

On the subject of...

Skunks, Polecats and Politicians

by Viki Eggers Mason



THE TRUTH IN BLACK AND WHITE

The Aberdeen Advocate

I've had more than my share of dealings with skunks. I lived with one for several years. No, I don't mean my former husband, though he does have a place in this story. I mean my mother's pet skunk, Flower.

Flower had been surgically altered so that when her temper got out of hand we didn't have to call the Serve-Pro restoration team to quell the smell. Flower was generally a peaceable person. She would shuffle around the house doing skunk stuff – mostly at night. She ate hamburger and used a litter box. If you did cross her, and it was not unusual for me to do so, she would whirl around, stamp her tiny back feet, raise her tail and strain uselessly. As I think about it now, it must have been very frustrating to be Flower.

Now my ex-husband John's skunk experience wasn't quite so painless.

I was married to the father of my two sons for nearly 25 years. He remains one of my dear friends and is, as a matter of fact, an Advocate subscriber. (Note to

the man who found it so scandalous that I met my handsome husband Bud on the internet. I'll go you one better. When I married Bud six years ago on the shores of Hebgen Lake, Montana, it was my ex-husband John who walked me down the aisle and gave me away. Ok, maybe he didn't give me away. Money may have changed hands, but I'm not entirely certain.)

John was fresh from California when he moved to Montana in the summer of 1969. He was the chief cook and bottle washer at a dude ranch just across the Targhee Pass in Island Park, Idaho. We Westerners don't take outsiders very seriously, particularly if they let it slip that they come from California, so John didn't have much hope of ever becoming a "local." So, for nearly a quarter of a century, it fell to me to educate him in mountain-man matters.

I was able to convince him

eventually that elk hunting could not be successfully accomplished from the comfort of your truck. He gave up elk hunting shortly thereafter. I taught him that you can't catch a trout when your line isn't in the water. I taught him, with great difficulty, to "shaddup" when we fished together. I failed completely, however, in my efforts to teach him to rig his own line. "Oh, Victoria," he would sing out across the water. "Come over here and fix my line like yours." And, if memory serves, on both occasions when he actually caught a fish it was my job to take the slimy thing off the hook. John wasn't well suited to Montana.

When my trusty watch-weenie Oscar Mire alerted me to the fact that there was a skunk in the garage one morning in the fall of 1992, I was on my way to work. I took the time to go back into the house and give John, who

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Washington yahoos at it again!

By Contributing Editor Don Rowe

Here we go again.

Our sorry pro-North American Union, open-border politicians in Washington, still licking their wounds after their plan to grant amnesty to 10-12 million illegal aliens was soundly defeated back in June, have adopted a new tact to attain their diabolical goals.

Called "incrementalism," their new strategy is akin to the old joke which asks: "How do you eat an elephant?" The answer, of course, is simple: "One bite at a time." Ever mindful that their strategy to

ram the whole immigration package down America's throat in one fell swoop failed miserably, America's traitors have now adopted a new strategy to feed us illegal immigration legislation "one bite at a time."

Now, less than three months later, the Senate's pro-amnesty group is at it again. This time, they are attempting to sneak Dick "Turbin" Durbin's DREAM Act into a defense authorization bill which would

extend amnesty to the millions of illegal aliens who entered the United States before the age of 16.

According to Roy Beck, President of NumbersUSA (the group widely acclaimed as the catalyst behind the defeat of the amnesty bill earlier this year), The DREAM Act is yet another brazen attempt to provide amnesty to illegal

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# Skunks, polecats, and politicians

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was showering, a quick lesson in skunk.

“There’s a skunk in the garage,” I shouted through the steam and cascading water. “Don’t mess with him and he will go away.”

“Right,” he answered.

Some two hours later, John rang my office to let me know that the skunk wasn’t leaving. (Patience was never one of John’s virtues.) “He’s sleeping.” I told him, “Skunks are nocturnal. Just leave him alone. He’ll leave eventually.”

It was nearly noon when John called to update me. The skunk wasn’t going anywhere. “Ok,” I said in exasperation. “Go shine a flashlight in his face. Skunks don’t like the light. He’ll leave.”

The phone didn’t ring again. Instead, an hour or so later, John materialized outside my office window looking desperate. When I stepped outside I knew in an instant that John’s impatience had done him in once again. The air outside was heavy with *eau de skunk le pew* and it emanated from my California knight in flannel armor.

“It didn’t leave,” he explained, “so I had to shoot it.”

Should you ever find yourself in such a situation, I recommend one part vanilla extract to one part water mixed in a spray bottle and used liberally as a household air freshener for several months. As for dogs and humans, the tomato juice cure works fairly well. Generally speaking, however, the best way to deal with skunks is, don’t.

