

\$1.50 Per Copy

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 6, No. 41

October 12, 2005

www.iconoclast-texas.com

© 2005, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST



The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



INSIDE STORIES

Texas Teacher Pay Falls Below National Average

Money Laundering Added To DeLay's Indictment List
Page 2



Conservatives Skeptical Over Nominee Miers
Page 7

Call To Mind



By Don M. Fisher

*Evangelist?
Maybe.
A Lawyer?
Oh Yeah!*

Page 10



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

*Press Conference?
More Like
Vise Press*

Page 13

**Editorial
Cronyism
Out Of Control**

Page 9

Defeating Defeatism

**'A Fighting Democrat'
Offers To Serve As
Texas'
Attorney
General**



Iconoclast's
Nathan Diebenow
Interviews

**DAVID
VAN OS**

Page 3

DAVID VAN OS is offering himself for public service as attorney general of Texas in 2006. Last weekend his campaign travels brought him to Denton County to speak at a house party and DonkeyFest, a rally sponsored by the Denton County Democrats.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

'Now, that entire process which is so dominant in today's world of politics, that it, in-and-of-itself, produces phoniness because it is phoney. One way I like to think about it is, they are always trying to figure out how to build better weather-vanes, but leadership means being the wind.'

— David Van Os

Texas Falls Further Behind Nation In Average Teacher Pay

AUSTIN — Texas continues to lose ground in what it pays teachers compared to the national average, according to the latest American Federation of Teachers Salary Study released today. The figures represent salaries for the 2003-2004 school year.

"Texas is falling further and further behind the national average for teacher salaries each year, and it's an unfortunate statistic that shows state leadership is not putting an emphasis on attracting and retaining quality teachers," said Linda Bridges, Texas Federation of Teachers president. "The Legislature had at least two opportunities recently to pass pay increases supported by a bipartisan majority of legislators and the education community, yet those measures were blocked by state leaders bent on underfunding public education."

Texas maintained its rank of 30th in the nation for average teacher pay, but the gap between the state and national figures grew by \$515, so Texas teachers now earn \$6,121 less than the national average (compared to \$5,606 less in 2002-2003). Texas teacher pay again did not even keep up with inflation, with an average 1.3 percent increase in pay, well below the inflation rate of 2.7 percent.

"Looking beyond the salary figures, the outlook is even bleaker for Texas teachers, since these figures don't include the ongoing annual cut of \$500 in state health-care benefits that started in 2003," Bridges said.

The salary study shows that teacher pay lags far behind private-sector pay for comparable jobs nationwide, not just in Texas. But Texas offers the lowest average teacher pay in the nation when compared with average private-sector pay in the state. "When you compare average teacher salary to the average of all salaries for unskilled and skilled workers state by state, Texas comes in 50th out of 50 states—dead last," Bridges said. "We shouldn't relish having bragging rights as the one of the worst state in the nation for average teacher pay, and the absolute worst for teacher pay compared to other workers."

To view the entire AFT salary survey, see <<http://www.aft.org/salary/index.htm>>.

The Texas Federation of Teachers represents more than 51,000 teachers, paraprofessionals, support personnel, and higher-education employees across the state. TFT is affiliated with the 1.3-million-member American Federation of Teachers.

Key Findings

For American Federation of Teachers Salary Survey

(Compiled by the Texas Federation of Teachers, Oct. 6, 2005)

— Teachers' salaries across the nation are stagnant and are not keeping up with the rate of inflation, much less the national average. Texas teacher salaries on average still lag behind, with an increase in salary of 1.3% compared to an average of 2.2% across the nation. (Both are below the 2.7% rate of inflation.)

— Texas has lost ground in keeping up with national salary averages, dropping an additional \$515 for 2003-04 to \$6,121 less than the national average. (For the previous year's data, 2002-03, Texas teachers earned \$5,606 less)

— The survey does not take into account rising health-care costs and curtailed state health-care benefits, such as the \$500 cut in teachers' \$1,000 health-care stipend by the legislature.

— Teacher salaries still lag more than \$10,000 behind average pay for white collar jobs with similar skills, and teachers earn 18 cents for each new dollar earned by private sector workers.

Quick Stats: 2003-2004

- Texas Rank in Nation for Average Salary: 30th
- Average Texas Salary: \$40,476
- Average increase over '02-'03: 1.3%
- U.S. Average Salary: \$46,597
- Difference in Texas vs. U.S.: \$6,121
- Average increase over '02-'03: 2.2%
- Texas Rank for Beginning Teacher Salary: 16th
- Average Beginning Salary: \$32,741
- Average increase over '02-'03: 2.7%
- U.S. Beginning Teacher Salary: \$31,704
- Average increase over '02-'03: 1.1%

Money Laundering Added To DeLay's Indictment List

AUSTIN — Rep. Tom DeLay was hit with another indictment last week from a Texas grand jury, this time for money laundering.

This new charge came in less than a week after DeLay temporarily removed himself as House majority leader because a different grand jury indicted him on a charge of conspiring to break the state's campaign finance rules.

The first indictment alleges that DeLay's political action committee

moved funds to the Republican National Committee in Washington which then transferred similar amounts of money for candidates in Texas races in 2002.

DeLay's attorneys requested a dismissal of the conspiracy charge on grounds that because it was based on a law that was not in place a year after the transactions. The request for dismissal was not ruled upon because the judge presiding over the case was out of the country.



The Lone Star Iconoclast (USPS 022-833) is published weekly, on Wednesdays, by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638 and 310 W. 5th St., P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634

Periodicals Postage is Paid at Clifton, TX 76634.

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

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

DEADLINES: 5 p.m. Fridays.

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

Fax No. — (254) 675-4090 • Email: office@iconoclast-texas.com

Web Newspaper: iconoclast-texas.com

EDITORIAL
Associate Editors:
Don M. Fisher
Nathan Diebenow

ADVERTISING
Melanie Harvey,
Marketing Director
Carolyn Black,
Advertising Manager

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
W. Leon Smith

BUSINESS
Kay Ortiz, Front Office Manager
Allison Smith, Bookkeeping,
Internet Manager
Michael Harvey, Collections/Scheduling

**ICONOCLAST: An exposor of icons.
Icon-buster.
Fighter for Truth, Justice, and the American Way.**

CIRCULATION
Charlie Gandy
Pernie Stanford
Wayne Thompson
Bud Shaffer
Bobby Williams
Evelyn Suesz
Robert Koenig
Wanda Raines

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST welcomes letters of up to 150 words on any public issue. Any letter that exceeds the word limit may not be considered for publication. We publish only original letters addressed to The Iconoclast. An address and daytime phone number must be included so the author's identity can be verified. No letters will be published until authorship is confirmed. Those who write letters are asked to limit their entries to one per month. All letters are subject to editing. The Iconoclast reserves the right to decline publication of any submission. Letters must be signed. Letters written in the promotion of political candidates or issues to be decided by an election will not be considered for publication unless they are scheduled for publication three weeks or more prior to the election. Individuals may purchase advertising space during the period prior to the election in support of candidates or issues to be voted upon. Letters written as cards of thanks may be charged classified ad rate and be placed in classified section of newspaper, at editors' option.

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS of each issue of The Lone Star Iconoclast are protected under the Federal Copyright Act. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without the express permission of Smith Media, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Any error or erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in this newspaper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

Defeating Defeatism

'A Fighting Democrat' Offers To Serve As Texas' Attorney General

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

DENTON — David Van Os is sitting on a green couch, and he won't give up.

Though it's late, around 11:30-ish, and he's visibly tired, there are no signs of him calling it a night on his own. The conversation is too interesting for him.

Three things kept the so-called cynical journalist (me) sitting next to him awake last Friday night. One is the earnestness of this candidate for attorney general of Texas. The other is his bluntness, and finally, his honesty, which is perhaps the most refreshing oddity.

An "earnest, blunt, and honest politician," you ask?

Hell, what's a Texas Democrat got to lose? Besides, something's got to stick eventually, right? Why not try something new?

For Van Os, though, speaking the truth from his heart is status quo. It came in quite handy, actually, around the kitchen table with a handful of down-trodden Texas Democrats at a house party in Denton earlier this night.

An e-mail list mistake and scheduling conflicts — i.e. high school football games and Texas-OU weekend — caused a lackluster turnout for the event, but what the group doesn't know yet is that the next evening over 120 souls will show for DonkeyFest, a rally sponsored by Denton County Democrats.

Still, the intimate evening Friday allowed for some focused dialogue and challenging conversation among the participants. I know I was challenged — by the progressive populist candidate himself!

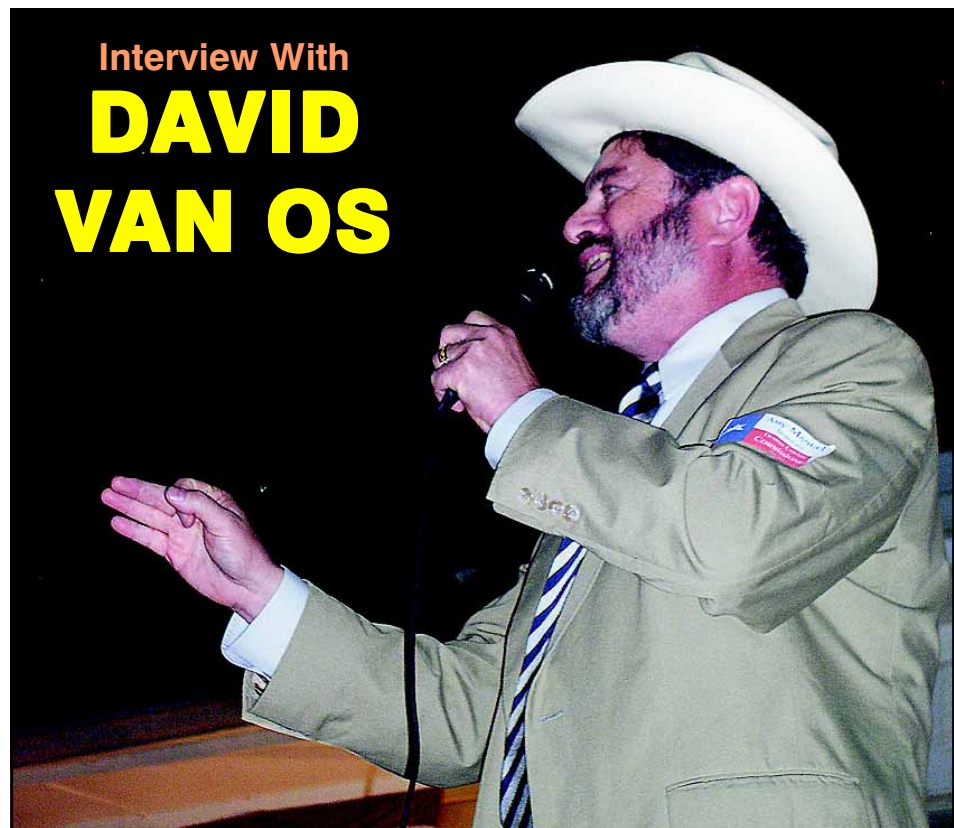
After the Democrats had called it quits, the ICONOCLAST's Nathan Diebenow moved into the hostess' living room and almost burnt the midnight oil with Van Os, talking about his decision to seek to serve as AG of Texas, his greatest political disadvantage, rural voters and their fighting attitude, the soul of the Texas Democratic Party, and faith in the political election process.

.....
ICONOCLAST: What have you been doing since you ran for Texas Supreme Court for the last election cycle?

VAN OS: Well, in the first place, you know this because I believe you interviewed me on this for the Iconoclast last November or December. I could not in good conscience concede in a formal sense — yes, I concede my Republican opponent for Place 9 on the Texas Supreme Court was given more votes in the vote count, but I could not actually concede that he won because millions of people voted on machines that did not allow them to verify that the machine had registered the way they had intended to vote. I think that issue in of itself is a huge issue for democracy because I think it is fundamentally contrary to the essence of democracy that voters are treated with such disdain as to not be given receipts or verification that their vote is counted accurately.

But after that, I continued to speak out about the things I believe in and the things I advocate and I started a website — A Fighting Democrat — where I published on the Internet essays of my writing and of other people's writing in November and December and January. A lot of people were giving me feedback that they wanted me to run for public office again.

In mid-to-late December, my wife Rachel sent out a survey by e-mail to my database of supporters from my



Interview With
**DAVID
VAN OS**

DAVID VAN OS is offering himself for public service as attorney general of Texas in 2006. Last weekend his campaign travels brought him to Denton County to speak at a house party and DonkeyFest, a rally sponsored by the Denton County Democrats.

Supreme Court campaign. She asked them in the survey, "What do you want David to do? Do you want him to run for public office in 2006, and if so, what office do you think he should run for?" Rachel, I think she gave it about four weeks and she got a lot of response. She counted them up and the highest vote getter on the survey was that people thought I should run for attorney general.

I don't even like the term "run for office" because it connotes self promotion, and in a democracy, political office isn't supposed to be about promotion. It's about service, and people should put themselves out for public office for promotion. If anything they should do it to get a social demotion because what they're supposed to do is serve their fellow citizens, subordinate themselves to their fellow citizens.

What I think is a better way to characterize it is that I offer myself for public service, and I decided to offer myself for public service again because I am involved; I'm a part of a long-range battle to restore government to the people because government has been taken away from the people, and the results of one election being on the losing end of the vote count as I was this last November is not closure to anything. It's only closure if you're doing it for the wrong reasons. If you're doing it for the right reasons, it's not closure for anything. It's just what happened in battle on that particular day the results were counted. And so I knew that I had to keep going.

