

May 30, 2013

**MEMRI (Middle East Media Research Institute)** reports on a Saudi pundit's assessment of Dear Follower.

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**John Podhoretz** has a column on the Attorney General Placeholder's remorse about his policies. We'll have more next week on Holder who finally is circling the drain. We first heard of him when he couldn't find anything wrong with Clinton's pardon of Marc Rich early in 2001.

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*Yes, that's what he told the Daily Beast, which did him the inestimable favor of not crumpling to the ground in hysterical peals of laughter.*

*For one thing, the story about the Rosen subpoena was released on the Post's Web site the day before. To believe the tale about Holder and the breakfast table, you have to believe no one told him about it on that Sunday.*

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*The Justice Department knew it was breaking new ground with its action in the Rosen case, and you don't forget it when you do something unprecedented.*

*But Holder isn't breaking new ground with his denials here. He's merely following his boss's fascinating habit of acting as though policies for which he is responsible have nothing to do with him. ...*

A treat today is a piece from [American.com](http://American.com) on Eric Hoffer; Longshoreman Philosopher.

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his newspaper column, but the San Francisco Chronicle retained a curious and lifelong animosity toward its homegrown author.

Hoffer went on to write nine more books, all of them short. ...

**Andrew Malcolm** tops off our week with late night humor.

**Fallon:** At a recent fundraiser Obama noted a shortage of common sense in Washington. Then, the people who had just paid \$5,000 per plate applauded.

**Leno:** Not looking good for President Obama with all these scandals. Today, his teleprompter took the Fifth.

**Conan:** A new report says someone close to Obama knew about the IRS scandal and kept his mouth shut. In other words, we can rule out Joe Biden.

**Letterman:** President Obama says, "Sorry, I've been out of the loop." VP Joe Biden says, "Wait a minute. I'm supposed to be the one out of the loop."

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## **The Middle East Media Research Institute**

### **[Op-Ed In London Daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat Attacks Obama: The Weakest President In The History Of The U.S.](#)**

In his May 21, 2013 column, Mashari Al-Zaydi, columnist for the London-based Saudi daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, harshly criticized President Barack Obama and his foreign policy, particularly as it relates to the crisis in Syria.

Al-Zaydi wrote that Obama's handling of the Syrian crisis had proven his failure as president, showing him as completely lacking in leadership ability, hesitant and diffident, and overall the weakest president in the history of the United States. He added that it is because of these failings that Obama allowed the crisis in Syria to escalate to the current situation, and that it is he who "caused the wound to become deeper and the bloodshed to continue." He also stated that Obama's hesitant and failed leadership in the Middle East, and especially in Syria, had laid the groundwork for the development of extremism and sectarian violence greater than those of Al-Qaeda.

This column by Al-Zaydi joins a series of recent articles in the Saudi press that attacked America's policy on Syria following the American-Russian agreement to hold an international conference at which a political solution to the Syrian crisis will be sought. For example, an article in the government daily Al-Yawm stated: "The Syrian opposition did not welcome the outcome of the meetings that U.S. State Secretary John Kerry held in Moscow [on May 6, 2013], because [this outcome] is a clear American retreat towards the position of the Russian-Iranian alliance.

*Considering the crimes of ethnic cleansing that have been perpetrated by Iran's and Assad's killing machine in Baniyas [in early May 2013], the American position is a clear [act of] capitulation to this killing machine at the expense of human rights and America's claims that it supports the freedom of the peoples..." The daily stated further that the U.S. is once again falling into the Iranian trap, as it did in Iraq.[1] Baina Al-Mulhim, a columnist for the government daily Al-Riyadh, asked whether the U.S. had "sold out the Syrian revolution," and wrote: "The crisis of the Syrian revolution changed with the appointment of [John] Kerry as U.S. secretary of state. Kerry is known as a friend of Bashar Al-Assad... and now he is traveling around the world trying to save Assad's regime and to eliminate the so-called 'Al-Qaeda in Syria'..."[2] Tariq Alhomayed, the former editor of Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, wrote that Obama's hesitancy was increasing the bloodshed and the extremism and allowing Russia to play a role in the region.[3]*

*The following are translated excerpts from Al-Zaydi's column: [4]*

"The problem of U.S. President Barack Obama can be summed up in a single word: hesitation. The man is short-sighted, confused and diffident. It seems that the gist of his policy is disagreeing with every position of his predecessor, George W. Bush, and that is quarrelsomeness, not policy.

