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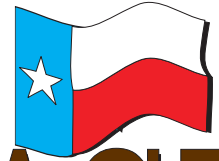
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Who Will Lead



the

DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL COMMITTEE ?

Run, Donnie, Run!: *Southern Progressive Races For DNC Chair*

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Rice Sworn In As Secretary of State

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate Wednesday voted 85 to 13 to confirm Condoleezza Rice President Bush's new secretary of state, who succeeds Colin Powell as America's top diplomat and becomes the first black woman to hold the job. The partisanship in the Senate delayed Rice's confirmation for a few days due to the dissent from a small group of Democrats who said she shares blame for mistakes and war deaths in Iraq.

Thirty Democrats voted for her, but

12 Democrats and independent James Jeffords of Vermont voted against Rice. Among the leading dissenters were Massachusetts Democratic Sens. Edward M. Kennedy and John Kerry, the former Democratic contender for president last year.

Although Rice was expected to be confirmed, she received the most "no" votes since World War II. Seven senators voted against Henry Kissinger and six each against Dean Acheson and Alexander Haig.

The Republicans accused Democrats of delaying Rice's confirmation to criticize Iraq policy. As the debate closed, however, a U.S. military transport helicopter crashed in bad Iraqi weather, killing about 30 people, the worst U.S. loss since the war began.

Bush rejected the Democrats' claims that his administration lied to in order to start the war in Iraq.

An academic who specialized in the study of the now-defunct Soviet Union, Rice, 50, is Bush's trusted national se-

curity aide and a main architect of his policies on Iraq and the war on terror. She assured in her testimony last week to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, she would not be shy in advising the president from the State Department.

Her job will now include mending relations with European allies, settling disputes between Israel and the Palestinians, stopping North Korea and Iran from developing nuclear weapons, and control the Iraqi insurgents with low U.S. casualties.

CREW: Gonzales Misrepresented Role In Assisting President Bush Escape Jury Duty

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW) last Tuesday filed a complaint with the Office of Disciplinary Counsel of the State Bar of Texas requesting an investigation into misrepresentations White House Counsel Alberto Gonzales made in a written response to a question posed to him by the Senate Judiciary Committee which is

considering Gonzales's nomination for Attorney General.

The complaint alleges that Gonzales inaccurately portrayed his role in appearing before a Texas court when President Bush, then Governor of Texas, was summoned for jury duty. Gonzales has claimed that although he appeared in court with the Governor, he merely observed the defense counsel make a motion to strike the Governor from the jury panel and then when asked by the Judge whether the Governor had any views on this, replied that he did not.

In marked contrast, Michael Isikoff, reporting for NEWSWEEK, has written that the defense lawyer, prosecutor and judge involved in the case all recall the incident differently. In their version, Gonzales asked to have an off-the-record conference in the judge's chambers where Gonzales then asked the judge, David Crain, to strike Mr. Bush from the jury, arguing that the Governor might one day be asked to pardon the defendant. Isikoff writes that Judge Crain found Gonzales's argument "extremely unlikely" but out of deference, agreed to allow the motion to strike, which the defense lawyer then made.

CREW's complaint alleges that by misstating the facts surrounding the conversation in the judge's chambers Gonzales may have violated 18 U.S.C. §1001, which makes it a federal crime to make false statements to a congressional committee.

The complaint further alleges that Mr. Gonzales has violated two Texas Rules of Disciplinary Procedure: 8.04(a)(2) which prohibits lawyers from committing crimes that reflect ad-

versely on their honesty or trustworthiness; and 8.04(a)(3) which prohibits lawyers from engaging in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or misrepresentation.

CREW's Executive Director Melanie Sloan stated, "The marked contrast between the version of events Mr. Gonzales provided to the Senate Judiciary Committee and the version told by the three other individuals involved — the prosecutor, the defense lawyer and the judge — is enough to require the State Bar of Texas to investigate this matter."

Sloan continued, "Violations of the bar rules can lead to disbarment. The Senate should delay voting on Gonzales'

nomination until this matter is cleared up or face the prospect of having an Attorney General who has lost his bar license."

Gonzales was approved as U.S. attorney general by a divided Senate Judiciary Committee down party lines, 10-8, last Wednesday. He is expected to become the nation's highest ranking lawman, replacing John Ashcroft, possibly this week after the full Senate vote.

Leading Democrats on the Senate panel voiced their concerns about Gonzales' role in creating Bush administration policies blamed for contributing to the torture of suspected terrorists.

Library Of Congress Displays Sept. 11 Accounts Online

WASHINGTON D.C. — The Library of Congress last week uploaded an account of the Sept. 11 attacks on the Internet.

Almost 170 audio and video interviews, totaling 40 hours, with photos, drawings, written narratives, and poems are on display at the website entitled "American Memory" at memory.loc.gov.

Interviews of the survivors of the attacks near and in the World Trade Center and the Pentagon are but one part of the more than 400 recordings and 421 items of graphic material collected from 27 states and a U.S. military base in Naples, Italy.

This project is modeled after one launched Dec. 8, 1941, the day after the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. That preserved collection is called "After the Day of Infamy."

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memory.loc.gov



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Who Will Head Up DNC?

Run, Donnie, Run!: Southern Progressive Races For DNC Chair

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Political strategist Donnie Fowler, 37, of South Carolina is in a race to reform the Democratic National Committee as its chairman.

The finish line will be snapped on Abraham Lincoln's birthday, Saturday, Feb. 12, when 447 electors vote in Washington D.C. for the DNC chairman, which has been held by Terry McAuliffe for four years.

The job consists of organizing, unifying, raising money, and standing up against the GOP for the national Democratic party, and Fowler says he's up for.

Fowler, the former Technology Network vice president, worked for candidates in 14 states over the last 20 years. The Southern progressive most recently was Sen. John Kerry's Field Director in the successful Michigan campaign. Three-week into Gen. Wesley Clark's presidential campaign, he dropped out when he saw that Washington-based consultants were influencing his candidate more than the grassroots community.

Fowler has also embarrassed the newer "netroots" community consisting of "bloggers," who keep open diaries on the Internet that serve as a sounding boards for opinion. One blog, Daily KOS, called Fowler "the most aggressive candidate for the DNC chairmanship," when he was the only candidate in attendance in full campaign mode, with lawn signs, buttons, and stickers, at the Association of Democratic State Chairs in Orlando, Fla. in December.

Political strategy would also seem to be in his genes. Fowler's father, Don Fowler, served as co-chair of the DNC from 1997 to 1999. Fowler's campaign website is (www.changetheparty.com).

Fowler and the other six campaigning for the chairmanship position have been participating in a number of regional "auditions," meeting with DNC members as their invited guests.

The chairmanship candidates include former presidential hopeful Howard Dean, former Reps. Tim Roemer of Indiana and Martin Frost of Texas, former Denver Mayor Wellington Webb, former Ohio Democratic Party chairman David Leland, and party strategist Simon Rosenberg.

Before he travelled back to New York City for the final gathering of electors, Fowler in Washington, D.C. last Thursday caught up with THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST on the phone between making personal phone calls to the individual 447 electors and talking with unions in Washington Fowler spoke about the demographics of the electors,

his biggest beef with the national Democratic party, and the importance of connecting with the grassroots community in America.

.....
ICONOCLAST: So you're talking with the electors directly?

FOWLER: Uh-huh. That's all that matters. The only people that matter are those 447 voters.

ICONOCLAST: What's their demographic? How old are these people? What do they do?

FOWLER: Well, they're spread out all over the country. It's very much like the Electoral College. There are a few more in the D.C. area, because there are some at-large appointments. They are leading party figures that mostly live around Washington, but the DNC members are activists, constituency leaders, and fund-raisers in every state in the country. There are a couple of senators, some mayors, some congressional leaders, but mostly they tend to be state level elected officials, state level party stalwarts, and folks like that.

ICONOCLAST: How many electors are from Texas?

FOWLER: Texas, I believe, has 15 voters on the DNC.

ICONOCLAST: Does Charles Soechting, the Chairman of the Texas Democratic Party, have a vote?

FOWLER: Yes, every state party chair and every state party vice-chair are automatically members of the DNC.

ICONOCLAST: Have they indicated who they are going to vote for?

FOWLER: Yeah, most of the chairs have decided to wait until the last of the four regional DNC forums occurs, which is this weekend in New York. Then they are going to meet as a group on Sunday and Monday, and only about eight or nine chairs out of 56 chairs — that counts territorial chairs — have publicly said who they are for. So the vast majority of the chairs are up for grabs. Dean and I have about a dozen chairs each who are privately or publicly committed. The other candidates have only one chair committed.

ICONOCLAST: What's your background?

FOWLER: I've got a whole lot of things in my background. I've got a law degree. I spent six years in the telecom and technology world. I've been in the FCC under Bill Clinton. Then three years in Silicon Valley. And politically I've worked in four presidential campaigns cycles and on other kinds of campaigns on the ground in 14 states.

ICONOCLAST: Why are you running for the DNC Chair?

FOWLER: Because right now the Democratic National Party needs to



Donnie Fowler

decide if it wants to change or do more of the same. And by changing, the national party needs to refocus its efforts and its energies on the grassroots and on rebuilding and restrengthening the state parties from the ground up. It also needs to start to listen to local elected officials and Democratic leaders around the country to find out how they're talking with the voters because the old aristocracy of consultants in Washington has forgotten that voters don't live in Washington. They live in Texas. They live in Michigan. They live in Nevada. They live in Florida. So Washington has become calcified in the way they think about the rest of the country. Ultimately, this election is about change versus more of the same. Democrats keep losing elections. We're not going to get better by doing the same old things a little differently. We got to really look at the electorate. We got to really look at our strategy and tactics and think, "What do we need to do that is going to turn this party around?"