I'm a lawyer and I've been a practicing lawyer for 29 years. I'm a courtroom lawyer. I enjoy my legal work and to be attorney general, you have to be a lawyer. I'm a real active lawyer, and the attorney general of the state of Texas is probably the most powerful executive office in state government. The attorney general of the state of Texas is suppose to give the people a lawyer to represent their interests, to be there for the people, to literally represent the people

of the state in the legal system. The attorney general has a lot of tools to advance the cause of returning government to the people who own it, and so it all made sense to me, particularly since so many of my supporters all decided independently of each other that they wanted to offer myself to the people to Texas for service as the attorney general.

I have been since late February working on reaching out to organizing and strengthening my political base. I've also been practicing law. I've been to trial in some really interesting lawsuits.

ICONOCLAST: So when you got the results of this survey, when did you decide this is something that you wanted to do?

VAN OS: The decision to remain engaged in the elective political process was easy because the elective political process is a very important way to — I hate the sound trite about this, but I guess anything could sound trite — it's a very definite and best way to fight for and represent the people against elitist interests. I've believed in the elected political process for all my adult life.

ICONOCLAST: You didn't mean trite. You meant corny.

VAN OS: I don't know what I meant. ICONOCLAST: Well, it's something you believe in, and it's something some people may believe is corny.

VAN OS: There you go, but it's something that I believe in very much. It's what motivates me. I want to fight for people. It's what motivated me for 29 years as a labor lawyer on behalf of working people and as a civil rights lawyer. I want to fight for people. I want to help people live better lives, so it was a very easy decision for me. It was almost automatic that I would keep going in the elective political process.

The interesting thing is I was leaning toward attorney general as the office I would offer myself for service, and it was fascinating to me that more of the people who responded to the survey saw

Continued On Next Page

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION CO.

Sale Every Saturday

Cattle 12:00 Noon
Jody & Robin Thomas
(254) 865-8219

Date: 10-1-05

No. 1 Steers
under 300 lb. 165-195
300-400 lb. 130-165
400-500 lb. 120-128 \$2-3 Down
500-600 lb. 110-126
600-700 lb. 100-112
700-800 lb. 96-105

No. 1 Heifers
under 300 lb. 140-185
300-400 lb. 130-155
400-500 lb. 115-135 \$2-3 Down
500-600 lb. 100-118
600-700 lbs. 95-112
700-800 lbs. 92-100

Slaughter Cows
High Yielding 45 to 52
Low Yielding 38 to 42 \$2-3 Down
Fats 44 to 49
Thin & Shelly 30 to 40

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2 55 to 67 \$1 Down

Cow & Calf Pairs
Young Choice 1100 to 1375
Young Fair 900 to 1050 \$10-15 Down
Aged Pairs 650 to 800

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker
Replacement Cows
450 to 1075 \$10-15 Down
Number of Head....1617

Gatesville

Jody Thomas (254) 865-8219
Sale (254) 865-9121
Mobile (254) 223-2958

• **DEFEATING DEFEATISM — DAVID VAN OS ...** Continued From Page 3

me offering myself for that particular office than any other. That was fascinating to me. That said to me that my own self-conception of what I'm leaning toward being the right thing to do must certainly be the right thing to do because so many of my supporters of mine see the same thing.

ICONOCLAST: Well, I want you to go into more detail as to what the powers of the attorney general are.

VAN OS: Well, evidently, you've read Article 4 Section 22 of the Texas Constitution. That's the section of the Texas constitution that defines the duties and responsibilities of the office of attorney general. Article 4 Section 22 of the Texas Constitution of 1876 which is our current state constitution, and there are some things listed right there in the constitution, constitutional duty, which is to represent the state in all appeals to the Texas Supreme Court in which the state is a party. One of the duties is to advise the governor on legal issues. One of them is to provide legal opinions upon request, and there are statutes that spell out what offices in state government are eligible to request attorney general opinions.

Most content of Article 4 Section 22 is devoted to the attorney general's duty to be a watchdog over the activities of private corporations.

ICONOCLAST: Why is that important to you? Why is that such a high priority for you?

VAN OS: Because so many powerful corporate interests are operating today in our society to take choices away from people, and in so doing they're actually taking democracy away.

ICONOCLAST: Give me an example.

VAN OS: Well, there are many ways in which powerful corporate interests are deeply involved with the governmental legislative process because the halls of state government are crawling with corporate lobbyists who influence legislation. Sometimes they go further than just legislation.

I don't know whether Tom DeLay is guilty of the charges against him alleged in Ronnie Earle's indictment. It's not up to me. It's up to the jury that is going to hear the case. But regardless of whether or not he is ultimately found guilty or acquitted by a jury, we know that what went on in the TRMPAC transactions illustrated a strong interrelationship between corporate money and political power. I think that's just the



David Van Os

tip of the iceberg in terms of the unholy relationship all over government both at the national level and the state level because corporate money power and political power.

I think that is very much in play in the Texas Department of Transportation's plan to turn public highways into toll roads and allow big private corporations to run public highways and collect fees known as tolls to be able to travel on public highways.

I think we see insidious relationships between money power and political power in the web of interlocking relationships between corporations and government that results in working people having to pay \$3 a gallon for gasoline and probably will be paying \$4 a gallon in the not too distant future and then even \$5 a gallon for gasoline at the pump.

We have relationships between corporate money power and political power in the fact that the present attorney general of the state is not investigating the possibility that Texas anti-trust law may be occurring in the way the price of gasoline goes up across the board, all the oil companies at the same time, and there's no competition.

The fact that Texas consumers are paying the highest rates in the nation for homeowners' insurance, and that nobody in state government is calling out the possibility that the lack of competition in the premium rates in homeowners insurance carriers may

'People need to understand the leaders are us. People are the leaders. Ordinary people. Particularly in the very democracy in America which is the first constitutional democracy in the world. People have got to understand that in the political processes of choosing the government, the individual voter is not supposed to be a passive consumer of that political process. The individuals are the producers of the political process.'

— David Van Os

be encroaching on Texas anti-trust laws is an example of, I think, cooperative relationships between corporate money power and political power.

I don't know whether laws are being violated. Now, the attorney general doesn't really have jurisdiction to initiate criminal prosecution. Criminal prosecution in the Texas governmental structure is in the hands of local district attorneys. The attorney general has enormous authority and responsibilities in the arena of civil legal action over corporate wrong-doing. That is spelled out in the Texas constitution. I don't see that being done, and it's got to be done. The people of Texas are constitutionally entitled to it, in my opinion.

What I'm advocating and what I plan to do as attorney general is not new. It's not new fangled. It's really a return to the real Texas that was established when the state constitution was framed in the 19th century. I think it's a return to the real Texas political culture and governmental culture because I've lived all my life in Texas. I'm 55 years old. I grew up in Kilgore, graduated from Kilgore High School, went to the University of Texas at Austin. I've never even temporarily lived anywhere but Texas. I love this state. It's my home. The people of Texas are good people. I think they are smart people. I think they are proud people because they have a great tradition.

In our cultural inheritance as Texans, as a people, we come from people like Col. Travis, who drew a line in the sand and told his comrades, "If you step over this line, you're going to die here." And virtually every one of them stepped over the line. That is strong stuff. I mean, that kind of stuff is in the cultural bone marrow of Texans.

And we come from people like Sam Houston, the first president of the Republic of Texas, the general of the Texas army of independence, governor of Texas after Texas was annexed into the United States, senator from Texas — Sam Houston, who went completely against the grain of his fellow Texans in 1861 as governor of Texas, campaigned against Texas seceding from the Union, and when Texas did vote to secede from the Union in a referendum, he then refused to take an oath to the Confederate government, and was deposed from his office as governor. He stuck with what he truly believed was the right answer, even though it was so unpopular, so against the grain of his fellow Texans.

(There are other) people like James Stephen Hogg, who as attorney general of Texas in the 1880s, said, "I'm going to take on the railroad barons." He took them on, and won some of the first anti-trust litigation in the history of the United States against the railroad barons. As governor he continued on the mission, as Hogg phrased it himself,

"Texas belongs to the people, not to the corporations."

That's the kind of roots of the real Texas and the kind of hearts that grow out of those roots. What those roots are all about is that people who are in positions of public leadership follow their hearts. They follow truth as they see it, justice as they see it. They say what they mean, and they mean what they say, and they strive for a system of government that fulfills the vision of self-government, government that belongs to the people, and I think that spirit — government belongs to the people — is very deep in the Texas soul. It's much deeper than any political tit-for-tat that's going on, and that's what I believe in, and I badly want to be attorney general of this state, so I can do my part to fulfill that real philosophy of Texas, the democratic with a little "d" philosophy.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think is going to be the hardest part about getting to that point to serve?

VAN OS: The biggest political impediment that I have facing me is overcoming defeatism among Democrats. Democrats in Texas — I mean, good-hearted Democrats, Democrats who in their legacy as members of the Democratic Party — unfortunately are suffering under a spell, almost a hypnosis of defeatism and defeatism works as a self-fulfilling prophesy.

The grassroots Democrats don't want to be defeatists. The defeatists come from elitist leadership like the people that master-minded the John Kerry campaign and told the people in Texas, the Democrats in Texas, "We're not even going to come talk to you because we know you Democrats in Texas can't win."

This defeatist philosophy has been getting imposed on grassroots Texas Democrats both from the elitist Democrats on the outside the state and elitist Democrats inside the state. It's been getting imposed on them for such a long time that it has gotten to the point of operating a really tough obstacle.

I don't think this state is a Republican state. I think this state is a Democratic state in the sense that there is a potential Democratic voting base that is bigger than the approximately 40 percent of the general election vote that the party ticket has been getting in statewide elections for the last several elections.

I think the Democratic Party leadership itself discourages people from voting Democratic by perpetuating the defeatism that says, "We can't really win." I think the Democratic Party leadership keeps the Democratic voting base down by failing to fight for the people. I think there is a battle raging to get back the soul of the Democratic Party. The Democratic Party lost its soul when it decided to be acceptable to cor

Continued On Next Page

The Cliftex Theatre is temporarily closed for repairs.

Since 1916

306 W. 5th St.
Clifton, TexasAll tickets: \$5.00 per person
(254) 675-1229

• DEFEATING DEFEATISM — DAVID VAN OS

... Continued From Page 4

porate American. It lost its soul when it really stopped fighting for the common person, I mean *really* fighting for the common person, not just as a matter of positioning or framing but really fighting for the common person and meaning it. The Democratic Party used to fight for the common person.

The Democratic Party fought for the common person and meant it when Lyndon Johnson of Texas was President of the United States, and imparted to his fellow Americans the magnificent vision of the Great Society and told his fellow Americans, "We can overcome poverty. We can overcome hunger."

The Democratic Party over the last 30 to 35 years stopped believing in itself, stopped fighting for the people, stopped fighting the family farms to have a fair chance to resist the encroachment of agri-business, stopped fighting for the middle class — I mean, *fighting* for the middle class, not just coming around during election time — stopped really fighting against poverty and against hunger and fighting against low wages and fighting against lack of benefits in the work place, all these things. You could go on and on.

By ceasing fighting for those things, the Democratic Party lost its soul, and in losing its soul, it lost a big part of its natural voting base. I'm convinced — I know that voting base is potentially still there. I know that when Democrats fight for the people with all their might — do it not because they're not trying to win votes, but do it because they mean it from the heart — that majority voting base will respond.

ICONOCLAST: You seem to have that fighting spirit, but do you see that spirit elsewhere as you travel around Texas?

VAN OS: Oh, sure. Actually, I do most of my campaign stumping in rural parts of the state, and people in rural areas really want to fight back. I find this all the time. I find that people in rural areas often have more fight in their blood to fight back than some of their city brethren.

And I find that grassroots Democrats everywhere — and grassroots is probably a real overused word. When I say grassroots, I mean common people at the ground level everywhere. Among Democrats, they're all asking themselves and each other, "Why aren't the Democratic members of Congress in Washington fighting harder? Why are they rolling over all the time?"

And I want to say back to that something that I — I don't mind at all repeating something that somebody else said before I said it and probably said it better than me — I heard Jim Hightower this summer say to a group of grassroots Democrats in response to that question:

"Don't waste any more of your time worrying about what the congressional Democrats do or don't do. They are irrelevant because political strength has got to come from the people. It's got to come from the bottom up, not from the top down, and so what people have got to understand is they should not be waiting for people in higher social positions or higher political positions to come lead them."

People need to understand the lead-

ers are us. People are the leaders. Ordinary people. Particularly in the very democracy in America which is the first constitutional democracy in the world. People have got to understand that in the political processes of choosing the government, the individual voter is not supposed to be a passive consumer of that political process. The individuals are the producers of the political process.

I believe that people in Texas are more in tune with that understanding than people in most other states because that understanding of self-government is very deeply rooted in Texas history and culture.

ICONOCLAST: Why are rural people so ready to fighting back, you think?

VAN OS: I think that in rural areas, because of what rural life is like, people may have a stronger sense of self-autonomy to be able to stand on their own two feet, and you might translate it into political behavior to a stronger sense of individual importance.

ICONOCLAST: And you said you grew up in a rural community.

VAN OS: I grew up in Kilgore in East Texas, the heart of the greater East Texas oil field.

ICONOCLAST: So that's rural coming together with Big Cash, right?

VAN OS: Right. (laughs) In the oil boom of the 1930s in Kilgore, there were a fair number of dirt poor farmers who became wealthy overnight after oil was discovered under their farmland.