"This assessment of Obama's policy is not voiced only by his Republican rivals in the U.S., or by those who hate some [aspects] of his global [foreign] policy, but also by some proponents of his own school of thought, like the well-known American author David Ignatius, who recently wrote a critique of the Obama administration's policy that was not confined to foreign [policy] affairs... Summarizing the problematic aspects of Obama's conduct, he said that the public is more afraid of a weak administration than a strong one!

"We are not talking [only] about harsh critics of this administration, inside or outside the U.S. This is apparent from a recent article by Lebanese-American writer Fuad 'Ajami, who slammed Obama for his feebleness, his lack of leadership, and his inability to take bold decisions under difficult circumstances, especially when it comes to his position on the Syrian catastrophe. Nor is it only Republicans who attack [Obama]. [Criticism is also voiced] by people who were overjoyed by the arrival [in the White House] of a black Harvard graduate with African and Islamic roots, the son of Hussein Obama. [They expected him] to have a better understanding of the Islamic and Arab societies and their nature. But eventually, as the helplessness of the international community [to address the situation] in Syria increased due to the [conduct of] the U.S. and Obama, it became apparent that this man is unable to lead and that he hides his failure and ignorance behind a lot of hypothetical talk about red, green and purple lines..."

## **Obama Is Responsible For Exacerbating The Syrian Crisis**

"Perhaps he is sincere in his belief in democracy and has [genuine] sympathy for other nations, especially those of Asia and Africa, [and perhaps he really believes that] America's problems in the world can be eliminated by improving its image and expressing appreciation for other cultures. Perhaps he really feels that way, but feelings are one thing and reality is another. I wish matters could be resolved through good intentions [alone]..."

"Evidence of Obama's narrow approach to the Syrian crisis can be found in statements he made to Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan in their meeting several days ago. [He said that] there was no 'magic solution' to the escalating Syrian crisis and that a realistic solution was

needed, [namely] a non-ideal political solution. [But Obama] is the one who complicated the Syrian problem and caused the wound to grow deeper, the bloodshed [to continue]... the voices to grow louder and the thugs to interfere, from Hassan Nasrallah's militia... to the young men who come from all over [the world] to fight jihad in [the ranks of the Al-Qaeda-affiliated organization] Jabhat Al-Nusra.

"[Obama] is responsible for the fact that Syria has reached this level of confusion and loss. Were it not for his hesitancy, his weak approach, his lack of determination and his eagerness to [gain] popularity on Twitter... the Russian 'Snow Emperor' Vladimir Putin wouldn't have dreamt of attaining the role [he has attained], with the Western world ready to charge him with the task of solving the Syrian problem. [Were it not for Obama's weakness,] Bashar Al-Assad would not have said in a recent interview with the Argentinean paper [*Clarín*] that he felt he was beginning to overcome the intense pressures that have been exerted upon him. [Moreover,] Iran's arrogance and contempt wouldn't have grown to the point of making a public announcement that the war in Syria is its own war and [to the point of] ordering its [operations] officer in Lebanon, Hassan Nasrallah, to declare war and launch resistance [actions] – not on the Israeli border but against the Syrians in Al-Qusair, which has been besieged by Assad's *shabiha*<sup>[5]</sup> and by Nasrallah's fighters for a while, right in front of Obama!

"The U.S. is currently living under one of the weakest leaders in its [history]... while Russia has a firm and determined leader. This becomes even sadder when you realize that the U.S. is believed to be supporting the Syrian rebels while Russia [is considered] a supporter of the [Syrian] regime. In this situation, the alliance [between the U.S. and the rebels] is a liability more than an asset...

