

Third Saturday Seminar 2016-2017

Humanity at a Crossroads

15 October 2016

<http://northstarinst.org/tss/16-17/02/TSS.16-17.Session.02.Notice.htm>

Session 2

“Are you ready to amend”

Is it time to add another amendment?

Curt Gibby

Presentation

**ALL Program, Lone Star College – Montgomery
Conroe, Texas**

It time for some relief from the election.

First we will watch a 30 minute video, “[Legalize Democracy](#)” presenting a really interesting chronology of how corporations have achieved Super Personhood starting with a Supreme Court decision in 1819 and reached it’s epitome in the Citizens United Ruling and it’s social and economic consequences and how they encroach on our personal liberty. (*You are encouraged to watch it before the session.*)

(Some of you attended an excellent A.L.L. live presentation on this several months ago.)

This is a 28th Amendment proposed by the
group

Move to Amend

(<http://movetoamend.org>)

(House Joint Resolution 48 introduced April 29, 2015)

Section 1. *[Artificial Entities Such as Corporations Do Not Have Constitutional Rights]*

Section 2. *[Money is Not Free Speech]*

<https://movetoamend.org/wethepeopleamendment>

A brief review of “Legalize Democracy”
Timeline of Personhood Rights and Powers
https://movetoamend.org/sites/default/files/timeline_hmprint.pdf

If you have trouble downloading the
“[timeline_hmprint.pdf](#)” review you can access it
at the link at the top of the “Meeting Notice”

<http://movetoamend.com>

Amending process

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_proposed_amendments_to_the_United_States_Constitution)

Amending the United States Constitution is a **two-step process**. Proposals to amend it must be properly *Adopted and Ratified* before becoming operative.

A proposed amendment may be adopted and sent to the states for ratification by either:

The United States Congress, whenever a **two-thirds majority** in both the Senate and the House of Representatives deem it necessary;

OR

A national convention, called by Congress for this purpose, on the application of the legislatures of two thirds (presently 34) of the states.

To become part of the Constitution, an adopted amendment must be **ratified by either** (as determined by Congress):

The legislatures of three-fourths (presently 38) of the states, within the stipulated time period—if any;

OR

State ratifying conventions in three-fourths (presently 38) of the states, within the stipulated time period—if any.

Upon being properly ratified, an amendment becomes an operative addition to the Constitution.^[3]

Sidebar: Sometimes it may not pay to go down a rabbit hole.

As you know, I normally find Wikipedia a reliable and convenient source of information. Well, in preparing for this session a question grew in my mind about how corporations are regarded in other countries and through history.

I found this disturbing entry...

disturbing entry...

This led me to: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Corporation> which opens with: “A corporation is a company or group of people authorized to act as a single entity (legally a person) and recognized as such in law. Early incorporated entities were established by charter (i.e. by an *ad hoc* act granted by a monarch or passed by a parliament or legislature). Most jurisdictions now allow the creation of new corporations through registration.”

I could find nothing in the article regarding how the rights of “**artificial persons**” are different from **human beings in the eyes of the law**. I must be missing something! I’m sure this will add to the conversation and distract us from election matters. (Or, will it? Citizens United connects them.) It is painfully clear that corporate personhood is not a new concept. **The problem seems to be having the right rules for them to live by so they don’t swallow us humans as well as our governments**

Discussion

After a relatively brief few hundred years that humankind has experienced The Enlightenment that allowed the flowering of rational thought, scientific revelation and exploration of our world and universe during which, in spite of wars and challenges of nature and corruption we had momentarily freed ourselves of oppression, and of the unquestioned domination of feudal and ecclesiastical powers. In fact personal wealth began to be accumulated by the laborer. Now our world is again starting to contract to satisfy the dictates of our corporate overlords who will use our own technology and institutions to gently coax us to assimilate into a compliant proletariat.

**The corporates are perfecting their control over our Congress, our executive branch, and especially the Supreme Court ...
“Resistance is futile!” or, is it?**

DON'T PANIC!

DON'T (be) PANIC(ked)!