ICONOCLAST: Did they change their

“By ceasing fighting for those things, the Democratic Party lost its soul, and in losing its soul, it lost a big part of its natural voting base. I'm convinced — I know that voting base is potentially still there. I know that when Democrats fight for the people with all their might — do it not because they're not trying to win votes, but do it because they mean it from the heart — that majority voting base will respond.” — David Van Os

political mind-set at that point?

VAN OS: Well, they became the *nuevo* rich, and so I think a lot of people of that particular people, their social and cultural behavior changed because they became elitist. They took on the customs and traditions of the wealthy. But that's not a majority. That's a very small minority.

ICONOCLAST: You were surprised by my comment earlier at the dinner table about the notion that rural communities should be courted by politicians, or something like that.

VAN OS: I think rural America is where the real heart of democratic with a little "d" — democratic populism.

ICONOCLAST: And I had mentioned earlier that I had seen a site on the Internet after the last election that said politicians for national office ought to focus on rural communities. The way I thought of it initially was reaching out through advertising in newspapers, then I noticed that (Sen. John) Kerry didn't even travel to Texas to campaign. He wasn't even thinking about it. They, the Democrats with the big "D," just gave Texas away without a fight. I thought that was a gross misstep because he probably would have helped the Democratic Party here. But maybe you have more to say about that.



David Van Os speaking at an event this past weekend.

VAN OS: It's fundamentally elitist to say that some voters matter more than others, and that some states matter and others don't matter. It was a fundamentally elitist strategy.

ICONOCLAST: Now that I'm thinking about it, I mean, even the fact that Kerry/Edwards came back out on election night last November and said, "Every vote counts," that's a hypocritical statement because they didn't actually come out here and ask for our vote. They just assumed that we were lost at that point. "We" as in citizens involved in the political process.

VAN OS: Well, they conducted their campaign for the presidency as if they were running in 16 or 17 states, and that

of political campaigns. What I have to say back to you on that is that unfortunately, you guys in journalism are right about that most of the time. I believe it doesn't have to be that way. In fact, it better stop being that way or democracy is going to be a relic of the history.

ICONOCLAST: You mean that mind-set that it's fake?

VAN OS: No. It better stop being fake or democracy is going to die.

ICONOCLAST: But what makes it fake, though?

VAN OS: What makes it fake, well, it was a long drawn-out — it didn't happen overnight. It was a gradual transformation. I mean, it's something that took place over several decades. It has greatly accelerated over the last 30 years. I can much better tell you what I think the situation is than how it happened because how it happened is a question of analysis of historical events, and that's always a kind of imprecise science.

I do think that Glen W. Smith has written in his book "Politics of Deceit," a profound analysis of how it occurred. I do think that the use of paid television advertising as a medium of political campaigning is probably the single biggest cause, not the only cause but probably the single biggest because the very nature of television advertising is a process of manipulation.

It's a process of selling. It's a process of packaging, and so the use of television advertising as the medium of political campaigning inevitably led to a premise which today is an almost unchallenged premise — but I challenge it — in political campaigns that the candidate and the campaign position themselves, and in my view, positioning is by definition an exercise in fakery.

I think you will find that (laughs) if you were to really, really, really study this — really talk with millions of people who are eligible voters but who never vote, I believe you will find that the main reason that half of the adult, eligible voting population normally doesn't vote is that they believe that the political messages and the political candidates they hear from are phoney because they are getting so much of the message in television advertising, and they know television advertising is an exercise in trying to manipulate them into buying something. The only way to get away from it is just to take a deep breath, believe in one's self, and get away from it.

Continued On Next Page

• DEFEATING DEFEATISM — DAVID VAN OS

... Continued From Page 5

Don't use it.

If I am successful in raising the kind of seven figure campaign treasury that would enable me to engage in statewide television advertising, I'm not going to use it for television advertising. I'm going to use it for organizing people, putting field staff in the field with people becoming a part of communities, and organizing the political base for a winning political election campaign.

I think that, unfortunately, it has become, as I say, an article of faith in the world of politics that the political candidate and his or her political strategists and operatives in the political party spend millions of dollars to try to figure out what the people, what the voters are thinking, then they spend millions of more dollars trying to figure out how to position themselves and package themselves to be what they concluded what the voters are thinking what they want.

Now, that entire process which is so dominant in today's world of politics, that it, in-and-of-itself, produces phoniness because it *is* phoney. One way I like to think about it is, they are always trying to figure out how to build better weather-vanes, but leadership means being the wind. And so I believe that my candidacy for attorney general is going to become an opportunity to restore not only the Democratic Party's soul but to restore a more honest political culture, and the best way to do that is to win, and I'm going to work hard. I am working hard to do just that, and I reject the entire paradigm of trying to figure out which way the wind is blowing among the voters to try to position yourself as a better weather-vane to catch the wind.

When I hear people discussing how to frame issues and how to frame messages, all I can say is that the only way I know how to frame something is to say it the way I mean it and to speak from the heart. *The Texas Observer* published an essay of mine entitled "On Communicating From The Heart" in mid-February of this year. I mean that. I believe in that, and I believe in replacing a politics of positioning with a politics of conviction, and restoring the political process into something that comes from the heart rather than comes from a poll or a focus group. I think that that is the avenue to restoring democracy in this country and I have to do everything I possible can to work toward reaching that objective because I think it is the greatest moral imperative we are facing as a constitutional democracy today.

ICONOCLAST: The thing that I've rethought is that Cindy Sheehan may have used the tools of television, yet I can't deny the fact that — and I think a lot of people can't argue that she was coming from a position of conviction, like what you're describing.

VAN OS: No doubt about it.

ICONOCLAST: And that's what people have latched onto.

VAN OS: The genuineness.

ICONOCLAST: Yeah, and even Republicans, conservatives, neo-cons couldn't deny that of her because that's who she is.

VAN OS: Well, notice my challenge of television. I'm talking about paid adver-

tising. The news gathering, the news broadcasting of television as a news media is a different animal. That's not what I'm talking about because television as a news gathering and news distributing tool can do enormously positive things for the free flow of information within our society and there are times when it doesn't.

You know, you said in the kitchen table discussion, you said that you felt that Cindy Sheehan had lost her innocence as the thing evolved and became a self-conscience television personality. I don't know how you put it. I'm paraphrasing. Well, you may be right about that, but even if that is the case, that does not diminish the inspirational, hopeful, and even spiritual effect that her stand — very genuine spiritual effect and moral effect that her taking her stand affected so many people with.

ICONOCLAST: My personal take on that was I was looking for this little grassroots movement to latch itself to or point to something bigger, bringing down Bush, but no one was pointing to the Downing Street Memos, so it wasn't there. It was just focused on getting her in the same room with George W. Bush again.

But I hoped to myself that maybe there is still a possibility that Sheehan's activities would later down the line weaken the President enough so that someone in government is encouraged to leak memos or secret documents exposing his administration's lies.

VAN OS: Mass movements that come from the bottom up take time. Like a glacier, they move slow, but when they hit they are irresistible.

INFO

www.vanosfortexasag.com/
www.afightingdem.com/

CLASSIFIEDS Reach Around the World

Buy two get
one FREE*

Run your classified word ad
twice and get the third ad
free! See order form for more
details or call (254) 675-3336.



Real Estate

LAND FOR SALE

50 acres
off FM 219
at Womack, TX.

Will sell all or part.
(254) 290-3396

For Sale

FOR SALE — 2000 Palm Harbor Masterpiece, 76x32' doublewide, 4BR/2 BA, 2 living rooms, kitchen, dining room, laundry room, and more. By owner. No owner financing. Must be moved. \$55,000. 254-694-1788 or 694-1789.

w33ftn

Employment

ATTENTION

NOW HIRING POSTAL POSITIONS

No Experience Required
Excellent Starting Pay
Paid Training
Excellent Benefits



Get Prepared. Call:
866-300-6495

Adcode:P5523

Services

FREE BROCHURE! — 888-748-8078. You may be eligible for an unsecured major bank credit card, even if you've had bad credit, or no credit at all.

w40-45

ARTIST FOR PEACE WANTED

DYNAMITE ANTIWAR LYRICS SET TO TUNE OF A FAMOUS SONG IN THE
PUBLIC DOMAIN NEEDS VOCALIST AND INSTRUMENTATION TO BE RECORDED
IN RETURN FOR ROYALTIES.

JEFFERSON SAID, "DISSENT IS THE HIGHEST FORM OF PATRIOTISM."

SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM BY HELPING US GET THIS SUPER
PROTEST SONG RECORDED AND DISTRIBUTED OVER THE AIRWAVES.

REPLY TO MICHELLE, c/o THE ICONOCLAST, P.O. BOX 569, CLIFTON, TX 76634.

Anderson Running For Congress, 17th District

COLLEGE STATION, TX—Tucker Anderson announced today that he is a candidate for the 17th Congressional District.

Anderson, a Republican, is running to challenge current U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards.

"I believe the 17th District is best served by a Republican with local roots and Washington experience" said Anderson. "I am running for Congress because we need a conservative leader for this district. Chet Edwards votes against President Bush most of the time and the congressional Democrats continue to impede Republican efforts to move the coun-



Tucker Anderson

try forward. I understand what is important to this district. My family has lived here for six generations. My experience in Washington working on important issues such as agriculture, immigration, veterans affairs, transportation and homeland security will benefit each citizen."

Anderson is a graduate of Texas A&M University.

Most recently, Anderson served as the Legislative Director and Counsel for Congressman Pete Sessions in Washington.

Before redistricting in 2002, Sessions represented many

parts of the current district. Anderson is a partner in a cow-calf operation in Robertson County and has worked in Mexico for Southern States, an agricultural cooperative, exploring business opportunities presented by the North American Free Trade Agreement. Prior to joining the staff of Congressman Sessions, Anderson practiced law in Robertson and Brazos counties, representing local businesses and individual citizens. Anderson has a law degree from St. Mary's School

of Law in San Antonio.

Tucker Anderson is a member of the Texas A&M Association of Former Students, State Bar of Texas, Texas Farm Bureau, Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association, Republican National Lawyers Association, National Rifle Association, Phi Gamma Delta fraternity and the Episcopal Church. A licensed pilot, active wildlife conservationist, and avid outdoorsman, Anderson lives and works with his wife Stacy in Calvert.

Conservatives Skeptical Over Bush's Supreme Court Nominee

WASHINGTON — When President Bush named White House counsel Harriet Miers to the U.S. Supreme Court last Monday, some conservatives on Capitol Hill were not readily won over by the possible replacement of Justice Sandra Day O'Connor.

Cases against Miers, 60, were her lack of qualifications and inexperience as a judge, her long-time closeness to the President (cronyism), and her hidden stances on issues like abortion; however, President Bush simply asked the Senate to trust him on his pick, assuring them of her strict-constructionist views.

Still, initial support was voiced from Senate Republicans like Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tenn.), Sen. John Cornyn (R-Texas), Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) as well as from Democratic leader Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada).

Anti-abortion forces like Sen. Sam

Brownback (R-Kan.) stands unconvinced, and conservative commentators, like Rush Limbaugh, joined the choirs of critics, while other conservative leaders, like James Dobson, put their faith in Bush.

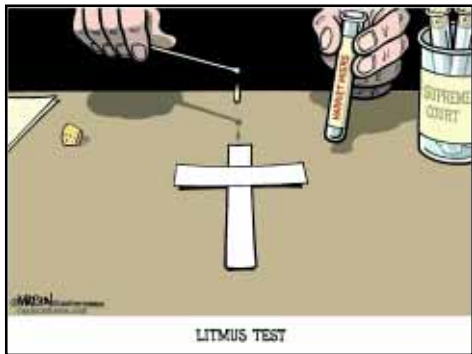
Some conservatives openly worried that the stealthy Miers is another "Souter." Bush's father nominated Justice David Souter who later turned out to have more moderate views on the court.

Democrats on the Senate Judiciary Committee, meanwhile, wanted more information on Miers from the White House, but President Bush called such an action a "distraction."

Information the Democratic National Committee is seeking deals with Miers' White House responsibility in making policy decisions such as U.S. treatment of prisoners at Guantanamo Bay and in Iraq.

By the end of the week, Miers led a campaign to convince senators of her qualifications.

All in all, a confirmation vote is being sought by Thanksgiving, and Senate Republicans hold a 55-44 majority, with one independent.



LITMUS TEST

Book/Bible Repair (Specializing in conservation restoration)
Custom-made books for all occasions.
We are "Bound to Please"

THE BOOK DOCTOR

320 W. 7th St., Dallas, TX 75208 (214) 946-1760
www.thebookdr.com



PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH



IN WACO: 254-772-7500
www.withvic.com
1-877-WITH-VIC
SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS
WITH OFFICES IN WACO,
TEMPLE AND AUSTIN

THE LAW OFFICES
Vic Feazell P.C.
TRIAL ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS OF LAW

Principal office in Austin.
Meetings with attorneys by appointment only.
Not certified by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization.



PROTECTING THE BRAND

BLACK GOLD...TEXAS TEEEEEEEE-shirt

T-SHIRT \$19.95 ea.

100% cotton, short sleeve, white t-shirt
Adult sizes: S - M - L - XL - XXL - XXXL

+ shipping



Indicate # of each size **T-Shirt Order Form** # shirts: _____

S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____ X \$19.95 _____

Name: _____ + s/h: _____ (see below)

Mailing Address: _____ = Total: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Cash / Check
Visa / MasterCard
American Express

Phone: _____

Shipping & Handling: 1 shirt . . \$5.39
each additional shirt... \$2.50

SEND ORDERS TO:
THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST
P.O. BOX 420
CRAWFORD, TX 76638

Food Justice Forum Set Tuesday, Oct. 18

NEW YORK — World Hunger Year and the New School University's annual anti-poverty forum will be held Tuesday, Oct. 18, 1-5:30 p.m., at the New School University's Theresa Lang Community and Student Center (55 West 13th Street) in New York City.