"The most acute [aspect of] the problem is that Obama is laying down the systematic groundwork for the development of extremism and sectarian violence that will make us miss the Al-Qaeda of George W. Bush's era, while deluding himself that he eliminated Al-Qaeda when he killed Osama bin Laden!"

## **Iraq, Syria, Lebanon And Perhaps Also Turkey Face "Great Danger" Because Of Obama's "Policy Of Wholesale Retreat"**

"There is great danger in what is happening in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon and may soon also happen on Turkey's southern border because of the policy of wholesale retreat that Obama is employing without any deep consideration. These countries – and probably also Egypt and North Africa, in a different way – are about to enter a terrifying era of religious terrorism, sectarian war and civil strife that will harm everyone. The Al-Qaeda attacks of the recent years pale beside what might happen in the future and what is already happening: [the fighting] in Homs and its rural area, the attacks on mosques and Husseiniyas [Shi'ite cultural and religious centers] in Iraq, and [the attacks of] the Turkish 'Alawite fighters [of the Popular Front for the Liberation of] Alexandretta,<sup>[6]</sup> who are coming to the aid of the 'Alawites in Syria.

Al-Qaeda's former attacks were high-quality and were carried out by elite squads of fighters, [but these fighters] did not represent broad sectors of Arab society. The wars currently being waged in Syria, Lebanon and Iraq, on the other hand, are frightening because they rely on [entire] social [sectors] that support [the fighters] and shelter them.

"This leads us to a frustrating conclusion about Obama's precise and rigid implementation of his bad and superficial policy of retreating [from the Middle East] at any cost, even in the face of new developments. [We must conclude that] this is not a skilled statesman and politician with creative solutions, but an ordinary academic who repeats meaningless slogans and does not possess the political sensitivity to give each factor the weight it deserves, to take bold [action] when necessary and to refrain [from action] when necessary..."

Endnotes:

[1] *Al-Yawm* (Saudi Arabia), May 8, 2013.

[2] *Al-Riyadh* (Saudi Arabia), May 12, 2013.

[3] *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* (London), May 18, 2013.

[4] *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* (London), May 21, 2013.

[5] The popular name given to the Syrian regime's plainclothes militia, which is assisting the regime security forces in suppressing the uprising.

[6] An organization established in 2012 by pro-Assad Syrians on the Turkish border. Its stated goal is the liberation of Alexandretta from the rule of Turkey, which is now among the countries opposed to Assad's regime. Assad's opponents claim that the members of the organization are 'Alawites.

## NY Post

### 'I hate my policies'

#### ***Team O's most bizarre excuse***

by John Podhoretz

Attorney General Eric Holder says (or had his flunkies say) he only understood the severity of his own actions against Fox News reporter James Rosen when he was sitting at his breakfast table reading The Washington Post on a Monday morning.

Yes, that's what he told the Daily Beast, which did him the inestimable favor of not crumpling to the ground in hysterical peals of laughter.

For one thing, the story about the Rosen subpoena was released on the Post's Web site the day before. To believe the tale about Holder and the breakfast table, you have to believe no one told him about it on that Sunday.

If you buy that, fella, I have a CitiBike rack to sell you.

Besides which, given that Holder approved the subpoena on Rosen's records back in 2010, and that his department had to go to three judges before it could find one who'd execute it, the whole story smells to high heaven.

The Justice Department knew it was breaking new ground with its action in the Rosen case, and you don't forget it when you do something unprecedented.

But Holder isn't breaking new ground with his denials here. He's merely following his boss's fascinating habit of acting as though policies for which he is responsible have nothing to do with him.

For example: In his landmark "ending the War on Terror" speech last week, President Obama issued a peculiar scolding on the subject of the detention of terrorists at Guantanamo Bay.

"Look at the current situation, where we are force-feeding detainees who are being held on a hunger strike," he said. "Is this who we are?"

One thing we know for sure: It's who *he* is.

As the head of the executive branch, Barack Obama has the power — today, this minute, this second — to cease force-feeding detainees. All he need do is pick up a phone and say, "Cease force-feeding detainees," and they will no longer be force-fed.

