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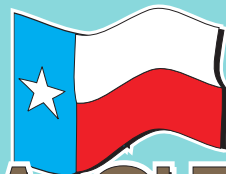


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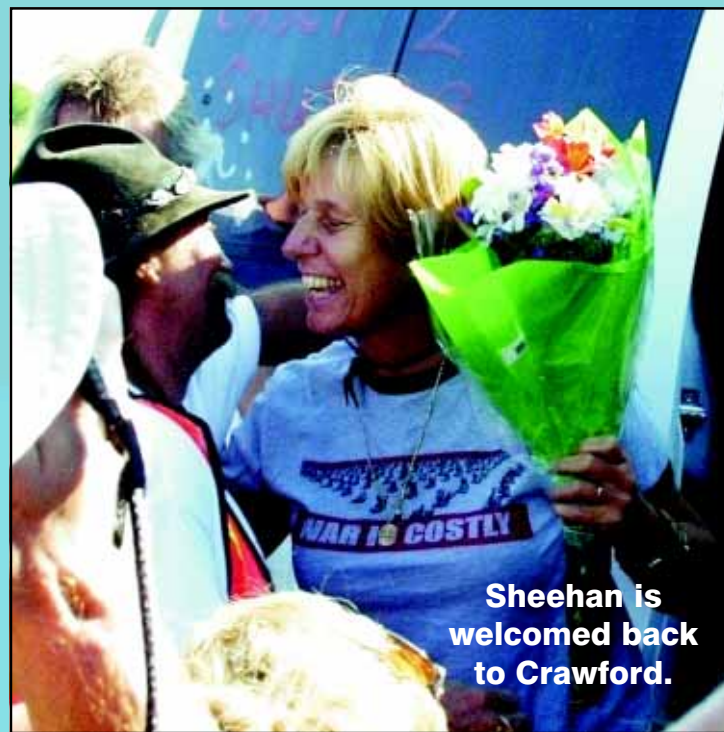


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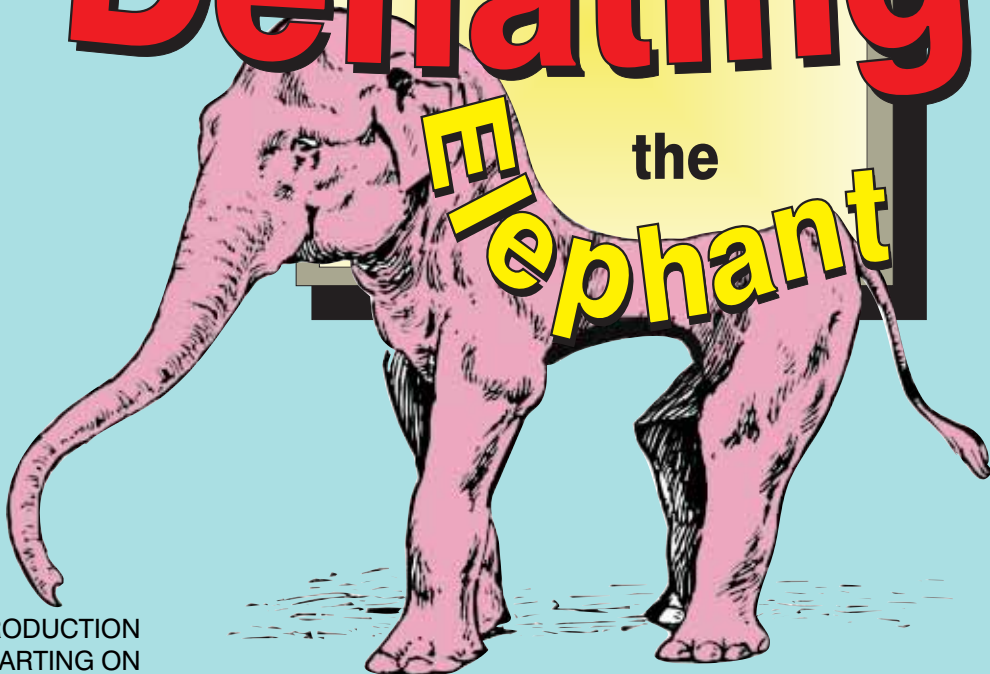


Sheehan is welcomed back to Crawford.

Aldo Vidali Presents

Deflating

the Elephant



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RALLY HELD AT
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Means Says He Understands Power Of Women

By GENE ELLIS
ICONOCLAST REPORTER

CAMP CASEY II — Russell Means' appearance on the stage at Camp Casey II in Crawford yesterday was a surprise to many. For background on this famous Indian (who eschews the government term "Native American"), see brief additional biographical information at the end of this story.

Means, a long-time activist, arrived in Central Texas to support the efforts of Cindy Sheehan and her Iraq war protestors. He well understands the power of women. He spoke, both on stage and in a later interview with the Iconoclast, of the matriarchal society of the American Indian.

Motherhood in America has an inkling of the meaning of this, Means mused, but the Indians live it.

He explained that in a family, the mother is the only member who cannot be replaced. Women live longer than men, can stand more pain, have more endurance, he said. At about this point, Means introduced his wife, Pearl, and received a hug from Joan Baez, who was sitting on the floor of the stage with Cindy Sheehan, listening to Means' remarks.

Means said that America has a patriarchal society where men rule alone and in fear of the unknown because they are alone. Matriarchy, he pointed out, is not fear-based. In a matriarchal society, each sex is celebrated for its strengths, and there is local control, male/female balance.

During the later interview with the ICONOCLAST, Means made a point of saying that he is sincere about women taking control of their power, providing a balanced and positive culture. The Blue and Gold Star mothers have an innate understanding of matriarchy, according to Means, even though, as members of a patriarchal society, they have been brainwashed for many years.

In a matriarchal society, all must be responsible.

"If the government of this country imposes so many rules, we feel no responsibility for ourselves, and



Russell Means receives a hug from Joan Baez

— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

we become careless," said Means. To illustrate his point, he used the example of the lack of traffic rules in Italy. Because there are no rules, each person must take it upon his or herself to be responsible, not to be careless, to ensure his or her own safety.

When asked to speak about military recruiters targeting low-income youths, including Indians, Means said that it follows the history of a patriarchal society that the poor kids are to be the common fodder. Even after the Civil War, when Americans wouldn't join the military, European immigrants were pulled off boats and forced to do two years of subscribed service to obtain citizenship. The poor are always a target for military induction, Means concluded.

Means reiterated that if men rule alone in their citadels of power, they are fearful.

A libertarian, Means paraphrased George Washington, "Government is force, nothing more, nothing less."

Means added to this his own thoughts, "This government is evil.

How can patriots support a president over the Constitution? That is treason. The purpose of the first amendment is to encourage dissent. Without dissent, it is impos-



Russell Means poses with his wife, Pearl.

— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

sible to live free."

His comments were reminiscent of Margaret Mead's quote that has graced the back of many a tee shirt in Crawford over the last two weeks. It reads, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

The LOS ANGELES TIMES has described Russell Means as the most famous American Indian since Sitting Bull and Crazy Horse.

Means is a life-long indigenous rights/constitutional rights activist, actor, artist, and author. His best selling autobiography "Where White Men Fear to Tread" is currently on its eighth printing. He has a doctorate in Indian Studies, and is also a practicing attorney on the Sioux Indian Reservation in South Dakota.

For more than 30 years, Means has remained active with the American Indian Movement and has traveled and lectured extensively throughout the world while working for over 12 years with the United Nations.

Means became the first national director of The American Indian Movement (AIM). He is known for helping lead his people to stand against the United States government at the Siege of Wounded Knee in 1973.

His vision is for indigenous people to be free — free to be human, free to travel, free to stop, free to trade where they choose, free to choose their own teachers — free to follow the religion of their fathers, free to talk, think and act for themselves, and then, says Means, they will obey every law or submit to the penalty.

About The Siege at Wounded Knee, he wrote, "Our aim at Wounded Knee was to force the U.S. government to live up to its own laws. From that, one can draw the real lesson of our stand there: It is the duty of every responsible American to ensure that their government upholds the spirit and the laws of the United States Constitution. After all, what freedom really means is that you are free to be responsible."



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Filming Starts On 'Deflating The Elephant'

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CRAWFORD — Italian documentary film director Aldo Vidali has undertaken the creation of a new film, *Deflating the Elephant*, which is based on the George Lakoff bestseller "Don't Think Of An Elephant."

In an interview with LONE STAR ICONOCLAST publisher W. Leon Smith, Vidali explained the importance of utilizing "frames" to enhance debate. He also discussed how conservatives are using frames to negatively sway public opinion, which will be demonstrated in the new film.

Vidali, who is also a boat builder, publisher, world traveler, linguist, political and environmental activist, father, and eclectic writer, plans to style his film in the tradition of the famed Italian director, the late Federico Fellini, with whom he was associated for many years.

Currently, Vidali teaches at the Fellini-Antonioni Acting Studio in Northern California, where he trains aspiring actors and actresses in the "Fellini Way."

Vidali was born in Ixelles, Belgium, and was educated in Rome, Italy.

He and his family joined the Resistance Movement against fascist and Nazi forces during World War II. When he was only 13 years old, he was captured by the Nazis during the Fosse Ardeatine Nazi dragnet in Rome, but was released shortly thereafter because of his age. At the time, his family members were sheltering several Jewish refugees in their apartment to prevent their deportation to death camps in Germany.

At the age of 18 (1949) Vidali explored the tropical wilderness of the Brazilian interior selling Coleman lamps and stoves to primitive villages as a way to earn college tuition.

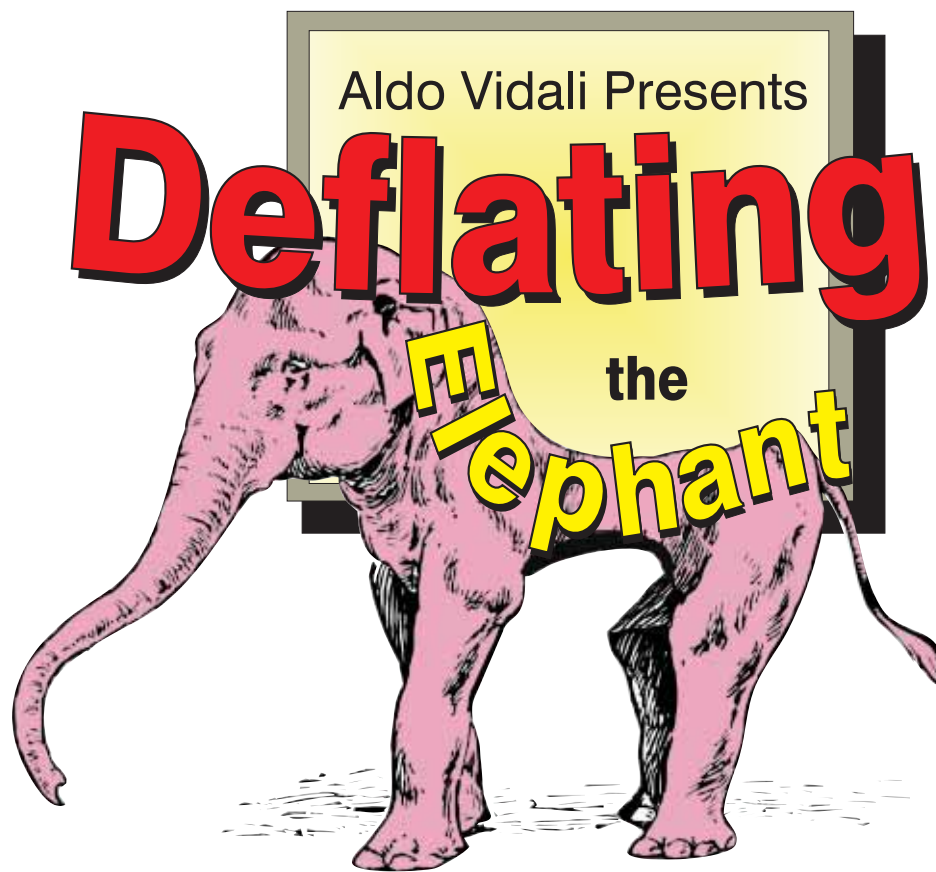
He came to the United States to study geology at the Colorado School of Mines in 1950. During the early 50s, Vidali prospected in the Mexican states of Sonora and Durango. After selling his interest in his Mexican mineral discoveries (Plomo Y Plata de Mexico and Exona) to ALCOA, he returned to Europe to do documentary film work.

It was here that he collaborated with director Fellini on a project entitled *The Strange Voyage of Mr. Mastorna* and learned directing and cinema acting during the Fellini creations of *8-1/2* and *Boccaccio 70*. He had a brief professional relationship with Luchino Visconti. Vidali also dealt with government and entertainment industry VIPs such as President Johnson, Jack Valenti, John Mecum, and Peter Sellers.

His documentary works originated a new genre, superimposing fiction on real-life documentary backgrounds. *Straw Hat and the Crown*, shown on the Italian R.A.I. Television Network, received recognition even from the Vatican for its subtle moral theme set off by contrasting a fairy tale on a background of real life events.

In 1963, Vidali went to Africa as Second Unit Director of the feature documentary *Good-bye Africa*, a Rizzoli Production. He covered South Africa, Southwest Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Zanzibar, Congo, and Angola. This ex-

NEW FILM TO BE BASED ON GEORGE LAKOFF'S BESTSELLER 'DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT!'



posed him to a wide range of human beings, both as a film director as well as the liaison officer between the South African government and the Italian film unit.

Back in the U.S. in 1965, Aldo wrote and directed *Sunset at Dawn*, a predictive environmental film essay on the worsening ecological crisis, followed by *Trail to the Stars*, a film view of the NASA space program contrasted with America's pioneering past. These were followed by a series of minor commercial works.

In 1978, Vidali participated in the environmental-political campaign in Kauai, Hawaii, to save the island's pristine shorelines at Nukoli'i from yet another tourist development.

A champion of the environment, Vidali later challenged Republican Interior Secretary James Watt, when Watt opened vast sections of Federal lands to exploitation. Vidali developed a plan to preserve the wilderness by rushing to the Denali region of Alaska, forming the Alaska Capital Corporation (ALCOR), and leasing thousands of acres of federal oil lands.

Explained Vidali, "The Watt Administration had assumed that small entrepreneurs could not afford to drill in the Arctic, thus leaving the course clear for major players. ALCOR deliberately proceeded to subdivide the leases into impractical 40-acre parcels, which would oblige major oil companies to buy out each and every one from far too many owners before they could move in and drill. One single holdout lease could stall exploration for years."

Vidali hired and trained agents to successfully distribute tiny oil lease parcels across the nation. This maneu-

ver caught the oil industry by surprise, and by the time they pressed the government to impose a minimum parcel size of 2,500 acres, it was too late. Big Oil tried to make the law retroactive. Vidali blocked that illegal attempt by notifying all leaseholders to demand their rights against this undemocratic scheme of Big Oil. This tactic was successful, and thus prevented major exploitation of the Denali for 10 years.

Vidali returned to the mainland in late 2000 where his family created a film with students under the UNECO label entitled *Life & Liberty in the Balance*, protesting the illegitimate court appointed Bush administration. Vidali is currently in pre-production of a full feature documentary: *Toward a Global Open Society*, a dialogue between great contemporary minds and the American people. This film addresses the urgent need of all citizens to participate directly in dialogue and action to restore their Constitutional Republic.