This year's forum, "Food Justice: Change Your Diet, Change the World," is free and open to the public.

The event will begin at 1 p.m. with a roundtable discussion examining the media's role in encouraging social responsibility. The panel will be moderated by WHY's International Director Peter Mann, and the confirmed speakers are Renee C. Byer, photo editor for the SACRAMENTO BEE; Jason DeParle, author of *American Dream* and a senior writer for THE NEW YORK TIMES; and Tracy McMillan, managing editor of CITY LIMITS magazine.

The second panel discussion, beginning at 2:45 p.m., will explore current food system problems, including exploitation of farm workers, loss of family farms, the growing obesity epidemic, and the institutionalized emergency feeding system. Moderated by Anna Lappe, co-author of "Hope's Edge: The Next Diet for a Small Planet" and founding principal of the Small Planet Institute, panelists include Kate Granger of the New Farmer Development Project in New York City; Tom Spaulding of the CSA Learning Center in Caledonia, Ill.; and Toni Bruno of the Amado Community Food Bank, Amado, Ariz.

The final panel will begin at 4:15 p.m. and examine the role of grassroots movements in challenging injustices through organizing and fighting for

change. Panelists include McMillan; Brahm Ahmadi of People's Grocery in Oakland, Calif.; and a representative of Student Action with Farmworkers in Durham, N.C.

Additional panelists will be added as they are confirmed. All speakers are subject to cancellation.

WHY — a nonprofit organization co-founded by the late singer-songwriter Harry Chapin, and radio talk show host and present Executive Director Bill Ayres in 1975 — attacks the root causes of hunger and poverty by promoting effective and innovative community-based solutions that create self-reliance, economic justice and food security.

For additional information or to register for the forum, contact Lisa Ann Batitto of WHY or visit the website.

INFO

Batitto, (212) 629-8850, ext. 22
www.worldhungeryear.org

Corporate Farming Ban Suit Gets Thrown From Court

LINCOLN, Nebr. — A challenge to Nebraska's ban on corporate farming was stopped when a federal judge threw out a lawsuit because the plaintiff had missed his opportunity to prove the ban had harmed him.

Former state senator John DeCamp, who owns hog breeding infrastructure, filed a lawsuit claiming that the ban disrupts interstate commerce and breaks the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The ban became a part of the Nebraska's constitution in 1982 by the efforts of the Farmers Union with the support of small, family farmers to pre-

Van Taylor Kicks Off Campaign for Congress

WACO — Van Taylor, a businessman who served as a Captain in the U.S. Marine Corps and fought in the war to liberate Iraq, has kicked off his campaign for Congress. A two-day, four-city announcement tour stopped in Waco, Bryan, Granbury, and Cleburne.

Taylor is seeking the post of Congress, 17th district, the seat currently held by Rep. Chet Edwards.

New Orleans Mayor Cuts City Staff In Half

NEW ORLEANS — Mayor Ray Nagin cited limited revenue streams due to hurricane destruction as the reason for planned layoffs of about half the staff of the City of New Orleans.

Roughly 3,000 employees, which the mayor labeled as non-essential workers, will be fired in the next two weeks, a savings estimated between \$5 million to \$8 million of the city's monthly payroll of \$20 million. However, no firefighters or police officers will be let go, he said.

"We talked to local banks and other fi-

nancial institutions and we are just not able to put together the financing necessary to continue to maintain City Hall's staffing at its current levels," Nagin said.

Body Searches End

Louisiana, with a death toll from Hurricane Katrina initially estimated in the thousands, ended its sweep of corpses in there with about 972 deaths last Tuesday, said officials.

The state, however, has hired a company to remove remaining bodies if they turn up.

The death toll in Mississippi due to Katrina was around 221 last week.

Green Business Conference Scheduled For Nov. 2 - 4

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — Wondering how to tap into the growing green marketplace with your business? Check out Co-op America's Green Business Conference Nov. 2-4 in San Francisco, Calif.

This three-day workshop-filled conference will allow attendees to connect with like-minded business visionaries and learn how to make green businesses succeed.

For more information, contact Denise Hamler, Co-op America 1612 K St. N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007 and visit the website (www.coopamerica.org/cabn/conference/).

Services

For advertising
information, call
(254) 675-3336



**MARK KETTLER
BUILDER**

Mobile (254) 709-7362
Fax (254) 836-4620

H.O.T.B.A.

Red Roof Storage

RV & Boat Storage

Speegleville area
10 x 20 Storage
15 x 40 RV

(254) 848-7867

WOOD MASONRY

Building Texas since 1982

Custom Brick, Stone, Block
Residential • Commercial • Remodel • Repairs

**FIREPLACE SPECIALIST
STONE PATIOS & WALKWAYS
CERTIFIED CHIMNEY SWEEP**

G. L. Insured

JAMES T. WOOD, Master Mason

Home 254-775-4112

Mobile 972-345-8339

Wrecker
Service
24 Hr.

Full Service
Glass Work
Service by Lynx

Foreign &
Domestic

Bill's Body Shop

REPAIR FACILITY ALWAYS OWNER'S CHOICE

Brewco Frame Machine & Measuring System

Highway 6 in
Valley Mills, TX

phone: (254) 932-6536

fax: (254) 932-6588

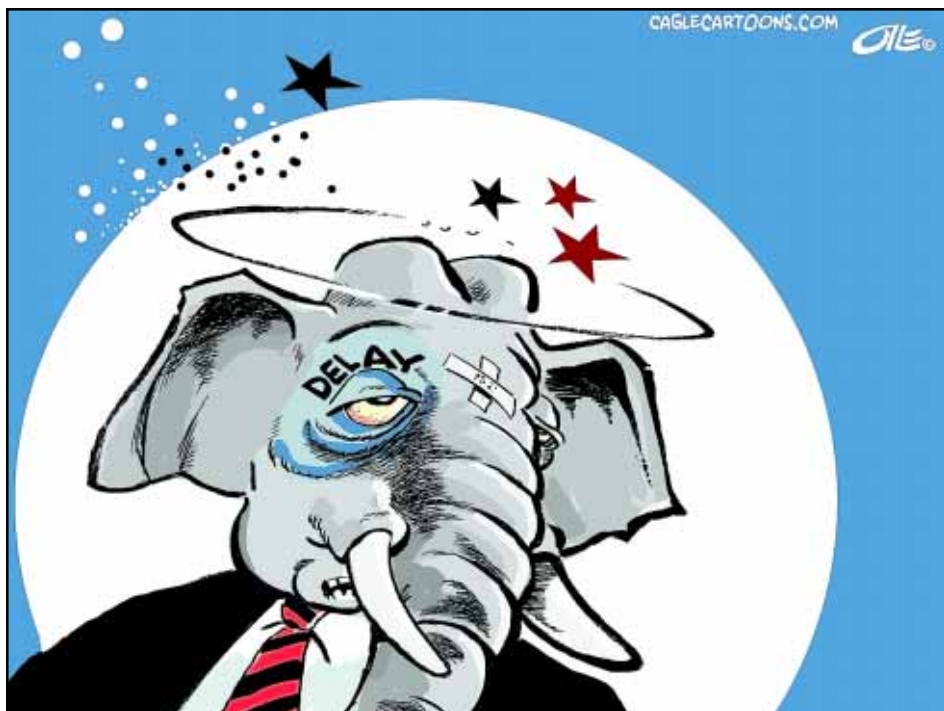
cell: (254) 709-2235



Leon's FLOOR COVERING

Carpet & Vinyl
Formica Cabinet Tops
Wallpaper
Eureka Vacuum Cleaners
and Service

QUALITY MATERIAL SOLD AND INSTALLED WITH PRIDE
302 West 5th Clifton, Texas **FREE ESTIMATES** Phone 675-8686
Mike & Kim Prescher Home 675-8291



Editorial OP/ED
Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

Cronyism Out Of Control

Sheesh! Enough is enough.

As a favor to President Bush, the American public should demand an end to his drunken addiction at naming cronies to positions of importance, such as the Supreme Court.

Actually, if she had a conscience, Harriet Miers would remove herself from consideration to the post. So far, she has not done so, which is telling in itself. If she was truly an attorney representing his best interests and those of the country, she would graciously thank him for the nod of confidence but suggest he get someone with exceptional experience to sit on the court.

There are judges all over this country who have distinguished themselves with objective fortitude, have heard thousands of true-life cases that range from the domestic to the corporate, and who have shown that politics is but a pesky gnat in their world of jurisprudence.

Why not look here for a nominee to sit on the highest court in the land?

There are only so many cronies in a corral. If the public would demand that the President extend his reach, he might not feel as compelled to shrink to his friends' blatant desires to capture time-honored positions for which they are not qualified. He is down to fourth-stringers when only first-stringers can garner the degree of accountability this country so fiercely needs.

It's time for the senatorial Rubber Stamp Act to cease.

— W. Leon Smith



Veterans Day Parade Coming To Waco

WACO — The Veterans Day Parade will be held in downtown Waco on Friday, Nov. 11, starting at 11 a.m. The theme for this year's parade is "Lest we Forget" The parade route will be down Austin Ave. starting at 13th street and ending at Heritage Square.

Groups such as color guard, schools, police and fire, drill and flag teams, honor guard, dignitaries, veteran groups, friends of veterans, and community groups are eligible for entry.

For more information, contact Dr. Mike O'Brice, Marine Corps veteran, at 254-399-9974.

Support the paper that stands alone...



THE ICONOCLAST
IS A NATIONAL
INDEPENDENT

Newspaper
Geared At Marketing Your Products
COAST TO COAST!

Call (254) 675-3336
To Place An
Advertisement
or log on to
www.iconoclast-texas.com

Evangelist? Maybe. A Lawyer? Oh Yeah!

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Bein' an outlaw ain't dishonest. Bein' an outlaw and sayin' you ain't, now THAT'S dishonest."

Neighbor Bush is a reprehensible liar. Okay, Harriet Miers has been his advisor for a decade and she has never once voiced an opinion about abortion to her boss?

Helluva counselor you got there, George!

Evidently she never mentioned Iraq or hurricanes, either.

Everyone who believes the President will now signify by swallowing a Volkswagen.

So why would that be so reprehensible?

What's wrong with a little lie among politicians.

Well, that.

We have become so accustomed to lies in our public lives that lying only seems dishonest if it is in an interest with which we do not agree.

We did not care that William Jefferson Clinton lied about getting the knobs polished in the Oval Office.

And while I'm in an offensive mood here, he did not get impeached for having sex.

He got impeached for lying about it. He should have been convicted.

For lying.

Except that we didn't care whether he lied.

Shame on us.

Regardless of your politics, it is not okay to cheat on your spouse.

It may or may not be a reason to end a presidency, but there are only two ethical reasons to lie:

To spare someone's feelings or avoid discourse with fools.

We cannot pick and choose the lies we excuse.

There are no politically correct untruths.

Now we have arrived at the ultimate distortion.

The Christian Lie.

Why would a Supreme Court nominee lie about his or her convictions?

Or refuse to voice those convictions, which is the same thing.

Only if the justice-to-be hasn't any.

If the nominee, a lifetime member of the Holier Than Thou Church of The First Thrown Rock, believes that the life of a fetus is more important than a woman who is alive and breathing, why shouldn't he or she say so?

Is it no longer a foresworn principle that Christians stand before Caesar, King or the Pope of Rome and declare themselves?

Here I stand. I can do no other.

But somewhere during the hearings last month and in the questioning of the born-again-and-again-and-again President last week, I thought I heard a rooster crow.

Last time I looked, the Fascist Party held a majority in both houses.

If the candidate represents popular opinion on government-mandated Christianity, legalized misogyny, or the right of the government to treat our private residences the way we treat Middle Eastern nations, why shouldn't he or she just say so?

You mean it ain't okay for the government to decide whether your daughter should have an abortion?

Don't you want some tortured teen-

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



ager to track her down in a couple of decades and ask why her mama didn't want her?

Don't you think she ought to die for her stillborn baby?

Or maybe you *do* want her to have *your* baby?

And I'm sure we believe the government should teach your child which Gott to worship.

You're obviously too busy. Besides, the game's on.

We'll handle it.

Welcome to Sunday Boot Camp, kid.

What's the matter? Don't you want your tax dollars to do god's work?

Praise Halliburton!

And why shouldn't you want Homeland Security, Inc., to search your house every so often?

If you've got nothing to hide.

Except your suspected terrorist literature like those gun magazines and that copy of Penthouse under the bed.

Weapons of Mass Depiction!

And how come you ain't got twin beds, pervert?

Could it be that the justices-to-be aren't all that sure their principles are shared by that mythic majority of Americans?

Could it be that they simply want to put one over on the voting unwashed?

Strictly for their own good, of course.

Evidently we do not know as they, the anointed do, what is good for us, and that we will surely thank them later when we are brought hog-tied before

the altar of god's judgement and the United States Supreme Court?

Remember how those before the Inquisition begged to be let back into the fold? How the witches of Salem pleaded for redemption from the torments of hell?

Same thing.

It'll be just like old times when the Christian Lie delivers us into the hands of the righteous.

You'll see.



Texas Tea Party

Children, gather round to hear the story of the Texas Tea Party.

It all started with me writing down my Christmas present wish list while the TV news was on.news:news:

"Jolly Ol' Saint Nick will not be passing out presents this year. That's because he lost his 100-year-old government contract to Haliburton today," said the TV news caster.