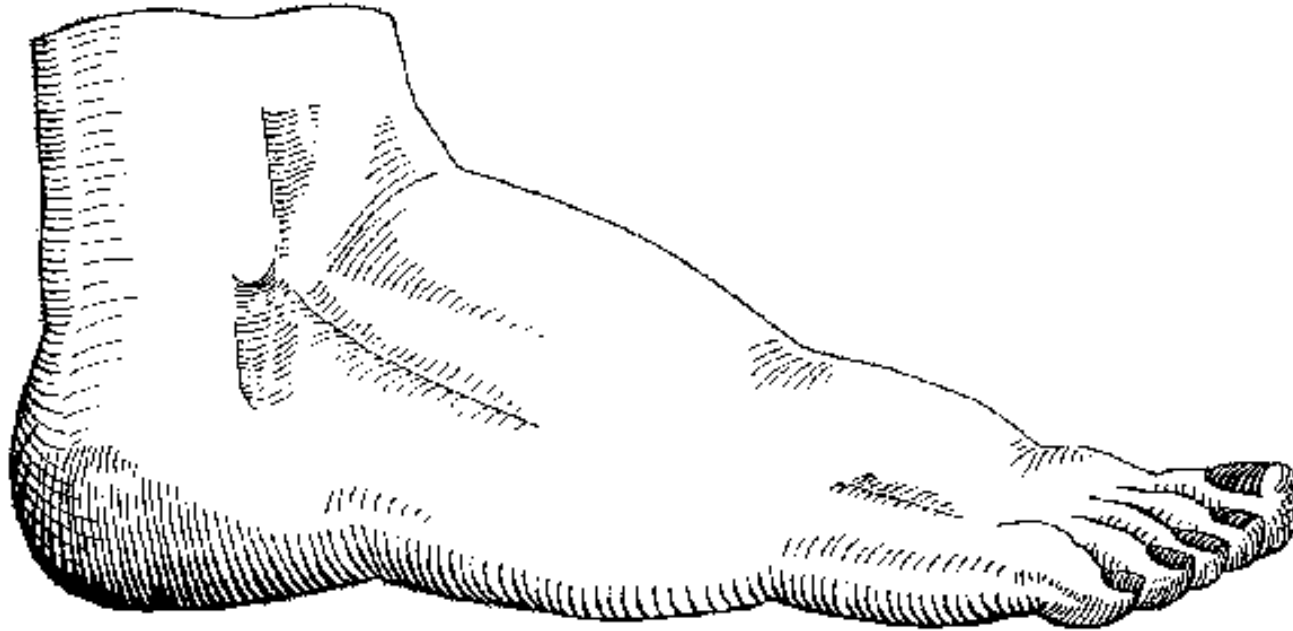
See you **November 19, 2016. (Third Saturday)**



<http://northstarinst.org/TSS/>

Enrichment Material and Random Leftovers

The Monty Python Foot, a convenient way to end something that would seem to go on for ever accomplishing nothing.... (*See deus ex machina*)



The famous Python Foot can here be seen in its original format in the bottom left corner of "An Allegory of Venus and Cupid" by [Bronzino](#) (~1545)

When Monty Python had no ending for a skit, this foot would appear out of the sky and squash whatever was on screen with a rude noise. Allowing the show to move on.

One of life's persistent questions:

“Why do cockroaches roll over before they die?”



