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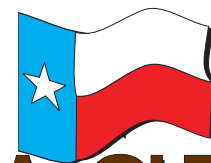


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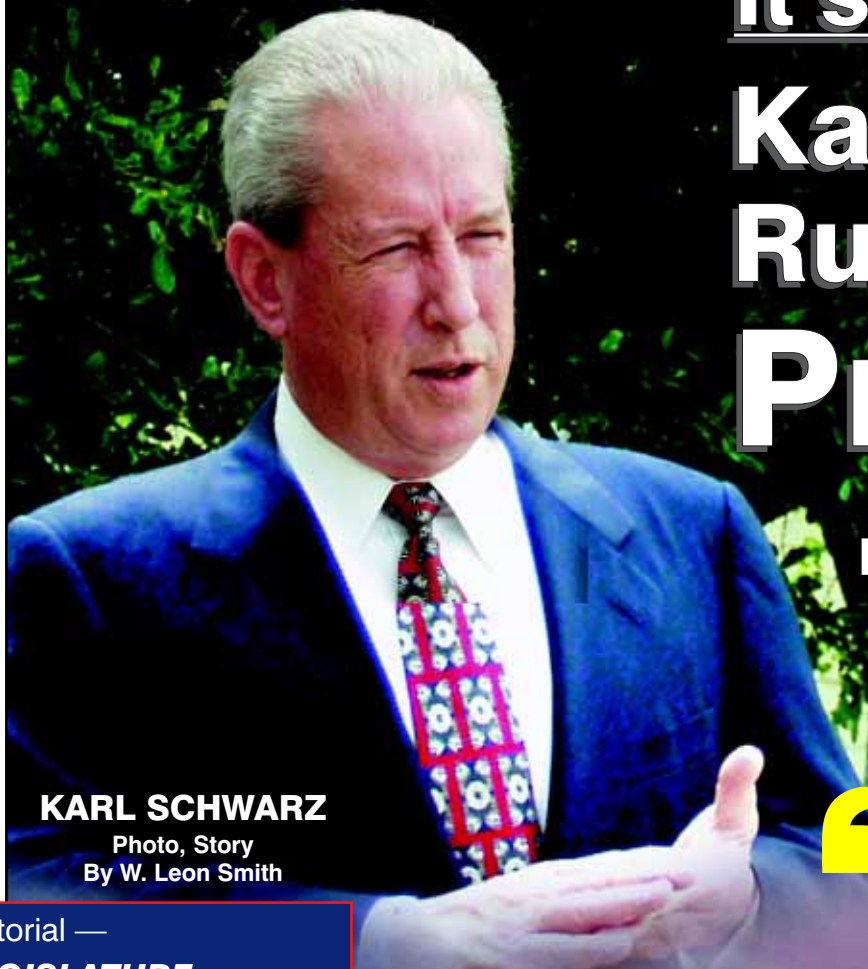


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KARL SCHWARZ
Photo, Story
By W. Leon Smith

It's Official Karl Schwarz Running For President

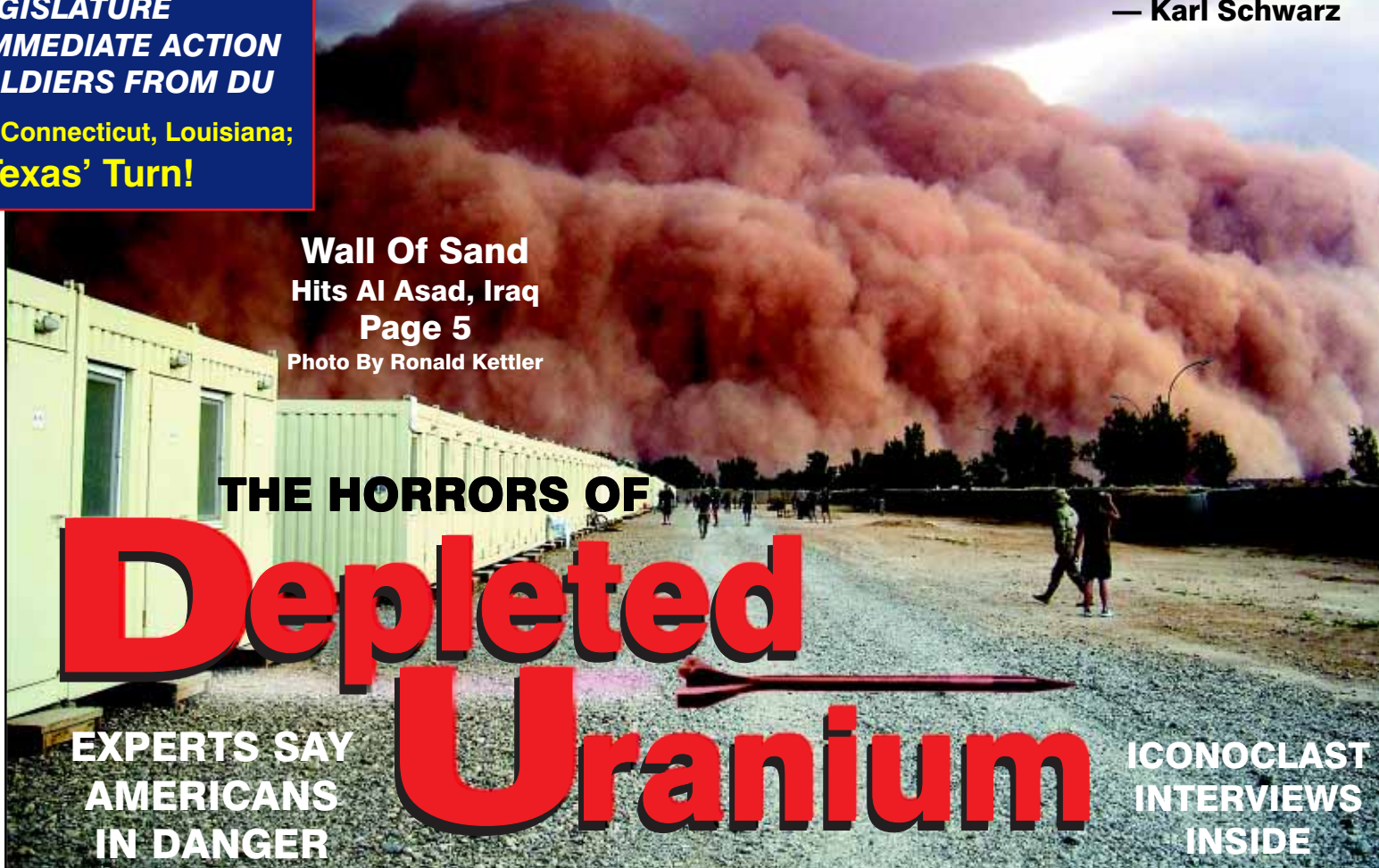
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**REGARDING 2006
GUBERNATORIAL,
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RACES:**

They can consider themselves targeted by this new independent party movement.'
— Karl Schwarz

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Hits Al Asad, Iraq
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Photo By Ronald Kettler



THE HORRORS OF

Depleted Uranium

**EXPERTS SAY
AMERICANS
IN DANGER**

**ICONOCLAST
INTERVIEWS
INSIDE**

Karl Schwarz Announces Bid For U.S. Presidency

Initiating 'Independent' Movement Across America

BY W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE ICONOCLAST

ROUND ROCK, Texas — Karl W.B. Schwarz, author of the book *One-Way Ticket To Crawford, Texas*, has announced his candidacy for President of the United States, subject to the 2008 election.

Schwarz, 54, a former Republican who says that President Bush's attack on Iraq was primarily intended to take control of that country's oil capabilities, appeared before members of the press on the lawn of Republic Broadcasting Network on Monday, May 2, to initiate what he calls "an all-out attack as a new independent party against the DNC and the RNC."

Schwarz is an architect by training with extensive experience in investment banking, workouts, and advanced technology. He has been founder and CEO of multiple high technology companies involved in biomedicine, nanotechnology, photonics, hydrogen fuel cells, anti-terrorism, UAV, carbon and boron nano-composites made possible by carbon nanotube breakthroughs, hyperspectral systems, and video search Knowledge Management software.

He says in his book, "If you are an American that loves this nation and our way of life, you need to snap out of 'The Bush Mythology Bubble' and take a hard look at what is really going on in the Nation. I did, and as a conservative Christian Republican, I did not like what I found. You will not either, if you take time to know the truth."

During the press conference, Schwarz, who hails from Little Rock, Ark., said, "I had a chance in the past to run for Governor of Arkansas and I declined it. Back in those days I was not very interested in politics. I was more interested in business, but in the last five years, actually like the last 12 years,



Karl W.B. Schwarz makes his official announcement for the Presidency at a news conference in Round Rock.

— Staff Photo By W. Leon Smith

I have become much more concerned about the health of this nation and the future of this nation and its people."

Schwarz says the reason he is announcing his candidacy so early is to encourage other independents to take up the torch. "We are going to try to come up with a game plan at the state level, at the gubernatorial level, every person that is running for election in the U.S. House and every Senator that's up for election in 2006. They can consider themselves targeted by this new inde-

pendent party movement."

"We are going to try to make our platform wide enough that various members of the DNC that feel they've been sold out by their own party can come with us," he explained. "We are also going to be seeking out disaffected Republicans and, of course, all third parties that keep throwing themselves into this political mix in every general election and they don't even get invited to any of the debates.

"We're going to try to take the high ground and keep it."

"One of the things that I stand for is rule of law—the Bill of Rights and our Constitution," said Schwarz. "In fact, there's an interesting phrase in the Declaration of Independence that very few Americans know about and it basically says that if the government is not serving the needs of the people, the people have the right to dispose of that government. They have a right to seek out new leadership. I think that most Americans know there's something fundamentally wrong in America these days. I think they understand there's a problem. They just haven't figured out what the problem is."

Schwarz says that he is creating a website to explain this new independent movement to the public. "That website will present what we are calling a political action plan. We are going to put this out in front of America and see if there are other people like myself who are concerned about our future and also concerned about having a better nation for ourselves, our children, and our grandchildren."

Schwarz expressed concerns about how votes were tabulated in the previous election.

"We are going to try to put forward a game plan to every American district's voting precincts that if they will start insisting that they are not buying off on

this electronic voting system, we can go back, all the way down to the precinct level, and we can have what is called verified voting," he said. "We call it accountable voting."

He suggests that votes should be certified at the precinct level "with a forensic trail" that eventually goes upstream to the central voting count centers, thereby disallowing obstruction of fair elections.

"We are going to try to turn the vote back to the will of the people," said Schwarz. "That's going to be difficult to do, but that's one of the battlelines we're going to be standing on."



Karl Schwarz is author of the book, 'One Way Ticket To Crawford, Texas.'



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Associate Editors:
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Nathan Diebenow

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THE HORRORS OF Depleted Uranium

EXPERTS SAY AMERICANS IN DANGER

What Is Depleted Uranium?

CRAWFORD — THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST last week conducted a test by asking 20 Texans, representing all walks of life and from different territories of the state, "What are your views on depleted uranium?"

Nineteen had no clue what the interviewer was talking about.

One offered, "Isn't that the stuff that's hauled away from nuclear power plants?"

None knew that depleted uranium (DU) is radioactive material being used in military ammunition and none knew that the U.S. military is utilizing weapons to launch these nuclear DU projectiles in Iraq.

Likewise, not one of the queried Texans was aware that DU poses significant health threats not only to Iraqis, but to Americans as well, for the radioactivity spreads from continent to continent through the atmosphere and is brought home through soldiers to their families and associates.

Uranium is one of the heaviest elements found in nature and increases in radioactivity as it decays. After enriched uranium which is to be used for nuclear fuel is extracted from natural uranium, the leftover nuclear waste, commonly known as depleted uranium, is stored in steel cylinders for public protection.

Depleted uranium is heavy, cheap, abundant, and is provided free of charge to arms manufacturers as a way of disposing of the material.

DU rounds are used in a variety of high intensity weapons and is used in a variety of forms. Since the projectiles are so powerful, the DU gets hot and oxides into aerosol-like particles that can be less than 10 microns or smaller than a white blood cell and are, therefore, easily inhalable.

According to a study conducted by Iliya Pesic in a paper entitled "Depleted Uranium — Ethics of the Silver Bullet" <<http://cse.serv.engr.scu.edu/StudentWebPages/IPesic/ResearchPaper.htm>>, there are seri-

ous long-term effects of DU in Iraq.

"In regions heavily hit by DU, studies have shown that numerous civilians have extensive problems with their immune systems, malignant cancers (such as ludicrously high leukemia rates), heart problems, and bizarre abnormal birth defects (such as children born without eyes, ears, tongue, etc.). In some regions, leukemia has become one of the main forms of cancer-related death."

Pesic continues, "Contaminated agriculture and water supplies help spread the DU dust which continues to hurt people in different regions where DU ammo was not used."

Pesic notes that veterans and civilians exposed to DU have experienced extensive irreversible damage to kidney and partial kidney failure. "Cancers related to one's blood, bone, and immune system become common. There are also various other biological effects claimed from DU, such as chronic fatigue, respiratory problems, heart problems, digestive organ damage (e.g. liver failure and severe rectal bleeding), etc."

For this edition, THE ICONOCLAST contacted some of the top experts in the field of depleted uranium, who agreed to be interviewed:

- Leuren Moret, a Berkeley-based geo-scientist with expertise in atmospheric dust.

- Dr. Doug Rokke, Ph.D., Major (retired) United States Army Reserve, former Director of the U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project.

- Melissa Sterry, a Gulf War veteran who is surviving the effects of depleted uranium.

The interviews are presented in these formats: A Military Perspective, A Scientific Perspective, and A Survivor's Perspective.

On the same subject, THE ICONOCLAST is publishing an editorial encouraging the Texas Legislature to provide DU testing for soldiers who are returning from overseas, so that if problems exist, they can be addressed.

ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES...

A Scientific Perspective

Interview with Leuren Moret, Geo-Scientist

A Military Perspective

Interview with Dr. Doug Rokke, Ph.D, former Director of the U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project

A Survivor's Perspective

Interview with Melissa Sterry, Gulf War Veteran who is surviving the effects of depleted uranium

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A Scientific Perspective

*Interview Conducted
By W. Leon Smith
and Nathan Diebenow*

Leuren Moret is a geoscientist who works almost around the clock educating citizens, the media, members of parliaments and Congress and other officials on radiation issues. She became a whistleblower in 1991 at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab after witnessing fraud on the Yucca Mountain Project. She is currently working as an independent citizen scientist and radiation specialist in communities around the world, and contributed to the U.N. subcommission investigating depleted uranium. According to Wikipedia online encyclopedia, Moret testified at the International Criminal Tribunal for Afghanistan in Japan in 2003, presented at the World Depleted Uranium Weapons Conference in Hamburg, Germany, and spoke at the World Court of Women at the World Social Forum in Bombay, India, in January 2004.

THE INTERVIEW

ICONOCLAST: What are the latest developments with reducing depleted uranium exposures on U.S. troops?

MORET: A young veteran named Melissa Sterry of Connecticut has introduced a bill into the Connecticut Legislature requiring independent testing of returning Afghan and Gulf War veterans going back to 2001. She said that she did it because she's sick, and her friends are dead, and that's from serving in the 2003 conflict. I have been following the bill and talking to her. Yesterday, she testified twice at the United Nations. I said, "Why don't we get this bill all over the U.S. in state legislatures because it informs the public and get the local media to cover it."

The U.S. has blocked any accountability at international and national levels. There's a total cover-up just like with Agent Orange, the atomic veterans, MKULTRA, the mind control experiments the CIA did. This is more of the same, but the issue is much, much worse because the genetic future of all those contaminated is effected. Now vast regions around our world, as well as our atmosphere, are contaminated with the depleted uranium. They've used so much. It's the equivalent number of atoms, as the Japanese professor calculated it, to over 400,000 Nagasaki bombs that has been released into the atmosphere. That's really an underestimate.

