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Jimmy Walter



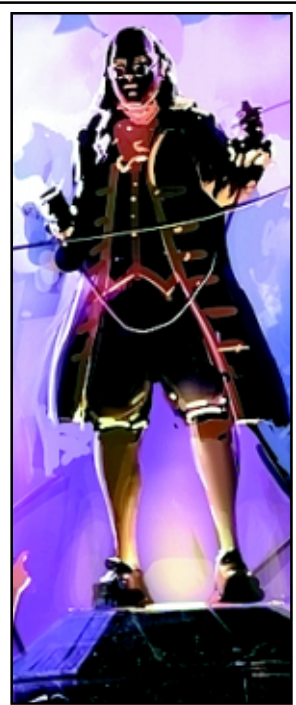
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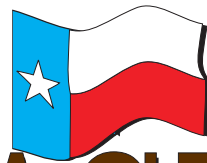
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The Lone Star



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Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr.

The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States. It is not federal, and there is no reserve. It is a private corporation, owned by the member banks of the Federal Reserve System, but it's controlled by these international bankers.'

— Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr.

Jimmy Walter Starts European Campaign: Re-Open 9/11

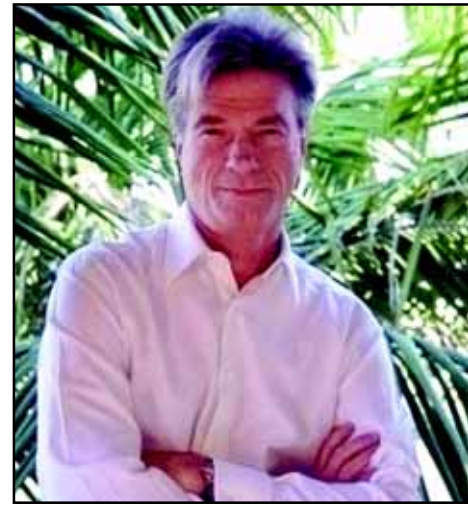
LONDON — Jimmy Walter, an American (currently living in Europe), will tour through Europe this fall, starting in Amsterdam and coming to Berlin on May 20 to pout out what he describes as non-truths regarding the investiga-

tions of the attacks on the Pentagon and the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001.

"Some very disturbing facts were uncovered, which do not seem to fit with the information as provided by the government," says Walter, who will be

touring with a panel of scientists and journalists who support the investigation.

"This is not a conspiracy theory," says Walter, "but a healthy critical view on the facts as presented by the government and the media."



Jimmy Walter

Whistleblower Edmonds Silenced In Appeals Case

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Last Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals denied pleas by attorneys for whistleblower Sibel Edmonds to open the former FBI translator's First Amendment case to the public.

Edmonds was fired in 2002 after issuing complaints that activities by her employer, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, were unacceptable and perhaps even dangerous to national security, following the attacks of 9-11 on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Edmonds translated documents and wiretaps for the FBI, which classified information following the issuance of her complaints.

On Thursday, the clerk of the appeals court unexpectedly and suddenly announced the hearing on her lawsuit

against the FBI would be closed. Only attorneys and Edmonds were allowed in.

In her defense, the ACLU explained that appellate arguments normally are accessible to the public. Last week's case concerned a complaint by Edmonds that the government was denying her First Amendment rights.

"The federal government is routinely

retaliating against government employees who uncover weaknesses in our ability to prevent terrorist attacks or protect public safety," said Ann Beeson, associate legal director of the ACLU. "From firing whistleblowers to using special privileges to cover up mistakes, the government is taking extreme steps to shield itself from political embarrassment while gambling with our safety."

National People's Speak-Out Set May 7

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National People's Speak-Out will take place on Saturday, May 7, at 12 noon, in Washington, D.C. assembling at Plymouth Congregational Church, 5301 North

Capitol Street NE (at Riggs Road).

Speakers will include Rev. Graylan Hagler, Sr. Minister, Plymouth Congregational Church; Ramsey Clark, former U.S. attorney general; Mahdi Bray,

Exec. Dir., Muslim American Society Freedom Foundation; Ben Dupuy, General Secretary, National Popular Party of Haiti (PPN) SEIU Local 82, representing workers at Howard University; Jane English, Plymouth Congregational UCC Board of Social Action; Rashida Roberts, Georgetown Living Wage Campaign hunger striker, and more.

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POLARIS TEST RIDE '05

IRS Nails Local State Rep

WACO — State Rep. Charles "Doc" Anderson (R-Waco) is having problems with the Internal Revenue Service.

The IRS filed a \$21,700 federal tax lien earlier this month against Anderson Veterinary Hospital, owned by the state representative, for failing to pay federal taxes withheld from its employees' paychecks during a nine month period last year.

Anderson claims his veterinarian business has complied with the federal government.

Anderson, a veterinarian for over 20 years, is currently serving his first legislative session after defeating incumbent Democrat John Mabry with 53 percent of the vote in November. Mabry's campaign focused an October TV advertisement on two previous federal tax liens Anderson settled for \$12,000.

Anderson said his previous IRS problems stemmed from money credited to the wrong account. He claimed the IRS failed to notify him about the problem.

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Global Gulag

An Iconoclast Interview With Texas Author Robert Gaylon Ross

By W. LEON SMITH AND
NATHAN DIEBENOW
ICONOCLAST EDITORS

CRAWFORD — Several weeks ago THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST published a paid advertisement submitted by Ross

International Enterprises that contained a listing of books that RIE has available for purchase. Several readers took exception to the ICONOCLAST's allowing that advertisement to be printed due to a couple of titles among the offerings, i.e. *The Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* and *International Jew*. One reader suggested that these are considered by the Jewish community as "hate books" and that the newspaper should contact the publishing company and have its owner, Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr. explain himself.

Following that appeal, THE ICONOCLAST conducted an interview with Ross, who is also the author of several books related to global unionization and other issues.

Some of his latest titles include *The Elite Don't Dare Let Us Tell the People, Who's Who of the Elite*, and *The American Union 2005*.

Says Ross, "My concern is that we are losing control of this fantastic nation, and the world as well, to a group that cares nothing about the present or future quality of life of the citizens of this country, or the rest of the world. The elite are guided by greed, and the insatiable need for influence and power."

Ross' books contain numerous references to other published works that reflect this loss of control. Among the references are *The Protocols*.

Because of his international career experiences and work with the Federal government, he says he is in a unique position to "back away from a problem and look at the big picture." From this bird's-eye perspective, Ross says that the creation of a Global Union is in the works, as is seen in recent and ongoing legislation and the creation of unions in other countries, which can be followed

through strategies explained in the *Protocols*.

Ross, who holds a BS degree in Industrial Engineering from Texas A&M University, accepted a commission as a Second Lieutenant (later promoted to

First Lieutenant) in the Army Security Agency (ASA), a branch of the National Security Agency, upon graduation. He describes the ASA as the big brother to the Central Intelligence Agency.

After leaving active duty, Ross assumed a career as an industrial engineer in the petroleum industry, serving in that capacity until he was promoted into management, where he served as a plant manager for over 10 years, with a total of 36 years in manufacturing. He spent the last 17 years of his manufacturing career as an international management consultant working in the United

States, Japan, Mexico, Canada, England, and Iran.

Ross' military training was in the field of crypto-analysis (the breaking of codes). He was a company commander in the demilitarized zone in the Chohan Valley of South Korea from 1956 to 1957, after the fighting had ceased.

In the interview, Ross said, "None of the books I have written are anti-semitic, and I guess the position I take is if Jeffery Dahmer and several other serial killers happen to be Jewish, should we not talk about their crimes? It just so happened that of the two people at the very top of the cabal to conquer the entire world, one of them is a Khazarian Jew and the other is a Gentile. The subject I write about is about evil people whose goal is to dominate the world politically and economically, and there's nothing about it that is religious. One just happens to be a Jew and the other just happens to be a Gentile."

Ross says the *Protocols* were written somewhere around 1895-96. "They are sort of an outline of what the Learned Elders of Zion planned for the world. A number of people have said that it's fic-



Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr.

Author Says Constitution At Risk From Territorial Unions



tion or that it's plagiarism or it's a false document, but probably somewhere between 60-80 percent of the *Protocols* are history. What they predicted would happen has happened."

He explained that since the citizens of the United States are well armed, a takeover of the U.S. is being done "economically."

Ross sat down with ICONOCLAST editors W. Leon Smith (WLS) and Nathan Diebenow (ND) to answer some hard questions.

Anti-Semitism

ICONOCLAST (ND): Why would Henry Ford write a book, *The International Jew*? He's a capitalist fascist who helped Hitler destroy Jewish people? Hitler had a picture of Ford in his office. How do you explain that?

ROSS: In *The International Jew*, I didn't see anything that was anti-semitic. It was a history of the Jewish movement, and he did put a copy of the *International Jew* in every new car he sold.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Yeah, he published these books, and they're still being published today and used to discredit, harm, or destroy the Jewish people around the world, in Iran, and whatnot.

ROSS: I don't read that. I don't read anything in the books that says, "We're

going to destroy the Jewish people." Have you read *The International Jew*?

ICONOCLAST (ND): I've read portions of it online.

ROSS: I've read all four volumes.

ICONOCLAST (ND): ... and it says that the Jews are going to secularize the nation through education institutions, and the colleges are going to be run by Jews, and it kind of puts all the blame on the Jews. Who are the Jews and why would they put in a socialist state? I don't understand. It seems contradictory. It seems like Ford's only problem is that they're Jews and that they're socialist, and he's a fascist capitalist. Ford wants to control the labor force and eradicate the Jews for whatever purpose.

ROSS: Well, Henry Ford is the one who invented fairness to workers because he gave his workers a good wage so they could buy his cars. He's probably the first to treat his workers properly in history.

ICONOCLAST (ND): But he sold all this stuff to Hitler before World War II, and he was a self-described fascist. Hitler destroyed the whole nation of 6 million Jews.

ROSS: But you also have David Rockefeller and a number of Khazarian Jews who also supported Hitler. The

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parent company of Exxon provided fuel to all the Germans.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Is the question obtaining power; does it really have anything to do with Jewish people at all?

ROSS: It has nothing to do with religion.

ICONOCLAST (ND): So what's your definition of anti-semitism?

ROSS: A semitic person is a person of about a half a dozen or so tribes in Israel, including both Jews and Arabs. So my definition of anti-semitism would be one that takes a negative approach to Jews or Arabs in Israel. Semitic covers both Arabs and Jews.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Going back to my previous question, does this really have anything to do with an ethnic group of people trying to take over the world or is it philosophy that certain people have in high power and have a lot of wealth who are trying to manipulate a system for their own benefit? I mean, is it a group of people, like an ethnic group or is it just an idea that some people have that spans across nations and borders in different ethnic groups?

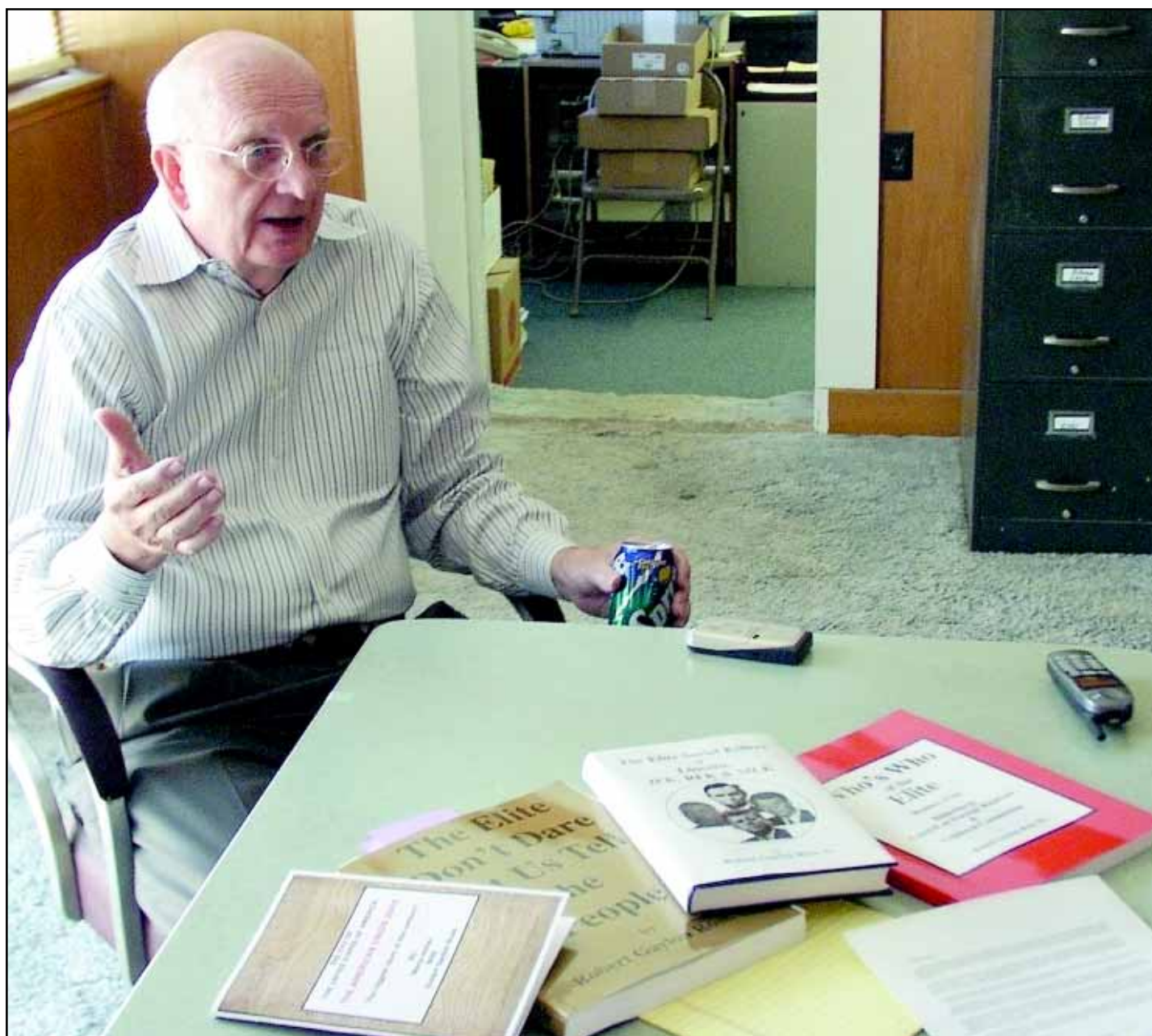
ROSS: Like I say again, it has zero to do with religion because the two at the very top — one is a Gentile and the other is a Jew, and the Jew happens to be a Jew who is not a Jew, but a Khazarian Jew. I covered it in both *The Elite Serial Killers of Lincoln, JFK, RFK, and MLK* and *The Elite Don't Tell The People about Khazarian Judaism*. Back in 740 A.D., the leader of the Khazarian tribe adopted Judaism, so they really are not the seeds of Abraham or the descendants of the 12 tribes of Israel. It's got nothing to do with anything, but it explains it. The subject is the people at the very top who have this need to gain power and money, and I guess an example is that in 1998, the Rockefeller family was worth \$11.48 trillion. The Rothschild family is worth somewhere between \$100 and \$700 trillion. They use this tremendous reserve of money to control the world. The *Protocols* clearly spell out they will use their wealth to gain control of the world. That's why I brought the *Protocols* in because they explain what is going on.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Is it a systematic procedure or just a philosophy?

