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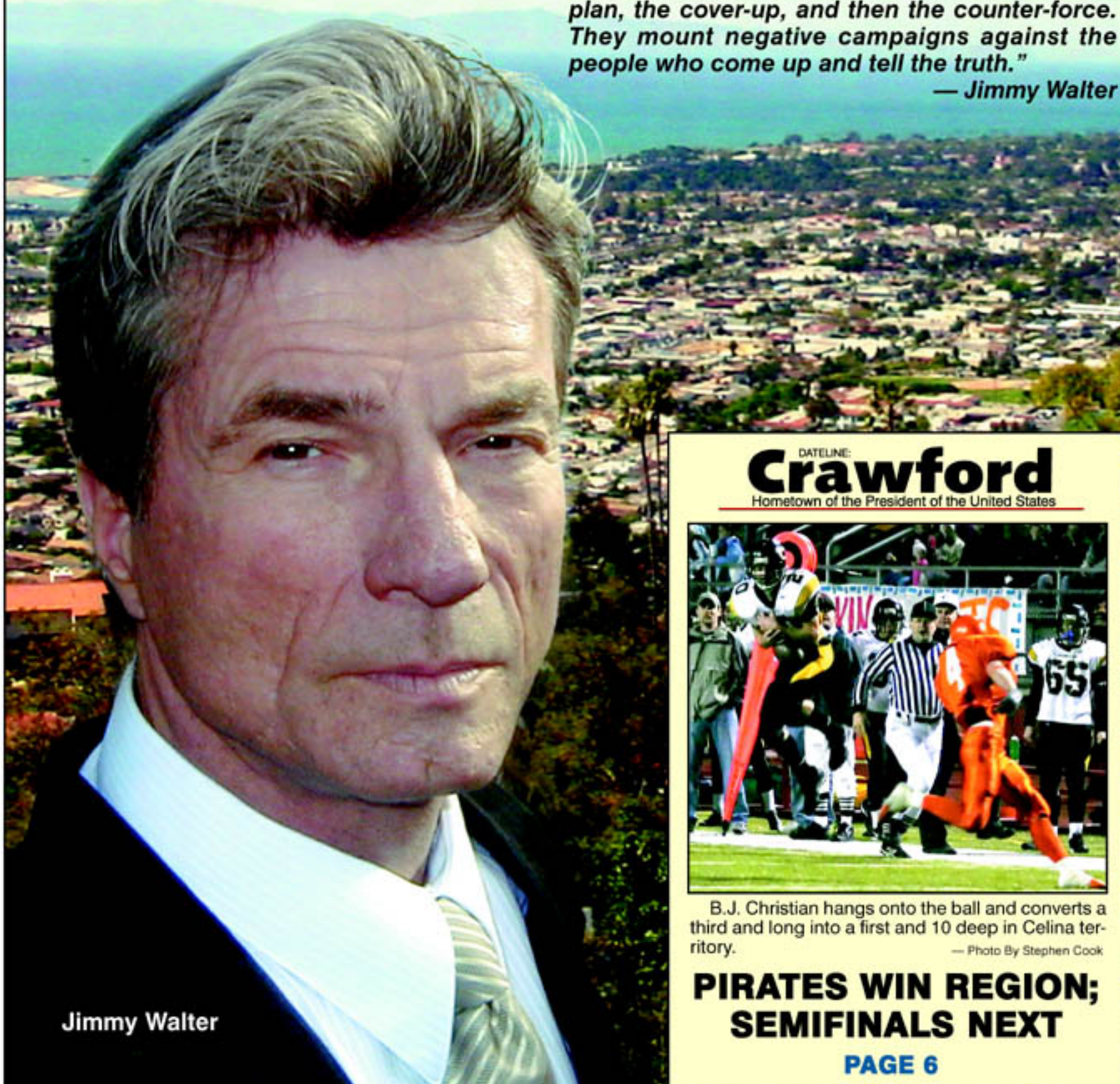
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"In these types of operations, they have the plan, the cover-up, and then the counter-force. They mount negative campaigns against the people who come up and tell the truth."
— Jimmy Walter



Jimmy Walter

DATELINE:
Crawford

Hometown of the President of the United States



B.J. Christian hangs onto the ball and converts a third and long into a first and 10 deep in Celina territory.
— Photo By Stephen Cook

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House Judiciary Committee Demands Answers In Ohio

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After a week filled with protests, the House of Representatives Committee on the Judiciary has weighed in asking Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell to explain alleged Ohio election irregularities.

Ten Congressmen wrote a 15-page letter to Blackwell and followed up with three additional pages listing questions pertaining to the Nov. 2 general election in that swing state.

"Collectively, we are concerned that these complaints constitute a troubled portrait of a one-two punch that may well have altered and suppressed votes, particularly minority and Democratic votes. First, it appears there were substantial irregularities in vote tallies. It is unclear whether these apparent errors were the result of machine malfunctions or fraud," they wrote.

"Second, it appears that a series of actions of government and non-government officials may have worked to frustrate minority voters. Consistent and widespread reports indicate a lack of voting machines in urban, minority and Democratic areas, and a surplus of such machines in Republican, white and rural areas. As a result,



minority voters were discouraged from voting by lines that were in excess of eight hours long. Many of these voters were also apparently victims of a campaign of deception, where flyers and calls would direct them to the wrong polling place. Once at that polling place, after waiting for hours in line, many of these voters were provided provisional ballots after learning they were at the wrong location. These ballots

were not counted in many jurisdictions because of a directive issued by some election officials, such as yourself," the letter continued.

"We're sure you agree with us that regardless of the outcome of the election, it is imperative that we examine any and all factors that may have led to voting irregularities and any failure of votes to be properly counted."

In all, the lawmakers, led by Congressman John Conyers, Jr., 14th District, Michigan, who is ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary, offered 36 questions to Blackwell and asked for a prompt explanation.

Among the questions, the

members asked Blackwell to respond to the following:

- Why did Warren County officials exclude members of the press from observing vote counting on election night, claiming an FBI agent had warned of a terrorist threat that was a "10" on a scale of one to 10, but the FBI has now knowledge of such a warning?
- Why did precincts in Perry County apparently record more votes than voters?
- Why did Butler County and a number of other counties

record more votes for an underfunded Democratic candidate for State Supreme Court than were recorded for the Democratic Presidential candidate?

• Why did historically Democratic precincts in Cleveland record up to 22 times more votes for the Constitution Party Presidential candidate than all third-party candidates combined received in the 2000 election?

• Why did voters in Mustang County report that when they attempted to record a vote for John Kerry their vote was displayed as being cast for George W. Bush?

• Why did there appear to be a shortage of voting machines in traditionally Democratic precincts on election day, causing up to 10-hour delays for vot-

ers, while there was an apparent surplus of voting machines in traditionally Republican precincts?



Congressman John Conyers

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.

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.

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

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

Congressional Declaration of Intent Circulating

Members of Congress are being asked to sign a declaration of intent in order to assure a fair election. The letter that is being circulated on the Internet states:

"As a Member of Congress it is my sworn duty to uphold and defend the U.S. Constitution. Being mindful of that oath, I believe that the singular moral tenet on which that document, and therefore the nation, rests is the principle that government power can only be derived from the consent of the governed.

"Consequently, the right of the People to have confidence that they are being afforded free and fair elections for their government officials is a right that no other consideration can supercede. A free and fair election is one in which all citizens have been afforded equal access and opportunity to cast their vote and have that vote accurately counted.

"I choose to make this declaration at this time because it has now become clear to me that several states have, to this point in time, failed to fully provide for what would generally be regarded as a free and fair election for their citizens. And consequently, they have generated an insufficient level of confidence in their official result.

"There can be no arbitrary point in time; whether it be a date scheduled for appointing electors, electoral voting, or electoral vote counting, that can limit the right of the People to have their consent justly measured and expressed. An election is a survey not a contest.

"With these principles in mind I would urge the duly authorized election officials in each and every state to make every effort; whether it be ballot recounting, independent auditing, reopening voting, or even judicially sanctioned statistical adjustment of results, to assure that their election truly reflects the will of the citizens of their state.

"I wish to recognize that efforts are ongoing in some states; by candidates, election officials, the news media, and citizens groups, through recounts and other means; to clarify and adjust the official results in order to increase the level of public confidence. These efforts are necessary, however they cannot be sufficient.

"This is true because by far the most disturbing circumstances that have occurred in this election are the confirmed cases of disparate treatment being afforded to certain classes of voters. If systemic barriers to exercising the franchise existed that correlate to a citizen's age, race, religion, gender, socioeconomic status, military status, partisan status, absentee status, immigration status, or other identifiable characteristic; the election was neither free and fair, nor lawful in the absence of any corrective remedy being applied.

"Therefore, in keeping with my oath of office, I publicly declare my intention to act on Jan. 6, 2005, and object to any presidential electors that I believe to have been unlawfully appointed. To do less would make me complicit with a violation of our shared democratic principles."

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Prove It!

Philanthropist Offering \$100,000 Reward For Proof That WTC Buildings Collapsed The Way Federal Government Claims

By W. LEON SMITH

ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — The government's reasons for the collapse of the World Trade Center buildings on Sept. 11, 2001, does not pass the test of science, claims Jimmy Walter. The multi-millionaire philanthropist is offering a \$100,000 reward to the first person to deliver full mathematical, engineering proof that the government was right. He is also offering a \$10,000 reward to the engineering student who can best prove how the buildings did collapse.

He is couching the rewards in the form of a contest that individuals must enter to qualify to win.

There are too many unanswered questions, and thousands of New

Yorkers, including family members of some of the victims, want the 9/11 investigation reopened, Walter said.

The founder of Walden Three, an environment-oriented think tank dedicated to preserving the environment while stimulating the economy, Walter is the son of the late industrialist Jim Walter who started Jim Walter Homes and Walter Industries.

