

UNAPPROVED CHESTERFIELD NEWSLETTER 11

October 02, 2012

By John Hoffmann

24-YEAR-OLD CHESTERFIELD MAN ARRESTED FOR TOWN AND COUNTRY BURGLARIES: Jeffrey Schwartz , 24, of the 1274 Stillhouse Creek in Chesterfield has been arrested by the Town and Country Police in connection with several residential burglaries. Schwartz was charged with receiving stolen property after stolen property from two burglaries that was pawned and traced to Schwartz.

The burglaries occurred in September of 2011 on Timor Court near Clayton and Topping Roads and on June 27 in the 100 Block of Bon Chateau near Ladue and Babler Roads.

Schwartz has also been charged with Burglary and Stealing by the Creve Coeur Police and the Frontenac Police.

In 2011 Schwartz had a judgment against him for \$1,419 by Capital One Bank.

WANTED

BY THE TOWN AND COUNTRY POLICE DEPARTMENT

JEFFREY SCOTT SCHWARTZ
FOR BURGLARY 2ND DEGREE

ARRESTED

JEFFREY SCOTT SCHWARTZ
W/M, Age: 24
Hgt: 5'09" Wgt: 150

Schwartz is suspected in the burglary of a home in the 100 block of Bon Chateau Drive on June 27, 2012 where over \$14,000 in jewelry, an iPad, a Dell laptop, a MacBook Pro laptop and an iPhone were taken. Entry was made via a rear sliding door that was pried open.

On August 10, 2012, Schwartz pawned two laptops and Ipad at Southside Jewelry and Loan. The serial numbers on the pawned MacBook Pro laptop and iPad matched the ones stolen from the residence. Schwartz was the primary suspect in the September, 2011 burglary of a home in the 1200 block of Timmor Court in Town and Country. Schwartz was later arrested by this department in January, 2012. The case was reviewed by the St. Louis County Grand Jury where a True Bill was issued for Receiving Stolen Property after it was found that Schwartz sold over \$13,300 of the victim's jewelry at Missouri Gold Buyers.

Schwartz may be occupying a light blue 2009 Ford Focus MSL FE1SSH exp. 2013.
The vehicle is registered to his girlfriend Ashley Nicole Buehler.
Anyone seeing Schwartz should call 911 immediately.

EXEMPLAR PHOTO
2009 Ford Focus
MSL FE1-SSH exp. 2013

AKIN'S BIG MISTAKES: Prior to the August Primary Missouri Republicans seemed to have had a reasonable chance to take back a senate seat from Claire McCaskill. Then Todd Akin won the primary.

Todd had a chance to win but quickly went from an even-bet to a long shot.



The strategy for a guy who has been famous for saying things which seem so far off the charts to the right and beyond was simple...shut up and show pictures of Senator Claire McCaskill hugging President Obama.

Just when Akin seemed to be recovering from his “legitimate rape” quote, he claims McCaskill, a sitting US Senator and a former big city Prosecuting Attorney who had a good record of trying murders, rapists and arsonists as not being “ladylike” in their debate. Who does he want Margaret Chase Smith? (After all she was a Republican.)

Then when asked at a campaign stop why he voted against a bill to give equal pay to women, he replied that he was against government telling the private sector what to do. It is fine to think that way...but don't say it at least until you get elected to a six-year term. To say that now is just ticking off more women who have been facing work place discrimination and double pane glass ceilings forever.

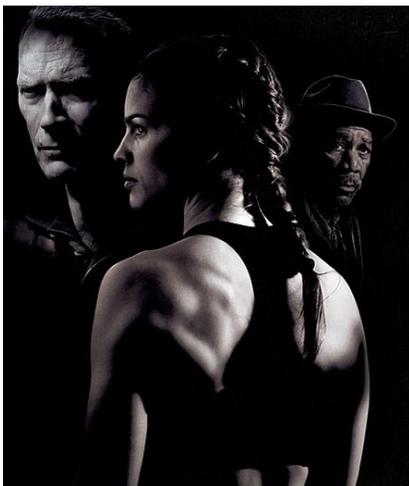
At some point Todd is even going to alienate conservative women to the point where they vote for McCaskill or for Jonathan Dine, the personal trainer who is running on the Libertarian ticket.