Reviving the motion picture work developed under Fellini's guidance, Vidali is now teaching and preparing productions dedicated to promoting the restoration of American Democracy, defense of the Bill of Rights, and openly denouncing the neo-fascist "Patriot" Act and the neo-con imperialistic scheme against America.

Vidali currently lives with his wife and two sons on California's Central Coast. He volunteers as Chairman of UNECO, a nonprofit environmental and humanitarian corporation, and is active in the United Defenders of Liberty Movement.

He speaks English, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, and is a public lecturer on social, educational, and

environmental subjects.

The interview:
ICONOCLAST — Who is producing the film, "Deflating The Elephant?"

VIDALI — UNECO, which is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization, in collaboration with a number of other organizations which will be listed on the website that I sent you.

ICONOCLAST — Are you the director?

VIDALI — I'm going to be the film director, yes.

ICONOCLAST — Where will this be shot?

VIDALI — It's going to be shot in various places. Some of it will be illustrated with footage from a long history of motion pictures. There are many, many examples of framing that we will take right out of the history of film. Some of it will be filmed in Los Angeles, some of it, possibly, in Texas. Maybe we can film some of it in Crawford.

ICONOCLAST — In what format do you intend releasing this film?

VIDALI — There's going to be two parts of the film. The first part will be what we call streaming on demand on the internet. That first part will really be a course in what framing is all about, a preparation for the general public. We can then go into the theatres to look at the main body of the film, which will be "Deflating The Elephant," and it will be a full illustration of the George Lakoff art of framing.

ICONOCLAST — Will the film be released to movie theatres?

VIDALI — Yes. The main body of the film will be released to them. In other words, we sort of want to do a plowing of the ground by putting it on the internet and through DVDs, a sort of Framing 101, teaching people what framing is all about, what is this framing, so that they begin to get curious as to, yeah, we'd like to invent frames, we'd like to develop frames and respond to the political assault on our country the Republicans have put on for 30 years.

The Republican think-tanks have spent \$3 billion to scheme up deceiving mental frames and essentially they are stealing our country from under our feet without realizing what is going on. So realizing that they took 30 years to do this and \$3 billion in controlling the mass media, the question is that we are presenting to the public is "can this kind of a vast castle of corruption be removed from the American landscape in less than a year." We say, "yes" for a very simple reason. Everybody knows that a demolition is always a hundred times faster and cheaper than construction. Essentially, conservative mental frames that oppress the American people can be brought down very fast by controlled demolitions through a very powerful message. The reason we are using Fellini is because he was a very successful in destroying the fascist, extreme right-wing mentality in Italy with films that just blew people's

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George Lakoff and Aldo Vidali

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minds. In fact, his name is become part of the language in many countries in the world, even in American we use the term Felliniesque.

ICONOCLAST — Is George Lakoff participating in this in any way?

VIDALI — Yes. On the website that I've sent you, you will be able to see three minutes of the Lakoff interview and explanations about framing and what they have done to us. We have already over seven hours of filming of Lakoff.

ICONOCLAST — You were involved in the resistance movement against the fascist and Nazi forces in World War II?

VIDALI — Oh, yes. In fact I was involved in sheltering Jewish refugees in our own apartment in Rome. We had a very hard time.

ICONOCLAST — Did you perceive, looking back on it now with Lakoff's definitions of framing...was that being done then?

VIDALI — Well, yes. You see, the Republicans have become experts in negative and false frames. The fascists and the Nazis were great framers of pseudo-patriotic crap that the German people started goose-stepping behind. Today, for example, in Crawford, Texas, George W. Bush has put on his latest deception frame by saying "a noble cause" which to the world looks like a piece of cow dung hiding behind a Bush shade from the hot Crawford sun.

ICONOCLAST — Do you think that Bush is utilizing Orwellian terms?

VIDALI — Oh, absolutely. He is utilizing them constantly, repeatedly.

ICONOCLAST — Like "Patriot Act?"

VIDALI — The Patriot Act is definitely an Orwellian frame. It should be called The Traitors' Act because it destroys the very foundation of America's freedom which is our Bill of Rights.

ICONOCLAST — Do you have a release date for this film? Do you know when it will be completed?

VIDALI — Our desperate hope is to do two things. One is to complete the filming and hopefully have a releases before the 2006 election. It is a very

ambitious goal, but I think there are enough forces in the United States that see the catastrophic danger facing us. And we are doing it non-profit so that we can allow any organization that wants to help to jump in and say, "We want to help distribute this, we want to help make it, we want to help by creating new frames for the American public." Half of the public has been really defrauded by this dirty game that the Republican think-tanks have been carrying on for a long time now. So we need to get everybody into the act of coming up with ideas and to please start reviewing all the false frames and see how we can break them down.

ICONOCLAST — Are you talking about a world think-tank?

VIDALI — Instead of the think-tanks for the American left or the American progressives, I see more like language guilds of both students and professors and ordinary people who say, "We want to restore our language. We're tired of this double-talk, this Orwellian as you justly called it, this Orwellian confusion that they are putting people in, which includes what the Christian right is doing, what people like Robertson are doing, talking about "thou shalt not kill" and then he calls for assassinations. I mean, we're in a madhouse and we've got to restore some kind of sanity.

ICONOCLAST — So the place to start might be with the word "conservative?"

VIDALI — Oh, absolutely. That could be a great start because they aren't conserving anything except their pocket-books.

ICONOCLAST — Have you done the casting for the film?

VIDALI — I can't disclose that yet, but we are in discussions with some top actors.

One thing that I wanted to mention, we were talking about the frames that have saved our country. Roosevelt had the greatest of frames that we need again: "The only thing we have to fear, is fear itself." That was Roosevelt. The great frame from John F. Kennedy was, "Ask not what your country can do for

you, ask what you can do for your country." That's what we need to return to.

ICONOCLAST — It appears that the Bush administration has taken an opposite approach to the Roosevelt administration by embracing fear as a positive.

VIDALI — Absolutely. They thrive on fear like Hitler did.

ICONOCLAST — Is that what Hitler did?

VIDALI — Adolph Hitler arranged for the destruction of the Reichstag and then said to everyone the saboteurs were everywhere so they took away the civil rights of the German people and they started arresting everybody. We are not yet at that point, but we're getting close to it. I mean, here was a country that was admired for being at the apex of civilization and we're now opening up torture chambers around the world. I mean, this is insanity, pure and simple.

ICONOCLAST — Do you draw a lot of parallels to what's happening today to what happened back when you were about 13 years old?

VIDALI — When I was a child 13, I was grabbed by the Germans and saved by an incredible event. My young, little cousin came and begged the German soldiers to let me go because I was 13. I was saved from that. But we are faced with people who have cruelty in their minds. We are committing crimes all over the place. We have a criminal situation going on.

ICONOCLAST — You worked with Fellini on a couple of pictures?

VIDALI — I was a partner in a company with Michelangelo Antonioni who was the other great Italian director. Through that company, I became acquainted with Federico Fellini and then we began to work on a script which I'm just getting a copy of, finally, from Italy titled "The Strange Voyage of Mr. Mastorna," his final grand work. It had do with a voyage to the other world, what happens after death. Of course, he spent half of his life going from one film to another, then back to the idea of mak-

ing "Mastorna." The set that was built for "8½" was essentially a desire that he had planned for "Mastorna" because he was going to build this gigantic cathedral. But with "Mastorna," he died before he was able to do it.

You know, you have a guy in Texas in Fort Worth who has the biggest Fellini collection in the world. He's trying to gather together all the Fellini films and give a great Fellini festival there. I can send you an e-mail with his name. He has an enormous collection, 5,000 rare posters, books, magazines, music, everything. He knows more about Fellini than I do.

ICONOCLAST — And you were with him. How do you describe the works of Fellini?

VIDALI — Well, Fellini was a man whose probably greatest merit was his uncompromising honesty and sincerity, so much so that he worked on the basis of fantasy, too. He said, "I am a born liar because I have created worlds that are just hopes, that are just dreams, that do not exist yet." He always used clowns as his symbol because a clown is an attempt at waking up human consciousness at the human madness. He sort of, through his grotesqueness and his exaggeration, tried wake up people to the madness that we have, like when he showed a parade of costumes with the Catholic church. He blew people's minds because he showed the silliness and vanity of the excessive vestments of the church when there was such poverty all over post-war Italy.

ICONOCLAST — How would you compare Fellini to any particular American director, or would there be any here who would be comparable as to the type of film that he produced?

VIDALI — You see, the thing about Fellini, about comparing him, is difficult, and the reason he became that famous is because he violated all of the — in fact, on the poster on "La Dolce Vita" there is a conversation there where they say, "What kind of a film are we doing?"

He says, "I don't know."

Continued On Next Page

How The Director Plans To Incorporate Fellini Style Into 'Deflating The Elephant'

Don't Think Of An Elephant

Reframing the National Dialogue

By ALDO VECCHIOLA

Already nerve-shocked by Cindy Sheehan's "showdown at the Crawford Ranch Corral," Republicans think-tankers are feeling further trepidation rising as they frantically smear the grieving mom of a fallen soldier with their vicious character assassination machine. Why this sudden added alarm? Because of rumors that a Fellini-trained movie director has started production of a film based on George Lakoff's explosive best-seller: *Don't Think of an Elephant*.

Everyone is asking: What is so hot about this book? This book is a powerful tool that will protect every mother in America from being lied to again, especially on matters of life and death. It reveals how to spot deceptive language

and how to replace it with truthful "frames," which are verbal structures shaping the way we think and see the world. To create new frames is to create a new world.

What does Cindy's battle have to do with a Fellini-style film on *Don't Think of an Elephant*? The answer is elementary: Lakoff teaches the art of deflating false frames and Federico Fellini created the most unforgettable visual frames. So why is this important? Well, what could be a more unforgettable image than that of a heart-broken mother camped under the hot Texas sun, being refused an audience by the most arrogant president in the history of the United States. How dare she interrupt his summer fun to find out what "noble cause" her son had to die for.

Imagine this film scene:

INTERIOR OF PLUSH LIMOUSINE DASHING AT 45 mph. DAY. The bring-em-on-he-man is shaking in his cowboy boots as he zips by in his cushy air-conditioned vehicle escorted by motorcycle police and shielded by double lines of bullet proof vested secret service men, state police, and Texas rangers.

CUT TO: Bush's point of view through the tinted glass. Glimpses of people holding anti-war signs and memorial crosses. MEDIUM SHOT of mother holding up a white cross, engraved with her son's name.

CUT TO: (Jim Carrey-style interpretation) Angry president looking at the headlines of Crawford's LONE STAR ICONOCLAST.

DETAIL: Headline: **PRESIDENT BUSH DITCHES MOTHER OF SLAIN SOLDIER.**

CUT TO: Bush smirking with contempt as he crumples up and throws the newspaper down. DISSOLVE.

Fellini would have used this set of visual images to portray the state of a nation driven to disaster by a modern day Nero.

Cut away from the ranch for a moment.

On July 30, 2005, on the front-page of *New Hampshire Concord Monitor*, an extraordinary story was told:

Once upon a time, a little publisher in the little state of Vermont published a little book. There was no advertising budget, no advance notice to the book-selling industry.

[Hold onto your hat, Crawford cowboy!]

At last count, UC Berkeley Professor George Lakoff's *Don't Think of an Elephant*, issued by Chelsea Green Publishing in White River Junction, Vt., was flying off the shelves nationwide and was high on the NEW YORK TIMES best-seller list. Its author was beating off talk shows with a stick, and there was a gathering consensus among progressives nationwide that Lakoff's little book was a torpedo about to transform America's political awareness.

This little book is also a powerful spotlight exposing 40 years of dark cultural distortions against American traditional liberal values by a vast cartel of rightwing think-tanks bent on stealing our country from under our feet. The sneaks are doing it by distorting our language with Madison Avenue linguistic cunning. The little book is a manual showing how we can turn over the toxic propaganda omelet and fry the cheaters and thieves in their own oil.

According to Howard Dean, George Lakoff is one of today's most influential political thinkers. Why? Because Lakoff teaches how to effectively change political reality. Once people realize how self-empowering it is to delete deceptive Republican frames, they will intercept the play, and carry the ball over the goal line to win the game. But first they have to learn the rules of the game.

Meanwhile back at the ranch, we can learn from Cindy Sheehan who is pressing George Bush, in front of the whole nation, to explain his ludicrous frame "noble cause," which presumes to describe the reason for the devastation of Iraq and thousands of dead American soldiers and innocent civilians.

Americans must deflate Bush's ugly and false frame of "war on terror," cre-

ated to justify siphoning billions of our tax dollars into an overblown war machine and stuffing the pockets of his corporate cronies. Terrorists are criminals. They are not nations Congress could declare war against. We don't need generals to stop international crimes. We need James Bond. We need international police action to find killers like Osama and Omar that our chicken president let escape. We need to neutralize the box cutters and home made bombs by learning from Scotland Yard how to catch bombers in a couple of days without moving an army half way around the world to



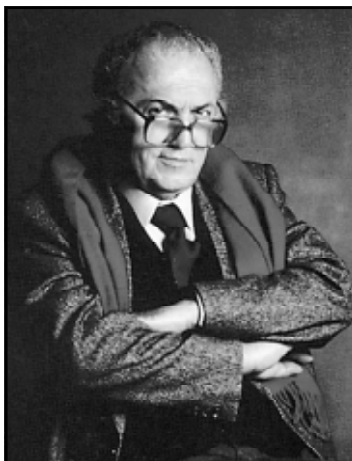
Frederico Fellini behind the camera

• DEFLATING THE ELEPHANT ... Continued From Page 4

"What's the dialogue going to be all about?"

"I don't know. I will just be writing the dialogue as I shoot."

So you've got a man who was unique in the sense that he was a full film author. He did everything, from designing the sets to hanging the lights and making sure the camera was in the right position, training the actors, designing the costumes, and so on. So people say he was a film author rather than a director because he did everything.



Fellini Portrait

Now, in America and in all the other countries, usually the director is sort of strapped tight to production by costs, by requirements, and so on and so forth.

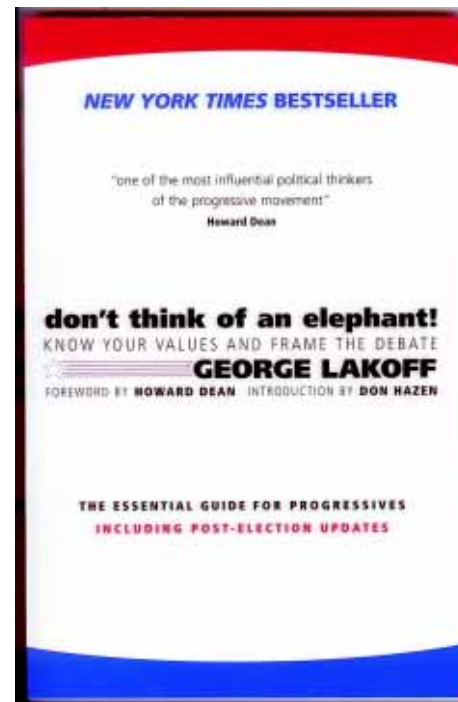
He refused to do films unless he had total control, of everything. It was amazing that he was able to get it, but he did. So it's hard to compare him. There are some very great American directors. You can take your pick, like John Ford and others.