In mid-September 2004,

Jimmy Walter helped fund the jam-packed Omission Commission in Manhattan, which was a call to reopen the 9/11 investigation. He fully funded a recent event entitled "Confronting the Evidence in Sept. 11" at the grand ballroom at Manhattan Studios in New York City as a memorial and a call to reopen the 9/11 investigation. But he said he did not come to his suspicions easily.

Walter said he was in Colorado at the time of the WTC and Pentagon attacks on 9/11. He heard about the crashes

"The equivalent would be to the explosion of dozens of asbestos factories, incinerators, crematoriums, or a volcano, an environmental disaster of monumental proportions."

— Jimmy Walter

via radio.

"Just like Bush, my first thought was pilot error," he told THE ICONOCLAST. "Then the second plane hit. I was in disbelief," Walter said.

He said he initially bought into the government's explanation of what had happened, but after seeing stop-action videotapes of the attacks, "it became clear to me that something was amiss."

Walter looked into it further,

applying scientific methodology by hiring engineers and researchers to carefully review what had occurred, and now believes that the WTC buildings were bombed from within, causing their collapse.

In a stop-action video, "You can see, for only a few frames, steel beams flying out horizontally from the building," as in an explosion, he said.

The temperature of ignited aviation fuel is not hot enough to melt the type of steel used in the buildings, he explained.

"The buildings fell at the speed of gravity," he said, reiterating his charge that explosives were detonated.

"I'm convinced we've been attacked by high-tech terrorists," said Walter.

"It took inside government planning," he said. "A 757 would not have caused this much damage, the way it happened."

Most of the major news media companies are reluctant to even consider the possibility that there was an error in their reporting, he noted, "which is a perversion of the first amendment."

"In a sense, I myself am a Johnny-Come-Lately to the 9/11 investigation," he said. "I feel like Paul Revere on a horse, trying to alert the pub-



Jimmy Walter

lic that they've been duped. And they have."

If citizens will watch the film documentary "9/11 In Plane Site" they will, like him, say, "There's something wrong with this logic (referring to the government's take on 9/11)," he said.

"That's why I am running ad campaigns to alert the public that they need to be concerned and to demand an answer based on science," he said.

A study related to fuel, mass, critical temperatures, likely temperatures and their causes, energy needed to crush concrete into fine power, the force needed to shear bolts and rivets, time calculations, and other relevant data in a detailed analysis should be reviewed by accredited engineers, Walter said. "The Bush Administration is guilty of a cover-up regarding 9/11," he added.

The result, he said, is the "start of an unjustified war which will lead to increased terrorism," creation of a new Vietnam, and "economic disaster for America."

The Omission Commission's mandate was two-fold: first, to expose a complete accounting of the facts and circumstances surrounding the 9/11 attacks, and, second, to make recommendations, he said.

Here, the forum presenters had the task of laying out a compelling case for their evidence, Walter said.

The event's panel, composed of 9/11 victims, environmental experts, researchers, scientists, journalists, and first responders, challenged some

of the key data that had been the basis of the 9/11 Commission's investigations and pointed out many serious omissions and incongruities.

"This event had paramount importance because earlier recommendations based on an incomplete accounting of the facts is not making us any safer, and will not protect us from a recurrence," said Walter, noting that the Victims Family Steering Committee filed nearly 400 questions with the 9/11 Commission.

"Initially welcomed by the commissioners as a 'road map' for their inquiry, the Commission ignored the majority of these questions, opting only to explore system failures, miscommunications, and incompetence," said Walter. "The victim families' most incisive issues remain unaddressed to this day."

"Their queries cut to the heart of 9/11 crimes and accountability. They raised the central issues of motive, means, and *cui bono* (who profited?)," he said.

"The Omission Commission was created to lift the shroud of secrecy and unanswered questions surrounding the largest homeland tragedy and terrorist attack in American history," he added.

Presently, the Justice for 9/11 Steering Committee <www.justicefor911.org> which Walter supports, has filed a Citizens' Complaint and Petition to Attorney General Eliot Spitzer (State of New York) calling for an independent grand jury investigation

See WALTER, Next Page

Christmas Celebration

Beginning at 9:00 a.m. Monday, November 29th through 3:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve, CLIFTON JEWELRY WORKS will be celebrating its 2nd Christmas in Clifton by taking **20% off all non-consignment inventory including rings, necklaces, charms & bracelets.** So, hurry in to find that perfect gift for that special someone or come early to create a custom design piece in time for Christmas.

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13 Reasons For Requesting New Investigation of 9/11

The petition mentioned in the story lists these 13 reasons for requesting that an independent, in-depth investigation be undertaken:

1. No serious investigation, independent or otherwise, has yet been convened in connection with the murder in New York City of 2,772 citizens of the United States and more than 70 other nations.
2. With the exception of two brief early hearings (on terrorist financing and building collapses), Congressional investigation has consisted only of the Joint Inquiry of the Congressional Committees on Intelligence ("Congressional Joint Inquiry") that was convened in the summer and fall of 2002. After a negotiation with then Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, its scope was limited only to intelligence "failures." The Joint Inquiry itself was subject to FBI harassment and its final report was in part suppressed by the White House.
3. The Kean Commission, which was created only after 14 months of pressure from Sept. 11 victims' families, was strictly limited in its scope so as to avoid placing blame on government officials or investigating allegations of official criminality. The Commission also consisted of appointees with obvious conflicts of interest, was seriously underfunded, and its ongoing work was met with resistance from the White House.
4. The National Transportation and Safety Board ("NTSB") is required by Congressional mandate to investigate airline disasters, but due to the fact that a crime was committed in this case, the usual independent investigative work resulting from an airline disaster was preempted by the FBI, leaving NTSB as a mere "technical advisor."
5. All official investigations took for granted a certain set of a priori and unquestioned assumptions. These items constitute what has come to be called the "official story" of 9/11 as it was portrayed to the press and the people immediately after the attacks. But evidence presented elsewhere in this Complaint and Petition casts serious doubt on the veracity of the assumptions set forth in this list.
6. All formal investigations have started with the premise that the "official story" presents an accurate, objective outline of relevant events on and preceding 9/11.
7. The FEMA investigation of the building collapses drew no meaningful conclusions.
8. Extensive and crucial sections of the Kean Commission's findings and consequent conclusions are based on uncorroborated interrogation reports channeled from captive government suspects.
9. In the absence of legitimate investigation by official institutions, a wide variety of citizens' groups, insiders, researchers, and journalists all across the country and across the political spectrum have attempted to conduct what investigations they can and have demanded evaluation of probative, yet unexamined bodies of evidence.
10. Private lawsuits thus far have made little progress in uncovering the truth of the events surrounding Sept. 11.
11. Some alleged perpetrators have been held without charges, potential witnesses, or co-conspirators have been released from U.S. jurisdiction, and critical witnesses have been fired by a Justice Department that has prioritized official secrecy over defendants' normal Constitutional rights.
12. Tools available to citizens have not worked or are not sufficient to the requirements of getting at key facts in this complex case.
13. Democracy itself is endangered when the following conditions are found to be the case in the political culture of a nation:
 - a. Government in all-too-many cases refuses to assign responsibility, promote transparency, or demand accountability from governing officials.
 - b. Government encourages a stifling environment that suppresses dissent, persecutes whistleblowers, spurns the Freedom of Information Act, weakens personal privacy protections, inflates public fear, and extols "patriotic" obedience and militarization, etc.
 - c. States are excluded from matters impacting their citizens by federal preemption, intervention, and federal national security, as in "state secrets" arguments.
 - d. Potential suspects/defendants control investigative and public access to evidence that may tend to incriminate them.
 - e. A majority of citizens come to suspect high crimes and treachery within their own government, but cannot find officials with enough courage, power, or independence to thoroughly investigate their concerns and restore the public trust.

• WALTER OFFERING REWARDS ... Continued From Previous Page

to examine the crimes committed in connection with the 9/11 tragedy and requesting a hearing before the appropriate authorities.

The petition was originally filed on Oct. 28, but was refiled upon amendment and restatement on Nov. 19.

Noting that there were 2,996 murdered in the Sept. 11 attacks (2,626 dead or missing at the World Trade Center, 125 at the Pentagon, and 245 on the four airliners), the petition also states financial costs: life insurance, worker's compensation, property damage, and business/rental interruption costs at \$55-70 billion; \$32 billion in documented insurance losses, the cost of the airline bailout package by the federal government at \$2-5 billion, and other economic damages.

The petition lists 13 reasons for requesting that an independent, in-depth investigation be undertaken (see sidebar).

Walter said he is concerned about the long-term health of New Yorkers. He claims that the White House altered a report that had been issued by the Environmental Protection Agency following the 9/11 attacks there.

"The EPA inspector general reported that the Bush Administration radically changed EPA reports from warning about dangerous asbestos levels

in New York City to say that the air was safe to breathe, just two days after 9/11. The White House fooled even the Wall Street tycoons into harming their health since half of the heroes who cleaned ground zero have serious respiratory problems. Hundreds of firefighters can no longer work, and 14 rescue dogs have died. The health of millions have been significantly reduced by the Bush White House forcing the EPA to tell us the air was safe to breathe," explained Walter.

He said that the air was full of dust from over 50,000 computers containing 400,000 pounds of lead; hundreds of tons of asbestos; tens of thousands of fluorescent light bulbs having enough mercury to contaminate over 2,500 city blocks; thousands of smoke detectors with radioactive americium 241 having a half-life of 432 years; and alkalinity in the air "equivalent to Drano."

"The equivalent would be to the explosion of dozens of asbestos factories, incinerators, crematoriums, or a volcano," said Walter, "an environmental disaster of monumental proportions."

He said that to make matters worse, "Rescue workers were not allowed to use respirators

so as not to frighten the public and now insurance companies have refused to pay for the cleanup since the EPA said it was safe."

He described the act of changing the EPA's original declaration that the area was not safe as "criminal malfeasance."

