



10 of 680 DOCUMENTS

Copyright 2009 The Denver Post
All Rights Reserved
The Denver Post

May 13, 2009 Wednesday
FINAL EDITION

SECTION: Pg. B-12

LENGTH: 1029 words

HEADLINE: The Open Forum

BODY:

The fallacy of same-sex "marriage" Re: "Obama must stand up for gay marriage," May 8 Eugene Robinson column.

Eugene Robinson closed his column by saying, "I believe gay marriage should be legal, and it's hard for me to imagine how anyone could believe otherwise." This statement says more about Robinson himself than about the merits of the case.

The reason Robinson believes (or pretends to believe) the case to be open and shut is that he has assumed away the main point at issue, the question of whether same-sex "marriage" is equivalent to the traditional arrangement in the first place. By assuming, instead of proving, the main point at issue, he invoked the "question begging" fallacy, which taints every point he made.

Indeed, so long as same-sex-marriage advocates continue to assume points that must be proved, it will remain logically impossible to make any valid equality-based argument in support of their cause.

People like me disagree with Robinson because we find his premise faulty, and because we don't - and have no obligation to - accept his self-serving assumptions. That is why no reasoning and fair-minded person faults us for opposing recognition of same-sex marriage under current conditions.

Eric Krein, Lakewood

----- The Republican Party's meeting of the minds Re: "GOP aligns stars to plot comeback," May 11 news story.

Let's see now. A group of middle-aged white males gets together to talk about what's wrong with the Colorado Republican Party. Is there a clue here? What about diversity, outreach and new thinking?

What impressed me most about last year's campaign was attending my precinct's Democratic caucus and encountering all colors of young and old new attendees, backing different candidates, waiting in long lines and trying to hear over hundreds of voices in a too-small school cafeteria and still being civil to one another. They were excited about the process and the chance to have their views heard.

Republicans might give that a whirl instead of meeting secretly in private dining rooms.

Judy Henning, Denver

To understand why the GOP has been swept out of power in Colorado, all you need to do is look at the composition of the party's brain trust. Every member who reportedly gathered to ponder the party's future is white, male and conservative. Until the GOP embraces an agenda that appeals to a greater proportion of women, minorities and moderates, I doubt that any amount of brainstorming can bring the GOP back into power.

Steve Silverman, Englewood

I am surprised that Wayne Allard had the courage to even mention the term "Contract With Colorado."

It reminds all of us of the 1994 Contract with America, which promised constitutional amendments requiring a balanced budget and term limits on members of Congress - and other goodies.

Regarding the balanced budget, Cato Institute President Edward Crane wrote in 2000 that the combined budgets of the 95 major programs that the Contract promised to eliminate had increased by 13 percent.

Further, Republicans who wanted to limit the terms of Democrats, once elected, decided congressional office was so neat they were unwilling to encumber it with term limits.

The Contract With America was nothing but a fraud, conceived in the hope of winning control of Congress in 1994. Regrettably, it worked, but Republicans then lacked the courage to enact its elements.

D. Ferrel Atkins, Estes Park

GOP candidates have been avoiding answering some simple but fundamental questions. Is the continuously growing wealth gap between the wealthiest Americans and average Americans good for our country, bad for our country, or does it make no difference? If they answer that the growing wealth gap is good or makes no difference, they will have the difficult task of explaining why. If they, and candidates of all political parties, say that it is not good for the future of our country, they must say what must be done about it, what should be done to reverse, or at least slow down, the trend.

Democrats have gained on this issue by supporting more progressive tax rates, continuation of estate taxes that affect only very wealthy families while preserving family farms and small businesses, and proposing more affordable health care for poor and middle-income Americans. Republicans can modify the tax cuts and reduced spending policy in a way that benefits more Americans. They should listen to Colin Powell instead of Rush Limbaugh and Dick Cheney; they can always count on pro-life and anti-gay marriage voters, regardless of changed economic policies.

Dick Sugg, Golden

Failure of impound law

Re: "City's new impound law takes pounding," May 7 news story.

When Denver voters in 2008 ignored the wisdom of the mayor, City Council and chief of police and proceeded to approve Initiative 100, an intentionally discriminatory and hyper-punitive impoundment measure, they virtually assured the occurrence of the type of situation involving the unfortunate airman whose car was recently seized by the city during enforcement of the new law.

As the debacle continues to unfold, it further emphasizes that the complex situation created by the enormous disparity of wealth between the United States and Mexico, and further exacerbated by cultural differences and a severely dysfunctional immigration system, cannot be properly addressed by clumsy, heavy-handed legislation.

The time has arrived for this president, and this Congress, to develop and enact fair, inclusive and comprehensive immigration policy reflective of the higher values expressed in the defining documents of this country. May such measures soon be forthcoming.

Frank Tapy, Denver

TO SEND A LETTER

E-mail: [openforum@](mailto:openforum@denverpost.com)

denverpost.com (straight text only; no attachments)

Mail: The Open Forum, The Denver Post, 101 W. Colfax Ave., Suite 600, Denver, CO 80202

Fax: 303-954-1502

Letters guidelines: The Post welcomes letters up to 150 words on topics of general interest. Letters must include full name, home address and day and evening phone numbers. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and accuracy.

To reach us by phone: 303-954-1331

LOAD-DATE: May 13, 2009