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- **NUCLEAR**

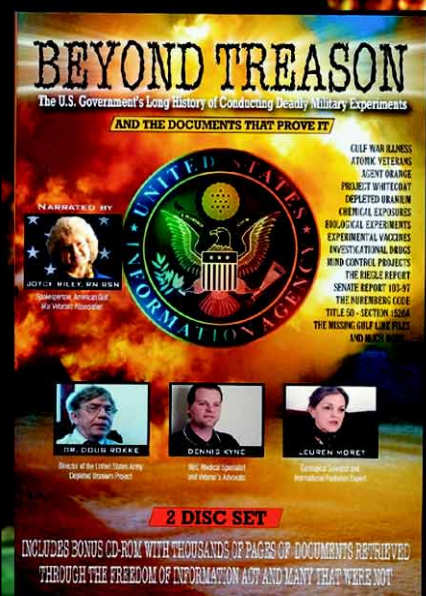
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Joyce Riley, RN BSN

Camp Casey Memorial Stolen

By DEBORAH MATHEWS
STAFF WRITER

CRAWFORD — The Camp Casey Memorial on Prairie Chapel Road was removed by thieves earlier today. Not a single item is left at the memorial site.

Crew members working for McLennan County said they witnessed items being removed by an unidentified individual and contacted their office to inform commissioners.

Upon arrival at Camp Casey, honor guard members who had been at the Crawford Peace House immediately called McLennan County Sheriff's Deputy R. Polansky to report the theft.

Among the items stolen were numerous crosses, Casey Sheehan's boots, tents, and other items.

The 26-day vigil of Cindy Sheehan outside the Bush ranch ended with a cross-country tour to spread the anti-war message. Camp Casey became a semipermanent memorial, to remain until the Veterans For Peace organization could establish a solemn removal ceremony.

Items that remained at the Camp Casey Memorial following Sheehan's departure were the three original tents under a pavilion, crosses of the war dead, signs, and personal items of the individuals involved.

Members of the guard filed a report with the McLennan County Sheriff's Office.

The three honor guard volunteers diligently listed, item by item, the be-

longings that were stolen from the site. Tents, pillows, signs, books, a box of literature, sleeping bags, an air mattress, flowers, plants, tarps, memorial crosses — even Casey Sheehan's boots that stood in front of the small wooden cross bearing his name. Virtually every item that was at Camp Casey is gone.

Veterans For Peace member and honor guard volunteer Paul R. McDaniel said, "My role here was as caretaker. Now it's gone." Honor guard volunteer Linda Foley cried as she said, "Casey's boots are gone! His boots are gone. You tell me that we're not being respectful. Those crosses are probably in a trash can somewhere right now! His boots are gone. What kind of people would do that."

Honor guard member Sarah Oliver said, "His boots were one of the last things that Cindy had of Casey. I can't believe that anyone would take something like that."

McLennan County Commissioners road workers were in the area to post the "No Parking" signs that had been approved by the Commissioners' Court. Those signs were on a 26-mile stretch of several roads. According to a representative of the County Commissioners' office, the act of removing items from the ditch had nothing to do with the Commissioners and that this was done by a "private individual."

Organizers of Camp Casey Memorial had been in contact with neighbors of



CROSSES GONE — The remaining three honor guard volunteers held hands and wept as they offered a prayer of peace where Casey Sheehan's cross stood.

— Iconoclast Photo By Deborah Mathews

the site and had informed them that the memorial was temporary and would be removed when a removal ceremony could be organized.

McDaniels said, "We have tried to be as accommodating, peaceful, and graceful as we can. We wanted them to be aware of what was going on. We also took very good care of the area with the mowing and cleaning. We wanted to erect a permanent site at the Peace House, as soon as its garden was worked on. We

were going to call it the Casey Sheehan Memorial Garden."

Following the tedious report given to the officer, honor guard members began to disassemble the poles of the pavilions tent that stood over the tent of Cindy Sheehan—the single item left at the site. One could walk through the area where the tents and crosses stood and see nothing. There was no evidence that Camp Casey had even existed.

Loading the tent poles in the back of a pickup, the three guardsmen said that they would return to the Crawford Peace House, finish a few chores there, and pack up to go home. "Someone will be there part-time to take care of the information flow," said McDaniels.

Veterans For Peace members will continue their support of Cindy Sheehan and her efforts against the war in Iraq. There are actions planned on Sept. 24, the day that Sheehan will arrive in Washington for a protest there. Other demonstrations are planned by the group in Waco.

The three members of the Camp Casey Honor Guard stood in a circle at the site of Casey Sheehan's cross, held hands, and wept as McDaniels offered a prayer of peace, got into their vehicles, and left Camp Casey.

Camp Casey Memorial Items Returned

CRAWFORD — The Camp Casey Memorial items that were stolen from the site on Thursday, Sept. 15, were returned Friday by McLennan County Sheriff's deputies to the Crawford Peace House.

When members of the honor guard showed up at Camp Casey on Thursday morning, the items had vanished. Everything except the poles of the pavilion tent were missing. After filing a report of theft with the McLennan County Sheriff's Department, members planned to return home.

After talking with County Commissioner Ray Meadows earlier Friday morning, deputies arrived at the Crawford Peace House with all of the stolen items loaded in the back of a

sheriff's office pickup truck and the trunk of a police cruiser. Officers asked where to unload the property and were instructed to place it in the driveway.

Peace House volunteer Kay Lucas said that when she asked how they found the stolen property and who had taken it that officers said to her, "The sheriff has instructed us not to say. We cannot provide you with anymore information. The Sheriff considers this a closed matter."

Items will be stored at the Crawford Peace House until such time as the Camp Casey Memorial Garden is completed, and can be placed permanently there.

Lucas said, "This certainly isn't the way you treat something like this."



CROSSES RETURN — Items previously marking the Camp Casey Memorial were returned by members of the Sheriff's Department Friday. Items were unloaded in the Crawford Peace House driveway.

— Iconoclast Photo By Michael Harvey



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EXPERIMENTS ON HUMANS

WITHOUT THEIR KNOWLEDGE OR CONSENT

New DVD, CD-ROM

BEYOND TREASON

Tells Why Soldiers Come Home Sick

Iconoclast's W. Leon Smith Interviews
Joyce Riley, RN BSN

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

CRAWFORD — Chemical experimentation on human beings is being carried out by the United States military, according to Joyce Riley, RN BSN, a spokesperson for the American Gulf War Veterans Association, who offers proof in a new DVD entitled "Beyond Treason."

Produced by Power Hour Productions, the William Lewis film features experts who have studied the government's history of conducting deadly military experiments on its own soldiers, a practice that Riley says has now been extended to the general population of America "without their knowledge and without their approval."

Providing personal accounts based upon study and involvement are Dr. Doug Rokke, director of the United States Army Depleted Uranium Project, Lauren Moret, geological scientist and international radiation expert, and Dennis Kyne, NBC medical specialist and veterans' advocate.

Riley, who narrates the DVD, says that chemical and biological exposures have contributed to hundreds of thousands of health casualties, many resulting in death, of military veterans.

"Beyond Treason" consists of a DVD featuring interviews and images related to the experiments, plus a bonus CD-ROM with thousands of pages of



Joyce Riley

documents retrieved from the Federal government through the Freedom of Information Act. Other documents are also provided to back up charges that the government is misleading the public in regard to this testing.

Riley, a graduate of the University of Kansas with a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing, has held the clinical positions of staff nurse, patient care systems analyst, utilization review, nursing instructor, and director of nurses of an acute care hospital, long-

term care facility, and home care agency. Her specialties have been nursing administration, medical-surgical nursing, and organ transplantation.

A frequent radio talk-show guest, she has served as a consultant and testifying expert for both plaintiff and defense medical malpractice cases for the past 10 years. She served as a Captain in the United States Air Force and flew on C-130 missions in support of Operation Desert Storm.

Currently, she is a spokesperson for the American Gulf War Veterans Administration whose purpose is to provide education and information for Gulf War veterans and their families and to seek treatment for the illnesses of which thousands of Gulf War veterans now suffer.

Riley and her husband, Dave vonKleist, also a radio announcer/talk show host, reside in Versailles, Mo. They are both featured regularly on The Power Hour, a broadcast dedicated to assisting veterans.

In an interview with The Iconoclast, Riley described the contents of the DVD and revealed personal experiences that have led to her mission of educating the public about the horrors of experimentation on human beings that have occurred for many years.

ICONOCLAST: You've produced a
Continued On Next Page

Senate Report 103-97

(On "Beyond Treason" CD-ROM)
103d Congress, 2d Session
A STAFF REPORT PREPARED FOR THE
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS
UNITED STATES SENATE
DECEMBER 8, 1994

INTRODUCTION

During the last 50 years, hundreds of thousands of military personnel have been involved in human experimentation and other intentional exposures conducted by the Department of Defense (DOD), often without a servicemember's knowledge or consent. In some cases, soldiers who consented to serve as human subjects found themselves participating in experiments quite different from those described at the time they volunteered. For example, thousands of World War II veterans who originally volunteered to "test summer clothing" in exchange for extra leave time, found themselves in gas chambers testing the effects of mustard gas and lewisite. (Note 1) Additionally, soldiers were sometimes ordered by commanding officers to "volunteer" to participate in research or face dire consequences. For example, several Persian Gulf War veterans interviewed by Committee staff reported that they were ordered to take experimental vaccines during Operation Desert Shield or face prison. (Note 2)

The goals of many of the military experiments and exposures were very appropriate. For example, some experiments were intended to provide important information about how to protect U.S. troops from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons or other dangerous substances during wartime. In the Persian Gulf War, U.S. troops were intentionally exposed to an investigational vaccine that was intended to protect them against biological warfare, and they were given pyridostigmine bromide pills in an experimental protocol intended to protect them against chemical warfare.

However, some of the studies that have been conducted had more questionable motives. For example, the Department of Defense (DOD) conducted numerous "man-break" tests, exposing soldiers to chemical weapons in order to determine the exposure level that would cause a casualty, i.e., "break a man." (Note 3) Similarly, hundreds of soldiers were subjected to hallucinogens in experimental programs conducted by the DOD in participation with, or sponsored by, the CIA. (Note 4), (Note 5) These servicemembers often unwittingly participated as human subjects in tests for drugs intended for mind-control or behavior modification, often without their knowledge or consent. Although the ultimate goal of those experiments was to provide information that would help U.S. military and intelligence efforts, most Americans would agree that the use of soldiers as unwitting guinea pigs in experiments that were designed to harm them, at least temporarily, is not ethical.

Whether the goals of these experiments and exposures were worthy or not, these experiences put hundred of thousands of U.S. servicemembers at risk, and may have caused lasting harm to many individuals.

Every year, thousands of experiments utilizing human subjects are still being conducted by, or on behalf of, the DOD. Many of these ongoing experiments have very appropriate goals, such as obtaining information for preventing, diagnosing, and treating various diseases and disabilities acquired during military service. Although military personnel are the logical choice as human subjects for such research, it is questionable whether the military hierarchy allows for individuals in subordinate positions of power to refuse to participate in military experiments. It is also questionable whether those who participated as human subjects in military research were given adequate information to fully understand the potential benefits and risks of the experiments. Moreover, the evidence suggests that they have not been adequately monitored for adverse health effects after the experimental protocols end.

(The full report is contained on the "Beyond Treason" CD-ROM.)

I had no knowledge whatsoever that some of the proprietary pharmaceutical companies were involved in experiments with the U.S. military. Whatever shots we got, we weren't told. We weren't allowed to know. They were not put in our shot records. Many of them didn't even have anything on the vials. They were simply blank.

'So, we should have known something was going on, but the problem is, we trusted too much. We didn't question. In fact, that's part of what the military is, that you don't question.'

— Joyce Riley

• **BEYOND TREASON ... Continued From Page 3**

new DVD called "Beyond Treason," which I understand is something that you have said all veterans should see.

RILEY: I want to promote that we've got 10,000 of these DVDs to give away, free, to military people. Anybody past military, present military, or just getting ready to join the military.

ICONOCLAST: How do people get one of those 10,000 copies?

RILEY: All we want is just proof of service, you know, VFW membership card, or American Legion, whatever, it doesn't make any difference. Just proof of showing some kind of military service and they can either fax it to us or they can mail it to us. If they fax, it is to 573-378-5998; mail is to Vet Offer (or Beyond Treason, either one), P.O. Box 85, Versailles, MO. 65084.

ICONOCLAST: "Beyond Treason," the U.S. government's long history of conducting deadly military experiments, contains interviews with, what three or four people?

RILEY: Correct.

ICONOCLAST: I've seen it. It's really informative.

RILEY: Oh. Thank You.

ICONOCLAST: If people want to purchase a copy and they're not a vet, do they write to the same address and what do they send as far as money?

RILEY: It's \$20, plus \$5 shipping and handling (\$19.95 or whatever) they can send it to the same address or they can call 877-GULFVET. You got the DVD with the CD-ROM, correct?

ICONOCLAST: Right, it's got two discs.

RILEY: That CD-ROM has about half the size of an encyclopedia worth of documents on it.

ICONOCLAST: What kind of documents?

RILEY: We've got some Senate Veteran Affairs's hearings that were never supposed to see the light of day. On Vietnam, we have got a document called, Agent Orange. It is a formerly classified report that nobody was ever to see, by Admiral Zumwalt, which basically tells everything that one needs to know about Agent Orange that the government has not told them., and anybody who is applying for an Agent Orange claim, which there is no such thing, as you know, because there was no such thing as an Agent Orange disability; but if they have Agent Orange poisoning and they want to get their claim in, this will really, really help them.

ICONOCLAST: So what they do is they stick the CD-ROM into their computer and they can just access all these files?

RILEY: Right. It brings up a primary sheet page, and all you have to do is just click on the one that you want and it will



Joyce Riley speaks to veterans groups about information that had previously been kept secret.

print out.

ICONOCLAST: Is this something every veteran should have?

RILEY: Oh, absolutely, absolutely.