Skunks are sometimes difficult to differentiate from politicians. They both come in black and white, have beady little eyes and can turn on you in a minute. Most dangerously, when you first encounter them, you think...aww, how cute!

Now, if through some olfactory error, you’ve managed to elect skunks to political office, you have a little different situation. Always remember, skunks are skunks. They are not to be trusted, no matter what form they take. They prefer to do their dealings in the dark. They dislike bright lights which serve to illuminate them and their misdeeds, and if you

cross them, which I’ve been known to do, they stamp their little feet, puff up and get cranky.

The odor of political polecats is only slightly less nauseating than that of the four legged variety. Alas, neither vanilla extract nor tomato juice has any effect whatsoever on these guys. Once you have saddled yourself with them, you’re probably stuck with their smell for the duration of their terms. The true danger with these varmints is that they run in packs and have the deplorable habit of getting into your pocket.

Just last week on these pages, I was moaning about the polecats up at city hall and their spending habits. If you recall, I mentioned that it made no sense to me to hire employees to move discarded appliances, garage doors and worn-out tires to the landfill. In other places, it is the citizen’s job to have non-residential garbage—you know the kind that doesn’t fit into garbage bags or 30-gallon trash cans—hailed away at their own expense. Here, because it is desirable to make every possible citizen beholden to you in some way, our aldermen actually invent jobs to keep the natives from becoming restless. To the really special natives, (the ones who work hardest to get us re-elected) we give especially lucrative jobs. Take the employee I like to call Large Black Man for example.

L. B. Man is one of those special employees to whom some of our aldermen are deeply indebted. L. B. Man is a floater. He gets shuffled from one department to another depending upon who needs help. Even though L. B. doesn’t like to pick up garbage, he frequently works in the Sanitation department where he gets to drive the scrap metal truck. However, Mr. Man has been known to make the occasional mistake.

At the first meeting in September, the aldermen were forced to pay a woman just over one hundred dollars because her basketball goal was misappropriated by the scrap metal truck and then, when it was finally returned to her, it came back cut up into pieces as if it were on its way to the scrap metal man. Humm.

Don’t ask me why that didn’t send up little red flags in my mind that evening. I can’t tell you why it went over my head, but it did.

Then, last week, a good friend of mine had occasion to visit the local scrap metal dealer in person. There, he encountered a big truck marked, as such vehicles must be, “City of Aberdeen,” driven by someone who was described as “a large black man.” (Since this description fits most of our male employees, in this case it serves only to tell us who the culprit wasn’t.) The truck driver had a fistful of cash and a big smile as he waved at my friend. Could it be that Mr. Man’s polecat buddies have given him a glory-hole job? Is it possible that you and I pay L. B. to drive around in one of our vehicles while he picks up awkward trash, which he swiftly transports (still in our vehicle and still on our time clock) to the scrap metal dealer where he then pockets the proceeds? Say it isn’t so!

Since we seem to have saddled ourselves with these malodorous vermin for at least the next 225 days, perhaps we should use the next few months to study the skunks more carefully in order that we can avoid making the same mistakes in the next municipal elections?

## Your Municipal Employees

**Cecil Belle, Mayor**

**369-4165**

**Ward 1 Alderman Alonzo Sykes**

**369**

**Ward 2 Alderman Cloyd Garth**

**369-5734**

**Ward 5’s OTHER Alderman Willie Cook**

**369-9156**

**Ward 4 Alderman Brunson Odom**

**369-2246**

**Ward 5 Alderman Jim Buffington**

**369-4985**

## **Please! Report Dogs**

**Running at Large!**

**349-7313**

**Larry Jackson, Animal Control**

# Washington yahoos at it again!

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aliens.

“The big argument for this amnesty is that it is for teenagers who are here illegally because their parents broke the law,” said Beck, “and the argument is that the teenagers should not be punished for the crimes of their parents. But as soon as DREAM amnesty citizens are over 21, they can bring in their parents who broke the law to get them into the country. The chief criminals will be rewarded after all. And then, because of Chain Migration, the amnestied ‘teens’ can see their aunts, uncles, cousins and grandparents getting permanent U.S. residency as well.”

