

INSIDE STORIES

Rumsfeld Threatens Germany Over Lawsuit — Or Does He?
Page 2



Ohio Update
Page 12

COLUMNS
Merry Christmas From Juvy Hall
The Cell Phone Incident — To End The Year
Interview With The Iconoclast
Pages 13 & 14

Merry Christmas!



The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



© 2004, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

50¢ PER COPY www.iconoclast-texas.com • CRAWFORD, TEXAS • Vol. 5, No. 51 — Wednesday, Dec. 22, 2004



PIRATES WIN STATE!

Page 5

Defeat Troup Tigers, 28-14, For State Title



Miracle Catch

THE MIRACLE PLAY — Crawford Pirate Jad Tawater (7) wrestles the ball away from Troup defender Jarriel Norman to score the winning touchdown in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



All-State Pirates

TWO CRAWFORD PIRATES, Derek Dumas (3) and Aaron Nolte (55) were recently named to the Associated Press Class 2A All State Football Team. Derek was named first team linebacker. Nolte was named first team offensive lineman.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

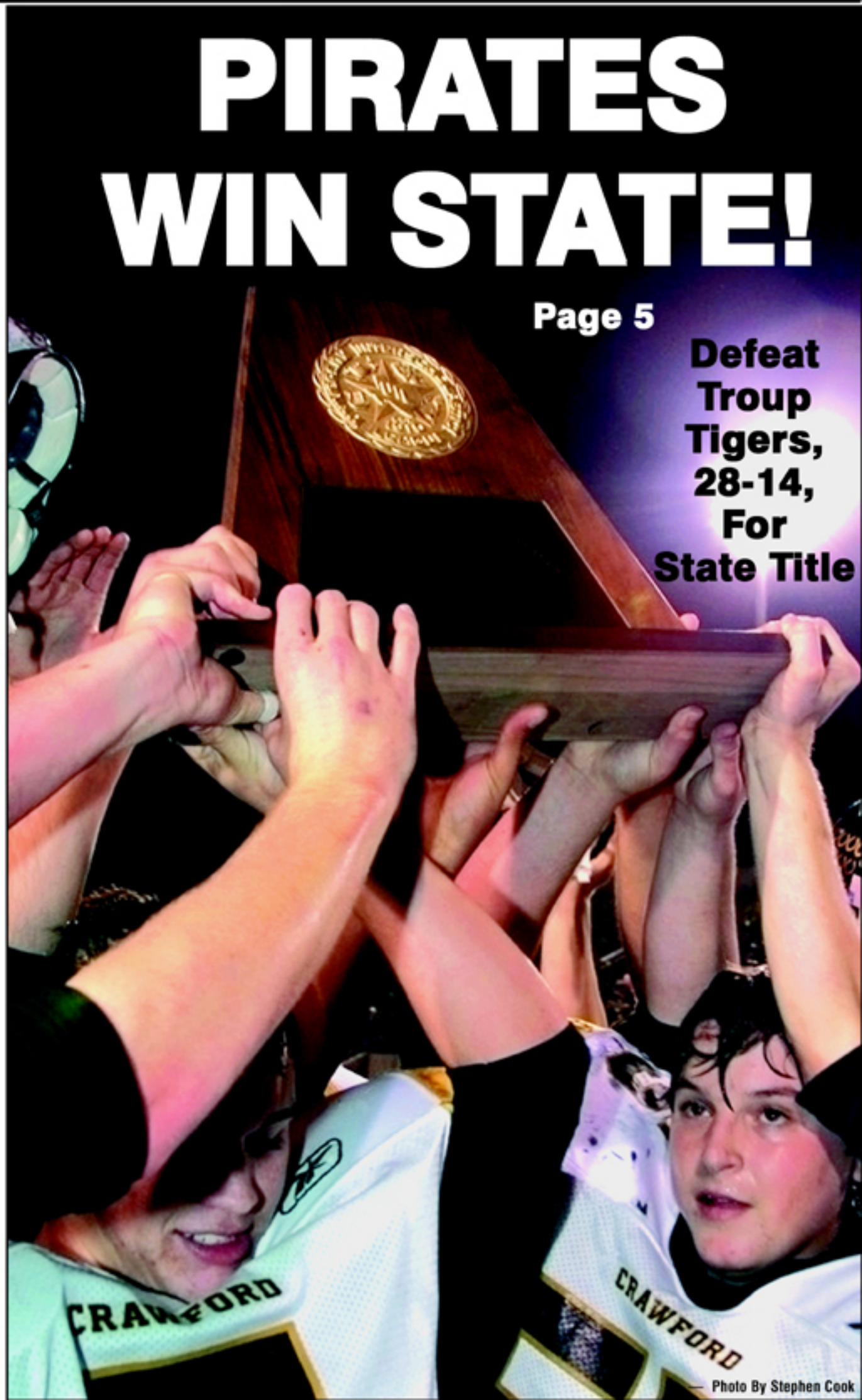


Photo By Stephen Cook

Rumsfeld Threatens Germany Over Lawsuit, Or Does He?

CRAWFORD — According to Deutsche Welle and AFP, the Pentagon subtly suggested last week that U.S.-German relations might be in jeopardy if a lawsuit filed against Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld in German court with regard to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal continues; however, Expatica reported that the criminal complaint could have no impact on the two NATO countries.

"The (U.S. Defense) Department considers this lawsuit frivolous and very unlikely to impact positive US-German relations," said an unidentified spokesman for the Pentagon, according to Expatica.

The New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights and Berlin's Republican Lawyers' Association filed the suit for four Iraqis who were allegedly mistreated by U.S. soldiers in Abu Ghraib prison.

Those top ranking U.S. officials named in the criminal complaint other than Rumsfeld are former CIA director George Tenet, Undersecretary of Defense for Intelligence Steven Cambone, Lieutenant General Richardo Sanches, and Brigadier General Janis Karpinski, as well as five other military officers who served in Iraq.

The two organizations seeking the investigation into the chain of command's role in the prison abuse scandal selected



Rumsfeld

— Iconoclast Staff Photo

Germany's court system because of its Code of Crimes Against International Law which allows its judicial system wide jurisdiction in cases such as crimes against humanity and war crimes. The law's reach also stretches to make accountable military or civilian commanders who encourage their underlings to commit so named atrocities.

No Trip To Germany?

The German magazine Focus reported last week that Rumsfeld might not make the trip if the German government initiates any kind of an investigation against him.

Abuse at Abu Ghraib be-

came known last April when photos showing U.S. soldiers humiliating naked Iraqis were made public. Some prison guards have been prosecuted for assaulting prisoners under a Pentagon investigation.

The investigation has shown "that the actions depicted specifically at Abu Ghraib were not the result of U.S. policy," the unnamed spokesman said. "A number of criminal investigations have also been conducted and continue to be conducted, and these are to ensure that those who have engaged in misconduct are held fully accountable."

Roughly 70,000 American soldiers are stationed in Germany. German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's government opposed the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

A similar law in Belgium caused Retired General Tommy Franks grief last year. Franks organized the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in March 2003. To force Belgium to change its law, which its parliament did in August 2003, Rumsfeld threatened to stop the construction of a new NATO headquarters in Belgium.

Lawsuits against Franks were later withdrawn along with others against former President George H.W. Bush, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

No Confidence

Two prominent Republican senators last week spoke out in disfavor of Defense Secretary Rumsfeld's leadership, while others quickly came to his defense.

"I'm not a fan of Secretary Rumsfeld," said Sen. Trent Lott (R-Mississippi), to the Biloxi Chamber of Commerce last Wednesday. "I don't think he listens enough to his uniformed soldiers."

In an interview with the Associated Press, Sen. John McCain (R-Arizona) recently said he still had "no confidence" in Secretary Rumsfeld's abilities. Neither dissenting senator has called for Rumsfeld's resignation, but Lott suggested President Bush make a change at the Pentagon next year. Both senators have argued that more troops are needed to secure Iraq.

Although Rumsfeld has felt the sting of backlash since a U.S. soldier from Tennessee asked him the week prior why combat vehicles in action in Iraq are not properly armored, at least two other high-ranking senators expressed support for the defense secretary, Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and GOP Whip Mitch McConnell of Kentucky.

"I am confident that Secretary Rumsfeld is fully capable



of leading the Department of Defense and our military forces to victory in Iraq," said Sen. Frist, in a written statement. "Most importantly he has the confidence of his commanders in the field and our commander-in-chief."

To quell criticism of less-than-sufficient armor on military Humvees in Iraq, Major General Stephen Speakes said the army will spend more than \$4 billion to supply armor to military vehicles by next June.

Protect Your Vehicle During Holidays, Says Police Officer

AUSTIN — The Grinch not only wants to steal Christmas, he wants to steal your car, too! Protect your vehicle this holiday season from Mr. Bah Humbug himself — The Auto Thief.

A car is stolen every 25 seconds in the United States, amounting to over 1.2 million vehicles stolen across the country last year alone. In 2003, Texas motor vehicle theft victims suffered losses totaling \$782,330,063, making auto theft the number one property crime in the state.

Sgt. Jerry Hataway with the Arlington Police Department warns, "Thieves are everywhere. Most are opportunists who try to take the easy way out. Don't leave your car anywhere you're not sure of and be aware of your surroundings."

Thieves are always looking for the next victim, and the holidays are a perfect time for them to score big. While out shopping, dining or enjoying friends and family this season, protect your vehicle, valuables and life by following these simple preventative steps:

1. Always take the keys with you and lock the doors.
2. Park in well-lit areas.
3. Use anti-theft devices anytime your vehicle is left unattended.
4. Do not leave valuables out in plain sight to tempt thieves.

