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## Let's start talking about 'pro-family' politics

Submitted by [Kevin Richert](#) on Tue, 06/02/2009 - 8:58am

Bryan Fischer, a former Idaho Senate chaplain, branched out from social issues to become a leading voice on all things conservative.

The gas tax, global warming, the future of newspapers. All of these and more were frequent topics on Fischer's Idaho Values Alliance Web site. **Fischer was the type of person with an opinion about anything, and a penchant for getting ink and airtime.**

I suspect this angered his many critics nearly as much as his tendency toward divisiveness. Fischer preferred to call his politics pro-family (which implies that his foes are somehow anti-family). And he was never above bombast: Fischer last week labeled Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor a "racist lightweight."

So if Fischer was mentally marking days on the calendar last week, he didn't show it. So [the news](#) Monday that Fischer will leave Idaho for a talk radio host's job in Mississippi came as a surprise.

And, I think, it presents an opportunity for the state's conservative movement to repackage itself.

**While Fischer built himself into a prominent voice in Idaho politics, I think he lectured more than he debated.** More than once, other bloggers corrected me when we referred to Fischer as a "blogger," since his Web site didn't allow comments. The "preaching to the choir" line, however cheap, actually applies here.

It's any blogger's prerogative to set up his or her own rules, but **I think the Idaho Values Alliance's one-way dialogue was misguided.** Fischer was shrewd enough to use the Internet to promote his positions and use e-mail alerts to mobilize like-minded Idahoans (having been on the receiving end of one such alert, I can attest that he had a following).

Fischer recognized the immediacy of Internet politics, but ignored its interactivity. And I think that's a mistake.

**On Monday, Fischer said the Idaho Values Alliance will soon move into "whisper mode." How about, instead, a conversational mode?**

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### Money Talks

Submitted by [udapimp](#) on Tue, 06/02/2009 - 12:03pm.

My bet is he got a better money offer.

I'm surprised, the lefties opposing Fisher and his

## About *krichert*



**Name**  
Kevin Richert

**Title**  
Commentary: Kevin Richert

**Home page link**  
<http://voices.idahostatesman.com/krichert>

### Intro text

Editorial Page Editor Kevin Richert always has an opinion about something. Check out his daily comments on politics and Idaho issues.

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