

# THE CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHT TO A PRESS PASS

I get asked about press passes a lot—I guess because I once had one. And the more I think about it, the more I'm raring for a constitutional challenge to the way many press passes are assigned in this country.

You see, historically, just about the only meaning of Freedom of the Press that would have made sense to our founders was freedom from having the government choose official reporters by licensing

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# THE UNITED STATES OF AT&T WANTS SATELLITES NOW, TOO

Well, here's another reason AT&T is so desperate for retroactive immunity. It'd suck to have their bid to acquire a satellite TV company derailed as consumers realized AT&T is using that technology to spy on them, huh?

AT&T has been consulting lawyers in Washington about how long it would take to get government approval to purchase either EchoStar Communications Corp.

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# THE KIDDIE PORN EXCUSE

Remember when Alberto Gonzales called for Google to preserve all its search data to support

potential child porn investigations? We crazy moonbats suggested that that sounded like an invitation for abuse, that once Google had preserved the records, such records would be accessed for other purposes.

Now Cannonfire points to one such case.

In brief:

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## **TROJAN FIRST AMENDMENT**

In his book, Unequal Protection, Thom Hartman shows how corporations (specifically, railroads) used the 14th Amendment—which ostensibly guaranteed African Americans the same rights other citizens enjoyed—to enshrine the concept of corporate personhood in our legal system.

With the passage of the Fourteenth Amendment, the owners of the what werethen America’s largest and most powerful corporations – the railroads -figured they’d finally found a way to reverse Paine’s logic and no longerhave to

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## **IF YOU’RE IN WESTERN MASS**

I’ll be giving a talk at my old stomping grounds on Thursday evening, 8PM, in Fayerweather. If you might show up, let me know in the comments—I’d love to touch base with readers.

And until then ... I’m off to solve US auto woes.

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## SIX MONTHS

Six months. That's how long Comcast keeps its records that allow it to track the activity of a Comcast Internet subscriber. At least that's what Comcast's Cable Law Enforcement Manual, which somebody liberated and got into the hands of Secrecy News, says. Because Comcast's system of allocating IP addresses uses Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol (DHCP), its subscribers are not assigned a single, constant or static IP address.

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## ENSURING QUALITY

Like Susie, I think this is a really cool idea.

Paul E. Steiger, who was the top editor of The Wall Street Journal for 16 years, and a pair of wealthy Californians are assembling a group of investigative journalists who will give away their work to media outlets.

The nonprofit group, called Pro Publica, will pitch each project to a newspaper or magazine (and occasionally to other media) where the group hopes the work will make

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## DICK DEVOS AND KAYBEE HUTCHISON GO AFTER BLOGGERS

That's a way to make you feel good about blogging, huh? To be attacked by both Dick DeVos

and KayBee Hutchison?

DeVos is suing 30 anonymous bloggers and YouTube users because he believes they are among a group for former distributors who sued Amway and were put under a gag order by the judge in the suit.

In the lawsuit filed this past week in Ottawa County Circuit Court, Quixtar seeks an injunction and

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## **SENATE MINORITY LEADER FUELS THE FLAMES**

ThinkProgress got the email that Mitch McConnell's staffer claimed he had not sent out.

Seen the latest blogswarm? Apparently, there's more to the story on the kid (Graeme Frost) that did the Dems' radio response on SCHIP. Bloggers have done a little digging and turned up that the Dad owns his own business (and the building it's in), seems to have some commercial rental income and Graeme and a sister go to a private school that, according

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## **BLOGGER IN THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER?**

The NYT manages to understand that the Republicans went overboard with their attacks on Graeme Frost. But there's something else they don't seem to understand.

In recent days, Graeme and his family have been attacked by conservative bloggers and other

critics of the Democrats' plan to expand the insurance program, known as S-chip.

[snip]

But Michelle Malkin, one of the bloggers who have strongly criticized the Frosts, insisted Republicans should hold their ground and not pull punches.