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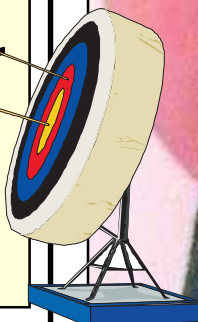
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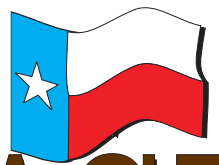
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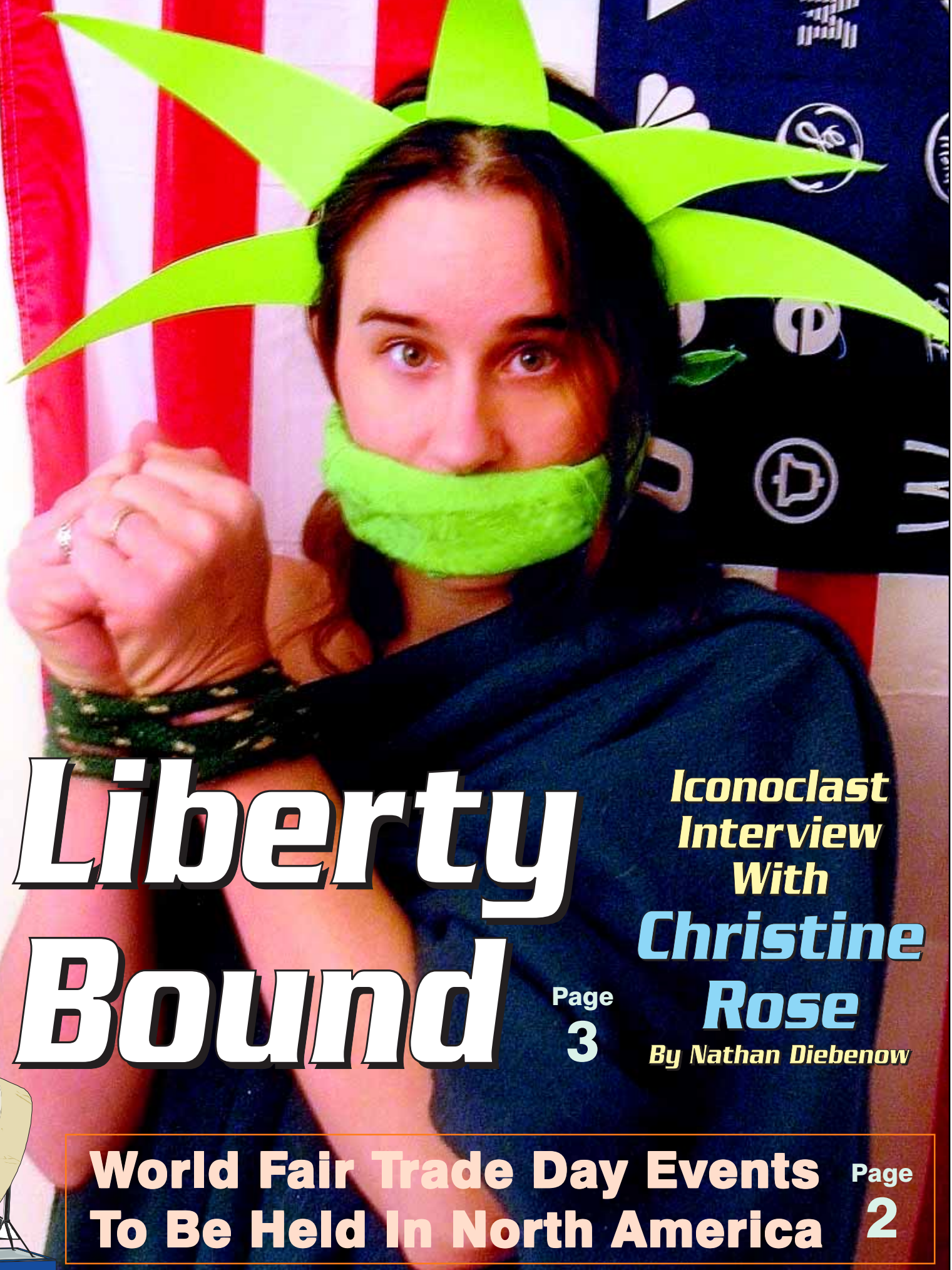
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World Fair Trade Day Events To Be Held In North America Page 2

World Fair Trade Day Events To Be Held In North America

CRAWFORD — Events, rallies, seminars, and fashion shows honoring the principles of fair trade will be held worldwide on World Fair Trade Day Saturday, May 14.

This year's theme is "Fair Trade Is Peace," calling for all people to build peace through development and equitable trade. Consumers have the power to alleviate poverty and protect the environment — through fair trade.

"The movement is rapidly growing globally — why not use your power to promote Fair Trade? Together we can build a more peaceful, equitable, hunger-free world," said a spokesperson.

This day is endorsed by the International Fair Trade Association (IFAT), the global authority on fair trade, comprised of 256 organizations from 60 countries around the world.

According to IFAT, fair trade is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade. It contributes to sustainable development by offering better trading conditions to, and securing the rights of, marginalized producers and workers, especially in the South.

Fair Trade organizations, backed by consumers, are engaged actively in supporting producers, awareness raising and in campaigning for changes in the rules and practice of conventional international trade.

Events In U.S.

Several events will be held in the United States to commemorate World Fair Trade Day leading up to May 14.

A fair trade panel discussion is slated by Ten Thousand Villages, Utah, on April 28, from 12 noon - 2 p.m., at the Marriot Library, Gould Auditorium at the University of Utah in Salt Lake City.

A panel of experts will be discussing issues of international trade, fair trade, environmental sustainability and human rights.

For more information, contact Katie Olson, Ten Thousand Villages, Utah, at (801) 485-8827; (katie.t.v@xmission.com); (www.tenthousandvillages.org)

A World Fair Trade Day Festival sponsored by Global Crafts will be held on May 14 at 300B Flagler Ave., New Smyrna Beach, Fla.

World Fair Trade Day will be celebrated with a Polynesian theme. There will be dancing, drumming, and fundraising from 4 p.m.-8 p.m. It will be fun and exciting for the whole family! For more information, contact Amanda at (386) 423-7221; (info@globalcraftsgallery.com); (www.globalcraftsgallery.com).

A World Fair Trade Day promotion sponsored by the Fair Trade Resource Network will be held throughout the United States at various locations during the month of May.

In order to support World Fair Trade Day organizing, FTRN is providing free resource kits to community planners in local communities. The kit includes promotional posters and organizing tools created by Fair Trade allies. FTRN's goal is to raise consumer awareness and connect the U.S. Fair Trade movement to the broader global movement in 55 U.S. cities.

For more information, contact Jacqueline DeCarlo at (202) 234-6797; (jackie@fairtraderesource.org); (www.FairTradeResource.org).

A Fair Trade Day Festival will be held at Ten Thousand Villages on May 14, from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. in Asheville, N.C. at Pritchard Park.

World Fair Trade Day will be celebrated for the first time in Asheville. "We are joining together with local organizations to put on a festival complete with information resources, vendors, and live entertainment," said a spokesperson. "Please contact us for more details."

For more information, contact Crystal Watley at (828)350-7757; (ashevillefairtradefestival@hotmail.com).

An International Fair Trade Festival will be held on May 15, 10 a.m.- 4 p.m., at A Greater Gift-SERRV at 500 Main St, New Windsor, MD.

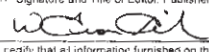
Guests are encouraged to spend the day making peace flags, enjoying international music, eating local and international food, petting llamas, and visiting SERRV-A Greater Gift for a sampling of its wonderful producer/partners crafts and foods.

For more information, contact Missy Marlin or Deanna Shumaker at (410) 635-8711, (giftshop@serrv.org); (www.agreatergift.org).

INFO

www.wftday.org

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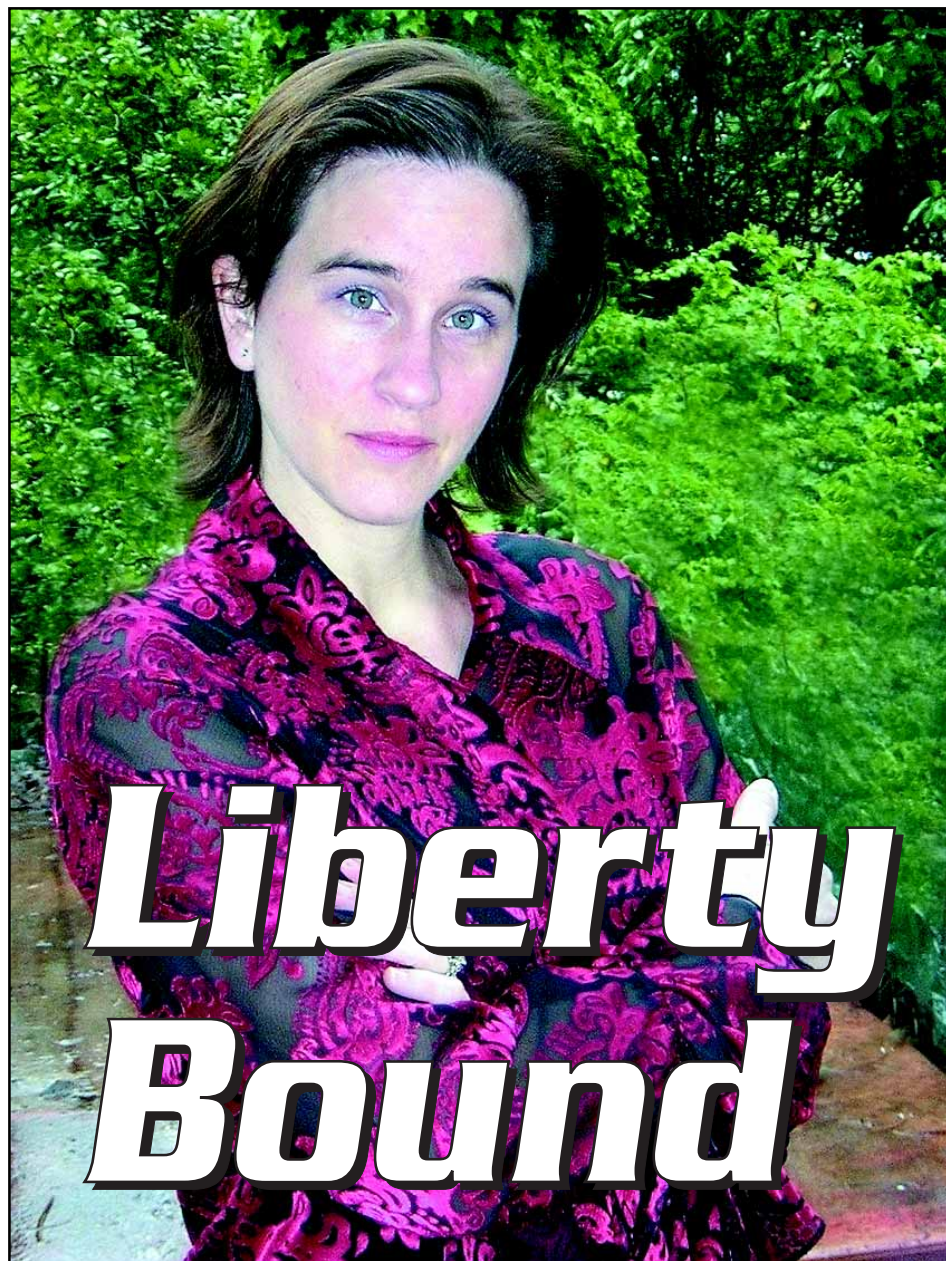
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Christine Rose, Film Director

AUSTIN — Filmmaker Christine Rose sees fascism in America, and she wants to talk about it — as defined by fascism's poster boy, Benito Mussolini, the late dictator of Italy:

"Fascism should more appropriately be called Corporatism, because it is the merger of State and Corporate Power," he said.

But Rose has found the hard way with her documentary *Liberty Bound* that it's not so easy. Last summer she had difficulties finding a distributor for the film inside the United States. *Liberty Bound* examines the U.S. after 9/11, the war in Iraq, and America's fascist tendencies, most notably in the current White House.

For more information on *Liberty Bound*, visit its website (www.libertybound.com).

Rose said she thinks the reason for her film's cool U.S. reception is about its discussion of fascism more than its amateurish style; however, she admits that both style and substance play a part in the chill factor.

"I think that if you see the film — even with people who go into it going, 'Gosh, that's absurd!' and they see the segment on Bush and Hitler — it's done in a way that makes sense. That's what I do. I don't make the comparison myself. It's been made, and it's still being made," she said. "People may not like it, but it's happening, and what I do is examine why."

Even the most well-known progressive media outlets, including respect-

able filmmakers like Michael Moore, seem to shun the word rather than risk losing their "credibility," she said.