ICONOCLAST — On what types of films do you prefer to work?

VIDALI — I have worked more on documentaries than on actual feature films, because that was my interest.

My interest was political and historical.

I did a kind of a mixed film called "The Straw Hat and the Crown," which had both a fairy tale on the front and a real event in the background.



Vidali film will be based on George Lakoff's bestseller

hunt insurgents among oil wells and without bombing innocent villagers out of existence. We don't need nuclear bunker busters and Abraham tanks. Any idiot knows that except the Crawford village idiot.

Meanwhile away from the ranch... Just as "La Dolce Vita" liberated millions of Italians and awakened the world to the corruption of decadent profiteers, the coming of a Fellini-style film illustrating the art of framing will lift the skirts of Christian Right mullahs and expose their forked tails and vices. It will

Continued On Next Page

• **DON'T THINK OF AN ELEPHANT — DIRECTORS' NOTES BY ALDO VIDALI ... Continued From Page 5**

demonstrate how good and trusting American souls have been hoodwinked, betrayed, and robbed under cover of cunning reactionary frames and assorted pseudo-Christian elephant dung that has nothing in common with the teachings of the real Jesus.

The explosive *coup de grace* (final blow) will be irrefutable proof of how neo-con-artists succeeded in stuffing both the Senate and the House with shameless rubberstamp heel-clicking double-dealers using campaign finance bribe money. That corporate crime wave has helped elect dangerous, unfaithful, un-American, crooked-mouthed scoundrels that now must be removed ASAP if we are to avoid a nuclear catastrophe in the coming years.

Let's look at a few examples of deceptive Republican frames used again and again and again to fool and rob us all.

TAX RELIEF. George Lakoff explains it like this:

When the word *tax* is added to *relief* the result is a metaphor: taxation is an affliction. And the person who takes it away is a hero, and anyone who tries to stop him is a bad guy. This is a frame. It is made up of ideas, like *affliction* and *hero*. The language that evokes the frame comes out of the White House and it goes into press releases, goes to every radio station, every TV station, every newspaper. And soon the *New York Times* is using *tax relief*. And it is

not only on Fox; it is on CNN, it is on NBC, it is on every station because it is "the President's tax relief plan." And soon the Democrats are using *tax relief* - and shooting themselves in the foot.

That frame was concocted to cut taxes for the rich by creating the feeling that any tax is an affliction, no matter how fair. That dirty deception stole our treasury and is in fact an invisible oppression of the people. It is stealth class warfare of the rich against the poor. It is the imposition of free enterprise on workers who have no capital, laced with the demand that they pull themselves up by their bootstraps. Meanwhile, the rich benefit from corporate welfare and government subsidies as they literally swim in capital and profits. The robber barons of old never had it so good. The film will expose this most favored Bush-frame in sparkling satirical scenes of wealthy scrooges, who loathe contributing to the great country they exploit and don't give a fig for starving Tiny Tims.

DEATH TAX. This profane frame invented by Republican think tanker Frank Luntz has been regurgitated and broadcast thousands of times by a sycophantic corporate media.

The honest frame in this case is the traditional "Inheritance Tax" or "Estate Tax," both of which project the truth.

Try to imagine how Fellini would project the grotesque image of "Death Tax."

Scene I: CEMETERY. DAYTIME. EXTERIOR. IRS agents exhuming and forcing the dead to fill out death tax forms before being allowed to RIP

DISSOLVE TO: pitiable-wealthy people weeping and sobbing at this cruel persecution of their dearly beloved Uncle Scrooge being robbed by the government after he's passed unto the bosom of the Lord.

CUT TO CHURCH. INTERIOR. DAY. Dick Cheney and Tom Delay crying out, "This torment cast upon our rich dearly beloved dead after they paid (the least possible) taxes for a lifetime is a communist abuse!"

CUT TO INTERIOR. OFFICE OF PROBATE ATTORNEY. The dialogue reveals that a colossal unearned inheritance windfall is being fought over among salivating wealthy heirs, in pompous attire, all threatening to sue over who gets the fifty million dollar ranch in Texas the old man never earned but got with inside trader profits, or who will pick up the 50,000 shares of Saudi oil stock donated in exchange for secret favors, or who gets to grab the villa in France bought with concealed Enron profits, or who will grab the 20 million dollar yacht Uncle Bennett won gambling in Las Vegas with his mistress.

ORWELLIAN FRAMES

These are metaphors suggesting the opposite of what is really going on and constitute fraud against the public. For example: the Healthy Forest Initiative which in essence is a game plan designed rip off public lands and enrich lumber companies, and should be accurately labeled "Leave No Tree Behind." Yet another metaphor is the outrageously titled "Patriot Act" which is in essence a treasonous scheme designed to violate the Constitution and nullify many of our civil rights with the lame excuse of the overused false frame: "War on Terror."

Each of these Orwellian frames is being illustrated in the film with tragicomic Fellinian scenes that will open the minds of millions to the sorry fact that the Administration and its corporate bedfellows have committed an astounding betrayal of trust.

Why do so many of us fall for this dirty game of verbal hide and seek? Because generally we Americans are people of good will and want to believe that our churches, media, and government have our best interests at heart.

Now, on the matter of trust Fellini would have a feast enacting the contradictions between commercial promises and corporate terrorism. Defective, dangerous, and destructive products have killed 100 times more people than were lost to the tragedy of 9/11. The screen would pulsate with a montage of tires exploding, SUV's flipping over, medical emergencies over Vioxx, shorelines destroyed by oil spills, chemicals causing evacuations of residential areas, surgical mistakes, all this being interrupted by the Republican drone: "Tort Reform! Tort Reform! Tort Reform!" which is a false frame

concealing the fact that corporations will be immune from paying adequate settlements to those who have suffered major damages. "Tort Reform" is a license for corporations to abuse the public.

By becoming aware of deceptive Republican metaphors and by reframing the dialogue with correct frames we can end this nightmarish "culture of fear and corruption" and resurrect our traditional progressive American values. FDR defeated the fear mongers of his time with a single frame: "The only thing we need to fear is fear itself." This liberal President lifted America from the pits of a conservative Wall Street brewed market collapse and Depression to the heights of a victorious nation with the most prosperous economy the world had ever seen. He gave us the New Deal. Today the rightwing is destroying that deal, and we need a New Fair Deal. JFK emboldened a generation to go into public service with the frame: "Ask not what your country can do for you. Ask what you can do for your country." He was a liberal and he was assassinated. So was Martin Luther King.

Participation and support for an early and extensive distribution of this not-for-profit film is open to citizens of good will. Individuals and organizations that are sick and tired of seeing our country abused by the rightwing juggernaut and want a powerful voice are encouraged to contact us. The more help, the faster and better the results will be so that in 2006 we will boot out all the shameless representatives who have betrayed their oath of office. Then we can talk about impeachment for high crimes and misdemeanors.

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BOOK REVIEW:

New Book On Social Security... A Must Read For Every Household

He (Bush) has spent every dollar of the Social Security surplus since the day he took office, and he continues to spend all surplus Social Security revenue on a daily basis.'

— Allen W. Smith

By W. LEON SMITH

PUBLISHER, LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

CRAWFORD — In February, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST published an interview with author Allen W. Smith, Ph.D., who had written a book entitled "The Looting of Social Security."

Since that time, he has written a follow-up book, "Social Security — The Attempt To Kill It," which could easily be considered the best book on the subject yet.

Smith's latest book is to Social Security what Strunk & White's "Elements of Style" is to English.

The book is a fast read because of its compelling nature. This book explains how the Social Security system works in layman's terms and delves into ways that members of the government have whittled away at the trust fund that was intended to take care of baby boomers throughout their years of need.

Allen Smith earned his Ph.D. in economics from Indiana University and spent 30 years teaching economics to university students. He has appeared on national television and has been interviewed on more than 150 talk shows.

The author has given THE ICONOCLAST consent to publish excerpts from the preface and chapter one of the new book to give readers an idea of what it is all about.

PREFACE (excerpts)

The current Social Security "crisis" was made in Washington. It has been 22 years in the making, and it is the handiwork of presidents and Congresses (both Republicans and Democrats), the Cato Institute, the Heritage Foundation, and many other individuals and organizations.

The actual solvency problem is not with the Social Security program. It is with the government's total budget. The 1983 payroll tax increase, enacted on the recommendation of the National Commission on Social Security, headed by Alan Greenspan, took care of the baby boomer problem. Taxes were raised high enough so that the baby-boom generation paid both the cost of the retirement of the generation that preceded them, as was customary, and also prepaid most of the cost of their own retirement which was not customary. The 1983 tax increase generated \$1.7 trillion in Social Security surplus between 1984 and 2005, and it will generate another \$2 trillion between 2005 and 2017. This means that the Social Security trust fund should have \$3.7 trillion in real assets in 2017, which would be enough to pay full Social Security benefits until 2041 when the youngest of the baby boomers will be 77 years old.

The problem is that the government did not save and invest the Social Security surplus as they were supposed to. Instead it "borrowed" and spent (embezzled) every dollar of the Social Security surplus, replacing the money with worthless non-marketable special issue government IOUs. This means that Social Security will not have that

\$3.7 trillion reserve to help pay Social Security benefits between 2017 and 2041 unless the government pays back the looted money. The only way the government could repay the money is by passing hefty tax increases, borrowing massive additional amounts from the public, or cutting spending.

It would be bad enough if this were the only problem facing Social Security, but it is not. In 1983, the same year that Social Security was "fixed," members of the Cato Institute and the Heritage Foundation drew up a long-term plan for privatizing Social Security. They published their plan, entitled "Achieving A Leninist Strategy" in the Fall 1983 issue of *Cato Journal*. This plan served as the foundation upon which a powerful movement to destroy the current Social Security system and replace it with private accounts was built over the years.

The goal was to have a privatization plan waiting in the wings when the next Social Security crisis came along. Apparently the libertarians became impatient waiting for a true crisis to come and convinced President Bush to create an artificial crisis in the minds of the American public. Bush has done a good job of casting doubts on the long-term solvency of Social Security as part of the plan to privatize the program.

The real crisis is not about Social Security. The real crisis is a crisis of fraud and credibility with the United States government. A plot to destroy Social Security that was initially created by people at the Cato Institute and the Heritage Foundation now includes the participation of the President of the United States, many members of Congress, and many other conservative organizations.

CHAPTER ONE

Introduction (excerpts)

...To make sure the retirement savings of America's seniors are not diverted in any other program, my budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and for Social Security alone.

—President George W. Bush, *State of the Union Address*, February 27, 2001

Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, launched a verbal bombshell, which set off a political storm, on February 25, 2004 when he proposed cutting Social Security benefits in testimony before the House Budget Committee. Social Security had not received much public attention since the "fix" of 1983, and most Americans believed that the program was fiscally sound. Thus, Greenspan's call for trimming benefits for future retirees touched a nerve in many Americans, especially those nearing retirement.

Greenspan said, "We are over-committed at this stage. It is important that we tell people who are about to retire what it is they will have." He warned that the government should not "promise more than we are able to deliver."

Greenspan pointed to the forthcoming

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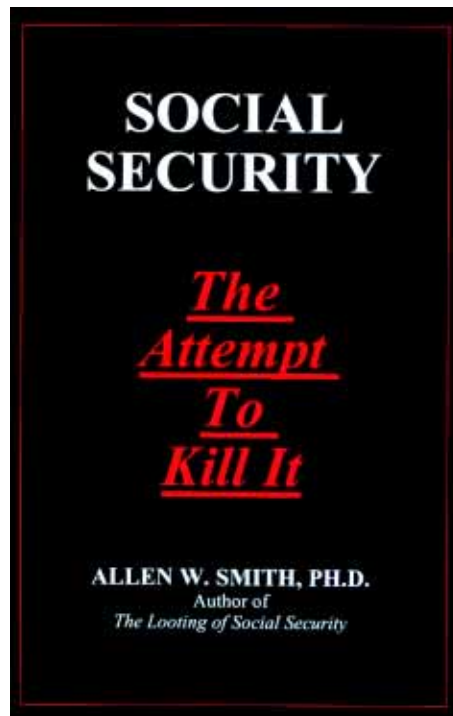
• SOCIAL SECURITY — THE ATTEMPT TO KILL IT ... Continued From Page 7

ing retirement of the baby-boom generation as the reason for his concern. He said, "This dramatic demographic change is certain to place enormous demands on our nation's resources—demands we will almost surely be unable to meet unless action is taken. For a variety of reasons, that action is better taken as soon as possible."

Few people knew it at the time, but Greenspan's February 25, 2004 statement was the opening salvo in an organized campaign to dismantle Social Security, as we now know it. Six months later, on August 27, 2004, Greenspan again spoke of cutting Social Security benefits during remarks at a symposium in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

"As a nation, we owe it to our retirees to promise only the benefits that can be delivered," Greenspan said. "If we have promised more than our economy has the ability to deliver to retirees without unduly diminishing real income gains of workers, as I fear we may have, we must recalibrate our public programs so that pending retirees have time to adjust through other channels."

Social Security observers began to focus on the 2004 presidential election campaign to see if President Bush made an issue of Social Security. He made a brief reference to privatization in his acceptance speech at the convention. He said, "In an ownership society, more people will own their health care plans, and have the confidence of owning a piece of their retirement. We'll always keep the promise of Social Security for our older workers. With the huge Baby Boom generation approaching retirement, many of our children



and grandchildren understandably worry whether Social Security will be there when they need it. We must strengthen Social Security by allowing younger workers to save some of their taxes in a personal account—a nest egg you can call your own, and government can never take away."

Bush made occasional reference to his "ownership society" and private Social Security accounts during the fall campaign, but he never made them a major issue. He certainly didn't suggest during the campaign that Social Security was facing an imminent crisis. How

could he? He had been president for the past four years and had made no effort to reform Social Security, so there would not have been many votes to gain by trying to scare people into believing that Social Security was in deep trouble during the campaign. Social Security as a campaign issue was dwarfed by his proposal for a Constitutional Amendment prohibiting same-sex marriages.

Once Bush was re-elected and no longer had to worry about the voters, Social Security reform suddenly rushed to the top of his domestic agenda. At a press conference on November 4, 2004, Bush said, "Let me put it to you this way: I earned capital in the campaign, political capital, and now I intend to spend it. It is my style...I've earned capital in this election—and I'm going to spend it for what I told the people I'd spend it on, which is—you've heard the agenda: Social Security and tax reform, moving this economy forward, education, fighting and winning the war on terror."

Bush then began traveling around the country making his Social Security pitch to carefully screened audiences. Unlike FDR's famous statement about fear, "The only thing we have to fear is fear itself," Bush began trying to instill fear over Social Security's solvency in every American. He used scare tactics and all the powers of persuasion that he possessed to try to convince the public that Social Security was facing a crisis and that at least part of the solution was to use Social Security revenue to fund individual private accounts.

The approach Bush was advocating would weaken Social Security—not strengthen it. So what was the presi-

dent trying to accomplish? He was trying to drive a large nail into the coffin of Social Security as the first step toward dismantling it. Conservatives have hated Social Security since the day it passed under Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1935, and they have been trying to destroy it ever since. George W. Bush would love to leave the legacy of being the president who got rid of Social Security, and he is determined to do so by blaming it all on the baby boom generation.

