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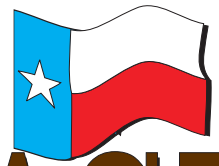
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\$1.50 Per Copy www.iconoclast-texas.com • CRAWFORD, TEXAS • Vol. 6, No. 23 — Wednesday, June 8, 2005

The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



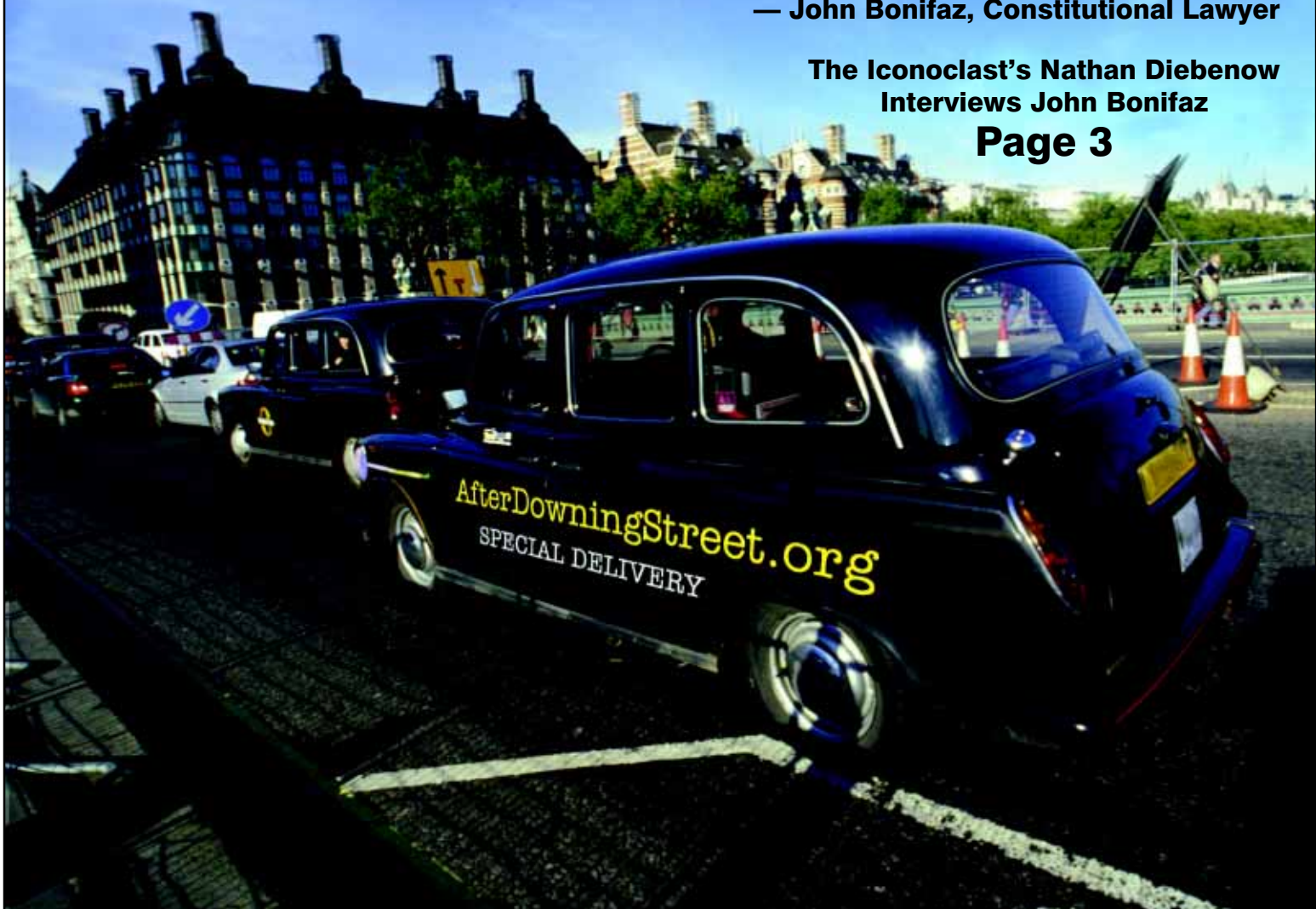
Memogate

'Impeach Bush' Movement Drives Harder After Release Of Downing Street Memo

We have the Constitution for a number of reasons. One of them is to insure that there is recourse if those in power abuse power and abuse people's trust. That's the impeachment clause.'

— John Bonifaz, Constitutional Lawyer

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Halliburton PR Statements Are Misleading, Says Whistleblower

By MARIE E. DEYOUNG
HALLIBURTON WHISTLEBLOWER

When the little guy tells the truth about taxpayer waste, fraud, and abuse, the media and Congressional aides vet every fact, every concern before he gets to speak. I have never understood why corporations are not held to the same standard of truth telling before their propaganda is published. Maybe, the ICONOCLAST can help American citizens to turn this trend around.

The ICONOCLAST published an interview with TJ Moseley, a former army lieutenant, who worked in Iraq as a morale, welfare, and recreation coordinator. TJ described the same management problems that I cited in my congressional testimony on July 22, 2004. In TJ's interview, he mentioned that KBR management staff was not trained, money was wasted, and management did not treat its employees well.

Now I am sure that TJ did a good job as a morale, welfare, and recreation coordinator. I am also sure that the truck drivers and camp managers who fronted subcontracted operations also did their best to relate to soldiers. Of course, KBR puts a lot of Americans in the Morale Welfare shops because of the intimate contact with soldiers. It's good for KBR's business, but it may not be the best buy for the soldier or the American taxpayer.

Halliburton's PR person responded to TJ's interview with a catalogue of statistics that were misleading most of the time and false a lot of the time. Maybe the ICONOCLAST can help us to hold these statistics up to the light. Here are just a few of the misleading statistics that boil down to false advertising by Halliburton and KBR.

Halliburton claimed that KBR prepared more than 200 million meals. False. From the start of this war, KBR hired subcontractors such as LaNouvelle, ESS, the Event Source, Daoud, and Tamimi to run all of the Iraq and Kuwait military dining facility operations. The contracts for most of these operations were let in the Kuwait office where I worked.

One Iraq contract had a total value

of \$144 million dollars. Another company had 10 dining facility contracts worth more than \$377 million dollars. KBR handed over the entire responsibility for building, staffing, equipping, and running the kitchens to the subcontractors. KBR handed over the responsibility for purchasing and transporting all the food, equipment, and whatever it took to run a kitchen to the subcontractors.

Most of the third-world employees who ran these operations earned a few dollars per hour. KBR would hire a few nice Americans at \$100,000-per-year salaries to make it look like KBR managed the kitchens, so that American soldiers would feel comfortable with food preparation.

By the time I left the Kuwait Subcontracts Department, KBR had contracted with 11 companies to provide dining facilities operations throughout Iraq and Kuwait. Most of these companies could do direct business with the Army. That would save the taxpayer a fortune. The dining facility contract files that I reviewed totaled more than a billion dollars. This figure did not include dining facilities operations that were tucked into umbrella contracts — when KBR handed over the operation of an entire base to a subcontractor and decorated the offices with KBR employees to make it look like KBR was running the show.

KBR public relations people claim that KBR has more than 700 trucks on the road on any given day. The American public needs to realize that KBR hired about 40 companies to do the transportation mission. In other words, KBR hired 40 companies to lease and maintain trucks, provide drivers, and run the transportation mission. These Middle Eastern companies bore all the financial risk that comes with war, not KBR. When 400 trucks were destroyed in the first year of the war, these companies waited for more than a year for KBR to get its paperwork cleaned up so that the companies could be paid for destroyed trucks. Many companies complained they were at the point of bankruptcy because KBR was not paying them for the services they

rendered in a war zone.

I left KBR to advocate for accountability in KBR subcontracts. By the time of my departure, the Army had already concluded that when KBR managed dining facilities, KBR could not account for 40 percent of the costs in the contracts. The Army pulled all of the Kuwait dining facility contracts from KBR. The Army should pull all of the war zone dining facility contracts from KBR and deal directly with the companies that provided dining facility operations in Iraq and throughout the Middle East, as it was doing before Operation Iraqi Freedom started.

One company, Tamimi Global, had the first Kuwait prime contract for dining facilities, but KBR convinced the Army for a short time that KBR should supervise it. Tamimi has holdings in the Safeway Supermarket chain. Their KBR dining facilities subcontracts totaled more than \$377 million by the time I left the Kuwait KBR Subcontracts Department.

The truth that America needs to understand is that KBR and Halliburton were not the only company capable of supporting the U.S. military. KBR used other companies to create this illusion. No matter what operation, if the logistics task involved menial labor such as washing laundry, producing potable water, or transporting and delivering mail and fuel, KBR subcontracted with a number of companies, and placed the entire risk of the war-time operation on these Middle Eastern companies.

A few Americans or Third Country Nationals from the Balkans were always hired to front the shop to make it look like KBR was the only company that could take care of soldiers. This was simply not true. There are dozens of general contracting companies that provided all of the services that KBR billed the government — but at a fraction of the cost that KBR billed.

We just celebrated Memorial Day. I was in Kuwait in April 2004 when KBR truck drivers and subcontract administrators started to flee Iraq by the hundreds because of the at-

tacks on KBR convoys. When Halliburton wants to hide from our legitimate charges of overstaffing, untrained managers, flagrant waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars, and misleading the public, Halliburton claims that it has 50,000 men and women facing danger, and that 40 or 60 Halliburton employees were killed. These are the worst lies, and the American public deserves to know the truth.

After the Good Friday Massacre in 2004, KBR mailroom employees showed me their list of all the KBR personnel in Iraq and Kuwait. These men insisted that the list never went higher than 12,000 or 13,000 for all of Iraq and Kuwait.

KBR tried to gain sympathy for billions of dollars of overcharges by claiming that 45, and later, more than 60 employees were killed. No civilian should be put at risk by being placed in the line of hostile fire. Only uniformed soldiers should operate in a war zone. But even so, a small number of the people killed were KBR employees. Most of the people who were burned to a crisp when they were forced to drive in zero visibility, or forced to drive into hostile territory were mostly third country nationals. These "TCNs" earned a few dollars per hour, and they never got the expensive benefits that American employees get.

I don't blame Halliburton for trying to put the best spin on the mistakes that its managers made in Houston, Kuwait, and Iraq. I do blame Halliburton for deceiving the American public and masking corporate greed with false claims about its contribution to the war.

When all the investigations, criminal trials, and lawsuits are over, I hope the American public will see that greed for what it was: an attempt to make a quick buck on the backs of third world laborers, Middle Eastern Companies, the American soldier, and the American taxpayer.

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P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638

The Lone Star Iconoclast is published weekly, on Wednesdays, by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638 and P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634

Application to Mail at Periodicals Postage Rates is Pending at Clifton, TX 76634.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: McLennan & Bosque Counties, one year: \$40; Elsewhere, one year: \$45. Give old address when requesting change of address.

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to:
The Lone Star Iconoclast, P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634.

DEADLINES: 5 p.m. Fridays.

Telephone (All Departments) — (254) 675-3336 • Toll-Free 1-800-241-5504

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Memogate

'Impeach Bush' Movement Drives Harder After Release Of Downing Street Memo

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Did President Bush commit impeachable offenses in connection with the start of the war in Iraq?

A national coalition of veterans' groups, peace groups, and public interest organizations certainly think so and wants Bush to answer questions about the so-called "Downing Street Memo" published by THE SUNDAY TIMES OF LONDON on May 1.

This "For UK Eyes Only" document tells of a briefing between then-director of Britain's MI-6 Richard Dearlove to British Prime Minister Tony Blair and his top national security officials on July 23, 2002, months before President Bush submitted his resolution on Iraq to the United States Congress and months before Bush and Blair asked the United Nations to resume its inspections for alleged weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Dearlove reported that President Bush made the decision to oust Iraqi President Saddam Hussein by launching a war that would be "justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD (weapons of mass destruction)." Dearlove added, "But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy."

British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said that "Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided." "But the case was thin," he added. "Saddam was not threatening his neighbours, and his WMD capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea, and Iran."

A former senior U.S. official called the document "an absolutely accurate description of what transpired" during Dearlove's visit to Washington, according to Knight Ridder Newspapers on May 6. British officials have not disputed the memo's claims or authenticity.