"Over the holidays motor vehicle burglary picks up at the shopping malls and congestive areas. Thieves go where the crowds are because it makes it easier for them to blend in and commit a crime," Sgt. Hataway said.

Thieves target all vehicles, which makes every driver a potential victim of auto theft. By stealing a car, a thief can also gain access to the owner's identity and personal information. Be proactive this holiday season by staying attentive and helping to reduce auto theft in Texas.

For more information on auto theft prevention or to be put in contact with your local ATPA task force, call the toll free number: (800) CAR-WATCH.

The Lone Star **ICONOCLAST**

P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638

The Lone Star Iconoclast is published weekly, on Wednesdays, by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638 and P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634

Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Clifton, TX 76634.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: McLennan & Bosque Counties, one year: \$40; Elsewhere, one year: \$45. Give old address when requesting change of address.

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to:
The Lone Star Iconoclast, P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634.

DEADLINES: 5 p.m. Fridays.

Telephone (All Departments) — (254) 675-3336 • Toll-Free 1-800-241-5504

Fax No. — (254) 675-4090 • Email: office@iconoclast-texas.com

Web Newspaper: iconoclast-texas.com

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

W. Leon Smith

EDITORIAL

Associate Editors:

Don M. Fisher
Nathan Diebenow

ICONOCLAST:

An exposé of icons.
Icon-buster.
Fighter for Truth, Justice,
and the American Way.

CIRCULATION

Charlie Gandy
Jean Harvey
Pemie Stanford
Wayne Thompson
Horace Shaffer
Bobby Williams
Tonia Carpenter
Evelyn Suesz

ADVERTISING

Melanie Milbradt,
Marketing Director
Carolyn Black,
Advertising Consultant

BUSINESS

Kay Ortiz, Front Office Manager
Carole Smith, Bookkeeping
Allison Smith, Internet Manager
Michael Harvey, Collections/Scheduling

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS of each issue of The Lone Star Iconoclast are protected under the Federal Copyright Act. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without the express permission of Smith Media, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Any error or erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in this newspaper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST welcomes letters of up to 150 words on any public issue. Any letter that exceeds the word limit may not be considered for publication. We publish only original letters addressed to The Iconoclast. An address and daytime phone number must be included so the author's identity can be verified. No letters will be published until authorship is confirmed. Those who write letters are asked to limit their entries to one per month. All letters are subject to editing. The Iconoclast reserves the right to decline publication of any submission. Letters must be signed. Letters written in the promotion of political candidates or issues to be decided by an election will not be considered for publication unless they are scheduled for publication three weeks or more prior to the election. Individuals may purchase advertising space during the period prior to the election in support of candidates or issues to be voted upon. Letters written as cards of thanks may be charged classified ad rate and be placed in classified section of newspaper, at editors' option.

Congratulations to a
newspaper that gives the
rest of the United States
hope for the future!

— Mary A. Conroy, Bowie, MD



RECENT FRONT PAGES OF THE ICONOCLAST

SUBSCRIBE



today to

The Lone Star  **ICONOCLAST**

PRINT EDITION or INTERNET EDITION

The PRINT EDITION is a tabloid mailed to your address each week.

- McLennan & Bosque Counties, Texas
One Year — \$40.00
- Elsewhere in United States
One Year — \$45.00
- Foreign Addresses
One Year — \$50.00

Use This Order Form

- McLennan & Bosque Counties, Texas
One Year — \$40.00
 - Elsewhere in United States
One Year — \$45.00
 - Foreign Addresses
One Year — \$50.00
- Print Edition**

- ONLINE Subscription Rate
One Year — \$30.00
- Please Include Your E-Mail Address
To Be Notified Of User Name, Password:

The INTERNET EDITION consists of copies of the newspaper pages

reproduced as jpg images that can be viewed online at our website:

www.iconoclast-texas.com.

- Online Sub Rate
One Year — \$30.00



Call
(254) 675-3336

We Accept:
VISA — MC — AmEx — Discover

www.iconoclast-texas.com

We also accept
PayPal

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City, State, Zip+4 _____

Phone: _____

If this is a Gift Subscription, please note who paid for it and your address in area below:

Gift Subscription Information

Name _____

Donor's Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Clip and Mail, With Payment, To:
THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST
P.O. BOX 420
CRAWFORD, TX 76638

McLennan County Residents Contribute To Record-Breaking Food For Families Drive

WACO — McLennan County residents contributed to the record-breaking total for this year's Food for Families Drive.

Residents donated 257,141 pounds of food during the annual drive this year, up almost 12,000 pounds from 2003.

The contributions helped push the total for this year's drive to more than 1.1 million pounds.

That is almost 100,000 pounds more than the 928,000 pounds of food Central Texans donated in 2003, and more than ten times the amount of food collected during the first year of the food drive in 1990, when residents contributed about 84,000 pounds.

Food For Families has be-

come the largest one-day food drive in Texas encompassing eight-counties with 18 televised sites in Central Texas.

The food collected in each Central Texas county stays in that county, to benefit local food banks and other non-profits.

The thousands of pounds of food donated each year help fill the shelves of Central Texas food banks and pantries well into the New Year.

Food For Families is an annual event for the Boy Scouts of America, H.E.B. Grocery Company, Texas Army National Guard and KWTX-TV.

Thousands of volunteers throughout Central Texas devote their time and energy to the project.

Memorialize Veterans This Holiday Season, Says Keep McLennan County Beautiful

WACO — Give a gift this holiday season that keeps on giving for years to come. Honor your family, a loved one, a veteran, a friend or anyone or anything special in your life by purchasing an engraved brick in Enduring Freedom — A Memorial To Liberty, sponsored by Keep McLennan County Beautiful.

The memorial is being built in McLennan County to honor our veterans, our police, fire, sheriff and EMS personnel and also those who perished

on Sept. 11, 2001. The memorial is scheduled to be built on the HOT Fairgrounds on the Lake Air Drive side.

Bricks are \$50.00 each and may be purchased by going to KMCB's website (www.KeepMcLennanCountyBeautiful.org) where there is a secure site to purchase and pay for bricks. Bricks may also be purchased at any Guaranty Bank. Gift certificates are available.

INFO

Office, 722-2832.

UNT Materials Science Professor Invents Stronger Materials For Security Vests

DENTON — With U.S. soldiers fighting insurgents in Iraq and police officers patrolling for terrorism at home, a North Texas scientist is part of a team that is researching materials to provide greater protection from bullets and other weapons.

Rick Reidy, University of North Texas assistant professor of materials science and engineering, developed a lightweight soft body-armor vest — a flack jacket — that

stiffens upon impact from high velocity projectiles.

Reidy said soldiers and officers are currently protected against rifles and other assault weapons by wearing vests with large, stiff steel or ceramic plates. However, these vests only fully protect the heart and lungs, he says.

Reidy said soldiers and police officers often complain that the vests are too heavy and too hot and hinder movement.



THE CRAWFORD BETA CLUB HONOR SOCIETY recently held a bake sales and sold "Santa Pictures" to raise money for the soldiers in Iraq. The money raised was used to buy door prizes to be used for the soldiers' Christmas Day entertainment.

Beta Club Raises Funds For Soldier's Holiday Fun

CRAWFORD — The Crawford Beta Club Honor Society recently held a bake sales and sold "Santa Pictures" to raise money for the soldiers in Iraq. The money raised was used to buy door prizes to be used for the soldiers' Christmas Day entertainment.

A total of \$500 was raised to buy items, such as CDs, X-Box games, and DVDs. Sergeant Keeler with the Army recruiting office in Hewitt picked up the items and delivered them to Fort Hood where they will be transported to Iraq.

The Beta Club and Crawford PALs also held a food drive on

all three school campuses to help fill the food pantry for the Crawford community. Much needed food was donated, and both organizations appreciate the schools' and community's support. As a regard for "Filling the Bus" with food, students will receive an additional student holiday — Jan. 5.

Waco Civic Theatre To Hold Auditions For 'The Nerd'

BY LARRY SHUE
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

WACO — The Waco Civic Theatre will be holding auditions for "The Nerd" on Jan. 3 and 4 from 7-10 p.m. for actors ages 15 and older. All auditions will be held at the Waco Civic Theatre, 1517 Lake Air Drive.

Those who wish to audition need to make an appointment by calling 254-776-1591. Actors will need to bring a resume and headshot, or a picture of themselves, to the audition. A 30-second monologue will be required.

The play is about an aspiring young architect in Terre Haute, Ind., Willum Cubbert, who has often told his friends about the debt he owes to Rick Steadman, a fellow ex-GI whom he has never met but who saved his life after he was seriously wounded in Vietnam.

Willum has written to Rick to say that, as long as he is alive, "you will have somebody on Earth who will do anything for you" — so Willum is delighted when Rick shows up unexpect-

edly at his apartment on the night of his 34th birthday party. But his delight soon fades as it becomes apparent that Rick is a hopeless "nerd" — a bumbling oaf with no social sense, little intelligence, and less tact.

Directed by Parker Wilson, performances of The Nerd will

take place on Feb. 11, 12, 18, 19 at 7:30 p.m. and Feb. 13 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and can be reserved by calling the box office at (254) 776-1591.

The production is made possible by the generous support of the Season Partners of the Waco Civic Theatre.

**Waco Store
Now Open**

MUELLER, INC.
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS & COMPONENTS

Waco: 800-525-3814
Mark Noland (ext. 5426) - Roland Hicks (ext. 5427)
5591 N. Hwy. 6, Waco — 254-848-2560 • Fax: 254-848-9997

Temple: 800-525-3814 • Fax: 254-742-2947
I-35 N. between Exit #305 west side of I-35

www.muellerinc.com

Bosque Valley Family Dental

DR. JOE H. YARBRO, D.D.S.

