

**INSIDE
STORIES**



**To Death
Taxes,
Says
Farm Bureau**
Page 8



Staffers Of
The
**LONE STAR
ICONOCLAST**
Wish You A
**HAPPY
NEW
YEAR!**

**Time Marches On
365 Days A Year**
By Don M. Fisher
Page 9

**Fort Worth
Named For
Forgotten Hero**
This Week In
Texas History
Page 10



The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



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What Really Happened On 9/11?

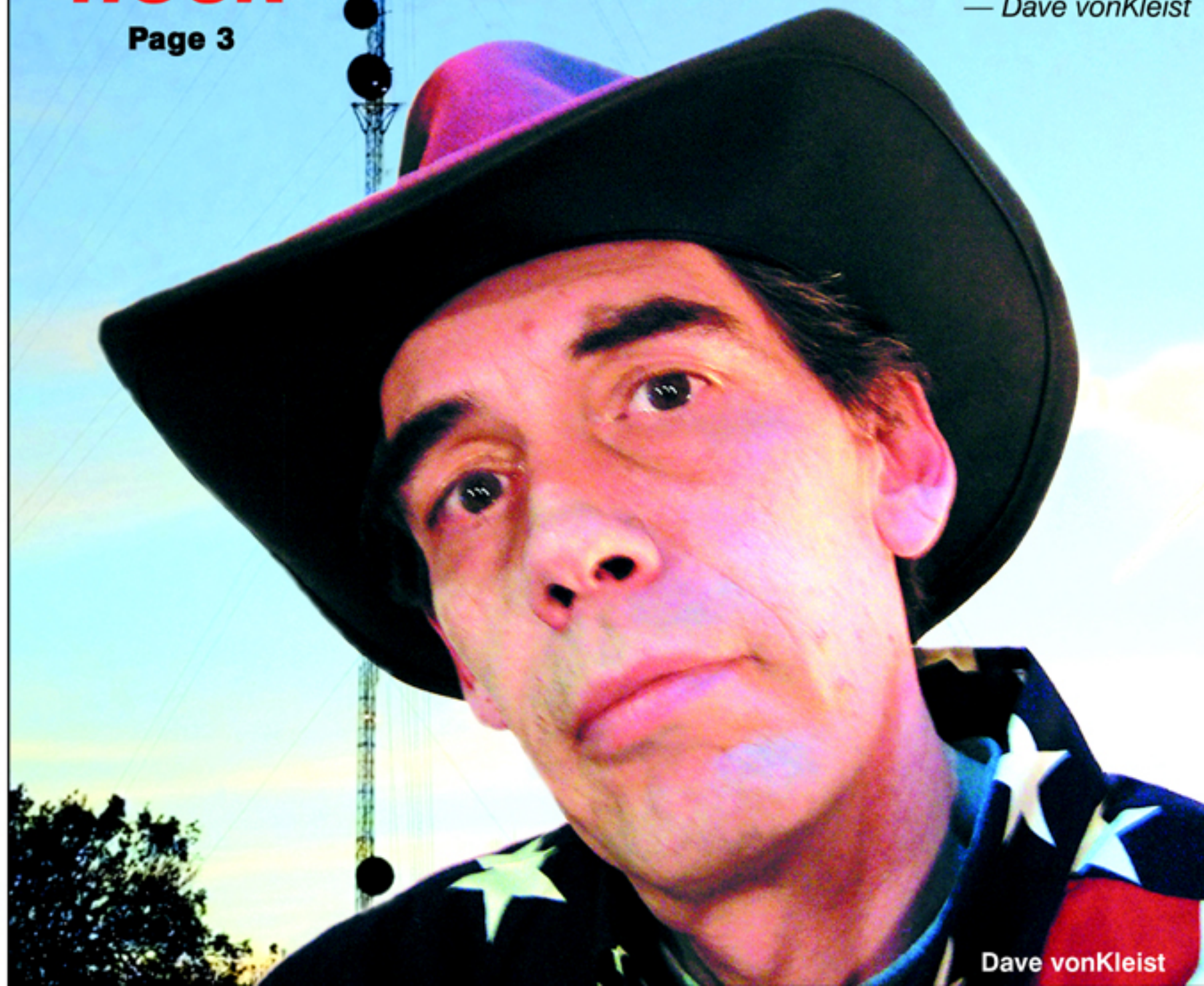
Iconoclast
Interviews
Dave
vonKleist,
Host Of
**THE
POWER
HOUR**

Page 3

Dave vonKleist's Documentary
'911 In Plane Site'
Revisits Disaster,
Raises Question Of Cover-Up

"... the information that was given to the American people to justify the current war we're fighting over there in Iraq and the one that we had in Afghanistan were based upon misinformation and propaganda."

— Dave vonKleist



Dave vonKleist

ACLU: FBI Records Call DoD's Methods 'Torture'

NEW YORK — The White House, in response to released documents suggesting that President Bush issued an Executive Order authorizing the use of inhumane interrogation methods against detainees in Iraq, said the Department of Defense would "get to the bottom of" the allegations of prisoner abuses.

The American Civil Liberties Union and other public interest groups last week made available to the public thought the Freedom of Information Act several FBI emails and memos that stated torture methods were used by military interrogators posing as FBI agents to sidestep responsibility. One document describes an account given by an FBI agent who had "observed numerous physical abuse incidents of Iraqi civilian detainees," including "strangulation, beatings, [and] placement of lit cigarettes into the detainees ear openings."

"These documents raise grave questions about where the blame for widespread detainee abuse ultimately rests," said ACLU Executive Director Anthony D. Romero. "Top government officials can no longer hide from public scrutiny by pointing the finger at a few low-ranking soldiers."

The White House denied the charge that President Bush okayed by Executive Order the

interrogation methods including sleep deprivation, stress positions, the use of military dogs, and "sensory deprivation through the use of hoods, etc." The emails, which were heavily redacted, were primarily sent between FBI officials.

Another e-mail, dated December 2003 several months after photos from Abu Ghraib prison were released showing U.S. soldiers humiliating naked prisoners, describes an incident in which Defense Department interrogators at Guantánamo Bay impersonated FBI agents while using "torture techniques" against a detainee.

The email concludes, "If this detainee is ever released or his story made public in any way, DOD interrogators will not be held accountable because these torture techniques were done [sic] the 'FBI' interrogators. The FBI will [sic] left holding the bag before the public."

The document also says that no "intelligence of a threat neutralization nature" was garnered by the "FBI" interrogation, and that the FBI's Criminal Investigation Task Force (CITF) believes that the Defense Department's actions have destroyed any chance of prosecuting the detainee. The email's author writes that he or she is documenting the incident "in order

to protect the FBI."

"The methods that the Defense Department has adopted are illegal, immoral, and counterproductive," said ACLU staff attorney Jameel Jaffer. "It is astounding that these methods appear to have been adopted as a matter of policy by the highest levels of government."

Other torture techniques described in the email reports include a detainee left in a room at extremely hot temperatures who pulled his hair out and another detainee wrapped in an Israeli flag and hit with loud

music and strobe lights.

FBI emails note that the FBI has prohibited its agents from employing the techniques that the President is said to have authorized, and the provider of this information to the FBI knew someone was covering up these abuses.

A Pentagon spokesman said the impersonation of FBI agents is not an interrogation method approved by Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld.