Right as I clicked off the television in a huff, Nemo walked in.

Nemo is a six-year-old, cross-eyed Siamese cat owned by my roommate who has little interest in being famous.

"What's wrong, man?" Nemo asked. "You know, there's this cat here from New Orleans looking for work because of the hurricane. He's really good with knives, if you know what I mean."

"Nemo, this is serious," I said. "There won't be Christmas this year. Santa lost his contract."

"What? Who's responsible?"

"Halliburton," I replied.

"I knew it!" he screamed, turning himself in a semi-circle while pumping his right front paw into the air. "Damn! And I was looking forward to getting my H&K USP 45 Tactical."

If Nemo was alive during the height of the Roman Empire, he would have routed for the lions in the Roman Coliseum, not the Christians.

Hoping to remind him of the mammal side of his blood, I spoke up, "Why

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



are you always thinking about yourself, Nemo? Just think of all the good little girls and boys along the Gulf Coast who won't be getting their houses rebuilt this year."

Nemo paused, turned around, looked at me with his blue crazy-eyes, and said, "Dude, what about all the little kittens who have no homes there? You humans never think about us felines — unless we're black and walking across your paths!"

"Geez," he continued, "it's been, what? Forty years since the so-called 'War on Poverty' started, and you humans still can't even get your own house in order—"

"—That's because poor people aren't in charge of the program, Nemo," I interjected. "You know, it's like this: if you fur-balls were in charge of the witch hunts in 17th century New England, those Puritans wouldn't have tried to slaughter all ya'll."

"Touché," he replied.

Thinking about how to get Santa back his contract, Nemo and I paced the floor in front of the sliding glass door like two

caged tigers. Then, like lightning, he bolted to the phone and started dialing.

I could tell what he was up to, though: "No, Nemo, we're not going to overthrow Haliburton with the pets of its employees."

"Why not? It'll be great. We'll dress up like Haliburton employees and dump all their oil equipment into the Gulf of Mexico and then blame Haliburton for it, so they'll have no choice but to give Santa back his contract," he replied, with a twinkle in his crooked eye. "Think of it like, like another Boston Tea Party!"

"Yeah, more like a Texas Tea Party — which I'm sure all those fish and seagulls down there are going to love, Slick," I said.

"Dude, you mean the red tide, right? There's nothing there but the red tide."

"Oh, right. Okay, let's do it."

And so, children, that's the story of the Texas Tea Party, and how felines and humans overcame their differences to save Christmas from Haliburton at the cost of an ecological disaster.

Until next storytime, children, ask your parents to lobby Congress in support of the Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2005, so God's children here in the greatest nation in the world have a better chance to be fed well not only during Christmas but also for the rest of their lives.

Oh, and don't mess with Texas.

INFO

Hunger-Free Communities Act of 2005
www.secondharvest.org:80/
site_content.asp?s=721

— ELECTRONIC HORIZONS —

The Flying Car or: How I Stopped Worrying and Learned Love The Bomb

BY STEPHEN WEBSTER
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Good morning, America. Hello Sports Fans. This year is a landmark year for us all. This year, we have reached the apex of our great American Dream. Remember the comic books of yore, lauding the future of automobiles that take to the sky? That great, World's Fair so many years ago that heightened America's imagination as to what the end of that era could bring? It was the dawn of the flying car.

Not, The Flying Car, but the flying car's ideal. Then it was nothing more than sparkling paint and a glimmer in an engineer's imagination. The Flying Car, on the other hand, somehow carved its place in this generation's collective memory. It has become tantamount to the American Dream. That notion of life, liberty and happiness. The ultimate; the pinnacle; the perfect existence.

So, this Flying Car, THE Flying Car, goes on sale in a month. The 79th edition of super-percunious retailer Neiman Marcus' "Fantasy Gifts" Christmas 2005 catalog displays a few mock-up action shots of this albatross, complete with a \$3.5 million price tag. The car obviously compliments statements made by Brendan Hoffman, prez and C.E.O. of Nieman Marcus Direct. "We have something for everyone," his press release reads. Obviously.

So here we are. In seven years we went from a country at peace - poverty finally dropping, inner-cities improving, surpluses growing - to a country at war - deficits swelling, corporate profits skyrocketing, poverty rising, the middle class suffocating. Now, today, the American dream is to never own a home. Interest rates may be low for borrowers, but home values teeter, basically, on the will of school districts, all of them strapped for cash. At least in an apartment I do not have to worry about Escrow payments. At least in an apartment I do not have to take out a loan. At least with a lease I am not in fear of slipping into bankruptcy, which is nothing more than an empty, non-actionable term now.

The New American dream is to stop paying for the consequences of oil. Like some sort of shadow tax, this liquid is practically pure politics, injected right into your tank. The Government recently struck down a move to notify

drivers that their unleaded cars can run on ethanol, which is actually CHEAPER than gas now. An extension of this American dream is the cost of just getting a car - with prices so daunting that any of the millions of people living on

minimum wage, or damn near, could never hope to afford.

But now, thanks to the "something for everyone" book, the upper class doesn't have to deal with sitting on the highway behind the poor and their shabby earth-mobiles. The affluent and wealthy can just whirr overhead, finally free of the lowly incapable. And hey, the thing gets 23 miles to the gallon, and zooms to speeds of 350 mph. Who wouldn't want one?

I can picture it now. Instead of driving any car in a fleet of multi-colored Hummers, the ultra-aristocratic slush heads can just jump in The Flying Car and blow off your hat, or maybe rain bits of paper on your head. What wonderful news. I'm just wondering what will become of so many Hummers.

Perhaps these gaudy, unnecessary tanks will be abandoned to used car dealerships. Then, facing Total Hummer Overflow, the smooth will work a deal with the paid to pass them on to The Government and The Military for untold amounts of our taxes. Could 2006 be the new dawn of a stylish H2 fleet in Iraq? I mean, glistening Hummers of all *polychromasia* in the desert make better FOX News clips than the actual fighting and maiming and death. Hell, I'd drive the orange one.

For all of you, who share this righteous umbrage, transpose your frustration into a long drive to a location north of cow-town. Miles Automotive, just off I-35 exit 64, 8 miles north of Fort Worth in Keller, is now offering Bio-Willie blends of gasoline. Currently, Willie Nelson's company is only supplying bio-diesel, though the Hillbilly Dali-llama has often talked about ethanol as the easiest and cheapest solution to our oil problem. Chalk it up as "coming soon." For more about Bio-Willie, check out www.WNBioDiesel.com.

Beware of Hummers in the Darkness. Bring on The Flying Car. And screw The American Dream. Mahalo.

Stephen Webster's column, *Electronic Horizons*, is published in the North Texas weekly, *The News Connection*. Republished with permission.

— Guest Commentary —

An Open Letter To This Country's Veterans

Veterans, why are you so vehement in your demands that the Waco VA hospital be retained? So what if we have spent years developing the Waco VA Hospital? So what if you have trusted us to keep a covenant with you? Veterans, this petty bickering over a couple of old buildings is so unlike you and simply has to stop.

It's time for plain speaking. Our country needs a lot of things that are more important to us than your health care. We know that a patriotic group of selfless people like you will cheerfully help the VA tear down the Waco VA hospital if someone will just explain the country's problems to you.

Every year, a majority of Senators and Representatives vote money for very important projects that are a lot more important than your health care or any silly old covenant with you.

Veterans, surely you will agree that:

- A replica of the great pyramid in Indiana is more important than your health care.
- A walking trail at Lake Waco is more important than your health care.
- A two-headed stethoscope is more important than your health care.
- Studying bovine flatulence is more important than your health care.
- An aircraft carrier the Navy doesn't want is more important than your health care.
- The National Skateboard Hall Of Fame is more important than your health care.

Veterans, there are thousands upon thousands of very important projects such as these, and we won't get re-elected if we don't blow money this way (The current federal budget has over 6,000 projects like these at a price tag of over \$50 billion dollars). Surely you will agree that our staying in office is more important than your health care.

Veterans, surely you don't expect us to keep a silly old promise to you when we need your health care money for these other things, do you? There, now you can see the problem, can't you? You do agree, don't you?

Veterans, if you don't agree that billions of dollars for these "special projects" and over 6,000 more like them are more important than your health care, perhaps you ought to ask Senator John Cornyn, Congressman Chet Edwards, and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison to explain it to you. Ask them what they have done beyond public posturing and incessant blather to stop the waste and save the hospital.

— Carl W. Brul

(The author is a retired project director living in Clifton.)

BY JOHN FORD
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Bush says he will cut the federal deficits in half by 2008. And I'll be the next Supreme Court nominee. I have a better chance of that than he does of cutting the deficit.

From the Treasury Departments web site, bureau of the Public Debt

The current national debt on 9/30/2005 vs. 9/30/2004

09/30/2005 — \$7,932,709,661,723.50

09/30/2004 — \$7,379,052,696,330.32

\$ 553,657,965,393.18

The federal debt grew \$553 billion dollars since last year. Numbers don't lie, even if Bush does. Special appropriations for additional spending weren't part of the budget last year and this coming year. Here is the national debt at the end of each fiscal year going back to 1990. President Clinton inherited debt and it kept growing for most of his term,

but at a slower rate after raising taxes and creating more jobs. By the end of his term it had almost stopped growing. Since the year 2000 (near the end of his term), it has grown \$2.258 trillion dollars. That averages out to \$1,236,582,694.00 per day. Over a billion dollars a day. As Samuel Jackson said in Jurassic Park, "hang onto your butts."

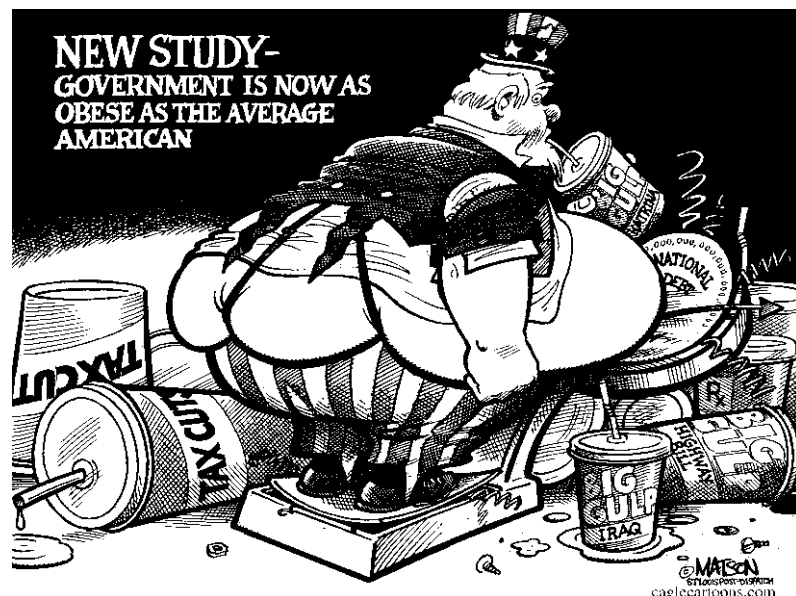
10/05/2005	— \$7,978,989,702,813.02
09/30/2005	— \$7,932,709,661,723.50
09/30/2004	— \$7,379,052,696,330.32
09/30/2003	— \$6,783,231,062,743.62
09/30/2002	— \$6,228,235,965,597.16
09/28/2001	— \$5,807,463,412,200.06
09/29/2000	— \$5,674,178,209,886.86
09/30/1999	— \$5,656,270,901,615.43
09/30/1998	— \$5,526,193,008,897.62
09/30/1997	— \$5,413,146,011,397.34
09/30/1996	— \$5,224,810,939,135.73
09/29/1995	— \$4,973,982,900,709.39
09/30/1994	— \$4,692,749,910,013.32
09/30/1993	— \$4,411,488,883,139.38
09/30/1992	— \$4,064,620,655,521.66

09/30/1991 — \$3,665,303,351,697.03

09/28/1990 — \$3,233,313,451,777.25

Goobledegook From Dubya

P.S. : The national debt has grown \$46 billion in just 5 days, since the end of September. The nation's national debt is the elephant in the room.



Brains, Not Brawn, Key To Baseball Success

A well-traveled catcher from Texas smacked a three-run double to put the Detroit Tigers ahead of the Chicago Cubs in Game 7 of the World Series on Oct. 10, 1945.

Paul Rapier Richards was born in 1908 at Waxahachie, a baseball hotbed back in those days because several big-league clubs came to the area for spring training. The town with the name that has twisted so many Yankee tongues was home away from home for the Detroit Tigers, while the New York Giants practiced down the road at Marlin.

The teacher's son played on a great high school baseball team. Richards and five other future major leaguers won 65 games in a row and three straight state championships.

The third baseman, shortstop, and occasional pitcher signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1926. For two months, the small-town teen rubbed shoulders with his heroes without once stepping onto the diamond before being shipped to a farm team in Maryland.

But the Dodgers forgot to protect the tall Texan in the minor-league draft, and he was scooped up by the St. Louis Browns. After a second season in Maryland, Richards found himself in Muskogee, Okla., on opening day 1928.

Mainly an infielder, Richards did pitch an inning or two from time to time. His manager may have sent the ambidextrous youth, who could throw the ball with either hand, to the mound more for amusement than anything else.

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



By 1930 Richards was in Macon, Ga., and again a Brooklyn property. He volunteered to catch to keep from sinking even lower in the farm system and convinced the Dodgers he had the intelligence to handle the demanding duties behind the plate.