ICONOCLAST: How many of these Washington-based consultants are there?

FOWLER: Oh, it's a whole cottage industry. Dozens and dozens of them on the Democratic side.

ICONOCLAST: It seems like the DNC hasn't given the Lone Star State Democrats much respect. The TDP is treated like an "ATM state" like California. If

you become national chair, what is your plan for Texas with regard to his proposed message centers, fund-raising, etc.?

FOWLER: The national party has become a very, very good fund-raising organization. It runs a very good presidential campaign for six months every four years if you're lucky enough to be in a battleground state. That's not the definition of a national party. A national political party should support all Democrats running. It should pursue the progressive agenda by empowering and giving resources to the state parties by paying attention to elections from the legislature, county executive, and all the way up to president. It has to be more than just a presidential campaign committee or more than just a funder for occasional races. It should be a full time operation that helps develop the overall Democratic theme and message and develop the best ways to deliver that message either through the media or through its organizing door-to-door, email, phone, mail box to mail box. Terry McAuliffe's legacy was a strong legacy but the next step is to take the fund-raising prowess the party has and translate that into organizational prowess in the states.

ICONOCLAST: Some of your competition have criticized the New Hampshire and Iowa primaries. Do you support a change to the New Hampshire and Iowa primary system?

FOWLER: There are two principles I think the Democratic Party must abide by in determining the nominating calendar. The first is that the first half dozen or so of the states should be small-to medium-sized states. Iowa and New Hampshire educate the presidential candidate and our eventual nominee by making them talk to voters one-on-one. They can't just merely hold press conferences. They can't just hold fund-raisers. They can't just run television media. They have to spend a long time talking to voters in their homes, in their communities, and in their work places. It has to be a grassroots effort. If you watch the candidate and go through this retail political process, you see the lightbulbs go off all the time. They're like, "Wow! I didn't think about it that way." or "Wow! I just met a single mother who is having trouble paying for her kids' healthcare." It becomes less of an intellectual exercise. They really see what it's like outside the political world. You can't do that in the big states.

The second issue is together Iowa and New Hampshire don't represent the diversity of our country or our party. So the second principle should be that the combination of the first few states should represent the diversity of our country and our party. To put that shortly, the small and medium sized states in total should represent the diversity of our party.

There is also a commission that the current DNC chairman Terry McAuliffe has appointed and that commission is going to make much more specific recommendations about the calendar, about how the process happens, and all of us running for DNC chair has de

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• FOWLER SEEKING DNC CHAIRMANSHIP ... Continued From Previous Page

ferred to that commission, to let them make their recommendation. They have some really smart people on it.

ICONOCLAST: Everyone in the mainstream media it seems is calling this race for the DNC chair the search for the "soul" of the Democratic Party. I believe that this analogy mischaracterizes the issue. I think that this race is really about the bodily functions of the party. What are your plans to do with the structure of party?

FOWLER: There are two major structural projects the DNC needs to undertake. One is that it needs to take some of its operations outside of Washington. After all, voters don't live in Washington. That includes taking some of the regional political organizers and press staff, like the mid-western press secretary, and moving part of that operation into the states, so that if you're the mid-western press secretary, for example, you're working in partnership with the state party in St. Louis or Columbus or in Chicago. This means that you're closer to reporters in that region. You have a better feel for the voters and what they think and what they see every day.

The second structural change in direction is that the national party needs to be in the business of providing resources and good ideas to all the state parties so they can all grow. What the national party needs to do is to ask the strong state parties, "What are you doing well?" And then to ask the elected officials who are successful, particularly those in red states, "How are you winning elections? What can we learn from you? And what can we teach the other states in other Democrats running for office the good lessons."

After that learning process, the DNC should work with the state parties to set benchmarks, a two-year benchmark, a four-year benchmark, and a six-year benchmark, and then the DNC's job is to say, "Okay, what can we do for you state parties to help you get to these benchmarks?" Technology. Training expertise. Staffing. And, of course, money.

ICONOCLAST: What is your biggest beef with the national party right now?

FOWLER: That it's a national party. It's not focused enough on state and local parties. I also have a problem with the national party because Democrats don't stand up and fight. I think we've forgotten our soul and our heart. We've forgotten to talk about our core principles and our core values. We've forgotten to push back when the Republicans say outrageous things. Instead we go straight to the issues. Our Medicare plan is better than the Republicans. Our education plan is better than the Republicans. People don't care that much about your issue stands, your policies, until they feel like you are standing up with them, that you're a strong leader. And the Democratic Party skips that first step. We're not getting invited to dinner anymore with the American voter. If we don't get invited to dinner in their homes, then they won't care what our issue positions are because they don't even have the chance to have that conversation with them.

The last point I'll make on the national party is that they are conceding too much of this country and it goes back to your first question. They've conceded the South and the Rocky Mountain

West. We're conceding religious voters. We're conceding rural voters. And frankly, the Democratic Party is running out of voters.

ICONOCLAST: If you're elected, and successfully dismantle the power from those Washington-based consultants of creating the party message, from where exactly are you going to get the party's messages to then disseminate around the party? Do you have a grassroots network from which to craft the party line? Are you going to rely upon liberal think tanks like George Lakoff's Rock Ridge Institute?

FOWLER: Everyone in the Democratic Party should have a voice in setting the message. It's not a question of liberal, moderate, or conservative anymore. The folks in Washington have a luxury. They sit around their cafes and talk about whether the party needs to go left or right. The problem is that the party is running out of voters. It's a false choice. This left or right or base voter/swing voter discussion is a false choice. The Democratic Party is running out of voters nationally, and if it doesn't recognize that there is a new electorate, and there is a new way of doing politics, and they don't quit talking about choosing between one side of the party over the other, we're going to keep losing. It's a luxury if you have to be out there to win an election, if you're out there as an elected official or an operative manager, you don't say, "I'm just going to choose to talk with base Democrats or I'm going to talk with swing voters." You have to take some from both.

ICONOCLAST: Moving back to your point about the Democrats not being invited over to dinner, some conservative commentators have poo-pooed the idea that both of the major parties should drop all talk about faith and "moral values." Special attention to the relationship between faith and politics has arisen recently because of Jim Wallis' new book, *God's Politics*. What do you value and how has your upbringing influenced your politics?

FOWLER: I grew up in the Democratic Party, and I grew up in South Carolina. I was a young boy at the time the South was first desegregating. My father was a Democratic Party Chairman in South Carolina during that time, and used to take me and my sister to black churches on Sunday morning because he was doing early outreach to black voters in South Carolina. When we were driving home to Columbia in the afternoon, we used to listen to NASCAR on the radio. It wasn't on TV back then. Growing up at that time and in that place, it sounds contradictory to say you went to black church in the morning and you listened to NASCAR on the radio in the afternoon, but you know, that's not contradictory if that's the way you grow up, and you learn a lot about the values of a party. I also grew up in the Methodist church, and I am a Democrat because of my faith because I believe most religions teach charity. They teach treating people equally, and certainly, people are seen as equals under God, in God's eyes. Treat people as you would be treated yourself. To me, those values — taking care of the least among us, opportunity, fairness, forgiveness, charity — those values represent the Democratic Party's values. I've never read in the Bible that says you should give tax

cuts to the wealthiest. Jesus didn't hang out with the wealthy. He hung out with the poor, the prostitutes, the children, and for Republicans or those to suggest that God approves tax cuts for the wealthy or that God approves lying about going to war in Iraq or that God is okay with discriminating against people of color, it defies Christianity to me. Republicans like to say that God is on our side. What everybody should ask is whether we're on God's side. They ask the wrong question. They use religion as a political weapon.

ICONOCLAST: You have all these ideas, but it seems like you're fighting against quite a number of powder kegs in the party, and they all seem to be say-

ing the same thing. Not only that but the mainstream media seems to be giving Gov. Howard Dean all the attention—

FOWLER: Dean is the sexy, well-known candidate in a field of candidate not as well known. None of the rest of us have run for president. None of the rest of us has lost a presidential campaign. None of the rest of us—

ICONOCLAST: But do you really care about that?

FOWLER: It doesn't bother me. I'm running for DNC chairman, and there's 447 voters. I'm not running against Howard Dean. I'm not running against Martin Frost. I'm running to change the way the national party does business

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and get us back to the grassroots. I've been in the grassroots. I've been on the ground working the doors or working the funds for almost 20 years. None of the other candidates can say that. They've raised money and given it to

states. They've been elected in a city or a state but none of them have actually gotten dirt underneath their fingernails in the grassroots. Grassroots right now in state parties is fashionable, and if you look back at what these guys were do-

ing five years ago, 10 years ago, 10 years ago, they weren't in the grassroots. They weren't trying to build parties. They were doing something else. They were buying paid television. They were running a national organization. They were elected to office. They weren't in the field. The national Democratic Party needs to rebuild its structure. It needs to build its state parties. That's why I'm running for DNC chairman.

ICONOCLAST: So that's the main

reason why you're not on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. (laughs)

FOWLER: No, *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*, I mean, how many DNC voters watch *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*? Not many DNC members wake up on a Sunday morning and say, "I can't wait to read what's in the WASHINGTON POST." You know, they're reading the newspaper and watching the programs and talking to their neighbors in their communities.

Sen. Rodney Ellis Files Criminal Justice Package

AUSTIN — Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) filed a number of criminal justice bills to address problems associated with Texas crime labs and other areas of the criminal justice system that have resulted in the conviction of innocent Texans. Senate Bill 223 will establish a Texas Innocence Commission to examine cases of innocent citizens who have been wrongfully convicted, identify the causes of those convictions, and recommend changes in the criminal justice system to prevent such future carryovers of injustice.