DR. RICHARD F. HANSARD, D.D.S.

FAMILY DENTISTRY
ORTHODONTICS
COSMETIC DENTISTRY
SEDATION DENTISTRY AVAILABLE

se habla espanol
OFFICE HOURS:

Monday-Wednesday, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Friday, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

1-888-932-6404 • Valley Mills, Texas



PIRATES WIN STATE!

Crawford Pirates Take State Title, 28-14 — Finish Undefeated Season, 16-0

By DAVIS GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

NORTH RICHLAND HILLS — The Crawford Pirates last Saturday night were not to be denied in their second ever trip to a State Championship game, defeating the Troup Tigers 28-14 at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills for the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.

The Pirates made history and didn't disappoint their huge crowd of fans that surely turned someplace in Central Texas into a ghost town, with Santa even paying a visit courtesy of the Pirate Marching Band and airplane banners showing support.

Come-from-behind wins and opponents with names associated with dynasty lined the road to the championship game, and the final stop for the 2004 state title would end in Crawford.

"It was almost like a team of destiny," said head coach Robert Murphy. "I'm sure it's going to be one of those that nobody's ever going to forget, they'll always talk about the 2004 Crawford Pirates."

The Pirates began the game on offense near mid-field, thanks to B.J. Christian's 45-yard kick-off return from the end zone.

With a short field to cross, Crawford was able to capitalize on their first drive. The Pirates got the chains moving after three runs, two by Derek Dumas and one by Christian, landing them six yards deep in Tiger territory.

Lee Murphy's first pass of the game, a completion to Todd Westerfield for eight yards, kept the Troup defense guessing and allowed Christian to gain 16 yards on the following play, but two plays later the Pirates were facing a third-and-nine situation.

After a one-yard Dumas run and an incomplete pass by Lee Murphy, Crawford got back to both of them, executing a middle screen pass to Dumas for 19 yards, one shy of a touchdown.

Dumas took the ball in on the following play to put the Pirates up 7-0 with 8:16 remaining in the first quarter after Fulwider's successful extra point attempt.

Troup was less fortunate coming out of the gate, a 20-yard return got them to their 26-yard line, but a false start penalty and a Pirate defense that has one first team AP All State player, Dumas, was too

DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States



THE MEDIA films footage of the Crawford Pirates in their traditional post-game prayer last Saturday night after the team won the class 2A Division II State Championship Title at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills. — Photo By Stephen Cook



CONGRATULATING THE HEROES OF THE GRIDIRON are these fans, who poured onto the field following the Pirates' defeat of Troup for the class 2A Division II State Championship Title. — Photo By Stephen Cook

much to overcome.

"I was extremely surprised," said Dumas of the honor he received earlier in the week. "I realized that I'm representing Crawford's defense. You don't get all-state if your defense doesn't do a great job all year."

Key to that particular defensive stance was Adam Murphy,

who contributed to all four tackles in the series, including the kickoff return.

Troup's punt was misplayed by Christian on the return, resulting in the Tigers recovery on the Crawford 39-yard line.

The Tigers carried the ball of seven consecutive plays before finally turning it over on downs, getting as far as the

Crawford 19-yard line.

It took seven different Pirate defenders making tackles to stall Troup's rushing game.

"We knew that they were going to run the ball just about every time, and we had to stop them in the backfield," said Andrew Judy. "Once they get loose in the secondary. There's not much chance of us catch-

ing them. They're probably one of the best backs we faced yet, probably the fastest."

The Crawford offense struggled on their second possession, going three-and-out and gaining only a single yard.

A solid punt gave the Pirates some breathing room, starting the Tigers on their 37-yard line without the benefit of a return.

Troup kept the ball on the ground using three different rushers, even after a holding penalty pushed them back into a 2nd-and-19 situation. A tough Crawford defense held and eventually Troup punted the ball away.

The Pirates' third drive began from their 20-yard line and looked similar to Troup's, three different rushers touched the ball in the first three plays, Jad Tawater, Christian, and Dumas, before Lee Murphy connected with Tanner Jacobs for a 12 yard gain.

The Pirates were flagged for a false start of their own and found themselves in a 2nd-and-13 predicament, but Dumas managed to run for 12 of those yards on the next play behind the blocking of Crawford's other AP All State selection, Aaron Nolte.

"It surprised me a lot. I didn't play last year from a knee injury, I just didn't think anybody would have knew me," said Nolte when asked about his recognition to the AP All State Team. "It's a great honor, only five people get that in state. It's real nice to be one of them."

A mixture of run and pass plays, including another big catch from Jacobs for 18 yards, pushed the ball down to Troup's 12-yard line where Christian burst up the middle for the touchdown.

With 4:34 left in the half, Fulwider kicked the extra point to make the score 14-0.

A failed on-side kick gave Troup starting position in Crawford territory, and the Tigers took advantage of the short field, stringing together five running plays for 18 yards before finally going to the air.

The pass paid dividends in the form of a 31-yard touchdown, giving Troup six points after the extra-point attempt sailed wide with 2:00 before halftime.

Crawford took a touchback and began their next series from the 20, gain six yards before punting the ball away.

The Tigers used their last possession to try to close the

• PIRATES

Continued From Page 5

eight point gap, but Crawford forced them into their own punting situation and run out the clock by kneeling on the last play of the half.

The second half brought out a motivated Troup offense that chewed up 80 yards on the ground and completed a successful two-point conversion to tie the game 14-14 with 4:01 remaining in the third.

"We knew what they were going to do, they came and did it," said Pedro Rodriguez. "They were driving the second half and were trying to stop them."

"Run. Just run it up the middle. They would give it to number six or number two, we had to stop them two. Number six could run you over, number two could run around you," said Christian of the Troup game plan. "We knew what they were going to do in formation, we kind of had a mental let down right there."

The drive wiped out the Crawford lead and once again put the game up for grabs.

The Pirates responded with a healthy dose of Dumas, going to him five times in the first six plays, and moving the ball to the Troup 24-yard line, but the biggest play of the drive belonged to Tawater.

In a play that's more likely to be seen on Sunday than under Friday night lights, Tawater turned a certain interception into a magic-trick touchdown reception that changed the tone of the game.

"It was a little under thrown, but I just adjusted on it, and I got one hand on it. I turned over on my back, and I just pulled it in," said Tawater. "I tried to hold it up and show them that I caught it. I was surprised, I didn't think I was going to get it, but I did."

Both sides of the stadium and most of the people on the field were just as surprised.

"I was for sure it was intercepted, I was like 'Well, you know, that's it. It's going to be a touchback. They're going to



THE WHOLE TOWN OF CRAWFORD, TEXAS — practically — showed up at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills to see their Crawford Pirates face Troupe for the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

get the ball on the 20, and we just blew a chance right there.' But Jad came up with a big catch," said Lee Murphy. "We couldn't believe it went from an interception to a touchdown like that."

Remarkably, the pass play was never intended for Tawater. It created itself out of Coach Murphy's faith in his players.

"They know who they can block and who they can't, and the receivers know who they can beat and who they can't," said Coach Murphy. "That's big, being able to go to them and having confidence that what they'll tell you is indeed the truth."

Fulwider tacked on the extra point and give Crawford a 21-14 lead with :26 left in the third quarter.

"The key was when we got the ball back, and we drove it down and took up time. We came through when we needed it," Lee Murphy said.

Troup couldn't answer back, another holding penalty and an unwillingness to go to the pass on long yardage downs cornered them in a 4th and 9 situation from their 42-yard line and forced a punt.

Crawford's backfield then had their best drive of the night, going 63 yards in five plays with four of them in double digits, ending in a 13 yard touchdown run by Christian to put the Pirates up by two scores.

With 6:36 still to play, Fulwider kicks a successful extra point to bring the score to 28-14.

"When we scored that last touchdown we had some guys on the sideline, it hit them. I remember having to turn around and had to tell a couple of them. I said, 'You got to calm down. The game's not over with. The celebration is for after,'" said Coach Murphy.

Drawing on the experience of playing in a state title game before, Coach Murphy knows that a champion isn't crowned until after the last second of the ballgame is runs out.

"I had to keep telling myself like I told the players, it's just a game. I got overwhelmed in '94 when we played Thorndale in the state championship down in Temple. With about 9 minutes to go in the ballgame, we had scored, and we were



TODD WESTERFELD (34) prepares to burn a Troup defender on a first quarter carry. Crawford took the opening kickoff and went all the way down the field for a touchdown to make it 7-0 in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

BIRDVILLE I.S.D.
FINE ARTS / ATHLETICS COMPLEX

Know the score.
Star Telegram
What to go, what to block!

Richland Hills Church of Christ

BISD

QUAD COUNTRY

TIGERS	0	PIRATES
14		28
DOWN	TO GO	BALL ON
1	3	48
TIME OUTS LEFT	QTR	TIME OUTS LEFT
2	4	2

The scoreboard tells the story.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

Stephen Cook
Photographer

<http://stephencook.us>
(254) 717-8931

THE WORLD'S TOUGHEST ATV.

