

# INSIDE STORIES



Gov. Howard Dean

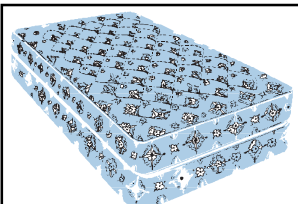
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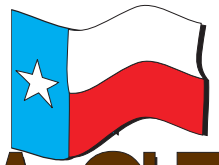
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ASBESTOS POISONING



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# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



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# WAR OVER OIL

Conservative Republican Insider Says

## Afghanistan Oil Pipeline Basis Of 9-11 Hidden Agenda

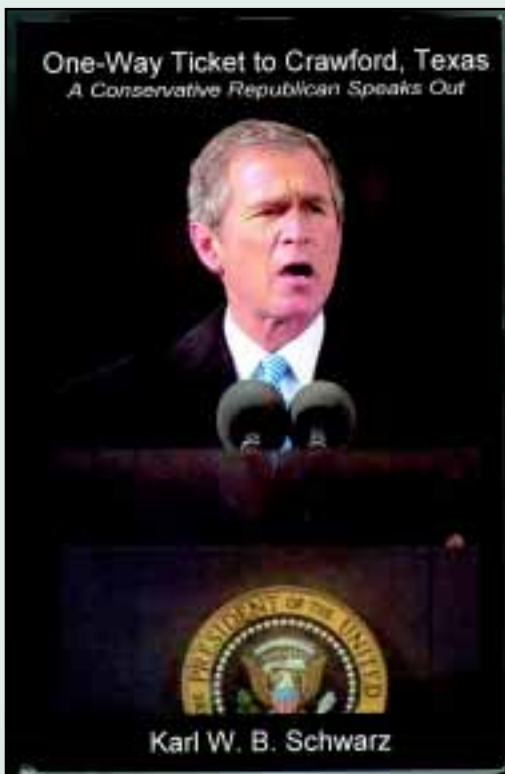
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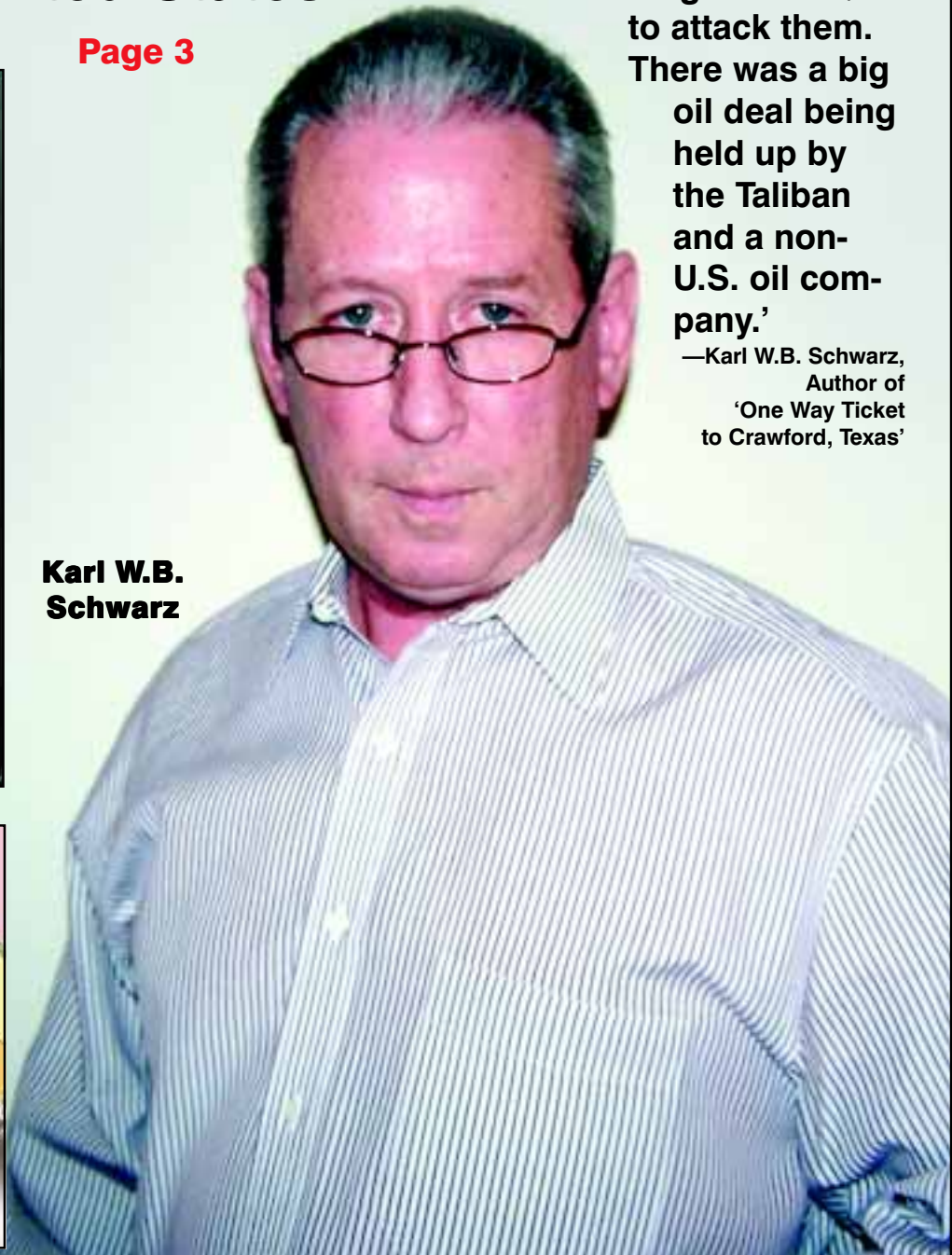
'We did not attack Afghanistan as a result of 9/11. We planned long before 9/11 to attack them.

There was a big oil deal being held up by the Taliban and a non-U.S. oil company.'

—Karl W.B. Schwarz, Author of 'One Way Ticket to Crawford, Texas'



Karl W.B. Schwarz





# Gov. Dean Elected Chairman Of Democratic National Party

WASHINGTON — Governor Howard Dean, M.D., 56, was elected chairman of the Democratic National Party on Saturday after a voice vote by the 447-member organization.

Dean, who was a candidate for President during the past election but bowed out of the Democratic Party primaries in early 2004, is known as a skilled fundraiser and organizer. He has pledged to rebuild the party by first working with Democrats in conservative states in the

South and West.

The former Vermont governor is founder and honorary chair of Democracy for America, a political action committee dedicated to using its resources to support socially progressive and fiscally responsible candidates at every level of government.

"There is something that this administration and the Republican Party are very afraid of," said Dean. "It is that we may actually begin fighting for what we

believe: fiscal responsible, socially progressive values for which Democrats have always stood and fought."

The new chairman condemned President Bush's 2006 budget, which was submitted this past week. He said, "The Republicans introduced a \$2.5 trillion budget that deliberately conceals the cost of their fiscal recklessness." Dean said that the budget "brings Enron-style accounting to the nation's capital and it demonstrates once again what all Americans are now beginning to see: you cannot trust Republicans with your money."

Regarding President Bush's plan to privatize Social Security, Dean said, "We believe that a lifetime of work earns you a retirement with dignity. We will not let that be put at risk by leaders who continually invent false crises to justify policies that don't work, in this case borrowing from our children, shredding our social safety net in the process."

Dean achieved national prominence during his campaign for the Democratic nomination for President. Dean began his campaign on a platform of balanced federal budgets and universal health care, and was later thrust into the na-

tional spotlight because of his outspoken opposition to the war in Iraq. The Dean for America presidential campaign was distinctive for its use of the Internet to organize supporters and raise an unprecedented \$30 million from average contributions of under \$100.

Dean began his political career in 1983 as a member of the Vermont House of Representatives. He was elected lieutenant governor of Vermont in 1986, and was reelected in 1988 and 1990. He became governor upon the death of Governor Richard A. Snelling on Aug. 14, 1991. Elected to a full term in November 1992, he was reelected four times. Dean is a past chairman of the National Governors' Association, the Democratic Governors' Association, and the New England Governors' Conference.

Before entering politics, Dean received a medical degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City in 1978. Upon completing his residency at the Medical Center Hospital of Vermont, he went on to practice internal medicine in Shelburne, Vt.

Born in New York City, he currently lives in Burlington, Vt. He and his wife Judy have two children, Anne and Paul.



Gov. Howard Dean

## Honda Vehicles Certified For Clean-Fuel Vehicle Deduction

WASHINGTON — The Internal Revenue Service has certified the model year 2005 Honda Insight, the Honda Civic Hybrid, and the Honda Accord Hybrid as being eligible for the clean-fuel vehicle deduction. This certification means that taxpayers who purchase one of these hybrid vehicles new may claim a tax deduction of up to \$2,000 on Form 1040.

Under the recently signed Working Families Relief Act of 2004, the clean-burning fuel deduction is up to \$2,000 for certified vehicles first put into service in 2004 and 2005. The deduction will be limited to \$500 for vehicles placed in service in 2006. No deduction will be allowed after 2006.

Federal Law allows individuals to claim a deduction for the incremental cost of buying a motor vehicle that is propelled by a clean-burning fuel. By combining an electric motor with a gasoline-powered engine,

these hybrid vehicles obtain greater fuel efficiency and produce fewer emissions than similar vehicles powered solely by conventional gasoline-powered engines.

This one-time deduction must be taken in the year the vehicle is originally used. The taxpayer must be the original owner. Individuals do not have to itemize deductions on their tax return to claim this deduction. This benefit can be taken as an adjustment to income on the Form 1040.

The amount of the deduction for the Insight, Civic Hybrid or Accord Hybrid was set after the manufacturer, American Honda Motor Co. Inc., documented for the IRS the incremental cost related to the vehicle's electric motor and related equipment.

The IRS has previously certified the Honda Insight for model years 2000-2004 and the Honda Civic Hybrid for model years 2003 and 2004.



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# WAR OVER OIL

## Conservative Republican Insider Says Afghanistan Oil Pipeline Basis Of 9-11 Hidden Agenda Calls 9-11 A Preemptive Strike Against United States

BY NATHAN DIEBENOW  
AND W. LEON SMITH  
EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH KARL W.B. SCHWARZ

CRAWFORD — He calls himself a conservative Republican, a brand that has defined him for the past 24 years at both the Arkansas and the Republican National Committee levels. After extensive research into the events that led to 9/11, Karl W.B. Schwarz, 53, has penned a book, "One-Way Ticket to Crawford, Texas — A Conservative Republican Speaks Out," that in 832 pages details a massive governmental cover-up and explains the backdrop of what led to the war in Iraq.

In his book, Schwarz explains that prior to June 26, 2001, "the Bush Administration put India and Iran on notice that he intended to use military force to attack and remove the Taliban from power." The reasoning, according to Schwarz, was an attempt to "bully the Taliban into letting Unocal and those Saudi partners that have apparently been financing terrorism" to have the Trans-Caspian pipeline across Afghanistan.

Schwarz asks: "Did we just get preemptively attacked and they do not want us to know that? Or, did we attack ourselves so the attack on the Taliban was justified so Bush Buddies could get their oil deals and oil pipelines?"

The author says that Americans were kept in the dark.

"Can anyone recall any of them telling us about that \$7.34 trillion oil deal or that pipeline that was so desperately needed? No?" said Schwarz.

In his book, Schwarz talks about the FBI's lack of interest in capturing certain terrorists, the Administration's propensity to act in secrecy and keep Americans in the dark, America's poisoning itself for another attack, and contracts that make the rich richer and the poor poorer.

Schwarz provides substantial documentation about behind-the-scenes meetings and the "financial terrorists" who stand to gain as they worship the exploitation of oil.

"What I see is a nightmare that is slowly developing into a complete undermining of all I hold dear about this nation," says Schwarz, speaking of those entrenched in the neo-conservative movement. "I am watching subrogation of power to the whims of

wantonly greedy people and in that, a subjugation of the citizens of my nation."

Schwarz, an architect by training, has extensive experience in investment banking, workouts, and advanced technology. He is the chairman CEO of COMMAXCESS, Inc. and I-nets Security Systems, Inc. He is also president CEO of a major nanotechnologies company currently planning the installation of major production facilities in Europe, Canada, and the United States.

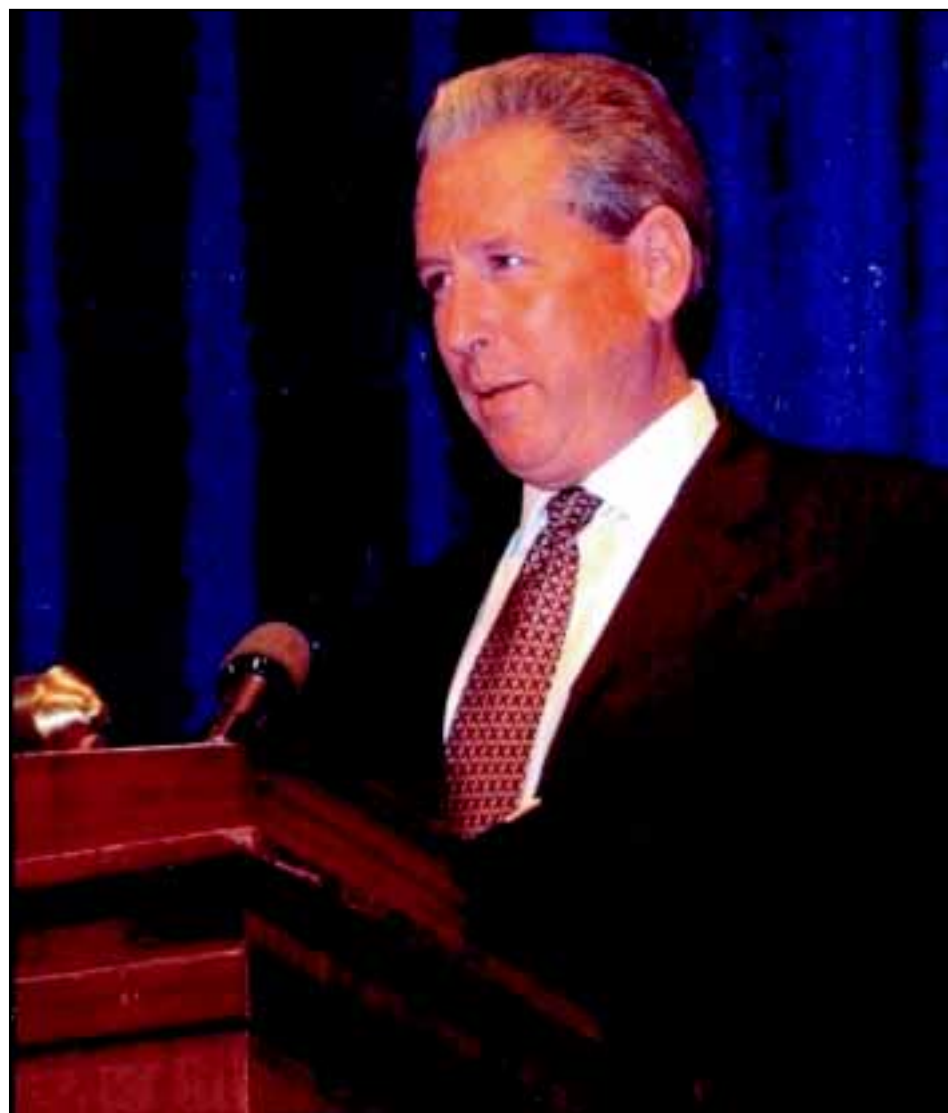
A devout Christian, he is founder/CEO of multiple high technology companies involved in biomedicine, nanotechnology, photonics, hydrogen fuel cells, antiterrorism, UAV, carbon and boron nono-composites made possible by carbon nanotube breakthroughs, hyperspectral systems, and video search Knowledge Management software.

