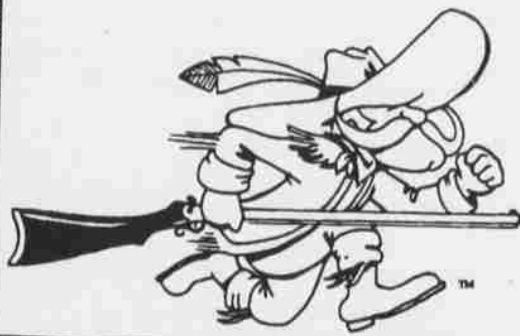


PERSPECTIVE

REBEL
YELL

Last Night
Phillies 6
Braves 3
Toronto vs.
Philadelphia
In 1993 World Series

opinion: n. an idea or judgement held as true or valid

Technical Holographic Psychosomatic Addiction

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This is the second of a two part story.

Unfortunately, for the people of the 2030s trying to come to grips with the problem of what is then called Holographic Psychosomatic Addiction, or HPA, there are still such things as politicians. They are still a motley crew of two-faced, butt-kissing, money-grubbing men and women whose only concern is getting re-elected.

Any legislation that threatens a major campaign contributor is considered out of the question.

The congressional debate is, of course, skewed by the power and force of money. None care for the persons who are mentally damaged for life.

And, so, the deliberations began.

The chairman of the House Special Committee for the Study of Addicting Technologies opened the floor for debate. But they do decide that this problem so closely parallels the drug problems at the turn of the last century that they look back in history for answers.

In the early part of the century, the government attempted an experiment in the Midwest where all drugs—including hallucinogenic narcotics—were legalized. Government stores were set up in just about every town and city in a seven-state area—Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. The government used high-grade materials to manufacture them and used no “fillers,” thus making the drugs highly desirable... and cheap.

Selling at a mere two percent of street value, the government increased its general revenue by 25

“The CIA covertly financed the chemical destruction of the soil in the drug-producing regions of South America and Asia.”

million lives.

Not knowing (or ignoring the fact) that they had already won the war, the CIA covertly financed the

chemical destruction of the soil in the drug-producing regions of South America and Asia, effectively causing a famine and the starvation of at least half-a-billion people in other parts of the world. The “official” reports claim it to be merely an “act of God.”

No one in their right minds wanted to repeat that fiasco.

Well, what do those politicians do? Do they ban video games... or just some of them? Ban companies from placing the continuous loop function in all games in the future, and require retrofitting for those already sold, at the manufacturer's expense? License each holo-unit for a year, like you would a car? Are there certain persons that are genetically predisposed to addiction, and if so, what gene or genes is this trait located on? Should we then ban sale of a holo-unit to such persons?

Or maybe the government could require each owner of a holo-unit to buy an exorbitantly high insurance policy that would cover all medical expenses should the user acquire HPA.

Such laws, unfortunately, would automatically create a bu-

reaucracy of inspectors, auditors, and auditors auditing auditors, and so on. More government in the lives of more people almost always tramples on the liberties of those who live under its laws, and this would surely be no exception.

And some of us think that our lives are already overly complex.

In the future, many of us who have attended this esteemed university will become leaders in our communities and become involved in the lives of this ever-changing nation. We may eventually have to tackle issues such as these.

No longer would we be dealing with basic ethical problems of what is right and wrong.

I find that there are many instances in which most people don't like to even discuss the gray issues that involve dilemmas such as these, much less confront them head-on.

I don't know that I could even solve such a problem, even now, just as much as I think that Mr. Benz could have had the solution for drunk driving. But, hopefully, in the process of gaining knowledge through maturity and wisdom through experience, the solution will come as a well-earned reward after a long and hard search for the truth.

Free market ramblings

JAMES YOHE

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The first word in any free marketer's vocabulary should be “repeal”. The free-market politician should not be involved in any activist legislation, nor indifferent to it. He should work to repeal interventionist legislation with an evangelical zeal unmatched by any TV preacher. If he doesn't, then the term free market does not apply to him.

