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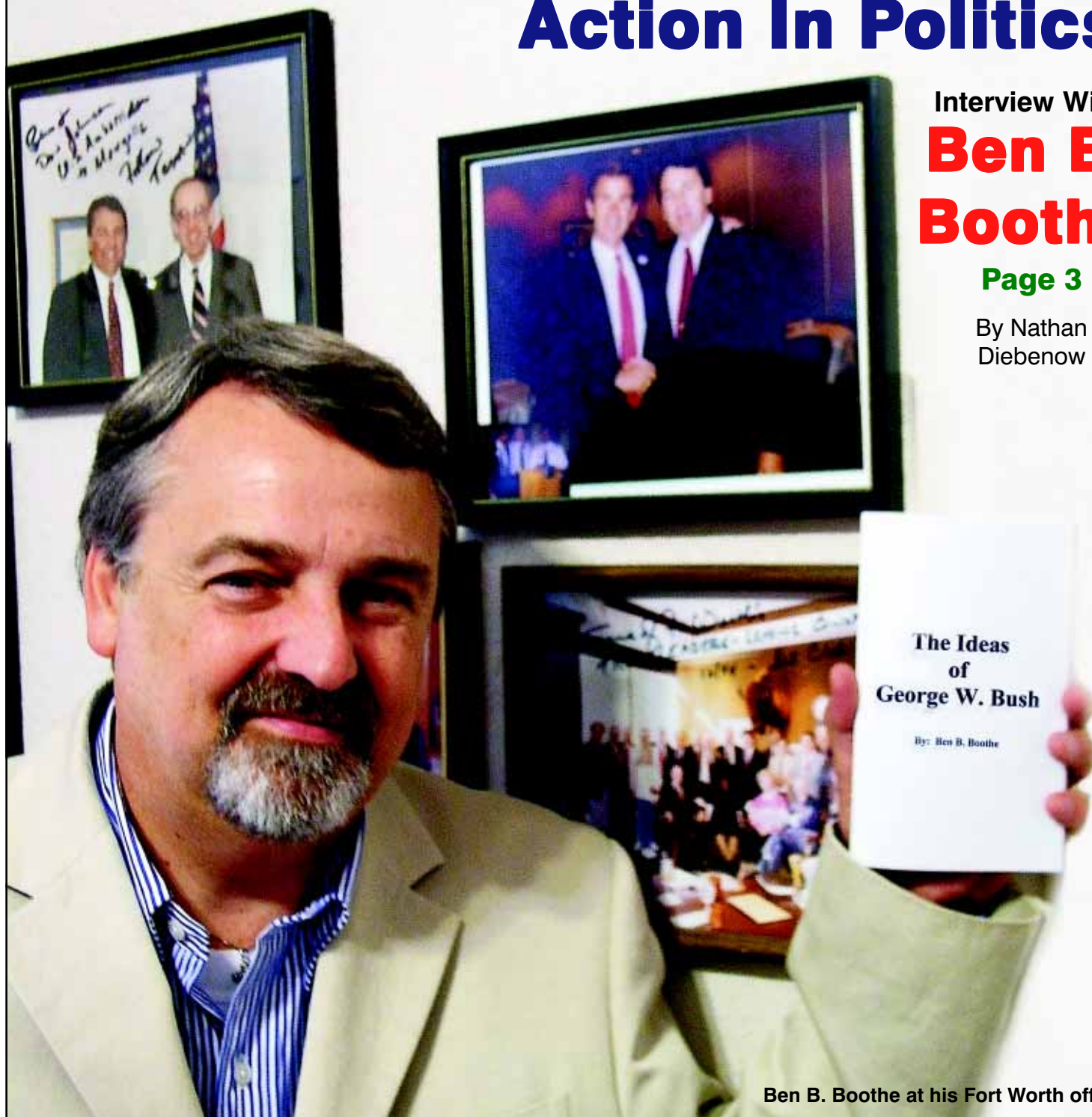
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Ben B. Boothe at his Fort Worth office

'Economists at the World Bank — I do some consulting work for the World Bank still — they're saying right now that it'll take 29 years for this country to absorb this spending of the Bush administration. Twenty-nine years to repay all this debt and to absorb it. It's huge. It's a huge thing. It's kind of like getting a new mortgage payment, and you're having to afford this for the next 29 years.'