MoveOn.org last summer flirted with a similar comparison during its "Bush in 30 Seconds" commercial contest. The organization was immediately burned by the mainstream press and conservative critics, she noted.

"The comparison has been made a gazillion times, and there are some valid points, and there are some, of course, that they are nothing alike, but as Howard Zinn says in my film, that's what freedom of speech is," Rose said. "You should feel free to bring up anything to talk about, and you can compare any two things. You can compare me and Hitler. I mean, I'm a vegetarian, and he was a vegetarian."

To be fair, though, the film doesn't cut any slack for past presidents, said the Ohio transplant who graduated from high school in Huntville and its nearby college Sam Houston State University. "It's not just about the Bush Administration. It's about U.S. government policies since World War II," she said. "It's become more arrogant and more in-your-face with the Bush Administration. It's gotten to a level that we have never seen, but it's been there."

Not one to give up, Rose found audiences. For three months last fall, she toured the U.S. to promote her film and went to Europe for film festivals where *Liberty Bound* received international attention. It was an official selection at the 2005 Göteborg Film Festival, the



**Iconoclast
Interview
With
Christine
Rose**
By Nathan Diebenow
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

POLICE STATE? — A police officer in riot gear hoses down a protester in Christine Rose's documentary *Liberty Bound*, which examines the aftermath of Sept. 11, the USA Patriot Act, and the War on terrorism.

them, so they get the point, you know?

Yeah, J. Lo. I remember seeing Uma Thurman on the cover of *VOGUE*, and I used to adore Uma Thurman. She's just a fabulous actress, and I see her on the cover of *VOGUE* draped in fur and I was like, "What are you doing?"

Actually, I've been a member of PETA for 15 years now, and that was kind of my first introduction to politics. I was 20. I had read a PETA pamphlet about the Down Cow and cosmetic testing on animals, and I had no clue. Seriously. No clue.

I was appalled, and I naively at the time (acted like) if people knew what was happening, it would stop. So I started telling everybody, and I quickly found out that people didn't want to know. They didn't want to know about it. They just wanted to buy what they liked and eat what they liked, and not think about where it came from or not care about these things.

So it was kind of a learning experience, you know, getting into politics, and I didn't move into politics proper until right around the 2000 election, maybe '98 or so when I discovered there was such a thing as the Green Party after I moved to California because the two major parties really didn't speak to me, especially when I read their party platform. I could have written it — flat right down the line: environmentalism, vegetarianism, and respect for other species and everything. It was so perfect.

I think that the animal rights pamphlets did that for me because all of this was going on, I had no clue. Given, I was 20, but at 20, you think that you kinda know some stuff, but you see this whole other world you didn't even know. So it opened up my mind to my eye a bit.

ICONOCLAST: And the next thing you know, you're in France promoting your first movie. I was watching the end of your movie. and you dedicated it to Mary and Peter Martin. Who are they?

ROSE: They're my grandparents. They both died in 2003. When I was taking the train across the country we had

Continued On Next Page

2005 Freedom Cinema Festival, and the 2004 Artist Film Festival.

In one of her first appearances since the election, Rose recently showed *Liberty Bound* to an audience of 30 during a special house party in her honor in Austin.

The following morning, the rookie documentarian spoke with THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST over a bowl of oatmeal about her political motivations, the aftermath of Sept. 11 and media activism, and her next documentary, *Internationally Speaking*, which explores the views of the U.S. government's foreign policy and U.S. citizens from the perspectives of regular people around the world.

For more information on *Internationally Speaking*, visit its website (www.internationally-speaking.com).

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ICONOCLAST: I read on the Internet Movie Database that you're a vegetarian and you're a member of PETA. So how do you feel about J.Lo?

ROSE: How do I feel about J.Lo? Oh, with all her fur? I know! It disgusts me every time I see her or anyone — I can't believe it's making a comeback. They've been trying to push this comeback for quite a few years, and it doesn't seem to be catching on. For a while, it seemed like every store had fur in it, and I won't shop in places that have fur. But it got to point where everybody had rabbit fur and little scarves and things. Then, you see it a month later, all of them are on the 50 percent off rack, (Laughs) which is good to see that no one is buying

• LIBERTY BOUND / CHRISTINE ROSE INTERVIEW

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just a little bit of savings and I wanted to make this movie and try to reach more people than I could in local politics.

At that point in Chico, (Calif.), it had become extremely ineffective, so much inner-turmoil and bickering that nothing ever got done, and I'm a very goal-oriented person. I like to see the end, and I just felt I was bashing my head against a wall with local politics.

So I started thinking, after seeing "Bowling for Columbine" and seeing how well it was received, that this might be a way to reach more people, because people don't read as much as they watch TV or whatever. I took the last bit of our savings and went across country, but at the time, not having any experience really, just dabbling in video editing

For like months, I had this idea, and my husband is extremely supportive, but I couldn't justify it in my head to take everything and go on this whim, but when my grandfather got so sick, and we knew he really wasn't going to live much longer, I thought this was the perfect opportunity to also see him again.

And so I stopped, when I took the train across the country, which I'm really glad I did, by the way, because I could have flown. It would have been much faster, but I wanted to try something different, not only for environmental reasons but also because you can see the entire country across.

ICONOCLAST: How long does it take to go cross-country by train?

ROSE: On Amtrak, three or four days, I think from Sacramento to Cleveland, and then in Cleveland I got off. My father still lives there down in Parma, and my grandmother and grandfather were there and my extended family that I don't know that well.

I moved away when I was so young, but I went and saw my grandfather and had some nice times with him, and then from there I rented a car and went to Boston and New York City and Philadelphia. And then back. He actually seemed to be doing a little better when I left, but by the end of the week, he died.

ICONOCLAST: It's almost like if you hadn't gone to see him, you wouldn't have gotten the Winston story.

ROSE: Exactly.

ICONOCLAST: Which is really a telling sign I guess. Synchronicity. Tell me about Winston.

ROSE: Oh, man, I just walked into that. I've told that story a zillion times but it's a great story. You know, you're on a plane for a couple of hours. You don't really talk to anybody, but when you're on the train, you've got hours and hours to fill.

We had stopped in Denver, Colo. for just a break. Usually, you go to every stop on a train, and people get off or on. But you get off, and you stop for like 20 minutes for people to get off the train and get a snack or whatever.

I got off and called my husband on the pay phone. I was coming back on returning, and I saw all these policemen standing outside, which I thought was a little odd, but like I've said, you kind of get used to seeing police in strange places, especially after 9/11.

I went in, boarded the train, and when I got into my car, there was this guy getting interrogated by these two cops, and this guy was like, I mean, he looked like

he wouldn't hurt a fly. He looked like a big teddy bear. A Caucasian. Male, maybe slightly older than me. Maybe about 40. Very gentle-looking, but being interrogated by these cops.

My first instinct was to turn around and leave. I'm glad I didn't — I gotta say. But I felt like I had a right to be there since I had a ticket, and this ostensibly is a free country. I went back to my seat which was two seats behind where this guy was being interrogated. I put my headphones on, hoping it would look like to them that I was just trying to mind my own business and listen to some music or something. And I flipped my video camera on and recorded the interrogation that you hear in the film.

I was just amazed, frightened, and appalled at all these things I heard. You know, I mean, here's this guy which I found out later when I interviewed him that he was having a philosophical discussion with this gentleman from Chile, I think. And he was talking about Eastern philosophy, about healing the darkness within with light: You can't heal darkness with more darkness, and he used the example of the Twin Towers as darkness, and the U.S. bombing Afghanistan is trying to heal darkness with more darkness. You have to heal with light. This is all he said about the Twin Towers, but somebody, I guess, got freaked out, and called the cops, and at the next stop, they interrogated the poor kid for like 45 minutes. I was there for a portion of it and recorded it.

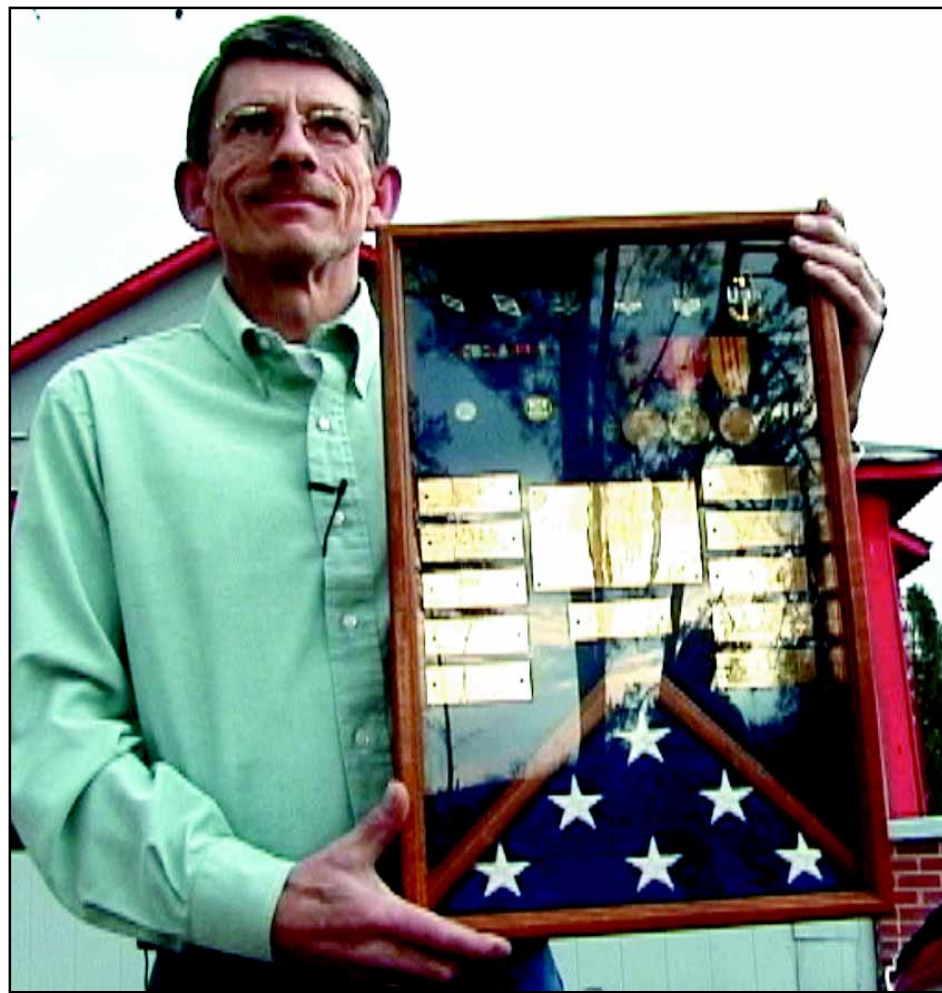
It was amazing because you hear the police say things like, "We live in a different country now. There's certain things you can't talk about anymore." And people who see the film say, "My goodness, the guy in the train, I just can't believe it," because you know, John Q. Public has not been interrogated by the police.

Whenever you mention something about the "police state" or the "impending police state" or something, people look at you like you're insane because they're like "Police state? Blah!" Well, this guy found out, but if you ever exercise your rights en masse, you see very quickly the level of the police state they are already living in, which I had experienced when I was in Sacramento for a WTO protest.

This was like a tiny protest, like a 150 people to protest. I mean, 150 people. Nothing. This group of people just marched around the block over and over again. A hundred and 50 people. There were 350 police there in riot gear, and I couldn't believe it.

So I had my camera, and some of the shots you see in the film are the lines of cops in riot gear. They had guns, and they had horses, and they had these big, huge armored cars and fences and shields. You know, it was just absurd. Three hundred and 50 people, right?

I got a lot of them marching around in formation on video. At one point, they had lined up across the street and started marching down the street. I got down right at the curb and got a nice tight shot — you can see the shot in *Liberty Bound* — marching right toward me. Well, just as they were about to get to me, I heard this voice yell, "Move." So I did. Again, it's a public street. (Laughs) We have a right to be there, but still, I stood up and stepped on the



U.S. VETERAN MICHAEL MOORE appears in Christine Rose's documentary *Liberty Bound*. Aided by the USA Patriot Act, the FBI interviewed Moore at his home because of his comments about national and international affairs after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

curb, my eye still to the camera, not realizing that the police were not just across the street but up on the sidewalk as well.

And suddenly I was taken down from behind with a billyclub, and then I didn't know what happened, you know? It was just like a blur. You just feel this shock of pain and a blur, and the next thing I know I'm jerked back up and pushed forward. I turned around with my camera, which was unfortunately still zoomed in from the tight shot I just got. It wasn't a good shot, or else I would have used it in the film.