Akin cannot win the vote of St. Louis County, let alone Jackson County and the Columbia area. Sure he can win West St. Louis County, but not North or South County.. He needs every vote he can get from out state Missourians. Pissing off 51% of that electorate (women) probably was not a good idea. Of course I don't think Akin had any idea that was exactly what he has been doing.

Akin's first mistake was not to shut up. His second mistake was to hire his son Perry as his campaign manager. Akin needs someone who is tough and will remind him hourly if necessary to SHUT UP. Your son is simply not up for that job.

In fact Akin might have been wise to hire a tough as nails woman who can do two things. Keep her mouth shut and keep telling him to keep his mouth shut. People like Phyllis Schlafly or Jane Cunningham would be awful for the job. While they might be able to keep Todd off local TV and radio interview shows they would be equally as likely to say something peculiar.

He needed to hire someone like Maggie Fitzgerald, the character played by Hillary Swank in the movie Million Dollar Baby. A person who didn't talk much and could hit him with a quick right jab every time he tried to open his mouth.



Hillary Swank with Clint Eastwood and Morgan Freeman in the background.

OUR PREDICTION ABOUT CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS IS NOW HALF TRUE:

Back in June one of the last columns I wrote for Patch.com dealt with Charter Communications announcing that their top executives, who they just hired away from New York City area cable companies were going to relocate themselves to Manhattan.. <http://chesterfield.patch.com/articles/cable-tv-execs-are-sending-a-clear-message-to-customers>

I listed the quality of life issues between Manhattan and Town and Country. I closed the piece predicting that Charter would eventually be sold off and the T&C headquarter offices would be shut down. Four months later and it appears that I'm half right so far as Charter announced on Tuesday October 2 they planned to move the company's headquarters and 200 jobs to Connecticut. Have you looked at the cost of living in the

suburban New York City areas of Connecticut compared to St. Louis? It is not a pretty picture if you are moving to the east.

It turns out the new Charter CEO lives in Connecticut.

TAXPAYERS BIG MISTAKES: Conservatives who complain that the Post-Dispatch is too liberal and the old timers from the days of the Globe-Democrat and Post-Dispatch who still refer to the Post as the St. Louis Daily Pravda should take heart in the series on the History Museum wasting money with its \$1,000,000 deal to purchase an empty lot from former St. Louis mayor, Freeman Bosley.

Of course the empty lot did not really cost \$1,000,000. It was actually \$875,000 they paid to Bosley for a portion of the land six years after he bought the property for \$150,000. But they also paid \$100,000 in legal fees! Perhaps it isn't such a good deal if you have to pay \$100,000 in legal fees and the lawyers never suggest that you get a fair market appraisal of the property.

Then it turns out the Director of the History Museum, Robert Archibald is pulling down an annual salary of \$515,000. He is making more than the President of the United States!

Next the Post-Dispatch revealed that Archibald had promised Joe Edwards' Loop Trolley a \$1,000,000 contribution from the History Museum. It turns out Archibald is also on the Board of Directors of the Loop Trolley group. After the revelations the offer was withdrawn.

The lesson learned here is that St. Louis Countians are basically good hearted people. They voted to take on an additional property tax for the Zoo, Art Museum and Science Museum. Then they added the Shaw's Gardens in 1983 and the History Museum in 1988. Most people have a soft fuzzy spot in their hearts and apparently their heads, by adding more and more to the original tax district. .

The Mistakes: By funneling property tax money to so many groups you lose view of the control and use of the money. The Science Museum had up to eight assistant directors and managers all pulling down six figure salaries, plus receiving annual performance bonuses. The Post-Dispatch revealed this boondoggle in the spring of 2011. The director of the Science Center was also making more than the President of the United States. A good rule of thumb might be if you get tax money your head person

can't make more than the President of the United States, who is currently is getting by on \$400,000 annually.

At some point we taxpayers have to wise up and turn off the spigot.

We added the History Museum to the tax rolls because we all remember field trips there as kids. It was a fun day away from school. Let's let them join the zoo in taxing our property.

\$10,000,000 of the History Museum's \$15,000,000 budget comes from property taxes. How have we taxpayers been rewarded? We have had the History Museum hand out huge salaries to its director and top staff members, buy real estate without a use plan in place for three times its actual value and have the director with a clear conflict of interest promise \$1,000,000 to build the Loop Trolley.