Some famous politicians of the past that have been labeled free marketers are nothing more than socialists dressed in conservative clothing. Richard Nixon's greatest contributions to free enterprise were government price controls and the Environmental Protection Agency. Not exactly a socialist's worst nightmares.

In fact, it was Richard Nixon who once said we are all Keynesians. John Maynard Keynes, a man loved by the Nazi's as well as “Tricky Dick,” was definitely no advocate of the free market.

George Bush, another politician associated with free markets, called for the largest pre-Clinton tax

increase in American history and was known to cause the printers at the Federal Register to put in overtime printing new regulations on businesses. Bush also signed a quota bill adding to his anti-free market credentials. He can be called many things, but free marketer isn't one of them.

In fact, many of those politicians labeled as free market advocates have in reality been some of history's greatest interventionists. Herbert Hoover has been tabbed as a free market president, when in fact, the failures of his “free-market policies” are used by liberals to show the failures of the free market and the need for the government to manage the economy.

Hoover would burn if he ever walked up to a free market pulpit. His confession would result in excommunication if he ever confessed his sins against free market economics. He was an engineer by training and a liberal at heart, believing that the cure to a depression was more government. There's even a monument to government intervention named for him, Hoover Dam.

His violations of free-market thought were so numerous that they

have been dubbed the Hoover New Deal. There is a great book written on this by UNLV economics professor Murray Rothbard, that points out Hoover's actions and their effect on lengthening the Great Depression.

In the Oct. 5, 1993 edition of *The Rebel Yell*, Maryanne Dawicki blames the lack of full-time jobs on the free market policies of 12 years of republican rule. What free market policies? The only critique Ms. Dawicki could have against these “free market” republicans is that they didn't step on the gas pedal fast enough on that road to socialism. In her column, Ms. Dawicki states, “In addition, by employing workers on a part-time or temporary basis, companies can get around worker protections, such as OSHA standards, sexual harassment legislation, unemployment insurance, and pension regulations, which were established for full-time, permanent workers.”

It's a good thing those “protections” don't apply to part-time employees, otherwise they wouldn't even have part-time jobs. Ms. Dawicki points out the problem causing the shift away from full-time employment. Government is the problem, specifically it's so-called worker protections which

actually protect them from full-time employment not “exploitation”.

Ms. Dawicki then ignores her brilliant diagnoses of the problem and suggests more of the same causes of this shift to part-time work as the solution. Later in her column, Ms. Dawicki writes, “Instead of supporting a raise in the federal minimum wage, job-training funding and welfare subsidies for the working poor, the Reagan and Bush administrations decided to let the market work itself out.”

The problem is that those two “free market” presidents did raise the minimum wage and did fund job training and welfare subsidies. Look what happened. Ms. Dawicki's only problem with Bush and Reagan would have to be the magnitude of those raises. According to Ms. Dawicki's philosophy, we should raise the minimum wage to \$1,000 an hour. That would ensure all working people an outstanding standard of living. The only problem is nobody would have a job, except maybe Steve Wynn.

Raising the minimum wage would definitely cure the problem with part-time employment, but would cause another problem with unemployment. Raising the minimum wage above the market wage

rate causes a surplus of workers at that wage and a shortage of employment.

Whenever government interferes with the market, that intervention has consequences that result in the call for further interventions to cure the problems caused by the previous intervention. President Clinton and Ms. Dawicki want to raise the minimum wage to help the poor. This will result in wide-spread unemployment and calls for further government action to help them.

Clinton wants to force businesses and working Americans to pay for everyone's health care. This increased cost associated with employing people, as businesses are forced to pay health-care premiums, will result in a shift away from hourly wage employees working 40 hours a week to salaried employees working more than 40 hours a week. The fixed cost of hiring an employee will increase, especially for businesses that do not provide insurance. Paying overtime or placing employees on salary and working them overtime will be more cost efficient than hiring new workers. This road to socialism cannot be stopped until the government's answer to these problems becomes “repeal the law,” instead of “make another law to cover up for the last.”