— Ben B. Boothe

Johnson Announces Candidacy For 54th District Court

WACO — Matt Johnson announced that he is a candidate for Judge of the 54th District Court of McLennan County. He will seek the nomination of the Republican Party in March of 2006.

Johnson, a 42-year-old attorney, is a partner in the law firm of Reyna, Johnson & Reed, L.L.P. Just prior to his present law partnership, he served as Justice of the Peace for McLennan County.

From 1997 to 2001, Johnson worked in the McLennan County District Attorney's office as a felony prosecutor, prosecuting violent crimes, drug dealers, arsonist, pornographers, organized criminal activity, and domestic violence.

"Based on my broad and varied experience, I am very qualified and prepared to serve as Judge of McLennan County's 54th District Court. I have worked as a judge, felony prosecutor, appellate court briefing attorney, and practicing attorney since graduating from law school over 15 years ago," stated Johnson.

"Because I have represented numerous clients in so many different matters, I fully understand the impact and significance that judicial decisions have on the families and citizens of McLennan County. Having worked both as a practicing attorney and as a judge gives me a wide and balanced perspective," said Johnson.

In his candidacy announcement, Johnson said, "I have always believed that judges are not legislators and should not legislate from the bench. A



Matt Johnson

judge should apply the law to the facts of the case before him and render a just and fair decision. Not engage in Judicial activism. There is a saying that justice delayed is justice denied. I believe is swift and sure justice."

A Waco native, Johnson graduated

from Richfield High School and earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree from Baylor University. He then earned his Juris Doctorate from Oklahoma City University. He is married and he and his wife, Melissa have two sons. They are members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Active in civic work, he is a previous director of the Tejas Council, Campfire, USA, the Heart of Texas Council on Alcoholism & Drug Abuse, Habitat for Hu-

manity, and a judge for high school mock trial competition. He is currently a director of Lutheran Ministries and Social Services and a member of the Waco Founders Lions Club.

He is a former director of the Waco-McLennan County Bar Association, a member of the State Bar of Texas and the Texas District and County Attorney's Association. Johnson is licensed to practice in the Federal Court, Western District of Texas.

Annual Christmas Tour Of Homes Set In Crawford

CRAWFORD — The Prairie Chapel School Association will be having its annual Christmas Tour of Homes at Crawford on Dec. 3.

Hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased from area businesses in Crawford or through the Association at P.O. Box 64, Crawford, 76633.

For more information, call 254-722-7332.

Nestlé Selling Fairtrade Coffee In U.K.

LONDON — The world's largest direct buyer of coffee — Nestlé — has launched a Fairtrade certified coffee in a new sustainability initiative for smallholder coffee farmers. Nescafé Partners Blend, a soluble, freeze-dried instant coffee, went on sale in the United Kingdom this October.

Alastair Sykes, CEO of Nestlé U.K. and Ireland said that the move into Fairtrade was a response to customer expectations for the company to be more socially responsible.

"This means that we need to ensure that farmers in the developing world not only receive a fair price for their coffee, but that their sources of income are developed to support their families into the future in a manner that respects their lands and communities," said Sykes.

Harriet Lamb, executive director of the Fairtrade Foundation, noted that this is a "turning point" for Fairtrade in the U.K. because Nestlé is the first of the four major coffee roasters to take a step toward certifying its products by the Fairtrade Mark due to consumer pressure.

The Arabica beans for the Nescafé Partners Blend are from El Salvador and Ethiopia.

Nestlé is working with over 200 smallholders in four Fairtrade certified co-operatives in El Salvador and exploring how farmers in the Hama area of Yirgacheffe, Ethiopia, might achieve Fairtrade certification. Nestlé has developed a trading relationship with the Oromia Co-operative Union in Ethiopia.

Source: GreenBiz.com

The Cliftex Theatre is temporarily closed for repairs.