"The bottom line is an Innocence Commission is good law enforcement," said Ellis. "It ensures the protection of the innocent and the conviction of the guilty. I'm all for being tough on crime, but if the state plans to spend hundreds of millions of dollars to build more prisons this session, we can at the very least invest in policies to make sure we are locking up the right people."

Ellis also wants to make sure that once the wrongfully incarcerated are released from prison that the process for restoring their rights is less burdensome and that they are adequately compensated.

Procedural hurdles and resistance from the Board of Pardons and Paroles makes it extremely difficult for exonerees to have their rights restored and receive compensation.

Senate Bill 227 would simplify the process for exonerees to receive the pardon for innocence required to restore their rights as citizens, and Senate Bill 87 would remove the obstacle of requiring a letter from the prosecuting district attorney before an exoneree can receive compensation.

Senate Bill 225 would bring the Texas statute for wrongful imprisonment compensation up to par with the Federal Justice For All Act, which provides reimbursement at a rate of \$50,000/year for an individual who has been wrong-

fully imprisoned and \$100,000/year for those wrongfully convicted that served on death row.

"It's really a shame that that our state is willing to commit more resources to locking up innocent people than we are willing to invest into helping them put their lives back together. We can't give them back the precious years they were forced to suffer behind bars, but the least we can do is give them the support they need to build a brighter future," Ellis stated.

Senate Bill 228 would allow the Governor to issue multiple reprieves in cases where the guilt of someone scheduled to be executed may be in doubt. "It just makes sense that when situations arise where new evidence becomes available and the guilt of someone about to be executed may be in doubt, as happened with the Houston Crime Lab, that the governor should have the ability to delay an execution until we can be sure that someone is guilty."

21st Annual Spring Dallas Metro Antique Postcard & Paper Americana Show and Sale Set

PLANO — Buyers and sellers from 11 states will be bringing nearly a million antique postcards for sale, as well as collections and accumulations, and giving free appraisals at the 21st annual Spring Dallas Metro Antique Postcard & Paper Americana Show and Sale to be held Friday and Saturday, Feb. 18 and 19, at Soutfork Hotel, Hwy. 75, 1600 North Central Expressway, Exit 29 East.

Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Feb. 18 and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Feb. 19.

For more information, visit <<http://www.courthousequare.net/showsched.htm>>.

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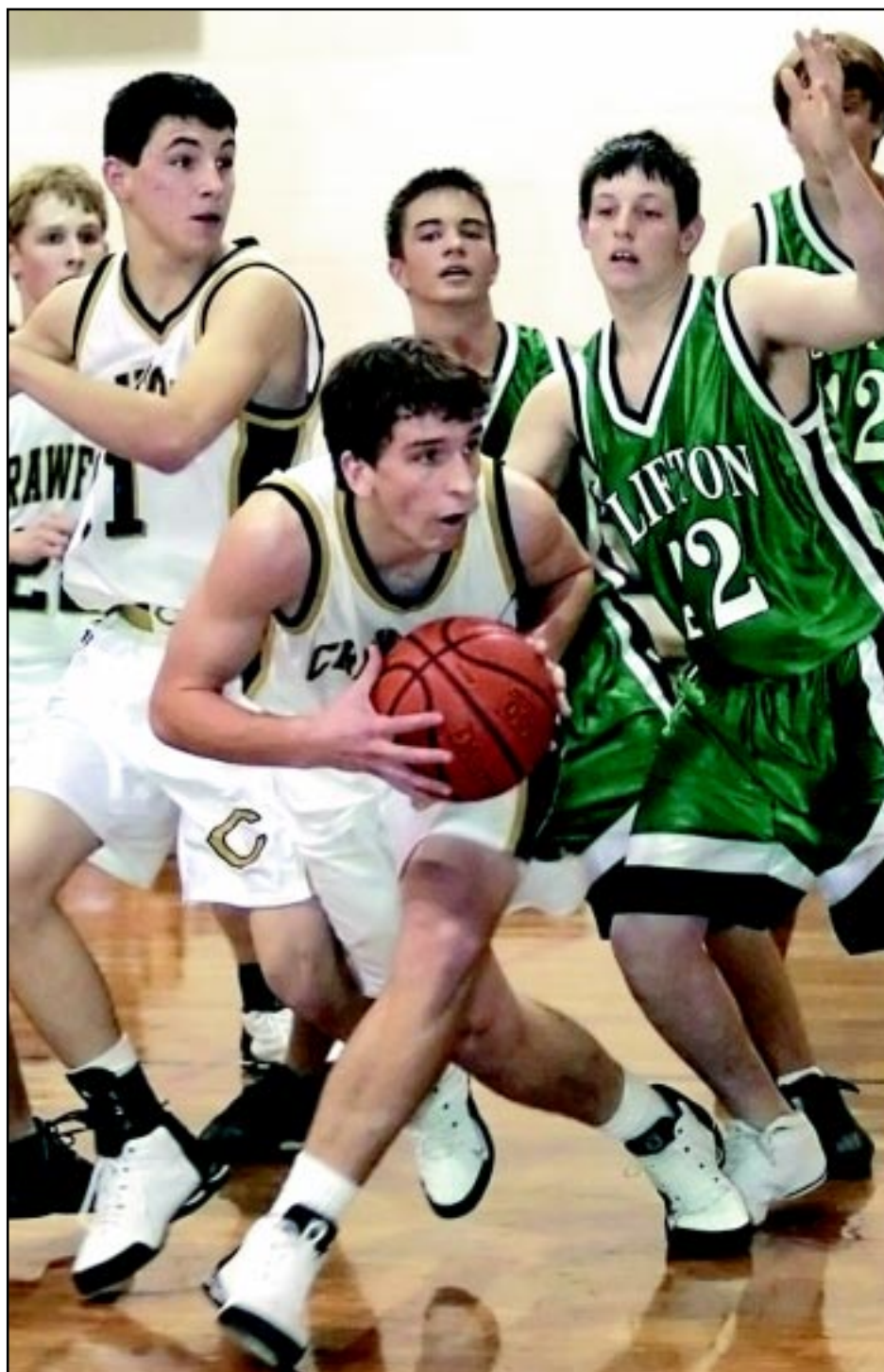
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DATELINE:
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Hometown of the President of the United States



Basketball Action

BROCK DUNCAN (44) looks to pass against the Clifton Cubs Freshman on Friday, Jan. 28.
— Photo By Stephen Cook

Crawford City Council Okays Controversial Subdivision By 4-1 Vote

CRAWFORD — The Crawford City Council in a packed city hall room last Thursday night approved by a 4-1 vote an agreement for the gradual, four-phase construction of a new 96-home Liberty Hill subdivision. The Council intends to annex the 45-acre property near the Crawford Elementary School west of the city limits on Farm-to-Market Road 185 and control its growth.

According to the agreement, no more than two dozen houses can be built each year, and the entire project could be completed in four years. The first 24 homes could be built soon.

Alderman David Posten voted against the agreement, saying that the rest of the council ignored the wishes of the community. Aldermen Barry Baize, Brent Meyer, Franklin Abel, and Charles Wiethorn supported the agreement.

Council members in favor of the agreement supported it as a way to boost the tax base and to control likely growth created by the A+ public school system.

The dozen or more speakers against the project complained that the devel-

opment will push the population over 1,000, increase property value, harm the drinking water facilities and the volunteer ambulance service, and remove focus on other priorities like fixing old sewer lines and run-down roads, as well as negatively impact the schools by forcing a bond election to build more campuses for the increased student population.

Developers Cooper and Horn of Waco agreed to finance \$50,000 of the \$84,000 water pump the engineer recommended and said the City would not pay for the subdivision. Builder Ken Cooper noted the benefits of growth, such as more school athletes and new church members.

Alderman Meyer said that the City could better manage future growth than react to home construction outside the city limits that would sooner or later be tied to the city's infrastructure.

Liberty Hill is the first major subdivision to be built in Crawford since then Gov. George W. Bush moved into the area in 1999.

The first Liberty Hill development proposal — an 88-home plan — was rejected 3-to-2 last January.



A single, independent-minded Latino woman, Flor, and her teenage daughter move from Mexico to Los Angeles in pursuit of a better life in America. While the daughter learns English and adopts the American way of life, her mom stays submerged in the Hispanic culture and never learns to speak the language. When money becomes tight, the mother ventures out into the "white man's world" and finds a job as a house servant for the Claskys - a wealthy, dysfunctional family complete with a successful chef, neurotic wife, alcoholic mother-in-law and an overweight daughter. The clash of both cultures and classes becomes almost unbearable when Flor and her daughter are asked to move into the Claskys summer home on Malibu beach.

Rated PG-13 • 2 hour 10 min.

Thurs. Feb. 3 7 p.m. Adults Only	Friday Feb. 4 7 p.m.	Sat. Feb. 5 7 p.m.	Sun. Feb. 6 7 p.m.
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DEREK DUMAS (4) takes a jump shot, and added to his point total to get nine points against the Clifton Cubs Varsity. Crawford won 58-40 on Friday, Jan. 28.

— Photo By Stephen Cook



Stephen Cook
Photographer
<http://stephencook.us>
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Local Students Inducted Into National Honor Roll

LYNBROOK, N.Y. — Eight students from the Crawford Independent School District recently qualified for induction into the Spring 2004 National Honor Roll, which recognizes high-achieving high school and middle school students.

“Young people like our inductees, who work hard to attain academic success, deserve to be congratulated,” said Lynn Romeo, Publisher of the National Honor Roll. “Honoring their achievements provides motivation and encourages them to continue striving. We’re proud to include them in the National Honor Roll.”