Right now, we can't afford to send out the CD-ROM to all the vets. We will if they specifically need it. A lot of the vets don't have computers and don't need it; but if they do need it, we will get them a CD-ROM. So we're sending out the separate DVD by itself. Then if they're interested in getting the CD-ROM, then they can get it.

Every vet needs to see it and they need to see the documents also, if they are filing a claim, or if they just simply want to know more information.

ICONOCLAST: Regarding the Senate Veterans Hearing, what was this about?

RILEY: This is the one that really opened my eyes.

You see, I was involved in 1991 as a flight nurse for the Air Force. I was a Captain in the Air Force inactive reserve, at the time. I went back to Kelly Air Force Base and made the decision to go back in because everybody in my unit had been called up and they said that if you don't come with us to be a flight nurse again, then you may be Army or Navy or whatever they need you for and I wanted to fly. That's what I did since 1979.

It was my goal to go back and be a flight nurse at Kelly Air Force Base when I was working at Houston, at the time, as a heart/lung/kidney transplant nurse. That was my real job, at Texas Heart Institute.

I wanted to participate. I was so pro-

AR 600, PARAGRAPH 5.4 (Involuntary Vaccinations)

(on "Beyond Treason" CD-ROM)

a. Necessary medical care. A soldier on active duty or active duty for training will usually be required to submit to medical care considered necessary to preserve his or her life, alleviate undue suffering, or protect or maintain the health of others. Commanders may order the examination of any soldier in their command when warranted. The medical treatment facility commander will determine if hospitalization of the soldier is appropriate.

b. Medical care with or without soldier's permission.

(1) Emergency medical care required to save the life or health of the soldier may be performed. This is determined by the attending physician. If the soldier should refuse treatment required, and the unit commander is not available, the hospital commander may order the treatment given.

(2) Immunizations required by AR 40-562 or other legal directive (subject to any limitation stated in these directives) may be given.

(a) The policy of authorizing forcible immunization is intended to protect the health and overall effectiveness of the command as well as the health of the soldier. Soldiers do not have an option as to whether they will be immunized except as prescribed in AR 40-562, paragraph 1, 13, and paragraph 5-6 of this regulation.

(b) In performing this duty, medical personnel are expected to use only the amount of force needed to give the immunization. Any force necessary to overcome a soldier's reluctance to immunization will normally be provided by personnel acting under orders from the soldier's unit commander. Every reasonable effort should be made to avoid the need for disciplinary action. However, soldiers should be advised that they will be inoculated with or without their consent. Before any mandatory immunization, an explanation should be given concerning the necessity for submitting to the required inoculation.

military, you cannot believe it. Military was everything. My father was a belly gunner on a B-17. My mother, who is now 80 years old, was in the Navy. You know, women weren't in the Navy that many years ago. She served as a WAVE in the Navy and so military was everything.

So in 1991, of course, there was no question as to whether I would go back again.

I received 10 shots in one day, which absolutely changed my life.

I became ill as a result of that, and by December of 1991, I was hospitalized with a disease called a demyelinating disease. They called it multiple sclerosis, but not quite. A lot of the nurses were becoming ill with this same thing, and having trouble walking and functioning.

But I continued to work, but I could not work and do the reserve also, so I had to drop out of my unit in San Antonio.

Like I said, by December/January 1991/1992, I was hospitalized and I was really sick at that time.

Well, low and behold, nobody had heard anything about a Gulf War illness. Certainly not me. Not anybody. So I had this bizarre disease, after I was playing MASH in the air for six months.

I did not deploy to the Middle East. I was a flight nurse aboard a C-130 aircraft and I flew from Alaska to Cuba because the week of the cease fire occurred when I was supposed to deploy to Saudi Arabia.

I continued to serve as back fill nurse, if you will, for the active duty nurses that had gone on and were serving over in Saudi Arabia. So the cease fire came

and I continued to do missions and became, like I said, quite ill, as a result of that.

By 1993, 1994, I was starting to feel better. I was starting to get a little bit of strength back. In '95, '96, I became really aware that there had been a massive cover up here because lots of people in the military were sick then. Nobody was talking about it. Certainly not the Department of Defense or the Veterans Administration.

I began to do some investigation. Now, concurrently, with my nursing career, I had also served as, not only a director of nursing of four institutions in San Antonio, but I had also been a medical malpractice legal nurse consultant and I had testified in about, I don't know how many trials, and depositions over medical malpractice issues. So I knew what it took to build a case.

I started to see that there was a cover-up because these troops were sick. They were dying. They were having bizarre illnesses, starting out with some of the same symptoms, all of them.

And the Department of Defense couldn't quite figure it out.

So, I begin this investigation and, low and behold, to answer your question of the Senate Report, I came across Senate Report 103-97, which literally changed my life.

As I understand, the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee report of this was only for Committee members. It was not supposed to be outside the Committee. In fact, there were only 30 copies printed up of this Senate Report, 103-97. And what I saw in there literally changed my life, like I said, because, it stated the fol-

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TITLE 50

(on "Beyond Treason" CD-ROM)

Sec. 1520a. Restrictions on use of human subjects for testing of chemical or biological agents

(a) Prohibited activities

The Secretary of Defense may not conduct (directly or by contract) -

- (1) any test or experiment involving the use of a chemical agent or biological agent on a civilian population; or
- (2) any other testing of a chemical agent or biological agent on human subjects.

(b) Exceptions

Subject to subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section, the prohibition in subsection (a) of this section does not apply to a test or experiment carried out for any of the following purposes:

- (1) Any peaceful purpose that is related to a medical, therapeutic, pharmaceutical, agricultural, industrial, or research activity.
- (2) Any purpose that is directly related to protection against toxic chemicals or biological weapons and agents.
- (3) Any law enforcement purpose, including any purpose related to riot control.



Joyce Riley (right) with former First Lady Barbara Bush.



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Joyce Riley
Snapshots From Her
Career In Military



• **BEYOND TREASON ... Continued From Page 4**

lowing: “During the past 50 years, hundreds of thousands of our military have been experimented upon without their knowledge or consent.”

I couldn't believe what I was reading. I had just given my life, basically, loving the military and supporting the military to an organization that was experimenting upon us.

When I read through Senate Report 103-97, which is, by the way, on the CD-ROM, it started talking about all the experiments that had been done on our military without their consent. I thought how arrogant to put this out here in front of everyone—it really was not for release to the public, though; but to show what had gone on during this time.

That's why we focused on many of those experiments and I felt it was time that military people know this, that have served.

Those that are getting ready to serve, they need to know this also, so if they want to make the choice not to serve, they'll know what is going to take place.

For instance, as we know, there was an executive order signed in 1999, Executive Order 13139, that says that anybody in the military may be experimented upon without their consent. Now, nobody knows this. When these poor kids at Roosevelt High School in Los Angeles, where they have, you know, 10 military recruiters for every one college recruiter there—they don't know anything about Executive Order 13139. And I felt it was time that we get this out to the military, that we tell them and their children, so they can make the decision whether they want to serve in this military.

ICONOCLAST: Is this information going to the schools?

RILEY: It is going to be going to the schools.

We're going to be sending these to the schools as, well as—I mean as much as we can—as well as I'm going to be speaking to some schools. It's important. Not that I want to—I'm not necessarily antimilitary. I'm not anti-war. I am not anti-protecting this country. I would be the first one in my flight suit again, probably, if our shores were being at-

tacked.

But for phony wars and manipulated wars, I am not in favor of it and I will not support that.

So, what I'm doing is supporting our military personnel in the military, just like myself.

In 1991, I had no idea what was going on. I had met George Bush, Sr. in Houston and done a news conference with him and did work with the advance team for the White House in 1986, I believe. The organ donation group, because I was a national organ donor nurse, and I set up a press conference where George Bush, Sr. and Barbara, to sign an organ donor card, and it was a big promotion for organ donation.

It was at that time that George Bush, Sr. was selling biologicals and chemicals to Saddam Hussein through the commercial credit corporation, which has now become known as the way that Saddam got \$4 or \$5 billion worth of commercial credit, allegedly for purchasing food, which he used to purchase weapons from the United States—biological weapons, munitions in which to utilize them.

So you know, I felt betrayed. I felt totally betrayed.

I felt as though people needed to

know this information — my personal campaign, not to talk people out of the military, but just to let them be fully informed before they join, because in 1991 when I got the vaccine, I became deathly ill. Ten vaccines in one day.

I wrote in my journals, “I took 10 vaccines today at Kelly Air Force Base. I would have taken 100 to serve my country.”

So it's people like myself... it's young people, it's physicians, nurses...it's anybody who joins the military and says I want to support our country. You're not supporting your country when you're supporting the pharmaceutical groups that benefit from the experiments that are done in the military. And that I knew nothing about.

I had no knowledge whatsoever that some of the proprietary pharmaceutical companies were involved in experiments with the U.S. military. Whatever shots we got, we weren't told. We weren't allowed to know. They were not put in our shot records. Many of them didn't even have anything on the vials. They were simply blank.

So, we should have known something was going on, but the problem is, we

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Sec. 3. Informed Consent Requirements and Waiver Provisions.

(a) Before administering an investigational drug to members of the Armed Forces, the Department of Defense (DoD) must obtain informed consent from each individual unless the Secretary can justify to the President a need for a waiver of informed consent in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 1107(f). Waivers of informed consent will be granted only when absolutely necessary.

(b) In accordance with 10 U.S.C. 1107(f), the President may waive the informed consent requirement for the administration of an investigational drug to a member of the Armed Forces in connection with the member's participation in a particular military operation, upon a written determination by the President that obtaining consent:

- (1) is not feasible;
- (2) is contrary to the best interests of the member; or
- (3) is not in the interests of national security.



Joyce Riley conducts a regular radio show on The Power Hour to help veterans find answers to their health problems.

• BEYOND TREASON ... Continued From Page 5

trusted too much. We didn't question. In fact, that's part of what the military is, that you don't question.

I understand that you have to have control from the top down, but when you are being utilized as an experimental animal, basically, you have every right to know what is going into your body and what experiments are being done.

When I read Senate Report 103-97, it just totally turned my life around. I realized then that I could no longer trust this military that I loved so much. And that they were not going to tell the world what had gone on with these experiments and somehow, I had to get this message out.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think that the general membership in the Congress is aware of this? Or do you think that it's just specific people on committees?

RILEY: Many of them are to an extent. Many, I don't know how deep their information is. I've talked with Ron Paul about this, personally. I don't think he understands either. He's a physician. I was trying to get his attention to this issue, because I think physicians would have more of an interest in the subject. I've talked to several Congress people. Tom Delay would not even give me the time of day, refused our information. And the senator there from Texas—when I was living in Houston, female...

ICONOCLAST: Kay Bailey Hutchinson?

RILEY: Hutchinson, she was not interested at all. Nobody really wants to know. They don't want to accept the information because then they have a duty to do something, perhaps.

ICONOCLAST: Well, don't they take the information from the DOD pretty seriously? That what they're given is all they have to worry about?

RILEY: That's all they take.

So see, it's a system that is set up so that when they use the NIH or they use the whatever organization, CDC, or National Institute of Medicine, they basically—I figured out, finally, because I thought this could never happen in this country; basically, the DOD will commission out research to be done.

They'll give it to people that will give them the answer that they want.

Therefore, if they give it to the IOM (Institute of Medicine) and they get back a "gee we can't figure it out or gee there's not enough evidence here or there's not enough to make it a decision" then that's exactly what the DOD wants. And that's how they've functioned for all these years. They did it with Vietnam, with Agent Orange. They did it with the Atomic veterans. They always got back the answer and they only gave the research to the people that would tell them what they wanted to hear.

ICONOCLAST: This is where things like depleted uranium come in.

RILEY: Exactly. Bingo.

The way they did it with this was they gave the Rand Corporation the job of evaluating whether or not depleted uranium was harmful. The Rand Corporation came back and said that there is no problem with depleted uranium at all.

So, this is—see, I couldn't figure out the system that they used. Another part of the system is that the Department of Defense will tell the Veterans Administration if there is an illness or if there is not after they go to the Rand Corporation or the IOM or whoever they're going to get their yes men to talk with them about it.

Then the Department of Defense will tell the Veterans Administration, well, there is no Gulf War illness or Gulf War illness syndrome. Or there is no Agent Orange poisonings or there is no Atomic Veteran toxicity problem or radioactivity problem.

Therefore, the Veterans Administration cannot treat for something that doesn't exist.

Now you can see how this system works beautifully for them and they've done it time after time, war after war.

So the Veterans Administration, if you were to ask them, will say there is no

I couldn't believe what I was reading. I had just given my life, basically, loving the military and supporting the military to an organization that was experimenting upon us.'

— Joyce Riley

Gulf War illness. There is no Agent Orange disability, because it doesn't exist, according to the DOD. You may have some skin problems or you may have some stomach problems or you may have some cancers that exist but they are totally unrelated, of course, to Atomic Veterans, Agent Orange, Gulf War illness, you name it.

ICONOCLAST: Who controls the DOD?

RILEY: That's an excellent question.

ICONOCLAST: Does it come from the Vice-president?

RILEY: I think there are a lot of powers behind the government that we don't see; such as the civilian component. I think there are a lot of global elite involved in the pharmaceutical companies; the secretaries of the Air Force, for instance, and the Army. They're now coming from all of the private sector people. The people who sold weapons to the Department of Defense are the ones who end up being the heads of these departments who determine which weapons are to be used. I mean that's perfect—in any other business this wouldn't be allowed.

ICONOCLAST: Actually, the running of it would be privatized?

RILEY: I believe so, Absolutely. I believe it is, yes.

And that's why, enter the proprietary pharmaceutical companies.

There were experiments being done—let me give you an example.

In 1986, I believe it was, we sold West Nile virus to Iraq. West Nile virus, prior to that time was not a problem. Most people had never heard of it in 1986. So why is it that the Department of Defense is purchasing 55 gallon drums of West Nile virus and selling it to Iraq?

Obviously, it is for weaponization. It is not for research, because in research if you use biological agents. In research they use very small amounts, you know, less than would be in a syringe and they use attenuated or weakened viruses that are not capable of reproduction.

