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— Press Pool Photo By Rod Aydelotte,
Waco Tribune-Herald

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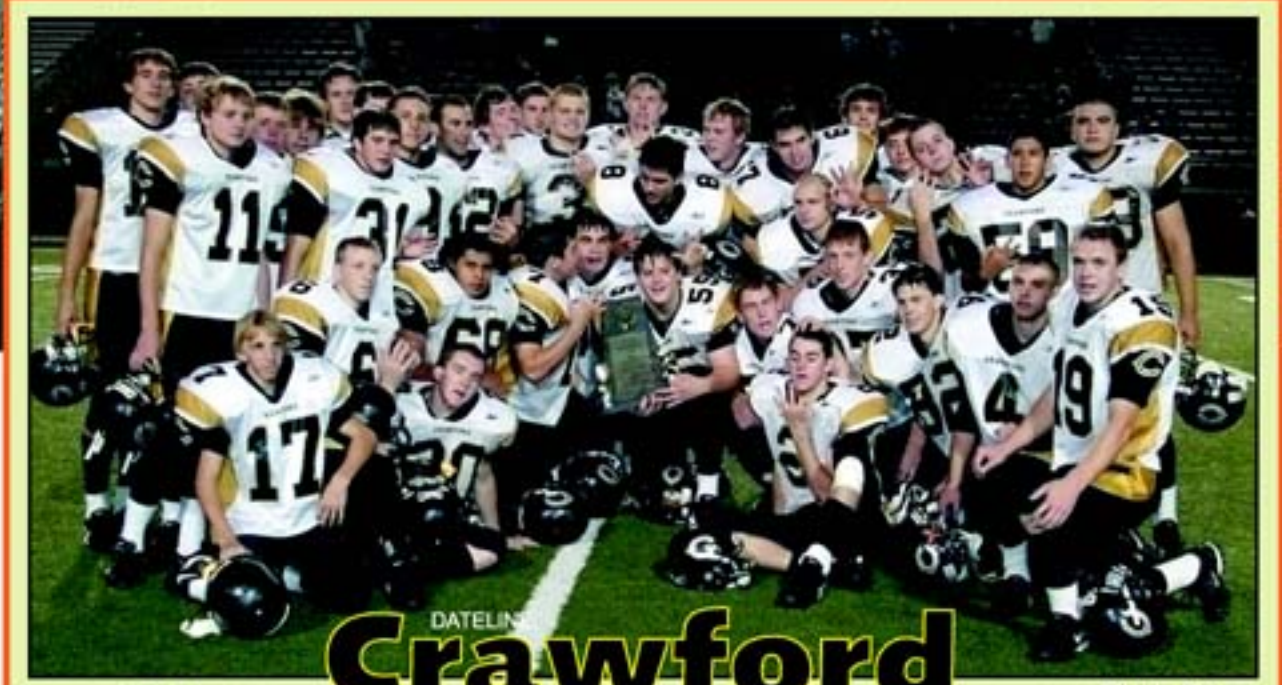
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Staff Photo
By Nathan Diebenow



2004 PIRATES **Crawford** Hometown of the President of the United States Photo By Stephen Cook

PIRATES CONTINUE TO WIN
Defeat Cooper Bulldogs, 49-12

NEXT: CELINA BOBCATS...
REGION FINAL FRIDAY IN BURLESON, 7:30 p.m. KICKOFF

PLANE GOES DOWN

Private Jet Headed To Pick Up Former President Crashes

CRAWFORD — The ASSOCIATED PRESS reported last week that a private jet bound for Houston to pick up President Bush's father, former President George H.W. Bush, hit a light pole and crashed, killing three crew members.

Officials said the Gulfstream G-1159A plane crashed early last Monday about 3¼ miles south of a runway at Hobby Airport covered in thick fog.

A spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board said the light pole was 120 feet high, or 880 feet lower than the normal altitude for the jet at that point from the runway.

Former President Bush, now a resident of Houston, was scheduled to fly to Ecuador to give a speech at a business conference.

A 15-person team is in the process of investigating the crash.

The names of the deceased crew members, two male pilots and one female flight attendant, were not available at press time.

FBI agents also joined the investigation, as required of all aircraft accidents.

Through a spokesperson, former President Bush said, "I was deeply saddened to learn of the plane crash this morning. I'd flown with this group before and know them well. I join in sending heartfelt condolences to each and every member of their families."



WELCOMING SPANISH ROYALS — The day before Thanksgiving, (from left) King Juan Carlos I and (Queen Sofia of Spain are greeted by President George W. Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, and former President George H.W. Bush in Central Texas before being treated with a tour of the Prairie Chapel ranch and a two-hour lunch during their short visit to Crawford.

— Press Pool Photo By Rod Aydelotte, Waco Tribune-Herald

Western White House Welcomes Spanish Royals

CRAWFORD — The day before Thanksgiving, President Bush and first lady Laura opened their ranch to the king and queen of Spain, treating the royals with a tour of the Prairie Chapel ranch before a two-hour lunch and the guests' early afternoon departure.

The short visit with King Juan Carlos I and Queen Sofia was an attempt to warm relations between the two countries which have struggled diplomatically since Spain withdrew its military force in Iraq in April.

Responding to a question about the signal the Bush administration was sending to Europe, the president reportedly replied, "Spain's a great country — and a good friend."

White House aides promised reporters that Bush will not go to Kabul, Afghanistan, or Damascus, Syria, or Pyongyang, North Korea for Thanksgiving —

in reference to the president's secret trip from Crawford to Iraq last year.

According to the WASHINGTON POST, the menu for their majesties included free-range turkey, Prairie Chapel bass and mashed sweet potatoes with maple syrup and chipotle.

Leftovers were served for Thanksgiving dinner with Bush's parents and his twin daughters, the newspaper reported.

The U.S.'s ally on the Iberian Peninsula changed its tune after prime minister Jose Maria Aznar lost to Luis Rodrigo Zapatero, an anti-Iraq-war candidate in an election days after terrorists bombed subways in the Spanish capital of Madrid.

President Bush showed Zapatero the cold shoulder by not returning his congratulatory phone call and meeting with Aznar at the White House a week after Bush's election instead.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder was met with the same behavior from the White House after he ran an successful reelection campaign in 2002 with an anti-American message only to be ignored by Bush for 17 months.

The president is scheduled to meet with Nigerian president and current chairman of the African Union, Olusegun Obasanjo, next week to discuss the ongoing genocide in Sudan and separately with King Hamad Bin Isa Bin Salman Al-Khalifa of Bahrain about the Middle

East.

President Bush has announced more plans to travel to other countries to smooth over rifts opened due to the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq. Trips include Canada at the end of November and possibly Europe in February.

Bush might host Chinese President Hu Jintao in a visit to the United States, and has suggested making his own visit to China with possible stops in Japan, South Korea and maybe Russia along the way.



MENDING TIES — President George W. Bush (right) and King Juan Carlos I of Spain (left) visited last Wednesday at the White House to soothe relations between the United States and Spain after the latter removed troops from the U.S.-led force in Iraq.

— Press Pool Photo By Rod Aydelotte, Waco Tribune-Herald

Heflin Moves To Strike Down Election Results

CRAWFORD — Former Chair of the House Appropriations Committee Talmadge Heflin made two moves last week in an effort to return himself to the Texas Legislature after losing to Democratic candidate Hubert Vo by 32 votes in the District 149 House race during Nov. 2 general election.

Heflin filed last Monday for a manual recount all ballots cast in the election; then, the following day, he asked the state House to overturn the election results and either order him returned to the Legislature or call for a new election.

Heflin's campaign cited at least 248 voting irregularities

and other potential frauds that occurred in Democratic-leaning precincts, according to the HOUSTON CHRONICLE.

However, to regain his seat, Heflin might get more mileage by the contesting the election results because voting irregularity issues are not considered in the recount.

The focus of the recount is only on the ballots cast in the election.

If Vo wins in a post-recount situation, Heflin will then have to choose between contesting the election in the Texas House, contesting the election on legal grounds, or conceding to Vo, a Vietnamese immigrant and businessman.

Texas Democratic Party strategists have said the media and poll-watchers chosen by both sides eagle-eyed the original count of mail-in and provisional ballots.

Contesting the election re-

sults in the House requires that House Speaker Tom Craddick order a committee made of House members to investigate the allegations and submit a report.

The decision to seat Vo or Heflin or call for a new election will be left to the members of the House, an order which will be binding, said a spokesman for the Texas secretary of state's office.

The House committee's report might be filed in late January. The Legislature is scheduled to convene Jan. 11. Vo would be limited to voting only on procedural matters until the dispute is resolved, the secretary of state's spokesman said.

Vo's campaign has called on Heflin to concede the race.

The week prior, Craddick appointed a new chair to the Appropriations Committee, Republican Jim Pitts, passing

over the Democratic vice chair. A 21-year veteran of the House, Heflin has previously been called Craddick's "right-hand man."