Beck also makes the following points why all Americans should oppose the DREAM Act:

**The DREAM Act (TDA) does not Protect Americans from Terrorists and Criminals:** Illegal immigrants are not required to submit fingerprints or undergo background security checks at any point in TDA process. Therefore, the Department of Homeland Security has no way of learning whether an alien seeking DREAM Act amnesty is a terrorist or criminal. This security failure is compounded by the confidentiality section of the DREAM Act, which is a relic from pre-9/11 days (it’s modeled on the fraud-prone 1986 amnesty). This section basically requires DHS to hide information about terrorist and criminal aliens from itself. If a DHS adjudicator at USCIS learns from a DREAM Act application that an alien poses terrorist or criminal concerns, the adjudicator is prohibited from alerting ICE enforcement officers at DHS, and in fact, if the adjudicator did volunteer such information to ICE, he could be fined \$10,000. To cap it all, DHS is prohibited from removing from the United States all aliens, including criminals, terrorists, fraudsters and other ineligible aliens while they have a DREAM Act application pending.

**TDA Offers Citizenship to Illegal Aliens Who Lack Good Moral Character:** This act does not require that aliens have a history of good moral character; it only requires that they have good moral character from the time that they apply. This means that criminal aliens, terrorists and other aliens who

lack good moral character before they apply get an amnesty for their pre-application period conduct, no matter how bad or extensive the conduct.

**TDA is Not Just for Young People:** Sponsors insist that the point of this legislation is to provide legal status to “kids” and “young people.” However, TDA is not directed at minors, as there is no age cap involved. Anyone, regardless of age, who illegally entered the United States before the age of 16 and has illegally remained here for five years or more will qualify for lawful permanent residence (and eventual citizenship) if they satisfy the easily-met criteria for amnesty.

**TDA is Deceptive:** The marketing campaign for TDA makes as though the amnesty is intended for high school graduates who are on their way to college or military service. But the bill as written ensures that illegal immigrants don’t have to attend high school or go to college to qualify for the amnesty: they need only take an ability-to-benefit test and complete a 1-year vocational program to get eventual citizenship (and there’s no requirement that they actually complete their college education). Nor do aliens have to join the Armed Forces: they need only go to work for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration or Public Health Service for two years to get eventual citizenship.

**TDA is a Fraud Machine:** We know from experience that amnesty from immigration laws generates massive fraud, and this legislation is no exception. Nothing in TDA will prevent a 50-year old alien from asserting that he entered the United States before the age of 16 and has remained here ever since. The act is silent on how DHS will determine the veracity of such claims. It will actually promote fraud because it prevents DHS from deporting aliens who’ve applied for the amnesty until their applications are resolved – a process that will likely take years, because DHS lacks the resources to rapidly process the millions of applications it will receive.

**TDA is Unfair to American Students and Taxpayers:** This act would repeal the 1996 law which says that State colleges and universities cannot offer in-state tuition benefits to resident illegal immigrants unless they offer the same benefits to students who are U.S. citizens. So, an 18-year old United States citizen attending school in a different state

will pay substantially more money for his college education than a 30-year old illegal alien residing in that state. Because public colleges and universities are heavily subsidized by taxpayers, Americans end up paying the bill for educating illegal immigrants. Further, because the repeal of the 1996 law is retroactive, illegal aliens who formerly paid out-of-state tuition will have the ability and motivation to sue for the difference between what they paid and the in-state rate.

**TDA Will Allow Dangerous Criminal Aliens to Remain At Large in the United States:** DHS lacks the resources to detain all criminal aliens it encounters in the United States, and so DHS has to pick and choose which criminals to hold for deportation. When DHS deports a criminal alien, the detention or “bed space” vacated by the outgoing criminal is immediately filled by another criminal alien. TDA does not disqualify anyone (even criminals) from filing an application and bars DHS from removing any alien who’s filed an application for amnesty. Thus, criminal aliens who have no desire to be deported will file applications to halt or slow their deportations, which means they will spend more time taking up detention space which could be used to house other criminal aliens. That means more criminal aliens whom DHS cannot house will be free to roam the United States. TDA also creates an opportunity for extremely dangerous criminal aliens to be released into the general population. By law, a criminal alien who is subject to a final order of removal must be released from DHS custody within 90 days if his removal is not “reasonably foreseeable.” As mentioned previously, this legislation does not allocate resources to DHS to process the millions of applications that are sure to be filed, which will result in very lengthy delays. The result? A dangerous criminal alien who would otherwise have been removed from the United States files his application, and when that application stalls at DHS with millions of others, he can file a petition in a district court after 90 days to effect his release because his removal is not “reasonably foreseeable.”

With yet another betrayal of America by our so-called “leaders” taking center stage, is it any wonder that Bush (29%) and the current Nancy Pelosi-Harry Reid led Congress (11%) registered record-low approval ratings in last week’s Reuters/Zogby poll?



# The Aberdeen Advocate

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Reflections

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*"The only difference between a dead skunk lying in the road and dead politician lying in the road. There are skid marks around the skunk.*

*...Viki Eggers Mason with apologies to Patrick Murray.*