In the case of what was sold to Iraq, with the approval of the CDC and the Department of Commerce, and basically pushed through by George Bush, Sr., were clostridium botchlinum, anthrax, West Nile virus, and about 80 other different agents were sold to Iraq, including some cloned items, and the machinery, of course, to utilize the biological and chemical agents or to deploy them.

So West Nile Virus is sold in 1986, or roughly around that time frame, to Iraq. Then the United States, in 1991, under the Tri-Service Vaccine Task Force and some secret operations, if you will, which, by the way, the documents with

proof are on the CD-ROM, called Operation Badger—then decides to develop a vaccine against West Nile virus. So we sell it. We create the problem. It's a halogen dialectic. We create the problem. We sell it to Iraq and oh, my goodness, we've got to protect our troops going in there so we have to make the vaccine. This is the way they've been doing it for years and years and years.

Now you saw on "Beyond Treason," Operation White Coat, which was the use of Seventh Day Adventists.

These were, the men, who unfortunately seldom gave their lives in battle but did regarding the creation of these offensive biological weapons. The U.S. government said we were only involved in defensive production of these items. We're only out there trying to protect ourselves from the bad Russians. Low and behold, we were in the offensive weapon business of making biological and chemical agents during that time. That's much of what Operation White Coat was, was a development of these items at Fort Dietrich, Md. in the 1950s.

So, the Seventh Day Adventists basically turned over their men to the government. They did not want to fight. They were passivists and the U.S. government said to the Seventh Day Adventists Church, to the leaders, you give us your men and we'll take them and we'll keep them out of fighting.

Well, they kept them out of fighting, but they took them from Fort Sam Houston and then to Fort Dietrich, Md. or they processed them at Sam Houston in San Antonio, then took them to Fort Dietrich, Md. and began the testing on them. Then people said why did they use Seventh Day Adventist? Well, because they don't smoke. They don't drink. They don't drink coffee. That's about the purest specimen you could get for an experiment.

The tragedy is that Operation White Coat probably has not ended and it probably—we know that it is still being followed, but the sad part is, a lot of these troops that I've talked to were never given full disclosure as to what they were involved in.

The U.S. government between 1985 and 1989 sold biological agents to Iraq and one of the companies involved was the American Type Culture Collection. They, according to our records, have been involved with the Department of Defense for 50 years, selling biologicals to the Department of Defense. They go way back to even the time frame in which the experiments were being done here in the United States.

Now, that is another document that just totally turned my life upside down, called Biological Testing of Human Sub

“Depleted uranium is worse than anyone can imagine. It is in the water. It is in the food. It is in the animals that are drinking and eating. Every person that comes back to this country is going to spread it to their spouses and their family. The burning semen that you heard made fun of after the first Gulf War was just a symptom of the radiation poisoning. They spread it to their spouses.’

— Joyce Riley

• **BEYOND TREASON** ... Continued From Page 6

jects by the Department of Defense. In there, and it is on the CD-ROM, portions of it, because there are over 350 pages of it, it shows town by town, the experiments that were done in the United States. Of course, starting with the famous one in San Francisco, where they sprayed Serratia Marcescens over a 50-mile area of San Francisco, and allowed it to blow inland to see how far and how wide people would be affected by it. Of course, then they followed how many people went to the doctor, how many people died. It was a tragedy because some people did die as a result of that experiment.

ICONOCLAST: Is that related, at all, to chem trails and all that?

RILEY: Well, chem trails and the aerosol crimes that are being committed, in my estimation, started in about 1996. I think it's all together. I mean, it's all one big experimental operation to see either what people can tolerate or to learn from the public as to what works and what doesn't work. Because there is—when we talk about codification, and you're talking about the civilian sector, there is something called—here is the site: it's United States Code annotated title 50 chapter 32 section 1520A. In there, it discusses why the Department of Defense may experiment upon the citizens without their consent.

Now wait a minute, who knew that there was something that allowed us to be used as guinea pigs by our government? Nobody knows that.

ICONOCLAST: No. They don't.

RILEY: They don't know that. All you have to do is look on the CD-ROM, and

'They sprayed Serratia Marcescens over a 50-mile area of San Francisco, and allowed it to blow inland to see how far and how wide people would be affected by it. Of course, then they followed how many people went to the doctor, how many people died. It was a tragedy because some people did die as a result of that experiment.' — Joyce Riley

it's listed as Title 50, just pull it up and you will see right there, it lists all the reasons that the U.S. government may experiment upon you, and just about everything is covered. Everything. Every reason.

ICONOCLAST: I want to pull that one up, for sure.

RILEY: Yeah, you will not believe it. Now there was a section 1520 that was passed in 1977. In the late '90s, I started talking about this on all the airwaves, and I was drawing people's attention to it and, sure enough, they came back and said they were going to repeal it in the late 1990s. Low and behold, though, Leon, they didn't repeal it, they made it even worse. I didn't notice it until about a year later and saw that it had been codified into law.

We've got all that on the CD-ROM and people can actually see just how much we are a victim of a system we've been paying for.

My goal, right now, is number one, to let people that have been in the military know why they're sick, to know that there has been something that happened to them, many of them. Because they're wondering, "Why am I sick, why do I have all these problems, why were my children born deformed?"

It's time that they have some answer and it's time that we challenge the authority that allowed this to take place, because, as I say, there are people that need to spend the rest of their natural lives in prison for what has been done here.

We talk about Tuskegee, the syphilis study that was done. Low and behold, in Tuskegee, people don't realize it was done at the Tuskegee VA hospital. Why would a military need to get involved with a syphilis study to try and avert syphilis at that time? That doesn't make any sense.

By the way, it was an illegal study. Obviously, people died—6,000 people died. Not 399 black men like they want people to believe.

The Department of Defense has been involved all along in these experiments and under the guise of doing the right thing or research or whatever. My goal is, number one, to get people some answers, especially, those that are in Iraq right now that are suffering from depleted uranium poisoning.

I will tell you, I had the very sad phone call recently from a young girl just back from Iraq. She's about six months out of having returned from Iraq. Twenty-three years old. She has every symptom

of radiation poisoning. She has so many problems, it's unbelievable. I asked her when I was talking with her. She called to find some help because she didn't know where to turn because the VA will only give her psychotropic drugs, as they did after the first Gulf War, as they did after Vietnam. This is the way they handle all of these cases.

ICONOCLAST: Wait, psychotropic drugs, what are they?

RILEY: Prozac, Zoloft, Wellbutrin.

ICONOCLAST: Oh.

RILEY: We have a 50-year history of the government treating these issues the very same way. Number one, they deny it first of all—massive denial. Can't be a problem. There's no way. There's no scientific evidence.

The second thing that comes along is well, these people just have mental problems. That's how we got PTSD after Vietnam.

Now, I contend, to this day, that many of those people who served in Vietnam, did not have post traumatic stress disorder. They had been experimented upon, under either MKULTRA programs or the drug BZ or LSD. BZ, of course, is a drug that has not just a few days of hallucinogenic reaction, but up to a few weeks.

Of course, the movie *Jacob's Ladder* was about the use of the drug BZ. It was an aerosolized hallucinogen that was sprayed on our troops in Vietnam. If that is not treason, I don't know what is. The definition of treason is to aide and abet the enemy. Well, I think you're aiding and abetting the enemy by killing your own men.

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Joyce Riley says that birth defects are rampant in Iraq due to radioactive ammunitions used by the U.S.

Effects Of U.S. Radioactive Depleted Uranium Ammunition



In "Beyond Treason," Leuren Moret (left), geological scientist and international radiation expert, explains the biological consequences of depleted uranium, while Dr. Doug Rokke, director of the U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project, explains how the munitions spread radiation upon impact. Dennis Kyne (above), NBC medical specialist and veterans' advocate, discusses the effects of DU on soldiers.

Experts Tell Horrors Of Depleted Uranium Radiation

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That's exactly what happened with the friendly fire that ensued, because these troops, then, fought each other. They didn't know what was going on. They had had a hallucinogen sprayed on them.

Now where are the people that are spending the rest of their natural lives in prison for that kind of an action?

It is so hard to believe that people would rather turn away and say it can't happen. Unfortunately, we have the evidence. We have the documentation and we can prove it now.

ICONOCLAST: Are you planning to take any of this before Congress?

RILEY: Oh, absolutely. Absolutely.

I am looking right now to find the people who are willing to address these issues and who are willing to do something about it, and I'll tell you; I was told, and I'm not going to say who the representative was, my husband and I were touring all the states to talk to veterans. We just got a borrowed RV and we ran around the country and we asked people to set up veterans meetings at different places. These guys were committing suicide so fast that I wanted to stop them from committing suicide and I wanted to stop their quandry as to why all their buddies in their unit were sick from the big red one or whatever.

What I found was that people didn't want to address it, didn't want to believe it.

The American Legion even sent out a statement that we were just talking about conspiracy theories and not to acknowledge us.

Well, I went to this one state and this one representative sent representatives to come to the meeting. He didn't come himself. I went back two or three times to the same town, because there were a lot of veterans there, and did meetings. Each time, they would come.

The last time they told me this: they said the representative wants you to know that he knows what you're saying is true. He said he has a message for you and that is that he cannot support you, personally.

I said that I don't care if he supports me personally; it's not about me. It's about the issue and supporting them so they can get compensation and medical care. I said, let me ask you, why can he not support this? The response was the representative knows that this is the worst problem that this country has

ever seen and it could, literally bring down this government as we know it.

I said nobody wants to do that. We are a government of, by, and for the people. We only want to change it so that it stops and doesn't happen again.

The reponse was the representative knows how serious this is. He is not going to go back for reelection and you would know his name if I told you.

Here we have people in Congress who I absolutely believe are scared to death of this issue—absolutely scared to death. They know it's real. They know the number of troops that have contacted them with Gulf War illness, with Vietnam Agent Orange problems.

Now, the depleted uranium problem.

By the way, the 23-year-old girl that I told you about, I asked her how sick the people in her unit were—if anybody else was sick.

She said, "I have to tell you that on our trip back to the United States from Iraq, out of the 105 people in my transportation unit, 99 were sick."

I believe, and Dr. Doug Rokke has said this also, that about 80 percent of the troops are going to be very, very ill, very, very soon. They've been over there for almost 18 months. I've already talked with the first spouse of the husband who died and he died within two months of returning. He had eight brain tumors and they told him that it was as a result of depleted uranium. That's why she contacted me. She was scared to say anything for fear that she was going to lose the benefits from her husband's death.

ICONOCLAST: That's not looking very good, at all.

RILEY: If anybody is in Iraq right now, and they're breathing, they're being poisoned. It is that bad.

Depleted uranium is worse than anyone can imagine. It is in the water. It is in the food. It is in the animals that are drinking and eating. Every person that comes back to this country is going to spread it to their spouses and their family. The burning semen that you heard made fun of after the first Gulf War was just a symptom of the radiation poisoning. They spread it to their spouses.

Right now, to show you how serious this is, out of the first Gulf War troops that served, and I'm talking about people that were in the theatre of operations, the DOD figure is 697,000

troops served during that time frame. The number of people that have been granted permanent disability is over 225,000. The number of people turned down because they didn't do their paperwork correctly or they made the mistake of putting Gulf War illness on there, is over 200,000.

We now have 425,000 we know of that are sick from the first Gulf War in a hundred-hour war in which only 146 people died and half of those were from friendly fire.

ICONOCLAST: So that's out of 697,000?

RILEY: Yes, over two-thirds of them are now sick. I rarely talk to people that are still well from the first Gulf War. Most all of them are symptomatic. They say, well no, I'm doing fine. Then you say, do you have blinding headaches. "Oh, well yeah, I have that." Do you have muscle aches that last for a week and throw you to the floor like a charlie horse that you just can't get rid of? "Oh, well yeah, I do have that." Because the Department of Defense has been denying this for so long, people are afraid to admit to the Gulf War illness because they're told that they're just mental problems. Like we were all told.

ICONOCLAST: What about the current conflict? How many troops do we have over there, do you know?

RILEY: We have been told that it reached as high as 142,000; however, here's what people don't know and it's being speculated now by a lot of people that are in the know, if you will, that we have moved in and out of there close to a million troops. That because of the continuous deployment and returning home, that it's probably around a million troops. Now, I cannot prove that, but I do believe that that's probably close to the truth.

ICONOCLAST: So we have a million troops, perhaps, that have been contaminated?

RILEY: Right. They have to be contaminated because it is everywhere. "Depleted uranium" is absolutely a public relations slant on this; it's not depleted, it is radioactive. We're fighting a nuclear war over there and we're killing our own troops over there. That is the bottom line.

The land is going to be inhabitable for 4.2 billion years. When you consider, though, that you have a million troops that were over there and they come

home and maybe pass it on to a million, worst case, a million significant others, and then pass it on to their family members, you're talking about people that have breathed in depleted uranium. It's circulating in their bodies. They can't rid of it. It's too small a particle to rid. It is smaller than a virus or a bacteria, lodges in their kidneys, lodges in their lungs, circulates throughout the body and stays in the body and continues to do more and more damage all the time.

That's why these guys are coming back with asthma, with respiratory problems, that they did not have when they went to the Gulf.

Of course, they're saying it's because of breathing in sand.

No. It's because they're breathing in radiated material.

The A10 aircraft shoots the 30mm shell. The M1A1 main battle tank, the Bradley fighting vehicle with the 120mm shell, the 105mm shell—then you go into the bunker buster bombs—5000 lb bomb with depleted uranium in it. Everything that we're using, pretty much, it seems like, has depleted uranium.

You can go through all these different shells and munitions and what we have done is we have poisoned that area, for whatever reason.

We're not just trying to start democracy over there and give these people freedom. We are killing them at the same time.

We haven't even talked about the congenital deformities which are just absolutely unbelievable. That's going to be a poisoning of seven generations, to be able to try and remove that from the DNA. It'll take, at least, seven generations. This is a genocide. This is not setting up freedom or democracy.

This is a genocide on a people, including our own military. That's why, in my estimation, you see all of the top commanders and leaders going in and coming out of Iraq so fast.

General Franks, who after May, after two months of fighting says I'm out of here. My wife needs me home in Texas. He was gone.