Powerful Polaris Liberty™ 700 twin-cylinder engine • Front and rear 2,500 lb. winches • Heavy-duty flat racks with D-rings, 450 lbs/204.1 kg capacity • Front and rear fuel tanks, 8.75/33.1 ltr gal. capacity • Run Flat Goodyear® Mud Runner tires • Dual tow hooks • Steel reinforced frame, racks, floorboards • World's best-selling automatic transmission • Independent long-travel rear suspension • Exclusive On-Demand All-Wheel Drive



SPORTSMAN
MV7

LAKE WHITNEY POLARIS

211 S. Hwy. 22, Whitney, TX • (254) 694-2655

WARNING: ATVs can be hazardous to operate. For your safety, always wear a helmet, eye protection, and protective clothing and never carry passengers. Polaris adult models are for riders 16 and older. Be sure to take a safety training course. For safety and training information see your Polaris dealer or call 1-800-342-3764. ©2004 Polaris Sales Inc.

www.polarisindustries.com



DOWN TO THE ONE YARD LINE, DEREK DUMAS (3) scurries up field with Garrett Gonzalez (67) covering his back last Saturday night at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

Albrecht's Pharmacy, Inc.

506 West 5th, Clifton • (254) 675-8398



We honor all Medicare-approved prescription drug discount cards. Come by the pharmacy for the enrollment forms. We will get you signed up today!

We also honor all Insurance Plans. Call us to see if we are a pharmacy provider for your plan. Some of the many plans we process are:

Scott & White Health Plan
Blue Cross-Blue Shield
Caremark
Advance/PCS
Wellpoint
TriCare
Express Scripts
First Care

Federal Employee
Teachers Retirement Plan
Merk-Medco
Aetna
Cigna
Anthem
PAID
Rx-West

Uni-Care
Texas Medicaid Plan
United Health Care
Champus-TriCare
etc.

**Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-6 p.m.
Saturday 8 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Services

For advertising information,
call (254) 675-3336

Balch Computer Repair

254-945-4211 • cell 254-978-0457

Is your computer running slow or not working at all?
I fix all kinds of computer problems
Virus & Spyware removal • Onsite computer repair
Software Installation • Network and Internet problems fixed
Hardware upgrades • Data backups

Kevin Balch
3718 FM 217
Valley Mills, TX 76689 www.bosquecomputerguy.com



Leon's FLOOR COVERING

Carpet & Vinyl
Formica Cabinet Tops
Wallpaper
Eureka Vacuum Cleaners
and Service

QUALITY MATERIAL SOLD AND INSTALLED WITH PRIDE
302 West 5th Clifton, Texas FREE ESTIMATES Mike & Kim Prescher Phone 675-8686 Home 675-8291



Order Buying



Trucking

DOVE CREEK RANCH GOLD TEX CATTLE CO. VALLEY MILLS, TX

Gregg Jernigan
(254) 932-6282
Mob. (254) 644-7418

Kirk Jernigan
(254) 932-5485
Mob. (254) 709-2969

Rocket Federal Credit Union

Here for YOUR financial needs
with 2 locations to serve you!



905 W. McGregor Dr., McGregor
840-2873
204 Crossroads West, Hewitt
751-0877



MARK KETTLER BUILDER

Mobile (254) 709-7362
Fax (254) 836-4620

H.O.T.B.A.

The Saloon at Texas Safari

is now available for
Banquets, Receptions, Weddings,
Family Reunions, Parties, etc.

Call Samantha Ramsey
675-3334 or cell (972) 979-1122



SHOWING TROUP THE HAND, B.J. Christian (20) gains mileage last Saturday night at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



IN SECOND QUARTER ACTION, Derek Dumas (3) takes the handoff from Lee Murphy (19) and moves downfield against Troup in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



IN CELEBRATION of Jad Tawater's miracle TD catch, Pedro Rodriguez flies over the group in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



SAMMY FISHER (64) last Saturday night knocked Troup defender Antwain Lydia (12) off the line, as Derek Dumas (3) plowed in from the one.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



BATTEN DOWN — Andrew Judy (37) and Adam Murphy (82) clamp down on the Troup ball carrier, as Derek Dumas (3) and Garrett Gonzalez (67) swarm in.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



TANNER JACOBS (2) takes a short pass and moves downfield in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



CLAMP DOWN — B.J. Christian (20), Derek Dumas (3), and Andrew Judy (37) clamp down on Troup's running game in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game.
— Photo By Stephen Cook

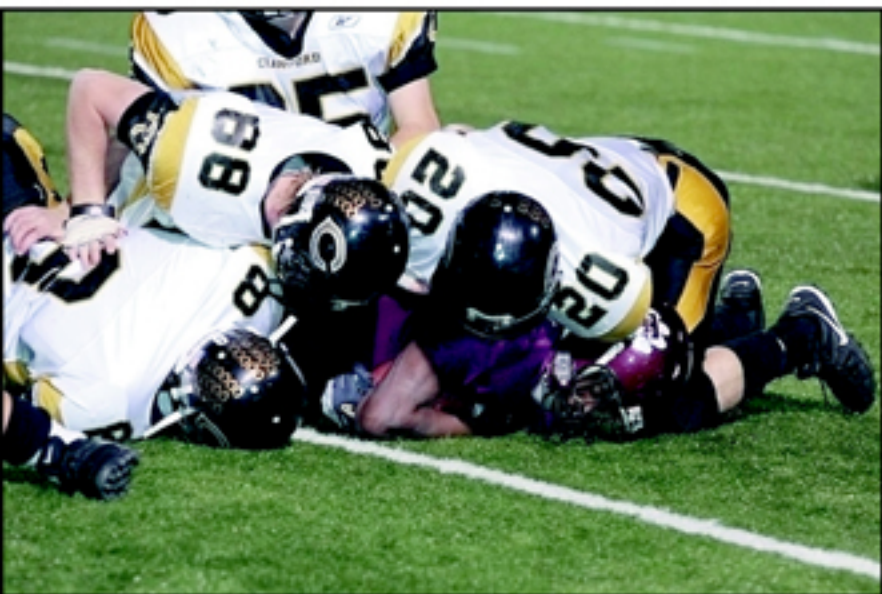
• **STATE**

Continued From Page 6

lining up, we were going for two, tie ballgame," said Coach Murphy. "About that time it dawned on me that we're fixing to win this thing."

It didn't happen, and that experience 10 years ago helped the Pirates stay focused and finish out the season as undefeated state champions.

Curl up with a good book.
Yours!
WWW.INKWATERPRESS.COM



FLATTENERS — B.J. Christian (20), Mark Lowe (88), and Pedro Rodriguez (8) flatten the Troup running back in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game. — Photo By Stephen Cook



RETURN AND SET UP — Tanner Jacobs (2) returns a punt that set up Crawford's final score in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game. — Photo By Stephen Cook



THE FINAL TOUCHDOWN — B. J. Christian (20) jumps over a fallen blocker after taking the handoff from Lee Murphy (19) and scores the final touchdown in the class 2A Division II State Championship Title game. — Photo By Stephen Cook



THE FINAL POINT scored by the 2004 State Champion Crawford Pirates was an extra point by Shawn Fulwider (5) with Tanner Jacobs holding. — Photo By Stephen Cook

Doty Places 12th In State Cross Country

ARLINGTON — Crawford Pirate Reid Doty placed 12th with a time of 16:39.3 in the 2A Boys 3 Mile Run at the State Cross Country Results at Old Settlers Park - Round Rock on Saturday, Nov 13.

The Crawford Pirates Cross Country Team placed 9th of 24 teams in the 2A Boys 3 Mile Run CC at Regionals at Vandergriff Park in Arlington on Saturday, Nov. 6

Doty placed 8th with a time of 16:54.92; Landon Lippe, 46, 18:49.82; Matthew McMullen, 60, 19:15.04; Rocco Nugent, 93, 19:54.01; Chase Harrell, 112, 20:31.45; and Travis Duke, 167, 23:46.74.



COACH GREG JACOBS proudly holds the Class 2A Division II State Championship Title trophy. — Photo By Stephen Cook

CISD Students To Return To School Thursday, Jan. 6

CRAWFORD — The Crawford Independent School District has made a change to the calendar for this school year, according to administrators.

Jan. 5 has now become a student holiday. The students' first day back after Christmas vacation will be Jan. 6, 2005.

Jan. 5 is now a teacher workday, said Supt. Kevin Noack.



Clifton Automotive Body Shop

Frank Smith, Owner

Same Place Since 1968

120 N. Ave. G, Clifton
(254) 675-8237



Cole Funeral Home, Inc.

"A Tradition of Excellence"

- Pre-Need and At-Need Arrangements
- Cremation and Memorial Arrangements



- Accepting Life Insurance, Pre-Need Funeral Policies
- Monuments and Markers

1113 West Fifth Street
McGregor, TX 76657
(254) 840-2880

Mailing Address
P.O. Box 342
McGregor, TX 76657

304 Eighth Street
Moody, TX 76557
(254) 853-2311



Crawford Girls' BASKETBALL
2004-2005
Schedule
HIGH SCHOOL

Day	Date	Opponent	Location	Time	Notes
Wed.-Fri.	Dec. 29-31	Caprock Tournament	Lubbock	V	TBA
Tuesday	Jan. 4	Dublin	Dublin	JV, V	5:00, 6:30
Friday	Jan. 7	Moody	Crawford	9, JV, V	5:00, 6:15, 7:30
Tuesday	Jan. 11	at Clifton	Clifton	9, JV, V	5:00, 6:15, 7:30
Friday	Jan. 14	Troy	Crawford	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Tuesday	Jan. 18	McGregor	Crawford	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Friday	Jan. 21	at Bruceville-Eddy	Bruceville-Eddy	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Tuesday	Jan. 25	at Moody	Moody	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Friday	Jan. 28	Clifton	Crawford	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Tuesday	Feb. 1	at Troy	Troy	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Friday	Feb. 4	at McGregor	McGregor	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00
Tuesday	Feb. 8	Bruceville-Eddy	Crawford	JV, V, 9	5:00, 6:30, 8:00

Airdrop Vaccine Program Checks Spread Of Disease

BY STEVE BYRNS

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

FORT STOCKTON — A squadron of state-chartered aircraft flies a series of "bombing" runs across South and West Texas each January. Flying at 500 feet, they drop millions of cubes the size of "fun-size" candy bars over 40 counties.