He writes in his book, "We have a President and Vice President with 'oil on their brain' to the extent they virtually let the oil industry (major campaign contributors) write the Bush Energy Policy. Never have I seen such a shameful display of pandering to the detriment of us all, and from that policy emerged a War Plan and a War Policy to pursue that greed and lust for power to absurd proportions.

"They do not want us to know what that Energy Task Force meeting was about, but within months we suffered 9/11, we attacked Afghanistan in an already 'pre-packaged war plan' and by February 2002 that big, essential unbilical cord pipeline they had to have to give birth to their Oil Kingdom in the Caspian is back in business.

"They do not want us to know about 9/11, and my instincts now say that is because they know we will see the truth and the public outrage will rise like never before in this land. This Bush Administration fears the American people and what their reactions will be when they come to know the truth. I now believe that is the underlying agenda of the Patriot Act, so that they may put down dissent from an outraged nation where we can all be defined as 'Al Qaeda terrorist.'"

According to Schwarz, any benefits from the tax cuts provided by the Administration are wiped out with the cost that families and business must bear in



Karl W.B. Schwarz

**We did not attack Afghanistan as a result of 9/11. We planned long before 9/11 to attack them. There was a big oil deal being held up by the Taliban and a non-U.S. oil company.'**

—Karl W.B. Schwarz

fuel cost increases, whereby ultimately these tax cut revenues are going to oil interests as they plunder the nation.

After coming to the conclusion that soundbites that have been broadcast by the major news media simply have not

added up, Schwarz began investigating in 2003 and was inundated with tips and information from investigators throughout the world who had the same concerns.

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# • WAR OVER OIL ... An Exclusive Interview With Karl W.B. Schwarz ... Continued From Previous Page

"It is all around me and here I am in the center with information," he says in the book. "I am not afraid of Al Qaeda. I am afraid of who is behind all of this and why."

"I am becoming more convinced every day that God has me right here, right now for a reason. I can honestly say that I do not enjoy it nor do I like it. I not only know bits and pieces, I know many things that are missing pieces and facts from different directions that all lead and point to the center. A center that is a rotten core that no true American would take pride in or support."

During an hour-long exclusive interview the day after President Bush's The State of the Union Address with ICONOCLAST writer Nathan Diebenow, Schwarz encouraged Americans to snap out of the "Bush Mythology Bubble" and take a hard look at what is really going on in the nation.

"I did not like what I found," he said. "You will not either, if you take the time to know the truth."

Part 6 of Schwarz's "Pop goes the Bush mythology bubble" series is currently available on Online Journal ([www.onlinejournal.com/Special\\_Reports/021205Schwarz/021205schwarz.html](http://www.onlinejournal.com/Special_Reports/021205Schwarz/021205schwarz.html)), as well as his demand letter to U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

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ICONOCLAST: Let's start with your background. Where did you go to school? College?

SCHWARZ: University of Arkansas Architecture Department. I didn't graduate. I went there from 1969-1972, going to school there year-round. I got my license in the early 1980s. They had what they called the "equivalency" where you worked two years for every year you didn't go to school, so it's a little bit longer to get your license. I got my license in 1981.

ICONOCLAST: Can you tell me about your nanotechnology business? How did you get started with that?

SCHWARZ: I was an arm's length affiliated with Smith & Barney for about four years. What I did was find (special) properties and renegotiate the lease to get a higher credit rating, to get a lower financing rate, and what I would do is take that in and Smith & Barney would underwrite it all so I had the right to bid on some of them myself, and I did. After I left there, I teamed up with UUnet as their only global VAR (value added reseller). We were already involved in the R&D work before what they call "long-haul transmission" services to where you could go 3,000 km without a repeater. You could send signals a long way and we were also engaged in photonics. It was out of the photonics that we involved in nanotechnologies.

ICONOCLAST: Moving into politics, how was your political opinion shaped over time?

SCHWARZ: Well, let me see. By virtue of marriage, I had a stepfather who come into my life when I was 12. One of his uncles was Wilber D. Mills, a conservative Democrat from the state of Arkansas, who served 1939-1977 and wound up one of the most powerful people to ever Chairman the House Ways & Means Committee. Uncle Wilber is what we called him.



Karl W.B. Schwarz

I am a conservative Democrat in my original votes. For example, I didn't like Lyndon Johnson. He was too liberal for me. I definitely didn't like Dick Nixon. I wasn't really sure about Jimmy Carter, but about 1978-79, I started taking a real, hard look at what the Democrats stood for, where they were trying to take the party, and it was to me way too much of an affirmative action, you know, people having entitlements, and things I didn't see in the Constitution.

I think people ought to work their way up as I say sometimes when I give speeches, "Equity is built through effort, and time is not built through the stroke of a pen." You know, there's a lot of people in our society that have gotten themselves ingrained in their minds, that everything has to be a matter of expediency, how fast they can make a million or a billion. That's not what it's all about. So I became a Republican in 1980 because of Bill Clinton.

ICONOCLAST: Because he was moving up in Arkansas at the time?

SCHWARZ: Yeah, and now, thanks to George Bush, I'm an independent. I mean, I have completely pulled out of the RNC. They are not representative of what I consider the majority of the values of the people of this nation. In fact I can talk to you for hours about why I view the "Contract with America" was a contract on America. I think they have done a masterful job of packaging it and selling it. They've got to keep it simple. They've got to keep it down to quote "moral issues" and "lower taxes."

But at the same time, (the RNC) is fundamentally a sellout to big corporatization of our government. And I don't agree with that because corporatization of our government is teetering right on the edges of fascism. And I think if you look at the Bush administration, you'll see a lot of elements of fascism, intolerance, shouting people down, stomping people down, and justifications of any type of wacky policies.

What I wrote about in my book, I met Birdas Corporation, and that's a corporation that most Americans are not aware of. They need to be aware of it. Birdas is based in Argentina because of the break up of the Soviet Union. They

started back in 1990-91, long before we were able to tread on those countries over there and even visit them. They went over there and started cutting deals with the Turkmenistan government, with the Bhutto government in Pakistan, and ultimately with the Taliban (in Afghanistan).

Their goal was they signed two big leases in 1992-93 for oil and gas reserves in Turkmenistan. Then, just like we're doing right now, they realized they had to have a pipeline to get it to the ocean. So they commenced negotiations and cut a deal with Turkmenistan, cut it with Pakistan, and then cut it with the Taliban in that order, and basically influenced people in big oil companies from our government through the George Herbert Walker Bush administration, the Clinton administration, and now the Bush administration, and have done everything humanly possible to take that pipeline away from them. And they have now done it. On 9/11, the only remaining obstacle was the Taliban-Birdas Corporation contracts.

Now I met these people in a telecom conference in 1999, and here's what they told me. They told me about the big lawsuit, \$15 billion for interference of contracts against Turkmenistan-Unocal.

ICONOCLAST: Who is the "they?"

SCHWARZ: Birdas. Birdas got jerked around in the southern district of Texas for years. Back in 1998, there was a judge that threw their case out. He said, "This is Turkmenistan law. This isn't U.S. law." That kind of stuff. And they took it to the ICC, and got the ruling in their favor, but they still had to fight their way through court.

On Sept. 9, 2003, well after 9/11, after we had attacked Afghanistan, Birdas won the lawsuit in the 5th Circuit. What they won was a half a billion dollar judgment. U.S. courts don't just hand out judgments for fun and games. They hand out judgments to what you'd call "wronged parties," but when you understand the dynamics of what they did to Birdas, they undercut them in Turkmenistan which is what you'd call the well head. That's the commencing point of that pipeline, that we now control.

I've been convinced since 9/11 happened that 9/11 was a staged Pearl Harbor, that these people have gone out there and waged war. They have killed the truth to take over a business deal that they couldn't otherwise get done through a commercialized transaction.

ICONOCLAST: So in your opinion, was Osama bin Ladin in on this at all?

SCHWARZ: I don't think he was involved at all. And the reason I don't think he was involved is Part 6 of my Bush Mythology Bubble series on Online Journal. The Part 6 article is about a post 9/11 payoff flight that left within six to eight hours after 9/11 happened with a very large amount of cash. There was

a post-9/11 payoff made. We know somebody who was on that flight. We were able to track him down, and now he's dead. He's no longer with us.

ICONOCLAST: Who was that?

SCHWARZ: Well, you'll see in the next article. When the next article breaks, you'll know his name, and you can follow the trail from there. This next article, Part 6, is called "Pop Goes the Bush Mythology." In fact, if you go to Online Journal right now, Part 5 is posted. Down at the bottom the page, we've got the links from Parts 1 through 4.

Part 6 is going to coincide with a letter that I'm going to be sending (soon) that is going to Kofi Annan of the United Nations. It will be CCed by FedEx to Rumsfeld, Bush, the FBI, Interpol, and others like THE WASHINGTON POST, WASHINGTON TIMES, NEW YORK TIMES, LA TIMES. Then about 300,000 people are going to get this as an email link. The "demand letter" to Kofi Annan will be posted on my website. People are going to start shaking their heads. They're going to go, "What is really going on here?"

ICONOCLAST: When did you find out about this stuff? When did you start putting the pieces together and start figuring this out?

SCHWARZ: Actually, March of 2001. There were two things. I had already met with Birdas. I knew what was going on with them. I had been tracking that lawsuit in Texas since 1999. It was in the southern district in Texas, down in Houston. In 2002, it went to the 5th circuit U.S. Court of Appeals. They won on Sept. 9, 2003. Turkmenistan appealed it to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court ruled against them on March 22, 2004. They refused to hear the appeal. You can look it up at the 5th Circuit as *Bridas SAPIC v. Government of Turkmenistan, et al., No. 02-20929, 5th Cir.* The case at the Supreme Court was called case No.031018 - *Turkmenistan v. Birdas/Sapice*.

And the payoff flight I'm referring to went to the northern part of Afghanistan.

ICONOCLAST: What started your fascination with this case?

SCHWARZ: I thought it was odd that our government was over there trying to bust an Argentinian company out of the deal instead of trying to renegotiate with them. You see joint ventures all the time between big oil companies because of the cost of development, the pipelines, loading terminals, and stuff like that.

I just thought it was really strange how abusive the Bush family and our government under the Clinton administration was toward an Argentinian company. Argentina is supposedly an ally. So I watched it really close, but then after I left UUnet in 2000, I started focusing on a different business plan. It was real obvious to me that a lot of those

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telecoms were going to fail. The reason (the telecoms failed) was that between 1997 and 2000, Wall Street and our capital markets and also the European capital markets created 3,400 ISPs, IPS, telecoms, wireless, etc. Way too many competitors. There had to be a failure point in there. I've got a lot of friends on Wall Street, and when I found out that they had issued \$672 billion worth of high yield debt, and they expected 65-80 percent failure rate, I started saying, "Hell, telecoms are going to be cheap."

So I started putting together investors and we went to the bankruptcy courts. I was the high bidder on Viatel, E-Bone, Williams Communication, and Global Crossing and have nothing to show for it, except a million dollars in legal fees and travel expenses. Now when creditors in a bankruptcy turn down the high bid, but the high bid is subject to due diligence, and you cut through the fraud and get that out of the way of the business operations? You begin to suspect they're hiding something.

Well, it was in March 2001 that we found out what they were hiding. And from that point forward, this whole story has taken on a whole new complexion. 9/11 was kind of a ping on the radar. Some of the people we found that were involved in the melting down of U.S. companies are the same people that Sibel Edmonds found as being directly involved in the financing the execution of 9/11. That's when things started going ping, okay?

I'll give you a perfect example. The president's speech last night, what are they all talking about this morning?

ICONOCLAST: The two women embracing.

SCHWARZ: Well, that and our white knight is going to save Social Security. In chapter 16 of my book, there is a policy paper that I did in conjunction with a gentleman that lives in Houston who knows the Bushes. It was hand delivered to George Bush at the White House. It was sent by FedEx and email to (Sen. Bill) Frist, (Rep. Dennis) Hastert, and (Rep. Tom) Delay, and they have never responded back to it. What they are trying to do is set the stage to where the capital markets can literally steal most of the additional \$60-90 billion a year because they're not willing to close certain loopholes that make the debt legal under code of law. The same thing we discovered in March 2001 is still there. It's how they are executing transfer of wealth schemes. Now they want to plunder the SS.

ICONOCLAST: So what you're saying is that now that they've plundered the capital markets, they're going after Social Security?

SCHWARZ: Right, they've already done it to the steel industry, the telecoms, the ISPs, the wireless companies. Hell, even Samsonite. I mean, I could show you a nightmare regarding Samsonite, of all things. What is there in luggage that's worth \$500 million worth of theft?

