



Land of the Fighting Bobs

The week that Wisconsin voters threw out Russ Feingold, the only step-grandson Fighting Bob La Follette had left in the U.S. Senate, I went to hear an Upper Mid-

westerner of similar pedigree, Bob Dylan of Hibbing, Minnesota.

I actually saw some heads without hoarfrost, a pleasing contrast to the last time I paid a column's wages to sit in a hockey arena and listen to music. When my brother and I attended a Bruce Springsteen concert a couple of years ago, we surveyed the crowd and figured we must have wandered into a tour stop by the Ray Conniff Singers.

Lord knows I loved Bruce back in the "Darkness on the Edge of Town"/"Neb-raska" days, after he had shed his early Dylan mimicry and set out to be the John Steinbeck of Freehold, New Jersey. My buddy Chuck and I would snake around town in his old jeep yowling, "If she wants to see me /You can tell her that I'm easily found..." Alas, while we were easily found, she sure didn't want to see us.

Politically, Bruce was nowhere near as interesting as the early punks or even that Mormon-Jewish hybrid Warren Zevon. (From Crystal Zevon's warts-aplenty 2007 portrait of her ex-husband, *I'll Sleep When I'm Dead*, comes this account of the Zevons' child-custody dispute: "Warren got on the phone; he was obviously drunk. ... He said, 'I'm to the right of your father and Ronald Reagan and if you think I'm going to let my daughter be raised by some f---ing Communist hippie, you're sadly mistaken.'" But really, who can resist a songwriter who begins a lyric, "I went home with the waitress /The way I always do /How was I to know /She was with the Russians, too?")

Dylan, on several other hands, has been a Goldwater admirer, born-again Christian, and proponent of agrarianism as the "authentic alternative lifestyle." He was formed in Minnesota before he ever saw Greenwich Village. In his memoir *Chronicles*, the singer, mindful of his roots in that frozen ground, writes of Charles Lindbergh, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Eddie Cochran, Sinclair Lewis, and Roger Maris as men he "felt akin to," freethinking sons of the North Country who "followed their own vision, didn't care what the pictures showed them."

Lindbergh's congressman father, whom the *New York Times* tagged the "Gopher Bolshevik," was a fierce critic of Wall Street, Woodrow Wilson, and the war machine. Charles Lindbergh Sr. was

empire. There were giants in the earth in those days.

When the Masters of War—"even Jesus would never forgive what you do"—requested the presence of American sons at the blood orgies of 1917, 1941, 1950, and 1964, it was the Upper Midwest, with its Non-Partisan Leagues and retro-Progressives and Sons of the Wild Jackass, that brayed, "No!" Where are their offspring? I don't mean to be impertinent or importunate, Dakotas and Minnesota and Wisconsin, but we look to you for La Follettes and Nyes and McGoverns and you give us Al Franken and Ron Johnson? Turn off the goddamn television, would you please, and turn on Wisconsin!

Feingold had his flaws but he was the only member of the Senate with the guts to vote against the Patriot Act. As Jesse Walker of *Reason* writes, he also "voted against TARP, was decent on the Second Amendment, and was one of the rare lib-

TURN OFF THE TELEVISION, WOULD YOU PLEASE, AND TURN ON WISCONSIN!

a progenitor of a vigorous Minnesota antiwar tradition that found expression in men such as Senators Henrik Shipstead and Eugene McCarthy before degenerating into the boring Cold War social democracy of Hubert Humphrey and Walter Mondale or the Republican polenta of Pawlenty.

Bob Dylan is very much in the Lindbergh-McCarthy tradition, as Norwegian academic Tor Egil Forland explained in a 1992 *Journal of American Studies* paper titled "Bringing It All Back Home or Another Side of Bob Dylan: Midwestern Isolationist." But then Dylan is 69, old enough to remember when the people of his place looked askance at

erals to reach out to the Tea Parties instead of demonizing them." He was neither red nor blue—each a scoundrel hue.

Senator Feingold quoted Dylan in his concession speech: "My heart is not weary /It's light and it's free /I have nothing but affection for those who have sailed with me." Dylan closed our concert with "Ballad of a Thin Man," rasping, "Something is happening here /But you don't know what it is /Do you, Mr. Jones?"