I went to Louisiana in April. I was invited to speak at the University of New Orleans for three days. One of the veterans asked me to be in their April 19 protest and rally through the City of New Orleans. He took the Connecticut bill straight to the Legislature, and he

THE HORRORS OF Depleted Uranium

An Interview With
LEUREN MORET, Geoscientist

got two legislators to sponsor it, and he said, "Just whiteout the name 'Connecticut' and write in 'Louisiana' on the bill." You're not going to believe it. It passed 101 to 0 yesterday in the Louisiana House.

I want you to write about it because we want it (the DU testing bill) in Texas. Nevada is going to introduce it. Congressman Jim McDermott is going to put it into the Washington legislature. We want to get the governor of Montana to do it because he's the first governor to demand his National Guard be returned. I think half of them are back. He said, "I need them in the state."

The DU issue is just really, really, really, really so awful. I don't think there's any greater tragedy in the history of the world in what they've done.

ICONOCLAST: Is there a danger of depleted uranium, being used in weaponry over there, spreading by air over here?

MORET: The atmosphere globally is contaminated with it. It's completely mixed in one year. I'm an expert on atmospheric dust. I'm a geoscientist, a geologist, and that's what I studied and did my research on. It's really a fascinating subject. We have huge dust storms that are a million square miles and transport millions of tons of dust and sand every year around the world.

The main centers of these dust storms are the Gobi Desert in China, which is where the Chinese did atmospheric testing, so that's all contaminated with radiation, and it gets transported right over Japan, and it comes straight across the Pacific and dumps all its sand and dust on the U.S., North America. It's loaded with radioactive isotopes, soot, pesticides, chemicals, pollution — everything is in it — fungi, bacteria, viruses.

The Sahara Desert is another huge dust center, and it goes up all over Europe and straight across the Atlantic, to the Caribbean, and up the East Coast. Of course, you get it in Texas with those hurricanes. They all originate in the Sahara Desert.

The third region is the Western

United States, which is where the Nevada test site is located. We did 1,200 nuclear weapons tests there, so all this radiation that is already there, which is bad enough, has caused a global cancer epidemic since 1945. All of that radiation was the equivalent of 40,000 Nagasaki bombs. We're talking about 10 times more.

In April of 2003, the World Health Organization said they expect global cancer rates to increase 50 percent by the year 2020.

Infant mortality is going up again all over the world. This is an indicator of the level of radioactive pollution.

When the U.S. and Russia signed the partial test ban treaty in 1963, the infant mortality rate started dropping again, which is normal.

Now they are going up again. It's the global pollution with this radiation.

ICONOCLAST: I had one of our correspondents send me a series of photographs of the Al-Asad dust storm in Iraq on April 28.

MORET: That dust is what I'm talking about.

ICONOCLAST: In the picture you can see a gigantic wall of sand.

MORET: I have 16 pictures of that storm. They're posted with photos from Iraqi doctors of the children of people with cancer and leukemia. So what did you think of that dust storm?

ICONOCLAST: I thought it was really dramatic.

MORET: It remobilizes all the radiation, but those are the larger chunks. The DU burns at such high temperatures. It's a pyroforic metal which means it burns. The bullets and big caliber shells are actually on fire when they come out of the gun barrel because they are ignited by the friction in the gun barrel. Seventy percent of the DU metal becomes a metal vapor. It's actually a radioactive gas weapon and a terrain contaminant.

I'll email you the URL of the 1943 memo to General Leslie Grove under the Manhattan Project. It's the blueprint for depleted uranium. They dropped the atomic bombs, but they did



Leuren Moret

not use the DU weapons because they thought they were too horrific.

I've toured and gone all over Japan with a pediatrician in Basra and an oncologist, a cancer specialist. These poor doctors — their whole families are dying of cancer. He has 10 members of his family with cancer now that he's treating, and this is just from Gulf War I. They've used much, much, much more in 2003. All over the whole country.

ICONOCLAST: What can soldiers expect when they come home?

MORET: If they were in Bradley Fighting Vehicles, they're coming home with rectal cancer from sitting on ammunition boxes. The young women are reporting terrible problems with endometriosis. That's the lining of the uterus malfunctioning, and they just bleed and bleed and bleed. Some of them have uterine cancer — 18 and 19 and 20 year olds.

The Army will not even diagnose it. They send them back to the battlefields. They won't treat them or diagnose them. A group of 20 soldiers pushed from Kuwait to Baghdad in 2003 in all the fighting. Eight of those 20 soldiers have malignancies.

ICONOCLAST: Does exposure to depleted uranium effect their psychological background when they come home?

MORET: Depleted uranium are these particles that form at very high temperatures. They are uranium oxides that are insoluble. They are at least 100 times smaller than a white blood cell, so when the soldiers breathe, they inhale them. The particles go through the nose, go through the olfactory and into the brain, and it messes up their cognitive abilities, thought processes.

It damages their mood-control mechanism in the brain. Four soldiers at Fort Bragg came back from Afghanistan, and within two months, those four had murdered their wives. This is part of the damage to the brain from the radiation and the particles.

The soldiers from Gulf War I in a group of 67 soldiers who came back, they had DU in their equipment, in their

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• DEPLETED URANIUM —
LEUREN MORET INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 3

clothes, in their bodies, in their semen, and they had normal babies before they went over there to war. They came back, and the VA did a study. Of 251 Gulf War I veterans in Mississippi, in 67 of them, thier babies born after the war were deemed to have severe birth defects. They had brains missing, arms and legs missing, organs missing. They were born without eyes. They had horrible blood diseases. It's horrific.

If you want to look at something, LIFE magazine did a photo essay which is still on the Internet. It's called "The Tiny Victims of Desert Storm." You should look at that — oh, my God, the post-Gulf War babies playing with their brothers and sisters who are normal.

Basically, it's like smoking crack, only you're smoking radioactive crack. It goes straight into the blood stream. It's carried all throughout the body into the bones, the bone marrow, the brain. It goes into the fetus. It's a systemic poison and a radiological poison.

ICONOCLAST: What about the people in the United States that are here? You say that DU is being mixed and spread globally?

MORET: Yes, it's being mixed globally. We're getting secondary smoke. It's the secondary smoke effect. You know the people who inhabit a room with smokers? They are getting that secondary smoke, and so are we.

ICONOCLAST: Is that secondary smoke getting thicker as we speak?

MORET: Yeah, the concentration of the depleted uranium particles in the atmosphere all around the globe is increasing. There are indications that the U.S. will go in June and bomb the heck out of Iran. We're monitoring the U.S. Army ammunition factories. They have very large orders for those huge bunker buster bombs that have 5,000 lbs. of DU in the warhead.

ICONOCLAST: So the prognosis for America isn't really good?

MORET: No, it's really bad.

ICONOCLAST: And if this continues then?

MORET: It's going to kill off the world's population. It already is, and it doesn't just effect people. It effects all living systems. The plants, the animals, the bacteria. It effects everything.

ICONOCLAST: So the things that we eat for instance, if they have DU in them, then we'll just get it in our systems, and so we're polluting the oceans, so that could effect all marine life?

MORET: Yes, it's in the air, water, and soil. The half-life of DU, Uranium 238, is 4.5 billion years the age of the Earth.

ICONOCLAST: With the damage that's been done to this point, can we turn back? We can't clean it up?

MORET: There's no way to clean it up. What happens is these tiny particles float around the Earth. There are still plutonium and uranium floating around the Earth from bomb testing. These particles are so tiny that molecules bumping into them keep them lofted in the air, and so the only way for them to get out of the atmosphere is rain, snow, fog, pollution, which will clear them out of the air and deposit them in the environment. What happens is the surface of these particles gets wetted by the moisture in the air. They come down and land on stuff and stick to it like a glue. You can't ever get the particles off whatever

they're sticking to because have you ever put a drop of water on a microscope slide and then put another one on top of it? Can you pull those apart?

ICONOCLAST: No.

MORET: Okay, that's the same effect that happens to radioactive particles. Once they are removed from the atmosphere, they stick to any surfaces they land on. In a way they are removed from circulation from the atmosphere. You can't wash them off. If it keeps raining or they're in a creek, you know, if they're on rocks or stones or something in a creek, they won't even wash off.

You didn't know it was this bad, did you?

ICONOCLAST: No, I knew it was bad, but I thought it was fairly isolated.

MORET: No. What is over there (in Iraq) is over here in about four days. I don't know if you followed Chernobyl. That big bubble of radiation went around and around the world, but this is dust. It becomes a part of atmospheric dust. Like the dust storm you saw in that photo, it goes everywhere.

ICONOCLAST: Is it in the upper levels of the atmosphere or the lower levels?

MORET: It's in lower orbital space.

They brought the Mir spacecraft back down to Earth when they got done using it, and there was something called a space midge which covered the electronics on the outside of the spacecraft and protected it from radiation that comes from the sun because electronics are real vulnerable to radiation. They analyzed the surface of that space net and found uranium and uranium decayed products which they said came from atmospheric testing or burned up spacecraft with nuclear materials or nuclear reactors on board. Uranium can also come from supernovas, but they thought that the most likely sources were atmospheric testing and the nuclear materials we put in space.

ICONOCLAST: Essentially then, you're saying that we're conducting a nuclear war.

MORET: Yes, and that's exactly what it is. We've conducted four nuclear wars since 1991. Yeah, these are nuclear wars. DU is a nuclear weapon.

ICONOCLAST: From the point of view of a scientist, what needs to happen to correct this?

MORET: Well, we need to stop the use of it. We've built an international movement to stop the use, the manufacture, the storage, the sales, and the deployment of depleted uranium weapons.

ICONOCLAST: Are the munitions we sell to other countries contained with depleted uranium?

MORET: We have. In 1968 the first depleted uranium weapons systems that we found a patent for suddenly appeared in the U.S. patent office. It was for the Navy. It was sort of a Gatling gun style weapon system that you mounted on ships. It rapidly fires like 2,500 bullets a minute. It's over 3,000 now. They've improved the design. Then in 1973, we gave depleted uranium weapons systems to the Israelis and supervised their use. They used them in the Arab-Israeli war and completely wiped out the Arabs in five days. Then the show was on the road. That was the first actual battlefield demonstration of this

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WALL OF SAND

Some called it the "sandstorm from hell." This sequence of photos depicts the 60 mph approach of a sandstorm at Al Asad, Iraq on April 26. Suddenly, day turned to night.

— Photo Sequence By Ronald Kettler

Back In Iraq

I arrived here at Al Asad two nights ago.

While I was waiting on everyone else to check in, I went outside to get some fresh air.

I soon found myself with my duffle bags leaned against a container sound asleep.

It was not long and they came and got me and said it was time to leave.

Our cans are less than 10 minutes from the flight lines. We no sooner got to the cans and we were under a full scale mortar attack. It lasted for some time.

The World As I See It

By Ronald (Butch) Kettler



The next morning, one the marines came by to pick me up and said I have something to show you. We went back to the flight line and the container that I was leaned up against was laying in at least a hundred pieces. And a large hole now existed were I once rested.

They said it hit less than 10 minutes after we left.

Depleted Uranium



CAULIFLOWER CANCER — Depleted uranium dust caught in this Iraqi's hair caused his head to develop cancer, according to Leuren Moret, a geoscientist whistleblower for the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab.



CANCER OF THE BRAIN has infiltrated this Iraqi child due in part to the effects of depleted uranium from U.S. munitions used during Gulf War I. This picture was taken in January 2003 in Basra, Southern Iraq, when this child was about four years old.



BELLY BUBBLE — This boy's belly has expanded in part because depleted uranium infected his liver. Fluid trapped in his belly is drained regularly to relieve his pain. "It's terribly painful. The children scream. The parents can't stand it. They go out the hall," said Leuren Moret, nuclear radiation whistleblower.



CANCER TUMORS formed on this 8-year-old Iraqi boy's ear prior to his death, said Leuren Moret, whistleblower. The tumors and spots of tangled blood vessels underneath the skin on his face were caused by depleted uranium from U.S. munitions during Gulf War I.

• DEPLETED URANIUM — LEUREN MORET INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 5

new weapon system.

Hughes Aircraft developed the full-length system which is for the Navy. That's the Gatling gun system. They still use it. That was produced in 1974 and tested. Within six months the U.S. government had sold the DU weapons system to 12 entities which included many branches of the U.S. military and other countries. We've sold DU weapons systems to about — we don't know exactly for sure — it's been about 12 or 17 countries. The good news is that normally such a weapons system that effective would have been sold to 80, 100, or 120 countries by now. But because of the radiological, biological, and environmental hazard, countries were not only afraid to buy it, the ones who did buy it are afraid to use it. The only countries we know that have used DU are Britain, the U.S., and Israel.

The United Nations in 1996 passed a resolution that depleted uranium weapons are weapons of mass destruction, and they are illegal under all international laws and treaties.

In 2001, the European Parliament passed a resolution on DU. What happened is that the NATO forces went into Yugoslavia in 1998 and '99 and flew 39,000 bombing runs and completely bombed Yugoslavia into radioactive rubble. Germany and the U.S. made the most money on the destruction of Yugoslavia, and they made sure that countries that didn't know about the DU, that the peacekeepers from those countries like from Italy and Portugal, were sent to the most contaminated regions in Yugoslavia. Germans and Americans didn't send their own troops into those areas. They were in the least contaminated areas. These poor soldiers from other countries came back and died within weeks or in a couple of days or months. The parents in Portugal and Italy are furious and went to the Parliament and media, and there was just a huge media storm of articles about DU.

The cat was out of the bag because of the 1998 NATO invasion of Yugoslavia. The cat was out of the bag, but Japanese troops have been sent into Somalia. They're self-defense forces. It was the most contaminated area where the heaviest fighting happened in Iraq. We can expect those soldiers to be really, really sick.

ICONOCLAST: What about Iraq itself? What's been done thus far?

MORET: It's uninhabitable. The whole country. Yugoslavia, Iraq, and Afghanistan are completely uninhabitable.

ICONOCLAST: But people live there, so they're going to live there suffering?

MORET: Well, you can see from the birth defects and the illnesses that it is pretty severe. Each year the number of birth defects and illnesses will rise because of the total contamination levels in all living things will increase because they are breathing that air and drinking water and eating the food from contaminated soils. It's just a slow death sentence. The same with Yugoslavia and Afghanistan.

Depleted uranium is a very, very, very effective biological weapon. This is the primary purpose for using it. Marion Falk (a retired chemical physicist who built nuclear bombs for more than 20 years at Lawrence Livermore lab), who is the Manhattan Project scientist I work with, taught me pretty much ev-

erything about radiation and particles and DU. He said the purpose of weapons used by the military is not only to injure and kill the enemy soldiers, but the purpose is to kill, maim, and disease the civilian population because it reduces the productivity of a country and pretty soon a lot of their resources are going to be used for taking care of sick people. They will have fewer and fewer healthy workers.

Of course, once you cause mutation in the DNA, that damage is passed on to future generations of that affected person or animal or plant. DNA does not repair itself.

ICONOCLAST: So the mutations would be probably destructive more so than constructive.

MORET: Oh, the mutations are causing those birth defects.

ICONOCLAST: They're not evolutionary diseases?

MORET: No, they are evolutionary. They are inherited by all future generations and passed on. It's like if you have red hair and all of your future generations will have that gene.

ICONOCLAST: So if I had a pre-condition to heart disease because of the radiation, then the generation that would come after me would have the same problem?

MORET: Well, if you damage the cell or parts of the cell or functioning of cells, that doesn't necessarily damage the DNA. There are two kinds of damage: one damages the cells of the living organism, and that may not be passed on, but if you damage the DNA in the egg or the sperm, that is passed on to all

future generations.

ICONOCLAST: So the guys coming back from the war, their sperm is probably going to be —

MORET: Damaged. Yes. They also have depleted uranium in their semen. When they're intimate with their partners, they internally contaminate them with depleted uranium. The women become sick themselves. They have depleted uranium in their bodies, and there is something called burning syndrome. Just absolutely horrible. You can read about it in an article by David Rose in the December VANITY FAIR. It's on the Internet.