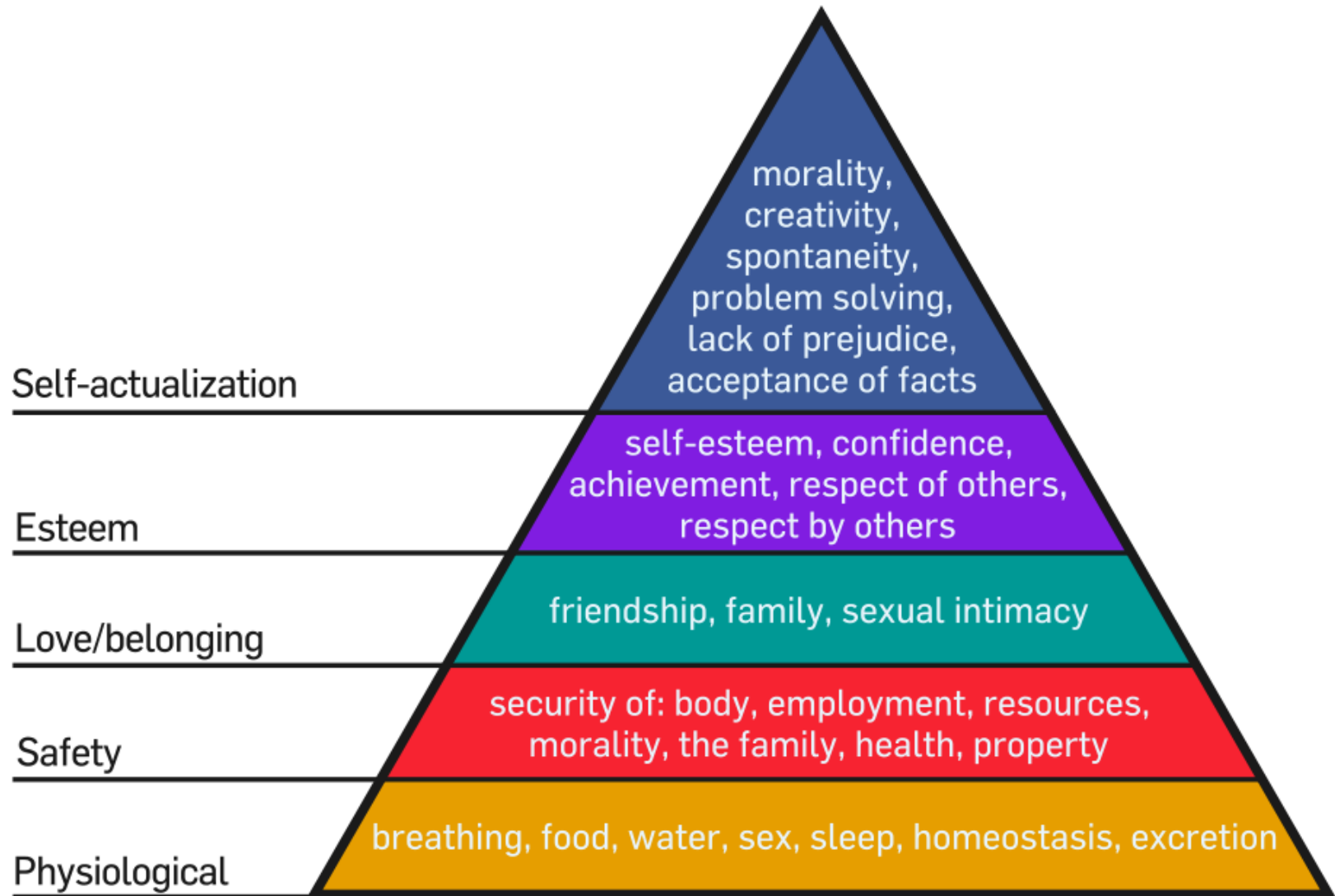
The day before Lafayette left to return to France, on Sept. 6, 1825, he again appeared before a joint session of the Congress.

<http://www.schillerinstitute.org/educ/hist/lafayette.html>

... I have had proudly to recognize a result of the republican principles for which we have fought, and a glorious demonstration to the most timid and prejudiced minds, of the superiority, over degrading aristocracy or despotism, of popular institutions founded on the plain rights of man, and where the local rights of every section are preserved under a constitutional bond of union. The cherishing of that union between the states, as it has been the farewell entreaty of our great paternal Washington, and will ever have the dying prayer of every American patriot, so it has become the sacred pledge of the emancipation of the world, an object in which I am happy to observe that the American people, while they give the animating example of successful free institutions, in return for an evil entailed upon them by Europe, and of which a liberal and enlightened sense is everywhere more and more generally felt, show themselves every day more anxiously interested....