But this cop who had taken me down was just pushing me down the street — he must have been 300 pounds, and I'm asking him what am I doing? Why? And he just wouldn't answer. He was just screaming at me to turn around, and it was my first experience with physical violence, and it was a strong case for Canada. (Laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs)

ROSE: But the thing about these civil rights violations is that it's for use of intimidation. It's an intimidation tactic because I had every right to be on that street videoing. I'm a U.S. citizen. I have every right, and to be assaulted like that is a violation of those rights, and had I the money and time and everything to take it to court, I would likely win. Of course, nothing would happen to the cop, and nothing would happen other than (the court saying), "Well, you're right."

It's a waste of time, but what's more important is that anyone who saw me getting taken down will think twice before protesting. It's an intimidation tactic to deter other people, to keep control, and to instill fear.

ICONOCLAST: So what's been the response to your documentary? How

has it been received here and abroad? It's been out for two years now?

ROSE: Well, not quite a year. It was released July of last year. It's been finished for about a year and a half, but it's been out since July 4.

The response to my awareness has been overwhelmingly positive. If people don't like it, I don't hear about it. I've only heard about literally a handful of people who are like, "What the hell are you doing?"

But most people that respond to me in emails or talk to me afterward are overwhelmingly positive. "Thank you so much. You're so brave." And all these things, which I don't see myself, because it's just something I decided to do one day.

I find that the people I meet are extremely brave in the things they are doing. Talk about bravery — look at Medea Benjamin, who has gone to Iraq and Afghanistan a dozen times since the bombing campaign started. I mean I look at her and her life, and I think I'm doing nothing, you know?

ICONOCLAST: Isn't she the one who stood up at the Inauguration address?

ROSE: She may have. She was definitely at the Republican Convention. CodePink infiltrated every day. I wouldn't doubt it, though. She's a little fireball. She's amazing.

ICONOCLAST: Have you been trying to get this movie in front of U.S. soldiers who have been coming back from Iraq?

ROSE: Actually, there was one last night who was there. He's about to go for his third deployment out in a few weeks I guess. Yeah, there have been some who have seen it.

As far as trying to get it in front of them, when I did the tour before the election, it was really up to the people

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organizing each screening because I toured 40 cities, so I had little to do with who it was getting to or how the advertising went.

Since the election, I really haven't done much with *Liberty Bound* because I've been focusing on my new one. But I would love for more service members to see it or anybody to see it.

ICONOCLAST: I asked because it gives a history of Saddam Hussein that I wasn't really aware of. He was backed by the CIA in the beginning, and then he's like, "I'm a nationalist, and I'm going to give all the proceeds from the oil to my people." And then, boom, he's an outlaw.

ROSE: The interesting thing about Saddam Hussein was that as Bush sat up there going, "Oh, he's gassed his own people." — when he was doing all that, we were backing him. We were selling him weapons when he was doing those things.

ICONOCLAST: And who were these people he was gassing? The dissidents.

ROSE: Right. And up until the first Gulf War, he was our boy. From what I understand, from seeing the "Hidden Wars of Desert Storm" — if you haven't, see it — was that it was a misunderstanding because he asked Washington basically "Is it okay (for me to invade Kuwait)?" And they were like, "Yeah, sure." Then he did and Washington used it as an excuse to invade.

So there's some strange thing there right around the first Gulf War where the whole thing shifted from him being our guy to him being public enemy number one. But like I said, I didn't really start paying attention to a lot of this stuff until 1998. I'm playing a lot of catch up.

ICONOCLAST: What I noticed in your film was that you explored not only America's addiction to oil but also depleted uranium.

You showed the babies who were born with birth defects due to depleted uranium that the United States military used in its weapons during the first Gulf War. And when I look back at *Fahrenheit 9/11*, I see that Michael Moore didn't talk about that because it's not good for the American people to see that right before a presidential election; otherwise, how are we going to get Kerry elected knowing that our Iraqi civilians and our soldiers are being poisoned by radioactivity — weapons of mass destruction — if you will?

ROSE: Right, it's not about Bush or Kerry. It's about the U.S. government and what they've been doing for the past couple of years. Michael Moore and *Fahrenheit 9/11* — I didn't like *Fahrenheit 9/11*, and I really like Michael Moore. *Fahrenheit 9/11* — I didn't like, but a lot of people did, and I'm not sure why.

I think part of it is because I did a film that was on a similar topic before *Fahrenheit 9/11* was out. And I did so much research that I could see all the things he left out. I saw all the things that he superficially covered, and I could see that so much of it was just a direct and personal attack on President Bush more than anything.

He went right down the line on the official line of 9/11. I've heard him say in the past that we don't know what happened. We don't know it was bin Ladin. We haven't seen any evidence. They

haven't shown anyone the evidence. But he went right down the line.

I think what Michael Moore was doing was he wanted to reach the greatest number of people, and in doing that, he kept things on a pretty uncontroversial level, things that everyone accepts. You know, the grand majority accepts without question just because the president said that Osama bin Laden and a group of Islamic fundamentalists was behind 9/11 period. They don't want to hear about all of the things that doesn't make sense. They just say, "This is it, and these are the reasons we're going to war."

I think he used that as a basis so that's why he didn't go into these things, but these things are what needs to be seen in the United States, I think, because when you touch people on a human level, show them a picture, and say, "This is what we are doing. Four or five babies a day are being born deformed because of the depleted uranium we've been using there. Mothers are screaming in the streets and losing their minds because children are being killed." I mean, these are the things, personally, I think need to be said because that's the reality.

It's not "propaganda." We can talk about propaganda. What isn't propaganda, really? Propaganda got a bad name after World War II because of fascism. It's a word you didn't use any more.

If you look up the definition of propaganda, it's information or images that help get across a certain point of view. When people call it propaganda, they automatically think it's misleading, but it's not necessarily so.

I think that people need to see the death and destruction because that's the reality of war. It's really great for American citizens to just watch CNN or FoxNews, and they might hear the number of soldiers dying, but they hear the number and don't see the grieving families. They don't see the coffins coming home. They don't see it. They just hear an abstract number, and I know they're doing that purposely. I think they learned with the Vietnam War that you can't show this stuff, or the public won't support the war anymore.

People for the most part are compassionate. They care about others, and when they see something, they can empathize more easily, saying, "Oh, my God, we're doing this."

ICONOCLAST: I'm scared of the people who you show that to and go, "Well, that's war. I mean, that's what the troops are there for. Yeah, it's bad, but they're doing it for their country."

ROSE: Yeah, they scare me, too, but they don't understand it because I guess "in reality" that's war, but there are rules of war, and you're not supposed to target citizens and these kinds of things. But, of course, they do because that's what wins wars. It's the quote "collateral damage" that wins wars. It's when the other side says, "Enough. No more. We'll do whatever you want, so stop killing us, raping us, whatever." That's what wins war, but that's what we don't see.

Back to Vietnam, what really shifted public opinion to a large degree was when Seymour Hersh broke the My Lai story, right? They saw it. Same thing

“But when the question comes up, what it tells me is that even though conscientiously people are not ready to admit we have limits to our freedoms and that there's a fear of the government. The question is that it's there.”
— Christine Rose

with this thing with Operation Iraqi Freedom, right? What shifted public opinion was when they saw again — Seymour Hersh broke Abu Ghraib. And I'll tell you something horrifying, Medea Benjamin when she was over (in Iraq) interviewed people who were tortured before Abu Ghraib broke. And she came back saying, "My God, when they hear about this, they're going to understand and they're going to see and things are going to change." The media wouldn't talk to her. Congress wouldn't talk to her. They knew what was happening, and they didn't — and it sometimes makes my head hurt, going "How can you sit back knowing this is happening?" (Laughs)

ICONOCLAST: So you said this documentary was going to be on Free Speech TV?

ROSE: Yeah, they just picked it up, so look for it over the next month.

ICONOCLAST: Last night during the Q&A, you were asked if you had felt any heat because of your movie, and you mentioned that you always get asked that question. Explain what you meant by that.

ROSE: Virtually every single Q&A I've done, you know, dozens across the country, someone asks, "Are you scared? Are you being followed? Have you felt any heat? Has the CIA contacted you?" All of these same kinds of questions, right? And I say that the question is very telling because what it says is that if we were truly living in a free society, why would I be scared? Why would I be followed just for making a film that expresses my political opinion somewhat, but largely explores other things. It's looking at the reasons why people are saying Bush was complicit, looking at the reasons behind the Bush/Hitler comparison, looking at the bogus reasons for going to war with Iraq, which of course has come out now in the mainstream media anyway, but when I was making the film, everyone believed that (Saddam) had weapons of mass destruction, and you don't want the next smoking gun to be a mushroom cloud and all that which has turned out to be bogus.

It's like, why would I have to be scared if we lived in a free society? I think that a lot of people in the United States truly believe that this is the best country in the world, that we have all these freedoms, and they believe that because it's been repeated ad nauseam. Since the time we could walk, it's been bashed into heads: "Best Country In The World," "We're helping everybody else." But we're not looking at the other side of history. The Founding Fathers — we talk about them like they're gods, not looking at they were slave owners, and the others things, too, that makes them human. When you look at the whole picture, you look at them as human, not on this pedestal, which is what we do to America.

Yeah, America has some amazing wonderful things about it, but it also has some miserable things, but those parts are ignored. But when the question

comes up, what it tells me is that even though conscientiously people are not ready to admit we have limits to our freedoms and that there's a fear of the government. The question is that it's there.

I remember that on 9/11, my mother called, and everyone was checking just to make sure everyone was okay. We were nowhere near New York, of course, but everyone was just freaked out, me included.

I said to her, "Something's not right about this." I said, "I don't know what it is. Something's not right. They knew or something because how could this happen?"

I have an innate mistrust of the government because of the many lies I had learned, but something's not right. We're supposed to be the greatest military super-power that has ever existed on the planet. To be attacked is a sign of weakness, so something's not right.

And when I said that they (the government) had something to do with this, she said, "Shhhhhh. Be careful what you're saying." And I'm thinking, "Be careful? This is America, right? I can say what I want to say, right?" This was on 9/11 before the totalitarian climate that came afterward where you were just squashed if you had any — people were fired and killed for saying anything against the government. This was on the day. This was hours after the attack, and still, then, that was there: "Shhhhhh. Be careful what you say." So why should I be careful with what I say? Yeah, I think the question is very telling.

Something I always say is even in Communist countries where you don't have a free society or you can't speak out against the government, if you speak out against the government, and no one hears you, you can still do it. So here's the same thing: you can speak out against the government as long as the right people don't hear you. It's the same in China. You can go into the street somewhere in the country, and when no one's around, you can say what every you want, but if the wrong people hear you, you know, that's not what a free society is.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think we're at this watershed of political activism, like after the election and after 9/11. Like five years ago, for example, Indymedia was created after the WTO protests in Seattle. Since then, there's been a lot of movement and coordination. Has this been going on for a while or is this just a new phase of social activism?

ROSE: I think it's really technology, both with the Internet and digital media — the way information can now be shared — you don't have to rely on network news anymore. I read the LONDON TIMES everyday and press releases just by going online. I don't have to go to the store to buy anything. I think that with this as well as the digital media, it's given people power and given them an outlet.

I think activism has been going on for quite some time, but with the technol

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ogy and the way we share information, you're not only hearing about it more, but you're seeing it more. It's not like you can just hear, "Oh, there were these people in Seattle, and they were gassed." You can see it, you know, in an instant! And around the world, they can see it, and I think this is boosting activism. It's getting more people involved. This is the — you remember the song, "The Revolution Will Not Be Televised"? I read somewhere recently that the revolution is being televised (laughs) because that's what Indymedia is doing around the world, and they are capturing it.

When I was at Artist, one of the things in the goodie bag for filmmakers was a T-shirt for Witness. Witness is an organization either started by or at least participated by Peter Gabriel.

On the back of the shirt it says, "See it. Film it. Change it." And what Witness does is they give video cameras to people in Africa and people in countries where all these atrocities (happen), and they show them how to use them, and people are seeing it.

When people see it, they can identify with it, like I said before, and empathize with it, rather than just hearing about it. Hearing about 55,000 women who were raped in Bosnia camps is one thing, but if you see a woman hanging from the tree, like was on the cover of TIME magazine or whatever, then it hits you, and you react to it a much more human level.

ICONOCLAST: Let's talk about your new film, *Internationally Speaking*. Where did you get the idea for it?

ROSE: I hope I can do it justice. I think it's a good idea. I had the idea when I was in France. I was just outside Paris. We were going to the sound mixer's place. I walked by this open gate and saw this woman working in her garden.

You know, with all the tensions between the U.S. and France leading up to the war in Iraq, it just hit me so simply that people are people and that we all work in our garden, we all go to work, we all have children and we all want to be safe, we all want peace, we want to protect our families — you know, it just hit me on such a simple level, that we're just all people. We speak different languages and have different cultures, but we're really the same. So I had this idea.