Say No to the Next Tax Grab: Coming up on the November ballot is a new local sales tax that would give money to the keep up the Gateway Arch grounds. It is time to say NO! This is not a locally run park, but it is part of the US Park system. I think what we have seen with the money being wasted at the Science Center followed by the History Museum it is time to wise up.

CHARLIE BRENNAN DEFENDS HISTORY MUSEUM: I don't know if you watched the September 27 Donnybrook show on KETC. KMOX's Charlie Brennan in the round table discussion where Brennan as the moderator can't keep his mouth shut, defended Archibald and pointed out that the money used to buy the empty lot without a appraisal came from the \$5,000,000 of the annual \$15,000,000 that was not from the taxpayers.

That is some kind of amazing logical. If they didn't waste a \$1,000,000 to buy property they have no plan to use, they would need less tax money to run the institution.

BRENNAN RATINGS DOWN CALLING FOR AN ADJUSTMENT: It was interesting to see where Brennan's two hour mid-morning radio show needed help. It was announced that Debbie Monterey would join Brennan for the first hour of thee 9-to11 show. Apparently the McGraw Milhaven show on KTRS and Glen Beck on KFTK are drawing listeners away from the name dropping Brennan. For some time Milhaven has accused Brennan and KMOX of keeping him off of Donnybrook as a substitute panelist.
http://blogs.riverfronttimes.com/dailyrft/2011/04/ktrs_mcgraw_milhaven_knox_charlie_brennan_cat_fight.php



KMOX is hoping Debbie Monterey can boost Charlie “The ShriII Shill” Brennan’s sagging ratings.

CITY COUNCIL AND PUBLIC WORKS & PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

CANCELED: All the meetings scheduled for this week at city hall have been cancelled including the city council meeting, all because lack of agenda items.

At the last City Council meeting on September 19, while we were out of town, a number of bills were passed. Most we had already discussed in prior newsletters. The bill that will have the most effect on Chesterfield residents is that one where Chesterfield will take control of Ladue Road. This will surely mean far superior snow removal than what people are used to in the past.

CRIME IRONY: It had been rumored for several months that St. Louis Police Chief Dan Isom would be forced out of the top cop spot. When Isom announced on October 1 he was taking a job with UMSL as a faculty member or criminologist it was somewhat ironic.



Isom bragged how he helped lower the now violent crime rate in St. Louis as Police Chief. Unfortunately homicides flourished.

However it appeared that Isom learned well while he was a member of the Police Department’s command staff. Back in 2004 and 2005 the St. Louis Police stopped reporting much of the rapes in the city and then bragged how there was a reduction in rapes.

In fact police officers were instructed to write up the rapes as minor assaults or to simply write up a memo and forward it to the overworked sex crimes unit. Either way actual rapes were kept off the books until Post-Dispatch reporter Jeremy Kohler uncovered the scam in 2005.

Isom pulled a variation on the hidden rape scheme by trying to use smoke and mirrors and drop the numbers of property crimes. If someone broke into 15 parked cars near the Arch according to FBI crime reporting standards the police should count each incident as a separate crime. However, Isom instructed officers to write up incidents of people breaking into multiple cars whether overnight in a neighborhood or on a parking lot around downtown as a single crime. Guess what? The property crime rate plummeted, while in reality actual crimes were increasing.

I can only hope that Isom works this method in lowering crime into his classroom lectures at UMSL. "If you Stop Reporting Crimes...The Crime Rate Drops 101."

JAZZ BIG BAND CONCERT COMING TO WEST COUNTY The Route 66 Jazz Orchestra will be performing some great Big Band music in the Chesterfield area soon. On Wednesday October 17 the 20 piece big band will perform at the Sky Music Lounge at the Barn of Lucerne, Clayton and Kehrs Mill Roads starting at 8pm.

If you can't make that concert a week later they will be performing at the First Unity Church on Butler Road between I-55 and Tesson Ferry Road. Admission is \$10 for either concert.



Vocalist Valerie Tichacek with the Route 66 Jazz Orchestra, a 20-piece big band.

NEWSLETTER SAVES \$18,900: I got an email followed by a telephone call from a resident of the Pittsburgh, PA area. He said thanks to my Patch.com opinion pieces and this newsletter features on Brian Marchant-Calsyn he saved almost \$19,000. He said he was about to send a wire transfer for \$18,900 for a franchise to the healthcare executive search company offered by Dr. Peter Stanos. At the last minute he was

cautioned by his bank about the transfer and then decided to run a Google on the name of the person who had been trying to sell him the franchise, Brian Calsyn.