Veterans Land Board To Honor Pearl Harbor Vets

WACO — The Texas Veterans Land Board will present a brief seminar on new benefits for veterans on Dec. 7, at 6:30 p.m., at Ft. Fisher Auditorium.

This information will provide veterans and their families with the latest information on land, housing, home improvement, and the new Central Texas State Veteran's Cemetery and State Veteran's Homes. Information on affordable housing will also be made available.

Reservations are not required. Admission to the event for veterans and families of veterans is free.

Congressional Agency To Investigate National Voting Irregularities

CRAWFORD — As requested by six Democratic lawmakers, the Government Accountability Office has scheduled an investigation into the vote count procedures in the Nov. 2 election.

Congress' investigative agency warned that if irregularities are found, it is not authorized to take action.

"Under the nation's legal framework, elections are a matter largely reserved to, and regulated by, the states," a GAO statement said. "As a result, general questions concerning these issues, as well as specific allegations of voting irregularities, should be addressed to state and local officials, such as the secretary of state or the state attorney general."

The authority to enforce fed-

eral voting rights laws and election fraud is in the hands of the U.S. Justice Department, the statement added.

Encouraged by complaints from 30,000 voters, Reps. John Conyers, Jerrold Nadler, Robert Wexler, Rush Holt, Robert Scott, and Melvin Watt filed the request days after the national election.

About 265 specific complaints are cited in the request to GAO including malfunctioning electronic voting machines, failures to count absentee ballots, and efforts to preclude monitoring of vote tabulations around the country.

The majority of these complaints have been voiced in Ohio and Florida — battleground states carried by President Bush.

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Thankful Ukrainians Receive Bashful Bush

Election Fraud Calls In Ukraine Heard In Crawford

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
STAFF WRITER

CRAWFORD — Instead of getting a jump start on their holiday shopping the day after Thanksgiving like so many

other Americans, a contingent of Ukrainian-Americans from around Texas united in Crawford to send a message of thanks to the Bush administration for not accepting the

presidential election results in the Ukraine amid reports of fraud.

Between 50-100 of these Americans of Ukrainian descent held a rally at the Crawford Peace House coincidentally at the same time the President and his wife, Laura, had lunch at a downtown restaurant during the First Couple's first public appearance in their adopted-hometown since the Nov. 2 election. President Bush's last Thanksgiving was spent with soldiers in Iraq.

Waving yellow-and-blue Ukrainian national flags and signs in the brisk wind, a few of the Ukrainian-Texans stood across the street from the restaurant hoping to encourage the president to speak out for fair and democratic elections in the Ukraine.

Michael Balahutrak, 53, an engineer from Houston, expressed his disappointment in his failed efforts to personally hand President Bush and members of the White House Press Pool copies of a petition and a letter from his constituents.

"We're not being aggressive. We just want to give him the petition," said Balahutrak, wearing an orange ribbon in support of the Ukrainian opposition party after President Bush left the restaurant without meeting with the crowd. He added he would later mail and fax the documents to the White House.

Organizer Chrystia Wynnyk, 48, of Austin said the groups from Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston were in Crawford to support the people of Ukraine.

"We're not here to fight against President Bush. We are here to thank him and Secretary of State Colin Powell for their actions, and we urge them to continue on those lines," said Wynnyk, a first generation American. "We are urging President Bush to continue to take a stand of strong hard-lined statements regarding the fact that the elections in the Ukraine were fraudulent."

Placing Washington between Moscow and Kiev, Secretary of State Powell last Wednesday publicly renounced the results of last Sunday's Ukrainian presidential election until a proper investigation of the accusations of fraud was conducted. Most of the European leaders, including British Prime Minister Tony Blair and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, raised concerns over the Ukraine election before Presi-



SUPPORTING BROTHERS AND SISTERS — Organizer Chrystia Wynnyk, 48, of Austin said the groups from Austin, Fort Worth, Dallas, and Houston were in Crawford to support the people of Ukraine. Holding a sign, Maria Shevshuk of the Ukraine said she traveled to sunny Crawford with her son, Roman of Dallas.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



MICHAEL BALAHUTRAK, 53, an engineer from Houston, was unable last Friday to hand President Bush and the Press Pool copies of a petition and letter encouraging the president to show stronger support for free and democratic elections in the Ukraine.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

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dent Bush spoke out Friday.

"There's just a lot of allegations of vote fraud that placed their election — the validity of their elections — in doubt," Bush told reporters before lunch Friday afternoon.

"The international community is watching very carefully. People are paying very close attention to this, and hopefully it will be resolved in a way that brings credit and confidence to the Ukrainian government," he said.

According to the Associated Press, U.S. officials have noted that possible consequences for improper investigations into the Ukrainian election include freezing assets of those who engaged in fraud and denying them travel visas to the United States to cutting the roughly \$140 million in annual U.S. aid to Ukraine.

The Ukraine lies in a strategic land area between continental Europe, Asia, and the Black Sea. Oil pipelines crisscross the countryside, making it a key player in Russia's oil export trade.

U.S. officials have often criticized the Ukraine government over its human rights record, but have expressed its thanks to Kiev for sending troops to join the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq.

The struggle for the presidency in the former Soviet republic started after Sunday's runoff between the Moscow-backed Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovich and the liberal, pro-Western candidate Viktor Yushchenko.

Russian President Vladimir Putin showed support for

Yanukovych, twice congratulating him on his election victory (49.4 percent to 46.7 percent); however, on Thursday, Putin said the law should settle the election. At press time, the Ukrainian Supreme Court was scheduled to hear the appeal on Monday. Though not legally binding, Ukraine's parliament on Saturday called the presidential election invalid.

Yanukovych's support has been from the pro-Russian, heavily industrialized eastern half of Ukraine, while Yushchenko's contingency was in the west, a traditional center of nationalism.

With his wife, Irena, 40, standing by his side, Max Dityk, 40, of Houston held his son, Martin, 5, on his shoulders holding a Ukrainian flag waiting across the street for the U.S. President to exit the restaurant. Dityk said he doesn't consider himself a nationalist supporting the opposition candidate, but wants the future Ukrainian president to be elected by the people of the Ukraine, not Russian President Vladimir Putin.

"We're not really nationalist. We would like to have a democratic election. It's a bottom line. It doesn't matter, either Yushchenko or Yanukovych. It doesn't matter who it's going to be. People must have a choice, and they have a right for their choice," said Dityk, a U.S. citizen born in the Ukraine like his wife.

Russian President Putin visited Crawford during the early part of President Bush's first
Continued On Next Page



THANKING PRESIDENT BUSH — With his wife, Irena, 40, standing by his side, Max Dityk, 40, of Houston held his son, Martin, 5, on his shoulders holding a Ukrainian flag waiting across the street for the U.S. President to exit the restaurant in Crawford last Friday.
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

• **UKRAINIANS THANK PRESIDENT** ... Continued From Previous Page

term.
The crisis in the Ukraine continued last Friday after nearly three hours of talks Friday to resolve the stalemate politically with outgoing president President Leonid Kuchma and a delegation of European envoys: European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana, Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, and Russian parliament speaker Boris Gryzlov.

After the meeting, the opposition candidate Yushchenko told an enormous rally of his supporters in the Ukrainian capital of Kiev that he wanted on a new election on Dec. 12 under the observation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Unlike the opposition supporters who had camped out in Independence Square for more than five nights in the harsh wintery weather, Roman Shevshuk of Dallas said he traveled to sunny Crawford with his mother, Maria, who was visiting from the Ukraine. Along with 30-40 other Ukrainians from the Dallas-area, they came a little earlier than planned, and "were lucky to see the president," he said.

"We're glad he can possibly read our banners, and we wanted to thank him for taking the stand," said Shevshuk, unaware that Bush had spoken to



PRESIDENT BUSH speaks to reporters briefly before entering a restaurant in Crawford for lunch last Friday while Ukrainian-Americans from across the street urge him to publicly support free and democratic elections in the Ukraine.
— Press Pool Photo By Rod Aydelotte, Waco Tribune-Herald

reporters earlier.

Balahutrak said that by not voicing support for honest elections in the Ukraine, President Bush would be missing the perfect opportunity to mend U.S. relations with the European Union after disagreement over the war in Iraq.

In further suggesting Bush's possible foreign policy legacy, Balahutrak likened the U.S. president's position to

that of the Cuban Missile Crisis between former President John F. Kennedy and Soviet President Nikita Khrushchev in October 1962. He added that the people of Iraq and Afghanistan would be taking special note of the United States' actions toward the Ukrainian elections.

Balahutrak estimated that about 20,000 people of Ukrainian-descent live in Texas and about 1.3 million in the U.S.

The Ohio Vote — Will Recount Be In Time?

Protests Afoot To Compel Ohio Secretary of State To Expedite Recount

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Protestors from coast to coast and Green Party, Libertarian candidates are encouraging Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell to call for a full hand recount of all Ohio presidential votes prior to the Dec. 13 electors meeting — before it's too late.