Actually, while I was in France, I heard these things about the growing anti-Americanism and especially in France: "It's like a national passtime!" Of course, the whole France nonsense in the States, I mean, crippled their economy. They really felt it in France, like boycotting French wine, which was absurd.

But when they talked to me, they recognized that it was the government, that it was the foreign policy of the Bush Administration, not the people. It's the people who are uninformed or who are lied to. They don't get all the news that even they get in Europe. And the French people understand this.

And I talked to some Americans and ask them, "Have you heard about the growing anti-Americanism?" (And these Americans respond,) "Oh, they're jealous. Oh, they don't like our freedoms. They want what we have. They want democracy." And the insinuation

that we're the only democracy in the world and the ignorance is unbelievable, and so one of the things I really wanted to do was to let the people on a very human level speak about what they think about the United States' foreign policy and the people of the United States. They are two very different things. The French talk about the brutality and the torture and the preemptive war and the arrogance of the government and the bullying. They talk about the people: "The Americans I know are sweet and very nice." Then you see Americans who want to boycott France, and again, they're extending this to every French person, every Iraqi, every Afghani, or whatever. Instead of seeing them as people, they see them as a bubble stereotype, and I want to break through that, and I want to talk to people as people.

So this was the idea I had. After the election, I was so depressed, and I'm exhausted because I had just gotten off being 2½ months on the road with the film and trying to get people going and keep going myself, and knowing it wasn't a fair election. I was so depressed, and about a week later, I came across an article in the SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE called about this website called SorryEverybody.com. I went to it.

It was started by this 20-year-old kid in California, a student. He had a simple idea. He drew on his school notebook, "Sorry, World. We tried." And he took a picture of himself, dealing with the grief he was feeling in kind of a dark humor way, and asked others to send him a picture. I interviewed him for *Internationally Speaking*. He put it on the school server and three hours later, the tech department called him and said, "You had 2.1 million hits in the last three hours. We're taking your site down. You're using up all of our bandwidth." So he was blown away.

He said that by the end of the week, they were on CNN. They since had 40,000 submissions from other people sending in their pictures.

And there was a response from Europe with ApologiesAccepted.com put up by this Dutch guy. By the time I looked at it, there was like 5,000 pictures up on SorryEverybody.com. It was a couple weeks after the election when I found it. ApologiesAccepted was already up, too.

I looked at these sites and literally cried. It was so touching because you saw all these people saying, "We're sorry." "Don't give up on us yet." "At least half of us aren't so bad." And then you get these responses from Europe and all over the world: "We'll give you some more time." "Don't let it happen again." It's okay. Apology accepted." "Cheers. Have a Heinken from Germany."

It was so beautiful just these average people reaching out to each other. When I saw that, I just thought I had to make this movie. I have to because it touched me so much. And that's what it was — it was people reaching out to people. That's what I'm hoping *Internationally Speaking* could be. I'm hoping that when Americans see these people from all other countries, they see them as people who had their opinions for a good reason and also to learn some things about the extensive things you don't



CHRISTINE ROSE, the documentary film director of *Liberty Bound* (www.libertybound.com), is currently working on her new documentary, *Internationally Speaking*, which is in production right now (www.internationallyspeaking.com). Inspired by SorryEverybody.com, Rose's film examines the U.S. government's foreign policy and the citizens of the United States through interviews of regular folks from the four corners of the world.

normally hear about with prisons not only about Abu Ghraib, which people have forgotten about, but the ongoing torture at Guantanamo Bay and the U.S. exemptions from the International Court, and pre-emptive war, but these kind of complete contempt for international law or to follow any kind of international treaties when the rest of the world is behind something and the U.S. and Israel say, "Psst. Not us," this is where these opinions are coming from. We have to step outside of ourselves to look at this because one of the things I want to show in the film is perspec-

tive. What if the tables were turned? You know, people talk about Iraq. Again, they hear news stories, canned shots, and they think, "Well, we're there. We've got to do what we've got to do. We're freeing the Iraqi people," but if you just turned the tables and think about what it would be like the other way around.

What if Iraqi or whoever, another country, said to their people, "George Bush is an imminent threat, and he has weapons of mass destruction, and we've got to take him out." And they came over here, invaded America, deposed our

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leader, and stayed here, which is equivalent to what we're doing here in Iraq, and millions of Iraqi soldiers screaming at you in Arabic. You have no idea what they're saying and shooting you or beating you because you didn't understand.

Hell, we'd be fighting tooth and nail, too, to get them gone. We would be! You know we would be! Well, we've got to look at them as people, not as like this personified evil enemy whose got to submit or die. I mean the United States has prominent military bases in over 100 countries, in Germany, in Saudi Arabia, and now they're building 14 permanent bases in Iraq. I mean, think about it: what if Germany had military bases here? Or Japan? Think about it in another way: would Americans stand for having permanent military bases in our country. We've got to start looking at it this way because this empire is not going to last forever, and the way we treat people now is going to be a direct result to the way we're treated on our way down. (laughs) So, yeah, for no other reason, for self-preservation. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) So how's it coming? It started recently, right?

ROSE: I started in December, and most of what I've done so far is worry and stress. (laughs) I wanted to travel around the world to do this myself, but without financing or a budget, obviously, that was impossible.

So I adopted and recruited my own "coalition of the willing," and I'm working with over a dozen filmmakers in a dozen different countries: New Zealand, Sweden, Thailand, the Phillipines, India, Turkey, France, Spain, England, Canada, Mexico, South Africa.

Working with these other independent filmmakers, again, the technology, I can email through Indclub, which is a resource for filmmakers, and I sent out scores of requests for help. And you get people — it doesn't cease to amaze me — that people will put their own money in because they believe in the importance of the project. So I'm getting footage and interviews, sometimes in other languages and sometimes in English, like I've got footage from Russia that is all in Russian, from these different filmmakers, talking about the United States' foreign policy and the United States people.

I've gotten some pretty great stuff so far, and I've only gotten about half of the footage in from these countries. Hopefully, I'll get more soon because I'm going to the studio and editing to put this thing together next week. I've also interviewed Medea Benjamin, Noam Chomsky, James from SorryEverybody.com, Michael Ratner from the Center of Constitutional Rights, who is a civil rights lawyer representing people who were detained in Guantanamo.

ICONOCLAST: Did his organization file that lawsuit against Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld in Germany?

ROSE: I think there are several lawsuits against Rumsfeld right now. (laughs) He might be one of them, actually, come to think of it. I know the ACLU has one against Rumsfeld for war crimes at Abu Ghraib. I mean, there are several lawsuits.

I remember reading in Germany that another group took to Germany to bring Rumsfeld to trial because Germany has this law where you can try people from outside the country because the United

States doesn't recognize the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court. The German judge threw it out. Did you hear about that?

ICONOCLAST: No. I hadn't.

ROSE: It was a couple of weeks ago they said they couldn't take this case. I just thought, "Oh, too bad." They get so much pressure from Washington because it was the same in Belgium. Belgium changed their laws because of the pressure they got because they were going to indict Bush in Belgium for war crimes.

There was a great article in Canada: "Should we indict Bush when he comes to Ontario?" Did you read that? I think what we need to look at — I've had somebody on film down at Mardi Grai in Galveston, and I say, "What do you think about this growing anti-Americanism and why do you think they hate us?" (And he says), "Tell them to come over here and say that!" (Laughs) You know you get that kind of mentality: "C'mon! Bring it on!"

But you have to look at it for what it is, and whether you like it or not, this is how the world is viewing us. This is what Canada thinks. This is what England thinks. I mean, on the cover of the LONDON DAILY MIRROR: "How can 59 million people be so dumb?" That's what they think of us. Whether you like it or not, you've got to recognize this is the way the world sees us.

We've got to start paying attention to that because it's a huge mistake not only to ignore world public opinion but to be so arrogant and so hypocritical. I mean, can you imagine just in the last few weeks when Bush did his little tour of Europe trying to supposedly mend friendships and stuff but he was so arrogant to everyone he talked to. He was like, "I was right. We've got democracy now, so screw you. And now kiss my feet because I can do whatever." People see this and who likes a bully, really?

Bush when he went to lecture (Russian President Vladimir) Putin on democracy or when he lectured Syria about "You can occupy another country!", can he say this with a straight face? It's like how can you not see not hypocritical this is, you know?

And, oh, I've got to find this quote I heard it at the airport. I saw (Sen. Joseph) Lieberman commenting about Russia. He humiliated (Russian President Vladimir) Putin. He humiliated him. Lieberman said something like, "Well, they're our friends but friends need to tell each other when something's not right." And I was like, "You've got to be kidding me. How can you say that after the way we treated Russia, Germany, and France for standing up and telling us what we needed to hear going to war with Iraq?"

And the way we treated them after, especially France, and the French see that and say, "Russia and Germany were with us, too." But no one got it the way France did. They're still getting backlash. And so why just France and not Russia? It's just crazy.

ICONOCLAST: So when do you expect *Internationally Speaking* to be finished?

ROSE: With any luck, *Internationally Speaking* will be available sometime this summer! I will have at least a "rough cut" to take to the Cannes Market in May. If it's picked up, it could be released anytime thereafter. If it's not, I will try some distribution here domestically. If nothing by say, August, I'll release it myself on DVD like I did *Liberty Bound*.

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2005 Levi Baur Archery Benefit Set This Saturday

CRAWFORD — The 2005 Levi Baur Memorial Scholarship Archery Benefit Committee would like to announce that this year's event will be held Saturday, April 9, in Crawford. The 3D archery event will be in Crawford's beautiful Tonkawa Park.

Registration for shooters will begin at 9 a.m., and activities will continue in

the park until 3:30 p.m. Cost for adult archers will be \$10 and \$5 for the young archers. Other park activities will include a kid's activity area, balloon release, tee-shirt sales, food and much more. There promises to be lots of fun for the entire family.

The evening barbecue dinner and auctions will be in the Amsler Building

DATELINE:
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in downtown Crawford on Main Street. The doors will open at 5:30 p.m. for dinner with the silent and audible auctions beginning at 7 p.m. Dinner tickets for adults will be \$10 (children 5 and under eat free.)

There will also be a raffle drawing for several exciting raffle items again this year at the evening event. Raffle items this year include a Polaris 4-Wheeler, a spa package from Canyon Oaks, a diamond necklace from Kindler's Jewelers and a rifle. Raffle tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from Tobacco Island in Gatesville, Keith's Ace Hardware in Hewitt, Lone Star Music in Waco, or from any committee member.

The Baur family and the Levi Baur Scholarship Committee would like to thank everyone that made the previous three year's events such overwhelming successes. Without all of the businesses, churches, newspapers, radio stations, archery clubs and many friends so generously giving of their donations, time

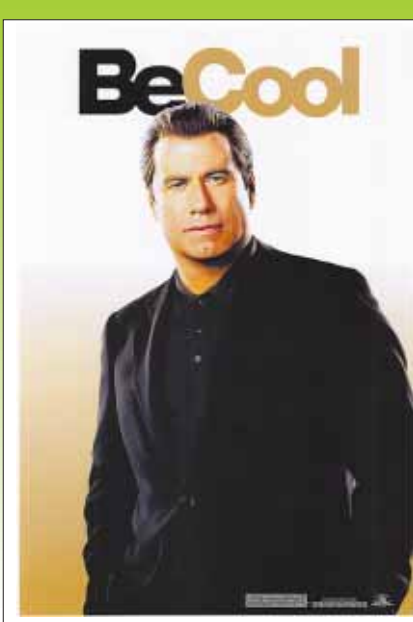
and hard work we may not have been able to continue with this annual event.

It is the Baur family's and friend's belief that through this event we can continue to celebrate Levi's life by bringing friends and families together to share what Levi loved so much — friends, archery, hunting, and the great outdoors.

All proceeds go to the Levi Baur Memorial Scholarship Fund at the Crawford School where a scholarship is given every year. Our hope is to continue this tradition for many years to come.

There are several sponsorship opportunities and we welcome any and all audible and silent auction donations. Volunteers are also needed and appreciated.

For more information, contact Sandra Baur at (254) 749-9557, Charlie Kasparian at (254) 486-2218, Blake Harrell at (254) 716-1366, Jeff Slaughter at (254) 486-2227, or Tate Christensen at 848-4046.



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Rally, March Planned In Crawford During Sharon Visit

CRAWFORD — The Crawford Peace House recently announced a two-day event to coincide with President Bush's meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Bush at the Crawford Ranch on April 11. The event is a call for citizens to actively and peacefully take part in the process of negotiations made on their behalf.

On Sunday, April 10, from 1-6 p.m., a rally with world-renowned speakers and a march is scheduled starting at Tonkawa Falls Park.

On Monday, April 11, from 12-3 p.m., a press conference will be held at the Crawford Peace House.