"Don't talk about the Arabs doing that. It was done by the White House," he said.

Walter said that he suspects the reason the government wanted



people to go back to their regular routines, even amid hazardous materials in the air, was so that Wall Street would not close.

"Some of the richest and most powerful people work there," he said, adding that they ought to be very upset.

Walter suggests that people think outside the box when it comes to the environment, and reach into future technology, which is what he is trying to do with Walden Three.

"Walden Three incorporates

"The Omission Commission was created to lift the shroud of secrecy and unanswered questions surrounding the largest homeland tragedy and terrorist attack in American history."

— Jimmy Walter

pollution free (including noise) factories so that people can work, live, shop, and play within walking, moving sidewalk, or electric tram distance," he said.

"Moreover, the freight system is built into the people moving system with efficiency. Everything is connected by the city's broadband Internet. Every person and business has computers and free, unlimited access to all the systems from school to work to entertainment."

He labels Walden Three as "a paradigm for future architectural and biotecture development."

To his supporters, Walter is described as a patriot, philanthropist, and an activist with a genius IQ (having won the prestigious Morehead Scholarship at UNC). With Walden Three, he is parlaying his knowledge of business, finance, psychology, economics, behavior management, religion, and philosophy in an attempt to build a sustainable Eco-Utopian society.

Walter was born in Tampa, Fla., in 1947, the son of famed Horatio Alger industrialist Jim Walter who started Jim Walter Homes with \$1,000 in 1946, which became Walter Industries, a conglomerate that

included Celotex and U.S. Pipe and Foundry which does everything from manufacture ceiling tiles, pipe, and wallboard to building and financing low income homes, to oil, gas, and coal production.

Walter spent over \$3 million running the Life Skills Foundation, a non-profit educational organization he founded which trained more than 20,000

"The health of millions have been significantly reduced by the Bush White House forcing the EPA to tell us the air was safe to breathe."

— Jimmy Walter

people nationwide involving six states, including prisoners at Florida Department of Corrections and welfare recipients.

"The recidivism rates are truly remarkable," he said. "Eighty percent of the inmates go on to healthier, more productive lives with our program, while only 33 percent without something similar to it go back."

Even though he is a businessman, he supports organized labor and a living wage. "I have always supported labor as a smart thing for the whole economy," he said. He believes in flood up, not trickle down, putting more money in the hands of the working man. "With this approach, the rich prosper, too," he noted.

Regarding his reward challenge for proof of what "really happened with the 9/11 tragedy," Walter says that the detailed rules will be posted soon at <www.reopen911.org>. Primarily, he said, an individual must actually enter the contest and then abide by the rules.

In addition to the big \$100,000 reward, Walter is offering 10 \$1,000 prizes to high school and college students who best prove how the buildings collapsed, plus 200 \$100 runner-up prizes. "I am also offering a \$1,000 module prize," he noted. "There will be four or five modules and sub-modules, so there will be a prize for the best module."

He says that the public should be suspicious whenever a politician, like President Bush in an address to the U.N., says, "Let us not give in to outrageous conspiracy theories," especially when it is evident that the government is indeed covering up. "Bush's theory is merely a coincidence theory," he said.

"In these types of operations, they have the plan, the cover-up, and then the counterforce," said Walter. "They mount negative campaigns against the people who come up and tell the truth. And so, what we have happening here is that anytime you stand up you are labeled a conspiracy nut or a traitor. But their whole plan is full of holes."

President Bush Thanks Canadians Amid Protests

CRAWFORD — President George W. Bush expressed his appreciation to Canada last week for sending aid to war-torn Iraq and asked for more support as thousands of protesters during his visit rallied across the country against the Bush administration's policies.

The two-day trip was intended to mend ties with the United States' neighbor to the north after the Canadian government refused to send troops to Iraq during the U.S.-led Operation Iraqi Freedom and the U.S. banned the import of beef from Canada in light of a mad cow disease scare last year.

President Bush and his wife, Laura, were welcomed with a red-carpet at Ottawa airport, where Governor General Adrienne Clarkson, the Commonwealth country's de facto head of state, greeted them. Both Secretary of State Colin Powell and Powell's nominated successor, National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, were also in attendance.

Bush's trip to Canada was the first official visit by a U.S. president in nearly 10 years and his meeting with Prime Minister Paul Martin was akin to a political dance.

President Bush planned visit in May 2003 was called off due to Former Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien's refusal to send Canadian troops to Iraq. Canada later pledged \$300 million for Iraqi reconstruction and is helping train Iraqi police officers in Jordan to relieve the political tension in North America.

According to polls, more than 80 percent of Canadians still support the decision to not send their troops to Iraq.

"Sometimes even the closest of friends disagree, and two years ago we disagreed about the course of action in Iraq," Bush said, standing at the side of Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin according to the Associated Press.

He added, "There is no disagreement at all with what has to be done in going forward. We must help the Iraqi people secure their country and build a free and democratic society."

Anti-Bush Sentiment

Polls indicate that Canadians view the United States favorably by a 5-to-1 margin; however, a little more than half (58 percent) of those polled by Ipsos-Reid last Tuesday said they felt Bush's reelection was "bad" compared to 26 percent who said otherwise.

Secret Service and Canadian security forces took no chances. Barriers were erected around Parliament Hill to repel demonstrators.



Organizers of the "No to Bush Committee" included The People's Global Action Block, Lawyers Against War, the Anti-Bush Students Coalition, three Canadian trades unions and the leftist New Democratic Party of Canada.

The issues the demonstrators raised against Bush were the war in Iraq, his stance on abortion rights, his policy on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and their perception of the administration's discrimination against Arabs and Muslims. Other issues included the alleged discrimination against gays and lesbians in the U.S., the proposed U.S. national missile defense, and the decriminalization of marijuana in Canada.

Organizers estimated that about 5,000 to 13,000 people rallied at Ottawa's City Hall before a planned march on Canada's Parliament buildings. Police figured the crowd grew to no more than 3,000.

Demonstrators held signs with slogans that were akin to sentiments expressed by a spokeswoman for then-Prime Minister Jean Chretien who called Bush a "moron" before the invasion of Iraq in November 2002. Some signs read "End the massacre in Iraq," "Some terrorists wear suits," "Is God really an American?" "Bush = Hitler," "war criminal," and "liar."

The rally was not without disorder, however. Skirmishes between protestors and police occurred at about 3 p.m. in front of the Chateau Laurier hotel, shortly after President Bush and Prime Minister Martin gave a news conference at the Lester B. Pearson Building, the headquarters of Canada's Foreign Affairs department.

Police officers in riot gear tussled with a crowd of helmeted protesters who hit police with sticks. Other demonstrators threw missiles and paint bombs. Some police were spotted pulling on gas masks about to release gas to control the situation.

At least three protesters were pushed down onto the ground and arrested in front of CBC Newsworld television cameras. Ten people were re-

portedly arrested. One police officer who might have been injured in Tuesday's action was escorted away by fellow officers.

Although a few protesters still faced off against police, the crowd dispersed by 4 p.m. by one account.

The otherwise peaceful protests climaxed with the razing of a five-meter paper mache "statue" of Bush on Parliament Hill. The statue was a reference the statue of captured Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein toppled by U.S. troops in Baghdad.

Carolyn Parrish, a member of Parliament who repeatedly denigrated the U.S. president, stomped on a Bush doll two weeks ago; she was later removed from her Liberal caucus by Prime Minister Martin.

A few pro-Bush demonstrators also held a rally in support of the U.S. President-elect. One of their signs read, "The only mad cow is Carolyn Parrish."

The end of Tuesday's protests were marked with a candlelight vigil on Parliament Hill.

Bush and Martin brushed off the demonstrator's hijinx in jest. Martin humorously remarked that more crowds seemed to follow Bush than him.

"I don't know if that's good or bad," Bush replied at a news conference. "It all depends on who shows up I guess."

Bush also thanked those Canadians who greeted him while driving away from the airport waving "with all five fingers."

The White House respectfully declined an invitation to

address Parliament under concerns Bush might be heckled, similar to the treatment he received last year in Canberra by senators from the Australian Greens party during a speech to Parliament.

Unlike his predecessors, President Bush did not make Canada his first foreign visit nor did he attempt to speak any French as former President Ronald Reagan did on his first visit in 1981. Canada is a bilingual nation where the natives speak French and English.

Sept. 11 Reflection

The Associated Press reported that White House press secretary Scott McClellan deflected speculation that the president feared facing a potentially ugly scenario in Parliament. He said Bush decided to speak "directly to the Canadian people" Wednesday in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

The engagement was intended for the president to thank Canadians for sheltering about 33,000 stranded air travelers after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, at the Atlantic port.

"For days after Sept. 11, Canadians came to the aid of men and women and children who were worried and confused and had nowhere to sleep," the president said inside the Port 21 Museum.

"You opened your homes and your churches to strangers, you brought food, you set up clinics, you arranged for calls to their loved ones, and you asked for nothing in return," the president said. "Thank you for your kindness to America in an hour of need."

While the audience was

mostly silent inside the museum as the president called for the U.S. and Canada to unite in "great goals," protesters outside chanted slogans against Bush and waved signs that said: "PM (Prime Minister) don't make deals with the devil," "Terrorists go home," and "Tanks for nothing."

President Bush urged that the United Nations be made more effective in combating terrorism, that Canada join in the U.S.'s missile defense plan, and that the U.S. and its friends promote democracy in the Middle East, focusing on the formation of a democratic Palestinian state peaceful with Israel.

Trade Issues

While the beef trade issue went unresolved during the trip, Bush was to have eaten beef slaughtered in the same Alberta province where bovine spongiform encephalopathy, aka mad cow disease, was found in May 2003.

Also dining were his wife, Laura, at the meal hosted by Prime Minister Martin (Canada's former finance minister and a wealthy shipping magnate) and his wife, Sheila. A U.S. review of the beef ban began last Monday.