It was then he found the articles, columns and newsletters on Brian Marchant, the ex-con drug dealer who used to live in Chesterfield before moving to a 5-acre spread on Topping Road which is now for sale. Brian changed his name to Marchant-Calsyn in 2001 and now is going by Calsyn. It is a good way to distance yourself from the Federal prison time in the 1990s by changing your name regularly. Marchant-Calsyn moved his office to Chesterfield for one year in 2009 after he was evicted from an office building in Town and Country.

The man from Pittsburgh looked at Marchant-Calsyn's former company, Health Career Agents that has multiple judgments against it and found it was the exact same business model as Dr. Stanos operation where Marchant-Calsyn is a salesperson.

MONARCH PLANTED GOOD DEED ARTICLE...DO THESE GUYS NEED A FREE MEAL AND WHAT HAPPENED TO PASS IT FOWARD? Joe Holleman, of the Post-Dispatch was recently moved to an editor's position. Many people might know Joe best by the Saturday Trivia Quiz he wrote. After being transferred to the editor's job he was also suppose to take Deb Petersen's place doing an around town social type column occasionally. This might have been a blessing in disguise as Holleman promised to never refer to the city or the regional area as "The Lou" which was a very annoying habit of Ms. Petersen who is now writing editorials.

On Monday afternoon I noticed Holleman had just placed a piece on the paper's website about how eight Monarch firefighters were having a weekend breakfast at The First Watch in Hilltop Center off of Olive. The piece quotes Monarch Fire Marshal Roger Herin as saying some anonymous diner picked up the \$100 tab for the firefighters.

Holleman wrote up it as if Herin was one of the eight firefighters. He wasn't. He was told the story. As the fire district's media liaison guy Herin passed on the story to Holleman.

Here is what immediately got me after reading it. What was someone thinking picking up these guys' bill? These guys are some of the highest paid firefighters in the State of Missouri. They were so highly paid a few years ago, that despite wage freezes over the last couple of years they are still making more combined in salary and benefits than almost all other first line public safety people in the state. The average wage and benefit package for a 10-year veteran is around \$125,000. The eight probably had a higher annual gross than 80% of the diners at the First Watch that day.

It is not like these guys were volunteers getting breakfast after an overnight fire. They arrived to work and parked their new Dodge Ram and Ford F-250 pickup trucks around a fire station and are now eating at a First Watch. Just the fact they were eating at First Watch is a clue these guys are doing pretty well, since the menu is not full of Denny's like \$4 breakfast specials.

Herin took great offense when I asked him if the firefighters who were treated to the \$100 in free breakfast passed it forward.

At first he didn't know what I was talking about. I said I thought Monarch firefighters were handsomely compensated and asked if in lieu of getting a free breakfast, if they put some money on the table and decided to put it in an envelope to the Salvation Army or if they dropped it off at the Humane Society's Chesterfield office. In other words I was waiting to hear the rest of the story, only there wasn't one.

Herin said he was disappointed that I would ask such a question and how I must have had a very sad life to even think of such a thing.

WHEN A POSITIVE IS A NEGATIVE: I recently experienced something that was called a "positive" but turned out to be a negative. I went in for a stress test and was told I had a "positive test." I thought, "gee that's great. I'm glad I didn't get a "negative test." Imagine my surprise that the very next day I was at St. Luke's in the Cardiac Lab for a heart catheterization.

VACATION PHOTOS: This year's vacation was a success. Neither myself or my wife were injured or charged with attempted murder after spending 14 days, sitting next to each other in small airline seats, while driving over 1,600 miles of highway in Oregon, Washington, California and British Columbia, sharing a 190 square foot stateroom on a cruise ship, and staying together at six different hotels and B&Bs.

The chowder run: We flew into Seattle and then headed toward the coast and went south. There were an amazing number of places claiming to have won awards for the best clam chowder. It was like being in Cape Cod but the sun sets over the ocean.

Here were the five best Chowder samplings we had:

5. Mo's Florence, Oregon
4. Fairmont Hotel Vancouver, BC
3. Paula's Seaside, Oregon

2. Albion Inn Restaurant South of Mendocino, CA
1. The public wharf in Monterey, CA

Best Chicken and Dumplings Troutdale, Oregon:



Tad's started as a depression era beer and fish place, but morphed into having a house specialty of Chicken and Dumplings after WWII. This neon sign has been around for 60 years in front of the roadhouse outside of Troutdale, Oregon along the Columbia River.