The Pentagon says its operations at Guantánamo Bay are humane operation and in-

vestigates all allegations of abuse. A number of military personnel have also been charged with prisoner abuse in Afghanistan.

According to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling last summer, prisoners at Guantánamo are allowed to challenge their detentions through the U.S. court system. One military review has already found a second detainee at Guantánamo Bay wrongly classified as an enemy combatant, but the Pentagon has since installed tribunals to combat any court challenge.

TIME Magazine's Two Faces: Bush & Arar

CRAWFORD — While President-elect George W. Bush last week was named TIME magazine's Person of the Year for 2004 for "bold, uncompromising leadership, and clear-cut election victory," the title of TIME's Canadian Newsmaker of the Year went to Maher Arar, a 34-year-old naturalized Canadian citizen who was unjustly detained by U.S. authorities and survived a Syrian torture chamber to talk about it.

TIME chose Bush "for sticking to his guns (literally and figuratively), for reshaping the rules of politics to fit his 10-gallon-hat leadership style and for persuading a majority of voters this time around that he deserved to be in the White House for another four years," Jim Kelly wrote in the magazine.

TIME tapped Arar "for taking on the national-security agencies in two countries and for stepping courageously into the public realm despite the cost to himself and his family," according to writers Joan Bryden and Chris Daniels.

More specifically, the Canadian software engineer originally from Damascus was detained by U.S. Officials in 2002 at New York City's JFK Airport for alleged links to al-Qaeda. Without the Canadian government's notification, Arar was deported to Syria, tortured, and later set free on Oct. 5, 2003.

He said he went public with his story be-

cause of a "responsibility as a Canadian and as a human being to talk about it." "There are people who are being tortured now as we speak," he said. "There are people who are being jailed unjustly."

Arar's U.S. lawsuit has yet to move into the discovery phase, an investigation which would shed light on the U.S. government's involvement into his deportation to Syria. U.S. officials have remained silent on the matter. Two other cases have been reported which might show signs of a conspiracy, if proven to be true.

Last year, "The American Soldier" was the American magazine's Person of the Year. North of the U.S. border that same year, TIME's pick for Newsmaker of the Year went to Michael Leshner, 56, and Michael Stark, 45, a homosexual couple that married in Toronto.

President Bush is no stranger to TIME's POTY cover. He attained it once before in 2000 after he won the presidential election despite losing the popular vote. President George H.W. Bush was named Person of the Year in 1990.

Karl Rove, the president's political adviser, and filmmakers Michael Moore and Mel Gibson, were also up for the "honor" this year. Unpopular selections have included Adolf Hitler in 1938, Joseph Stalin in 1939 and 1942, and Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in 1979.

U.S. aviator Charles Lindbergh was TIME's first Man of the Year in 1927.

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What Really Happened On 9/11?

Dave vonKleist's Documentary '911 In Plane Site'

Revisits Disaster, Raises Question Of Cover-Up

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

VERSAILLES, Mo. — What really happened on 9/11/2001? Dave vonKleist, a champion for veterans rights, has released a documentary featuring video evidence that raises the spectre of a massive cover-up.

Directed by William Lewis, the original *911 In Plane Site* has been reincarnated as *911 In Plane Site — The Director's Cut*, offering additional footage.

Said vonKleist, "Due to the overwhelming response of *911 In Plane Site*, we were able to collect mountains of new footage and photographs from sources all over the world. We can now say, without a shadow of a doubt, that we have undeniable evidence of a massive cover-up."

He added, "From the 16 ft. hole in the outer walls of the Pentagon, to the news reports of bombs, explosions, and potential demolition of World Trade Centers 1, 2, and 7, to the strange attachment on the bottom of Flight 175 and the mysterious flashes caught on videotape by at least five separate sources, it is clear — 911 was an inside job."

As radio host of *The Power Hour*, vonKleist explained that the primary mission of the show is to not only focus on the news "the major networks seem to lose," but to emphasize support for the veterans of the United States.

"We have long reported on the experimentation of our troops that has gone on for over 50 years," he said. "We serve to be a beacon for the truth behind the failure of this country to address the real needs of medical treatment and compensation. We provide a free two-hour video to all Gulf War veterans who write to us and request it," at *The Power Hour*, P.O. Box 85, Versailles, MO 65084.

The *Power Hour* can be heard on various stations. Information regarding listings can be accessed at <www.thepowerhour.com>. The documentary may also be ordered from this site.

In an exclusive interview

with *THE ICONOCLAST*, vonKleist noted that his investigation had raised some serious questions:

- How does a plane over 44 feet tall fit into a hole which is only 16 feet in diameter, as shown in the crystal-clear photographic evidence taken at the Pentagon?

- Why does photographic evidence taken moments after the event show no wreckage on the lawn of the Pentagon?

- Why weren't American and the rest of the world shown the video and photos of the Pentagon, before the outer wall collapsed?

- Why is there a "pod" attached to the bottom of Flight 175 and what purpose did it serve in the attacks?

- What is the bright flash seen right before impact on both the North Tower and the South Tower, captured on video by five independent cameramen?

- Why did a FOX News employee report seeing no windows on Flight 175, a commercial United Airlines jetliner?

- Why were there numerous reports of bombs and explosions going off in and around the World Trade Center before any buildings collapsed?

- Why did firefighters, reporters, and other on-the-scene eyewitnesses describe a demolition-like, pancake col-

lapse of buildings One, Two, and Seven?

The documentary explores these questions with video, "some of which was broadcast only once as live reports," noted vonKleist, who was able to obtain footage that he says has since been kept from public scrutiny.

During an hour-long question-and-answer session, vonKleist discussed the documentary and the thoughts behind it with the *ICONOCLAST*'s W. Leon Smith:

ICONOCLAST: Can you tell me about the Power Hour?

VONKLEIST: Well, we've been on the air for I guess about 4½ years now, and we sort of report all the news that they hope and pray you never hear.

I co-host a program with my wife, Joyce Riley, who's been an activist for veterans for many years, has been a spokesperson for the American Gulf War Veterans Association, and has been basically trying to draw attention to the fact that our military has been used as guinea pigs for decades and the first cold war was no different.

We have guys that are sick and dying and continue to be sick and continue to die and who are starting to come back sick and now they're dying, so this thing is happening all over again. But anyway, she and I co-host the radio talk show. She's kind of like the meat and potatoes of the information, and I'm the salt and pepper and occasional cayenne.

ICONOCLAST: Do you have support of a lot of veterans?

VONKLEIST: Oh, we sure do. We've been in contact with veterans. We offer them free information. We have been since 1995. Any veteran of the Gulf War or even Vietnam that writes to us and asks for information, we'll send them a free video, we send out document packages.

In many cases if they are ill and they're having medical problems, we send them some free products that may help them or may not. We don't want to make any claims, for obvious reasons, but we try to



More Than Just A Theory

Dave vonKleist points out in this screen shot from "911 In Plane Site" that the questions raised regarding the 9/11 disaster goes beyond being a conspiracy theory, but was indeed a conspiracy.

help them out anyway that we can because they've definitely been given the short end of the stick by the Veterans Administration and their government officials.

ICONOCLAST: So your wife is the one who got you into this by her being in support of the veterans real strong? Is that what you're saying?

VONKLEIST: I was sort of into it on my own. I lived up in the northeast. Joyce was living in Houston and I was hosting a radio talk show in Waterbury, Connecticut and I had heard her on another radio talk show and called her up and invited her to come on my program.