"A just society creates it's own security," said Johnny Wolf, Director of the Crawford Peace House, in reference to the Israeli-Palestinian struggle. At this event, the obstacles to justice will be publicly examined, he added.

The event is designed to revisit and recite Israeli-U.N. security resolution breaches, Geneva Convention violations, Oslo Accord violations, as well as internationally recognized human rights abuses. The failure of both the U.S. and Israel to recognize and honor the recent ruling by the International Court of Justice in The Hague will be addressed.

The United for Peace & Justice Organization, as well as other organizations in Dallas including the Dallas Peace Center and various Muslim and Christian entities are holding this event. For more information, contact repre-

sentatives from the Crawford Peace House.

INFO

Wolf, (214) 893-3071.
Hadi Jawad (214) 392-2939.
(www.crawfordrally4peacenjustice.org)

Leroy VFD To Hold Spring Festival April 30

LEROY — The Leroy Volunteer Fire Department will hold its annual Spring Fling Festival on Saturday, April 30, from 11 a.m. - 12 midnight, in downtown Leroy.

The event will feature an antique tractor show, live music, nickel bingo, horse-shoe tournaments, arts and crafts, and a raffle.

The fire department will be selling

hamburger plates for \$5 — drink included.

For more information, contact the department or leave a message at (254) 822-1904.

To get to Leroy from Waco, take I-35 north to exit 343 at Elm Mott, then take FM 308 east for seven miles to the blinking light.

Army Sends Anti-War Iraq Veteran To Prison For Refusing Orders

DARMSTADT, Germany — A 23-year-old Army mechanic was recently sentenced to seven months confinement, reduced rank to private, and given a bad conduct discharge for willfully disobeying orders — repeatedly refusing to perform duties after a year-long tour of Iraq.

Specialist Blake Lemoine Moraville, La., who returned to Germany in May 2004, said he wanted to

quit the army due to religious beliefs. He had also condemned the U.S. invasion of Iraq.

Even though he volunteered to join the army, he had changed his mind and wanted to leave, Lemoine said last week at a news conference in Germany sponsored by anti-war groups.

— Reuters contributed to this report.

Statement of U.S. Army Specialist Blake Lemoine:

I have been hearing far too much about the American All Volunteer Army lately. It is true that the draft is not in effect. No one is forced to join the American Military, but it is very much like a roach motel. People check in but they can't check out.

The enlistment contract is a slave contract and unfortunately I found this out far too late. The Thirteenth Amendment guarantees that no citizen of the United States will have to endure slavery or enforced servitude.

I was speaking to a congressman's aide about this and was directly told that the UCMJ* (Uniform Code of Military Justice) overrides that amendment. It does not apply to soldiers. There are many men and women who would tender their two-weeks notice if they could. The consequence for quitting is several years in jail. The military claims that this is just them holding you to your contract.

I can understand that the US military's contract must be different than civilian contracts. The difference is the fact that if one party wishes to terminate their contract the other party will use guns (i.e. the military police) to ensure otherwise.

If someone can answer a question for me I will be greatly appreciative. If I am a volunteer, why do they need to hold a gun in my face to make me work?

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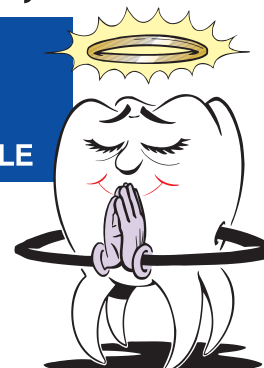
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Economic Consultant Says Microlending Rejected By Washington, D.C.

FORT WORTH — Economic consultant Ben Boothe, in his March 28 “Global Perspective” newsletter says that in regard to “microlending” — lending money to the poorest and most needy — history is repeating itself.

According to Boothe, during his administration President Reagan issued an executive order to cut funding of the Small Business Administration lending program which benefits small businesses in the U.S.A., but after only a month rescinded the order “due to massive public demand.” Boothe said that Reagan had considered the SBA “welfare for small businessmen and women.”

Now, says Boothe, the Bush Administration is “repeating history by pro-

posals to end the funding for the Small Business Administration’s ‘Micro-loan’ program.”

Boothe lists several reasons why SBA loans are important and valuable:

1. Eighty-five percent of all new jobs here are created by small business.
2. Micro-loans have traditionally shown lower loan losses than any other segment of lending.
3. Micro-loans provide impetus for start-ups and new entrepreneurial enterprises.
4. Women receive the greatest share of micro-loans, where SBA provides seed capital for lending.
5. Micro-loans fill a gap of credit availability not provided for by the U.S. banking system.

6. Micro-loan programs include hands-on advice and consulting by representatives of the SBA, which serves to boost professionalism.

7. Micro-loan programs are profitable for the SBA.

Boothe says that other countries that have implemented micro-loan programs are finding success with them. He encourages the public to visit with politicians to make them aware of the positive impact these loans make on the

country’s economy.

“The U.S. government is trying to eliminate micro-lending funding from the SBA,” says Boothe. “As usual, the political leaders, are making a mistake that hurts those who need credit the most, and who have shown more reliability in ‘paying back’ than the giant corporations.”

Other Boothe commentaries can be found on his website at <<http://www.benboothe.com>>.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

Privatization A New Form Of Slavery

The White House is attempting to usher in the “ownership” society, and the kingpin is known as “privatization,” which takes on several forms. Although some of the tangents of ownership reside in shades of gray, as to who actually does the “owning,” the twilight virtuoso plays to the tune of disguised slavery.

When the government — be it national, state, or local — diverts its responsibilities to private enterprise and citizens are forced to deal directly with for-profit corporations, we are deprived of constitutional checks and balances, short-circuiting representation based upon true electoral processes.

Unfortunately, the incline is growing steeper as our country moves away from representative sovereignty into the realm of corporate takeover of services. One might look at this as a means of delegating oversight to a company that can better and more efficiently handle the problem than can civil regimentation, while at the same time reducing the overall size of government.

The hand-over of responsibility to an entity pledged for profit is, however, a poor means of assuring that individual rights remain intact. Indeed, it forces the populace to deal directly with a company rather than those the citizenry has elected. This, in effect, is a form of slavery — forcing the individual to become a customer of the private sector and a product for its profits.

But the problem runs much deeper.

Take Child Protective Services, for instance, where private companies are given authority to set up foster homes and are given substantial profit incentives to take away your children. In some states the promotion of obliterating families to gain federal bonus dollars is becoming a real problem. In these instances “privatization” becomes nothing more than legal kidnapping and child selling.

Corporate welfare is another product of “privatization.” Massive corporations win lucrative contracts and are guaranteed pork-belly profits; meanwhile, companies doing the same types of work without these welfare guarantees must scratch for survival in the real world. This reduces competition that brings down prices overall while the unequal footing debilitates free enterprise. It is favoritism, plain and simple.

Corporate campaign contributions guarantee that bids will be written to favor the donors, and small business is squeezed out. As political powers change, so do the vestiges of these contracts, meaning that the corporate entities actually own the political machines, and, therefore, the government itself.

Eventually, as government is dismantled in favor of privatization, the lines drawn that divide the three branches dim. Even now, corporate-controlled legislators are beginning to feed on the judiciary and the administration is attempting to sway judicial interpretations that match the agenda set forth by its corporate sponsors.

There are clear dangers in moving our government into the world of pirates and privateers. At some stage the question becomes, “Who owns the government? The corporations or the voters?”

— Written By W. Leon Smith

Death’s Magical Misery Tour

As Uncle Hugh used to say, “They say everybody is going to die, but most folks haven’t really made up their minds about it yet.”

So, who unplugged the Pope?
Can you imagine the argument over that one?

“I ain’t doin’ it, man.”
“C’mon he’s dead.”
“But what if he isn’t.”
“The doctors say he’s dead. Go on. Do it.”
“Maybe we oughta get a second opinion.”
“We already got the best doctors in the world!”

“THIS world. That ain’t the world I’m worried about. What if somebody wants to make trouble and brings in a doctor who’ll say he wasn’t dead. Or he gets to the pearly gates and St. Peter’s not there to meet him because His Holiness wasn’t scheduled to arrive for another hour yet? How’s that going to play out for us? You think in heaven they just forget about these things?”

“Look, we gotta go with what we got. Besides, what’s the big deal. It’s a couple of wires and some tubes. We do it every day.”

“But, I mean, he’s the Pope! What kind of karma does that pony up if he’s only a little dead.”

“What? you wanta wait ‘til he stinks? Talk about bad karma. That would get into dharma, even. Besides, god forgives.”

“Oh yeah? Show me the verse where it’s okay to turn off the Pope.”

“It’s a blanket policy. No matter, a few sins or a lot, one blessing. No additional fees, no waiting.”

“Maybe we should bring in a professional. Mass murderer or Dick Cheney, somebody with nothing to lose.”

“We don’t have time for that! They’ve already ordered the straw and the ballots.”

“Not from Florida! Tell me we didn’t get them from Florida!”

“Of course not. Someplace in Ohio.”

“Oh, Father forgive them . . .”

“Look, you’re going to extremes. But then . . .”

“Well, what color smoke to voting machines make?”

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



“What? I look like Karl Rove?”
“Let’s just get back to the business at hand. Look, it’s a big sarcophagus. What if we just put him in, tubes, machine and all.”
“Well, maybe if we sort of scrunched up the machine a little bit . . .”
“Oh, no! I ain’t scrunchin’ no machine . . .”

C’mon now! We’re talking about a guy who survived the Nazis, the Russians and the College of Cardinals.

You think he wouldn’t get a chuckle about a little thing like death?

The Schiavo Show got the whole country into a salivating death throes.

That deal had money all over it: If the husband had to get a divorce to get on with his life and romance, her family got the insurance money. If she died, he got it.

It’s the perfect news story that everybody missed.

Nobody’s clean.

Meanwhile, as the whole Magical Misery Tour paraded in front of the camera, probably a dozen people were put to death in the same hospice facility.

Because that’s what hospice is, euthanasia with the dignity of farewell for those who’ve had our run.

At some point with hospice care, somebody is going to have to give you the pain shot that kills you just one step ahead of the disease you just can’t fight any longer. Who cares which one actually killed you?

That’s how it works.

And it works pretty well.

But just for the record, when I’m circling the drain with the brain activity of a mollusk, unless you can get a chicken-fried steak and a glass of stout though that hose in my belly button, just turn off the tap.

If I can’t tell you with my own brand of gleeful sarcasm whether starvation is better than a bullet, I’ll fill you in on the other side.

Sister, Brother Rise To Tennis Stardom

A point away from losing a Madison Square Garden grudge match on April 5, 1968, the female half of tennis' best ever sister-brother team mounted one of the greatest comebacks in the history of the sport.

The story of Nancy and Cliff Richey starts with their father George. Growing up in San Angelo during the Depression, his own dad groomed him for the boxing ring until his mother put her foot down. The athletic boy next showed promise on the baseball diamond before hurting his pitching arm.

Searching for a sport in which he could excel, George picked tennis, easily the least popular pastime in 1930s West Texas. He practiced from daylight to dark on the only private court in town, which happened to be in a neighbor's backyard, and taught himself to play with his healthy left arm.

By the time he graduated college, George was good enough to earn a tennis scholarship to the University of Texas. While in Austin, he married his wife Betty, who gave birth to their daughter Nancy Ann in 1942 and son George Clifford, Jr. four years later.

After college, George coached at Rice, held down a job as the resident professional at a Houston country club and played well enough in his spare time to reach a career-high national ranking of eighth in 1952.

Not long after that, the family settled in George's dusty hometown, where he concentrated on molding his children into tennis prodigies. Yet, in spite of popular opinion to the contrary, he always pleaded innocent to the charge of being the tennis version of an overzealous Little League father.

"Some people think I've forced my kids into tennis, but it isn't so," George protested in a 1968 interview with the *SATURDAY EVENING POST*. "When Nancy was six, I gave him a bantam racket to just play around with. If she had thrown it away and gone back to dolls, that would have been fine with me."

Cliff followed his sister's precocious example and began playing at an even earlier age — four. They shared a love of tennis and an all-consuming desire to succeed, but the siblings were as different as night and day.

During a match, Nancy was a finely tuned machine in complete control of her emotions, while off the court she was shy and reserved. Cliff, on the other hand, was volatile and fiercely competitive. "A scrappy Texan with more tenacity than talent," was how one tennis authority described him.

When Cliff captured the National Fifteen nd-Under Indoor championship in 1961, 19-year-old Nancy was already making a name for herself in the women's ranks. In two years, she would win the first of six consecutive U.S. clay court titles, a record that stands to this day, and break into the international Top Ten where she stayed for a decade.

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



Nancy steadily improved with age. In 1966 she advanced to the finals of the U.S., French, and Australian Opens, and took home the Wimbledon doubles cup. She prevailed "Down Under" in 1967, and added the French trophy to her collection the next year.