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THE IDEAS OF GEORGE W. BUSH, a political humor book by Ben B. Boothe, is scheduled for release thought Unicorn Press USA, Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m., at the Botanical Gardens in Fort Worth.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

When I'm in Santa Monica, California, I see Democrats working, exciting, and organizing. Same in Los Angeles. When I go to Chicago, I see that. When I'm in Minnesota, I see real Democrats. I mean, they're leading, they're powerful, they give money. They're out there fighting, and they're excited.'
— Ben B. Boothe

here — no health insurance. She sold her car last week. *She sold her car* so that she could pay for a medical procedure. Ask George W. Bush how do you deal with this? "Not a clue."

How do you deal with children's issues, the rise of children in poverty in the United States without opportunities for a good college education? "Not a clue."

I was in Lubbock yesterday. I was talking to farmers: how do you survive? "We don't know. They're cutting back on our support programs, our emergency programs. We're not sure if we can plant next year." My mother, my mother, comes to me — haven't made a profit in three years. This administration has cut support programs, and we've had to sell the farm. That farm has been in our family for 50 years.

George, how do we deal with the farming crisis? "What farming crisis?"

There is a dirth of ideas coming at Washington, asking questions to get a response on the war on terror.

We're not in an election year. I have no political ambitions at all. And I thought, this is the time to publish the book because if we can put a drop in the stream of consciousness of the American thinking, what I call the connected generation, the enlightened generation, the young people who don't have the political ideological that they are locked into, maybe its time for them to say something.

I'm thinking that we're going to have people come to these book signings, public events, and whatnot, that we're going to say something like, "If we're going to stand up for something, what are your ideas? Fill in the pages for us." And they are going to start making contributions to the national consciousness. That's what we're going to do.

If the Democrats wants to be involved, that's great. If the Ross Perot crowd wants to be involved, that's alright. If the Republicans want to be involved — they probably won't — that's great. I just want to do something that stirs the pot.

If we make any money on the book, I've already committed that we'll donate the profits to good cause. We'll send some money to groups if they need help. It would be great to make a profit. (laughs) I take it back We make take some of the profit and go to Hawaii. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) You're bad!

BOOTHE: (laughs) The fact of the matter is you can't do anything successfully and expect to just make a profit. You've got to believe in a concept or an idea, and I've done this before, and I think I've capsuled that in the preface (to the book). I don't know if I got that across, but that's basically what I was hoping to put across in the preface — to try to stimulate ideas. Hey, in two years, we're going to have a new president,

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The Idea Man

Humor Book Invites Thoughts, Action In Politics

Interview With
Ben B. Boothe

BY NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

FORT WORTH — Ben B. Boothe has a funny way of inviting more people to take part in their country's political process.

He wrote a book.

At 88 pages, *The Ideas of George W. Bush* irreverently opens up a discussion to gather new solutions to the world's ever-growing socio-economic and environmental problems, according to the global environmental consultant based in Fort Worth.

"I trust that this book will provoke new thoughts and thinking. The future of our world requires thoughtful, ideas," wrote Boothe in the acknowledgments section.

No stranger to the political process himself, the former banker says that his intention is only to raise awareness, not run again for office. In 1998, he ran as a Democrat for Congress against Rep. Joe Barton (R-Ennis) in the Sixth District of Texas and lost.

Since then, he has devoted more time to building his business — Ben B. Boothe and Associates, Inc. — and

travel around the world to consult foreign governments on business, banking, and economic trends. He has branch offices in Mongolia and India.

Boothe has authored over 200 published articles in magazines, newspapers, and journals, and has written seven books, including *Confessions of a Banker*, a novel about a young banker living in a rural West Texas town. He also publishes a newsletter, *Global Perspectives* which is sent to political leaders, corporate heads, government officials, and academia throughout the world.

After a quick tour of Boothe's office in the Ridglea area of Fort Worth, the ICONOCLAST's Nathan Diebenow sat down with the author to talk about the inspiration of his new book, the status of the local county Democratic Party, the world's concern over U.S. foreign policy, and Boothe's hope in the new "global generation."

.....
ICONOCLAST: Why did you write this book?