If you are going to the ocean you are obligated to snap at least one photo of a lighthouse. This one is at the mouth to the harbor of Vancouver.



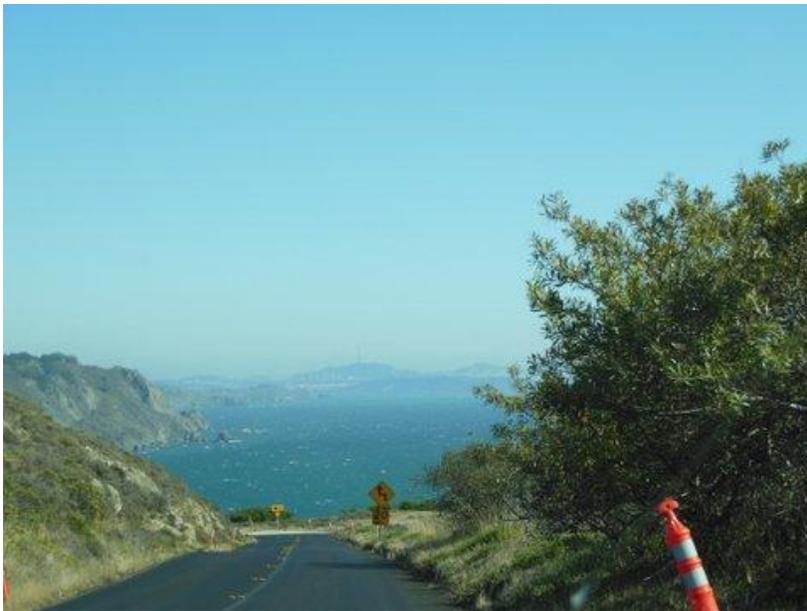
You are also obligated to snap a shot of a sunset over the water. Here is mine at Bandon, Oregon.



Sure I could have shown you a photo of the Pacific Ocean from the front of the Glendeven B&B south of Mendocino, California, but instead I snapped my wife feeding our breakfast providers. The B&B uses eggs for breakfast from their own chickens. A packet of chicken feed is located in each guest room and guests are encouraged to feed the chickens while they walk the grounds.



Driving down Highway 1 you are on a constant lookout for bicyclists on curves and hills, but this was the most unique vehicle we had to pass.



I love driving through the twisting and winding mountain roads in Washington, Oregon and California. My second most favorite drive is CAL Highway 1 north of San Francisco, but the best still has to be Highway 1 through Big Sur.

BEST OF ST. LOUIS: The last piece I wrote for a print publication was a baseball preview piece for a east coast magazine in 2006. The last newspaper article I wrote was for a Washington Post commuter paper in 2005. The last hard news magazine print article I wrote was for a national police management magazine in 2000. But I have written thousands of articles, columns, sports stories for websites and this newsletter.

Still imagine my surprise when the Riverfront Times name me the best newspaper columnist in St. Louis for 2012.

<http://www.riverfronttimes.com/bestof/2012/award/best-newspaper-columnist-1699441/>