They battle a deadly, unseen enemy, but the only human casualty is an occasional airsick

passenger.

For the past nine Januarys, the state has been fighting—and winning—the battle to prevent the spread of rabies into urban populations in South and West Texas.

The program has been so successful that it has virtually eliminated the type of rabies spread by coyotes, which back in 1995 posed a serious public health threat to San Antonio.

"Something had to be done and fast," said Gary Nunley, director of Texas Cooperative Extension's and USDA-APHIS's Wildlife Services unit, after rabid coyotes started cropping up in Atascosa County, just 45 miles from San Antonio.

The greatest fear was that the canine strain of rabies that coyotes carry would jump to the huge, free-ranging dog population in and around San Antonio.

"A buddy of mine is chief of animal control in San Antonio," said Dr. James Wright, a Texas Department of State Health Services veterinarian based in Tyler. "He indicated there are a jillion unvaccinated dogs roaming the streets of San Antonio. If canine rabies had reached Bexar County, we would literally have had rabid animals on playgrounds." State health officials were anxious to avoid a repeat of a 1988 South Texas rabies outbreak that caused two deaths and 3,000 people to undergo rabies exposure treatments.

Casting about for a solution, state officials focused on an

imaginative idea that had proved successful with red fox rabies problems in Europe and Canada. Large animal populations could be inoculated against rabies by feeding them baits laced with vaccine. But only way to get the baits to animals ranging in some of the roughest country in Texas was to drop them from the air.

"That's when we started the state's Oral Rabies Vaccination Program," Wright said. "Our first efforts were to make a barrier between where the rabid coyotes were and where they were not. Every year since then we've moved the barrier farther south and west until now we have completely saturated South Texas with the bait. Today, we just don't see the coyote variant of the virus anymore because we've got everything down there vaccinated."

The coyote bait drops were added the next year because a fox rabies epidemic was rapidly spreading across the Edwards Plateau.

Results have been dramatic. The health department reports that, because of the program, the number of canine-strain rabies cases decreased from 122 in 1994 to the last single case along the border in 2001. Gray fox variant rabies cases dropped from 244 in 1995 to 61 by 2003.

Now the planes maintain a bait zone along the border to stop any possible canine rabies influx from Mexico. The gray fox bait zone varies from year to year across the



Edwards Plateau. The plan is to encircle the gray fox rabies variant with baited buffer zones that will soon come together like a drawstring to protect the entire Texas Hill Country.

The Department of State Health Services is the vaccination program's lead agency. It works in partnership with Extension Wildlife Services, USDA-APHIS Wildlife Services and the Texas National Guard. Tom Sidwa of Austin, director of the program, said the idea behind the drops is

not to protect the health of foxes or coyotes, but to protect the health of people.

"While this program addresses wildlife concerns, rabies control is not just one thing," he said. "It's a strategy that includes good stray-animal control programs and a major reliance on domestic-animal vaccines."

"We still must have conscientious pet owners vaccinating their pets. If your dog or cat is unvaccinated and it encounters a rabid animal, you're likely to be exposed."

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION CO.

Sale Every Saturday

Sheep & Goats 10:00 • Cattle 1:00
Jody & Robin Thomas
(254) 865-8219

Date: 11-11-04

No. 1 Steers
under 300 lb. 150-172
300-400 lb. 130-158
400-500 lb. 120-134 Steady
500-600 lb. 105-121
600-700 lb. 100-111
700-800 lb. 95-105

No. 1 Heifers
under 300 lb. 135-165
300-400 lb. 115-139
400-500 lb. 105-121 Steady
500-600 lb. 100-111
600-700 lbs. 95-106
700-800 lbs. 92-99

Slaughter Cows
High Yielding 47 to 52
Low Yielding 32 to 40 \$1 Down
Fats 43 to 51
Thin & Shelly 25 to 37

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2 57 to 67 \$1 Down

Cow & Calf Pairs
Young Choice 1050 to 1225
Young Fair 900 to 1050 \$10-15 Up
Aged Pairs 700 to 850

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker
Replacement Cows
550 to 1070 \$10 Up
Number of Head...836

Sale will be CLOSED
Sat., Dec. 25 & Sat., Jan. 1
Happy Holidays

As of January 2005, we will no longer have a sheep/goat sale. The cattle sale will start at 12 noon every Saturday.

Gatesville
Jody Thomas (254) 865-8219
Sale (254) 865-9121
Mobile (254) 223-2958

Carpet Plus

Carpet Sales and Service

- Laminate Flooring
- Carpet
- Vinyl
- Wood
- Ceramic
- Tile

QUALITY WORK GUARANTEED

305 S. Main
McGregor
Lefty Gonzales
Owner - Operator
Bus. 840-9757
Cell 709-7860
Fax 840-2321



Rated PG Runtime: 1 hour 40 minutes

Thurs. Dec. 23 7 p.m.	Friday Dec. 24 7 p.m.	Sat. Dec. 25 7 p.m.	Sun. Dec. 26 7 p.m.
------------------------------------	------------------------------------	----------------------------------	----------------------------------

Since 1916



306 W. 5th St.
Clifton, Texas
ALL Tickets: \$4.00 Per Person
(254) 675-1229

CLASSIFIEDS

Reach Around the World

Buy two
get one
FREE*



Run your classified word ad twice and get the third ad free! See order form for more details or call (254) 675-3336.

Real Estate

FOR SALE

San Marcus - Hill Country Heaven

- 2.88 Acres
- 4 Bedroom
- 4 Car Garage
- Huge Basement w/Wet Bar
- 3,100 sq. ft. Living Space
- In-ground Sprinkler System
- Fenced
- Beautiful Kitchen w/Island, Pantry, Dumbwaiter, and Large window w/fantastic view of woods
- Balcony off Master Bedroom
- Beautiful Mature Trees
- Large Horseshoe Driveway
- Neighborhood Pool

Lease or purchase with owner financing available. \$1,500/mo with \$1,500 deposit or \$185,000. Call (512) 754-7099 or (512) 557-5270

For Rent

FOR RENT

2 BR / 1½ BA studio apt. in Crawford. \$475 / \$300
Call to see (254) 757-0063
or (254) 214-4293

www.iconoclast-texas.com

For Sale

FOR SALE

3-year-old Female
Yellow Headed
Amazon
\$800



w/6x3x3 cage \$1,200
(pd. over \$2,000 total)

Loves to talk!
Call (254) 253-0068

Miscellaneous

Advertisement

Experiencing Debt Problems!
Tired of being denied?
Not a Problem

Let our professional customer service representatives help you secure that dream home, car or just pay off those nagging bills.

Call us today Toll Free 1-866-833-6962
or visit www.clarksonreferrals.com

HOW TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED IN

The Lone Star **ICONOCLAST**

Just print out your message — one word per space — on this form.
(Phone numbers are one word; "Box 2020" counts as two words.)

Then mail with your check or money order to:

The Iconoclast, P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638

DEADLINE: FRIDAY 5 P.M.

CLASSIFIED RATES: \$5.00 minimum per week for up to 10 words.
Additional words are 20¢ each per week.
Ads must be paid for when placed.

Run your ad for two weeks, and we'll give you a third week's publication of the same ad FREE! (Ad text cannot be changed in mid-run; no refunds if ad is canceled before the completion of the three-week period.) Just check the box below and double your payment.

Yes, run my ad for a third week FREE.
I've enclosed payment for the first two weeks.

Your Name _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Please classify my ad under this heading: _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____ Check / Money Order

Please charge my credit card: _____

Visa / MasterCard / American Express Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

or you can call our office at (254) 675-3336 and place your ad over the phone.

AD TEXT - PLEASE PRINT

		\$5.00	\$5.20
			\$5.40
\$5.60	\$5.80	\$6.00	\$6.20
\$6.40	\$6.60	\$6.80	\$7.00
\$7.20	\$7.40	\$7.60	\$7.80
\$8.00	\$8.20	\$8.40	\$8.60
\$8.80	\$9.00	\$9.20	\$9.40
\$9.60	\$9.80	\$10.00	\$10.20
\$10.40	\$10.60	\$10.80	\$11.00

ICONOCLAST CLASSIFIED AD PAGE CATEGORIES

For Sale
Services
Wanted

For Rent
Public Notices

Garage Sales
Card of Thanks

Employment
Miscellaneous

Ohio Update

Ohio Residents File Petition To Contest Nov. 2 Election

COLUMBUS, Ohio — On the heels of investigations revealing possible voting irregularities in several Ohio counties, a number of Ohio citizens have joined to file a petition asking for a court hearing “to determine that the number of votes affected by the irregularities identified...are sufficient to declare the Kerry-Edwards ticket the winner of Ohio’s electoral votes for the office of President and Vice President for the terms commencing on Jan. 20, 2005, and that the certificates of election to the Bush-Cheney electors named as Defendants-Contestees be cancelled by operation of law...or in the alternative, that such irregularities, errors, frauds, and mistakes make the results of the election so uncertain that the Court should order the results of the election set aside...”

Accompanying the petition was an emergency motion filed “to protect evidence relevant to the contests.”

The latter request was filed after it was learned, via sworn affidavits, that certain voting machines had been tampered with prior to commencement of recounts.