Attorneys for Green Party presidential candidates David Cobb and Libertarian Michael Badnarik have jointly filed a lawsuit against Blackwell and 88 county electoral directors to expedite an immediate recount of the presidential vote in all Ohio counties. They say the ultimate goal of the lawsuit is to ensure full and accurate counts of all votes and bring a movement to strengthen the U.S. Election system.

Blackwell's denial of their earlier formal request has led attorneys for the candidates to take legal action to compel an immediate recount.

The candidates have expressed deep concern that the timetable laid out by Blackwell would not provide sufficient time for the counties to recount all 5.5 million votes in the state by hand before the state's presidential electors meet on Dec. 13.

The have also requested that Blackwell, a Republican who served as Chair to the Bush campaign in Ohio, recuse himself from the recount process.

The Ohio Secretary of State's office has said that certification of the vote would occur around Dec. 6. With five days required for notice to candidates, that would permit only 48 hours for a full recount prior to the Dec. 13 Electoral College electors meeting at which they, by Constitutional law, must cast their votes.

On Nov. 17, a Cobb-Badnarik letter said that the lack of a meaningful recount will violate Ohio recount law. "Immediate action is necessary so that the recount procedures may begin as soon as possible."

The formal demand for a recount in Ohio was filed on Nov. 19, along with a bond for \$113,600 to cover the cost of \$10 per precinct needed to request a recount.

According to the candidates, Blackwell has indicated he will endeavor to certify results on or before Dec. 6 if it proves fea-

sible. They claim that even this timetable — if the Secretary of State adheres to it — is not sufficient to permit a full and fair recount by hand of 5.5 million votes.

The plaintiffs are therefore asking a federal district court to order the Secretary of State and the county boards to expedite the process even further to enable a recount of the votes before the electors are scheduled to meet.

The expected timeline follows:

- Dec. 1 — Date by which most Ohio voters will have certified their initial vote totals.
- Dec. 6 — Date that Blackwell says he will finally certify the vote, upon which those seeking a recount may formally make the request. Blackwell would then notify other candidates of their right to have observers at the recount. Under law, other candidates must have five days' notice before the recount can begin.
- Dec. 7 — The "safe harbor" date, set by Congress, by which presidential electors in all 50 states must be conclusively

determined. Congress has specified that all controversies regarding the appointment of electors should be resolved six days prior to the meeting of the Electoral College. This date figured prominently in the last presidential election when the Supreme Court stopped the recount process in Florida due to that deadline having arrived.

Protestors from throughout the nation, including Democrats, are pushing for the full manual recount in Ohio that will fit into the safe harbor deadline. They have expressed concerns that without a manual recount, undervotes and overvotes might go undetected.

Too, they are concerned about fairness issues regarding the Secretary of State's role as a tiebreaker when two Democrats and Republicans who are counting the provisional ballots disagree on whether any particular provisional ballot should be counted. They, therefore, are seeking his

recusal.

A rally was held Sunday with the Rev. Jesse Jackson at Mt. Herman Missionary Baptist Church in Columbus and another was slated for Monday in Delaware, Ohio, at the Delaware County Courthouse.

A demonstration was also planned on Monday in San Francisco at noon.

A "Caravan for the Real Count" is slated to leave San Francisco en route to Columbus on Wednesday, Dec. 1.

A "No Stolen Elections" meeting is scheduled for Kansas City, Mo., on Thursday, Dec. 2, and will feature noted investigator Greg Palast, plus other notables, including representatives from organized labor and various local churches and civic groups.

Other rallies and demonstrations are planned on Dec. 4, at Africentric Middle School in Columbus, and also in Kansas City. Another is set for San Francisco on Monday, Dec. 6.

A nationwide March on Washington is set for Saturday, Dec. 11, at Washington, D.C., and another protest is tentatively set for Saturday, Dec. 18, at 2 p.m., in Washington Square Park, Manhattan, New York.



Kyle Rote Takes Over For Doak Walker

The vote for the Heisman Trophy, awarded annually to the best college football player in the land, was announced on Dec. 5, 1950, and Kyle Rote of SMU did himself proud by coming in second.

The Southern Methodist Mustangs made the long trip from Dallas to Pittsburgh for their season opener in September 1948. A young fan recognized a famous face in a hotel lobby and asked Doak Walker for his autograph.

The gridiron god graciously obliged and introduced the boy to his companion. "This is Kyle Rote. Don't you want his autograph?"

"Is he an All-American?" the skeptical collector inquired.

"No," replied Doak, "but he will be next year."

SMU hardly broke a sweat in beating the Pitt Panthers 33-14 and had an even easier time the following Saturday with Texas Tech, still a decade away from membership in the Southwest Conference. In their last appearance on campus prior to moving to the enlarged Cotton Bowl, the Mustangs routed the Red Raiders 41-6.

Southern Methodist's undefeated streak of 15 games ended a week later at Missouri. Bouncing back from the

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



six-point surprise, the Ponies began the defense of their SWC title by pounding Rice in Houston 33-7.

Fifty thousand came out to the Cotton Bowl to watch the hometown team slaughter Santa Clara 33-0 in the last non-conference tune-up. Coach Bell gave Rote more playing time, and he responded with two touchdowns.

Doak set the tone for the showdown with always tough Texas by sprinting 67 yards to pay dirt on the third play from scrimmage. Rote accounted for one of three SMU scores in the 21-6 triumph on a 14-yard sprint with a lateral from a pass receiver.

After putting away the never-say-die Texas Aggies 20-14, the SMU offense spun its wheels for 56 minutes in the Ozarks. But Rote broke loose for 35 yards to the Arkansas eight and bulled his way across the goal line to cut the Hogs' lead to five points.

It took one of the Mustangs miraculous comebacks to

save the day. Gil Johnson, the baldheaded passer with the bum knee, flipped the ball to Paul Page at the Hogs' two yard line and he squirmed his way into the end zone as the gun sounded.

Returning to the Cotton Bowl for a scrap with the Baylor Bears, SMU trailed 6-0 in the third quarter when Rote took charge. He gained 118 yards on sheer brute strength, giving tacklers a piggyback ride on practically every carry, and scored both TD's in the 13-6 victory. A Baylor assistant coach marveled, "Rote is the first old-time, foot-in-your-mouth, ramming fullback I've seen in years!"

Three weeks after Doak Walker became the first junior to win the Heisman Trophy, tenth-ranked SMU hosted ninth-ranked Oregon on New Year's Day. The Southwest Conference champs prevailed 21-13 thanks in large part to their very special sophomore, who rushed for 93 yards and two touchdowns and boomed an 84-yard quick kick, the longest punt in Cotton Bowl history.

Everybody and his brother considered the Mustangs a shoo-in for their third SWC

crown in a row in 1949. Doak Walker was back for his senior year, Kyle Rote had a season under his belt and Matty Bell had even found a talented replacement, Fred Benners, for Gil Johnson, who had turned pro.

But it was not to be. Rice handed SMU its first conference loss in two years humbling the mistake-prone Mustangs 41-27 on their home turf. Worse than the defeat was the injury Doak suffered on a cheap out-of-bounds shot that knocked him into a wheelchair.

With Walker spending more time on the sidelines than on the field, SMU struggled through the rest of the schedule. The Mustangs beat Texas and Arkansas but lost to Baylor and TCU and played the Aggies to a draw to finish fifth in the seven-team league.

Again denied the services of Doak, the Mustangs were 28-point underdogs against Notre Dame. But a star was born on that day in Big D, as Kyle Rote almost singlehandedly vanquished the Irish. The Ponies came up seven points short but not before Rote ran for 115 yards, passed for 146, averaged 48 yards a punt and tallied all three SMU

touchdowns.

There were more downs than ups for the 1950 Mustangs, who looked like world beaters for five games and inexplicably lost four of the next five. Rote, the Heisman runner-up, was the bright spot with 762 rushing yards on 152 attempts, a dozen touchdowns and 35 yards per punt.

The first pick in the National Football League draft of 1951, Rote spent 11 years with the New York Giants. After tearing up a knee in his rookie season, he switched to wide receiver and caught 48 touchdowns, still a record for the Giants.

Kyle Rote died in August 2002, four years after Doak Walker. Son Kyle, Jr. put his passing in perspective: "To me the most remarkable thing about him from a football standpoint was that he had 14 teammates who named sons after him."

Quite a tribute to a great football player who was an even better human being.

