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19 Sept 08
Variety

• Variations



Lipstick on a monument

A SCHOLARLY article posted on an American Web site for intellectuals asks, "What makes people

vote Republican?"

And there, in that question, lies the problem with the Left. (There was a similar book published

four years ago, "What's the Matter With Kansas? How Conservatives Won the Heart of America.")

For most leftists, their political opponents are a bunch of morons who can be surprisingly smart,

sometimes, but are morons nonetheless. It's like what Senator Obama noted recently in his lipstick

on a pig comment.

The Left's weary contempt for people they consider as political hacks is understandable. Leftists,

after all, believe they have already unlocked the mysteries of the world; that they have the answers

to all our problems. Hence, we should listen to them. It perplexes them that not everyone shares

their certitude. They are irritated by the horse they have just led to water but still refuses to drink.

Consider, for example, the ongoing discussions regarding the marine monument proposal. (It was

this newspaper, incidentally, that urged the governor to at least listen to the Pew group's presenta-

tion; we also advised the monument proponents to do a better job of reaching out to the local commu-

nity.) Most of the leftists in the community support this proposal and now probably find it amusing that the U.S. president they despise the most

can make their dreams come true. (There is a lesson there, but I don't think they'll get it.)

A lot of local people I know simply tuned out when the monument proponents started sounding

like they were lecturing the unwashed masses. The proponents' tone, at least initially, was one of

righteous condescension. But this was quickly followed by ad hominem attacks and then by

outright insults. For the proponents, their opponents are basically stupid or criminally corrupt —

that some people can be honest and sincere, too, in their opposition to this beautiful, wonderful proposal, and that emotional issues are also involved

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are being "manipulated" by the GOP which is making them angry about abortion and other social issues so they will vote for

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rich tax cuts. Republicans who will give the

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