A friend of mine is the widow of a Canadian Gulf War veteran. David Rose interviewed her, and she griped about the burning semen. She said, "I had 20 condoms full of frozen peas in my freezer at all times, and after we were intimate, I would insert one into my vagina, and that is the only way I could bear the pain from the burning semen." And it goes through condoms, too.

ICONOCLAST: Gosh, darn!

MORET: Yeah, you should see the high school classes when I talk about the burning semen and the internal contamination. The girls' mouths go into little round Os, and the boys start panicking because they're like, "I'll never get sick!" (laughs) The name of this article is "Weapons of Self-Destruction."

ICONOCLAST: How much DU will it take to kill off all known life on this planet?

MORET: The amount of radiation released is certainly going to have a very, very profound global impact, and we're already seeing infant mortality increasing globally. The fetus is the most susceptible to radiation damage because all the cells are rapidly dividing, the limbs and the bodies developing, so when you start introducing toxic chemicals and radiation, it really damages the natural process of fetal development.

The reason they were able to convince the Senate to sign the partial test ban treaty in 1963 was because of the increase in infant mortality. It had been dropping and declining two or three percent for quite a long time each year because of better prenatal care and educating mothers.

Infant mortality started going up after the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, especially in the '50s when the big bomb testing started.

By 1963, it was really obvious that the bomb testing globally was having a real impact on the unborn. They signed the partial test ban treaty. Russia and the U.S. stopped atmospheric testing, and the infant mortality rate started going down right away. They're going up again now. This is global radioactive pollution, and how long it would take to eliminate all life is something nobody knows, but the depleted uranium is a very, very effective biological weapon.

There are two purposes for the military use of weapons. One is to destroy the enemy soldiers, and the other, which is just as important, is to destroy the enemy civilian population. By causing illnesses and disease, long lingering illnesses really impact the productivity and the economy of a country. It was Chernobyl and other nuclear disasters that actually destroyed the Soviet Union because the former Soviet Union is very,

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BIRTH DEFECTS — Pregnant women exposed to depleted uranium can give birth to babies with such severe birth defects that they die soon after birth. "We don't even know what they are," said Leuren Moret, noting the growth on this baby's bottom. "It might even be organs that formed outside the body."



THE REAL VICTIMS OF DU — Leuren Moret speculated that due to depleted uranium exposure in his mother's womb, this child's head developed a big hematoma on it or his skull didn't close entirely. "God only knows what it is. It's just so horrible," she said.



LUMPS OF FLESH are now being born after Iraqi women have been exposed to increasing depleted uranium levels from U.S. weapons since the first Gulf War, said geoscientist Leuren Moret.

• DEPLETED URANIUM — LEUREN MORET INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 6

very sick from all the radiation that was released. They were much more sloppier than we were.

I have a World Health Organization world health survey which they published in the JOURNAL OF AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION last June. The impact of atmospheric testing is very, very apparent by the percentage of population in each country they investigated for some form of mental illness. For instance, Japan is 8.8 percent. Nigeria is very low — 4.7 percent. They have almost no radiation in Nigeria. In the Ukraine where they had the Chernobyl accident, it is 20.4 percent. Spain is at 9.2 percent. Italy is 8.2 percent. It's pretty low because they don't have nuke plants. France is 75 percent reliant on nuclear power, so you have mental illness in 18.4 percent of the population. Mexico is at 12.2 percent, and the United States is at 26.3 percent — the highest rate of mental illness in the world.

And George Bush and his siblings were all exposed in utero to bomb testing fallout in the United States. He had a toddler sister who died of leukemia when she was about three.

I worked with a group called the Radiation And Public Health Project. Their website is <www.radiation.org>. We are all radiation specialists, well-known scientists, and independent scientists. We've collected 6,000 baby teeth around nuclear power plants and measured the radiation in them, and one of our members is the neighbor of the women who worked with all of the Bush children, including President Bush himself, because they had severe learning disabilities.

ICONOCLAST: How do we know that the Bush children were exposed?

MORET: By the year of their birth. The year they were carried by their mother. You have to look at how much bomb testing material was released into the atmosphere, and there's a direct correlation to the decline in SAT scores for all teenagers in the U.S. to the amount of radiation that was released into the atmosphere the year their mother was carrying them. These are delayed effects of radiation exposure in utero.

ICONOCLAST: So they were living in Connecticut, but they were still feeling the effects of the radiation in Nevada?

MORET: Two years ago the U.S. government admitted that every single person living in the United States between 1957 and 1963 was internally exposed to radiation. So for any pregnant woman during those years, her fetus was exposed.

ICONOCLAST: What type of radiation levels are we talking about?

MORET: It's low levels, and the main pathways are drinking water and dairy products. It even killed the baby fish in the Atlantic. Strontium-90 is a man-made isotope that comes out of nuclear bombs and nuclear reactors. They measured the levels of strontium-90 in milk in Norway from the 1950s up until the 1970s, and they measured the decline in the fishing catch in that same period, and as the strontium-90 increased in the milk in Norway, fishing catches declined.

By 1963, when the U.S. tested a nuclear bomb almost every day (they did 250 tests in one year because the treaty was going to be signed), the fish-

ing catch declined by 50 percent. In the Pacific, it declined 60 percent because there was Russian, Chinese, French, and U.S. testing in the Pacific.

ICONOCLAST: So we're still eating those contaminated fish today. Has the genetic code been changed?

MORET: The oceans are getting whatever is getting rained down, snowed down, or fogged down from the atmosphere. It's getting into the oceans. This big frog die-off, which is global, is certainly related to the radiation in the rainwater. It's a global nuclear holocaust. It effects all living things. That's why they call it "omnicide," which means it kills all living things — the plants, the animals, the bacteria. Everything.

ICONOCLAST: You think we ought to have the Weather Channel report on the current sand storm conditions in Iraq so we can prepare four days in advance for the radiation?

MORET: I'll tell you what I did when 9/11 happened.

I called all the doctors with Radiation And Public Health Project, and I said, "Get out of town, and don't come back until it has rained three times." One lived 12 miles downwind from the Pentagon. She went out on her balcony with her geiger counter. I said, "Get that geiger counter out of your purse." We had just done a press conference in San Francisco, and I knew she had it in her purse. Well, the radiation levels were 8-10 times higher than background.

We called the EPA, HAZMAT, FBI, and said, "Get all those emergency response workers suited up. They need to be protected." Two days after 9/11, the EPA radiation expert for that region called back and said, "Yup, the Pentagon crash rubble was radioactive, and we believe it's depleted uranium, but we're not worried about that. It's only harmful if it's inhaled."

He said, "We're worried about the lead solder in the plane." Well, you know what's in Tomahawk missiles? They have depleted uranium warheads. The radioactive crash rubble contaminated with DU is evidence of a DU warhead.

ICONOCLAST: I did not think about that, but going back to my original question: Should the Weather Channel report for us on the toxic dust storms in Iraq?

MORET: But how could people get away from them? These dust storms are a million square miles. They're huge, and they come right across the Atlantic, the Caribbean, and Texas coast line, and right up the East Coast. There are people who are going to leave the state every time there's a hurricane. It's in the food, drinking water, dairy products, and then the problem with Uranium 238, which is 99.39 percent DU, is that it decays in over 20 steps into other radioactive isotopes.

That's why I call it the "Trojan Horse." It's the weapon that keeps giving. It keeps killing. This is like smoking radioactive crack. It goes right in your nose. It crosses the olfactory bulb into your brain. It's a systemic poison. It goes everywhere. These particles that form at very high temperatures — 5,000-10,000 degrees C — are nanoparticles. They are a 10th of a micron or smaller. A 10th of a micron is 100 times smaller than a white blood cell. They get picked up in the lipids and probably the cho-

lesterol and go right through the cell membranes of the cell. They screw up the cell processes. They screw up the signaling between the cells because the cells all talk to each other and coordinate what they're doing. It messes up brain function.

ICONOCLAST: Do you know what Iraq was like before the first Gulf War?

MORET: Iraq prior to the 1991 Gulf War was the most advanced in the entire Middle East. They had scrupulous databases of the health problems and disease rates, which is why the U.S. bombed all of the offices in the Ministry of Health. We destroyed all those records so that a pre-Gulf War health base could not be established to show how much these diseases have increased. This would concern the U.S. in terms of compensation for war crimes.

In these horrible U.N. sanctions, they (the Iraqis) could never get all of the protocol medicine for the treatment of leukemia. They (the U.N.) would say, "These steps of the leukemia treatment were components in weapons, so you can't have that." They never gave the people the full proper protocols in the areas of treatment they needed to get rid of the leukemia. It hid the effects of the depleted uranium because the children were starving. They had malnutrition. They had the healthiest population in the Middle East (prior to Gulf War I).

ICONOCLAST: Let's talk about the children of Iraq.

MORET: After the Gulf War, they had maybe one baby a week born with birth defects in the hospitals in Basra. Now they are having 10-12 a day. The levels of uranium are increasing in the population every year. Every day, people are eating and drinking while the whole environment is contaminated. Just what you'd expect. There are more babies born with birth defects, and the birth defects are getting more and more severe.

An Iraqi doctor told me that babies are being born now that are lumps of flesh. She said that they don't have heads or legs or arms. It's just a lump of flesh. This also happened to populations that were not removed from islands in the Pacific when the bomb tests occurred. Basically, governments were using them as guinea pigs.

ICONOCLAST: So all the countries that were equipped with nuclear weapons are guilty of those atrocities.

MORET: They were all doing it. France, Russia, China, and the U.S. And I'm not sure if Britain did bomb testing. They were real low key about it.

ICONOCLAST: Where are the radiation hot spots in the United States?

MORET: In the United States, it would be within a 100 miles of nuclear power plants. We have 110 nuclear power plants in the U.S. We have the most of any country in the world, but only a 103 are operating. Almost all of the entire East Coast.

What we did was we took government data from the Centers of Disease Control on breast cancer deaths between 1985 and 1989. Anywhere from within a 100 miles of a nuclear power plant is where two-thirds of all breast cancer deaths occurred in the U.S. between 1985 and 1989.

It's also around the nuclear weapons laboratories. That would be Los Alamos in New Mexico, the Idaho Nuclear En-



Leuren Moret

gineering Lab in Idaho, and Hanford in Washington State, which is where they got the plutonium for all the bombs. They contaminated the entire Columbia River watershed and almost the whole state of Washington.

It gets into the water and into the plants and into the vegetation. If you eat clams or mussels or crabs or things like that, even certain kinds of fish that eat off of the mud at the bottom of the river, you have much higher levels of radiation in your tissues. It depends on each person and on how healthy they are, but this man from Washington State died suddenly. He was in his late 40s. They did an autopsy, and he was full of radioactive zinc. They went, "Where in the world did he get this? It only comes from nuclear bombs and nuclear reactors." They studied his diet and discovered he loved to eat oysters. They found out where he bought his oysters and found the oyster beds. They were 200 miles off shore, from Washington State. The radiation was being carried off out to sea from the coastline. It was passing over this oyster bed. The oysters were just gobbling them up.

ICONOCLAST: What are the symptoms of DU poisoning?

MORET: Soldiers on the battlefield have reported a metallic taste in their mouth. That's the actual taste of the uranium metal. Then within 24-48 hours, soldiers on the battlefield have reported that they felt sick. They start getting muscle aches, and they lose energy. Some of them came back incontinent. In other words, in adult diapers.

One woman reported that the first night home, she wanted to be intimate with her husband, but she had absolutely no feeling. She couldn't feel anything from the waist down. This particulate matter damages the neuromuscular system, the nerves; it just goes everywhere. And there's no treatment for it. These particles are very, very insoluble, so they can't even dissolve in body fluids, so they can be excreted from the body. Then they keep releasing. Even when uranium decays, it turns into another radioactive isotope. So it's a particle that just sits there shooting bullets until you die.

Another problem is that soldiers have

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• **DEPLETED URANIUM —**
LEUREN MORET INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 7

crumbling teeth. Teeth just start falling apart. The uranium replaces calcium in the calcium-phosphate structure of the teeth. Some have complained about grand mal seizures, cerebral palsy. Some diseases reported at very high rates in Air Force and Army soldiers are Parkinson's disease, Lou Gehrig's disease, and Hodgkin's disease. This is damage to the mitochondria in the cells and the nerves. The mitochondria make all the energy for the body, so when you damage mitochondria, another symptom is chronic fatigue syndrome. There's just not enough energy produced by the body to function normally.

I found a study in the SanDia Nuclear Weapons Laboratory employee newsletter in September 2003. They are doing major studies in mitochondrial dysfunction related to Lou Gehrig's, Hodgkin's, and Parkinson's diseases for veterans. Since it's at a nuclear weapon's lab, they are fully aware of the health damage.

tests that detect for DU in the body.

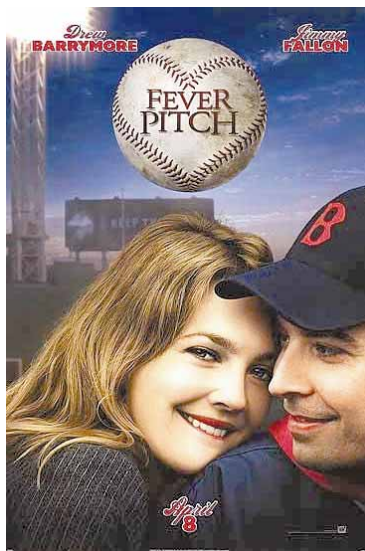
MORET: The chromosome test is the best indicator. It's \$5,000. The urine test is a \$1,000. If you test positive with the urine test, you know you're contaminated. If you test negative, it does not mean that you're not contaminated. It just means that you may or may not be contaminated but enough hasn't dissolved in your blood stream to go through your kidneys to be excreted in your urine. Anyone who goes now cannot avoid being contaminated. Anyone. Anyone. Anyone. Everyone who goes to the Middle East and Afghanistan will be contaminated.

The DU issue affects every single living thing on this planet. What else has that impact? They have altered the genome for the entire planet forever with this DU. The Pentagon people say, "You're exaggerating or you use the uranium word to scare people." I don't care if people believe me or not. All I can say is that over time what I am saying will actually be an underestimation of the long term effects.

ICONOCLAST: Tell me about the

Depleted Uranium

A Military Perspective...Next Page



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A Military Perspective

Interview

By W. Leon Smith

Major Doug Rokke, PhD, is a retired Army combat officer who served as the director of the U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project at the start of Gulf War I. His job was to prepare soldiers for nuclear, biological, and chemical warfare. He was in charge of cleaning up American tanks hit by friendly-fired depleted uranium (DU) munitions as well as helping casualties contaminated with DU.

His own health has suffered from the effects of uranium poisoning. Reports indicate that he has 5,000 times the acceptable level of radiation in his body and that he suffers from reactive airway disease from DU.

Prior to deployment to the Persian Gulf, Dr. Rokke worked with the University of Illinois Physics Department and served in Vietnam. His PhD is in health physics. His original training was in forensic science. Today, he travels the globe informing people and governments of the dangers of DU exposure.

THE INTERVIEW

ICONOCLAST: How do you view depleted uranium?

ROKKE: DU...interesting nightmare.

ICONOCLAST: Actually, it's a lot more widespread and damaging worldwide than I had realized before talking to Leuren Moret.

ROKKE: Absolutely. The United States gave it to Israel. The first time it was used that I can document, for which I have the reports that I base my work on — it was 1973, during the Arab-Israeli conflict, and U.S. Army guys actually went on-site. We've got all the photographs, measurements. We've got trash medically, and equipment was trashed, so we know that for a fact.

And then we used it extensively, probably close to 375 tons — now this is solid uranium, not uranium plus explosives or casings, but solid uranium, the amount of munitions in Gulf War I. In '94 and '95 we used three tons in the Balkans, and I was specifically asked to write the clean-up procedures and emergency management procedures for that for the Army. I've still got them. In December of '95 and January of '96, the U.S. Marines shot the hell out of Okinawa, Torishima Island. We didn't tell the Japanese for a year.

