

Perspectives

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I was appalled by an editorial by Steve Forbes in last month's *Forbes Magazine* where he derided those of us concerned about population growth as "Malthusian Cassandras" and summarily dismissed the "crank theories" of Paul Ehrlich, who helped bring the growing population crisis to the forefront of national debate in 1968 with his bestseller, *The Population Bomb*. Forbes, who invested millions of dollars trying to become our nation's president in 1996 and 2000, showed his true money-grabbing heart in one single sentence: "More people – in an environment of freedom and free markets – means more prosperity."

Such thinking, based on the proposition that *it's all about money* has fueled today's immigration crisis and has put our nation on the path where our limited – and already overstretched – resources will never be able to support the billion people projected to live in the U.S. by the end of the century. Astonishingly, Forbes is quick to condemn the massive borrowing going on right now that will saddle future generations with burdensome debt, while at the same time he is more than willing to condemn our children and grandchildren to

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RECORD U.S. BIRTH RATES ARE NOTHING TO CELEBRATE!

Two reports released in recent months by the National Center for Health Statistics, part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, should have sent alarm bells ringing across the nation. However, they unfortunately received little attention from the national media and no publicized comment from any top leaders.

The first report cited a rise in teen birth rates in 2006 for the first time in 15 years – with the highest teen birth rates recorded in Mississippi, New Mexico and Texas. The second report highlighted the fact that the 4,317,119 U.S. births in 2007 topped a record first set in 1957 at the height of the baby boom.

The question looms: Are we at the beginning of a new "baby boom?" That may be true as the report found fertility rates higher in every racial group, the highest being among Hispanic women.



It is important to note that in all projections that show our population increasing by almost 50% in the next four decades, the greatest growth (as much as 90%) will come from new immigrants.

During the 1950's, when the last baby boom was at its height, our nation's demographic profile was radically different. Population in 1957 would have been about 171 million vs. 306 million today. The economy was stable, jobs were plentiful, the national debt was a drop in the bucket compared to today, close-in family farms were still a chief source of sustenance and America could look forward to a bright and prosperous future. Can we say that today?

In recent months, the press has been all agog about the "Octomom" in California who gave birth to eight babies. Is this really something to celebrate?

NPG'S "REACH THE TEACHERS" PROGRAM

Take a look at the crowd at most political events and environmental forums and you'll see a solid contingent of young people very focused on the issues. That's because they know that the decisions that are made – or not made – to solve today's most critical

problems will impact their lives for decades to come.

Population growth is a key issue which is too often pushed aside in today's classrooms in favor of discussions on global warming, a healthy environment, or a new "greener" economy. As such,

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN *(Continued from page 1)*

a life where future economic, social and environmental crises will make today's problems look minuscule.

The headline of a recent NPG ad – “America Can't Buy Its Way Out of a Population Crisis” – was targeted to Members of Congress, key Washington policymakers and others who have incorrectly bought into the proposition that spending more money is the cure-all for solving our nation's most serious problems.

The ad's message was simple: while spending countless billions of taxpayer dollars might serve to create jobs, rebuild our nation's infrastructure, fund critical health and education reforms and start us down the road to economic recovery, a solution to America's ever-growing population crisis demands serious debate, hard choices and responsible solutions. All the dollars in the world won't halt America's population growth. And every year we put off seriously addressing this problem we add more than 3 million people and lose valuable ground in the battle for a smaller, truly sustainable, population.

NPG has worked hard for decades to push for sensible population and immigration policies that can halt and reverse today's soaring numbers. But, our argument for stopping population growth is about

more than numbers. It's about jobs, businesses, the environment, our future quality of life, indeed, our very survival.

For the politicians in Washington who live for today and thrive on political expediency, the easiest way around making tough choices on issues like population growth is to push it off to a Congress in the far-off future. That's unacceptable!

Today we are told that with a new team in Washington, so much is possible. We must take advantage of that fact and push for a National Population Policy. To succeed, NPG will need to be aggressive, coordinated, strategic, well-funded and smart. We need to go far beyond our current members and recruit tens of thousands more concerned Americans to join our fight. By serving as the conduit that can connect real people's voices to our elected leaders we can make solid progress.

NPG members come from many backgrounds, diverse communities and opposite political parties. But we all share one goal and we must stand united and not back down against those who want to take our nation down the ruinous path to never-ending population growth.

The new administration, with its strong environmental commitment and willingness to think outside the box of conventional economics, has an opportunity to raise national consciousness about population as an environmental factor and stimulate national debate. Its ultimate goal should be to build a broad bipartisan coalition in support of a national population policy to end growth and determine the future size of population for long-term sustainability.

—Quoted from the enclosed NPG Forum Paper by David Simcox:
President and Congress Should Equip Government to Address Domestic Population Growth



A VIEW INTO THE FUTURE?