ROSS: It's not a philosophy. *The Protocols*, as I interpret them, is a roadmap of the plan by that small group of people, the Learned Elders of Zion. That does not generally represent the general population of Khazarians or semitic Jews. It's just the very top, and I feel that both Jews and Gentiles would not be very proud of the documentation at least in the *Protocols* because it is a horrendous, horrific plan to conquer the world. I don't know what it is, but it goes way back. Atilla the Hun had a need to conquer. In fact, Genghis Khan had a need to conquer. He conquered most of the known eastern part of Europe at that time, including Khazaria. Hitler, Stalin, you can name probably a dozen people in history that had an insatiable need to conquer the entire world. And those of us who don't have this need cannot explain it because it's not a part of our makeup to conquer, but it has zero to do with religion.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Why do you think some people would object to reading those documents?

ROSS: I suspect that most people that would make an accusation of anti-



Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr. is interviewed by the Iconoclast. Some of his books are in the foreground.

semitism have never read the documents. They certainly have not read my books.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What I'm talking about is even the publication of those two documents themselves. Why would they not want those books before the general public?

ROSS: Because it tells of evil coming. If you decide you want to conquer all of Clifton, you wouldn't want to let the word get out you had this plan. If you wrote up a plan on a piece of paper ..., you wouldn't want that plan to fall in the hands of the public because they'd probably think it's not a nice thing to do.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Do you think that they think this plan is bogus and shines a bad light on the Jewish people?

ROSS: I wouldn't think any Jew whether they were Khazarian or semitic or Ashkenazi would want to label it anti-semitic because it sheds terrible light on a small group of people and they have a tie to them. Actually, the *Protocols* is just a blueprint. Just not a religious blueprint. It's a coincidence that I ran across the *Protocols*, and when I read them, they so much paralleled what I saw going on that I could see that they were a vital part of explaining why we're going in the direction we're going. This has nothing to do with religion.

American Union

ICONOCLAST (WLS): In your book entitled *The American Union 2005*,

printed is an interview of you by broadcaster Maria Heller, in which you admonish the Bushes for changing the term "New World Order" to a series of terms utilizing the world global which, as you put it, is the goal of there being a one-world government controlled by bankers. You set the date of this occurring during the next couple of years. What evidence do you have at this point?

ROSS: If you carefully read, there's a chapter in *Dare We Not Tell The People* with a timeline of this plan dating back to early 1940s or so. In fact, I have access to copies of the minutes of the first Bilderberg meeting in the Bilderberg Hotel in Oosterbeek, Netherlands. David Rockefeller was one of the attendees. In this first Bilderberg meeting, they talked about the creation of the European Union back in 1954. That was a very long-range plan. The name of this conglomeration changed over a period of time. It was European Economic Community, and finally it was settled on the European Union. Almost no one is aware of the fact that in the year 2000, they created the African Union, which is a copy of the European Union. Fifty-three nations of Africa joined together to create the African Union with one monetary system, one central bank, one governing body, the African Parliament, all a carbon copy of the European Union.

Part of this overall plan is to do the same thing in the Americas. They plan to take all nations in North, Central, and South America and create what they then will call the American Union. That could happen sometime this year or next year.

David Rockefeller created a Council of Americas back in, I believe, 1965. It's made up of representatives of all nations of North, Central, and South America, Caribbean islands, except for Cuba. I have created a VHS tape called *The American Union By 2005*, which is what Maria Heller's interview was based on. One half of the video is me talking about their plans going back in 1954 to create the European Union and then the African Union.

The last half of the video is actual footage that I got from C-SPAN of David Rockefeller and Dick Chaney, three secretaries of state, two presidential councillors. In these clips, they talk about the creation of the New World Order. In fact, Dick Chaney in his speech at the Council of Americas meeting May 6, 2004, said that we are on track to create the free trade area of the Americas by Jan. 1, 2005. Now, within six to 18 months of that plan, they would change it from the free trade area of the Americas to the American Union.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): When President Bush met with President Fox of
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Mexico, and Prime Minister Martin of Canada at Baylor University recently to talk about free trade, do you think that was an attempt to move toward the American Union? What is your take on the Farmer's Union decrying free trade in support of fair trade?

ROSS: The elite adopt generic terms that are designed, first of all, to create a smoke-screen or fog and they also create terms that will not gather attention. For example, in at least three of George H.W. Bush's presidential speeches, he referred to the term New World Order. When he did this, the elite noticed that the audience immediately became alert, so they decided to change it to a generic term so that the public would accept it. They changed the term to globalization. When you hear the term "Globalization" or "Global Union" or "Global Trade" or "Global Architecture" or "Global Village," all these terms exactly equal the previous term "New World Order." The plan hadn't changed. They just changed the sign out in front of the building.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Back when Adolf Hitler was in power, didn't he refer to the Americas as the American Union?

ROSS: He could have. In fact, he was one of the others who wanted to dominate the entire world and create a new world order. I don't know whether it's contagious among a small group of people, but they have a need to dominate the world. I don't understand it because I don't even worry about my neighbor. I'm not going to try and take over my neighbor's property. As long as my neighbor leaves me alone, I'll leave him alone, and we're just friends.

Federal Reserve System

ICONOCLAST (WLS): The root of the problem as explained in your books is the Federal Reserve System.

ROSS: The Federal Reserve System is the central bank of the United States. It is not federal, and there is no reserve. It is a private corporation, owned by the member banks of the Federal Reserve System, but it's controlled by these international bankers. There are 12 regions —

ICONOCLAST (WLS): — set up, I'm assuming, to spread out throughout the United States.

ROSS: No, if you go back in history, the Rothschilds tried to create a central bank in the United States a number of times. They were given two or three charters, and at the end of the life of the charter, they were not allowed to renew it. Another charter was created to give them the ability to create a central bank.

Back in 1913, there was a group of very wealthy people, including international bankers, that went to a secret meeting on an island off the Carolinas. At this meeting, they designed the Federal Reserve System, how it was going to work. They had influence with the President and key people in Congress, and actually the Federal Reserve Act was passed during the Christmas holidays of 1913. Not all in Congress were there to vote, but there were a number who voted for it. The House had already passed it, but it was designed to bring up the vote during the Christmas holidays where people wouldn't notice it. There wouldn't be enough people to resist it, and so the Federal Reserve Act went in, and the President signed it. At the same time they did the Internal Revenue Act. The purpose of the Internal

Revenue Act was to support the Federal Reserve System. In fact, if you look at the laws of the Internal Revenue Act, it says that money collected into the Internal Revenue System will be deposited in credit unions and banks or central banks of the Federal Reserve System. Really, these others were just have the option to do that or put it in the Federal Reserve System, so every penny that's collected actually goes into the Federal Reserve System.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): When the local banks have their dreaded bank examiners come down, these guys are from the private central banks?

ROSS: Now, there are state banks and federal banks. State banks are not required to be a member of the Federal Reserve System.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): They can, but not required to?

ROSS: They can elect to do so that if they want to, but they cannot be examined by the Federal Reserve System.

‘They have already written the constitution for the American Union, which will override our constitution and Bill of Rights and constitutions of all the other nations in North, Central, and South America. It has no Bill of Rights we're entitled to, Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, all those things.’

— Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): That gives them restraints on what percentage of their assets they can loan?

ROSS: That's right. The Federal Reserve System determines all the policies of all federal banks. What interest they can charge—all the banking practices are dictated by the Federal Reserve System.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Have there been any attempts to change the Federal Reserve System back to being the U.S. Department of the Treasury?

ROSS: No, one of the major problems with our political system is that the elite allow money to control what goes on in politics. They also control the court system — the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has ruled that money is a form of speech. That's a long stretch to say that money is speech, but that's what they did. And they said that since money is speech, then we see no reason to interfere with the use of money to create things on behalf of certain groups.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): So how is this money backed? Say you have a \$10 bill. How much is it worth?

ROSS: It has no value. It's only worth what the person receiving it is willing to trade for it. It's not backed by gold or silver or anything of value. This was done on purpose in Nixon's time. He took the lid off the price of gold, and for many years, it was \$35 an ounce during his term. By the way, I have the minutes of the Bilderberg meeting which they discuss the taking off the limit on the price (of gold). I'll just have to paraphrase it: "we will be able to accomplish some of the things we want. We'll be able to finance it through the fact that when we take the lid off the price of gold, we'll allow it to go up, and we'll take this profit and do what we want with it."

Within two years of this meeting, gold went from \$35 an ounce to \$800 an ounce. So you can imagine the attendees of the Bilderberg meeting when

they left and went out and bought gold and borrowed money to buy gold, because they knew they were going to take the lid off of it, and that's what they did. The Bilderbergs plan everything of significance in the entire world.

Secret Groups

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Maybe we need to talk about these three groups. Explain how they were organized and why, the types of membership, etc.

ROSS: Let's start with the Council on Foreign Relations that was founded in 1921. It started off with a group in New York City. They later expanded to another satellite group in Washington. Today, there is a Council on Foreign Relations meeting in every major city in the United States. The core is in New York City. Their headquarters is across from the Soviet Embassy in New York City. The (Harold) Pratt House is their headquarters. Today there are a little over 4,000 members. They meet at least monthly; sometimes, they will hold a

special meeting when dignitaries are in town.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): How do you become a member?

ROSS: You have to be invited in. You have to have approval by a certain number of people in order to issue an invitation for a person to become a member. Then they have to have the FBI check them out.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What if you become a member but then you want out? How do you get out of it?

ROSS: It's sort of like the Mafia. You die out of the Council on Foreign Relations, like you die out of the Mafia. You don't just decide one day to quit being one. The members of the Council on Foreign Relations are lifetime members. The Council on Foreign Relations is only U.S. citizens.

ICONOCLAST: How about the Bilderbergs?

ROSS: The Bilderbergs were founded in 1954, and it was made up of representatives of Canada, the United States, and Western Europe only. The attendees were typically around 300 people. It's never held at the same place twice with one or two exceptions. This is for security reasons. The nation where they meet is required to provide security for the Bilderberg meeting. In addition to that the Bilderbergs have their own security people who are in control. In the past, if you got within a 100 feet or a 100 yards of the building where they were meeting, you'd be arrested. Today, they go beyond that. They say if someone tries to get closer than that, just shoot them.

I have videos of the latest Bilderberg meeting. It shows that this five-star hotel where they met. Cars would drive inside this canopy extending out the entrance of the hotel. It just didn't have a roof. It had walls and an end, too. So they'd draw the curtain back, and the car would drive in. The windows were all black, so you couldn't see who was in

it. They'd close the curtain in front. They'd go into the hotel, and they'd open the curtain and drive out. They didn't successfully cover the cars in every case. I have a video showing, I believe it was Henry Kissinger, coming out one of the cars. When the Rothschilds get out of the car, the curtains are fully closed. When the queen of England or the queen of Spain or the queen of the Netherlands is out, you cannot see them. They're called "attendees" rather than members.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What about the Trilateral Commission?

ROSS: The Trilateral Commission was founded in 1973, again, by David Rockefeller and Zbigniew Brzezinski. There are 300-400 members. They meet once a year, again, in a secret meeting, but every year I write a letter to both the Trilateral Commission and the Council on Foreign Relations and ask for their list of members and they give them to me.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Are some of their members of the Trilateral Commission also members of Bilderberg and CFR?

ROSS: There are about three dozen in all three of the secret groups.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): You'd be talking probably 4,300-4,400 people in all that comprises these three groups?

ROSS: There's about 4,000 in Council on Foreign Relations, about 300 in Trilateral, and about 300 Bilderbergs.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): About 4,600 people. And this is the group you are saying that want to rule the world.

ROSS: No, they are the tools used by the two at the very top, David Rockefeller and David de Rothschild.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): How old is Mr. Rothschild?

ROSS: He's, I believe, 69.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): And Mr. Rockefeller is approximately the same age?

ROSS: He's, I believe, in his 80s. Again, Rockefellers and Rothschild are worth trillions of dollars.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): How does that play into the dates you say in your books?

ROSS: They'll be someone to take David's place whenever he passes away.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Does anyone know who?

ROSS: No.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Anyone related to him?

ROSS: Not necessarily. The person who headed the Council on Foreign Relations who chaired the Chase Manhattan Bank before David Rockefeller was a fellow by the name of John J. McCloy. McCloy was an agent of Rothschild, as are the Rockefellers. They're agents of Rothschild, even though they have trillions of dollars, they're way down from the super wealthy, Rothschild.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): The endgame, if they're gaining this power, and they're gaining this money, the endgame would be what?

ROSS: Political and economic control of the entire world.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What would that mean to people like you and me?

ROSS: In the European Union, they have already created a new constitution. They haven't passed it yet, but this new constitution will override the constitution of every nation in the European

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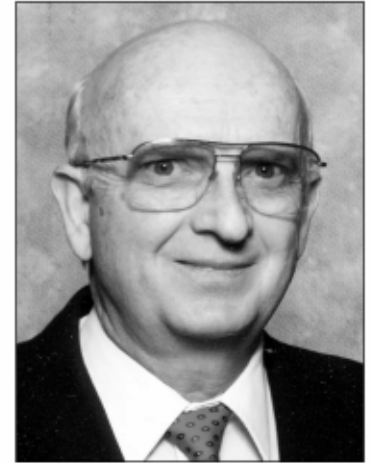
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Union. They have already written the constitution for the American Union, which will override our constitution and Bill of Rights and constitutions of all the other nations in North, Central, and South America. It has no Bill of Rights we're entitled to — Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Assembly, all those things. This new constitution, I guarantee you, does not contain those rights, even though I have not seen it.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Are you familiar with the constitutions of any of the other American nations?