But these people are plundering the investor markets, and what's happened is that they've been so egregious in their conduct that, you know, they can't even begin to get people to open up those checkbooks any more. Now they want people investing into SS because that is your nest egg. But they have changed

certain things in our laws regarding stock fraud, RICO (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act, truth in advertising, you know, when they file their FCC statements.

I mean, you can basically say, "Hey, I'm an ISP, and I know how to deliver sex to you over the IP. Blah blah blah." And you can sit there and make the most egregious comments in the world about what you can do over fiber optic and down at the bottom, if you put a disclaimer, you haven't done anything wrong. You just tell your people, "Oh, due to this is a miraculous breakthrough,

we're going to quadruple our revenues next year. And our payout to you shareholders is going to quadruple." People buy that.

But what they've also done is made bankruptcy laws to where shareholders have no rights. That changed in 1994. It started under George W.'s father, and they finally got it pushed through under Clinton. They are using our bankruptcy courts as a haven for fraud. That's where I've been squared off with them since 2000.

When I hear George Bush utter the words "rule of law" and I know that his buddies are melting a lot of these companies down and taking them away from the shareholders, I just want to gag.

ICONOCLAST: This is interesting to me because this is the first time I've heard a CEO of any company coming out against Bush and his crew.

SCHWARZ: It is literally a form of organized crime that is being condoned, sponsored, and aided by our government. I mean, I'm the kind of guy, 53 years old, that thinks everybody has the right to the American Dream. These people don't want it that way. They get the American Dream. You get the shaft. And what they've done is spend years and millions of dollars, power lunches, and policy changes to try to turn everything over to where antitrust doesn't matter anymore, ultimate corporate power is where it's headed, and the rest of us are just a cash crop. We've got a government that is aiding and abetting every step of the way, even to the point of changing the laws so you and I don't have a defense against it.

ICONOCLAST: Right. Like with class action lawsuits against asbestos. Bush was talking about that in his State of the Union Address.

SCHWARZ: And did you see the smirk on Cheney's face when he said that? Go back and look at that.

ICONOCLAST: Yeah, I think I saw that.

SCHWARZ: Cheney's sitting back there getting every policy change he wants. And notice he didn't bring up, "Oh, by the way, we were going to do reconstruction of Iraq to the tune of \$18.6 billion and \$9 billion of it is missing." I mean, that's almost 50 percent of the

Treasury gone.

I think it's time that people got aware of what the hell is really going on. They don't have any "construction crews" in

**"We have a President and Vice President with 'oil on their brain' to the extent they virtually let the oil industry (major campaign contributors) write the Bush Energy Policy. Never have I seen such a shameful display of pandering to the detriment of us all, and from that policy emerged a War Plan and a War Policy to pursue that greed and lust for power to absurd proportions."**

—Karl W.B. Schwarz

Iraq. That money was for privatizing the Iraqi assets in the hands of Bush's backers and that money is going to do rehab work on those assets so that they can have pristine new assets. In other words, Bush's "Pioneers" are going to own Iraq's northern electric grid, for instance. That money is not going into reconstruction to benefit Iraqis. It's going to benefit Bush's buddies who are going to own all the resources: the oil and gas companies, the refineries, the

oil fields, the electrical generation plants, the water supply, the cable systems, the wireless systems ... They are basically over there nationalizing Iraq as the 51st state.

Turn it around. Okay, you're in Texas, right? What would you do if the Iraqis, the Venezuelans, or even the Mexicans came charging into Crawford, Texas, and took over your entire infrastructure, and they were your new overlords? Would you fight back? What if they came out to your house and threw you out of your house because one of their buddies liked your house? Would you fight back? There's a difference between a terrorist insurgence and a patriot that says, "Get out of my home."

ICONOCLAST: How is anything going to change?

SCHWARZ: Well, what we're trying to show is that there are alternatives. We're putting a different plan on the table. In chapter 16, I say that none of the Republicans or the Democrats stood up for you or me over what that paper was about. You'll understand that we've been sold out. Chapter 17 is titled "What we can do to clean up W's mess." It's a very tongue and cheek political proposal about here's what we need to do to fix some of these problems. It's written with sense of humor.

ICONOCLAST: Give me an example of an alternative, a part of the plan.

SCHWARZ: Like Social Security. Social Security was never intended to be an entitlement for every American to receive a check every month. It was intended to be a safety net for those Americans who were less fortunate than others. We have billionaires who are getting checks from Social Security. That needs to stop. They don't need it. All they are doing is putting a constant drain (on the system).

"Well," a lot of people say, "they paid into it. It's fair that they get it back." It's also fair that don't take it and treat it as an act of benevolence. If they are going to sit there and donate a million dollars to their church as an act of kindness, they can make sure they don't take that from the Treasury because all they're doing is putting that debt on everybody else.

ICONOCLAST: But don't you pay into

the system if your income is over a certain amount?

SCHWARZ: There are caps. I mean, someone like Bill Gates only pays so much a year into it, and everything above that, there are caps. But there's no reason in the world that somebody's got to get millions and millions of dollars a year in their retirement years just by coupon clipping. Those folks are not the kinds of folks who want or need Social Security nor are they the types of people Social Security was designed to protect. What they've done over time is they've filtered into their mind, "Well, that's my money. I paid into it." That's not how they are running the system. What they take in from you and me today, they are paying out to people who are retired today. There's no money in the bank that these people have in savings accounts somewhere.

The other thing we're going to start selling hard is the concept of what is a political issue and what isn't. To me, abortion is a moral choice. It takes way too much of our political discussion in this country. That's between the person and God. It's not for you and me to tell that person what to do. Even as a Christian, I don't see anything inconsistent in that.

As the Bible says, "Judge not lest ye be judged." It's none of my business what you do. Another thing I'm trying to get across to you progressive types is "your rights end where mine begin. Quit assuming where mine begin." And they go, "What do you mean by that?" So I tell them. All the way across the board, like this whole thing with gay marriage. I'm not for gay marriage, but on the other token, if someone is dying in the hospital or has to have surgery, there are a lot of hospitals that won't let the gay partner in to be with the person they care about because "he's not family." That to me is being a little too (harsh) about it. What they've done is try to cast this out that the Republican Party stands for goodness, family values, moral values, lower taxes, and tell you what, there's a whole lot more than that. We have some serious financial problems out here. This country is being plundered by an elite few that really need to be reigned in.

ICONOCLAST: How do you do that? How do you reign them in?

SCHWARZ: One, rule of law means something for everybody, not just a few of us. There are people in this country who are above the law. That doesn't need to be tolerated at all. If you don't believe me, just take a look at Dennis Kozlowski or Bernie Ebbers, people who have plundered hundreds of millions — billions of dollars — from people, and got off scot free.

One of the things — I got a phone call from Austin, Texas, from someone reported to be a senior aid to Karen Hughes on the same day Birdas won down in New Orleans, Sept. 9, 2003. The phone call was about Global Crossing. When you read chapter 14 of my book, there's a taped transcript of that conversation. You'll see what I'm talking about, to what extent certain people are above the law and who we come across that were plundering a lot of these companies. It was Tom Hicks, John Mews, Richard Rainwater, Sid Bass. Those all tie right back to the Bush family. And she

Continued On Next Page



• **WAR OVER OIL ... An Exclusive Interview With Karl W.B. Schwarz ... Continued From Previous Page**

(the person on the phone) wanted to know, "And you're telling me, you're going to file a RICO against a couple of the president's friends?" And I said, "That's exactly what I'm telling you." Grab this. It was Priscilla Owen.

ICONOCLAST: Who is that?

SCHWARZ: She's what most people in Texas consider that wacko Supreme Court judge tried to nominate in the 5th Circuit. Two years later, she still hasn't been confirmed.

ICONOCLAST: So let's move on a little bit. How is the book effected your business?

SCHWARZ: Actually, business is way up.

ICONOCLAST: Because of the book?

SCHWARZ: Even at the federal level.

ICONOCLAST: Are they just not aware of the book?

SCHWARZ: Oh, they are very, very aware of the book. They are very aware of my stance. There's a lot of them. You'd be amazed. Federal employees tune in every time I'm on the radio. (Laughs)

ICONOCLAST: Really? (Laughs) So the federal employees are handling your papers a little more swiftly. (Laughs)

SCHWARZ: Uh, yeah, well, what is happening here is that we have factions within our government like there are factions in our town. There are good people, people who are "red, white, blue American," and then you got people who are just so greedy they need to be run out. I mean, they're like a cancer. What's going on even within our government is a lot of people who have figured this out, and they know that sooner or later that right will prevail.

I've been just handing (my five "Pop

Goes the Bush Mythology Bubble" articles) to them, and the funny thing is that they don't call me. They don't come after me. They run from me. They know to what extent we have been all over their butts. And when I say "we," they know I have got investigators on three continents digging into this. We actually put people in March 2000-01 inside trading operations who sit there and watch these people do this to figure out which way they were going with their money.

When I was focused on trying to buy Global Crossing and Williams Communications, I had an investigator send me a FedEx package saying, "Carl, what the hell does this have to do with Turkmenistan?" And I'm like, "You know, I don't know, and I don't care. I'm trying to be the highest bidder on Global Crossing." It was after all that stuff. They pushed us aside and went with the lowest bid instead of the highest bid, but they went with somebody with no due diligence, you know, which was to cover up this crime. That was when we started going back and started looking through all these other documents, and I'm going, "Holy cow! So that's where that money went." We were following those trails.

I think everybody in America ought to know who Sibel Edmonds is. You know who she is? She's the FBI whistleblower, and here's what she found. Here's why she has a gag order against her. She found drug trafficking, money laundering, foreign names, and American names involved in the planning, financing, and execution of 9/11. We haven't been told that Americans were involved in 9/11. I think every American needs to know that. Once you understand that lie and a lot of other

things, like maybe that's why all the Democrats are just rolling over when it comes to the Patriot Act which is gutting the Constitution, you'll ask, "Do they want it that way? Maybe somebody wants us to be living in a police state?"

I don't know if you heard this, but I've heard from three women I know that got groped by a male TSA worker when they were flying over the holidays. And as God is my witness, if one of those guys gropes my woman, I'll knock his ass out. So guess what. You're not al-Queda, and neither am I! And to treat us all like we're al-Queda suspects, shaking us down, and trying to push us to where these changes in our life-style are just how it's going to be? To get used to it? I don't think so.

ICONOCLAST: So why are the Democrats just lying around, not doing anything?

SCHWARZ: Because their wealthy elite masters are telling them not to. Once you get up at this level, REP and DEM get substituted by dollar signs every time. These people are total chameleons when it comes to truth, political ideology. All they care about is who gets to plunder, about how much they get to plunder. They've wired themselves to the U.S. Treasury. They want it that way. They want it so they can steal from you in the capital markets. They can overcharge you for gasoline or cable or whatever, and there's nothing you can do about it. That's when I started saying, "You know what? Either this is going to change, or I'm leaving."

ICONOCLAST: So how has this book affected your ties to the Republican Party? Are they ignoring your phone calls of the GOP?

SCHWARZ: They're even ignoring



Karl W.B. Schwarz

the emails these days. I still have plenty of people from within the party and many high level state people all over the country. They're beginning to figure out that this not the RNC-GOP they once had believed in. I mean, there's a lot of us talking about third party. We have enough disaffected Republicans and disaffected Democrats that are waking up and smelling the coffee. You might be able to generate what you'd say a 50-percent party out here from people who are just fed up.

ICONOCLAST: So people from the upper eschelons are thinking about pulling their money out?

SCHWARZ: I'm aware of one major investor group right now that is looking into putting a whole new network together. It is going to be a truth network until Americans choke on the truth.

ICONOCLAST: What does that include? What are they going to be doing?

SCHWARZ: DSS, cable, radio.

ICONOCLAST: They're just going to start a media empire?

SCHWARZ: Yeah, just lay it on out there and we're going to say, "This is what's going on, folks. This is what they are really doing to you." Just putting out the hard facts. I mean, ask yourself this, What's been going on for the last two years? You think CNN could have found something more timely and more probative than Scott and Lacey Peterson? I mean, I've got one progressive that advises me on a lot of stuff. She calls it "the distraction de jour of the day." She coined the phrase that we're using today on the radio, "The Truth Comes Alive in '05." She's very humorous, but by the same token, she's like me. She wants her country back.

These people designed this. They are people who want it their way, not what you and I would consider our way. That's where I drew the line in the RNC. In fact, I've had a lot of people ask me to run for president. They say, "Why don't you take over the RNC?" And I said, "Well, let me tell you the same thing I told Pat Buchanan's people. Pat wants to fight for the heart and soul of the GOP. I'm not so sure there is a heart and soul left."

People said, "Well, we can take over the DNC." I said, "Well, taking over the

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# • WAR OVER OIL ... An Exclusive Interview With Karl W.B. Schwarz ... Continued From Previous Page

DNC means I have to hook up with the far fringe wacky Left. I'm not going there either. It's not me. I'd rather declare myself an independent or a libertarian and be done with it. Tell it like it is. Black is black, and white is white."

But Americans have a lot to come to grips with when it comes to the truth. They've been sold a pig in the poke, and what concerns me is that there's so many people who watch CNN? Can't you tell that they're just spooking you? They're getting the news to you in small bites, so you think that's what's going on.

This whole debate on Social Security is going to expose a lot of what's going on. What are their real goals? What are they after? Well, they're after \$60-90 billion a year in investments. There are sharks in those waters who will steal from you. They get by with it. And then what are you going to do?

ICONOCLAST: So what does this power group that George Bush is associated with want from us? Do they just want us to be their slaves?

SCHWARZ: I've heard it described as "cash crop." I've used the analogy of the hamster on a wheel. You may think you have the American Dream, but you don't. You may think you can attain it, but it ain't going to happen if you're not a part of that little group. That's not the America people stand up for and that's not the America people stand up and salute the American flag for. This is about all of us, not just a few of us. What's scary is to what degree. The Project for a New America. Century People. The neo-cons. To what extent they have co-opted the media, co-opted the bureaucracy, the office of the president, Congress, the courts, even the military to which they buy off on this. They don't understand what's at stake. What's at stake here, how about your future? How about your freedoms? How about if you ever have a chance at all in your life to

be something? If you're not a part of the little group, you're not on the RSVP list.

ICONOCLAST: You're associated with a lot of business folks. How big is this network?