The students recognized by the 2004 National Honor Roll include:

Justin R. Cozad — Senior; Honor Roll; Who’s Who Among American High School Students; Employment (part-time or vacation); National Beta Club; National FFA; Football (L); Weight Lifting (L); Beta Club; TSTC.

Austin Dixon — Freshman; Honor Roll; Perfect Attendance; Church Youth Group; Debate Team; Band; Marching Band; Basketball (J); Football (J); Tennis (J).

Justin Reid Doty — Sophomore; Honor Roll; Most Valuable Player; Outstanding Academic Achievement Award; National Beta Club; National FFA; Basketball (J); Cross Country (V L); Golf (V); Tennis (V L); Track (V L); University of Texas-Austin; Baylor University.

Kalynn Laufenberg — Sophomore. Troy Mark Luedeker — Junior; Honor Roll; Science Math/Olympians; Community Volunteer; Church Youth Group; Employment (part-time or vacation); Math Club/Team; National Beta Club; National FFA; Band; Marching Band; Class Officer (P); Yearbook; UIL-Regional Math, Calculators and Number Sense; Medical; Texas Tech University.

Zac Munro — Freshman; Honor Roll; Perfect Attendance; Baseball (J); Basketball (J); Football (J); Track (J); Professional Baseball Player; Rancher or Farmer; Michigan; Texas University.

Whitney Post — Junior; Honor Roll; Most Valuable Player; Perfect Attendance; Community Volunteer; Special Olympics Volunteer; Church Youth Group; D.A.R.E.; Fellowship of Christian Athletes; Future Homemakers of America; Pep Squad/Club; Prom Committee; Woodworking; Basketball (V L); Cheerleading (V L); Cross Country; Golf (V L); Softball (V L); Tennis (J); Track (V L); Volleyball (V CL); Yearbook

(E,R,P); Heart of Texas Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart; Baylor University.

Hope Alexandra Talbert — Freshman; Honor Roll; Perfect Attendance; Church Youth Group; Basketball (J); Cheerleading (J); Cross Country (V L); Softball (V L); Track (V L); Volleyball (J); Have Performed National Anthem At School Functions & Have Performed in the Talent Shows At Church; Cosmetology; Achieve a Bachelor’s Degree from a University; McLennan Community College; University of Texas.

The National Honor Roll offers several benefits which can contribute to the success of its student members. For students in the 2003-04 school year, National Honor Roll set aside 4100,000 to be shared among 100 Awards For Academic Achievements, which were awarded in September.

National Honor Roll’s College Admissions Notification Service notifies the admissions offices of as many schools as the inductees designate that they have been accepted into the National Honor Roll and that they are interested in obtaining information about those colleges. Each state governor and U.S. senator receives a complimentary copy of the National Honor Roll Commemorative Edition, along with a list of the students from their state who have been inducted into the National Honor Roll. And complementary copies of the book are sent to selected school libraries across the country.

The National Honor Roll contacts potentially students after reviewing information about their academic performance. Each student is asked to submit information about his/her GPA, interests, activities, and future goals. Only students with a B or better average are eligible. Sixty-two percent of the inductees in the Spring 2004 National Honor Roll averaged an a- or better; 38 percent averaged B through B+; 17.1 percent were seniors (Class of 2004); 36.6 percent juniors (Class of 2005); 25.7 percent sophomores (Class of 2006); 18.4 percent freshmen (Class of 2007); and 2.2 percent were from the Class of 2008.

For more information, visit the National Honor Roll website.

INFO

www.nationalhonorroll.org



OVER HEAD — Crawford’s Tanner Jacobs (21) shoots over the head of Clifton’s Tim Miller (10) and scores. Crawford won 58-40 on Friday, Jan. 28.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

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CISD Changes School Start Date To Aug. 15

CRAWFORD — All in attendance at the Board of Trustees of the Crawford Independent School District's special session on Jan 17 agreed with the proposed Aug. 15, 2005 start date for students for the 2005-2006 school year.

In the packed Crawford High School Cafeteria during the public hearing to discuss state waiver, Superintendent Kevin Noack presented two proposed calendars, one with an Aug. 15 start date and one with an Aug. 22 start date. Supt. Noack discussed both calendars in detail.

The main question during the meeting among the audience members was, "Is it better for high school students to take exams before Christmas break?" Those present all agreed that it would be best to end the semester prior to Christmas Break.

Trustee Rick Williams moved and Trustee Charles Raley seconded to approve the consent agenda with corrections. The motion passed.

Supt. Noack presented board members with a certificate of appreciation

for school board services.

Supt. Noack presented information to the school board on the results of the Ted Nugent concert. The band trip to Washington D.C. was fully funded, and the band has excess money to be spent on various needs in the future. An itinerary on the band trip was presented to the board.

Trustee Williams moved and Trustee Raley seconded to adopt District Policy Update 74. The motion passed.

Mike Dixon will review the agreement as presented by Huckabee and Associates regarding the Master Plan for CISD. Action will be taken at a future board meeting.

Trustee Gary Bowdoin moved and Trustee Charles Raley seconded to approve the expedited waiver for additional staff development days. The motion passed.

The school board went into executive session at 7:15 p.m. under government code 551.074, returning to open session at 8:15 p.m.

During a special called meeting on

Jan. 26 the school board extended Supt Noack's contract to June 30, 2007, after coming out of a 30-minute executive session at 7:04 p.m. Trustee Williams made the motion, and Trustee Kasparian seconded.

Also at the meeting, Fred Shavers presented the annual financial report for Crawford ISD for the year ended Aug. 31, 2004. Trustee Jeff Baize moved

and Trustee Gary Bowdoin seconded to approve the audit report for the 2003-2004 school year. The motion passed.

The following members were present: John Minnix, Jeff Baize, Charlie Kasparian, Rick Williams, Jimmy Talbert, Charles Raley, and Gary Bowdoin. Along with Supt. Noack, school officials present were Linda Stout, Jason Bunting, and Don Harris.



TERRITORIAL — Cameran Blendon stakes out his territory against Shelton (32) as the Crawford Pirates beat the Clifton Cubs Freshmen, 54-46, on Friday, Jan. 28. — Photo By Stephen Cook

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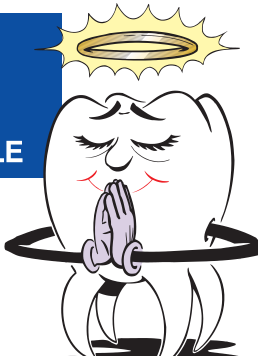
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BROCK DUNCAN (44) took over the Clifton/Crawford game in the fourth quarter. He scored 21 points on Friday, Jan. 28.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



MARCUS GOLLAHON (31) takes a shot in the game against Clifton Cubs Freshmen on Friday, Jan. 28.
— Photo By Stephen Cook



VANCE GOHLKE (2) led all scorers with 14 points in the Clifton/Crawford on Friday, Jan. 28.
— Photo By Stephen Cook

Philanthropy Seminar Set Feb. 8 In Waco

WACO — A seminar entitled “Donor-Involved Philanthropy: How to Choose the Right Entity to Achieve Charitable Goals” presented by Dan Daniels and Davie Leibell - Pf Cummings & Lockwood LLC on Tuesday, Feb. 8, from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Hughes-Dillard Alumni Center, 1212 S. University Parks Drive, on the Baylor University Campus.

Increasingly, donors are showing in charitable vehicles that allow for ongo-

ing donor involvement. Advisors are attracted not only by the tax benefits and philanthropic aspects, but also by the opportunities to work with family members toward a common goal.

There is no charge for the seminar, but reservations are required. To reserve your place or for more information, please contact Nan Holmes

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Treasure Hunter Advocates Indian Genocide

For the second time in less than a year, Alexander Dupont set out on Feb. 2, 1789, in search of the storied silver mines of San Saba.

The French-speaking adventurer was born in Flanders in the second decade of the eighteenth century, around the time his native country was conquered by Napoleon and disappeared for good from the map of Europe. That would have Dupont 50 or 60 years old, when he wandered into Texas in the 1770s.

What is known of the footloose Flemish comes from his diary. Although the journal begins in the summer of 1887, it is clear the author had been in Texas for ten years or longer and knew his way around the Spanish province better than most Europeans.

Dupont made his living as a trader with a clientele that included most of the Indians in the eastern half of modern Texas. A natural talent for languages enabled him to communicate with his customers, and a strong instinct for survival kept him alive in a very dangerous environment.

Trading was, however, merely his day job. Dupont was at heart a treasure hunter obsessed with the silver mines of San Saba supposedly "lost" after the Lipan Apaches destroyed the mission and garrison of the same name in 1758.

Dupont went looking for the missing mother-lode in 1788 with two guides, a Spaniard called Pacheco and an Indian whose name he did not bother to record. They left San Antonio on March 1 and worked their way northwest toward the San Saba River.

For 11 days, the journey was uneventful, but on the 12th the trio came upon an enormous war party. The terrified travelers covered in the brush as 400 Comanches passed in review bound for another battle with their ancient enemies the Apaches.

Dupont and his companions reached the ruins of the San Saba fort and mission near present-day Menard on April 3. After a two-day rest, they started searching the countryside for signs of the abandoned mines.

The sudden appearance on April 17 of 200 warriors a short distance from their camp scared the native trailblazer out of his wits. The Indian ran for his life and did not stop until he arrived safe and sound in San Antonio.

Two weeks later, it was the townspeople's turn to be frightened. Dupont was perplexed by the wide-eyed reception until someone explained that the defector had told everybody he was dead.

Dupont spent eight months making ready for his next treasure hunt. He had plenty of company on his February 1789 expedition — a dozen laborers, four Comanche guides, an interpreter, a cashier, and a mule train loaded down with trinkets and supplies.