Richards proved to be a fast learner and earned a promotion to the Dodger club in Hartford, Conn. He batted .301 and drove in 74 runs in 1931, an impressive performance that won him a place on the Brooklyn roster the next spring.

But three games into the 1932 season, the Dodgers up and traded Richards to their crosstown rival. The Giants put him on a train for Minneapolis, where he hit .361 and was voted all-star catcher in the American Association.

After knocking around the minors for seven years, Richards finally got his big break when the Giants brought him up as a reserve catcher in 1933. But he perished at the plate, batting an awful .195 in 51 games, and the National League champions left the weak-hitting substitute at home for the World Series.

Major league pitching continued to

mystify Richards in 1934, as his anemic average dropped 35 points to a woeful .160. Their patience exhausted, the Giants unloaded him to the Philadelphia Athletics in June 1935.

Richards batted a respectable .245 in 177 games over a season and a half but raised Connie Mack's hackles by suggesting the A's ancient owner-manager needed to tighten the reins. The relic eventually had enough of his lip and exiled the critic to the Atlanta Crackers.

Staying in Atlanta for seven years, the final five as player-manager, Richards put into practice his own ideas about how to run a ball club. The result was a consistently competitive team and two Southern Association pennants.

World War II gave many over-the-hill veterans like Richards a major league encore. He played three seasons with the Detroit Tigers, batting a career-best .256 in 1944 and catching the 1945 World Series.

With his playing days behind him, Richards managed full-time for the Tigers at Buffalo and later at Seattle in the Pacific Coast League. He built a reputation as an astute student of the game and incomparable judge of talent that inevitably led him back to the big leagues.

In 1950, the Chicago White Sox hired Richards to breathe new life into a club that had never really recovered from the infamous World Series scandal 30 years earlier. He immediately turned the hapless White Sox into winners with a fourth-place finish in the American League in

1951 followed by three straight thirds behind the Yankees and Indians.

On the strength of his success in the Windy City, Richards was offered an even greater challenge. The St. Louis Browns had moved to Baltimore and renamed themselves the Orioles but remained the biggest bunch of sad sacks in baseball.

As general manager and field manager, Richards implemented a long-range plan that ultimately produced pennants for the Orioles. By the time he left in 1961, Baltimore's farm system was the best in baseball.

Richards could not pass up the chance to build from the ground up a brand-new franchise in Texas. He was the first GM of the Houston Colt .45s, rechristened the Astros after construction of the Dome, and nursed the expansion team through the growing pains of the early 1960s before falling out with owner Judge Roy Hofheinz.

But there was always another job waiting for a baseball man with Richards' brains. For six years he ruled the front-office roost as general manager of the Atlanta Braves and returned to Chicago in 1976 for a dugout curtain call.

Paul Richards life ended where it began. During a round of golf on a Waxahachie course in 1986, his heart gave out after 77 years.

Barte Haile welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at haile@pdq.net or 1912 Meadow Creek Dr., Pearland, TX 77581.

Compulsive Behavior

A co-worker and I were discussing compulsions. (You know who you are). We weren't talking about the more serious compulsions that are often referred to as OCD (obsessive/compulsive disorder, which also includes counting and repetitive behaviors), but the garden variety many of us have to one degree or another. We decided if our compulsions didn't interfere with our everyday lives to a great extent, didn't keep us from our work, didn't interfere with our personal relationships or parenting skills, etc., that they weren't too serious.

Of course, there are people who might disagree that our compulsions are minor. My co-worker's friend once told her, "There are drugs for this, you know". And some people's compulsions are so severe that they do certainly benefit from meds. I don't mean to poke fun at them, believe me. That is a serious condition and nothing to joke about. Many of us who seem "organized" are probably borderline. I just want to come out of the compulsive closet to let the rest of you out there know you aren't alone.

We started to compare compulsions after I was observed returning a paper and pen to her desk, straightening it all nicely, and parallel with the edge. I did this unconsciously.

"Are you compulsive?" she asked, laughing. "Only about some things," I replied. Just this weekend, another friend confided that one of her secretaries is a fanatic about a clear desk. Her desk is so incredibly clear that no one can figure out how she accomplishes anything at all. So my friend (her boss) often leaves sticky notes and other papers and reminders scattered on her desktop at night or on weekends. That way, when the secretary comes in, there will be a mess in the middle, which she

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.

must wade through immediately or go nuts. This is actually turning out to be a very efficient system. My friend (the boss) gets a big, perverse kick out of it. (We all have to invent ways to enjoy our work day, little successes in a sea of uncertainty). My friend, the boss, rationalizes her questionable behavior as the secretary's punishment — for refusing to allow even an in-box on her very clean desk!

My co-worker can have piles of even messy things on the edges of her desk, but the middle must be clear. I don't mind my desk and certain piles of "things to do" being messy. I always have way too many of those stacks of papers, am usually behind in doing everything. I am a project person, a creative person, have way too many things going on at once.

Messiness is part of my life, the artistic personality and all. (I often use this as an excuse when I think I can get away with it). I know where most things are in my organized clutter (until it gets away from me, which it sometimes does, and overflows into laundry baskets. That's when I know I'm really in trouble). My messiness drives Zack crazy. He is much neater and more compulsive about some things than I, but don't look in his closet, or that bubble will burst. We all have our dirty little se-

crets. And we are both too-busy packrats. It is hard to be totally compulsive if you have too much stuff and too little time. The more ideas one has, the less time one has. If you constantly think of ideas, you can never catch up in following through. So like many, we are selectively compulsive — for the things we have time to be compulsive about).

Most people who could see this house right now would laugh out loud if anyone suggested I was compulsive. Like I said, I can be very selective. I like to think of it as pragmatic. I can step around or over the same shoe (or stack of books or magazines or papers) a dozen times before feeling the need to pick up or finally get organized. It all depends on how busy I am or how focused on other things. Sometimes one must prioritize. No sense beating oneself up about it.

My compulsions seem to vary conversely (or is that inversely?) to the time I have for organizing and cleaning. At least I am practical. I do what I can when I am able. Maybe I should be a little MORE compulsive when it comes to cleaning and neatness. After a while, I don't even really see certain things. Then when company is expected, my blinders suddenly come off and I am often horrified at what I see before me. That really sets me in motion. Zack jokes that we have parties periodically so the house will finally be cleaned.

So after laughing a while about our whispered confessions of compulsion, my co-worker and I began to list things we do that some people do NOT, things that certain folks might think were a little, well, crazy, for lack of a better word. To us, these things are normal.

For instance, the toilet tissue and paper towels must come off the roll a certain way, either over or under. (We both agreed on over; but some weird people like the opposite. No accounting for taste here. My late mother-in-law was an "under" person. I never could understand it). If the roll isn't put on "right" (the way we want it), both my co-worker and I admitted that we take

time to fix it — sometimes even in another person's bathroom. That's when you really have to get hold of yourself.

Towels must be placed on towel bars in a certain way, either folded in threes, full open, or in half. We each have our own individual preferences. And the label of the towel must face the wall for me. Pillows should be arranged "properly", whatever that means to each individual compulsive person.

Laundry must be folded the same way every time. There is no room for creativity here. I tried it once when one of my kids told me I was entirely too uptight. I couldn't stand it, had to go back and refold anything.

Clothing must all face the same way in the closet. Heaven forbid one shirt should be backwards. And all hangers must approach the rod from the same direction, (overhand for both of us. Underhand, from the back, is unacceptable). This even bothers me in stores. I'm always tempted to "fix" the offending hanger, but I am usually able to restrain myself. Not always. I admit it.

My friend asked if it would make me crazy to see someone eat a hamburger upside down. I had never even imagined it, couldn't have conjured up such an event, have possibly never have experienced this perverse thing. Of COURSE it would bother me. It isn't RIGHT! I doubt I could do it myself without choking. It would be like dropping into an upside-down dimension, like Bizarro World in Super Man Comics. My friend (who, as I promised, shall remain nameless) confided that her husband does this hamburger thing occasionally, probably just to bother her; but also because he simply doesn't notice. There are such people in the world. How can anyone not care about that? 'Tis a mystery.

Now I am compulsively thinking about other innocent compulsions to add to our list. Please help. Please send yours so we will know we aren't alone! Names will be changed to protect the innocent.

Press Conference? More Like Vise Press

The other morning I did something I never do: I watched an entire Bush #43 press conference.

Big mistake.
My head is still spinning.

Bush #43 started out by telling the White House Press Corps, and whoever was on the other side of the cameras, what an excellent choice for Supreme Court Justice he had made with Harriet Miers.

(Essentially, the press conference was hurriedly thrown together the morning after he announced her nomination; Georgie needed to justify his rationale for looking no further than his personal lawyer for a Supreme Court justice. It was evident Bush #43 had not had enough time to be coached and adequately prepped — even I was embarrassed for the putz.)

(No — just kidding.)

He spent roughly 20 minutes or so belaboring the points of her stellar qualifications: I've known her for more than 10 years; she's a strict constructionist; I believe she'll do a fine job; she has a good heart; Ms. Miers is the best candidate I could find; and, she'll stick to the Constitution.

Such in-depth recommendations are great if you're trying to get Vinnie the contractor to hire your shiftless brother-in-law.

These are probably the same types of generic "recommendations" Bush #41's friends used whenever tapped to find George the Lesser a job. (Which might explain why Bush #43 thinks all you need to say about someone to get them in is "he's a good ol' boy.")

We suffered with the Conservatives' bitching throughout the 1990s about "FOB" (Friends of Bill). For the most part, all those people got was a night in the Lincoln Bedroom in exchange for a campaign donation, a la Saint Ronald Reagan.

Where's the outcry about "FOW" (Friends of Dubya), even though for their cronyism they get a shot at screwing up the country.

Platitudes for loyalists of this regime have wasted our taxpayer dollars on an endless train of sterling individuals, including the likes of John Bolton, Condoleezza Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, Paul Wolfowitz, the FEMA Twins (Joe M. Allbaugh and Michael D. Brown), et al, who have been rewarded with high-paying, powerful positions just for licking Bush #43's boots.

The rarest entity in the RoveBush Regime is a department or agency head who is actually qualified to fill the position with competency, while selfless enough to make humanistic decisions that affect the lives of millions of people.

Time and again, those who have worked in the current occupation White House and been possessed of the aforementioned traits, such as former Treasury Secretary Paul H. O'Neill and Counterterrorism Chief Richard Clarke, by taking the cause of Mr. and Ms. Everyday American have run afoul of the Rovist/Bushite Fascist machine, resulting in banishment followed with demonization by the RoveCo Spinsters.

It's not even necessary to actually work within the WH itself to incur such ignominious special attention from the Spinsters. All you have to be is open, honest, and forthright. Just ask career



Out Of The Blue

By
**Jerry
Tenuto**

civil servant Bunnatine Greenhouse. Ms. Greenhouse was the Pentagon's top contract overseer for the Army Corps of Engineers — until she made the grievous mistake of doing her job by questioning multibillion-dollar no-bid contracts being awarded to Halliburton subsidiaries in Iraq.

For her efforts as a dedicated servant of the American people, Ms. Greenhouse was rewarded with a demotion.

Meanwhile, back at the press conference Bush #43 said nothing. In fact, from his opening sentence right up to the good-bye, he seemed wholly uncomfortable.

He stumbled, stuttered, and rephrased many answers halfway into them.

But then, the majority of his answers, as usual, weren't answers at all.

So this Fearless Leader, our Commander-in-Chief, Master of the World, the Top Dog, the Big Kahuna... for an hour he stood in front of the WH Press Corps, plus worldwide television, and said zilch.

(Because, as the most powerful man in our solar system he can get away with wasting time saying absolutely nothing of substance — and making himself appear important in the process.)

Bush #43 knows what's in Harriet Miers' heart, and he believes in her. We were assured that he likes Ms. Miers, and he could see into his crystal ball that in 20 years her views will not change.

We should trust him.

What views? Somewhere between supporting Al Gore in 1988 and becoming Bush #43's personal lawyer in the early '90s she changed from Democrat to Republican, from single working woman focused on career to reborn in Christ.

So, she's not going to change her mind during the next 20 years? What an absolutely ludicrous, irrational thing to say when nominating someone for a lifetime appointment to the Supreme Court of the United States of America!

On what level should we trust Bush #43, or his judgment? The fact that virtually everyone he has promoted has been a running buddy or political ally, wholly incapable of functioning at any level as a senior government official?

Should we trust him because of the weapons of mass destruction Saddam Hussein had stockpiled in Iraq? Or the 20-something other excuses he used for bombing that ancient civilization into smithereens?

Should we trust Bush #43 on his dependence upon Herr Karl Rove, and how he's allowed Rove to turn the U.S. into his personal vendetta against everything free and good?

Should we trust him on his handling of the economy; education; the environment; racial equality; non-partisanship in government; basic freedoms not involving the 2nd Amendment?

Should we trust Bush #43 on the security and well-being of our homes,

towns and states — particularly when a natural or man-made disaster comes along?

She's a lawyer, with virtually all of her experience prior to moving to D.C. as a member of the Bush Troupe coming from the rich and powerful corporate sector *at just one law firm!* There are no indicators pointing out how adept she is at Constitutional Law; there are no papers with her personal imprimatur on them to consider her judgmental viewpoints.

Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah was on CNN the evening of her nomination saying that the WH didn't have to provide any documentation (it's all private or secret, with submission precluded by Executive Privilege). He also asserted Ms. Miers' right to refuse to answer any questions she doesn't want to answer.

Methinks the higher privilege and responsibility here is to the people of our Nation.

Do you remember the jokes about Richard Nixon, his picture with the caption: "Would you buy a used car from this man?"

