

INSIDE STORIES



Dr. Dieter Haller,
U.T. Austin
Cultural Anthropologist
Studying Texas Identity
Crawford Among Mythical Places
Page 15

Guest Editorial:
SHIELD LAW
Page 10



Texas Wildflowers In Bloom
Page 16



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ORANGE APPEAL

Christian Right 'Burns' Over Bush's Israel Policies

2,000 Protestors In Orange Rally At Tonkawa

Page 3

The Palestinian-Israeli struggle, whether you want to acknowledge it or not, is the epicenter of the crisis in the Middle East, and the crisis in the Middle East is here, there, and everywhere.

— Bird Polk, Women In Black



Green City Visions Conference May 31

OAKLAND, Calif. — Green City Visions, Rebuilding the City to Save the Environment, will meet on Tuesday, May 31, at 9 a.m. in Oakland, Calif.

The day will start with a 9:30 a.m. welcome and introduction to the three-part day. The morning events will cover The World's Environment — What's at Stake? followed by Planning for the Planet and Digital Charrette.

The first part will start at 10 a.m. with keynote speaker Carl Pope, Sierra Club President, on the State of the World's Environment. At 10:30 a.m., Richard Heinberg, author of "The Party's Over," will talk on Peak Oil and the Coming Energy Crisis, Myths and Realities; 11 a.m., Marla Hollander, Active Living Leadership, Public Health and the Built Environment; and 11:30 a.m., Gary Braasch, Environmental Photographer World View of Global Warming, Slide Show.

Part two will begin at 1:30 p.m. with Michel Gelobter of Redefining Progress, on Redefining Progress and the Ecological Footprint Project; 2 p.m., Randy Hayes with Sustainability Director, Oakland, Local Energy, How to Create a Working Plan; 2:30 p.m., Van Jones with The Ella Baker Center for Human Rights, Reclaim the Future: Transforming Urban America; and 3 p.m., Richard Register, President of the Ecocity Builders, Building Cities in Balance with Nature.

Part three starts at 4:30 p.m. with Dave Biggs, co-founder QUEST and MetroQUEST. He will talk about How Digital Charrettes Create Positive Change. Conference goers will see how digital charrettes dynamically show how choices shape the environment. Based on SimCity, the computer game by Maxis.

The location of the conference is at Scottish Rite Center, 1547 Lakeside Drive, Oakland.

The event is sponsored by SF World Environment Day City of Oakland Ecology Center Ecocity Builders Post Carbon Institute Electronic Arts Joell Jones and Will Wright.

For information or registration, visit the conference website (<http://ecocitybuilders.org/greencity>) or contact Kirstin Miller, conference coordinator at (kirstin@ecocitybuilders.org).

Health Care Costs Take Center Stage At GM, UAW Talks

DETROIT, Mich. — General Motors Corp. and the United Auto Workers at their annual meeting last Thursday entered into talks about whether union workers should take responsibility for a larger piece of their rising healthcare costs.

The world's largest automaker has had a difficult time with these costs. The company cut its 2005 earnings guidance

by 80 percent last month and spent \$5.2 billion last year to cover 1.1 million salaried and hourly employees, retirees, and family members.

Two top GM executives have suggested the company's health care plan should cover salaried and hourly workers equally. GM's salaried workers currently pay 27 percent of their total health care costs, while the company's

UAW-covered hourly workers pay seven percent.

The UAW said that it understands that rising health care costs trouble automakers; however, the best solution is national health care reform, not local bargaining.

— *The Associated Press contributed to this report.*

Progressive Faith Network To Gather In NYC May 7

NEW YORK — Progressive faith groups and religious leaders will gather in New York City during the Reclaiming Our Voices: Progressive Religious Values Promoting Liberty and Justice for All on Saturday, May 7, at 9 a.m.

This open conference of local liberal religious groups will network and brainstorm how people of faith with progressive religious values can make their voices heard in the public discourse. The event is located at Fourth Universalist Society, 160 Central Park West at 76th Street.

Topics include Framing Progressive Religious Ideas in the Public Dialog; Religious and Secular Progressives; Using Commercial Media; Faith and Family; Promoting Corporate Responsibility; Advancing Economic and Social Equity; Reaching out Across the Religious Spec-

trum; Maintaining a Religious Basis for Marriage Equality and Reproductive Rights; Ecology and Stewardship of the Earth; Getting Involved in Activism; Practicing Non-Violence; and Offering Hope in a Time of Fear.

Confirmed speakers include Josephine Bellacomo, author of *Move The Message: Your Guide to Making a Difference and Changing the World*; Dave Belden, Ph.D. columnist for the online magazine (www.openDemocracy.net); Chris Cormier, Community Organizer for Empire State Pride Agenda; Rev. Dr. Robert W. Edgar, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches; Jim Gunning of the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility; Sister Valerie Heinonen of the Sisters of Mercy; Kimberly Hughes, M.S.Ed, of First Presbyterian in Brooklyn; Helen LaKelly Hunt, Ph.D., founder of The

Sister Fund.

More speakers include: Mike Ignatowski of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills; Vince Isner, Director of Faithful America; Robyn Lundy, Executive Director of the Tikkun Community's National Office in Berkeley, Calif.; Rev. Charles Blustein Ortman of the Unitarian Congregation of Montclair, N.J.; Cathy Rowan, Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility; Rev. Dr. Paul Smith, Sr. Minister of the First Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn; and Adam Taylor, Executive Director of Global Justice, Sojourners.

For more information, contact Bets Radley.

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Ali, Flanders Panel Slated Wednesday In Austin

AUSTIN — The Nowar Collective will be holding a conversation with Tariq Ali and Laura Flanders on Wednesday, April 20, at 7 p.m.

The event, free and open to the public, will be held at Jester Auditorium (A121A), at Speedway and 21st Street on the University of Texas at Austin campus.

Two of the sharpest progressive writers and critics — Ali and Flanders — will come together for a conversation to examine political trends in the United States and the world.

Author, filmmaker, and historian Tariq Ali was born in 1943 in Lahore, in what was then British-

controlled India. He was educated in Pakistan and then at Oxford in the 1960s, where his activism against the U.S. war in Vietnam — organizing marches on U.S. embassies and debating figures such as Henry Kissinger — earned him a reputation as an effective voice against empire. The longstanding editor of *NEW LEFT REVIEW*, Tariq Ali's most recent book is *BUSH IN BABYLON: THE RECOLONIZATION OF IRAQ*.

Laura Flanders, the sharp-witted host and interviewer on *Air America Radio* and *KALW* in San Francisco, also writes regularly

for *Tompaine.com*, *THE NATION*, *MS. MAGAZINE* and *Znet*. Her most recent book is *BUSHWOMEN: TALES OF A CYNICAL SPECIES*, an investigation into the women in George W. Bush's Cabinet. *PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY* called the best-seller "fierce, funny and intelligent." Flanders is the founding director of the Women's Desk at the media watch group *FAIR*, and the former producer and host of *CounterSpin*, *FAIR's* nationally-syndicated radio program.

This event is sponsored by University Iraq Campaign and Third Coast Activist Resource Center.



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ORANGE APPEAL

Christian Right 'Burns' Over Bush's Israel Policies

2,000 Protestors In Orange Rally At Tonkawa

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — A few dozen Jewish protestors and about 2,000 of their Christian fundamentalist supporters rallied at Tonkawa Falls Park last Monday in opposition of removing Jewish settlements from the Gaza Strip in Israel. The Crawford Peace House over the weekend held panels and a march to stand witness to the human rights abuses to the Palestinian people at the hands of the Israeli government.

Both groups aimed their messages during a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and President Bush at the president's Prairie Chapel Ranch to discuss the road map to peace. Sharon, in this first ever visit to Central Texas, arrived Sunday night amid tightened security in Waco. Reports indicated that the more conservative factions in Israel were threatening Sharon's life.

"The tension here, the atmosphere here looks like the eve of the civil war," Sharon said in an interview broadcast Monday by NBC News. "All my life I was defending life of Jews. Now for the first time steps I'm taking to protect me from Jews."

Several miles away from the president's vacation ranch, the Peace House representatives made their rally in the parking lot of Pirate Field, while Bush supporters gathered in the park. Local police separated the two groups with barricades. Prohibited from crossing the barricades, even journalists and local Crawfordites were told by police to find alternate routes of travel.

Fearing it would violate the U.S.-backed peace plan, President Bush encouraged Sharon to nix expansion plans for a settlement in the West Bank.