Seeing the memo as evidence President Bush broke Constitutional law by lying to the U.S. Congress about threats leading up to the Iraq war, John Bonifaz, 38, a Boston-based attorney specializing in constitutional law, and three others, Bob Fertik, Democrats.com President; David Swanson, Democrats.com Washington Director; and Steve Cobble, political consultant, launched AfterDowningStreet.org, a campaign to urge the U.S. Congress to begin a formal investigation into the notorious memo.

Bonifaz launched the movement with a memo sent to Congressman John Conyers (D-Michigan), the Ranking Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, on May 23, and since the website went online on May 26, more and more members joined its coalition including Veterans for Peace, Code Pink, Gold Star Families for Peace, Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, Velvet Revolution, and others. Another website <www.downingstreetmemo.com> run by "concerned citizens seeking truth and transparency from their govern-

ment" is also operational online.

With a goal of getting 100,000 signatures five days prior, Rep. Conyers reported that as of Wednesday, June 1, at least 86,000 people signed the letter to the President asking for answers about the Downing Street minutes. Conyers and 88 other Democratic members of the U.S. Congress previously sent President Bush a letter asking for an explanation of the memo's claims. The White House challenged the memo, calling its claims "flat out wrong."

The LONE STAR ICONOCLAST'S Nathan Diebenow spoke with Bonifaz, author of *Warrior-King: The Case for Impeaching George W. Bush* (NationBooks-NY, 2004, foreword by Rep. John Conyers, Jr.) about the impeachment process, the lessons of Watergate, and President Bush's reasons for possibly lying to Congress.

ICONOCLAST: It seems like it's going to be tough to prove that President Bush okayed the manufacturing of evidence to lead the United States into war against Iraq prior to the March 2003 invasion. How can you prove that President Bush was deliberately deceptive?

JOHN BONIFAZ: I don't think the standard here is whether we can prove it. The standard is whether or not the time has now come to introduce a resolution of inquiry which is the first step necessary for making the determination whether or not the President has committed any impeachable offenses.

The resolution of inquiry would set up a formal congressional investigation to investigate whether the President has committed any high crimes in connection with the Iraq War in light of the evidence that has been revealed in the Downing Street memo. These are official government minutes. This is not a quote in someone's book, as important as that might be.

These are official government minutes, and the minutes say that the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy.

The question has to be raised whether or not that's true. Is it true that they were being fixed around the policy, and who was doing the fixing? And the President has to be considered the person where the buck stops. He's the top of the chain of command, and the question has to be raised, "Was he involved, and if so, did he not commit a high crime?"

ICONOCLAST: So you're assuming —

BONIFAZ: — He's the commander-in-chief, and he's the President of the United States. Apparently, according to these minutes, it was his decision that Bush wanted to remove Saddam through military action in conjunction with terrorism and weapons of mass destruction. The question has to be asked, "Was he engaged in a conspiracy to deceive and mislead the U.S. Congress and the American people?" According to these minutes, he may well have been. An investigation has to

proceed. We cannot allow this kind of information to come forward and sit on some shelf and presume that he possibly subverted the constitution but there would be no consequences because we won't inquire about it. We must raise these questions.

ICONOCLAST: This committee of inquiry is going to try to find out if Bush is just stupid in believing what others were telling him or if he actually was involved in the manufacturing of this evidence, right?

BONIFAZ: Correct. Just like the inquiry in the Nixon impeachment proceedings wanted to get to the bottom of what did the President know and when did he know it. Was he involved in the conspiracy that took place during the Watergate scandal? Of course, the investigation proved that he was. This investigation, if it were to proceed, would have subpoena power to put people under oath. It would have subpoena power to obtain documents and tapes if they exist and so forth. I think we owe it to the Constitution and we owe it to all the military families in this country and the U.S. soldiers, and we owe it to ourselves to get to the bottom of these questions.

Was the President involved in fixing the intelligence around the policy? Was he involved in a conspiracy to deceive the U.S. Congress and the American people about the basis for going to war against Iraq?

ICONOCLAST: We knew from previous interviews with his administration officials that they wanted to go into Iraq. So what?

BONIFAZ: I think there's a big distinction between what government offi

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John Bonifaz

The Downing Street Memo

SECRET AND STRICTLY PERSONAL - UK EYES ONLY

DAVID MANNING
From: Matthew Rycroft
Date: 23 July 2002
S 195 /02

cc: Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary, Attorney-General, Sir Richard Wilson, John Scarlett, Francis Richards, CDS, C, Jonathan Powell, Sally Morgan, Alastair Campbell

IRAQ: PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING, 23 JULY

Copy addressees and you met the Prime Minister on 23 July to discuss Iraq.

This record is extremely sensitive. No further copies should be made. It should be shown only to those with a genuine need to know its contents.

John Scarlett summarised the intelligence and latest JIC assessment. Saddam's regime was tough and based on extreme fear. The only way to overthrow it was likely to be by massive military action. Saddam was worried and expected an attack, probably by air and land, but he was not convinced that it would be immediate or overwhelming. His regime expected their neighbours to line up with the US. Saddam knew that regular army morale was poor. Real support for Saddam among the public was probably narrowly based.

C reported on his recent talks in Washington. There was a perceptible shift in attitude. Military action was now seen as inevitable. Bush wanted to remove Saddam, through military action, justified by the conjunction of terrorism and WMD. But the intelligence and facts were being fixed around the policy. The NSC had no patience with the UN route, and no enthusiasm for publishing material on the Iraqi regime's record. There was little discussion in Washington of the aftermath after military action.

CDS said that military planners would brief CENTCOM on 1-2 August, Rumsfeld on 3 August and Bush on 4 August.

The two broad US options were:

(a) Generated Start. A slow build-up of 250,000 US troops, a short (72 hour) air campaign, then a move up to Baghdad from the south. Lead time of 90 days (30 days preparation plus 60 days deployment to Kuwait).

(b) Running Start. Use forces already in theatre (3 x 6,000), continuous air campaign, initiated by an Iraqi casus belli. Total lead time of 60 days with the air campaign beginning even earlier. A hazardous option.

The US saw the UK (and Kuwait) as essential, with basing in Diego Garcia and Cyprus critical for either option. Turkey and other Gulf states were also important, but less vital. The three main options for UK involvement were:

(i) Basing in Diego Garcia and Cyprus, plus three SF squadrons.

(ii) As above, with maritime and air assets in addition.

(iii) As above, plus a land contribution of up to 40,000, perhaps with a discrete role in Northern Iraq entering from Turkey, tying down two Iraqi divisions.

The Defence Secretary said that the US had already begun "spikes of activity" to put pressure on the regime. No decisions had been taken, but he thought the most likely timing in US minds for military action to begin was January, with the timeline beginning 30 days before the US Congressional elections.

The Foreign Secretary said he would discuss this with Colin Powell this week. It seemed clear that Bush had made up his mind to take military action, even if the timing was not yet decided. But the case was thin. Saddam was not threatening his neighbours, and his WMD capability was less than that of Libya, North Korea or Iran. We should work up a plan for an ultimatum to Saddam to allow back in the UN weapons inspectors. This would also help with the legal justification for the use of force.

The Attorney-General said that the desire for regime change was not a legal base for military action. There were three possible legal bases: self-defence, humanitarian intervention, or UNSC authorisation. The first and second could not be the base in this case. Relying on UNSCR 1205 of three years ago would be difficult. The situation might of course change.

The Prime Minister said that it would make a big difference politically and legally if Saddam refused to allow in the UN inspectors. Regime change and WMD were linked in the sense that it was the regime that was producing the WMD. There were different strategies for dealing with Libya and Iran. If the political context were right, people would support regime change. The two key issues were whether the military plan worked and whether we had the political strategy to give the military plan the space to work.

On the first, CDS said that we did not know yet if the US battleplan was workable. The military were continuing to ask lots of questions.

For instance, what were the consequences, if Saddam used WMD on

day one, or if Baghdad did not collapse and urban warfighting began? You said that Saddam could also use his WMD on Kuwait. Or on Israel, added the Defence Secretary.

The Foreign Secretary thought the US would not go ahead with a military plan unless convinced that it was a winning strategy. On this, US and UK interests converged. But on the political strategy, there could be US/UK differences. Despite US resistance, we should explore discreetly the ultimatum. Saddam would continue to play hard-ball with the UN.

John Scarlett assessed that Saddam would allow the inspectors back in only when he thought the threat of military action was real.

The Defence Secretary said that if the Prime Minister wanted UK military involvement, he would need to decide this early. He cautioned that many in the US did not think it worth going down the ultimatum route. It would be important for the Prime Minister to set out the political context to Bush.

Conclusions:

(a) We should work on the assumption that the UK would take part in any military action. But we needed a fuller picture of US planning before we could take any firm decisions. CDS should tell the US military that we were considering a range of options.

(b) The Prime Minister would revert on the question of whether funds could be spent in preparation for this operation.

(c) CDS would send the Prime Minister full details of the proposed military campaign and possible UK contributions by the end of the week.

(d) The Foreign Secretary would send the Prime Minister the background on the UN inspectors, and discreetly work up the ultimatum to Saddam.

He would also send the Prime Minister advice on the positions of countries in the region especially Turkey, and of the key EU member states.

(e) John Scarlett would send the Prime Minister a full intelligence update.

(f) We must not ignore the legal issues: the Attorney-General would consider legal advice with FCO/MOD legal advisers.

(I have written separately to commission this follow-up work.)

MATTHEW RYCROFT

(Rycroft was a Downing Street foreign policy aide)

• MEMOGATE ...

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cialists have said in tell-all books that they publish and what official government minutes reveal. I think that's a big distinction.

Independent of that, this is the first time an official government document has put forward the evidence that the intelligence may have been fabricated.

The decision getting made is troubling certainly and troubling enough, but months before we even had the Congress debate this question on the resolution of Iraq which wasn't even a declaration of war and months before the President went to the United Nations, he had already made his mind up. That's news to, I think, a lot of people in this country who believed he was somehow waiting to the very last phase before invading Iraq in March of 2003. But that's not the focus really of this. The focus is, did he manipulate the intelligence? Did he lie about the reasons for sending this nation into war? And if he did, then that's a high crime under Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution, and he ought to be held accountable.

ICONOCLAST: So the committee would have to find a document or person inside the State Department or the Department of Defense that says that Bush was waving the flag saying, "I did it!"

BONIFAZ: People need to be put under oath. People need to be questioned throughout the Bush administration. Documents need to be subpoenaed, and we need to get answers to whether or not these minutes reveal accurately what was being discussed and determined back in July 2002. Was there a conspiracy to deceive and mislead Congress and the American people about the basis of going into war?

There's another important point in here which is not solely a matter for the Congressional proceedings to determine. It also is potentially a criminal matter. Federal criminal law makes it a felony to knowingly and willfully lie to the United States Congress, to submit false statements. That's the False Statements and Accountability Act of 1996. On March 18, 2003, within 48 hours after the President had launched the invasion of Iraq, the President sent a letter to the United States Congress in which he specifically says that the military action was necessary to "protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat imposed by Iraq." Did he willfully and knowingly submit that as a false statement? Did he know that that was not true that the intelligence was fixed around the policy? If he did, then it's a felony under the False Statements and Accountability Act and he should be held accountable under criminal law proceedings.

In addition, there is a federal anti-conspiracy statute which prevents anyone from defrauding the United States or any agency thereof. This is a huge conspiracy to defraud the United States, if it's in fact true, and those who engage, including the President, should be held accountable for it.

We learned from Watergate that no one is above the law, including the President of the United States, and this is a matter of enormous importance under the Constitution. It cannot be that a President lied to the United States Congress

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• MEMOGATE ... Continued From Page 4

gress and the American people, if that's true, and not be held accountable. He must be held accountable both under the congressional proceedings and the Constitution with respect to the impeachment clause, if it's true, but he should also be held accountable under federal criminal law.

ICONOCLAST: Why would Bush want to invade Iraq if he honestly did believe Saddam was a threat to the United States?

BONIFAZ: There are a number of reasons that have been put forward as to why. One potential reason is he wanted to control the oil in that region. Another is that he wanted a permanent military base in the Middle East. This was a design that was put forward by neo-conservatives back in the early 1990s that they had long ago wanted to invade and overthrow the regime of Saddam Hussein in order to help control the Middle East.

Another reason is that the President's father was threatened with assassination by Saddam Hussein and that this was potential payback, but I don't know if any of those reasons are true. I just know that we have official government minutes that raise serious questions to whether or not this President has lied to the American people and to the United States Congress. Let's get to the bottom of this.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think it's going to be tougher now after Watergate because people in any Presidential administration are savvy enough to cover their tracks and not leave a paper or tape trail that could lead to possible impeachment hearings?