The baby boomers, who have been blamed for almost every social problem that has arisen since their birth (1946-1964), became the victims of a plot designed to blame them for the alleged Social Security crisis and to cheat them out of benefits for which they have already paid. The attempted rip-off began with Alan Greenspan's call for cuts in Social Security benefits. Up until that time most Americans were unaware that Social Security was facing any serious financial problems, either short-term or long-term. After all, President George W. Bush was in the fourth year of his first term, and he had barely talked about Social Security. He was the tax-cut president who had argued repeatedly that our economy was strong, and government finances were so good that we should return some of the money to the public through massive income tax cuts.

Federal Reserve Chairman, Alan Greenspan, should have known better than most just how solvent Social Security was. The 1983 payroll tax increase,

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• **SOCIAL SECURITY — THE ATTEMPT TO KILL IT ...** Continued From Page 8

enacted upon the recommendation of the National Commission on Social Security, headed by Greenspan, had allegedly "fixed" the baby boomer problem with regard to Social Security. That law required the baby boomers to pay enough taxes to fund the benefits of current retirees, plus enough additional taxes to prepay most of the cost of their own Social Security benefits. The additional tax revenue was supposed to go into the Social Security Trust Fund to build up a large reserve earmarked specifically for the retirement of the baby boomers. This reserve would be used to supplement the payroll tax revenue so that full benefits could be paid throughout the period of the boomers' retirement years without placing a disproportionate burden on the younger generation.

The 1983 legislation marked a sharp break with the traditional pay-as-you-go approach to funding Social Security benefits. After 1983, the Social Security system no longer operated on a strictly pay-as-you-go basis. For the baby-boom generation, Social Security has operated on a combination "pay-as-you-go" and "prepay-your-own-benefits" principle. Therefore, by the time the baby boomers retire, they will have prepaid a major portion of the entire cost of their benefits, as well as having funded the retirement benefits of retirees during the years between 1983 and their own retirement.

Despite the fact that Greenspan knew the baby boomers had prepaid the cost of their retirement, he silently watched both Republicans and Democrats misuse the money that was supposed to be going into the Social Security reserve

without once alerting the public to the fraudulent activity. Because of the looting of the surplus money, the government will be unable to pay full Social Security benefits after 2017 without a tax increase to repay the looted funds. Therefore, Greenspan and Bush are proposing cheating the approximately 77 million baby boomers out of part of the benefits that they have already prepaid. At the same time, they are both supporting making the unaffordable Bush tax cuts permanent.

At the time that my book, *The Looting of Social Security: How The Government is Draining America's Retirement Program*, was published in January 2004, most Americans believed that their Social Security contributions went into a special trust fund where it accumulated, and then when they retired the money would be paid back to them out of the trust fund. The notion that the government was spending the surplus Social Security contributions, that were being paid in by the baby boomers in order to prepay the cost of their own retirement, to fund Bush's income tax cuts and for other government programs, was unthinkable in the minds of most Americans. Surely, our government would not take revenue that was collected specifically for Social Security and spend it on other programs.

This would be like using Grandma's retirement fund to pay current expenses because Grandma won't need the money until she actually retires. Any individual, who would drain the retirement fund of his or her grandmother without telling her, and without making any provisions for repayment of the

funds when Grandma reached retirement age and needed the money, would be branded a scoundrel and a criminal. Yet, that is exactly what the United States Government has been doing since 1984.

The revenue from the Social Security payroll tax, earmarked exclusively for the payment of Social Security benefits, is routinely deposited into the general fund and all money that is not needed to pay for current benefits is spent as if it were general revenue. This is fraudulent, and it is a violation of Section 13301 of the Budget Enforcement Act of 1990, which explicitly prohibits co-mingling Social Security funds with general revenue funds.

Prior to the 1983 Social Security legislation, which increased payroll taxes for the explicit purpose of building up a large reserve in preparation for the retirement of the baby boomers, there had never been any significant Social Security surplus. In fact, Social Security ran small deficits for seven years in a row from 1976 to 1982. However, upon the recommendation of the Greenspan Commission, a substantial hike in the payroll tax was enacted into law.

This money was to have been saved and invested in order to build up a large reserve with which to fund the retirement of the baby boomers. By 2017 this tax increase will have generated approximately \$3.7 trillion in surplus Social Security revenue. This would be enough to pay full benefits until at least 2041 if the money were actually in the trust fund as it is supposed to be.

The government of the United States has raided the trust fund on a regular basis for more than two decades and

spent the surplus money on other government programs. So far, the tax increase has generated \$1.7 trillion in surplus revenue, and it is expected to generate another \$2.0 trillion between 2005 and 2017. Even as President Bush travels around the country claiming that he wants to "save" and "strengthen" Social Security, he continues to bleed the program to death. More than \$400 million of Social Security surplus revenue is spent on other government programs each and every day.

I first discovered this fraudulent government practice while doing research in early 2000 for a previous book, "The Alleged Budget Surplus, Social Security, and Voodoo Economics." At first, I couldn't believe my findings. The elected officials of the United States government surely would not spend the Social Security contributions of American workers on other government programs without either their knowledge or permission. But the more I researched the subject the clearer it became that the government had done, and was continuing to do, exactly that.

I was outraged, and I wanted to tell the whole world so they would be outraged too. But nobody would listen. It just didn't seem credible that our own government, both Democrats and Republicans, would engage in such fraud against the American people. On September 27, 2000, I appeared on CNN with Lou Waters to discuss my newly published book. When I tried to explain that there was really no significant budget surplus except for the Social Security surplus and told Waters that the government was using Social Security money

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• SOCIAL SECURITY — THE ATTEMPT TO KILL IT ... Continued From Page 8

for other programs, he looked at me in disbelief.

"We're not hearing any of this in the news," Waters said. "I'm involved in the news. Are you a voice crying in the wilderness? And if not, why haven't we seen a presidential candidate, any presidential candidate, talk about this?"

I continued to be a voice crying in the wilderness for the next four years. I tried my heart out to alert the American public to the fact that, despite his pledge in the 2000 campaign to not use the Social Security surplus for anything except the payment of benefits, Bush was continuing to raid the trust fund, and that he was paying for his income tax cuts with Social Security money paid in the form of payroll taxes by working Americans.

It was a tough sell. It would probably have been easier for me to convince the news media and the public that I had taken a ride in a UFO than to convince them that Bush was spending every dollar of the Social Security surplus in violation of both his promise to the American people and in violation of federal law.

In early 2000, as part of my efforts to alert the public to the fact that the trust fund was being looted, I began sending material to candidate Al Gore. I sent him advance copies of my book, research findings, and several letters. I urged Gore to put distance between himself and Clinton on Social Security and take a stand against the continued use of Social Security money for non-Social Security purposes.

Of course, I cannot be sure that I was the source of Gore's idea to propose the Social Security lockbox, and to make the raiding of the trust fund a major campaign issue. The important point is that Gore took a stand against continued raiding of the trust fund, which resulted in George W. Bush taking a similar stand.

In addition to promising many times during the campaign that he would not raid the Social Security trust fund, George W. Bush made additional pledges after he was sworn in as President. In his first State of the Union address, delivered on February 27, 2001, Bush said, "To make sure the retirement savings of America's seniors are not diverted in any other program, my budget protects all \$2.6 trillion of the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and for Social Security alone."

Four days later in his national radio address to the American people, Bush said, "We're going to keep the promise of Social Security and keep the government from raiding the Social Security surplus."

There was nothing vague or conditional about these promises. The President of the United States had stated unequivocally that he would not spend the Social Security surplus. The American people like to think they can trust the word of their president, and so naturally they continued to believe throughout Bush's first term that the Social Security money was being protected. Although I continued to point out in radio interviews, op-ed articles, and by any other available means, that President Bush was spending the Social Security money despite his promise not to do so, almost nobody would take the word of an economist and writer over that of the President of the

United States.

Since more than \$500 billion in Social Security surplus flowed in during George W. Bush's first term, almost everybody felt certain that there was at least that much money in the trust fund, no matter what had happened under previous presidents. I could think of no way to convince the public that Bush was spending the Social Security money, although that was the basic premise of my 2004 book, "The Looting of Social Security."

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to appear on CNBC on February 26, 2004, the morning after Greenspan's first assault on Social Security was launched. I also had the opportunity to discuss my views on CNNfn and more than 100 live radio interviews, but still the public would not buy the notion that Bush was spending their Social Security surplus. I desperately needed to have a high profile credible person confirm what I had been saying for four years—that all Social Security surplus was being spent.

Not in my wildest imagination could I have dreamed that the person who would confirm Bush's ongoing spending of Social Security money would be Bush himself. Yet, that is exactly what happened.

On Wednesday February 9, 2005 President Bush, speaking at an event that was not even supposed to be about Social Security shocked many observers, including myself, when he openly admitted that surplus Social Security revenue generated by the payroll tax is spent on other government programs. I was even more shocked that the White House Press Office did not delete the Social Security remarks before issuing a news release with the title "Remarks by President Bush in a Conversation on Class-Action Reform."

President Bush's exact words as quoted in the news release issued by the White House Press Office follow.

Some in our country think that Social Security is a trust fund - in other words, there's a pile of money being accumulated. That's just simply not true. The money — payroll taxes going into the Social Security are spent. They're spent on benefits and they're spent on government programs. There is no trust. We're on the ultimate pay-as-you-go system — what goes in comes out. And so, starting in 2018, what's going in — what's coming out is greater than what's going in. It says we've got a problem. And we'd better start dealing with it now.

I thought that Bush must have just gotten so caught up in his determination to convince the public that Social Security faces a crisis that he let down his guard, and the truth just slipped out. He knew better than anyone that every penny of the \$509 billion in Social Security surplus generated during his first term was spent on government programs. He was fully aware that he was continuing to spend more than \$400 million of Social Security surplus each and every day. However, since Bush's actions are a direct violation of his solemn pledge to the public that he would not touch any of the Social Security surplus, and since his misuse of Social Security funds is a violation of federal law, I did not expect the President to openly admit to his transgressions for the public record as he did on

February 9.

On February 10, 2005, President Bush made the following statement about the trust fund during a speech in Pennsylvania.

"Now, one of the myths about Social Security is there's a pile of money sitting there accumulating, because you put money in, the government saves it for you, and then when you retire you get it out. That's not the way the system works. Every dime that goes in from payroll taxes is spent. It's spent on retirees, and if there's excess, it's spent on government programs. The only thing that Social Security has is a pile of IOUs from one part of government to the next."

This was a clear admission by the President of The United States that all Social Security surplus money had been spent and that President Bush was continuing to spend Social Security money each and every day. The president was verifying everything I had been saying for the past four years.

I felt sure the president's acknowledgment would make the Social Security trust fund fraud the leading news story the following day, but it was barely covered by the media. I thought the American people would now be able to see clearly that the only reason Bush was pushing for Social Security reform was that he knew there was no money in the trust fund. How could he not know? He has spent every dollar of the Social Security surplus since the day he took office, and he continues to spend all surplus Social Security revenue on a daily basis.

I thought Bush's admission that the trust fund has been raided and that it doesn't hold any real assets would be the beginning of the revelation of the great Social Security fraud that had been going on for more than two decades and involves both the Democrats and the Republicans. I knew that the American people were going to become very angry when they finally realized that they had been ripped off by their government. The question was how long it would take for journalists who had been intimidated by the Bush administration to overcome their fear of tackling politically explosive stories.

In hindsight, I am now beginning to wonder whether or not the Bush administration had all that much choice in the matter. Tidbits of the truth were already beginning to leak out, and the Bush advisers may have believed that it would be better for them to expose the empty trust fund than to have to defend why they were keeping it secret whenever it finally became breaking news.

On January 21, 2005, less than three weeks before the White House first acknowledged the empty trust fund, Comptroller General David Walker of the GAO made the following statement.

"The left hand owes the right hand, and that has legal, political and moral significance. But it doesn't have any economic significance whatsoever. There are no stocks or bonds or real estate in the trust fund. It has nothing of real value to draw down ... The trust fund gives a very false sense of security about where we are and how much time we have."

The Comptroller General of the GAO probably is the most credible source in the nation when it comes to telling the truth about government actions. In-

stead of just saying that the trust fund holds no real assets, Walker specifically gave a list of things that the trust fund did not have. Most people already knew that the trust fund did not own stocks or real estate, but almost everyone was sure that it held Treasury bonds. When the Comptroller General specifically said that the trust fund does not hold any "bonds" he was sending a loud and clear message to those who thought otherwise.

Unfortunately, this statement was not widely reported. The San Francisco Chronicle was the only major newspaper I was able to find that carried it. (Carolyn Lochhead, San Francisco Chronicle, January 22, 2005)

In the February 14 issue of Newsweek, Allan Sloan wrote, "The money isn't being saved. Instead, one part of the government, the Treasury, is writing IOUs to another part, Social Security...The trust fund's irrelevant, folks. It's an accounting entry, not real money. How the Democrats can cling to the trust fund with a straight face is beyond me."

On Thursday, April 28, 2005, during a nationally televised news conference, President Bush said, "Our system is called pay as you go. You pay into the system though your payroll taxes and the government spends it. It spends the money on the current retirees and with the money left over, it funds other programs. And all that's left behind is file cabinets full of IOUs."

This is quite a contrast to what the President said on February 27, 2001 in his State of the Union address: "To make sure the retirement savings of America's seniors are not diverted in any other program, my budget protects...the Social Security surplus for Social Security, and for Social Security alone."

The current Social Security "crisis" is the direct result of the government's raiding and spending the surplus revenue generated by the 1983 payroll tax increase. The problem began with President George H. W. Bush who used Social Security money as if it were general fund revenue from day one of his presidency. The practice has continued ever since, so the \$1.7 trillion in Social Security surplus revenue generated by the 1983 payroll tax increase, and earmarked specifically for funding the retirement of the baby boomers, is gone.

The baby boomers are not the cause of the Social Security problem. Alan Greenspan and company saw to it that the baby boomers would pay enough taxes to prepay the cost of their own retirement, in addition to funding the retirement of the generation that came before them. If the government had not raided the money, there would be enough assets in the trust fund to pay full benefits until at least 2041. And the 2041 actuarial imbalance could be corrected by removing the payroll tax earnings cap.

"Social Security — The Attempt To Kill It" is published by Ironwood Publications. The book contains 144 pages in both paperback and hardback and is available for \$12 for the paperback edition and \$20 for the hardcover edition. An order blank appears elsewhere in this edition of *The Iconoclast* and may be ordered online at <www.iconoclast-texas.com>.

BATTLEGROUND CRAWFORD

**Pro-Bushers
Strikes Back
With Anti-Protest
Protest**

**Dueling Movements
Ignite Upon Return Of
CINDY SHEEHAN**



— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

Cindy Sheehan tells thousands of supporters that she plans to keep the movement alive.

Crawford Bulges At The Seams

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CRAWFORD — Approximately 7,000 demonstrators temporarily inhabited Crawford Saturday as two pro-American factions gathered in a variety of venues to express support for troops in Iraq.

The difference, however, was how the groups defined support.

What sparked the Saturday invasion was a journey to Crawford by Cindy Sheehan on Aug. 6. The mother of a slain soldier in the Iraq war took exception to remarks made by President Bush regarding the “noble cause” the soldiers have been fighting for. She was seeking a personal conversation with the President in order to obtain a truthful explanation.