What would it be like to go into a coma and wake up in an extremely overpopulated world 35 years from now? Environmental architect/planner, author and longtime NPG friend, Peter Seidel, tackles that question in his latest book: *2045 A Story of Our Future*, a new fictional novel released by Prometheus Books. It can be purchased in bookstores, on www.amazon.com or ordered directly at **800-421-0351**.

NPG'S "REACH THE TEACHERS" PROGRAM *(Continued from page 1)*

students are rarely taught how massive U.S. population growth in the coming years will have vast social, economic and environmental consequences that will change our nation and our quality of life.

NPG believes that to get our message to the students we must also focus on educating America's teachers about population issues. By doing so, they can incorporate important facts into their lesson plans and stimulate debate on population-related issues in their classrooms. Sadly, many politically-correct schools ban any discussion of immigration issues, the key factor driving our nation's skyrocketing population. Yet, in recent years we have received very positive feedback from many teachers that our NPG information kits, posters, maps, Forum Papers, books, state and national fact sheets, and other well-documented materials are welcome additions to their schools. Just recently, a teacher who received our Chesapeake Bay Population Poster lauded us by writing: "This is a valuable tool to teach Environmental Science. I try to make local ties as much as possible." A few weeks prior to Earth Day last month we sent out more than 3,000 fliers to teachers across America encouraging them to include a discussion



of population growth in their Earth Day lessons, offering updated information and also directing them to our NPG website for the information they need.

Unless something is done soon to halt and reverse America's population numbers, today's students will confront a nation with 450 million people by 2050. Such alarming projections should be a major wake-up call for all of us and it is vital that students learn now about the frightful fate that awaits them if the ever-growing population crisis continues to be ignored.

KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON CONGRESS

The right to petition Congress stands as one of the cornerstones of our democracy and NPG members make the most of it.

Petitions to our elected leaders – especially in Congress – are an essential element of keeping our message in front of Senators, Congressmen and key legislative aides. Every year we deliver thousands of petitions to Capitol Hill from NPG members who want to see Congress address today's immigration crisis in a responsible manner.

The Obama administration is sending out strong signals that it is ready to give in to pro-immigration forces and grant amnesty or citizenship to millions of illegal immigrants now in our country. If Congress adopts such a policy America will suffer far-ranging repercussions, especially when it comes to such great numbers

of new immigrants fueling future population growth.

NPG is already positioned to play a key role in stopping any disastrous amnesty legislation. In recent weeks, members have been generous in contributing to our **ANTI-AMNESTY BATTLE FUND** to support the extra efforts we will make to activate tens of thousands of NPG members and supporters to pressure their Senators and Congressman to stand firm



and protect the value of American citizenship. The goal of our **ANTI-AMNESTY BATTLE FUND** is to finance our efforts to drive thousands of phone calls and e-mails to Capitol Hill, ignite a major "Letter to the Editor" campaign to hometown newspapers, run ads in targeted newspapers and put our NPG spokesman on radio nationwide.

Remember, it was the powerful, direct feedback of citizens making clear to Members of Congress that they would hold them accountable for a vote supporting amnesty that enabled us to derail this devastating legislation in both 2006 and 2007. We can do it again – but up against the powerful Obama political machine we'll have to be more organized and raise our voices even louder. If you have yet to answer the call to support this special effort, please use the enclosed response to forward a special gift.

“BIG SKY” ACTIVISM

Few people would think of Montana as a place where people are concerned about population growth. However, as thousands of Americans in recent years have sought refuge from urban overcrowding, bought a second home near burgeoning ski resorts, or decided to live out their retirement years in the vast expanse of the “Big Sky” state, their arrival brings new worries and concerns.

In recent weeks, NPG was pleased to create a Montana Population Fact Sheet and work with the organizers of the *Land, Food and Population Forum* in Billings, MT,

to help raise awareness of critical population issues in their state. We applaud the efforts of all civic activists who take the initiative to spread the warnings of unchecked growth and protect their state’s precious wide-open land, abundant clear streams and enjoyable quality of life.

If you are active in a group that can benefit from NPG’s extensive population information resources, please visit our

website at www.npg.org or call us directly at **703-370-9510** to see how we can work together.



WHICH IS WORSE – OVERPOPULATION OR GLOBAL WARMING?

A recent survey of the faculty at the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry (SUNY-ESF) asked participants to prioritize the planet’s most pressing problems and overpopulation came out on top. Dr. Susan Senecah, who teaches the history of the American environmental movement, backed up her vote for overpopulation by stating: “everyone is encouraged to ‘want’ and perceive that they ‘need’ to consume beyond the planet’s ability to provide.”

The SUNY-ESF faculty pointed

to climate change as the second most pressing issue, with the need to develop renewable energy resources to replace fossil fuels next in priority. Rounding out the top 10 issues were overconsumption, the need for more sustainable practices worldwide, the growing need for energy conservation, the need for humans to see themselves as part of the global ecosystem, reduction of carbon dioxide emissions, the need to develop ways to produce consumer products from renewable resources, and dwindling fresh water resources.



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