And then we used it getting ready for the Balkans in '99 down in Puerto Rico. When I found out about that, I tried to activate our Army emergency response team called Army Contaminated Equipment Recovery team. That's by the Army regulation 700-48 that I wrote that was adopted, accepted, and implemented.

THE HORRORS OF Depleted Uranium

An Interview With
MAJOR DOUG ROKKE, Ph.D
Former Director of the
U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project

The Army refused to do that. Then I tried to get medical care for them down there, and they refused to do that.

Then, on April 16 of '99, we got called up to the White House to meet with what's called Bill Clinton's Presidential Oversight Board and that was under Senator Warren Rudman and Navy Admiral Elmo Zumwalt. Our team met with them and told them we're going to see all these health effects in the Balkans. We were still trying to deal with health effects from Gulf War I. At that time, I still got all the emails, copies of all the letters sent.

They said we won't use it (DU) in the Balkans, and lo and behold, they were already using it. They used 30-40 tons in the Balkans in '99.

Since then, we've been shooting it up, as U.S. Congressman James McDermott from Seattle, Washington, has confirmed. The Coast Guard's been shooting it up in the Puget Sound, Chesapeake Bay, off the coast of Texas, every place.

ICONOCLAST: Why have they been doing that?

ROKKE: They're just crazy. They want to make sure their guns work. Real simple. They're crazy.

And, then, we came along with Gulf War II.

We started planning Gulf War II back in '95. That had nothing to do with 9/11 at all. Zero. Not a thing. What's real interesting, if you go to the actual 9-1-1 report, General Franks totally acknowledges in the report in his testimony, that, yeah, they took and dusted off the invasion plans for Iraq and implemented it, which everybody knows because all that stuff was based on lies. So, anyhow, we went into Afghanistan based on a Feb. 12, 1998, Congressional discussion to overthrow the Taliban because it wouldn't go along with the Unicol oil deal, so that's why that happened.

We probably dumped a thousand tons or more in Afghanistan, and God knows

how many, thousand, two-thousand tons in Iraq, and we're still using it as we speak.

ICONOCLAST: You have no idea how much exactly?

ROKKE: Not really. Nobody can get a solid estimate. We do know from on-site measurements and videos and photographs, there's stuff laying all over the place.

We shot up water treatment facilities. I've got live video and photographs. Apartment buildings, tanks, everything just left there...kids climbing all over them.

Scott Peterson with the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR reported it. The Japanese reported it. Ted Wayman who works for Uranium Medical Research Center went over there and measured it and reported it, not just took somebody's word for it, but went over and did the stuff.

Medical reports coming out of Iraq on birth defects probably two or three days ago are just catastrophic, much less what's happened to our own troops. It's just incredible because the U.S. Army had required since I issued the initial order back after the ground war in 1991 that medical care in the form of testing be provided to everybody that was exposed within 24-72 hours. Still not happening.

The government Department of Defense is trying to prevent information from getting out. They'll say thousands of people have been tested since '92. If you go to the local VA and pick up a brand new issue of the GULF WAR REVIEW, Vol. 13, No. 1, or you can get it online <www.va.gov>, go to page 12 of it. It states since 1992 only 270 people have ever been tested. (laughs). I can't get my own staff tested yet, 14 years after the fact.

ICONOCLAST: What do you know about the munitions?

ROKKE: There are two different types of DU rounds. We have the kinetic energy penetrator, and that's fired by an Abrams tank, a Bradley Fighting Ve-



Doug Rokke

hicle, and HN Warthog aircraft, the Navy Phalanx, and then the machine gun. Those are all basically gigantic darts of solid uranium, contaminated with all the other junk from DOE's facility down at Paducah, Oakridge, and Portsmouth where they make the stuff.

The Abrams tank round is a solid rod of uranium about three-quarters of an inch in diameter, 18 inches long. Each and every rod is over 10 pounds of solid uranium. The A-10 fires one that's three-quarters of solid uranium at 4,000 rounds a minute. The Bradley Fighting Vehicle, that's a chain gun that's pretty fast, too, fires thousands of rounds. Each and every one of those rounds is half a pound. Those are kinetic energy penetrators. The machine gun is a giant bullet, too.

Then we have submunition landmines. These are cluster bombs. The casing is uranium, DU, with high explosives inside. I mean it's the absolute perfect dirty bomb.

And then we have the bunker busters where you've got the uranium casing from the McAlester army ammunition plant. The guys got sick putting these things together just about six months ago. I mean, real sick, and they had to shut the line down.

ICONOCLAST: Where do they make these?

ROKKE: The DUs are made all over the place. I mean Aerojet ... we got health effects where they shut the whole thing down, up at Albany, New York. That was National Lead. They've got horrible effects all around Concord, Mass. where it's manufactured. *60 Minutes* did a story back in 1981 about all the adverse health effects that were at the Aerojet facility in Tennessee. They make it up in Minneapolis at Twin Cities. I mean, all over the place. This stuff's a nightmare. When you get to Oakridge and Paducah and Portsmouth where they have this stuff, and the health effects around there are just leg

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• DEPLETED URANIUM — DOUG ROKKE INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 9

endary, with all the respiratories and the cancers and everything.

The best report that's out is called *Discounted Casualties*. It was written by a Japanese journalist who's an expert on Hiroshima, you know, the atomic bomb. Akira Tashiro was his name. You could just go online, and type *Discounted Casualties*, and pull the whole book up in English. Just read through it. There are interviews. Leuren Moret did the forward on it, and I talk about all my work as director of the DU Project when I was health physicist with the assessment team after Gulf War I.

You won't find hardly anything on the web. If you go to the Department of Defense website, and you put in the "Depleted Uranium Project" for which I was director, you won't find any of this stuff. You won't find any report on the depleted uranium assessment team from Gulf War I, and all the reports we did. It's just not there.

We had all these orders mandating medical care, going way back to day one. I issued the initial one and have a whole shitpot of medals. In '91, the commanding general issued the order to provide medical care for everybody, identifying those who needed it. It never happened.

And then General Shinseki, who is retired as the head Army general, issued the order himself Aug. 14, 1993, mandating medical care, thorough environmental clean-up and remediation, and education and training. As a consequence of that, as director of the DU Project, we developed all the regulations, environmental clean-up, all the training and education, videotapes to support it, and in September of 2002 General Shinseki signed Army regulation AR700-48 making it mandatory. But they just ignore it.

And then General Peake on April of last year issued the same order mandating medical care for everyone exposed. But they ain't doing it.

ICONOCLAST: Why won't they do it, if they received an order from the General?

ROKKE: They're above the law. They're just simply above the law.

ICONOCLAST: These guys issued the orders on behalf of the DOD, right?

ROKKE: They are the commanding generals of the DOD.

ICONOCLAST: If they issued the order, who has the authority to stop the orders?

ROKKE: Dickie Cheney. It stopped way up there because when you go through this, and you find they aren't complying with the order, not giving the medical care, they haven't told the truth, then you have to figure it out.

You've got Deputy Secretary of Defense Bill Winkenwerder who's in charge of all medical. He issued an order himself in 2003 to do it, but they don't do it.

If you come down the medical line, you've got Georgie Bush, Dickie Cheney, and then you come on down from that to Don Rumsfeld. Then you've got Bill Winkenwerder, then you've got Mike Kilpatrick, Department of Defense.

These guys are absolved from telling the truth or complying or doing anything like this. And the only one that's got the authority and knowledge and

who's been there from day one who can do that stuff is Dickie Cheney.

Rumsfeld's new Georgie Bush is new. He didn't have any clue what's going on until after his 2000 election. He called me and had me go up there and speak to the U.S. Senate on all this stuff. Real interested to get ushered into the U.S. Senate as keynote speaker for a Veterans Day breakfast. It's a fascinating

experience.

It's pretty neat.

But you have all this stuff happening, so you figure, but we continue to use it. It violates United Nations laws and regulations. It doesn't even pass common sense to take tons and tons of solid radioactive material and throw it in someone else's back yard, refusing to give medical care although it's been ordered, refusing to clean up the environmental contamination, although it's required. And they keep getting away with it.

When you look at the commanding generals who can do this shit, although Shinseki signed off on the order, as the head of the Army, and Kirpatrick and Winkenwerder can get away without doing the medical care, who's got the authority above them that can do it? Well, Rumsfeld's an idiot. He's only been around a short while, and George Bush didn't know, so it points at Dickie Cheney, because when you figure Dickie Cheney back in '92, we got a directive sent down from a lady named Madeleine Albright, secretary of state, down through General Paul Greenberg to the U.S. Army corps research lab. We were ordered at that time to write a no-bid contract for Halliburton.

ICONOCLAST: Really?

ROKKE: Uh-huh. We did. And we did it, and they got it. You know, Brown and Root ... Halliburton. So we hired them, and they went over to Kuwait and pushed a whole bunch of junk into a big hole at one of the camps and then walked away.

Now they've had all the no-bid contracts, as everybody's heard about. How much money's been wasted and can't be accounted for? It's real easy. When you trace the whole thing, who was involved in the beginning to allow this stuff ... it all points to Dickie Cheney. I mean, just 100 percent. And then you still have all the generals who knew what was going on, and they've never done anything.

ICONOCLAST: Why would Dick Cheney want there to be —

ROKKE: Money. Money. Money. Money. Money.

ICONOCLAST: Is DU cheaper to produce or something?

ROKKE: Yeah. It's free. You have to understand, this is an incredible weapon. It kills and destroys everything. I mean, it's absolutely incredible. When I had to clean up the mess following Gulf War I, I learned how good this stuff was. There's no two ways about it.

It's incredible. It's the best we've got.

And then we did all the testing in '94 and '95, and we saw it again. In '94 we did what was called a Bradley Fighting

Vehicle

burn test. I loaded a Bradley Fighting Vehicle with munitions and explosives, and I set it off. And I found that the contamination was so extensive within 50 meters that you absolutely had to wear full respiratory and skin protection.

Well, the Army adopted those recommendations I put in, absolutely implemented them. They're in place now. So with every single incident where they use it you have to wear full respiratory and skin protection within 50 meters by U.S. Army specific guidance adopted by the Navy and everybody else.

When you get the stuff destroyed, it's like a checkerboard. It's all over the place.

And we know also from our experience that all respiratory and skin protection required within 50 meters' radius, that's about 160 feet, but the stuff goes out to about 400 meters. Now I did not measure any farther than 400 meters, because I couldn't out of my pad called the Nevada test site area 25. God knows how much farther it went. We know, absolutely totally confirm, no question about it, that at the National Lead site where they were manufacturing it in Albany, N.Y., it went 30 miles, in sufficient quantities to cause health effects.

So, we put tons and tons and tons of solid radioactive materials all over the place. This stuff, when it hits, it breaks up, forms fine dust and oxides, and some of these dusts are so small, they are smaller than the inner diameter of a red blood cell. That's always been known.

Marion Fulk knew that from day one when he did the work on the Manhattan Project. Marion Fulk is one of the last living gods of the Manhattan Project. He was the particle physicist who spread of all of this stuff in the atmosphere. He's the last living god. Two or three of the last remaining ones have died during the past few months.

ICONOCLAST: So, to recap?

ROKKE: What we have is deliberate use of solid radioactive materials all over the place and the deliberate refusal to provide the medical care that's mandated by Army orders and regulations, Department of Defense directives, and a simple refusal to clean up all the environmental contamination that must be done by the direct Army regulation. It's that easy. There's no accountability.

Anybody that speaks up becomes *persona non grata* and the attacks just come flying your way beyond comprehension.

ICONOCLAST: Is this a move toward population control or something?

ROKKE: No. No. Just killing and destroying on the battlefield. It's real

simple. You've got to remember the soldier and the warrior. His job is to kill and destroy. And they don't think anything beyond that.

I've heard people say it's about population control. No. It's about killing and destroying. How do you do it effectively? That's it.

I mean, when I was director of the DU Project, when I was still in the good graces of the military and the secretary of the Army and everybody, at that time they loved me. Then they had a real problem. Anyhow, I went in with the intent to insure that if we did use this in combat that we could clean it up and provide the medical care and that everybody had the education: which is knowledge, which is training, which is skills necessary to work with it and respond and clean it up.

Well, what I found out real fast when I got in doing all this work for 15 months was "God Almighty, you can't clean it up. You can't provide medical care."

We knew we had to put procedures in place to minimize the effect as much as we could. That's why I wrote the Army regulations and put all the training programs together.

ICONOCLAST: Would you list yourself as a whistleblower?

ROKKE: Me? No. I'm an Army officer finishing my job.

I had a direct order to make sure the stuff is cleaned up. Multiple direct orders. Some people might call it a whistleblower because I got fed up with the fact they weren't complying in 1997 when the guys were sick and dying. I got fed up with it, but no, I'm not a whistleblower. I'm just finishing a job.

I got an order signed by Gen. Schwartzkopf's chief of staff assigning me to do this for the commander. Schwartzkopf got the order on down from the Pentagon telling him to assign me to clean up the mess. To this day, I have no idea why.

ICONOCLAST: I understand a law just passed in the Louisiana House regarding testing for DU.

ROKKE: You betcha. 101 to nothing, mandating medical care. The individual that was responsible for that is Command Sgt. Major Bob Smith.

ICONOCLAST: What would it take to get Texas to pass something like that, for the health of our soldiers coming home?

ROKKE: I don't know. I've given talks at the University of Texas Medical School in Houston. Done the same up in Dallas. We've been right there in Crawford. All over the place.

One of the other doctors that works with us is Dr. Ruth McGill. They tried to kill Ruth McGill and I down there on the south side of Dallas a couple of years ago. They tried to run us off the road on that big expressway. We had just finished a radio and television interview, and we were on the way back, and they came right at us. Man, if Dr. McGill hadn't been a good driver we would have been dead meat.

ICONOCLAST: Who did this?

Continued On Next Page

• DEPLETED URANIUM — DOUG ROKKE INTERVIEW ... Continued From Previous Page

ROKKER: DOD guys. I had my house broken into a gazillion times when I was in Jacksonville, Alabama. Had windows shot out. I have had direct threats from Army officers in uniform. They bounced me out of the Army Reserve after I testified and forced the Secretary of Defense in England to admit he lied to the House of Lords. That was real interesting. Oh, they don't like any of us.

The simple thing is, you take tons and tons of solid radioactive waste, and you spread it all over the world, both here in the states and overseas, in combat situations and non-combat situations, do it into the ocean, then refuse to clean it up and provide the medical care. It's that easy.

You guys are so close to one the largest Army bases in the world that you could spit. I can bet you that if you go over there, even though you had all the orders mandated, thorough training on DU, and it's in the common task training manual for the Army, which means everybody in the Army must pass the DU test that I wrote, knowing what it is and how to handle it, how to respond — I betcha if you went over you wouldn't find anyone that knew or did it. And that's scary as hell.

ICONOCLAST: So what needs to happen?

ROKKER: The President needs to issue an order — he and that idiot over in England, his puppy dog ...

ICONOCLAST: Blair?

ROKKER: Yeah, Tony Blair. Just say, "Guys, you are going to comply with the orders that are issued." When the commanding generals and all the captains and colonels and everybody don't comply with an order and regulation, an order signed by the Surgeon General of the U.S. Army, and they don't comply with the Army regulations signed by General Shinseki, they ought to court martial their ass.

ICONOCLAST: But wouldn't that be the President overriding the Vice President?

ROKKER: No, the Vice President is just the head of the Senate. Cheney runs the thing because George is an idiot.

ICONOCLAST: But you would tell him (Bush) to start running it himself.

ROKKER: Yeah, he needs to run it himself. He's the Commander-in-Chief. He just needs to tell them to comply with the orders and regulations that are issued. And tell them to stop using DU because it doesn't even pass the common sense test. Who would want thousands and thousands of tons, who would even want five pounds, of solid radioactive materials thrown in your back yard? It doesn't even pass the common sense test.

ICONOCLAST: You don't think Bush is for DU?

ROKKER: Oh, yeah. They just go along with everything that's happening.