SCHWARZ: It's already running into the millions. It started off two years ago with 300,000 people. who were shareholders of companies that knew they were robbed and who robbed them. The Bush Administration, the FCC, and the courts just stood there and looked the other way.

So basically, I started off building this with a core group of 300,000 really angry people whose standard of living and financial security had been financially plundered with all this market fraud you saw. Once I showed them who did it and how they did it, I basically found myself being a leader whether I wanted to or not. And frankly, I didn't want to. I found myself being in the middle of something I didn't want to be in, but I couldn't look the other way because this effected me, too. I used to be worth \$90 million, but I'm not now. Trust me. I'm mad as a hatter of being diced up and having no legal rights whatsoever.

ICONOCLAST: Are there any other groups that you are working with? And who is a part of your group?

SCHWARZ: They are disaffected conservative Republicans, progressives ... We don't have that I'm aware of what you would call "Far Left," but we have plenty of conservative to moderate Democrats, people from the Green Party, Constitution Party, Reform Party, Libertarian Party. It's kind of like pick a party. We're finding that the numbers are very large. A lot of people are discussing the same things that you and I are discussing that something is wrong with this country and they want it fixed, and they want it fixed now.

ICONOCLAST: What about people of faith?

SCHWARZ: Oh, yes. In fact, I know

more Christians than I do Republicans. I don't know hardly any of them that voted for Bush in this last election for the simple reason that they are fed up with the lies, the killing, and the greed. They're fed up with it. They watched Martha Stewart get five months in jail while the people who plundered 100 times more than her got a slap on the wrist.

ICONOCLAST: How is this group growing?

SCHWARZ: On the political side, there's about 10,000 people. We're working on an action plan. We're working grassroots, trying to get to the door-to-door level, somebody within a block or a street. You know, go talk with your neighbors. Go talk to them about what's really going on. I mean, here's a good question: you know Bush's tax-refund? My retort to that is in the form of a question, "Let's have a show of hands. How many of you had your tax cut yanked out of your hands with the increased costs of gasoline because we had a terror alert "orange" right before check showed up?" I think you'd see 75-percent of the American people raise their hands in the air.

Look at how Bush has grown government. A true conservative would not even think about doing what he's doing with concern to the way he's growing government with these deficits.

ICONOCLAST: What's he spending it on?

SCHWARZ: You can trace ever bit of this money from federal funding initiation to some omnibus group right back into the hands of his major backers. Go back to the State of the Union speech. Look at the smirk on Cheney's face when he was talking about doing away with the frivolous asbestos suits. (Laughs). I mean, I just wanted to slap Cheney.

See, I've met Cheney. I talk about this in the book. Back when he was Secretary of Defense, I lived in Northern Virginia at that time. I had an office in D.C. We were both in a Nordstrom's men's store in Virginia, getting fitted out. He was buying three or four suits, and I was buying six. They had one guy on duty that day that was marking the suits. So he and I got to visit a lot because this took an hour and a half.

When we were talking, I got a pretty good feeling of this guy. And I'm telling you, who I see on TV today is not even the same guy. I don't know what got to him or what he bought off on, but that was not the same man I talked to at Nordstrom's. And my wife noticed the same thing before we got divorced. "What in the hell is wrong with him?" I said, "I don't know." (Laughs) "I don't know, and I'm not so sure I want to know."

There have been some people who have been paying attention to a different direction than me. I'm talking Christians. I'm not talking the wacky secular folks on Far Left. What they are seeing here are some really strong elements of Satanism, too, like human life just doesn't matter, like human life has no value. I mean, I've seen certain pieces of it myself, but I just haven't had time to delve into it.

ICONOCLAST: What do you mean? Do you mean that these people are acting like Satanists because they treat

people badly?

SCHWARZ: I'm talking about some of the stuff that comes out of government. You know, 2,000 American soldiers and probably 20,000 massively injured, that their agendas are higher and loftier than that and 100,000 dead Iraqis.

ICONOCLASTS: So they are unfeeling.

SCHWARZ: Not exactly "compassionate conservative." Very uncompassionate conservative. I get that sense when I see them callously push certain discussions and keep going for their target. I keep saying, "What is their target?" When I ask myself that question, and add up everything I know I don't like what I see.

I think their aim is fundamentally evil, whether they see that or not. They may not see that. They may not be what you would call "practicing Satanists." They may not have discernment. That old Christian word. Learn to use discernment. "Recognize them by their fruits." When I look at them, I see some things, but until you sit down and talk to somebody you don't know their heart, so I'm not really sure how much of that I'm seeing, but I have to agree to some of the people who have pointed it out to me some of the things that don't smell right.

So basically how would you describe me: an ecumenical Christian who doesn't buy off on their values the way they have practiced them. I don't agree with the killing. I don't agree with greed. I don't agree with their lies. I don't agree for the lack of compassion of human beings, whether they be Americans or foreigners. As a Republican, I'm very conservative. Primarily, I'm a social and fiscal conservative, and I see neither coming from them. It's just lip service. So that's pretty well how you can sum me up.

Schwarz's book, "One Way Ticket to Crawford, Texas: a Conservative Republican Speaks Out," can be purchased on his website ([www.karlschwarz.com/store.html](http://www.karlschwarz.com/store.html)) or by mail to Republic Broadcasting Network, 1015 South Mays Street, Suite 100, Round Rock, Texas, 78664. Checks should be payable to "CSIN." See advertisement on the back page for more information.



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## Chartering Celebration For 'Confederacy Daughters' Slated Saturday, Feb. 26

WACO — The Mary West Chapter 26 United Daughters of the Confederacy invites the public to attend its chartering celebration on Saturday, Feb. 26, at 2 p.m., at the Northside Church of Christ, located at 2500 Parrish Street in Bellmead.

The chapter was first organized in 1896 and was one of the oldest chapters organized in Texas. Originally known as Waco 3, it was later renamed to honor Mary Elizabeth (Stark) West, wife of Judge John Camden West. When the chapter was renamed, it was designated the number 26. The chapter disbanded in 1951, although it was still listed in the General Minute Book for 1952.

On Feb. 1, 2004, it re-chartered with 27 members and has a current membership of 57. Chartering president was Darla Turner. Shirley Woodlock served as the chapter chartering registrar.

"We invite you now to visit with us for a few moments and learn more about our organization and the causes for which we stand," said Turner. "Hopefully, after visiting with us, you will consider joining us in our efforts, as descendants of Confederate soldiers/patriots, in honoring their memory and in the preservation of our Confederate heritage."

For more information, contact Turner or Woodlock, or visit the chapter's website.

### INFO

Turner, (254) 867-1401.  
Woodlock, (254) 799-7611.  
www.marywestchapter26.homestead.com



JENNIFER JONES (12) led Crawford with 14 points against the McGregor Lady Bulldogs Varsity. The Lady Pirates won by 10 points, 51-41, on Feb. 5.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

## Tarleton Graduates Two Ex-CHS Students

STEPHENVILLE — Two former Crawford High School students were those who were awarded degrees during winter commencement exercises at Tarleton State University in Stephenville and Tarleton Central Texas in Killeen.

Kimberly Kay Goolsby received a BAAS in Business Occupations, and Rikki Rachele Minnix, a BBA in Computer Information Systems.

In total, 467 baccalaureate degrees and 131 Masters degrees were presented to graduating students among the fall 2004 graduating class.

## NBC's 'Fear Factor' Sets Bad Example, Says Electric Co-op

WACO — NBC on Jan. 31 ran a segment of the reality show "Fear Factor" that required barefoot, handcuffed contestants to work their way through an electrified maze as they received numerous painful shocks. The set was designed to look like a high-voltage substation.

"Airing this ordeal and labeling it as entertainment was irresponsible and could encourage children to take similar unnecessary risks," said Rick Haile, general manager of McLennan County Electric Cooperative. "Our goal at the cooperative is to make the safest possible electric environment for members/customers. At a minimum, an electric shock is painful. In extreme cases, a shock can kill."

NBC emphasized that the stunt was designed and monitored by professionals and that the general public should not attempt stunts using electricity, but participants on the show were not confident they should be attempting it either.

"This isn't right," said one contestant. After completing the maze through groans and gritted teeth, another contestant said, "I'm still shaking. I can feel that [electric] pulse inside my body."

Electric Cooperative reminds customers to take electricity with deadly seriousness:

Use caution around electric appliances. Keep them away from water.

Never use or touch frayed electric cords.

Don't overload electric circuits. Stay clear of electric fences.

Stay indoors during electrical storms.

Never cut the third prong on an electric cord.

If you see a downed power line, move away from the line and anything touching it.

If someone is in direct or indirect contact with a downed line, do not touch the person. Call 911 instead.

Don't try to move a downed power line or anything in contact with the line by using another object such as a broom or stick.

Don't drive over downed power lines. If a tree or a large branch is touching or falls on an electric line, call your electric cooperative immediately.

Never trim trees that grow close to power lines; that is a job for professionals. Call your electric co-op for assistance and guidance.

Don't allow children to climb trees or build tree houses close to power lines.

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## Crawford Cage Action

**BOWLING FOR BULLDOGS** — Derek Dumas (4) draws a foul as he goes for the basket on Feb. 5. The Crawford Pirates defeated the McGregor Bulldogs, 34-15.

— Photo By Stephen Cook

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# High School Students Can Earn College Credit At SFA Summer Academy

NACOGDOCHES, TEXAS - Stephen F. Austin State University is accepting applications for its Summer Academy, a new on-campus residential program allowing high school students to earn college credit while learning about the arts, science and the environment.

The academy is open to high school students who will be completing their sophomore or junior year in spring 2005. Students must have a minimum score of 1010 on the SAT, 21 on the ACT, 101 on the PSAT, or are enrolled in an honors or gifted/talented program.

The academy can give high-schoolers an academic edge, enhance their academic resume' and help them with the college admission process, according to Nancy Fox, program coordinator. The small class sizes also will allow students to closely interact with faculty and fellow students, experience career opportunities and give them a unique introduction to university life.

The Summer Academy lasts three weeks. Students will select to study one of the four courses offered.

Fantasy in Fiction and Film will explore how fantasy has been used in works of fiction, music and film. Topics discussed will include how the fantastic developed, why it is necessary and what lessons about humanity can be learned from these stories. Students will apply their conclusions in essays, assignments, class conversations and a creative project.

Rocking the Environment: Geology and Biology of Nacogdoches introduces students to how human life affects the plants and animals in and around Nacogdoches. Field trips allowing for hands-on experiences will help each student learn about the plant and animal communities, gather scientific data, develop hypotheses and offer conclusions.

Robotics: AI for Real Life will encourage students to catch the technology wave by learning to build a robot. Expert faculty will help students apply science, mathematics, design and artistic knowledge while they learn to construct machines that could help humankind.

Lastly, students can enroll in The Arts and discover the theater and all the elements that go into creating a production. Along with professors to guide them, students will have a chance to experience every facet of the theater, from exploring its historical significance to creating its scenery and costumes to writing its screenplay.

Each course is limited to 20 students and will run from July 10-30.

Courses will be team taught with at least one full-time tenured faculty member directing study.

Tuition for each course is \$50 if a student's high school will award dual credit. The cost will be \$455 for students receiving college credit only, and students who are not residents of Texas should contact the SFA Office of Admissions to inquire about cost.

During the three-week course, students will live on campus in an air-conditioned residence hall separated by gender with academic counselors who are knowledgeable in the various subjects so learning can continue outside the classroom. Housing and meal costs for the entire program are \$700. Fees include field trips and extracurricular activities.

The application deadline is March 15. Accepted students will be notified by April 15.

For more information, contact the SFA Office of Admissions, (936) 468-2504 or visit <www.sfasu.edu/admissions/sa>.



SFA will host its Summer Academy July 10-30. High school students who meet the admission requirements can earn college credit while learning about the arts, science and the environment.

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# Entertainment

## Museum of Science and History Recalls An Era Of Nifty Things In *Kid Stuff: Great Toys From Ft. Worth Museum Childhood Exhibit*

FORT WORTH — Where can you “Draw a million marvelous patterns,” “Fool your Friends,” throw Nerf balls at crystal, or pose next to Barbie?

You can do all these nifty things and more in *Kid Stuff: Great Toys From Our Childhood*, an imaginative exhibit that opens March 5, at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

Based on the book, *Kid Stuff: Great Toys From Our Childhood*, by David Hoffman, the 4,500-square-foot exhibition displays more than 40 classic toys and games — the most popular toys of the past 50 years — illustrated by hundreds of classic illustrations, period advertisements and vintage reels.

The exhibition explores the innovation and creation of the toys, as well as their uniqueness and “staying power.”

“Kid Stuff is about live ant farms, Colorform activities, classic editions of Easy-Bake Ovens and running Lionel Trains,” said Sharon Blume, director of the Berkshire Museum, which created the traveling exhibit.

“Many of the toys displayed are the result of an engineering or scientific endeavor gone awry; others still were created by economic necessity; and some were simply produced for fun.

“All have become the epitome of play, regardless of age. Children today still order ants and march Slinkys down stairs. And what baby boomer doesn’t remember Twister or Colorforms?”

Toys and games in *Kid Stuff* are categorized according to familiar childhood expressions: “That’s Not Funny!” features well-known novelties and gags; “Look What I Made!” displays such building toys as Lincoln Logs and Tinker Toys; and “Why Don’t You Play Outside?” features Whiffle Balls and Balsa Planes. There’s also “Go To Your Room!” where you’ll find the Magic Slate, Silly Putty, and Slinky; “Can I Try?” with popular games like Etch-A-Sketch, Mr. Potato Head, and Spirograph; and “Wanna Play Dolls?” featuring the king and queen of dolls, G.I. Joe and Barbie.

Escorted by *Kid Stuff* cartoon host “Zippy,” you can: Find out what’s actually inside the Magic “8” Ball; Look through 3-D glasses in the Viewmaster Theatre to view American parks and landmarks; Draw on a giant Woolly Willy; Have a photo taken as Barbie or G.I. Joe; and throw Nerf balls at fine crystal and china.

The stories can be as much fun as

the toys. You can learn, for example, how a marine engineer working on a device to measure horsepower on battleships ended up with one of this century’s most famous toys, or which famous game was originally said to have “52 fundamental errors.”

While the exhibit’s focus is toys, it is definitely not just for kids.