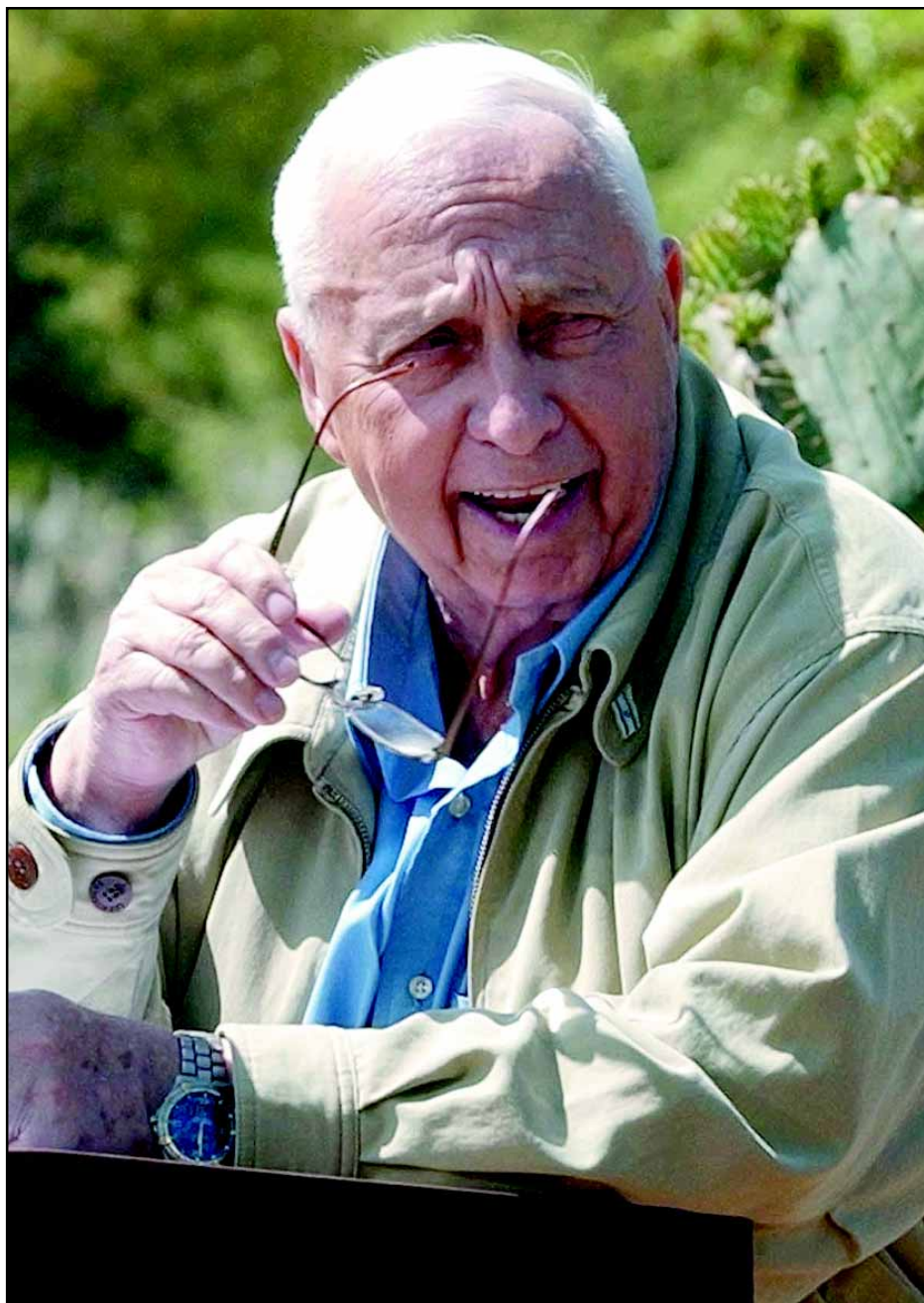
The so-called road map calls for Israel to remove settlements from the Gaza Strip and for Palestinians to create a democratic government and stop terrorist activities. During their meeting, Sharon did not mention plans to abandon a 3,500-home settlement proposed near Jerusalem.

"Israel will also meet all its obligations under the road map," Sharon said. "We accept the principle that no unilateral actions by any party can prejudice the outcome of bilateral negotiations between us and the Palestinians."

July 20 is the tentative start date for Israel to withdrawal its settlements from Gaza.

Orange & Organized

In perhaps the most well-organized



ISRAEL'S PRIME MINISTER ARIEL SHARON looks over to President Bush during a joint news conference at his ranch near Crawford on April 11.

— Photo by Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune Herald, Pool

protest in Crawford to date, members of Yedidim of Israel (Friends of Israel) came from all over Texas and Oklahoma in about 16 charter buses. Five busloads of Jewish people from Colorado were reportedly caught in a blizzard on their way to Crawford.

Upon arrival, the rest of the activists wore bright, neon orange T-shirts that read "Israel Belongs to the Jews," picked up similar colored signs with pic-

tures of Israel superimposed on Texas, and participated in sing-alongs with a 50-person choir accompanied by piano.

Led by Dr. Jim Vineyard, pastor, a majority of these activists were from Windsor Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla. Usually avid, outspoken Bush supporters, the group expressed its displeasure at the U.S. President's encouragement of Sharon to continue with his plan to withdraw

settlers from the Gaza Strip and pressures to stop settlement growth in the West Bank.

They feared that these actions would signal victories to the Arabs and lead to persecution of the Jewish people as well as greater acts of terrorism in the region and abroad. Protestors say that failed Israel-Palestinian agreements rewarded terrorists who have killed more than 1,000 Israelis since 2001. Israel has killed more than 3,000 Palestinians.

"(We must) remind the world that there will be no peace if you ethnically cleanse the land of Israel from the Jews. We knew about this in the 1930s. They called this making the land *Judenrind* — free of Jews — so if you want a healthy society, like the Nazis wanted, you had to get rid of every Jew, and now we're told if you want to have peace in Israel, you have to get rid of 10,000 Jews," said David Romanoff, a businessman and a board member of the Jewish Educational Center in Elizabeth, N.J.

"And this is what our president, the president we support, and the president I voted for wants? I support President Bush on just about every policy on the Hill except for one, and that is the ethnically cleansing of the Jewish people from the land of Israel."

The Rev. Bob Smith of Trinity Baptist Church in Arlington said that U.S. Christians should support the Jewish state of Israel at all costs because the Bible says that to do otherwise would be devastating to the United States. "We believe with all of our heart that God has made an everlasting covenant with Israel. That land is theirs. He has spoken very plainly in scripture that he'll bless them that blesses Israel and curse them who curse Israel. They are His chosen people," he stated.

Rev. Smith said that he didn't want President Bush "to make a decision that would cause our nation to go against God and put us in the place where God would take his favor from America."

"The Israeli people have more right to that property from God's point of view to Israel than the United States has to Texas. God didn't give a divine decree and an everlasting covenant that Texas would be our home," said Rev. Smith. "Can you imagine the illegal aliens that are here that came into Texas and declaring they want Mr. Bush to cut a swath of land halfway across Texas to give to them as a homeland? Yet that's what they're asking Israel to do for the

Continued On Next Page

• **PROTESTORS COME TO CRAWFORD OVER ISRAEL/PALESTINE ... Continued From Page 3**

Palestinians. It doesn't make sense."

Treaties

Not all arguments to keep the Jewish State intact were Biblically centered at the rally. Disengagement is really a misnomer for illegal and immoral eviction of Jews from Gush Katif and Gaza, as well as Northern Sharon, said Paul Eidelberg, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago. He added that President Bush is violating treaties between the United States and Britain that established the Jewish State of Israel, mostly notably the 1924 "American-Anglo Accord Convention on Palestine."

After World War I, explained Prof. Eidelberg, the allied powers of Britain and France incorporated the Balfour Declaration, the expressed sympathy for a homeland of the Jewish people in Palestine. The League of Nations created the Palestine Mandate and gave Britain the mandatory power. At the time, the United States was not a member of the League of Nations, but in 1924 the United States agreed to a similar treaty with Britain recognizing the mandate.

Although the British mandate for Palestine expired when the state of Israel came into existence in 1948, the rights that are given under the treaty remain absolutely enforced, so today only the Jewish people have national rights, said Prof. Eidelberg. As far as others that live in Palestine, they have civil and religious rights. However, the concept of a two-state solution is in violation of the Anglo American Accord.

"This treaty became the law of the



DR. JIM VINEYARD of Oklahoma City, Okla., one of the organizers of the protests in Crawford last weekend, spoke to several rabbis in Israel via cellphone during the anti-disengagement rally with an estimated 2,000 people.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

land, and confirmed the Jewish exclusive national possession of the land of Israel," said Prof. Eidelberg. "Any American that supports disengage-

ment, any American politician or diplomat that supports disengagement is in violation of the law because as you know, a treaty signed by the Senate and signed by the President of the United States becomes the law of the land."

"All the rights the Jews derive from the Palestine Mandate were encoded in the state of Israel when the state of Israel came into existence in 1948. These rights are still enforced today and they are being ignored by the President," he said.

Prof. Eidelberg also mentioned that Prime Minister Sharon's policies are actually against the wishes of "the vast majority of the people of Israel who voted against disengagement in the January 2003 election." He said that since the election, Sharon has squeezed out those parliament members in favor of the Labor Party, and that Israeli military and intelligence officers have spoken out against the settlement withdrawals.

"The chief of staff, chief of Israel intelligence, top defense and intelligence directors — they have said Gaza will turn into another Lebanon," he said.

Prof. Eidelberg said that international law prohibits any forceable evacuation of any people. "When Mr. Bush complains about the extension of settlements and enlarging settlements, that's a clear violation of what his obligation is as the President of the United States

to uphold the law," the professor said. "He has sworn. He has taken an oath on the Constitution of the United States to abide by international treaties."

Peace By Jesus

Dr. Jim Vineyard, pastor of Windsor Hills Baptist Church in Oklahoma City, Okla., said that every president in the past 50 years has had a roadmap to peace, but peace will never take place between the Arabs and the Jews.

"We as Christian people want peace. We know Mr. Bush wants peace. We know that Mr. Clinton wanted peace. We want peace. The Arabs say they want peace, but we spell 'peace' different. We spell 'peace' P-E-A-C-E. They spell 'peace' P-I-E-C-E, and they want all of the pieces of the pie of Israel. Their maps show the nation of Israel eradicated."

"There is never going to be peace between the Arabs and the Jews. When Ishmael was born and then Issac was born, God separated the tents of Abraham because God knew they can't live in peace. They've never had peace. The Islam religion all over there says, 'Kill a Jew and go to heaven.'"

Dr. Vineyard suggested that moving the Palestinians to Jordan and Syria would be a good idea: "If we move anybody, move the Arabs. The land belongs to the Jewish people."

Sandy Martin of Muncie, Ind. said that

Continued On Next Page



PRAYER BEFORE THE RALLY In bright orange T-shirts, members of the Christian Right pray before a rally at Crawford's Tonkawa Park last weekend. An estimated 2,000 protesters gathered to stand against President Bush's Israeli policies as he met with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon at his vacation home in Prairie Chapel.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

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ROUGHLY 2,000 MEMBERS OF THE CHRISTIAN RIGHT gathered at Tonkawa Park last weekend to protest the Jewish settlement deportation policies of President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

• **PROTESTORS COME TO CRAWFORD OVER ISRAEL/PALESTINE ...** Continued From Page 4

peace in Israel — in the land that God promised to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob, not Hagar, in the Old Testament — will only come when the Messiah returns.

“I’m going to go way out on a limb. Conflict is never going to be solved until Jesus comes back again. He is the Prince of Peace. He’s coming as a mighty warrior of God the next time he comes. And the Bible says, there will be no peace until Jesus comes back,” said Martin. “The Christians believe that the Messiah is Jesus. The Jewish people will see the Messiah and call him a different name but it’s going to be the same person, and this point in time the Jews, the love of our life and the apple of God’s eyes, do not know the Messiah as we know him. At the appointed time, they will know. This is more important than you’ll realize to any Bible-believing Christians.”