ROSS: No, I'm not.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): So you can't tell how they compare to ours?

ROSS: No, but the new constitution, once we reach that point, will override all the constitutions of all member nations.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): How do you think they will go about changing? Won't United States citizens be up in arms?

ROSS: I'll use one example. Let's use the relationship between Mexico and the United States. I believe it was the NEW YORK TIMES that wrote an article noting that there was something like at least three million illegal immigrants who entered the United States from Mexico last year. That's probably the lower end of the actuality, but the European Union, when they finally agreed to that, eliminated the need of passports and VISAs when traveling from one country to another, so people can freely move from one nation to another in the European Union. When they create the American Union, that will allow the Mexicans, Bolivians, and whoever to freely come to the United States.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): And we can go there.

ROSS: And we can go there, but there's a fellow who did a study a number of years ago about almost all the nations in Latin America and determined that I believe 80 percent of the wealth was in less than 10 percent of the people, so you have super wealthy and very few middle class and the super impoverished people.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): I read somewhere that part of the way the major banking entities control the public is through chaos.

ROSS: Actually, I cover it succinctly. The Rothschilds have been involved in every major conflict in Western Europe from 1865 on. They financed both sides. The bankers finance both sides of the war, then they finance the reconstruction of the nation destroyed in the war. They only profit from wars, so there's a great incentive for them to encourage wars. They've done that since 1865.

ICONOCLAST (ND): When you talk about these elites, I understand that they are all pretty much on the same page.

ROSS: When a Rothschild walks into the room, people will shudder, they are so powerful. The same thing with David Rockefeller. They fear David Rockefeller. The ones right next to him don't fear him as much, but they always all respect him because of his wealth.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Have you seen any people up there saying, "No, we don't want to do this. Maybe we should do that?" For this reason, we have Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Are there any benevolent super elites that kind of help the less wealthy people of the world?

ROSS: They don't do it openly, but there is some resistance going on.

In the May 6, 2004, Dick Chaney said, "We will complete the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas by Jan. 1, 2005." That's a finite date.

Now preceding that would be the completion of CAFTA, the Central American Free Trade Agreement. That was signed by the President in late December 2004. He signed CAFTA, but this is a treaty, and the Senate has to ratify all treaties. The Senate has been sort of turning their back, saying, "We've got things to do. We haven't gotten around to that." They're not openly resisting, but they're not allowing CAFTA to come to a vote.

They're resisting the Free Trade Area of the Americas for the vote be-

the United States, authorized by law, including debts incurred for payment of pensions and bounties for services in suppressing insurrection or rebellion, shall not be questioned. But neither the United States nor any State shall assume or pay any debt or obligation incurred in aid of insurrection or rebellion against the United States, or any claim for the loss or emancipation of any slave; but all such debts, obligations and claims shall be held illegal and void."

Take it to the court and say, "According to this provision, our federal debt is null and void." Write it off.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): But what happens to the people who hold the loans on that?

ROSS: Let's say that you commit a crime — you steal something and then

“You have to look at the U.S. government as you would business. You have a balance sheet. Assets and liabilities. Total U.S. government liabilities are really at the order of \$40 trillion, but you never get anyone in public office to state that amount.”

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cause they don't want it, but they don't openly say, "This is a terrible thing. It's going to make us slaves. It's going to dominate the world."

They dare not say that because the bankers finance their campaigns, and also they have probably photographs of members of Congress doing things they're not proud of.

J. Edgar Hoover was an expert. He created that technique. So they have economic control and also blackmail control over many of the people in Congress.

Treasury Department

ICONOCLAST (WLS): We had talked earlier about the Treasury Department, and you are quoted in one of your books as saying, "Fiscal Year '03 the U.S. government spent \$318 billion of your money on interest payments to the owners of the national debt." Do you know what that is now?

ROSS: No, it's probably on the order of five percent interest or something like that of the total debt, but this is owed to both the Federal Reserve and foreign countries.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): You also have said that our national debt is now well over \$7 trillion if they counted every debt obligation and accounted for them in the same manner as they require the public to account for them. The real federal debt is \$40 trillion.

ROSS: That's correct, but they don't publish any figure like that. They will talk about \$7 trillion, but they will never address the real \$40 trillion.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Where does that come from?

ROSS: That comes from all loans the government has had, all their financial obligations. You have to look at the U.S. government as you would business. You have a balance sheet. Assets and liabilities. Total U.S. government liabilities are really at the order of \$40 trillion, but you never get anyone in public office to state that amount.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): So how do we get rid of the massive federal debt?

ROSS: My brother came up with a solution to that.

It's in Section 4 of the 14th Amendment: "The validity of the public debt of

sell it to somebody else. You committed a crime, and they have committed a crime by buying the stolen property. Even considering the fact that they might not have known it was stolen, and you trace it back, and it is stolen. It's no longer theirs, and they're out their money, and they're out the goods.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): You wrote in one of your books that the Treasury Department approves the printing of money, not the Federal Reserve.

ROSS: No. Let's say that the U.S. government needs to borrow \$1 billion to pay for the troops in Haiti, and they wanted it in \$100 bills. They call up and write a letter to the Federal Reserve and say we want \$1 billion worth in \$100 bills. The Federal Reserve will contact the printing office and say, "Print us \$1 billion in \$100 bills." The printing office will then charge the Federal Reserve something like \$35,000 printing costs for material and labor for the bills. The Federal Reserve will then loan this \$1 billion of \$100 bills to the U.S. government with interest. Five percent or whatever the interest would be at that time. But the total cost is only \$35,000, and they created \$1 billion of assets that they loaned out.

The more outrageous example is, let's say Chase Manhattan Bank wants to borrow \$1 billion into their credit card account. They call the Federal Reserve and say, "Credit our account with \$1 billion." They do that and create a note, but it's all done electronically, and there's no cost, other than payroll of the people who are working at the bank. So they created \$1 billion of new money at virtually no cost.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): It goes directly into their account?

ROSS: Yeah, it goes into their account.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): And they're part of the central bank.

ROSS: They have to pay the going rate, which is right now what? 1½-2 percent interest on that, and they loan that to credit card holders at 10 percent.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): So this is how credit card companies get rich?

ROSS: In this book I cover the fractional reserve practice that is mandated by the Federal Reserve System. It

means that any Federal Reserve Bank member bank whose assets or capital exceeds \$42 million can loan out all new money coming in like in a savings account or CD, 90 percent of that, back out in a loan.

So an example I use is that if I put \$1,000 in XYZ Bank, it can immediately loan out \$900 of that to the next person coming in. That person can then but they take the \$900 and open another savings account and put \$900 in it. Then the bank can loan out \$810, so if you keep loaning it on and on. This initial transaction of \$1,000 creates \$9,000 in new money, created by the bank in this fractional reserve process dictated by the Federal Reserve.

Now an even more shocking example is the compounding of interest on loans. The example I use in the book is if Mary had taken one U.S. penny and deposited it in a savings account the day of Jesus Christ's birth, today without anyone touching that account, just compounded interest at six percent daily, that one penny today is worth \$167 and 36 zeros before you get to the decimal point. That's compound interest. So now you know why they are in the banking business. In the book I give the exact number that's equal to.

By the way, on that same subject, in 1850 the first person to be called Rothschild left his fortune to his five sons. He died in 1812, I believe. By 1815, the sons had grown that original inheritance to \$6 billion. So if you take the compounding equation of \$6 billion in 1815, it's current value today at six percent is almost \$50 trillion. At eight percent, it's a little over \$400 trillion, if they didn't add to it at all, just compounded daily.

ConCon

ICONOCLAST (WLS): You have in your book a little paragraph about the Constitutional Convention called ConCon and how it works. You say that, regarding the balanced budget amendment, it would take only two more states to ratify a call for a convention to take place. Once the convention gets underway, we are subject to the whims of the delegates. You are quoted as saying, "You can rest assured that a majority of the delegates to any Constitutional Convention will be puppets of the elite. There is a greater than a 50 percent chance that if a Constitutional Convention be called, we will have an entirely new constitution."

ROSS: Once the Constitutional Convention has legally formed, it goes into session. By our Constitution, that convention can do anything. They can throw out the Constitution. They can completely revise it or revise parts of it. That is a danger of having a Constitutional Convention. We should never allow that.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): How do you make any changes to the Constitution?

ROSS: The way you do that is both Houses of Congress do their part in creating an amendment, and then that amendment is sent to all the states, of which a percentage must ratify this amendment before it can actually become an amendment. We're protected that way.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): It emanates from the Congress to the states.

ROSS: That's right. Yes, and states are in control. If it's a really damaging amendment, that gives the public time

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to go to their representatives to say don't vote for this. That's the only way to kill it.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What needs to happen to assure that government operates properly?

ROSS: We must get money out of the election process. If you believe the current people in office are going to do anything about it, you're a little bit naive, and if you think that we're protected by the Supreme Court, they've already said that money is free speech. We can't gain control of our government without getting money out of it. We have to elect people who are inclined to do that, and my position is it can't be a Democrat or a Republican because they are in charge now.

I suggest that everytime there's an election, whether it's a city, county, state, or federal government, that there be an independent person running that is not tied to either the Democrats or Republicans, and that we support these people and elect them, and once they become the majority in both Houses of Congress and become President, then they can say, "We speak for the people, and we're going to do things for the people, and no longer for the special interests." Once the people are in control, literally the people will be in control then.

The other thing I recommend is that they change the law of campaign financing so that no one is allowed to contribute money who is running for office unless they physically live in the district that person has represented for five years, and that no business be allowed to donate money. Only residents can donate money. But set a small limit on it.

Others will say that it costs money to run for office. Why run for office for two years? Say you have three months to run for office. That cuts the cost way down. And then say that the ICONOCLAST must provide free space in the paper to give your position. That's part of them being allowed to publish a paper, and every television station must give public service rights. Clearly define this. Now you've got money out of the deal. You cut costs down.

Once the people are in control of the government under this new process, then the first thing we do is make it illegal for anyone who holds any public office, elected or hired, to be a member of any secret organization. By secret organization, I mean Klu Klux Klan, you name it, Council on Foreign Relations, Trilateral Commission, Bilderbergs. They cannot be a member of any secret group for five years, and also there be no grandfathering of this, so anyone who is a member of these secret groups must immediately be removed from office.

Then now we want to say that when we enter office, we put our hand on the Bible, and swear to defend the Constitution against anybody, foreign or domestic. Now we have an internal group who wants to overthrow our government. We need to bring them into court. Let's bring this all out into the open, and let the people decide, is this what you want? That's very simple, but it's not easy to do. In fact, it would take quite some time. First of all, you have to educate the people to do this, or first of all, you have to convince them that there's justification to do this for all these reasons.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Wouldn't you

almost have to be organized?

ROSS: Yeah, really, I'm looking for the next Martin Luther King to step up and say, "I'm fed up with this. People, this is what we're going to do. Now on May 31, we're all going to head to Washington, and we're going to point our fingers to Congress and say, 'Stop this! We're tired of this. It's not in our Constitution. We don't want you to do this anymore. If you don't stop it, you won't be elected anymore.'" We need a leader. Someone to step up. I'm not suggesting its me. I

'No sooner than three months but no later than 18-24 months we will be in a major recession and possibly a depression.'

— Robert Gaylon Ross, Sr.

don't want to do that at all, but I'm not a Martin Luther King.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Someone with charisma. That type of person?

ROSS: That's right. Someone with no self-interest. Someone with no agenda other than protecting the people of the United States against this internal and external force that wants to take over this world.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): But as far as the other Congressional offices go to put independents in, wouldn't you need an organization to find independents who would latch on to your concept.

ROSS: It would be a major screening process to find someone who didn't have a hidden agenda — charismatic people who are really interested in the future quality of life for their children and grandchildren. That's the real goal of it. You and I have lived better than our parents. My parents lived better than their parents. Our children are not going to live better than I am. My grandchildren are going to have a reduced quality of life, if we don't stop.

Privatization

ICONOCLAST (WLS): What are your views on privatization?

ROSS: The privatization of the Social Security system — you have to step back from all major issues, and I view myself as being 160 miles up in the atmosphere looking down at the Earth, and when something happens, I ask why did this happen?

If you look at that particular subject, you'll see that the international bankers want to gain more control of your money. So if they say that one of the answers to the Social Security problem is to privatize part of it or maybe all of it, then what do you mean by privatization? It means that you take the funds that would normally be contributed to the Social Security Fund, and you invest it in the stock market or whatever, and every now and then the sheep herders will shear the sheep. There was a major sheering of the sheep in 1929. We're very close to having another sheering time again, so if your money is in stocks, bonds, and commodities, the likelihood of it being there will be reduced considerably.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Are suggesting that there will be another depression?

ROSS: No sooner than three months but no later than 18-24 months, we will be in a major recession and possibly a depression.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Do you have any idea how long that would last?

ROSS: The last one lasted about a

dozen years.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): The reason you think this would happen is?

ROSS: The Bolsheviks took over Russia by murdering 66 million middle class people. These middle class people were educated, and they had the ability to think and have judgement. They literally murdered them.

Now, they can't do that here in this nation because we're too well armed. We're protected by the Constitution, so they cannot do a violent takeover of this

nation. They're going to take it over through economic means.

They're taking as many jobs as they can and sending them offshore, like the manufacture of clothing and materials used in clothing is almost 100 percent done offshore. All the lower hourly paid jobs in the world and manufacturing of everything else. Almost no electronics are made here. They're made in Korea, Japan, Singapore. They're reducing the ability to earn a decent living by the people.

The reason the Bolsheviks left the very poor people alone in Russia is because all they worried about was where the next food was coming from and clothes to stay warm and shelter to get in and out of the rain. They didn't care about what the government did at all.

In the United States, first off all, they're dumbing down our kids, so eventually, they will not have the tools to argue with these people because they will not have the ability to do logic. They refuse to protect our borders. Last year, over three million illegal immigrants entered this nation from Mexico. So as you bring more people in looking for jobs, and send more jobs out, it's a law of supply and demand. There will be more and more people hunting fewer and fewer jobs, and the payrate for those jobs is going down, and the likelihood of gaining seniority in your job is going to be diminished.