A month out of San Antonio, and already short four helpers and one guide, Dupont was surrounded by a hundred Comanches, who mistook him for a Spaniard. But at the last moment they recognized the trader and escorted him to their principal village.

Despite a warm welcome from the Comanche leader he described as the "Grand Chief," Dupont picked a fight with his host over the recent killing of

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



four Spaniards. The chief gave his side of the story but refused to be cross-examined by the white guest and cut short the conversation by saying, "This is finished and we won't utter another word."

Dupont and the Comanches parted company in early May. On the 26th, according to an excited entry in his diary, he found the elusive silver mines. He headed for the Mexican interior with all the ore the mule train could carry anxious to stake his claim.

But the riches somehow slipped

through his fingers, probably because Spanish officials believed the mines belonged to the crown and not to a no-account foreigner. Dupont pressed his case but soon was sidetracked by a new project — a secret plan for the elimination of an entire tribe of Texas Indians.

Why Dupont had it in for the Karankawas remains a mystery. By his hatred of them was so fierce that he petitioned the viceroy for their wholesale slaughter.

"These same Indians are very susceptible to drinking," Dupont wrote in his chilling proposal, "and once they are in a drunken stupor it would be easy to carry out the destruction of the entire nation without any fuss, particularly if in the same drink there is mixed some ingredient capable of putting them to sleep forever."

The viceroy had no love for the

Karankawas, but cold-blooded genocide struck him as rash and excessive. He never answered Dupont's bizarre letter and rebuffed his repeated requests for an audience.

Things went from bad to worse for Dupont after that. He tried to return to Texas, but the authorities demanded that he to stay put in Mexico where they could keep close tabs on him. When the order came from Spain to detain all Frenchmen and confiscate their property, he was one of the first thrown in prison.

By 1803 Alexander Dupont was old, sick and out of his mind. He murdered his best friend and committed suicide by sticking a musket in his mouth and pulling the trigger with his big toe.

Bartee Haile welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions at haile@pdq.net or 1912 Meadow Creek Dr., Pearland, TX 77581.

McGregor Chamber Banquet Tickets Currently On Sale

MCGREGOR — Tickets are currently on sale for the McGregor Chamber of Commerce Banquet to be held on Thursday, Feb. 17, in the McGregor High School Commons.

The deadline to purchase tickets is Wednesday, Feb. 9; there will be no sales at the door. The public is invited to attend. Western attire is encouraged.

Tickets are available at the Chamber office (254) 840-2292 or from any Board member. The cost is \$20 per ticket and includes entry into a drawing for a \$500 travel gift certificate.

A reception, given by Extraco Bank of McGregor, will begin at 6:15 p.m.

Catered by Curtis Wiethorn, dinner will begin at 7 p.m. The menu will feature barbecue beef brisket, smoked sausage, and all the trimmings.

Nationally and Internationally known John Wayne impersonator, Dr. Gene Howard, will present selections from his album, "What Made America Great," in full old-time cowboy regalia.

"He will make you want to wave a flag, and salute the men and women that kept our country free," said a chamber spokesman.

As always, the Citizen of the Year, Farmer of the Year, and special awards will be announced during the evening.

There will be a silent auction for the honor of sitting with Dr. Howard at the Banquet. For a small fee, attendees can also have their picture taken with Dr. Howard.

Dr. Howard is not associated with the John Wayne family or estate, said a chamber spokesperson.

INFO

Office, (254) 840-2292

Texas Water Documentary Features Cronkite Feb. 3

WACO — Walter Cronkite narrates a one-hour video documentary about Texas water resources, which will air Feb. 3 on KWBU-TV. "Texas: the State of Water - Finding a Balance" explores what's at stake in the struggle to provide enough clean water for wildlife and the environment, cities, industry and agriculture.

For the second time, the Emmy Award-winning television series "Texas Parks & Wildlife" is teaming with the state's 13 PBS affiliates to broadcast original programming in prime-time on one night. The series' first one-hour documentary about water resources, a partnership venture with KERA-TV in Dallas, aired May 29, 2003.

"The greatness of Texas, its future, its well-being and its prosperity depend on its people understanding the vital role played by the wise and equitable distribution of its water supply," said Cronkite, who donated his services to the documentary project.

Topics explored in the documentary include the controversial "rule of capture," an overview of agen-

cies and laws that regulate surface water and groundwater, river instream flows, water lawsuits, controversies involving environmental river flow permits, how water use affects endangered species and other aquatic life, water rights permitting, proposed reservoirs, water as a commodity, interbasin water transfers from one river basin to another, and how river inflows affect the ecological health of bays and estuaries.

The documentary concludes with what people can do to help, including ways to conserve water, enhance groundwater recharge and retention, improve housing developments, and get involved as volunteers.

The "Texas: the State of Water" 2005 communications initiative is funded in part by underwriting sponsor The Boone Pickens Foundation, A Communities Foundation of Texas Fund, patron sponsor Brazos Mutual Funds and supporting sponsors San Antonio River Authority, Brazos River Authority and Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority.

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UTD NanoTech Institute Wins Grant For Research On Artificial Muscles

RICHARDSON — Researchers at the NanoTech Institute at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) have been awarded a \$750,000, 20-month grant to develop artificial muscles that convert chemical energy to mechanical energy. The award was made by the United States Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), whose charter is to develop new technologies for military applications.

UTD NanoTech Institute researchers have long pioneered in inventing artificial muscles that are electrically powered, and their discoveries in this area have led to industrial commercialization efforts in the United States, Japan and Sweden. This new program is more ambitious — to make artificial muscles that are chemically powered, like natural muscle, and exceed the force generation, contraction and speed of their natural counterpart.

Electrically powered artificial muscles based on conducting polymer and carbon nanotubes were first described by the principal investigator of this new program, Dr. Ray H. Baughman, Robert A. Welch Professor of Chemistry and director of the UTD NanoTech Institute. Carbon nanotubes are nanosize cylinders of graphite sheets and conducting polymers are plastics made “metallic” by doping. Dr. Alan MacDiarmid, James Von Ehr Distinguished Chair in Science and Technology at UTD and a winner of the Nobel Prize for the co-discovery of conducting polymers, has made pioneering advances in developing conducting polymer artificial muscles.

While the carbon nanotube muscles can exceed the performance of natural muscle by generating a hundred times

the force and elongating twice as fast, the contraction is less than one-tenth that of natural muscle. The conducting polymer muscles provide similar contractions to natural muscles, but have neither high cycle life nor high energy conversion efficiencies. The goal of the DARPA-funded program is to eliminate these problems and convert from electrically powered to chemically powered artificial muscles.

The proposed fuel-powered artificial muscles are at the same time fuel cells, supercapacitors and mechanical actuators, so the same elements convert a high energy density fuel to electrical energy, store this energy and use it to do mechanical work. These artificial muscles will use strong, tough carbon nanotube yarns that were recently described in the prestigious journal *Science* by UTD researchers and a colleague from an Australian national laboratory.

“An important possible eventual application of this research is artificial limbs that function like natural arms and legs — including the ability to move and manipulate objects — both for amputees

and robots,” Baughman said. “While we are very far from achieving this vision at present, we have already experimentally demonstrated primitive devices that directly convert the chemical energy of fuels to mechanical motion.”

The first “fuel cell artificial muscle” was demonstrated at UTD by Research Scientist Von Howard Ebron, Research Associate Zhiwei Yang and Dr. John Ferraris, interim dean of the university’s School of Natural Sciences and Mathematics.

About UTD

The University of Texas at Dallas, located at the convergence of Richardson, Plano and Dallas in the heart of the complex of major multinational technology corporations known as the Telecom Corridor®, enrolls more than 14,000 students. The school’s freshman class traditionally stands at the forefront of Texas state universities in terms of average SAT scores. The university offers a broad assortment of bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degree programs. For additional information about UTD, please visit the university’s web site at www.utdallas.edu.

UTD Professor Wins NASA Grant to Develop Geospatial Earth Science Database

RICHARDSON, Texas (Jan. 10, 2005) — Dr. Fang Qiu, an assistant professor of geographic information sciences at The University of Texas at Dallas (UTD), has been awarded a \$70,000 grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to help create a system that will track scientific information about the Earth for use in higher education.

The grant was funded under NASA’s Earth Observing System (EOS) Higher Education Alliance, and Qiu will serve as co-investigator of the initiative, alongside researchers from George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., the City University of New York and Northern Illinois University.

For the project, Qiu and the other scientists will develop a Web-based information system called “GeoBrain.” The system will make NASA’s EOS information easily accessible to users in the higher education community and allow them to develop interoperable, Web-executable geospatial service modules and models for extracting customized data and information. It will have the capability to deliver a data-enhanced geospatial learning and research environment to the desktops of students and professors.

The project is part of the Earth Observing System’s Earth Science Research, Education and Applications Solutions Network program, which was established to create a distributed network of data and information providers for Earth science research, applications and education.

NASA’s EOS is made up of a series of satellites, a science component and a data system that supports a coordinated series of polar-orbiting and low-inclination satellites for long-term global observations of the land surface, biosphere, solid Earth, atmosphere and oceans.

Qiu teaches graduate courses in geographic information science and remote sensing in UTD’s School of Social Sciences. He has conducted numerous government-sponsored projects at the National Laboratory of Resources and Environmental Information Systems of China, as well as for NASA’s Affiliated Research Center. Qiu has served as a reviewer for numerous academic journals and book publishers.

Qiu received his Bachelor of Science degree from the East China Normal University, his Master of Science from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and his Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina.

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A Handfull Of Rice

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "I always wondered why the bank had a crippled janitor on the daytime payroll. Why would they have a floor sweeper settin' there in the corner all day lookin' pitiful and doin' nothin' 'til after closin' time. Then it come to me that he was there so's I'd have somebody else to feel sorry for while I was gittin' fleeced."