Well, you know, these poor enlisted guys can't do that because there was what was called a stop loss. When stop loss is enacted, you cannot leave the military, even if it's your time to get out of the military. Well, unless you've got stars and bars on your shoulders. Like

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Diebold Whistleblower Says Homeland Election Votes Can Be 'Modified Remotely' Via Backdoor Software

LOS ANGELES — Eleven months after the 2004 Presidential election, a Diebold insider has revealed that there were alarming security flaws within Diebold, Inc.'s electronic voting systems, software, and machinery.

According to The Brad Blog, which broke the story last week, "The source is acknowledging that the company's 'upper management', as well as 'top government officials,' were keenly aware of the 'undocumented backdoor' in Diebold's main 'GEM Central Tabulator' software well prior to the 2004 election."

The Diebold source is charging that Diebold's technicians, including at least one of its lead programmers, knew about the security flaw and the company instructed them to keep quiet about it, noted Brad Blog's Brad Friedman. "Diebold threatened violators with immediate dismissal," said the insider whose identity is currently being kept under wraps, as he continues his association with Diebold.

According to Friedman, a "culture of fear" had been developed to assure that employees, including technicians, vendors, and programmers kept those issues to themselves.

The "Cyber Security Alert" from US-CERT was issued in late August 2004 and is still available online via the US-CERT website. The alert warns: "A vulnerability exists due to an undocumented backdoor account, which could a [sic: allow] local or remote authenticated malicious user [sic: to] modify votes."

Said Friedman, the alert, assessed to be of "medium" risk on the US-CERT security bulletin, goes on to add that there is "No workaround or patch available at time of publishing."

"Diebold's upper management was aware of access to the voter file defect

before the 2004 election - but did nothing to correct it," the source explained.

A "medium" risk vulnerability cyber alert is described on the US-CERT site as: "one that will allow an intruder immediate access to a system with less than privileged access. Such vulnerability will allow the intruder the opportunity to continue the attempt to gain privileged access. An example of medium-risk vulnerability is a server configuration error that allows an intruder to capture the

password file."

The source claims that, though the Federal Government knew about this documented flaw, originally discovered and reported by <BlackBoxVoting.org> in August of 2004, they did nothing about it.

"I believe that top Government officials had an understanding with top Diebold officials to look the other way," the source explained, "because Diebold was their ace in the hole."

"I was aware of the Diebold security

flaw and had heard about the Homeland Security Cyber Alert Threat Assessment website, so I went there and 'bingo,' there it was in black and white," the source wrote. "It blew me away because it showed that DHS, headed by a Cabinet level George Bush loyalist, was very aware of the 'threat' of someone changing votes in the Diebold Central Tabulator. The question is, why wasn't something done about it before the election."

The CEO of North Canton, Ohio-based Diebold, Inc., Walden O'Dell has been often quoted for his 2003 Republican fundraiser promise to help "Ohio deliver its electoral votes to the president next year." O'Dell himself was a high-level contributor to the Bush/Cheney '04 campaign as well as many other Republican causes.

The voting company insider, who has also served as a spokesperson for the company in various capacities over recent years, admits that the "real danger" of this security vulnerability could have easily been exploited by a malicious user or an insider through remote access.

"I have seen these systems connected to phone lines dozens of times with users gaining remote access," said the source. "What I think we have here is a very serious problem. Remote access using phone lines eliminates any need for a conspiracy of hundreds to alter the outcome of an election. Diebold has held onto this theory [publicly] for years, but Diebold has lied and has put national elections at risk.."

Koncert For Katrina Relief Slated Sept. 24

BLOOMINGTON, Ill. — A benefit concert to raise funds for the victims of Hurricane Katrina is slated for Saturday, Sept. 24, at the Miller Park Amphitheater in Bloomington, Ill.. The opening act will begin at 11 a.m. and music will continue until 9 that evening.

The idea for *Koncert For Katrina Relief* began with Pete Tenuto, a musician, songwriter and actor from the Bloomington/Normal community. Tenuto has taken time out from his hectic schedule of college classes, performing and work to assemble a line-up of local bands and other assistance. Everyone involved in this project is donating their time, talent, equipment and goods without compensation.

There is absolutely no charge for admission to the concert. Donations will be gladly accepted on a voluntary basis,

with all proceeds going to the McCormick Tribune Fund. For more information, or to offer assistance, e-mail <bffwilco247@hotmail.com>, or fax 309-454-2994.

Donations may be made in the name of *Koncert For Katrina Relief* directly to: <www.mccormicktribune.org>.

(Pete is the son of political columnist Jerry Tenuto, whose "Out Of The Blue" feature appears weekly in The Lone Star Iconoclast out of Crawford, Texas, subscribed nationwide and internationally read.)

• BEYOND TREASON ... Continued From Page 8

General Franks just walked from the war.

I believe that they take the higher eschelon officers in and out of there pretty quick. They know what's going to take place. . . military regulations and there's military procedures in place for the use of the depleted uranium AR 700-48. That's the Army regulation 700-48, that they are not adhering to. The Department of Defense is not adhering to their own regulations and this one is called "management of equipment contaminated with depleted uranium or radioactive commodities."

ICONOCLAST: Is that what was written by Mr. Rokke?

RILEY: That's correct. So, you've got Doug Rokke screaming from the roof tops, and being maligned by the Pentagon. They do character assassination on him because he is telling the truth and he's trying to save the lives of these troops over there and you have people that are absolutely denying the safety regulations and putting our troops in harm, thus the name, "Beyond Treason."

ICONOCLAST: "Beyond Treason" features Dr. Doug Rokke who was director of the United States Army Depleted Uranium Project; Dennis Kyne, a medical specialist and veterans' advocate; and Leuren Moret, a geological scientist and international radiation specialist — and yourself, you're the narrator?

RILEY: That's true. They are experts

and they have the guts to come forward and attempt to do something about this.

This is literally the worst problem that our military has ever faced and I want to do something right now to mitigate this problem to help alleviate some of the problems that I know are going to be coming back.

After the first Gulf War, I talked to thousands of sick Gulf War veterans — many of them that put a gun to their head that just couldn't live with the idea that they'd been betrayed by their country. Many of them whose parents called me and told me that they kept telling their sons, there's nothing wrong with you, you're just malingering like the VA says, and the kids couldn't live with that.

I feel like I'm yelling in a crowded theatre right now, and I see the fire over in the corner and people say no, let's see how the movie turns out. It couldn't happen. It couldn't be a fire in this theatre.

ICONOCLAST: If you wait until you see how it turns out, it's too late?

RILEY: That's right. That's why I want to get the word out and put pressure on Congress. Pressure on the Senate. Pressure on George Bush, who absolutely needs to get it. He's part of the problem. He has to be part of the problem. The United States can't be using these munitions through three presidents without their knowledge and it needs to stop. We need to stop using depleted uranium anywhere in this world.



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Homeland Security To Investigate Hurricane Relief Fraud

WASHINGTON — Richard L. Skinner, the inspector general of the Department of Homeland Security said last week that his office would look into claims of fraud in Hurricane Katrina relief programs as well as the process by which GOP-connected companies obtained no-bid contracts for relief work.

About 30 investigators and auditors are being dispatched to Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama to prevent mismanagement of disaster relief money, he said.

Over the last few weeks, the Fluor Corporation of California, a Republican Party donor, and the Shaw Group of Baton Rouge, La., a client of a consultant who was President Bush's campaign manager in 2000, received no-bid

contracts from the federal government.

The consultant, Joe M. Allbaugh, a former head of FEMA, also works for Kellogg Brown & Root, a subsidiary of Halliburton, which recently won a \$500 million from contract for repairs to Navy facilities along the Gulf Coast that were damaged by the hurricane. That work is being done under a \$500 million contract with the Defense Department.

"We want validation and we want documentation to show that it was rational to go one way or the other" in offering a no-bid contract, said Skinner in an interview with the NEW YORK TIMES.

Texas Musician Dies Fleeing Hurricane

BATON ROUGE, La. — Texas musician Clarence "Gatemouth" Brown, 81, known for his long, bony fingers, deep voice, and versatile taste in making music, died last Saturday in Orange, his hometown.

Brown, whose health had faded in the last year, was reportedly with his family at his brother's house at the time of his death. He had fled his home in Slidell, La., near New Orleans because of Hurricane Katrina. Survivors include three daughters and a son.

Brown, born in Vinton, La., reared in Orange, Texas, and influenced by his father, a railroad worker who performed in a Cajun band, wrote such blues hits as "Okie Dokie Stomp" and "Ain't That Dandy" in the 1940s.

However, out of frustration of limits of the genre, he decided to record albums that mixed jazz, country, zydeco, and Cajun music with the blues.

Santa Fe Area Plans For Sustainability

SANTA FE — Santa Fe Community College will be the location for a new center that aims to place Santa Fe as the "the water-conservation and clean-energy capital of the United States."

The Center for Community Sustainability, a collaboration of local governments, the college, a business incubator, and a nonprofit, will focus on business partnerships and student training more than research opportunities, said a college official.

Projects slated for consideration include biomass and gray-water systems with real-world applications for businesses.

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Bush Takes Responsibility, Rules Out Tax Increases

WASHINGTON — President Bush took ownership last Tuesday of the federal government's failures in handling the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina but later ruled out raising taxes to pay for the reconstruction costs.

"To the extent the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility," Bush said, at joint White House news conference with the president of Iraq.

Days after this admission — the closest Bush has ever come to admitting a mistake during his presidency, his words of hope in a speech to the nation from New Orleans last Thursday were received by hurricane victims lukewarmly.

A majority of black victims still think that government was too slow in responding to the disaster and that racial prejudice was partially responsible, say polls.

In his Thursday speech, Bush outlined a series of government spending initiatives aimed to reenergize the Gulf Coast economy, but the next day he said he thought raising taxes for rebuilding efforts were unnecessary.

Prior to the speeches, President Bush signed an executive order to remove the prevailing wage rule. This rule required contractors that receive federal money for projects to pay their workers the wages by the scale offered in that areas — in this case the areas damaged by the hurricane. Union leaders say that contracts now will inevitably pay their employees the federal minimum wage,

Embattled FEMA Chief Quits

WASHINGTON — R. David Paulison, head of the FEMA's emergency preparedness force, is the new acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The former FEMA Chief Michael Brown resigned on last Monday, three days after the Department of Homeland Security removed from his position as the top onsite federal official in charge of the government's response.

The decision to step down was Brown's, said the White House, who had earlier praised him for his handling of the relief efforts.

Up until then, critics noted the federal end of the relief efforts have been slow and disjointed, though others also placed blame on the state and local officials for unpreparedness.

Brown, a lawyer, was head of the International Arabian Horse Association before joining FEMA as deputy counsel in 2001.

\$5.15 an hour, which means that workers will have to rely on public health facilities for care.

The \$62 billion that Congress allocated for disaster relief will run out in

October. Projected costs of the overall recovery are about \$200 billion, thereby increasing the national debt which was already up to \$333 billion for this year before the hurricane hit.

As of Friday, state and local officials report that about 816 people have died as a result of Hurricane Katrina: Alabama, 2; Florida, 14, Georgia, 2; Louisiana, 579; and Mississippi, 219.

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Your Tax Liars At Work

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "An outlaw may be a thief, but a liar is a SORRY bastard."

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution no longer applies in the state of Texas.

At least for state officials.

The people we hired to run this state have professional liars to tell us all we need to know, and we will kindly refrain from asking questions of those who know what's good for us, if we know what's good for us.

Just ask Elizabeth Reyes, former lawyer for the Texas Secretary of State's office, who violated that office's most sacrosanct prohibition this week: Telling the truth.

More horrific, she told said truth about Propaganda Minister Karl Rove, the final arbiter of Troospeak here in the

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



world's largest political theme park.

Featuring such attractions as LegislatureLand and its famous Ride to Nowhere, the Suspended Reality Bridge and, of course, Stoopid School!

Miz Reyes got a call from the *Washington Post* last week asking, hypothetically, whether one commits voter fraud by registering in a place where one does not live.

Not a terribly complicated question. Republicans used exactly the same scenario to toss out hundreds of votes they didn't like in the last two elections.

Miz Reyes said yes, generally, lying about where you live is fraud.

But if the hypothetical ballot bunco is, in fact, perpetrated by Reichsliar Karl Rove, it isn't fraud.

It's a firing offense.

So Weatherford car salesman-turned-election cerebus Roger Williams did the only thing he could do: He fired Miz Reyes.

Pesky lil Meskin heifer! Don't know she ain't hired to do nothin' but write briefs and pat tortillas! Yonta 'nother colbeer, Karl, urp?

It seems that Closet Karl's voter residence is in Ingram, where he owns a couple of tourist cabins that a dude lodge rents out.

The First Fabricator doesn't actually live there.

But that's irrelevant.

All "controversial" press inquiries are supposed to go through the company liar, the Secretary of State's "Communications Department."

Of course to a Weatherford car lot hustler, who opens negotiations with a lie about the price of a vehicle (see dealer for details) so he can offer you "a great deal," who sells you a car at a phoney price when the finance charges would send you running for the nearest mule barn and whose product may well be a recall repository, truth is relative.

Besides, selling cars in a Fort Worth suburb is the first requisite for the job of protecting the rights of voters in Texas, at least as much as judging horse shows qualifies you to run disaster relief or being a judge for two years entitles you to

be lead singer for the Supremes.

That and raising \$300,000 in campaign contributions for Neighbor Bush (tax, title and license not included.)

If you're really interested in whether I'm telling the truth about the Karl and Roger show, read Wayne Slater's story in the *DALLAS MORNING NEWS* and judge for yourself.

This is Wayne's story.

I'm just re-telling it because he's not as mean as I am.

My point is this: We pay people like Repo Roger to do a job.

Part of that job is to tell us what's going on.

Instead, we hire a bunch of their employees to tell us the highly varnished truth as the politician sees it.

If brief, to lie.

Public Information, Public Relations, Communications Officers, whatever, are professional liars.

At best they do not tell the whole truth.

At worst they convince you that road apples make good cider.

And we pay them about ten grand higher than the state's average working stiff's annual paycheck.