Every gesture, every movement, every action at Guantanamo Bay takes place through the authority of one man and one man alone — the president of the United States.

The president is unhappy that Gitmo is still open, but it is still open not because he fought to close it and failed, but because he found he couldn't close it *easily enough*.

He assumed in 2009 that he could act as he wished, especially with both houses of Congress controlled by Democrats. But when Republicans and Democrats alike balked at the idea of closing the base and transferring the prisoners to the United States for trial in civilian courts, he didn't fight, he didn't insist, he didn't spend any political capital.

So there it sits, with 160 prisoners, who are now protesting against him and staging hunger strikes against him.

And yet somehow the president still manages to talk about the Gitmo facility as though there's nothing he can do to change the place, to alter the policies by which it is managed or to intervene in a policy of forced feeding.

But he can certainly speak in the voice of History, issuing condemnations as though he were not included in them: "I know the politics are hard," he said last Thursday. "But history will cast a harsh judgment on this aspect of our fight against terrorism and those of us who fail to end it."

Will it, now? History might, perhaps, cast a harsh judgment on those who released dozens of prisoners from Gitmo, only to find they returned to the terrorist battlefield.

We know this from tough reporting that comes from *inside the administration*.

As Thomas Joscelyn wrote in the Long War Journal in March 2012, citing a report from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, "167 ex-Gitmo detainees are either 'confirmed' or 'suspected' of reengaging in 'terrorist or insurgent activities' after their release. . . . The

estimated recidivism rate now stands at 27.9 percent — or a little more than 1 out of every 4 ex-detainees.”

Eric Holder says he feels a sense of “creeping remorse” about the Rosen case. Gee, that’s too bad. Maybe we should use this as a model — how to prevent “creeping remorse” in the future.

For instance: One way to prevent Barack Obama from experiencing similar “remorse” in the case of a Gitmo recidivist who does something dreadful after the closing of the facility would be, say, to keep it open.

**American.com**

### **[Eric Hoffer: Longshoreman Philosopher](#)**

by Tom Bethell

‘Any social order . . . which can function well with a minimum of leadership will be an anathema to the intellectual.’ **Eric Hoffer**

Hardly anyone had heard of Eric Hoffer when his first book, *The True Believer*, was published in 1951. In fact, when Harper & Brothers was considering accepting it, they asked Norman Thomas, the former presidential candidate for the Socialist Party, to go and see Hoffer. They wanted to verify that he really existed and was what he claimed to be — a longshoreman in San Francisco. No one at the publishing house had seen him or even spoken to him on the telephone. (Hoffer never had a phone except in the last year of his life.) Furthermore, Hoffer’s book was written in an abstract and intellectual style rarely encountered on the waterfront.

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Hoffer went on to write nine more books, all of them short. He told his publishers that he had been born in 1902 but earlier he said 1898 and that is the more likely date. At some point, undetermined, he became known as the longshoreman philosopher. In the second half of his life, he rarely left the San Francisco Bay Area. He died in San Francisco in 1983.

Hoffer never married. But in 1950 he met Lillian Fabilli Osborne, from a family of Italian Catholic immigrants who lived in Delano, California. Lili, her brother, and sisters grew up in penurious surroundings that sounded like those described in John Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*. By the time she met Hoffer, Lili was already married to another longshoreman, Selden Osborne, who had met Hoffer on the San Francisco docks in the late 1940s. He told Lili about this interesting man who had a book coming out about true believers so she asked Selden to invite him to dinner. Hoffer impressed her, and they soon became close.

A lifelong leftist, Selden had attended Stanford University in the 1930s. He joined the longshoremen because he believed that the working class would become the ruling class and joining it would give him a head start. In that, he later admitted, he was mistaken. Hoffer described him as a true believer. But they always remained on good terms, even after Hoffer and Lili were living together. When Hoffer died in his small apartment overlooking the docks where he had worked, Selden alone was in the room with him.

If he was an illegal immigrant, he was subject to instant deportation.