Nancy played his most memorable match in March 1968. It was in the semifinals of a minor tournament in New York, but the opponent was her biggest rival, Billie Jean King.

The two top-ranked American women had not faced each other in three and a half years. Some said it

was because Nancy preferred slow courts like clay, while Billie Jean favored hard and fast surfaces. Others insisted King had avoided Richey like the plague after losing six out of seven encounters to her.

Nancy got off to a slow start and dropped the first set. Falling behind 1-5 in the second, she rallied to win the next two games. But it all seemed for naught as Billie Jean took charge and set her up for the kill.

After a furious exchange on match point, King smashed a Richey lob into the corner that landed out of bounds. From then on, it was all Nancy, as the five-foot six-inch Texans won an incredible 12 straight games (51 of 63 points) for an unforgettable 4-6, 7-5, 6-0 comeback-behind triumph she called "my most satisfying win."

Brother Cliff's best year was 1970. He took first or second place in 13 of 27 tournaments, winning 92 of 102 matches.

But he had to beat Stan Smith in a September showdown to finish as the Number One American male. At the end of the five-set marathon, it came down to a sudden-death tie-breaker.

On the last winner-take ll point, Smith slammed a light-speed return down the line. Cliff's only chance was to dive, stretch out in midair and somehow make contact with his racket. He did exactly that, and the ball dropped over the net out of Smith's reach.

The greatest sister-brother duo tennis fans have ever seen entered the Texas Tennis Hall of Fame together, and their father joined them seven years later. In 2003 Nancy Richey received the ultimate honor with her induction into the national Tennis Hall of Fame in Rhode Island.

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

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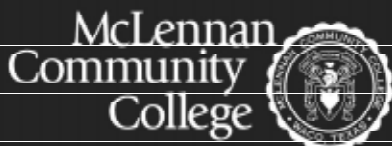
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Time To Move On



Out Of The Blue
By
Jerry Tenuto

Terri Schiavo died a few minutes ago. It was a very sad moment indeed when Schindler family friend Brother Paul O'Donnell made the announcement to the media.

But not sad enough for all, myself included. We've become desensitized by war, pestilence, murder, illness, and virtually every other form of demise, imaginable and unimaginable, coming into our homes live and in full color. Mine is but one of many families that have endured the debilitating long-term illness and suffering of a loved one, so when the end came we considered it a relief.

One finds a way to accept this when it's a parent who is ailing. However, as a parent I cannot begin to imagine the pain the Schindlers have lived with these past 15 years, and must now carry without chance of relief. On that level they have my heartfelt condolences. My deepest sympathy goes to Michael Schiavo as well.

While Brother Paul was making his short statement, the image that burned into my memory focused on all the reporters hovering about him like vultures, circling and waiting to pick the carcass clean. Their collective disappointment showed in expressions of dismay not in the death of fellow human being, rather in that Brother Paul wasn't offering up any details beyond the basic information.

What? He's not going to answer questions? We're not going to get the juicy details of the last moments of pain and suffering that went on with this poor woman's family? Don't you know we've got to have gut wrenching, human interest stories to file?

WHADDAYA THINK WE'VE BEEN WAITIN' FOR, CAMPED OUT HERE ON THIS LAWN ALL WEEK?

How are we going to justify the expense to our news editors if this is all we get?

Then CNN, world leader in media circuses, panned the area around the hospice. For the past week their coverage has focused primarily on the protesters and the hospice parking lot. Finally, we got shots of tent city, a behind the scenes look at the circus camp.

There were people scurrying in every direction. Some were on cell phones, others were carrying cameras. A few people had notepads, still others were just in motion.

As far as the camera's eye could see in every direction was a sea of tents and uplink trucks. And twentysomething kids, either recently graduated or interning, happy as pigs in slop to have their shot at the glamorous world of broadcast journalism — a world where lesson number one is: "Scruples be damned! Anyone else's pain is fair game for my success." (While a broadcaster I was well aware of this tenet, never submitted to it, and whenever possible avoided those who did.)

At about the age of 10 I saw a movie on television that profoundly moved me. Despite the tiny 19" portable with a bad picture and commercial interruptions, it has always stuck in my psyche. The film, directed by the great Billy Wilder, was originally titled "Ace In the Hole."

As with many truly extraordinary movies, it was dismissed by the critics in 1951 and a box office failure. The studio was so embarrassed it was renamed "The Big Carnival" for television syndication.

Today it is often referred to as a Wilder gem.

In the film, Kirk Douglas is news reporter Chuck Tatum, a rummy on the way down. Stuck in a small New Mexico paper he gloms onto a story about Leo Minosa, a poor schlep trapped in a cave-in at an ancient Indian ruin.

Leo is an all right guy, but his wife, Lorraine (Jan Sterling), is a real piece of work. Wifey's fixing to split while he's unable to get out. She evens throws herself at Chuck. He turns Lorraine down, and convinces her to stay for the media appeal.

Chuck befriends Leo's parents, convincing them he's acting in their son's best interests. He is the only one who gets down into the ruin to talk to the poor sap. This bond of trust allows Chuck to file exclusive reports to national news services, thereby putting him back on top.

The greed of the local citizenry grows alongside that of national attention. Chuck and everyone else prolong Leo's rescue as long as possible, milking every cent they can from it. A full-fledged carnival, replete with midway and tourists, plants itself right outside the ruins.

Perhaps it's because I was born the same year this movie came out that it has had such a lasting effect on me, something metaphysical. Maybe it's what this movie had to say that I detest journalistic negligence or the misuse of the fourth estate for personal aggrandizement.

"Ace In the Hole" was based on an incident that occurred at Sand Cave, Kentucky in 1925. A man named W. Floyd Collins was trapped and subsequently died after the media circus that ensued.

As we can see, the media circus is nothing new — by all accounts it is at least 80 years old. Unfortunately, as the phenomenon ages it grows larger and more voracious. And we're all in danger of becoming the next act in the center ring.

I hadn't planned on getting political, but I read Tom DeLay's "Statement on Terri Schiavo." This guy might just be the ultimate piece of work. According to the self-righteous DeLay, Terri passed away, "...because our legal system did not protect the people who need protection most, and that will change. The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior, but not today."

Tom, if ever there was a statement filled with arrogant, egomaniacal self-interest, this is it. I would like to know, who is going to protect us from you? And if you're so damned responsible, why do you refuse to stand up and answer for YOUR behavior?

Terri Schiavo has passed from this life. May her God be with her.

Time for the circus to pack up and roll on out to the next family's tragedy.

Wet Work

In an effort to keep several pain relief tablet companies financially healthy, Zack and I did some fence work. So far, so good. All that chain sawing, vine pulling, hauling, resulting cuts, bruises, thorn punctures and scratches have required huge amounts of product.

OK, we really had another reason for the fence repairing. This is how it all began (and you will have to read next week's column to see how it ended): Big Bag had gotten into the yard a couple of weeks ago. No one else. Just her. Figures. And I still haven't discovered how she did it. I knew if I didn't act quickly, the rest of the cattle would follow, and my spring bulbs would be history. So after Ms. Bag was escorted back into the pasture (and before she might decide to go right back into the yard), I hopped in my truck and headed for the wheat field. I was yeehawing and sukking all the way, uttering horrible, ear splitting sounds at the top of my voice. Perhaps you heard me? You might have mistaken me for the weekly emergency warning signal.

"The ladies" had been locked out of the wheat for a couple of weeks, and I was counting on that enticing, green field to be my secret weapon, the perfect diversion. It worked like a charm. The cows were following the sounds of my mellifluous tones. But with no four-wheel drive, I came to a screeching halt this side of the creek. There haven't been too many years such a volume of water has flowed through the ranch like this. I got out and only then realized I must cross the swollen creek in my little slip-on leather Ropers. I had been in such a hurry that I had forgotten my boots. The wheat field loomed large on the other side.

Necessity being the mother of invention, I lugged a big log into the rushing water, to use as a steppingstone. It only spanned half the width. My second log extension floated away. I had no time to waste. The cows were gaining on me. Starting to feel like a bad B Western's damsel in distress, I was afraid I might lose it in the middle of a stampede.

Employing a stick to steady myself, I gingerly tried the makeshift half-bridge. Not so bad. I made it unscathed to the end of my own personal log-rolling contest, took a leap of faith, and landed smack dab in the mud about a foot short of the far side. One shoe stayed in the muck while the rest of me kept going. Momentum and physics. . . .

I fished out the muddy shoe, put the squishy thing back on my foot,

Hiccups Lead Iraq Vet To Death

CHARLESTON, S.C. — A Fort Bragg officer back from Iraq seemed to hiccup regularly before he died in early March, said his family.

The Army said after returning from Iraq in February, Capt. Terrance Wright, 33, died of an unknown illness. His body was found in a Fayetteville motel room on March 2.

Doctors reportedly saw him in Germany and at Walter Reed Medical Center in Washington, D.C., and at Womack Army Medical Center.

By federal law, the Army is barred to say why Wright sent at Womack.

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.

(ewwwwww), walked a few yards, opened the gap to the wheat field, and watched the cows kick up their heels on the way in. Nothing makes those cows move like the promise of fresh food.

One muddy shoe was just the beginning of my troubles. A few days later when we weren't quick enough with the hay, SOMEONE broke a gap leading to the perennial rye grass field, and the whole herd hurried in to have lunch. (It was too early for them to be in there, and way too muddy).

I didn't see her do it, but I'm almost certain I know which cow broke that gap. It wouldn't be the first time. I have no vehicle that can traverse that kind of mud, so I walked the whole thing, shooing them out, cursing Big Bag all the way. Slogging through ankle deep mud is darned good exercise. (And my kids wonder why I go to sleep so early now). I would have given quite a lot that day for a four-wheel drive jeep or a horse. (Can ATV's traverse mud?) I herded the cows out of the field, but their breakouts didn't stop there. Tune in again for the next, wet installment.

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Dignity Goes Down Easier With Hot Sauce

Within our lives there are certain moments that inspire a deeper understanding of ourselves. I experienced such an epiphany yesterday morning during a quiet moment of introspection; crouched in the backyard; sprinkling dog poop with hot sauce.

To clarify, I was not attempting to create the world's most disgusting Cajun appetizer. According to a book on canine behavior, this would train our dog to avoid eating his "leftovers." It was in that moment, while clutching a bottle of Tabasco and trying not to be seen by my neighbors, I came to realize that some-

where along the way providing our dog with decent manners had become more important than maintaining my personal dignity.

How did this happen?

I'm a 38-year-old man who survived the diaper phases of two children — both of whom were heavy eaters. I've had my share of high profile, low-dignity diaper changes, one of which required quick thinking, commando-like precision, and a paper plate. I've sat across from my four-year-old son at a busy restaurant in downtown San Francisco, handed him a cheese stick appe-



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

tizer, and watched him yak up what appeared to be everything he'd consumed since graduating to solid foods. I tried to salvage the situation by waiting for a lull in gastrol activity and then racing him into the men's room. And let me just say had the rest rooms been clearly marked, we probably would've made it.

What got me through those times, of course, was knowing, as a parent, I could look forward to eventually becoming an embarrassment to my children once they entered middle school.

However, as I crouched over Stanley's latest pile with my Tabasco bottle at the ready, one thought kept running through my mind:

You can't embarrass a dog. Particularly one with questionable intelligence.

This meant I had either (a) matured to the point of not caring what others thought of me based on their own one-

dimensional perception, or (b) succumbed to the realization that the last of my dignity had been wrung out into a mop bucket in San Francisco.

In either case, it meant I had moved on to a new phase in my life. A time that will eventually prepare me for my later years, when I'm secure enough in myself that the opinions of others — or even the basic rules of traffic — no longer matter. However, reaching that level of self assuredness is still years away, which is why, after noticing I'd been crouched over the same pile for several minutes, I quickly sprinkled it and moved on.

As far as I can tell, Stanley is no longer interested in his "leftovers." I know this because he has stopped coming in from outside and standing with his tongue in the water bowl. At the same time, it's proven to be a trade-off since I can't put Tabasco on my eggs without getting queasy.

The important thing is that the experience has allowed me to achieve some personal growth thanks to a few moments of introspection about fodderhood.

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

Hello Sonny, Hello Dawtah

Now that spring is here, millions of parents are starting to think about summer camp for their children. Some adults are jealous. They wonder, "What do kids need a vacation from?" and "I could use a nice two month summer break." Well, help is here. Today, there are more and more summer camps for adults. And you aren't even required to write home to your kids once a week.



By
**Lloyd
Garver**

Some adult camps are quite different from those we went to when we were kids. There are business camps, which don't sound like much of a vacation to me. There are camps that teach you how to rescue hostages, which is not on my list of fun activities. You can learn how to do stunts at camp, if falling off buildings and being set on fire is your idea of recreation. You can go to song writing camp, and then come home and sing about your experience. And there are poker camps, so you can actually pay money to learn how to lose money.