BOOTHE: Well, the ideas, the answers to the challenges we face are not

coming from this administration, and I don't think they have a clue. And it's time to do something that will stimulate through a chuckle people to say, "Maybe we do have some new ideas."

Even in Ecuador we have a political elected official — I sent a copy down there — e-mail me right back, and said, "You're right. This is what we need to do. We need to do this, this, and this. America needs to do this, this, and this." In other words, we're already stimulating people to think about ideas about these problems.

If we were to ask George W. how long we are going to be in Iraq, we don't have a clue.

How much is it going to cost us? "Don't know."

Why did we go there? "Oh, weapons of mass destruction."

Okay, where are they? "Don't have a clue."

What are we doing about 30 million Americans who have no healthcare? "Don't have a clue." I just had cancer surgery. I understand about healthcare. Thirty million Americans don't have healthcare. The girl that just walked in

• THE IDEA MAN — Ben B. Boothe ... Continued From Page 3

right? We need to be thinking about the kinds of ideas we need to endorse — whether it comes from liberal, conservative, whatever.

ICONOCLAST: What kind of feedback have you gotten from your book?

BEN BOOTHE: One professor in Pennsylvania called me on my cell phone and said, "Your book has a funny punch line. Your advantage is that its dead serious." And he said, "I got your message and it really touched me."

And that's important to me because when I passed the book around to test audiences in Fort Worth, Austin, Lubbock, and a few in Los Angeles, the Republicans we hand it to will laugh, and the Democrats we hand it to will laugh. The Democrats keep laughing. The Republicans will laugh and in a minute they will grow silent. They get it. I think that's interesting. When they get the book, they get the punchline, and they laugh, but then when they get the deeper meaning, which is important to me, and it needs to be said, and it needs to be said right now at this time and place in this country, they get it.

That's why the book is important to me, and I hope this book is important to a lot of people.

All we are doing now is sending out review copies and getting ready for the book release, Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m., Botanical Gardens in Fort Worth.

ICONOCLAST: How did you get interested in politics and come to write this book?

BOOTHE: How did I get interested in politics? When I went to Cambodia a few years ago, and I had been going to Asia on other trips, I had a clear vision. In the history of Cambodia, there was a gap of power for awhile. The federal government of Cambodia was weak, and so Pol Pot filled in the vacuum, and then in a nation of five or six million people, he killed a million people.

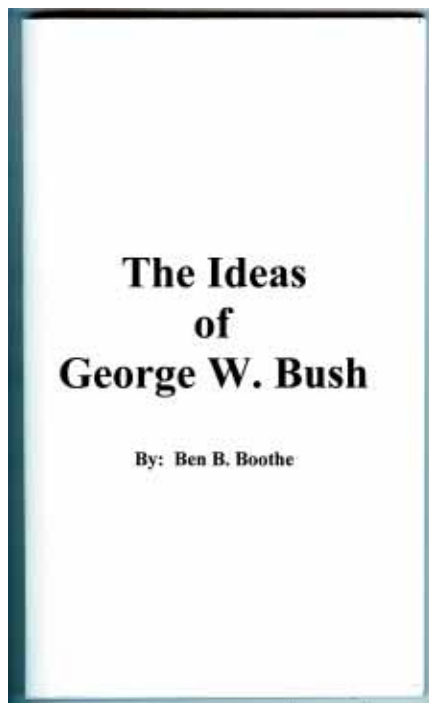
It occurred to me that if good people don't fill that vacuum, bad people are going to fill that vacuum, and Pol Pot had lots of ideas, but his ideas were just wrong, so lots of people died as a result. That's what makes me interested in the political system. It also makes me encourage other people to get involved. I have no interest in being in any elected campaign at all, but I'd like to encourage a lot of young people to get involved in the political process for that reason. We need good thinkers in the process.

ICONOCLAST: How did the book develop?

BOOTHE: (laughs) I was on a trip in South America trying to negotiate a contract to import leather goods into America. See those suitcases over there?

ICONOCLAST: Yeah.

BOOTHE: While I was there, they had a president who really wasn't doing much in Ecuador, and one of the leaders there held a news conference and wrote a book about the ideas of their president. It made such a splash in that country, and an elected official of Ecuador came up to me and said, "You need a book like this about George Bush in America." (laughs) I said, "You're right." That person is Maria I said, "Okay, I'll do the book if you're co-editor of it." Maria said, "If I'm in that book, I can never come back to America again."