Bush #43 and his Republican suck-ups are expecting America to buy a used car without even giving us an opportunity to look at the maintenance log or take her for a test drive!

Message to everyone on the Hill, Republican and Democrat alike:

TOM DELAY NO LONGER COMMANDS YOUR SOULS!

YOU HAVE NO NEED TO FEAR "THE HAMMER"!

AND HERR ROVE IS IN THE DOORWAY RIGHT BEHIND HIM!

During the press conference, several reporters inquired as to what action Bush #43 would be taking against anyone in his (regime) who was indicted by the Patrick Fitzgerald Grand Jury. As you may remember, Georgie originally promised to fire anyone who was involved, never expecting the media to catch on that Herr "Turd Blossom" Rove and I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby were the principles.

After these two were outed, his tune changed to "anyone in this White House who is indicted" will be fired.

Now, the responses are rather terse "it's an ongoing investigation" and "it has to run its course."

Yet he wants America, present and future, to trust his judgment on a Supreme Court nominee, simply because she's been his personal attorney.

When asked about the Avian Flu, and the predicted pandemic of widespread illness and death associated with it, Bush #43's response was that he is considering a military-enforced quarantine.

I can't be the only person who suspects that this Fascist Regime now occupying our White House has been looking for some — any — excuse to declare martial law. And, I'm not hearing the same sorts of sentiments from today's all-volunteer troops that were prevalent in the 1970s; we were trained to insure the peace, while many of these modern soldiers seem to have been programmed for the fight.

The people I knew in the Army, to a person, never would have drawn down on an American civilian. Now I'm not so sure that wouldn't happen, and it's a scary thought.

Truthfully, I don't even know anyone in today's U.S. military.

But the idea of military personnel guarding American flu victims in a forced quarantine? What are they going to do, shoot anybody who attempts to leave?

What happens when the troops themselves begin to fall ill? The pharmaceutical industry itself has no idea if there is a viable serum.

Is there any way, shape, or form to trust George W. Bush or his judgment on any issue?

I never have found any, and doubt I ever shall.

Besides, whatever he says it is a surety that Herr Ubermeister Karl Rove is behind the curtain, operating the control panel.

Ms. Miers may be a very nice lady. However, she is neither wife nor mother, thus lacking a basic understanding of the parental perspective, so important to the Bushite Neo-con Rightists — and any Liberal parent.

Additionally, her hero-worship of Bush #43, described by former Bush speechwriter David Frum as "distinguished by the intensity of her zeal," makes Ms. Miers' ability of discernment come into question.

I certainly do not want someone on the Supreme Court for the rest of her life, making decisions that will affect my son (and possibly grandchildren) for decades and generations to come, who (according to Frum) considers George W. Bush "the most brilliant man (she) had ever met."

Then again, *that* could explain why she never married...

C & C Collision Center, LLC



- Truck
 - Trailer
 - Auto
- Repair Specialists

"We Make Friends By Accident"

www.cccollision.com

- Free Estimates at your place or ours
- Pick-up & delivery (if needed)
- PPG certified paint specialists
- Fiberglass specialists
- Expert frame straightening
- Computerized Comp-Est and Mitchell Estimating Software
- Eagle Spray-on Bed Liners
- 30 day billing for Approved Fleet Accounts
- DOT inspections for commercial trucks and trailers
- State inspections for automobiles
- Lifetime warranty
- E-mail updates regarding your vehicle (pictures included)

254-848-7008

1-888-345-1178

5849 N. State Hwy 6
(Speegleville Area) Waco

Take It From Me: You Can't Run From Static Electricity

When I was a kid I had a book called *Mysteries of the Unexplained* that contained AMAZING BUT TRUE! stories aimed at stirring the imagination, eliciting a sense of wonder, and prolonging the bed-wetting experience by at least three years. I'd huddle beneath the covers with my flashlight and read about strange psychic phenomena documented by real scientists, physicists, private investigators, and the occasional freaked-out paranormal expert who, at the end of the story, usually abandoned his profession to become a plumber (*"Even now, after all these years, I can still feel those icy fingers whenever a cold breeze blows across my butt crack..."*)

Though the book was mostly about ghosts, aliens, strange disappearances and creepy folklore (*...so stand alone in the dark, if you dare. Hold a mirror and repeat the words "Sassafras Sally." And prepare to be slapped by a pair of wet tea bags...*), it was spontaneous human combustion that really got to me. I think it's because, in my mind, ghosts, aliens, strange disappearances and folklore could all be avoided by exercising a little caution.

Spot an alien spaceship? Run.

Worried about Sassafras Sally? Introduce her to Chi tea.

Concerned about taking a cruise through the Bermuda Triangle? Go to Disneyland and settle for the "Pirates of the Caribbean" instead.

But burst into flames in the middle of Mrs. Frump's sixth-grade classroom, and chances are you'd be reduced to a pair of smoking sneakers long before you could acquire a hall pass and make it to a water source. Because of this fear, I mapped out the location of every fire extinguisher and water fountain at Jane Adams Elementary, and remained within eight feet of something to douse myself with throughout much of the sixth grade. Suffice it to say, except for visiting the public pool and local fire sta-



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

tion, I missed most of my class field trips.

I'm 39 now, and, aside from "All-You-Can-Eat Frijole Night" at Juan's Cantina, I've overcome my fear of spontaneously combusting.

At least until yesterday.

That's when "Peggy" from our composition department handed me a news article about a man in Warrnambool, Australia whose clothes spontaneously built up 40,000 volts of static electricity. According to Frank Clewers, he was unaware of being a human power grid until a secretary noticed his shoes were burning a hole in the office carpet. After several awkward minutes of misinterpreting his secretary's warnings of "You're sizzling!" and "You're making my hair stand up!" as sexual innuendo, Frank realized what was happening and contacted the fire department. Fire official Henry Barton believes it was the combination of Franks' woolen shirt and synthetic nylon jacket rubbing together that created a charge "just shy of spontaneous combustion."

I'm no electrician, but had shag carpet been involved, I doubt Frank would still be alive.

After reading about this incident, I thanked "Peggy" (whom I used to like), then slowly removed my nylon coat and wool sweater, trying to generate as little friction as possible, by cutting them from my body with a pair of scissors. That's because I'm one of those people who's constantly building up small amounts of static electricity. Our cat

became aware of this phenomenon after rubbing on my leg once. This was followed by a loud "pop," a blue flash, and our cat performing a hissing cartwheel.

Needless to say, thanks to "Peggy," my condition has now escalated from minor annoyance to full-blown phobia. I no longer leave the house without a copper wire running from my undershorts to the ground, and I go through at least four cans of "Cling Free" a day.

My wife, with her degree in sociology, tried forcing me to face my fear by rub-

bing her hands on the TV screen and then running at me in the dark. This did not work. Not only that, but now we have to replace the coffee table.

I'm sure I'll eventually overcome my fear again. In the meantime, I really need to finish mapping out the extinguishers and water sources in the newsroom.

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

The First Lady, The TV Show

Laura Bush recently taped an episode of "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition." In so doing, she became the first First Lady to do a prime time network "reality show." It could've been worse. She could've done odd jobs with Paris Hilton on "The Simple Life."

The show is, of course, quite admirable. Generally, they remodel homes for disadvantaged homeowners. Who could object to that noble premise? (Except, perhaps the right wing of the Republican Party who might see the idea as discouraging personal incentive). In Mrs. Bush's episode, which will air in December, they took supplies to hurricane victims. Some people feel the First Lady took the gig for political reasons. I don't know about that. However, there are more private ways of helping the victims. And if, let's say, she had invited all the wives and husbands of the members of Congress to join her, people wouldn't be so suspicious.

She is no newcomer to television. She's been on "Oprah," "Dr. Phil" and "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno." I think she's hooked on TV. She's got the bug, and that's cause for concern. I hope our first lady isn't so enamored with being on television that she'll appear on just any reality show. I don't want to see her with some creep on "Trading Spouses" or eating bugs on "Fear Factor."

But if her "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition" is a ratings hit – and it will be – look for her on other shows. And more significantly, look for others in politics to follow suit, both on reality shows and regular entertainment programming.

Tom DeLay is a natural for "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Hillary Clinton would like to avoid being on "Desperate Housewives," and would love to star in "Commander in Chief." Bill Clinton might want to go on "The Bachelor," but he might have to settle for "Starting Over." Resigning New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass could be on "I Hate My Job." If the casting people can find Dick Cheney, he'd be perfect for "Joe Millionaire." The war in Iraq could fill lots of hours of "Worst Case Scenario." And I wouldn't mind seeing Michael "You're doing a heck of a job, Brownie" Brown on "The Apprentice" just to hear Donald Trump say, "You're fired."



Modern Times
By
**Lloyd
Garver**

The problem with the First Lady and others being on entertainment television shows is that it blurs the line between what is real and what is not. And reality and perception are already too blurry in the world of politics. We're constantly wondering when are our elected officials telling the truth, and when are they just acting. I'm sure if President Bush went on "ER," and cured cancer, his popularity numbers would go up. But would that mean that he had suddenly become a better President?

Former Senator Fred Thompson is an actor on "Law & Order" these days. He keeps going from an irascible, homespun politician in real life to an irascible, homespun politician on TV. If he goes back to politics, how much of our perception of him will be affected by all those TV episodes?

While those who have chosen the political life obviously love being in the public eye, I hope that appearing on entertainment shows won't become a trend. I know it's tempting for them to get free airtime, but I hope they resist that temptation. It can easily take away from what little dignity there still is in politics. I don't want to see Condi Rice on "The Search for a Playboy Centerfold," do you?

This is a completely non-partisan issue as far as I'm concerned. So, Democrats don't get cocky. You might think that President Bush could often play the title role in "Lost." But unless some Democrat does something significant soon, one could just as easily say that the entire Democratic Party will be "Deadwood."

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

— GUEST COMMENTARY —

Perry's Maneuver Isn't 'Sharp,' It's Pointless

By PETER STERN
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

You can tell Gov. Rick "Special Interest" Perry is starting to get nervous about next year's gubernatorial election when he hires a Democratic arch-rival and former college best-buddy, John Sharp, to "fix" school financing for Perry's "good ol' boy" legislators, who during the past several sessions "floundered around like fish out-of-water."

However, certainly it appears that legislators can't FIX anything, unless it's restructuring voting districts, approving toll roads throughout Texas, or raising their own retirement benefits.

By the way, Perry's school financing "dirty laundry" still won't get cleaned by Sharp and his posse (members to be named at a later date).

Perry's latest tactical and political maneuver to appoint Democrat John Sharp to spearhead yet another

"task force" to resolve public education's inadequate financing also is doomed for failure.



Peter Stern

After years of failures by varied and numerous committees researching public education, isn't it clear yet to everyone that state legislators and officials are NOT the group needed to develop a quality functional public school and finance 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.

MAILBAG ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

Research Funding – Little or None for Lung Cancer

About 50% of new lung cancer patients are former smokers. So, if you smoke or are an ex-smoker you need to know that the survival rate for lung cancer has not increased much in the last 30 years. It is still 10-15 percent. In contrast, there has been enormous research and progress for breast cancer victims. The current survival for breast cancers is around 88 percent. There are two primary reasons for the lack of research and progress on lung cancers; no commitment and no funding.

Even though lung cancer takes more American lives each year than breast, prostate, colon, liver, kidney and pancreas cancers combined; congressional leaders, especially Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), have done their best to push cancer research funding focus elsewhere. Why do you think these two consistently “push off” on the funding of lung cancer research? The answer is simple.

If lung cancer was to get the attention it deserves, so would tobacco. Both of these corporate congressmen are big tobacco supporters. They continually fight for the right of the “poor tobacco farmers” to raise a crop that kills 400,000 Americans and costs \$100 billion in medical costs per year. But why would they consistently back tobacco when Texas is not a tobacco growing state? Again, the answer is simple.

Most career politicians know that if you, at least, do not vote against tobacco, your chance of re-election is multiplied many times over. The tobacco industries own most U.S. food industries (re: RJR-Nabisco, Kraft/Phillip-Morris, etc). Supporting tobacco gets you a ton of donations and more campaign money means more votes. Want to stop this trend, lower medical costs and get a start on winning the fabled “War on Cancer”? The solution is simple.

Don't vote for Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) or Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX).

The solution to ending big tobacco's hold on American health and our health care system is just that simple.

Leonard D. Jensen, Fort Worth

To The Editor:

I read with interest Jerry Tenuto's editorial about the state of the Union four years later.

The only difference in our view points seems to be that I consider the administration to be made up of greedy, arrogant, vindictive incompetents rather than fascists. I prefer my description because it uses more adjectives.

That aside, Mr. Tenuto mentioned a need for a scientific analysis of the mechanism of the collapse of the two towers.

PBS had a show a while back that did just such an analysis. It included some of the original architects. In any event, the buildings had a modified structure from earlier buildings. Instead of having its framework inside, the structure was built into the outside walls. That is, the support was in the walls not in internal posts. The floors were suspended from the walls using beams that were pinned to brackets in the walls. That is, the floor beams were attached only to the outside walls and spanned the entire interior space.

The floor beams were covered with a foam-like fireproofing material that hardened and covered the beams. When the aircraft hit the towers, they did several things. They severed some of the beams in the outside walls, forcing the weight of the floors above to be redirected to other

beams that were still intact - think of an arch. They also blew off much of the fireproofing on the floor beams in the area of the hits. And they threw burning jet fuel into the interior of the buildings causing materials there to ignite.