Ray Beckerman, an attorney with Beldock Levine & Hoffman LLP, of New York, has been assisting with efforts to assure that the recount is held fairly, but is now of the strong opinion that the results of the 2004 Ohio election are fraudulent. He is heading up a grassroots effort to “investigate and prosecute the crimes committed in that ‘election’ against the citizens of Ohio, the American people, and our American way of life.”

“The evidence is overwhelming that the election in Ohio was stolen,” he said. “If we permit a second presidential election to be stolen, the rule of law, and with it democracy, are gravely imperiled in this country.”

Beckerman is calling upon citizens of every state to contact their Congressmen and demand that they vote against the seating of the Ohio electors.

Said Beckerman, “Remember, the President is not selected by the electoral college, but by the Congress of the United States when it meets on Jan. 6.

“It is now time for all of us to let our senators and congresspersons know, in no uncertain terms, how we feel about having the voting rights of Americans stripped away, and our country turned into a dictatorship of those who have the closest relationships with the voting machine manufacturers,” he said.

On his website <fairnessbybeckerman.blogspot.com> is posted a proclamation explaining why he and others feel it is important to not give up the fight in Ohio:

We the People Do Not Concede!

In a true America, leaders serve only with the consent of the governed, and that consent must be obtained by lawful elections that accurately measure the will of the voters. We shall not tolerate any violation of this fundamental principle, the SOLE moral tenet on which our nation was founded and has since relied.

The voting systems and practices used in the conduct of this past election are so clearly flawed that the results in nearly every state are wide open to corruption by systematic vote suppression, data manipulation, human and machine error, and consequently, willful fraud. The only certain result is that we can have NO confidence in how accurately they gauge the will of the electorate.

We refuse to further descend into the Stalinist perversion of “democracy;” in which “Those who cast the votes decide nothing. Those who count the votes decide everything.” Such was the clear underpinning of the 4-year-old edict of the 5 black-robed political operatives, who arrogated to themselves the perquisite of sentencing the nation by their fiat to live under appointed rule as op-

posed to elected leadership.

We the People, through our representatives, have set out our election laws to ensure that election results reflect OUR will. In far too many states, demonstrable errors and anomalous patterns of result have rendered the “official” tally suspect. More tragically, the systems and processes implemented by “experts” now make it impossible for us to rule out corruption without further investigation and audit.

Given the likely consequences of once again tacitly accepting corrupt results, the moral burden must now be on each state to prove, beyond a reasonable doubt, that their results are accurate and lawfully obtained. There is no other patriotic option.

But let us be clear, IF WE ARE UNABLE to obtain this proof under current election law, through civil and/or criminal judicial means, then we MUST RESORT to a political solution and demand that our Congress reject the electors from ANY STATE that fails to validate its results through comprehensive, apolitical investigation and audit.

Our law is intended to serve our will, not thwart it. We can never again allow a “technical” or “legal” arguments and rationalizations to trump reality as we did in 2000. NEVER AGAIN.

What We Require

To prove that their election results were lawfully obtained and reflect the will of the voters, we demand that each state:

Provide the data required to prove they did not create discriminatory barriers to voting.

Across the nation, people were forced to wait for hours to even attempt to cast their ballots. This onerous waiting time constitutes a de facto poll tax (time is money). Each state must provide data on wait times at each polling place, demographics of the registered voters served by the polling place, and the number of resources (voting machines, poll workers) assigned and working during operating hours. The burden is on the state to prove, not simply assert, that its practices were not discriminatory.

We will not accept any argument that the discrimination would not have affected the outcome. Such arguments are a sham. Are systematic violations of voting rights OK for those who live in a state in which the margin of victory for one candidate or the other is large? Of course not! Further, if any discrimination is found to be racially based, as was the legal finding of the US Commission on Civil Right in the 2000 Florida election, such a result is unlawful, as well as being intolerably immoral and contrary to American values.

Whatever the margin of victory or number of electoral votes, if any state FAILS TO PROVE that the existence

of poll-tax-lines, or any other unnecessary obstruction to voting, was not correlated with RACIAL, SOCIO-ECONOMIC, or PARTISAN STATUS of the voters, that state MUST NOT be afforded the privilege of participation in the electoral vote.

Provide to all responsible, professional investigators any necessary records and full access to systems and software, in order to PROVE THAT THE RESULTS WERE NOT CORRUPTED by manipulation, human or machine error, or fraud.

Acceptable investigators will be those sanctioned by any court, professional organization, political party, or other bonding entity willing to warrant their actions. These investigations must be provided the records and access required to examine:

- Every tabulation system that consolidates results at any level (e.g., GEMs tabulators).
- Every “black box” voting system.
- Every undervote, overvote, and spoiled ballot occurrence.
- Every voter registration record and known voter registration agents and entities.
- Every absentee ballot request, delivery record, return envelope, counted and disallowed ballot, any and all records of absentee vote and ballot disposition by any agent or entity.

· Every provisional counted and disallowed provisional ballot, unfulfilled provisional ballot request, provisional ballot inventories for each polling station, any and all records of provisional ballot disposition by any agent or entity.

ANY STATE THAT REFUSES to make every effort to successfully confirm that their published vote tallies are free from manipulation and/or error MUST BE considered morally irresponsible and acting contrary to agreed upon American values. There CAN BE NO ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE or rationalization that can compete with the restoration of confidence in our electoral process.

For such a circumstance there can be no other moral or patriotic response than full criminal investigation and prosecution, civil pursuit of maximum remedies for damage to the body politic, and DENIAL OF THE PRIVILEGE of participation in the Electoral College for any tainted, irregularly appointed, electors who might endeavor to infect the process.

We will accept no verbal assurances, no misleading representations from partial investigations, no shifting of responsibility onto the media or the public at large, and NO DELAY OF ANY KIND.

On this there can be NO COMPROMISE of what is required of us, NO RETREAT from our historic duty, and NO SURRENDER to any agent, foreign or domestic, that would even contemplate any act of obstruction.



Merry Christmas From Juvy Hall

This column began about three decades ago. I began working on it in 1985. I'm still not sure I've got it right, but it is my Christmas present to you, as it once was to me.

Christmas never meant that much to me.

Well, not after I quit sticking my feet under mama's table, anyway.

Most of my Christmases were spent in some bar or greasy spoon poring over a still-damp early edition with my byline and somebody else's bloody mistake all over it.

I had about as much goodwill in my soul as a multiple-car pileup or a family reunion shooting.

But that was before I had supper with Santa Claus.

It was called Pete's, or maybe Joe's, or the Deluxe Diner; someplace with enough chrome out front to grille a Cadillac and enough grease out back to lube one. About the only thing to recommend it was that it hadn't the decency to close on Christmas Eve.

He was sitting there in a dirty red suit that looked like it came from the north pole, alright, by way of the seedier parts of New Jersey. His hat and mittens lay in a crumpled heap on the only other occupied seat in the joint.

He was nursing a cup of bad coffee and line of worse jokes. The cook ignored him so he tried a few on the waitress. She wasn't buying, either. Humor doesn't sit well on hot griddles and flat feet.

More out of curiosity than compassion, boredom than benevolence, I sat down and soaked up a couple of his jokes.

His name was Meyer. He lived alone. He sensed he had an ear beside him primed for more than corny puns, so he filled it with his life's story.

His wife died. Car wreck. They said the guy was drunk. Who knows? To this day, he said, he still slept on the one side of the bed.

They had a son, born just in time for Khe San.

Bitter? Nah! He was an immigrant. Maybe if he hadn't come here, his sons would never have been born at all.

But he missed kids, so every year he put on the suit and went down to juvenile hall to play Santa . . .

Juvenile Hall? Jeez, Meyer, juvy hall? An orphan's home or the children's hospital maybe. But juvy hall? That's like delivering kittens to a hyena den! The

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



kids they lock up out there have broken glass for souls!

Yeah. This year a kid they had in isolation (That's the child psychology euphemism for solitary.) spit on him. Youngster about fifteen. You probably remember reading about him.

No. I wrote about him.

I remembered all right.

I remembered a pool of congealed blood next to a busted open candy machine.

I remembered a young woman with a couple of babies who would have to make do with a smiling cop's fading, black-draped picture instead of a father. She had that kind of stunned agony on her face people get when they've been told their life is over, but they've got to go on living anyway.

I remembered the obituary of a naive kid just out of the academy who once told his partner he didn't like wearing a gun, but if he did, maybe everybody else wouldn't have to.

I remembered a rap sheet on a youngster about fifteen that took up three pages.

He was a punk.

Now he was a killer.

"Lord, Meyer, what kind of kid spits on Santa Claus?"

"Exactly the kind of kid who needs to know there is a Santa Claus.

"Come on, Meyer, I been to more than three county fairs and a taffy pull. I don't want to hear that sheep dip about how there ain't no bad kids . . ."

"Oh no, there's bad kids. Lot's of 'em. And bad places where they come from and most of them never get out of. Sure there's bad kids. Why do you think I go down to juvy hall every year in this lousy suit and pretend not to die inside when I remember putting together an electric train for my little boy and talking to my Sarah about really important things like getting a new couch, or where we would send him to college or whether we should try to get a new car next year or the year after? I don't let all that kill my soul because there's bad kids. And because there's not much you or me or anybody can do about it except whatever we can."

"C'mon, Meyer, you're not even a Christian . . ."

"So maybe a guy from Nazareth wasn't a Jew? Lemme tell you something. When my boy died, they took a long time getting the body

home. So long I got mad about it. It seems sort of foolish now, but at the time it was important to me. So they finally told me why.

"See, he wounded. And this corpsman, this other kid named Reilly was carrying him. And when they got hit by this mortar shell, they got all mixed up together, and they took some time straightening things out. How many Jews you know named Reilly? Tell me how a Lace Curtain Mick from New Rochelle gets

mixed up in the same plastic sack with a Jew from Dallas. Maybe then we can talk more about Christians and Jews."