People then will not care about what the government is doing. They'll worry about how they are going to feed their kids. It's a shell game. Get their eyes off the government and on their pocketbook: "How am I going to make this next house note? How am I going to make this next car note? How am I going to send my kids to school? I don't care what the government does. I don't have time." That's part of the overall plan.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Why is that part of the plan?

ROSS: Because the end goal is to dominate the world politically and economically.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): Are you talking population control?

ROSS: Population control will be part of it. The elite have for years wanted to gain possession of the tremendous wealth of the natural resources in Africa. Now, for some reason, they have not been able to overcome the tribes of Africa and dominate them. They're independent.

If you can't gain control of the people, you can create diseases — Ebola, AIDS, HIV — and take it to Africa, and depopulate them with disease. On the side you can take two hoodlums and give them a

little money in their back pocket, and they will revolt against the government and cause a rebellion and millions of people have been killed through rebellions. If you look behind the curtain, you'll see the CIA, and if you look behind the curtain behind the CIA, you'll find the elite. They are going to do the same thing here. If you open up the borders, and let all the very poor people from Latin America come into this country legally by walking across the border, that means more and more people looking for fewer and fewer jobs. Our quality of life is going to be reduced. Their quality of life will come up, and ours will go way down. The end result is that we won't worry about what the government says. Let's worry about where we're going to eat.

ICONOCLAST (ND): Talking about European Unions and African Unions, American Unions, do you see that Iraq is the first stage to a Middle Eastern Union?

ROSS: President George W. Bush has already stated that sometime in the near future we need to create a Middle East Union. Now I don't know if that was a slip of the tongue or not. He really needs to go by the script or he wouldn't have made that statement. But right after the American Union, there will be a Pacific Union made up of all those Pacific Rim nations. They started that in 1998, when they created the Asian-Pacific Economic Community made up of all nations in the Pacific Rim. Somewhere around 2010 they will create the Asian Union. Also around the same time the former nations of the Soviet Union will be reconstituted under a new union. Maybe the Russian Union. It won't be called the "Soviet Union" because of the negative image. In the end there will be 10 unions, all reporting to the central government called the "Global Union." If David Rockefeller is still alive at that time, he will be the czar of the Global Union. If he's not, there will be someone else prepared to take his place. The Rothschilds always remain behind the curtain. They will never step out to the podium. They will always stay behind the curtain.

ICONOCLAST (ND): How does the U.N. fit into this equation?

ROSS: The U.N. is only one of the many tools of the elite. The Federal Reserve is a tool. The Central Banks are a tool. The CIA is a tool. Every director without exception of the CIA has been a member on the Council on Foreign Relations. Law of chance will not permit that. It tells me that every intelligence organization in every nation of the world works for ultimately the Rothschilds. They control all the intelligence. They tweak all the knobs.

ICONOCLAST (WLS): In conclusion, if the world is truly headed in the direction you project, how can the tides be changed?

ROSS: To my knowledge, no one has any organized effort to try to stop this. There are probably 100 people in the world who are very aware of this movement, and they're trying to expose it, but they have no ability to stop it, other than making people aware of it. In actuality, if five percent of the people in the United States knew this was going on, it would come to a halt real quick. There would be a march on Washington of millions of people, saying stop it. That's the only way it would stop.

Renewable Energy Roundup Set Sept. 23-25 In Fredericksburg

FREDERICKSBURG — The 6th Annual Renewable Energy Roundup and Green Living Fair is set for Sept. 23-25 in Fredericksburg downtown at Market Square.

Cornel West To Give Lecture At UH Thursday

HOUSTON — Princeton University's Cornel West brings his observations on race, justice and democracy to the Graduate School of Social Works' 10th Annual David M. Underwood Lecture, 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 28, in the Cullen Performance Hall.

The lecture, presented by the GSSW's American Humanics program, is free and open to the public.

West is currently the Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion at Princeton. One of America's most provocative public intellectuals, West has won numerous awards, including the American Book Award, and has received more than 20 honorary degrees. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard University and his master's and doctorate from Princeton. His books *Race Matters* and *Democracy Matters* were best sellers.

West's outspoken nature placed him at odds with Harvard President Lawrence Summers in 2002 when West was serving as professor of African American studies. He drew criticism for his post 9-11 comments about an "imperial America," for his participation in a hip-hop CD which he called "danceable educational" and for serving on the presidential exploratory committee for activist Al Sharpton.

West also contributed his acting skill and religious thoughts to the recent *Matrix* movie trilogy. Controversy surrounded his involvement with these projects, playing a role in West's widely reported decision to leave his position at Harvard to join the faculty at rival Princeton.

For more information contact Margaret O'Donnell

INFO

O'Donnell, (713) 743-8137.

Mother's Day Peace Conference Set For May 7

DALLAS — Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson's Annual Mother's Day Peace Conference will be held on Saturday, May 7, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., at the Dallas Central Library Auditorium, 1515 Young Street.

The keynote speaker is Ambassador Swanee Hunt, president and founder of Women Waging Peace.

To R.S.V.P, contact the Office of Congresswoman Eddie Bernice Johnson.

INFO

(214) 922-8885 (office)
(214) 922-7028 (fax)

Various exhibits will address energy conservation, rainwater harvesting, green and sustainable building, organic growing, alternative transportation, and straw bale construction. There will be speakers and workshops, fun-learning activities for children, and musical performances.

Gate entry fee \$8 for Friday or Sun-

day, \$10 for Saturday or \$16 for a 3-day pass. Children under 12 enter free. Gate fee includes exhibits and on-going demonstrations.

There's more fun for an added fee: rock climbing, bio-diesel fueled "Jiggle Bug" train ride, and New Belgium, 100-percent wind-powered brewery's beers and ales for sale.

To order tickets online, visit payments.auctionpay.com/ver3/?id=w014563.

For more information, contact Texas Solar Energy Society

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AccuPoll Poised To Bring Back Confidence In The Vote

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SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

TUSTIN, Calif. — There's a new voting machine company on the block. And it's out there competing with the well-entrenched likes of Diebold and ES&S for the nods of your secretaries of state and local voter registrars.

The newbie is AccuPoll Holdings Corporation, and it has just become the first electronic voting system with a Voter Verified Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) to meet the stringent qualifications of the 2002 Federal Election Commission Standards, the most recent hurdle the company jumped in its goal to qualify its voting system in all 50 states.

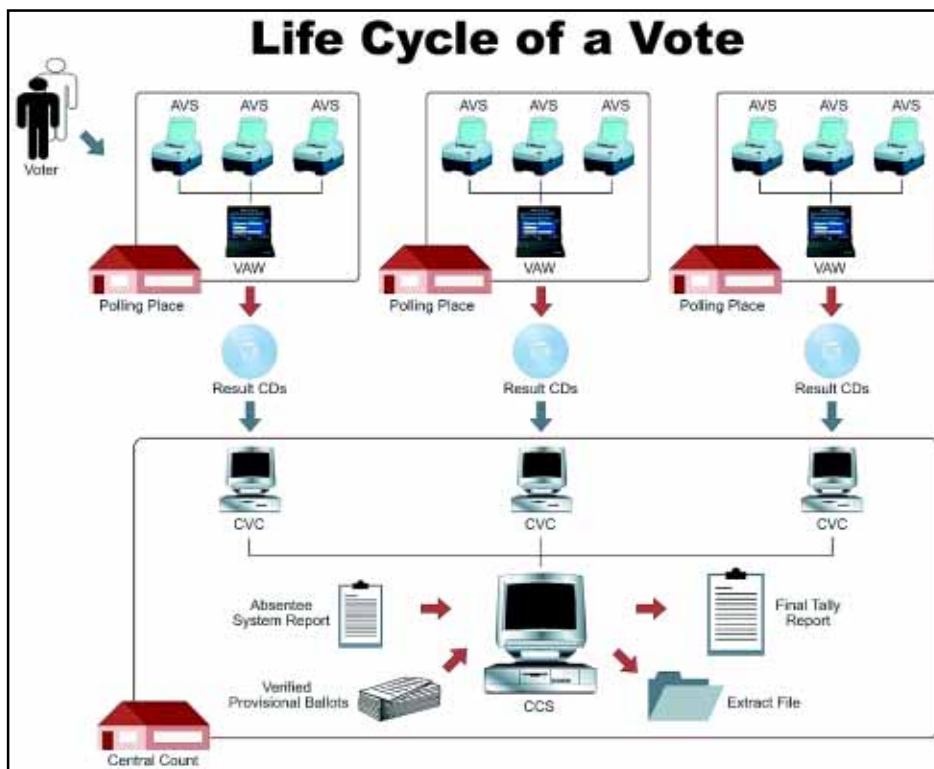
Since November of 2000, AccuPoll's Dennis Vadura, CEO, and Frank Wiebe, President, have been building a voting system from the ground up. Having worked together as systems consultants for several years, the pair have the complementary skills and perspectives needed for this project: Vadura, the technology solutions and Wiebe, the delivery.

"After the 2000 election," recalls Wiebe, "Dennis and I were discussing how a voting system could address all of the problems that occurred in Florida. We quickly concluded that the best system would include several audit mechanisms, most important of which is the voter paper audit."

Wiebe and Vadura created a vision of their concept and sent it off to the National Association of State Secretaries of State (NASS). When they were asked to present at the NASS meeting in February of 2001, the pair gathered a team of specialists and assembled their first voting station prototype in just three weeks. The positive reception they received from both Republican and Democratic members of NASS was the catalyst that moved their focus into what was to become AccuPoll.

Since the NASS event, AccuPoll has been building, testing, and refining its model, first to meet the standards of the 1990 Federal Elections Committee, achieved in March, 2004, and then to conform to the 2002 Committee standards prescribed by the Help America Vote Act (HAVA) of 2002, standards that must be put in place by every state by January 2006.

HAVA grants \$3.9 million to the states for new equipment, training, and other voting related activities. While HAVA



specifies certain changes in voting procedures, such as replacement of lever and punch card voting systems with electronic voting systems, some requirements, such as accommodations for foreign language speakers and disabled persons, are subject to interpretation and implementation by the states. This is especially true in the area of voter verification.

AccuPoll's philosophy is evidenced in its design: the more audits, the better.

"How can the public trust the results of an election if officials do not have a clear way to verify the voter's intent?" Wiebe posits. "In the event of a recount, election officials must have a record that can be counted that has also been verified by the voter."

Some members of Congress, however, are sponsoring bills to overturn the VVPAT legislation, claiming that a voting roster printed at the precinct after the polls close would be acceptable voter verification, even though the voter never sees it. (For more information on which states require what, visit <www.verifiedvoting.org>.)

AccuPoll has, in fact, six means of verification before the tally even leaves the precinct. Each station keeps two

permanent records of every entry made into the system as well as an image of the entire ballot cast, totaling three

electronic checks in the voting unit alone. At the same time, the ballot is recorded in a separate unit that monitors all of the voting stations at the polling area. The VVPAT is reviewed and placed into a locked box by the voter for potential later recount. Upon closing the polls, the entire precinct's results are tabulated on a paper printout and on CD. These records are then sent to a central data gathering center in the county to be combined with the election results from other precincts.

The system can also detect tampering. The company has chosen open source software instead of proprietary software that might create security concerns. AccuPoll's data base uses a structured query language that requires individual barcode passwords. (The "smart cards" automatically reset every 20 minutes!)

Not only is the AccuPoll voting system completely verifiable, it has created every practicable way of accommodating elderly, foreign and disabled persons. Conceptualize what is involved in making that possible.

On the accessible AccuPoll voting station, required by HAVA at each voter precinct, verbal instructions can be provided in almost any language through headphones, for foreign or vision impaired persons. The languages are set up for individual precinct depending on its demographics. To make the station mobility-accessible, the voting table is set high so that the legs of a wheelchair can fit under it. Special

screens are available for persons who are color blind, and color screens may be adjusted to change the contrast. Hand-held voter punch buttons of different shapes, colors, and Braille lettering can be selected instead of the touch-screen, and puff-sip devices can be used to vote by spinal injured persons. And these are just some of the accommodations.

AccuPoll's customary voting station has some distinctive features, too. The touch-screen, for example, can detect a selection made by a finger, pencil or other instrument, so those with minimal dexterity can use the machine. The paper receipt for voter verification is an inkjet printout that can be read or scanned by machine... nice touch if there has to be a paper recount. Thermal printouts, the kind you might get at the grocery store, are being used by some of the competing systems. (How would the San Diego mayor's race, for example, have been decided based on reading thermal printouts? The ink fades from my grocery receipts before I get home from the store!)



AccuPoll Screen Message

— Photo By Myra Per-Lee

AccuPoll is now eminently poised for the market place. The company has clearly taken advantage of hindsight in the development of its voting system. It's user-friendly, verifiable, recognized technologically....

It has stayed far away from politics. The company has no vested interest in who wins or loses an election; indeed its president and CEO are Canadian. No one on its Board of Directors holds a public office nor actively endorses candidates for political office.

It doesn't bestow gifts on its prospective customers or fly them around in corporate jets.

It just manufactures a state-of-the-art product that works and makes a giant leap towards regaining public confidence in the vote.

Refreshing, isn't it?

(AccuPoll Holdings Corporation is a public company, traded on the Over The Counter Bulletin Board (ACUP.OB). Detailed information about the company is available on its website at <www.AccuPoll.com>.)

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AccuPoll in use.

DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States

DAR Selects CHS Senior As Area 'Good Citizen'

WACO — The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, Elizabeth Gordon Bradley Chapter, has recognized three area high school seniors as DAR Good Citizens for 2005.

Mary Elizabeth Bucher, daughter of Randy and Cynthia Bucher is the DAR Good Citizen at Crawford High School.

DAR Good Citizen at China Spring High School is Jose Pedro Gloria III, son of Pete and Pat Gloria.

Meaghan Renee Fox, daughter of Paul and Lila Fox is the DAR Good Citi-

zen at McGregor High School.

Lillian Bursleson, chairman of the DAR Good Citizen Committee, presented Fox, the essay finalist, with a United States Savings Bond from the chapter. Her essay has been forwarded to the state level for advanced competition.

Each of the DAR Good Citizens received a certificate, pin and wallet recognition card. The DAR Good Citizen is judged on the qualities of dependability, service, leadership, and patriotism.



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Want To Hold Hands With A Republican? Reach For Your Wallet

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Nobody oughta feel like they ain't loved. The government will always screw you."