I've been in broadcasting since the late 70s, so I'm no stranger to broadcasting. I was doing my own radio show when she was doing a radio show in Houston. That's basically how we met, through radio, and eventually joined forces in 1996, and we got married, and we've been fighting together ever since.

ICONOCLAST: What about your background...where did you grow up?

VONKLEIST: Well, I grew up all over the place actually. My father was in the Air Force. As a child I lived in New York City; Miami, Florida; San Antonio; Anchorage, Alaska; Cape Cod, Mass; and a couple other places in between. I don't even remember at this point.

ICONOCLAST: What called your attention to the 911

situation?

VONKLEIST: On Sept. 11, Joyce and I were on the air. We had just gone on live at 9:00 eastern time, 8:00 central. At that particular time the north tower had already been struck and all the television coverage was live, so we went on the air at the exact top of the hour and the first thing I did before I even said "Good Morning" was "Ladies and Gentlemen, wherever you are, whatever you're doing, stop, run to your VCR, put a blank tape in, and being recording any network you can get good reception on."

And as a result we ended up with a lot of video tapes that people copied and sent to us with coverage of all the different networks. Now, at the time we didn't quite know what to do with them. I basically put them aside, put them on the shelf, because I think for the first month America and the world was in shock. I don't think anyone was in a position to really start beginning all kinds of investigations and all that and was basically trying to heal.

In February, I believe, of 2002, there was a website that we came across entitled "Hunt The Boeing! And Test Your Perceptions!" and that was raising questions as to whether or not a 757 had hit the Pentagon.

When I first heard this, I, along with almost everybody else in the country said, "These people must be crazy. See vonKleist, Page 4



What Really Happened On 9/11?

• vonKleist

Continued From Page 3

These Frenchies are nuts. I've gotta prove them wrong."

So I went to the magazines that we had purchased at the supermarket, PEOPLE magazine, NEWSWEEK, TIME, and all the other commemorative editions. There must have been a dozen of them at one time, and I started going through all the photographs to try to find any photographic evidence that supported the contention that a 757 hit the Pentagon and the more that I looked, the more questions were raised as to whether or not that had actually happened.

So after going through this, I began to come to the conclusion that maybe these questions were very valid ones and maybe we should consider that maybe something else had happened at the Pentagon and that a 757 strike was a cover story.

So I ended up writing an article entitled "From Deception to Revelation." The day that we posted it on our website, powerhour.com, I received an e-mail with a series of photographs that were taken before the collapse of the outer ring.

Now, most Americans have never seen these photographs and, in fact, most Americans see the pictures of the collapse of the Pentagon and assume that that was what happened as a direct result of the strike of a 757. Well, the simple fact is that that collapse did not occur until 20 or 30 minutes after "the event."

Now these photographs that were taken before the collapse clearly show the firefighters arriving at the scene and pulling hoses off of their trucks and the flame retardant foam being sprayed down on the face of

the Pentagon. They also clearly show that there was a small hole about 16 to 20 feet and no wreckage. The question is how do you take a 757, cram it into a 20 foot hole and leave no wreckage outside. So these were very legitimate questions.

I have to assume, Leon, that you've seen all of this information.

ICONOCLAST: Oh yes...About how many copies have you distributed? Is it getting up to the public?

VONKLEIST: Oh, absolutely. I know that the first release was somewhere between 15 and 20 thousand. The new release is just now getting out there. I haven't even taken a count yet. We're just now starting to get these out. We do have a group in Japan that



Dave vonKleist

contacted us a while back and they wanted to make a Japanese translation and distribute it over there, and that's done. As a matter of fact I got a copy in the mail last week. They're already out there with a Japanese translation. There's also a book that goes along with the English and Japanese and photographs. So I mean this is getting very serious legs. It's already been translated into Spanish, and as we speak it's being translated into Arabic, Russian, Pharisee, Korean, Ti, and Chinese. So it's going all over the world right now.

"Now, most Americans have never seen these photographs and, in fact, most Americans see the pictures of the collapse of the Pentagon and assume that that was what happened as a direct result of the strike of a 757. Well, the simple fact is that that collapse did not occur until 20 or 30 minutes after 'the event.'"

— Dave vonKleist

ICONOCLAST: Have any members of Congress or the Senate seen this?

VONKLEIST: All I can say is that we've sent copies to Washington. We sent them certified return receipts to representatives. One of our listeners in Florida made a donation so that we would send a copy to every one of his state representatives which we did, certified return receipt, and I would say about half of them came back unopened.

So the silence is deafening. We did send copies to the major agencies in Washington D.C. along with a letter.

If you go to the website, 911 In Plane Site, and look for the heading that says DOD Response, you will see a copy of the letter that we sent along with the copy of the video and

you will also see the one and only response that we have received and it just so happens to be sent from Rumsfeld's office and they did not address any of the questions that were raised.

We asked six specific questions in this letter and they didn't address one of them.

The only one that they did touch upon in regard to the Pentagon was a statement that they said, "We are not interested in contributing to conspiracy theories." So they won't address this information.

They won't even acknowledge the questions let alone give answers.

ICONOCLAST: If that's the case, then as far as U.S. Congress and Senators, half of them came back unopened?

VONKLEIST: The ones that we sent out, yes.

ICONOCLAST: What is your goal in this?

VONKLEIST: I'm trying to avert a global thermo-nuclear catastrophe.

We have a president of the United States that thinks nothing about going on worldwide television discussing a possible preempted strike against countries like Iran and North Korea, and yet our country now has been found out to have launched two wars based upon bad intel.

They said that they had WMDs. We never found them.

They said that they were bringing in materials for developing nuclear weapons. That's turned out to be false.

So the information that was given to the American people to justify the current war we're fighting over there in Iraq and the one that we had in Afghanistan were based upon misinformation and propaganda.

"We have become so complacent and apathetic that you can have horrendous acts of treason happening right under your nose, such as the case that is going on with our veterans, and yet the people will sit back and do absolutely nothing."

— Dave vonKleist

The world knows this and yet the United States continues its acts of aggression, so when George W. is on television and talks about a preempted strike, I can't help but think that there are many, many, many other countries looking in our direction considering the same option.

ICONOCLAST: So there may be a bad intel as far as what they may do to us?

VONKLEIST: Absolutely. Again, we had the Tony Blair issue talking about the WMD, the nuclear materials from Nigeria. We had Colin Powell testify before the UN and we know that he was lying, too. And this in the information they used to legitimize our launching an attack half a world away.

How can we as Americans say that we love our country and that we're patriotic Americans when we have a government that is willing to lie to launch a war and then when we find out that they were lying we do nothing to them?

ICONOCLAST: As far as the major media goes, have you been interviewed several times or at all?

VONKLEIST: It depends on what you define as mainstream media.

ICONOCLAST: Well, I would say big daily papers, like the NEW YORK TIMES perhaps or FOX Network or MSNBC.

VONKLEIST: We've had contacts from them. "Would you please send us a copy of your DVD for a review?" And I'd be more than happy to. We send them off to them and then we never hear from them again.

The mainstream, big time networks, at this point, are just absolutely silent on this subject, with the exception of the pass couple weeks they have had Jimmy Walter on.

My particular take is that the mainstream media are directly involved in the cover-up of all this information. A perfect example in that particular interview with Geraldo, he did show a couple of clips. There were four clips, but they didn't show you the other side of the clip. They cut the clip off each time before we got to the salient point. It's sort of like setting up a joke and not people the punch line. They did that four times. Then, again, if you look at the whole thing at our website you'll see how they handled the clips and you'll see the full clip. They took it off before it showed the full information.