We talked some more. I don't remember about what. Christmas mostly.

I didn't notice until he said his good-byes and reached to pay for his coffee. As his hand extended across the counter, the frayed red sleeve hiked up about halfway to reveal a tattoo on the underside of his forearm; a series of dark blue numbers.

I sat for a long time after he left, staring at my own reflection against the moonless city night, thinking. Thinking about history; humankind, whatever that is. Thoughts. Deeds. Words.

Mostly some words I hadn't thought of in a long time, but have thought of quite a lot since:

"Fear not, for I bring you glad tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people, for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior . . ."



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters



— Editorial —

The Perfect Season

Congratulations, Crawford Pirates!

Congratulations, to the Crawford Pirates on their successful display of fortitude and perseverance through the 2004 football season.

The team defeated Troup last Saturday night to capture its first 2A Division II State Championship after knocking out 16-straight opponents.

Their triumph is the community's triumph.

Students, parents, coaches teachers, administrators — they all trained their eyes on a goal and worked together to make it happen.

The last time Crawford fought in the title

round was in 1994 when the 15 seniors of today were in the second grade

It might have taken 10 years to do it, but it was time well spent.

"Sometimes, you have those years where you do something, kind of just get on a roll, and it starts working. The kids believe in it, and it's awfully gratifying," said Head Coach Robert Murphy.

Indeed, it is.

Rarely is a small town blessed with excellence on and off the field. So unique is Crawford, Texas.

— Written By Nathan Diebenow and W. Leon Smith

The Cell Phone Incident — To End The Year

"I lost my cell phone in the pasture," I alerted my daughter, Becca, in Florida.

"That's the funniest thing you have ever called to report," she replied. I could hear her repeating my news to someone, "Hey, listen to this. . . . You won't believe what 'my mother

the farmer" just told me. . . ." I didn't consider it all that funny, myself. This will be somewhat of an inconvenience.

I advised Becca not to call that number for a few days unless she wanted to speak to some cow, deer, armadillo, skunk, possum, coyote, rac-

coon, fox, or jaguarondi. (And if one should answer, please ask him to bring the phone up to the house when he's finished calling relatives in Australia or wherever).

It had to happen sooner or later. I never did have a proper carrier for "taking my phone

on walks." Those that resemble little holsters have always seemed silly to me, a little too "Gunsmoke." I'd laugh to myself when I'd see some big ol'cowboy with an itty-bitty flip phone on his belt. But now I have to admit to seeing the wisdom of it. I mean, why have a cell phone for emergencies and then not take it along on horseback or working outdoors, when building fence or burning brush in the wilderness? And why have one and then stupidly lose it by not securing it in the proper receptacle? (Like me).

I assumed we'd just carry Zack's phone into the area where we have been burning huge piles of brush. We'd dial my number, hear it ring, and voila! Problem solved. — Piece of cake! That approach worked fine when I lost the same phone in the pecan bottom last year. I was practically standing on top of it when I made the first call and heard it ring.

—Well not this time! My call from Zack's phone just went right to the message function on my lost phone. This probably indicated I had dropped it in the creek or perhaps something a little less liquid and flowing. My son, Josh, the techno-expert (and comic) informed me later "It's common knowledge that cow dookie dampens ring tones."

I've retraced my steps (as best I can remember) about three times now. I was wandering hither and yon, picking up all manner of limbs and roots, tossing them into still smoldering burn piles. I figured a shiny, black phone would be easy to spot in a sea of dirt, brown grass, and gray ashes. But you know, it's amazing how calf poop can resemble a cell phone when you're trying your best to locate one in a pasture full of the stuff. I'd go from one dark spot to another, only to get close enough to say to myself, "Nope, THAT'S sure not my cell phone."

This has been our week for minor catastrophes. First, the showerhead fell off Zack's outdoor shower. — Just fell off for no good reason! This is what one (with the best of intentions) can expect when one special orders a super-duper, pricey item from CALIFORNIA. A weld in the "extra special," shiny, chrome pipes holding up the showerhead simply gave out after a few months of use. Zack replaced them with some equally super-duper, extra special, galvanized pipe from the local Ace Hardware store. These will probably hold forever, last longer than the fancy appliance itself. The shower works

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 writing a book about the minor catastrophes of life.

fine again, like nothing happened. I'm just glad no one was standing under it when the head decided to give way. It's one of those "sunflower" showerheads, big as a dinner plate. — Could probably knock you out cold. (Consider this a friendly consumer warning along the lines of "beware poisonous stowaway Indonesian spiders under public toilet seats!")

Friday night, I decided to dress up for a change. (This means I shucked my typical utilitarian work jeans, boots, and warm shirt or sweater. I put on more ladylike, "normal," city clothing. I don't think I even had paint on anything I wore, something of a miracle these days). I even donned a new necklace as I dressed to go into Waco. . . . And it left me somewhere between Home Depot, Barnes and Noble, and PetSmart. — Just slid off without a sound! Now, I ask you, how can that happen?

I hardly ever lose anything (and now twice in one weekend!) I was sure at first that the necklace must have dropped in the farmhouse or the yard before I left, that I would find it when I returned. But it was simply not to be. Sort of like the cell phone. . . . But no! Boy, was I disgusted. (I still am). That's what I get for wearing jewelry in the first place. It won't happen again soon, believe you me.

So I have lost two big items in three days. How exasperating! Probably dozens of things have been lost in these pastures over the years. The stuff we hope to find never surfaces again, but other things seem to pop up out of the ground like magic; ancient wire, parts of long ago farm implements, spent shotgun shells, even golf balls! (The latter really have us stumped!) These things appear in areas we have walked dozens of times. One day they aren't there, and the next day they simply ARE.

I'm hoping the cell phone incident will end the minor catastrophes for the holiday season, but probably not. I know how these things go. They have a way of coming in waves.

Have a happy, healthy New Year, everyone! I highly recommend super glue for securing all jewelry and cell phones to your person!

Interview With The Iconoclast

I was in the morgue.

That's where old copies of the newspaper wait patiently for either the recycle bin or a file box.

It was late at night and the stench of newsprint and ink filled the air.

At first I thought I was talking to myself, when suddenly I realized that I was being answered over in the corner, where a stack of ICONOCLASTS, neatly tied into a bundle, seemed to come alive. It was here that rested the last few copies of the very first edition of THE ICONOCLAST.

ICONOCLAST: What are you looking for?

ME: A back issue we ran during the summer. I need to look up a quote from an editorial I wrote about Iraq.

ICONOCLAST: Speaking of issues, there is one I want to take up with you, now that we are alone.

ME: Oh, really. What's that?

ICONOCLAST: You never explained to me the reason for altering my figure.

ME: Your what?

ICONOCLAST: My figure. In November, you made me shorter and fatter. Is that any way to treat a friend?

ME: Call it a muscle-building exercise. We converted you into a tabloid, so you would have more pages and we could keep you better organized. You have also been on a low-advertising, high news fiber diet and your circulation is improving, so you're very fit.

ICONOCLAST: Oh.

ME: So it wasn't personal.

ICONOCLAST: I don't mind what you did, but I just wondered why.

ME: Aha, there it is...the editorial. (I stop and read a paragraph.) That's what I thought it said. I guess I am now through in here.

ICONOCLAST: Before you turn out the lights, let me ask you another question.

ME: Sure.

ICONOCLAST: You know, we are near the end of the year, a time for contemplating change. Do you have anything in store for me? I know

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



this has been a fairly tumultuous year. Do I need to brace myself for 2005?

ME: Well, for one thing, we are hoping that your reproductive system shifts into overdrive.

ICONOCLAST: I'm not a rabbit, you know.

ME: I realize that, but you've now come of age. It's time to make your way in the world, which is the destiny I have laid out for you, and as a newspaper, that means being read. The more you reproduce, the more you are read. It's a scientific and mathematical principle. Just ask Galileo.

ICONOCLAST: You bring Galileo to your argument, but I know you better than that. When it comes to change, you tend to go with Darwin. You are forever evolving me.

ME: You, maybe. But, actually, I am probably the most conservative person you'll ever meet. I just believe in real conservatism, not the fake brand that's being embraced by big shots who are proponents of the visions of Eric Blair. And, no, I don't mean Tony Blair. I mean the guy who used the penname of George Orwell. But, you know, I have a liberal side, too, just like most folks. That which applies depends upon time, space, place, and the directions of the human race.

ICONOCLAST: Okay. Gotcha, but stick to prose.

ME: You know, ever since you were a little brat, I have told the public where you came from. You are the namesake of Brann's Iconoclast and your playground is where your ancestor lived and died many years ago.

ICONOCLAST: Do I have to listen to that story again?

ME: No. But I just want you to remember that you were conceived with the best of intentions and with a mission that we have been exploiting somewhat more since your graduation in September

when you sweated out droplets of ink into the form of an editorial that many hated and many loved. I realize that you were not prepared to graduate on that date, and I didn't expect it to happen either, but it did. So now you have a unique responsibility. You've grown up.

ICONOCLAST: So you have raised me to be a dog.

ME: A watchdog, in a sense. What's wrong with that? Think of all the great bones you will get to chew on. I expect any dog of mine to have both a bark and a bite.

ICONOCLAST: Okay. What you are saying with your petty little metaphor is that I should get ready for a tough time in 2005.

ME: I'm saying you should get ready for anything. Watchdogs must rendezvous with truth and, in our business, tell it like it is. Just try not to grab the cup towel that's attached to the hubcap, if you know what I mean.