The President, however, has declined Sheehan’s initiative. She, therefore, has been camping between Crawford and the Bush ranch, resolving to meet with the head of state while he takes his annual extended vacation.

Sheehan was called away to Los Angeles about midway in her vigil after her mother suffered a stroke, but Sheehan returned on Wednesday.

What began as Camp Casey, named after her son, has in the meantime expanded into two camps, Camp Casey I at the original site in a ditch and Camp Casey II nearer the Bush ranch on private property donated by a local

Continued On Next Page



— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews

Thousands attended a counter-protest rally in downtown Crawford Saturday.



CROSSES lined the Camp Casey I side of Prairie Chapel Road on Saturday while Bush signs lined the opposite side at Camp Reality.

— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

• **BATTLEGROUND CRAWFORD ... Continued From Page 11**

landowner. Assisting Sheehan have been organizations and individuals supporting Sheehan and an end to the war in Iraq.

As the international news media zeroed-in on the story of a mother seeking answers for her son's death, an opposition camp was established adjacent to Camp Casey I. Dubbed Camp Reality, it has consisted of pro-war demonstrators who support the President's determination to "stay the course" with

the war.

The Yellow Rose gift shop in downtown Crawford hosted the creation of yet another pro-Bush camp, called Camp Qualls, named after another soldier who died in Iraq. It is here that pro-Bush supporters have met to plan strategies. An additional camp was established near Crawford, again in support of Bush, called Camp George.

Saturday's uprising, in 101-plus-degree, sweltering weather, consisted of

pro-Bush advocates venturing to the 700-population community to stage a patriotic demonstration in an attempt to squash protestors against the war.

On the parking lot of Crawford High School's Pirate Field, Howard Kaloogian, founder of Move America Forward, said that Sheehan's anti-war protest feeds the Iraq insurgency. "The terrorists that are watching Cindy Sheehan's protest believe that this is something that might topple the current administration," he said.

Deena Burnett, wife of Tom Burnett, Jr. who was on the plane that crashed into a Pennsylvania field during 9/11/01, said, "We have a responsibility to our troops. Our nation stands divided. This war is not about us. We fight for those who can't fight for themselves like my husband did."

She added, "Our troops are promoting a better quality of life for the people in Iraq. I commend them for that and I thank them for their service to America and the world."

The mother of Army CWO Eric Kesterson said, "My husband and I are not here speaking out. We are speaking up."

A minor disruption occurred at the

"You Don't Speak For Me, Cindy!" rally when Ken Robinson of Richardson appeared carrying a sign that read "How to wreck your family in 30 days by 'bitch in the ditch' Cindy Sheehan."

When an event organizer with FreeRepublic.com approached Robinson to object to the sign, voices were raised and Robinson was escorted in handcuffs away from the rally by a Woodway police officer.

Someone in the crowd yelled as the press filmed the encounter, "There go Cindy's pimps, the media."

In the meantime, bus loads of Sheehan supporters numbering in the thousands arrived continuously Saturday at Camp Casey II where entertainment and speeches highlighted their movement.

Throughout the afternoon, THE ICONOCLAST had reporters stationed at Pirate Field parking lot, where the pro-Bush rally was held, and later at Camp Qualls. Reporters were also stationed at the segment of road inhabited by Camp Casey I and Camp Reality, and at Camp Casey II, to file reports for <www.iconoclast-texas.com> and the afternoon broadcast of The Brad Show

Continued On Next Page



THE STREETS of Crawford were filled with pedestrians Saturday as thousands attended a pro-war rally.

— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews



RED, WHITE, AND BLUE was seen everywhere at the pro-Bush rally near Pirate Field. Flags in pony-tails, flags in hat-bands, flags on shirts, flags on signs blanketed Crawford.

— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews

• **BATTLEGROUND CRAWFORD ... Continued From Page 12**

via raw radio which has been broadcasting events related to Cindy Sheehan's since Aug. 15.

The rally near Pirate Field started later than the announced 1 p.m. kickoff time due to the continuous arrival of anti-Sheehan demonstrators, as traffic congestion in Crawford boiled.

The **ICONOCLAST's** Deborah Mathews described the scene this way:

"Yellow ribbons are tied around trees, telephone poles, and tent poles throughout this area. Singing is going on. A lot of people are leading dogs around. A huge American flag is hang-

ing from a type of crane and it has pictures and little signs all over it. It is about 75 feet tall. There are many red, white, and blue balloons and banners. The media is out in full force."

Following the rally, several members of Gold Star Families headed toward Camp Casey I, accompanied by law enforcement officers, to remove crosses bearing names of their family members. The crosses had been planted in a ditch there as a memorial to fallen soldiers. Across the highway from the crosses, members of Camp Reality had posted a long row of pro-Bush signs.

Others from the rally fanned out in town, and as vehicles departed created a traffic jam.

Near the Yellow Rose, where counter-protestors were milling about, several boys about high school age were walking in the direction of Pirate Field and yelled, "Cindy, the fucking whore, get out!"

A U-haul truck parked beside the highway carried a sign that read, "A mother's loss, a nation's pain."

Individuals were strolling up to a replica of the Liberty Bell stationed in front of the Yellow Rose and were frequently pulling a rope, causing the bell to toll, as across the highway railroad crossing bars continuously went up, then down; up, then down, with no train in sight as the rally crowd disbursed.

Security was tight at Camp Casey I during the late morning hours, with 20 state trooper vehicles parked in the area, along with several Sheriff's Department vehicles.

An early afternoon shouting match ensued between about 140 Sheehan supporters on one side of Prairie Chapel Road and 60 Bush supporters on the other.

As pro-war demonstrators yelled, "George Bush!," the anti-war group finished the phrase with "War criminal!"

Pro-war supporters were displaying signs that read, "Where is your anti-semitic leader?" and "Cindy and Osama sitting in a tree."

Vehicles passing between the two camps frequently honked as they passed by.

Individuals arriving at the Camp Casey I and Camp Reality were told by law enforcement personnel to choose a side and stay on that side.

Several bus loads of anti-war demonstrators journeyed to Camp Casey II during the day, where a large tent-like pavilion had been set up for about a week. An estimated 3,000 people ventured to this camp during the day, most staying to hear speeches and music.

Among the entertainers was folk singer Joan Baez, who kicked off the noon hour with "Amazing Grace," and later sang "The Night They Drove Old Dixie Down." Barbecue was being cooked for a massive feed later in the day.

Also appearing on stage was Ameri
Continued On Next Page



DENNIS KYNE led Sheehan supporters in song at Camp Casey I on Saturday.
— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

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TRAFFIC WAS INTENSE in Crawford Saturday as thousands poured into town.
— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews



SPEAKING AT THE PRO-BUSH rally in Crawford was Howard Kaloogian.
— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews

• **BATTLEGROUND CRAWFORD ... Continued From Page 13**

can Indian activist and performer Russell Means, who expounded upon the importance of women in society. He praised Sheehan for her stand against war.

Others speaking included veterans who are members of organizations that oppose the Iraq war.

When Sheehan took the stage, she talked about her plans to take her message "to the communities," describing the mission as a "grass-roots movement that's growing and growing." She said, "I couldn't stop it now if I wanted to. It's got a life of its own. We'll take it to the cities, then the House and the Senate."

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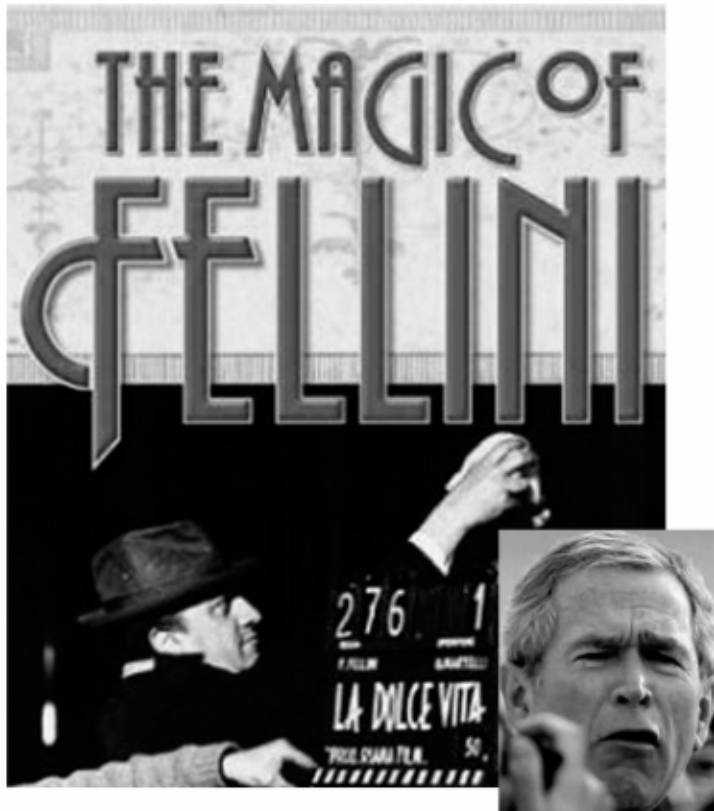
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Fear and Loathing in Crawford, Texas

By **STEPHEN WEBSTER**
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

CRAWFORD — It was a hot Saturday in Crawford, Texas. In the last weekend of President Bush's five-week vacation, a new occupying force moved upon the little town of Crawford. While much has been said about the Bushapalooza-like camp (and its sequel) that has spawned around Cindy Sheehan, few have given credence to the caravans of fair-weather Bush hawkers. After all, in this day when language betrays its very masters, and half-truths hinging on nothing but a single word can lead to wars of aggression, the freedom of speech should be held dear. This, at the very least, is one thing we all agree upon.

"Cindy Sheehan is a stupid f**king whore," said a boy of about 17 years, standing with his back to a massive stone recreation of the 10 Commandments. "Why is 'thou shall not kill' on this one?" he asked nobody. "We should assassinate her."

A child no taller than the seat of a nearby motorcycle walked up to the stone tablets, focusing on the prized disruptor of the day: an un-cracked replica of the Liberty Bell. He reached forward and grasped a rope hanging from its base, tugging sharply. A loud ringing rattled nearby demonstrators with each resounding thump. A motorized wheelchair-bound Vietnam vet scooted past, thanking the boy for "letting freedom ring."

Across the street at the coffee house, the café was full as usual. Hungry, hot and thirsty patrons shuffled to and from the outpost, most wearing Bush-gear. A woman handing out samples near the entrance commented to this reporter, "Nobody who doesn't support Bush comes through those doors. They know better." Walking through the crowded parking lot, overheard conversations forced their way into the prevailing climate.

"I think the damn liberals should just stop already. This war is not going to end any time soon. They need to accept that and fall in line," said one Bush supporter as he smoked a cigarette and filled up on gas. "Why do liberals always take the side of the enemy?"

"Why are you smoking so close to a pump?" I asked. The man just glared back.

In front of the store, a woman holding her son's hand and a sign reading "Freedom through Superior Firepower" stood captive of one so-called liberal's concerns about the Iraq war. "I am concerned about the method which Bush took us to war," he said. "Congress voted to give him powers to pursue terrorists, not to launch a war against another state. And now there are plans to attack Iran, Syria, Pakistan, North Korea ... Its very frightening." The woman shook her head and walked away, silent.

Beyond the Crawford Peace House, a group of the friends of Bush had set up "Camp Reality," crowding a football field near last year's *Fahrenheit 9/11* screening site. Midday, Bushites numbered about 1,000 in town, with several hundred dispersed opposite Camp Casey I and II.

"You f**king pussies are too scared to go to Iraq yourselves!" shouted a

GUEST COMMENTARY

counter-demonstrator driving past the 3,000+ person crowd at Camp Casey II. "We don't hate you!" sounded a small, brown-haired woman standing roadside with a box of water bottles.

Back in town and across the train tracks, shuttles which had been backed up for more than two hours moved people, albeit slowly, to and from the Crawford Peace House and both Casey camps. Under the unyielding Texas summer, each ringing of liberty clapped like echoing thunder. Everyone was covered in sweat. At The Yellow Rose souvenir shop, a larger-than-life effigy of George W. Bush rests pasted across the side of the building. The image grabs attention due to an improvised marker drawing of a Hitler-esque moustache complimenting W's upper brim. Some stop and point. Others laugh and nod in approval of the defacement. One man brings masking tape to obscure the fascist facial farce. Covering the impromptu art, he shook his head. "Damn these people," he muttered.

Around 4 p.m., the town of Crawford had begun to die down. The main strip played venue to two country singers, standing under a banner proclaiming, "THANK GOD FOR GEORGE W. BUSH! GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND PRESIDENT!" As they played, even presidential panders did not stop to listen. By that hour the crowds of Bush supporters had already dwindled significantly. Finally, with about 40 people still holding ground near The Yellow Rose, traffic had started to flow a bit faster.

Fear and loathing of the most rancorous architecture has crept into the sleepy Texas town of Crawford. The rhetoric has been amplified, the propaganda has been catapulted, and the battle lines have been drawn. As far as Crawford is concerned, liberals have become the major occupying force. While the counter-protests did serve to light a fuse and spark several dozen biased and misleading network news blurbs, it ultimately attracted more dissent into the city's limits. This day's fair-weather Bush hawks, having mounted their best and last attempt for this Presidential vacation, will be remembered as little more than an insurgency in an occupied land.

"I hope that bitch gets heat-stroke," said an older Bush supporter. "The press keeps this thing going like they want to destroy us, this town. I'm in-

clined to just drive over there and shoot somebody."

"But then you'd get arrested," his accomplice said. "Well, shit," replied the old man. "I guess we'll just stay here then."

Walking past the row of shops which exclusively offer Bush-related paraphernalia, I stopped to notice a sign taped to a rocking-chair that read, "Lemon-ade, 10 year old boys - \$.50 cents."

"If only that were the price of gas!" exclaimed a woman from behind, taking note of the same sign.

Laughing, I turned to give Crawford

a final farewell. *Mahalo*, I mused. As we drove past the still-growing crowd in front of the peace house, a bolt of lightning cracked in the distance, as though to offer a warning of ominous conditions to come.

We will march on a road of bones, I thought to myself. As I rode out of town a passer-by flashed the peace symbol in my direction. Watching Crawford disappear in my rear-view mirror, the peace-panic jogged across the street, framed, as he was, against the backdrop of a nation and town irreconcilably divided.

Stephen Webster is a staff writer for THE NEWS CONNECTION, a weekly newspaper distributed across North Texas. It can be found online at <www.thenewsconnection.com>.



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Wilkinson Named Heart of Texas Fair & Rodeo Sweetheart

CRAWFORD — New to Central Texas, Kristie is a senior at Crawford High School. She is the daughter of Tonja Aycock and Gregg Wilkinson. Kristie is involved in softball, golf, the BETA Club, UIL and Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Crawford High School. She is also involved in her church youth group. Kristie has been selected as a National Who's Who Student, was District Champion in Prose Interpretation and received the National Presidency Award. She is a first-year sweetheart.

This year the Heart of Texas Fair & Rodeo Sweethearts have been given the opportunity to sell tickets to the fair and rodeo in their communities. The tickets are being sold at a discounted price for a limited time. Contact Kristie to purchase your tickets before Sept. 15. For more information, contact the Heart of Texas Fair & Rodeo office at 776-1660.