Lili inherited Hoffer's papers, keeping them first at her house (where they narrowly escaped a fire). Then she sold them to the Hoover Institution. In 2000, they became available to researchers; access was at first difficult because no copying was allowed. Lili died in 2010, at the age of 94.

I had been impressed by the lucidity and originality of Hoffer's work and I wrote to him in 1980, seeking an interview. He agreed, and I was one of the last journalists to see him. Years too late, I worked out the questions that I should have asked. Then, on annual summer visits to Hoover, I began to go through the mass of his papers. Lili had saved everything, and was no doubt right that Hoffer would have thrown almost everything away. A most uncharacteristic bachelor, he was the opposite of a pack rat.

Three books about Hoffer were published in his lifetime. The first was based on a long "profile" by Calvin Tomkins, published in the *New Yorker* in 1967. James D. Koerner, a vice president of the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, was intrigued by Hoffer and interviewed him in the early 1970s. His book, *Hoffer's America*, was published in 1973. The third, by James T. Baker, was primarily based on research by Stacy Cole, who taught at a community college in Fremont. He probably spent more time with Hoffer than anyone except for Lili.

After a few summers at Hoover, I realized that something was amiss. I had been looking for new details — already sparse — about the first decades of Hoffer's life. But almost nothing in the archives about those years was new and not already published. Earlier magazine articles and interviews included the same old stories, almost verbatim, some of which he told me in turn. Often his listeners imagined they were the first to hear them, and didn't question anything.

Responding to my query, Calvin Tomkins (still with the *New Yorker* today) wrote:

I'm afraid I can't shed any light on your questions about Eric Hoffer and his early life. I did no research on the subject, relying simply on what he told me at the time. The things he said about his early life did sound quite shadowy, but he was a great talker and he made it all seem authentic.

In his account, Hoffer was born in New York City, the only child of Knut and Elsa, who apparently immigrated from Alsace Lorraine. But nothing can be corroborated; no birth certificate has been found, and nothing is revealed about his parents. Of his own mother Hoffer said only that she fell down a flight of stairs while carrying him. He referred to his father as a "village atheist" and his father called him an "idiot child." That's the only reported exchange between them.

Hoffer said that 'faith in a holy cause is to a considerable extent a substitute for the lost faith in ourselves.'

Hoffer never gave the address in the Bronx where he said he lived for the first 20 years of his life. He suddenly went blind when he was seven, he said, explaining why he never went to school. Eight years later he recovered his sight, either abruptly or slowly (in different accounts). Later he spent a considerable amount of time in a nearby bookstore, reading books and sometimes buying them. After his father died and left him a small legacy, Hoffer left for California (by train or by bus, in different accounts).

Everything that Hoffer said about New York City in the first 20 years of his life can be told in a paragraph. His father once took him to a concert where Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was performed. He went to an unidentified bookstore. No childhood friends are named. I began to wonder if he really grew up there, or even lived there. It's much the same story when he gets to Los Angeles (although he undoubtedly did live there on and off in the 1930s). I grew to suspect that Hoffer's early life story was unreliable. Maybe he was an immigrant.

I told Lili this one day, apprehensively, because she was the zealous guardian of his image and reputation. To my relief she agreed with me. She, too, had harbored doubts, believing that Eric probably was an immigrant. It would account for his German accent, for one thing. Hoffer didn't just sound German, but spoke it fluently.

She made two further points. Hoffer was the sole source of everything we know about his earlier life. Second, she had never met anyone from his pre-*True Believer* years. Stacy Cole, the community college teacher, whom I interviewed at length, said the same thing.

I adopted the working hypothesis that Hoffer was an immigrant, possibly undocumented, and began looking for anything that would confirm or refute that idea. I soon received strong confirmation in the form of an early magazine article published by *The Reporter*. It was edited by an anti-Communist immigrant named Max Ascoli (Irving Kristol once worked for him). Ascoli was intrigued by Hoffer's story — *The True Believer* had just been published — and he dispatched a writer to interview Hoffer in San Francisco.