All you working people who thought you needed Neighbor Bush to protect you from gay married terrorists need to check your hip pockets.

You've been robbed.

According to last week's report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, average wages went up an average of a little less than one percent.

Well, sort of.

The upper 20 percent of of working families, those earning \$80,000 or more, saw their incomes increase by 1.1 percent. The bottom 20 percent lost — actually had their average wages decrease — 1.9 percent. The rest of us, the majority of us, got about 1 percent.

Of course the annual inflation rate is a little over three percent.

Which means if you work for a living, you're backing up into the first job loss recession recovery since the Second World War.

Gives a whole new meaning to "Remember Pearl Harbor," doesn't it?

Maybe we should all just go to Vegas.

The odds would be worse, but we'd get it over with a lot quicker.

And at least the whiskey would be free.

Now, there may be a few players out there who hit the odd blackjack and will whoop it up while the pit boss slaps you on the back:

"I got a bigger raise than that last year!"

Let's forget for a moment that the reports did say "average," which means somebody out there lost a little less than you gained, and that fascism depends on that kind of selfishness.

So let's just stick to the numbers. Did you get a 250 percent raise? Your boss did.

On average, CEO's got that kind of bump.

Some got more.

Some got less.

But since we're in a betting mood, I'll bet that if you work for a living and had a chance at the minimum that they got, you'd be in such a hurry to shake hands on it that you'd jerk the arm off anybody who offered.

Assuming that your boss isn't out on the shop floor with you, running a drill press because there's a truck coming in Friday, that is.

If he's a poor sucker small business owner who lives in your neighborhood, by the way, he lost an average nine percent of his income last year, assuming he wasn't one

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



of the 40 percent increase of small business bankruptcies. Of course he won't have to worry about bankruptcy next year. He can't file for it, thanks to the fascists in the Congress and the credit card companies who own them.

And neither can you.

But there's a bright side to this report.

Productivity is up four percent and the gross national product increased three percent.

Which means you're working harder and enjoying it less.

Unless you're a masochist.

Finally, in the last five years, when you consider the 150,000 Americans who join the job market each month, this economy has only produced 400,000 jobs. If we had added jobs at the rate of the previous five years, we'd be 4 million jobs ahead.

Of course those statistics might have something to do with the constant threat of having your job taken by a Sumatran paddy farmer whose idea of a raise is an extra handful of rice and a slice of nice fresh tsunami victim.

That threat might be abated somewhat by a couple of recent economists' reports that "offshoring" jobs really doesn't save money when you factor in drops in product output, a PR loss from poor customer service and increased transportation costs. The latter is really the big kahuna cost, but it keeps the oil companies happy, and guess how much stock influence oil companies have over the rest of business.

So don't look for American industry to come slinking back home with it's tail tucked.

It's still a big stick to hold over your workers if they want to join those pesky unions.

Hey, don't blame me if you don't like what you just read.

Complain to the Wall Street Journal, Forbes and the BLS.

And if Big Bizness is getting more production out of your pocket, who's complaining?

Certainly not all you folks who are safe from those gay married terrorists, low test scoring non-praying evolution schools and tube unplugging birth controllers.

Editorial

Opinion - Columns - Letters

OP/ED

— Editorial —

Outsourcing: False Economy, Real Oil Profits

Reports on the hidden costs of job outsourcing are beginning to demystify the false economy of the Bush Administration's favorite method of reducing American workers' salaries.

Economists began to warn American big business more than a year ago that exporting jobs results in a net loss to the U.S. economy. An Indian or Chinese programmer may live the good life in his country on a mere \$7,000 per year, but he will never live like an American worker making \$70,000. His food, clothing, housing, all his expenses require a greater percentage of his total income than the American worker pays.

Most important, he certainly won't buy American businesses' products even if they are manufactured in low-wage country; he can't afford them.

Likewise, the salary cost for a Wal-Mart t-shirt made in a third world country may make money for the manufacturer, but the American consumer actually pays more for it than if it were made by a U.S. company.

Why?

Transportation cost and infrastructure.

The countries we have come to depend on for our manufactured goods simply do not have the transportation technology or the personnel to move the volume of goods that American companies ship on a regular basis.

They simply are not accustomed to getting that much material aboard a ship on time.

The great irony of outsourcing is that while high tech jobs may be easily farmed out overseas, the remaining labor force in those countries is pitifully ill-equipped to function in a modern world. According to the *Wall Street Journal*, even in the "Silicon Valley" of India, Bangalore, two out of three children will never attend high school.

That figure is a high for most of the countries we are depending on for our labor force.

To make up for consistent delivery shortfalls, American companies are forced to pay for premium transport, such as air freight, to ensure that goods arrive on time. In other words, if you don't want the bulk of your spring line to arrive at the stores in August, you'd better call FedEx.

And pay what they ask.

There is a laundry list of warnings about outsourcing regularly filling trade publications:

Lack of understanding American business practices, particularly customer service; language problems with both the home office and with consumers; lost control over personnel and production; high cost of replacing and training overseas personnel (especially if you find, as many businesses have, that some jobs are better done in the U.S.) or security and confidentiality (Most third world countries see nothing wrong with selling trade secrets to another countryman or a local company.)

So why does Neighbor Bush and the fascist Congressional majority insist on rewarding outsourcing with tax breaks?

Oil companies love it. American business is consuming more petroleum at a higher cost, and profits have never been so high.

Lowering American salaries is a secondary goal, as has been clearly demonstrated by the new "guest worker" program. It's not that Americans won't do the jobs in question; they just won't do them for \$5 an hour when the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a worker requires \$15 per hour to pay the basic cost of living.

America must have an immediate response at the voting booth to the Bush goal of turning the United States into a third world country. We must raise a groundswell of popular support in the upcoming midterm election to throw out the members of Congress who support policies to lower the American standard of living. We cannot rely on the weak-willed Democratic Party to do that for us; they lack the courage. We must seek out and support determined individuals who pledge to refuse the legal bribery of special interest campaign contributions.

If this requires a rebellion that will smash the rigged voting machines along with the oilrig political machines, so be it.

We owe it to our children.

We must force both parties back to their Constitutional purpose: of the people, by the people and for the people.

That means the American people.

All of them.

— Written By Don M. Fisher

When Seniors Attack!!!

I was scared of old people before I moved to Central Texas.

By *old people*, I mean, people who are so old they remember the day they stopped speaking Norwegian and/or German in Lutheran churches.

It didn't take me long, though, to see beyond their wrinkles, especially since there are four nursing homes within a mile of my house, and I have to interact with them almost everyday, being that I'm a small town newspaper reporter.

I quickly found that old people have the same wants and desires as your average American college student, though old people tend to float more ice cream than kegs.

The first sign that my fear of the aged diminished was when I became friends with this one old dude before he passed away last year. To me, "Otto von Bismarck" was as cool as Link Wray ... well, because I think the following would have probably been his response to the so-called "Social Security crisis:"

"Crisis? You call that a *crisis*? Why, I've wrestled more knives out of the hands of rabid pastors' kids in my day than I knew what do with. We'd play 'hot potato' with rattlesnake heads, and when we were bored, we'd juggle lit fireworks. Hoo-ahh!

"I'll tell you how to cure Social Security of its ills — tell the government not to give our taxes to Wall Street and all them bankers. Our healthcare money should go directly to doctors. Cut out those middlemen crooks!"

Then, I'd get an earful about why So-

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



cial Security, Medicare, and Medicaid are so important and how "the good old days have seen better days:"

"Fascism was a bad deal. It still is, yet today's HMOs are run like yesterday's coal mines. Segregation was a rotten institution, but there's still AIDS in Africa.

"Feminism was a bad idea, too, but don't tell that to any of my four daughters — they're doctors, and they *will* pull my plug if they ever found out I said that. Ha-Ha! Chips off the old block!"

Some seniors have better moments than others.

But most of them have never forgotten the Great Depression, World War II, can-do spirit, collective sacrifice, rationing, "Victory Speed" (35 mph), "When you drive ALONE, you drive with Hitler. Join a car-sharing club," and "Waste Helps The Enemy."

It would be a fitting tribute to all old people in the U.S. for insurance companies to sacrifice themselves and treat old people like human beings, instead of account numbers.

French environmentalist Jacques Cousteau once said, "People protect what they love." But my question is, what should we love more, health or wealth?

Here's a hint: It's not the economy, stupid!

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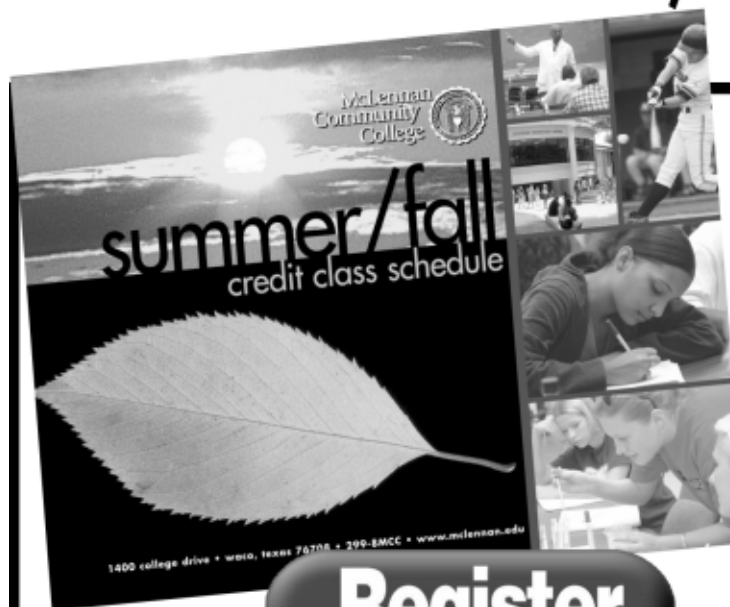
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The Overton / Hulén Family Tales

By Jerry V. Overton and Don Fisher

My name is Jerry Overton and my associate here is Don Fisher. Don, you already know since he writes for this publication. Me, I am not a writer, at least not this type of writer. I am a geologist. And since I speak fluent Texan, I unfortunately also write in Texan. So you already know that Don is cleaning up anything I write here. First a bit about who we are and why these articles should be written.

My grandmother's maiden name was Sarah Jane Hulén and Don's grandfather was her brother, Luther Hulén. That makes Don and me cousins, several times removed.

But I have known Don since we were both very young, even though he is a whole lot older than me.

(Editor's note: Ain't neither.)

My grandmother married William Johnson Overton in the later 1880's. Thus begins the Overton / Hulén relationship.

Since that union there have been more than five generations of Overtons and Huléns. That means a lot of kids, grandkids, great grandkids, great great grandkids, and, well you get the idea. Through these generations there have been preachers, politicians, outlaws, lawmen, teachers and a whole lot of interesting people, and a few not so interesting. That also means a lot of good stories, some of which Don and I know, or our brothers, sisters, cousins, etc. know, some lost forever due to the passing of grandparents and parents. Several years ago my wife and I talked about trying to record as many of my Dad and Mother's stories as possible, but never got around to doing so. Now we are going to have to rely on our memory or the memory of others in the family.

A few weeks ago my Dad passed away. At the funeral Don and I had an opportunity to talk for awhile. I expressed a desire to write down some of the stories by Dad told before they are lost. In an earlier article in this publication, "Riding For The Brand," Don introduced you to my Dad, Leon Overton. Don desires to do the same for stories he has heard from his side of the family. Don and I are going to try to put some of these stories down for our children, etc., and for you the reader in the form of a book of stories. That's right, you are going to be the guinea pigs. You are going to have the privilege of reading these stories in this publication as we get them down on paper, or in this case into cyberspace, and as we prepare to put them into a book of stories. Who knows, we might even sell a few copies. Many of our stories are going to overlap but that's okay, we will probably add our embellishments to them as we go along anyway. But, for the most part they will be true, as true as those who related the stories to us were truthful, at least as far as the basic story goes anyway.

The stories we spin here will be, for the most part, humorous, some will be serious, all will be historical, and for some we will have to change the names to protect the innocent, or not so innocent reputations. We sure don't want the family getting upset with us. In all, these stories are dedicated to the memories of our families that have

passed before us and to the long lasting memories through their tales that we have all enjoyed hearing many times over. We hope that you, the reader, will also enjoy these tales of the Overton / Hulén families.

I am going to start with a short story my Dad told me only last Thanksgiving. Of course I had heard parts of it earlier, but he told me the full story only recently. So here goes.

Semi-Professional Baseball

Dad was a big man, for his time. He was five foot eleven inches tall. That was well above average, even big, for someone born in 1910. I looked it up. The average height of a male in the 1920's - 1930's was only about five foot six inches to five foot seven inches. He weighed 210 pounds, and as he always told us, "I never deviated more than five pounds from that weight" from age 20 until he was well into his 80's".

By the time he was in his teens, he was as big as most grown men. He also had jet black hair, this is from our Choctaw/Cahaba Indian heritage. Even with the Indian heritage, he had a heavy beard. All this made him look a lot older when he was young.

He was also very athletic. Unfortunately, he had little opportunity as a kid to express this athleticism, at least not until he was 12. Small rural East Texas schools didn't have organized sports during this time period. However, he, like the rest of the country, was fascinated with baseball. His dad, my grandfather, worked with him almost every day. Playing catch or hitting groundballs to him to shag. Dad grew up on a sharecropper farm near Blossom, Texas. For those who don't know where Blossom is, it's near Detroit. Detroit, Texas that is. This is in Northeast Texas where the dirt is black and when wet it gets bigger and bigger on your shoes as you walk through it. It's referred to in that part of the country as "black gumbo". There wasn't much time for playing ball but both Dad and Poppa (granddad) so enjoyed this activity that regardless of how late or how tired they were, they spent some time playing ball.

On an early Summer day in 1923, when he was 12, Dad was sent into Blossom on some errand by grandmother. By chance (yeah right!) on his way to town, he passed by the semi-pro baseball field, where the team was practicing. As would be expected of a normal 12-year-old fascinated with the sport, he stopped to watch. He knew several of the players, since many were local young men that he had known for most of his young life. He struck up a casual conversation with a man leaning against the fence near the bench. This man, Mickey Reynolds, turned out to be the coach; although Dad didn't know this at the time. Mr. Reynolds, as Dad always referred to him, was lamenting the poor play of the third-baseman.

"If we only had a decent third-baseman", he said, "We would be a great team, rather than an average team."