Learning about these camps got me thinking about other adult camps that should exist:

SMOKING CAMP — This is one of the few places left in the United States where people can smoke without being condemned either by the law or by the folks around them. Smokers will learn how to ignore vigorous waving and dirty looks, as well as medical research and common sense.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL HOPEFULS CAMP — This camp was recently canceled due to lack of interest.

LIFE CAMP — It's one of the most challenging camps today because of the mental contortions that campers must learn. They have to be able to convincingly say that every life is valuable, and that since people make mistakes, "it's always best to err on the side of life." At the same time, they have to express no hesitation about the error-prone death penalty, and refrain from speaking out about children having guns, or rushing into war.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL CAMP — This fantasy camp guarantees campers that they can be exactly like professional baseball players by the end of the summer. Real Major League heroes teach the campers to do exactly what legendary ballplayers do: repeat the following — "I'm tired. I'm just tired" and "I'm not here to talk about the past."

LIBERALS CAMP — Here, liberals claim not to be liberals and learn how to sit back and do nothing while civil liberties evaporate.

CONSERVATIVES CAMP — Campers learn how to explain to others that an ever-growing, fiscally irresponsible Federal government that keeps meddling in our personal lives is consistent with the conservative philosophy.

PARENTS OF KIDS IN THEIR 20's CAMP — This camp helps parents work on their skills to get their adult children to move out of the house. This camp is a real gamble, because while the parents are attending, their kids could be taking over their homes and changing the locks.

CAMP FOR PEOPLE WHO HATED CAMP — There's no mystery meat or group showers here. It's the perfect place for those who hated bugs, dirt, or being teased by the big kids. Campers stay in a pristine luxury hotel where their every whim is catered to. And those big kids who used to tease you? They've had very unsuccessful adult lives and make up the obsequious staff of the hotel that pampers you.

COLUMNISTS CAMP — Columnists sit around a campfire, discussing what's wrong with the world and how it could be better. However, none of them wants it to be too good. After all, if the world were perfect, what would we write about?

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 writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and can be reached at lloydgarver@yahoo.com.

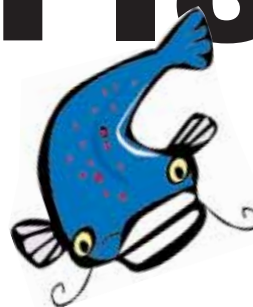
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ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

I heard about your paper on NPR News. I want to congratulate you for being brave and stand on the side of truth! Those who decide to boycott your paper show that they are hurt by the truth. They are as free not to buy or sell your paper, as you are free to publish truthful information. It seems to me that you're not partisan but rather stand on the side of truthful leaders.

My best wishes for your publication!
Happy Easter,

Joel

Leon Smith and Lone Star Iconoclast,

I heard this morning about your news organization's bold attempt to give your readership a point of view contrary to the majority in its community. All communities (large and small) need a wide range of view points and industry-backed think tanks is not the kind of wisdom and insight required to guide a nation.

Reaching out to and recruiting the help of our Arab-Muslim American citizens would have gone a long way towards locating Bin Laden, the inner-core of extremist groups around the world, and rooting out the money trail to such hate groups.

My father, a WWII bombardier, was rescued by the "French Underground" after his plane caught fire and his crew bailed out in Northern France occupied by the Germans. The brave men and women of the French Underground movement were instrumental in carrying on the fight against Europe's Oppressor - Hitler. These men and women were average citizens of France of non-influential means - farmers, shop owners, bakers, etc. One of their goals was to get the American, British, and Canadian fliers back to England so they could continue the fight against Hitler's war machine. Their courage and bravery often times resulted in imprisonment, torture, and starvation but they persisted throughout the war. After the war General DeGaul recognized the importance of their participation and many of those who survived were awarded with civilian medals of honor.

Wars are not won by soldiers alone but by civilians with a purpose. I would not be here today for it not the dedication of the COVERT actions of the French bartender, shopkeeper, baker, and farmer who hid my Dad in their wine cellar, basement, and barn as they clothed, fed, and guided him across Central France, Southern France, and across the Pyrenees Mountains where a British plane was waiting for his return to England.

It takes courage to take a stand when the odds are against you even in Clifton, Texas. Just as the demonstrators cried out against the Vietnam war, you have also taken an unpopular stand that may brand you as unpatriotic. I label you a *Conscientious American*.

You and your staff give me hope.

Nancy Hunt, Houston

Dear Editor Leon Smith,

I was listening to the program on National Public Radio (NPR) about your editorial supporting John Kerry

for Presidential election. I admire your courage of criticizing Bush before last election. It is sad that several local businesses and individuals stopped subscribing to your newspaper after you published the editorial. This is an open attempt by Bush camp to curb free speech which is guaranteed by first amendment. Before Bush Jr. talks about spreading Democracy in the world, he should respect democratic norms and values right here in his backyard.

Carry on your Fight, Mr. Smith. The democracy in USA need journalists like you.\

M.M., California

To The Editor:

Not everybody is worse off under the Bush regime — the sad confessions of a Bush critic who is now reborn.

I have been remiss in my conversation about our Republican friends. I may get a wee bit critical of some of their actions like cutting funding for Child Development, or gutting help for old homeless people. And I should watch myself on that, it is just the 20 years of watching people suffer when Republicans are in office while I have been a Social Worker for my church denomination that I guess makes me slightly testy when writing of such matters.

But today I want to draw attention to those lucky to have, yes indeed, prospered well under the funky leadership of the Republicans and Mr. Bush. To these people I say - gee whiz I am sure happy for you and yours. You and the President have been like brothers since the beginning, especially in the last 2 years. You have taken a stumble bum political party that was on the outs - like the Republicans, and thru hard work and millions and millions of dollars in legal and illegal contributions you have turned this political party from a broke mean spirited, lying collection of conservatives and rascists into a rich mean spirited, lying collection of conservatives and rascists.

... So to you CHEVRON/TEXACO we say right on, keep up the political slush fund and exploitation in 3rd world countries. Your stock has gone from \$32 to \$62 a share since our troops hit the streets of Bagdad. What good luck you have had!

... And an even bigger pat on the back to Exxon/Mobile whose core support since the beginning has brought their stock up from \$35 to \$64 a share since we put our troops on the ground in Iraq to show Saddam he can't threaten us with Weapons of Mass Confusion.

To these two gigantic oil companies who have fantastically prospered under the Republicans, we say well done- you took everybody for a ride.

... and still are.

K.S.

Dear LSI -

I enjoyed hearing about you on NPR radio in Ashland, Oregon this weekend (March26/27). I used to live in Texas, Big Bend area, and it's all about personal freedom, ya'll know what I mean? Then you hear about Texans who threaten to

dump your journal from their newstands because they're scared of some retaliation from their advertisers. Sounds like some homegrown hypocrisy. My hat's off to you folks. And put me on your e-mail list, if you like.

Randy Raider, Medford, OR

Dear Sirs, Ma'ams,

I am a regular listener of NPR Chicago and heard a recent story about your intelligent and courageous political stand and the local heat you took in truthfully expressing your views.

God bless you all at the Iconoclast and keep "telling it like it is"!

A fellow American,

A. H. P.

To the Editor, the Publisher, or the News Room:

The events surrounding the Schiavo case are disturbing to say the least. Questions come to my mind. If she is in a "constant vegetative state," why does she need morphine to ease pain? Why does the Schiavo attorney brag about her having a stuffed animal tucked under her arm? Why would it even matter if she had a stuffed animal?

I may be wrong about the following. It is my understanding that no videos or pictures have been taken of her for the last two years? Why not? Why has there not been a neurological study done on her in the last two years?

Earl Barnett, Speedwell, TN

To The Editor:

At last I have found someone who has the moral authority to say some of the things I have been saying about G. W. Bush I have been saying for years by e-mail and letter. I enjoy your paper very much and I enjoyed the letters to the Editor very much. You have some other good people in Texas such as Jim Hightower and Molly Ivens who tell it like it is!

Warren G. Jones, Grafton, W.V.

Editor:

If anything good has come from the public torture and slow execution by our own government of an innocent helpless American citizen, preventing even her crying mother from bringing her water and love, it is that the hideous sickeningly evil conspiratorial face of our own government has raised its head in the light of day for all to see.

This is a nightmare I will never recover from, nor, I feel, will the majority of the American people until the perpetrators have been brought to justice.

I say nightmare because the sadistic murdering of Terri Schiavo in front of America and her crying family conjures up terrible past images of NAZI and Communist atrocities, of parents and little children being executed for hiding Jews and others designated "unworthy of life" by the state, as has happened to Terri Schiavo, while people stood by and did nothing, or those that did were arrested by the Gestapo police as happened in Florida by police fully qualifying as modern day Gestapo beasts, slavishly subservient to their cold blooded political masters and obviously devoid of any morality, integrity, or conscience, saving their paychecks by arresting and handcuffing brave little kids, ministers, and even Bo Grites, a highly decorated Green Beret Lt. Colonial war hero, for the crimes of trying to bring water and Holy Communion to a dying woman.

The President, Governor, judges, and police have desecrated everything that is moral, right, and holy that our ancestors died for in all our struggles. These

destroyers of America must be impeached, indicted, and never see the outside of prison walls again!

Ed Nemechek, Landers, Ca.

To The Editor:

Reports recently released by the Army and the Marine Corps clearly illustrate the changing American mood about the U.S. war in Iraq, perhaps reflecting changed attitudes to military service in general. Both service branches - the Army's includes Army Reserves and National Guard - have come up 27% short of their enrollment goals for each of the past three months. This is an undisputed legitimate expression of the public's disapproval of the war Bush got us into, the aftermath of which is proving both interminable and incredibly costly (in so many ways). The military's response to sagging enrollments? Increase the age limit, as though a 39-year old would be more willing than a 34-year-old to put his/her life in jeopardy for an increasingly militant administration; and as though the Reserves and National Guard median age isn't already in the mid-30s.

Instead of "Be All You Can Be," maybe the Army's slogan ought to have become: "Receive The Least We Can Get Away With Giving You." After increasing both enrollment fees and bureaucracy for veterans, cuts in veteran access to necessary medical care, and stealth cuts to both hazard pay and dependent benefits, it's little wonder the military no longer seems 'the place to be'. It appears that the 'boots on the ground' are deciding in droves to park themselves 'under their own beds at home' instead.

On Social Security

Social Security is sacred trust - promise to sick, weak, old of society - "we take care of you." Social Security, good. It prevent poverty for all them. Save many, many people.

Economy grow as Bush project when make pitch for private accounts, Social Security fix self with larger income base - not need "reform." Not need private account, which not fix SSA anyway. Other say, "Scrap whole system, replace with ..." ... well, not say, must really like scare people. Scaring, very bad - scaring, mean, too. Reality is in middle - Social Security need adjustment, not need Mr. Bush overhaul. Adjusting, good. Scrapping, bad. Full check for wealthy, bad. Cut benefit for vulnerable, bad. That wrong direction.

Here some suggestions: Increase \$90,000 wage cap to \$200,000 right now, and \$25,000 each year until reach \$500,000. When citizen apply for SS benefit, take 'needs test'. Not need benefit to survive, not get benefit. Leave Social Security money alone. What put in there, stay in there! Lamebrain pork projects, very bad!

T.S., Newburgh, IN

To The Editor:

Today I read of veiled threats by Tom DeLay against judges in the Schiavo case.

Is he following the steps of other "Americans" who were disenchanted with our democracy? They are/were: Eric Rudolph, Tim McVeigh, Terry Nichols, and Ted Kacynski.

This is incendiary & dangerous talk by an elected member of congress.

A & J, Kansas City, Mo

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for our beloved country and peace

Continued On Next Page

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

To The Editor:

I've long stated that if the state doesn't want to assume its constitutional responsibility to provide a quality education to every child, then legislators need to change the law. Lawmakers appear to be looking at doing just that.

Currently the state is guilty of violating its mandated responsibility to parents and their children. Personally, I advocate a class-action lawsuit against the state by parents and educators. Seems like any effort to resolve an educational issue in this state results from the judicial and not the legislative system.

If legislators want to privatize education, that's fine only if taxpayers don't have to foot the bill for it. Otherwise, legislators simply are looking to cover *their own butts* for not providing the appropriate and adequate financing during the past decade. Case in point: It is the legislature that has created the current emergency plight of the public education by having set up a financing system that ensures educational inequality among economic classes and is doomed to fail.

Furthermore, if privatization of public education is our next step, legislators had better put into place a regulated system of tuition and finance costs. We need only observe what has occurred under the recent deregulation of higher education tuition costs to note the critical nature of this issue. Privatization of public education brings along a whole set of other issues and problems. Ongoing legislative inept short-term thinking is incapable of determining and implementing an entirely new educational system. In addition, operating two parallel educational systems under the state rubric, public and private, is doomed for failure. If the state cannot successfully manage one system, how is it possible for it to manage two?