Although she’s “100 percent for Bush” and has tried to send messages to him through the White House, Martin said that he ought to strive for a complete Jewish state of Israel or God will harm the United States.

“My point is that he has taken the burden of Jerusalem as a man, and the Bible says you can’t do this. We’ll be cut into pieces. It is wrong. We will be suffering. Let me tell you, July and August, we had six hurricanes that hit Florida,” she said. “Within 24 hours after Bush put pressure on Israel the hurricanes hit. Within 24 hours after Ariel Sharon puts pressure on his own people to divide God’s land, they have more homi-



CHRISTIAN RIGHT ACTIVISTS worried at a protest at Tonkawa Park last weekend that President Bush was putting too much pressure on Israel to stop settlement expansion in Israel.
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

cide bombings. It is a proven fact. It’s not just Bush. It was Clinton also. Anytime a U.S. leader put pressure on Israel to divide God’s land, we have havoc in the United States. Just wait.”

Jaffa Oranges

On the other side of the temporary security fence in the Crawford park area, a panel at the Peace House spoke

out against the mounting human rights violations of the Palestinian people, the Israeli security wall that surrounds Palestinians in the West Bank, as well as the U.S. government’s ongoing arms deals with Israel.

Dr. Ali Sinnikrot, a petroleum engineer born and raised in Palestine, took exception to the Christian Right’s allegations that his people were not in Pal-

estine before the state of Israel was created. He said that his family has deeds on a house in West Jerusalem. The Israeli government under the watch of British military commanders confiscated their house and everything in 1948.

“We were forced out under the deafening sounds of gunfire and explosions,” he said.

Dr. Sinnikrot said that attempts have failed to reclaim the house and 50 years of back rent with compounded interest in an Israeli court. Jewish people from Eastern Europe are now living in his house.

“Is there is a law for Jews and a law for non-Jews? I’ll let you decide. There lies the root of the conflict,” said Dr. Sinnikrot. “My story happened to 750,000 Arab-Palestinians who left their homes with only the keys in their hands. Our house was full of furniture. We didn’t take a thing.”

Eugene Bird, Council for the National Interest, said that contrary to the Christian Right’s description of the Arab’s treatment of Jews in Palestine, the Jewish people lived throughout the Ottoman Empire quite successfully prior to World War I. The Christian’s treatment of “God’s chosen people” is another story, however.

“We Christians did not give the Jews much of a chance to live in the Holy Land,” he said. “During the Crusades, we killed a lot of Jews. During the Greek Orthodox/Byzantine period, they were
Continued On Next Page



THE CRAWFORD PEACE HOUSE PANEL spoke out last Monday against the mounting human rights violations of the Palestinian people, the Israeli security wall that surrounds Palestinians in the West Bank, as well as the U.S. government's ongoing arms deals with Israel.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

• PROTESTORS COME TO CRAWFORD OVER ISRAEL/PALESTINE ... Continued From Page 5

not permitted to spend the night in Jerusalem."

Dr. Sinnikrot noted that in 1967, when Israel took over the West Bank, there was Jewish property in the old city of Jerusalem. "There was a Jewish Quarter, the Armenian Quarter, the Muslim Quarter, the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem. The Jordanian authorities were in charge. They protected the Jewish property and the Jews who lived there," he said. "Before peace can be achieved in that part of the world, a respect for human rights must prevail."

Dr. Sinnikrot stated that the proof of the Palestinian people's existence lies in the Jaffa orange groves, which could not have yielded a bumper crop as recorded in Israeli logs in 1950 if the plants had not been planted five years earlier.

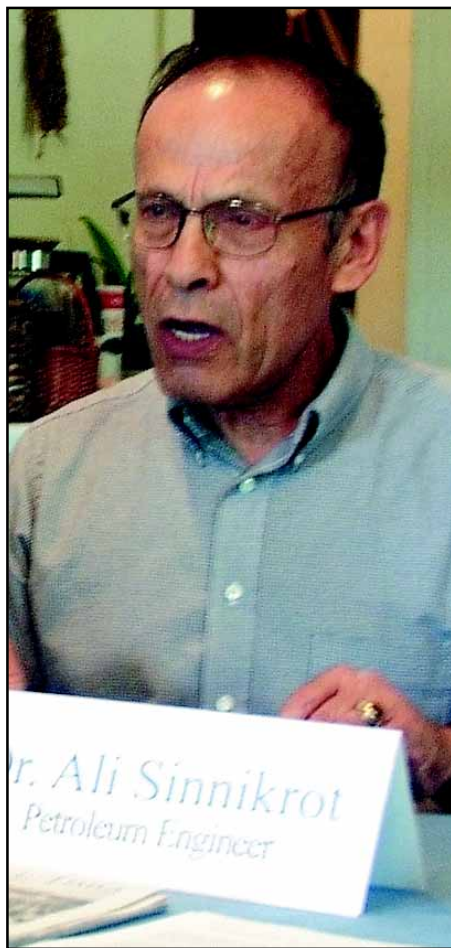
Security Fence

Luke Peterson, international studies scholar, said the construction of this wall stands against the charter of the United Nations, the international governing body which Israel had joined shortly before it declared its independence in 1948.

"In addition to violating the U.N. charter, since 1967, more than 200 U.N. resolutions from the General Assembly and Security Council targeted the illegal Israeli actions in the Palestine occupied territories," he said.

The Israelis have not complied in dismantling these security walls, against the International Court of Justice at the Hague ruling on July 9, 2004. The Israel government says that the separation wall in Palestinian West Bank are for national security to keep terrorists at bay.

Hadi Jaward, director of the Crawford Peace House, stated that the removal of the settlements in Gaza is welcomed, but they are not being taken away for altruistic reasons.



Dr. Ali Sinnikrot

"Gaza is being withdrawn because Israel cannot support (it)," he said. "In other words, it's become financially and militarily untenable for them to continue their presence in Gaza, and their intention is to continue to occupy Palestinian territories, but they are not withdrawing from all areas."

Dr. Samir Abed Rabbo, Professor,

CAIS, said that he is concerned with the U.S. equipping the Israelis with tools, weapons, and materials to not only create and sustain these illegal settlements but also escalate conflict to apocalyptic proportions in the region. He noted that the United States has given Israel about \$125 billion in direct aid and another \$20 billion for establishing housing.

"If you take all of these things, are we partners with Israel or are we the ones who are colonizing Palestine?" he said. "Israel is equipped, financed, and dramatically supported by the United States."

Dr. Rabbo said the solution for peace, spelled out by the international community, calls for Israel to withdraw its military and people from occupying Palestinian lands.

"Why do we have to beat around the bush to try to explain to anybody a simple equation," he said. "Iraq occupied Kuwait. We forced Iraq out of Kuwait. Israel occupies the Syrian Golan Heights and occupies the Palestinian territory. Israel out. There is no question or justification for anything."

Dr. Rabbo added that when the Israeli government allows Jewish settlers to build settlements in West Bank, it is committing a war crime under international law.

Bird suggested that U.S. foreign policy must be considered in full measure of history because the solution to Middle East peace lies not in returning to old pre-1948 or 1967 boundaries of Israel but through exact boundaries which have yet to be established for Israel and the end of Israeli occupation of the Palestinians.

"We ought to be considering what we can do to further not just the peace process but a final border for Israel because, of course, Harry Truman made a mistake in 1948. He recognized Israel

without recognizing a border," Bird said. "I think that the only way Palestinian democracy can work is if there is an end to the occupation."

Bird noted that the demographics of Israel are changing, with its Jewish population running slightly below the combined population of the West Bank, Gaza, and Israeli-Palestinians.

Bird and Laray Polk of Women in Black - Dallas Chapter agreed that President Bush and Prime Minister Sharon should meet together with the Palestinian leader to reach a genuine peace agreement; otherwise, there would be more conflict around the world.

"We want leaders who want consensus agreements and human rights for

Continued On Next Page



EUGENE BIRD, of the Council for the National Interest, shows off his thumb bearing the mark Palestinians used to signify a vote in their democratic elections. Bird was at the Crawford Peace House serving on a panel to discuss the Israeli-Palestinian settlement conflict.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States

• **PROTESTORS COME TO CRAWFORD
OVER ISRAEL/PALESTINE ... Continued From Page 6**



Laray Polk

all. We want leaders dedicated to the eradication of the environment that breeds fanaticism," she said. "The Palestinian-Israeli struggle, whether you want to acknowledge it or not, is the epicenter of the crisis in the Middle East, and the crisis in the Middle East is here, there and everywhere. There is no security unless there is security for all."

Sharon's Popularity

According to polls released by the Anti-Defamation League last Monday, Prime Minister Sharon's popularity among Americans is higher than ever. Most American Jews also support his Gaza withdrawal plan.

Up from six percentage points two years ago, 42 percent of Americans like Sharon. In the ADL poll, 67 percent of Americans see the Gaza withdrawal plan of almost 10,000 Jews from the occupied territories as a positive step to peace. The poll was conducted in March among 1,600 people with a margin of error of 2.8 percent.

**Harvard University Divests From
PetroChina Over Darfur Genocide**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard University, because of sustained pressure from its students, will sell its \$4.4 million stake in PetroChina, whose parent company is closely tied to the Sudanese government.

The students are celebrating this move as the first major victory in a national campaign for divestment from Sudan. The Bush administration has accused the Sudanese government of waging genocide in the Darfur region.

This divestment was also telling for Harvard, which never fully divested from companies doing business in apartheid South Africa. The university, however, sold its shares in tobacco manufacturers in 1990.

The United Nations has called events at the western Sudanese region of Darfur "the world's worst humanitarian crisis." Around 180,000 people have died in the upheaval and about two million others have been displaced since the conflict began in February 2003.

— *The Associated Press contributed to this story.*

Groups To Protest Halliburton Meeting May 18

HOUSTON — Groups plan to protest outside Halliburton's annual shareholders' meeting on Thursday, May 18, in Houston.

The Houston Global Awareness Collective and the Austin SpokesCouncil are announcing a national call to action to help with creative, non-violent resistance to the Vice-President Dick Cheney's former employer.

"As the leading war profiteer, Halliburton represents corporate cronyism at its worst, with its former CEO engineering lucrative no-bid contracts worth billions in his new role as Vice President," said the HGAC's statement. "In 2001, KBR, a Halliburton company, was given a carte blanche open-ended contract to run military operations anywhere in the world for profit. Issued by the Pentagon LOGCAP, Logistics Civil Augmentation Program, guarantees that where the U.S. Government is waging war, Halliburton and KBR will be mopping up the blood of

innocents and counting their money."

