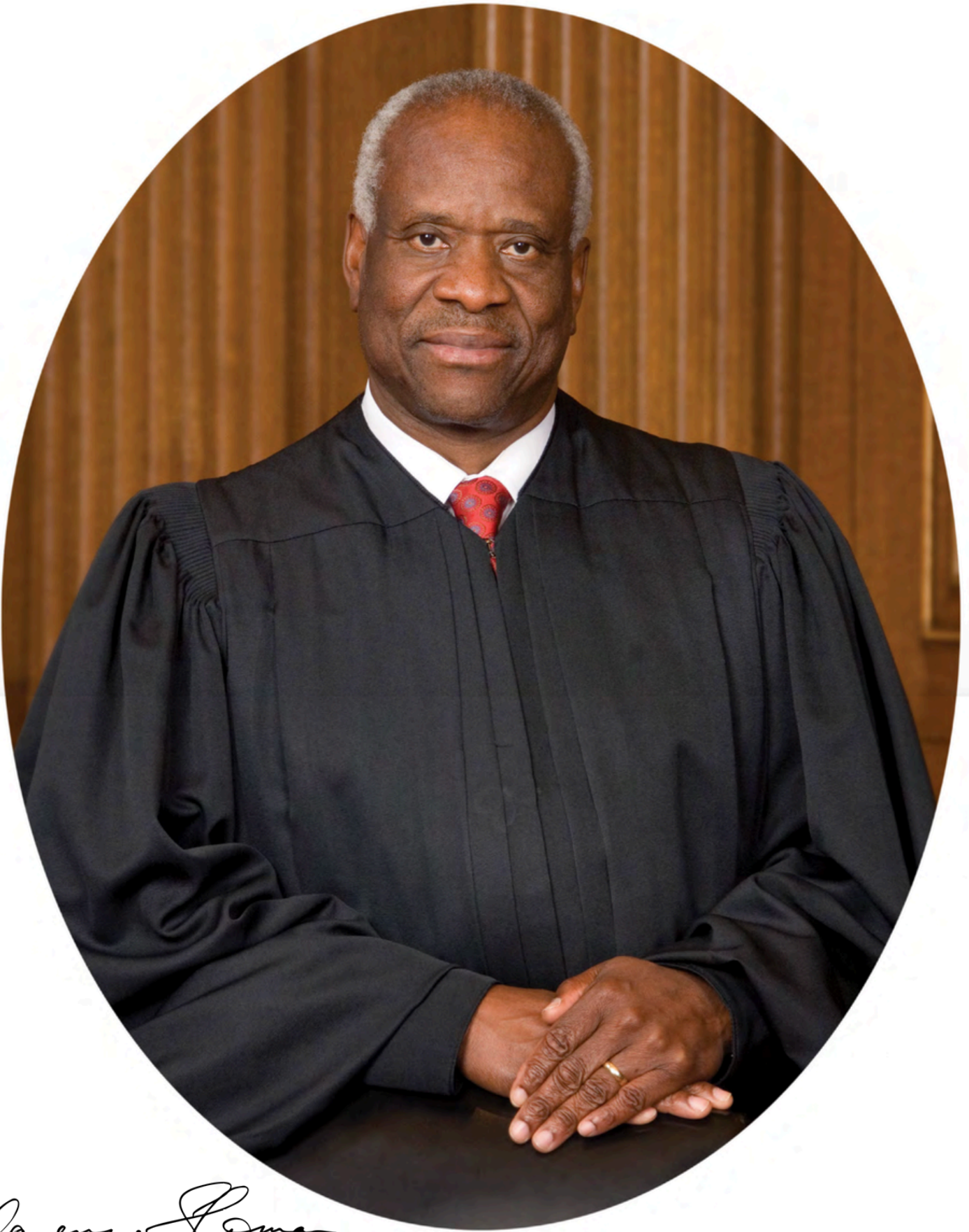
What looked to be a funny exchange between reporter and a justice, I came to learn, had a deeper layer. The next day, the public, unsurprised, would find that Thomas had continued his legacy of staunch textualism and classical American judicial philosophy. Men who merely lead movements often use one of two methods: composing philosophical indictments on popular beliefs or adopting a humorous emotive appeal. The man who wins battles is one who cultivates both, carrying the burden of a nation on his back with a smile on his face, withstanding scrutiny with unrelenting grace.

I believe Clarence Thomas is an overlooked figure in the fight for the nation. Too often, we criticize our own movement for playing into the Left's attack on common sense, waiting to argue against transgenderism only after we find studies that "back up" our claims, and refusing to "stoop down" to their level of attack in the name of our sacred "principles." I have written before about the necessity of pragmatism in politics and the uselessness of impractical principles. Justice Thomas is an unwavering example of what it looks like to play what Wordsworth calls "the many games of life." With no lust for fame or acceptance, he silently puts his head down and writes philosophical dissertations that shape the country, yet laughs through the halls of Congress, offering what some may view as less-than-professional responses to a reporter only days later.