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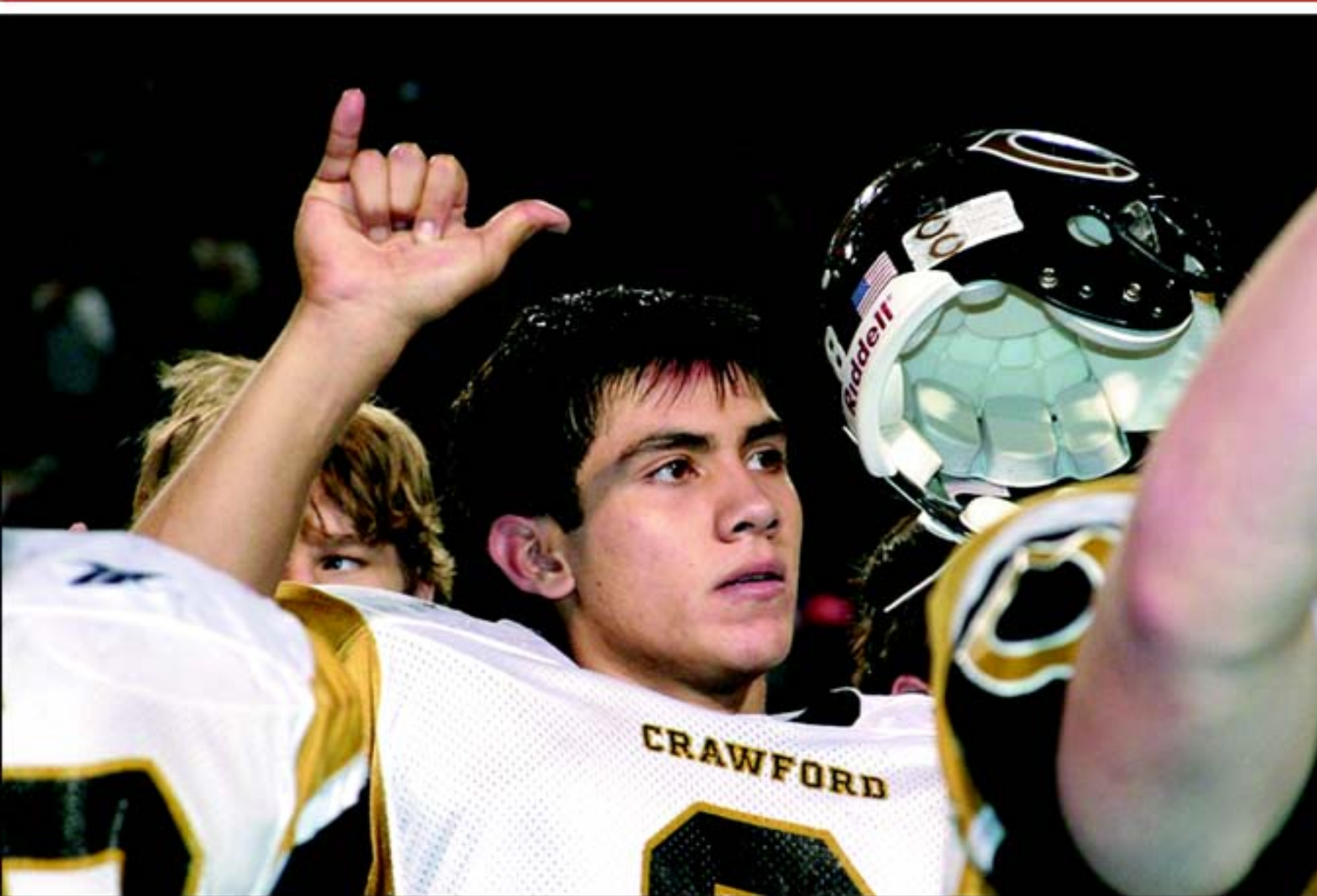

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DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States



SIGN OF THE TIMES — Pedro Rodriguez (8) shows spirit last Friday night after Crawford beat Cooper at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook

Crawford To See Celina In Region Final Friday

— Pirates Blast Bulldogs, 49-12 —

GRAND PRAIRIE — The Crawford Pirates (13-0) will be facing the Celina Bobcats (13-0) in the region final in Burleson at 7:30 p.m. after defeating Cooper Bulldogs (10-3), 49-12, in a Class 2A region semifinal last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie.

Crawford racked up over 200 yards rushing and 150 yards passing against the Bulldogs; Lee Murphy finished the game going 11-of-18 for about 150 yards and one touchdown, while Derek Dumas rushed for over 100 yards on 23 carries for four touchdowns

Almost immediately the Pirates were on the defensive attack. Dwight Moody intercepted a pass for a 25 yard touchdown. Shawn Fulwider's point after was good.

The first offensive leg saw Lee Murphy connect with Jad Tawater on a three yard TD pass, having been set up on a Murphy to Adam Murphy on an 18-yard pass the play prior. Tawater finished with 91 yards on six receptions.

Cooper scored next but missed the point after touchdown.

Set up by another Pedro Rodriguez interception,

Dumas ran in for a two-yard TD.

Crawford turned the ball over only once, but Cooper came up with nothing; however, the Bulldogs scored one more time.

The Pirates responded with Dumas' two-yard run and another one of Fulwider's successful points after touchdown. The place kicker racked up six of seven points in the game.

With about 70 yards on nine carries, Sam Moody finished the game with a fourth quarter 29-yard touchdown.

With about 70 yards on nine carries, Sam Moody finished the game with a fourth quarter 29-yard touchdown.

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Mayborn Museum Sets 'Mammoth Little Christmas'

WACO — The Mayborn Museum Complex will celebrate the holiday season with "A Mammoth Little Christmas." The Mayborn Museum Complex is dressed up for the holidays with "Christmas from Around the World" trees gracing the upper level of the rotunda. The trees were specially decorated by Baylor University international students.

The Mayborn Museum will feature musical guests in the Grand Rotunda throughout the holiday season, and the acclaimed "Christmas at Baylor" production will be shown in the SBC Theater on Thursday evenings.

The Gov. Bill and Vara Historic Village will be adorned for the holidays Dec. 18 for special Christmas events for the entire family. The First United Methodist Church children's choir will perform in the church, and Waco storyteller Vivian Rutherford will tell Christmas stories in the school house. Children also can enjoy the old-fashioned tradition of stringing popcorn and cranberries.

Visitors may shop at the Museum Store for those hard-to-buy-for friends and family on your list. From the whimsical to the educational, the Museum Store offers books, toys, puzzles and plush items for all ages. A family membership to the museum makes a wonderful gift!

Admission to the Mayborn Museum Complex is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors, and \$4 for children.

Schedule of Events

- Thursdays, Dec. 2, 9, and 16, from 5 to 8 p.m. — "Christmas at Baylor"

- Sunday, Dec. 5 — Music in the Grand Rotunda — 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., Fred Curtis Quartet; from 3 - 4 p.m., Karen Abrahamson and Carrie Wetherholt — Harp; from 4 - 5 p.m., Shannon Meadors — Vocalist.

- Sunday, Dec. 12 — Music in the Grand Rotunda, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m., Theresa Ford — Hammer Dulcimer; from 3 - 4 p.m., Susan and Kathrine Shrivner — Harp.

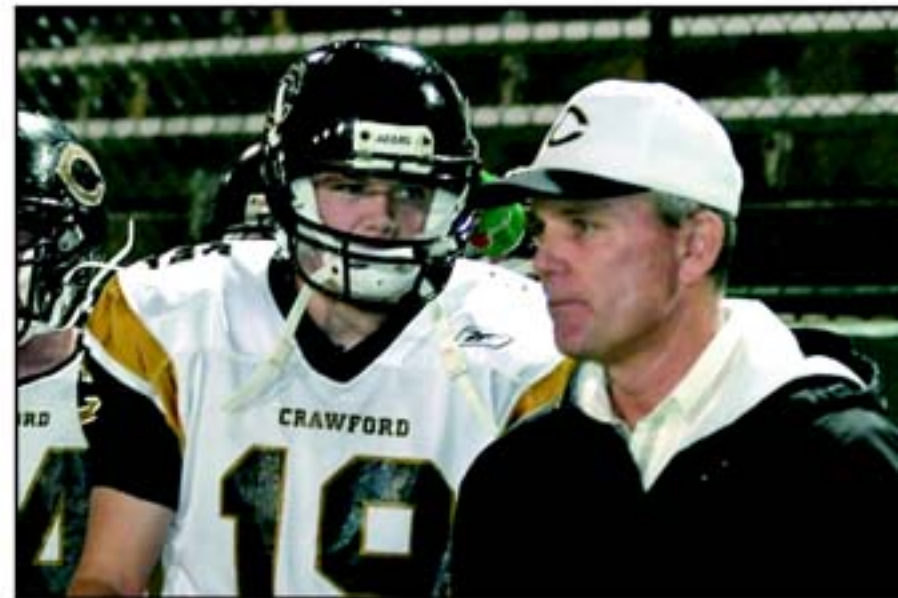
- Saturday, Dec. 18 — Special events in the Gov. Bill & Vara Daniel Historic Village, from 1:30 - 1:45 p.m. — Lorena First United Methodist Church Children's Choir will sing in the church; from 1 - 5 p.m. — Vivian Rutherford will tell Christmas stories in the school house.

- Saturday, Dec. 18 — Stringing Popcorn & Cranberries, from 2 - 2:45 p.m. — Lorena First United Methodist Church choir will sing in the church; from 3 - 3:45 p.m. — Lorena First United Methodist Church bell choir will perform in the church.