However, if the real concern is to educate every child equally (which it isn't) then privatization is NOT the educational road to recovery. Privatizing education will merely ensure the inequality between the "haves" and the "have-nots" within our society.

Privatizing education is another misguided special interest notion legislators have selected so they don't have to assume the constitutional responsibility they have been diverting for the past decade. *Isn't it clear yet to everyone that legislators are NOT the group needed to develop a quality functional public school system?* They have proven beyond a doubt that they are incapable of doing so.

Arizona is...the weakest link — Goodbye!

This isn't a game show or a fantasy issue. Last year 400,000 "illegals" entered into the United States across the Mexico/Arizona border, or 52-percent of the total number of immigrants entering into the US along all border states. Are they illegals? According to the US Customs Law they are. So, why is the

Bush administration so "loosey-goosey" with Mexico's President Fox and why aren't those laws enforced better?

Well, as idiotic as it may first sound, perhaps there's a bigger picture here than is seen by most. What if...President Bush's administration, the US corporate sector, Mexico's government and Canada's government are all planning to merge sometime in the future as one total nation? We could call it the United North American States. That nation would undoubtedly become the wealthiest and strongest nation in the world. The oil reserves of that huge nation could make it much less dependent on OPEC.

While it may sound absurd at first, it's really an idea in the making; however, it may happen fifty years or so "down that long, lonesome proposed Texas/Mexico Toll Corridor. Why else would our current administration permit the ongoing assimilation of Mexican immigrants?

Peter Stern, Driftwood, TX, former public/private school teacher, educational administrator and university professor

Dear Mr. Fisher,

I enjoyed your editorial "Riding For the Brand" about Leon Overton in the 23 March 2005 issue of THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST.

I met a real cowboy from around Christine, TX. Rusty did not wear bright shiny boots or a fancy "cowboy" shirt with pearl buttons.

He took off his hat when he went inside a building and he took off his hat in the presence of a human female, whether she was a lady or not.

I sure hope there are a few more like him still around.

*Mary Louise Thompson
San Antonio*

Dear Editor,

It is imperative that any individual with foresight implore politicians to abandon plans to permit oil exploration and drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Bush classifies this area as essential to increasing domestic oil production in order to decrease our dependence on foreign sources.

While the oil industry is always poised and eager to ravage a new frontier, the multinational companies that initially proposed drilling in the ANWR have, over the last few years, scaled back their interest. Perhaps, the prospect of exploiting Iraq's rich oil reserves has them giddy with anticipation.

There is still the question that drilling in the refuge may not be economically sound since the amount of oil beneath the coastal plain is unknown. The deposits appear to be scattered. The U.S. Geological Survey indicates that any oil that exists would meet our national energy needs for less than one year. This is hardly the cornerstone for any real plan to limit our dependence on foreign oil. Increasing automobile fuel economy standards would be a better long term solution.

Supporters of drilling continually argue that development would be minimal. The scattered deposits in the ANWR would require pipelines and drill pads connected by a network of roads. Add to this a jet port or two, disposal sites, and the occasional oil spill, and one of the most pristine places left will be destroyed. This area is home to caribou herds, polar bears, musk-oxen, and a host of other species. The biological diversity of the area is imperiled and Americans need to speak up now!

Even Alaska's governor admits that there may be no significant oil deposits in the Refuge. Thanks to Bush, Gov. Murkowski can now abandon the roadless rule in order to promote the economic development of Alaska.

To clarify their previous irresponsible

decision, Interior Department officials issued a statement saying that the term "roadless" — does not mean an absence of roads, but rather it indicates an attempt to minimize construction of permanent roads." Hmm. That's *newspeak*, folks, plan and simple.

Let's see: Webster's Unabridged Dictionary defines the suffix *-less* to mean *without* or *lacking*. So we see yet again that doing what's best for corporate America, at the expense of irreplaceable natural treasures, is de rigeur for this administration. One might say they are *witless*, *shameless*, and *visionless*. Look those up in your Funk and Wagnall's Georgie boy!

Respectfully,
*Ed DeMott III
Dansville, VT*

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Tormé Sings Tormé:

A Morning Chat With Steve March Tormé

BY CLINTON P. DESVEAUX
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Here is a special column for you folks who enjoy quality music; I managed to secure an interview with the pre-eminent voice in jazz/swing music today, the always-engaging Steve March Tormé.

Steve is one of Mel Tormé's sons. Not only is he Mel's son, but he is in my humble opinion an equal musically to Mel Tormé. So I went out and bought a phone card, which should have been for 104 minutes for \$5 when calling America from Canada. It turns out to be 35 minutes instead. Whatever you do folks, don't buy "Globo" calling cards like I did, because they short change you...

I just managed to get my two-year-old son to sleep at noon Atlantic Time since he has been up since 6a.m., took a puff from my cigar outside on the back deck to calm the nerves, and put the call through to Tormé, and he says, "Hold on a minute, my one-year-old daughter just woke up, and my wife is going to keep her busy while we do the interview." I remember that it's 8 a.m. Pacific Time in California; the four-hour time difference can catch you by surprise sometimes.

Steve has released three albums over the last eight years, and is ready to release album number four which will be called "Tormé Sings Tormé" very soon. He has been slowly building a large audience for his live gigs. His output is great compared to Def Leppard who put out an album every time Halley's comet comes into town...

My recorder is broken, so I'm having to do this interview the old fashion way, pen and paper in hand, and my black Underwood typewriter close by as I planned the finished work for my laptop in my head.

DESVEAUX: So tell me Steve, why Jazz/Big Band over Rock 'n' Roll like most other people from your generation?

TORMÉ: Well, it's funny, because I started singing rock 'n' roll type stuff when I was younger. I'm a fan of Hall and Oats, Steely Dan, Todd Rundgren, but the largest influence, like they were for millions of other musicians and songwriters, were the Beatles. There's never been any musical or social entity like them, period. No comparison.

After shows and concerts people would come up to me backstage and say, "Listen. You really should be singing jazz. Your voice and style fits the music." I would hear stuff like, "Forget Rock 'n' Roll," and I was always being told to focus on jazz.

DESVEAUX: When you initially sit down and work on a song in its very early stages, is it done on a piano or acoustic guitar?

TORMÉ: Piano on most stuff, or sometimes it just sort of pops in my head, the odd time acoustic guitar is used as well when I'm just getting the ideas down for a

song.

DESVEAUX: Do you prefer Big Band style or Jazz style?

TORMÉ: I like both, but I'm a jazz singer. No, hold on, more like a pop jazz singer. I really enjoy a good trio, some piano with a good voice. I always wanted at least one album where we bring in a full big band and just let it swing; which is what we did on my first album (*Swingin' at the Blue Moon Bar and Grille*), and I'm still proud of that.

DESVEAUX: Can you hear a progression in your abilities as a musician over your three jazz albums?

TORMÉ: Well, to be honest, I'm a better singer now than when I was when I started; however, I still haven't captured all of the abilities or qualities of my voice yet in the studio. I don't think, compared to when singing in a live setting while up on stage playing for a crowd of people anyways, that my voice has shown everything it can do. In jazz you have to try and find your own style and voice.

DESVEAUX: Do you prefer Las Vegas or Atlantic City?

TORMÉ: I like both cities; however, Vegas can be tough over extended periods of time on the voice and throat for any singer. It's really dry there. It can do weird things to your voice while up on stage sometimes. It hasn't been a problem for me yet, but I guess it can affect anyone. We played some gigs over at the Sands in Atlantic City, and that was fun. I had a real good time. Playing in some of the major cities are blast though. I really want to be able to spend time in places like Detroit or New York and all of those places. Those major cities can be a lot of fun and are great for someone who wants to improve their stage act.

DESVEAUX: Has travelling to different cities or countries helped you to come with ideas musically?

TORMÉ: It's funny you mentioned that, really, a couple of tunes happened while on the road I guess. I was in Australia, and it inspired me at the time to write a song for my wife. One time in New York while watching some high school ensembles at Carnegie Hall, I was with Steve Rawlins at the time, and I came up with "Scat Dat."

DESVEAUX: When playing live, do you prefer having a regular set list night in and night out or do you prefer mixing up the set?

TORMÉ: Always different. I don't think I have ever done the exact same set two nights in a row before. The set is bet-

ter mixed up; it allows you to keep growing artistically. At the same time, you don't want to bore your audience either in the sense that they can't keep up with where you are taking them throughout the course of the show.



Steve March Tormé

DESVEAUX: Have you ever been nervous before going on stage, or do you still get nervous before going on stage?

TORMÉ: Never been a problem. If I didn't do my homework, it would happen, and it would be a problem. I always do my homework when it comes to a live gig, and I tend to over rehearse.

DESVEAUX: Do you prefer to record live with a band live in the studio at the same time, or do you prefer to record songs in parts and build it from there?

TORMÉ: Not many people really record live in the studio anymore. It can get expensive having to do many takes if things go wrong, or you

decide to change a song in the middle of the recording process when you have a big brass band with you at the same time that you are messing around with a song. For all of those reasons, I rather build the song in parts, but at the same time recording live with a big band at the same time generates a certain kind of vibe, which is hard to explain.

DESVEAUX: What direction do you see your next album travelling in musically?

TORMÉ: Well, we have two things happening right now, the first being a tribute album to my dad Mel, *Tormé Sings Tormé*, which features a dektette (10 piece band) doing many of Marty Paich's arrangements, and it will be put out on A.I.X. Records. It's a two-disc set. One disc is the DVD, and the other is a CD, both in 5.1 surround sound, that will include special features like interviews with many of Mel's friends and musicians who've worked with him and myself.

I don't think the CD as we know it is dead yet; however, people are looking for something more now days; with downloading and all of that stuff. The record industry understands this as well, which is why many artists are thinking of the DVD idea now. People want to be able to bring the show home I guess.

The album *Tormé Sings Tormé* is a tribute album where I sing songs that dad liked singing or songs that people enjoyed hearing Mel sing. It's a DVD package so you get a single album CD and a DVD with a bunch of bonus stuff which I'm really proud of.

The next CD after *Tormé Sings Tormé* will be a mix of some of my new songs with either some standards or just outside material and we're submitting my original material to film and television sources to hopefully increase my audience. I'm just looking to grow artistically.

DESVEAUX: Do you regret missing

the heyday of the American songbook and the entire big band and swing with Sammy Davis, Sinatra, and your dad Mel of course?

TORMÉ: Well, if you what you mean is by living in that era, no, I'm happy to have lived my life the way I have. The only regrets I have, and it's not really an issue that I have thought of to be honest until now that you asked that question, is not having found a path a little sooner to becoming the really great pop jazz singer that I want to be one day.

DESVEAUX: Are you're optimistic with where music is going today?

TORMÉ: Not really. I think I'll just leave that question alone for now. I like a good melody. Melody is what sticks with you when you hum a song and can't remember the lyrics. The other thing is, in the jazz/swing genre it is a constant struggle between having to sing songs from the Great American Songbook era covers basically verses your own material. The question becomes when to record your own songs and when to record stuff which Frank Sinatra, Mel Tormé, Dean Martin, and so on have all recorded and made famous.

DESVEAUX: How do you like Harry Connick, Diana Krall, and Michael Buble?

TORMÉ: I listen to them all, but I got to tell you that I'm really impressed with how successful Diana Krall has become. She is able to move a lot of albums, like in the millions, and that is impressive in this day age for jazz music.

DESVEAUX: Is there anyone you would like to tour with or record a duet with today from your genre or from other genre's?

TORMÉ: Norah Jones would be fun; she has some really cool stuff she has recorded. I like the way she sings. Her intonation is terrific, and she doesn't over sing. I think our voices would blend nicely without fighting each other. You can also include Alison Krause and Natalie Maines (Dixie Chicks) to this list as well.

DESVEAUX: Have you ever recorded any live music with your dad Mel while on stage?

TORMÉ: I really enjoyed recording "Straighten Up and Fly Right" with my dad on my first album, since we literally did it live in the studio in two takes. I have on video "Lulu's Back in Town" and "Walk Between Raindrops" which was written by Donald Fagen of Steely Dan.

All boys glean something from their fathers. It's all about the relationship between a father and son, and it is unique from all other relationships that people have.

DESVEAUX: Well, that wrapped up my interview with Steve Tormé 60 minutes after it started. I would like to thank Steve for his time because I understand he is busy being in the studio right now working on the new album.

If you are interesting in checking out his website here is the link: (www.SteveMarchTorme.com).

You can also listen and buy his albums autographed personally just for you at the following link: (stevemarchtorme.com/pages/music.html).

Send Clinton Feedback at (Vf750f@hotmail.com).



Mel Tormé