Canada's biggest beef customer is none other than the United States — billions of dollars have been lost to the U.S. ban of the Canadian cattle industry's exports.

In all, the United States and Canada transact more than \$1 billion of business in a day; 85 percent of Canada's exports head south of their border to the U.S.

President Bush's visit ended a month-long hemispheric fence-mending mission from Chile to Canada.

Rumsfeld, Other U.S. Officials Sued In Germany For Alleged War Crimes

CRAWFORD — DEUTSCHE WELLE reported last week that a human rights group filed a lawsuit in Germany against U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and other U.S. officials in regard to alleged responsibility for war crimes at Baghdad's Abu Ghraib prison.

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Association and five Iraqi citizens mistreated by U.S. soldiers filed the lawsuit in Germany because of a two-year-old law that gives German courts universal jurisdiction in cases involving war crimes or crimes against humanity.

The Code of Crimes Against International Law also makes military or civilian commanders who fail to prevent their subordinates from committing such acts liable.

The groups said in a statement that they had no other avenue to file the suit and that the U.S. Congress "failed" to perform a proper investigation among the superiors of the U.S. soldiers already facing court martial for the abuse and sexual humiliation of prisoners at the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib detention center in Iraq.

Among those indicted are

former CIA director George Tenet, Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence Steven Cambone, Lieutenant General Ricardo Sanchez, Brigadier General Janis L. Karpinski, and other military officers who served in Iraq.

According to CCR, the five Iraqis mentioned in the suit had been victims of torture, including electric shock, severe beatings, sleep and food deprivation, and sexual abuse.

Further investigation into the case is in the hands Germany's federal prosecutor.



Rumsfeld
Iconoclast Photo

President's Cabinet Sees 8-of-15 Seats Vacated

CRAWFORD — Within the last week several top officials have resigned from President Bush's Cabinet and others have been nominated prior to the inauguration for his second term on Thursday, Jan. 20. As of last weekend, eight of 15 Cabinet members have stepped down from their positions.

Selections to Cabinet positions have included Nebraska Gov. Mike Johanns, 54, as Secretary of Agriculture to take the place of Ann M. Veneman, who resigned recently without acknowledging her cancer diagnosis as a cause.

Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson resigned Friday and Mark McClellan, the government's Medicare chief and brother of White House press secretary Scott McClellan, is a contender to succeed Thompson.

So far, Bush has nominated domestic policy advisor Margaret Spellings to replace of Education Secretary Rod Paige; White House counsel

Alberto R. Gonzales to succeed Attorney General John Ashcroft; former police commissioner Bernard Kerik as Tom Ridge's successor to be Secretary of Homeland Security; and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice to fill the Secretary of State's post vacated by Colin Powell.

The White House requested last week that Rice's confirmation hearings not begin until the 109th Congress convenes on Jan. 3. Rice is expected to win approval in the Senate.

United Nations ambassador John Danforth also announced his retirement. He was mentioned as a possible replacement for Secretary of State Colin Powell, but Bush instead tapped Rice.

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld last Friday accepted President Bush's request to remain at the Pentagon, a senior administration official said.

Of recent two-term presidents, Richard Nixon's second-term Cabinet had the most new members at nine.



CLUTCHING AT AIR — Todd Westerfield zooms past a Celina defender on a touchdown catch at Regional competition this past Friday night.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

DATELINE: **Crawford** Hometown of the President of the United States

Crawford Wins Battle of Unbeatens

Defeats Celina 49-26; Semifinals Next

By DAVIS GONZALES
STAFF WRITER

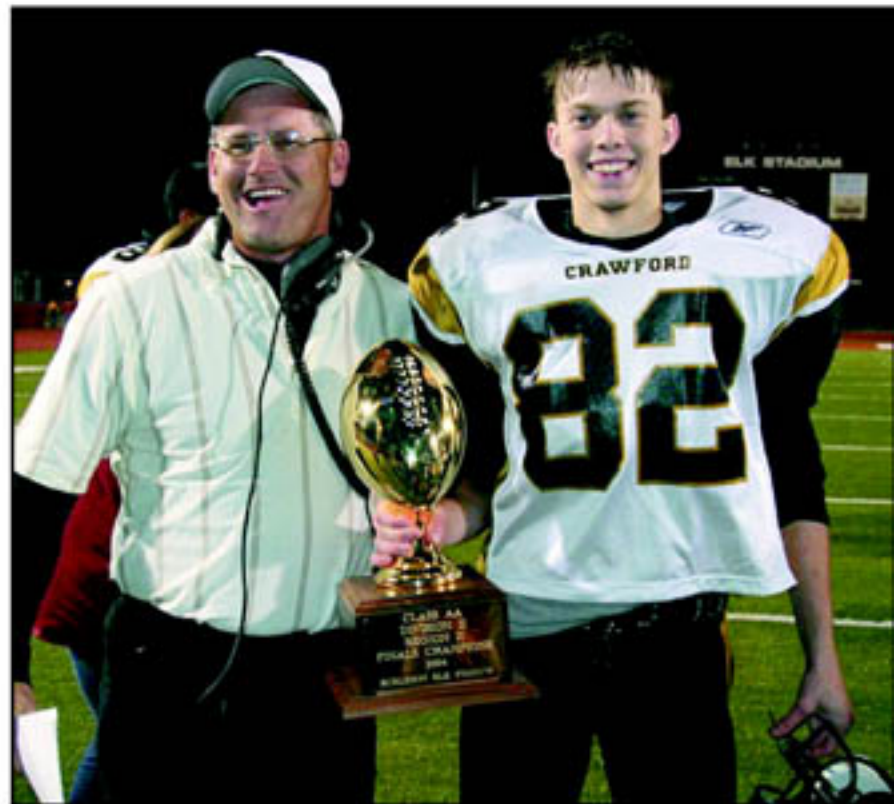
BURLESON — The Crawford Pirates made believers of the Bobcat faithful in front of a packed house at Burleson Elk Stadium during their quarterfinal playoff victory over Celina, 49-26, Friday night.

Crawford faced a tradition-rich 2A powerhouse with a state title on the line, earning the Pirates a trip to the semifinals and sending the Bobcats home to prepare for next season.

"A win is a win. There was a lot of talk about Celina, great tradition. We knew they had a good program, but we were confident when we were coming in," said defensive back Pedro Rodriguez. "They're a good team, but we knew we weren't bad either."

Coming into the game, the Bobcats boasted a 96-5 record over seven seasons along with four consecutive state titles, yet the Celina tradition wasn't enough to keep the Pirates out of the end zone.

The Pirates started the game on defense and quickly established their presence, forcing the Bobcats to punt af-



COACH DELBERT KELM and Adam Murphy enjoy the post-game celebration after Friday's win over the Celina Bobcats.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

ter only five plays and one first down.

Starting at their own 18 yard line, Crawford put together a 10-play drive, mixing up the pass and run plays to keep Celina off balance.

Running back Derek Dumas

started the drive with a 17-yard run followed by a 10-yard roll-out pass from QB Lee Murphy to Jad Tawater a few plays later to bring the Pirates near midfield.

After another first down
Continued On Next Page

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PIRATES DEFEAT BOBCATS IN REGION WIN ... Continued From Previous Page

from the Pirate ground assault, a 38-yard diving catch by Tawater from Murphy left the Pirates on the Celina three yard line.

"We were able to run the ball right at the start of the ballgame," said head coach Robert Murphy. "And then we were able to run it and mix in the pass."

Dumas was able to punch it in and kicker Shawn Fulwider scored the extra point to put the Pirates up 7-0 with 7:37 left in the first quarter.

Celina's next possession would be short lived, as they chose to focus on a passing game that was heavily defended by the Crawford secondary, Bobcat QB John Clark threw a deep ball that was intercepted by B.J. Christian on the 49 yard line and returned to the Celina 18 one play after almost having it picked off by LB Sam Moody.

Three plays later Lee Murphy connected with WR Adam Murphy to extend the Pirate lead 14-0 after Fulwider's successful extra point attempt with 5:38 in the first.

The Bobcats answered the pressure from the Crawford secondary with a rushing attack that gained them one first down and 27 yards before being forced to punt.

The Pirates took over on their own 22 yard line after Celina downed their own punt.

A quick three-and-out, gaining only two yards, put the ball back in the Bobcats hands, but not before Pirate Todd Westerfeld brought down the Celina punt returner for no gain at the Bobcat 43 yard line.

Celina attempted one more pass before the end of the quarter, resulting in a broken play thanks to the effort of DB Rodriguez.

"We sat down together as a team and studied a lot of film, so everything they threw at us we had probably seen before," Rodriguez said. "Coming in we had a pretty good idea of what they were going to try to do, and we went out and executed."

Celina quickly took the hint and became one dimensional for the remainder of the drive, feeding the ball to RB Chris Torbert on eight consecutive plays for 48 yards and a touchdown.

The extra point cleared the uprights and Celina closed the gap, 14-7, with 8:52 remaining in the half.

From the two yard line Sam Moody returned the kick-off to the 35 to start Crawford's next series, and B.J. Christian did the rest.

Touching the ball three times on the five-play drive, Christian gained all of the Pirates' positive yardage, a run for 13 yards and two recep-



tions for another 47 yards and a TD.

"Our plan was to use our passing game, but I didn't think it would work that well," Christian said.

Fulwider added the extra point to bring the score to 21-7 with 7:00 on the clock.

Bobcat kick returner Zach Babb moved the ball 32-yards to their 47 and set up Celina with good field position before Dumas stopped a 48-yard quarterback sneak on the Crawford five yard line one play later.

Celina scored three plays later and the successful extra point once again brought the game within a single touchdown, 21-14 with 5:12 left in the half.

The four-play Bobcat drive seemed like eternity compared to the quick strike two-play touchdown drive the Pirates would answer with.