Dad watched for awhile and said, more to himself than anyone else, he could do a better job at third than "this

bozo". The coach overheard him and, not knowing that he was only 12 years old, told Dad to "put my glove where my mouth is".

Dad was pretty cocky, even at 12, so he took the challenge. The batter who was hitting grounders to the infield, hit a few easy ones in the direction of Dad. He had no trouble fielding these grounders. The coach, realizing that he was being made a fool of by this upstart, instructed the batter to "give him a few hot ones". After about 30 minutes of successfully fielding these "hot ones" and making accurate throws to first base, the coach felt he had better put him in his place. He called the team in for batting practice. He had their best pitcher throw batting practice and told Dad to lead off. Dad proceeded to hit everything thrown to him and place most as singles or doubles.

As Dad walked away from the batters box, the coach called him over, introduced himself as the coach, and offered him a chance to play for the team. Remember, Dad was as big as most of the other players even at that age. Dad looked at him for a moment and proceeded to inform him that he was only 12 and that his mom wouldn't like him missing school to play baseball. She always thought he and Poppa were just wasting time when they played catch or shagged grounders in the evenings. The coach turned red when he realized that he had offered a semi-pro contract to a pre-teen, then thought over the exhibition Dad put on in the field and at bat. He then modified his offer to allow him to work out with the team on Saturday mornings, play in the afternoon, usually double headers, and practice with the team or play if they had a game on Sunday afternoons. For weekend away games, he would get room and board paid and would be home by Sunday evening. He would be paid fifty cents per game. A fortune to a 12 year old, and a great help to a sharecropper family in 1920's East Texas.

Oh yes, he forgot about the errand and got his "hide tanned" when he finally got home late that Summer day.

This started Dad's career as a semi-pro baseball player.

The first game was played the following weekend at Blossom; a double header on Saturday afternoon against a team from Paris, Texas. Dad started at third base and batted in the ninth position. He started three double plays and had two hits in that game with no errors. His position with the team was set.

He played for the Blossom team (I never thought to ask the name of the team) for six years. When he was 18, Dad left the Blossom / Detroit area for West Texas where he took a job on a cattle ranch. After arriving in Hereford, Texas, he quickly found a semi-pro baseball team in Clovis, New Mexico where he played for another 10 years before moving on to a second ranch near Dalhart, Texas and retiring from semi-professional baseball. While he was playing for Clovis he led the State League in hits, RBI's and homeruns three years.

He not only excelled in baseball, he was a champion calf roper both in rodeos and on the ranch. When asked why he was so good at baseball and at calf roping, seemingly very different sports, he replied that both required good eye-hand coordination. But calf-roping is a story for another time.

I suppose the best introduction to my part of this work is to say Larry and I come from a family of story tellers.

It is perhaps derived from living in isolated environments, farms or ranches miles from town and more miles from the rest of a family scattered by poverty and circumstance.

We would see each some relatives rarely, weddings, funerals and the like, but then only when the land would let us go. Those occasions were sort of a cross between a vacation and a chapter from *The Grapes of Wrath*.

We children would occasionally find ourselves sharing bed or even a bath in time of drought, with blood we barely knew, but knew as blood, and that somehow made cold feet and pulled covers alright.

There was always catching up and reminiscence among the adults, the only way of really keeping up with the lives that were once close. And I suppose there was the Irish or Indian tradition in our blood that dictated a story must be interesting and entertaining.

I can hardly remember anyone in the family who wasn't good at it.

First came the latest events, but they were less interesting but more necessary than those were old standards that would occupy the later evening, reiterated and embellished the way I suppose musicians do with favored numbers. They were directed at the children: Did you boys hear about when Floyd Hulén tried to ride a Jersey cow, or when the vice president's daddy tried to steal grandpa's hammer?

But they were really fare for the whole family, and usually had a few sidebars tossed in from the audience, so that telling a really good story became a family production. Few Overtons or Huléns were blessed with tuneful buckets, but it's a rare cousin who can't spin a good yarn.

So, week to week, pull your rocker out here on the porch and listen to tales of heroes, clowns and villains from one family, probably much like those from all our families, the dying light of a changing nation.

Speaking of baseball, perhaps the strangest baseball story is one I never heard.

Fred Fisher, my dad, and Leon Overton frequently talked about those days when it was not just a game, but *the* game.

Dad was a pitcher.

He rode the rails, cashing in on his arm from town to town.

Four bits a game.

Furnish your own glove and spikes.

On those long summer nights years later I remember Leon and Floyd razzing Dad about his "spikes."

He wore a size 13 double E shoe, and there was no such animal when it came to real baseball spikes. And a pitcher has to have spikes.

He said he would have rather pitched

Continued On Next Page

The Overton / Hulen Family Tales

Continued From Previous Page

barefoot, but that would, for some reason, raise the ire of the opposing team. The rulebook said you had to wear shoes.

I suspect it probably had to do with giving the town boys a fighting chance against those who chased after coonhounds and drove post mauls for a living.

So dad would find players who'd worn out their shoes and take the metal plates off them, then persuade a local cobbler or harness maker to attach them to his brogans.

But other than those few snatches of conversation, I know only one story about my father's baseball career.

It had to do with work, which was the focal point of all my knowledge about my dad: He worked, and I tried to keep up with him.

Before he was orphaned, not quite in his teens, he and my Uncle Arthur were ordered by their father to spend a Saturday afternoon planting peas in the cornfield middles. The legumes replaced the nitrogen in the soil that corn devours. Otherwise next year's corn crop would be diminished, and the year after that would be non-existent.

They wanted to go play baseball.

But my grandfather, who had starved his way through Reconstruction, was not a man with whom to argue labor relations.

After a few rows, Arthur turned to my

father and said, "Gimme them peas. I'll plant 'em."

With that, he dug a hole with his hoe, poured in the peas and covered the evidence.

"Did you boys finish," my grandfather asked suspiciously.

"We planted ever' pea," Arthur said, and they were released to play ball.

Except that Arthur had not planned his subterfuge.

He buried the peas at the end of the row.

Which is where, a few days later, a knotted mass of pea shoots grew up for my grandfather to see, before they died.

Dad said he and Arthur learned a new use for a plow rein.

That was my dad's way of reminding me that your sins will revisit you, as will your work. You can only make one of them a welcome guest.

But he never talked to me about baseball.

We never had a game of catch.

He, in fact, discouraged my less than stellar little league career.

He never took me to a baseball game; although he would sit out on the porch late in the evening and listen to the Saint Louis Cardinals on the radio, even after we got a television and he could have watched them.

He never said so, but it was clear he preferred to be alone.

But years later, when I ran a newspa-

per in my hometown and my day was gone, a man came into my office and said he'd seen my byline. Was I related to Fred Fisher?

Dad had gone on to a successful teaching career, then went into politics.

He'd taught an army, and he'd done a great deal to serve his constituents, so I was used to the question.

But this wasn't a former student or someone grateful for a favor.

"Your dad was the greatest natural baseball pitcher I've ever seen."

I was a little taken aback, and I usually react to that by making self-effacing jokes.

The stranger wasn't amused.

"Son, I spent twenty years with the front office of the Saint Louis Cardinals, most of them as a scout. He was the greatest natural pitcher I ever saw. I played against him, and I never knew a batter that faced him who wasn't scared to death of him. He had a fastball that sounded like a rifle shot when it hit the catcher's mit, and a curve that ran away from your bat. I always expected to see him again somewhere up the road, but I never did. I came in here because I always wondered what happened to him. Why I never ran into him in the big leagues."

So have I.

I asked my brother about it, who said Dad said something about "throwing his arm away" in a snowball fight.

But once we were night fishing on the upper end of Lake Whitney. We arrived on the river to discover we'd left the bait.

As turned the car around to go back and get it, the lights fell on two cottontail rabbits, blinded and therefore, frozen.

"Wait just a minute," Dad said. "We may not have to go anywhere."

He stepped out of the car and picked up a couple of larger rocks from the gravel road.

Whap!

He hit the first one in the head at about 30 feet.

Whap!

The second rabbit died at least 50 feet away.

We fished with butchered rabbit that night.

I never thought about the astounding nature of what he did. I was a little boy; he was my father. He could do anything.

But I now wonder if that was the feat of a man who had thrown his arm away.

There are some things I will never tell my sons; probably more that I won't tell my daughter. Usually that is because I don't want them to feel empowered to repeat my foolishness.

Some are simply too close or painful to trouble them with.

But I do wonder, as he sat there in the dark all those years listening to those tinny cheers from so far away, was he looking for something he lost, or grateful for what he'd found.

By Jerry V. Overton and Don Fisher

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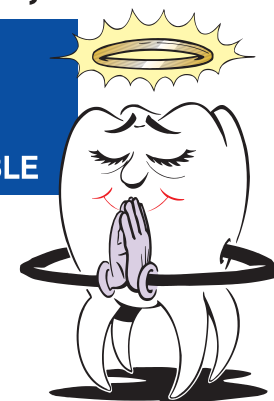
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One Of Those Daze

Did you ever have one of those days?

Well, yesterday, I had a doozy.

It began with a most rude awakening. Before consciously opening my eyes, brushing my teeth, dosing myself with the five vital daily meds, or even enjoying so much as one sip of brain-jolting coffee, I was assailed with a question concerning the state of the checkbook balance.

“Question” is a gross understatement – it was more like a cruise missile landing in our home office.

My wife, a beautiful, warm and wonderful woman whom I love dearly, went into an advanced state of shock because both of our checking account balances were askew. Account A, the one I usually tend to, was suddenly lower than expected; account B, which Mary keeps track of, wouldn't balance out. Somehow, with my cerebral functioning still desensitized by the influence of Morpheus, I was expected to remember where, when and for how much I had written checks lately.

It wasn't anything I had done, mind you. I had just balanced Account A and was absolutely certain there was a reasonable balance. However, I refrained from pointing a finger... *any* finger, *any* direction.

Once the gnashing of teeth was over and the smoke had cleared, Mrs. T realized the error of her ways. She had made a payment from “A” that was supposed to have come from “B”. So, a little transfer and, Voila! Situation rectified. Ain't electronic banking from the comfort of your own home just grand?

In the parlance of Charlie Brown, “Good grief!” Ah, this was to be but the beginning of my day of exasperation.

Once we got through this initial crisis and my Dearest left to see some clients, I went outside to do a little watering of new flowers and replacement grass. To savor the spring morning I took along my coffee. Something told me not to use a regular cup, so I opted for a titanium travel mug, the sturdiest we own. Good thing, too, because while fiddling with the hose I dropped the mug on the driveway, thus spilling the coffee.

Now, I had gotten this fancy new power strip doohickey that goes under your monitor instead of sitting on the floor where it's impossible to reach. There are on/off switches for each device plug-in, marked accordingly, and the gizmo just makes sense (if you're a guy). What should have taken my son, Pete, and me about 20 minutes to hook up turned into nearly an hour.

At one point I went into a storage closet to get a couple of extension cords. As I took one out, half a shelf of stuff fell out on me, including a Red Devil (the bigger one) and a Swiffer broom. I dunno. Just one snag after another.

Pete had to get to his job, so getting the aforementioned job done took precedence over other things. Such as ingesting caffeine. By the time I got around to pouring myself another cup of coffee it had been on the heating element so long it could pass for Missouri mud. And I really didn't want to take the time to make some fresh.

Perhaps I should have...

Once the lad went to work I attempted to change a defective light fixture on the ceiling fan in our family room. After months of searching for one that was just right, I thought I had finally found a replacement several days ago. I took the light assembly apart and tried to affix the new unit, but to my chagrin it was too small. Silly me – I was under the impression that all these ceiling fan parts were uniformly interchangeable.

So, I had no choice but to put the old fixture back up. Durn near an hour lost.

Finally, some time to check my mail and get caught up on the morning news from those Liberal anti-Republican newspapers back East.

Now, I never really liked the four moveable lamp housings on the ceiling fan in our home office, somewhat akin to track lighting without the track. But,

my son picked it out while it had been his bedroom and so there we were.

The past few days it seemed as though the angle of these lights was off, with the light concentrated in one area instead of all around. So, before sitting in front of the computer I made an attempt to adjust the lamp housings. When one of the bulbs blew out I replaced it and continued to adjust the angles.

The next thing I knew the entire fixture sparked, popped and... the breaker for that room shut itself off!

No computer, no fax, no answering machine. I couldn't do anything without dismantling the ceiling fan, at least partially.

Just what I needed.

I had had it by that point. That drained me of all energy. It was just one thing too many.

I needed a time out. I fixed myself lunch (it wasn't even 1:00 yet) and sat down in my recliner in front of the television, something I rarely do during the day (except to watch news or the latest on the Jacko trial).

Before I knew it the phone awakened me. It was my wife, and about 2:30. She needed a fax sent to her office. I was so out of it I couldn't even explain why that would be impossible. Her day was going about the same as mine.

I hung up and instantly fell back asleep.

Something, I don't know what, woke me around 3:15. I took the light off the fan in the office but saw that fixing it was probably not a viable option. It seemed like getting replacement parts was the best solution, so I showered before going out.

Now, it was fairly nice outside when I went into the shower. I had left a bunch of windows open. Less than 10 minutes later, however, as I got out of the shower it was raining in biblical proportions, wind blowing and coming down as though the end of days were upon us.

And there, in our newly painted dining room, rain was blowing in to beat the band!

Just as I was getting ready to leave Pete came home. I told him to change and run some errands with me. While getting dressed, the button popped off my shorts and went flying across the room!

Our first stop was the store where we had originally purchased the ceiling fan. They still carried that model, but no parts to match.

We went to another home improvement store, but their selection was even slimmer.

While at the second store, Dearest called again. When I explained what happened, she suggested just replacing the entire fan – something I had considered but didn't want to get into.

So, back across town to home improvement store number one for a new ceiling fan. And not the same model.

So, what happened when we went back out to Pete's car? It wouldn't start. No electrical response with anything. Fortunately, it was only a loose battery cable and a little jiggle solved the problem. But we had to deal with it in a torrential rain!

Finally, we got home and I figured we'd leave everything until the morning. I could take down the ceiling fan, cap the wires and we could at least use the computer.

But it wasn't over.

It's evening, and we're watching the Cubs play the dreaded St. Louis Cardinals. In the third inning Nomar Garciaparra hits a ground ball to the shortstop with a man on first. The Cards make the play at second, then throw Nomar out at first.