ICONOCLAST: (laughs)

BOOTHE: All the young people there said, "Yeah, we need ideas. This is what we need." Then I met with a guy, who is a young guy, probably 39 years old, who wants to be president as a result of that instance. He said, "You know, that guy is clueless. He has no ideas. I have ideas. Here they are." He has good ideas, and on my website, there's a picture of me standing next to him. He gave me an audience. He was like, "I want to talk to you about some of the ideas that you believe in."

If you look at what's going on here, you look at Tom DeLay; 30 percent of Bush's cabinet has been indicted or sued or have some kind of corruption scheme connected with them. I saw a cartoon the other day that to meet with his chief advisors, he had to go to a jail visitation unit. It looks like Karl Rove is going down. I wouldn't be surprised if Dick Cheney went down because of his conflicts of interest in this war. So the legacy of this administration is going to be something negative. I think as history writes it, it will mention this corruption, this war, this huge deficit, and the lack of social services.

And then, in my travels, I'm in 20



Analyzing Bank Risk Management issues with the banking leaders of CIS nations (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan)

in Texas, and I was invited to a hunt, with all these macho hunting type guys, and the New Orleans thing happens, and we're sitting at the lodge watching TV. And even those guys are saying, "My God! India and Somalia does a better job at relief than what we're doing!" They were embarrassed as Americans that our country simply was not responding as a country should, right here in our own country.

And then you'd hear comments like, "Oh, the reason we don't have enough helicopters is because they are all in Iraq." Or, "The reasons we don't have enough resources is that we've spent all our money on stupid foreign policies." This is Republicans saying this sort of thing, so my best guess and the national polling figures agree with me that Americans are not happy with the lack of ideas coming out of Washington.

ICONOCLAST: One of the things that came to me while I was driving into Fort Worth was what the political scene in Tarrant County is all about. I've read that in Tarrant County, Republicans outnumber Democrats three-to-one and are pretty well organized. What's going on here politically?

BOOTHE: The Democratic Party in Tarrant County has suffered from the typical man who moves to the suburbs and suddenly he makes \$100,000 a year, and he says, "Gosh, I can afford a Suburban or a Humvee." The guy comes from a working class family, and sud-

Party.

I don't know if the existing Democrats can do that. There's a lot of hope in the younger generation because when I talk to those people, they are traveled, they are educated, they have a college degree. The younger, connected, global generation, they have ideas and what I think is the ability to create world peace. I'm thinking that the new Democratic Party, if it is to be built, will be built by targeting those people, and we're seeing some efforts out of Washington and sections around the country starting again to bring young people back into the Democratic Party. That's what I'm hopeful for the Democratic Party in Tarrant County. You can't do it with people over 65. They're tired.

ICONOCLAST: What I've noticed with Democrats in Arlington when I visited some last year was that they started their own group separate from the main Tarrant County group because the Fort Worth group seemed to do their own thing. I can understand that because Arlington is Arlington. It has its own culture, socio-economic identity. Do you see any more of those grassroots efforts with suburban Democrats around here?

BOOTHE: When I'm in Santa Monica, California, I see Democrats working, exciting, and organizing. Same in Los Angeles. When I go to Chicago, I see that. When I'm in Minnesota, I see real Democrats. I mean, they're leading, they're powerful, they give money.

“When I was at this breakfast with George W., I noticed in our conversation that anytime he brought up a subject that required a second or third layer of intellectual thought, he would blank out and tell a joke or something. I didn't know if he didn't want to address intellectual issues or if he couldn't. I could never gauge that, and I think that's what I'm seeing consistently from the policies that are coming out of this administration. He just doesn't have the ideas. They are just not there. If Karl Rove gets put in jail, he won't have any intellectual guidance.”

— Ben B. Boothe

countries and all over the United States. When I'm sitting on the planes usually the people who are traveling are affluent, right? Basically, you can imagine that most of them are heads of corporations and have fairly conservative viewpoints, but they are not happy with what's going on in America today. The New Orleans thing seemed to kind of galvanized that. You know, they're not happy with the way our country has poorly responded to a national crisis. We need new ideas.