Their job is to gather all the credit and cull the blame.

And they're worth every penny.

To those who sneak themselves a livelihood out of the common treasury.

So the next time you wonder why the Gulf Coast drowned, your job is now in Thailand or your kid doesn't know when the War of 1812 started, relax.

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Editorial

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Why Not Appoint A Person With More Experience?

Here we go again. You saw what happened to FEMA when political incest ruled over experience.

Now it's the Supreme Court's turn.

John G. Roberts, Jr. might eventually make a great Chief Justice.

But it is a huge gamble, especially since we don't know if we are dealing with aces or with dueces.

Or are we dealing with a joker?

Most of the hand remains hidden, which makes you wonder about the true integrity of this nominee.

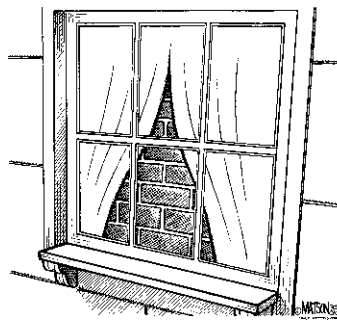
Two years' experience serving on the U.S. Court of Appeals...

This qualifies you to be Chief Justice of the Supreme Court?

Or is it that you helped raise funds for George W. Bush's political campaign? Is that the real reason you were nominated?

The answer is obvious, but most Americans are willing to overlook it, just

as they overlooked the FEMA appointment.



THE SENATE'S WINDOW INTO THE MIND OF JOHN ROBERTS

What is alarming is that the United States is filled with literally thousands of mature, seasoned, competent judges who do have the experience.

They know the judicial realm inside and out. And they have a substantial track record that could be examined as proof of their worthiness.

President Bush probably has the votes to squeeze in anyone of his own liking.

If it is impossible to adequately scrutinize his nominees, then the light must be shined on Bush himself and his blatant decisions to award key positions in government to political backers.

We saw what happened to FEMA. We saw no-bid contracts being callously awarded to Bush's cronies.

Where is the country that once shunned this type of corruption?

— W. Leon Smith

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White Republicans Break With Black Leader

There was not a white face in sight, when the Grand Old Party met in state convention at Fort Worth on Sept. 14, 1892.

Former Gov. Edmund J. Davis was the charismatic glue that held Texas Republicans together after Reconstruction. His death in 1883 set off a protracted power struggle that split the already impotent party of Lincoln along racial lines.

Supported by ex-slaves and the first generation of free-born blacks who made up the Republican majority, Norris Wright Cuney quickly filled Davis' shoes. A party leader with black skin, even one as unquestionably qualified as the eloquent college graduate, tested the tolerance of flabbergasted whites.

Thirteen year old Cuney left his plantation birthplace near Hempstead in 1859 in search of schooling. Returning to occupied Texas after the Civil War, he rose to prominence in the Radical

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



wing of the ruling Republican regime.

Confident Cuney would bend over backward to appease the white minority, critics threatened a walkout unless his decision against fielding a separate slate of candidates in the 1884 elections was rescinded. But the new chairman stood his ground and let them go.

White Republicans watched in horror as Cuney tightened his grip on the party machinery. In 1886 he was chosen by acclamation national committeeman from Texas. Three years later, after Benjamin Harrison evicted Democrat Grover Cleveland from the White House, he received the biggest patron-

age prize in the Lone Star State — collector of customs at Galveston.

Nicknamed the "Lily Whites," dissidents descended upon San Antonio in September 1890 determined to dictate the gubernatorial nominee. Taking the pre-convention pulse of the black contingent, the GALVESTON DAILY NEWS observed, "The party colored are confident and in the language of an ebony hued delegate 'have got dem white folks where de hair is short.'"

But the blatant bias of Texas' most influential newspaper could not hold a candle to the rabble-rousing bigotry of THE WHITE REPUBLICAN. Published by James P. Newcomb, an erstwhile advocate of black equality, the quasi-official organ of the Lily White proudly defined its editorial outlook as "anti-Nigger."

The convention climax pitted the Cuney candidate against Webster Flanagan, respected son of a Reconstruction senator. The hero of the Lily Whites won a close roll call and the right to be humiliated at the polls by Democrat Jim Hogg.

Although the loss of the 1890 nomination hurt his ego more than his stature, Cuney took no chances at the next biennial reunion. From opening gavel to adjournment, he never gave his opponents the opportunity to get a word in edgewise.

The Lily Whites responded by organizing the first statewide meeting of the GOP in which blacks did not participate. They would not have felt very welcome anyway since the rally featured repeated calls for an all-white party in the South and "an independent Negro republic."

Recognizing the futility of running against Gov. Hogg, the Cuney "regulars" endorsed the candidacy of conservative Democrat George Clark. In a campaign appeal reflecting the racial tensions of the times, U.S. Senator Richard Coke urged Texans to repudiate "the Three C's: Clark, Cuney and the Coons."

The defeat of President Harrison in his 1892 rematch with Cleveland cost Cuney the patronage pie which was the source of his political power. Fair-weather friends attracted by the prospect of landing government jobs soon deserted him.

No Parking Near Bush Ranch: County Commissioners

WACO — McLennan County Commissioners by a 4-1 vote banned parking on the 23 miles of roadway leading to President Bush's ranch. The ruling was made two weeks after Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a slain U.S. soldier, left the site of her 26-day, anti-war protest near Crawford.

McLennan County Commissioner Ray Meadows explained that the parking ban has to do with public health and safety concerns and complaints from about 80 area-residents. He said that "no parking" signs would be up soon.

Since Sheehan's vigil ended Aug. 31, a few protestors have remained at her campsite.

Camping along the roadways is not banned, but the commissioners have yet to act on a proposal that would prevent residing, erecting shelters, or placing sewage receptacles in right-of-way areas on all county roads.

But Cuney was a savvy survivor, who successfully fended off every effort to unseat him. For four more tumultuous years, he ruled the Republican roost in Texas.

Then in the presidential derby of 1896, Cuney made the fatal mistake of betting on the wrong horse. His endorsement of the Iowa senator responsible for his appointment as customs collector infuriated the party rank and file that backed William McKinley.

In his usual role as chairman, Cuney tried in vain to stop the McKinley bandwagon at the state convention. After a series of heavy-handed maneuvers provoked threats of another walkout, he shouted from the rostrum, "Well, then go bolt and be damned!"

Ignoring the ugly mood in the hall, Cuney declared a slate of delegates committed to his candidate elected by a voice vote that clearly went the other way. With a blood-curdling roar, the Lily Whites and pro-McKinley blacks stormed the stage.

The police had to be summoned to quell the riot and to save the life of the badly beaten chairman. Though technically in charge until his removal as national committeeman, the political boss was reduced to a powerless pariah in the party that had been his private domain for 13 years.

Vowing to retake the Republican reins, Norris Wright Cuney dismissed his violent downfall as a temporary setback. He may well have been right, but his sudden death six months later made it a moot question.

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

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Four Years After

On Tuesday morning, Sept. 11, 2001, while getting ready for work our radio was tuned to WGN-AM out of Chicago, as usual. The morning drive guy, Spike O'Dell, is not my favorite, but he's the best we can pick up during that time frame.

For the past couple of days all everyone had talked about was whether or not Michael Jordan would be coming out of retirement to play for the Washington Wizards.

Spike commented about what a slow news day it was, with MJ being the lead story on every major news source. (As soon as he said that I got this eerie feeling, harkening back to the time I had made an on-air remark about Yoko Ono being so ugly and such a horrendous singer that John Lennon should just shoot her and put her out of her misery — as well as everyone else's. I was still pissed off about the Beatles' break-up. That was Friday night, Dec. 5, 1980. John was assassinated less than 72 hours later.) Be careful what you say over the air, Spike, I thought.

The next thing I knew the newsman told Spike to look at his monitor — something was happening at the World Trade Center. He wasn't sure exactly what it was, but there had either been an explosion or a plane hit one of the towers.

I immediately turned on a television. There was that sickening image, the one of the North Tower with a gaping hole and black smoke billowing from it, which was destined to become forever etched in our collective consciousness — right along with John F. Kennedy clutching his throat in the back of the presidential limousine. In rapid succession I zapped from ABC to CBS to NBC, finally stopping at CNN.

The image was not going away.

This was live.

It was happening right now.

But what had happened?

Nobody was quite sure. Was it an explosion? Had a plane hit the tower? Was it a commercial airliner? A cargo plane? A private plane? A helicopter, perhaps?

Helicopters were the only aircraft allowed to enter Manhattan airspace, right? And helicopters routinely landed on top of the towers.

But, no small plane or helicopter could have created such a gaping hole or resulted in so much thick, black smoke.

It was like 7:50 (CDT) or so and, well, we had to get going. There were clients to be seen, money to be made.

Having a smattering of terrorist training and dealings with Military Intelligence (the ultimate oxymoron) procedures and issues, I was pretty certain that this was the work of people who were unfriendly to the citizens and government of the United States. But, things are usually gray when we enter the realm of the major catastrophe, especially of the man-made variety.

Just who were the assholes behind this act of horror?

At the time I was an Advertising Consultant for a weekly subsidiary of the local daily newspaper. Our sales manager, Donna, normally not an overly aggressive sort, was really anxious to beat all competition to Christmas advertising that year. So, she had scheduled our Holiday strategy breakfast meeting for the morning of Sept. 11, 2001.



Out Of The Blue

By
**Jerry
Tenuto**

Now, this was supposed to be a festive occasion of sorts, as we were a rather small office (the entire operation consisted of 10 people), and situated about a mile from the prying eyes of the suits at the parent paper.

Upon walking into the foyer, I was greeted by a fully decorated, seven-foot Christmas tree. Sheesh! What a totally daft sight, as it was already pushing 80° outside. (The presence of that tree, and necessity to walk past it every single morning, would become increasingly nettlesome as the days, and weeks, then months passed.)

While dashing to my office to turn on my radio, I passed through a common area completely decorated in Christmas folderol. The big day was still three-and-a-half months away, but Donna had stayed late the previous night, and come in early that morning, just to get this crap done.

The first thing I heard was that an airliner had flown into the South Tower, also. Now that the second airliner had been seen, everyone was aware of exactly what was taking place.

Everyone, that was, but Donna.

Being one of those people who rarely if ever listen to the news, and since she had Christmas music playing all morning, Donna was completely oblivious to what was going on outside the building.

We were late for the all-important meeting, the one day Donna prized as a manager, so she got on the intercom and insisted everyone hightail it to the conference room.

As soon as I got there I asked if she knew what was going on in New York. Donna's reply was that it didn't make any difference to her. As the rest of my associates filed in, shock evident on their faces, I tried to explain the gravity of the situation.

"Somebody just flew airplanes into the World Trade Center towers," I said, trying to express the urgency.

Donna's reply was, "Oh, yeah, I heard. That was just an accident."

"Not two planes, one into each tower!"

"Well, it's in New York," she said, "and has nothing to do with us."

Actually, I have to cut Donna a little slack here. Even though she had worked for a newspaper for 14 years, she continued to live in Fantasyland. We've only lived in this extreme Right-wing, excessively Conservative, blatantly self-righteous Christian and/or evangelical Central Illinois "Twin Cities" community for 10 years. However, one of its most glaring traits is that the locals have the attitude, "If it ain't happening right here in town, then it don't really affect me."

Unfortunately, if you live in the Midwest, and your home is anywhere but Chicago, St. Louis, Cleveland, Minneapolis/St. Paul, or any other metropolitan center, your community will be painfully prone to isolationism.

And to voting Republican.

Our "Twin Cities" are home to two universities, and still folks around here don't get it. All they care about are the

football and basketball schedules, and which country music "stars" will be performing at the state university arena, an institution most of the locals never attended.

No need to wonder why it's the 21st Century and there are debates over "Evolutionism" and "Creationism" — freedom of thought simply hasn't reached rural America yet.

But I digress...

So, we had our meeting, and ate the special casserole Donna prepared just for such occasions. Usually a hit, she just couldn't figure out why so much of it went untouched.

Donna handed out the overly complex holiday sales packages, which she had spent weeks preparing. She rambled on, not realizing that nobody was focusing on strategies for selling ads for the holidays.

The last thing any of us wanted to hear that morning was about Christmas.

It was not being picked up on Donna's radar that we just weren't paying attention. Fortunately, the editor came in with an excuse to break the meeting. Donna sent us out with a pep talk about getting on the phones to our advertisers and going out to see businesses.

Right.

I went back to my office and did something I almost never did before — shut the door. Sitting at my desk in shock, I listened to the radio and tried to make sense of what was going on. Only a few minutes passed, but it seemed like an eternity.

My thoughts went to friends from New York City. Thank God they now lived in and worked in places like Westchester and New Jersey. Hopefully they or their families hadn't had any reason to go to Manhattan that day.

I became concerned about my Father and all our family and friends in the Chicago area. What if the Sears Tower or Hancock Building were targets?

The next report was that something had hit the Pentagon.

The Pentagon! Who would attack the Pentagon!?

All of a sudden I had to move. I jumped up and began to pace, but my office was far too small. So, I walked up the hall, through the composition room, and paced the outer office. But I couldn't talk to anyone.

As soon as I was calm enough to drive, I grabbed my briefcase and headed home. Ah, the benefits of having a job where I could schedule my day as I saw fit.

I sure as hell didn't feel like talking with or seeing anyone about advertising, especially for Christmas, and I knew nobody else would want to discuss the subject, either.

When I arrived home I raced to the living room and turned on the television — just in time to witness the collapse of the South Tower.

I was alone in the house.

All I could do was stand and watch, my mouth wide open in disbelief as, in a matter of seconds, this monument to man's ingenuity came crashing to the ground, sealing a good portion of Manhattan in a gray cloud of debris... cement, office furniture, computers, metal, light bulbs, insulation, paper, wires, and human beings.

I felt all alone in the world.

Just how many people were in that tower?, I wondered. 2,000? 5,000? 10,000? More? My God! There are en-

tire towns around here that only have populations in the hundreds!