A series of nonviolent direct action preparations and trainings will take place in the weeks prior to the day of protest. Trainings will include direct action workshops, effective messaging tactics, de-escalation tactics, holding and keeping public space, street safety techniques, nonviolent civil disobedience, and mobile street tactics. Housing will be available to those in need.

"The time to stop them is now!" the statement said.

There will be local people, lawyers and others with experience available to help in navigating the legal system, assist with risk assessment, and provide jail support. A series of spokesperson meetings will take place prior to May 18 to coordinate and organize direct action efforts beginning May 15.

For more information, contact Houston Global Awareness.

INFO Houston_DA@riseup.net
www.HoustonGlobalAwareness.org



PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH (right) walks with Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon along a bed of bluebonnets at his ranch near Crawford (top photo) on April 11. The two men met privately and later held a joint news conference (bottom photo) at the ranch.

— Photos by Rod Aydelotte/Waco Tribune Herald, Pool

Taser Town Hall Meeting Set April 27 In Austin

AUSTIN — An Austin City Council Candidate Forum will be held on Wednesday, April 27, from 5:30 p.m. - 7 p.m. A town hall meeting will follow from 7-8:30 p.m.

Austin City Council candidates will deliver their stands on civil rights and liberties issues, and then join in a discussion on Austin Police Department's use of "tasers," which are electronic

shock devices touted as "non-lethal" by their makers.

The meeting will be located at Huston-Tillotson University in the Agard-Lovinggood Auditorium, across the courtyard from the Chicon St. entrance, just north of 7th Street.

For more information, call the ACLU Taser Hotline at 573-6194.

Hiroshima Mayor To Speak In Chicago April 27

CHICAGO, Ill. — The Mayor of Hiroshima will be in Chicago, Ill. on a campaign to eliminate nuclear threat on Wednesday, April 27, at 5:30 p.m.

The talk is free and open to the public.

Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba is planned to meet with activists of the peace groups/organizations in Chicago area and the DePaul president at DePaul University, 2320 North Kenmore Avenue, Student Center Reception Hall.

His talk entitled, "A Deadly Serious Campaign to Eliminate The Nuclear Threat" will be followed by a 16-minute

documentary Hiroshima Nagasaki: August 1945 which is the first footage shot following the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Mayor Akiba is President of Mayor for Peace which boasts over 750 city members in 110 countries and regions, including the U.S. cities of Baltimore, Delray, and Rochester.

For more information, contact Fumitaka Miyahara.

INFO

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Montana Lawmakers Against PATRIOT Act

HELENA, Montana — The Montana House of Representatives, in an 88-12 first vote last week, strongly criticized the US PATRIOT Act, following similar action by the Montana Senate.

The Senate resolution acknowledges support of the federal government's fight against terrorism, but claims that elements of the act violate Montanans' constitutional rights.

The strongly worded resolution encourages Montana law enforcement agencies to not participate in certain investigations authorized by the PATRIOT Act and requests that libraries in Montana post signs warn-

ing citizens that federal agents could force librarians to turn over records of books checked out by individuals while citizens might never be informed that this has occurred.

The resolution also asks that the Montana attorney general review state intelligence information and destroy material not tied directly to suspected criminals, while ascertaining how many Montanans have been arrested under the PATRIOT Act and how many have been subjected to surveillance and government searches of an individual's property without the person's knowledge.

Bankruptcy Bill Threatens Patients, Say 1,700 Doctors

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — On the heels of a major Harvard University study showing that half of all personal bankruptcies are due to illness or medical bills, more than 1,700 American physicians renewed their opposition to bankruptcy legislation passed in the House last week that would remove protection from patients financially ruined by medical costs.

Bankruptcy law currently offers some protection to the millions of Americans affected by medical bankruptcies each year. If passed, the bill would effectively close bankruptcy as an option and allow creditors to take the homes, cars, and other assets of families who suffer a serious illness or injury.

“It's a sad fact that bankruptcy courts have become the last line of defense for the victims of our broken health system,” said Dr. David Himmelstein, an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School and lead author of the study. “For many families affected by a costly illness, the limited protections of bankruptcy are the only chance to get back on their feet.”

In the letter to the leaders of the Senate Judiciary Committee, sent in February, the doctors expressed concern that the new bankruptcy rules would further restrict the ability of patients suffering from medical

costs to get needed care for themselves and their families.

“Medical debtors' access to care is already severely compromised: more than 60 percent go without a needed doctor visit and half don't fill a prescription because of the costs,” said Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, who is also an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard and co-author of the study. “For those unable to seek relief from their debts, the situation will undoubtedly get worse,” she said.

The epidemic of medical bankruptcies, which affect two million Americans (including 700,000 children) every year, emphasizes the need for comprehensive health insurance coverage under a national health insurance plan according to the signers, who include former U.S. Surgeon General Julius Richmond.

“Current insurance policies offer paltry protection for the average American,” said Dr. Quentin Young, National Coordinator of Physicians for a National Health Program. “Most of those who are bankrupted by medical bills are middle class people who had coverage but were ruined by the massive holes in their policies. Rejecting this new bankruptcy legislation is just the first step we need to take in healing our sick health system. We need a system of universal, comprehensive Medicare for all.”

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Tickets Now On Sale For 'Moon Over Buffalo'

LAKE WHITNEY — The Lake Whitney Arts Association's upcoming production of "Moon Over Buffalo" by Ken Ludwig will open April 30 at 7 p.m., followed by a May 1st 2 p.m. matinee. The production will also be shown on May 7 at 7 p.m. and May 8 at 2 p.m.

All four scheduled performances will be performed at the Whitney Middle School Auditorium.

Tickets are \$7 in advance or \$9 at the door.

All tickets are for general admission only, so come early for best seating. Ticket inquiries may be directed to Bill Dome at 254-580-2655 or via email at info@lakewhitneyarts.org.

Proceeds from the show will help continue the local advancement of the arts.

Set in 1950s Buffalo, "Moon Over Buffalo" centers on the myriad triumphs and catastrophes that befall the Hay

family as they struggle to stay in the theatre business.

Directed by Cindy Parks with assistant direction from Charlie Standly, "Moon Over Buffalo" stars Jake Powers as George Hay and Jan Eyman as Charolette Hay.

Other performers starring in the play include Amy Tamayo as Rosalind, James Hoffman as Paul, Donna Booth as Ethel, Bryan Tamayo as Howard, Bill Dome as Richard, and Laura Booth as Eileen.

For more information visit <www.lakewhitneyarts.org>.

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30 Rounds To Drop A Deer?

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "You can settle any argument with a gun. Unless the other feller has better cover."

I'll make a deal with Ted Nugent. He shuts up about politics, and I won't play guitar.

That way we'll both stay out of stuff we don't know anything about.

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

Okay, there's nothing in there that says you can own a gun, even though I own several.

It says everybody can own guns, but individuals are answerable to the state..

You can't own a gun, carry a gun, or shoot a gun unless the state says so.

Courts have held that position since John Marshall.

So there's no argument.

Why, then, does the National Rifle Association exist?

It is merely a front for the Republican Party, a fund-raiser to vacuum money from firearms manufacturers and other militarist zealots into the pockets of fascist office-seekers.

The NRA claims they're only interested in protecting gun-owners rights, but somehow they always come down on the side of the big money.

Sort of like the Krupp family paid for Hitler to restore the family ownership.

See what I mean, Ted?

Sort of like rock n' roll.

There's a little more to this than getting up on stage and waving your ax around.

By the way, Krupp now manufactures shock absorbers.

Anyway, the NRA wants to protect your rights like Phillip Morris is worried about your taxes.

The entire gun issue itself is pretty lame.

There's no big conspiracy out there to take away people's firearms.

There's a political smokescreen to elicit votes on either side of the spectrum.

The "assault weapons" law, for example, was a piece of fluff.

It had virtually no effect on anybody other than gun manufacturers, who had to make minor adjustments to their lines.

There were cosmetic requirements, like removing the bayonet lug and restricting high-capacity magazines.

I'm not sure why anyone would want a bayonet lug. There hasn't been any significant number of bayonet wounds since the First World War. Even in a knife fight, I'm not sure you'd want yours stuck on the end of your rifle, which, when empty, makes a better club than a spear.

So far as high capacity magazines go, I'm not sure I want to be afield with hunters who feel they need 30 rounds to drop a deer.

It's really impossible to prevent someone from increasing magazine capacity for a self-extracting firearm. A little ingenuity and a Dremel will usually render that section of the Congressional Record to the same utilitarian nature as a three-year-old Sears and Roebuck catalogue.

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



The only real reason for enacting firearms legislation is to make people feel safer when they aren't.

Exactly like the Patriot Act.

From Red Lake to the local convenience store robbery, anecdotal evidence proves that firearms violence usually initiates outside the confines of firearms restriction. That is, most people who commit gun crimes do it without regard to whether the gun or gunmen were legal.

And the proliferation of firearms and their availability (I bought my last two over the internet and violated not one single law.) pretty much proves the lack of need for a law that lets cops break into your house without telling you they are charging you with a crime.

If a gay married terrorist wanted to slip across our sieve of a border, buy a Rambo kit and shoot up a shopping mall, about the only thing stopping him is the price of gasoline.

You fill your automobile with explosives every week. The housewares section of Walmart is full of deadly weapons, and most hardware and feed stores stock weapons of mass destruction.

What they don't stock is the will to use them.

The truth is, the vast majority of Americans go about their daily business without a gun and almost never feel the need for one.

The only reason to have a gun is the simple and disturbing fact that it is fun to shoot stuff.

There's no protection in a gun.

If you're afraid of boogers, you're not likely to be near your home protecting ivory-handled Eastwood rat-a-tat when a real monster shows up because it's locked up securely in the concrete-set gun safe you installed because you are more afraid that somebody will steal your guns than you are of Kingpin or The Joker.

And if you really are afraid of the international Jewish Trilateral Communist IRS Masonic Conspiracy, if the human race really succumbs to its most base instincts and abandons all our social institutions and technology other than weapons manufacturing, the first guys to show up outside your subterranean bunker to steal your MRE's and bottled water will be driving tanks. In which case you'd better have the front sight filed off your Tech Nine because it's going to end up in a really uncomfortable place.