If you look at everything, it's real interesting. We know the Pentagon was never hit by an airliner, okay? Got hit by a cruise missile. Everybody knows that shit. No evidence of wreckage. No nothing. The hole was only 16 feet across. There's no way an airliner is going to disappear in a 16-foot hole. When the roof fell down later on and they say in the 9-1-1 report, it was a dive bomb, no trench, no nothing. Hello. You know? Isn't it astonishing? You go to the photograph of the 9-1-1 report on page 312 and look at it. It's a little hole, and

nothing's burned and nothing's along the sides of it. There's no evidence of an airplane. There's no trench. There's no nothing. And then you kind of wonder how can they say that an airliner the size of a 757 did it. Nothing fits.

But you know, it's the same thing when you come on down. Bush and all those guys, and Powell knew better, okay? They kept saying, "The reason we're going into Iraq and Gulf War II is because they have WMDs, and they're going to use them," right?

Hell, Scott Ritter, Hans Blix, Richard Butler, all of us said we didn't do it because we blew'em up way back in 1990.

Schwartzkopf's autobiography on page 390 of *It Doesn't Take A Hero*, specifically states that we made the decision.

This is a message from Schwartzkopf, between Powell, Schwartzkopf, Chuck Horner, and Dickie Cheney that we decided to blow up the stuff we gave Iraq in place so it wouldn't be used on us.

And when we made that decision, we said we're all going to get sick and guess what? You now have over 325,000 Gulf War I vets, say from August 1990 up till Fall of last year, permanently disabled. Hello? I mean, what more does it take? It's astonishing.

When you add this all up, it stinks. What I see I don't like. You have to understand, I'm a red, white, and blue Army officer all the way. I joined the military in 1967, and I just retired. So that's how many years? Thirty-eight? You know, you're retired, but you're still in. It's a hell of a lot of years.

We got the orders to provide medical care for U.S. military, okay? Well, you can't under any common sense or international law or Geneva Convention refuse to provide that medical care for anybody else, especially non-combatants. But they do.

ICONOCLAST: It's unbelievable that medical care is not provided.

ROKKER: That's what I said when I

kept getting these assignments to do it, and every time I got things done, I hit a roadblock, and then when I started yelling and screaming and trying to make them comply, I became *persona non grata* so fast it would make your head spin.

You know, sometimes, you just have to do what's right. Boy, they don't like it. Hell, I'm just finishing a job. I got an order to do it, and I'm an Army officer that does it. If somebody gets wounded in combat, you give him the medical care. If the area gets trashed in combat, you clean up the environment. Because otherwise, it's useless to go in there.

Everybody's scared and been lied to so many times. Then all this gets blown apart, like the fact that they've had to acknowledge that there were no WMDs — everybody knew that. The guys that said it knew that there weren't any because they had already made the decision to blow'em up. But you still have people that believe these lies.

A Survivor's Perspective

An Interview With
MELISSA STERRY

Gulf War Veteran who served in Kuwait

THE HORRORS OF
Depleted Uranium

Interview By W. Leon Smith

Melissa Sterry is a 42-year-old Gulf War veteran who served for six months at a supply base in Kuwait during the winter of 1991-92. Her job with the National Guard's Combat Equipment Company A was to clean out and prepare tanks and other armored vehicles that had been used during the war for storage. She was also ordered to help bury contaminated parts.

Sterry recently testified before state lawmakers in Connecticut on the effects of depleted uranium in support of a bill, introduced by State Rep. Patricia Dillon, that requires that Connecticut National Guard troops now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan be properly screened and treated for depleted uranium contamination.

Sterry lives in New Haven, Connecticut.

THE INTERVIEW

ICONOCLAST: Tell me about what is going on in the Connecticut Legislature regarding testing soldiers for depleted uranium.

STERRY: We have two different bills here in Connecticut were working on. We have HB6008 that says soldiers returning have a right for an independent test for depleted uranium. There is a federal law that requires soldiers be tested for exposures to depleted uranium. There are Army regulations re-

quiring it. There are Army publications and technical bulletins explaining how the physicals need to be performed. It is not happening.

The state law is saying soldiers have the right to this test, and that the federal government is not living up to its own laws, so the state is going to take care of it.

ICONOCLAST: The state would conduct the tests?

STERRY: We would ensure that independent testing be done. At this point, we're not quite sure how the financing of that is going to occur, whether or not the state would pay for it. Whether or not the National Guard will pay for it. Whether or not we would turn around and bill the federal government. The financing of it is up in the air right now, but people are pushing really hard to say it's federal law. The feds are not doing what they are supposed to be doing; therefore, we're going to bill them for doing their job.

ICONOCLAST: This passed in the legislature?

STERRY: No. It's on the docket to be voted on.

ICONOCLAST: It's already gone through a committee.

STERRY: It's gone through two com-

mittees. It unanimously passed the Veterans Affairs Committee. It unanimously passed the Public Health Committee. The hold-up right now is determining the fiscal note. We're determining the cost and working it into the budget because Connecticut has a fiscal cap. We have budget issues that we're working with.

ICONOCLAST: What about the Senate?

STERRY: We have an integrated system. The bill is going to be voted on in both the House and the Senate. The committees are joint committees, so by passing it out of the Veterans Committee and out of the Public Health Committee, it's seen by both Democrats and Republicans. It's been seen by both senators and representatives.

ICONOCLAST: Is there a date in which you expect to have a vote?

STERRY: Probably by the end of next week.

ICONOCLAST: Are the local papers covering that? Can I get online and find a story about this?

STERRY: Sure. You need to reach out to the HARTFORD COURANT and talk to a reporter named Denny Williams.

ICONOCLAST: What's your stake in
Continued On Next Page

• **DEPLETED URANIUM — MELISSA STERRY INTERVIEW ... Continued From Page 11**

this? Are you a victim?

STERRY: No, buddy, I'm a survivor. The only ones who are victims when it comes to depleted uranium are children.

The second bill that is facing Connecticut is Bill 1245. It calls for the formation of a task force, a health study, a conference, and permanent health registry to track veterans health. It recognizes that we need to test to determine the health of veterans. But if we don't have the additional support structure — just because we know what the health of veterans is doesn't mean we're going to be able to respond to it. The second bill takes care of the other piece.

On the one hand, you have to test for things. On the other hand, you have to track veterans' testing.

You need to understand what is the best kind of test for depleted uranium.

We are also trying to learn from Vietnam. Every war has a signature illness. Every war has soldiers coming home with visible injuries from bullets and bombs, but every war also has soldiers coming home with illnesses that are unique to that war.

In World War I, it was mustard gas.

In World War II, it was extended stays in POW camps.

In Vietnam, it was Agent Orange and Agent Blue.

In Desert Storm and in these wars now, it's depleted uranium. That's what 1245 does.

My interest is that I served in Desert Storm. I was exposed to depleted uranium. At that time, we didn't know about depleted uranium. We didn't know what it could do to the human body in these extremely low levels of exposure. People didn't understand what was making us sick.

ICONOCLAST: You didn't know when you were there that depleted uranium was an ingredient.

STERRY: I had no idea. The depleted uranium issue started to reveal itself in '96, '97, '98, and '99. We knew Desert Storm veterans were sick. We didn't know what was making Desert Storm veterans sick. Then when depleted uranium weapons were used again in Bosnia and Kosovo, we began to understand the connection. We now know what depleted uranium does.

ICONOCLAST: When you were there, you worked in the clean-up?

STERRY: I was involved with logistics. I worked in the prepositioned stocks. These were the supplies that we left behind for the next time we needed to fight. I was involved with cleaning that equipment and putting it in storage.

ICONOCLAST: And it was after this that you realized you started becoming ill?

STERRY: I was injured while I was in Kuwait, so through all of 1992, I was going through surgeries to have my leg rebuilt, and I thought my health problems were related to my injuries. Then by 1993, it was clear that something else was going on. In 1994 and by February 1995, it was clear I was sick, and it was not from my injuries, and there was something wrong with me.

ICONOCLAST: And they determined it was depleted uranium?

STERRY: No. I have never been tested for depleted uranium. No one has ever definitively diagnosed me as having been exposed to depleted uranium. However, there is enough circumstan-

tial evidence in terms of having symptoms, and I have pictures of where I was, what I worked with, and so it's abundantly clear that I was surrounded by equipment that had depleted uranium in it, and that I was working with the clean-up process, so I was exposed to what is called uranium oxide. Uranium oxide is a byproduct of a DU weapon.

ICONOCLAST: So it's very obvious to you then that DU is the cause of the illness.

STERRY: No. I don't think it's the exclusive cause, but I think it's a contributing factor. Desert Storm veterans have a rather broad collection of symptoms, some of which you see in veterans of Bosnia and Kosovo, where DU weapons were also used, some of which you see in veterans of the current conflict where depleted uranium weapons were used. Some of our symptoms you don't see in these other groups, and I think those are things that were brought about by other unique environmental factors.

There were a lot of experimental vaccines used on us. There are also some profound questions about the destruction of the various bio-chemical warfare stocks that Saddam Hussein had in place at the time, whether or not we were accidentally exposed from those materials when those stocks were destroyed.

So some of our symptoms meet the criteria of exposure at low levels of sarin gas. Some of our symptoms meet the criteria for reactions to multiple vaccines. I'm not saying that depleted uranium is the only thing that made us sick, but clearly, it is a contributing factor.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think needs to be done to correct the problem of DU? Do we quit using it?

STERRY: There are several things we need to do. As a soldier, this is one extraordinary, effective weapon. I dig this stuff.

But I think we need to view it the same way we viewed mustard gas at the end of World War I, that the collateral damage that DU provides outweighs the benefits of utilizing the weapon and that we need to cease usage of this material.

The usage of this material is war on generations not yet born. It wages war on children long after military conflict has ended. It's not just children of Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. It's the children of American soldiers because we bring this radioactive poisoning back to our families in our genetic material. It's inside our bodies. We have to stop using it.

I think the second thing we need to do is completely, fully, accurately assess, measure, test, diagnose — pick an verb — our soldiers' health because doctors can't heal us until they know what the problem is.

And the third thing is we have to do everything we can to return our National Guard, our Reservists. We have to do whatever we can to bring back people's health.

ICONOCLAST: I know here in Central Texas, there's a move to save the Waco Veterans Hospital from being closed.

STERRY: It's hard to believe what's happening there, that they would even consider shutting it down. We're going to need every facility that's available. It

is our duty to care for our veterans when they sacrificed everything in defense of the nation.

ICONOCLAST: Are there tell-tale signs that a person has been exposed to DU?

STERRY: It doesn't burn your skin the way external exposure does. It's consuming your major organs on the inside.

ICONOCLAST: Like a microwave oven?

STERRY: Kind of. Depleted uranium gets funky.

A bulk of depleted uranium is insoluble. It's organic in nature. When it slips into that uranium oxide state it attaches itself to other metals and materials that are inorganic. That makes it insoluble. But there are still parts of depleted uranium that are organic, that are soluble. So you can test for depleted uranium with a urine test, but that only gets you the soluble part of DU. A bulk of the DU is insoluble and attaches itself to your bones and your major organs, so it doesn't wash out with your kidneys.

ICONOCLAST: You can't test for that in any other way?

STERRY: Not yet. Those tests are being developed by people in Britain and Europe and Japan. Right now, when the government says, "Oh, we're testing soldiers. We're testing people. We've got this urine test, and we're not getting positive results, so they weren't ever exposed," there's a fault in that logic. They are using as soluble test for an insoluble item.

ICONOCLAST: Do they have an idea when these other tests will be available?

STERRY: As far as I know, other nations have it. I'm trying to track it down. There are two nations left in the world that utilize depleted uranium — the United States and Great Britain. Everybody else not only doesn't use the stuff, they've forbidden the stuff. Last week, from what I understand, Belgium went so far as to ban all of these materials from their country and are in the process of telling the United States, "Get your garbage out."

You've got a sovereign nation saying, "Get your tanks out. Get your armored personnel carriers out. Get your nuclear warheads out. Get everything out of our country that contains this material."

There's a real problem with being able to utilize communication systems

to try and find the appropriate test.

On Tuesday, I was at the U.N. for an all-day session of conferences about depleted uranium, part of the nuclear proliferation treaty situation. And, I spoke with a member of the Scottish parliament about what they're doing. I spoke with Dr. Rosalie Bertell who's doing a lot of the testing components to try to find out what's out there. And the Japanese are doing a tremendous amount of this because they've had 60 years of living with external radiation poisoning. I've been learning about the health situation of *hibakusha* (radiation victims who were terribly scarred and diseased sufferers of the first atomic bombs in Hiroshima and Nagasaki), and they're dealing with what they call "radiation wars."

People get really freaked out, and they get really scared, and they go into major denial. Part of how we've been successful so far (in educating the public) is to keep it real simple. Talk about National Guard. Talk about local troops. Talk about how it impacts people on the local level. Talk about your first responders, your National Guard, or your emergency response people.

Some of the great quotes to come out of people and the best movements that we've had in New York State on the subject were because the legislator turned around and asked the local emergency response people for their plans to handle responses to these situations, and their EMS people had no idea that these materials were even being transported through their area.

And they immediately got on board and said, "Oooh, we can't play with this stuff. You've got to ban this. You've got to get it out of here."

ICONOCLAST: Maybe we need to talk to some local EMS personnel to find out if they even know what depleted uranium is.

STERRY: Do they know what it is? Do they know if it is being transported through their area? Do they have any kind of response to it? If you have a 747 crashing in your back yard, you've got exposure. It may be extraordinarily small, but you've got an exposure. And we're talking about materials that fluctuate between the size of a tenth of a micron to ten microns, and that's all aerosol, and that's all stuff that you can inhale, and it's stuff that can pass through the pores of your skin.



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— Editorial —

Texas Legislature Should Take Immediate Action To Protect Soldiers From DU

The Texas Legislature has its hands full dealing with issues ranging from school finance to appropriate attire for cheerleaders. Lobbyists are twisting arms and calling in chips to make money for their corporate buddies. In many ways, it's politics as usual in Austin.

But this year, Texas lawmakers have a unique opportunity to stand taller than lawmakers in other states, to go beyond what is expected, to make a global statement while at the same time providing an added degree of service to Texas soldiers and their families.

Depleted Uranium

This opportunity involves passing a bill to screen returning soldiers for exposure to depleted uranium at no cost to our troops.

Depleted uranium or U-238 is created as a waste product during the uranium enrichment process that fuels nuclear reactors. U-238 is at least 60 percent as radioactive as the raw uranium. DU's military use is to more effectively enhance armor and armor piercing weapons.

The states of Connecticut and Louisiana are already considering such legislation since the Federal government has, essentially, chosen to ignore the DU problem. In fact, Louisiana's House recently approved such a measure with a 101-0 vote.

These two states are picking up the ball that the Pentagon refuses to carry by implementing the U.S. military's own DU clean-up and testing regulations requiring U.S. soldiers to be routinely screened and treated for DU contamination.

Much of the world is not aware of the tide of radioactivity that is being unleashed with the use of nuclear weapons in the Middle East conflicts. Scientists are concerned, as are military commanders and soldiers whose health is deteriorating from exposure to depleted uranium weaponry. Their exposure is up close and the threat of cancer and other life-threatening ailments is beginning to sink in.

Scientists are learning that this radioactivity from our weapons in Iraq does not stay in Iraq. Billions of minute radioactive dust particles are being transported around the world, to remain permanently suspended in the air, ultimately to end up in human lungs. The particles rest only after they are rained upon to become ground cover on roofs, in fields, in yards, and in water supplies, creating a web of radioactive land mines stretching across the planet.

Soldiers who are in close contact with DU or who breathe the vapors are, by growing numbers, coming home afflicted. They then, with close interaction, pass this on to their families, with the possibility of conveying the affliction to their children in the form of grotesque birth defects.