Christian set up the Pirates on their own 27 yard line after a 21-yard return, and two plays later QB Lee Murphy connected with Todd Westerfeld for a 71-yard touchdown pass.

"We thought we could beat them deep a couple of times," said Lee Murphy. "When we completed it, it was a big gain. That was big for us."

The extra point by Fulwider was true and the Pirates went up 28-14 with 4:12 still to play before halftime.

Defensively, the Pirates kept the pressure on the Bobcat passing game, forcing

them to go three-and-out after Celina QB Clark had to throw the ball away on two consecutive plays.

The punt and return left Crawford in good field position, starting their drive from the Bobcat 39.

QB Lee Murphy moved the chains on a 3rd-and-10 pass to Adam Murphy for a gain of 26 yards before hitting Tawater in the end zone for a 13-yard touchdown pass with 1:32 remaining in the second quarter.

"We take our receivers and from day one we work on getting off press coverage, and they did a great job tonight," coach Murphy said.

Fulwider's kick brought the score to 35-14.

Celina had a good return from RB David Camacho to set them up at mid-field and start their final series of the half.

Averaging over 12 yards on their first three plays, the Bobcats threatened to score before halftime until Sam Moody intercepted a tipped pass and ended any Celina hope of closing in on the 21-point Crawford lead.

Second Half

The second half brought out a fired up Celina team that quickly put Crawford in a 4th-and-1 position after a fumble that the Pirates were able to recover.

Only a penalty for roughing the kicker kept the ball in Crawford's possession when they tried to punt, and that

mistake would cost the Bobcats in the form of seven more points.

With a new set of downs off the 15-yard penalty, the Pirates moved the ball 14 yards on two Dumas runs and then the Pirates scored on another Lee Murphy to Adam Murphy touchdown pass for a gain of 31 yards.

"We've always had it in our system, and that's what you have to work on," said Lee Murphy. "Even when you have to run against teams you still need to work on your passing game, and it helps, but what also helps was the receivers coming up with the big catches and the offensive line blocking great."

Fulwider scored the extra points with 8:22 on the board in the third quarter to make the game 42-14.

The clock started putting more pressure on the Bobcats than the Pirate secondary and they had to start taking it to the air more often.

"Second half we were trying to use good clock management every time we could," coach Murphy said. "Take every second you can off the clock."

Celina was able to move the ball on the ground but capped their drive with a 39-yard touchdown strike to bring the game to 42-20 after their extra point sailed wide.

An onside kick by the Bobcats failed to produce the results they were looking for and instead gave the Pirates better field position when they were flagged for interfering with a fair catch.

From the Celina 39 the Pirates would take over and eventually lose the ball on an intercepted pass by Celina's Connor Nichols at the four yard line.

The Bobcats could do nothing to capitalize on their take-away, committing one false start penalty and being chased around in the backfield left them facing a 4th-and-9 situation.

A bad punt attempt gave Crawford the ball deep inside Bobcat territory and looking at a sure 20-yard touchdown drive, but three plays with no gain and a false start penalty of their own had them looking at fourth down and 15 from their 25.

Fulwider's attempt at a 42-yard field goal from was blocked by the Bobcats and returned 62 yards for a touchdown by Celina's Ricky Clayton.

"We had a high snap. It kind of threw the timing off," coach Murphy said. "He's kicked some long ones this year."

The Bobcat's attempt at the two-point conversion

failed, leaving the score 42-26 with 11:43 remaining in the game.

Crawford began their next drive from their 27 yard line. Content to eat away at the clock, the

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	F
Crawford	14	21	7	7	49
Celina	0	14	6	6	26

Pirates were flagged once for delay of game and had to dig themselves out of a 3rd-and-9 hole.

Lee Murphy hit Tawater on a slant route on the right side to keep the drive alive with a 27-yard gain.

"When you got somebody out there on the field that can do that, get you out of bad plays and put you in good plays, you can't put a value on that," coach Murphy said.

The drive would eventually stall after a few more minutes were run off the clock, and the Bobcats would have to start their drive from the their own 14 yard line.

The Bobcats had little choice but to pass if they were to have any chance at extending their season, and five plays later Tanner Jacobs came away with the Pirates third interception of the night, leaving Crawford on their 14 yard line.

On the second play from scrimmage B.J. Christian broke the longest run of the night, going 70 yards to the Bobcat 14 yard line.

"When B.J. broke that run, which is a play we checked off to, the quarterback checked off to that play, it wasn't called in the huddle," coach Murphy said. "This game is full of so many plays, it's like an NFL playoff game."

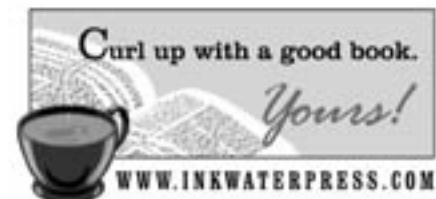
Crawford kept the ball on the ground for two more plays before Lee Murphy threw his sixth touchdown pass of the night to Tawater for a gain of eight.

The extra point was good and Crawford went up 49-26 with 3:45 remaining.

Celina touched the ball two more times, both resulting in turnovers, a Rodriguez interception and a misplayed punt in the final minutes on the game.

Lee Murphy finished the night with an impressive 12 of 20 passing for 290 yards and 6 TD's, 1 interception.

"All week long I told him, I told all the quarterbacks, make your decision and then if you don't like what you got throw the ball away. I'm always open on the sideline, don't try to force it in," said coach Murphy. "He's a student of the game and he understands all that stuff."



The Celina Victory Will Go Down In History



FIRST TD — Adam Murphy carries the ball across for Crawford's first touch-down against Celina Friday night.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



JAD TAWATER runs around a Celina defender during first-quarter action.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



END OF THE LINE — Derek Dumas (3) and Hunter Brown (66) stop this Celina runner short of the first down, forcing Celina to punt.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



DWIGHT MOODY (68) barely misses scoring a safety when the Celina QB throws the ball to one of the Bobcat assistant coaches, about five yards out of bounds.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



ADAM MURPHY had three catches, two for TDs. This was the second.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



HAMMERING THE OFFENSE — The Pirates came loaded for Bobcat Friday night. Here, Derek Dumas and Andrew Judy, along with the D-line, flattened the Celina running game.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



2004 Pirates

Headed For Semifinals

— Photo By Stephen Cook

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CRAWFORD — The children and grandchildren of E.B. and Francis Raley will be holding a reception for their parents' 50th wedding anniversary.

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The family requests no gifts.

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Crawford City Council Revises Agreement With Cooper & Horn

CRAWFORD — The Crawford City Council during its regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 23 approved a motion to revise the Development Agreement with Cooper and Horn Developers. Alderman Franklin Abel made the motion and Alderman Charles Wiethorn seconded. Four voted in favor with Alderman David Posten voting against.

The revision now requires the developers, after the 25th lot has been filed for record, to put up \$50,000 of the estimated cost to increase water production capacity to the City's facilities. The City will subsidize the balance. City Engineer Johnny Tabor estimated that the cost to increase capacity is \$83,000.

This agreement also lays out the understanding between the City and the developer for the construction of the Liberty Hill Subdivision as proposed by Ken Cooper of Cooper and Horn Developers. The proposed housing addition will consist of 96 homes to be built on 44.965 acres located on FM 185 west of the Lutheran Cemetery.

The agreement allows for the addition to be built in four phases, each phase consisting of 24 houses, with a minimum of 12 months between phases.

Tabor also discussed increased pump requirements and the process required to check the wells to see if, in fact, they could produce the needed quantities.

The completed agreement will be presented at the January council meeting and voted on at that time. No public hearings are scheduled.

Prior to the vote, Charles Wiethorn was sworn in as councilman, having been appointed to fill Randy Vanek's term at the last meeting.

CEDC Vacancies

The council approved nominations for directors to serve on Crawford Economic Development Corporation Board of Directors.

Alderman Barry Baize nominated himself to serve as representative from the council. The nominees for the two remaining seats are Brenda Duncan and Gary Clark and will be contacted prior to the next council meeting.

The Crawford Economic Development Corporation was scheduled to meet on Wednesday, Nov. 24, to hear more discussion regarding the "plan" development and will hear from a representative from the Clifton Economic Development Corporation, said Alderman Brent Meyer.

Other Business

The council approved a motion to pursue a grant/loan application process for City sewer repairs as advised by Blevins who noted that more grant funds have been made available.

The City's cracked and leaky clay water pipes allow for an enormous amount of ground and rain water to flood the system, according to city staff. When rains are heavy and frequent, the City runs added pumps at the lift station to help evacuate the excess water, but this process barely keeps up.

According to city staff, lines back up into residences when the mains are full, and this problem is increasing. A grant application has been made to The Heart of Texas Council of Governments' Community Development for funds to use in sewer infrastructure repairs. This process will begin in January.

Mayor Robert Campbell has discussed the problem with USDA.

In the interim, the council approved the purchase of a four-inch trash pump with 200-foot discharge hose to use at the lift station to assist with high water events. Renting was decided to be more costly to the City.

During the citizens' presentation period, Dennis Gilliam of Security Bank expressed his concern for security issues in the city and requested that the police work more hours and have a greater presence during daytime hours. The council took the request under advisement.

There was no update from the Crawford Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture.

The financial reports were reviewed, and accepted by the council as presented. The police report was also reviewed.

Others who attended the meeting were City Attorney Brad Newsom, Police Chief Donnie Tidmore, Ken Judy and Brian Bolting.

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Expectations For The Holidays

This might be a rather strange holiday piece, but here goes; I was thinking the other day of the folks who might not be having a Hallmark Greeting Card kind of holiday season. I'm not talking about those who are truly destitute and in dire straits, although there is plenty of that in this so-called Land of Plenty (not only at holiday time but year round). I was thinking about those of us who are making it OK, but for one reason or

other just won't be having a giggly, goofy, riotous holiday season full of diamond pendant gifts and endless party invitations, like you see on TV. You start to think if you aren't doing these things that there is something wrong with you or with your life. Well, I'm here to tell you it isn't so!

Depression runs rampant during this time of year, and for good reason. Holiday ads, movies, television shows, even commercials

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.

depict the perfect family gathered around an exquisitely set table or magnificently decorated tree or doing some exciting (usually expensive) wintertime activity together in perfect harmony. The children are perfectly behaved. The food and gifts are plentiful. The home furnishings look like Martha Stewart did the decorating or party planning (before she went to prison). These images are a product of Madison Avenue or Hollywood and are darned hard to live up to. Real life is rarely like this.

If your holiday gatherings resemble the perfect scenes depicted above, I applaud you! Enjoy them, for you are lucky indeed. However, many friends, spouses, children, and parents will be apart during the holidays — from military families with loved ones half a world away to others of us whose children or siblings or whatever simply live too far away to come together for a meal.

Not every modern family consists of the traditional two (original) parents. Things can get pretty complicated with today's melded families. Then there are family members who bicker and fight and don't speak to each other for months or years at a time (often for reasons no one clearly remembers). There are those who never got along from the get-go. Bring these warring factions together for a touchy-feely meal, and by dessert, things can get a little spicy.

Just once, I would like to see a TV commercial about a REAL family that sits down to a dry turkey and burnt dressing, where someone has had too much to drink and the grandfather and his brother have an argument about something that happened before World War II. The kids are crying, misbehaving, making messes . . . and the dog gets into the pie that was cooling on the kitchen table. The scene closes and then reopens to the mother. Her hair is disheveled. Her eye make-up is smeared. She is gazing out the window,

washing a huge pile of dirty dishes, wondering why she went to all the trouble and expense to bring the family together in the first place.

I think we all must cultivate realistic expectations for the holidays. Barring miracles (which we can certainly hope for), most things that aren't just peachy from January to November won't magically right themselves during the month of December. Accept it and dance past it. Grow a healthy sense of humor to help suck up the disappointments and realize what's really important. Laughing is better than crying.

I'll be missing my own children this year, and that will be hard. But I know they are OK, and they know I am OK, and I hope they will enjoy their holidays. Most of my family was already elderly when I was a child and have long since departed. Of course I miss them too, especially on holidays.

But what can I do? Dwelling on these losses won't help. There is no disrespect to their memories in trying to enjoy myself, moving on, living in the present.

Happiness is a good thing. Some of us actually need to give ourselves permission to be happy, especially after a loss.

I will be spending time with good friends this season, and thank goodness for friends.

They won't take the place of my absent children, my deceased parents, distant extended family members, or those no longer here, but I can't change these things. (I think it is one of the rather sobering signs of maturity when we finally realize and accept that there are some things in

life we cannot control, change, or fix).

I plan to enjoy the present and still cherish fond memories of other times when a large family gathered to share holidays. And I hope to appreciate the wonderful gifts the present has brought to me, one in particular.

Life changes. It's chock full of hills and valleys. We must all remember when we are low in a valley (as everyone is from time to time) that a sunny hill is usually around the bend. While I might not be surrounded this season by a large family in some greeting card setting, I hope to enjoy the season. (I can almost guarantee that the dog will be on the table eating the pie at some point).

Although I will not be taking a marvelous vacation to an exotic locale, I CAN do things that will make me feel good — rather than sit and mope. (The truth is that traveling to some new place is not high on my list of priorities just now).

I can extend the hand of friendship to someone who needs it. I can enjoy the wonderful world that is right in my own backyard. I can take a walk with Zack, read a book in the warmth of the old Deerborn heater, watch the birds, look up at the stars, play with the dog or the cats, cook or bake, draw or paint, go scratch Babe the Bull on the head, hay the cows or mend a fence. (You notice I didn't mention housework. I draw the line there).

I can count my very ample blessings. — Because you see, there really are all kinds of holidays, and every day. . . . EVERY day. . . . is a very special gift.

I hope each and every one of you has a pleasant holiday season.

TBEC Names CHS 1 of 13 Honor Roll Schools In Texas

AUSTIN — Crawford High School was selected as one of 13 high schools on the Honor Roll of the Just for the Kids and the Texas Business and Education Coalition. The high school will be honored along with 89 other Texas schools this Thursday, Dec. 9, at a reception and dinner at the Hyatt Regency Town Lake in Austin.

The Honor Roll schools are the most consistent performers in educating all student groups over a three-year period of time and rank highest in their individual peer groups, which are the schools across the state that most closely approximate their size and student population make-up.

According to Crawford High School officials, this is the first time CHS has been named for the recognition by TBEC. Principal Don Harris said he attributes the success "we've had to the parent support, the outstanding staff in addition to the students. The award is certainly a tribute to all three groups."

The high school received an exemplary rating from TEA for this past year.

Seventy-one elementary schools, five middle schools, and 13 high schools have been invited to send delegates to a "Share the Success" seminar and awards presentation. The TBEC/JFTK Honor Roll is underwritten by Washington Mutual, HEB, and IBM.

"It is important to the business community of Texas to celebrate these Honor Roll Schools," said John Stevens, executive director of TBEC. "We are counting on the students of these schools to one day run our state, so it is vital that they be well-educated and prepared for the 21st century workplace."

"The only way to effectively measure where improvement is occurring or where it needs to take place," said Mike Hudson of JFTK, "is to analyze academic results. And the academic results of these Honor Roll schools are outstanding."

Just for the Kids is a nonprofit date analysis and research organization founded in 1995 by Texas business leader Tom Luce. The organization's purpose is to raise academic standards and increase student academic achievement in Texas. JFTK publishes information on how schools perform over time on its website at (www.just4kids.org).

Texas Business and Education Coalition, formed in 1989, is a nonprofit organization of business executives and education leaders dedicated to improving the performance of public school system by influencing state education policy and stimulating community-based school improvement initiatives.



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Extreme and Inflammatory?

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "What's good for the goose usually depends on whose goose it is."

Last week Nathan Hailstorm suggested I was being extreme and inflammatory by calling Republican right-wingers "fascist."

Right in the middle of a big ol' plate of ribs that almost resulted in the extinction of the hog species in some parts of this county, he asked a man slathered with barbecue sauce from moustache to elbow to define "extreme and inflammatory."

See, that's why I'm not a liberal.

They worry about offending people.

I live to offend people!

A rattlesnake will bite you just as hard, even if you call him caterpillar.

Besides, it's kinda like calling somebody an egg-sucker.

It's only gonna bother him if he sucks eggs.

If he doesn't, he'll figure you're talking about somebody else.

And if any Republicans are still reading this after five years, what's wrong with you people? Did you take that wrong turn on page 23 of the Halliburton Annual Report and end up here again? Okay, you need to make a U-turn and go back to the Evil Dr. Trenchwalker's column. When you get to the T-intersection, make sure you're not in the middle lane. Make a hard right in front of the Baptist Church. That's Intolerance Boulevard. Follow it until you come to the intersection of Greed and Stupidity. Take another right and neighbor Bush's ranch will be directly in front of you. You can't miss it. Even if you want to.

So let me give you a synopsis of my answer to Sir Nathaniel the Nice:

Yeah. Really extreme and inflammatory. Why do you ask?

A fascist is not a Nazi.

The Nazi's were a political party.

Not all fascists are Nazi's, or even racists.

But all Nazi's are fascists.

Fascism is a philosophy which marries business and the military to the state in order to maintain an empire, and imperialism is essential to the well-being of the state.

But if you're still confused, ol' Ben Mussolini of Italy, Texas, has an answer for me:

The Fascist State organizes the nation, but leaves a sufficient margin of liberty to the individual; the latter is deprived of all useless and possibly harmful freedom, but retains what is essential; the deciding power in this question cannot be the individual,

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



but the State alone.

— Italian Encyclopedia on the definition of fascism by Benito Mussolini, <<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/modsbook.html>>.

Republican enough for you? Okay, how about this.

While the Fascists are clinging ferociously to their fire-power in Ohio, they are quietly pushing aside three state race elections they *didn't* like in Texas.

In Austin, South Texas, and Houston, losing Republicans are asking the State Legislature (predominantly Republican-Fascist, of course) to overturn the results in races the party thought they'd gerrymandered into fascist sure bets. It seems some people had the unmitigated temerity to MOVE after the politicians twisted the precinct lines into a Loop 610 interchange.

Pesky voters!

Won't stay were we put 'em.

The results in Houston were particularly galling to the Fascists, since ex-appropriations chair Talmadge Heflin lost on a recount to real estate developer Hubert Vo, a guy who came to this country about the same time as the governor of California.

Hubert fled from the Viet Cong.

Arnold fled from the inflated Deutsche Mark.

You have no idea how it upsets them good ol' boys when their bag man loses to a furrin libral commie gook! (See, I can offend everybody in a single sentence. Wanna see me do it without a dependent clause?)

Holy hypocrisy, Batman.

Only three elections were contested in the Texas House in as many decades.

It is not the process that bothers the Republican Party, only the results.

The aim is to seize power.

Democracy be damned.

Or, as Ben put it:

Fascism denies that the majority, by the simple fact that it is a majority, can direct human society; it denies that numbers alone can govern by means of a periodical consultation, and it affirms the immutable, beneficial, and fruitful inequality of mankind, which can never be permanently leveled through the mere operation of a mechanical process such as universal suffrage.

Not all Republicans are fascists.

But all fascists seem to be becoming Republicans.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters



— Editorial —

Close The Window! There's A Draft!

The U.S. military's stop-loss order to keep members of the service on active duty after their contractual enlistment ends, aka the "backdoor draft," is already well-known and in effect.

But now the White House via the Pentagon wants to sneak soldiers through the window, too.

Military officials said last week that plans are a-go to add 150,000 troops to Iraq — not from new blood or veterans who haven't held rifles in years — but from uniforms currently pressed into the theater of war.