ICONOCLAST: Have you

had any repercussions, threats from the public?

VONKLEIST: We believe that the powers that be do not want this information out there. My director, William Lewis, who did a marvelous job with this thing and has been a videographer for years, sent down the master for the duplication of the DVD and for whatever reason it would not read properly.

So he burned another master and sent that down and we sent it with FedEx and when that one got there it wouldn't read properly either. He had known the person at the duplication plant for quite some time, and they know each other, and the duplication guy knows that William knows what he's doing. So they got on the phone here and he said well what is the problem?

The duplication guy said he'd would take a look at this thing on the scope to see what the problem was and it turns out that there was a very lightly etched, very strategically placed laser cut on the surface of the DVD, the master.

This had been sent not once, but twice by Federal Express, so I'm not saying that somebody busted into that envelope and did that, but the disk went from William's machine into the envelope into this guy's hand. So I don't know whether there was sabotage or what, but that's basically what happened. Actually there were a total of five different attempts to get this video into their hands. So there's something going on. I don't know what it is. I can't say and I won't say, but there's something wrong in this picture.

ICONOCLAST: So they need to reopen the 911 investigation you think?

VONKLEIST: What investigation? I don't believe that there was one at all. There's something really wrong in this country when you can spend nearly \$800 million investigating Monica Lewinski and a cigar and yet you look at the situation with the Sept. 11 attack and how much have they spent? \$60-65 million? What's wrong with this picture?

ICONOCLAST: So you get these out, people become aware of it and what do they do? What needs to happen to remedy this attack?

VONKLEIST: The general public has no clue as to what it takes to be a patriotic American anymore.

The fact of the matter is that
See COLLAPSE, Page 5

What Really Happened On 9/11?

• COLLAPSE

Continued From Page 4

the only way to get a rise out of the American people today is to cancel a beer delivery and one football game. We have become so complacent and apathetic that you can have horrendous acts of treason happening right under your nose, such as the case that is going on with our veterans, and yet the people will sit back and do absolutely nothing. They don't want to be the first ones on the dance floor. They don't want to apply elbow grease. They don't want to get their fingernails dirty. They don't want to get involved. They don't want to stick it out.

The sad fact is that we as Americans should be proud to be the first ones on the dance floor to get the party going. And unfortunately that's not the case anymore.

People don't want to know this type of information because along with knowledge comes responsibility and nobody wants to be responsible. Nobody wants to say "Hey, look, I'm gonna have to go to that demonstration." Oh, you know, demonstrations went out in the 60s. People buy into the propaganda or the brainwashing all these years. All the "My vote doesn't count" or "I'm only one person" or "What can I do?" All of this stuff serves one purpose and that's to basically emasculate or neuter anybody from actually getting involved.

Now I hate to coin a phrase that's been demonized by the powers that be, but nonetheless it was said by Thomas Jefferson that the tree of liberty must occasionally be nourished by the blood of tyrants and patriots. And the sad fact of the matter is that we are so far down the road of tyranny in this country it's blatantly obvious; but, unfortunately, most of our countrymen wouldn't recognize tyranny or treason if it slapped them in the face. It's sad, but that's where we are right now.

The whole point of this project is to wake people up, get them involved, and help them to understand how far down the road we have gone and how far away from our Constitution we have strayed.

ICONOCLAST: How long did it take you to produce the tape?

VONKLEIST: It's been an ongoing exercise. We started really getting involved with this last spring. The initial effort was probably about three months: video taping segments, redoing segments. William Lewis was incredible putting this whole thing together. We put that out there and it came out, I guess it was

in July. Maybe it wasn't three months we worked on it, maybe it was two months. Well, right after that we started getting even more information. People found out that somebody had done a project about raising these questions and then we start getting more information, brown manila envelopes with video tapes in there, you know.

ICONOCLAST: Did other people have the same questions?

VONKLEIST: Well, yeah. People have been asking questions since it happened.

There have been other videos out there seen in certain circles as conspiracy theory videos.

Mine's been lumped in with that, too, and that's why I was very careful to explain specifically the definition of conspiracy theory in the very beginning (of the documentary) and I won't take your time to do that. If you've seen the video you know what that is and I also gave an example of a conspiracy theory in regards to Condoleezza Rice's statement about they'll discuss the evidence in due time. That, by definition, is a conspiracy theory.

When you charge somebody with conspiracy or point a finger at one person, in this case Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, you say "You did Sept. 11. Well, we can't prove it, but you did it. We've got the proof, but we'll show it to you when we're good and ready, but you did it."

If you don't prove it, that is a conspiracy theory. What else can we define it as?

So Rice and the Bush administration has launched two wars half a world away, they've killed tens of thousands of innocent men, women, and chil-



Dave vonKleist

dren, they've contaminated the entire Middle East region with depleted uranium to the tune of 4.5 billion years over a conspiracy theory.

Now you tell me who the bad guys are.

It certainly isn't me putting together some sort of a video or anybody else out there that is questioning the absence of our administration. We have every reason to question them and for them to go on television, for George Bush to go on television, and discuss a preempted strike against Korea or Iran. What makes us think that the rest of the world isn't considering the same action towards us? This is why we did this project. Because we are trying to wake up America and the rest of the world as to what is going on in this country and get people to stop this madness. If that means that the Bush administration has to be impeached, whatever, I don't care. This is not a partisan issue. It's not right vs. left, it's right vs. wrong. If Al Gore had been elected, and the same thing had happened, we'd be

"The bottom line here is that these guys are going to benefit tremendously from a war. What's a better war to have than a war with a nameless, faceless enemy with no country that can strike anytime of the day, a war on freedom, a war on terror that Dick Cheney said could go on for decades?"

— Dave vonKleist

screaming about it against Al Gore.

The official story of what happened on Sept. 11 has everybody scratching their heads, except for those that are purporting the official story.

Anybody out there that has any skill whatsoever is looking at things like the passport that was found at the world trade center. How is that possible? All kinds of information that has everybody shaking their heads saying "This doesn't make sense," but when you factor in the possibility and consider the concept that government officials or agencies or somebody higher up had something to do with the planning of the execution of attacks on Sept. 11, all of a sudden things start to make sense.

Now as they say, those who forget their history are destined to repeat it.

They also say that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing and expecting different results. With that in mind, I want to go visit our history, because I don't want to have to repeat it. Now we just celebrated, if that's the right word, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. Now Pearl Harbor has now become common knowledge that that attack was not the surprise that we all thought it was. There have been books written on the subject. Retired Lt. Commander Ken Landis has written a book. We had him on as a guest several months ago, maybe a year ago, so we now know that the attack was not a surprise. They've done television programs on the History Channel, National Geographic, that they knew two days ahead of time that it was going to happen but they did nothing to stop it. The reason is they obviously thought they needed an entry point into second world war.

In 1964, we come across the North Woods Document drawn up by the joint chiefs in which they had planned to shoot down our own planes, sink our own battle ships, and conduct terrorist attacks on our own soil so that they could blame it on the Cubans and escalate hostility during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

So if you couple these two factors in, showing that they're willing to sacrifice two thousand of our service personnel, men and women, innocent people, they're willing to sacrifice them to serve their purpose to get into a war. Now you

couple that with the idea that they have the mindset where they're willing to shoot down our own planes, sink our own ships, and have terrorist attacks on our own soil, again, killing our own people, why is it so far out of the realm of possibilities that people could consider that they would conduct such an attack with their own country at Sept. 11?

People would ask the question why. Well, let's look at the world situation. How many world super powers are there right now? We're the only one. What is the biggest business in the U.S. if not the world? Defense contracting. So if we're the only world super power and how secure financially do you think that these contractors are feeling right about now? Not real secure. They have to have a war, or else they won't make money. They have to have a threat or they won't make money. You need a bogeyman.

Now you look at Russia. Russia's our biggest friend now supposedly. China's our biggest trading partner. We don't have a world Bogeyman. These guys are feeling really insecure right now that have defense contracts. The bottom line here is that these guys are going to benefit tremendously from a war. What's a better war to have than a war with a nameless, faceless enemy with no country that can strike anytime of the day, a war on freedom, a war on terror that Dick Cheney said could go on for decades?

You have to ask the question, "Who benefits?" Now we've got all these different people involved. You mentioned the bin Laden family. How is it that they hopped on these planes and got them out of here. The bin Laden family has been in business with the Bush family since through the Carlyle group for a long time. You look at the Halliburton, Carlyle group, Brown and Root, all of these big businesses. Always the same characters in closed bids that end up with these government contracts. And then we say, well wait a second, if this is all so true, why don't we hear about it 20/20? How come Dan Rather doesn't tell us about it? Well, for instance, NBC is owned by G.E. #6 defense contractor. See, it's a conflict of interest here.

They took the ceiling off on how many radio stations you
See CONSPIRACY, Page 6



911 In Plane Site is available on both DVD and VHS.

What Really Happened On 9/11?

• CONSPIRACY Continued From Page 5

can own in the market, so now they've just basically taken over the airwaves. They have taken control. I challenge anybody to read the 10 planks of the communist manifesto and compare them to what's going on today. People will be shocked because we are more communist here in this country than they are in Russia.

At what point do we reach when people start busting out the torches and pitch forks and storming the castle? Now I do not believe in violent revolution, I mean I grew up in the 60s: peace, love, the Beatles, you know. I do not believe in violence at all; however, when you stop and look at the situation here, I mean, Thomas Jefferson did tell us that the most important reason for the second amendment was for the people to allow themselves to be protected from the tyranny of government and you couple that with a bumper sticker I saw that changed my life shortly after Lennon's assassination and it said, "Those who beat their guns into plows will plow for those who didn't." That really hit me between the eyes and I realize now at what point again do we break out the torches and the pitch forks. You can't vote them out. We now know that the voting system is very seriously under question. We now know that we can no longer operate under Constitutional law.

I mean, it's common knowledge that we work under uniform commercial code. We don't have a Constitution anymore. You take that into the courtrooms and the judges laugh at you these days. So if you can't vote them out, and they can't be legislated out. What are we left with? We're in a world of hurt in this country.

ICONOCLAST: How do we get out of it?

VONKLEIST: I'm of the personal belief right now that the only solution is to let this thing collapse under the weight of its own corruption.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think they're going to wake up?

VONKLEIST: They're going to have to wait until their own ox is gored and not just gored but gored repeatedly because their own ox is being gored and they're just too dumb to realize it at this point.

That's why I said earlier that the only way to get a rise out of the American people is cancel a beer delivery at a football game. Then maybe they'll get upset.

We have a lot of nerve in this country to sing I'm Proud to

be an American and most Americans blow the dust off of their flags maybe three times a year during Memorial Day, Veterans Day, and Independence Day and then they stand around and sing patriotic songs and half the words they've forgotten anyway. You know, I'm serious.

How many people can sing along with the Star Spangled Banner when it's played at the beginning of a baseball game?

People have forgotten what their heritage is all about.

They're forgotten about the sacrifices of their founding fathers.

They've forgotten what true vigilance is all about.

They've forgotten that this country is supposed to be of, by, and for the people and yet we have public servants that live in mansions as the masters of the country which leaves everyone else living like

"At what point do we reach when people start busting out the torches and pitch forks and storming the castle?"

— Dave vonKleist

paupers. What's wrong with this picture?

The governor lives in a governor's mansion. What's wrong with that?

We are sadly brainwashed in this country. And the only way it's going to wake up is to, unfortunately, have some great, big calamity and then the sad

thing is that most Americans will be running to the same people for help. They'll go running to the government and say "Help. Help us solve this problem!"

The government will say "(evil laugh) We'll be more than happy to."

"It's a mess."



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DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States

'Crawford 5' To Take On Law Enforcement In Court

WACO — The legal representative for the Crawford 5, anti-war protestors who battled the City of Crawford's original protest ordinance and won in McLennan County Court, planned to file a lawsuit in U.S. District court in Waco last week.

The suit, set to be filed earlier this week, is targeted at the authorities who violated the individual's civil rights by arresting them last year in

President Bush's adopted home town of Crawford, according to Jim Harrington, director of the Austin-based Texas Civil Rights Project.

The law enforcement officials planned to be named in the suit are the City of Crawford and police Chief Donnie Tidmore, McLennan County Sheriff Larry Lynch and Chief Deputy Randy Plemons and the Texas Department of Public Safety,

None of the possible defendants were reached for comment.

The suit is to be filed on behalf of Tricia Major of Dallas, Michael Mashicek of Crawford, and Amara Malizewski, Amanda Jack and Ken Zarifis, all of Austin. A similar suit was filed in Austin.

The five demonstrators protesting against the Iraqi War were arrested after Tidmore gave them and a group of about 100 demonstrators three minutes to disperse as they walked through Crawford to President Bush's Prairie Chapel ranch in May 2003. The group was warned it was in violation of a city ordinance requiring 15 days' notice and a fee to get a permit to demonstrate within the city.

In July, McLennan County Court-at-Law Judge Tom Ragland overturned the Crawford 5's February conviction by a Crawford jury, saying the ordinance was overly broad and therefore unconstitutional.

The city's new ordinance allows for a seven-day notice.

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Democrat: DeLay's Favorite Lawyer Should Release Names Of 'Illegal Voters'

AUSTIN — Saying it's time for Tom DeLay's favorite lawyer to "put up or shut up," Texas Democratic Party Chairman Charles Soechting said that attorney Andy Taylor should publicly release the names of the so-called 'illegal voters' he claims cast ballots last month in the Texas House District 149 race so that they can defend themselves against his sore-loser complaints — and bring legal action of their own against Taylor if, as expected, his accusations are shown to be false.

"It's time for Tom DeLay's favorite lawyer to put up or shut up," Soechting said. "These McCarthy Era tactics must stop — or Andy Taylor should be held personally and legally accountable for his sleazy campaign of voter intimidation."

Soechting said Taylor, representing defeated Republican State Representative Talmadge Heflin, has mounted a shrill media campaign claiming, without showing a shred of evidence, a shifting number of 'illegal voters' in the race. Taylor's investigators have spread throughout the district to intimidate voters, many of them new participants in the democratic process, into disclosing who they voted for in direct violation of the sanctity of electoral privacy.

"Andy Taylor's client lost when the ballots were counted, he lost when they were recounted, and then he lost again when they were re-counted — all under the supervision of the Republican Country Clerk and the Republican Secretary of State," Soechting said. "Only Mr. Heflin and his \$400-per-hour lawyer refuse to recognize the legitimate results."