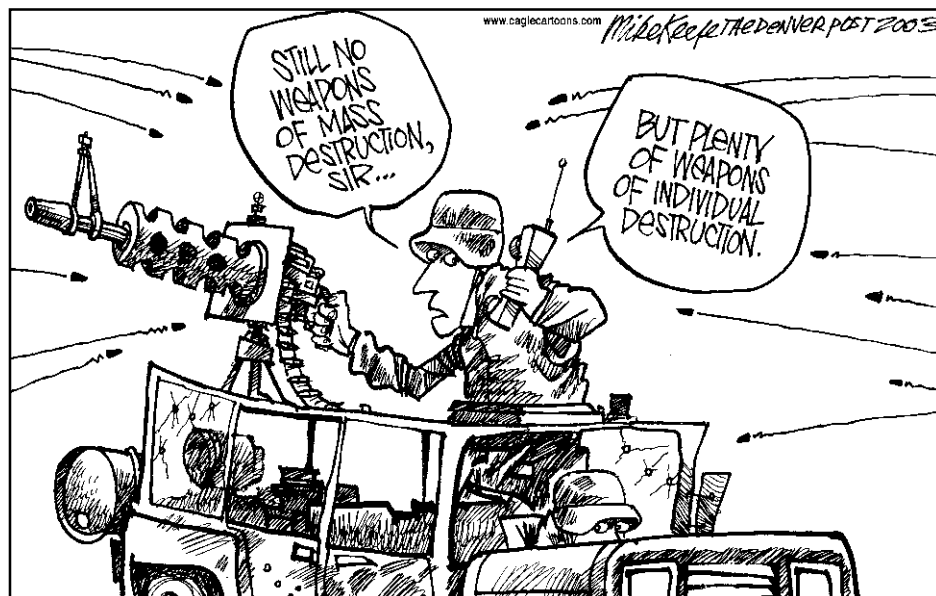
The bill in Louisiana is a start, but really does not go far enough. Yet first steps are important to eliminating a threat to generations who have yet to draw their first breath.

Basically, Louisiana lawmakers give returning soldiers the right to have a body fluid screening test for exposure to depleted uranium and require that adequate training related to DU exposure dangers is provided prior to redeployment.

Actually this is only a partial overall test, for both soluble and insoluble depleted uranium tests are needed for a full evaluation, but this is at least a start and will provide some screening advantages.

Usually in arguments pitting politics against science, politics wins; but the world

Editorial OP/ED Opinion - Columns - Letters



cannot pause for politicians to get up to speed on the deadly endeavor of nuclear proliferation through the use of depleted uranium. DU is not a soldier-to-soldier combat ingredient. It is soldier-to-civilization, and both lose in the long run, as does our environment and this planet.

On behalf of Texas soldiers, our legislature has the power to initiate testing to learn the degree of the proliferation in the Lone Star State, to use its clout to begin to educate Texans about the dire consequences of DU, and to lead the way in providing an added degree of protection for families who have already sacrificed.

It is time to put our hearts where our bumper stickers are. All of us with yellow ribbons on our autos should call our legislators and demand that this testing be made available to our soldiers. Even if the threat should turn out to be not as serious as the evidence suggests — and the proof is overwhelming that it is — are we willing to risk the lives of our soldiers and their families over a few dollars? Is that what supporting our troops is all about?

The Iconoclast encourages both houses of the Texas Legislature to adopt a DU bill similar to that in Louisiana during this session. This isn't about politics. It's about survival and doing the right thing.

— Written By W. Leon Smith, Don M. Fisher, and Nathan Diebenow

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Holier-Than-Thou Hooligans

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "The legislature is like a henhouse. Well, the floor, anyways."

We are now safe from gay married sex-yully suggestive cheerleader terrorists.

First, what is sexually suggestive, anyway?

Pelvic thrusts and hip shimmies? Or can teenaged girls no longer wink or flutter their eyelashes? Be careful how you smile, kid. And weld that reclining car seat in the upright position! All those things suggest sex.

Underwear suggests sex. Babies suggest sex. Not to mention lipstick, perfume, high heels, underarm deodorant and breath mints.

And we pay these people?

Couldn't we raise their salaries to stay out of Austin and be stupid in the privacy of their own homes?

The Texas House spent just more than a hundred grand on this intrusion into your privacy.

Sort of like a burglar charging you for the break-in.

Tired of rearing your own children?

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Don't want the annoying hassle of having to say no to pesky requests for revealing clothing and tawdry behavior? New from the Texas Legislature: Morality-in-a-Law. We take the troublesome worry out of deciding what's right and wrong!

But wait! That's not all! You also get this handy Decency Squad to invade your school and give your children to foster homes!

Who will be the Sex Police?

And pay the bill for any hearings, lawsuits and cuss fights?

YOUR SCHOOL DISTRICT!

Have your credit card handy.

Operators are standing by.

Real operators.

This new bill, according to the House web site, reads like this:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.088 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.088. CERTAIN SEXUALLY SUGGESTIVE PERFORMANCES PROHIBITED. (a) A school dance team, drill team, cheerleading team, or any other performance group may not perform in a manner that is overtly sexually suggestive at an athletic or other extracurricular event or competition sponsored or approved by a school district or campus.

(b) The commissioner may submit to a school district a written request that the district review performances by a performance group described by Subsection (a) to determine if the performances are overtly sexually suggestive.

(c) If the school district determines that a performance group described by Subsection (a) has performed in an overtly sexually suggestive manner, the district shall take appropriate action against the performance group and the group's sponsor, as determined by the district.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

CSHB 1476 expands the language to any performance group who may not perform in an overtly sexually suggestive manner and removes language stating a violator is not to perform for the remainder of the school year.

Additionally, the substitute creates language for the commissioner to inform the school district upon determining a performance group performed in an overtly sexually suggestive manner and the district is required to take appropriate action against the performance group and the sponsor.

That is, some busybody calls the state and says your daughter's skirt is sex-yully suggestive. The state orders your school to do something about it. If the state doesn't think your school was mean enough, they start jerking teaching certificates, cutting off funds and even file criminal charges of child abuse. That turns your children over to the all new and improved PRIVATIZED Child Protective Services, which now makes money by taking your kids away.

God forbid that we sinful, perdition doomed parents should decide what's good for our progeny.

Now, this blue-nosed hypocrisy doesn't stand a chance of passing the Senate. It doesn't even have a sponsor. Yet. But even Hitler started out as a joke. These people are not all fascists. Some of them are just cowards. Here's how this ended up making Texas a bigger laughingstock than the time Neighbor Bush fell off the wagon while bulldogging a pretzel.

The Rev. Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston (That's right, far

right Democrat who once proposed cutting off the fingers of convicted drug dealers.) was stuck for a sermon a few Sundays back. Since he couldn't preach on the vanity of personal political aggrandizement without actually reading Ecclesiastes, he stuck to a text he seems to know a great deal about: scantily clad teenaged girls.

And their scandalous, YES, BRETHERN AND CISTERN I'M TALKING ABOUT SCA-A-A-N-DALOUS SEX-YULLY SUGGESTIVE NUBILE YOUNG POMPOM-WAVING SALOMES, PUSH-'EM-BACKING THEIR WA-A-A-Y BACK TO THE SIDELINES OF HELL ITSELF, LURING THE ATTENTIONS OF OUR COMMUNITY AWAY FROM THE WHOLESOME CHRISTIAN AVOCATION OF FINE YOUNG MEN BEATING EACH OTHER SENSELESS EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT! CAN I GET AN AMEN?

Did I misspell "sistren?"

I don't think so. That's sort of the way fundamentalists treat their wimmen, like convenient holes in the ground.

Now, this is Texas, which the majority thinks of as a foretaste of hell. You know, heat, poisonous biting creatures embossed with long sharp points, droughts, floods, toads and locusts. All the earmarks of hell.

Don't tell me how much we love our Lone Star State.

Most people who live here hate it.

If they loved Texas, they wouldn't have built Dallas.

And they damn sure wouldn't vote for these clowns.

We don't love Texas, we love TEXAS MONTHLY, a cool, cushioned, televised Disney Texas where you don't have to get your designer back-cut boas in the cow pies.

The only people who like living here

are just tickled to death that we ain't hauling hay or chopping cotton. Real Texans know God put all these sharp edges on Texas because you have to work to love this country.

So most of these play-like Texans think they have to put on shows to convince the neighbors that they sit around in church three times a week praying to go to Colorado when they die.

Of course if the neighbors had actually been in church, they'd know that everybody else was still in their pajamas watching the pre-game show.

Therefore, all the inside-loving Yankee wannabes are afraid to vote for any politician that some preacher demeans, lest he call down the wrath of the lord and smite their air conditioners.

Or turn the mall into a pillar of fire.

Real Texans, who grew up sleeping amongst the sounds of screech owls and bullfrogs instead of ArticAire, know that the way to deal with a pillar of fire is just to turn it over to the cool side, fluff it up, lay your head back down and go back to sleep. You gotta git up and milk in a couple of hours.

Anyway, our brave legislators wouldn't vote against a preacher's bill to bring back screw worms and walking cultivators.

They know the nastiness of a holier-than-thou campaign.

After all, most of them got where they are by asserting their opponents were soft on Satan.

They know that if they vote against any bill that doesn't order foot-washing, snake-handling and paying the preacher by the bushel basket, the morality mob they created will turn on them like Pharisees on Easter.

So those Texas lawmakers who aren't fascists are gutless.

That's how this mess got passed.

Half the looney legislature doesn't think you're raising your kids right, and the other half has the moral fiber of an egg-sucking dog.



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Military Follies

Even when I was in the real United States Army, you remember, the one from the previous Millennium, the top brass could never be accused of veracity.

I remember how the slime seeped through the crevices in the chain-of-command from general to major on down to the mere lieutenant whose goal in life was to get promoted captain at any cost.

Since there was no war to expedite that process, screwing with lowly enlisted personnel was a viable avenue to take.

One unit I was assigned to in Germany from '75 to '78 was top heavy with officers whose interests extended no further than their own careers. Instead of being concerned with the welfare of the personnel, most of them put more effort into finding fault with the enlisted men. They would actually go out of their way to look for reasons to dishonor a man.

We had one particularly oozy lieutenant who toiled around in his gold Corvette (really!) phallic symbol. He got his jollies by slinking through people's business and finding ways to turn minor character flaws into serious Code of Conduct charges. Well, he was wholly inept as an officer, and his drop-dead gorgeous wife was overly-friendly to single guys, so I suppose he had to compensate (or vice versa).

On the flip side, one of our captains was a West Point graduate, well on his way to a brilliant career. He was fair to the men, and people liked working for him. This was the type of leader you would willingly follow into harm's way.

It came to pass that the captain decided to resign his commission. Shortly before shipping home Stateside, the lieutenant – in a room filled with enlisted men – made the mistake of asking him why he was “throwing away his West Point education and career.”

The captain's reply was a terse, “I joined the Army to serve my country. It was never my intention to screw people and ruin their lives like you.”

Although I can't remember their names, I'll never forget that exchange.

A new commissary (grocery store) was built in the Summer of '75, just before I arrived. The building was completed but the coolers and freezer units had not yet been delivered. Somehow, the German contractor had not taken notice of this small detail, yet with characteristic Teutonic efficiency had built the entire structure to precise specifications – including the egresses.

When the coolers and freezers showed up it was discovered that they were too large to fit through the doorways. So, these multi-thousand dollar pieces of equipment sat outside all winter, in the mountain region of Germany, exposed to the nastiest of elements, while the Brigade Commander, a general, did nothing.

This is but one of many snafus which made life more harsh than it needed to be. I mention it for the simple reason that here was the Army, trying desperately to attract married people and families, and this general, dictatorially secure in his own private little dominion, couldn't care less for their well-being.

For a commissary we were forced to utilize the basement of the women's barracks. Because of the set up, most of the meat came from Ireland, not the U.S., and it was tough. It was also rarely fresh – often times it was green. Out of code food was commonly placed on the shelves with signs that the local medical officer had



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

deemed it acceptable for consumption. Fresh was a joke. Frozen foods regularly showed signs of having thawed and being re-frozen.

But, there was one room stocked full of all the cake and pie mixes and associated stuff one could want!

Now, as a non-commissioned officer I had been through several training programs at Fort Sill, Okla. that taught me the proper way to be a leader and care for those in my charge. Since I saw that absolutely nobody was being cared for properly in this sorry brigade, and any officer who cared was sent elsewhere or resigned, I felt duty-bound to exercise my right to write to my Senator.

It wasn't as much for me as it was for: The men in my section that I was responsible for who were being steamrolled by my superiors; personnel in other sections, crews, platoons and batteries; my (then) wife and the other wives and their children.

When the letter came back through channels, a Judge Advocate General (JAG) captain called me in, then attempted to berate me for sending it. Not regular procedure. I stood my ground. Getting nowhere, he tried a veiled threat with, “There will be no more letters like this, will there, Specialist Tenuto?”

My response was, “Sir, you're a lawyer. Do you realize what you just told me is illegal?”

Well, when nothing improved, my ex wrote a letter.

After that, the cooling and freezer units miraculously found their way into the commissary. The general called little me in for a personal “chat” (just the two of us, highly unusual), and made certain he knew who and where I was from then on.

Then, several months later he found a way to ship me to a unit within the brigade but away from headquarters.

I must say my ex and I did some real sweating during those few months. We knew that several of the subjects which had been touched upon in the letters were more than sensitive to the general and his pet sergeant – my immediate supervisor, who technically should not have even been in my chain of command.

It's kind of curious, but I must have been right all along. When the sergeant retired and decided to stay in West Germany, Military Intelligence operatives came to visit me. We spent an entire afternoon discussing this man; his stranglehold over a general and other officers; his elevated level of importance and authority within a brigade; why he was in that one unit over nine years (atypical for the Army); his sole access to over 33% of the sites in Germany for the Army's largest nuclear missile and countless other top secret documents, although he was born and raised in a Soviet bloc country; and, his constantly disparaging remarks about America and Americans.

I could never figure out why someone who hated Americans so much was in its Army.

Most importantly, though, was his

weekly attendance at a bar every Sunday evening that was closed to the public for the meeting of the local communist organization.

I will be the first to admit that I was never the perfect soldier. Still, at 25 I had been entrusted with the care of six other men, hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars of equipment and vehicles, and extremely sensitive materials. By the latter I mean I knew the location of hundreds of potential nuclear missile sites.

At no time did I ever consider selling out my country, and fortunately I was never faced with that quandary. Because I never told anyone what I did. None of this matters anymore because 20 years ago I saw the missiles being dismantled live on CNN from my very base in Germany.

Or were they?

Anyway, my point is when the brass wants to spread the feces you'd better make sure your hip boots are handy. And they don't have any tears in 'em.

Do you remember My Lai, VietNam? Who got the shaft? Young Lt. Calley, the lowest-ranking officer.

Go back to Iwo Jima. The very symbol of the Marine Corps is a sham. That picture was posed by a photographer, and it's a huge statue in Arlington National Cemetery. Ira Hayes didn't even fight going up Mt. Suribachi. The phony notoriety of being an Indian “poster boy” for the USMC turned him into an alcoholic and subsequently killed him.

Guantanamo Bay. Abu Graib... The mucky-mucks are never to blame. Just ask them. Not Bush. Not Rumsfeld. None of the top generals.

No matter what their title, it's always the grunts.

Thankfully PFC Lynndie R. England, on trial for her role in the prisoner abuses at Abu Graib has an officer with a backbone in charge of her Court Martial. Colonel James L. Pohl doesn't buy the correlation between her story and that of PVT Charles A. Graner, Jr. Graner was, at the time, both her superior and boyfriend.

Maybe, just maybe, we'll get some of the facts regarding what went on there.

A book has been written by former Army Sergeant Erik Saar, who was assigned as a translator at Guantanamo in 2002 and 2003. He details how the military would set up “mock” interrogations with cooperative prisoners to put on shows for Congresspersons and other visiting VIPs.

Col. David McWilliams, a Military spokesman, stated, “...we do not stage interrogations for VIP visits at Guantanamo.”

Several VIP visitors have, nonetheless, commented on the interrogations they were allowed to witness.

And the lies just keep on coming.