Here's why the Democratic Party is coming out second best to a hardluck oil hustler-turned crowd huckster for a losing baseball team.

Aside from the fact that the American people seem made for carnival barkers, that is.

First, let's establish one incontrovertible fact: If you work, you don't make enough money. If you draw a salary or run a local business, you're being had by investment corporations who are putting your money in their pockets.

If the company paid workers more, they wouldn't have to go to Waco to get cheap foreign crap at Wal Mart.

And Wal Mart wouldn't be able to sell cheap foreign crap at lower prices than working businesses if they had to pay decent wages.

So my basic premise here is to pay workers and let Wall Street go to hell.

Sound like a Commie, don't I?

Could be.

If calling for a time when customers walk the streets of small Bosque County towns with money in their pockets and purchases under their arms, then I guess that makes me a Commie.

But let's face it, neighbor. That ain't happening.

If you're out to buy something, chances are it's with a little plastic card that draws blood once a month long after whatever you've bought is hauled away by a guy who drives a busted 10-year-old Toyota and barely makes a living hanging off a \$120,000 garbage truck that was assembled in Mexico.

In the last 14 years we have sent 1.5 million jobs to China, speaking of Commies, along with an trillion dollars in American money.

No, I'm not exaggerating or joking. It's called a trade deficit, and it has increased from \$6.2 billion to \$124 billion a year since 1979. In 2005, American big business is expected send China \$150 billion and another 125,000 jobs.

And where did this information come from?

The U.S. State Department, and you know what that means.

The problem is at least twice that bad.

Most wannabe Republicans never had a problem with shipping off jobs, as long as some redneck South Carolina textile worker or Detroit auto assembly line slave was getting laid off. After all, they were union guys who made too much money and didn't work hard enough.

At least that's what the company execs said.

Only, what we are losing now is your air conditioned office cubicle high-tek job that makes your BMW payments, but sucks up so much of your time that your kids are on heroin and your wife is sleeping with her boss,

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



since she's working the same long hours you are and never sees that Gray Goose vodka-sipping Gap wrapped guy with the Ronald Reagan vision thing that she once married.

I got news for you, pal. Remember those guys who used to get their suspenders and power ties in a wad over union wages?

They just sold your job, and I don't think you'd like it in China.

Oh, and your wife's been kidnapped off the Cozumel beach by Nafta traffickers, oops, that's Narco traffickers.

They want your car.

I don't think they're going to take up the payments, though.

We're fighting a war on drugs by signing treaties that make it easier to ship stuff over the border?

Try to remember that Reagan Republican claptrap about "greed is good" when the dope gangs start snatching people off the streets of Brownsville. Or Houston. Or Chicago.

Especially now that IBM wants to sell their entire computer manufacturing operation to the Chinese. That's 90 percent the U.S. computer technology and its attendant research from the last half century, Starbucks to NASA, MP3s to MX missiles, sold to the Chinese.

Now, everybody who thinks that's a good idea, hold up your laptops. While you've still got one.

Is it too late for everybody to buy Macs?

The cost of construction and manufacturing in the United States is putting even the housing industry in the price vise because the bulk of our lumber and cement is being sold in the Far East or getting shipped to Iraq.

Which puts small business in cost competition with its own government.

And people call me a Commie?

Thing is, the Democrats aren't circling the White House firing flaming economic indicator arrows.

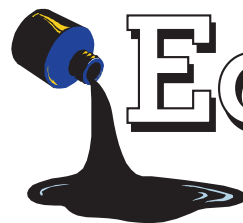
The only presidential candidate who promised to tax the big corporations out of job exportation was Howard Dean, and he got hammered in the primaries because the TeeVee networks made him look scary.

God forbid that anybody should hire a scary president.

We need an unscary president who'll spend \$200 billion on a guerrilla war we can't win or lose, or maybe send 5 million American jobs overseas, or even run up a trade deficit our great-grandchildren will be paying off.

Harry Truman said it: "You run a Republican against a Republican, you're probably going to elect a Republican."

There's nobody in Washington speaking for people who are working more hours for a paycheck that buys less, for merchants closing their doors while their customers drive down the road to the bright lights and big parking lots, for the genuine craftsmen who deliver pride along with manufactured goods and can't compete with desperate people on the other side of the world whose idea of a living wage is a handfull of rice and some nice fresh insects.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

State Orders Schools To Cut The Fat . . . Off Your Children!

The Texas Legislature has launched yet another foray into the private lives of its constituents.

Now the state-knows-best attitude has bled over into the Democratic ranks, as Sen. Leticia Van de Putte, Stalinist-San Antonio, wants to add to the state's humiliation of our children.

Not only will the state tell third graders that they are stupid via the rigorous but worthless TAKS achievement test, if Comrade Putte has her way, the Texas Education Agency will also tell your children whether they are fat.

Exactly what Texas schools need, a bureaucratic playground bully.

The Senator representing the San Antonio Soviet intends to reeducate revisionist parents who deviate from a carefully controlled, state-directed diet.

The Texas Department of Agriculture has decided that more than a third of school-age children are overweight. Foolish peasant parents are feeding children solely according to the wishes of bourgeois mothers and fathers. **THIS MUST BE CORRECTED IMMEDIATELY!**

Of course there is no scientific basis for Big Ag's contention except for some scattered samples compared to an arbitrary height and weight chart.

Putte and the ag department's food police claim that a recent increase in juvenile diabetes is the result of diet; although no direct correlation has been established.

Of course doctors throughout the state cannot be trusted to tell patients whether they are in danger of contracting diabetes.

Only a large and expensive bureaucracy can do that.

Actually a visit to the average school cafeteria reveals an industrial strength array of canned and frozen preprocessed foods virtually identical in nutritional value to the average fast-food menu: heavy on fat and carbohydrates.

Larger schools that can afford it offer franchise fast food venues, but don't look for health food.

Putte and the ag department aren't attacking that issue; the processed and fast food lobbies would cut off the money faster than a bologna slicer in a power surge.

In fact, the state has attacked even the brown bag lunch or parent-provided meals. No trading or sharing. No lunchtime birthday parties, no pizza party rewards for honor rolls or such, no bake sales or other food fund raisers.

That means none of these, since lunch period is, for all practical purposes, the only free period during a school day that the state has ordered filled with test-taking scheme courses. Even P.E. courses have been bulldozed aside for TAKS preparation.

Instead, the food police went after vending machines, usually operated by the schools with the profits going to student activity funds. There are no lobbyists for student councils or chess clubs.

Putte and ag's real intention is to flex their bureaucratic muscle, knowing full well that parents who see their children's bad fat marks will subject them to strenuous and usually dangerous diets. An epidemic of school-induced anorexia and bulimia will take care of the rest.

However, come election time, Putte and the Legislature can brag about cutting the deadly baby fat.

And if some believe that the case for state coercion is mere paranoia, consider for a moment the story we reported two weeks ago about Valley Mills, Texas, where students wrote letters trying to explain their problem. At their small school, the vending machines that Texas Agriculture Commissar Susan Combs ordered closed were the only alternative to the cafeteria's microwaved factory food, the only fare the cash strapped district could afford after the state's last round of budget cuts. They also told her that the school needed the money the machines provided.

Combs responded by writing kindly letters to the students, but left their vending machines closed.

Then she sent a swat team of inspectors on a surprise raid of the school cafeteria, the first such in the school's history. The message was clear. The Agriculture Czar didn't need any more letters from disloyal school children.

You're not paranoid if they really are out to get you.

— Written By Don M. Fisher

— Guest Commentary —

Undoing the School-to-Prison Pipeline Is Right, Saves Tax Money

By State Rep. Dora Olivo,
Texas House of Representatives
and
James C. Harrington,
Director, Texas Civil Rights Project

Texas schools face a host of crises, not the least of which is discipline. School discipline affects the future of Texas, and especially the state's minority and disability communities. The Legislature and local school boards must come to grips with this issue.

Educators and political leaders are increasingly concerned about the "school-to-prison pipeline" that happens when kids with discipline problems are moved out of the regular school setting, and not given effective educational support. Far too often, these students are "warehoused," sent to inferior disciplinary alternative education programs (DAEP) and juvenile justice alternative education programs (JJAEP) that, in reality, encourage them to drop out, or expelled. These kids are the most likely to end up in prison.

In 2003, The Civil Rights Project at Harvard and Northeastern University's Institute on Race and Justice summarized the national data, which reflect Texas':

Since the early 1990's, many schools have replaced graduated sanctions with "zero tolerance." This has nearly doubled students suspended annually since 1974 (from 1.7 million to 3.1 million, nationally), increased police presence in schools, and led to new laws, referring children to police for school code violations.

Minority students are heavily over-represented among those most harshly sanctioned. In 2000, African Americans comprised 17% of students nationally, but 34% of those suspended; blacks were 2.6 times as likely to be suspended as white students. Among students with disabilities, African Americans are three times as likely to be suspended, and four times as likely to be educated in correctional facilities, as whites.

In patterns startlingly similar to discipline data, in 1998, black and Latino youth represented 1/3 of the country's adolescent population, but 2/3 of youths confined to correctional placements. Four out of five new juveniles detained were minority youths. Black youths with no prior criminal record are six times, and Latino youths three times, more likely to be incarcerated than whites for the same offense.

Criminal justice data reflect the school-to-prison-pipeline. Approximately 68% of state inmates in 1997 had not completed high school. Seventy-five percent of youths under age 18 in prison have not completed 10th grade. Within the juvenile justice population, 70% have learning disabilities, and 33% read below 4th grade level.