There is no firearms freedom.

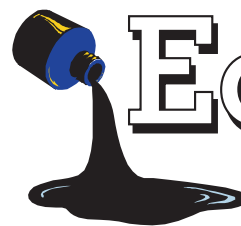
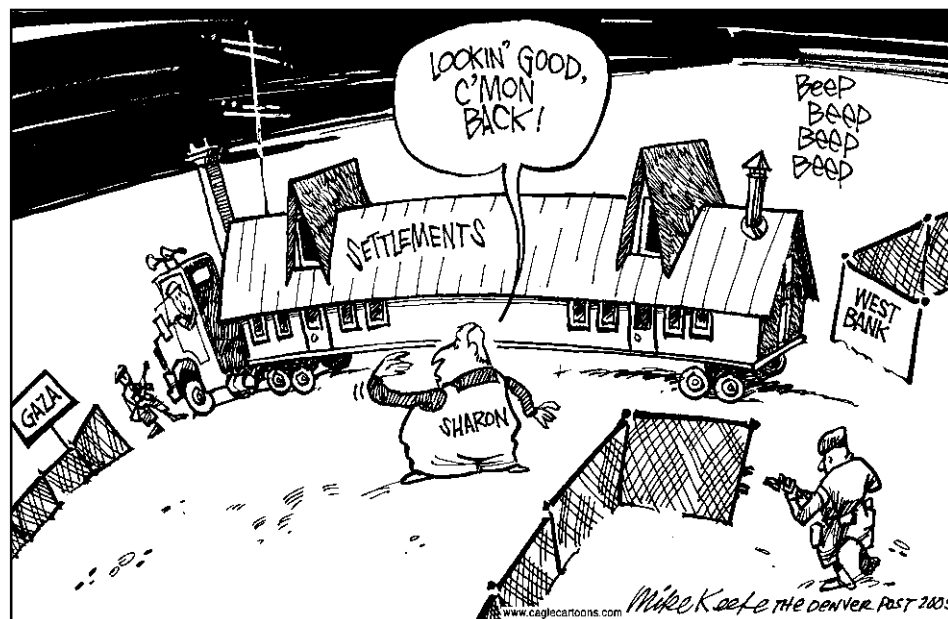
It's all about firearms manufacturing freedom, and that has little to do with you, me, or Ted Nugent.

It all has to do with money, and who can scare the most out of you.

In fact, guns don't keep us safe.

They keep us fooled.

Most people would rather be fooled and armed.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Guest Editorial —

Your Right To Know About Government Depends On Editorial Freedom

For over 200 years, the only help that newspapers needed to report on the workings of government (or anything else) was the First Amendment to the Constitution.

The founders of this country believed that a free press is so important, that "right" was enshrined at the very top of the Bill of Rights.

Unfortunately, over the last several years, decisions handed down by state and federal courts have slowly stripped away that First Amendment remedy until it affords virtually no protection at all.

This means that publishers have to weigh the chance of a libel suit or a district attorney's subpoena each and every time his or her newspaper reports a controversial story.

Some newspapers could have information that, if published, could expose corruption in government or force the local "good old boy" network into the sunshine. But few newspapers can write and publish those stories because most of this information depends on a confidential source. In Texas, that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed and sources know it so these stories go unreported.

Just like most of our advertisers, most community newspapers in Texas are small businesses that operate on very thin profit margins. If small newspapers had to literally keep an attorney on retainer to fight potential libel suits or defend against adventurous state prosecutors, very few could stay in business for very long.

That situation is why two Texas legislators have filed bills (one in the Texas House, one in the Texas Senate) that would grant reporters and publishers a limited, sharply defined ability to protect themselves and confidential sources.

Senate Bill 604 by Rodney Ellis, D-Houston, and House Bill 188 by Aaron Pena, D-Edinburg, would bring into existence what is known by the media as a "shield law," something 31 states and the District of Columbia already have, to help reporters resist the disclosure of information or a confidential source.

The protections in the original bills don't extend to information relating to violent crimes or eyewitness accounts. Reporters wouldn't be able to shield evidence of a murder or use these protections to avoid testimony regarding an incident they witnessed. But it would help reporters and publishers shield government "whistle-blowers."

Obviously, many in government — especially in law enforcement — don't like this idea. Just read this item that was posted on the Texas District and County Attorney Association's website after a hearing in the Texas Senate last week:

"We ... wonder what public policy interest justifies requiring [prosecutors] — and the defense bar — to fight the media for evidence in their possession?"

As if it's a newspaper's job to collect information for prosecutors. It's not.

A free press has a place in our society and that place is just as important in a town like Clifton as it is in Austin or Washington.

The function of a newspaper in our democratic society is to help readers (taxpayers, citizens) monitor local government. That objective look at the workings of local government is the service small newspapers across Texas provide their readers each week.

It is not a newspaper's place to be an information-gathering arm for local prosecutors. Newspapers cannot meet that obligation very well if they have to practice defensive journalism.

These two bills would help change that and return a measure of freedom to the press in Texas. Urge your Senator to vote with Sen. Ellis for the original version of this bill.

— Editorial written by Richard Stone, publisher of THE CAMERON HERALD and member of the Legislative Advisory Committee for the Texas Press Association and the Texas Daily Newspaper Association

Mutiny On The Road To San Jacinto

Hearing his commander-in-chief had decided to stand and fight, an insubordinate captain rejoined the Texas Army on April 14, 1836, in time for the Battle of San Jacinto.

When Travis' final appeal reached the convention at Washington-on-the-Brazos on March 5, 1836, Sam Houston immediately excused himself. He headed for Gonzales "to collect all the armed forces that could be found" and to march to the Alamo according to his "Review of the San Jacinto Campaign" written in 1845.

It must have been slow going because Houston did not arrive at Gonzales until March 11. Told the Alamo had fallen on the sixth, he took command of the hodgepodge calling itself an army and

tried to figure out how to stay one step ahead of Santa Anna.

On top of all the problems facing Houston, one of his most bitter enemies had been elected captain of the largest company. During a heated debate over the colonists' course in late 1835, Moseley Baker had gotten Sam's dander up. In response to the former speaker of the Alabama house, who had fled to Texas rather than go to prison for forgery, Houston roared, "I had rather be a slave and grovel in the dust all my life than be a convicted felon!"

Baker had neither forgotten nor forgiven the personal attack and ached to return the favor. He was perfect for the part of chief critic, and Houston kept him second-guessing with a series of

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



controversial and occasionally questionable decisions.

Believing a superior Mexican force was bearing down on him, Houston ordered the sleepy-eyed volunteers to break camp on the night of March 13. Baker expressed his opinion of the hasty departure from Gonzales and the ensuing retreat in a public letter to Houston written in 1844 but not published for 50 years.

"But at the hour of midnight your retreat did commence, and commenced amid a scene ever disgraceful to Texian arms. You threw your only two pieces of cannon into the river. You caused many of your men to burn their tents and leave their baggage because your order... prevented them from finding their baggage animals."

Houston stayed on the move and did not stop until he reached the Colorado on March 17. But the rain-swollen river was on the rise, and he feared being trapped. The crossing of the Colorado took the better part of three days, and when it was over the exhausted troops dropped in their tracks at Beason's not far from Columbus.

And that was where the Texans remained for a week. Baker was stating the simple truth when he wrote, "By your retreat you abandoned the whole country west of the Colorado to the enemy."

For the first and only time during the Revolution, the Texans faced an opponent their own size. Gen. Sesema and his 700-man force were within easy striking distance, and Houston's officers as well as the rank-and-file clamored for the chance to do battle.

Each day the general promised them a fight, but he was only stalling for time. His attention was focused not on Sesema but the four columns that threatened to surround him: Santa Anna at Gonzales with a thousand men, Andrade at San Antonio with 1,500, Gaona at Bastrop with another thousand, and Urrea at Goliad with two thousand more.

"You hesitated so long that the most mutinous feeling began to show itself," Baker recalled with irrefutable accuracy, "and to allay the storm, you unequivocally assured the army that you would fight on the next morning at daybreak."

When Houston called everybody together on March 27, they thought it was for a pre-attack pep talk. Instead, he reviewed his reasons for resuming the retreat.

They were now "the only army in Texas" after the surrender of Fannin at Goliad, Houston emphasized gravely. "There are but few of us, and if we are beaten, the fate of Texas is sealed. The salvation of the country depends upon the first battle with the enemy. For this reason, I intend to retreat and I shall continue to retreat, if I am obliged to go even to the banks of the Sabine."

Steal This Bible!

Open Letter To Janeane Garofalo

As you should know, the late radical organizer Abbie Hoffman once said, "Sacred cows make the tastiest hamburger."

I couldn't have come up with a better definition for an *iconoclast* myself.

My favorite parts of Hoffman's biopic *Steal This Movie!* were the scenes showing Abbie's guerrilla theater antics. I just about died when he and his buddies threw \$1 bills on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange and performed a mass exorcism on the Pentagon, not to mention running a real live pig for president!

Nothing captures my imagination faster than activism through humor.

You know, Janeane, Jesus Christ had a hell of a sense of humor, too. Not many people remember this. Even progressive Christians can forget. It took the Rev. Ron Birk to remind me that Jesus tended to teach while on his way to and from feasts and celebrations.

Remember where Jesus' first miracle — turning water into wine — took place? It was at a wedding.

Food is a huge part of Jesus' ministry. Around the time of the Sermon on the Mound, Jesus fed 5,000 people with a loaf of bread and a couple of fish.

Over dinner, he taught his followers one their most important lessons — those who serve others are the real masters.

This party atmosphere makes sense because how else would have Jesus started a movement centered around loving God and loving your enemy as yourself? Jesus didn't just sit around, bitch about the Romans occupying his land, and then expect universal healthcare to miraculously appear out of thin air.

No, Jesus lived it up! And like him, we, too, must *party hardy martyr!* Among other things, that's basically what going to church is all about — reminding ourselves about Jesus' message.

To change any system, Roman, British, or American, there's no bet-

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



ter way than to organize a movement around a religious message. I mean, honestly, would you want it any other way?

I know you dislike organized religion, Janeane, but take it from Desmond Tutu, the 73-year-old Anglican archbishop, in Newsweek last December: "I keep having to remind people that religion in and of itself is *morally neutral*. Religion is like a knife. When you use a knife for cutting up bread to prepare sandwiches, a knife is good. If you use the same knife to stick into somebody's guts, a knife is bad."