ICONOCLAST: Do you predict that 2005 will be a good year?

ME: It could be the best of times or the worst of times.

ICONOCLAST: Dickens. There you go again. Who have you not quoted in our talk?

ME: I have not quoted those in power who remain silent, for they are the ones who can be the most dangerous. They are the ones upon whom your senses will be trained. It goes back to the idea of a hidden agenda.

ICONOCLAST: What great piece of literature are you writing now?

ME: My column. I want to tell my readers that we pledge to do our best to let them know the truth about what is going on in our country and that you will be the sheet that carries the message.

ICONOCLAST: (thinks about it a few seconds) You know, I think I'm up for that. Tell your readers to subscribe to me and tell your printer to bring out a few extra rolls of newsprint. I think we can do this.

ME: You just told them. By the way, Merry Christmas.

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

I am tired of listening to people in urban areas asking "why should we care about government?" I am tired of young people and the general population who would rather know all the facts about some reality television show and not about the real world, and I'll tell you why. That way of thinking is what the current people in power want. They want you to think that no matter what you do nothing is going to change. Just think about it, the amount of people in one low income housing project can influence an election and that is real power. Yet how many people in those types of neighborhoods actually vote? Why has it been such a difficult effort to bring out the young vote?

There is also another thinking that I am tired of and that is the "what are you going to do for me?" thought process. Its not about what one person can do to help you, it's about what can we do to help each other? Just because you live in an area that is less affluent it does not mean it cannot be beautiful and peaceful with excellent schools. People who live there should fight to make it that way. That's where the elected person comes in, and then the question is will you help me help myself and others? People in these situations need to realize that they deserve the same rights and services that others are afforded. Change does not happen overnight, but if you do nothing then it never changes.

J.G. — Hartsdale, NY
Editor,

The news is full of the alarming, would-be-funny-if-they-weren't-so-tragic, GOP antics. Our Congress is a national embarrassment; the Executive branch is thoroughly corrupt; the judiciary full of the best judges money and crackpot ideology can buy; the U.S. media overtaken by crony advertisers and propagandists. So, why am I smiling? Because, progressives (and reason) invariably will prevail and here's why:

The wingnuts are doomed by their own arrogance. They already have exposed themselves for the fanatics they are. First, understand their Orwellian bastardization of every concept they claim to hold dear: Christianity (missing one thing: Jesus); Freedom (locking people up isn't freedom — nor is torturing (YES, TORTURING, not "abusing") killing them and depriving

them of their Constitutional and basic human rights); Ownership society (they own; you pay); Democracy (=capitalism. Except that Democracy has nothing to do with Capitalism and may well be inimical to it). They have

Between their numerous attempts to impose their own special brand of anti-christianism (no Christians are they) into our schools to brainwash our children with the following inanities including, but not limited to the following: (1) foisting of creationism into curriculum to the exclusion of any other theories. Of course, no creation myth will be "taught" except the Judeo Christian one, although every religion and culture has its own creation myth; (3) requiring pseudo-christian prayer (again, only Christian prayer, mind you... Muslim students just leave your prayer rugs at home; ushering out vital health science to replace it with arcane and asinine, long-discredited fairy tales (such as the preposterous claim that touching someone's genitals can make you pregnant). Recently, something even MORE outrageous (if you can believe it possible) has surfaced:

In one of North Carolina's LARGEST school district, the following "educational literature" has been distributed by leaders at Cary Christian School, claiming their use of the booklet, "Southern Slavery, As It Was," does not condone slavery.

Judge for yourself: here are some quotes:

"Slave life was to them a life of plenty, of simple pleasures, of food, clothes, and good medical care." (page 25); "But many Southern blacks supported the South because of long established bonds of affection and trust that had been forged over generations with their white masters and friends." (page 27) "Nearly every slave in the South enjoyed a higher standard of living than the poor whites of the South — and had a much easier existence."

See the entire travesty at: <http://newsobserver.com/news/story/1913619p-8258411c.html>.

Having thus exposed their silly and extremist agenda, they can only be forced publicly to defend it. As most of us (in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world) are no longer ignorant prehistoric dwellers their absurd explanations and fruit loopy logic will quickly wear

thin. Undaunted by any rational ability to accept either their many blunders, missteps and serious failures or the devastating tsunami-like effects of their uninformed decisions, they will continue to impose their extreme and misguided will on all of us. Their obvious contempt for the rest of the world, fueled by this arrogance, will ultimately reveal that our fearless leaders are ignorant, arrogant and ultimately, have no clothes. Thus, the extreme fascists who have taken over this country (See www.pnac.org) are doomed to self-destruct by arrogant overreach.

The anti-christian right are dinosaurs who know they will be left behind by a progressive, more loving world full of individuals and nations who value people more than money and who understand that the quality of life involves things more important than our reflection and bank accounts; our zip codes, titles, the clothes we wear and the cars we drive. Most civilized people in the world have left these shallow values behind to step into a larger, brighter universe and to live the life that (the real) Jesus advocated. This is why the GOP's face is the rabid-jackal Zell Miller. Despite having garnered control of all major media outlets; despite having gone to the expense and trouble to fix the last three national elections, only slightly over a fifth of the population (if polls are even to be believed) are on board with the American Taliban. In other words, they are losing and they know it. That's why they're fighting so hard and striking out so rabidly. This is their last hurrah. Our time has come. Time to strike the empire down and resurrect our beloved Republic.

The Iconoclast is a perfect example of exactly what I'm talking about. Only you, Mr. Smith, had the courage and more important, the respect for the First Amendment, this nation and its Constitution; its people and the absolute vitality of a strong and FREE PRESS as an ally of the people to steward THEIR government; that's why WE OWN THE AIRWAVES FOLKS. Great job, keep it up!

P.S. — California
To The Editor:

Our great humanitarian, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, received news of the end of the war in Europe at midday May 7. He wrote these words:

"I was sitting at my table,

writing urgent letters when a white patient (this was in an African hospital) shouted that an armistice had been concluded. I had to keep on with my hospital work while bells were ringing and the community gathered to hear the joyful news! I had to drag myself to the plantation to see how the work was progressing. Not until evening could I begin to think and imagine, the meaning of the end of hostilities...

"While palms were gently rustling outside in the darkness, I took from my shelf my little book with the saying of Lao-tse, the great Chinese thinker of 600 BC. These are his impressive words on war and victory:

"Weapons are disastrous implements, no tools for a noble being. Only when he cannot do otherwise, does he make use of them. Quiet and peace are for him the highest. He conquers, but he knows no joy in it. He, who would rejoice in victory, would be rejoicing in murder.

At the victory celebration, the general should take his place, as in the custom of funeral ceremonies. The slaughter of human beings in great numbers should be lamented with tears of compassion. Therefore should he, who has conquered in battle, bear himself as if he were at a festival of mourning."

It seems most of Earth's humanity needs an enlightened Spiritual Wake-up call...as that above.

E.A. — San Jose, Calif.

To The Editor:

Thank you for using your credentials, expertise, and opportunities to inform your

readers of the situation and problems with our administration and the Republican citizens.

You are appreciated!

Sincerely,

Mrs. B.B., Temple, Texas

Dear Editor:

Some Florida politicians not only want our nation to join the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, they want its headquarters to be located in Miami. Their reason? It will mean thousands of jobs for those who will staff the gigantic bureaucracy they hope to see created. Both Florida Governor Jeb Bush and U.S. Rep. Katherine Harris support creation of the FTAA, and they state as one of their reasons the new jobs Miami will gain if it is selected to be the pact's headquarters. They don't acknowledge the fact that many jobs in Florida, as well as in numerous other states, have left our nation because of already existing trade pacts such as NAFTA.

Our nation doesn't need non-producing government jobs in a future FTAA or any other bureaucratic agency. Gov. Bush and Ms. Harris seem to think that having government hire anyone who doesn't have a job can cure unemployment and economic slowdown. America wasn't built that way. But it certainly can be destroyed by such a foolish attitude.

The FTAA will destroy many more American jobs than any newly created bureaucracy could possibly hire. So NO to FTAA!

Sincerely,

T.M. — Waco, Texas

A SPECIAL MESSAGE OF CHANGE

OVER 48+ YEARS

Our Farm Group Still Offers the Stability of
Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO Coverage

Group Plan Available Through
Texas Farmers Union

BLUE CHOICE MANAGED CARE

COVERAGE INCLUDES BENEFITS FOR:

- *Hospital Expense
- *Physician Expenses
- *Preventative Expenses
- *Maternity Expenses
- *\$1,000,000.00 Lifetime Maximum



Blue Cross
Blue Shield



FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:

Texas Farmers Union

P.O. Box 7276

Waco, Texas 76714 Phone: 1-800-299-3276

Rates
Guaranteed
to 4-1-05



The Lone Star 
ICONOCLAST
PROTECTING THE BRAND

BLACK GOLD...TEXAS TEEEEEEEE-shirt

More than just a statement of fashion...

... a statement of

INDEPENDENCE

The Lone Star Iconoclast
"Protecting the Brand"

T-SHIRT

100% cotton, short sleeve, white t-shirt
Adult sizes: S - M - L - XL - XXL - XXXL

\$19.95 ea.
+ shipping

SEND ORDERS TO:
THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST
P.O. BOX 420
CRAWFORD, TX 76638



Indicate # of each size **T-Shirt Order Form** # shirts: _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ X \$19.95 _____

Name: _____ + s/h: _____
(see below)

Mailing Address: _____ = Total: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Cash / Check
 Visa / MasterCard
 Phone: _____ American Express

Shipping & Handling: 1 shirt . . \$5.39
 each additional shirt... \$2.50