The *True Believer* was not considered a conservative book. But Hoffer soon became a conservative.

In the usual account, Hoffer's parents came to America with a woman named Martha Bauer, who took care of him when he was blind. After the 1918 Armistice she returned to Germany. But the Reporter article relates that after Elsa died, soon after she fell down the stairs, he "groped helplessly about the room." He had "no friends, no games, no ambitions, no grasp of reality." No Martha, either. In later accounts she is not just Hoffer's friend, but his only friend.

There is one other source. *The True Believer* is dedicated to Margaret Anderson, who worked for a magazine called Common Ground. Funded by the Carnegie Corporation, it was published in the 1940s and Anderson became its editor. Hoffer had seen the magazine in the Carnegie-funded public libraries he frequented, and he sent some early manuscripts to her. They were not published, but Anderson, recognizing his talent, encouraged Hoffer to continue writing. That is why *The True Believer* was dedicated to her.

There was a fairly copious correspondence between Anderson and Hoffer but most of it is now apparently lost. Nonetheless, surviving early letters from Hoffer to her do not mention Martha Bauer. Eugene Burdick, who later co-authored *The Ugly American* and *Fail-Safe*, befriended Hoffer and interviewed him in 1956. The next year he wrote an article for The Reporter, with the first mention of Martha.

There are other reasons to doubt Hoffer's story of his early life. An eye specialist I interviewed questioned the plausibility of Hoffer's blindness, both its abrupt loss and recovery. James Koerner, in his *Hoffer's America*, made a determined effort to learn more about Hoffer's early life. But this made Hoffer "ill at ease," he found. He would insist that his life wasn't important. As with other interviewers, Hoffer took refuge in a failing memory. He told the author of a doctoral thesis: "Nearing seventy, I am uninterested in my distant past."

Hoffer emerges in the clear light of day when he "found himself in San Diego" in 1934. He went to a wholesale food place where he helped a truck driver unload and was so hungry that he began "devouring cabbage cow fashion." The trucker then drove him to El Centro, 90 miles east of San Diego and close to the Mexican border. A federal homeless shelter had recently been established there — an early part of the New Deal.

In an account written later, in 1938 — and in sharp contrast to his previous shadowy stories — Hoffer gave copious details of his new life with homeless men. It began to seem to me possible, perhaps even likely, that he had come to the United States across the Mexican border. Nothing is decisive. But maybe he left Germany with Hitler's accession to power in 1933. Hoffer was familiar with details of German life in the 1920s, including the pre-inflation thousand mark note, which "looked so beautiful, white with beautiful writing." How did he know about such things from a homeless camp?

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There are also indications that Hoffer was Jewish. In an amazing encounter with Milton Himmelfarb at the University of California, Berkeley, recounted by Stacy Cole, Hoffer showed that he understood and could speak Hebrew. He told another interviewer that he had learned Hebrew, along with botany and chemistry, on skid row in Los Angeles — a story that is hard to believe, especially as the botany text that he cited was in German. Before publication, he submitted *The True Believer* to a Rabbi (Saul White) for his approval. The fate of Israel became

an obsession, and Hoffer often referred to God as Jehovah. The survival of Israel after the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War became the latter-day passion of his life.

After his stay at the homeless shelter, Hoffer set off on his life as an itinerant worker, picking vegetables up and down California's Central Valley; sometimes self-employed as a gold miner in the Sierras. Here the new details match his earlier accounts, and his overall story is credible. Some time after Pearl Harbor, probably in 1942, he rented a room in San Francisco, joined the union, and began writing *The True Believer*, using a plank as a desk. When the union was on strike, he made good progress on the book.

If he was an illegal immigrant, he was subject to instant deportation. Perhaps a million people were deported in the 1930s — most of them to Mexico and without due process. Later, after Hoffer became well established and was invited to the White House by Lyndon Johnson, he had every incentive not to change his story. No one doubted it anyway.