BONIFAZ: I think we have to remember it wasn't just a document or even tapes that brought Nixon down. It was the people who came forward, including John Dean, who after having initially resisted any effort of investigating the Watergate burglary and being a part of the conspiracy to deceive and mislead and end up serving time in jail because of it, he nevertheless testified under oath to the United States Congress that there was a cancer growing on the presidency. So we don't know where this would lead, if an investigation would take place. We don't know who would come forward and say, "Yes, in fact, it is true that intelligence was being fixed around the policy." We have to begin with this first step. We have to call upon members of Congress to engage this resolution and to move this process forward, or otherwise, we're subverting the Constitution ourselves, if we don't demand this investigation take place.

ICONOCLAST: How can you prove that President Bush didn't wish to believe what he wished to believe? You know, he could say he believed this evidence was true because his administration officials said so.

BONIFAZ: As a lawyer, the way things get proven is that testimony gets taken, documents get subpoenaed, and we make a determination who is telling the truth and who is not. If that's the President's line in response to these minutes, and he has refused thus far as you know to even respond to this minutes — there are 89 members of Congress who have asked basic questions about the authenticity of this document, and he has even refused to respond to those questions in a mere letter, but if it's true, what he is going to be putting

forward as his line — then we have to inquire whether he is speaking truthful, and that will be determined by asking other members of the Bush administration and by, again, subpoenaing documents and emails and getting exact time relevant materials to the time these discussions were taking place. It may be the end result is that everybody actually believed this intelligence and there was a huge error in the intelligence community, but that's not what these minutes say, and we have to determine if these minutes are accurate.



Bonifaz

ICONOCLAST: Can you tell me a little about the standards by which a President is impeached?

BONIFAZ: Sure. I think it's important to highlight that the impeachment process is the process by which the President gets charged for committing a high crime. That takes place in the House of Representatives. The Senate is the body that determines whether or not to convict, and so as we saw with the Clinton impeachment proceedings, he was impeached in the House but he was acquitted in the Senate. The first order of business is to determine whether or not he should be charged, and the way to go about that is to start with the investigation.

The question about whether this is a high crime is a question that is both legal and political because ultimately the people of this nation need to determine whether or not it is a high crime to lie to the U.S. Congress and the American people to send this nation into war. Clearly the framers viewed this as a high crime. In fact, one framer, James Iredell, wrote in this memorandum I sent to Con. John Conyers two weeks ago that false intelligence that the President would use in a negative way to send the nation into something that would be injurious to this country would be in fact impeachable.

James Madison speaks about anything that subverts the Constitution being an impeachable offence. Clearly, what we have here, if this is true, is a subversion of the Constitution because the war powers clause of the Constitution makes clear that Congress and only Congress has the power to declare war. What the President would have been doing if he had engaged in this kind of conspiracy would have been subverting the very clause in the Constitution that requires Congress to make this decision and have this power, and would have been essentially deceiving the rest of us for the basis for sending this nation into war. It's not his power to take the nation into war. It's the power of We the People through our representatives in Congress, and if he subverted that, then that's a high crime. I can't think of a higher crime than taking a nation into war based on a lie.

ICONOCLAST: Talking about war, when we talk about war, people have a conception of war, but there have been tons of conflicts in the past I don't know how many years. What's the difference between sending a country into war and lying about it and say going into some of these conflicts — like in Latin America, North Korea, or Vietnam — and not talking about it with Congress?

BONIFAZ: I think there is a real issue with respect to the lies that have been told in the past with respect to prior mili-

tary conflicts, including Vietnam. We now know that the alleged attack on our ships in the Gulf of Tonkin, which led to the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, was not true, and I think that in history revealing that tells us that there was serious undermining of the Constitution.

There is, I think nevertheless, a distinction here between this war and prior military conflicts when it comes to whether or not there have been lies being told. The distinction is this was under the President's own new doctrine, a so-called preemptive war, that we were going to be going to war in an aggressive, first-strike way to preempt allegedly a threat posed to the United States.

Now under that circumstance, which was many believe is a violation of international law already, we cannot allow a President of the United States to deceive the U.S. Congress and the American people, to fabricate the reason for going to war in the first place. I think that has to be seen as a very important distinction between what we faced in the past.

There's no one in the Bush administration today who makes the allegation that going into war against Iraq was in response to 9/11, so there is no one who argues that this was a response to an attack on the nation. In fact what this was what the President clearly said all the way to the war, and now he talks only about democracy and humanitarian matters. Prior to the war he was talking all about the threat it posed to the nation, and if Iraq didn't pose that threat, and he knew it at the time, then he engaged in the highest of all crimes.

ICONOCLAST: Are you optimistic about this push for an impeachment investigation? I guess you would be since you helped instigate it.

BONIFAZ: Look, I believe in the power of people coming together at a grassroots level to hold their government accountable and to lift up the very meaning of the United States Constitution. I believe in that. I wouldn't be a constitutional lawyer if I didn't believe in the power of the document what is really a social contract between the people and our government. We have the Constitution for a number of reasons. One of them is to insure that there is recourse if those in power abuse power and abuse people's trust. That's the impeachment clause.

Now, in the past 10 days, we launched this website AfterDowningStreet.org, we've gotten over 100,000 hits to the site. We've received thousands of people reviewing this document and we've received endorsements from organizations from all over this country, large and small. We know that it's striking a cord with people across this country, including military families and people who lost loved ones in Iraq. Where this leads, obviously, it's hard to predict, but I believe that Congressman Conyers, if he hears from other people of this nation and other members of Congress, will lead this effort in Congress and will introduce the resolution, but it's up to us as ordinary citizens around this nation to urge these members of Congress who had courage in the past to stand up again and introduce this resolution.

ICONOCLAST: What is the next step after introducing the resolution?

BONIFAZ: It would be a resolution that would be presented before the House Judiciary Committee. It would need to be passed out of Judiciary Committee. It would need Republican support. It would then need to be passed on the floor of the U.S. House by a majority

of representatives. I think that as evidence continues to build beyond the Downing Street minutes of the potential lies that this administration told before this war, it could very well need more people to walk across the aisles and recognize that we need to uphold the Constitution. We've already got Congressman Walter Jones from North Carolina saying that he believes he was deceived. He's a Republican. There are five Republicans that have just recently voted for Lynn Woolsey's amendment calling for an immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, along with 120 Democrats voting for that, so there clear is movement within the United States Congress responding to people around this nation about this war and how wrong it is, but I think that what's going to have to happen for this to move to a formal investigation. There will have to be even more voices being heard from the grassroots demanding that we hold our leaders and our President accountable if they have engaged in high crimes.

ICONOCLAST: Are there any particular Republicans people ought to contact?

BONIFAZ: I don't view this as a partisan issue in any way whatsoever. In fact, I think that Republicans ought to be concerned equally as Democrats as to whether or not the President of the United States has violated the Constitution. I wouldn't single out any particular Republicans. I think that Congressman Jones has already come forward and said he was deceived but everyone ought to be contacted, Democrat and Republican, as well as Independent. They ought to be urged to back this resolution of inquiry. We need to get to the bottom of this series of questions, and we can only do that in a formal congressional investigation.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think it would be easier to prove a conspiracy to deliberately gain control of both houses of Congress, the presidency, and the judiciary in a permanent and irreversible manner?

BONIFAZ: I don't know what you mean by that. Do you mean the filibusters fight? What's your point on that?

ICONOCLAST: Yeah, the filibuster fight would play into that also. I mean, would it be easier to prove that the President conspired to deliberately seek control of power by consolidating power in all these branches of government and the filibuster would be just one key in which they tried it?

BONIFAZ: I think that provides the context for this investigation, but I don't think we need to expand to that. I think that this whole question that needs to be raised and answered after this investigation is did this President commit a high crime in connection with this war? There are subquestions to that, including did he manipulate intelligence in sending the nation into war? Did he commit a felon in submitting false statements to the U.S. Congress? Did he engage in a conspiracy to deceive the U.S. Congress? But the overarching question is did he commit a high crime in connection with this war? There may be others who may want to ask whether he committed high crimes in other settings, but the focus of this coalition is whether he committed a high crime in connection with this war.

INFO

www.AfterDowningStreet.com
www.DowningStreetMemo.com
www.JohnConyers.com

Former FBI #2 Man Admits Being 'Deep Throat'

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The WASHINGTON POST last Wednesday confirmed that W. Mark Felt, a former number-two

official at the FBI, was "Deep Throat," the source who provided information that broke the Watergate scandal and

contributed to the resignation of President Richard M. Nixon.

The confirmation came from Bob

Woodward and Carl Bernstein, the two WASHINGTON POST reporters who broke the Watergate story, and their former editor, Benjamin C. Bradlee. The three spoke after Felt's family and VANITY FAIR magazine identified the 91-year-old Felt, now a retiree in California, as the long-anonymous source.

The VANITY FAIR story said Felt had admitted his "historic, anonymous role" following years of denial.

Felt guided Woodward during secret meetings to investigate the June 1972 break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in Washington's Watergate office and apartment complex, and on its subsequent cover-up. These stories led to a congressional investigation that exposed the part played by Nixon and a number of his top aides. Nixon resigned in 1974 under threat of impeachment.

Woodward, Bernstein, and Bradlee had kept Felt's identity a secret at the his request, saying his name would be revealed upon his death.

Woodward is a Post assistant managing editor. Bernstein is an author whose most recent book, co-authored with Marco Politi, is *His Holiness: John Paul II & the History of Our Time*. He is co-author, with Woodward, of *All the President's Men* and *The Final Days*.

— *The Washington Post* contributed to this report.

Amnesty, White House Butt Heads On 'Gulag' Term

WASHINGTON — Amnesty International and Washington butted heads last week after Amnesty referred to the prison at the U.S. naval base at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba, to a "gulag," the former Soviet Union's system of forced labor camps where millions of prisoners died.

Human rights group defended its choice of words last Thursday and called on the White House to send in independent investigators to review claims of torture at its detention centers for terrorism suspects.

About 520 men are held under the U.S. flag at Guantánamo, where they are denied rights accorded under international law to prisoners of war. Many of these "enemy combatants" have

been held there without charge for more than three years, although some have been released.

President Bush called the Amnesty report "absurd," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld referred to the description "reprehensible," and Vice President Dick Cheney said he was personally offended by the claims. The report said the U.S. was responsible for an escalation in human rights violations.

"The administration's response has been that our report is absurd, that our allegations have no basis, and our answer is very simple: if that is so, open up these detention centers, allow us and others to visit them," Amnesty International Secretary General Irene

Zubaida Khan told a news conference.

"Transparency is the best antidote to misinformation and incorrect facts," said Khan, who is here to meet with Japanese officials.

Khan said that the word gulag was chosen to draw attention to the situation in the detention centers.

"What we wanted to do was to send a strong message that ... this sort of network of detention centers that has been created as part of this war on terrorism is actually undermining human rights in a dramatic way which can only evoke some of the worst features of human rights scandals of the past," she said.

"I don't think people have got off the hook yet."

— *Reuters* contributed to this report.

ANSWER Coalition Calls For Protests At Anti-Cuba Terrorist's Hearing Monday

EL PASO — A demonstration outside the immigration hearing of Luis Posada Carriles, a notorious anti-Cuba terrorist and killer, will be held on Monday, June 13, in El Paso. This call to action is initiated by the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition.

The demonstration will be at 6:30 a.m. at Immigration Court at 8915 Montana Rd. where Posada's immigration hearing will take place. The venue of the hearing might change, said a spokesperson.

For more information, contact the West Coast Regional Office of the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition at (415) 821-6545 or <sf@internationalanswer.org>.

Luis Posada Carriles appealed for asylum in the United States on April 12 through his attorneys in Miami. After living openly in Miami for over a month, the federal government, bowing to intensifying public pressure, detained Posada on May 17 and charged him with illegally en-

tering the United States. On May 19, it was announced that he will go before an immigration judge for a hearing on June 13 in El Paso, Texas. At that hearing, Posada's lawyer plans to resubmit his petition for asylum and argue that he should be considered a U.S. resident and allowed to remain in the country.

Venezuela has formally requested extradition of Luis Posada Carriles, to be tried for the bombing of Cubana Airlines flight 455, in which 73 people were killed on October 6, 1976.