The prolonged fires caused the now unprotected floor beams to soften and eventually sag. Because of the sagging, excess strain (or stress - I always had trouble distinguishing between the two forces) accumulated at the ends of the floor beams where they were connected only by relatively light “pins.” Those pins were steel bolts placed through the floor beams and the brackets from which they were suspended. As the fire continued, the sagging beams eventually caused the pins to fail and the floors to collapse. As the first floor failed, somewhere within the impact area, it pancaked onto the floor below causing that to fail as well. Once this happened, the building was finished and the whole structure fell onto itself.

The conclusion was that the failure was caused by the combination of the loss of fireproofing which allowed the steel floor beams to eventually sag. That in turn put a shearing force on the connector pins holding the floor beams to the walls, which caused the pins to fail so that the floor beams within the fire area no longer had any means of support. When that happened, the floors collapsed and the buildings came down.

If you look at the PBS web site, you can locate their video collection which should include the show I'm referencing and you will see the graphics and animations that demonstrate their descriptions.

Shalom back at ya!

Gus Tarin, Arlington, Va.

Dear W. Leon Smith,

Twenty-five years ago I first heard the American political system described as a welfare-warfare state.

I was stunned then. Now — it is obvious.

Our political system consists of an axis of two cooperating gangs masquerading as political parties creating theater for the media — as they go about their business of stealing working Americans blind.

It is tempting to call these two gangs — the War Party and the Welfare Party.

The War Party has recently started two wars and is threatening more.

The Welfare Party supports these wars — because their polling indicates that opposing the wars might adversely affect their chances of getting what they really want — control of the \$2.5 trillion per year federal money pigpot.

Despite what they say, both gangs use warfare AND welfare to grow government. The cancerous non-stop growth of government over the last 60 years documents how successful these gangs are.

The greed of these gangs has destroyed our Constitution — and is rapidly destroying the future for our children.

Mike Ford, Austin

To The Editor:

If George Bush's pick to replace Sandra Day O'Connor does not answer the questions that the Senators put to her, then the vote on her nomination must be “no.”

We, the people of the United States, deserve to know what a Supreme Court nominee thinks about basic principals of freedom before he/she is confirmed. This is a life time appointment and, as citizens, we have a right to know where a nominee stands philosophically on issues. While there are political consequences, the issue of whether or not the nominee an-

swers the questions is not a political charade.

Citizens also have the right to hold their elected officials accountable for how they vote. If a court nominee does not represent mainstream American values it is our representatives in the Senate's obligation to vote against that person.

An automatic yes vote when there is no information upon which to make a judgement is also unacceptable. We do not take pigs in a poke. We do not accept personal integrity claims in lieu of factual knowledge of how that person stands on matters of importance.

So ... it all boils down to whether or not Harriet Miers has the guts to stand on her own two feet and clearly state what her personal beliefs are.

If she does so and those beliefs are acceptable then she should receive confirmation. On the other hand, if she refuses to state her beliefs and/or those beliefs are unacceptable to mainstream Americans then she should not be confirmed.

Being a crony of George Bush is not justification for a yes confirmation vote. Cronism, the Peter Principal and blank checks go hand in hand down the path of incompetence and fiscal and moral bankruptcy.

I expect liberals and moderates to take a clear stand on this. I expect them to uphold my right to know whom they are putting into the Supreme Court. I demand that the Senate of the United States Of American confirm only some one who holds my civil liberties in as high a regard as I do.

I also expect far right wing conservatives to take a stand on this as well. They will argue against my rights. They will argue that the ends justify the means. They will denigrate me in an attempt to make my demand to know appear to be unreasonable.

Well, in this case, I know that I do not stand alone. The people of the United States understand that if they allow the Supreme Court to be dominated by extremists that their own civil rights will be at risk.

The Bush Administration has overreached itself again by a nominating some one who clearly is an elitist who has never had to face the concept that her own personal civil rights might be in jeopardy. That happens when you are part of the ruling class.

And, if this means that there is a full filibuster of this nominee then so be. And if this means that the Republicans carry through on their threat to delete the right to filibuster then so be it.

Because, frankly my dear, I do give a damn. And... the line is drawn in the sand.

Angie Pratt

To The Editor:

Regarding Bush's nomination of Harriet Miers:

The problem with this nomination is that Ms. Miers not only doesn't have any judicial experience, but, during her confirmation hearing, she will continually cite “attorney/client privilege.” And will be much more entitled to do so than Roberts was because she was Bush's *personal* attorney. Roberts cited that privilege on the basis of his tenure as an Assistant Solicitor General (whose clients are supposed to be We The People). How many more times will Ms. Miers cite that privilege, with, unfortunately, a better reason that Roberts did?

Besides the fact that Ms. Miers has no judicial experience, she also has very little trial experience, meaning she has not seen the inside of a courtroom enough to describe her as a trial attorney. Corporate attorneys very rarely have any trial experience. They negotiate around a conference room table. They write letters. They make phone calls. But *very rarely* do they enter a courtroom to actually participate in a trial. They don't see individuals in a trial. They see boardrooms, stockholders,

corporate entities – but not individuals.

This is not to say that Ms. Miers is not intelligent and doesn't have an astute legal mind (which is a different kettle of fish than a *judicial* mind). This is not to say that Ms. Miers doesn't have integrity or a well-grounded philosophy. This is to say that she does not have the qualifications to warrant her a term for life on the Supreme Court, the court of last resort.

The Supreme Court is not a reward (from your boss) for work well done. A position on the Supreme Court should only be given to those who have a well-grounded and thorough understanding of the law and who are well regarded within the legal community. Lawyers are groomed to have the utmost respect and reverence for the Supreme Court. But if political cronies and hacks are allowed to be confirmed to the Supreme Court because “we can't find a reason not to,” then where is the respect for the law? If attorneys cannot respect Supreme Court justices, then how can those of us who have no background in the law be expected to revere the Supreme Court? We can't.

None of this is to be taken that Harriet Miers isn't a good attorney in her field or that she hasn't served Bush well in the capacity that she was supposed to serve him. But serving Bush as governor, candidate and/or president, does not make her qualified to serve the United States as one of nine arbiters of the supreme law of this land. Can she separate serving Bush from serving the country? Will she be able to put aside the fact that she worked for Bush for over 11 years if his interests collide with the interests of the rest of us? Will she re-use herself from any cases that could prove detrimental to Bush if they come before the Supreme Court (as Scalia was unable or unwilling to do with Cheney)? Can, We The People, rest easy knowing that Bush's personal counsel/staff attorney/staff secretary/White House counsel is voting on cases on a court from which there is no recourse? I know I can't.

I'm sure Ms. Miers is as good corporate attorney, a good Christian, a good friend, daughter, sister, etc. But I certainly don't want her being the last person I can appeal to.

Ellen Johnson, Dallas

Dear Editor,

Many thanks for the article by L.B. Parr in the Sept. 7, 2005 ICONOCLAST re: the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. She did a fine job of explaining why oil drilling should not be pursued in this remaining coastal wilderness: the limited oil reserves, the misleading portrayal by the Bush administration of the acreage impacted and other aspects. I will briefly add an often overlooked point: that the coastal plain in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is much narrower than in the Prudhoe Bay region and the proposed oil drilling activities and associated human infrastructure will occur throughout the Arctic Wildlife Refuge coastal plain. Area field biologists have repeatedly warned government officials about substantial negative impact on the feeding and/or reproduction of many species including myriad bird species, polar bear, musk oxen, and caribou.

In particular, the biologists are quite concerned that caribou and musk oxen will retreat up into the hills above the coastal plain where forage is of lower quality, where they will be more prone to predators such as grizzlies and wolves and where there are less coastal breezes to reduce the toll of mosquitoes. The Gwich'in people in interior Alaska have depended on caribou that feed and calve in the Arctic Refuge for a substantial portion of their food for centuries and are opposed to the oil drilling. Surely, Americans can conserve by better fuel efficiency, greater use of mass transit and increasing renewable resources rather than harming this unique region by reckless oil drilling.

Sincerely,

Mona Mehdy, Austin

Lone Star Youth Orchestra 2005-2006 Season Slated

IRVING — The seventh season of the Lone Star Youth Orchestra is about to get under way. Each concert will feature music from around the world, from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* to Mendelssohn's *Scottish Symphony*.

There'll be music from Russia, including Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition* and Tchaikovsky's *Waltz from Serenade for Strings*. The music from television will be saluted with selections from *The Pink Panther*, *William Tell* and, of course, *Rodeo*.

The holiday season will ring in with a *Holiday with the Symphony Concert*.

The LSYO concerts will be held at the

Concert Dates for the 2005-2006 Season

Nov. 2, 2005 — *Symphonic Tradition*
Dec. 7, 2005 — *Holiday with the Symphony*
Feb. 22, 2006 — *A Russian Winter*
May 3, 2006 — *As Seen on TV*

All concerts begin at 7 p.m. at the Irving Arts Center — Carpenter Hall
3333 N. MacArthur Blvd

Advance Tickets are \$8 for children, \$10 for adults.

Tickets at the door are \$12 for everyone.

<www.lascolinassymphony.org>

Irving Arts Center's Carpenter Hall and opens Nov. 2.

Join the LSYO for another fantastic

opening night performance!

Opening night in November offers the first-place concerto competition win-

ners who will perform with the Lone Star Youth Orchestra with Bach Concerto in d minor, "Bach Double."

The holidays will include such season favorites as Leroy Anderson's *Sleigh Ride*, Gould's *Home for Christmas*, and a special performance by the LSYO harpist.

The LSYO opens the New Year in February with "A Russian Winter." The concert will feature Rimsky-Korsakov, Mussorgsky, and Tchaikovsky.

The LSYO closes its season with a salute to music, "As Seen on TV."

For ticket information, contact the Las Colinas Symphony Orchestra at 972-580-1566.

The Lone Star Iconoclast Entertainment

OktoberFest Set For Clifton

CLIFTON, Texas—The sound of oompah, aroma of sausage and kraut, and the dancing feet of cloggers will once again greet visitors of Clifton as its Third Annual OktoberFest kicks off. On Saturday, Oct. 15, Clifton will put aside its Norwegian Capital of Texas designation and celebrate German Heritage Day. All are invited to sing, dance and toast the celebration of Clifton's rich heritage.

OktoberFest is hosted three-fold: the Clifton Main Street Program presents Market on Main Street; the Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home will hold its 14th Annual Quilt Auction; and the Clifton Chamber of Commerce will delight everyone with an evening of dining and dancing.

OktoberFest will start with Market on Main Street from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., including arts and craft booths, food, entertainment and dancing, a beer garden, shopping, car show, motorcycle show, kids-family area, and much more.

New events and items will be at this year's Oktoberfest. The TGWA fishing tank and the hay maze and pumpkin patch are just some of the additions.

Starting at 10:30 a.m., the Clifton Lutheran Sunset home will begin the viewing of over 100 quilts at the National Guard armory in Clifton's City Park, with the auction beginning at 12:30 p.m.

To end a perfect day, a dinner and dance featuring Ed Kadlecek and the Fun Bunch will be held from 6:30-10:30 p.m. on the street in historic downtown Clifton.

Market on Main Street will take place in Downtown historic Clifton, deep in the heart of central Texas—a town that showcases its heritage and hospitality every day. Downtown Clifton will be filled throughout the day with German/Mexican and American aromas to tempt every palate. A covered stage will include entertainment for all. The focus is the German favorites of oompah, polka, and waltzing, with plenty of opportunity for dancing, including the irresistible 'Chicken Dance'!

A sampling of entertainment will include Ed Kadlecek and the Fun Bunch, and the Brazos Valley Cloggers, Smooth Groove, and much more. Starting at 12:30 p.m. the Clifton Lutheran Sunset Home will begin their nationally recognized quilt auction. Beautiful quilts to please everyone's taste will be available. Then to end a perfect day an authentic German dinner and dance will be served and music will delight all that attend. No one will leave Clifton unhappy.

Clifton is located about 35 miles northwest of Waco on Highway 6 or 90 miles southwest of the Dallas/Fort Worth area off I-35 at Hillsboro. For more information call 1-800-344-3720 or 254-675-8337.



Waco Cultural Arts Fest Nov. 12-13

WACO — The 2005 Waco Cultural Arts Fest will be held Nov. 12-13 at Heritage Square in downtown Waco.

The event is free to the public. Art will be for sale from over 50 Texas artists, plus there will be culturally diverse foods, a PBS kid's stage, and free arts activities for all ages.

A free concert featuring Del Castillo, Pride & Joy, Davin James, South Austin

Jug Band, Fingerprints, Ollimpaxuqui, and Fiesta Dancers from Meridian Independent School District will be held from 11 a.m. to midnight on Saturday, Nov. 12.

On Sunday, a free concert featuring Malford Milligan, Grupo Fantasma, Sunny Mac Blues Band, Rejoice, and Klaras Warren Collaboration will be held from noon to 7 p.m.

<www.wacoartsfest.org>

AT LAST... the MAGI as THREE WISE WOMEN

This Christmas send

"EPIPHANY"

by Janet McKenzie © 2003



Cards are blank inside with a narrative on the back.
Box of 12 cards \$15.00 plus \$5.00 flat fee S&H

To order visit www.thenativityproject.com
or send check to The Nativity Project, P.O. Box 892, Harvard, IL 60033

Waco Store Now Open

MUELLER, INC.

STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS & COMPONENTS
Waco: 800-525-3814

Mark Noland (ext. 5426) - Roland Hicks (ext. 5427)
5591 N. Hwy. 6, Waco — 254-848-2560 • Fax: 254-848-9997

Temple: 800-525-3814 • Fax: 254-742-2947
I-35 N. between Exit #305 west side of I-35

www.muellerinc.com