

The two-party system of government

Daniel Gustav Anderson
Staff Writer

Because he so preferred the United States of America, Satan himself designed for it the two-party system of government.

This system is fundamentally wrong and will bring the fall of the American empire. As Christ explained, "a house divided against itself cannot stand."

The system allows certain people to make a great deal of money; this oligarchy, small group of powerful businesses, has the power to perpetuate the system which produces its own wealth.

Consider the contenders in this money-making machine:

The Democratic party panders to the needs of the poor, the downtrodden, minorities, the environment, people who seem to appreciate their civil liberties. Support of these groups brings financial support for the Party in the form of donations and contributions, like charity.

The Republican Party uses moral issues—"family values," for example—catch phrases popular to conservative capitalists, particularly successful ones. Then, these capitalists offer finan-

cial contributions to the Party, and the Party fights the true "moral" issues that the Democrats seem to represent: helping the poor, the downtrodden, minorities, and so forth.

Neither party, however, is any less guilty than the other. Imagine a magnet with only one pole, or an axle with only one wheel. A polarized system takes two poles, and the strength of one pole is measurable by the strength of the other. This polarization and fragmentation also leads to other dangers, and distracts voters from root issues.

Americans have adopted the habit of reducing human complexity to simplistic moral absolutes. Certain voters, for example, have become one-issue thinkers. These voters rally around their causes—abortion, gun control or lack thereof, environment—and become organized lobbying, pandering, connection-making, legislation-breaking, propaganda creating factions. They are blinded by the brightness of their own moral correctness, voting for candidates exclusively on the word of the gun lobby, or the abortion lobby, or the tobacco lobby. Single issues take on disproportio-

tionate magni-

tionate magnitude. Candidates for office—remarkably complex, like everyone—s i m p l y choose which factions to patronize, push the keys of enough voters and can easily enter office with a different, previously unquestioned, agenda. The candidate can carry on the dualistic party system without much effort.

Of course, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party are not the only two participants. This century has seen the rise of Libertarians, Independents, Greens and Silver Foxes, for example. Political analysts have noticed that these parties often play a spoiler role.

In the 1988 Oregon gubernatorial race, the moderate Republican Dave Frohnmeyer lost to liberal Democrat Barbara Roberts. A third candidate, super-conservative Independent Al Mobley—



graphic by Chad Pattenon

The third option is no political parties at all.

sponsored by the Oregon Citizen's Alliance and the antiabortion lobby—stole much of Frohnmeyer's conservative support. With Mobley and Frohnmeyer clobbering one another, Roberts won the election by a slim margin. In other words, either major party can use any small party to defeat the other major party.

Representative democracy, without parties. People could simply vote for candidates and not labels; partisan silliness in Congress would be without base.

The dual-party system is a money-making machine for few and waste of time for everyone, and must change now.

Letter to the editor: Concerns about piracy

Now let me get this straight. And I quote from the article by Brad Zimmerman in the November 29 issue of "The Print"; "The reality is, that until a testing method (for software) is found, piracy is the only viable option to avoid buying bad software."

This is a powerful proclamation. Let's examine his words.

"The reality is, that until a testing method (for software) is found..." My first questions would be, has he worked for a year or more hacking out code in order to develop a piece of software that does something worth a consumers dollars? Has he been an alpha and beta tester of software and crash-tested it? Has he been directly involved in the "testing" of software?

Another related question. What kind of "testing method" does he seek? Is he aware of the kinds of methods presently in place for software testing by reputable companies? Does he propose that all software be held from the marketplace until it is kid-tested and mother-approved as worthy of purchase? Who's standards will Mr. Zimmerman impose on the final release of software in order to deem it "good" as opposed to the "bad" he proclaims in the next-to-last word of his article?

His final amazing statement is "...piracy is the only viable option to avoid buying bad software." Statements such as "never" and "the only" should always be held suspect. If stealing is the only viable option to buying, then we are all in sad shape. This is the same kind of thinking that renders many people incapable of changing the TV dial. That forces them to watch offending programs, go to violent, sexually explicit movies against their will, and send their kids expensive private schools. Yes, it is this same misguided perception in this country that is forcing us all to become angry, violent, and prone to criminal activities. Mr Zimmerman would have us believe that this stressful life we lead is viciously draining us of any semblance of free will that we possess, and dragging us to Egghead to shell out our hard-won dollars for the latest software that we know absolutely nothing about.