Soechting said Taylor's tactics are reminiscent of the McCarthy Era, when a demagogue tore the nation asunder with baseless accusations, blacklists, and

immoral attacks against innocent citizens.

"The privacy of an individual's vote is a basic tenet of democracy and one of our most effective tools against the kind of abuse of power that Andy Taylor and his client are pushing," Soechting said. "Voters should feel free to tell anyone who calls them up or knocks on their door and demands to know how they voted to go straight to hell."

Soechting said Taylor's client list has featured a Who's Who of anti-democratic forces in recent years, including the State of Texas in defense of Tom DeLay congressional redistricting power grab; the Texas Association of Business, whose illegal campaign finance practices are at the center of an ongoing criminal grand jury investigation; and thousands of residents of other states who are nevertheless allowed to vote in a single East Texas precinct where none of them live and few have ever visited.

"Taxpayers and rightwing radicals have been padding Andy Taylor's personal bank account long enough," Soechting said. "It's time for him to be held legally accountable for his ongoing efforts to intimidate voters and undermine the democratic process."

Soechting said voters clearly preferred the positive agenda of the winner in the race, State Representative-elect Hubert Vo, who campaigned on a platform of better public schools, affordable health care for the eligible children of working parents, and lower property tax rates. Heflin's loss was attributed to his failure to address these concerns after more than two decades in office, and for actually cutting these programs as Chair of the Appropriations Committee.

'Death!' To Death Tax?

TFB President Says, 'It's Time For Death Tax To Die'

SAN ANTONIO — The president of Texas' largest farm organization said recently that farmers and ranchers are running out of patience in their decade long battle to eliminate the federal estate tax.

Kenneth Dierschke, president of the Texas Farm Bureau, said in his annual address to delegates at TFB's 71st Annual Convention in San Antonio, "We have been very patient. Are you tired of waiting? I certainly am. It's time for the Death Tax to die and we believe it should happen in the very next session of the Congress."

Dierschke, a grain and cotton farmer from San Angelo, explained that the estate tax can cause all or portions of farms to be sold to pay the tax.

"This inefficient and unfair tax hurts farm and ranch families, not only in the tax burden itself but in the crushing time and expense of estate planning," he said.

Dierschke also spoke of the need to examine alternatives to taking "prime farm and ranch land" for the proposed implementation of the Trans Texas Corridor. He noted that delegates at the TFB convention would

be examining the organization's policy with respect to the corridor.

The Farm Bureau president said it may be time to look at sweeping changes in federal taxes.

"No single person in all the land understands the Internal Revenue Service Tax Code," he said. "Our tax system has spit at efforts to reform it. It remains chock full of loopholes and inequities."

The Texas Farm Bureau delegates will vote on policy proposals to replace the Federal Income Tax, and the IRS, with a national sales tax.

Dierschke also spoke of the need to protect funding for the 2002 farm bill.

"Agriculture is in the very early and fragile stages of recovery from a decade long disaster," he said. "The Farm Bill is working and we have to give it a chance to do the job."

Dierschke said the upcoming session of the Texas Legislature would present many challenges for farmers and ranchers. These include water issues and reform of school finance.

Gov. Perry Announces Another 3,140 Jobs Coming to San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — Gov. Rick Perry last week announced that Bass Pro Shops will anchor a new 700 acre retail and family entertainment center called The Rim that will employ 3,140 full and part-time workers by the time it is completed over the next eight years.

"This project will create more than 3,000 new jobs, make a capital investment of more than \$1

billion and boost the San Antonio tourism industry and the entire economy," Perry said.

Perry noted that Bass Pro Shops are world renowned tourist destinations, and their store in Springfield, Mo., is that state's number one tourist destination, with more than 4 million visitors each year. Analysts estimate that 29 percent of sales at The Rim will come from residents living outside the county.



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Time Marches On 365 Days A Year

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "It ain't time that does you in so much as appetite."

Okay, here goes my useless annual admonition to New Year's revelers out there.

STAY HOME!
It's amateur night.

All we professional drunks take the night off.

The bars are full of fools who turn into criers, and the highways are an obstacle course of high-speed one-ton bombs with detonators on the verge of passing out.

Watch the "Three Stooges" marathon and save yourself the trip.

It's odd that we pick one day per year to mark the passage of time.

That assumes that time is linear, and life is a progression of events; that things improve over time.

This from the earth's only living creature that knows it's going to die.

No, they know they can be hurt, but if ants, chimpanzees or dolphins know about death, they'd have funerals.

We are the only creatures sentimental and greedy enough to turn death into a money-making scheme.

Nope, we humans have to assume that with the march of time, things will get better.

Until we run across things like the Baghdad Batteries or the Antikytheran Mechanism.

The Baghdad Batteries are probably about 2,000 years old and were found in the Parthian village Khuyut Rabbou'a near Baghdad in 1936. Each is a common clay jar with an asphalt stopper. Inside is an iron rod surrounded by a copper cylinder that was immersed in water and produced about two volts of electricity.

The fact that the Parthians, the First Century equivalent of an L.A. street gang, had these things was pretty good evidence that they'd been around for a while.

Parthians were pretty good soldiers, but so far as anyone can tell, they never invented anything other than faster pillaging techniques.

The Baghdad Batteries (Not the Khuyut Rabbou'a Batteries. We know how that feels. Vernon Howell, alias David Koresh, died in Waco rather than Elk, but George Bush lives in

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Crawford. Same distance on the other side of town.) are controversial because there's no good way to date them; there's no biological material involved for carbon 14 dating.

But that's not the controversy.

The rub is the supposition that they were used to gold-plate stuff.

It would appear that a lot of museums don't want to deal with the possibility that all those valuable displays might have come from the 200 A.D. version of the Baghdad Wal-Mart.

Which would play hell with ticket prices.

I mean, are you gonna pay \$30 bucks a ticket next year to see King Tut's tomb if you thought all that stuff came from the clearance counter?

Sure you would.

But then you don't own a museum.

Live your life behind glass cases, and you've got to have some bragging rights.

Even more controversial is the simple notion that we just aren't as smart as we think.

That a bunch of guys who murdered and looted for a living might have known stuff that we pay electricians \$40 an hour for.

So we really have a problem with the Antikytheran Mechanism.

A group of sponge divers blown off course in a 1901 storm found it, along with the remains of a Roman cargo ship that sank near a Greek Island in the First Century B.C.

The statuary and other artifacts they found overshadowed the importance of a corroded bronze device of cogs and wheels.