<http://www.historynet.com/hail-lafayette.htm#sthash.5sLm6eZJ.dpuf>

Mazlow's Hierarchy of Needs



Basic Wilderness Survival Skills

From: **British Columbia Outdoor Wilderness Guide**

Fear - For anyone faced with a wilderness emergency survival situation, fear is a normal reaction. Unless an emergency situation has been anticipated, fear is generally followed by panic then pain, cold, thirst, hunger, fatigue, boredom and loneliness. It is extremely important to calmly assess the situation and not allow these seven enemies to interfere with your survival.

Pain - Pain may often be ignored in a panic situation. Remember to deal with injuries immediately before they become even more serious.

Cold - Cold lowers the ability to think, numbing the body and reducing the will to survive. Never allow yourself to stop moving or to fall asleep unless adequately sheltered.

Thirst - Dehydration is a common enemy in an emergency situation and must not be ignored. It can dull your mind, causing you to overlook important survival information.

Hunger - Hunger is dangerous but seldom deadly. It may reduce your ability to think logically and increase your susceptibility to the effects of cold, pain and fear.

Fatigue - Fatigue is unavoidable in any situation so it is best to keep in mind that it can and will lower your mental ability. Remember that in an emergency situation this is often the body's way of escaping a difficult situation.

Boredom & Loneliness - These enemies are quite often unanticipated and may lower mind's ability to deal with the situation.

The Serenity Prayer

God, grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change,

The courage to change the things I can,

And the wisdom to know the difference.

The **Serenity Prayer** is the common name for a [prayer](#) authored by the American theologian [Reinhold Niebuhr](#)^{[1][2]} (1892–1971). It has been adopted by [Alcoholics Anonymous](#) and other [twelve-step programs](#).

*We live in a world where power is very unbalanced.
Power imbalances are at the root of most social
problems.*

*Correcting power imbalances will go a long way
towards solving many problems at once.
We'd be wise to attend to this no matter what issues we
work on.*

Dr. John S. Atlee, with Tom Atlee
[Co-Intelligence Institute](#)

Political Power defined

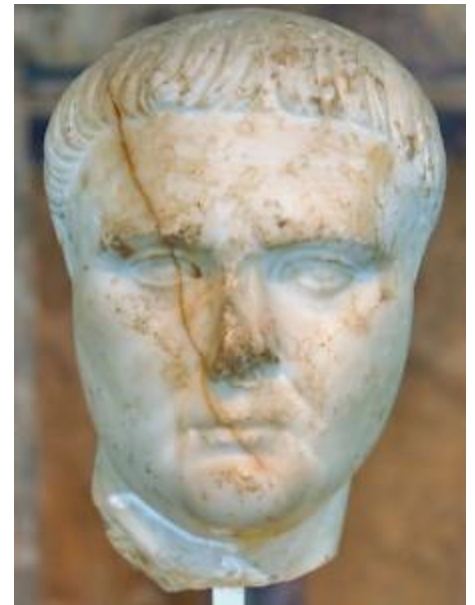
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_\(social_and_political\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Power_(social_and_political))

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

In social science and politics, **power** is the ability to influence or outright control the behavior of people. The term "authority" is often used for power perceived as legitimate by the social structure. Power can be seen as evil or unjust, but the exercise of power is accepted as endemic to humans as social beings. In business, power is often expressed as being "upward" or "downward". With downward power, a company's superior influences subordinates. When a company exerts upward power, it is the subordinates who influence the decisions of their leader or leaders.^[1]

In a state where The Future of Political Power abounds, laws must be very numerous. Tacitus

Read more at: <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/t/tacitus.html>



28 Pages

<http://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-911-classified-report-steve-kroft/>

Former Sen. Bob Graham and others urge the Obama administration to declassify redacted pages of a report that holds 9/11 secrets' Correspondent Steve Kroft, 2016 Apr 10

The following script is from "28 Pages" which aired on April 10, 2016. Steve Kroft is the correspondent. Howard Rosenberg and Julie Holstein, producers.

