

## Chris Selley's Full Pundit: 'Ontario's greatest modern disgrace'

CHRIS SHELLEY (feat. DAVID BERCUSON)

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### **Shame! Shame!**

In which Queen's Park, the United Nations and much of the British population cover themselves in ignominy.

The National Post's **Christie Blatchford** reacts to the latest chapter in "Ontario's greatest modern disgrace" — the so-called "compensation package" offered to those affected by the native occupation in Caledonia. "This was not a case of a government deciding out of the goodness of its heart ... to pay out \$20-million to the many who were terrified, hurt or debilitated by the occupation," she writes. "It was, rather, the settlement of a claim for negligence and malfeasance for the failure of the government and the OPP to properly protect citizens." Indeed. It's nearly as disgraceful that this hasn't been a disaster for the Liberal government. Sadly, Ontarians tend towards molluscan complacency at the best of times. And when the "bad guys" are native, they just suck their teeth and look the other way.

Nipping across the pond, the Toronto Star's **Heather Mallick** weighs in on the nauseating proximity of British politicians to Rupert Murdoch's ever-worsening catastrophe. "Tony Blair was elected because Murdoch's Sun backed him," she notes. "Brown had the notorious Rebekah Brooks (then Sun editor) at his wedding. Andy Coulson, who helped spy on the royals, worked at Number 10. Who doesn't have a Murdoch droid in the building?" It's just gross. But she also makes a crucial point: As "bad" as the British red-tops are ... they're "brilliant at doing what they do." If people didn't want to read the sort of bilge they peddle, they wouldn't. In other words, there aren't very many non-hypocrites in this story.

"Will Murdoch's embarrassment and the shaming of his henchmen spell the end of the alarming intrusion of tabloid culture into British politics?" *John Sainsbury* asks himself in the *Ottawa Citizen*. "Probably not. Media moguls rise and fall, but doubtless new ones will emerge to perpetuate the same racket." No doubt. But send a few of these hideous people to jail, and you might get somewhat better behaviour out of the next crop. And if not, hey, at least we'll get to wallow for a while in some tabloid-style schadenfreude. Turnabout's fair play, no?

And now, off to the disgrace on Turtle Bay. The **Calgary Herald's editorialists** appreciate Canada's principled "leadership" with respect to protesting UN activities headed up by ridiculously inappropriate countries, the most recent involving North Korea and disarmament. We don't have any problem with the walkouts and boycotts either. But while they may be principled, they're also no-risk opportunities to score some political points. We'd be more inclined to actually applaud if we thought this "leadership" was getting any results.

The **Sun Media editorialists** explain all the terrific things that the Conservatives will soon do — because they're just so generally terrific, you understand, not like those Liberal jerks — once Parliament resumes in the autumn. The only additional advice they offer is to "distance Canada even more from the dictator- and thug-infested United Nations, and ally us more strongly with nations that embrace democratic principles.

### **Duly noted**

**David Bercuson**, writing in *The Globe and Mail*, defends a military presence at citizenship ceremonies — over which there's been some minor controversy — and at “all other manner of public celebrations in Canada” as well. “Proclaim[ing] and safeguard[ing] Canada’s borders” are among the government’s most fundamental tasks, he argues, and military ventures are foundational to the country: Canada’s contribution to the First World War, for example, “was so vital [that] Robert Borden grew determined to seek a new postcolonial status for Canada when the fighting ended.” It led directly to our “political and cultural independence.”

***The Globe’s* editorialists** advise U.S. Republicans to wise up, realize fiscal ruin is “staring Americans in the face,” and start negotiating a solution even if it involves tinkering with George W. Bush’s precious tax cuts. “Low taxation at the price of default is a price not worth paying,” they chide, and we’re sure the GOP is listening.

In the *Citizen*, **Andrew Cohen** reflects on a recent visit to Israel and confirms reports that despite dim prospects for long-term peace, most people are in a damn good mood. “‘Startup nation’ is a byword for a country that has marshaled its intellect, managed its finances (no debt crisis here), integrated immigrants, created wealth and built a praetorian state that has delivered security,” he writes. “Israel has guns and butter.