The Bush administration is so far refusing to honor the extradition treaty between the U.S. and Venezuela, due to the U.S. government's long-standing support for anti-Cuba terrorists. Posada Carriles was a CIA agent, trained in assassination, explosives and sabotage. Posada's terrorist history extends for decades. It is time for justice for his victims.

In the past month more than 20,000 letters have been sent to Bush and Congress as part of the "No Asylum for Posada — Extradition to Venezuela" campaign initiated by the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition, and major press conferences have taken place on April 21 in Miami and on May 13 in Washington D.C., helping to break through with mainstream media coverage of the case.

"This public pressure campaign has effectively ripped away the mask the Bush Administration wears on the issue of 'terrorism,'" said the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition.

"The transparent discrepancy between the official position that any country that harbors a terrorist is equally culpable for terrorist activities, and the Bush administration's support and coddling of Posada and other anti-Cuban terrorists, has made plain for many people in the United States the reality of Bush's so-called 'war on terrorism.'

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Open Letter To President Bush, Prime Minister Blair, and U.S. Congress

Depleted Uranium Situation Requires Action By President Bush, Prime Minister Blair & U.S. Congress

By Dr. Doug Rokke, Ph.D.
Former Director of Army Depleted Uranium Project

While U.S. and British military personnel continue using uranium munitions, America's and England's own "dirty bombs" U.S. Army, U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of Defense officials continue to deny that there are any adverse health and environmental effects as a consequence of the manufacture, testing, and/or use of uranium munitions to avoid liability for the willful and illegal dispersal of a radioactive toxic material — depleted uranium.

They arrogantly refuse to comply with their own regulations, orders, and directives that require United States Department of Defense officials to provide prompt and effective medical care "all" exposed individuals [Medical Management of Unusual Depleted Uranium Casualties, DOD, Pentagon, 10/14/93, Medical Management of Army personnel Exposed to Depleted Uranium (DU) Headquarters, U.S. Army Medical Command 29 April 2004], and section 2-5 of AR 70-48].

They also refuse to clean up dispersed radioactive Contamination as required by Army Regulation- AR 700-48: "Management of Equipment Contaminated With Depleted Uranium or Radioactive Commodities" (Headquarters, Department Of The Army, Washington, D.C., September 2002) and U.S. Army Technical Bulletin- TB 9-1300-278: "Guidelines For Safe Response To Handling, Storage, And Transportation Accidents Involving Army Tank Munitions Or Armor Which Contain Depleted Uranium" (Headquarters, Department Of The Army, Washing-

ton, D.C., JULY 1996).
Specifically section 2-4 of United States Army Regulation-AR 700-48 dated September 16, 2002 requires that:

(1) "Military personnel "identify, segregate, isolate, secure, and label all RCE" (radiologically contaminated equipment).

(2) "Procedures to minimize the spread of radioactivity will be implemented as soon as possible."

(3) "Radioactive material and waste will not be locally disposed of through burial, submersion, incineration, destruction in place, or abandonment," and

(4) "All equipment, to include captured or combat RCE, will be surveyed, packaged, retrograded, decontaminated and released IAW Technical Bulletin 9-1300-278, DA PAM 700-48" (Note: Maximum exposure limits are specified in Appendix F).

The past and current use of uranium weapons, the release of radioactive components in destroyed U.S. and foreign military equipment, and releases of industrial, medical, research facility radioactive materials have resulted in unacceptable exposures.

Therefore, decontamination must be completed as required by U.S. Army Regulation 700-48 and should include releases of all radioactive materials result-

ing from military operations.

The extent of adverse health and environmental effects of uranium weapons contamination is not limited to combat zones but includes facilities and sites where uranium weapons were manufactured or tested including Vieques, Puerto Rico, Colonie, N.Y., and Jefferson Proving Grounds, Ind.

Therefore, medical care must be provided by the United States Department of Defense officials to all individuals affected by the manufacturing, testing, and/or use of uranium munitions.

Thorough environmental remediation also must be completed without further delay. I am amazed that 14 years after I was asked to clean up the initial DU mess from Gulf War 1 and almost 10 years since I finished the depleted uranium project that United States Department of Defense officials and many others still attempt to justify uranium munitions use while ignoring mandatory requirements.

But beyond the ignored mandatory actions that the willful dispersal of tons of solid radioactive and chemically toxic waste in the form of uranium munitions just does not even pass the common sense test.

Finally, continued compliance with the infamous March 1991 Los Alamos Memorandum <www.tv.cbc.ca/national/

pgminfo/du/doc1.html> that was issued to ensure continued use of uranium munitions cannot be justified.

In conclusion, the President of the United States George W. Bush and the Prime Minister of Great Britain Tony Blair, and U.S. Congress must acknowledge and accept responsibility for willful use of illegal uranium munitions- their own "dirty bombs" — resulting in adverse health and environmental effects.

President Bush and Prime Minister Blair also should order:

1. medical care for all casualties,
2. thorough environmental remediation,
3. immediate cessation of retaliation against all of us who demand compliance with medical care and environmental remediation requirements,
4. and ban the future use of depleted uranium munitions.

These references are copies of the actual regulations and orders and other pertinent official documents:
<www.traprockpeace.org/twomemos.html>,
<www.traprockpeace.org/rokke_du_3_ques.html>,
<www.traprockpeace.org/du_dtic_wakayama_Aug2002.html>.

Dr. Doug Rokke, Ph.D.
Former Director of U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project,
Former Gulf War 1 DU assessment team health physicist,
Confirmed DU casualty
June 2, 2005

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What Voting Stupid Gets You

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Never was a law passed that somebody couldn't make money off of."

Okay, count your fingers.

The hole cards are turned over, and you got the second best hand. The mule lot is closed and your new colt is starting to limp. The 150-watt bulb over the bar just came on and the little sweetie who's been polishing your belt buckle all over the dance floor just crawled out a back window with her boyfriend and your billfold.

In brief, the Legislative Session is over and you're sitting on a nail keg in your underwear.

And here's how stupid we are.

The one thing that they absolutely, positively, courts-gonna-close-down-the-schools-if-we-fail had to get done... didn't get done.

It's going to cost us about another \$10 million worth of legislating to levy a school tax that rich people won't have to pay.

Special sessions have become the norm to get any major business done in Austin.

During the regular session there's too much posturing and preening for the next election: too many nekkid cheerleader bills and homage to the image of Jesus that suddenly appeared under the gavel of OberHaus Sprecheren Tom "Creepy" Craddick, hereinafter known as the Shrine of the Holy Voucher.

And we're getting beaten over the head with it.

The TeeVee Show is over in a special session. The anchors just do a rip-and-read and get back to cleavage and car wrecks. Sports Center is next.

Then your elected reps can bring out the whips and chains, and you never even know you're getting screwed.

Ever consider that most lawmakers get their hypocrisy up over euthanasia because they're afraid they'd make the put-down list?

Of course this session did do some things.

You can't sue somebody who poisons you with asbestos. You get paid less if you're hurt on the job. Teachers got their pensions cut with no pay raise, no health insurance and no money for new educational technology like books and chalk.

Poor people will get to have more children. The Fascist Republicans need to suck up to the anti-abortion foot-washing snake-handlers, so they cut Planned Parenthood's funding for birth control.

We're about to get hip-deep in all god's children.

But that's okay. Private companies will now get paid by the state to put your unwanted children in foster homes, and Child Protective Services just got more money to hire more people to take more children away so more sweetheart orphanage deals can be cut. Adopt them out, and they make even more!

"Child Abuse isn't a get rich quick scheme, but guess what, I did!"

Now you can threaten your kids: If they don't behave, free enterprise will get them!

Speaking of practicing medicine with-

out a license, you did get Canadian prescriptions. You should be happy about that, but insurance companies just got PAID! Coming soon to a policy near you: Increased premiums if you don't join the Canadian Club.

Of course insurance companies, lawyers, bankers and stock brokers still don't pay enough taxes to put in your eye, your property tax appraisals are about to get higher than Neighbor Bush on a pretzel bender and the state will continue ducking into its unconstitutional debit hole.

Thing is, we deserve this.

Texas votes stupid.

We don't know who these guys are or how they voted.

Any grifter who wants a paid vacation in Austin gets himself a preacher-intoned manure spreader and a blank check from a lobbyist. Praise god and pass the plate.

Random pick five people on the street and ask them how their state rep voted on any of the above.

Buy yourself a steak if they can tell you.

Make it round steak.

Bologna.

Stupid is as stupid votes, Forrest, and there's a map on the box lid that tells you which chocolates are which.

All you have to do is read.

Call To Mind



By Don M. Fisher

Fishnote: I'd like to add a plug here for my newest favorite writer.

The Dallas Morning News' Karen Brooks does an online column called "Chamber Music" in which she pokes and prods around the chutes and alleys of the state's largest sale barn, the big pink pimple on Congress Ave.

The woman knows her fertilizer and writes like she learned on an Upright Royal.

<www.dallasnews.com/sharedcontent/dws/news/texasouthwest/legislature/columnists/kbrooks/stories/053105dntexchambermusic.fdl5a8015.html>

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Editorial

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— Editorial —

Texas Teachers Should Revolt

**Join In Making Sept. 12, 2005
'I'm Sick Of The Texas Legislature' Day**

If there was any doubt of the state's Republican leadership plan to cripple Texas public education, this legislative session proved their malevolent intent.

The unconstitutional school finance system that courts will shut down in October without legislative repairs was sidelined in favor of window dressing wrangling over such irrelevant issues as cheerleader pulchritude and a voucher system that Texans have repeatedly said they don't want because it will steal desperately needed school tax dollars for wealthy private schools.

Yet House Speaker Tom Craddick wasted valuable time allowing debate on a cheerleader bill he knew had no chance of passing the Senate. Then he let fanatical San Antonio Rightist James Leininger use the speaker's office to bully and intimidate decent Republicans into voting for vouchers.

Texans should be proud of sensible Republicans who have more courage than their extremist leadership has voracity.

If the Republican leaders were serious about improving education, they would have restored the 7.5 percent state contribution to the Teacher Retirement System. They cut the state funding to only 6 percent of the educators' salaries and took away teachers' health insurance two years ago when Texas faced a recessionary financial crisis that could have been averted had not George Bush's lush budgets gutted state reserves.

The result was an 8 percent shortfall in the TRS fund.

Now that Texas is recovering economically, the Austin political bosses have broken their promise to restore those cuts.

Rather than return the funding, the Legislature cut teacher benefits.

Additionally, the leadership threw draconian restrictions on teacher pension, eliminating early retirement provisions and increasing the cost of retired teachers' health insurance.

There were no teacher raises, denied educators since the Bush campaign pushed through a pittance so they could tout his phony "success" in Texas education. Instead, the Republican cynics threw up a smoke screen: Education Field Marshall Kent Grusendorf's silly and unworkable "merit" pay based on test scores. Grusendorf, who openly flaunts his dislike for teachers, designed the bill to punish teachers for working with students who perform poorly and reward those in rich districts that can afford smaller classes and better learning tools.

The Republican leaders will not be satisfied until they have reduced Texas public education to an impoverished labor pool of cheap workers, economically herded by a privileged, privately educated elite.

Finally, the education finance bill hinged, not on plans

that would finance the best education for our children— ALL our children — but on which bill would save the most money for the wealthy, for stock brokers, lawyers, insurance companies and banks, none of whom pay even a hundredth of their fair share of taxes compared to working Texans and small businesses.

It is time for Texas educators to show some guts.

The anemic Texas Classroom Teachers Association and Texas State Teachers Association have repeatedly capitulated and retreated before the legislative mob, a Chamberlin-like back-peddling that has cost teachers who depended on them for their living wage, their old-age security and even their self-respect.

Teachers, your career is threatened by a test that all teachers know is nothing more than a political scam to make the legislature look like they are doing something for education; you all know the damage TAKS testing is doing to your students. It is the angry topic of most teachers' lounge conversations.

You are paid less than a beer route salesman or the average secretary.

Your retirement fund is being systematically robbed.

The colleagues you have traditionally counted on to help our children are being chased out of the profession, and there is less hope each year of replacing them.

Today the teaching profession in Texas is 40,000 teachers short. Tomorrow will be worse.

And when will your time come, the day that you finally have to make the choice between making a decent living and your love of your job and your kids?

It is time for a job action.

Texas teachers should declare, "I'm Sick Of The Texas Legislature" Day on Sept. 12.