In 10 days, President Obama will visit Saudi Arabia at a time of deep mistrust between the two allies, and lingering doubts about the Saudi commitment to fighting violent Islamic extremism.

It also comes at a time when the White House and intelligence officials are reviewing whether to declassify one of the country's most sensitive documents -- known as the "28 pages." They have to do with 9/11 and the possible existence of a Saudi support network for the hijackers while they were in the U.S.

<http://time.com/4262897/five-facts-global-corruption/>

These 5 Facts Explain the State of Global Corruption

[Ian Bremmer @ianbremmer](#)

March 17, 2016

Andre Penner—AP Demonstrators hold a sign that reads in Portuguese "Dilma out" during a protest demanding the impeachment of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Aug. 16, 2015 **As Brazil grapples with an earth-shaking corruption scandal, a look at the state of global honesty**

You can learn a lot about a country's politics by looking closely at its corruption scandals. Who is investigating whom? What do the investigators really hope to achieve? And what do the investigations tell us about the country's true balance of power? These five facts offer examples and answers.

<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/01/19/corruption-revolt>

Dept. of Development

January 19, 2015 Issue

Corruption and Revolt

Does tolerating graft undermine national security?

By Patrick Radden Keefe

Much of the hundred billion dollars the U.S. spent to rebuild Afghanistan was stolen. Illustration by Shout In October, 1951, a band of thieves hijacked a large shipment of opium in the port town of Punggol, in northeast Singapore. ...

Preamble to the Constituion

We the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.

Which is ethical or moral to you?

The Golden Rule – all people are entitled to the same respect and opportunity. We are all obligated to support each other in a way we would like to be supported. (Jesus, Buddha, Mohammad)

Social Darwinism – Survival of the fittest. It is right that the strongest, and most adaptable will survive, dominate, control the available resources. They may subjugate other people in order to do this. This may be benevolent, sharing resources or totalitarian, whichever works best.

Ethical

Being in accordance with the accepted principles of right and wrong.

Moral

Of or concerned with the judgment of the goodness or badness of human action and character

A Conservatives View.. (Metaphor)

- The world is divided into good and evil.
- To remain good in the face of evil (to "stand up to" evil), one must be morally strong.
- One becomes morally strong through self-discipline and self-denial.
- Someone who is morally weak cannot stand up to evil and so will eventually commit evil.
- Therefore, moral weakness is a form of immorality.
- Lack of self-control (the lack of self-discipline) and self-indulgence (the refusal to engage in self-denial) are therefore forms of immorality.

**Metaphor, Morality, and Politics, Or,
Why Conservatives Have Left Liberals In the Dust by George Lakoff (1995)**

<http://www.wvcd.org/issues/Lakoff>

The metaphor of Moral Strength imposes a strict us-them moral dichotomy. The metaphor that morality is strength induces a view of evil as the force that moral strength is needed to counter. Evil must be fought. You do not empathize with evil, nor do you accord evil some truth of its own. You just fight it.

Moral strength, importantly, imposes a form of asceticism. To be morally strong you must be self-disciplined and self-denying. Otherwise you are self-indulgent, and such moral flabbiness ultimately helps the forces of evil.

In the conservative mind, the metaphor of moral strength has the highest priority. Though it clusters with other metaphors that we consider shortly, it is the one that matters most. It determines much of conservative thought and language -- as well as social policy. It is behind the view that social programs are immoral and promote evil because they are seen as working against self-discipline and self-reliance.

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Responding to perceived and actual threats GCG

We will investigate our own and others' responses to potential threat.

We will ask are these our own or are we being manipulated by others to get us to respond in a certain way, spend money, accept added control of authority

Realized threats (Those that actually happened)

Were we prepared? Was the threat as bad as threatened (promised, warned)

And ask ourselves

Did the our politicians deliver? did our responders and managers respond and manage? Was the amount of damage caused or prevented real or perceived

What role does the media actually play in a crisis?

Does it?

- Inform (Whose message(s) does it carry?)
- Educate
- Titillate
- Was it useful to see emotions, anger, confusion, etc.