As I watched the people running for dear life from the massive cloud, and then the picture turn black as the cameras became engulfed in debris, my immediate instinct was to jump into my car and drive straight to New York City to do whatever was possible to help. But, it would have been Thursday before I even got there, and how much help would an overweight, out of shape 50-year-old man with a bad knee have been? If anything, I would have been a hindrance.

I wished I was 30.

There was still a plane missing; United Flight 93 out of Newark, N.J. was unaccounted for.

When I collected myself, I went to the bedroom to change out of my stifling work clothes. Watching the television in there, I saw the wall of the Pentagon come down.

I returned to the living room, but left televisions on wherever we had one so as to not miss any news.

It wasn't long before there was more horror from the Isle of Manhattan. In a repeat of what had occurred just 23 minutes earlier, the North Tower came crashing to the ground.

All the panic and debris repeated itself, only this time with more ferocity.

The beauty in all this, and the tribute to New Yorkers as these scenes played themselves out unscripted on live television, were people helping people. There were Blacks helping Whites, Jews aiding Muslims, Asians assisting Hispanics; New York, New York, it truly is a wonderful town!

Again, my fears went to speculation about how many hundreds, thousands, tens of thousands of people were trapped inside.

And I remember thinking right then that both of those towers came down awfully quickly, even orderly, and in a fashion much like I'd seen controlled demolitions.

Nobody knew while it was happening, but at about the time of the collapse of the South Tower the Flight 93 passengers staged a revolt against their hijackers. The result of this revolt was the crash of the Boeing 757 into a field in Shanksville, Penn. — 15 minutes from its designated target of our Capitol Building in Washington, D.C.

I was stunned for quite some time from the events of 9/11/2001; all this death and destruction, yet it was only 9:29 in the morning.

Yesterday was 9/11/2005. Four years have passed.

But nothing has improved.

Oh, sure, getting on a plane is a bit more of a pain in the ass. And the Post Office might be a little more persnickety.

But, as we learned in the past few weeks, the Homeland Security experiment is a total disaster. FEMA has been rendered wholly ineffective. With our military, comprised largely of National Guard troops, off fighting a bogus war based on lies (Iraq) and another war rooted in a bloated game of hide-and-seek (Afghanistan), we are quite literally unprotected within our own boundaries from any form of cataclysmic incident.

The majority of our tax money has been designated to projects which we, as American citizens, have neither approved of nor condoned; meanwhile,

Continued On Next Page

• **TENUTO - Four Years After ...** Continued From Previous Page

those endeavors we do need and stand behind are continually ignored, or we're told they're unimportant by the Fascist occupation Regime at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

Despite all the probes and outcries from the public, as well as the media, our money continues to be thrown into the coffers of Dick Cheney's company, Halliburton, in the form of yet another no-bid contract for the clean up and fix-up of New Orleans (a city the RoveBush Fascists allowed to be under-secured in the first place).

Anybody who supported Bush #43 in his theft of the Government of the People gets a slice of the pie, no matter how inept or undeserving they or the organization happens to be.

Kind of curious how the Army Corps of Engineers was continually denied funds to improve the New Orleans levee these past four years, yet now that its predicted failure has come to pass, Halliburton along with other Bush #43 backers have been rapidly awarded no-bid contracts to perform the reconstruction - at much higher rates.

And four years after, nobody can agree to anything about what should be done at the original site of the World Trade Center.

Here're some ideas: Why don't we

find out who in the hell was responsible for setting the charges that brought the relatively intact 47-story Building #7 down? How about an honest investigation of just who flew what into the Twin Towers and the Pentagon? And perhaps a truly scientific study of exactly how the Towers came crashing down is in order?

Last night I watched a docudrama on THE DISCOVERY CHANNEL about the regular Americans on United Flight 93 who became heroes on 9/11/2001. "The Flight That Fought Back" was based upon phone calls between passengers and crew with their loved ones, friends, co-workers, and operators; flight tower and communication tapes; plus the character backgrounds from those who knew and loved the passengers and crew. We cannot ever know the whole truth of what went on up there, but be assured that if the situation unfolded as presented we should all be so strong.

Yes, four years have passed since the horror and tragedy of 9/11/2001.

But the pain remains.

It will always be present, and there will be no solace as long as we are a divided American nation, forced to accept the prolongation of policies that result in unnecessary American deaths in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Bringing Home the Bacon

BY REBECCA RABINOWITZ
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Someone should warn anti-tax conservative Grover Norquist that any plans to execute a final, celebratory swan dive down the drain of that proverbial bathtub in which he espouses drowning the federal government would be premature, to say the least. His erstwhile compassionate conservative buddies in the White House, W. and dour Dick, are far too busy turning on the tub spigots, as they continue to splash storm surges of federal funds on their closest pals, such as Halliburton subsidiary, Kellogg Brown & Root, to consider capping off those federal tax water pipes for once and for all.



Rebecca Rabinowitz

If there really was a sole source for all of that reconstruction of the ravaged Gulf states, shouldn't consideration have been given to the Dutch, at least insofar as levee building is concerned? The Netherlands could dance wooden shoes all over the Army Corps of Engineers, among whose stellar projects have included the near extinction of the Everglades, and whose pork-laden funding proposals have drawn fire from scientific, environmental and community advocacy groups for years. As for Halliburton, well, they are the Vice President's incestuous cronies, whose recent misadventures have included rapacious over-billing of U.S. taxpayers for gasoline trucked around Iraq, and for meals which, fortuitously for those servicepeople inclined towards counting calories, were never actually served.

For all of its anti-federal governmental screed, the Bush crowd has given a virtuoso performance enriching the assets of their wealthiest friends and supporters: that "have and have more" crowd, as W. once called them, at the expense of middle and lower income US taxpayers. As they rush to stanch the public relations hemorrhage from their miserable failure to provide timely, life-saving help and sustenance to the residents of the states battered by Hurricane Katrina, the bleeding deaths by a thousand cuts of all of the state and municipal social safety and support programs, designed to aid society's most vulnerable, are testament to the Republican controlled Congress' greed and disdain for the public at large, abetted, even more shamefully, by far too many Democrats.

GUEST COMMENTARY

As the waters slowly recede, the streets are cleared, and the painstaking, horrific effort to recover the dead and slowly rebuild shattered lives

continues, the President has wasted no time in exercising his latest imperial prerogative, namely, the suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act in the hurricane recovery region. The convoluted logic of this executive order, which penalizes those construction workers seeking gainful employment, is worthy of a chapter in Lewis Carroll's "Through the Looking Glass." Mississippi, Louisiana, and Alabama are among the most impoverished states in the Union; thus, it makes perfect sense, in Bush's reward-the-wealthy and let-the-poor-eat-cake world, to obliterate any legal mandate for paying prevailing construction wages under federally-financed reconstruction projects in those affected areas. There is, of course, no concomitant requirement that the windfall enjoyed by the companies awarded these non-Davis-Bacon projects actually be passed on to the construction workers, or for that matter, to the affected communities at large. Thus, the Republican game plan of raining Federal tax dollars upon their patrons continues unchecked, and the overall poverty level in the region remains unabated, as the possibility of earning living wages during reconstruction is summarily dismissed by the stroke of W's pen.

Needless to say, this orgy of deficit spending will eventually swamp the next 2-3 generations of Americans with crushing IOU's, but by that point, those culpable will long since have collected their taxpayer-supported gains and departed (presumably inheritance tax-free) to their great golden vaults in the sky.

Memo to Mr. Bush: Davis-Bacon was intended to assure a living wage for the workers covered under its provisions, and suppress any opportunity to further lard political hacks, donors and cronies. Bringing home the (Davis-)Bacon has taken on a whole new meaning on your watch. And, a bit of advice to Grover Norquist: stash the swimming trunks and hold that swan dive. The U.S. Treasury tub is still overflowing with a tsunami of largesse for the plutocrats, and no one in the Bush crowd intends to pull that proverbial plug anytime soon.

— GUEST COMMENTARY —

Public Education:

An Issue Of Legal Responsibility

BY PETER STERN
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

I've long pontificated that if the state doesn't want to assume its constitutional responsibility to provide a quality education to every child, then legislators need to change the law. Some lawmakers appear to be looking at doing just that.

Currently, the state is guilty of violating its mandated responsibility to parents and their children. Personally, I advocate a class-action lawsuit against the state by parents and educators. Seems like any effort to resolve an educational issue in this state results from the judicial and not the legislative system.

If legislators want to privatize education, that's fine only if taxpayers don't have to foot the bill for it. Otherwise, legislators simply are looking to cover their own butts for not providing the appropriate and adequate financing during the past decade. Case in point: It is the legislature that has created the current emergency plight of public education by having forced the court 10 years ago to set up an emergency financing system that ensures educational inequality among economic classes and is doomed to fail. Dubbed the "Robin Hood" clause, it takes tax dollars from "wealthy" districts and gives it to "poor" districts. Perhaps we should rename it the "Tinkerbelle" clause because only magical pixie dust could make such an absurd system work.

However, if privatization of public education is our next step, legislators had better put into place a well-structured regulated system of tuition and finance costs. We need only observe what has occurred under the recent deregulation of higher education tuition costs to note the

critical nature of this issue. Privatization of public education brings along a whole set of other issues and problems. Ongoing legislative inept special interest short-term thinking is incapable of determining and implementing an entirely new educational system. In addition, operating two parallel educational systems under the state rubric, public and private, is doomed for failure. If the state cannot successfully manage one system, how is it possible for it to manage two?

However, if the real concern is to educate every child equally (which of course it isn't) then privatization is NOT the educational road to recovery. Privatizing education will merely ensure the inequality between the "haves" and the "have-nots" within our society.

Privatizing education is another misguided special interest notion legislators have selected so they don't have to assume the constitutional responsibility they have been diverting for the past decade. Isn't it clear yet to everyone that legislators are NOT the group needed to develop a quality functional public school system? They have proven beyond a doubt that they are incapable of doing so.

Peter Stern, of Driftwood, Texas, grew up in New York City and holds three post-graduate degrees in English and Writing (New York University), Administration & Supervision (Queens College), and Computer Science (Nassau College). He is a Disabled Vietnam-era Veteran. His job experience highlights 15 years in Education as a university professor, school administrator, and public school teacher; 10 years in the computer field as Director of Information Services.



Peter Stern

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Dating At An 'Oxygen Bar' Could Lead To Heavy Breathing

It all started with bottled water.

That's when we, the consumers, put our collective feet down and cried out in a united voice that there was a little thing called The Law of Supply and Demand — and that we'd be willing to break that law for the chance to purchase an already free and abundant earthly element if it came in a squeeze bottle.

The latest trend is oxygen, which can now be purchased at a growing number of hip "Oxygen Bars" around the country. To prepare for your first venture, you must visualize the atmosphere of an



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

oxygen bar.

[Pause here to catch clever irony of last sentence.]

[Thank you for waiting.]

Doing this is simple. Picture a singles bar with attractive people all sitting around conversing. Now, take the wine glasses and beer bottles from these people, and replace them with plastic oxygen tubes draped over their ears. Add to this sexually charged atmosphere the constant hum of an oxygen pump, and there you have it!

The terminal-care ward on "General Hospital."

O.K., that's the visual. Now let's work on etiquette.

To begin with, flatulating into the end of someone's oxygen tube is not considered an acceptable "ice-breaker." Though there are many scent options to choose from, that is not one of them. Also, nothing exposes a first-timer faster than asking for the "smoking section" at an oxygen bar...

Come to think of it, that's not entirely true.

The fastest way is actually not asking — and just lighting up.

For you single men out there, remember that the whole purpose of breathing 97 percent pure oxygen is to clarify and revitalize thinking. So pick-up lines that may have sounded clever after four beers at a singles bar now sound something like, "I wish I were a Jedi Knight. Can I live under your couch?"

So instead, try one of these savvy lines to entice a prospective date at an oxy-

gen bar:

1) "Excuse me, is this nose-piece taken?"

2) "Can I buy you another minute of air?"

Or,

3) "This reminds me; whatever happened to the group 'Air Supply'?"

As with any new and exciting trend, knowing the correct terminology and etiquette are crucial. Just as you wouldn't enter a biker bar and ask for a "Zima," you wouldn't want to ruin your first oxygen-bar experience by asking for a nose cannelloni instead of a cannula; while one will blow oxygen through your nostrils, the other will blow ricotta cheese.

So, let's get started by covering some basic terminology:

- Cannula — A stylish, plastic tube that delivers oxygen to your nose.

- Host — Someone carrying an illness that can be spread by sneezing on someone else's cannula (or cannelloni, for that matter.)

- Ebola — A deadly, incurable virus made famous by the movie "Outbreak," in which Dustin Hoffman contracts the virus after trying to pick up on an infected monkey at a Peruvian oxygen bar.

- Life insurance — A policy that will pay your loved ones should you contract the Ebola virus from a cannula (or even a cannelloni.)

- Swizzle shtick — The act of writing

You Can Be Your Own Big Brother

Privacy advocates object to the fact that security cameras photograph us many, many times every day. They aren't comfortable with Big Brother constantly watching and taking our pictures. Well, now technology has come up with a way for you to be your own Big Brother. As with many "advances" in science, my reaction is: Just because we can do it, doesn't mean we should.

New video cameras and technology make the "nanny camera" seem as antiquated as the horse and buggy — or that computer you bought two years ago. These devices allow you to monitor what's going on in your home when you're not at home. You can see your bedroom, the living room, or your kid's room on your computer at work. Or if you're on vacation, you can see what the house sitter is up to from the laptop in your hotel room.

Prices range from about \$100 to \$1,300, depending on picture quality and options. Linksys, Panasonic, and D-Link are among the companies that make these things.

Workers already spend huge portions of their day at the office, goofing around on their computers. They check their stocks, watch porn, send e-mails to friends, play fantasy sports and read columns like this one. If this home surveillance thing catches on, can you imagine how much more time will be wasted at work, with people watching their empty houses?

Some of the more sophisticated setups allow you to zoom and pan so you can follow people as they walk around the house. Others have motion detectors that alert you when someone has walked into the house or into a room. Do you really want to get an alert every time someone in your house walks into the bathroom?