The intergenerational appeal is the exhibit’s strong point — the interaction that will occur as children, adults and seniors share memories and experiences.

*Kid Stuff* will be at the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History through Sept. 11.

The Museum of Science and History is located at 1501 Montgomery Street in Fort Worth’s Cultural District. Admission to *Kid Stuff* is included with regular exhibit admission: \$7 for adults and \$6 for children (3-12) and seniors (60+). Exhibit hours are Monday-Thursday 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, 11:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

For more information, call 817-255-9300 or go to <[www.fortworthmuseum.org](http://www.fortworthmuseum.org)>.

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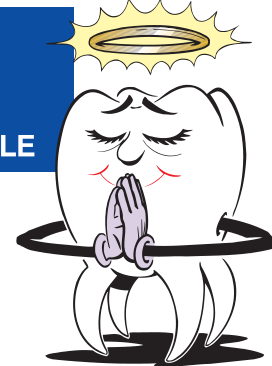
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# Reps. Waxman, Maloney Call For 9-11 Hearings On FAA Warnings, Veracity Of Rice

WASHINGTON — On Thursday, Rep. Henry A. Waxman and Rep. Carolyn B. Maloney asked for hearings on whether political considerations caused the Bush Administration to delay release of findings by the 9/11 Commission about pre-attack warnings. The text of the letter follows:

The Honorable Tom Davis, Chairman  
Committee on Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515  
Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to request that our Committee hold hearings to investigate two extremely serious questions raised by an article that appeared in this morning's *NEW YORK TIMES*. The first question is whether the Administration misused the classification process to withhold, for political reasons, official 9/11 Commission staff findings detailing how federal aviation officials received multiple intelligence reports warning of airline hijackings and suicide attacks before September 11. The second question relates to the veracity of statements, briefings, and testimony by then-National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice regarding this issue.

#### Background

This morning's *NEW YORK TIMES* reported that in "the months before the Sept. 11 attacks, federal aviation officials reviewed dozens of intelligence reports that warned about Osama bin Laden and Al Qaeda, some of which specifically discussed airline hijackings and suicide operations." [1] The article explained that the Federal Aviation Administration "received 52 intelligence reports" that mentioned Osama bin Laden or Al Qaeda prior to September 11, 2001, and that the FAA warned airports that if "the intent of the hijacker is not to exchange hostages for prisoners, but to commit suicide in a spectacular explosion, a domestic hijacking would probably be preferable."

This information was included in a staff report by the 9/11 Commission dated August 26, 2004. The 9/11 Commission report found that there was "intelligence that indicated a real and growing threat leading up to 9/11," but that this intelligence "did not stimulate significant increases in security procedures." Although the report did not find that the government had advance information about the specific September 11, 2001, attacks, it reported that the FAA took various measures to warn airport security officials about "the possibility of a suicide hijacking."

#### Declassification Process

The first question Committee hearings should address is whether the Bush Administration abused the classification process to improperly withhold the 9/11 Commission findings from Congress and the public until after the November elections and the confirmation of Condoleezza Rice as Secretary of State. Although the 9/11 Commission staff completed its report on August 26, 2004, the Bush Administration refused to declassify the findings until January 28, 2005, less than 48 hours after Ms. Rice was confirmed as Secretary of State. [2] At that time, the Department of Justice delivered both a classified version and an unclassified ver-

sion to the National Archives, the agency charged with collecting and retaining all 9/11 Commission documents.

During the period between August 26 and January 28, the Administration was reportedly reviewing the Commission's report to determine whether it contained any information that should be classified in the interest of national security. Problems with this process had been raised previously by the 9/11 Commission. [3]

The Committee should investigate the process by which the Administration handled the declassification, redaction, and release of this 9/11 Commission report. Specifically, the Committee should investigate the following questions:

(1) What was the process for declassifying, redacting, and releasing this report, and who specifically was responsible for these actions?

(2) Were there political considerations behind the declassification, redaction, or timing of the release of the report?

(3) What were the specific rationales for each redaction in the report? Were these redactions appropriate?

On December 2, 2004, we joined with Rep. Christopher Shays, Chairman of the National Security Subcommittee, and 23 other members in a letter to Attorney General John Ashcroft specifically requesting the 9/11 Commission report at issue. [4] We noted that "there have been a number of calls for its release, to no avail," and we expressed concern that "politics may be playing a role in its release." This specific congressional request was apparently ignored by the Administration. When the staff report was declassified on January 28 and sent to the National Archives, no notice was provided to us.

#### Statements by Ms. Rice

The Committee should also examine the process by which Ms. Rice investigated and researched intelligence reports regarding airline suicide attacks prior to making public statements regarding this issue, testifying before the 9/11 Commission on April 8, 2004, and advising President Bush.

During her tenure as President Bush's National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice made several categorical statements asserting that there were never any warnings that terrorists might use airplanes in suicide attacks. On May 16, 2002, for example, Ms. Rice made the following statement at a White House press briefing:

"I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon, that they would try to use an airplane as a missile, a hijacked airplane as a missile. [5]

When Ms. Rice testified under oath before the 9/11 Commission on April 8, 2004, the Chairman of the 9/11 Commission, Thomas Kean, asked her about her knowledge of a possible suicide attack using airplanes. After acknowledging that her previous statement generated "concern about what I might have known or we might have known," she stated as follows:

"I said no one could have imagined them taking a plane, slamming it into the Pentagon - I'm paraphrasing now - into the World Trade Center, using planes as a missile. As I said to you in

the private session, I probably should have said "I" could not have imagined, because within two days, people started to come to me and say, "Oh, but there were these reports in 1998 and 1999, the intelligence community did look at information about this."

To the best of my knowledge, Mr. Chairman, this kind of analysis about the use of airplanes as weapons actually was never briefed to us. I cannot tell you that there might not have been a report here or a report there that reached somebody in our midst. All that I can tell you is that it was not in the August 6th memo, using planes as a weapon, and I do not remember any reports to us, a kind of strategic warning that planes might be used as a weapon. In fact, there were some reports done in '98 and '99. I think I was - I was certainly not aware of them at the time that I spoke. [6]

The President, who was advised by Ms. Rice about national security matters, also repeatedly made definitive statements claiming absolute ignorance regarding the possibility of terrorists using airplanes in suicide missions. For example, President Bush stated on national television:

"Had I known that the enemy was going to use airplanes to strike America, to attack us, I would have used every resource, every asset, every power of this government to protect the American people. [7]

One possibility raised by these facts is that Ms. Rice was unaware of the FAA warnings when she appeared before the press and testified before the 9/11 Commission. This would raise serious questions about her preparation and competency. Another possibility is that Ms. Rice knew about the FAA warnings but provided

misleading information to the public and the Commission. Neither of these possibilities would reflect well on Ms. Rice. Perhaps there are other more innocent explanations for these seeming inconsistencies.

Given the gravity of these questions and significance of the new disclosures, the Committee should investigate what Ms. Rice knew, when she knew it, and why she testified as she did. The public has the right to expect that senior Administration officials will be candid on matters of national security, especially when they involve the tragic events of September 11. An investigation is needed to determine whether this standard was met in this instance.

#### Document Request

Finally, we request that the Committee obtain from the Administration the following documents identified in the *New York Times* article this morning:

(1) A full, unredacted copy of the classified version of the 9/11 Commission report on FAA intelligence warnings delivered to the National Archives;

(2) Full and unredacted copies of the 52 intelligence reports received by the FAA;

(3) Full and unredacted copies of the CD-ROM presentation distributed to airlines and airports in 2001; and

(4) Full and unredacted copies of slides, reports, or other documents used in classified briefings for security officials at 19 airports in mid-2001.

Sincerely,

Henry A. Waxman Carolyn B. Maloney  
Ranking Member Member of Congress

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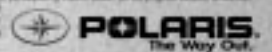
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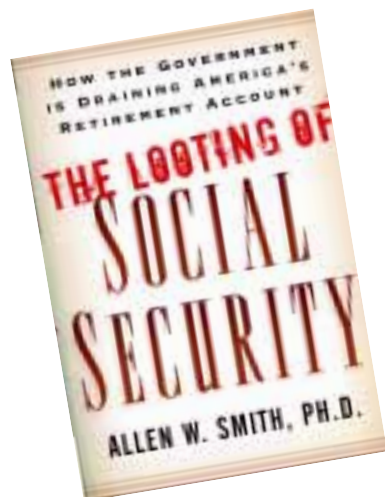
# Bush Admits Social Security Surplus Being Looted

WINTER HAVEN, Fla. — In a news release issued last week by the White House Press Office entitled "Remarks by President Bush in a Conversation on Class-Action Reform" the President confirmed that the Social Security Trust Fund is empty, says economist Allen W. Smith, Ph.D., author of "The Looting of Social Security: How The Government Is Draining America's Retirement Account."

The economist, who has spent the past five years trying to alert Americans that their Social Security contributions were being looted by the government and spent on other programs, calls President Bush's statement surprising.

"I was absolutely shocked at what Bush said about the Social Security trust fund at an event that was not even supposed to be about Social Security, and even more shocked that the White House Press Office did not delete the Social Security remarks before issuing a news release yesterday," said Smith.

The President was quoted as saying, "Some in our country think that Social Security is a trust fund — in other words, there's a pile of money being accumulated. That's just simply not true. The money — payroll taxes going into the Social Security are spent. They're spent on benefits and they're spent on government programs. There is no trust. We're on the ultimate pay-as-you-go system — what goes in comes out. And so, starting in 2018, what's going in — what's coming out is greater



than what's going in. It says we've got a problem. And we'd better start dealing with it now."

"I think that Bush must have just gotten so caught up in his determination to convince the public that Social Security faces a crisis that he let his guard down, and the truth just slipped out," Smith said. "He knows better than anyone that every penny of the \$509 billion in Social Security surplus generated during his first term was 'spent on government programs.' He is fully aware that he is continuing to spend approximately \$400 million of Social Security surplus each and every day," Smith pointed out. "However, since Bush's actions are a direct violation of his solemn pledge to the public that he would not touch any of the Social Security surplus, and since his misuse of Social Security funds is a violation of federal law, one would not expect the President to openly admit to his transgressions for the public record as he did yesterday."

Smith's efforts to convince the public that the trust fund contains no real assets and that the government would experience a fiscal crisis, beginning in 2018 when Social Security benefit payments will begin to exceed payroll tax revenue, got a real boost when Comptroller General David Walker of the GAO said on Jan. 21, "There are no stocks, or bonds or real estate in the trust fund. It has nothing of real value to draw down."

However, Walker's statement was not widely reported by the media, so Smith reluctantly concluded that it would probably be necessary for a very high-profile person to confirm that the trust fund contains no real assets in order to get the attention of the mainstream media. But Smith never dreamed that Presi-

dent Bush himself would provide the needed confirmation.

Smith noted that the looting of the trust fund has been a hard sell in light of the fact that the AARP and many in the mainstream media have been promoting the idea that the Social Security trust fund holds \$1.6 trillion in assets in the form of Treasury bonds that will enable Social Security to pay full benefits until at least 2042.

Smith said he thinks Bush's advisers are likely making plans for damage control if the remarks are widely reported in the media, but that Karl Rove and others are quietly hoping that nobody picks up on the importance of what the President said.

"They sure set themselves up as a target, though," Smith said.

Allen W. Smith, who has been crusading for economic education and sound government fiscal policy for nearly three decades, holds a Ph.D. degree in economics from Indiana University. He is Professor of Economics Emeritus, Eastern Illinois University. The author of several books, including "The Looting of Social Security: How The Government Is Draining America's Retirement Account" (Carroll & Graf, 2004) and "The Alleged Budget Surplus, Social Security, and Voodoo Economics," Dr. Smith has appeared on CNBC, CNNfn, and more than 100 radio talk shows to discuss Social Security.



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## From the desk of Senator Kip Averitt, District 22



Good afternoon,  
Last week, two school finance related bills were filed in the House of Representatives. House Bill (HB) 2 is the education reform component of school finance, including formulas, salaries, and accountability. HB 2 is being called "Roadmap to Results" by the author, Kent Grusendorf, Chairman of the House Committee on Public Education. The second school finance bill, HB 3, is the tax and revenue component. It is authored by Jim Keffer, Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

HB 3 is a "shell" bill intended to initiate discussion on revenue and taxes. The bill, as filed, contains a significant revenue gap. In its current form, HB 3:

- lowers the local property tax cap for maintenance and operation from \$1.50 per \$100 of valuation to \$1.00;
- raises the cigarette tax by \$1 per pack; and
- eliminates the current franchise tax.

Although the current version of the bill does not contain a new business tax, the House will most likely establish some form of a broad-based business tax to fill the bill's significant revenue shortfall. HB 3 has been referred to the House Committee on Ways and Means, which will consider the bill on Wednesday and Thursday of this week. A copy of HB 3 can be viewed by clicking <<http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/cgi-bin/tlo/textframe.cmd?LEG=79&SESS=R&CHAMBER=H&BILLTYPE=&BILLSUBFIX=00003&VERSION=1&TYPE=B>>.

In contrast to HB 3, HB 2 is very detailed and lengthy. I have summarized some the highlights of the bill below. HB2:

- creates new formulas based on an accreditation allotment of \$4,550 per elementary average daily attendance (ADA) and \$5,550 per high school ADA;
- includes student level adjustments, transportation adjustments, price and scale cost adjustments, instructional materials and technology adjustments and a hold harmless plus 3%;
- limits the amount of recapture to no more than 35% of total maintenance and operation tax collections;
- allows for a ten cent local enrichment phased in at two cents a biennium;
- establishes an educator excellence incentive program for locally developed plans;
- removes the salary drive and places the minimum salary schedule in statute at \$100 a month more than the current minimum salary schedule (this \$100 a month comes from restoration of the \$1,000 health

insurance supplement and conversion to salary);

- creates a statewide student enrollment, attendance and achievement tracking system;
- moves school board elections to November and mandates a four-year term for school board members;
- requires school districts to begin the first Tuesday after Labor Day and repeals the waiver option for school start date;

· creates a clearinghouse of information relating to best practices of school districts for curriculum development, classroom instruction, bilingual education, special language programs and business practices;

- exempts districts or campuses that are rated exemplary from all prohibitions, restrictions, and requirements of the Education Code except those that apply to open-enrollment charter schools;

· replaces the exit-level TAKS with end-of-course assessments for Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Integrated Physics and Chemistry, English I, English II, English III, World Geography, World History, and United States History;

- requires college preparation achievement assessments in grades 8, 10, and 12; and

· requires inclusion of a summary of the district's significant non-instructional expenditures on the campus report card. Also requires reporting of non-instructional cost through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS).