Kristie Wilkinson

Survey: College Students Want Green Products For Back-to-School

TAKOMA PARK, Md. — American college students are turning green, but this time, it has more to do with the value of ethical spending than the color of illegal substances.

According to a poll commissioned by the Center for a New American Dream, 90 percent of college students say they would pay more for products made by companies whose workers receive a fair wage and good work environment.

"College students are bringing their values into the marketplace. Companies need to wake up and provide more environmental and fair trade products if they want to win lifelong loyalty from young consumers," said Betsy Taylor, president of New American Dream.

Eighty-eight percent of students surveyed want more environmental and fair trade products stocked at their campus store. Some, like Duke University and Middlebury College, however, are already there offering recycled paper, notebooks, binders, and fair-trade clothing in their campus bookstores.

The back-to-school retail season is second only to the December holidays to consumer spending. College students enrolled this year are expecting to pay \$1,539 in purchases for school. Parents are estimated to spend \$574.

The survey also found that more than 62 percent of parents plan to spend more on back-to-school shopping this year than last year. Only 23 percent said they will spend less. A majority of parents said they would purchase environmentally friendly and fair trade products if they were available at their local stores.

Widmeyer Research & Polling for the Center for a New American Dream conducted the survey, a composite of two polls: one online poll of 553 parents who have children 18 years of age or younger and a second 512 college students ages 18-23. All data has been re-weighted to be representative of the U.S. population (2000 Census). The margin of error is +/- 4.2 percent with a 95 percent confidence level.

To find tips and product information for students and parents, visit the Center for a New American Dream Web site.

INFO
www.newdream.org

Physicians for National Health Program Opens Conference Registration

NEW ORLEANS, La. — The national office of Physicians for a National Health Program recently announced that registration for PNHP's annual meeting and dinner (Saturday, Nov. 5, New Orleans) and leadership training (Nov. 4-5, New Orleans) are now open.

The meeting and annual dinner feature plenary and workshop sessions on health policy, single payer, organizing at the state and national level, developments in Canada, and more. Speakers are to include Dr. Steffie Woolhandler, Dr. John Geyman, Dr. Quentin Young, and other PNHP and national experts.

This leadership training is an intensive, two-day crash course in health policy, politics, financing, and activism designed for physicians who want to become active in the movement for health care reform. It is limited to 60 members.

Participants come a day early to take specially-designed workshops led by PNHP National Board Member and other policy experts. They also participate in "leadership track" workshops during the annual meeting. Attendance both days is required. Over 300 physicians have already taken this course.

The conference location is Pan American Life Conference and Media Center, 601 Poydras St, 11th floor, New Orleans, La. RSVP by Nov. 1 to the PNHP National Office.

Physicians for a National Health Program is a single issue organization advocating a universal, comprehensive Single-Payer National Health Program. PNHP has more than 10,000 members and chapters across the United States. For more information on the group or the conference, contact PNHP staff member Nick Skala.

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PNHP 29 E Madison Suite 602, Chicago, Ill. 60602
(312) 782-6006
pnhp@aol.com
www.pnhp.org/



BUS LOADS OF VISITORS to Camp Casey II helped the camp population grow into the thousands on Saturday.
— Iconoclast Photo By Gene Ellis

Pentagon Develops Ray Gun For Jets

CRAWFORD — The Pentagon is putting more zip-bang into its weapons systems for fighter jets.

Almost straight out of the 1970s classic Star Wars, the U.S. agency's research and development arm plans to produce a laser weapon small yet powerful enough to down missiles in air.

Today's prototype — the High Energy Laser Area Defense System (HELLADS) — can fire a one kilowatt beam. By year's end, engineers hope to increase the kilowattage 10-fold, and by 2007, they intend to have a 150-kW beam ready and powerful enough for use.

NEW SCIENTIST magazine reported last week that until now, lasers were only able to be fitted on jumbo jets because of their large cooling systems. But due to a hybrid liquid-solid state system, lasers can be built smaller.

"We've combined the high energy density of the solid state laser with the thermal management of the liquid laser," said project manager Don Woodbury in NEW SCIENTIST.

Large cooling systems allow liquid lasers to fire continuously. Solid state lasers, though intense, must be fired in pulses to reduce overheating.



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Saddam Drops Legal Defense Team

BAGHDAD — Saddam Hussein last Tuesday confirmed that his legal team had been dropped from defending him against war crimes charges. The former President of Iraq has two months to piece together his new team before the trial for his life starts.

Khalil Dulaimi is now the only lawyer

authorized to represent the toppled Iraqi leader. His family's lawyer, Abdel Haq Alani, noted that several Arab and Western lawyers claiming to speak for the ousted leader rubbed Saddam's family the wrong way.

Hussein is formally charged in only one case, and if found guilty, faces death.

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Advocates Of Death

When teevee-angelists become advocates for the sword, the world had better look out.

In the olden days, it was the church where those involved in warfare went to seek forgiveness or repentance, no matter how noble and necessary the cause, for knowingly taking a life, in violation of the commandment Thou Shalt Not Kill, is often not easy to deal with.

But now, when a man of the cloth openly defies that commandment as a political initiative, advocating homicide — murder wrapped around assassination — the robe and what it stands for are like a tarnished tin star.

Such is the case of Pat Robertson, who recently traded the Bible for a gun, thereby proclaiming allegiance to a different god — politics. Actually, he's been there all along, attempting to mingle church and state into his definition of a kingdom, where the "good" are those with monetary wealth and the "evil" are those without.

But it does not stop there.

On Sunday, teevee-angelist Jerry Falwell told his congregation to provide blind allegiance to President Bush. One might consider this pillar of righteousness simply patriotic, but blindness is blindness. His blind worship of an individual human being extends itself to genocide.

Take, for example, the killer that the Federal government is yet to recognize as lethal. Depleted uranium.

Last Thursday, Dave Lindorff reported In These Times about a soldier who returned from Iraq about a year and a half ago, thinking he had escaped the bullet.

Wrote Lindorff, "But after the New York State National Guardsman (Gerard Matthew) got home, he learned that a bunkmate, Sgt. Ray Ramos, and a group of N.Y. Guard members from another unit had accepted an offer by the New York Daily News and reporter Juan Gonzales to be tested for depleted uranium contamination, and had tested

positive.

"Matthew, 31, decided that since he'd spent much of his time in Iraq lugging around DU-damaged equipment, he'd better get tested, too. It turned out he was the most contaminated of them all.

"Matthew immediately urged his wife to get an ultrasound check of their unborn baby. They discovered the fetus had a condition common to those with radioactive exposure: atypical syndactyly. The right hand had only two digits."

The article went on to say that the baby is now 13 months old and otherwise healthy, but that Matthew "feels guilty for causing her deformity and angry at a government that never warned him about DU's dangers."

Mounting numbers of Iraqi children are being born with disabling or death-causing deformities that scientists and doctors have connected to depleted uranium, the radioactive material that is now used U.S. weaponry.

Blind allegiance.

Falwell was quick to get on the anti-abortion bandwagon, which was part of a protest movement. Now he contends that protesting should be discouraged. But how can a preacher turn a deaf ear to genocide?

It's easy if you are really a politician. There are plenty of them in Washington that simply don't care, for many of them are likewise closing their eyes.

The root of the Cindy Sheehan debate is dug deeply in one direction.

Oversight.

When politicians refuse to do their job and oversee important decisions, their employers — the general public — must take it upon themselves to demand accountability.

That's what the protests on both sides are about.

One side prefers to close its collective eyes and deal in simple faith and admiration, while the other wants to know the truth.

— Written By W. Leon Smith



All The Words Of Tongue Or Pen On A Hot Night In Dallas

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Most things never happen."

I never got within ten feet of her. She was my Everett Sloan girl.

Sloan played Bernstein, Charles Foster Kane/Orson Welles' friend and bookkeeper in "Citizen Kane."

In one of the most poignant scenes in the movie, Sloan speculates to reporter Jerry Thompson/William Alland that Kane's mysterious "rosebud" may have been a woman. He then reinforces his point by saying that, as a young man, he saw a young woman standing on the Staten Island Ferry, and while his vision of her was fleeting, "in the thirty years since, not a day has passed that I haven't thought of that girl."

Every man, whether he admits it, has such a vision.

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



I'm not talking about old girlfriends, rejections, bad timing or missed opportunities.

Those I speak of are dreams, myths, surreal imaginings.

Not reality, but moments even more real than the mundane movements of our day-to-day clock-workings.

I was in my *Dallas Times-Herald* uni-

form, a cheap summer weight suit, a broadcloth shirt and a silk noose pulled open past the second button to let out the steam, turning the sole white face in the crowd toward the crumbling Fair Park bandshell stage hoping for Ralph Abernathy.

I was on the hunt for controversy.

Dallas Mayor Wes Wise had refused to attend the Southern Christian Leadership Conference convention, or even meet with Abernathy, now the SCLC's death default leader by four years.

He wasn't Dr. Martin Luther King, but he was the best story in town.

So I hung on the edge of the crowd, battered by soul music, waiting to see if Abernathy would make the opening-day rally and stir the faithful so the next day's front page could startle the fearful under my byline. I was the only reporter in town who had the sources and the guts (OK, gall) to chase that story.

Not even the militant security brothers, who couldn't believe a white guy in a suit would be in that neighborhood after dark without a badge and a gun, were going to keep me off page one.

It had been hours.

By now I was slouched atop one of the stage's concrete balustrades on a makeshift cushion that used to be my jacket, my shoulder-length hair plastered to my neck, my deodorant long since soured into the seams of my shirt, thinking of how I was going to convince my city editor to pay six hours of overtime to cover a meeting where nobody showed up but the crowd.

And there she was.

I don't know where she came from, but her dashiki and tight bell-bottoms looked like they'd just come off the rack. She wore a pair of those big-eyed graduated tint wire rims and flower power sandals.

But she could have been wearing a flour sack for all that mattered. The rest of us were simmering in our own sweat while she was cool as iced coffee.

She was small and graceful, moving among the community leaders like important news, questioning and pointing with this organizer, comparing a schedule she slipped from her hip pocket with that one, sharing a joke with the choir leader. Her voluminous red-tinted afro

drifted like a halo about her thin, almost waif-like face, unblemished by make-up. She was the color of raw honey and butter with an attitude that hung off her hips and shoulders insinuating she could slice a wrong man up like a cold-cut saw.

She gave off a sense of sweetness and power that set your mind to searching for ways to conquer whatever stood in her way.

The story left me.

I was walking through a peeling screen door toward the smell of frying fish, the sounds of Robert Johnson and the sight of her silhouette in the kitchen doorway. I chased a dream of waking in the hot August dark with the sheets clinging to our skin, of a porch swing with a Mason jar of tea and a Memphis radio station playing somewhere up the street. Of quiet talk and determined struggles. Of belief and hope like hers.

Suddenly Abernathy was shaking my hand, glad to see the power of the press, making his way through a forest of handshakes to the stage, haranguing and hawking his pending battle with the mayor.

I had my story with a shouting headline and photos of the Reverend on the attack and the mayor on the defensive.

And she was gone.

Not that I would have even spoken to her unless I could have hidden behind my notebook and cynicism.

See, back then, white women could, at last, go with black guys.

It was liberating.

But the reverse just wasn't cool.

Too close to Jim Crow.

It just didn't work.

Things got tangled up in emerging cultural identity, guilt, and a singular distrust that the monster we suspect we know as racism will arise among all the usual pettiness of any relationship. When things got bad, she could never stay and you could never leave.

It couldn't have happened because it just wasn't the time.

If you were there, you'll understand.

If you weren't, I can never explain it.

Besides, I don't know with certainty that she even existed.

Which is probably why I never forgot her.



Has The Media Gone Too Far?

Have we gone too far? Am I speaking of the President's administration? Am I speaking of Cindy Sheehan and her supporters? No, my focus here is the media.

After seeing pictures of Ms. Sheehan's return to Crawford last night brought into the office by reporter Michael Harvey, a lively discussion about the insensitivity of the press ensued.

Perhaps it's just because we're "regular folks" down here in Central Texas. We're a small town newspaper (that just happens to have worldwide circulation now). Maybe it's just because we were raised with good Texas manners. And our jobs probably don't depend on that one good shot of a distraught woman overcome with grief.

Oh sure, we ran the photos Michael took. And they were good. Each one told a story. The media was expected at the event, and we had news to send out to a hungry public. Ms. Sheehan knew she would be photographed and scrutinized. But Michael stood back respectfully and used his zoom lens, got his pictures without intrusion. There's simply no reason these days to get into the face of anyone for a cheap shot, much less to crowd a

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.

woman kneeling at a mock grave or a mural of her fallen soldier son (especially a woman who needs space while receiving medical attention).

Cindy Sheehan is no actress. She isn't long-schooled at handling the media attention or dealing with photo shoots. Her "security force" isn't well trained in this type of protection, unless you count military training. Almost all of these men are veterans, here to help make a statement about war. And most importantly, Ms. Sheehan isn't faking the grief. This is no made for TV movie. We all know that. So where is our humanity? Our compassion?

The media has gone too far. The public wants the news. But must we/they be so callous and insensitive in recording it?



STONE MARKER — Ron Teska of Greene County, Pennsylvania, has been working on this marker for three days, all hand-tooled, at Camp Casey II.

— Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey

Famed Ranger Too Big For His Britches

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



later at an emergency roll.

From Dallas, where he was acting as sergeant-at-arms at the state Democratic convention, Capt. McDonald monitored the military inquiry. When a week went by without the identification of a single suspect, he headed for Brownsville picking up two Rangers and a district judge on the way.

McDonald gained admission to Fort Brown at gunpoint on Aug. 22 and cowed the commanding officer into letting him question scores of soldiers. He went back the next morning with arrest war-

rants for a dozen and put them in the guardhouse for safekeeping.

But by the following day, the tide had turned against the cantankerous captain. Congressman and future vice-president John Nance Garner, Judge Jim Wells, undisputed boss of South Texas, the Brownsville mayor and the judge, who had issued the warrants, decided McDonald had gone off half-cocked and had to be reined in.

Backed by 50 armed citizens, local officials confronted McDonald and his four-Ranger escort that evening in a hotel lobby. The district judge stepped forward and loudly demanded the return of the warrants.

"I'll tell you, Judge," drawled McDonald. "You all look like fifteen cents in Mexican money to me." He defiantly stood his ground and dared them to take the documents by force.

At that tense moment, a telegram ar-

rived from the governor with strict instructions for McDonald to butt out. He grudgingly obeyed, and the three companies of black infantry, including the 12 accused, left Brownsville at sunrise.

While none was ever directly punished for the 1906 rampage and the murder of the bartender, every enlisted man was dishonorably discharged for withholding the names of the guilty parties.

As for Bill McDonald, two months after the Brownsville Affair he retired from the Texas Rangers. President Woodrow Wilson appointed him federal marshal for the northern district of Texas in 1912, and he died on the job in January 1918.

"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.

A congressman, the political boss of the Rio Grande Valley, and the mayor of Brownsville all told Capt. Bill McDonald of the Texas Rangers on Aug. 24, 1906, that he had bitten off more than he could chew by arresting military personnel on federal property.

After losing his father to a Yankee sharpshooter and the family plantation to carpetbaggers, the young Mississippian and his mother took refuge with relatives in East Texas. Handicapped by a poor education, a lack of wage-earning skills and a giant chip on his shoulder, the newcomer faced a bleak future.