- Sunday, Dec. 19 — Music in the Grand Rotunda, from 1:30 - 2:30 p.m. - Waco Boys & Girls Club Choir; from 3 - 4 p.m. — The Hadad Family — Singing



DEREK DUMAS (3) slaps a Bulldog defender aside last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



PLOTTING GAME STRATEGY are Lee Murphy and Coach Robert Murphy against Cooper last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



ALTHOUGH he may need a new jersey next week, Sam Moody (25) finished off the scoring last Friday night against the Cooper Bulldogs at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



SANDWICHED — Adam Murphy, Mark Lowe (88), and Andrew Judy (37) clamp down on a Bulldog last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



DEREK DUMAS (3) breaks through the hole to score another touchdown last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook

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KRISTIE WILKINSON, 11th grader, smiles last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie when Crawford faced Cooper. — Photo By Stephen Cook



JAD TAWATER (7) heads downfield after taking a pass against Cooper last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



STUFFED — Dwight Moody (68), Garrett Gonzales (67), and Derek Dumas (3) stuff a Bulldog runner in the backfield last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook



B.J. CHRISTIAN (20) slips a tackle last Friday night at the Gopher-Warrior Bowl in Grand Prairie. — Photo By Stephen Cook

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The Teensy Weensy Spider Came Up The Water Spout

My last column dealt with email forwards. I had mentioned the urban legends were sometimes perpetrated by stories that circulate through the Internet. There was one recent warning about cobwebs in some major brand of chewing gum. There was another about poison in a soft drink. I wrote about the great kidney-stealing scheme (hoax).

Everyone of a certain age remembers tales of body parts being sealed up in soda pop bottles or ketchup or whatever, right from the factory. These stories made the rounds well before computers were invented. It was always someone's cousin or uncle or sister-in-law's nephew who found the thing. And the storyteller swore it was true.

Years ago, we had a real scare after some sick mind came up with putting rat poison into the bottles of a major painkiller. That resulted in tamper proof lids, probably a good thing.

With the threat of terrorism came worries of contracting anthrax poisoning from simply opening an envelope. Most of that turned out to be a lot of hype.

There are all sorts of bad things in this world, but today

Rustic Ramblings

By Gene Ellis



Gene Ellis, Ed.D. is a Bosque County resident who returned to the family farm after years of living in New Orleans, New York and Florida. She is an artist who holds a doctoral degree from New York University and is writing a book about the minor catastrophes of life.

I wanted to write about something silly (but it won't turn out that way). I had more to say about the spider under the toilet seat warning, the subject of my last column. I mean, who could resist commenting further on such an exciting topic? I just can't help myself.

What are the odds that I will sit on the wrong public toilet and encounter a poisonous Indonesian spider? —Probably less than getting struck by lightning twice or winning the lottery. It was a hoax anyway, in all likelihood. Lately it's become hard to confirm newsworthy items, even on major network TV.

Well, back to the spider thing. . . . Most women don't sit on public toilets anyway. Too much information? But I mean, really. . . . Think about it. There are possible microbial dangers lurking there. But spiders?

Does this spider leap skyward towards opportunity? In any case, I don't need this extra anxiety in my life! Now I am going to have to lift the lids of any public toilet before I hover above it. I don't like to even touch a public toilet seat lid. . . . But I always did anyway. It's common courtesy to lift the lid. This has nothing to do with the

old toilet seat position argument between men and women. This might not be widely known, so I feel it is my responsibility to apprise and educate you.

Men probably never thought of this . . . but women, during a lifetime of visiting public restrooms, have at least once seen some variation of the following little ditty: "If you stand when'er you tinkle, lift the lid so you won't sprinkle." You are supposed to be thoughtful of the person who follows you. Just common sense. (Does this have any place in a family newspaper?)

So now the extra alert for killer spiders in public restrooms has been added to my list, even though I know in my heart this is a hoax. This takes me one step closer to paranoia and obsessive-compulsive behavior. (Just what I need, more neurosis in my life!) Sometimes I wonder how many brain cells I have left to remember all the warnings we must deal with every day.

Should we avoid butter and use margarine? No, now it seems that ingesting margarine is just one step up from eating plastic. Should we avoid chocolate to keep our weight down? No, it seems that dark chocolate is suddenly good for us. It was in the news, so it must be true. (There has been a lot of fuss lately about things in the news that are NOT true, even if reported by a reputable source).

Should we eat low fat or low carbs? Are all the warnings just to forward the cause of business interests? (Probably so).

Can we trust plastic containers in the microwave or will they cause cancer? Can we reuse water bottles or do they, too, deteriorate and become carcinogenic? Will hormone therapy keep women from bone loss? Or was that just hype? Will they instead cause stroke and cancer?

Even doctors now leave certain major treatment decisions to patients. There is too much room for error in deciding certain forms of treatment. (I can't decide if it is a good thing that doctors have finally admitted that they don't know it all

or if it at least seemed better and more comforting when we THOUGHT or at least hoped they knew it all).

Should people trust various diet pills, take off the weight that is surely bad for their health? But what effects do the

diet pills have?

We MUST weed out the nonsense surrounding us and save our precious remaining gray matter for the REAL dangers. We must make informed and intelligent decisions.

I wonder how we will do that?



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Central Texas To Observe World AIDS Day Dec. 1

WACO — World AIDS Day will be observed on Wednesday, Dec. 1, at 6 p.m. in Heritage Square in Waco. This year's theme for WAD, as decided by the U.N. AIDS Organization, is "Women, Girls, HIV and AIDS."

The observance in Waco will be sponsored by McCARES, the McLennan County HIV/AIDS Resources and Education Services.

Young women and girls are more susceptible to HIV than men and boys, with studies showing they can be 2½ times more likely to be HIV-infected as their male counterparts. Their vulnerability is primarily due to inadequate knowledge about AIDS, insufficient access to HIV prevention services, inability to negotiate safer sex, and a lack of female-controlled HIV prevention methods.

All are invited to join McCARES at Heritage Square to help observe World AIDS Day.

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Yes, There Was A Real Uncle Hugh

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "A truly honest man would shoot himself to keep from doin' all the stuff he knows he'd like to do."

It is time once again to answer those two repetitive questions I occasionally get from readers: "Who was Uncle Hugh?" and "Was there really an Uncle Hugh?"

Well, now I know there's at least two of you.

So he who would be first among you, let him be last.

Yes, there really was a Hugh Overton.

But he wasn't technically my uncle, except that the courtesy title "Aunt" or "Uncle" was extended to all adults in my grandparents' extended family, wherein the extension reached all the way to Dumas, Texas, which I once got a whipping with a peach tree switch for calling "Dumb As."

My mother thought I was swearing.

I was not, as is clearly spelled out here.

Uncle Hugh, considering the wisdom of trying to raise cotton in the Texas Panhandle, pronounced me guiltless.

Uncle Walter, he said, was a Dumb As.

As best I can determine, Uncle Hugh was my grandfather's brother-in-law's brother who was, in the family's East Texas parlance, rougher than a rained-on cob.

My first clear memory of Uncle Hugh was of sitting on his lap on the front porch with my other little cousins lined up on either side of us, all having the grandest of times.

Suddenly my mother busted through the screen door, snatched me up and spanked me all the way into the house, then refused to let me outside again.

I found out years later that Uncle Hugh was teaching the new generation how to shoot pistol straight without aiming.

I still know the trick.

No, I'm not going to tell you.

He was also, by general agreement, the best outlaw in history.

So why have you never heard of him?

Because he was the best outlaw in history.

Jesse James, the Daltons, Billy the Kid all were hunted and killed in the prime of their youth. They were terrible outlaws.

A truly successful criminal doesn't have a big funeral because no one knows he ever existed.

Uncle Hugh died in his nineties of pneumonia with nobody on his trail.

And he never went straight.

He only went to prison once.

I asked my father why, and

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



he told me Uncle Hugh got two years for kindness to animals.

He gave a good home to 137 head of somebody else's cattle.

I still remember driving down those country roads with Uncle Hugh and hearing him say when we saw a calf outside the fence:

"I better git that heifer 'fore somebody steals it."

He later said he got caught because he just lost his perspective.

Steal cattle, and the lawmen see you as a worthwhile adversary. John Wayne, or Roy and Gene ridin' to cut the rustlers off at the past. (That's not a misprint. It's a joke.)

He said they'd hardly waste their time on a hog thief.

If you stole chickens, they'd be embarrassed to bring you in.

So he taught me how to swipe chickens off the roost without raising a squawk. It has to be a cold night, though.

You stick a one-by-twelve inside your shirt. When it's nice and warm, you ease it into the henhouse window. Ol' henny'll hop right on it to get out of the cold, and you just slip her outside and grab her by the neck before she can make a peep.

See, I can tell that one, and not the pistol trick, because in a bar fight, it's pretty hard to kill somebody with a chicken.

Hugh never held with politics or other big business.

The problem with stealing big, Uncle Hugh used to say, was if you rob somebody with a pistol, you can chunk it in the river as you cross the border. Rob 'em with a fountain pen, and people wonder why you've got your fireplace lit up with paperwork in August.