*The True Believer* was not considered a conservative book. But Hoffer soon became a conservative. He was offered an adjunct position by U.C. Berkeley, where, one afternoon a week, he talked with anyone who showed up. It was an easy task for him. It also coincided with the Free Speech Movement on campus. With his office overlooking Sproul Plaza, the center of protest, he grew to dislike the spreading rebellious mood, later summarized as "the Sixties." In a 1967 interview with Eric Sevareid for CBS News, he said many pro-American things and was highly critical of the Left. This outlook remained with him for the rest of his life.

One political insight is worth repeating because it seems as applicable as ever. We may well wonder today what drives the liberal desire to expand the reach of government beyond what seems prudent. Their recipe, as Hoffer said, always calls for "more." But he referred to intellectuals, not liberals. A publisher offered him an advance to write a short book on the intelligentsia. He turned them down because he aimed for something more elaborate. Alas, it was never written.

But his many notebooks showed what he had in mind.

"The intellectual knows with every fiber of his being that all men are not equal," he wrote at one point, "and there are few things that he cares for less than a classless society." Intellectuals regard "the common man as a means," and, in an age of democracy, egalitarianism is the ideal weapon. Equality is forever unattainable, so "more" is always needed. Intellectuals are particularly antagonistic to the United States, because it dispersed power outward to the masses in a way that no country had ever done before. As a class, intellectuals are aristocratic in temperament and seek power for themselves.

Looking at it from the worker's point of view, he wrote:

A free society is as much a threat to the intellectual's sense of worth as an automated economy is a threat to the worker's sense of worth. Any social order . . . which can function well with a minimum of leadership will be an anathema to the intellectual.

**Tom Bethell is a senior editor at *The American Spectator* and author of *Eric Hoffer: the Longshoreman Philosopher*.**

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## Late Night Humor

by Andrew Malcolm



*10 days after learning Benghazi deaths were really terrorism, Obama tells the U.N. an anti-Islam American video was responsible.*

Fallon: At a recent fundraiser Obama noted a shortage of common sense in Washington. Then, the people who had just paid \$5,000 per plate applauded.

Leno: Not looking good for President Obama with all these scandals. Today, his teleprompter took the Fifth.

Conan: A new report says someone close to Obama knew about the IRS scandal and kept his mouth shut. In other words, we can rule out Joe Biden.

Conan: England is sending its first astronaut to the International Space Station. He's the first astronaut looking forward to the food.

Conan: Lamborghini is celebrating its 50th anniversary. Lamborghini is so freaked out by turning 50 that it just bought itself a Lamborghini.

Leno: All these scandals are looking really bad for President Obama. So bad that people in Kenya are now saying he's 100% American.

Leno: Mitch McConnell says Obama fosters a 'culture of intimidation.' Seriously? Is anyone intimidated by Obama? He can't even keep Joe Biden in line.

Leno: North Korea fires six missiles recently trying to get the U.S. to pay them to stop. Shows how isolated North Korea is. They still think we have money.

Letterman: Rough times nowadays for Obama. The Big Benghazi scandal. The Big IRS scandal. The Big phone-tapping scandal. Now he's also got to replace all four 'American Idol' judges.

Letterman: New York City's new bike-borrowing program. Get a bike here. Drop it off there. People think it's new. No. It's like a Kardashian husband.

Conan: Yahoo's CEO, who just bought Tumblr for \$1.1 billion, says she will not remove porn from the site. Asked why, she said, "Because I don't want to lose \$1.1 billion."

Conan: A Georgia college student feared his parents would be angry for his F in English. He faked his own kidnapping. However, the parents figured it out when the ransom note said, "We Has Your Son."

Leno: President Obama told Morehouse College graduates they have a great future ahead. Unless of course, they want jobs. Then they're totally screwed.

Leno: Mary J Blige has been slapped with a \$3.4 million tax bill by the IRS. I did not know she was a Tea Party member.



Leno: Four women qualified to race in Sunday's Indy 500. Normally, four women going around and around in circles is called 'The View.'

Letterman: Obama is in so much trouble now with the Benghazi scandal, the IRS scandal, the FBI phone-tap scandal that he's thinking of killing Osama bin Laden again.

Fallon: VP Joe Biden was to meet with two undocumented aliens this week. But when they heard they had to sit down with Biden, both men deported themselves.

Letterman: A program reminder that HBO has the 'Liberace Story, Behind the Candleabra.' I want to tell you Meryl Streep is fantastic as Liberace.

Conan: Yahoo's new CEO says all the X-rated content will remain on Tumblr. Many people heard the news and said, "Well, time to find out what Tumblr is!"

Conan: Anthony Weiner announced his New York mayoral candidacy in a video. Because nothing says, "My sleazy past is behind me" like a midnight Internet video.

Leno: The Obama White House is still denying he knew anything about the IRS scandal in advance. They say that would have been inappropriate because Obama was too busy not knowing about the Benghazi scandal.

Letterman: Graduation season is here. President Obama is giving speeches. All the kids are graduating. Have the summer off. Then come fall, they go on unemployment.

Letterman: President Obama says, "Sorry, I've been out of the loop." VP Joe Biden says, "Wait a minute. I'm supposed to be the one out of the loop."

Letterman: Memorial Day weekend. Millions went to the beach. Nothing builds your confidence like watching the lifeguard texting.

Conan: It's come out that in high school, Barack Obama signed a girl's yearbook by calling her "sweet and foxy." Of course, now he calls her "Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano."

Conan: A new international poll finds the least popular country in the world is Iran. After hearing this, North Korea said, "What do we have to do?"

Conan: The Boy Scouts of America have just voted to allow openly gay members to join. When asked why, they said, "Because we can't find a straight person to tie these scarves."

Conan: In Pennsylvania, a couple stabbed each other in an argument over who should win 'American Idol.' At last, we know why 'American Idol' is losing so many viewers.

Fallon: Amtrak trains may soon have special cars where passengers can sit with their pets. Though it'll be awkward when you try to talk to your cat, and he just slips on his headphones.

Fallon: Time magazine just released a picture of a 17-year-old Barack Obama with his prom date. They would've published a picture of Joe Biden with his prom date, but his mom didn't want to be photographed.

Leno: The San Diego Chargers have a new promotion in honor of Manti Teo. Buy one game ticket and your imaginary girlfriend gets in free.

Leno: Published reports say outgoing Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa is broke. He has no money. He spent it all. Well, just like Los Angeles.

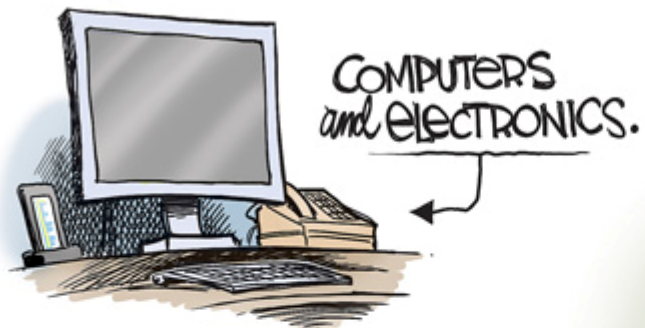
Leno: Anthony Weiner is running for New York mayor. He used a photo of the Pittsburgh skyline in his campaign video. Makes you wonder what other photo he used wasn't his.



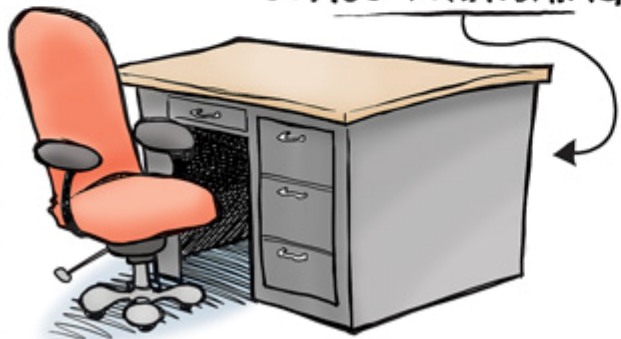
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