The "single largest predictor" of subsequent arrest among adolescent females is having been suspended, expelled, or held back during the middle school years; 70% of women state prisoners have not completed high school.

Discipline in schools is very important, to be sure. But discipline must be creative and effective — effective, in that it teaches students to control their behavior, while continuing to educate them. Discipline cannot become a vehicle by which poor, minority, and disabled students are driven from school, but must be a tool to support teachers and help the educational process.

Part of the problem is how education money is spent. It takes good, early intervention to change bad behavior and deal with "acting out" by students, and educate them at the same time. Not investing money up front leads to a much greater drain on taxpayers when these children enter the criminal justice system.

Nor is it fair to lay all the blame on local districts for the "school-to-prison pipeline." In 1995, the Legislature established significantly lower standards for DAEPs. Then, in 2003, the Legislature cut funding for disciplinary alternative education from \$18 million to \$5 million. Both steps have to be reversed, and even more done so that teachers and administrators have the tools they need to educate.

Better use of funds and early intervention would help schools establish more effective, education alternatives. There are good models: Garza High School in Austin and the Lamar Consolidated School District are but two.

It is in everyone's interest for today's students to become as educated as possible, to graduate, and be productive. Sometimes, we can be short-sighted in focusing on immediate problems, and not seeing the long-range consequences of our short-term solutions.

It's important not just to understand the situation better, but to organize local communities and political leaders to make a greater commitment to this problem. We all pay the price in the long run, if we delay. It may not be popular, but it is wise and prudent.

This issue unites all political stripes, from conservatives to liberal. It's better to invest financial support in schools early on, rather than spending \$25,000/year to keep someone in prison. It's a matter of justice and fairness — to both students and taxpayers.

The Smoking Assassins

I took as many deep breaths as I could before I left Bosque County for my friend's apartment in the Metroplex over New Year's.

Oh, that wintery country air — sharper than peppermint yet so much less poisonous than Dallas smog.

You don't understand how much it satisfies me knowing what we choose to put in our air here — that is, NOTHING!

Okay, we put practically nothing in our lovely rural atmosphere, aside from cigarette smoke and methane gas (read: cow farts).

During my weekend visit, I listened as my buddy complained about how the government's "stupid authority" to protect our health and safety infringed on his "right to smoke." (Since the City of Arlington passed its antismoking ordinance nearly a decade ago, he has had to take his work-breaks outside.)

Trying not to choke on his cigarette smoke, I couldn't help but tease him a little in response to his "right to smoke" rant: "What have I done to you to deserve your cancer breath, you assassin?! At least suicide bombers have the decency to kill themselves and their targets quickly!"

Oh, I still love that guy, though. He owes me \$20. He was broke at the time I was helping him move his furniture around his two-room dwelling. For my trouble, he offered me a carton of cigarettes as a trade-out, but I was like, "Dude, does it look like I'm wearing an orange jump suit?"

I guess I could have taken his carton to give to my nicotine-addicted dad for an after-Christmas present. Back when parents, not "defensive driving schools," taught their children to drive, my dad's dad showed him the proper way to puff a cigarette.

Hey, I love my dad, too, not only because he never encouraged me to smoke but also because he's not a serial killer. And by "serial killer," I mean "industrial waste polluter."

Before some of you get your panties in a ruffle, though, let me say that I'm not going to wave the "global warming" banner in your face. In fact, I find that pointing to global warming doesn't quite get the message across:

"Here, Mother Earth, have some ice tea. That should cool you off. Still hot? How about some ice cream. You like

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



Rocky Road? If worse comes to worse, you could always take some clothes off. Wait, scratch that idea."

No, I'm more concerned about corporations and governments poisoning the ones I love with lead, mercury, CFCs, and oil spills, accident or not.

Any parent who even considers sending their children to school within 50 miles of a coal-burning power plant ought to start pouring Drano down their children's throats right now.

No point in wasting their time learning the letters of the alphabet or the colors of the rainbow: "Get your gargle on, Bobby. The stairway to heaven is on your right."

Say, why doesn't the State of Texas purchase solar panels, one for every public school building in the state so they can cut their costs over time?

Perhaps then the State could use the extra money to raise teacher salaries, lower the costs of the students' books, and provide more nutritious lunches than junk food.

Advertisement

Are you looking for ways to train your students to stay healthy, stay out of jail, and stay off drugs, protect their environment, and defend against terrorism, then how about harnessing the power of your students' bodies by making them run on treadmills hooked up to rechargeable batteries?

That's right: this battery recharging service could finance your students' senior trips to Europe, Mexico, and/or Colorado.

Say bye-bye to all those silly bake sales and raffles, and maybe, in five to 10 years, us Texans can start *executing* more math problems than uneducated, disadvantaged children as adults.

INFO

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Home Warranty Construction Standards Posted By Residential Construction Commission

AUSTIN — The newly created Texas Residential Construction Commission (TRCC) has approved and posted new home warranty standards for home construction in Texas. These standards have been in work for over a year.

Some consumer advocates say the new rules provide excuses for shoddy building, such as allowing for cracks in the walls, in the foundation, and in the exterior of the home. It also requires homeowners to "maintain" foundations by correct watering techniques therefore providing a builder excuse for foundation failures. These are only a few of the many serious flaws that consumer groups criticize.

According to John R. Cobarruvias, Homeowners Against Deficient Dwellings, "Because of the low standards, many quality homebuilders in Texas will now have to compete with shoddy builders using the warranty standards as an excuse instead of a guarantee. Instead of having common sense good workmanship, homeowners will now have just one year of protection for the biggest investment of their lifetime."

The warranty standards can be found at the TRCC's website and are in effect June 1, 2005. <www.trcc.state.tx.us>.

Me? On A Diet? — Part One

My mother always told me there would come a time when I couldn't eat everything I wanted. (And, boy, was she right). At first, I thought, "Oh, no, not me!" because I had always been the skinny kid who never had the time to eat or the interest. And when I did eat, I burned it up. I was active and needed a lot of fuel!

But I discovered early (after the "freshman fifteen" — for me the "freshman five" — which was definitely five too many) that I really couldn't eat EVERYTHING I liked all the time. I shed the extra weight easily back then, by simply giving up bread for a few weeks during my first summer vacation from college. I wish it was that easy now. I've learned to pick and choose wisely, to reserve some calories for the things I like the best; namely ice cream, cake, cookies, and chocolate. I got away with it for years, a minor miracle.

This system worked pretty well for most of my life. But things are not so easy now. All this hard work and fresh air gives me a healthy appetite, and everything tastes too GOOD. My metabolism must be slowing down, or maybe I'm not as active as I think. A few pounds have crept on while I wasn't looking. (Last month at my annual physical, I flatly refused to get on the scale. You can do that, you know). I figure some of the extra weight is muscle, but most of it is chocolate.

After running into a couple of women I knew who had lost a few pounds and looked better, I decided it was time to try a real diet. If they could do it, I could do it. One woman attributed her weight loss to simply not eating much any more. That sounded pretty horrifying. My stomach growled just thinking about it. The other woman had been on the South Beach Diet. She said the first two weeks were hard, but after that, it was no big deal.

Rustic Ramblings



By Gene Ellis

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

I opted to try the low carb South Beach route. It isn't as extreme as the Atkins plan (and how healthy could that have been? Didn't Atkins die last year? What? Do you think that's a coincidence?)

The South Beach Diet allowed for vegetables and lean meats. It sounded pretty healthy, similar to the way I had always eaten. I bought the book and figured I could do it. It wasn't too difficult giving up fruit, most breads (except my own homemade variety), potatoes, rice, and pasta. I don't eat much of that anyway. I like dairy products, chicken, fish, eggs, and meat. But give up ALL sweets for two weeks? You've got to be joking. What if I just cut down a little? (Even at that early stage, I was thinking of cheating, undermining myself from the beginning).

Giving up sweets was going to be very difficult indeed. The hook is that if you really do stick to the diet, you are supposed to lose up to 12 pounds in two weeks during the strict first phase. (Yeah, right). Phase two gives you more food choices, but the weight comes off more slowly.

I'd like to tell you that it turned out to be a real yawn, that I breezed through the first difficult days with no trouble and lost 12 pounds in 14 days. But that wasn't the way it happened.

You'll have to read my next column to see what happened next.

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

An Open Letter To Democratic Leaders:

Centrist, Republican Lite call it what you may but to those of you that are trying to send the Democrats in that direction have invariably sent a death blow to the Democratic party. People who have beliefs as a Republican will support Republicans, not a Democratic party untrue to the principles of its past. When Bush clamored that there were WMDs and they knew where they were, did any of the Democrats say, "If you know where these WMDs are, give the coordinates to the inspectors."? No, each time the inspectors asked they were put off by flimsy excuses. Did you speak out? No.

As Bush has slowly erased each and every environmental rule to where streams, air, and land are more polluted today than 30 years ago, did you speak out? Did you speak out when he eliminated the environmental impact testing of new poisons? No, you have ignored your party history, which has protect the world we live in.

Bush has and still does muddy the reasons that over 1400 soldiers have died in Iraq, plus thousands disabled either physically or mentally. His reasons are like trying to hold water—they fall through each time raised. You have failed to aggressively call Bush and company on their irresponsibility and ineptness.

With your inaction, Democrats have in essence supported Osama bin Laden. Osama, the architect of 911, not Saddam as Cheney has alluded, taunts us with his tapes. The Democrats refuse to remind the Republicans they started a job in Afghanistan but have failed to complete it. The Republicans were so focused on entering Iraq to save Bush Senior's name way before 911. Bush has said he does not think about the criminal who masterminded the deaths of over 3000 Americans on American soil. While the Republican Party's myopic vision continues to cost American lives in Iraq, Democrats have failed to force this administration to be honest with the American people.