This is the balance of the happy warrior: the balance that Reagan struck with his witty jokes and erudition that people still quote from memory today. This is the balance that we must keep today to triumph over those who seek to further dismember our national thesis and shared identity. Judicial dissertations will not save the country without iconic charisma, but personality will not change the country unless it has the philosophical teeth to back it up. We, as a movement, must master both, filling the social media algorithms and law schools with faithful men who wish to align their talents with what is important.

We all, like Clarence Thomas, must pursue the character of the happy warrior, for it is a happy army that will win in the end.

**On the next page, you'll find a mini-poster we published in the June, 2022 issue of
FreedomTalk. Feel free to print and enjoy having a true American hero around!**



Clarence Thomas

Clarence Thomas

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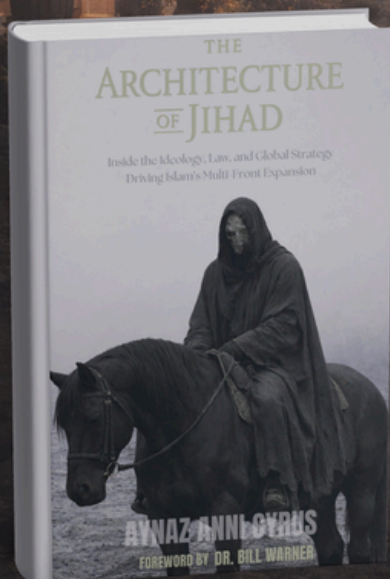


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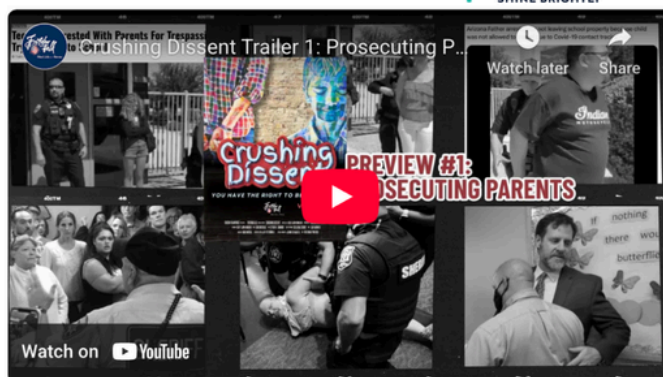
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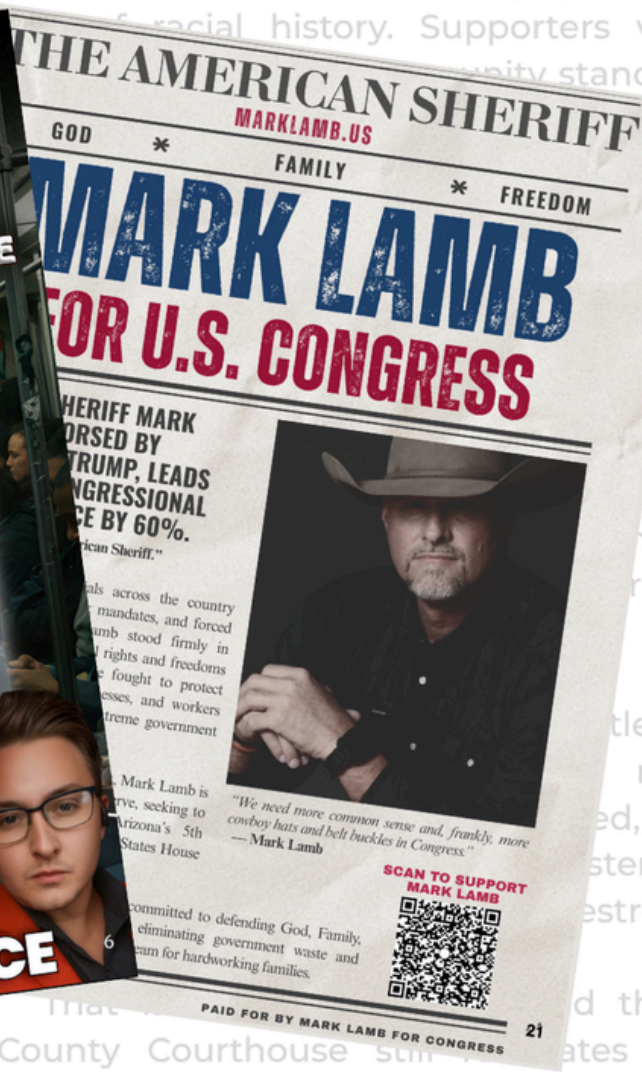


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