A lot more people have aligned themselves with this progressive religious brand than you think. In fact, you may not believe in organized religion, Janeane, but progressives, like me, who *do* believe in organized religion believe in you, too.

Sorry.

Now that you've taken off with The Majority Report on Air America Radio, not only do you have an opportunity that not even the Clown Prince of the Radical Left could have imagined, but you also have a great responsibility.

Don't follow Abbie's mistakes; nurture a progressive infrastructure based on the forgiveness of debt, violence, greed, hypocrisy, and overall stupidity.

I would like to believe that I'd have made a good firebrand organizer like Abbie, but slaughtering cows doesn't interest me. It's better to herd cattle to greener, more energy-efficient pastures.

Well, that and, if truth be told, I'm lactose intolerant; I prefer soy milk over Montezuma's revenge any day. No bull.

Houston had to be pleasantly surprised by the nearly universal obedience of the disappointed soldiers. The sole exception was Capt. Moseley Baker. "Satisfied that you had no intention to fight, I indignantly refused longer to follow you."

Houston wisely did not to make an issue of his mutinous conduct. "You rode back to me in person and gave me orders to take post opposite San Felipe with my command."

He also insisted to his dying day that his superior instructed him "to burn the town on the approach of the enemy." Houston subsequently swore he never gave the one order the thorn-in-his-side chose to obey.

To Baker's credit he did not go away and sulk. "On learning that you were bound for Galveston bay (instead of northeast Texas) I overlooked the past and followed cheerfully your command." He caught up with the main army and fought with courage at San Jacinto.

Like many of Sam Houston's die-hard critics, Moseley Baker could not stomach his post-Revolution popularity and political success. To his way of thinking, the man he reviled as "the greatest curse that Providence in its wrath could have sent upon the country" was anything but a hero.

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

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A Tale Of Two Stories

There were two stories that jumped out of the news at me today. Of course, neither received much, if any, notice beyond *The New York Times*, where I happened upon them.

What I found most alarming about these items weren't their similarities; rather it was that the incidents occurred some 60 years apart.

One story involved a court in New York ordering an unnamed Swiss bank to pay \$21.8M in restitution to a former Austrian family for a rip-off involving the Nazis. Long story short: The family in question was one of the wealthiest in Vienna prior to World War II. Being aware of what the Germans were up to, in 1938 they put their sugar refinery (which then supplied 20% of Austria's sugar) into a trust at a Swiss bank. Before the middle of January, 1939 the bank and the Nazis had swindled the family out of their refinery.

Fortunately for this family these events took place before implementation of Hitler's Final Solution, and all that was lost was money. The various members managed to escape to America and Canada — where they thrived.

The other story was about an Algerian prisoner at Guantanamo suing the U.S. Government for abuse, torture and grave injury. His claim is that about one year ago he was taken from his cell and, while manacled and lying on the ground, had his head stomped on by a guard. The result apparently was a stroke and partial facial disfigurement.

It shouldn't be too difficult to connect the dots and see why the synchronistic appearance of these two stories would raise my hackles.

But I'll fill you in, anyway.

As a lad growing up in Middle America during the blissfully tepid 1950s I, along with most of my male baby-boomer contemporaries, were fascinated with tales of WWII. Why not? We were all offspring of Veterans; theatres were filled with stories of perpetually-good Americans triumphing over ever-evil Axis enemies, bloodlessly, in glorious CinemaScope and Technicolor; we played war with our arsenals of realistic-looking Mattel weaponry while wearing our parents' old uniforms; there were myriad books written by and about the exploits of American heroes; even our bland, ineffectual President, Dwight David Eisenhower, was the General who defeated the Nazi War Machine.

Okay. I applaud the genuine heroes who went to war, fought, were shot up, maimed and died. Without question, my father and mother's generation sacrificed a ton to wipe scourges off the planet from two continents. But Ike? President?

Looking back in retrospect, there was a purpose in all that glorification of war, a method to the madness. My generation was being prepped for the next war. Imagine their shock and awe when Vietnam came along and we didn't buy into it! Guess who originally made the M-16, the basic small arm carried by virtually every combat participant? Mattel! As Gomer Pyle, the only Marine of the era who never left the contiguous 48 would say, "Surprise, surprise!"

But I digress...

As the '50s turned into the '60s, and innocence went by the wayside with the assassination of John F. Kennedy, I became a bit more curious than many of my pals. I began to read books that were more accurate in their historical perspective.

I landed upon a most interesting persona in history, one Adolf Hitler.

Oh, I did not for one moment admire the man. But what he did and how he did it, and whom he did it to, fascinated me. Here I was, born and raised a Roman Catholic, just entering my teens, in my ninth year (including kindergarten) of Catholic School, aka "brainwashing," and studying Hitler all on my own.

At that point in my life, to the best of my knowledge, I had never actually met a Jew. Yet, it seemed to me that being Catholic was all wrong for me — the more I read about the Holocaust the more I felt an affinity toward the Jewish community as my own. I felt much more of a bond beneath the skin than I did with my Catholic brethren, as though neither the baptism nor confirmation had taken hold.

But whom could I tell? My parents certainly wouldn't have understood, they already never could figure me out. Dare I mention these ideas to a priest or nun? Back then the Daily Missal I had received as a 1st Holy Communion present still included the "Rite of Exorcism." No, that was not a viable option. (In the mid-1960s Pope John XXIII's 2nd Ecumenical Council did away with exorcism, but word on the street is it's again being taught to seminarians.)

So, I kept my mouth shut about it until I was nearly 50.

Each of today's articles has as its basis a situation wherein a solitary group of people had been designated the enemy without substantiated proof by the government leader, while the populace sat on its collective hands in mute acceptance.

After becoming chancellor in 1933 with less than a majority vote, Hitler used the "arson" of the Reichstag to demonize the Communists in Germany. The initial knee-jerk response by President von Hindenburg was an immediate suspension of freedom of speech and assembly. Hitler was able to parlay the fire, ultimately discovered to be carried out by Nazis, into full dictatorial powers through the Enabling Act (I'm leaving a lot out, but will get around to specifics another time).

In rapid order came the formation of the Third Reich, which essentially was a religious cult run amok; the invasion and domination of countries which could not possibly stand up to Nazi war machine; the subjugation, persecution and obliteration of European Jews and any other group considered sub-human by the Aryan supermen, or Final Solution; the New World Order.

And, of course, World War II.

As for the Final Solution, Hitler himself ordered the elimination of all Jews. So, they were rounded up and herded like cattle, murdered on the spot or in groups or sent to be tortured and murdered in concentration



Out Of The Blue

By
**Jerry
Tenuto**

camps.

Oh, yes, there was an architect of the Third Reich, a mousy little twerp by the name of Albert Speer.

One would have to be blind to not see the similarities between the aforementioned events and that which has happened in the United States of America since the dawn of the 21st Century. Some call it the Fourth Reich, but I won't go quite that far — although the current regime is undeniably fascist.

We're even fortunate enough to have our own weasely architect in Karl Rove.

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The People Speak

I'm not the only one who's been spouting off on all kinds of topics lately. Now it's time for me to share some of the readers' responses I've gotten to recent columns.

In **A POLITICAL DEAD DUCK**, I wondered why the public seems to think it's important for a Presidential candidate to be a hunter:

INDCA: "The recent campaign with Bush and Kerry looking like dopes in hunting attire really turned me off."

JIM: "For me, hunting is a combination of game management and restoration, physical and mental exercise, a method of putting high-quality meat on the table, and a way of keeping in practice for when the Ralph Reed robots decide to make liberal agnostics extinct."

In **INTOLERANCE, A FAMILY VALUE?** I wrote about the brouhaha regarding the alleged homosexuality of a cartoon character named, Spongebob Squarepants. One of my points was that, as in that famous "South Pacific" song, children don't hate others automatically. "They have to be taught to hate."

MICHAEL: "A great op/ed piece. Your comment that children treat all sorts of different people the same can be proven by me. I am in a wheelchair and when I taught Sunday school, kids were just as likely to pull a prank on me as on my bipedal colleagues. Of course Mr. Dobson may think I'm just part of the 'wheelchair mafia.'"

CAREY: "There is definitely an agenda here... Sponges are hermaphrodites. Is that a strange coincidence? Meaningless? Paranoid? Again, don't be naïve. The creators of such things are among the most creative people in the world. And creative people have always worked subtle messages (usually cultural agendas) into their work."

SARA: "The world would be a horrible place indeed if we were all the same."

DAVE: "Whatever happened to the day that slimy news reporters had to bother to check their facts before publishing their garbage?"

TERESA: "You hit it right on the button! The very people who parade around as 'Christians' with 'Moral Values' seem to be the ones so far removed from anything Christ ever taught."

TOM: "It's a wonder I remained heterosexual after all those years of watching Batman and Robin, Red Rider and Little Beaver, Cisco Kid and Pancho, Wild Bill Hickock and Jingles, etc., etc."

In **WHY MARRY SCOTT PETERSON?** I discussed the phenomenon of women marrying condemned murderers.

STUARTAND: "These women are out of their minds!"

OLEN: "He will wind up free, wealthy, and happily married if there is any justice in the world."

When JESSICA, a high school student, wrote: "Could someone off the street go in and visit him on his visiting days?" I suggested that she talk to her parents or teachers.

In **RIP VAN GARVER**, I speculated that someone who just woke up after thirty years would be shocked by what's going on, especially in terms of undoing so many things that were accomplished in the sixties and seventies.

KAREN: "You are so right on!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

BABE: "You are so blind and it is so sad.... Maybe liberalism is a mental disorder."

In **IS GRANDMA UNAMERICAN?** I wrote about the Bush administration deciding to take on AARP because of their disagreements over Social Security.

JOANNA: "I think it's about time the Gray Panthers movement is resurrected! We're old and proud! We're strong and loud! We shall overcome!"

JOY: "Thank you for the excellent article. I am now going to re-join AARP!!!"

BRAGG: "Your article is coming at it from the mean ole Republican slant. I could also write an opinion and come down on the mean ole geritol set. ... Let's start with selfishness. Imagine the possibilities."

WILLIAM: Your article is just another example of an inflammatory media not covering the real issue and then summarizing with smears of the Republicans."