In possibly the biggest, most egregious lie to come out of Afghanistan, Pat Tillman, who gave up a multi-million dollar career with the NFL Arizona Cardinals after 9/11 to become an Army Ranger was not killed by hostile fire.

True, friendly fire happens in any war. It's one of those unavoidable sureties.

However, according to a story published in the May 4, 2005, WASHINGTON POST (written by Josh White), Tillman's death went far beyond “friendly fire.”

The Army knew it was a case of gross negligence within days of his death. False reports were filed by field commanders about the details.

Tillman was not ambushed in a Humvee as reported to the news services. He was riddled with bullets by American Rangers from his own unit as he and others huddled behind a rock formation to

avoid hostile fire. Tillman was fired upon after signaling his position to elements of his own platoon.

The men firing at him did nothing to determine whom it was they were shooting at.

His body armor and uniform were burned the very next morning with the excuse being a biohazard from blood contamination. Bull! It was kind of difficult to match up the bullet holes from the ashes.

Soldiers from the action admitted it was fratricide, and the decision to burn his clothing was a cover-up. The details of Tillman's death were known by high-ranking Army commanders days before the memorial service in which he was awarded the Silver Star.

His family was not told the, sic, truth until Memorial Day weekend, a month after the ceremony.

The response of the Army not notifying the family came from spokesman Paul Boyce: “Notifying families in a timely way that they have had a loved one killed or severely injured is complex and imperfect work. We can do better. At the heart of every notification effort is a commitment to compassion and completeness in providing information as it is known to those who sustained the loss. That is what happened in the case of Corporal Tillman, and that effort continues to this day.”

Army doublespeak, as old as the military itself. I worked with a woman whose brother did black ops. He vanished one night in Bosnia, or thereabouts, circa 1992. No one was quite sure where he was. His family wouldn't have known if his partner hadn't broken procedure and called the guy's wife. Several weeks later his body showed up on a riverbank. The last I heard his family never knew where or how he died – I don't believe they ever even got a body back.

Guess who received punishments for the Tillman disaster? Not the officers who filed false reports or destroyed evidence. Why the lowest ranking members of the platoon, of course – Tillman's buddies.

What was the real reason behind keeping this secret as long as possible, especially from his family? Because of Pat Tillman's high profile as an NFL player who gave up so much to join the Army – and the Rangers in particular – it was imperative to keep his death as heroic as they could to milk it for all the recruitment capital it was worth.

Marketing, plain and simple.

Hey, I'm not a big football fan. To me, baseball is sports. Before this unfortunate turn of events I couldn't even have told you who Pat Tillman was. So, it's not just about him. This was a guy a cut above the rest. He considered living in America a privilege, and making millions playing a game worthless if he gave nothing back in return.

Pat Tillman gave everything to his country, and his country dumped on him.

Yet, I can't even begin to tell you exactly how incensed this made me when I read the article. And I have not gotten any cooler.

And it makes me somewhat disheartened that THE WASHINGTON POST is the only news outlet where I've seen this information.

While a member of the Army the main philosophy repeated over and over was that a soldier's main function is to preserve the peace. I don't hear that coming from any of today's military leaders, or soldiers. That's just wrong.

Maybe if our Republican leaders had spent some time around the military they would understand that concept.

Nah... I doubt it.

Gonzales Blazes Trails, Ruffles Feathers

After taking part in the longest filibuster in the history of the Texas Senate, May 4, 1957, was a day of rest for a freshman legislator from San Antonio.

The parents of Enrique Barbosa Gonzalez were among the 430,000 Mexicans that poured into Texas during the first two decades of the twentieth century. Like many of their fellow refugees fleeing the chaos and carnage of revolution in their native land, they settled in the Alamo City where the future trailblazing politician was born in 1916.

Henry B. Gonzalez graduated from the University of Texas and earned a law degree from St. Mary's in 1943. After WWII service as a naval intelligence censor, he took a job working with young offenders in his hometown.

Gonzalez's hard work and dedicated were rewarded with leap-frog promotions, and by 1946 he had risen to the position of chief juvenile probation of-

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



ficer. However, he resigned that same year after superiors forbade him to hire a qualified black applicant.

Bothered by the lily-white composition of the state legislature, Gonzalez approached two community leaders in 1950 about running for the House of Representatives. Both told him the same thing: "A Mexican can't win, and it doesn't pay anything."

Angered by their cynical and selfish attitude, Gonzalez decided to prove them wrong by seeking the seat himself. He made up for a lack of cash — his larg-

est contribution was \$50 from a Japanese restaurateur — with an energetic one-man campaign that generated interest and hope in the Mexican and black sections of San Antonio.

The editorial endorsement of LA PRENSA, the Spanish-language daily newspaper where his father once worked as managing editor, gave the underdog a big boost. He came in second in the Democratic primary, beating the son of a county commissioner, before losing a close contest in the runoff.

Gonzalez's strong showing landed him a spot three years later on a reform ticket in the city elections. All nine candidates on the slate won, but only the lone Mexican and the incumbent mayor scored first-round knockouts. His subsequent selection as mayor pro-tem moved Gonzalez to tears.

But it took the new councilman just two weeks to demonstrate that he was

beholden to no one. When the mayor and city manager advocated tossing "communist-tinged" library books into the fire, Gonzalez declared he was not in favor of "labeling, much less burning books, particularly when the burning smells of Hitler tactics."

Running as an independent for a second term, Gonzalez showed he could stand on his own two feet by polling nearly 2,000 more votes than four challengers combined.

Gonzalez celebrated his fortieth birthday in May 1956 by announcing his candidacy for the Texas Senate. Many felt he was biting off much more than he could possibly chew. Not only was the office currently held by a veteran politician, but no Texan of Mexican descent had ever been elected to state senate.

Gonzalez stunned the Democratic establishment with a 282-vote upset in the party primary. But he had another high hurdle to clear before packing his bags for Austin.

As a rule, the Bexar County GOP did not oppose conservative Democrats in the general election, but Gonzalez was a "left-winger," "creeping socialist" and a Mexican to boot. Nevertheless, he dashed the Republicans' hopes of riding President Eisenhower's coattails to victory with a 13,000-vote triumph and trailed Ike by a mere 6,000.

Gonzalez was still learning his way around the senate, when he joined Abraham (Chick) Kazen in a history-making filibuster. After the Laredo senator spoke nonstop for 15 hours and 44 minutes, the loquacious newcomer held the floor for an amazing 21 hours and two minutes. Together the long-winded twosome succeeded in talking eight of ten segregationist bills to death.

Gonzalez did not let the fact that he belonged to the same party as Price Daniel stop him for campaigning for governor in 1958. He took a three-to-one licking from the incumbent but received almost a quarter of a million votes, enough to send third-place finisher W. Lee (Pappy) O'Daniel into permanent retirement.

Three years later, the unexpected exit of Rep. Paul Kilday opened the congressional door for Gonzalez. With endorsements from President John F. Kennedy, Vice-President Lyndon Johnson, Sen. Ralph Yarborough, and even Gov. Daniel, he stepped up to the national political stage.

For the next 37 years, the combative congressman spoke his mind and let the chips fall where they may. An unapologetic partisan who gladly gave Republicans fits, he did not hesitate to call members of his own party to account. As chairman of the House banking, finance and urban affairs committee in the 1980s, he exposed the ties of four Democratic senators to a savings-and-loan scandal.

Henry B. Gonzalez surprised friends as well as foes, who always believed he would die on the job, by retiring in 1998. He proudly passed the baton onto son Charlie, winner of the election to fill his famous father's seat, before his death two years later at age 84.

"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.

Sleeping Funny

Iraq is a lot like a girlfriend from hell.

I dated this one chic for almost a year, and right after we broke up, I realized just how crazy she was.

I look back and see that the warning signs were on a combination of billboards, sky writing, and bleeding walls.

Not pretty.

For starters, she didn't like me calling her "chic."

This denial of First Amendment rights had a domino effect which eventually led her to throw more wet blankets on my sense of humor.

Example: I decided one morning in bed to place my feet on my pillow beside her as a joke. Unfortunately, the prank went awry. She rolled over half-asleep and gave my piggies a good-morning kiss.

"Oooo, sorry, darling, I guess I must have slept funny last night, huh?" I said muffled under the covers.

"I'm *not* impressed," she said, pulling my foot hair from her teeth.

Then, she said she would like me more if I changed my physical appearance. She suggested I get braces, but I was like, "No way! I don't see the point. My toes are just fine the way they are."

Again, she was *not* impressed.

I have to admit, though, I was nuts, too. When she said she liked guys in dress socks, I went out and bought the fanciest dress socks I could find.

Yeah, yeah — you could say I was

whipped, but not whipped enough to let her shove those same socks into my mouth and hog-tie me dominatrix-style!

I'm kinky but not *that* kinky.

With that said, the United States of America and the sovereign nation of Iraq are still wrapped in an abusive relationship that started way before the first Gulf War.

Example: The deadliest insurgent attack in more than two months occurred last Wednesday in Iraq. Sixty Iraqis were killed and 150 wounded when a suicide bomber blew himself up at a police recruitment center in Irbil, 215 miles north of Baghdad.

So when is the United States doing to wake up and find these socks in its mouth?

I think We The People are starting to wake up.

According to a CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll released prior to the Irbil attack, 57 percent of the American public think that the current Iraqi War wasn't worth it. That's up 4 percentage points from the previous week.

I expect more Americans will grow frustrated with this war now that they're starting to see Iraqi casualties, which were otherwise not counted by the Pentagon.

The Bush Administration is definitely in the hot seat. This means that the anti-war and progressive movements must stay stronger than ever on message:

Honor The Troops — U.S. troops from all social classes should come

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



home without delay to stop the bloodshed in Iraq.

- **Make TDs, Not WMDs** — The U.S. government should stop the creation, use, and sale of weapons of mass destruction, like uranium weapons, which are stockpiled and contaminating people around the country and the world.

- **Super Fuels!** — The U.S. energy policy should follow Superman who harnesses the sun's power to fuel his superpowers.

- **Fair Over Free Trade** — The U.S. trade and foreign policies should be *fair* to other countries and our workers.

- **Healthcare For All** — The U.S. domestic policy should cherish the health of American people in place of corporate profits.

- **Live To Work** — The U.S. domestic policy should institute a living wage system to ensure that American workers are paid like humans, not slaves.

- **True Elections** — The U.S. government must require manufacturers of electronic voting machines to make known the source codes to their voting software to verify the authenticity of all U.S. elections.

It's not too late, but we must first control our own actions.

We must remove the socks from our mouths before we get socked for real.

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Motherly Insight Starts With A Jalapeno

This year perhaps more than any other, my wife deserves something special for Mother's Day. That's because in spite of our daughter's many pre-pubescent mood swings, my wife has somehow managed to avoid what I'm sure has been a strong (some might even say natural) urge to eat her young. This hasn't been easy. As I mentioned, our daughter is experiencing the physical and emotional challenges that accompany adolescence. One minute she is merrily talking about her favorite kind of cheese; the next minute, she is blaming cheese for ruining her life. As a father, my instinct is to fix the problem by addressing the root of the issue. In this case, by going directly to the refrigerator and throwing out everything that is — or has the potential of becoming — a cheese-like substance.

My wife, on the other hand, understands there are complex emotional issues at work, and that, in spite of my good intentions, the likelihood of me being able to resolve such issues is akin



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

to having a bomb successfully de-activated by a goat. Thanks to her motherly intuition, my wife was able to explain to me that what our daughter says, and what she really wants, are two completely different things.

As I understand it, this is the first step to becoming a woman.

Being a man, I am no stranger to this concept.

However, I was in denial when it came to my daughter. Mostly because I didn't want to admit that she is growing up; that time is slipping away. And that, in just a couple of years, my wife and

daughter will probably be sharing the same PMS cycle.

Though I kept this realization to myself, it was clear that my wife's insightfulness is something that only comes with motherhood. It's a bond that starts during that first nine months, when mother and child reach a special understanding that if baby doesn't stop using mommy's bladder for step aerobics, mommy will eat a raw jalapeno. In this way, even before birth, a child learns Mom will endure physical or emotional discomfort if it means providing a valuable life lesson — because that's what Moms do best.

Endure.
If you don't believe me, then I have two words for you: Breast Pump.

True, not every mother utilized this torture device, but the mere thought that she could have is reason enough for a child to be respectful. If you're in doubt, go right now to the nearest full-service car wash, attach an industrial car vacuum nozzle to one of your mam-

milla, push the on button, and keep it there until a) your chest resembles a deflated balloon animal, or b) someone calls the police.

And calling the police yourself doesn't count.

You will quickly realize just one of the many things a mother endures for the sake of her child's well being, and why, if it were up to fathers to provide breast milk to the human species, we'd all be nursed by monkeys.

So this year, I plan to do something special for my wife; something to let her know how much I appreciate all that she does as a mother.

Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated.

The fact is, I haven't been able to think straight since that whole car vacuum incident. In hindsight, I never would have taken my shirt off if I knew my wife had that many quarters.

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

Where 'Liberal' Is Not A Dirty Word

There is no shortage of support groups in our society. There are groups for people with various addictions. There are anger management groups. Some groups are very specific like the support group for Gay and Lesbian Former Jehovah's Witnesses or the one for people who had controlling parents. Some are more general like the men's and women's support groups. I guess I'll have to wait for a "Why Are Gasoline Prices So High" group as well as an "I Hate Artificial Turf and Indoor Stadiums" support group. But there is one segment of society that won't have to wait any longer. A support group for certain people who have worked hard, been frustrated and discouraged, and are often belittled began this past February. It's a support group for dispirited liberals.

Not surprisingly, this support group is located in Southern California. The Activists' Support Circle is the brainchild of Santa Monica's Jerry Rubin (same name as the famous member of the Chicago 7, similar politics, but a different guy). Its purpose is to give liberals "emotional rejuvenation."

Nobody gets up at these meetings and says haltingly, "My name is John Smith and I'm a liberal." It's not a 12-step program. In fact, it's really the opposite of programs that help people control their addictions. This support group tries to give its members encouragement so they'll remain addicted to political activism despite all of their recent discouragements.

The last several years have been difficult for committed liberals. They're still reeling from what they see as the disputed 2000 election, their hard work didn't pay off in the 2004 election, a war that many of them disagree with still seems to be raging, and national politicians are calling for the end of the separation of church and state. No wonder they need a place where they can vent, listen to other similar-minded people



By
**Lloyd
Garver**

and, yes, get some hugs.

Being for unpopular and seemingly hopeless causes can be tiring and discouraging. But unpopular causes are probably the only ones worth fighting for. The popular ones don't need your hard work and blind optimism.

So, if a person's been crying cries out against civil liberty abuse under the guise of the "Patriot Act" only to feel that his words have fallen on deaf ears, he can talk about his frustration at the group meeting. If a woman has been teased because she's still for the Equal Rights Amendment, these folks will feel her pain. Those who spend their days urging health care for poor people, the closing of tax loopholes for the rich, or trying to get our country to join other nations in a search for peace, can talk about how discouraged they often get. If you drive by the place maybe you'll hear people wailing, "Why couldn't Clinton just keep his pants on?"

But don't expect conservative Republicans to have meetings like this. Matthew Knee, a conservative activist and chairman of Bruin Republicans says, "A support group seems very touchy-feely and un-Republican ..." So, I doubt that in a few years you'll be able to overhear discouraged Republicans shouting, "Why did we mess with Social Security?" Conservatives generally have very little sympathy for those who wallow in their problems.

Knee adds that Republicans didn't fall into emotionally-needy doldrums during the Clinton years because they con-

trolled Congress. And then those impeachment hearings bolstered conservative spirits. Conservatives often see liberals as "cry babies." When they don't get their way or their candidate in office, they continue to complain instead of just accepting reality. So, it probably won't surprise them that some liberals who just won't let go of their causes need a support group. But before conservatives get too condescending about this, I think I should remind you of something. Conservatives also

have a support group they run to when things aren't going their way. It's called the Supreme Court.