Now, we've got double the trouble in the Middle East — already mentally exhausted soldiers forced to stay in Iraq for many months longer than their initial one-year tour and the growing possibility of more insurgents influenced to continue to resist the American occupation.

The stated reason for the U.S. military's window-appointment is securing the polls around the tentatively scheduled Jan. 30 Iraqi elections.

The real reason, however, might be that the neo-con foreign policy alchemists are still searching for that special recipe to make gold from Yaser Arafat's successor after the Palestinian presidential elections.

Either way, more U.S. troops deployed to Iraq falls into the plans of Osama bin Ladin and the radical Islamic fundamentalists,

whose influence has spread throughout the Middle East because of the U.S.-led invasion and occupation of Iraq.

At shorter the travel distance and less the monetary cost, these militants have more opportunities in their backyard to attack our troops armed with expensive, high-tech toys.

Army service officials desperately want Congress to okay at least \$45 billion in fiscal 2005 supplemental funds early next year as part of a spending package estimated to be as high as \$75 billion.

As al-Qaeda adviser and founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad Ayman al-Zawahiri said in 2003:

"If (the Americans) withdraw, they will lose everything, and if they stay, they will continue to bleed to death."

If President Bush isn't serious about bringing peace to Palestine and Israel, then what hope can the Iraqi people have in him to bring stability to their country and indirectly the security of us at home?

And what hope can the spouses and children of our troops expect from the Bush administration to see their loved ones again sans body bags or straitjackets?

Regardless of the answer, it is only a matter of time before the trap-door draft is released and our generation of the future becomes impaled inside the pit of insanity.

— Nathan Diebenow

Cop Killer Cracks Jokes On Way To The Chair

A minute before midnight on Nov. 27, 1930, the condemned cop killer finished a letter to his widow-to-be, looked up at the nervous chaplain, and asked with a sly smile, "What return address shall I put on this?"

Jess J. Maple was not a career criminal. In fact, the 36-year-old Indiana native had a clean record until the summer of 1930, when he suddenly went on a stick-up spree.

The World War I veteran and his sidekick entered a furniture store in downtown Houston at closing time on Saturday night, Sept. 20. They cleaned out the cash register and two employees' pockets of \$300 and forced one of the victims to take a ride.

After his release a short distance away, the quick-thinking hostage got a good look at the getaway car. In a matter of minutes, the license number and a description of the robbers went out over the police telegraph system.

Motorcycle patrolman W.B. Phares spotted the suspects' parked car a few blocks from the furniture store. He stopped in the middle of the street and was halfway off the two-wheeler, when shots rang out. Bleeding badly from a bullet wound in the abdomen, he emptied his pistol in the general direction of his attacker before crawling into high weeds on the side of the road.

Seconds later Officer E.D. Fitzgerald roared onto the scene. Ignoring his partner's plea to take cover, the second motorcycle cop was also gunned down by the unseen sniper.

Eyewitnesses loaded the wounded policemen into private vehicles and rushed them to the nearest hospital. Fitzgerald was dead on arrival, and Phares lost his fight for life 11 days later.

A search of the bandit car turned up a business card with Jess Maple's name and address. The house was vacant when police stormed in, so a detective stayed behind just in case someone came home.

At dawn the next day, Maria Maple returned to pick up a few things. During a two-hour grilling at police headquarters, the German war bride broke down and told interrogators where they could find her husband.

Jess Maple was sitting on the bank of a secluded bayou with his nine-year-old daughter asleep in his arms, when the posse appeared out of nowhere. A loaded .45 automatic lay within reach on the grass, but he made no move for it.

"I guess you know what we want you for," a detective declared matter-of-factly.

"I suppose I do," answered the calm cop killer, rising to his feet without waking the child.

On the way downtown, Maple made a full confession. The furniture store was the third business he had held up in the past two months. He absolved his accomplice, taken into custody

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



that same day, of any involvement in the fatal shootings.

"I have but one consolation," Maple said to his captors. "I kept up my government insurance and my little girl and my wife will get that when they get through with me up at Huntsville."

At his murder trial 10 days later, Maple dismissed his court-appointed lawyer and pleaded guilty. Sentenced to death for the double homicide, he waived his right to appeal and told the judge that he wanted to get it over with as fast as possible.

Maple awoke on Thanksgiving Day "apparently refreshed and without a trace of fear," according to a death-row observer. After a tearful visit with his wife and daughter, he settled into the grim routine.

While the condemned ate a hearty last meal — a Thanksgiving feast of roast pork, sliced tomatoes, mashed potatoes, celery, cranberry sauce, biscuits, coffee, milk, and pie — reporters squeezed into the cramped cell for a final interview.

Maple seemed to enjoy being the center of attention. "You know, boys," he announced between mouthfuls, "I am going into something more interesting than all of you put together."

The telephone rang twice in the warden's office a little before midnight. The first time it was collect from a woman asking to speak to Maple. The operator informed her that he was unavailable and, besides, prisoners could not accept collect calls. The second caller said with a quivering voice, "Tell Jess goodbye. Two Houston friends are calling."

Maple walked unaided through the infamous green door into the execution chamber. Stopping in front of "Old Sparky," he could not resist another wisecrack. "Is this the place you want me to sit down?"

Once he was seated, the warden asked, "Is there anything you want to say?"

Maple pondered the question and replied slowly, "You might send my love back to my wife and baby and all the people."

At five minutes past midnight, the switch was flipped sending the lethal current through Jess Maple's body. Eight minutes later, the 65th man to die in Texas' electric chair was pronounced dead, with 296 to follow before the plug was pulled in 1964.

"Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. V now available for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Barte Haile, 1912 Meadow Creek Dr., Pearland, TX 77581.

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

The Wild Horse and Burro Act that has protected wild horses and burros since the law passed in 1971 has been jeopardized. Congress last week approved a 3,000 page year-end spending bill, which includes a provision HCON4568.001 that approves the sale of Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros.

Starting Jan. 1, 2005, any excess animal that is more than 10 years of age; or the excess animal has been offered unsuccessfully for adoption at least three times shall be made available for sale, without limitation, including through auction to the highest bidder, at local sale yards or other convenient livestock selling facilities.

This measure allows the Bureau of Land Management the right to sell, without notice, to sale barns, stockyards, and killer buyers. This provision also does not protect pregnant mares or young wild horse or burros. The bill strips from federal law a clause that no wild free-roaming horse or burro can be sold or transferred for processing into commercial products.

The BLM could have an adoption of year-old horses on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday with no advertising, and then sell to people at a sale barn.

The BLM, Department of Interior, has tried marketing the adoptions but has failed to do their job as prescribed by Congress, which has now put measures in place that will legally authorize the killing of wild horses and burros.

Congress has turned a deaf ear to the public who has supported the wild horses and burros for many years.

The Wild Horse Foundation, Franklin, Texas has an agreement with the BLM and National Park Service to adopt out these wild horses and burros. Senator Conrad Burns, R-Mont., chairman of the appropriations subcommittee that funds the BLM placed the measure into the bill after consulting with Senators Byron Dorgan, D-ND and Harry Reid, D-NV. Texas Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson also voted in favor of this.

The Wild Horse Foundation will be receiving another shipment of wild horses from the State of Nevada on Dec. 1, 2004, most likely being the last shipment since the new

laws will go into effect Jan. 1, 2005.

The Wild Horse Foundation, Texas, has an adoption rate of 110-percent of every wild horse and burro that come to Texas. The BLM, Oklahoma Region office has denied all requests and attempts from the Wild Horse Foundation to assist with finding qualified homes and adopters. Ray Field, Executive Director of the Wild Horse Foundation has sent numerous requests to BLM Program Manager Jeff Rawson, Washington, D.C. and has received no reply from Mr. Rawson. Several requests have gone to BLM Director Kathleen Clark as well and with no reply.

Last year the BLM Oklahoma region adopted out 680 total wild horses and burros. The Wild Horse Foundation has nearly matched that number by adopters who have come forth to help place these horses and burros in loving adoptive homes. The Wild Horse Foundation is a 501(c)3 tax exempt, non-profit organization that operates off adoption fees and

donations to protect these wild horses and burros.

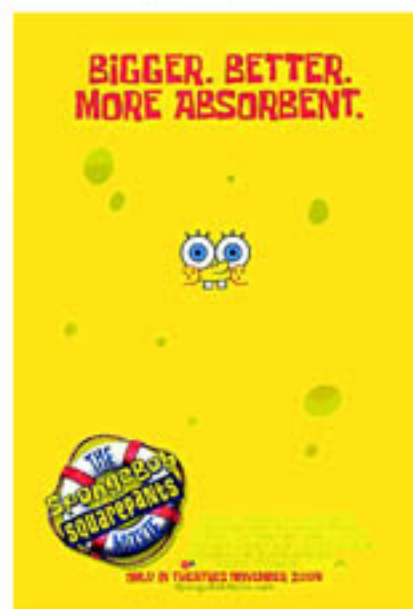
If Congress negates the laws that protect our last know living heritage then whom will they kill next? Please write your Senator and Congressman that you will not support this bill that will ultimately lead wild horses and burros to slaughter. These horses and burros cannot speak for themselves and need people like you that can speak out to protect them. They have a right to live!

The Wild Horse Foundation requests that every child, from every school and every horse lover, every taxpayer protest this approval that will ultimately bring wild horses or burros to slaughter. Not one taxpayer voted for this measure and we need the public support to protect the wild free-roaming horses and burros.

Who will Congress send to slaughter next? America is not for sale!

Ray Field
Executive Director
Wild Horse Foundation
Franklin
www.wildhorsefoundation.org

The SpongeBob Squarpants Movie



Finally, the "little sponge who could" makes it to the big screen. Yes, this rather basic character/creature who looks like normal kitchen sponge, who lives in a pineapple at the bottom of the ocean, who works as a fry cook at the Krusty Krab diner and, who has a squid and starfish for friends always has big plans and big dreams. (For a sponge, that is.) Here, S.B. takes leave from his home at Bikini Bottom in order to track down King Neptune's stolen crown.