You can click on the following links (posted by the House) to see more information on HB 2:

A summary of the bill <[http://www.house.state.tx.us/hb2/hb2\\_Component\\_List.xls](http://www.house.state.tx.us/hb2/hb2_Component_List.xls)>.

An overview of proposed formula structure <[http://www.house.state.tx.us/hb2/formula\\_handout.doc](http://www.house.state.tx.us/hb2/formula_handout.doc)>.

The House expects to have both bills out of the respective committees in the next few weeks and to debate both bills on the House floor at the beginning of March.

I understand that there are many provisions in this legislation that will cause major concern for educators, schools, and citizens of Senate District 22. Please know that I understand many of these concerns but as always, I look forward to your comments. I would also like to reiterate that this is a House plan. The Senate is currently waiting for the House to act on this legislation. I believe the Senate will receive the legislation in early March, and we will begin deliberations at that time.

Please feel free to call my office (512-463-0122) or reply to this e-mail with your thoughts, concerns and ideas.

Sincerely,  
Kip Averitt

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# The Bush Show: You Bet Your Livelihood!

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "It's easy to preach about a better home a-waitin' when you're the one what empties the collection plate."

There used to be a '50s television show called, "To Tell the Truth."

Here was the deal: Three people, all claiming to be the same person with an unusual story, were questioned by celebrity panelists (Kitty Carlisle, Polly Bergen and Ralph Bellamy), who tried to guess which of the three was the person he claimed to be. Only the real claimant was required to tell the truth. The contestants earned more money with each incorrect guess.

The real George Bush just stood up. And it wasn't the guy the panel voted for.

Neighbor Bush's show isn't quite like the original.

First, he's all three contestants: the real president, the bankrupt oilman from Odessa and the ex-governor of Texas.

Second, they were all lying.

Until now.

The oilman said he owned the Texas Rangers (bla-a-a-at!), the governor claimed he cut the budget and improved Texas education (bla-a-a-at!) and the president said he could cut taxes and cut the deficit without cutting our . . . (bla-a-a-a-a-at!)

Now the real Neighbor Bush just stood up, leaving us a big stinking pile of empty budget instead of parting gifts.

Oh, and the deficit.

That's still here.

Big as life and twice as ugly.

Six trillion bucks in deficit spending over the next 10 years.

And we ain't talking deer, even though those of us not staring into the headlights are caught in the crosshairs.

Veterans actually get it worse than anybody.

The co-pay for prescriptions is doubled and there's a \$250 annual fee to use VA services, not to mention fewer hospitals and benefit centers.

Support our troops.

Until they ain't troops anymore. Then, who needs 'em? Bunch of sick cripples won't even make good Superbowl commercials anymore.

But 48 of 150 cuts in the budgetary truth come out of education. \$4.3 billion in education cuts just as a whole new mess of federal No Child Left Un-scathed mandates for high school kids come down to the state.

Vocational ed gets the biggest ax.

Yeah, bubba, that means **AG!**

We also lost a half billion in school technology funds. Schools don't need computers. All the best people have them at home.

The whole idea is to teach kids to follow orders, not make a living.

See, big business would rather train its own wage slaves.

That way their workers are only prepared to do job-specific tasks, and the company doesn't have to pay them much.

Certified or skilled workers like carpenters or plumbers can always go get a better-paying job somewhere else.

But if all he or she knows is how to do one job that only one company needs done, where's the worker going to go if he doesn't like the pay?

But that's really a moot point, considering Bush's budget truth also guts the

## Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Trade Adjustment Assistance for people whose jobs get shipped to India or Taiwan.

And forget those trade enforcement agencies that make sure American workers don't lose their jobs to countries that use slave labor or usury (the old company store scam). They're cut by this budget.

Sorta like your throat.

Let's see, what else is he telling the truth about?

•\$440 million cut out of Safe and Drug-Free schools programs.

Now you know what "Just Say No" really means.

•\$1.5 billion less for local law enforcement grants.

Secure your own damn homeland.

•\$225 million out of the Even Start reading program. Don't even start! You can teach your own children to read in the time off between your first and second job.

Why's the lying oilman contestant sneaking out the back.

Because the truth is, Iraq and Afghanistan, aren't even in this budget. Neither are Iran and North Korea. Just a \$19 billion raise for defense department contractors.

Oh, and \$774 billion in debt so the government can play the stock market with your Social Security money.

And if you're wondering why the ex-governor is laughing, it's because nobody asked him about the \$4 billion that Texas education will go into debt next year.

And Texas has a constitutional amendment requiring a balanced budget.

You just use time warrants, money out of next year's budget. You don't have to worry about paying the bills for a whole year!

What a laugh! From a surplus to a deficit, and he didn't even have to finish his term! Big hand for the ex-governor, ladies and gentlemen, big applause for the most popular sleight of hand in Texas history! The taxpaying sucker he called up on stage got the biggest tax increase since the War with Mexico, and he didn't even know it when it dribbled down his collar into his local property taxes.

But sure knows now!

So, will the REAL George W. Bush please stand up!



# Editorial

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

## Texas Bill Reveals Republican Anti-American Motives

Rightist Mary Denny has proved how genuinely anti-American the Republican Party has become.

Denny, Texas House member from Aubrey, has introduced a bill that would prohibit prosecutors or lawmen from investigating political corruption unless it is cleared by the Texas Ethics Commission.

That august body, made up of career Republicans, would save law enforcement officials the trouble of investigating elected criminals.

Thanks all the same, Ms Denny, but that's what we pay them for.

In fact Denny, like the fascist faction that seized control of the Republican Party, is not interested in justice, and certainly not in democracy.

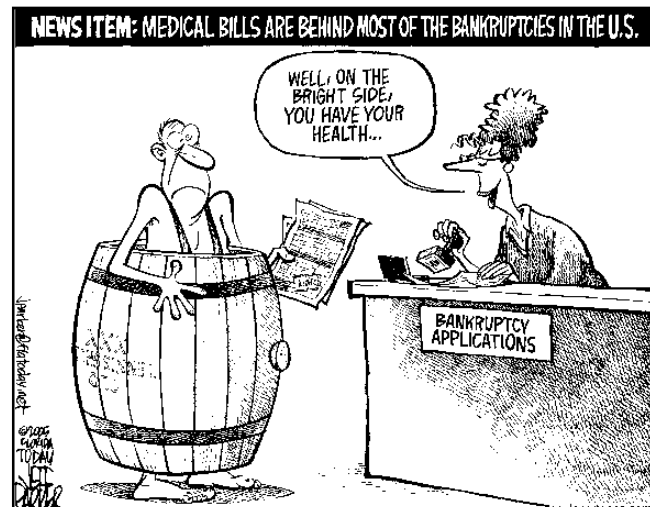
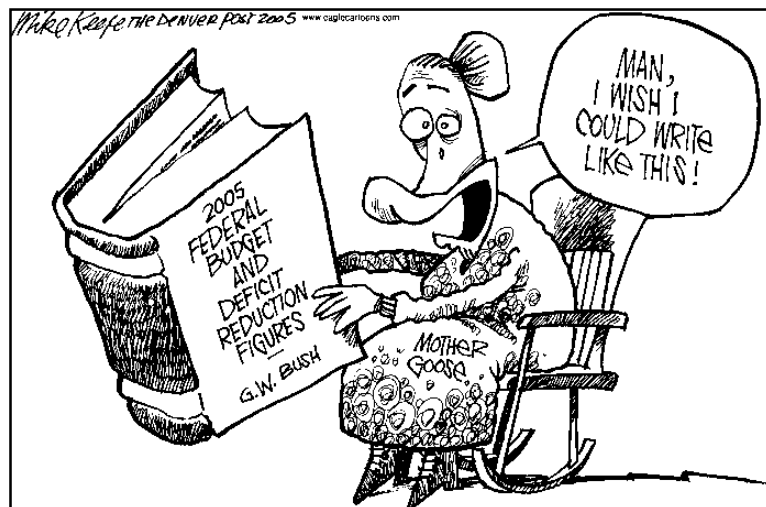
This is another license to plunder power and repress any opposition.

Initially, it is aimed at Travis County (Austin) District Attorney Ronnie Earle, currently on the trail of the Tom DeLay Gang for using corporate bribes that the Majority Leader extorted with favors in Washington to finance the Republican gerrymandering power grab in Texas.

Since Earle came within a legal technicality of putting Senate Cheerleader Kay Bailey Hutchison away for using state employees and computers to set up her Senate campaign, Republicans have been anxious to keep him away from their cross-town shenanigans.

Denny knows the Ethics Commission is the perfect place to stash the right wing's dirty laundry. In the decade and a half of the commission's existence it has seriously investigated nothing, issued no subpoenas and returned not a single indictment.

— Written By Don M. Fisher





# AGENT ORANGE

## Vietnam's Unfinished Research

By C.W. BROWN, PhD AND WILLIAM DODGE  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

The ghosts of the Vietnam War still haunt us. From 1965 to 1971, an estimated 11 million gallons of Agent Orange with dioxin were sprayed on Vietnam. Not only did this carcinogenic herbicide kill vegetation, it also poisoned 2.6 million United States veterans, the children of these U.S. veterans, and millions of Vietnamese and their children.

It was not until 1991 that the U.S. Veterans Administration was forced by Congress to admit a service connection between exposure to Agent Orange and to over 30 kinds of cancer. In 1996, a genetic birth defect, spina bifida, was hesitantly added to the VA disability list. Leukemia and diabetes are now part of the Agent Orange legacy. Last year, conferences held at Yale University, Stockholm, and Hanoi brought to light new data and research issues in the Agent Orange debate. Researchers have begun to establish a correlation between Agent Orange and mental illness, Hodgkin's Disease, and cancer.

Ask any veteran who has had to deal with the Agent Orange issue and he or she will tell you about how the U.S. government has been either non-cooperative or complicit in trying to silence the persistent moans heard from this ghost.

It is now time to act. Recent research is now available to justify a major epidemiological study of America's Vietnam veterans. Agent Orange was only sprayed on South Vietnam, excluding North Vietnam. This affords an excellent opportunity to compare the health of the two areas.

In the National Academy of Science Agent Orange Report for 2003, the Academy admits that "the lack of adequate data on Vietnam veterans themselves makes it difficult to reach conclusions about increased risk of disease among Vietnam veterans."

Promoting Enduring Peace, a non-profit organization, published a July 2002 "Vietnam Report from HOA BINH" that stated that thousands of children are being born with terrible defects and dis-

abilities to include mental illness, fatal heart ailments, spina bifida, and many cancers. What these children have in common is a parent, or both parents, who were exposed to Agent Orange.

The cover-up continues. The VA is not only denying that Agent Orange is a major contributor to the diseases that the children of Vietnam veterans have, but is also violating Federal law that requires veterans be assisted. In April 2003, Donald Stout, Regional Director of Veteran's Affairs, Oakland, in a letter to Mr. Dodge, stated that "we are not obligated to furnish the records (you) requested under the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000." This VA denial for support is in spite of Federal Regulations Title 38 that states the "VA will make reasonable efforts to help a claimant obtain evidence necessary to substantiate the claim."

It is now time for the VA to initiate a study of all those exposed to Agent Orange, Vietnam veterans and their children, as well as Vietnamese and their children. It is for the children that a nation goes to war. It is for the children that a nation seeks peace. It is for all children exposed to Agent Orange that we seek justice. Yes, Agent Orange is America's weapon of mass destruction.

*C.W. Brown, PhD, is an independent scientist and consultant to the non-profit Promoting Enduring Peace, an organization researching the effects of Agent Orange ([www.pepeace.org](http://www.pepeace.org)).*

*William Dodge, is a disabled Vietnam veteran and parent of a child with mental illness, and is editor of his daughter's book, SugarStory, about her illness. ([www.SugarStory.com](http://www.SugarStory.com)).*

# House Approves Electronic ID Cards

## Critics Claim Move Will Step On Toes Of States

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives last week approved the Real ID Act, a package of rules aimed at forcing states to issue all adults federally approved electronic ID cards, including driver's licenses.

Approved by a largely partisan 261-161 vote, the rules would demand that federal employees reject licenses or identity cards that don't comply, which could curb Americans' access to airplanes, trains, national parks, federal courthouses, and other areas controlled by the federal government.

If the law takes effect, The Department of Homeland Security would draft the details of the regulations that are expected to include digital photographs on driver's licenses and other ID cards, anti-counterfeiting features, machine-readable technology elements, and certain data inclusion.

In promoting the bill, Republicans argued

during floor debate that the new rules are necessary to thwart terrorists.

The bill requires states to demand proof of the person's Social Security number and confirm that number with the Social Security Administration. They would also have to scan documents showing the person's date of birth and immigration status, and create a massive databank so that the (scanned) images can be retained in electronic storage in a transferable format permanently.

The bill would also require states to link their DMV databases in order to receive federal funds.

Critics of the measure claim that the electronic ID cards, promoted strongly by the Bush Administration, are actually national ID cards and move the country one step closer to becoming a police state.

