

The **BEST** TV. The **BEST** price. [Learn More](#) **888-860-3622** 

STREAMLINE COMMUNICATIONS

ADVERTISEMENT

Book review | 'The Battle Over Healthcare'

7:54 PM, May 18, 2012 | 1 Comments

[Recommend](#)

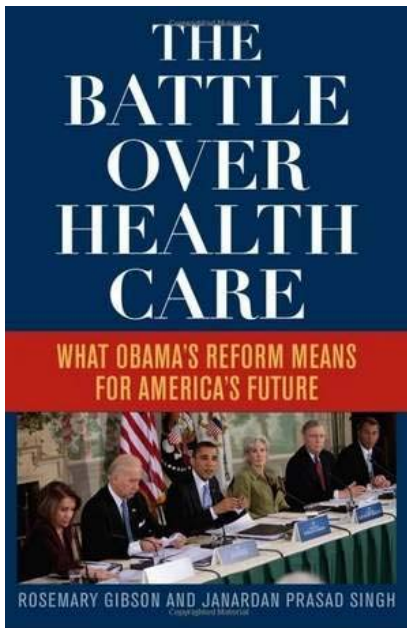
Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

[Recommend](#)

[Tweet](#) 0

0

A A



Written by Kevin T. Kavanagh and Cathy J. Kavanagh

FILED UNDER

Features Books

With "The Battle Over Healthcare," well known authors Rosemary Gibson and Janardan Prasad Singh follow up on a string of widely read and authoritative books on health care.

Several political pundits have claimed that this is another left-wing diatribe on health care, assuming that the authors' previous books — "The Treatment Trap" and "Wall of Silence" — cannot be embraced by the conservative right. Nothing can be further from the truth. After all, no one wants to have unnecessary surgery or a medical mistake that is then covered up.

A basic theme of "The Battle Over Healthcare" is that the industry is rapidly evolving into an oligopoly, or a few players with major market clout and political influence. The book is skeptical at best on

the current health care reform plan to control costs and regulatory agencies to oversee quality. Chapters are devoted to both vertical and horizontal integration and the problems that this creates.

Vertical integration is the employment of doctors by hospitals. Two factors are discussed: The role the American Medical Association had in the decline of primary care, and the employment of doctors by hospitals to increase market clout and services. (A third factor is that, according to the January MedPAC meeting, the current Medicare Reimbursement System pays hospitals 80 percent more for mid-level doctor visit codes. Currently, the percentage of physicians who are employed by or have an economic relationship with a hospital is reaching 70 percent.)

"The Battle Over Healthcare"

Is the government getting between the patient and his doctor? The answer is, if the

MANILOW
FRI. JULY 27

THE LOUISVILLE PALACE

ON SALE NOW!

BUY TICKETS AT WWW.LIVENATION.COM
THE LOUISVILLE PALACE BOX OFFICE, ALL TICKETMASTER LOCATIONS OR CHARGE BY PHONE AT 800-745-3000

WWW.LOUISVILLEPALACE.COM
TWITTER.COM/LVILLEPALACE | FACEBOOK.COM/LOUISVILLEPALACE

ADVERTISEMENT

Most Popular Most Commented More Headlines

1 [Police investigate death of 9-month-old boy allegedly left in vehicle in driveway](#)

By Rosemary Gibson
and Janardan Prasad Singh
Rowman and Littlefield Publishers
190 pp., \$26

doctor is yours, probably not. If the doctor's primary loyalty is to the institution, maybe yes. Are patients now widgets, and are doctors salespersons to increase institutional

profits? Those are questions the reader starts to ask after contemplating information in the book.

The effects of horizontal integration (hospital mergers) are also discussed. The authors state that hospital costs now account for 5 percent of the U.S. gross national product. While this is a bad thing for the economy, we have seen health care organizations touting this fact as being good for the economy by providing a large number of jobs and generating huge revenues, which is nothing more than a smoke screen for overuse of expensive services. Examples of how these large organizations have reduced market pressure and increased costs are given, and predictions that the great hopes of bundled payments and accountable care organizations may be just that: a hope. Too little too late. Their skepticism seems to have been confirmed by the observations reported in January's Congressional Budget Office report on care coordination and value-based payment.

Page 1 2 Next |

Kevin T. Kavanagh is a retired physician from Somerset, Ky. Cathy J. Kavanagh is a patient and health care purchaser, also from Somerset.

Recommend

Tweet 0

0

- 2 [Recruiting | Harrison twins are 2-for-1 special](#)
- 3 [Police: Man nearly struck officers while evading checkpoint](#)
- 4 [Fair board says it's getting interest in Kentucky Kingdom property](#)
- 5 [Bullitt County man drowns after cliff jumping near Rough River](#)

Most Viewed



[Bullitt County, Ky., Fair draws record crowds](#)

Jun. 19, 2012



PHOTO GALLERIES



[Scranton at Bats](#)



[St. Elizabeth picnic](#)

View Comments (1) | Share your thoughts »

TOP VIDEO PICKS

selected by Taboola



[Bullitt County, Ky., Fair draws record crowds](#)

Jun 19, 2012



[2012 Tap 'N' Run 4K Beer Race](#)

Jun 3, 2012



[Van accident sends 15 kids and 2 adults to hos...](#)

Jun 12, 2012

YOU MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN

[Miley Cyrus joins long list of young Hollywood brides](#) (The Courier-Journal)

[Offbeat actress Susan Tyrrell dies](#) (The Courier-Journal)

[S.F. couple accused of killing daughter's pimp](#) (The Courier-Journal)

[Pakistan arrests French man accused of al-Qaeda ties](#) (The Courier-Journal)

SPONSORED LINKS

[The Big Bang Theory: Shaking Things Up](#) (CBS)

[These 4 Things Happen Right Before a Heart Attack](#) (Newsmax.com)

[Cutting the Cord on Cable TV's Pricy Monthly Bill](#) (Daily Finance)

[Pictures: Anna Nicole's Daughter, Dannielynn Birkhead, is Growing Up and Gorgeous](#) (Zimbio)

[The 12 Worst Supermarkets in America](#) (The Fiscal Times)

[10 Signs That Death is Near](#) (Caring.com)

Google AdSense Ads

Earn revenue from Google Ads on your site. Try AdSense - it's free!
www.google.com/adsense

AdChoices



ADVERTISEMENT

[?]

The 9 Best Stocks to Own Now

Here's a list of the recommendations that all of the top analysts agree on. Don't pay \$99 for the names of these stocks. [Get them here for free](#)