One of the most unfortunate aspects of this technology is that you're not limited to watching your house from your computer. You can watch it from any device that gets the Internet. You guessed it. That means that ubiquitous cell phone users will now be able to see what's going on in their homes by looking at the little screen on their cell phones. It's bad enough that we all have to suffer through hearing those annoying rings, people talking into their cell phones as if we don't exist, and watching them take pictures of each other with their phones. Now we're going to be sitting next to them in a restaurant, as they watch their kid do their home-



Modern Times
By
**Lloyd
Garver**

work. And of course this technology represents a giant step forward in the possibilities of phone sex.

Obviously, you also can see if an intruder has come into your house, and then call the police. I'm afraid that people will become so bored watching their empty houses, that they'll start hoping that an intruder will come in. They'll want to see some "action."

Of course, the makers of these devices would say that you don't have to monitor your house constantly. You can just check in on it every once in a while. Who are they kidding? If you buy one of these things, how are you going to resist the temptation to over-use it? Think of how often you check your email or your phone messages when you're away from home.

Some people feel that this device will give them peace of mind when they're on vacation. I don't know about that. When I'm on vacation, the last thing I want to think about is what's going on in my house. Call it denial, but I don't particularly want to know how late my kids are sleeping when I'm on vacation. Or if it's a family trip, I'm not really interested in how often the dog sitter takes Rascal for a walk. I can imagine people going to Paris, then coming home and having their friends ask them about their trip. "Did you see the Eiffel Tower? Did you see the new exhibit at the Louvre? Did you see the Seine at sunset?" "No, but we saw our empty living room, we noticed some dust in our den, and we watched our plants being watered." Doesn't sound like a fun trip to me.

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

Proud To Be In Crawford

When friends both in and out of town discovered I spent two and a half weeks of August reporting on events in Crawford, the main response (and a huge surprise to me) was one of, well, almost condolence. "Oh gee, I'm sorry." Like it was some sort of punishment, like it must have been distasteful to be there. I find this confounding at the very least.

I suppose many of the folks who reacted this way lean toward the "Pro-Bush" side of things. Perhaps they felt offended that Cindy Sheehan and her supporters (many of whom were Veterans of various wars, families of active military, families of fallen soldiers) had the audacity to confront our President during his vacation. My acquaintances and friends are certainly within their rights to feel any way they choose about this question or any other. And that's the point.

Freedom of speech is an integral part of our nation, has been from the start. If there were no dissent in this country, no ability to air different opinions, we would certainly not be the democracy that we are. Peaceful protest has been part of our country throughout its history. It is the right of any citizen to voice an opinion, even if unpopular, even if it challenges the highest political authority in the land. This is what makes us America.

And know that there were at least a few days when the demonstrators on the Pro-Bush side well outnumbered the Sheehan side. So there certainly wasn't only one viewpoint represented. I interviewed both sides, reported on both. All were within their rights to join together to show their position, whatever it was.

Maybe part of the reason people felt so sorry for me was the intense Central Texas summer heat. I can accept that. It WAS hot. It WAS uncomfortable. I had

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.

to drink gallons of water just to keep hydrated. But I hardly noticed it most days. I was too involved in the importance of the process. No matter which side of the question one was/is on, I had the feeling we were all in the middle of history-in-the-making. There I was, interviewing people, meeting people who had come from far away (on both sides of the question) to lend support. Some were just folks, like me. Some were celebrities.

I want to make it very clear that it was a privilege to be there, not some kind of torture. It was an honor to report on events and take pictures that may one day grace the history books of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. I have the deepest gratitude to my country and a political system that allows any citizen to take a peaceful stand for his or her beliefs, whether or not I agree with those beliefs, and to gather together like-minded people to show support for a cause. These are the freedoms we were granted in the Constitution.

This is the freedom for which our soldiers are fighting in Iraq. This is the freedom that makes the United States the country it is. So don't feel sorry for me when I tell you I spent three weeks in Crawford, Texas in August. I was exceedingly proud to be there.

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

First off why are we allowing someone who's only been a judge for two years to become the Supreme Court Justice of the greatest nation on earth? George was not qualified enough to be President, that is evident. He ran one business, then 1% owner of a baseball team. Then \$\$\$ got him the governorship, then the same with Presidency. When will we learn?

Same with FEMA. Did we not learn anything from Katrina and FEMA and friends. Someone who deals with Arabian horses was in charge of running the national disaster relief.

We need an experienced, qualified female who deserves the position, not because she's George's buddies. Of course, you won't get that because it's a white man's world in Republicanville.

Also, I want to know why he won't answer questions that tell about his character. Why is so much documentation being hidden? Just like the Katrina independent investigation the Senate voted down. What are they hiding that they don't want you to know about? They know their policies are to blame. We deserve to know who is at fault and they should be punished!

Stop hiding and lying to US.

Charles Bowen, Sachse, Texas

To The Editor:

The humorous ineptitude of a Wrong Way Corrigan takes a sinister twist behind the once engaging grin of George W. Bush.

Pitifully a desperate and panicky Bush of late has recalled Ms Karen Hughes to lend him the pluck to sack the FEMA chief, infamous No Clue Brown. I wonder if this will comfort New Orleans abandoned and stranded dead.

Will Ms Hughe's slick PR hype accompanying the big bucks being tossed into the future rebuilding fund for the Gulf Delta be enough to buy forgetfulness for the mourners of New Orleans abandoned and stranded dead?

If No Clue Brown is sacked now then what does the critically absentee U.S. Commander n' Chief deserve as his reward to answer for New Orleans abandoned and stranded dead?

Does America really need a Chief Executive cheer leader, and back slapper, and medal presenter who didn't go down to hug very many of the people stranded and dying at New Orleans Convention Center?

Does America's Commemorator n' Chief embrace many of his own victims who have drowned unrescued who are now the decomposing bloated victims of the liquid toxic filth in New Orleans?

Will America, before the whole world's intense gaze, wink at and embrace No Act Bush's lame excuses? And will my America further nurture, and promote, and allow the Bush Administration's toxic level of distractibility and wrong way misguidedness?

The abandoned and stranded dead of New Orleans stand before the bar of the court of America's highest ideals of fair play and equality. And they are waiting for the verdict upon their toxically heedless executioner. We all know him well as the guy that hangs out up in Oval White place where the famous Buck is supposed to stop.

George W. Bush vs the abandoned and stranded dead of New Orleans: Let it be so recorded: "He ignored them to death." And they are most assuredly and irrevocably

cably dead.

In finality one can only wonder who else of George's charges in his nation, or the world, will fatally rely upon the Bush lethal distractibility. And those gullible unfortunates will then subsequently reap the toxic harvest of the infamous Bush deadly indecisive hesitation. Who next will eat the bitter fruit of the Bush heedless indifference and denial?

But we can all be confident that Mr Rove or Ms Hughes will compose for George a grand memorial eulogy to deliver replete with the home spun style and shy stuttering delivery to endear him to his down home constituency. But who else will be left behind? The world stands in audience.

Ty Navarro, Philadelphia

Dear W. Leon Smith,

Our government is hurtling towards bankruptcy. If one examines the actuarial projections for Medicare, Social Security, and Bush's new prescription drug plan, it is clear that each of these programs is really nothing more than an unstable Ponzi scheme living on borrowed time.

These gargantuan costs are being incurred in the backdrop of a government that is dedicated to maintaining military forces in over 120 nations across the globe.

When you "do the math," the government's balance sheet makes Enron look like Warren Buffet.

It is time for you, as my representative, to immediately cut the federal budget by 50%. Your spending is ruining the country. Your so-called war-on-terrorism is making us a lot less safe. The police state you are establishing with the mis-named Patriot Acts and your tolerance of torture as government policy are guaranteeing that our children will live under tyranny.

STOP IT NOW.

Mike Ford, Austin, Texas

To The Editor:

I am John Sorensen from Las Vegas, Nevada. Close friends and colleagues have urged me to write to you all today about these momentous matters that weigh heavily upon our nation's hearts in these sad and tragic times.

In introduction I have always been a Republican but today I am just an American. I am a war veteran and my sons and daughter are veterans as well. My much decorated and much shot down Father piloted bombers in both World War II and the Korean Wars and members of my family have fought in every American War since the American Revolution including on both sides of the Civil War and the Battle of the Little Big Horn respectively. I also have some Creole ancestry whose parents crossed the slave block in antebellam New Orleans. Those ancestors went on to become frontier pioneers, teachers, automotive and aeronautical engineers, and my Grandfather worked as an engineer on the Hoover/Boulder Dam Project on the Colorado River. And finally my first cousin became the CEO of a major American based international finance corporation. In short, we are America.

And last but hardly least my younger sister worked in the Peace Corp for 13 years bringing fresh water into remote villages of Africa at no small peril to herself. She is probably the toughest and noblest of us all.

I am writing today to highlight the fact that the Presidents's supreme military

command prerogative historically mandates him to quickly, decisively, and expeditiously act in national emergencies as his first duty and sacred national trust. This obviates and supercedes any possible bureaucratic snafu of a FEMA or any other civilian governmental relief agency including the Department of Homeland Security. These others are merely supplemental to real incisive power of the President as the supreme military autonomous commander.

The President commands the military and they respond immediately even if they have to march into hell without a moments notice without question nor hesitation... Their only reply is simply, "Yes Sir!" And the then they obey, now!

George W. Bush did not give the order to bring Chinook airlifts of food, water, medical supplies, and troops with medics to directly and immediately relieve the New Orleans Convention Center, and the Super Dome and the city's Hospitals. This is fundamental to every disaster site. This does not require any special advice nor experience but only the basic degree of common sense and decision making ability. These were demonstrated in being astonishingly absent in George W. Bush facing a real pressing emergency rather than merely pep talking an aftermath with a bull horn. Where also was the necessary massive flotilla of Zodiac rescue boats manned with our sailors that should have virtually filled the floating streets of New Orleans after the hurricane? Embarrassingly the Mexican Navy did show up and is feeding over 10,000 survivors 3 hot meal a day.

These unconscionable failures to perform of our President are now a simple and unretractable historically recorded fact. The misdeed is done. George W. Bush caved in with stark moral cowardice and sociopathic disregard for major human suffering and death.

George Walker Bush violated and failed his sacred trust and has thereby disgraced the Presidency and the United States of America. We need not weigh this against our smeared national honor in the case of the high crimes and misdemeanors of the infamous "blue dress incident" of the prior administration.

In vivid perspective Salvador and Mable Mangano have been rightfully indicted for multiple counts of negligent homicide which are definitely high crimes and misdemeanors.

Also in regards to post 9-11 New York at ground zero a quirk of ill fate and timing allowed Mr. Bush to stand along side of real heroes. Retrospective analysis harshly demonstrates that this was a defacto gross misrepresentation of his less than stellar Presidential lack of character. I was also fooled considering that he was the candidate that I subsequently again voted for in 2004 as in 2000. I feel that I have been mortally cheated as have we all.

Even the President's recent podium mea culpa spotlighted his body language as severely strained and insincere. I am deeply grieved that my sons are yet serving in the military under this dismal parody of manhood in the form of George W. Bush.

Finally the residue of the proud Oct Deuce 82nd Airborne is on deck in New Orleans. But it must be acknowledged that the overall relief effort is still anemic largely because of our distracting efforts in Iraq. As an aside I am compelled to also mention that any military mind worth his salt knows that every indigenous regional anti American resistance fighter stronghold that we clear this week will be reoccupied by that enemy once again in force within months if not weeks. We also must get real and admit that the entire Arab and

other Islamic world sees via their international media that the insurgency as us and that those other guys are seen by the Islamic world at large as the patriotic heroes. This will never change. We've been through this drill before which did not lead to an ultimate very satisfactorily cost effective result in lives and dollars expended. And we can scarcely afford it now. Being a grossly encumbered debtor nation to China of all places is distasteful in the extreme. But nuff' said on that score.

The sacred trust of the American Presidency has once again been smeared, violated, and broken. It will be political suicide for congressional members of either major party to not act swiftly in concert and moral solidarity in correcting this current blight upon the Executive branch in the form of the person and administration of George W. Bush. An honorable Republican congressman or woman should first make the motion to draw up the necessary articles of censure and removal. And then an honorable congressperson from across the isle should be the first to second said motion in a judicious and dignified manner. Ladies and Gentlemen before Almighty God this is your sworn duty. In hour of our nations greatest need George W. Bush grossly and profanely shirked his sacred duty.

George W. Bush has dishonored and disgraced the Presidency of these United States far beyond his, nor any administration's, ability to recoup that lost honor and national trust. Would that he were subject to the UCMJ and court's martial as Commander & Chief of our proud armed forces.

The Bush flagrant failure to perform was tantamount to the Executive promotion of the post hurricane rape of the heart, and soul, and people of New Orleans, Louisiana, United States of America.

Respectfully,
John Sorensen

To The Editor:

GOP just ain't Republican any more

I've been a registered Republican since the Eisenhower administration — for those of you without a memory, that's since the 1950s, and yes, I'm old!

The current party just isn't the same. It's evolved into something totally different. The old GOP believed in less government intervention into state affairs and people's lives. Call me "the last of the independent pioneers", or just plain ornery, but I don't want my government to tell me what books I can read, or that my kids need to pray in school, or that my property can be seized by the government for development purposes.

Perhaps the party needs to change its name to something more contemporary, "catchy" and more in tune to its philosophies — maybe like the NEO Party, short for Neo-Fascist Party. After all, when government believes it has the right to tell you and your neighbors unequivocally what you can and cannot do, that nation goes from a Democratic Republic to a Fascist orientation.

If you don't like the name-change idea, how about if the "real" Republicans of the GOP leave it to start their own version of the Republican Party? They could become the OGOP — for Old Grand Old Party. Granted, there may be a problem of having too many "Old's" in the theme, but it makes the point and nostalgia is "in" these days.

The main idea I'm trying to convey is that during the past several decades the Republican Party has evolved into a totally different organism that believes in more government control, an increase of taxing the general public under the guise of "No New Taxes", and doing as little as possible to improve the overall quality of most

Continued On Next Page

MAILBAG

ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Previous Page

American lives. In addition, it has become the party of the corporate world. Certainly, a political review of history clearly indicates that the Republican Party no longer maintains a true Republican platform. This is an instance of when "a rose is NOT a rose".