Call in sick.

Stay home.

No strike, no protest.

Just one day that Texas politicians will have to do without the teachers they abuse and take for granted.

Sept. 12 is a Monday, early in the year, and your students will not miss any work that you cannot easily make up. After all, the students miss far more learning time taking the TAKS test.

Let the public know that you are serious about your shoddy treatment at the hands of your state government. Simultaneously, let the public know how important you are, and what they will face without you. Talk to parents, friends, administrators about the serious problems that our politicians won't face. You may be surprised at how many will be on your side.

Teachers have been forced into a corner.

It is time to fight back.

— Written By Don M. Fisher

Juneteenth Turns 140

AUSTIN — This year marks the 140th anniversary of Juneteenth, the day slaves in Texas learned of their independence following the end of the Civil War.

At Galveston, on June 19, 1865, U.S. Gen. Gordon Granger announced that the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 was in effect.

As the news of freedom spread across Texas, celebrations occurred and Juneteenth evolved into one of the oldest, nationally celebrated tributes to the ending of slavery in the United States.

The Texas Historical Commission (THC) offers a free brochure outlining the contributions of African Americans in Texas history, focusing on statewide cultural attractions. Juneteenth is a great opportunity to acknowledge the history, education and achievement of African Americans. The brochure is a perfect guide for any Juneteenth outing.

Many cities across Texas will celebrate the day. Highlights include: a film festival in Dallas, a lecture series in Corpus Christi, an exhibit opening, a parade and picnic on Galveston Island, parades and activities in Brenham, Rusk and Lubbock, a blues fest in Austin, and a barbecue in Marble Falls.

To obtain a copy of African Americans in Texas: Historical and Cultural Legacies, call 866/276-6219, or visit <www.thc.state.tx.us>. For more information on Juneteenth and an activities list visit <www.juneteenth.org>.

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Wichita Falls Mayor, Wife Tried For Murder

A West Texas jury reached a verdict on June 1, 1925, in the murder trial of the Wichita Falls mayor's "better half."

Seventeen-year-old Mary Francis Collier eloped with her high school sweetheart Elsie (Buster) Robertson in the summer of 1924. Knowing the bride's parents would disapprove of her marriage to a boy from "the wrong side of the tracks," the couple kept the nuptials a secret for seven months.

Frank Collier, the mayor of Wichita Falls, finally learned the truth in January 1925. For more than a month, he held Mary Francis prisoner in the family home, refusing to let her see her husband, and sought an annulment.

On Valentine's Day, the already agitated father found out that his little girl had lost her virginity even before an Oklahoma justice of the peace tied the unwanted knot. In a wild rage, "he

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



rushed to the Robertson home and before a half dozen startled witnesses shot his son-in-law" to death.

The shocking slaying was front-page news across the Lone Star State. One newspaper condemned the heinous crime by the "blood crazed" Collier as "another blotch on the fair name of Texas," while in Del Rio, THE HERALD mourned the tragic fact that "several lives are ruined and nothing accomplished for the betterment of the world."

Everyone who was anyone in Wichita Falls advised the 26-year-old district attorney to go easy on Collier. James V. Allred had little to gain and a promising career to lose by prosecuting the politically connected killer, but the high-minded DA was not about to let the mayor get away with murder.

The judge in his final instructions on March 25 made it practically impossible for the jury to find the defendant guilty of first-degree murder. After debating the case for 27 hours, the 12 citizens convicted Collier of manslaughter and gave him a token prison term of three years.

The shameful sentence brought howls of protest from the statewide press. Reminding readers of a cattle rustler recently locked up for ten years, THE MESSENGER in the North Texas county of Wise concluded "lousy calves

are more essential to the peace and happiness of the people." An East Texas editor fumed that the Red River travesty showed "life is the cheapest thing in the State of Texas" and predicted Collier would receive "a pardon before he learns where his cot is located."

No one was more disappointed than the prosecutor, who blamed "what money and influence can do" for the miscarriage of justice. In mid-April, Allred decided to try Mrs. Collier, not as an accessory to murder but as a co-defendant.

The DA asked for and won a change of venue to Haskell, a small county seat 100 miles southwest of the scene of the crime. "In trying this woman," he explained to his local counterpart, "we are really trying the guilty party — rather the guiltier. Once you see her on the stand, you will think so, too. Truly, 'hell hath no fury' like her."

The victim's grief-stricken mother repeated her heartbreaking story for a second jury. She was chatting with the newlyweds in front of her home, when her in-laws drove up in their sedan. From the passenger seat, the mayor ordered Mary Frances into the vehicle and then said to Buster, "Come here. I want to talk to you."

The boy obliged but a moment later jumped back calling out, "Mother! He is going to kill me!" Hattie Robertson screamed, "Don't kill my boy in cold blood!" but Frank Collier started squeezing the trigger and did not stop until the pistol was empty and the teenager lay lifeless in the gutter.

The Colliers switched places in the front seat, and the first lady of Wichita Falls told the mayor to "roll back the car and let Mary Frances see that he's dead."

Mrs. Collier swore on the witness stand she had just been "joking" when she threatened to "blow Buster's brains out." She also insisted that bullet she fired at her son-in-law the week before the murder was only meant to scare him.

In his compelling closing argument, Allred described the love of Mary Frances and Buster "as pure as the driven snow on the flower-decked banks of youth." In contrast, the cruel and conning Mrs. Collier was an "unnatural mother" and a "Lady Macbeth deserving even of the death penalty."

The judge, clearly stung by criticism of his conduct in the first trial, eliminated the lesser charge of manslaughter from the list of options. The jurors responded by convicting the woman of murder and sentenced her to a decade in the state penitentiary.

But in the end it was all for naught. In November 1926, after the Colliers had run out of appeals, Gov. Miriam (Ma) Ferguson granted them both full pardons.

Nevertheless, the voters never forgot Jimmie Allred's gutsy prosecution of the killer couple. In 1930 they elected him attorney general and followed that four years later with a promotion to governor.

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

The Progressive Next Door

Rose Aguilar, Altnet author and co-producer of "Your Call" on KALW 91.7 FM in San Francisco, asked me during an interview to give advice to activists and organizers in California. She stopped by the ICONOCLAST's home office late last month on her summer trek through the mythological "Red States of America."

A week or two after she left in her van for Dallas, I came up with the following ideas:

As progressives, we have to remember that we're Americans. We're all in this together for the long haul to change society, environment, and government.

It's also vital for progressives to reframe issues with language to fit the needs of their local communities, not only the nation as a whole.

Instead of demonizing the opposition, reframe these messages around wedge issues to build coalitions with conservatives. Bashing President Bush, however fun it may be, is one thing, but building bridges with people with conservative tendencies is essential for balanced governance.

Equally important is locating and attracting these "blue conservatives." Christopher Hayes, in his IN THESE TIMES article in March, "How to Turn Your Red State Blue," mentioned a number of ways progressives can possibly draw new blood.

I wish Hayes had taken note of the progressive religious movement currently fostered by the Rev. Jim Wallis, editor of SOJOURNERS magazine; however, we both missed another possible progressive group —

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



sex workers.

As I travelled through Missouri last month for the National Conference on Media Reform in St. Louis, I couldn't help but notice that for every billboard advertisement for a church, there were two billboards for adult video stores.

While the Rev. Wallis rightly spells out his message from the pulpit, what about the peepshow, the pole, the porn tape, and the parkway?

Progressives ought to turn strip clubs, adult video and book stores, massage parlors, and red light districts into progressive learning and outreach centers.

Sex workers should be educated on issues, such as fair trade, renewable energy, and the peace movement, and be supported to use their influence to show their conservative clients that their politics and behaviors effect not only their pants and pocketbooks but also the planet.

Perhaps progressives can also team with the adult entertainment industry to develop and promote better sexual images for the American populous. The model for this movement might reside in the 2004 film *The Girl Next Door*, written by Stuart Blumberg, David T. Wagner, and Brent Goldberg.

This mainstream film, starring Elisha Cuthbert and Emile Hirsch,

tells the tale of a high school senior and a pornstar who fall in love but must act creatively to release her from her job, pay off debts to her employer, bring a brilliant foreign exchange student to the United States, and send the senior to college.

To get themselves off the hook, the young couple produced a cutting edge, tongue-in-cheek, bona fide sex education film starring their pornstar pals. In my eyes, that's progressive, not pornographic!

The last few years has also seen much positive activity to reform the media back to its democratic roots, but what about advertising?

There is no question in my mind that conservative Americans must be exposed to better ideas — especially in the commercial sphere!

Like religion, the advertising medium is values neutral. It can only do harm or good depending on those who control the messages.

Therefore, the progressive community must take back the concept of sexuality from public relations firms and ad agencies, reframe it to fit their values, and use it to sell their socially and ecologically responsible products to conservative American consumers.

As we know, social responsibility and equality follows economic justice, but without people to disseminate progressive messages locally, the prevailing paradigm will remain entrenched indefinitely.

INFO

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Stuff Happens

Stuff happens. It just does. I don't know why. And it keeps on coming. That well-known mantra comes to mind. I invoke it when particularly exasperated: "If you ain't got no problems, you ain't got no business."

In one of my last few columns, I mentioned that well-known Murphy's Law about mechanical troubles occurring just after the warranty expires. Just in case I was wavering on my commitment to that premise, the inevitable happened yet again to confirm my suspicions. Chain saw #2 managed to develop a hole INSIDE its casing just after its birthday. How this happened is indeed a mystery, one of many that have plagued me lately.

I try to be ever vigilant around the ranch, but I do actually have other activities in my life that require attention, things that have nothing to do with farm maintenance. So sometimes I slip up, miss something a more experienced farmer would notice immediately. I learn by my mistakes. One thing I learned by mistake is this: if the overhead water storage tank doesn't overflow a few hours after the windmill pump goes on, it is time to check the troughs. I thought things were a little slow the other day, but the tank finally overflowed, so I made a mental note to check it out the next morning. There was probably another stuck float. I don't understand why those round floats are more expensive than the oblong ones. The latter seem to last a lot longer. Another mystery.

By the next day, things were a lot worse. Something was definitely going on with the water supply, always a concern, but especially troublesome as dry summer weather approaches. — Turns out a cow had probably knocked the square float off the trough near the defunct pigpen. It was old. The pipe finally just broke. Water was flowing everywhere except into the trough, which was almost dry. I filled the trough with an old piece of hose while we set about to examine the damage and determine a solution. With all the water flowing freely at that location, none was going on to the two farther troughs. Not good. Two were very low. A check of all troughs supplied by the overhead tank revealed that one other on the other side of the property was also operating with a stuck float. That had been the previous day's problem. But the big leak had definitely occurred that very day. Things happen fast in the country.

Naturally, these discoveries were made after the hardware stores had closed, another Murphy's Law kind of thing. A quick check of supplies on hand revealed a few possibilities in the PVC pipe department, but probably not enough. The tight proximity of pipes and trough impeded the use of the pipe threader. Two people with doctoral degrees couldn't for the life of us figure out how this strange configuration of pipe had been put together (perhaps 40 or 50 years ago, maybe more). If you unscrewed one, you couldn't unscrew the other. If you managed to get them apart, there would be no way to put them back together. I can't explain this. I guess you had to be there.

Two pipes were sticking out of the ground, one incoming, one outgoing, with all kinds of cockeyed connections going this way and that. We were per-

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.

plexed. It's things like this that make me scratch my head out here, consider banging it on the barn wall occasionally. Different options were assessed and rejected. It was decided that the old metal pipes would be cut on the morrow, PVC parts purchased and employed to reconfigure and improve the maze of pipe. The oblong float or a replacement would be back on and working within 24 hours.

Twilight was fast approaching. Remembering the children's tale of the little boy who stuck his thumb in the dike to keep a whole town from being flooded, I suggested using a cork to stop the flow of water and divert it to the other troughs. This would certainly be only a temporary, stop-gap measure. After all, the pressure from the overhead tank wasn't very strong. It made perfect sense to me. . . . This suggestion was met with a dramatic rolling of eyes, so I didn't push it.

The only thing to be done at that point was to rescue the largest of the goldfish that inhabit the (then rapidly drying) troughs. (Goldfish have kept our troughs clean for as long as I can remember. Jamie taught me to buy a few replacement fish each spring to replenish the supply. Natural attrition, raccoons, and the occasional, unintentional cow swallowing deplete the goldfish population out here. But the hardiest specimens live a long time, providing me with several maintenance-free, outdoor aquariums to enjoy year-round). The particular fish in question must be years and years old, judging from his enormous size. I hated to see him die such a stupid death. The smaller fish would have to take their chances until morning with the low water and oxygen levels.