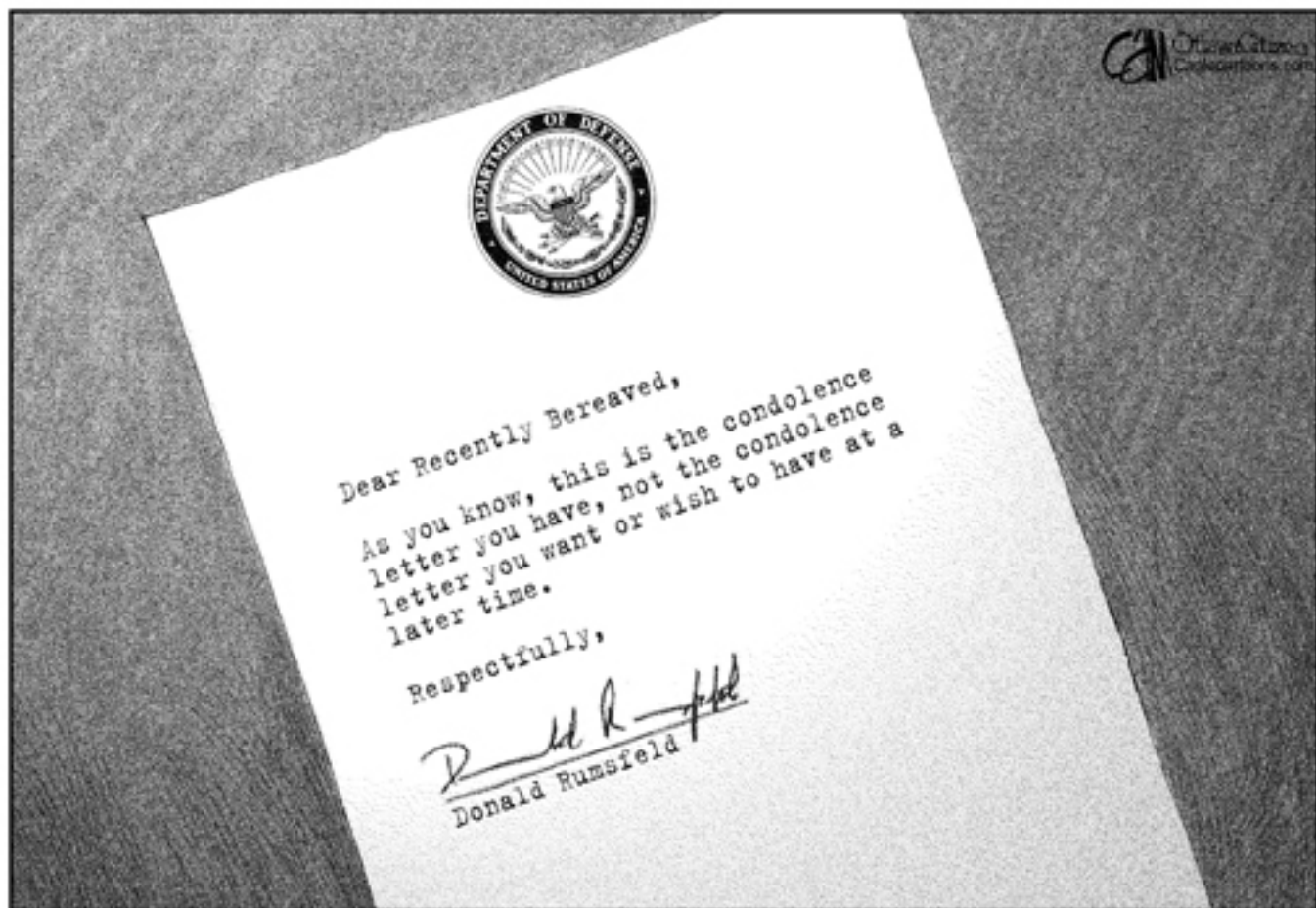
Not until magnetic resonance imagine could parse out just how complex the device really was did it stand history on its ear.

It was used to predict astronomical movements far into the future; it was a computer.

Still think we're smart?

Still think we're better off this year than last?

Have a happy New Year, safe in the knowledge that it's just another day floundering in the darkness of our own ignorance.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

Old Business Remains

As the world looks forward to 2005, there remains a shroud of 2004 in the form of old business.

Big topics include:

- The Ohio election certification of electors (Jan. 6), which is in question due to numerous voter irregularities.
- The vote in Iraq.
- The continuing violence in Iraq.

Each of these will bleed into the next year and will have an impact on everything from the economy to democracy in general.

There are issues on the home front to be addressed, such as the impact that the new version of the Patriot Act will have on our everyday lives. Just how many freedoms have Americans lost?

Action is under way to privatize Social Security — surely to be a key topic this next year.

The Iconoclast has gone on record as being against privatization, as this would weaken the economy and put at risk the future benefits of Social Security recipients, a very complicated issue.

During the coming year, we ask our readers to take stock of their freedoms, counting them one by one, and fighting hard everytime one is in jeopardy.

Too, do not consider yourself inferior if you want to develop a pre-911 mindset as a goal. There is nothing wrong with analyzing that disaster and attempting to re-develop America into the type of country that existed back then, with the same types of dreams and aspirations and without the dark cloud of Iraq blocking the sun.

Here's to 2005! May smarter minds prevail.
— W. Leon Smith

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Fort Worth Named For Forgotten Hero

Six months after leading the last American division out of Mexico City, Gen. William Jenkins Worth arrived in Galveston on Dec. 26, 1848, to take command of the department of Texas.

On the eve of the inevitable conflict with Mexico, 52-year-old Worth was the most highly respected officer in the United States Army. Besides an impeccable record in war and peace, most rated him the best looking man in uniform and the finest horseman in the military.

Beginning at the bottom as a lowly private, the New Yorker served with distinction in the War of 1812. Before sustaining a serious wound in battle against the British, he rose in record time to the rank of major.

After a long convalescence, Worth was appointed commandant of cadets at the United States Military Academy, an important post second only to superintendent. During his eight years at West

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Halle



Point, he established the stringent standards of bearing and precision drill which still guide the elite institution.

Worth performed several thankless tasks in the 1830s including the suppression of a slave revolt in Virginia, a punitive expedition against Indians in Illinois, and the removal of the Cherokees from Georgia. These accomplishments qualified him for an even tougher assignment which had frustrated 10 predecessors, victory over the Seminoles in the swamps of Florida.

Promoted from colonel to brevet brigadier general after his decisive defeat of the red guerrillas, Worth and his Eighth Infantry were sent to Corpus Christi, where Gen. Zachary Taylor awaited the hostilities with Mexico that

Lone Star statehood was bound to bring.

No sooner had Worth unpacked at his Texas base camp than he found himself up to his ears in controversy. The notoriously lazy Taylor had allowed discipline among the idle troops to sink to a scandalous level, a failing the general did not appreciate Worth calling to his attention.

Another officer picked a quarrel with Worth, insisting he held the higher rank in spite of the fact that both were brevet brigadiers. The debate divided the camp, a bad situation made worse by Taylor's refusal to settle the matter. True to form, he passed the buck to the brass in Washington.

Meanwhile, Taylor received secret instructions to march south, an order that took a month to obey due to his lack of preparation. The Mexicans

tried to bluff the Americans into prematurely halting their advance but were routed by the fast action of the daring Worth, to whom went the historic honor of raising the Stars and Stripes on the Rio Grande.

Within days word arrived that President Polk personally had ruled against Worth in the rank squabble. Enraged by the insult, he asked permission to hand-carry his resignation to the capital. Taylor, who wanted the talented subordinate out of his hair, readily granted the request.

When Worth rode into Washington, he learned that in his absence fighting had erupted in earnest south of the border. He immediately withdrew his rash resignation and returned to the front.

In stark contrast to his peers, Worth recognized the superb combat potential of the unruly Texas volunteers. His ingenious use of the crack cavalrymen turned the tide of battle at Monterrey and enabled him to seize the enemy stronghold, while Taylor remained pinned down on the outskirts of the city.

"Gen. Worth is the hero of the war," a junior officer wrote, an opinion shared by the soldiers in the field. Much

to the embarrassment of Taylor, the stirring dispatches from the NEW ORLEANS PICAYUNE correspondent made public the same undeniable fact.