Besides, wear a necktie long enough and you start spelling "t-h-i-e-f" as "e-n-t-r-e-p-r-e-n-e-u-r."

You stop thinking like an outlaw and start thinking like a banker. Hiring auditors and other folks who can read and cipher.

And count reward money.

By then you get too good to hide out in Louisiana.

Put on Italian suits long enough, and you start thinking you'd rather go to prison than move someplace that ain't got a Starbucks.

About as close as Uncle Hugh ever got to a dalliance with officialdom was what he used to call his still alarm.

Back during the Depression, every time he left his still, he'd drop two silver dollars on the

trail. If the money was gone when he came back, he'd know the law had his still staked out.

And he'd head for the Red Riviera.

He said it wasn't hard to blend in up in Oklahoma. You just trade your shoes for a chew of tobacco.

"There is no problem so great that it cannot be solved with a two-hour head start," he

used to say. "Back in '34 I changed my name so many times I forgot who I was. Spent three weeks in Tulsa pretending to be myself."

They say he didn't even have his right name put on his tombstone, and I expect the devil is still looking for him.

In Oklahoma.

Did Uncle Hugh really say all that stuff?

Probably.

Sometimes memory gets crossways with inspiration when it comes to Uncle Hugh.

And he was an inspiration to us all, at least all of us who believe that the only real sin is claiming you ain't a sinner.

And we who don't believe you can do the Lord's work with two shiny new silver dollars in your pocket.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

Ohio — Ground Zero

The spirit of freedom is essential to the American character.

Some experience it with but a mere twinkle in the eye, while others wear it like a chip on their shoulders.

Yet there are those who choose to reject the spirit of democracy for myopic greedier pastures. They would discard the creation of Washington, Jefferson, and Franklin as immaterial and no longer relevant in a world being redefined by a neo-conservative mold in which Americans act according to government policy, speak according to government propaganda, and think as the government dictates.

During the month of December, Ohio has become ground zero, where rests the survival of democracy as we know it, for this will be the test of whether America will stand for an election riddled with irregularities.

The test will determine if the true spirit of honest elections will continue to exist in America or if honesty, like respect and cooperation, has become a dinosaur.

Although the battleground in Ohio might be described as one of abstraction, lacking the smoke-filled sea of asbestos and lead that was ever present at ground zero in New York, its pungency is just as caustic because this battle will determine whether democracy will gasp its last or reign as an icon of truth.

Although some Ohioans might applaud Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell's fascist sorcery to make impossible a manual recount in time for the Electoral College elite to cast their votes, citizens of the United States from coast to coast condemn it.

Take heed. This is not merely an election

issue isolated to the state of Ohio.

Ohio is not an island.

That state's decisive posture on the Electoral College makes this a national referendum.

Those championing honest elections look upon slimy efforts to disintegrate the ghost of freedom as abhorrent. Many are joining forces through rallies, marches, and protests to educate America of the potential flight of truth. At the same time, they are extending their voices into Ohio as they descend upon ground zero to attempt to clean up the mess created by election irregularities that are too numerous to even remotely be considered accidental.

THE ICONOCLAST applauds the initiatives of the freedom-fighters who with substantial courage are standing up for rights that would normally be taken for granted. We encourage others to pitch in and help, to be heard, to take back what has been stolen, for this theft carries the stain of treason.

The Rev. Jesse Jackson is one among thousands seeking the truth. "We want to know how deep this pattern goes," Jackson said. "We have been continuing to pursue the outcome of the election with disturbing findings. ... We want a full investigation of these irregularities," he said Sunday.

The time is now to draw a line in the sand — to give not one inch, one millimeter, one vote toward the cause of skewing this election. This recount, no matter the outcome, conducted properly, is a necessity for democracy to prevail. Without it, America can never trust another election.

— Written By W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

Reality check
Now that the seize of Falluja is over and we've found that less than 5% of those killed and captured were foreigners, can we finally dispel this administration's ridiculous assertion that we are "fighting the terrorists in Iraq instead of in our own cities?" Perhaps now this president will actually listen to his generals who have been saying all along that what we are dealing with in Iraq is a homegrown insurgency, not a bunch of imported Al Qaeda fighters. As Americans, maybe we all can finally come to terms with the fact that actions have consequences and that our unilateral invasion of a sovereign country created the terrorists in Iraq.

Why is this so important? Because you can't solve problems until you can at least identify what the problems are. We need to stabilize Iraq, but sealing off the borders won't do it. Neither will killing Zarqawi. And we are still threatened by a ruthless and

determined enemy around the world. But American troops battling Baathists in the streets of Falluja isn't going to hurt them. The sooner we acknowledge these realities, the sooner we can bring real security to the American people.

J.H. —Kingsville, TX
Dear Don Fisher, Associate Editor

I am one of those "out of area" readers who subscribed to the Iconoclast when you published the editorial endorsement of John Kerry. I wanted to add my little bit to support what I considered to be an example of outstanding journalistic independence.

At first, I did not think I would actually read your publication, but I have done so regularly since I started receiving mailed copies, which typically are about two weeks after the fact.

Now I am once again so very impressed with the courage and quality of your paper. The editorial you wrote for the Nov. 3 edition is truly wonderful. Crawford, Texas should be

ever so proud to have men like you and your publisher willing to toil for what must be very limited financial, and even more meager social, rewards. Instead, you have had to endure scorn and ridicule for your trouble.

I would like to remind the folks of Crawford that they are lucky indeed to have a newspaper at all, not to say one of the caliber of the ICONOCLAST. I hope they will read your editorial comments for this date and realize what a treasure they have in their midst.

I am a retired Professor of History and know what I am talking about when it comes to the importance of an independent press. I used to tell my students that without freedom of speech, none of the other "rights" we claim as American citizens is worth a hill of beans.

I hope you and your paper receive some kind of journalistic honor for the stand you have taken. In the meantime, I am enjoying reading your comments and the news of the little town of Crawford. It is a slice of Americana that seems to be fast fading from existence.

PS. — Orange, Ca.
Letter to the Editor:

Creation vs. Evolution
There is a conservative movement to teach creationism in our Public Schools. However, the practice of the conservatives of not providing health care and cutting Human Service programs looks a lot like evolution, i.e., "Survival of the fittest..."

It's time the right wing practices what it preaches.

J.B. — Aurora, Colo.
To The Editor:

I am pleased to be a new subscriber to your fine newspaper. I suspect you are in need of a few 'friends' at the moment, judging from some of the anti-ICONOCLAST letters you have printed in response to your courageous stand in favor of Kerry. Why the very nerve: standing up for what you believe, and in the newspaper, too. Whatever next? Free Speech for the masses?

Several of your so-called subscribers have seen fit to recommend that you move to France (which could be lovely, but not necessary in my opinion), or to Massachusetts (now that fellow really needs help. Pitiful). I hope you stay right where you are, and that you continue to have the courage, the temerity, to call it as you see it. Larger newspapers have forgotten the meaning of

Continued On Next Page

Jibba Jabba

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



Soon after we endorsed Sen. Kerry for president and experienced the local fall out, I had a high school flashback from hearing about the behavior of some high school kids from Waco.

I'm told these guys came to Crawford around Labor Day to harass at least one clerk at a souvenir shop for not selling Kerry stuff in the heart of Bush Country.

This election-year incident reminded me of my own high school antics in the political sphere.

For a laugh during the 1996 presidential election season, me and my crew rounded up every Bob Dole (R-Kansas) campaign sign in our neighborhoods one night and staked them into the front yard of one of my most liberal friends — who coincidentally speaks fluent French, is homosexual, and is a distant relative of a popular heavy metal guitarist.

As you can probably tell, my crew and I weren't very smart back then and not nearly as courageous either as say those under-voting-age students at Boulder High School in Boulder, Colorado, who two days after the November election staged an all-night sit-in to protest the election results and the threat of the draft.

Before I apologized to my gay, liberal friend and explained that it was my idea to "Nazis" in his neighborhood were coming after his family. Visions of Anne Frank ran through my head when he said the signs really scared them. That night, his dad hid them in their garage for disposal later.

Knowing what I know now, I see that what we did was blatantly illegal and a breath away from evil. For just being American citizens with a leftist out-

look, that innocent family was scared to death over a thoughtless prank. We walked on to their own personal property and, in their eyes, stuck a burning cross on their lawn.

Boy, we were dumb. In light of this fact, my thoughts go out to our troops overseas, specifically to those kids who enlisted right out of high school in order to receive a decent education and healthcare, a better shot at life, and a chance to fight for worthy causes.

I support those kids, young adults, and mature men and women in uniform who get into jams overseas because it's not their fault they weren't taught to speak Arabic and understand Iraqi and Afghan customs before they shipped out.

I don't blame them because most of us anglo-Texans, like myself, focused more on learning jibba-jabba than learning different languages like Spanish in public school.