Peter Stern, Driftwood, Texas

Dear Editor:

It seems odd to find a small light of truth in a jungle of darkness that you call the land of the free.

Reading your editorials and some of the rabid answers from those who have been totally brainwashed not to see the truth for themselves, I find it refreshing some of the people of the USA are suddenly beginning to have their eyes opened as to what is happening to so-called democracy and freedom in your great country.

As the groundswell of disenchantment grows about the misleading and purposeful self-interest of your current government I hope it is not too late for the people of other countries, such as Canada, to reflect and remember freedom can only be kept by the true and open expression of its people without fear of reprisal. Indeed, when people can be arrested, kept in prison, or sent to another country to be incarcerated, is this the kind of freedom democracy offers?

We have our own "el torro poopoo" up here that stinks to high heaven, and hopefully some of the unfortunate events in your country can open the eyes of the people up here before it is too late and no one can reverse the effects of bad government in all of North America.

Ed Hinko

Dear Editor,

The scourge of our democracy was Chief Justice Renquist's selection of the President in lieu of counting votes in the 2000 election. Now, that President has selected Renquist's protégé to become the next Chief Justice. This fact alone is sufficient reason to reject Bush's nominee.

Roberts' failure to state his views on constitutional interpretation, civil liberties, privacy, and corporate responsibility to society, confirms his disqualification from the Court's lifetime appointment. Democrats and Republican Senators must rouse themselves from the stupor of the delusion that the White House's nomination serves the best interest of our nation. The White House has proven its interests are only self-serving.

Yours truly,

Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, CA

To The Editor:

This is Farron Van Horn down in El Paso, Texas. And I couldn't hold it in any longer!

Hell yes help New Orleans & Mississippi & Abalama and all of them good folks down there, but don't sell the whole damn farm to do it. Thanx to you George after we pay for WPA New Orleans and yer pet rat hole over in Iraq our grandkids will be up to their eyeballs in red ink fer the duration. *Si Savvey Entiendo?* Am I gonna have to join the Democratic party to become a fiscal conservative again. I sure hope to hell not!

I know that you've promised those hurtin black folks out've the Big Easy the moon but even they know that you don't have the time left in office to give'em a street light. George nobody but a pure D

idiot would believe all those grand schemes. And yer hopin that will shut em all up until yer out've office. It might work. But its kind've a scummy trick.

We saw that yer guys got the flood lights turned on in the town square by the Andy Jackson statue but Andy was the only one their. We all know damned good an well that the city is empty except for the many ghosts that you helped to make and the stink of rotting death in the air. I have to admit that it all was kinda wierd to be watching on the tv.

Katrina would've been a great opportunity for a great leader George. But guess what? You ain't one old son! And we're all goin to have to pay out the butt fer yer freeze up in the old clutch. Hell our Border Patrol guys here in El Paso down at the border line on Doniphan Rd. and the Rio by ASARCO smelter town could've alone done a hell've alot better job than you will the whole damned United States Army & Marines & Navy & Coast Guard & FEMA & Homeland Security & National Guard did all rolled up into one. Great job George but why don't you take a hike and let someone else seat that stud who knows the hell how to ride!

Yer fine speech amounted to Bactine on yer brain dead & heartless balked nonrescue effort an that ain't much fer damned sure!

God save the GOP from George Bush our fearless leader!

Yours Truly,

Farron Van Horn, El Paso

To The Editor:

It's hard to understand the moral values of those who believe a fertilized egg has more worth than a woman. Or, that an embryo scheduled for research deserves more protection than an embryo scheduled for destruction, or the 15,000 Americans who die every year from air pollution, or the 670,000 fetuses that face developmental problems because of unacceptable levels of mercury in the mothers' bodies, or the 29,000 children who die every day from preventable diseases.

Fundamentalist Christians state their belief comes from the Bible and cite Jeremiah 1:5 that is not about Jeremiah but the foreknowledge of God. God cannot be surprised or tricked by his creation. Genesis 2:7 states that Adam did not become a living soul until God gave him the breath of life. Exodus 21:22 states that if a man causes a woman to have an abortion he must pay the father for the loss of his property, but if the woman dies, it is life for life. Ecclesiastes 6:3 states that unless a man has a good life and a proper burial it is better that he be stillborn.

Doctors say that about half of fertilized eggs never reach the uterus and three-fourths don't result in a live child. God the Great Creator is also the Great Abortionist and God cannot do evil. If those are souls, God has a better purpose for them than we do. Religious people should not have such fear of death and more faith in eternal life with God.

Robert Flynn, San Antonio

To The Editor:

In response to Stacey Hill, Gause TX comment: "I feel for everyone that has

lost a soldier, whether it is this war or any of the past. But in the same vein I am glad there are those willing to risk their lives to allow me and Mrs. Sheehan to express our views and feelings."

How are soldiers in Iraq fighting for my civil liberties?

The U.S. invasion was declared illegal by the United Nations.

The Bush Administration was proven wrong on every assertion it made for invading Iraq.

The Bush Administration has done more to erode civil liberties in this country than any modern day U.S. president.

To support Bush is to support the dismantling of the U.S. Constitution.

Ms. Sheehan is fighting for her own civil liberties by continuing to speak out. The soldiers fighting the enemies domestic are protecting my civil liberties.

But the soldiers sent to Iraq are victims of the U.S. government and it is the responsibility of the U.S. citizenry to fight for their return.

Theresa Keefe, Houston

To The Editor:

Scott McLellan is obsessed with the blame game, quite paranoid, really. He's very concerned that the Democrats are blaming the Republicans for mishandling Hurricane Katrina, while the Democrats are blaming the Republicans for blaming the Democrats for blaming the Republicans.

As predictable as seasonal hurricanes is the president's pattern of blunders followed by illogical rationales, insensitive, inappropriate remarks and buck passing.

So far in his political life and before, Mr. Bush has been impervious to experience and the lessons it could teach, so he continues to need the services of Karl Rove, working behind the scenes on damage control. The blaming and the smearing now in progress, the photos of an involved president in shirtsleeves, bear his mark.

Did there have to be so much death and destruction to demonstrate so conclusively the lassitude, the inhumanity, the self-indulgence of this president and his singleminded preoccupation with shifting blame from himself until public pressure forced him to admit that on his watch, "mistakes were made"?

George W. Bush feels no connection with the people. He doesn't even care. He doesn't understand commitment, responsibility or sacrifice. He doesn't feel remorse. He doesn't understand what it takes to be a leader. He doesn't know what it means to be president.

Elizabeth Gerteiny, Westport

To The Editor:

This government makes a great show of being Christian. Let's thumb through The Bible for the acid test. Zechariah states, "Woe to my worthless shepherd who forsakes his flock." Bush continued vacationing while his flock drowned in New Orleans.

Jesus said, "I assure you insofar as you failed to do to one of the least... you failed to do it to Me." Again this administration and Congress, in their inaction to act promptly, failed the poor of New Orleans as well as Jesus.

The Bible also emphasizes time and again that we are our brother's keeper. Condi went shopping for \$1,000 shoes and Cheney bought a multimillion dollar vacation home while our brothers and sisters died in New Orleans.

What does The Bible have to say about the "leaders" running around playing the blame game, plus staging photo ops? Jesus said, "Woe to you Pharisees—hypocrites. You are so careful to polish the outside of the cup, but inside is full with extortion and greed."

What does The Bible say how a righteous leader should act? The Psalms has the answer. "May he defend the cause of the poor of the people, give deliverance to the needy and crush the oppressor. He has pity on the weak and needy and saves the lives of the needy."

This government's god is the "almighty" dollar and their "bible" is the Gospel according to Wall Street. When you vote in 2006 and 2008, remember the words of The Bible and remember Katrina. Vote all the uncaring, spiritually bankrupt Pharisees out of office.

Julie Hanh, Horseshoe Bay, Texas

To The Editor:

I wish to point out the obvious. The USA came into existence because of protestors—at Concord and Lexington, and even the Alamo.

We don't need to hurt or put down those who disagree.

TV and press coverage have shown the legal and peaceable action of one "support the troops" group—the antiwar group: those who want better equipment, provide for future medical care and get us out of Iraq.

We should receive the logical reasons from the pro-war group—what should be done: how should we fight it: when do we get the best equipment: why are we there: what benefits America from this sacrifice?

In the Bible it says, "Greater love hath no man than he lay down his life for another." We have gone beyond this to even include a half trillion dollars.

And how is our great sacrifice rewarded by setting up another religion and undemocratic regime that hates us.

Sincerely,

P. Horgan, Woodland, CA

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Any Given Christian

(Disclaimer: The following column was written by a professional Christian, and therefore should not be read or circulated without honey mustard sauce. Ranch salad dressing is okay, if that's all you got. With or without sauce, kids, don't try this at home.)

I didn't go to church the Sunday before last.

And I'm still alive.

Why?

Because God is a Dallas Cowboy fan.

And I was watching the Dallas Cowboys play on TV at a sports bar that day. So technically, I guess, I *was* at church.

How do I know God is a Cowboy fan?

Well, for starters, he and a bunch of his followers (you can call them "voters," if you wish) have decided to bring the team to Arlington in a couple of years.

Arlington is my hometown.

There are other reasons God is a Cowboy fan, just as there are reasons he is a Houston Texans fan, a Tennessee Oilers fan (the son of the late Houston Oilers), a Dallas Stars fan, a Houston Rockets fan, a Dallas Mavericks fan, a San Antonio Spurs fan, a Houston Astros fan, a Texas Ranger fan, an FC Dallas fan, and an Aggie fan (except when they're playing the Longhorns and the Mean Green).

Why God won't let the Rangers win the pennant, I'll never know, but let me tell ya, the last time I went to my church-church — which *technically* is also a bar (God, I love being Lutheran!) — something strange happened.

Some of the parishoners, both men

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



and women, wore these outfits which were sort of a cross between a robe or gown and a football jersey.

The numbers on the jerseys went up to 12 which, I suppose, corresponded with each of Jesus' apostles.

At first I didn't notice the outfits, but that was before I saw what the cheerleaders were wearing in the choir loft.

Anyway, after everyone greeted one

another by "sharing the peace," the pastor walked up to the podium and clicked a hand-held remote, causing a big-screen TV to rise from under the altar.

I thought to myself, "Wow! That's cool! I hope they pass around chips and salsa."

And to my surprise, they did!

On TV we watched this sports event in which Christians of all sorts came to the aid of people who are disadvantaged. That week's game featured Christians and the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Whenever a Christian made an awesome play — like a delivery of food or clothing to a poor, black family — the crowd went so wild the pews cracked.

I don't really know how the scoring

operated or how many tequila shots I had that morning, but it was great. It gave me a really warm feeling in my heart...

...until I came home and thought:

More team-minded Christians would have supported an economic strategy that calls on all players — especially the ones with diamond-studded salaries — to collectively help these people in the first place.

We're all in this together — us against the lions of poverty and racism.

But, while you're on your way to lobby your congressman to push for such a strategy, please pick me up some dip.

Honey mustard will be fine. Ranch is okay, if that's all they have there.

Thanks.



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3) Urge your Senators to PULL PROJECT BIOSHIELD II (\$ 975) The bill is 157 pages long. To see entire text go to: <http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Learn more: <http://www.bioprot.com/default.asp>

'I Made A Vow That There Would Be Seven Tents'

Stone Cutter John Teska Joins Sheehan Movement

By DEBORAH MATHEWS
STAFF WRITER

WIND RIDGE, Penn. — Following press coverage of Cindy Sheehan and her stand against the war in Iraq, stone cutter John Teska began work on a 900-pound sandstone memorial marker to present as a gift in support of the cause. He drove 29 hours from Wind Ridge, Penn., to Crawford, Texas, with the stone in the back of a pickup, to finish the work at Camp Casey.

"I really believe in Cindy's cause. She's right and I saw an opportunity whenever I heard the press back East here providing information that the Sheehan movement was merely a half a dozen pup tents in the ditch," said Teska. "I made a vow that there were going to be seven pup tents in the ditch."

Teska said he followed the news coverage of the Gold Star Mom and her fight and said, "It felt right that this might be the time to start to put an end to this imperial hubris that we've been living under."

Teska reported that he hadn't carved in over six months, having had nothing to inspire him to create. "This just seemed to spark an interest. This seemed relevant."

Having a master's in Social Work, Teska has worked in a variety of fields—construction work, therapy and counseling, low-income housing, and masonry restoration.

Teska had already completed half of the marker when he arrived in Crawford. His intention was to finish it there and eventually place it in the Camp Casey Memorial Garden being built at the Peace House. Teska said that John Wolf of the Peace House welcomed the gift.

Planning to try to take the huge marker with him to Washington D.C., Teska is currently trying to organize a



JOHN TESKA carves out "Sheehan's Stand" at Camp Casey II.

— Photo Copyright, William Frey - RepentantRepublicans.org — Used with permission.

way to load and unload the stone. After the rally on the 26th, he will travel the 29 hours back to Crawford and set the stone in the garden. "Up until then, most all energy is in D.C.," said Teska.

Besides the name of Casey Sheehan, other Gold Star Family members' deceased children's names have been chiseled into the stone. Currently, there are about a dozen names with Casey's.

In addition to the carvings, Teska plans to attach memory medallions to

the marker. The individual medallions will be epoxied next to the fallen soldiers name. "It's melding the very basic stone masonry, carving stones with a chisel and a hammer, with the most high tech computer technology, to form a living monument," said Teska. "When you touch that with a laptop, out will come pictures of these children and their parents talking about them."

Teska spoke of the Sheehan movement and said, "The whole thing has

been a galvanizing effort, just like the stone." He addressed those with opposing ideas to Sheehan's protest and said, "People that are against what we're standing for and what we're trying to do have the same interests that we have at heart. We all love these children and we all want them to be out of harm's way. The difference is that there is a feeling that there is a necessity to be there. That doesn't take away from the fact that we both support our troops."



JOHN TESKA of Wind Ridge, Penn., works diligently to create "Sheehan's Stand" at Camp Casey II.

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