

reminded readers about the way faith-based initiatives have been viewed in this administration and its predecessor.

Bush filled the faith-based initiatives office with a prominent Ivy League sociologist and then with a former lawyer for Mother Theresa. Obama has chosen a Pentecostal preacher in his twenties to head up the office. Barry Lynn of the Americans for the Separation of Church and State was an avid critic of the Bush office. His position today? He serves on the advisory council's task force for the office. Strangely, his concerns about the interaction of religion and politics seem to have dissolved now that the presidency has changed hands.

As I read Ms. Hemingway's cutting piece, I couldn't help but think about the Swedish socialists of the late 19th and early 20th centuries who were determined to destroy the tie between the nation's church and state. Once they gained power, however, they had a change of heart. The church could prove useful under their enlightened leadership. I wonder if Barry Lynn feels the same way.

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Football Night in America

Posted by **Hunter Baker** on 9.13.09 @ 8:13PM

Has Tiki Barber been exiled from the studio? I suppose the room was getting crowded.

Tony Dungy makes a nice addition. Rodney Harrison, on the other hand, seems almost needlessly provocative, which is an accomplishment considering Olbermann's presence.

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GM Taking Page Out of Iacocca's Handbook

Posted by **Hunter Baker** on 9.13.09 @ 5:10PM

Advertising in the NFL telecasts, General Motors features its new chairman Ed Whitacre promising buyers that the GM cars are superior to the competition. Or, in Iacocca speak, "If you can find a better car, buy it."

So what? Right? It's just a naked assertion that GM is better.

No, the new chairman makes a guarantee. If you don't like your GM car, you can return it over a period of 60 days.

Sounds like pretty big stuff to me. Love to hear from the TAS auto guru, Eric Peters, on this one.

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Up But Still Down

Posted by **Doug Bandow** on 9.13.09 @ 2:34PM

President Barack Obama is doing better in the approval rating game, but he's still behind. [According to Rasmussen Reports:](#)

The Rasmussen Reports daily Presidential Tracking Poll for Sunday shows that 34% of the nation's voters Strongly Approve of the way that Barack Obama is performing his role as President. Thirty-eight percent (38%) Strongly Disapprove giving Obama a Presidential Approval Index rating of -4. That's the President's best Approval Index rating in

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over a month ([see trends](#)).

It doesn't bode well for him if his well-delivered speech didn't move him into positive territory. He's almost certainly irretrievably lost the fiscal issue, and budget arguments will reassert themselves after the glow fades from his talk. On both health care and cap and trade, he loses as soon as the discussion goes from general (reform) to specific (tax and regulate).

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Civil Rights Commission vs. DoJ

Posted by **Quin Hillyer** on 9.13.09 @ 9:48AM

Jennifer Rubin has great reporting [here](#) about how the U.S. Civil Rights Commission will keep the heat on the Department of Justice about the Black Panthers case. Good for the commission. This commission is superb. Of course, the coming clash should not be necessary in the first place. It is necessary only because Eric Holder, the Attorney Generally Corrupt, is in charge of trampling on the law for Obamite political purposes. Poetic justice would have a pre-dawn raid catch him in a closet while a big gun is being waved in his face supposedly for his own safety (a la Elian Gonzalez), but methinks that is unlikely. Still, the man is a menace. Anything the Civil Rights Commission can do to undermine his Reign or (deliberate) Error, in favor a return to lawfulness, would be most welcome.

Now, this is VERY strange: I just went to try to provide links to the Washington Times' groundbreaking coverage of the Panther case. EVERY other story at the Times site works fine, but when I try to call up ANY of the news stories or editorials on the Panther case -- and there are about ten of them -- I get an error message every time. An error message, that is, ONLY for the Panther stories, but for no other stories on the entire WashTimes site. I am no computer wiz, but this seems mighty suspicious to me. Somebody from outside the Wash Times is monkeying, or panthering, with its site, I would wager.

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ACORN Founder Wade Rathke Wanted Terrorist Attack on Republican Convention to Succeed

Posted by **Matthew Vadum** on 9.13.09 @ 2:22AM

ACORN founder Wade Rathke didn't have a problem with domestic terrorists trying to kill delegates at the Republican Party's national convention in 2008, former radical community organizer Brandon Darby suggests at Andrew Breitbart's new website [Big Government](#).

Darby, who got to see how the ACORN crime syndicate operates up close in New Orleans, writes that after he acknowledged that he helped the FBI foil a plot to attack the RNC convention in Minnesota Rathke denounced him on his blog. Darby writes

What does any of this have to do with ACORN? I wondered the same thing on January 31st of 2009 when I was reading an ACORN blog that is run by Wade Rathke (the man who claims credit for founding ACORN). He devoted an entire page to my work with the FBI. How did he describe the FBI's effort and success in preventing innocent Americans, local police and federal agents from being burned, maimed and/or possibly killed by firebombs? He wrote that it's "one thing to disagree, but it's a whole different thing to rat on folks." That is what ACORN's founder had to say about my role in stopping a bomb plot.

Indeed Rathke did write that. He described Darby as "an FBI-informer who had fingered some folks for mayhem designed for the Republican National Convention in 2008 in the Twin Cities." Added Rathke, "It seemed so, how should I say it, sixties?"

There it is in black and white. ACORN founder Wade Rathke resented Darby working with the authorities to disrupt a left-wing terrorist plot.

Here's another way to look at it: if you oppose ACORN's agenda, you deserve to be murdered.

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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

Buchanan Churchill Debate to Air on C-SPAN Sunday at 9 P.M. Eastern

Posted by **Wlady Pleszczynski** on 9.12.09 @ 1:57PM

To follow up on R. Emmett Tyrrell's Thursday column, "[Is Pat Buchanan a Crank?](#)" word comes that Sunday night at 9 (and midnight) Eastern time, C-Span will air the Churchill debate that took place Septmber 3 at the Methodist Central Hall, Westminster -- "This House believes Churchill to have been more of a liability to the Free World than an asset" -- pitting Pat Buchanan, Norman Stone and Nigel Knight against Anthony Beevor, Richard Overy, and Andrew Roberts. We're told some 1,800 people attended, things got quite heated, and it should make for great TV.

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450,000 and Counting

Posted by **Wlady Pleszczynski** on 9.12.09 @ 12:22PM

Stacy McCain has called in to report that according to [Barbara Espinosa](#), who'll be blogging from the event at [Vodkapundit](#), attendance at today's Washington, D.C. freedom takeover has been "metered" at 450,000.

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Health Care Nationalization Still Behind

Posted by **Doug Bandow** on 9.12.09 @ 10:42AM

The president has rallied his base behind his health care plan, but a plurality of Americans remains against his proposal to nationalize the medical system. [Explains Rasmussen Reports](#):

Americans are now closely divided over the proposed health care reform [plan](#) following President Obama's speech to Congress Wednesday night, although a plurality of voters are still opposed. All of the gains have come from Democrats, but the president has rallied his base and generated a significant increase in enthusiasm among supporters of the plan.

New Rasmussen Reports national polling - conducted over the two nights following the speech - shows that 47% of Americans now favor the plan proposed by the president and congressional Democrats.

That's up from 43% at the [end of August](#) and from 44% [earlier this week](#).

Forty-nine percent (49%) of voter remain opposed to the plan, but it

marks the first time opposition has fallen below 50% in weeks.

It will be interesting to see if his new-found support remains solid, or peels off, returning opinions to roughly where they were before his speech. In any case, the president has failed to move the majority of Americans into his camp--and for good reason, given the many dangers of increasing federal control over health care.

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Re: Census Bureau Severs Ties with ACORN

Posted by **Paul Chesser** on 9.12.09 @ 10:30AM

Here's the Saturday morning round-up on the Census Bureau story for the formerly mainstream media, checking out their home Web pages:

Washington Post, *New York Times*, *USA Today*, CBS News, [CNN Sucks](#) -- story isn't there. *WashPost* did run a piece about the Big Government expose' in DC.

MSNBC, to its credit, posted a link to an AP version of the story near the top of their homepage. Some of the others above have the AP story too, but they don't headline it on their homepages. This is significant because all the major news organizations have an auto-feed of wire service stories to their sites -- MSNBC just took the trouble to link it from their homepage.

Fox News of course has followed the story all along, and the *Washington Times* ran the AP version.

And kudos to ABC News (top of their homepage) and reporter Jake Tapper. Unlike the other lazy and indifferent bureaus listed above, Tapper stayed on the story doing original reporting, crediting Fox News and Big Government for their scoops, embedded one of James O'Keefe's YouTube videos in his story, and got a response that no one else did:

Census Bureau spokesman Stephen Buckner said officials in the bureau, which is part of the Department of Commerce, had been concerned with news reports about ACORN for awhile and "had been monitoring them."

Buckner said recent videotapes posted on [BigGovernment.com](#) and broadcast on Fox News -- showing a young man and young woman pretending to be a pimp and prostitute, declaring themselves such and apparently able to secure the help of ACORN employees in [Washington D.C.](#), and [Baltimore](#), in obtaining housing -- was "the tipping point."

It was "cumulative," Buckner said, "but certainly the recent activity didn't help."

So clearly O'Keefe and Hannah Giles (who portrayed the prostitute in the video) are to be highly praised for exposing the extreme depths of criminality that ACORN accepts and spurring action by an extremity important government agency. That most of the traditional news organizations are ignoring the fact that this group, vital to the election of President Obama, was exposed as a child sex trafficking facilitator and then cut loose by the Census illustrates how morally bankrupt many in the formerly mainstream media are.

Finally, to follow up on [my post yesterday](#) about this, I addressed the allegation that ACORN made about O'Keefe and Giles (or some others attempting to "smear" the group) testing offices in Philadelphia, Los Angeles and New York. O'Keefe yesterday denied that he had any part in other efforts:

So far CNN has only reported on the breaking story on blatant