I figured there was no way Zack could scoop up that fish and put him in the cooler, but he surprised me. — Surprised the fish too. — Guess old Goldie wasn't used to the sudden appearance of wading boots in his trough and a surprising swipe of the net. I had just said, "This is never going to happen." Oh, ye of little faith. Before the words were out of my mouth, the fish was captured and on his way to relocation in the largest trough on the place. . . which was full of water with no signs of drying up. Goldie should be much happier there. Mission accomplished. (After the dramatic rescue, the tank was too muddy to see smaller fish. They had to stay where they were. Luckily, their story had a happy ending). A future column will include another trough tale

We will have to make the plumbing repair this afternoon. Meanwhile, early this morning, I went out and placed a cork in the leaking, broken pipe. And what do you know? — It worked just fine.

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Time For Change

Sometimes it's really difficult to pick a subject for this space. I mean, our fearless leader figure, the inimitable Mr. George W. Bush, and his puppeteer, Herr Karl Rove, make it so easy with their daily errata and shenanigans. But that would get redundant.

Besides, just how much could I possibly write about Junior Georgie, the Dickster, Condie, and that Old Rummy whining about how wrong Amnesty International was in its condemnation of their treatment of prisoners, anyway? Was it really necessary for all four of them to really gripe?

Methinks thou dost protest too much. Since Junior Georgie had never ventured past the United States' borders prior to 2001 (as he's proven, it's not a positive resume' entry when applying for "Leader of the World"), the man's obviously not yet up to speed concerning the work of Amnesty International. Fact, Mr. Bush: *checking up on prisoner abuses is what they do.* They're damned good at it, and greatly respected for their work throughout the World. Unlike you, they have no corporate ties or governmental agenda, or handler, giving them free reins to be unflinchingly honest.

If the Bush Regime doesn't like the findings of Amnesty International, too damn bad. I, for one, am inclined to accept this noble organization's assessment. No amount of protestation from the White House is going to make me believe otherwise.

Herr Rove, Mr. Bush and their underlings just don't get it — nobody outside of the red states buys the excuses or spin. That includes most of the rest of the planet's population. Even the folks in the red states have become skeptical, and rightly so.

Would it help, sir, if I sent you a dollar toward a down payment on a clue?

Just like the "riots" in Afghanistan and elsewhere were most certainly NEWSWEEK's fault, the rampant atrocities were all thought up and committed by pairs and small groups of low-ranking military reservists — none-too-bright patsies who were charged and convicted in record time.

For their hand in it, the two guys who contrived the theory that America doesn't need to adhere to Geneva Convention protections for its enemy prisoners, Alberto R. Gonzales and his then White House counsel aide Timothy E. Flanigan, have been promoted to Attorney General and Deputy AG, respectively. Nice work if you can get it.

Here's a little tidbit: Flanigan became senior vice president and general counsel at Tyco International Ltd. after his White House stint. This followed two executives there being charged with financial chicanery. Should his nomination be approved, Flanigan will take over the office conducting their ongoing investigation and prosecution.

You don't even need dots to connect on this one. **It's beyond irritating that all the major news outlets aren't reporting this!**

As soon as the theft of the 2004 presidential election was assured, Bush brought Der Karl out of the closet, introducing him to the world as "the architect" of all his success. Almost immediately thereafter, Junior Georgie



Out Of The Blue

By
**Jerry
Tenuto**

finally put Rove on the "official" Guv'ment payroll.

Now, whenever Der Karl tells someone how things are going to be, (as described by former White House insider Paul O'Neill to Ron Suskind in *The Price of Loyalty*), his authority cannot be questioned.

Bush also increased his level of arrogance following the election from frat-boy annoying to bloated by commenting that he had been given more political capital to spend. In Junior Georgie's world "spend" is synonymous with "squander." He didn't have but a modicum of "political capital" to begin with, and from Jan. 20, 2001 he's managed to squander everything good the United States had to offer.

The same way he squandered every other opportunity his father afforded him.

Just as he did with every company George H.W. Bush put him in charge of, as well as the state of Texas, Junior Georgie has run our great nation into the ground.

The worst part is he continues to not get it.

Sure, Bush has learned to hold more press conferences. However, he only responds to those questions he comes prepared to answer. Other questions get the same throwaway replies from one press conference to the next.

Dubya's now past the 90-day mark on his 60-day nationwide tour to convince Americans that his Social Security privatization scam (to make the wealthy wealthier) is what we all want and need. Instead of wasting tens of millions of tax dollars travellin' around speechifyin' in front of hand-picked, friendly audiences, that money could have been put into the system itself. He doesn't get the reality that only the smallest minority of people are for this scheme.

His choices for Federal judges are not popular with most of the nation. This is not a party issue but a matter of Constitutional freedoms. Still, he forces them upon the Nation despite the negative results, today and for the future.

Millions and millions of people could, if nothing else, find hope from pain and suffering in stem cell research. The numbers of their family and friends that could be positively impacted could never be counted. In reality, we're probably figuring every family on the planet. But Junior Georgie has this cock-eyed idea of what Jesus would do, so he refuses to help the sick and needy.

I always thought Jesus was for helping the sick and needy. Aren't there New Testament books reporting about Him healing folks and resurrecting the dead?

The only people on Earth who don't know that Robert Bolton is the absolute worst choice for Ambassador to the U.N. are those who work in the West Wing. And now Bush says he'll withhold more documents the Senate Democrats have

asked for regarding Bolton's conduct. His intent is to force a Senate vote — to hell with protocol or any semblance of Democratic process.

But, if you're any other country, you'd better be Democratic or face a Bush *Blitzkrieg*, er, Shock and Awe.

No one around the world believes Bush or any official of his administration. They're just tolerating this regime until Jan. 20, 2009.

And Americans have had enough of minority rule, as well.

Between Iraq, Afghanistan, the evangelicals, the neo-cons, and the trumped-up war on terror, not one thing has gotten accomplished to improve this Country since Bill Clinton left office.

This is the only White House in our history that blames everyone else for its screw-ups. And its screw-ups are costly — in money, prestige, jobs, income, time out of our lives, Constitutional rights, and most of all human lives. This is the most dangerous regime we've ever been saddled with in America.

Bush can't reason through his own self-deceptions that no matter how much he insists he's right, he ain't.

Karl Rove's dream was an all-Republican Amerika. Well, he and the giant corporations gave it to each other. And we let them get it away with it.

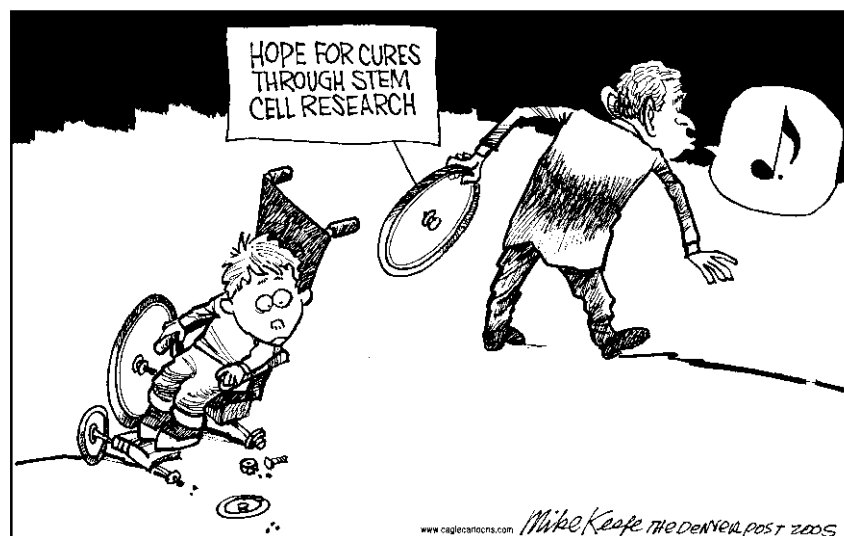
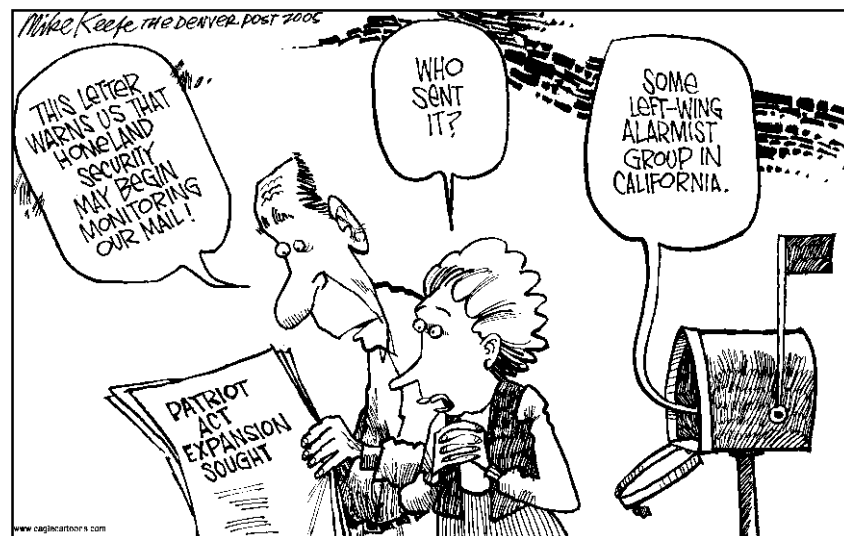
It's time, dear reader, to get involved with politics at the local level. That's where it all begins, that's where you can do the most to evoke change. When we get these Right-wing schlemiels out of Congress and state legislatures in 2006, we can make the run headlong into the White House in 2008.

Get out your old Steppenwolf, Dylan, Byrds, Airplane, Baez, and all the other singers and songs of freedom and revolution from the '60s and '70s. You know, all the good stuff Der Karl, Junior Georgie and their minions missed back in the day.

The message was never as meaningful or appropriate as it is today. And boy, do we ever need to get the spirit back.

As Bob Dylan sang, "The times they are a-changin'."

Shalom and lechaim, friends.



Camping Tip: Don't Get Attacked By Your Tent

Our family loves to go camping. In fact, we make sure to get out and pitch our tent — without fail — once a year.

Traditionally, this takes place during the busy Memorial Day Weekend so that as many people as possible can witness a 38-year-old man being attacked by his own tent.

In my defense, I have to say our tent is very large; especially when it is laying flat on the ground.

If I hadn't lost the step-by-step instructions that came with it, I'm sure the assembly process would be a lot easier because, as a man, I could use them to, step-by-step, blame everything on having lousy instructions.

What this means is that over the Memorial Day Weekend my handiwork will again be mistaken for a hot air balloon



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

that has crash-landed into our family's campsite.

My wife and I bought our tent 15 years ago while living in Texas. As you know, everything is bigger there — including tents — which is why we tried to find the smallest model available. This turned out to be a tent called Quick Camp, which was a handy, two-compart-

ment structure roughly the size of a jet hanger. Despite its size, the salesman assured us that the assembly process was very simple. He said that the entire thing could be erected in less than 20 minutes with a little planning.

And he was right.

As long as our plan included staying out of the tent.

For some reason, it collapsed on us every time we got inside. I'm not talking about an inconvenient buckling of the walls; this was more like an instantaneous implosion of water-resistant nylon that required the assistance of a search and rescue team:

"Listen up! Team 'A' will start at the west quadrant near the mosquito netting. Team 'B' will take the dogs and follow the perimeter until we can —"

Woof! Woof!

"Quick — over *HERE!* I think someone's moving under this giant door flap!"

In spite of these experiences, we still feel it's important for our family to go camping together. That's because, as parents, we know our kids really hate it. I mean, sure — it's pretty exciting while Dad is flopping around under 200 yards of nylon. But once that's over, and I've decided that we're all going to sleep out under the stars LIKE REAL PIONEERS! they begin to realize that ev-

erything they know about civilization has been left behind.

And by "everything," I mean the television.

In the primitive world of camping there is no Barney. No Tellitubbies. No Power Rangers or American Idol.

There is only dirt.

And time.

And if they're lucky, enough fire to cook a marshmallow.

Eventually, as the shock of not having a television wears off, children enter what I feel is the most important phase of their camping experience: Realizing that we, the parents, are the key to their survival.

This epiphany starts the moment I pull out the old camp stove, give it a few pumps, then light the picnic table on fire. In that instant, the only thing that matters is reaching out together as a family and finding the nearest fire extinguisher.

So, during the Memorial Day Weekend, our family will once again be camping out. If you happen to be in the neighborhood, feel free to stop by.

The rescue team could probably use your help.

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

Empty Threats?

There are many theories that try to explain why the crime rate has been falling since the 90s. Possible causes that have been suggested include better police strategies, tougher gun control laws, the increase in the number of police, and the aging of the population. I'm not sure why crime has gone down for all these years, but I can tell you why it's gone down in most places in the country for the past few months: all the bad guys have come to my neighborhood.



Modern Times
By
**Lloyd
Garver**

Recently, there has been a spate of armed bank robberies in my neighborhood, and customers have been held up at gunpoint in the local deli. This is a serious situation, and it has gotten a serious reaction from both the community and the police. One of the moves that the police have made is to have an empty police car parked on the main street near the banks. The theory is that if a potential bandit happens to be driving through the area and spots the patrol car, he'll keep driving rather than stop and rob.

What concerns me is that the police department has explained all this in the local newspaper. Yep, they've actually told the public that the police car is always empty and gets moved a few times a day, and it's just a decoy. So now, every potential robber who reads that paper will know he has nothing to fear from the non-existent police in that empty car. That's like taking an ad out in the paper saying, "We'll be out of town for a week. Our lights and T.V. will remain on, but that's just to try to fool people into thinking we're home."

But out of respect for the police, I'm willing to support this tactic and see how it works out. I do think there are a few things they could do to make the whole thing more convincing. They could record some voices that would randomly come from the empty car. So, if a crook passes by, he'd hear things like,

COP #1: "So, is the Captain still mad at you for beating up that guy?"

COP #2: "A little. But he understands the pressure we're under makes us a little crazed."

OR

COP #1: "I don't know which tastes worse — these donuts or the coffee."

I also think that we private citizens can help out. The patrol car is always parked at an expired meter. Next time I walk by, I'm going to put some money in the meter and leave a note saying, "Dear Officer Smith: I put some money in the meter even though I know you'll be back in a minute or two from buying new and more dangerous bullets."

But if this decoy tactic works, think of all the money and lives that could be saved if the empty cop car ploy ends up being used on a larger scale. There will be no need to actually have missiles with nuclear warheads. We can just have empty missiles labeled, "Nuclear." Maybe we can just have really good pictures of missiles. Similarly, we can just use thousands of cardboard cutouts of soldiers to convince the world that we have a large and scary army.

But just to insure that this tactic works in my neighborhood, I think the local newspaper should print the following: "It was recently learned that the banks in this neighborhood contain only fake or 'play' money. You'd be wasting your time to rob them." That should solve the crime problem, don't you think?

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

Letter to the Editor

Rep. Joe Barton (R-Tex), alias "Smokey Joe," again shows his true colors and lack of respect for the men and women that fly our colors (our troops). Barton typically votes with and supports corporate needs and wants rather than for the needs and protection of the individual. Last weeks, "HOW THEY VOTED" shows that Barton voted not to qualify active National Guard and Reserve personnel for TRICARE, the main military health plan; against the requirement for plan to pull our troops out of Iraq; and against Veterans' medical care for our returning troops.

Great timing! Apparently Barton has forgotten the purpose of Memorial Day. Funny, he never forgets to support the tobacco industry.

Leonard Jensen, Ft. Worth

To The Editor:

Can you believe that Rep. Tom DeLay was upset that his sterling image was maligned by a fictional TV show? Mr. DeLay should worry less about "Law & Order" and more about his own "Criminal Intent."

Daryl Altman, Lymbrook, NY

Dear Iconoclast,

Why can't we find any reasonable or dependable estimates of total tonnage of DU in weapons used worldwide, or even just in Iraq over the past 20 years?

It is irritating when viewing sites purportedly opposed to DU's use that they provide not even a clue regarding approximate tonnages. How can we begin to stop its use or even contemplate the cleanup necessary if no one wants to give us some kind of estimate of the amounts we are dealing with here? Certainly the liars at WHO will not help us out in this regard.

Transmutation of U235 and U234 to U238 by phytoremediation using specially modified organisms is a definite possibility and companies already hold patents for such, but we must have the amounts involved to calculate the inputs (i.e. footcandles of necessary wavelength light available in a given region, water and mineral inputs especially for processes of chelation, and so on) needed for adequate bioremediation.

Sincerely,
A. Icle

To The Editor:

Two Pentagon reporters gave accounts of what happened there as if they were on separate poles: one north and the other south.

Jim Miklaszewski, MSNBC, says the plane bounced before hitting the Pentagon. This from reviewing a tape from the security camera in the parking lot. He must be privy to this information because no one can make that claim.

He and the other one, Jamie McIntyre, CNN, never testified before the 911 Commission. Now CNN's Jamie says, "No plane crashed at this site."

In the meantime, the official DOD tape from the parking lot only shows a ball of fire? Meaning: (A) the explosion came from within, or (B) the tape has been tampered with. Both reporters are MIA's and don't let any fake e-mail address or website, or new articles fool you.

Two articles credited to Jim have popped up under his name in the search engine, both have different dates, and announcers, and pictures that show the lie.

Joe Bell, Woburn, MA

Dear Editor,

I am certain you are aware that Depleted Uranium is Depleted Uranium Hexafluoride (UF6).

What makes the combo important is that Fluorine (F) element is the most reactive of all the elements and will combine with almost all. (The Merck Index, 1996)

Next, Uranium is "enriched" with Hexafluoride to make Uranium Hexafluoride (UF6). (CRC Handbook of Chemistry & Physics, Elements pages under "Fluorine")

The chemical warfare nerve gases; Sarin (GD), Cyclosarin and Soman (GB) are also fluorinated; Methylphosphonofluoridic acid.

What is interesting, is that in The Merck Index, under **Isofluorophate** (Phosphonofluoridic acid (DFP) accompanying information notes;

"U.S. pat. 2,409,039 (1946): see also Edgewood Arsenal. *Chemical Warfare Service TDMR 832* (April 1944)

And yet, it ends with;
"Caution; Highly toxic; cholinesterase inactivator. Do not inhale vapors. Avoid contact with skin.

"THERAP CAT: cholinergic (ophthalmic)

"THERAP CAT: (VET); Has been used as a miotic."

Then I looked this up in the PDR GUIDE TO DRUG INTERACTIONS SIDE EFFECTS INDICATIONS, 47th Edition 1993, and found;

"FLOROPRYL STERILE OPHTHALMIC OINTMENT (Isofluorophate) May interact with cholinergic agents and certain other agents. Compounds in these categories include:

Pyridostigmine Bromide (Additive adverse effects)

Pyridostigmine Bromide is the antidote for... chemical warfare nerve gases Sarin, Cycosarin and Soman!

The Associated Press newswriter Donald M. Rothberg wrote article Nov. 2, 1996, copied in THE TAMPA TRIBUNE; "CIA says it has no gulf war secrets" and a NEWSDAY report with it stated:

"Long-term consequences of sarin are unknown"

"But there are no sarin human studies available that have tracked exposed individuals for years, and none have looked at the reproductive and birth-defects issues cited among gulf war veterans.

"Studies of farm workers and pesticide applicators who have been exposed to related chemicals also have ignored reproductive issues, said toxicologist Bill Pease of the Environmental Defence Fund in San Francisco."

The Merck Index also notes under Sarin; "Caution: Extremely active cholinesterase inhibitor. Toxic effects similar to, but more severe than, parathion, q.v."

In "Occupational Diseases A Guide to Their Recognition," U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, June 1977, Page 30; ENZYMES, it notes that among all toxic substances, including fluoride, a number of aspects of toxicity are 1) Systemic toxicity, 2) Selective sites of action, 3) Potentiation and synergism, the enhanced toxicity of two or more simultaneously acting substances.. resulting in an observed toxicity greater than the additive toxicity of the combined components.

Page 34 notes; along with "ozone, nitrogen dioxide, and possibly iodine and fluo-

ride destroy enzymes by oxidation of their functioning groups."

And...The Merck Index notes fluorine has higher oxidation potential than ozone.

It seems that the whole picture should be focused on, as opposed to looking at each individually, since they have a common denominator, fluorine, and the dangerous characteristics of the element.

Here in central Florida, are numerous phosphate mines and phosphate fertilizer companies. In The Geology of Florida, 1997, University Press of Florida, page 143, the source of the fluoridation agents is given:

"In addition to uranium, fluorine is an economic byproduct of phosphoric-acid production. The fluorine from the rock reacts with silica to form SiF4 gas. During acid production this gas is recovered as fluorosilicic acid (H2SiF6) in wet scrubbers that are part of the environmental-protection equipment. Fluorosilicic acid is widely used in the preparation of chemical compounds and in the treatment of public drinking water."

The AWWA standard and the specification sheet show the heavy metals that are present in the fluoridation agents, and are noted in the last update; Addendum B703a-97, that it is "becoming a problem of greater concern".

Anita Knight, St. Petersburg, Florida

To The Editor:

This letter was sent to Sen. Kaye Bailey Hutchinson)

Dear Senator Hutchinson,

I have lived in NYC for the last 18 years. I supported Dennis Kucinich for President in 2004. In December 2004 I moved to Dallas.

First, I would like to introduce myself as a new resident of your state. Actually I was born in El Paso. Second, I would like to thank you and your staff for taking the time to respond and write to me in reference to some of the concerns that I have been expressing about our government's priorities.

Let me tell you, I am proud to live in the State of Texas where the State of Texas Democratic Convention recently passed The Department of Peace resolution, as proposed by Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio (D). Ron Paul is a Texas Republican who has also spoken out against the war in Iraq.

The average American citizen wants peace on earth, freedom, democracy and civil and human rights.

Recently, you wrote that we need judges that will protect our civil rights and that you have confidence in President Bush's judicial appointees, in that they will honor the civil/human rights of human beings.

Long before the story broke out in NEWSWEEK about the violation of the Koran, other news outlets ran stories about treatment of human beings that the U.S. armed forces hold in captivity, who the mainstream press regards as terrorists.

When the courageous U.S. armed forces, men and women, serving in Iraq kill Iraqis, the mainstream press says that the U.S. killed "insurgents" and "terrorists".

AS NEWSWEEK is now under a microscope and 60 MINUTES was under the same microscope last summer, I would like to express to those in power, that we must examine closely the usage of the words: "insurgents" and "terrorists." God Forbid, if China invaded and occupied the United States and U.S. Citizens in defending their homeland attacked the Chinese invaders. Would we then be "insurgents" and "terrorists" in the act of defending our homeland?

While people right here in Texas choose between food, healthcare, and even medicine, (I am one of those people), Congress is passing appropriation after appropriation to spend more money on attacking Iraq, a country that did not attack us.

President Bush wants to increase our nuclear arsenal. A bi-partisan Congress worked to decrease the nuclear arsenal during the early 1970's in multi-lateral nonproliferation treaties. What does the Department of Homeland Security do in Washington DC, in highly secured quarters, while the budgets of local police and fire departments are diminishing and army bases in the U.S. are being closed, while we are building military bases in Iraq?

Shouldn't the country of Iraq finally be coming to a resolution about how best to manage their resources and build their own military bases with revenues from the oil resources in that country?

As long as we occupy Iraq and kill innocent people, we are not functioning in a pro-life manner. As long as the United States denies due process of law to those people we capture, then how can civil rights be the priorities of President Bush's judicial choices? How can the senators on the Judiciary Committee profess to represent the people of the United States in choosing "pro-life" judges when our government's policies and practices are not pro-life? Cutting the Pentagon Budget in half would be a step to practicing Pro-Life beliefs, that human beings around the world hold dear to their hearts. The government assisting the poor with food, affordable housing, educational opportunities and health care is pro-life. How can the government raise Medicare Premiums 17%, while allocating more and more money to the Pentagon, a "Homeland Security" agency and attacking other countries unilaterally and then call itself "pro-life"? You wrote about President Bush's choices for the Federal Bench being in step with the mainstream. When people have lost their jobs to workers in countries such as China, where the government pays for basic healthcare because the American CEOs don't want to pay for healthcare themselves, mainstream American wants to know: Is this a "pro-life" policy?

