

Gen. Franks retired in mid-2003 with perfect timing. Baghdad had fallen, and he left the mess from that "fundamental misunderstanding" for someone else to clean up.

The Army is supposed to publish unclassified reports as soon as it can review them, to be sure that they don't contain sensitive material. More than 2½ years later, the Army hasn't published the report and has done little to circulate the classified version to Pentagon leaders. Asked why, an Army

the White House and Pentagon was evident both before and after the 2005 Rand report — evident to everybody but the White House and Pentagon, apparently. Rather than censor the report, the administration could have acted on it two years before political and public pressure forced a change in strategy. Now, as Defense Secretary Robert Gates acknowledged this week with his comments on troop levels, the next president will be responsible for ending what Mr. Bush secretly and recklessly started. Plan on it.

Many on the Rush Limbaugh, Ann Coulter, Jan others, have decided to vote for Hillary Clinton not at all — for Sen. McCain, pointed spokesman insist that Clinton is a matriarch. Better to go down in one's convictions than compromised place.

To be sure, politics makes for interesting conversation, but the world starves to death.

It isn't necessary for anything Sen. McCain does for him should he win. But it isn't possible for there's no difference between McCain and Sen. Clinton (or Obama), as some Rep.

A form of irritation has taken hold when oneself or to the party more important than over the country to people to raise taxes and implement health care.

Principles shouldn't be that strict adherence to a worse alternative.

Exactly which core values facilitate the garnishee to pay for insurance Sen. Clinton has proposed. Interview with ABC's George Stephanopoulos, Sen. Clinton's government-ordered insurance program would require an enforcement mechanism that might be known, going after people.

Where are those core values when a Democratic president is appointing justices to the Supreme Court? Given that five of the justices will be 70 or older by December, it's a near certainty.

Spare us the outrage

An 11-month police investigation led to an indictment on one felony charge of solicitation of prostitution. That was in July 2006, and part-time Palm Beacher Jeffrey Epstein still has faced no repercussions for allegedly preying on underage girls.

So maybe Mr. Epstein is satisfied that he's getting his money's worth from his large legal team, which includes Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz (remember O.J. Simpson?) and Kenneth Starr (remember Monica Lewinsky?). Jack Goldberger of West Palm Beach, who's also on the team, told *Post* columnist Jose Lambiet in November: "This case is absolutely going to end without a trial within the next two months."

He was wrong, but Mr. Goldberger remains on Mr. Epstein's payroll, feigning moral outrage at two lawsuits filed this year against the Manhattan money manager. The lawsuits allege sexual exploitation of teenaged girls, one of them as young as 14. Said Mr. Goldberger after the first lawsuit, seeking more

Lawyers for accused sex predator sound foolish.

than \$50 million, was filed on Jan. 24: "We think this shows what this case is all about: money." Yes, it is — Mr. Epstein's effort to buy his way out of prosecution.

According to the lawyer of a 17-year-old whose parents are suing him, Mr. Epstein masturbated in front of her (she was 14 at the time) and used a vibrator on her at his home in February 2005. Another Epstein attorney, Lilly Ann Sanchez, dismissed it: "Jeffrey Epstein did not have sex with this woman."

For those girls who claim that he did, Mr. Epstein's lawyers maintain that he did not know their ages, despite a police search of his home and garbage that found phone messages about the girls' school schedules and even a high school transcript. For all of his money, Mr. Epstein's best defense remains "I didn't know that I was a *criminal* pervert?"