The schools are being beaten with a big stick to shape up but they are not given direction or funding for mandated requirements. Democrats are not out there aggressively calling the President on the fact that you must give the schools guidelines to work with. This administration says they will fund No Child Left Behind but then the funding is only half of what was originally told would be there. These actions are like saying we will force you to fail.

Ohio had votes lost, people systematically kept from the polls, and electronic polling machines switching votes in front of people. The National Democrats said nothing. In

Florida, machines that were used were not the same ones that were qualified and were never tested to make sure they worked correctly. Again voters in Florida were systematically kept from the polls the same as in the 2000 election. While the locals pleaded for help, the National Democrats said nothing and did even less.

The National Democratic party is acting like a battered spouses. Each time the offender speaks you fall silent, scared to speak out even though you know what is happening is wrong. Each time the batterer enters the room you are afraid because you are afraid you will be slammed again. There will always be that brief honeymoon period where the offender will make you feel like you are going to be part of the team and then the attacks start again. This type of relationship is not any different than the "my way or else" attitude of the Neo Cons.

It's time the National Democratic party to stand for the issues that many believe in. Most people in this country that do not want America to be the perpetrator of war and just gives lip service of freedom for it's citizens. We want a party that believes that protecting the environment is a responsibility we must accept and be committed to. The party must be willing to take action and understand that giving lip service to veterans' care, education, health, and economic responsibility is not acceptable and cannot be tolerated.

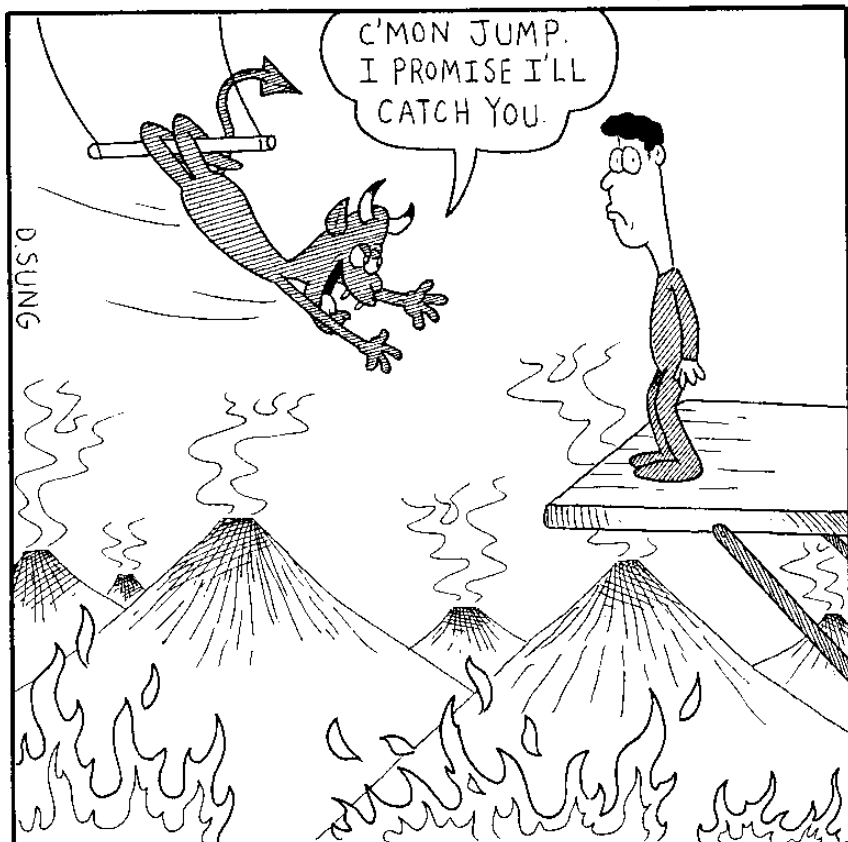
The National Democratic party has come to a cross roads that it needs to have the courage to follow. It needs to be willing to stand up to its aggressor. They need to be committed to the ideal that this country is not for the elite few, but for everyone. The Democratic Party needs to understand that if it's leaders not willing to stand up and force those who lie to the American people to be honest, people will not support them. Both parties treat the American people as though they are playing a shell game and we citizens must continually force the con game to be stopped. You have set the stage for a third party to get more powerful. This may need to happen to give others a voice they feel they do not have. Unfortunately as this happens the narrow minded Neo Con Republicans will continue to rape this country of it's pride, abilities, and environment to make themselves more powerful. Not only are the Republicans responsible for the devastation they have bought on so many aspects of our country I will hold you as much to blame for not having the fortitude to stand up and call them on their actions.

S.W., McGregor, Texas

Continued On Next Page

Aminals ©

By David Sung



What Happens to Bad Acrobats

MAILBAG
ICONOCLAST LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

To The Editor:

You Choose. Death or Taxes.

What happens when people have less access to medical care? Don't spend too long thinking about this question. There is no rocket science here. The answer is simple. People are not as healthy when they lose access to medical care.

Let's take the great state of Texas as an example. The State cut the C (child) H (health) I (insurance) P program by making some 200,000 Texas children no longer ineligible. In the six-county North Texas region that includes the heavily populated Dallas and Tarrant counties, CHIP rolls were reduced by 32%.

The State did so ostensibly to avoid raising taxes.

What has the state achieved? Well ... for one thing, by making cuts of about \$206 million in the program, Texas did not receive about \$550 million in federal matching funds. For another thing, infant mortality rose 8%.

Don't let the smoke and mirror discussions make you lose sight of what we are really talking about here. Don't obfuscate the issue by quibbling about whether or not reducing the rate of in-

crease in spending is actually a cut or an increase. Let's be intellectually honest and judge by the number of people receiving the level of care that they need.

Why is this important? Because the Bush Administration is about to make cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security. They are doing so because of the financial mess they have allowed this country get into by gutting taxes and increasing spending on elective wars. By refusing to consider a tax increase they have made cuts in entitlement programs the only option.

Make no mistake. In the process of making cuts to Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security Americans will die.

Let's talk morality here. Is it moral to cut taxes that result in deaths? Is it ethical to let multi-millionaires keep an extra 1% of his income when doing so will cause people to die?

Let's see the hands of those Senators and House of Representatives who decide that they would rather give their friends and themselves a tax cut than save lives. Washing their hands won't remove the immorality of this issue from their hands any more than it did

for Pontius Pilate.

You Choose. Death or taxes.

A.P.

To The Editor:

Please save the precious hard earned tax dollars and save the money for use in deployment of USA troops to Panama and use \$\$\$ to serve American People and their Veterans.

USE the \$\$\$ at home, not abroad. We estimate that the costs for deploying 35,000+ troops to Panama is over \$180million dollars. In local press only \$1.5 million dollars will be materials for local school and health center.

Save that money for use at home in USA!

Send us 1/4 of the transportation costs for sending those 35,000 troops and their local logistics and we will take care of 1,000 more projects than criminal USA foreign troops in our soil.

Please send us lists of magazines, radio, tv, active orgs, newspapers, university orgs so we can send you our fotos and messages.

Gringo troops, fight your own home evil empire! We will take care of ours! and save lots of money and take care of all the people....on the planet too.

Go for it...

J.P.

To The Editor:

Within below was my response to a recent generic email request from the AFL-CIO for input as to what direction they should take:

"Odd though it may seem, the most

important thing the AFL-CIO might do is evolve a proper and responsible way to lobby our representatives to keep the war on terror focused as Operation Enduring Freedom was originally intended, with outreach for inclusion in this to the various legal guest workers present and yet to come.

Over the past two years, some have suggested to me that the current martial-military-industrial status quo is in the nature of some appeasement(s) of foreign power(s). It probably couldn't hurt to show labor's multicultural, bipartisan advocacy of Operation Enduring Freedom; if such constructive hypothesis as here aforesaid existed, it would decelerate opportunities for everyone here and leave open to question what the ultimate intent of foreign powers is even for neo-cons. Some may still be thinking this due to current GOP frenzy to re-direct Social Security amid competing reasons (too few jobs, jobs aplenty but people too irresponsible to do, e.g.).

I'll support whatever the AFL-CIO proposes, to the extent same doesn't conflict with responsible Democrat initiatives which may separately evolve.

My rationale for this is: if various guest workers are here for the duration of an international martial action which the administration believes has no near ending date nor specific number of countries involved, A) if the international character of Operation Enduring Freedom isn't embraced by various guest workers or the administration can't be sure, why are they here in such capacity, gaining access to commercial and other facilities; or B) if various guest workers do embrace OEF even if involving their homeland(s), why aren't they just made citizens, especially where the administration finds such people make contributions to the war on terror..and if as suggested by this week's "Time" magazine cover story, there are far more good jobs than applicants and more homes than buyers across the entire nation?

Sincerely,

D.A., Nashville, Tennessee

To The Editor:

"America is very generous...to other countries."

Recently, I've heard a lot about how generous America is. This country does give millions of dollars in food and money etc. to other countries in need. I'm very much in favor of that. But I, a single unemployed American male can't get help anywhere. I live in Toledo, Ohio. My unemployment ran out in November and there is no extension. I have not had any luck getting hired at the worst of jobs. I've applied for welfare, and called every charity and church I could find, to try and get help. No one will help a single male with no children. There are no vouchers or money for single males in need. Applying for food stamps is a nightmare. A person could starve to death waiting for them. I've been waiting four weeks so far. I'm getting evicted from my apartment this month. I will probably live in my car. Isn't America wonderful...Would I get the help I need if I weren't an American? Who will help Americans if America doesn't?

"Soon to be homeless in Toledo."

M.U., Toledo, Ohio

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Phone: _____ (see below) = Total: _____

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

... a statement of **INDEPENDENCE.**