I'm no more perceptive than Mr. Jones, but one thing is all too clear: the Upper Midwest, historic home of the American peace movement, has come down with an awfully bad case of laryngitis. And it's gettin' dark—too dark to see. ■

Concerned persons suggest that unless there is an *awakening*, government in America's republic will continue being transformed into the progressive-government ideology. But what *awakening* could be powerful enough to halt that juggernaut of a progressive government's desire to control what its citizens can and cannot do?



Richard W. Wetherill
1906-1989

The writer would like you to consider that the above *awakening* to the existence of a *natural law of right behavior has that power*. The law is known as *nature's law of absolute right*.

For nearly two decades, this behavioral law has often been carefully explained in one-page advertisements in several national magazines and newspapers and on radio broadcasts. There is also a Website where people worldwide can learn how to *get out of trouble, stay out of trouble, and start a new life*.

This natural law exerts the power of life and death for every person alive today as is evidenced by the untold numbers of those people who had previously populated this planet.

"How?" you ask. *Creation's law of absolute right states: Right action gets right results; wrong action gets wrong results. The law defines right action as thoughts and behavior that are rational and honest, thereby filling the need of each situation.*

People's motivation consisting of man-made laws, judgments, beliefs, likes and dislikes, wants and don't wants does not conform to *creation's law of absolute right*, and when wrong results occur, people have not known to look to themselves.

Laws of nature never play favorites. People obey natural laws or they suffer the consequences. *That* is the awakening information for this generation. And when people ignore *nature's behavioral law*, eventually their wrong action causes an eternal sleep from which there has been no awakening.

Whoever or whatever is the creator revealed this behavioral law to the mind of Richard W. Wetherill in 1929 in answer to his fervent appeal for an understanding of humanity's plight. And although Wetherill took no credit for identifying this law, his efforts to inform people of the flaw in their approach to life met

with a wall of resistance and opposition until he published his book, *Tower of Babel*, on January 2, 1952. Then small study groups were formed near several large cities in America. Later, all the members who were able to relocate came together under Wetherill's direction in southeastern Pennsylvania.

So much for a brief history of the group that now brings you the good news of the *law of absolute right*, and to the *awakening* that it brings to a world population in deep trouble and chaos.

A few centuries ago the Founding Fathers of America did their best to establish a country ruled in a God-fearing way by representatives of the people. Newcomers from other countries who were willing to be governed by its Constitution and Bill of Rights were welcomed. Over the years, people came in droves. Now, the divergence of political thinking is causing much turmoil and confusion for the populace.

There is only one solution: people must obey creation's law of absolute right to experience a trouble-free life that is both fair and well worth living.

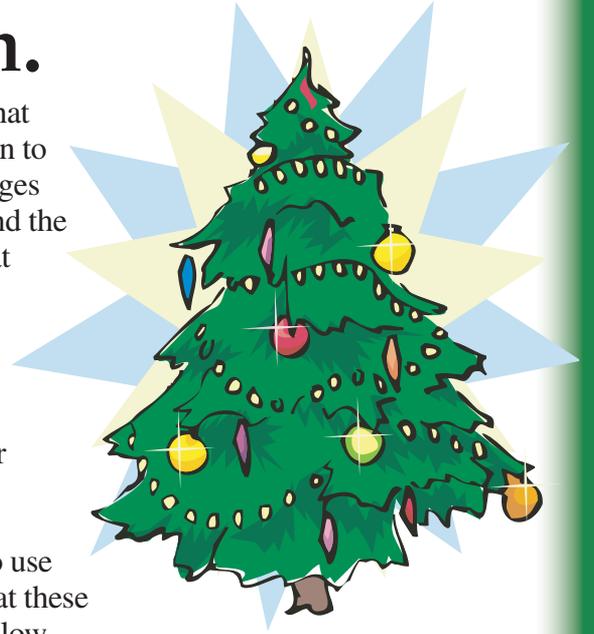
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This public-service message is from a self-financed, nonprofit group of former students of Mr. Wetherill.

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