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



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ICONOCLAST

To The Editor:

In response to: *Social Insecurity*:
Has anyone considered diverting 5-percent of the total budget slated for the Iraq/Afghanistan conflict and "restoration" towards saving the Social Security system?
House rules against homestead increase

So, exactly why did legislators vote against increasing the homestead exemption to \$45,000? And why didn't the media report this? Increasing the homestead exemption is a great way to help overburdened homeowners.

Republican leadership doesn't want to raise taxes. They don't want businesses to pay their fair share. They don't want to increase teacher pay substantially, but rather implement some silly incentive program for teachers "to teach". Meanwhile legislative "chiefs" accept lobbyist donations, but won't do the job they are hired to do — to provide legislation in the best interest of Texas families and their children.

During the past six years legislators by their ongoing inaction DIRECTLY forced Texas homeowners into foreclosures. Thousands of families lost their homes because elected officials did NOTHING to help them. Looks like we're in for another dose of nothing because the proposed bills currently being reviewed at the Capitol do little to resolve the urgent issues of school finance and sky-high property taxes.

One thing is crystal clear, if hard-working Texas voters continue to remain lax in communicating their discontent to their district officials, they have no one else to blame but themselves when they lose their homes and when the quality of their children's education takes a nose-dive. Time to hold legislators accountable.

Peter Stern, Driftwood, TX

To The Editor:

Remember during and after the 2004 elections when all the exit polls predicted that Kerry would win, yet Bush seemed to end up with the higher vote? Consider for a minute that the 2004 exit polls were right: Kerry really did receive a majority of the vote, but that some ... ummm... 'unanticipated' occurrence switched enough votes to give Bush the apparent victory. We are experiencing at this time exactly the consequences of that concept. Bush's agenda is stalled in Congress, the electorate lacks confidence (by about 3:1) in almost everything he has been or is trying to do. The ultra-conservative fringe feels he used them shamelessly, moderate Republicans feel he is much too extreme for their constituencies, so the only people happy with him are the extremely wealthy since he's dedicated to making them even more so — both wealthy and happy.

Yet domestic affairs languish: things like, say, the economy, rising gas prices, urgent ethics investigations in Congress, affordable health care, stuff like that. Foreign affairs continue to receive tortuously conflicted messages: Russia is our trusted ally despite centralized dictatorship initiatives, but Canada, for instance, is a suspect nation for allowing American's to buy reasonably-priced prescription drugs.

Bush has lost any vestige of the control he wanted to acquire from his self-declared 51% 'mandate'. The opinion in this country, as well as the world, is that he is running America much as he ran his previous companies, which is to say "into the ground." Democrats savor the descent, conservatives wail at the Lobbyist's Wall with great gnashing of teeth. And most everybody has been wondering, "How the

hell do we get back on track?"

What we can do, must do, is come back to the bedrock concepts of America, which includes responsibility to all citizens rather than just favored segments. We can remember that this country was built on the labors of the lower and middle classes, and remove from their backs the burden of trying to make ends meet even while being required to pay a growing share of total taxes. We can return to a more progressive tax system altogether, which recognizes the necessity — ethical as well as legal — of all people, and all corporations, paying their fair share for the benefits of living and doing business in this country. If a company says, "Oh, our headquarters is now a Cayman Islands post office box," they're skating on their fair share, and guess who pays? Us. Swapping pollution credits? What is that all about? How is the health of people in Detroit or Louisville helped by exchanging a paper credit from a 'clean' Portland or Minneapolis company? The people are still right there, and the companies are still there and still polluting.

There used to be an ad for Jamaica featuring a mellow-voiced guy saying, "Come back. Come back to Jamaica, mon." That's what we must do. Come back to our roots, to our sensibilities, to the value of assisting in the common good not working toward the common demise.

Tim Slack, Newburgh, IN

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The Thrill Of A Countywide Garage Sale

Bosque Countywide Garage Sale — Woo-Hoo!!! Can't we have these twice a year? Or perhaps quarterly? What was originally organized as a waste management technique to sell, trade, or give away unwanted items (before they cluttered up our landfills) has become a day I will now religiously mark down on my calendar and never, ever skip again!

Every April since my return to Texas, despite my best intentions, I somehow managed to miss this event. Either we were building a fence or hanging a gate or planting the garden or whatever. Once I might have been out of town. Even though (and this is rather embarrassing to admit), I have been a yard sale junkie, on and off, for years, that huge list of addresses on countywide weekend was just too overwhelming. And then, every year I didn't indulge my "second-hand Rose" tendencies, I regretted I hadn't taken the plunge.

Now don't think I'm a manic yard saler. I don't leave the ranch at dawn to beat on people's doors, rousting them out of bed for first crack at the goodies. I usually mosey on in when we happen to take a break. I suspect I am often too late for the really good stuff, probably a blessing in disguise. Like most of us in this land of plenty, I have too many things already. I try not to "collect" unless an item is highly functional. This is how I get away with having three or more of certain things when we all know I really need only one.

If the ad reads "tools," I can sometimes get Zack to come along. But if the sales are uninteresting to him, his eyes glaze over quickly. He gets that deer-in-the-headlights look, as he does in a mall or store after ten minutes. My father was the same way. If it wasn't something HE was shopping for, he suddenly needed to get right home. Guys. . .

I almost missed the countywide garage sale again. I had been preoccupied with a wonderful visit from my children, and forgot it was BCGS weekend. On Friday, I did some errands in town and saw people everywhere, noticed some sidewalk sales at local businesses, had to slap my forehead and kick myself simultaneously (which isn't easy), as I remembered the BCGS. I immediately procured a copy of the CLIFTON RECORD.

Upon consulting the wonderfully compiled listings in the paper, I started plotting my next day's "work" and organizing my own list by hand. (Next year, I might have to copy it off the Internet (if that is possible), cut and paste into Excel, and juggle the information into north streets, south streets, alphabetical names of streets and/or people, etc. The strategies for attacking the daunting list could be endless. And next year, I will definitely start on Friday and do the out of town listings and maybe other towns as well. Oh, when I think of all those missed opportunities. . .

Despite a late start and narrowing my Saturday stops to "in one town only," I still managed to hit almost every sale in my target range. OMIGOSH, it was just too good. Although I didn't find that elusive metal patio furniture, the free weights, or the holiday indoor/outdoor tube lights I was certain everyone would be offering, I did manage to purchase a perfectly serviceable (and very sturdy, plywood with tin roof) \$2.00 doghouse for Stinky — and an old oak desk chair (in need of a back rung and refinishing) for \$1.00. The doghouse seller particularly, seemed delighted he wouldn't have to drag that heavy thing back into his yard.

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.

As I drove away, he was gleefully saying (mostly to himself) that he didn't believe he would actually sell that old thing. One man's trash is truly another man's (or in this case, dog's) treasure. I was absolutely delighted with my purchase.

I almost regretted buying that new treadmill Josh and I put together the day before. There were lots of reasonably priced exercise machines at the sales. Exercise equipment is something many of us buy and just don't use for the long haul. There is a LOT of used exercise stuff in the world. (I have always wondered why, after I have made the purchase, the acquired result is still so elusive. As my kids reminded me recently, you have to actually USE things like treadmills and weights for them to do you any good).

My last buy of the day (when I dragged Zack to town for one last look) was another iron porch support, similar to the two we recently pulled out of the muddy bar ditch (to support the wisteria vine). The seller of this single scrollwork piece promised to call when the other half of the pair becomes available. It's sort of on backorder, needs to be broken out of concrete. I have a second wisteria in desperate need of support! Gee, I hope he remembers to call!) The doghouse, desk chair, and ironwork were definitely the best buys of my day. I just missed that wonderful oak chest of drawers up on Hackberry St. . . . You always so regret the one that got away.

It is necessary to be very selective with one's purchases when one visits dozens and dozens of yard sales. There is a great danger of purchasing more items than one needs or for which one has room. As with auctions, in the frenzy of yard sale buying, reality can rear its ugly head upon returning home — when you wonder why in the world you bought yet another candle holder. . . or pillow. . . or whatever. And I don't need more chiding from my kids about clutter or my well-documented and lamented pack rat tendencies. So I didn't return laden with too many goodies. But I do think I found just enough! And, oh, you folks with those old band-aid tins. . . . Are there any left? Could you please call me?

At one point, watching folks race around from one location to the next (as I was doing the same thing, trying to hit as many sales as possible in one afternoon), it occurred to me that this thing was a real "phenom," like a huge scavenger hunt. I wonder if this would make a good idea for a reality TV show? (Could I possibly sell that idea to anyone?)

I am so hooked on this annual event. It was a fun day, and I heartily recommend it to one and all. Sign me up for next year, but not as a seller. . . .oh no, never as a seller! (I'll donate my discards to the Sunset Home Pot of Gold Thrift Shop or some other worthy charity. Yard sales are a LOT of work). Besides, it's just too much fun to run all over town as a buyer, seeing friends and discovering bargains.

Labour Wins An Historic Third Term

By KAPIL KOMIREDDI
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

LONDON, 6 May, 2005 — Tony Blair couldn't have asked for a better 52nd birthday present. On Friday he became the first Labour Prime Minister to win a third term. Psephologists had predicted a Labour victory all along, but the reduced majority — some 100 seats down — some suggest, will make it impossible for Mr. Blair to author the timeless Blair Legacy he so desperately wants to create, before making way for Gordon Brown, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Mr. Blair's third term was never going to be easy, especially after the leaked reports which revealed that he had decided way back in 2002 to support President Bush in the war against Iraq. Mr. Blair's victory, analysts say, tells more about the opposition's weakness than Labour's strength. Despite Mr. Blair's unprecedented unpopularity, the



Conservatives failed to unseat him.

Michael Howard, the leader of the Conservative Party, announced today that he will be resigning soon, in order

to make way for a younger leader. But he reminded the party and its supporters that they can hold their "heads high up." The Conservatives ran a virulently negative campaign, focusing on issues like immigration and asylum. Their negative campaign, some suggest, actually did the party more good than harm. They have increased their seats in the parliament. However, senior figures in the party are sceptical about forming the government even in 2008, unless drastic measures are taken to revamp the party.

The biggest winners in this race are the Liberal Democrats, whose share of the vote went up by almost 6 percent. Cumulatively, Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have won more votes than Labour. But Britain's 'first past the post' system has made it possible for Labour to return to government. A hung parliament could have led to the introduction of proportional representation,

for which the Liberal Democrats have been pressing hard. It is now a distant dream.

Mr. Blair's tiny majority will present him with enormous difficulty in getting some important bills passed. At least forty of the elected Labour MPs are hardcore leftists and will most certainly oppose any initiatives to privatise the health service. Pressure is already mounting on Mr. Blair to resign and make way for Gordon Brown. "Brownites" are no longer secretive about their plans to ensconce Gordon Brown in 10 Downing Street. But Mr. Blair's recalcitrance, many fear, might be hard to defeat.

Final Results:

Required to win: 324 Seats

Labour: 355

Conservative: 197

Liberal Democrats: 62

Others: 30

Waiting to be declared: 2

A Response To David Frum

By KAPIL KOMIREDDI
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

LONDON — In his column in Canada's NATIONAL POST, David Frum, President Bush's former speechwriter and one of America's leading conservative thinkers, tried to draw a comparison between John Kerry and Britain's opposition leader, Michael Howard. I have generally held some deference for Mr. Frum, despite his staunch rightist stand. I saw him debate a few issues on BBC and thought that he was rational, a virtue which almost every conservative lacks. But his latest piece is utterly ill-researched, dubious and misleading.

Mr. Frum's claim that "Britain generally and London especially have become dirtier, less civil, more dangerous" since Howard's departure as Home Secretary is terribly wrong. A survey taken by The British Crime Survey shows that crime has actually fallen by 5 percent. I don't know if Mr. Frum uses the word "dirtier" euphemistically, because if he is actually discussing dirt then he should know that London, not New York, is the frontrunner for 2012 Olympics; and, as Home Secretary, Mr. Howard had little to do with municipal operations.

In a column for The Atlantic Affairs I extolled Michael Howard's leadership efforts in reshaping his party, but it was hardly an endorsement of his policies. As Mr. Howard was making his closing speeches of the general election campaign, people — white, to be sure — screamed "Racist!" at the top of their voice. His speech was met with booing all along.

Here we have the most infamous Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who scandalously took the nation to war. People hate Tony Blair. He is so despised that Labour strategists were hiding him today. Audiences at his speeches are carefully vetted. When he appeared on BBC, people received him with cries of "coward" and "murderer." Yet, Tony Blair is going to win the election with a simple caveat: "If you don't vote

Labour, if you don't endorse me, Michael Howard will become Prime Minister." Now this stuff is self-explanatory. You can judge Mr. Howard on its basis. Even the most detested person becomes acceptable when he is pitted against Mr. Howard. By the time this article is melted into print, Michael Howard will have overseen another Tory defeat. Come May 6th, Mr. Howard will not be planning his entry into 10 Downing Street; he will be busy clearing his office in 25 Victoria Street. He wants prominence for British "values"; well, the great British people think he least represents those. After all, he has promised to scrap the Human Rights Act. Foolishness, too, must have its limits.

Mr. Frum's assertion that "politics of inclusion" is somehow the politics of the right is also incorrect. The Conservatives may be the first to choose a Jewish leader but, back in 1940s, they were the first to oppose freedom to India. The electorate chose to replace the wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill with the Labour hero Clement Atlee, who at once authorised India's freedom from the

imperial shackles. Double standards and hypocrisy are values of the Right, not virtues of the libertarian Left. In politics, the Left is almost always right. If the Conservatives were serious about their future, they would have implored Michael Portillo, the libertarian rightist, to return and handle the helm. He is probably the only Conservative who could have saved the party.

Mr. Frum's most egregious mistake lies in his attempt to compare Michael Howard to John Kerry, especially in relation to the war in Iraq. Michael Howard's position is ambivalent, filled with hypocrisy, contradiction and inconsistency. My innumerable paeans in Senator Kerry's honour have already won me the obloquy of being called a "Kerryite." Obloquy because it extricates me from that much-vaunted journalistic virtue, balance, which, let me be the first to acknowledge, I lack. I simply see no similarities between the two; in fact, it is an insult for a man of Kerry's stature to be compared to Mr. Howard. I shan't expound on Senator Kerry's virtues; I have done that many a times in the

past. But, let me just add, Senator Kerry has no credible comparison in the current zeitgeist.

Let us see how much work Mr. Howard puts in post-election. We have seen, and continue to see, the positive work Senator Kerry is doing to rebuild America's strength. He is presently touring the country to win support for his brilliant Bill, which, if passed, will provide at least 8 million American children free health insurance. He is now beyond the dull and boring jujitsu of rightwing slanderers. Michael Howard aspires to become a ruler. John Kerry is a leader. It's just that next time someone mentions John Kerry's name, let them invoke alongside it the names of leaders — like Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Nehru, John Kennedy, Franklin D. Roosevelt and, of course, the great Clement Atlee. For the living leaders of this world simply fade in comparison to Mr. Kerry. If there are any left, however, then we shall see how well they fare against the great son of America in 2008.

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Guest Column
From London, England

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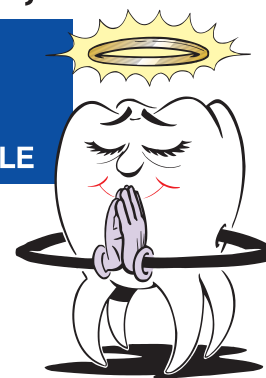
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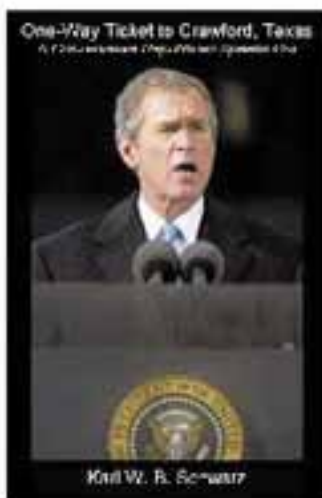
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