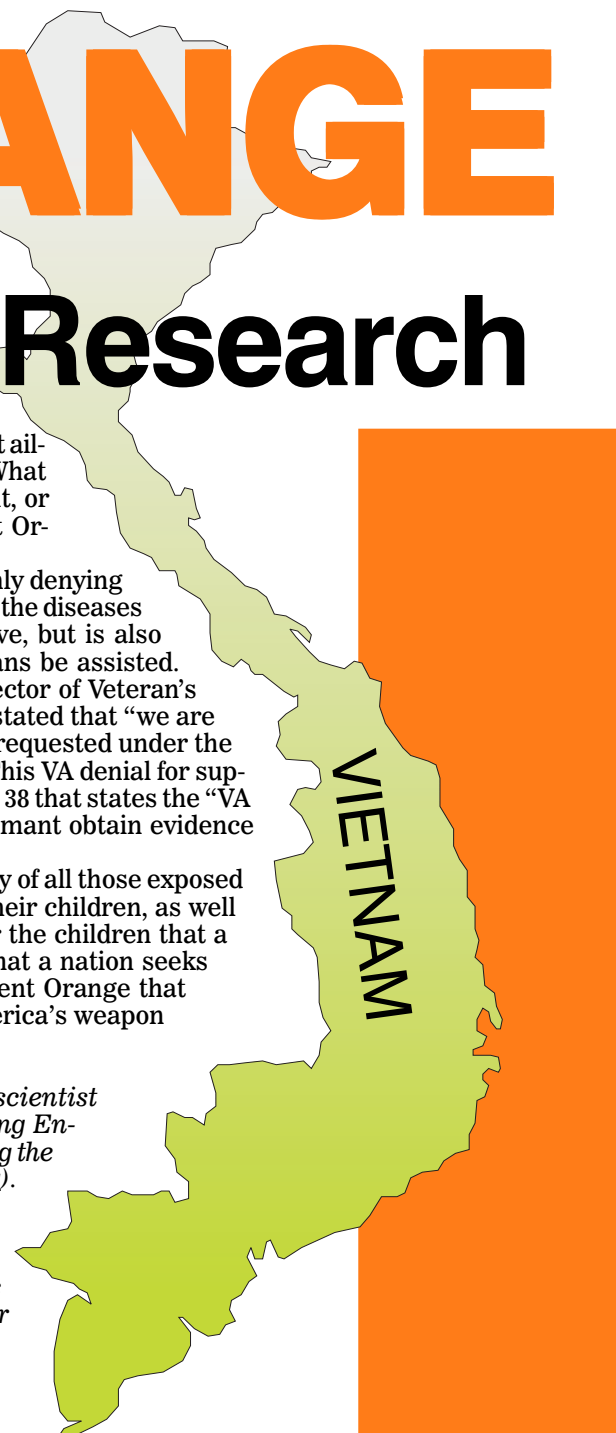
Approximately 95 percent of Republicans in

the House voted for the bill, while about three-fourths of Democrats voted against it.

Washington D.C. Rep. Eleanor Holmes Norton (D), said that Republicans are hypocrites "by trampling on states' rights."

The American Civil Liberties Union opposed the measure, claiming that the bill would force states to deny driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants while making DMV employees agents of the federal immigration service.

Another group fighting the measure is Gun Owners of America. Since an ID is required to buy a firearm from a dealer, the bill would be "a bureaucratic back door to implementation of a national ID card," a spokesman said, noting that the measure would "empower the federal government to determine who can get a driver's license, and under what conditions."





# MAILBAG

# ICONOCLAST

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor

Lest we forget!!

Social Security is an insurance program, not an investment program!

Following the Great Depression my father, a hometown bank cashier, agreed with all employees to take half pay rather than lay off half of the staff. This saved the bank and investors savings while other banks were closing doors.

Soup lines were common in most large or small towns. My mother wouldn't accept free apples and oranges at the court house because so many others needed it more than we did.

Some states offered meager "Old Age Pensions" to the starving elderly, others offered none.

Social Security was voted into being by Congress to ensure that every one in every state was treated equally regardless of whether or not they had paid into the system.

An elderly friend saved for his retirement only to have his savings exhausted when his wife developed a serious heart condition. He felt badly about accepting money from Social Security in excess of what he had contributed. I told him that was my generation saying thanks for his generation opening this country so that we could all profit later.

Let us just fix Social Security without the potential danger of privatizing. Extend the retirement age if we must. Collect the IOUs the general fund owes from previous borrowing. If necessary, have the IRS charge back the recent tax refunds that used up the surplus.

I know of some, now receiving disability payments who are being charged back by the IRS a portion each month because of previous overpayments.

So it is being done and can be done on rolling back tax refunds and charging recipients. Let us all do our fair share in keeping a cost effective National Program instead of a questionable privatized experiment.

James G. Winton, Waco

To The Editor:

We appreciate your honest approach to that pseudo-Texan across the hill from you! How can you stand to be so near?? I am spreading the "word" about the Icon.....to the 4 winds.

Please look up my subscription date and keep me apprised as to when mine runs out.

Thanks!

J.H., Tucson, Arizona

P.S. — Tell Uncle Hugh that the last editorial was the best. As a 82 year-old and once farm boy in Mississippi, I got only the chicken feet [I swear!] and the wings and gizzards. And, we children ate last....the preacher was snoring before we finished our bread pudding sweet.

To The Editor:

Here we go again. GWB is guilty of avoiding critical thought, surrounding himself with yes men, reveling in the shadow of his father who was also a product of a privileged life style, who also had little to offer, but at least was not a goofball and an enjoyer of nose candy, and not a drunk.

Bush is prolific when it came to buzz phrases such as "compassionate conservative," acclaims himself as the "re-

former with results," and fancies himself as part of the "army of compassion." He shouts his paeans to "liberty" and "freedom" at least 25 times in that State of the Union speech, which was applauded by his group of flunkies who looked to this asshole to preserve their jobs. Of course he was preaching all of this while he was reducing civil liberties at home.

Slogan spouting is one of the small part of an effective propaganda operation as was indicated by one, Josef Goebbles. The best way to keep the red states stupid is by shutting down the flow of information and stifling the press. At this GWB excels.

Then there is Scott McClellan who is as transparent, and excels as the parrot of the White House and is easy to observe as being dumber than the dumbest animal. Whenever I see him on television, my skin starts to crawl. Not as effective as Ari Fleisher who saved himself by resigning from this make believe government. Well, Scott plays rope-a-dope with reporters ignoring the tough questions until they give up.

Tricky Dick Cheney didn't like the coverage that was given by the N.Y. Times.

The Times reporter was not allowed to attend any press conferences, of which there were few. Since Bush did not like the way California participated in the presidential election, he contended that he had no use for California and disallowed the presence of the L.A. Times.

Bush regards the press as an unnecessary filter and we know to what lengths he will go to control the information leaked to the public. Just look at the \$240, 000 he paid to the conservative commentator to white wash his "No Child Left Behind" con job which he had cut by \$800 million.

Persuasion depends on the speaker's skill at portraying himself as a trustworthy source. With his "aw shucks" demeanor and his maudlin speechifying, the former Andover cheerleader knows how to stage a "drama" and tap dance to the audience's emotions. He and his co-propogandists arranged one such emotionally "gallery-play" during the State of the Union farce. Rather than explain his Iraq policy, he had the mother and father of a slain US Marine seated behind an Iraqi voter in Laura Bush's box. When Dubya paid tribute to the parents in his speech, the Iraqi turned and quite predictably embraced the sobbing mother. And you thought the landing On the USS Lincoln was a staged con job. This wasn't worthy of a B movie, but certainly effective to the mentally deficient in the Red States.

The bottom line is that Goober George governs by fear and he stands alone as the protector of the people and if you don't agree with his policies, you're with the terrorists.

Bush is more of a dictator than the common run-of-the-mill dictators. He got himself elected by spreading fear and quelling the press and labeling people that speak out against him as traitors to the country and encouraging hatred. After all, he explains his policy as God's work and God works in strange and mysterious ways. He has enlisted

the superstitious into his camp to fortify his base, which enlakens us to the other side. His battle cry should be, "My God is better than your God."

N.M.

To The Editor:

How come, I wonder, does any program pushed by President Bush show up either with a very short-term cost estimate (generally no more than five years out) or (like the Iraq invasion costs) off-budget altogether?

And yet anything that he wants to eliminate or drastically cut (like Medicare, Social Security, etc) are always portrayed as 'costing umpty-ump trillion dollars through the end of the century' or some infinite time horizon?

A sane person would want to use the same yardstick to measure the effect of anything affecting the budget; otherwise how do you know how much something is costing or saving? The only rationale to selecting different time/cost profiles is to increase or diminish the impact of what's being pushed. And I ask you, is that honest? Or fair? Or is it trickery?

T.S., Newburgh, IN

Dear editor:

I would like to invite you and your readers to my pet web site <<http://www.petsandpals.info/>>.

This site is in remembrance of my dog Buck. This site includes a forum free for all to use I hop to have many interesting stories and pictures for pet lovers to enjoy. I also leave a open invention to the newspaper should you wish to use this site for a pet news source. This would also encourage your readers to submit stories on a continues basis. Feel free to pass this on.

Yours truly,

Dan Butler

Mr. Leon Smith:

This is why what's happening to our children is happening.

This never stopped, just got hidden much better, after the "slaps on the hands of the base/elites" and other prominent folks.

Pay attention to, the "Canal Street Brothel" story? {The individuals} are trying to hide out, knowing they can't. Feds want to send them to prison — to hide the list, yet another judge, jury, and execution of justice, to cover up the proments' base — "morality, Christian behaviors, and blind political support. Corruptions at the highest, and yes, President Bush has been a participant, many times. It's required by the order of Skull & Bones, Illumaniti 666, Brotherhood, etc. Sounds childish, but that's exactly what our leaders are...childish, and in need of help!

Go, read about those groups, learn, and face reality — Koresh, Moonie, Temple of Set, Krishnas, were all done away with weren't they? Wonder why?

Manson, Hinckley, Dahmar — was a experiment along with many others. Oswald, Hearst-family members in those groups, were all friends at one time, of the Bush men! Go search?

Do you think President Bush, wants anyone to "drag these facts" back up? There was no thorough investigations, contrary to government propaganda to this. Gary Caradoris' plane - The Franklin Child cases, conveniently exploded in mid-air, when he was on his way to see a Senator I believe in Illinois, then go further to Washington D.C. Paul Wellstone-Minnesota, knew about these activities, as did many others, who died in plane crashes — elites of course, for the most part.

John Kerry, you endorsed, sat on a committee — knew about this, hoping it

wouldn't go any further, helped it not to, as did the other Kerrey-Nebraska (involved himself?), and they swept this under the rug. Records, if they still exist (albeit Bush Jr.'s offices?), were sealed permanently, to "protect the children," of course! Many such records, Bush placing his judges in courthouses, etc., probably are gone?

Public Libraries — the 1st of the Patriot Acts' assaults? Cleveland Public Library mentions The Franklin Cover Up by John DeCamp. When I tried to go further and view the book, records I received, "the book is missing." Hum? Patriot Act was used to clean up evidence?

To protect themselves, none of them will discuss this crime (Catholic similarities). The Bush men worked with and aided the Catholic Youth Covenant Homes, in the U.S. and in South America.

One Catholic Priest talked about this, and yes, the Bush men were talked about.

A CIA psychiatrist told a Nebraska journalist that the Bush men had "problems with alcohol, drugs and pediophiles." Who knows where or what happened to this CIA psychiatrist. Most was said to be internal matters, to be handled internally! Convenient? The FBI, after "doing as they were told," stepped out of the picture, especially after Caradori's plane crash; his eight-year-old son, Andrew, died with him; his wife was threatened, on and on.

This is evil. We would be in jail if we were porn keepers of children.

There was a social worker caught using foster children in a prostitution ring. She committed suicide (supposedly)!

It does all add up - 2 & 2.

At all costs, Bush cannot allow any of this to be publicly exposed. The Federal government does not accept this as a problem, just an "annoyance," which the public "wouldn't, couldn't believe" if politicians did admit it!

Please, do research for yourselves, for all children's sakes.

L.M.

To The Editor:

Just saw the <<http://www.truthout.org/multimedia.htm>> piece, and loved it. Though, during the election I heard about your paper, and your stance, and I was all for it, and I'm still for your viewpoint. In short, I'm glad their are people in the so called "Red States" that are original thinkers, not just brain-dead morons. You know what I'm saying - please keep up the GOOD work. Life is too short to be stupid - like 2/3's of the people that live in this country.

R.C., Naperville, IL

To The Editor:

I found out about your newspaper from a video clip I got from Truthout.org.

I went to your website and read some of your editorials, including your endorsement of John Kerry. Good stuff. I was very pleased to hear that, after some tense moments due to the pulling of advertising based on your opposition to Pres Bush, you appear to have recovered.

I want to applaud you for your courageous stand in the very heart of Bush Country. I enjoyed (and agree wholeheartedly with) the editorials I read. I have added your paper to my Favorites list and have forwarded a link to your website to all of my politically minded friends.

Good luck & God Bless! Keep talkin' the truth!

Sincerely,

K.B., Glen Rock, N.J.



# Will The Next Trendy Food Be Your Napkin?

Sometimes I miss regular food, the kind many of us ate when we were kids. Now, because of health concerns, economics, and fashion, there are all kinds of things on our plates that a few decades ago wouldn't have even qualified as food. Some people have non-eggs with a side order of non-bacon, and then put non-sugar in their decaf to finish off their non-breakfast. After dinner, they'll have non-ice cream with non-chocolate sauce. Now one restaurant — Moto, in Chicago — has taken non-food foods to a new level. They serve edible paper.

Using a computer printer, Homaro Cantu, the head chef at the place, prints images of food on paper made of soybeans and cornstarch. The inks he uses are flavored. The paper pictures of sushi that he prints out on his inkjet actually taste like sushi, and the pictures of chicken really taste like

chicken. The menu is edible, too. It's an amazing technological triumph. But wait a minute. Real sushi also tastes like sushi, and real chicken tastes like chicken, so why bother?

The answer, of course, is that it's new, it's experimental, it's trendy. And a dinner including paper courses at Moto can run \$240 a person. That's a tough check to swallow, no matter what it's made of. Cantu wants to infuse the dining-out experience with fun. He feels people are tired of just ordering conventional food, being served it, and going home. I'm not. That's what I like about going to a restaurant: you order food you like, you eat it, and you go home. This chef dreams of cooking with lasers and is currently experimenting with helium to make foods levitate. I dream of going to a restaurant where all the foods on my plate at least look vaguely familiar

to me.

These days, when you go to a trendy restaurant, that dish that you always enjoyed when it was just cooked normally is either served blackened or raw. Vegetables that they now refer to as "baby greens," used to be called weeds. And I don't want to try the "pizza of the day" — the one with pineapple and peanut butter. I just want one with cheese and tomato sauce.

But obviously, not everybody is a fuddy-duddy like me. There are people who suddenly decide to try a new brand of jeans instead of buying the ones they've been comfortable in for 20 years. There are some adventurous souls who, just to see what it's like, decide to try to sleep on the other side of the bed one night. I guess these are the people who get excited about trying "different" or "interesting" food.