Then, in 1876, Bill McDonald fearlessly disarmed and dragged to jail a drunken bully, who was the terror of Mineola. Grateful citizens rewarded the young hero with a job as deputy sheriff and a career in law enforcement.

McDonald wandered west seven years later to the fugitive-infested Texas Panhandle and Indian Territory. The bantamweight man-hunter with two huge pearl-handled pistols on his hips brought dozens of dangerous desperadoes to justice.

McDonald's well publicized exploits earned him an appointment in 1891 as a captain in the Texas Rangers. He roamed the state putting into practice his famous philosophy that "no man in the wrong can stand up against a fellow that's right and keeps on a'comin'!"

McDonald never knuckled under to vigilantes no matter what the odds. In 1896 he faced down a Wichita Falls mob that wanted to string up two prisoners in his custody. "Damn your sorry souls!" he snarled. "March out of here and get away from this jail, every one of you, or I'll fill this yard with dead men!"

The colorful captain compensated for his small stature with a toughness bordering on the unbelievable. After sustaining four gunshot wounds in an ambush at Quanah, he had the bullets removed without anesthetic.

Three companies of black infantry arrived at Fort Brown on the southern tip of Texas on July 28, 1906. The 170 veterans of combat against the Sioux, the Spaniards in Cuba, and guerrillas in the Philippines expected to be treated with respect.

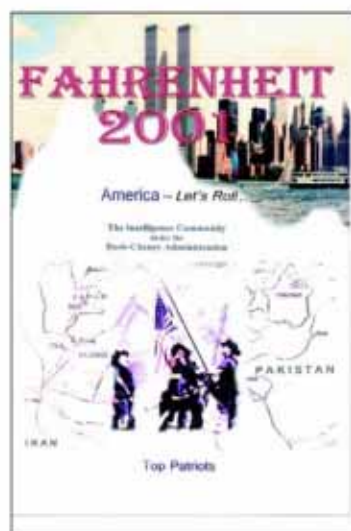
For the proud soldiers the Jim Crow segregation of Brownsville was a humiliating slap in the face. Refused service in the white-owned saloons and other public businesses, they were welcomed only by the relatively few Mexican proprietors.

A private was pistol-whipped on Aug. 5 for failing to yield the sidewalk right-of-way to a group of white women by stepping into the street. Eight days later, the report of an attempted rape resulted in the black troopers being confined to quarters.

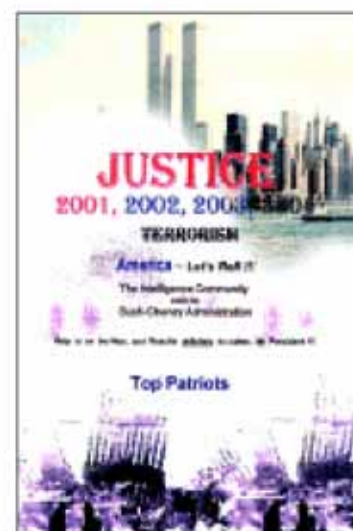
Shortly after midnight on Aug. 13, 20 or so slipped out of their barracks and over the three-foot wall that separated the fort from the center of Brownsville. An estimated 60 rounds were fired, including a volley into a saloon which killed the bartender and pot shots at curious guests peeking out their hotel room windows.

After eight to ten minutes of indiscriminate shooting, the soldiers returned to their barracks. All were present and accounted for ten minutes

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Worrying About Not Worrying

President Bush passed his recent physical with flying colors — and I mean “flying.” He’s 59 years old, but does not need cholesterol-lowering or blood pressure drugs. He eats healthy foods, and has lost 8 pounds since December. And the most amazing revelation is that his resting pulse is 47 beats per minute. That’s not the kind of pulse rate usually associated with people in high-stress jobs or situations. It’s the kind of pulse that well-trained athletes have.

To put it in perspective, the average pulse rate for a healthy male is about 72 beats per minute. (Unofficially, the average pulse rate for a writer on a deadline is 102). President Bush’s remarkable 47 is down from an also exceptional 52 beats per minute in December. Obviously, I’m thrilled that he’s in such good health. But I have to admit that part of me would feel more comfortable if his pulse were just a little bit higher.

I wouldn’t want a President whose heart rate went off the charts every time there was a crisis in the world. But it would be nice if there were some indication that President Bush, like the



Modern Times
By
Lloyd
Garver

rest of us, had some physical reactions to world events. History is filled with world leaders who grew old before their time, especially when their country waged war. We can read about leaders who were unable to sleep, incapable of eating properly, and could never take their minds off the killing that was going on. I don’t wish that on President Bush, but he seems to be on the extreme opposite end of the spectrum.

People have continued to die every day in Iraq, and his pulse hasn’t gone up a beat. In fact, it’s dropped five points since December.

Terrorists strike London, but his pulse is still a 47.

Opposition to the war, even from members of his own party, is at an all-

time high this summer. He’s still at 47. Gas prices soar, and his pulse is still a 47.

The grieving mother of a young man killed in battle, Cindy Sheehan, wants to meet with the President a second time. He’s still at 47.

She camps out near his ranch. 47.

People point out that to diffuse the situation, all he’d have to do is cut one of his bike rides short by twenty minutes and meet with her. He refuses. 47.

I’m not suggesting that he doesn’t care. Everybody reacts to tragic events differently. It’s just surprising that he doesn’t seem to have the kind of physical reactions that most people have to these events. My pulse goes up when I watch the news on TV. He actually is the news, but his pulse stays low.

So, the question is whether being in such good shape and having a low pulse is an advantage for a world leader. In ancient times, when the heads of countries would actually fight each other, being in great physical shape was an obvious advantage. Today, we could still probably shout to various foreigners, “My President can beat up your president,” but it wouldn’t mean very much.

These days, world leaders don’t put on armor and fight. They send others to do the fighting. So, while they’re home and others are fighting, how important is it for them to ride mountain bikes and remain so calm?

Some might say that calmness should lead to rational behavior and decisions. I can see that point. Others might say that it’s only when you get upset and are affected in your heart and gut by world events that you’ll be motivated to take some action. I can see that point, too.

So, let me just reiterate that I’m very happy that President Bush is in such great health. But ironically, ever since I’ve learned that his pulse has gone down over the past few months, mine’s gone up.

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 a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at lloydgarver@yahoo.com

Germ-fighting Underwear Next Step Toward Peace In Middle East

Under recent speculation that Britain’s commitment to the war in Iraq is waning, British Armed Forces Minister Adam Ingram effectively squelched naysayers at a press conference last Thursday.

“Support for the modern serviceman or woman starts from the skin out,” said Ingram, who then raised eyebrows by dropping his pants to reveal the Defense Ministry’s latest offering: Germ-fighting underwear. The unisex trunks, made from artificial fibers designed to prevent sweating and chafing, are technically known as Military Antimicrobial Germ-fighting Underwear. “But we’re just calling them ‘Mr. Magoos,’” said Ingram.

This was welcome news for the White House, which released a statement praising Britain for its continued support in Afghanistan and Iraq.

“This is just one more indication that the British — as always — are right behind us,” said White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan, who added: “The more ‘Mr. Magoos’ we have with us in the Middle East, the better.”

According to Col. Silas Suchanek, who led the team that procured Britain’s new germ-fighting underwear, the item is part of a new desert combat “package” that will make Britain’s troops “among the best equipped in the world — or at least better than France.”

As expected, the remark prompted a less than favorable response from French Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin, who ordered French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte to call Suchanek “pasty” and hang up.

The new desert gear has been the Defense Ministry’s primary focus since 2001, when British soldiers complained that their standard-issue boots “fell apart and burst into flames” during military exercises in Oman. In addition,



By
Ned
Hickson
Siuslaw News

the man-made fibers of their uniforms led to heat-related illness and, in many cases, severe jock itch.

“By the end, we were left with battalions of half-naked, barefoot soldiers scratching at their Willies,” said Suchanek. “It was clear to us, and the many frightened Omanians living near our base, that we were ill equipped — at least, militarily.”

Along with new unisex, germ-fighting underwear, British troops stationed in the Middle East will be issued several other items the Ministry says “have been vastly improved” since Oman, including: wraparound sunglasses, lighter Kevlar-nylon helmets, and boots with rubber soles designed to withstand temperatures of 572 degrees.

“Which puts us light years ahead of anyone planning to invade the sun,” said Suchanek.

Ingram said Britain’s desert combat package “roll-out” will be completed in March when troops receive “combat sandals” designed for off-duty wear. In what many believe was a move to ease tensions with France, Ingram said the new sandals were modeled after those used by the French military, “which has combined the comfort of a sandal with the ability to run like @#%\$.”

When asked if Britain’s equipment upgrade has created any additional pressure to do the same for U.S. troops

stationed in the Middle East, McClellan said no, especially since most of it would be useless in North Korea. In an attempt to illustrate how the defense department was ahead of the curve, McClellan dropped his pants to reveal what the

White House says was a “mishandled debriefing.”

(You can write to Ned Hickson the Siuslaw News at P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR. 97439, or visit his weblog at <www.nedhickson.net>)



This present-day update of the old TV series finds Bo (Scott) and Luke (Knoxville) Duke and their hot cousin Daisy (Simpson) running moonshine with Uncle Jesse (Willie Nelson) in order to save the family farm from Hazzard County’s commissioner, Boss Hogg (Reynolds). Keeping the Dukes ahead of the authorities, including Sheriff Roscoe P. Coltrane (Gainey), is their bright orange ’69 Dodge Charger, the General Lee.

Rated: PG-13 Runtime: 1 hour 45 min.

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Lessons Of 'Lawrence of Arabia'

I wonder if George W. Bush has ever seen "Lawrence of Arabia."

The first time I saw this World War I epic was around the age of 11 or 12, and its effect on me was profound indeed. Without question it's my favorite movie, one that I've seen probably 20 times or more.

Maybe he passed on it because it was one of those foreign films from England, and figured he could never keep up with the sub-titles.

Perhaps he did go to see this great movie and left after two hours at the intermission, thinking it was over and having no idea there were nearly two hours left.

If Bush #43 had seen the entire film, and been sober at the time, it just might have impressed upon him the fact that Arab nations are made up of myriad tribes.

These tribes have their own lands, customs and languages. They wear clothing unique to themselves. The rank-and-file are proud of their warrior heritage, unquestioningly loyal to the tribal leader, a code of honor, and Allah.

Not to mention those that are only in it for the prizes – the money and booty (this last word is open to interpretation).

That's why they're ruled by kings, emirs, princes, religious zealots, and sundry other dictatorial types. Not elected officials.

In many ways they share a commonality with the Native Americans who were dissected, dismembered and destroyed by the U.S. Army of the 19th Century.

(Have you ever speculated as to which tribe was run off the land now known as Bush's Prairie Chapel Ranch?)

Early in "Lawrence," as English Lt. T.E. Lawrence (Peter O'Toole) is being escorted by a hired guide to the camp of King (Sir) Alec Guinness, the pair stop at a well. A rider, approaching from the distance, shoots the guide. It is Prince Omar Sharif, who informs Lawrence that the dead man was of a dirty people and not allowed to drink in his well.

Lesson number one: Always know whom your companions are.

The Prince leaves Lawrence on his own; he eventually meets up with Maj. Anthony Quayle, senior liaison to King Guinness. As it happens, Sharif is Alec's son.

Lesson two: Don't antagonize anyone when you don't know how they're going to react.

The King's warriors move on camelback and carry 19th Century weapons, essentially cumbersome single-shot long rifles. They have access to one small armored car with a machine gun provided by the British. The enemy is the Turkish army, with automatic weapons, cannon, control of the railways, and airplanes. All the King's camels and all the King's men do not have the numbers or firepower to fend off the better-equipped Turks.

Maj. Quayle has been trying to get the King to move out of airplane range for some time, but is countered with continual requests for English air support. This isn't going to happen. Neither can they any further because of tribal boundaries.



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

After some silver-tongued wizardry, Lawrence convinces the King to go on the offensive. However, to do so would mean combining forces with other tribes, most notably that of Anthony Quinn.

Now, Quinn's tribe is kind of the Mescalero Apache to Guinness' Cherokee – the former is excessively fierce and takes whatever spoils it can carry; the latter fights for survival.

Lesson three: Occupation makes strange bedfellows.

Bickering between factions is a regular occurrence, yet they manage to forge on and fight as one, driven by love for Arabia and hatred for the Turkish invaders – and pride.

Lesson four: Never underestimate the power of hate.

As winter approaches, Quinn takes his tribe and their share of the spoils home with a promise to return in the spring. Knowing that letting up on the Turks would give them time to regroup and gain strength, Lawrence leads a costly campaign of guerrilla warfare with constantly diminishing numbers.

Upon Quinn's return, Lawrence convinces the combined Arab freedom fighters to do the impossible – they traverse the desert and attack the port city of Aqaba at its weakest point.

Lesson five: It's a no-brainer that desert dwellers travel through the desert.

Once the Arabs have control of the city, King Guinness takes a stab at establishing some form of democratic, or at least shared responsibility, type of government. One tribe takes over the water works, another the electric plant, and so on and so forth.

The spanner in the works is that none of these tribesmen has any training in the operation or maintenance of such urban machinery and infrastructure systems. Without the Turks, nothing is working.

What is supposed to be a council of the victorious rapidly breaks down into a mob scene. Each king, emir, prince or what have you has his own agenda and point of view, plus wants his people taken care of first. Most of their disagreements are borne on the wings of emotional reactions and steeped within the level of each leader's personal devotion to Allah.

Lesson six: You can't expect someone to accept democracy if it's not on his or her radar.

With people who live off the land now moving into buildings, some things just aren't going to mesh. Before long, fires start to break out, first in one neighborhood, then another, and another. The tribe in charge of the fire department refuses to put fires out in certain areas because of long-standing disputes; some tribes won't allow the fire department into their neighborhoods, or to even pass through to another.

Besides, the water isn't running, anyway.

And the electric generators have frozen up, so the need for oil lamps arises. Oops! More fires!

The British hierarchy, who orchestrated the Arab revolt and got them to run off the Turks, now sit back on their haunches and wait. In short order King Guinness will be forced to seek them out for assistance.

Lesson seven: See lesson number one.

Nobody asked us to save Iraq. It is not the job or place of the United States of America to attack another sovereign nation just because the president doesn't like its leader.

Plain and simple, we have less than no business in Iraq. I sincerely doubt that the people there wanted Bush #43 to rain bombs upon their children and elderly, destroying homes and businesses while killing countless tens of thousands of innocents.

There is a major flaw in the character of George W. Bush. He has abused the power of the stolen office of the president to kill and maim without reason or just cause, shows no remorse or grief for his victims or their families, and will not for five seconds admit when he is wrong – in this case dead wrong.

Bush #43, what he has done to us and the world, embodies the putrefaction of everything good that has ever symbolized America. In the name of Jesus, no less.

As to those who think this war to steal oil from the Iraqi people is a good thing, and profess unblinking devotion to Bush #43 and every one of his meatheaded policies, my condolences to you. Believe whatever you wish, just do not tell Cindy Sheehan that you profess to know what her son would want her to do! She is doing exactly what every good American is expected to do – call out the government when it has gone over the edge.

It wouldn't matter if her name were Maria Lopez or Gertrude Bruener, Sophia Mangione or Hannah Goldberg, LaTanya Washington or Vlasta Polaski — the result would be the same! This woman, these mothers who have joined her, have given up sons and daughters for *lies and greed* from the unelected president of the United States!