In protecting our civil rights why is someone opposed to President Bush's appointees labeled as an activist? The civil mode of conduct is to have a discussion. I have read and considered your letters as you wrote that you keep my thoughts in mind. I have considered the provisions of the U.S.A. PATRIOT ACT as you have considered the importance of President Bush's chosen judges in protecting our civil rights. I have considered the suffering of gay and lesbian people who want to marry as you are impressed with President Bush's chosen judges and their abilities to protect our civil rights. I believe that a women's decision to terminate her pregnancy shouldn't be in the hands of a government that continues to cut the potential tax revenue coming from the people and the corporations who have the most to give.

Kaye, and I address you as Kaye to write to you human being to human being. How can the American people trust that President Bush's judicial appointees will protect our civil and human rights in an atmosphere of FEAR and The U.S.A. PATRIOT ACT? How can Congress fight for the selection of "pro-life" judges in an era when the sanctity of life and how people choose to live is not valued as we value the almighty dollar? Right now there is controversy over a NEWSWEEK article. U.S. citizens and people around the world have seen the photos of Iraqi prisoners being tortured in one of Saddam's old prisons. When the United States practices torture, without due process, how can we be sure that President Bush's judicial nominees will protect civil and human rights of every living human being?

Locking people up without explaining why, and without giving them a chance to

Continued On Next Page

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

prove their innocence, seems a peculiar way to advance the cause of freedom in the world.

Benjamin Franklin said: "Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety."

The "PATRIOT Act" is not what the American mainstream wants our men and women in Iraq to fight and die for? I hope you will keep these sentiments in mind, when you support judges that would enforce their personal extreme religious and moral views as they interpret the law. Our men and women risked their lives to remove the Taliban in Afghanistan. I am glad you expressed your support for judges who support civil rights.

A New Texas Resident,
Linda Zoblotsky

To The Editor:

Let's stop abortions by getting at what causes them. Let's get real and admit that abstinence is not a valid, workable solution by itself. It can't be the only weapon used.

Let's put aside our differences on choice and focus on what we do agree on. We all agree that the "need" for abortions needs to be reduced.

No one is pro abortion. No one has an abortion for fun.

You want to stop 1 million abortions from happening? Stop 1 million unwanted pregnancies.

The real moral question is whether or not you are willing to spend the money that is going to be necessary to get rid of the root causes of unwanted pregnancies.

First off, lets make sure that birth control is available to everybody for free. Access to birth control has to be pervasive. Every man, woman, and child in this country needs to know what are the various forms of birth control and the positives and negatives of each. There has to be no barriers to access birth control - not financially or availability or social condemnation.

One of the primary reasons given for abortions is the cost associated with having a baby. Free, no questions asked, prenatal care has to be readily available for everybody.

A pregnant woman has to have a guarantee of at least 3 months off from work at full pay. And after that, affordable, full day care has to be available to her.

Paternity has to be established and child support from the father has to be mandatory. It takes two to tango, it takes two to support a child financially.

All children have to have access to free medical care. Again, no questions asked.

We are all against abortions. The question is are you willing to spend money to stop the root causes of unwanted pregnancies? You can't be against abortions and against stopping the causes of abortions. It's a package deal.

A culture of life starts with stopping the root causes for abortions. By not fighting this environment you are, in fact, fostering abortions. You are a contributor whether you like it or not.

Be part of the solution ... for a change.

Angie Pratt

To The Editor:

John seems a natural:

My goodness, all this scary talk about John Bolton becoming ambassador from the USA to the United Nations. What is all the fuss.

He is perfect to represent this administration with President Bush. He is a strutting bully who will not allow dissent no way no how, and he won't admit that he has ever made a mistake either. Yep, seems a perfect representative from this Republican Regime.

Maybe he can whup up on some of those liberals that actually care who represents us. They do fuss and moan every time Bush nominates another right wing nut.

K.S.

To The Editor:

Truth is spreading! I was ecstatic to see the news at <www.thenewamerican.com> -search arizona- that the Arizona legislature, similar to Utah's legislature, has voted to formally request rejection at the federal level of the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA), a pact creating a regional government entangling us with 34 countries in North and South America thus erasing our borders and constitution.

The body of the Arizona resolution includes the following: "Whereas, the United States has always been the world leader in pushing for free trade, which is the hallmark of our capitalistic society, and Whereas, both the World Trade Organization (WTO) and the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), through the use of trade tribunals, now claim the sovereign authority to overrule the decisions of American courts and make awards to foreign businesses for violations of trade agreements;..."

The Arizona House and Senate urged that "the United States Congress vote no on any agreement for the United States to enter into a Free Trade Area of the Americas" (FTAA) and that copies of this go to the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from Arizona.

The Arizona Heroes and guiding lights spearheading this resolution are: state Reps. Judy Burges and Ted Carpenter, and state Senators Karen Johnson, and Ron Gould and grass roots Task Force director Ron Bruchhauser, and also Bill Blewster, a member of the National Council of The John Birch Society: see www.jbs.org or call: 1-800-jbs-usa-1 for free FTAA info. packet.

Let's call toll free: 1-877-762-8762 demanding congress save our jobs and Stop these "free trade" traps including CAFTA!

Best regards,

Larry Hamblin, Hesperia, Calif.

To The Editor:

The 79th Legislature didn't provide property tax relief as they had promised. Put it on the long list of broken promises. We heard from the House and Senate that providing decreases of property taxes mostly would have

helped the wealthy. So what? It still helps what's left of the middle class and of course poorer families who own their homes. Instead, the legislature decided not to do ANYTHING to help homeowners.

Perhaps you readers are some of those who recently received a school tax increase because your district voted for a local school bond issue. If so, you just got double-taxed because your county also is increasing the value of your home and property. Consequently, many homeowners may see a monthly increase of up to \$500. Yikes!

So not only didn't homeowners get a reduction in property taxes, taxes were raised substantially. Couldn't legislators at least freeze property taxes for one year? During the past several years my own property taxes jumped from \$2,300 in 1999 to the currently proposed amount of \$9,200 which includes three exemptions.

State and local officials continue to abuse Texas homeowners with ongoing tax increases. Currently Texas has the highest number of foreclosures ever in its history. Makes you wonder who legislators are going to tax when the poor, middle and upper middle classes soon lose their homes due to ongoing tax abuse and runoff to New Mexico and Oklahoma? Elected officials then may have to "hammer" taxes on each other and on their wealthy special interests. I don't know about you, but I'm looking forward to that day.

Peter Stern, Driftwood, Texas

To The Editor:

There is ample evidence to suggest that President Bush fabricated, knowingly exaggerated or otherwise willingly manipulated so-called intelligence and the entire process leading to his presentation to the country that invasion of Iraq was not only inevitable but necessary. None of the rationale ever submitted by this admin-

istration now turns out to be true, or indeed, ever to have been true in the first place. Saying that "he really believed the information to be true at the time" is totally inadequate, weak and demeaning to both the people of the country and the office of the President, and shames his presidential forerunners. I hope, trust, and believe that the impeachment movement is well and truly started, and will be supported by a growing citizen groundswell. Your choice is to be in front of the crowd and appear to be leading - or at least not hindering - the impeachment process, or to be lagging behind the popular sentiment of the citizenry and the electorate. I further believe this not a good place to be for the 2006 elections, but of course the choice is yours.

I urge Congress to adopt this Resolution of Inquiry: Whereas considerable evidence has emerged that George W. Bush, President of the United States, has engaged in a conspiracy to deceive and mislead the United States Congress and the American people as to the basis for taking the nation into war against Iraq, that George W. Bush, President of the United States, has manipulated intelligence so as to allege falsely a national security threat posed to the United States by Iraq, and that George W. Bush, President of the United States, has committed a felony by submitting a false report to the United States Congress on the reasons for launching a first-strike invasion of Iraq; Now, therefore, be it Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary is directed to investigate and report to the House of Representatives whether sufficient grounds exist to impeach George W. Bush, President of the United States. Upon completion of such investigation, that Committee shall report thereto, including, if the Committee so determines, articles of impeachment.

Tim Slack, Newburgh, IN

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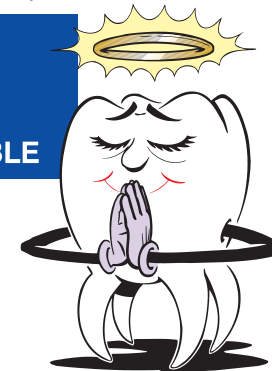
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Why The NBA Playoffs Suck

After watching a night's worth of professional basketball playoff games, I started pondering why I wasted three hours of my life watching garbage.

I soon realized that I had no real reason, other than the fact that I am a sports writer, hence a sports fan.

The NBA (National Basketball Association) has the worst playoffs of all major sports, professional and collegiate.

As a result, the league is paying the price. Ratings have dropped on each network televising the playoffs including 30 percent on ABC.

The NBA playoffs are dragged out to the point of exhaustion because of their format.

As of June 2, it has taken 40 days to play just 74 games this year, an average of less than two games per day, and we have not even reached the finals yet.

Furthermore, in the middle of the series, teams will commonly have up to four days between games to prepare for their next outing. That's more warning than we get for a hurricane.

To top everything off, the NBA extended its opening round from a best-of-five to a best-of-seven format, nearly eliminating any possible upsets and giving us more predictable, lousy first-round games.

The NCAA basketball tournament, better known as March Madness, lasted 18 days (and only 10 gamedays) to complete 63 games, and is a single elimination playoff. Major League Baseball took 22 days to play 34 games. Even though that's under a two games per day average, only eight teams qualified for the playoffs rather than 16, and teams more often than not played on back-to-back nights. Finally, the NFL playoffs had a single elimination format with two games played each game day except Super Bowl Sunday.

The NBA's postseason sucks because the lack of talent that reaches the playoffs.

Sixteen out of the 30 teams in the NBA reach the playoffs, resulting in mediocre basketball.

In the 2004 playoffs, two teams reached the playoffs by winning fewer

than half of their games. One of those teams finished 36-46, 43.9 percent. In the same playoffs, two other teams won exactly half of their games, and two more made the cut on less than 52.5 percent of their games.

In the 2005 NBA playoffs, winning percentages by those who qualified was higher; however, that was due to the drop-off of talent in many teams. The Chicago Bulls, who had finished the 2004 season winning 28 percent, finished this year winning 57.3 percent, good enough for home-court advantage in the first round.

The 2005 NFL playoffs featured two teams with .500 records, but it was the first time since the 2000 playoffs that a team had reached with a .500 record, with many teams not reaching the playoffs throughout those five years with a .562 record.

The MLB playoffs are even more difficult to reach with teams not having a realistic chance of qualifying without at least a .560 average.

A third reason that the NBA playoffs suck is the referees.

The referees are more biased in the NBA than any major sport, leaning towards the big names and big markets when necessary.

An example of this occurred in the game 6 of the 2002 Western Conference Finals, when the Los Angeles Lakers had a 40-25 advantage in free



throw attempts over the Sacramento Kings, with 27 of those attempts coming in the fourth quarter with the Lakers facing elimination. The following year, the San Antonio Spurs defeated the Los Angeles Lakers in the Western Conference Semifinals 4-2. In the two games the Lakers won, they held advantages of 40-24 and 45-26 in free throw attempts while the Spurs held slight advantages in free throw attempts in their four victories, aside from game 1.

This evidence just shows the referees' bias and that they have at least some control over who wins and loses.

Finally, and perhaps the biggest flaw of the NBA playoffs are the players themselves.

Aside from a small percentage, the

players aren't as talented as they used to be, and they are garbage as human beings.

Most of these people would still be flipping burgers or just hanging on the corner if they weren't professional basketball players.

Furthermore, they have no concept of team, other than three-on-three: me, myself, and I.

This explains the decline in solid teams and the rise of free agency.

Latrell Sprewell best summed up my argument last summer when he was offered a three year, 21 million dollar contract to help the bloated Timberwolves' payroll by saying, "I've got my family to feed."

Some third world countries don't have families that big.

The NBA's playoffs need to be completely renovated, and until they are, they will continue to bore and turn viewers away.

That is, of course, if the NBA does not go bankrupt first.

Sports Icons

By Michael Neglia
Iconoclast Sports Commentator

DATELINE:
Crawford
Hometown of the President of the United States

Crawfordite Graduates From SFA University

NACOGDOCHES — Elizabeth Lea Fell of Crawford received a Master of Science degree in Speech Language Pathology during spring commencement on may 14, at Stephen F. Austin State University.

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