In **NON-FOOD NONSENSE**, I wrote about a fancy restaurant in Chicago that sells food made of paper.

DAVID: I thought that this food-flavored paper idea sounded good, so I printed out your article and tried to eat it. Yuck. However, I probably had more fiber in that mouthful of paper than I get in a week of normal food."

EDWARD: "Edible paper is probably a better option than what we have grown accustomed to from so many American eateries."

So, if you want to see your opinion here in print, just write in to me – the guy who's "slimy," "smearing," and "sad." Or you can write to me – the guy who's "right on," "excellent," and "hits it right on the button."

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier" to "Home Improvement." 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



By
**Lloyd
Garver**

Like A Hot Breakfast? Try A Flaming Pop Tart

Cooking can be dangerous, especially when it includes all three components of what experts call the Triangle of Fire:

- 1) A heat source
- 2) Combustible material
- 3) My wife.

While I can vouch for her having absolutely nothing to do with any wild-fires, she was in fact responsible for the 1992 Dallas, Tex., popcorn smoke-out at Keller Springs Apartments, which cost us a good stainless steel pot and most of our cleaning deposit.

It only took that one experience for us to realize just how dangerous popcorn kernels can be once their internal temperature exceeds 6,000 degrees Fahrenheit—and only five more times before I banned the substance from our home completely, including microwavable popcorn. I'll spare you the details of what prompted that decision, but let me just say that if your microwavable popcorn bag is ever allowed to expand to the size of your favorite pillow, DO NOT open it.

Ever.

Our government has special underground dump sights specifically designed for this kind of toxic material; please use them.

However, even with all of the precautions we've taken, it would seem that our family has been overlooking another potentially dangerous component in the Triangle of Fire:

The Flaming Pop-Tart.

According to a Philadelphia newspaper, that's exactly what happened to an unsuspecting New Jersey woman who said her kitchen caught fire after her cherry-flavored Pop-Tart "burst into flames like a blow torch!"

I'll be the first to admit that a fiery breakfast treat spewing artificial fruit filling would be a scary thing. In fact, aside from finding the real "Cap'n Crunch" floating around in my cereal bowl, I can't think of a more frightening breakfast experience. However, there are a couple of things worth noting about the flaming Pop-Tart incident — the first of which is that my wife had nothing to do with it.



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

She doesn't even know anyone in New Jersey.

Secondly, the Pop-Tart in question had been left unattended for 20 minutes. It was during this time that investigators believe the Pop-Tart "freakishly ignited" as a result of either a) the toaster malfunctioning, b) the pastry malfunctioning, or c) the surprisingly combustible nature of artificial fruit filling.

To ensure the safety of the general public, investigators called in agents from both the FBI and CIA to make sure that the burning Pop-Tart was, indeed, an isolated incident with absolutely no to any terrorist channels.

In addition, they also ruled out my wife, and any links to her watching The Food Channel.

In case you were wondering, investigators have also decided against the possibility of spontaneous combustion as a cause for the blaze. This conclusion was reached after days of around-the-clock observation of assorted Pop-Tarts in a controlled environment, after which the following joint statement was released by the agents involved in the study:

"We quit."

In any case, the fact that we don't have to worry about living in a world of spontaneously combusting Pop-Tarts is something that should help us all rest a little easier.

But I'd still suggest keeping them away from the popcorn, though.

Just to be safe.

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

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ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

Quite right. Nanny Rice wants to protect the nation from the latest report on the incidence of terror. An increase of five or six times the number that were recorded before the war on terror really got started can't be accurate anyway. Somebody must have just gotten a whole lot better at keeping track of things.

On the other hand, terror being the feeling that lingers as we wake from a nightmare, it's unlikely that reports coming out of Washington will ever have all the numbers. How can we possibly make a record of the nightmares of all of the spouses and children, whose loved ones have been killed and maimed in Iraq, Afghanistan, Palestine and Lebanon. Not to mention all of those other places where war is being waged in the name of peace?

Might as well not bother. War generates nightmares. That's a given. So, if we want to escape the terror, it's war that's got to be stopped. 'Cause a war on nightmares is sort of redundant. Don't you think?

Sincerely,

Monica Smith, Durham, NH

To The Editor:

Never in the history of this country has the Executive branch of our government been weaker and more pathetic. We have an administration of criminals whose only reason for existing is to serve the corporate elite. The majority of citizens and military do not support this president or his cabinet. Bush won the last election by outright fraud through his friends at Diebold. (I'm sorry guys I tried the best that I could) We have a bunch of out of work intelligence and military workers who are jobless simply because they know about the treason that was committed by Bush and company on 9-11.

Our economy is as bad as it has ever been at the expense of a war fought against a sovereign nation that was in no way a threat to us, planned by a bunch of Neocon fools who never saw a day of combat in their lives. We have a domestic law enforcement force of cows who are too stupid to realize they are chasing an enemy like a laser beam that doesn't exist. The only people supporting this withering administration are big business corporations and the uneducated gun-ho, flag-waving types who believe this administration actually has their best interests at heart smiling all the way to their slaughter.

We have a 24-hour propaganda network brainwashing our citizens being run by Rupert Murdoch who by any rational definition of a foreign agent enemy of the state should be deported back to Australia with all his American holdings promptly stripped from him. We have a political action committee, The Project for a New American Century, who if they simply never existed in the first place the events of 9-11 would of never of happened. The second term agenda of this administration is a bigger joke than its second inauguration turnout was and it is too stupid to realize it was duped into 9-11 by "Old Eu-

rope," specifically old money German banking institutions. (The secret is in the Hamburg cell and the clues are right in front of your eyes.)

Where are we going with all of this? How are we going to win the Iraq War when it has no clear-cut objectives and was against St. Augustine's just war criteria? Our land is going down the tubes and this can't happen.

I implore this administration to please come clean about 9-11 and resign. It was impossible for 9-11 to have been done by anybody but domestic sources which all evidence suggests were close to the present administration. What really happened on that faithful day must be known to all and if anything mentioned above is being claimed to be wrong by the Administration, then it must still be addressed publicly as to exactly why it is wrong. There are too many contradictions of facts with what the official story of 9-11 is and what can be physically proven to have happened.

The 9-11 commission report was a pure fairy tale and if these lies are not rectified on behalf of the victims families of 9-11 there WILL be severe ramifications in the days to come for this administration and anyone who continues to support it, including its security apparatus and military supporters. I say this without any thought to possible family ties that might exist. Please gentlemen I beg you to please do the right thing. The American public deserves more than a lame duck administration. It was the P.N.A.C. crew and company that got this country into the mess that it has found itself in and they must answer for their transgressions. I'm willing to lay my soul on the table. Are you?

Sincerely,

Joe Hrevnack

To The Editor:

Thank you for daring to tell the truth. We admire your true independence very much.

Best regards,

Lali Watt, Wilmette, IL

To The Editor:

Thank you. For having courage, in this day and time, only money speaks. The travesty that is going on now is just that a travesty. Again thank you for having the courage of your convictions.

Asphalt Contractors

To The Editor:

With all the talk of faith-based moral values perhaps it is time to review the faith and values of Adolf Hitler who considered becoming a priest. 1922, "My feeling as a Christian points me to my Lord and Savior as a fighter." . . . "To be sure, our Christian Cross should be the most exalted symbol of the struggle against the Jewish-Marxist-Bolshevik spirit." . . . "The Ten Commandments are a code of living to which there's no refutation."

March 1936, "Providence withdrew its protection and our people fell, fell as scarcely any other people heretofore. In this deep misery we again learn to pray. . . And in this hour we sink to our knees and beseech our almighty God that he

may bless us, that He may give us the strength to carry on the struggle for the freedom, the future, the honor, and the peace of our people. So help us God."

"We want to fill our culture again with the Christian spirit. . . We want to burn out all the recent immoral developments in literature, in the theater, and in the press—in short, we want to burn out the poison of immorality which has entered into our whole life and culture as a result of liberal excess. . ."

"With a tenth of our budget for religion, we would thus have a Church devoted to the State and of unshakable loyalty. . . the little sects, which receive only a few hundred thousand marks, are devoted to us body and soul."

And in 1940, "I would like to thank Providence and the Almighty for choosing me of all people to be allowed to wage this battle for Germany." "I follow the path assigned to me by Providence. . . But there is something else I believe, and that is that there is a God. . . And this God again has blessed our efforts during the past 13 years."

Deja vu all over again.

Robert Flynn, San Antonio

Dear Mr. Smith,

I heard your interview today (Monday 11th April 2005) on Irish radio (Dublins 'Newstalk 106FM') and would just like to add my voice in support for the stand you are taking. I am a supporter of an Irish Republican group here in Ireland and know only too well how it feels to be 'out of step' with those around you.

Keep up the good work!

*Sharon O'Suillibhan,
Dublin, Ireland*

To The Editor:

In response to article on 79th Legislature...

The focus of this 79th Legislative Session may have some good intentions; however, lawmakers must systematically resolve the two most urgent issues. Proposed legislation in the senate and house merely try to place band-aids on deeper wounds. While there appears to be a united and more honest effort to help overtaxed homeowners, the reality is that those bills won't fix what is broken.

Instead of imposing a maximum 5-percent yearly appraisal cap (SB1349) and adding more red tape for local government to increase the tax rate (SB18), our leaders should focus on the real dilemma, which is how to finance public education properly, spread the responsibility more equally, and determine how to fund local governments WITH-OUT increasing property taxes and adding to the record number of home foreclosures throughout the state.

During the past six years district schools and local governments have combined to raise home property taxes up to 400-percent in some areas. Furthermore, the "Robin Hood" clause ensured that many of those paid taxes went to other districts. Not only did homeowners lose any benefit from their paid taxes, but so did the localities in which they were taxed. To make a bad situation worse, during the past decade lawmakers did nothing to alleviate the problem — hence, the current crisis.

While legislators finally are acknowledging more publicly the long-time school financing/property tax problem, they still resemble medics frantically practicing emergency triage without taking the time to focus on and adequately heal the deeper wounds. The placebo fixes being proposed in the

house and senate are NOT long-term cures, and sometime in the near future the deep wounds Texas families have incurred will bleed again through the hastily placed legislative bandages.

Peter Stern, Driftwood, TX

To The Editor:

Way to go! We are right behind you!