After reading his exhortations to criminal activity I would imagine that Mr. Zimmerman has been forced at gunpoint to purchase inferior products since childhood. With absolutely no avenue of grievance available to him. From reading his article, it seems that he is new to America's concept of free enterprise, choice in the marketplace, try before you buy, product disclaimers, limited warranties, and buyer beware.

Let's follow his logic for a few more examples.

Until automobiles are fully tested car theft is the only viable option to buying bad cars.

Until authors are completely capable of writing inoffensive works, book theft is the only viable option to buying bad books.

Until book publishers finally lower their prices, photocopying is the only viable option to paying exorbitant prices for books.

Until politicians can all emulate the moral standards practiced by Jesus Christ, they should all be executed.

As you can see, this appears to be flawed logic. Not the logic

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Season to party

Sean M. Whitney
Contributing Writer

'Tis the season to party. Many of you will attend or host a Christmas party in the coming weeks. Recently I heard an idea that combines the traditional gathering with an opportunity to give.

Invitations were sent out inviting a group of friends to a Christmas party; however, a brief paragraph explained, "This party has a purpose..." The purpose was the collection of gifts to be donated to a local women's shelter. Enclosed, was a "Holiday Wish List" provided by the shelter, and the list was varied enough to allow for even the smallest budget.

The response was overwhelming. The host of this party, who wishes to remain anonymous, said that the idea came from her desire to do something for battered women.

"Most of these women have no money. They've usually just left, and they have no money. They have nothing," said the hostess about women coming from abusive situations.

She said that she found the shelter listed under *women's services* in the phone book and contacted them for instructions on what, where and how to give. The donations are being handled through a church; the shelter keeps its location secret to pro-

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Letter to the Editor: Teaching evolution in American schools

I agree up to a point, with the article titled, "Why evolution is not the answer," in the November 29 edition of the Clackamas Print.

I agree our evolutionary data is imperfect, and there are gaps that can't be explained, yet. We do not have irrefutable proof of an evolution from the primordial soup to the now. Although we do have something to pick up and hold in our hands, to subject to testing and comparisons with other samples, many feel it is not enough, there needs to be something more that needs to be answered. On the surface it does seem logical and even beneficial for the two theories to be taught in conjunction, so a person could see the empirical evidence and decide for themselves.

Now, the question comes up:

which creation story (theory) do we teach? Will it be Hindu, Bassari, Yakima, Norse, Zen, UFOlogist, the Gaia principle, Christian? . . . we cannot teach only one creation theory because there are too many, and each of the believers are sure their's is the only true story and each has enough proof to convince themselves and other followers. Herin lies the dilemma.

Maybe until, as with evolution, we have one creationism theory acceptable to the majority, the best answer is still to teach it at home or in the Synagogues, Oak Groves, Temples, Churches, on the mountain tops, in Peyote dreams or wherever an individual goes to get in touch with their Creator. Or not.

Esther Esson
Student

LOSE 20 POUNDS IN TWO WEEKS

Famous U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet

During the non-snow off season the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team members used the "Ski Team" diet to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. That's right - 20 pounds in 14 days! The basis of the diet is chemical food action and was devised by a famous Colorado physician especially for the U.S. Ski Team. Normal energy is maintained (very important!) while reducing. You keep "full" - no starvation - because the diet is designed that way. It's a diet that is easy to follow whether you work, travel or stay at home.

This is, honestly, a fantastically successful diet. If it weren't, the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team wouldn't be permitted to use it! Right? So, give yourself the same break the U.S. Ski Team gets. Lose weight the scientific, proven way. Even if you've tried all the other diets, you owe it to yourself to try the U.S. Women's Alpine Ski Team Diet. That is, if you really do want to lose 20 pounds in two weeks. Order today! Tear this out as a reminder.

Send only \$8.95 (\$9.60 in Calif.)-add .50 cents RUSH service to: American Institute, 721 E. Main Street, Dept. 254, Santa Maria, CA 93454-4507. Don't order unless you expect to lose 20 pounds in two weeks! Because that's what the Ski Team Diet will do.

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