Honestly, I can't even pick up girls in my native tongue... (Plea to Ann Coulter: Baby, please return my phone calls and emails. Even though I supported Clinton twice, I'm a good guy. I swear. C'mon, baby, I'll treat you right. At least remove the restraining order — for crying out loud!)

Anyway, I can sort of relate to some of our troops overseas because I understand what it's like to frighten a "foreign family" without hardly knowing them.

And the weirdest part was that I wasn't even armed.

Thank goodness my liberal friend's dad wasn't either.

Majority of the Majority?

The United States has a new ruler, more powerful than the president.

His name is Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.), Speaker of the House of Representatives, who has proclaimed that he has instituted a new policy whereby Congress will pass bills only if a majority of the majority party backs them.

This means that if any bills are favored by less than a majority of the Republican party, but, when combined with Democratic party, votes will pass, the bills are destined for the junk heap.

One recent victim was the long-debated intelligence bill that probably would have passed, combining both Democratic and Republican votes. But since the majority of Republicans did not favor the bill, Reichsmarshal Hastert killed it. This particular bill was strongly supported by Democrats and by President Bush, but less than a majority of the Republican representatives indicated support for it.

Rep. David E. Price (D-N.C.), a former political scientist, and other Democrats who have been barred from helping draft major bills, argue that bipartisanship has been dealt a major blow.

"It's a set of rules and practices which Republicans have

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



taken to new extremes," Congressman Price commented.

For Hastert, assuring that only the "majority of the majority" rules, no matter what, can be translated as job security, as this puts him in perhaps a better light for reappointment as Speaker in the future.

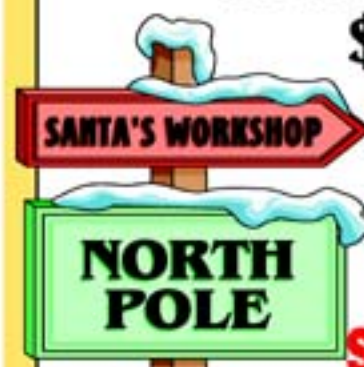
For the country, this unprecedented policy means the destruction of debate, the castration of compromise, and the germination of gridlock, especially on issues that depend upon a wide range of Congressional acceptance.

Hastert is telling Democrats that they might as well go home. Their representation of those who elected them no longer applies in the new one-party system seating in Congress.

Actually, if you dissect the Republican Party by removing traditional, thrifty Republicanism or the emerging neo-conservative cult, then only one faction could be moving forward any initiatives. That's shutting it down to the lowest uncommon denominator.

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MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

Free Press. Don't let that happen to you.

M.C. — Seattle, WA
To The Editor:

I am a new subscriber. I took a subscription because I heard your neighbors there in Texas were removing ads and subscriptions from your paper, when your endorsed Senator Kerry. I personally did not see the endorsement editorial, I sure wish I had. I would like to comment on the Nov. 3, 2004 Editorial. Wow, you have my respect and admiration. Please send me the price of taking a small ad in your paper. Thanks for being there for us.

M.C. — Bowie, Md.
To The Editor:

When faced with the Cuban Missile crisis, President John F. Kennedy made an historic decision, which continues to define his international legacy: he forced the Kremlin to withdraw its nuclear missiles from Cuba. In so doing, Mr. Kennedy protected the vital security interests of the United States and checked Moscow's brazen attempt to expand its imperial influence. The president's decision also forced Soviet dictator Nikita Khrushchev to deal with Kennedy as a worthy champion of liberty.

Will President George W. Bush now stand up to Russia's blatant imperial overreach in Ukraine? Will Mr. Bush protect America's interest in the spread of democracy and free markets?

While the President has touted good relations with his Russian counterpart, it is clear that Vladimir Putin financed and actively campaigned on behalf of an authoritarian candidate whose supporters stole the election. Rampant voting violations were confirmed by Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Richard Lugar, whom Mr. Bush sent as his personal emissary to monitor the Ukrainian election. Now there are reports that Russia is sending troops to Ukraine to protect its ill-gotten electoral conquest, a military intervention that differs from the Cuban Missile Crisis in degree, but not kind.

The European Union and NATO have condemned the authoritarian power grab in Ukraine. Individual European leaders have also publicly voiced their objections and called for Mr. Putin to stop violating its neighbor's sovereignty.

The situation in Ukraine

provides George W. Bush with an historic opportunity to defend the gains freedom has been making around the world against those who hate what it stands for — free media, free markets, and free elections. This means not only advancing the cause of liberty in Iraq, but also making certain it does not retreat in the former Soviet Union. As an advocate of Ukrainian liberty, the president would also gain international stature and could mend fences with European leaders.

The Bush administration is to be applauded for statements thus far involving Senator Lugar and Secretary of State Colin Powell. However, Mr. Bush must spend some of his political capital with the Kremlin to make clear that the United States is not advancing liberty in Iraq just to see it retreat in Ukraine. As American soldiers lay down their lives for freedom in the sands of Iraq, Mr. Bush must understand that Russia has historically drawn other lines in the sand for the United States. A generation ago, the line was in Cuba. Today, it is in Ukraine. If Mr. Bush fails to stand up to the Kremlin over the travesty in Ukraine, how can the people of Iraq believe his assurance that their election will be free and fair?

M.B. — Houston
To The Editor:

"Standard" Bearers?
Have you ever wanted to really run outside your house and just scream? This new turn of events in the Ukraine is enough to make me beg for a strait jacket. Am I the only one that sees this?

According to an AP report today (Opposition Calls for Strike in Ukraine, Associated Press 11/24/04), "The election was denounced as fraudulent by Western observers, who cited ballot stuffing, voter intimidation and other irregularities. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Wednesday that the United States cannot accept the result, warning 'there will be consequences' in the two countries' relationship."

OK, here's a country, that's not even in this hemisphere, which just had an election. OUR current administration is very unhappy with the results. They're responding to reports of irregularities, deceit and corruption.

I don't know, doesn't this election scenario sound vaguely familiar?

As a matter of fact, doesn't it sound identical to what's going on right here?

Except for one minor detail...the Bush team is demanding an investigation!!!

With countless reports of fraud, ballot box stuffing, voter intimidation right here in the good old US of A, why aren't they screaming for the same investigation here?

Because they won!!!
But that shouldn't matter! What happened to ethics? What happened to fairness? What happened to DEMOCRACY? These people are the same Republicans that, supposedly, won the election based on their MORAL VALUES.

These are the same Republicans that are controlling the House "ethics" committee that just overturned the ethics rule banning house members from holding leadership positions if convicted of a felony.

These are the same Republicans that put this rule on the books in the FIRST place (do I hear "flip-flop, flip-flop?").

I feel like I'm taking crazy pills! How DARE they hold other nations accountable to a standard and yet refuse to hold ours to the same. Why doesn't anybody else see this? Why isn't the media screaming about this? Why don't I see every other citizen in this country standing outside their houses screaming like me?

R.S. — Lynbrook, NY
To The Editor:

Congratulations on you big boost in subscriptions. And to all those Texans that don't believe in freedom of speech and freedom of the press, I say, take that (snap). Who needs people who don't support healthy opposition? Diversity is America's strength and close-mindedness, like a closed parachute, won't do you any good in any way, except to bring you down to ground faster.

Keep up the great work, we love to read your paper for its bravery in the face of the illiterate of Crawford who think something is wrong with exercising your rights, and your job to ferret out the truth and as much of any story you go after.

Respectfully,
J.P., a New Yorker,
a survivor of 9/11,
and a supporter of democracy
and TRUE morality.

To The Editor:

Well, it's happening, the economy is tanking. Not might tank, not eventually tank. It's

Halliburton and Widgits of Mediocre Distribution

There are WMDs and then there are wmds.

The latter are widgits of mediocre distribution, like vehicles, computers, and electric generators — government property that was supposed to be managed by Halliburton Co. for the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA) in Iraq.

According to Inspector General Stuart W. Bowen in a report to Congress, Halliburton's KBR subsidiary has apparently been lax in managing government property worth millions of dollars that now cannot be accounted for.

The Halliburton mystique is fast turning into the Halliburton mystery, as the shroud spreads.

The company is already facing a criminal investigation into alleged fuel price gouging. Then there is the FBI probe into possible favoritism (improperly awarding contracts to Halliburton without competitive bidding) from the Bush Administration.

The tab on the missing wmds amounts to more than \$18 million, according to the inspector.

One has to ask, "What does this tell us about the efficiency of the company in Iraq?"

In the grand scheme of things, especially considering the total cost of the effort in Iraq, this might be viewed as chicken feed. But 18 million bucks is 18 million bucks. These are taxpayer dollars, yours and mine.

During the Age of Accountability, this, of course, cannot

happening, this is the real deal, forget about the nonsense coming out of Dubya's mouth. We're heading south.

The holiday season is upon us. You might as well spend your cash now because the dollar is dropping like a stone in international currency markets. It's dropped 30% since 2001 and is now at a record low. Even without the dour pronouncements of Alan Greenspan and the Treasury Secretary John Snow, the greenback is likely to fall further. The reason is simple, we're living beyond our means, and the Congress passing the debt limit another \$800 billion does not forebode well. American consumers are deep in debt, the nation is importing more than we're exporting, and the federal budget is out of control.