Best Newspaper Columnist - 2012

John Hoffmann

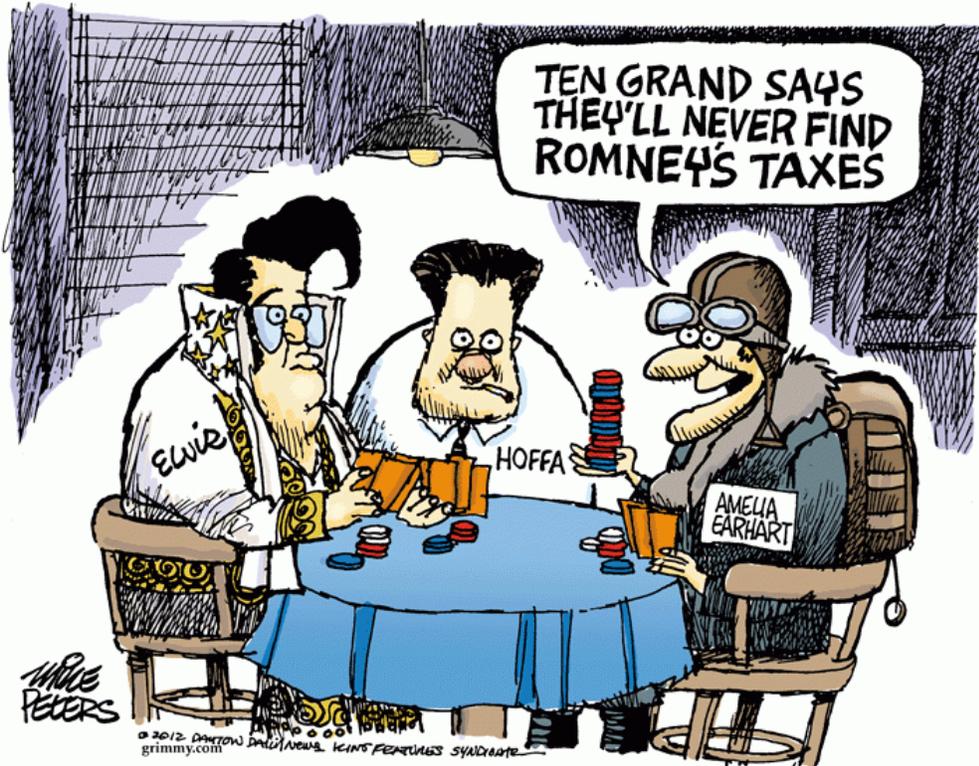
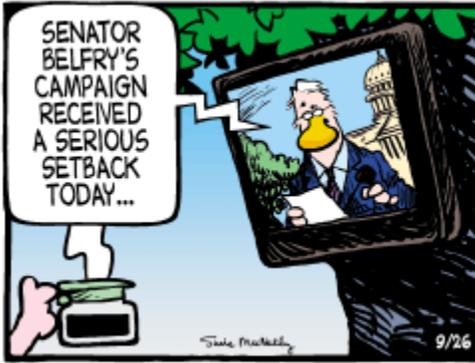
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You know you're doing something right as an opinion columnist when you manage to get under the skin of Charlie Brennan. And that's precisely what Chesterfield Patch writer John Hoffmann did this past March, when he used his, er, patch of virtual newsprint to tweak the KMOX (1120 AM) radio host for a column about St. Louis tourist attractions that Brennan had recently penned for *USA Today*. Shot back Brennan in Patch's comments queue: "It is irresponsible to promulgate Hoffman's [*sic*] misinformed straw man arguments in the Chesterfield Patch." Brennan is just one of several big shots to find themselves in Hoffmann's crosshairs over the past year. Last fall Hoffmann, a former cop and Town & Country alderman, put on his gumshoes to track down the police reports from Cardinals TV broadcaster Dan McLaughlin's DUIs. The results were comic gold: Chesterfield police suggested in one report that McLaughlin was so drunk when pulled over that he had soiled his pants. Another Hoffmann column, in which he revealed to readers the makes and models of the cars owned by area politicians, earned the ire of elected officials. One Chesterfield councilman complained that it was "insanity" for Hoffmann's editors to publish such information. And in the end, it seems Hoffmann was indeed too edgy for Patch.com. The AOL-owned publication quit running his ruminations over the summer. Fortunately we can still keep up with the cranky columnist via his own website, www.johnhoffmann.net.

CARTOONS:



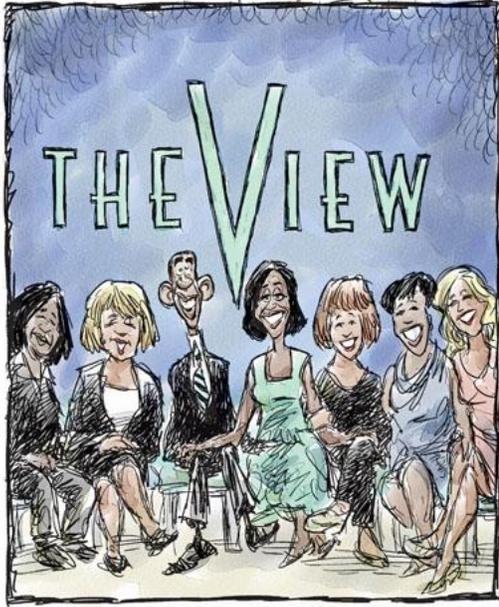




The UN General Assembly affords me the opportunity to address a critical global constituency...



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