Rated PG Runtime: 1 hour 30 minutes

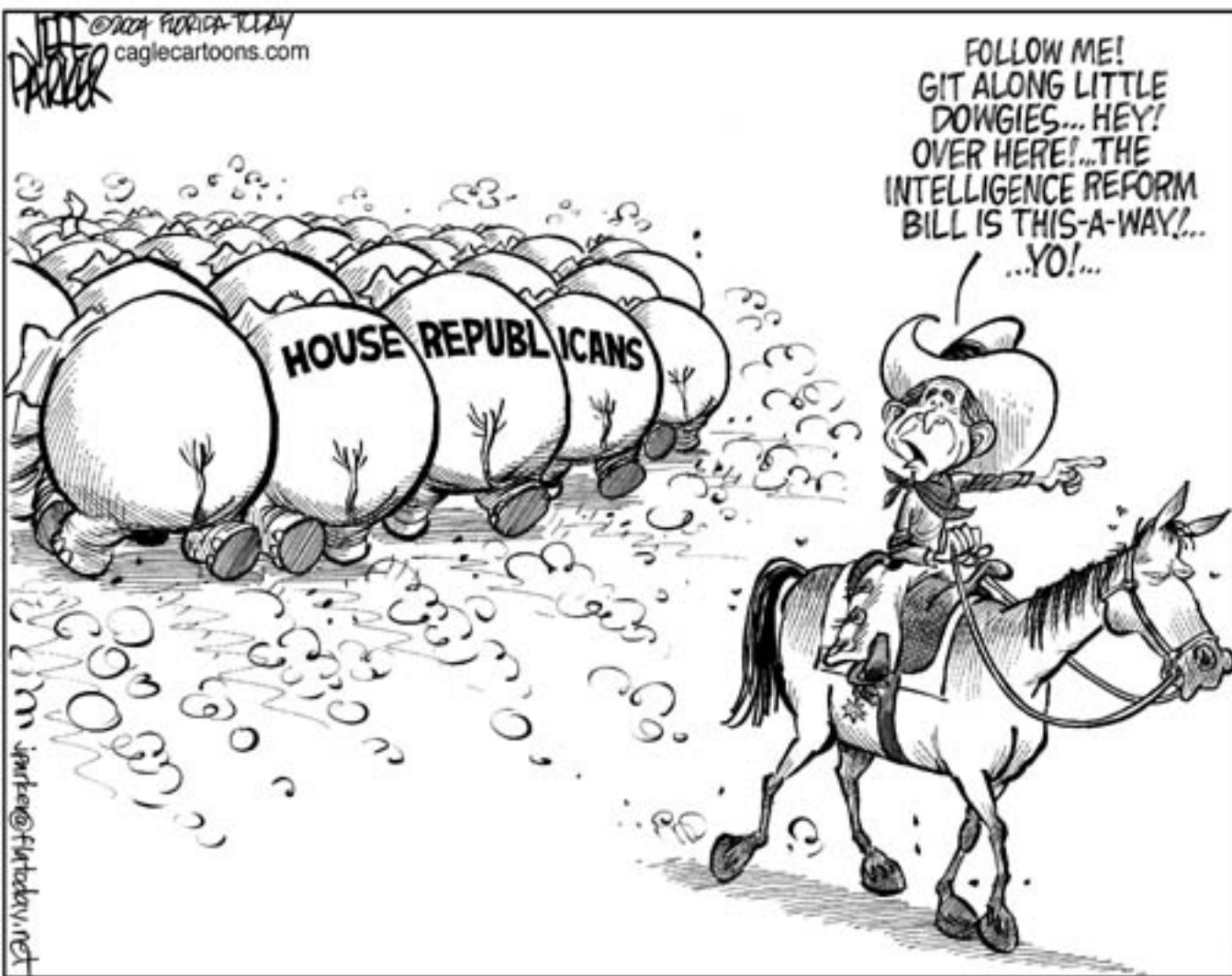
Thursday Dec. 9 7 p.m.	Friday Dec. 10 7 p.m.	Saturday Dec. 11 7 p.m.	Sunday Dec. 12 7 p.m.
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Unfortunately, you happen to prefer a different candidate in the newly targeted race, but the funds you donated to the first candidate are now being used to defeat your preferred choice.

This was not possible prior to the new spending bill before Congress.

A provision slipped into the elephantine \$388 billion domestic spending bill is attempting to reverse a former Federal Election Commission interpretation that prohibited federal officeholders from transferring campaign funds to, for instance, a state race.

One Texas senator, Kay Bailey Hutchison, who could benefit to the tune of \$6.7 million if she chooses to run for governor, says her office knew nothing about the provision, even though she serves on the Senate appropriations subcommittee that oversees the FEC.

The next Texas governor's race will be in 2006, so potential candidates are beginning to position themselves for the

marathon. Many insiders say that incumbent Rick Perry could be challenged in the primary by Hutchison, and perhaps State Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn, who has substantial support by both Republicans and Democrats.

The provision is not new, having been in effect prior to the McCain-Feingold campaign finance reforms of 2002.

The question is, "What happens to left-over funds after a campaign?"

Although no public office holders would likely sign off on the idea, to be fair to candidates in future elections, all left-over donations should be donated to the underprivileged, forcing both incumbents and challengers to start from scratch during the next election round.

As it is now, funds can be donated to help or hinder other candidates, and if the provision stands, donors might find themselves giving money to candidates they do not support in a different political race.



Texas Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

...for proposing sweeping changes for open government in Texas.

Dewhurst's proposals would require recorded votes in the Texas Senate and they would be posted on the Internet. Too, provided would be a C-SPAN type of television programming that would open the Legislature more fully for public scrutiny. He would set up a clearinghouse where residents can file complaints with the state, require online filing of campaign finance reports, review all exceptions in the open records law that allow government information to be kept secret, and establish an electronic system in which the public can more easily follow and comment on legislation.



Dow Chemical/ Union Carbide Corp./India

... for not directly compensating the survivors of the Dec. 3, 1984, accident in Bhopal, India, which killed at least 10,000 people and affecting more than 555,000 others.

The Michigan-based Dow Chemical bought Union Carbide Corp. in 2001, but both companies have denied responsibility for the poisonous gas leak, although Union Carbide paid \$470 million U.S. in compensation under a settlement with India's government in 1989.

Since then, bureaucratic and legal issues leaving the victims next to nothing, if anything, and the state government has done little to remove the debris and sacks of chemicals from the disaster site.

NEWSCAPSULES

Youth Connection Fund-raiser In Waco Dec. 31

WACO — Youth Connection's annual fund-raiser "Riverboat Gala" will be held on Friday, Dec. 31, from 8 p.m. - 1 a.m., on the Brazos Belle Riverboat at 100 N. I-35 in Waco.

Activities for the evening will include casino games, "Brazos River Store," auction, cash bar, and dancing to the classic rock music of "The Morticians." Heavy hor d'oeuvres and a midnight champagne breakfast will be served.

Ticket price for the gala is \$70 per person. Checks should be payable to Youth Connection.

INFO (254) 202-8480

HOT Program Seeks 'Senior' Volunteers

WACO — The Heart of Texas Retired and Senior Volunteer Program recently released a list of possible volunteer positions and opportunities available through its program.

RSVP is a state and nationally funded program by the Corporation for National and Community Service, Texas Department on Aging and locally sponsored by McLennan Community College.

INFO (254) 299-8766





MAILBAG
ICONOCLAST **LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

MORE LETTERS

To The Editor:
The editorial "Ohio Ground Zero" by W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher is excellent. Thank you for sticking your neck out in Texas to give voice to this subject that has been blacked out by most in the media. We need more people like you. Who would think that a great country such as ours would be outdone by the Ukraine. Those people are willing to stand up for democracy and their right to a fair election, while we wallow in ignorance and go willingly along in lock step with what is fed to us. Thank you for being there.

C.M., New Jersey
Dear Mr. W. Leon Smith and Mr. Don M. Fisher:

THANK YOU for writing and publishing your editorial thoughts. I am an Ohio voter (Cincinnati) age 66; great numbers of us are SEETHING at the dereliction of duty and conflict-of-interest activity by our Sec. of State and all the republican operatives associated with him. I expect what's going to happen in this state in the next several days will gain national attention.

Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts, for your work in helping to salvage our form of government!

Best regards and continue the Fight!

B.O., Cincinnati
Dear Editor,

I am a new subscriber to LSI, because I believe that the freedom of the world's press requires the practical support of people like me. I am an Australian citizen, (and a former journalist) teaching English language at Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong Province.

I regard myself as a citizen

of the world.
I treasure your newspaper as a beacon of light and hope in a world darkened in recent days by the Calamitous Re-election Engineered by the Emperor's Publicists (CREEP).

Whilst the Emperor's Empire may exercise global military control for the next four years, I pin my hopes on sceptical people in other countries of the world.

Especially in this country, China, Dubya is regarded as a danger to the future of humanity, and to the earth's environment in which we try to live and breathe.

I hope that citizens of the world will organize to question and protest the dangerous adventurism of Bush's neo-conservative buddies in Washington DC and Tel Aviv.

I will gladly wave a placard, write a letter, and pray for political sanity...

Congratulations to you and your staff,

N.T., Qingdao, Peoples Republic of China

To The Editor:

I'm a Democratic activist and would greatly appreciate your permission to distribute your fine editorial, Ohio: Ground Zero, in its entirety to other progressive groups and activists who want to stop voting fraud. Yours is the most eloquent piece I've read on this topic, and I've seen many.

Please reply ASAP, as it's urgent that we reach as many people as possible quickly!

M.R.
To The Editor:

Thank-you. This kind of article is easier to write in Oregon (where I'm from), than where you are, and they aren't even doing it here! You are brave people!

G.Z.

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