The unmitigated gall of George W. Bush! The arrogance! The hubris!

Cindy Sheehan is not making a mockery of her son's death. Her silence would be a mockery. What he died for was a mockery of everything great about this Nation. It is those who vilify her and denounce the moxie it took to stand up and put the question directly to the first illegal president in our history, the chicken-hawk responsible for the first totally illegal war in our history, that add to the mockery.

You did not know Casey Sheehan, so quit waving your flag in Cindy Sheehan's face!

She's an American, too.

And she sacrificed one hell of a lot to earn her right to call George W. Bush the least deserving part-time boarder we taxpayers have put up at the White House.

Connecticut: 'No Child Left Behind' Is A Bully

HARTFORD, Conn. — Connecticut is going to bat against the U.S. government in court to challenge President Bush's education bill No Child Left Behind.

The reason? The law is illegal, state officials argue, because it is an unfunded federal mandate, requiring platinum-plated standardized tests and other diamond-studded programs that are unnecessary.

Federal officials say that the suit sends the wrong message to the public; there have been funds appropriated to the states, they add.

Connecticut has made requests for more flexibility for a state program already in place, which have been reportedly denied by U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings.

Connecticut runs standardized tests in grades four, six and eight. Under No Child Left Behind, the state must test children in grades three, five and seven this school year.

The feds are giving Connecticut \$5.8 million this year for the tests. State officials say though that about the state will fall \$41.6 million short by enforcing the law to 2008.

Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell recently joined the effort to support the lawsuit. The state education commissioner said, however, that NCLB will be followed while the lawsuit is being settled.

Connecticut's lawsuit, the first of its kind from a state, follows another NCLB court challenge from a national teacher's union.

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400-500 lb. 120-138 \$1-2 Up
500-600 lb. 110-127
600-700 lb. 100-115
700-800 lb. 95-105

No. 1 Heifers
under 300 lb. 140-195
300-400 lb. 120-154
400-500 lb. 115-132 \$1-2 Up
500-600 lb. 105-122
600-700 lbs. 95-113
700-800 lbs. 90-100

Slaughter Cows
High Yielding 52 to 59
Low Yielding 40 to 45 \$1-2 Down
Fats 50 to 55
Thin & Shelly 35 to 41

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2 60 to 74 \$1 Down

Cow & Calf Pairs
Young Choice 1050 to 1325
Young Fair 900 to 1050 \$10-20 Up
Aged Pairs 700 to 900

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker
Replacement Cows
500 to 1075 \$10-15 Up

Number of Head....756

Gatesville

Jody Thomas (254) 865-8219

Sale (254) 865-9121

Mobile (254) 223-2958

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

Once again, I must say a big heart-felt THANK YOU for the effort and overtime you generous people are expending to keep everyone outside of Crawford informed about Cindy Sheehan's vigil and the anti-war movement that is being birthed there. Even on Sunday, Gene Ellis files a short report just to let us know what's going on.

I am a former newspaper writer and editor, so I know well the effort that goes into producing a weekly newspaper. I met Cindy on March 19 at the Fayetteville, N.C. peace march and rally. We spoke for maybe 30 seconds. We have been friends since through emails and a few phone calls. I knew early on the morning of Aug. 3 that Cindy was going to Crawford to confront George W. Bush after her speaking gig at the Veterans For Peace convention in Dallas. I told her to "go for it." She did. The rest is history. And my blood boils when anyone says Cindy was put up to it by, or is the tool of, left-wing radical America-hating liberals. Not so. I know she did it on her own.

And I must thank you again (Nathan Diebenow, Michael Harvey, Gene Ellis, Deborah Mathews, and Leon Smith) for the fine work you are doing and the service you are performing.

Most sincerely,

Nicholas Hancock, Asheboro, N.C.

To The Editor:

Cindy Sheehan is a mother who lost her precious child, 24 yr old Casey, in Iraq. She is driven to ask President Bush why her boy died.

Sounds fair enough, but Bush has been unresponsive to her pleas, which I interpret as insensitivity to a mother's grief. Sheehan is now camped at Bush's Texas ranch since he refuses to speak with her and answer some hard but fair questions.

When Bush met with families of soldiers killed in Iraq, Sheehan was among them.

According to her account, Bush did not know Casey's name, nor did

he make eye contact, and continually referred to her as 'Mom'.

I really find that disrespectful and insensitive. When the family tried to tell Bush how they missed Casey, he changed the subject and acted as if they were at a party

I will tell you why I believe this to be true. I carry an image of Bush, on national television, pulling back the corners of a rug and saying 'no weapons of mass destruction here', making a joke and a game of it, while soldiers were dying in their effort to find President Bush's weapons of mass destruction.

Bush should meet Ms. Sheehan, reporters and all. He claims to be a Christian and a man of compassion, so let him prove it.

Cindy Sheehan wants to look into Bush's eyes; I think all she will find is an abyss, devoid of empathy.

Patricia Kortt, Eugene, OR

Dear Editor and Reporters,

I've been avidly reading the updates about Camp Casey in your newspaper, grateful to have an ongoing reporting of this amazing event. So many times I've silently thanked you, but reading the apology in this morning's entry, I finally must put thoughts down, and let you know just how much your efforts are appreciated!

Yes, I'd like to have constant updates, but I'm truly amazed at the amount and

level of reporting. You have nothing to apologize for! You're doing a fantastic job of bringing Camp Casey to those of us who are unable to be there.

Thanks so much for the well-thought out words, and beautiful pictures!

Peace
Bobbie

To The Editor:

Ticking Bomb Another great editorial - keep them coming please.

Linda Woode, Montgomery, Texas
Hello Lone Star Iconoclast-Texas,

First of all thank you so much for your courage to stand up to George W. Bush. I applauded your move to endorse Kerry in the 2004 election and now your tireless coverage on Camp Casey is bold indeed.

Second, it just occurred to me, that while our troops and the innocent citizens of Iraq are in harms' way, because of what George Bush has authorized, George Bush is vacationing like he doesn't have a care in the world.

While the rest of us pay \$3 for a gallon of gas and taxpayers pay approximately ONE THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED DOLLARS EVERY 3/4 OF A SECOND for George Bushes' "war," George Bush is vacationing like he doesn't have a care in the world. As is the rest of the GOP controlled government.

Oh that is right, the pro-Bush people, as they protested Camp Casey chanted "We Don't Care" and now have a slogan "we give a sheet"!

With a support base that has a mentality like that, it is no wonder that W. is vacationing like he doesn't have a care in the world.

HE DOESN'T CARE! HE never did and HE never will! HE doesn't have to!

He has followers that are so blind to this con artists, they will do his dirty work for him. What his supporters don't realize is there is absolutely nothing in it for them, unless they are in his "have and have more" club and own stock in United Defense.

Cheryl Locke, La Grange, Calif.

To The Editor:

I often go the local online papers where news is being made. Until I read the article Don M. Fisher I actually thought your paper was created for and by the Cindy Sheehan PR machine. I'm glad you cleared that up. I don't believe I agree with Mr. Fisher's politics, but I do respect what he had to say.

Have a great day.

Fred Adkins, Orlando, Fla.

To The Editor:

Last year Muqtada Al Sadr and his band of terrorists killed nearly 20 American soldiers (including Casey Sheehan) in the battle of Sadr City...Not only did Al Sadr not get captured and put on trial he received amnesty and is alive and well and running for office in Bagdad...President Bush how do you explain that to those soldiers and their families who gave the ultimate sacrifice???

Oredukman

Dear Editor,

Although most American Veterans are empathetic to the feelings and emotions Mrs. Sheehan has experienced over the loss of her son in combat with Iraq, most Veterans feel her vigil outside the President's ranch does all such Veterans killed within that theater a disservice!

We are sure that her son would neither approve (or) support his mother's decision!

We all know that if we had fallen in combat we would not have wanted our mothers engaging in such behaviour!

That's the way East Tennessee Veterans feel at least!

Bruce Leahy, Knoxville, Tenn.

Dear Editor,

Upon reading Don Fisher's editorial of the 24th, I was struck with the notion that he was putting forth a mass of contradiction. On the one hand he stated his support and agreement with most of the criticisms Cindy Sheehan has with the Bush administration and yet, on the other hand, he incessantly apologized for the Iconoclast's coverage of those ideals. I was at Camp Casey yesterday and I spoke to dozens of good, patriotic Americans who traveled from states all across America because they love their country and hate the path to destruction that President has put it on. Yes, it is true that the President is deaf and dumb as well as blind, however, it is within the people of this

great country that rests the true power of action and it is the people who are finally awakening from their great slumber to open their eyes to the truth. The Iconoclast, the icon-buster and fighter for Truth, Justice and the American Way should never, ever apologize for presenting that truth to it's readers, even if some of them do not wish to hear it. It is the fault of a sound-bite, reality-show culture that Americans only pay attention to the sensational, bizarre and oftentimes ridiculous news coverage. It is an unfortunate reality that news outlets,

good and bad, have to resort to "pandering theatrics" to get their attention. What is important is what is presented to them once they are watching. Truth is truth, now matter how delivered.

There is a big difference between pandering and selling-out. President Bush has sold-out America to the power brokers and money changers.

The Iconoclast, perhaps the last bastion of truth in this very blood-red state, must never sell it's principles for any reason. You are too good a journal for that and the stakes are too high. Sometimes you have to use the carrot and the stick together.

Sincerely,

James W. Thomason, Tehuacana, Texas

To The Editor:

Public Education: *the law of diminishing returns*

Now that Gov. Perry-hood and his band of "Merry" legislators have put the "calabash" on public education, the affects are forthcoming. After one decade of poor legislative judgment and irre-

sponsible inaction, public education is "floundering on a large hook".

The recent inaction by elected officials finally has ensured that educational outcomes continue to diminish and that teachers soon will leave the educational field in droves. Most teachers teach because they love to, NOT because they want to get wealthy; however, they do need enough of a salary to live "comfortably" and job security would be a nice perk. But that's NOT going to happen.

The Constitution of Texas sets forth the priority to provide a quality public education for our children. The governor and legislators have shirked their responsibility; they are NOT doing their jobs. In the business sector, *and you may confirm this with Perry-appointed CEO Bill Hammond of the Texas Association of Business (TAB), not doing your job is grounds for firing.*

With a "knee-jerk" response, Texas taxpayers must provide the governor and legislative incumbents with "pink slips" during the next several elections. Perhaps then "unsoiled" elected officials may fix educational ills.

Peter Stern, Driftwood, Texas

Dear Sirs,

I have been reading the Iconoclast, the best little news source in Texas for a couple years now and the latest Cindy Sheehan foot-in-the-door approach to public protest deep in the heart of Texas. I am a regular contributor to a small street paper that faces controversy with a certain degree of openness itself by allowing diverse opinions from neocons to progressives bucking the system. My latest column I send you in respect to your sticking your journalists, wordsmiths out there, on the homefront which is Bush's backyard and writing it as you see it in the spirit of those great ones like I.F. Stone and George Seldes and our own late Eric Sevareid—some of the greatest journalists in our time. Call my above insertion as a thank you note to your muckraking wordsmiths telling it as it is. Keep it up and as soon as I can master a few spare bucks, I'll be subscribing. Thanks again.

Beryl Knudson, Duluth, Minn.

To The Editor:

Regarding: Apathy Conquered.

Great editorial.

You've got to be the most progressive newspaper in Texas, hands down.

Jim Harrington

To The Editor:

Someone should have called the Army recruiter. I am sure all those pros would love to enlist in the war cause and let some of the troops come hoje. God bless every person there helping Cindy. Thanks to your newspaper for letting the world know what is happening to her.

God Bless. Thanks,
Delmer Huffman

Cindy: We Support You!

Mr. President: Meet with Her!

Sally Kost, Apex, NC



MARTIN SHEEN, kneeling next to Cindy Sheehan, honors the cross bearing the name of Casey Sheehan at Camp Casey II.

— Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey



MARTIN SHEEN signs a STOP THE WAR poster.

— Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey

came out to talk with them," he said. "You all know what I do for a living, but this is what I do to stay alive."

The crowd roared after hearing that. Sheen continued to speak for a few minutes, and was followed by Sheehan, who spoke of how her son was a devote Catholic and of how everyone who knew him knew how strong his faith was. She told of how, when his body was brought home to America, 11 Catholic Rosaries had been placed with him by his fellow soldiers. That gave her some peace, she said.

During Sheehan's speaking, Sheen spent more time greeting soldiers and the families of soldiers.

He again was willing to shake hands, give hugs, pose for photos, and sign autographs for anyone who asked.

Sheen then rejoined Sheehan on stage, and along with about 10 other people, they began a Rosary vigil. After each prayer of the Rosary that Sheen said, Sheehan called out the name of a fallen soldier. Many tears were shed during this vigil, which lasted nearly an hour.

Sheehan called out the name of approximately 50 fallen soldiers. Following the vigil was a time of singing, including "Amazing Grace." Fittingly, during the line "Bright shining as the sun," a yellow-orange glow from the sun shone through the tent and onto the stage. Until that moment, the sun had been blocked all day by an overcast sky.

After the singing concluded, Sheehan and Sheen each spoke to the crowd briefly before heading to the field of crosses that has been erected at Camp Casey II. Along the way, the two posed for pictures with members of Iraq Veterans Against the War. They then moved to the middle of the field that contained crosses, flags, and flowers and were joined by approximately 20 friends, and observed a moment of silence. This moment of silence preceded the playing of "Taps" by Lance Corporal Jeff Key and the singing of "God Bless America."

Sheehan and Sheen then knelt in front of Casey Sheehan's cross and said a prayer together. Cindy wept, and after hugging Sheen goodbye, retreated to her trailer. The actor then made one last round of goodbyes, again stopping to hug and thank as many people as he could.

Sheen's visit to Camp Casey II was described by many as powerful and meaningful. It was a stirring way to begin the final few days of the protest and vigil near Crawford.

'West Wing' Actor Sheen Pays Visit To Camp Casey II

BY MICHAEL HARVEY
ICONOCLAST REPORTER

CRAWFORD — Cindy Sheehan and Camp Casey received a huge boost Sunday, both in support and in morale. Actor Martin Sheen came to visit. It had

been rumored for some time that Sheen might make an appearance, and today, it came to fruition.

Sheen arrived around 5:30 p.m. with very little fanfare, and was greeted warmly by the crowd. Judging by the

hugs and kisses, it was obvious that he and some of the Camp Casey clan already knew each other. After a five-minute photo session, Sheen retreated to the trailer that had been setup for Cindy Sheehan, where he was introduced to some family members of fallen soldiers.

It was described as a very passionate time that included many hugs, kisses, smiles, and even a few tears. Sheen was warm and friendly, and eagerly had his photo taken with many people. The time that Sheen spent near the trailer was a low-key, intimate, and personal time.

After some singing and talking on the stage, it was time for Sheen and Sheehan. Joining the two on stage were Iraqi veterans and family members of those who had fallen in Iraq. Sheen began his speech with a brief history of vigils.

"It is an Irish tradition. When a person had a disagreement with a landlord, for example, that person would vigil outside that landlord's home until he



MARTIN SHEEN took to the stage to speak to visitors at Camp Casey II late Sunday afternoon.

— Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey