

# PITTSBURGH TRIBUNE-REVIEW

## The Thursday wrap

Thursday, December 17, 2009

**Ignorant Al:** Climate-change cleric Al Gore once again finds himself on the wrong end of an inconvenient truth. At the U.N. climate summit in Copenhagen he told attendees that "fresh" estimates show a 75 percent likelihood that the north polar ice cap will disappear in five to seven years, The Times of London reported. Except the scientist whose research Mr. Gore referenced said he had no clue where Ozone Al came up with that finding. The former veep later said it was a "ballpark" figure. *Brrrrrrrr!*

**Ill Bill of Rights:** In recognition of Bill of Rights Day last Tuesday, Tim Lynch of the Cato Institute writes of how the document's vital protections have been egregiously eroded. In part: "The First Amendment says that Congress 'shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech.' Government officials, however, insist that they can make it a crime to mention the name of a political candidate in an ad in the weeks preceding an election." A sad recognition indeed.

**Impotent care:** Health officials are recalling about 800,000 doses of swine flu vaccine for young children after finding that the doses may not be potent enough to protect against the virus. It's yet another setback in managing a *known*, significant health threat. Still want government to control your health care?

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