

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# CONTEMPT BREEDS CONTEMPT!



By Stephen L. Bakke  February 17, 2014

### *Here's what provoked me:*

*In January of 2014 I was reading an article by Leonard Pitts Jr. in which he is reacting to a rather stupid commentary by investment banker Tom Perkins in the Wall Street Journal. Pitts took a hateful tone which may have been intended to be satirical but came across as vicious and hateful. A commentator like Leonard Pitts is most effective when he is convincing people of his point. In this case, I'm sure his loyal liberal following were with him all the way, but he missed the opportunity to win over some conservative hearts to his point of view. Some good points could have been made, but the effort was squandered in my opinion. In a way, he actually demonstrated Perkins point. Pitts is a popular nationally syndicated columnist and a Pulitzer Prize winner for commentary.*

### *Here's my response:*

#### **Contempt breeds contempt!**

Frequent Nazi references that are cast about these days show lack of judgment, proportion and sensitivity. Both political extremes are guilty.



Contempt Breeds Contempt

With my head shaking, I wondered how much more effective Tom Perkins could have been in making his point in his letter to the editor "Progressive Kristallnacht Coming?" published on the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 24. He was attempting to point out the undeserved hatred and demonization the current administration and the progressive left throw at the "rich."

Valid point but disgusting delivery! Perkins later apologized – but the damage had been done.

Reading your Feb. 5 paper, I again started to shake my head. Given the opportunity to effectively criticize Mr. Perkins and win valid points for his side, columnist Leonard Pitts effectively demonstrated Perkin's point.

The disdain Pitts seems to have for all "prosperous folks" came through in **bold nastiness!** Satire and sarcasm is fine, but hate filled references like "sheer greed of rapacious money pigs" doesn't advance his argument one bit.

Pitts clearly feels that being rich equals "awfulness," and the price of success should be blame and isolation. Mr. Pitts, your success didn't come from hatred and contrived, invalid anecdotes. Be a wise warrior, not an angry one!