Robert Apperson, Raleigh, NC

To The Editor:

I just want you to know that I and many Americans stand behind you and appreciate your honesty to print the truth or an unpopular opinion even though I imagine it has hurt your circulation at a time when many if not most of the Big Papers/networks give in to pressure from this administration and fail to report or follow up on news that usually would/should be headlines.

Thank you and hang in there.

Shelley Drainer

Hi,

When I read about your endorsement last election, I thought to myself, **wow!** This is what America is all about. The right to speak our minds. I guess you knew that you were taking a big risk. Thank you for your brave action. I hope all good things work out for your newspaper. Keep on telling the truth and your readers will respect you if they are true Americans.

God bless you, your staff and readers.

God Bless America

Bridget Smith, Vero Beach, Fla.

To The Editor:

I am a member of Democracy for America and want to commend you on your willingness to write stories that won't be popular in your area of the country, specifically the story on the "American Center for Voting Rights". It is so important that we have news outlets willing to report the truth, rather than entertainment or the "truth" of some paying organization. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Anne Schmitt, Davenport, Iowa

To The Editor:

Keep up the good work. You speak for all of us whose local Gannet papers choose not to cover the big (or even the little) national stories that are controversial or perceived as less than 100% supportive of the President. We love you!

Karl S Pnazek, Plover, WI

To The Editor:

"Utah Heroes do it again!"

I notice in the news that, after passing a resolution to Get Us Out of the United Nations some time back - see: <www.getusout.org>, the Utah legislature has now passed a resolution to Stop the FTAA :Free Trade Area of the Americas (a supersized version of NAFTA), now dangerously moving through Congress under the radar of the mainstream media: see - <www.stoptheftaa.org>.

If Utah keeps up this kind of track record it may be the first state to single-handedly save our country from foreign entanglements and the continued outsourcing of our jobs and industry to foreign countries now ruining our economy. This campaign was sponsored by the local chapters of The John Birch Society and spearheaded by The Northern Utah Stop the FTAA committee chairwoman Ann Turner who said "Our victory in Utah would not have been possible without the organized effort and hard work of many citizen activists."

The encouraging aspect here is that this victory, helping to control our bor-

Continued On Next Page

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

ders (stopping terrorists in the process), and preserve our jobs, industry, constitution, and independence, was accomplished with the support of both Republican and Democrat co-sponsors and I for one wish to congratulate Utah and urge Americans in every state in the union to emulate and support Ann Turner and the citizen activists of Utah in this epic struggle to Save Our Jobs and restore our once great American Republic for our heirs of all the ages.

Call: 1-800-JBS-USA-1 for free FTAA info. packet and contact congress NOW to stop the FTAA and also CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement, reportedly coming to a vote in May!

Best Regards,

Larry Hamblin, Hesperia, Calif.
Hi, W. Leon Smith and Don Fisher:

I just read your piece on the bankruptcy bill. You guys have such heart and I want you to know that you shame the hell out of the large corporate media newspapers! And you're in the heart of Bush country!

I was sooooo impressed when you endorsed Kerry for president, rising and speaking truth to POWER! And you don't appear to have slowed down yet.

I hope that we in the liberal/progressive and moderate Republican community will continue to support you.

Great JOB, guys! America thanks you!

Sheri Divers, Spiritual Atlanta
To The Editor:

I have just turned 60.

This is my United States, but not the one in which I grew up. In that country of the last century, civics teacher, parents, and other mentors taught kids to be good citizens. They used words like *responsibility* in referring to paying taxes and voting - that ones vote was sacrosanct. They said people are innocent until proven guilty.

I grew up in Illinois and was deeply affected by the stories of *Honest Abe*. Whether it was all political spin or not (and I think not), it was a good thing to attempt to emulate.

My family taught me to believe in the brotherhood of the common man. They were of those minorities called Irish, Swedish and Native American, and proud of it.

My high school rhetorics teacher taught me about journalistic ethics - how to write honestly and read critically.

The preacher who dunked me in those Baptist waters said we needed to act like Christ if we were going to call ourselves Christians.

I don't know how old you are, but you apparently learned some of the same things I did — responsibility for this country and a respect for justice, as well as fearlessness in telling the truth. You

seem to agree that no one is so special that he or she can turn the law around to suit their own selfish and greedy purposes.

You practice journalistic ethics in one of the few papers left to do so. It is a joy to hear about you. You restore my faith in the citizenry of this country and journalists in particular.

Whatever faith we practice, if we are to live by the Constitution of the United States of America, we must stand up for the rights of others to worship in their own way. I do not fear people because of their faith, but for their lack of honesty in practicing what they say they believe in.

It is not Muslims we must fear. It is the terrorists who seek to undermine our very form of government - those who lie and cheat and steal to keep their material goods and garner more.

At this point, the most frightening people in this country are those in the majority in our own federal government. Watch, especially, the usurpers who call themselves our President and Vice-president, though they have never been legally elected to those offices.

We look to people like you who are brave enough to tell the truth, despite terrorist threats from your neighbors and fellow businessmen.

I am subscribing to your paper, today.

Lola R. Gregg, Monona, WI

To The Editor:

Thanks guys for taking the risks that you do down there in Crawford Texas, we respect it from all over the country.

Rochelle, IL

Dear Editor,

Don't be deceived. When Initiative, Referendum, and Recall (IRR) were passed in California about 100 years ago, they truly were reforms because the legislators were not doing what they were paid to do - pass legislation to make life safer and more pleasant. So these laws were passed. I suppose they worked for a while.

But today, they are simply a money game. Signature gatherers are sometimes paid as much as \$5.00 per signature. With enough money, you can get anything on the ballot. When it gets on the ballot, more money is used to advertise the 'benefits' of your initiative, referendum, or recall.

Our governor ran on the slogan, "The money comes in. The favors go out. The people lose." And he has proceeded to prove it. The money is still coming in, a lot from out of California - Wall Street, maybe, because there is something afoot to privatize the pensions of public employees in California.

So, Texans, don't be fooled. You could never get a limit on who collects signatures and how much they are paid.

Texas might try full public financing. When legislators owe no one except their constituents, they will find the time to listen to you, the voter, and act on your concerns.

Joanne Nagy, Granada Hills, Calif.



DR. DIETER HALLER, cultural and social anthropologist from U.T. Austin, is traveling around Texas conducting research on Texas identity. He recently interviewed the editors of THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST as a part of his project.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

Cultural Anthropologist Asks, How Do Texans Identify Themselves?

AUSTIN — Dr. Dieter Haller, cultural and social anthropologist from U.T. Austin, is traveling around Texas conducting research on Texas identity.

His travels have taken him to a few of the bed rocks of Lone Star State history, such as the Alamo, Johnson City, and Luchenbach, as well as a few pebbles almost lost to memory.

Dr. Haller came to the offices of THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST recently to discuss the changes of rural Texas locales in relation to the presence of national political figures. He said his main interest is how people deal with these changes politically, eco-

nomically, and culturally.

Dr. Haller noted, for example, that people tend to select events and give them an historical meaning that serves as a self-identification and outward perception to others. With regard to Texas identification, the town of Crawford, Texas, as a symbol, means something for Texans but may mean another for Europeans.

"All possibilities are open, but we take what we want," he said, in an interview with THE ICONOCLAST. "I'm interested in living beings and how stories change and refer to something else."

SPECIAL PROMOTION

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The Lone Star
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Texas Wildflowers In Bloom



AUSTIN, Texas — In Texas, wildflowers are a passion and their dazzling display is a feast for the eyes. The Lone Star state is home to more than 5,000 species of wildflowers dotting roadsides and blanketing fields. Sprinkles of yellow buttercups, red Indian paint brushes, pink ladies and seas of bluebonnets are everywhere.

Spring is the ideal time to explore your local area's heritage while enjoying the spectacular show of wildflowers along the way. Enjoy these Texas treats by exploring the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) heritage regions. Each heritage region has its own unique palette of wildflowers to enjoy.

The Texas Brazos Heritage Trail Region is colored with fire wheels, the Texas Forts Trail Region is canvassed with Indian paintbrushes and the Texas Forest Trail Region with dazzling dogwoods and wild azaleas. Yellow buttercups color the Texas Independence Trail Region and magnificent Mexican hats are found in the Texas Lakes Trail Region.

The heritage regions are all part of the THC's regional tourism initiative, the Texas Heritage Trials Program.

The program encourages people to venture out and rediscover the state's historic and cultural wonders.

This successful program capitalizes on the economic impact of heritage

tourism — a \$40 billion a year industry.

For free heritage trail brochures call 866/276-6219 or visit <www.thc.state.tx.us/travel>.

For additional information on Texas travel events and vacation destinations, visit <www.TravelTex.com> or for a free Texas State Travel Guide call 1-800-888-TEX.

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation. The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

Anti-War Square Dance Benefit April 30

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — An old-time anti-war square dance benefit will be held on Saturday, April 30, at Potrero Hill Neighborhood House, 953 De Haro Street, in San Francisco.

The square dance, including lessons, features live music by The Stairwell Sisters, The Squirrely Stringband, Bernal Heights Stringband & Special Guests. The event is a benefit for military resistor Pablo Paredes and Iraq Veterans Against the War.

Last December, Petty Officer Third Class Pablo Paredes, 23, was ordered to ship out from the Naval Station San Diego with 6,000 military personnel for deployment to Iraq. But Paredes didn't go out of protest.

"I'd rather do a year in a prison in the military than do six months of dirty work for a war I don't believe in — and not many people believe in — and get Marines in harm's way," Paredes told NBC San Diego.

The dance is sponsored by Not In Our Name, Iraq Veterans Against the War, CODEPINK, International Socialist Organization, Queers for Peace & Justice/SF, and Bay Area United Against War. For more information, contact Peter Cobb.

INFO

Cobb, (510) 601-8000
bayarea@notinourname.net
www.bayarea.notinourname.net

Job Fair In Waco Slated April 27

WACO — The 10th Annual Region 12 Education Job Fair will be held at the Education Service Center at 2101 W. Loop 340 in Waco, (Bagby Ave. and Hwy. 6) from 2 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 27.

Area school districts and charter schools will be looking to fill more than 200 positions in Central Texas. Applicants should bring resumes, transcripts, and applicable certificates.

For more information, contact Sharon Barton Chastain or visit Region 12's website.

INFO

Chastain, (254) 297-1209.
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