

Helping Out Nancy Pelosi

Nancy Pelosi needs my help.

I know this because last week she sent me a very personal bulk-mail letter via the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee telling me so. I don't know her personally, but she has some very disturbing news.

It seems that "Republicans are trying to roll back health insurance reform, repeal Wall Street reform, replace Medicare with vouchers, privatize Social Security, reward corporations that ship American jobs overseas and restore the same trickle-down economics that nearly ran our economy off a cliff."

BAD Republicans! Somebody should hit them on their collective noses with a rolled-up newspaper.

I can understand why hysterical hyperbole is more effective than a measured, temperate appeal. "Please help us defeat intelligent, well-meaning but misguided Republicans" is less likely to generate much cash. It's much better if they're mean-spirited, if not downright evil.

In the business world, this is similar to what happens when Marketing is told that Production has an oversupply of a poorly designed product that needs to be liquidated. Benefits are exaggerated (if not invented) and the consequences of doing nothing become cataclysmic. Make sure you save your receipt.

Not that the Republicans' product is any less defective or over-hyped. My evenhanded contempt for both major political parties is reflected in my current registration as an Independent. I suppose I could just as easily protest by becoming a member of the Green Party (or a Libertarian or Socialist) but I have always assumed that those parties are comprised of people who need adjustments to their medications.

Several years ago - presumably due to some tragic human error - I was added to Newt Gingrich's list of major contributors. A couple times a year I get invited to

some white-tie gala event in Washington befitting my stature, despite the fact that I believe if Newt Gingrich was my dog, I'd put him down out of sheer compassion.

I spent the first half of my adult life as what you might call "a good Democrat." I never met a social program I didn't like, happily paid my taxes and donated every now and then to the national Democratic Party. That's how you get on mailing lists like Nancy's, and once that happens you are doomed.

Nancy Pelosi may actually be a very nice lady, but she evidently has the same publicist as the Wicked Witch of the West. I do agree with her that "We've worked too hard and come too far to let extreme Republicans bring back the failed policies of the past," but it's a little unclear to me why they would want to do that. I'm sure I'd be much happier with the Democrats' failed policies of the past (if not present).

According to Wikipedia there are at least 50 organized (I use the term loosely) political parties in the U.S., but I don't find any of them compelling. I'm hereby announcing the formation of the Tons Of American Despair party (TOAD), which is for people like you and me who have pretty much given up on the American political system's likelihood of doing any better in the future than it's doing right now.

But I'll need your support! As Nancy says, "We'll be confronting massively funded opponents who have demonstrated an amazing capacity to ignore the facts and a shameless ability to say or do anything to win." It's critical that you send your large non-deductible cash donation to me immediately, in care of this newspaper. Don't delay!

Dave Parsons plans to hold white-tie gala TOAD Party events infrequently at the business he co-owns on the Coralville Strip.