Nearly all the increase in public debt during the Bush regime, \$1 trillion has been financed by foreigners, and now they're bailing out of dollars. Even the Chinese and Japa-



stand. The Bush Administration ushered in this new age, with accountability being the catchword designed to eliminate waste and inefficiency by pointing the finger at anyone or anything that falls below the bar. And, with favoritism, there is more than one actor. A probe cannot involve only the recipient.

But does accountability apply to outright greed, or is greed an absolute that one is congratulated upon attaining because doing so means reaching a higher level of perfection? If that's the case, then companies that strip clean the American dollar are reaching their own perfection and would, in a strange new world, become candidates for praise, perhaps even worship.

No. This type of greed is not part of the normal American value system; however, the outcome and the application of sanctions, should any be applicable, will tell if we are shifting to that strange new world.

The big WMDs were not found. Let's hope, for the sake of Halliburton's integrity, that the little wmds mysteriously find their way back home.

We'll close our eyes and count to 10. Then turn around and maybe they'll be there.

nese are smartening up. American exporters are cheering because a lower dollar makes everything they sell abroad cheaper, but it's bad for the rest of us because everything we buy from abroad, like oil becomes much more expensive, and these higher prices will ripple through the economy, threatening inflation and higher interest rates, and ultimately reduce our living standards.

It's one of the oldest economic laws, when you're living too high on the hog, eventually you're going to fall off into the pig slop.

Riding highest on the hog right now is the federal government, with a budget deficit of over \$400 billion this year alone. Cutting taxes while waging a useless war and doling out corporate welfare leads to red ink. In short, the administration is subjecting America to huge economic risks.

What this country is interested in is abortion, gay mar-

Continued On Next Page

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

riages, stem cell research, passiveness about ecology and the same about the economy, and the belief that Bush has a direct wire to God and we'll be OK.

Well, the fundamentalists and evangelists are about to have their clocks cleaned.

In the meantime, enjoy the holiday buying season, and here's a buying tip. With the dollar dropping, the nicest gift you can give is Gold, because as the dollar goes south, the price of gold is going up.

N. — Address not provided

Dear Editor of the Lone Star Iconoclast,

Your pre-election editorial regarding Bush's 1st four years was the most cogent and articulate critique I have read. That editorial and the furor created compelled me to subscribe.

Your paper is a proud reminder of my own connections with Texas — Ph.D. from A&M (1989), and a wife born in Lubbock and raised in Midland.

The follow-up editorial by Don Fisher (11/3/04) was another thoughtful and forceful piece about the proper role of media in society. Where can citizens learn about the workings of government and the world if we cannot trust the media? We don't have to agree, but we should learn from what is reported to us. It has become depressingly clear that multinational corporate owned media has blurred the boundaries between journalism, commercial interests, and propaganda.

Your paper is an example of how independent media can help us stay intelligently informed.

B.P. — Seattle, WA
Don M. Fisher,

I am H.R. (name omitted by editors), 76, an attorney, father of five, grandfather of nine, and a subscriber to the *ICONOCLAST*. Tomorrow, my wife and I will gather with our family for Thanksgiving dinner. My eldest son, an investment banker and supporter of Mr. Bush, will say a prayer before meals during which he will, predictably, mention Bush. At that point, nine grandchildren, their grandmother, and their parents, will turn towards me, hoping that I will not state, among other things, that Mr. Bush speaks English as a second language, or that when he finishes a simple sentence he smiles with a daunting sense of achievement, or that in the

words of St. Francis of Assis, Mr. Bush is a cowardly son of a bitch.

Instead, I intend to speak to my grandchildren about you. I intend to tell them of the editorial you published on November 3rd, entitled "Why I Did What We Did." I will tell them the population of Crawford and show them a copy of that November 3rd editorial. I will offer a copy of that editorial to each of them and suggest that each of them carefully fold it and place it among their personal keepsakes in memory of you, a person whom they don't know but whom they will remember decades later when they come upon that folded editorial.

We do not see ourselves as others see us, Mr. Fisher, a truth that bears retelling to you. You do not know, nor can you know, how you appear to hundreds of thousands of people in all walks of life who learned of you, your editorial favoring Mr. Kerry, and your editorial "Why I Did What We Did," editorials that were written, so to speak, just down the road from Mr. Bush. Had you written those editorials in Chicago or a little town in some other state, no one would have given them another thought. But to have written them in Crawford, in a beautiful, clear English prose that almost tasted like cold spring water in July, those editorials, Mr. Fisher, were like thunderclaps. If Mark Twain were alive, he would have gone down to your paper, tapped on your window, and asked if you would mind his going inside for a chat with you.

Happy Thanksgiving to you, Mr. Fisher, and to your family and the staff at the paper.

H.R. — Scarsdale, New York

To The Editor:

I sincerely hope that you do go out of business. You do not represent Texas or most of the US. Eat dirt and die!

J.M. — Texas

To The Editor:

Just received my 11/3/04 copy by snailmail.

Great piece of prose by Mr. Fisher. The guy's style...as a writer and as a man.

B.F. — Blue State Subscriber

To The Editor:

Glad to hear that you've so significantly increased your subscriptions. Your new focus will be an interesting endeavor. Thanks again for your insightful election

coverage...keep up the good work.

K.J. — Boulder, CO

To The Editor:

Just a few words to tell you that I am supporting your courage.

Yours sincerely,

L.G. — Luxemburg
(Grand-Duchy of Luxemburg, Europe)

To The Editor:

Hi!

My name is Virginie and I'm French.

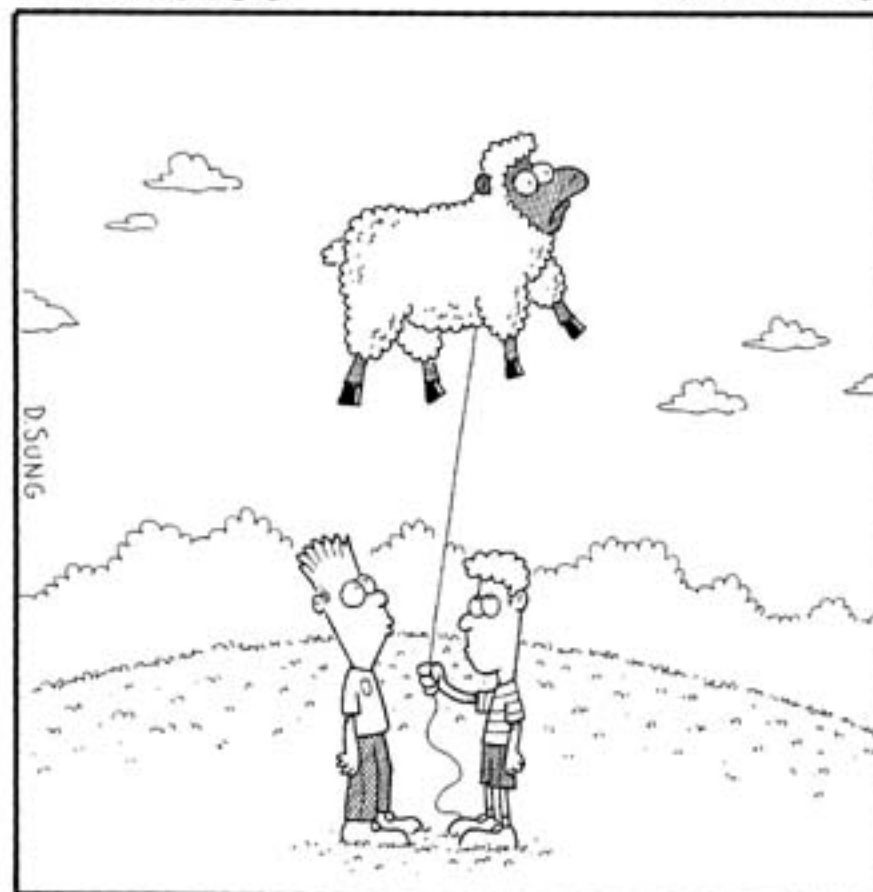
I saw the Karl Zero emissions and I defend your journal.

Good luck and courage!

Virginie — France

Aminals

By David Sung



Woolite



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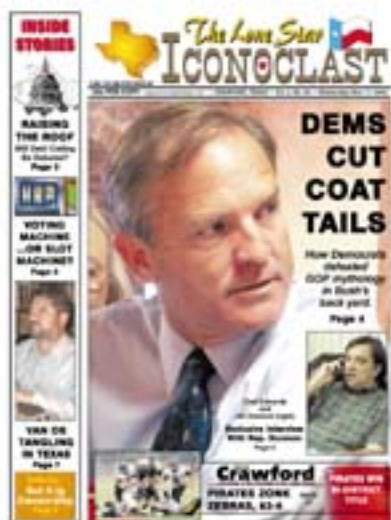
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