They're tired of eating burgers that they've loved all their life, so they eat an ostrich burger. They don't want the same old delicious fish that they've enjoyed in the past, so they'll have some eel. And they try weird and exotic foods

that, for some strange reason, we're always told, "taste just like chicken." Chef Cantu is banking on these people eventually even getting bored with exotic foods and turning to munching on his paper goods.

But after a while, his paper concoctions are going to seem mundane to those always chasing the latest trend. Serving edible pictures of normal foods won't be unusual enough. He'll have to rev up his Canon i560 and start serving paper versions of stranger and stranger foods. With all his enthusiasm for technology and innovation, he'll probably pull it off. In a few years, I can imagine a customer there asking the waiter, "What does the rattlesnake taste like?" And then the waiter will answer, "It's good. It tastes just like a picture of chicken."

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at [lloydgarver@yahoo.com](mailto:lloydgarver@yahoo.com)



By  
**Lloyd  
Garver**

## Men: Forget Valentine's Day, And You'll Need A Good Plumber

Given that Valentine's Day is coming soon, I'm guessing that a lot of men are just beginning to realize they're in serious trouble. If you are one of these men, do not panic! As men, we will stick together and, through the power of the Internet, call upon the romantic wisdom of men from around the world.

And hopefully come up with at least ONE good idea.

Keep in mind that if you wait until the last minute (and by that I mean finding a deadbolt installed on the bedroom door), you will be well beyond the flowers and candy stage, and any attempt to utilize such devices will likely result in a mouthful of roses and vase stuffed

with chocolate. No, my friends, we must think big; we must think outside the candy box; we must think of something other than Victoria's Secret; and we must think of something other than Victoria's Secret...

Sorry, did I already say that?

The reason I can offer you Valentine's Day advice is because I am a savvy columnist who anticipates the needs of his readers (and his wife) thanks to experience, planning, and yesterday's timely arrival of my two children, each of whom was carrying a paper Valentines heart they'd colored for Mommy.

Because of this, I was left with enough time to establish a special chat room

designed to gather helpful tips from some of the world's most romantic men. What follows is a direct transcript taken from that 30-minute endeavor.

Me: Hello? Hello? Anybody?

I'm sad to say the only hit my chat room got came from someone called Luvmonkey, who wanted to chat about things that had absolutely nothing to do with monkeys. This left one final option, which was to race across the Internet, where I discovered some interesting Valentines traditions from other countries which — by comparison — could make even the most romantically challenged man appear to be...

Well, less of a love dunce, anyway.

First stop: France.

I started here because, as everyone knows, the French are the world's greatest lovers, a fact that was confirmed by a random poll of more than 300,000 Frenchmen. According to tradition, it was customary for the French to hold a drawing involving young unmarried people, who would go into houses facing each other on the street. They would then call out from window to window, chanting: "Vous aux tre mon ami!"

which, roughly translated, means: "My bidet is clogged!"

Following this tender courtship, the occupants from both houses would then emerge and, in a fit of uncontrollable passion, secretly confess the name of a good plumber.

I also tried Italy, which customarily had young people in Rome gather at a large, ornamental garden to hear music and poetry — after which they would stroll off in enamored pairs to look for broken sprinkler heads. This custom ended recently when it was discovered that the garden has no irrigation system, leaving Italians to ponder what its young people have been DOING all this time?!

Okay, to summarize what we know so far: We're in big trouble, and neither the French nor Italians are going to help us. This, of course, leaves only one option.

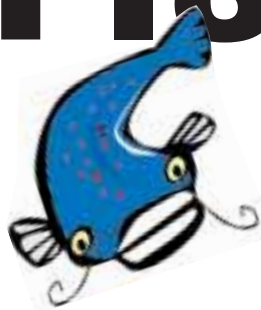
But for those of you without children, I'm afraid you'll just have to make your own paper heart.

(You can write to Ned Hickson at [nhickson@oregonfast.net](mailto:nhickson@oregonfast.net), or at the Siuslaw News at P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439)



By  
**Ned  
Hickson**  
Siuslaw News

## FISH DAY!



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# Battle of the Mattresses

## Flameproof vs. Toxic Chemicals

JEFFERSONVILLE, Indiana — Which is worse? Worrying about mattresses that might catch fire, or worrying about mattresses filled with toxic chemicals?

Debate on this issue is heating up, with both proponents and opponents of the new law expressing concern that manufacturers are using toxic chemicals in mattresses to meet the regulations that are intended to make mattresses fireproof.

Whitney Davis, director of the Children's Coalition for Fire Safe Mattresses, who wrote and started the law to flameproof mattresses, is now complaining that manufacturers are using toxic chemicals to flameproof mattresses to meet this law.

The matter will make its way to the steps of the Capitol on Feb. 16 when the "Sacramento Tea Party" commences to protest toxic chemicals in mattresses.

The concern is that although some mattress manufacturers will take the high road and use chemicals considered safe to flameproof mattresses, many will not, since the use of toxic treatments is less expensive and competitive

pressure will rule their decisions. Too, opinions differ on which systems are safe and which are toxic.

Opponents of the law say that it is flawed and should be repealed in California and stopped in the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) before it becomes national law.

The CPSC has indicated that it has no exposure data on any of the chemical systems to flameproof mattresses and cannot do a quantitative risk analysis. None of these flame barrier systems have been studied for human safety.

Proponents of the law hope to save up to 300 people from fire annually; after all existing mattresses are replaced.

This, opponents say, requires the entire population, 300 million people, to be at risk in sleeping in these chemical flame barrier systems. Thus as mattresses are replaced it requires one million people to be at risk for every one person saved. If it later turns out that only 15 percent of the mattresses are

actually toxic and cause human harm, the new law will have harmed or killed 45 million people.

Some believe boric acid roach killer powder is safe and it is already in millions of mattresses nationwide.

The CPSC says boric acid is "acutely toxic" and "a probable reproductive and developmental toxin in humans," but more study is needed.

Yet, say opponents, this law is being rushed through the CPSC and will become law nationwide within the year.

The CPSC public comment period on this law ends on March 14. Comments may be sent directly to CPSC: <cpscos@cpsc.gov>.

PeopleForCleanBeds.org believes none of the systems are safe and has a website that explains its concerns: <www.PeopleForCleanBeds.org>. Here, people can also vote and leave comments.

Mark Strobel, director of PeopleForCleanBeds.org, says that this law is also close to passage in New York and New



Boric Acid (Roach Killer) soaks as loose dust mixed with the cotton batting. There is 1.5 lbs of Boric Acid in the surface of a Queen mattress. Antimony Tricarbide is also included in the mixture. This is the least expensive barrier system to flameproof mattresses.

Jersey.

"These laws need to be stopped at least until we have proof it is safe for everyone to sleep in these chemicals," Strobel explained. "Many people oppose this law. One opponent wrote: Forced inclusion of these chemicals constitutes a human experiment without consent."

## Me? On A Diet? — Part 3

Why is it that as soon as you start a diet, people come out of the woodwork and begin showering you with the most delicious homemade goodies that you can't possibly (and don't want to) refuse? Now I admit that the holiday season was the worst possible time to start a diet, so I was doomed to failure from the get-go. No sooner than I had committed myself to this plan, a neighbor brought me the most wonderful peanut brittle I have ever tasted. It was incredibly light and airy, like no peanut brittle I had ever eaten—her grandfather's recipe. Did you think I wouldn't try it because I had started a diet? Puleeeeeee! Peanuts were on the diet. So what was a little cheap filler sticking them together? What could it hurt? I tasted. I enjoyed. I didn't eat the whole bag. That was worth something. And I dutifully went back to the diet.

Zack's cousins brought homemade chocolate candy. Who makes homemade candy? What a labor of love! And we were lucky enough to receive a tin of the delectable treats. Everyone knows I have this incredible weakness for chocolate. Most people also are aware that Mr. Discipline rarely eats sweets. So who do you think was going to enjoy this gift? I had to sample all three varieties, of course. But (she whined in her defense), I didn't eat the whole tin.

A few days later, dear friends arrived from the Metroplex in their Land Rover festooned with balloons (eliciting some pretty bewildered looks from the neighbors). They brought me my birthday dinner, topped off with the most delicious chocolate cake I have ever eaten. It was filled with cherries that had been soaked in brandy. Would I have turned it away? —My own birthday cake, complete with candles and all kinds of decorations? Are you kidding?

A couple of days later, two more

### 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.

friends came to visit with variety of homemade cookies and pralines in hand, a whole plate of them. What could I do? It would have been rude to refuse them, no?

I can't say my diet has been a complete failure. I might have turned at least some of my snacking from sweets to healthier items. (There's a lot of celery and cottage cheese in my fridge these days). I might have even lost a pound or two. I didn't eat the entire bag of peanut brittle at once (although I might have liked to). . . . or the whole cake in one day. . . . or the candy or cookies all at one time. I still have plenty of all the goodies left (although the cake is disappearing at an alarming rate, but I figured it wouldn't keep as long as the other items. I'm nothing if not sensible).

I will enjoy the desserts slowly, dole them out to myself as treats over the next few weeks. And hopefully I will still lose a few more pounds over time. I will definitely stop this wildly indiscriminate chocolate consumption in which I have been indulging for the last couple of years. I don't know why in the world I thought I could get away with it.

I'd like to tell you that I made a new year's resolution to start over on the diet and not cheat this time, no matter what. But I decided long ago that my only New Year's resolution would be to make NO new year's resolutions. I am faithful to this plan every Jan. 1.

## Thinking Back... Return From Iraq

I left Taji, Iraq last Friday night on my way home.

The trip consisted of long flights and long lay-overs.

I did not arrive back here at home until Tuesday morning.

There are times when I ask myself if what I am doing really is making a difference or am I just wasting my time, and taking it away from my family.

Coming home this time, I have seen many changes in my family. My daughters have grown so much and I missed that. They are turning into young beautiful women. The grandbaby was another thing that reassured me that my time is needed back home.

I have tried to look out for them all the best way I could for being so far away. But there are times when a Dad is needed at certain times in a child's life and I don't want to miss any more.

You see, I have never claimed to be the best husband or the the greatest father in the world. But we as dads all have our own ideas of how life should be lived and how our family should operate and we sit down with our children as they grow and we draw guidelines for them to follow. Sometimes they stray from those guidelines and we have to take action. But that does not mean we love our children any less.

It was hard going off and leaving my family for the first time some months back, but I would not trade it for the world. I feel that we all have grow in many ways as adults, but also as a family.

There are times when I am in Iraq, and I have just finished a hard day or

### The World As I See It

By Ronald (Butch) Kettler



when things seem to be at their worst, that I pause for a minute and think back to my first R&R when my family invited all these people over for a fish fry. Some I did not even know. When I asked why, my daughter said because you are a hero, whether you know it or not. I looked her in the eyes and said, no, I am not a hero, honey. The real heroes are still over there.

As I turned to walk away, she said, "Dad," (there was a slight pause), then she looked me straight in the eye and said, "You're my hero." My heart just melted because, for the first time, I felt that I had the backing of my family.

My hat goes off to all the men and women in the United States. You are all my heroes, because without you here in the States doing what you do, we could not be in Iraq doing what we do.

As I sat in one of the airports a man sitting next to me struck up a conversation. As we talked he asked me if I had any real regrets about being in Iraq.

Having never been asked that question before, I paused for a moment and I said, "The only regret that I have is that I could not do more for my country." And that is where our conversation ended.



— Guest Commentary —

# Texas Veterans Want Asbestos Bill Passed This Year

By BUDDI HARLAN, PAST STATE COMMANDER  
TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

Senator John Cornyn has a pretty good understanding of what veterans have sacrificed for their country, because his father flew B-17s during World War II and spent four months in a German POW camp.

Senator Cornyn and others in the Senate now have a golden opportunity before them to solve an enormous problem that has had a particularly heavy impact on our veterans: the asbestos crisis in our legal system.

Today, thousands of veterans are suffering from debilitating and fatal illnesses as a result of exposure to asbestos during their years in uniform. But these veterans have almost nowhere to turn for compensation. The law prevents them from seeking relief from their former employer, the Government, in the court system. And almost all of the companies that once provided asbestos to the government went out of business years ago, closing off another route to relief for sick veterans.

Even in rare cases where there is a

company left for veterans to sue, the courts are already buried in asbestos lawsuits. Many of the suits clogging the court dockets are for “victims” who might get sick someday but haven’t yet developed any symptoms.

Senator Arlen Specter, the Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, is working on legislation that would create an asbestos victims’ compensation fund to provide relief to veterans and other victims of asbestos-related disease. This solution would provide fast and reliable compensation to victims and take the giant mass of asbestos cases out of the courts once and for all.

Most Democrats and Republicans have been in rare agreement for several years that the current system is out of control and needs to be fixed. But even with both sides in agreement, similar attempts to repair the system in recent years have failed.

The fund Senator Specter is working on won’t cost taxpayers a cent. It will be funded by the businesses and insurance companies who are facing asbes-

“Today, thousands of veterans are suffering from debilitating and fatal illnesses as a result of exposure to asbestos during their years in uniform.”

— Buddi Harlan,  
Past State Commander  
Texas Dept. of the VFW

ASBESTOS  
POISONING



asbestos victims’ compensation fund because it is the only solution that will guarantee sick veterans the compensation they so clearly deserve.

Veterans and other victims can’t afford to wait any longer for relief. The asbestos victims’ compensation fund is the best hope for veterans and for all other asbestos victims.

As a Texas veteran, I urge Senator Cornyn and the other members of the Senate Judiciary Committee to get this important legislation through committee and the Senate as soon as possible.

tos lawsuits. With the compensation fund, victims will be compensated fairly and quickly.

More than a dozen national veterans’ groups, including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, have signed on to support the

## Public Hearing On Provisional Voting In Ohio Feb. 23rd

COLUMBUS, Ohio — A public hearing is being conducted by the U.S. Election Assistance Commission in Columbus, Ohio, on Wednesday, Feb. 23, from 1 to 5 p.m., to deal with the successes and failings of provisional voting in the 2004 election.

The hearing will be held at Moritz College of Law of Ohio State University, on W. 23th Avenue.

For more information about the event, log on to: <<http://fairnessbybeckerman.blogspot.com/2005/02/public-hearing-on-provisional-voting.html>>.

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