But the memory of Worth's exploits soon faded as the envious Taylor and his successor, Gen. Winfield Scott, conspired to keep the hero under wraps. Worth endured the shabby treatment in silence but eventually exploded in an emotional confrontation with Scott.

The falling-out sealed Worth's fate. Gen. Taylor went home to run for president, and he was relegated to the rear guard in Mexico City.

In 1849 Taylor moved into the White House and Worth into his obscure headquarters in San Antonio. The unsung hero of the Mexican War died of cholera in May, two months before Taylor's death abruptly ended the shortest presidency in American history.

Later that year, Major Ripley A. Arnold paused on a bluff overlooking the Trinity River. The site and name of a North Texas fort were up to him.

Arnold, at least, had not forgotten the soldier who made the difference at Monterrey. "We'll call it Fort Worth," the major said softly, and Fort Worth it is more than a century and a half later.

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500-600 lb. 100-111
600-700 lbs. 95-106
700-800 lbs. 93-100

Slaughter Cows
High Yielding 47 to 52
Low Yielding 32 to 40 Steady
Fats 43 to 51
Thin & Shelly 25 to 37

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
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Young Pregnancy Test Stocker Replacement Cows
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Number of Head....647

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MAILBAG ICONOCLAST LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,
I was in The Czech Republic and in Berlin, Germany, during and after this Nov. 2 elections. People there seemed amazed the Americans re-elected George W. Bush. Gently, they'd ask, "Are you pleased with your election results?"

Having lived under tyrannical rule since the 1930s, the folks over there understandably don't favor invading armies. Iraq colored their view. They also expressed suspicion about Mr. Bush's personal intelligence.

I replied, "Americans are frightened. We know we're rich and powerful, but we aren't boss, but this fellow (Bush) makes some of us feel maybe we are the boss."

Bruce H. Alexander
Amston, Conn.

Dear Editor,
Apparently, 59 million American voters felt that George W. Bush reflected their values and attitudes, while 54 million American voters felt otherwise. The geographical distribution of these feelings is also apparent. Fritz Hollings remarked recently in a 60 minutes interview with Mike Wallace that the south remained staunchly Democratic as long as Northern Democrats didn't expound desegregation. With The Civil Rights Act, under the tutelage of Lyndon B. Johnson, that pact came unraveled and the Republicans simply took up where the Southern Democrats left off.

The ancient African value of Ubuntu, "I am because you are," in the words of John Ralston Saul, certainly doesn't apply to the majority in these regions — rather "I'm other than you" would seem more appropriate. But for those of us who see each citizens of our nation as worthy of respect and care, who see Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid, as the earliest beginnings of that respect and care, and who

call for the creation of thoroughgoing national programs in health and higher education — this notion that we are not our brother's keeper is anathema and strikes us as profoundly anti-Christian. Republicans have become guardians of privilege, of the hegemony of power, prestige and property, most especially in our Southern States. Under the rubric of personal responsibility and opportunity, Republican statagists have conjoined greed, bigotry and morality in the Dixiecratic south wherein our humanity suffocates in delusion. Abraham Lincoln and Theodore Roosevelt would certainly never recognize their party.

We are grateful that THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST has joined other illuminated voices of conscience in Texas, such as Molly Ivins and Jim Hightower in reminding the Red States that ethics is the measure of the public good and that the Democratic party has been largely responsible, despite its foibles, for most of the good of our public has realized in the last 75 years.

Sincerely,
Art and Judi Willis
Quaker Street Village, N.Y.

Dear Editor,
Well, the election is over, and thank goodness, the most vitriolic postmortems have been written. I voted for the best man and he lost. I'm not as unhappy about that as one might expect. Four more years of the same guy might give him time to prove he's competent, after all. That would give John McCain a good shot at the White House in '08. Conversely, if he continues as he did during his first four years, the America people will be glad to vote for Hilary Clinton, and that wouldn't be so bad, either.

We can survive four more years of bad governance, just as we have survived any number of floods, blizzards,

droughts, and six years of Richard Nixon. Knowing it will have to end sooner or later, we'll just have to bow our necks and suffer through it.

My concern is for the American People. We seem to have lost our way. We proclaim that we are a Christian nation, but we follow leaders who also claim to be Christians but who act our the Old Testament practices of revenge, retribution, and retaliation: an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth. We are the most powerful nation in the history of the world; the most militaristic and the most warlike. Our best friends and allies don't trust us. Many fear us. We allow our leaders to telegraph a message of hypocrisy by starting wars without consulting the people; to use a philosophy of pre-emptive strikes and to base their actions on false information.

It doesn't work: Israel has been doing it for 60 years and they are still at war, hoping that the death of their enemy's leader will change things. The Israel have no New Testament to guide them.

We have come to ignore the teachings of the greatest prophet of all time and a great number of unrecognized modern day prophets. While we argue about the need for indefinable "moral values" we allow our leaders to conduct an amorphous and unwinnable middle eastern war that is killing our young people and mortgaging the future of our grandchildren.

Is this the Christian way?
Sincerely,
Chet Lummen
Mico, Texas

To W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher,

I just want to commend you on writing this fabulous article. Once again, you shine like a beacon of light on our fragile and perhaps disintegrating democracy.

We, and the millions of Americans who KNOW, without a shadow of a doubt, that this election was STOLEN, once again applaud your courage and conviction to come forward and speak the truth. For the truth shall always prevail over lies and deception.

"A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring

the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake." -Thomas Jefferson, 1798

Kudos to you,
S.D., Bend, OR

Dear Iconoclast staff:
First I would like to thank you and everyone there for being a "beacon of light" in a very strange time indeed in American history.

Brushing aside the insanity of it all, it is quite clear to the likes of folks like you, that first and foremost in our country's obligations is to "do good in the name of the Sovereign," plain and simple.

When I looked at your page recently I had noticed you have taken on a new look — but then, on second glance, I thought, no, not really, you guys have always (so long as I have known you) been truthful and straightforward the whole distance.

That is the recipe for ultimate success — to be on the right path and stay there. As soon as I am able, I will become a lifelong subscriber of your paper.

You guys made history. And what a proud history it was.

Also know that the editorials, such as your recent one entitled Ohio - Ground Zero (written By W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher) and several others I have read are, bar none, some of the best (academic, well well thought out)

editorials that I have ever read on the net (and not to polish my brass, but I post graduate person, and a very critical reader).

At any rate, your editorials are excellent and beyond reproach.

L.D., Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin

Dear Mr. W. Leon Smith and Mr. Don M. Fisher:

I very much appreciate your excellent editorial about the Ohio recount ("Ohio — Ground Zero"). This issue is crucial to our democracy, and I just can't thank you enough for your words of wisdom.

Sincerely,
S.Z., San Francisco, CA

To The Editor:

Ohio - Ground Zero...Thank you for the opinion titled Ohio-ground zero. Unless there is a full investigation and recount I will never believe the results of the 2004 election. There are too many "irregularities" that favored Bush, in too many different places. What's wrong with looking into it and making sure? If it is about the cost, I'm sure we can suspend some costs of Star Wars to generate enough money to investigate.

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you for your editorial calling for a fair recount in Ohio. If only more newspapers were willing to speak the truth. I applaud you!

To The Editor:

Thank you Iconoclast and W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher for lifting the shroud of silence that is hanging over the recount efforts in Ohio.

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