But Nomar's nowhere to be seen.

He never made it past home plate. The Cubs' All-Star shortstop is on the ground with a groin pull of indeterminate severity, and out for who knows how long.

Whatever it was passed from my wife and me in Normal, Illinois, right through the television and satellite to Busch Stadium in St. Louis, Missouri. Again, I say, “Good grief!”

Well, it could be worse. We could be residents of Sugarland, Texas.



Out Of The Blue

By
**Jerry
Tenuto**

You May Be Going A Little Country If...

This is an ongoing list. I reserve the right to add to it at any time. I hope you will help me by sending your own suggestions to THE ICONOCLAST or by sending them directly to me in care of the paper. (My offerings are obviously from a woman's point of view, but everyone is invited to add to the list).

You may be going a little country (or perhaps ARE a little — or a LOT — country) if:

1. You utter sentences that belong in C&W songs. Example: —“I left my hairclip on the chain saw.”
2. Your favorite footwear has changed from Manolo Blahnik strappy sandals (if you are a woman) to knee high gore-tex, camo waterproof hiking boots.
3. You have discovered that Wal-Mart sells women's work boots with steel toes, and this makes you deliriously happy. (When you share this news with your city friends, they look at you like you've lost what was left of your sanity).
4. You step in things like cow poop or mud holes without a second thought. (I notice that city folks often try hard to avoid these). Then you remove your boots before entering the house, of course.
5. You walk unhesitatingly through wide, shallow creeks rather than searching out an alternate route.
6. You don't get crazy when the dog you just bathed hits every tank and water trough on any and every walk.
7. You can't remember the last time you shopped at a mall. Really. (You're pretty country if it has been longer than six months. I qualify). You get your shopping fix instead from hardware stores and feed stores.
8. You know the difference between a cow and a weaned heifer.
9. You listen to the local weather report more than three times a day or on at least three various media sources.
10. You know the differences between a packer, a planter, a posthole digger, a broadcaster, a blade, and a rock rake.
11. You know how heavy your end of a 16-foot pipe and wire gate is going to feel when you have to help hang one.
12. You've had to break ice in a water trough with a sledgehammer.
13. You can pick up, transport, drop and remove wire from a round bale of hay in less than 10 minutes flat (if you don't have to take it too far).
14. You can fire up the air compressor and use it, if necessary.
15. You don't cringe when the cowboys start talking about the advantages of banding over cutting.
16. You don't blush when the same cowboys go into minute detail about the reproductive systems/diseases/lactation of cows, AI, and implanting frozen embryos.
17. You know when to get the wire stretcher, how to put on a T-post clip or twist on a stave, and what the old pair of fence pliers looks like. You can find all these items in the farm truck (the traveling tool box).
18. You are smart enough to use a small sledgehammer to drive fence staples into dense cedar posts, even if most men wouldn't be caught dead doing it.
19. You know the difference between Rockies and Wranglers.
20. You are secure enough in your femininity (if you are female) to do all the things you do as well as some men and be darned proud of it.
21. You aren't afraid to get filthy while working, but you clean up real, real good.
22. You know enough to ask for heavy starch at the cleaners.
23. At least one of the radio buttons on your truck is tuned to a C&W station.
24. You sometimes find yourself humming or singing variations of “Thank God I'm a country boy/girl” even if you hated every other song by late John Denver.

I could go on and on. Let's finish this list together. I have a feeling it will be ongoing as life unfolds!

Rustic
Ramblings

By Gene Ellis



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

Behind Every Country Star Is A Good Soda Wrangler

As I mentioned several weeks ago, I was invited to participate in a music video by country singer Adam Marshall, whose single "Cowboy Hat" was released last week. Though I haven't actually seen the finished video yet, I can tell you the music is great, that everyone in it is attractive, and they can all dance really well. Which is why I can say, with some certainty, I am not in the final cut.

Yes, I was wearing a cowboy hat and boots.

Yes, I met Adam Marshall.

And yes, I did get so nervous dancing with a "Coyote Ugly" girl that I forgot things like my name, and how to utilize my central nervous system. In my own defense, I didn't realize "Coyote Ugly"

was a euphemism for someone at a singles bar who is highly attractive; at least not until I stepped forward to meet my dance partner and politely introduced myself as "Wowwy."

That was pretty much the extent of our small talk, which there is a lot of during a video shoot. That's because for every minute the cameras were rolling, there was at least an hour of preparation time for things like make-up, lighting, sound checks, and administering first-aid to my dance partner. However, the majority of our preparation time was spent on "blocking," which is when the director decides where the "Talent" will be in each shot. As it turned out, the director involved me in this crucial decision-making process several times,



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

often by suggesting, "Someone please move Ned, he's blocking the Talent again."

On the second day of shooting, after recognizing my inability to dance, act, or form a complete sentence in the presence of any "Coyote Ugly" girls, Adam took me aside. We discussed how I could contribute to his video in ways more suited to my particular talents. After a long discussion, we determined this would be by holding his soda between takes. I excelled at this and quickly became known to crewmembers as "Adam's Soda Guy." This was much better than my previous titles, "Who Is This Guy," "She Won't Dance With This Guy," and "Someone Please Hog-Tie This Guy."

In addition to the instant prestige I gained, there were also a lot of perks in being Adam's personal "soda wrangler." For example, using my authority to skip to the front of the beverage line whenever I said, "Adam needs a soda." This worked even after they took my bull horn away, and I was forced to make my announcement through a rolled-up issue of COUNTRY WEEKLY. I

also insisted on wearing a walkie-talkie so that if we were separated, I could still meet Adam's beverage consumption needs by contacting him on a regular basis. This turned out to be a good idea since, coincidentally, we were separated more and more as the day went on. In fact, there was a frightening two-hour period where we had no contact at all. Fortunately, everything was OK and, according to his producer, Adam had simply misplaced his walkie-talkie after throwing it into a nearby lake. Adam later explained to me that it had nothing to do with being annoyed, and that he was simply demonstrating to a crewmember how, as a Marine, he had been taught to lob a grenade.

After two days of watching Adam serenade the camera with his song "Cowboy Hat," I suddenly realized there's really only one thing keeping my own dream of being a country music star from coming true:

A complete lack of talent.

Which isn't to say my dream of country stardom is completely out of reach. Who knows? There's always a chance I could make it to the stage of the Grand Ole Opry.

Even if it is just to bring Adam a soda.

I'll keep my walkie-talkie handy, just in case.

(I'd like to thank Adam Marshall and his producer, Steven Rotan, for being such gracious hosts and good sports. To check out the video "Cowboy Hat" online, go to www.adammarshallmusic.com, or watch for it later this month on your favorite country music cable channel.)

Faking It

You know all those annoying people who talk into their cell phones as if you weren't standing right next to them? It turns out that many of them aren't really talking to anybody. The "New York Times" recently described research at Rutgers University as well as the Ethics and Public Policy Center that found that a great number of cell phone users are faking it.

A number of people make fake phone calls on their cell phones just for the benefit of those around them. Someone who's late for work may enter the office talking to "an important client" to cover her tardiness. Others pretend they get a call when they don't want to talk to someone who's standing right in front of them. Not surprisingly, some of those big deals you hear people negotiate on the phone are just done to impress those within earshot. Men will pretend to be on a call as they walk over to hit on a woman. Women will pretend to be on a call to avoid getting hit on by men.

Maybe this sounds like a creative use of technology to you, but I think it stinks. It was bad enough when I thought people were being rude, talking loudly about their personal lives to someone while looking right at me. Now I find out that they're being rude and not even talking to anybody!

Many of the cell phone tricksters say they pretend to be on a call just to be noticed. Until now, whenever I've seen crazy drivers on the phone swerve all over the road or come to an inexplicable stop, I've always felt they were just making a call that could probably wait until the drive was over. I'd pull up next to them and give them the traditional shake of the head and dirty look. Now, it turns out that my look may be exactly what the "caller" was hoping for. They're not putting our lives in danger because they're ordering a pizza delivered to their house. They're doing it because they want us to notice their new blouse or tie.

We're all probably pretty understanding when someone we're sharing an elevator with is talking baby talk into his cell phone, ending with, "Daddy will be home soon." But now that we know that "Daddy" might not



By
**Lloyd
Garver**

even have a kid, and might be talking to the weather forecast, we may not be so forgiving next time.

And that's a problem, because next time, "Daddy" might be real, and I don't want to tell some guy to get off the phone because he's faking it only to learn that he's really talking to his sick kid. So, these fakers have the potential to make the rest of us the bad guys.

The only way to deal with this is to fight faking with faking. When you're waiting to get off a plane and the guy next to you makes that, "We're just pulling into the gate, and I'll call you from the baggage" call, you can top it with, "This is the last time I fly commercial. I'll meet you at the helicopter."

When that obnoxious businessman shouts into his phone, declaring he's about to make a fortune because he was clever enough to buy Amalgamated Apple Sauce at 12, you can always talk into yours and say, "What's that? Amalgamated Apple Sauce is down to 3½? Well, at least I sold in time."

And maybe we'll be tempted to resort to the ultimate defensive tactic. When we're surrounded by callers talking away on their electronic pals, we can always take out our cellular and say, "I understand Mr. President. All personal, civilian cellular calls should be terminated ASAP. I will notify the people around me immediately, sir."

Maybe that will at least give us a few minutes of silence – until one of those phone fakers "needs to be noticed."

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier." He also has read many books, some of them in hard-cover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page, and can be reached at lloydgarver@yahoo.com

The story catches up with FBI agent Gracie Hart (Sandra Bullock) shortly after she successfully disarmed a threat against the Miss United States Pageant while working undercover as a contestant in Miss Congeniality. Having become a media celebrity following her heroic pageant exploits, Gracie has been spending more time lately at the salon than the shooting range, working the talk show circuit and promoting her book. When her friends, pageant winner Cheryl and emcee Stan, are kidnapped in Las Vegas, Gracie's all-out efforts to jump back into action to save them puts her at loggerheads with the FBI top brass who don't want to risk losing their mascot and fear she might not be up to the job anymore

Rated PG-13 2 hrs.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

A few weeks ago, everybody and his dogs were obsessed with the death of Terri Shiavo. Even our beloved politicians got their two cents worth involved. I have one question. If heaven is that wonderful place where there is no headache, sorrow, or pain, why couldn't people just stand back and let her go? For 15 years that poor woman.... Perhaps, they were not thinking about her.

Cleon Flanagan
Clifton, Texas

To The Editor:

I read today that James Dobson, Focus founder and chairman, has decided to target democratic senators such as U.S. Sen. Ken Salazar based on the fact that he thinks he represents mainstream American values.

Well... as of right now ... I have formed a New American Patriotic Group called Patriots for a Moral America. Its purpose is to Target evangelical Christian groups such as Focus for their un-American ways. The idea that they wish to force their views that are not mainstream on the rest of us makes them a threat to this country.

Please do not donate to my group. Please donate to Senators such as Sen. Ken Salazar who have to deal with the negative publicity and the verbal assaults by these extremists groups.

Angie Pratt

To The Editor:

Everyone is invited to the Town Square Rally on the green lawns at the Hays County Courthouse to hear a Democratic point of view on Social Security. Won't you please attend to hear directly from Democrats and realize that the television rant does not really represent your Democratic neighbors.

We want healthy social values upheld in Washington and we want to speak freely of our values and share them with each other. Let us all continue to speak out and create a visible political presence in Hays County.

Democracy itself calls us to the Town Square – not just the virtual town square of the internet – but the actual Town Square where we can meet each other under the spreading oak trees on a pretty spring afternoon.

Come to the steps of the Hays County Courthouse, April 30 from noon to 3 p.m. Speakers include Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-Texas), Jim Hightower, former Texas Agriculture Commissioner, and David Van Os, attorney at law and candidate for Texas Attorney

Social Justice Conference In Charlotte May 7

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The 6th Annual Social Justice Conference is slated for Saturday, May 7, at 10 a.m., in Charlotte, N.C.

The Coalition for Peace and Justice will sponsor a conference on the theme of Racism — both local and global — on Saturday, May 7 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Main Public Library's Auditorium, 310 North Tryon Street.

Guest panelists will include Greensboro community activist Ed Whitfield

General. The event is sponsored by the San Marcos Area Democrats.

Democracy itself calls us to live in graceful community with each other — your presence is invited at this Town Square Rally for Social Security.

Emily Carter, Event Organizer
To The Editor:

President Bush has singled Israel out for special treatment that no other country would accept or tolerate.

Take the case of the city of Maaleh Adumim.

President Bush calls Maaleh Adumim a "settlement," a code word indicating that Jews are not welcome residents in any part of this territory where neither Jews nor Arabs have yet established the internationally recognized right to be its sovereign ruler.

In fact Maaleh Adumim is a thriving metropolis of 32000 people, containing 9 schools, 39 kindergartens, 7 medical centres and two family centres.

There is no hospital, but five major hospitals are located just seven kilometres up the road in Jerusalem.

President Bush reminded Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon during their recent meeting at the President's Crawford Ranch that he was particularly concerned that Israel was planning to build 3500 housing units in the Maale Adumim "settlement."

Has a city of 32,000 people ever been told they must refrain from having children, getting married or enjoying family reunification?

President Bush is worried that the fundamental basic human rights of 32,000 Jews to copulate and populate might cut off Palestinian access to East Jerusalem frustrating his two-state vision of Israel and a Palestinian democratic state living side by side.

The President really needs to exercise tunnel vision to overcome this basic moral flaw in his plan to succeed where others have so dismally failed.

The Palestinians have proved themselves very adept at building tunnels through which they have smuggled all kinds of weapons and explosives in their unremitting terrorist campaign against their Jewish neighbors.

No doubt a system of tunnels could be constructed and used for peaceful purposes to allow any such access under or around Maaleh Adumim.

The President is supposedly said to have given Mr. Sharon a commitment that Israel would be able to hold on to "major population centers" such as Maaleh Adumim.

and Ahmad Daniels. Also invited will be Charlotte schools superintendent Dr. James Pughsley; former US Congresswoman, Cynthia McKinney; Islamic Center of Charlotte spokesman Mujahid Idlibi; and professor at Wilmington's Central Coastal College Vernon Kelley.

There will also be the annual award ceremony at 12 noon. For more information, contact Wally Kleucker.

INFO wkleucker@yahoo.com
Kleucker, (704) 543-4140 cpjnc.tripod.com

Why doesn't he have the guts to come out and publicly say so right now rather than try to put a hold on the lives and hopes of 32000 people and create false expectations for the Palestinians?

Maaleh Adumim is located in an area slated for the reconstitution and establishment of the Jewish National Home by "close settlement on the land, including state lands and waste lands not required for public purposes" as was proclaimed by the League of Nations Mandate, which still is alive and operative today by virtue of Article 80 of the United Nations Charter.

President Bush's moral and legal blindness also extends to his three partners in the Road Map "the European Union, Russia and the United Nations" none of which cares a hoot what history, the United Nations Charter or international law says or prescribes.

Intent on creating a second Arab State in Palestine in addition to Jordan, which already occupies almost 80% of the former Mandated Territory, the President seems to have lost the plot and appears to be totally lacking in con-

ceiving any sort of creative resolution to what could be easily overcome with a little imagination.

Neither Jews nor Arabs need become the scapegoats for each other's continued residence in the areas claimed by them. Contiguity can be achieved just as easily underground as at ground level.

Whilst the idea is promulgated that Jews will not be allowed to live where they currently do in accordance with international law, the failure of the Road Map will be assured.

One President's vision is surely 32,000 other peoples' nightmare.

If the President doesn't wake up soon and review this irrational racist and discriminatory policy, it will also turn out to be the worst nightmare for millions of other Jews and Arabs in the region as well.

David Singer

To The Editor:

Away from the public eye, the House approved a bill to start work on massive toll projects throughout the state. The bill now heads to the Senate. On the

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MAILBAG ICONOCLAST LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

other side of the fence, legislators aren't going to develop an improved public education system nor provide teachers with a professional salary and benefits. Around the corner, homeowners won't see any substantial decrease in their property taxes because however much the legislature finally decides to cut taxes, local counties will have to increase taxes to maintain needed services. Around the bend, the economic lifestyle of Texans is plummeting to uncharted depths as the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. Behind closed doors politicians are busy laughing and playing politics.

On the sly, *Texas families may be better off considering a move to another state.*

Asleep At The Wheel

Gov. Rick Perry is *out-of-synch* with the Texas community.

- Two years ago he publicly stated that there was no crisis in education.

- Two years ago "*Rip Van Perry-Winkle*" dozed off and overnight allowed the insurance industry to double the cost of home coverage.

- One year ago Perry misled the voters into believing that his legislation to eliminate "frivolous" medical malpractice lawsuits would cut the cost of medical care and health insurance.

- Then just about six months ago the governor assured Texans that deregulating higher education's tuition rates would result in decreasing the cost of a university education.

- Now Perry is touting Texas Toll Corridors throughout the state as being "Good for Texas!"

Seems to be a pattern here. Apparently, Gov. Perry has the "*King Midas touch*" in reverse.

Shame on businesses who contribute to this man's reelection campaign and shame on those foolhardy voters who opt to vote for a man who clearly is "*asleep at the wheel*".

Legislative Decision-Making: Stupid is as Stupid Does

There is no more doubt that Texans are "*at the mercy*" of their elected officials. It's interesting to note that for a state with no personal income tax, Texans pay-out more money in taxes than most states that have one — and soon we'll be paying more.

Just look at some curious legislative ideas being passed around as bills. Legislators want to cut property taxes, which isn't altogether a bad idea, but part of that plan is to replace those lost tax dollars with a tax on snack food. Now isn't this the "*Robin Hood*" plan in reverse? Aren't we then reducing taxes from the wealthy and applying them on those who can least afford them, including our children?

In looking further, there are bills floating around that would cause "*Satan to fall-off his fiery throne*." There are bills to cap appraisals, to move more quickly are issuing bonds for toll projects, to label "chunky" kids as such on their report cards, to give outlandish perks to new businesses, to legalize horse

slaughter-houses, to force kids to take harder TAKS tests, to provide teachers with incentives to teach, to disapprove of and prohibit gay marriages, *etc., etc.*

With all these dumb bills flying around at breath-taking speed, a sure bet to raise state revenue dramatically is to tax legislators for every stupid idea they come up with. Heck, during only one legislative session the taxes collected could finance education, improve social services, build and maintain roadways, and even give the Capitol a new coat of paint.

With the revenue collected from taxing stupid legislative ideas, we may be able to coax some of the dummer officials into early retirement.

Peter Stern, Driftwood, TX

To The Editor:

When George W. Bush was cheerleading for massive tax cuts several years ago, it seemed counterintuitive to many Americans. Perhaps it had made sense with a balanced budget inherited from the Clinton administration. But now we were facing a sea of red ink due to recession. Yet Mr. Bush assured us the tax cuts were essential. As evidence of his argument, he pointed to the support of the Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan.

But according to Mr. Greenspan's testimony before the Senate Budget Committee Thursday, he never intended to endorse the Bush tax cuts. He explained that he had been in favor of some tax cuts, but only if they came with economic triggers to end them if the budget deficit worsened. Apparently, Mr. Bush failed to read the entire text of the Fed Chief's earlier comments and ran off half-cocked promoting a 10-year tax giveaway to his rich pals despite mounting red ink. Seems the President had a problem with selective intelligence even before Iraq.

Perhaps this pattern of implementing policy via a Cliff's Notes understanding of the issues should give us pause when we consider the president's call for dismantling America's largest social safety net.

Jeffrey Kyle Hensley, Plainfield, IL
Dear Editor,

As time goes on it becomes apparent that the AIDS epidemic was not the result of a natural incident but was caused and encouraged by man.

Reading the history of the disease we pick out a man by the name of Gallo - a disgraced scientist who claimed to have isolated the virus but who actually seemed to use his association with the Center for Disease Control to get more funding for his lab.

The confusion that followed Gallo's selfish behavior allowed the disease to spread further than it might have had something been done earlier. In any case - the disease would still have reached modern proportions because of the way it was introduced into our population.

It seems that, like the polio vaccine of the 1950's and 1960's, a hepatitis B vaccine had become contaminated with

a virus that causes sarcoma. The polio vaccine actually had been contaminated with a cancer causing virus from Green Monkeys - so something of what Gallo was saying was true - but he was far off the mark. The polio vaccine contamination, originating at Cold Spring Harbor, has never been followed up but it is generally agreed that it caused rapid increase in cancer in the decades

following the distribution of these immunizations.

Along with the Hepatitis B vaccine it has been reported that a smallpox vaccine was also contaminated with the sarcoma virus and has been distributed widely by the World Health Organization throughout Africa.

Sincerely,
Alfred Brock

Goliad Survivor Spends 37 Days On The Run

While Texans were winning their independence on April 21, 1836, a survivor of the Goliad Massacre spent his 21st day on the run and in hiding.

Twenty-year-old John Crittenden Duval and his older brother Burr were members of the large Kentucky contingent that answered the Texans' appeal in the early stage of the Revolution. When Col. James Fannin surrendered over the objections of his officers on March 20, 1836, the Duvals were among the hundreds of volunteers who fell into enemy hands.

A week later on Palm Sunday morning, the prisoners were relieved to learn of their impending departure. Most had bitterly denounced Fannin for accepting the Mexicans' pledge of repatriation in return for his capitulation, but now it looked like they really were going home, after all.

The segregation of the POW's into three separate groups failed to alarm the younger Duval nor did he understand why the old women muttered "poor fellows" in Spanish as his double column filed past.

Minutes later on the outskirts of Goliad, the sound of distant gunfire filled John and his comrades with bone-chilling dread. A shout of "Boys! They are going to shoot us!" was accompanied by the telltale click of musket locks snapping into place.

John turned to face his executioners at the very instant the first volley ripped through the helpless ranks. He was flattened by the soldier in front of him, knocked backward by the impact of a lead ball in the chest.

"When I rose to my feet," John would write in his unique account of the massacre, "the whole Mexican line had charged over me and were in hot pursuit of those who had not been shot and were fleeing towards the river." He entered the life-and-death race because the swift current offered the best avenue of escape.

Twice more blind luck spared the Kentuckian. A passerby was skewered by a bayonet meant for him, and the vine he grabbed to pull himself out of the San Antonio River was severed by a bullet that missed his head by inches.

John encountered two other survivors during the night and together they headed east in hope of catching up with the retreating rebel army under Sam Houston. On the fourth day, he took over as the human compass after realizing that in their confusion they had wandered within five miles of Goliad.

Three days later on April 2, the trio swam the rain-swollen Guadalupe. One of his fellow travelers gave out in mid-river and completed the crossing on John's back.

Shortly after successfully fording the Lavaca River, John and a second escapee were seized by Mexican ranchers, who intended to detain them for the regular army. John managed to slip away while his captors slept and

This Week In Texas History



By Bartee Haile

waited patiently for his companions to join him.

They never showed, and the lonely youth finally faced the fact that he was on his own. "I had never felt so despondent since making my escape from Goliad as I did that night," he recalled years later. But he had come too far to lay down and die.

For the next 10 days, John dodged Indians and Mexican patrols subsisting on a starvation diet of roots, berries, and wild onions. Then on April 16, he happened upon a deserted farm, where for three days he ate his fill and rested in safe seclusion. He resumed his journey with a new companion, the family dog he named Scout.

After two days on the trail, John took shelter on a plantation abandoned in advance of Santa Anna's invasion. He lingered for a week on the plush premises and ventured forth again only when he felt his strength return.

Running into a pair of Mexican infantrymen on a narrow path, the wanted Anglo thought he was as good as dead. But they hardly acknowledged his presence and walked on without giving him a second glance.

This strange incident and subsequent sightings of disorganized bands of enemy troops moving west convinced him the Mexicans must have suffered a serious defeat. He never imagined they had been routed by the ragtag rebels at a place called San Jacinto.

John almost missed hearing the wonderful news. The powerful swimmer nearly lost his life in a shallow bayou, when he was dragged under by a knapsack full of plantation goodies. At the last second, he shed the extra weight and bobbed to the surface like a cork.

On the 37th day of his odyssey, John bumped into two Texans who happily informed him that he had nothing to fear. The Revolution was won, and Santa Anna himself had been taken prisoner.

Before his death three years shy of the Twentieth Century, John Crittenden Duval was recognized as Texas' first man of letters. But never in his riveting chronicles of the Goliad Massacre could the gifted writer bring himself to mention the name of dear brother slaughtered on that infamous Sunday.

"Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. V available for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Bartee Haile, 1912 Meadow Creek Dr., Pearland, TX 77581.

World's Fair Echoes The Spirit Of Innovation

Benjamin Franklin is the virtual host at the pre-show of the 2005 World Expo in Aichi, Japan.

(MS) — Who better than Ben Franklin — on his 300th birthday, no less — to embody the innovations, inventions, and technologies that have been the hallmark of the World's Fair for more than a century? After all, the World's Fair is where the telephone and the Eiffel Tower were first unveiled. It is also where Cracker Jack, Shredded Wheat and the Ferris wheel got their starts.

For both business or pleasure, the 2005 World's Fair, now called the World Expo, runs from March 25 to September 25 in Aichi, Japan, and promises to have something for everyone. The 2005 Expo will feature pavilions from 122 countries in a unique celebration of nature, progress and the human spirit.

The U.S. Pavilion, an almost 23,000 square foot exhibit and meeting space constructed in the center of the Americas Common at the Expo, will bring Franklin back to life by combining moving 3D images with high-technology special effects from BRC Imagination Arts, a company which has created experience-based attractions for more than 10 World's Fairs. The Pavilion's exhibits and sponsor companies will also echo the spirit of innovation. General Motors, for instance, will display its next-generation automobiles powered by hydrogen fuel cells. Other exhibit items include a specially commissioned replica of the 1902 Wright Glider plane and a prototype of the Mars Rover space explorer.



Benjamin Franklin is the virtual host at the pre-show of the 2005 World Expo in Aichi, Japan.

For entrepreneurs looking to do business in the Pacific Rim, the World Expo may be the perfect place to start. A

number of U.S. businesses and organizations — both large and small — have supported the U.S. presence at the Expo.

Eighteen American states will also be part of the event, including Florida, Kentucky, Michigan, Tennessee, Texas, and West Virginia, many of which will send governor delegations to the Expo. The U.S. Pavilion provides a unique opportunity for American organizations to

extend their brand to the Japanese market and get in front of some 15 million Expo visitors from across the Pacific Rim.

"The U.S. Pavilion will welcome company executives, royal families, heads of state, U.S. governors, and tourists from around the world on a daily basis," says Lisa Gable, U.S. ambassador to the Aichi World Expo 2005. "It is the ideal venue for bringing American businesses to Asia."

If the Olympics is a festival of sports, then the World Expo is a festival of art and culture. At a time when global understanding is so crucial to world peace, the 2005 World Expo is bridging the gap with a series of high-impact artistic and cultural performances.

"The 2005 World Expo promises to present new ways to resolve the challenges facing the globe," adds Gable. "Through our presence at the Expo, the U.S. Pavilion looks forward to making a significant contribution to this international event."

The U.S. Pavilion is doing its part to promote global connection by recruiting some of the nation's top artists to perform at the Expo. At the top of the participant list is the world-renowned New York City Opera company, which will conduct its first performance in Japan. Other scheduled entertainment through the U.S. Pavilion includes the Warner Bros. Japanese premiere of the "Batman Begins" movie and performances by the University of Southern California Trojan Marching Band.

The U.S. Pavilion promises a multitude of attractions for tourists and businesses alike. To visit the U.S. Pavilion in Aichi, Japan, or to find out more information on the World Expo 2005, visit <www.uspavilion.com>.

Solar San Antonio's Outdoor Festival Saturday, June 18

SAN ANTONIO — Solar San Antonio's 4th annual outdoor festival will be held on Saturday, June 18, from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., at Maverick Park, 10th Street and Broadway.

The event will showcase the latest

renewable energy technologies. There will be a solar prize drawing, alternative fuel vehicles, live music, a "green" building, and children's activities.

INFO

aderijk@solarsanantonio.org
www.solarsanantonio.org

'Cool House' Tour Set Sunday, May 15

AUSTIN — The Texas Solar Energy Society and Austin Energy Green Building Program will offer the 9th Cool House Tour, on Sunday, May 15.

The Cool House Tour — nation's largest green building tour — hours are 12 noon - 6 p.m. Guests will be able to tour houses that showcase energy efficiency, passive design and solar technologies.

The \$10 guidebook is the ticket for entry. The guidebook provides the maps to each location. They are within Central Austin. The books will be available online and at Austin Central Market locations in May.



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