ICONOCLAST: What are the problems they have?

BOOTHE: I was at a hunting lodge

denly, he says, "I'm in the suburbs, and I've got my Humvee and my home, and I'm now a Republican. I have crossed this social divide." If you look at the polling statistics of Tarrant County, all the suburban areas are like 75-80 percent Republican in their demographic make up.

When (Gov. Howard) Dean ran for office, he said we've got to somehow re-appeal to the NASCAR crowd, and I think that it was an intuitive thought because that's the same crowd of people who have moved to the suburbs, have become affluent, and now perceive themselves as liking the Republican

They're out there fighting, and they're excited.

When I go to other cities around Texas like Austin and San Antonio, I find Democrats that inspire me a lot. Fort Worth just needs to be rebuilt, and it needs young leadership to do it, in my opinion. And I hope that leadership comes from educated college graduates that are moving here looking for jobs.

ICONOCLAST: And this book seems like an opportunity for that kind of outreach.

BOOTHE: Yes! And we'll donate money to those kinds of causes, if I can

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• **THE IDEA MAN — Ben B. Boothe ... Continued From Page 4**

find them.

ICONOCLAST: How much travel are you going to do to promote this book and stir the pot of ideas, as you say?

BOOTHE: We're talking right now to MoveOn and Air America. We're again setting up interviews in California. The University of Pennsylvania said they want me to come up there and make appearances. We're talking a very conservative university — Pepperdine University in California. What was the name of the guy who ran Clinton's investigations?

ICONOCLAST: Kenneth Star.

BOOTHE: He's one of the law professors there. At any rate, we're talking to Pepperdine about doing a presentation out there. And in Texas, I've instructed LeeAnn, who is handling the promotion of the book, to make me available to as many groups as they can get together. We'll come by, make a presentation, and try to stimulate exactly what you're talking about.

We've also talked with the statewide Democratic Party. They said they were going to do a story in their newsletter, and I'm interested in seeing the response. I got a call from somebody in Parker County, and they asked if I could come out there. "Yeah, that would be great." I'm going to meet with the executive committee of the Democratic Party in early November.

Yeah, it's a good point. Of course, I'll be available. I like to do that. It'll be fun. It's a good ego stroke. (laughs) We all need a few ego strokes.

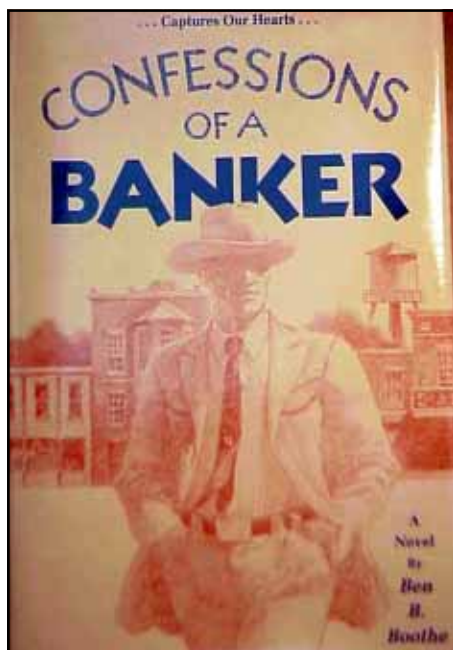
But I will tell you this — I was sitting yesterday in a barber shop in Lubbock, Texas. That is a conservative bastion, and I said, "Let me show you a book." I passed it around and the whole room howling with laughter. These are conservative, Rush Limbaugh farming folk. They were laughing and then I'd hear them whispering to each other saying, "You know, he's right." That tells me something. If I can get that kind of response — you know Mark Twain once said, "Sometimes the best way you can make a point is with a smile." — we might start something.

Yesterday, (Congressman John D.) Dingell out of Michigan, on the Charlie Rose Show, was asked, "Do you think there might be some chance of a swing of the political winds in Washington?" Dingell said, "Without a doubt. I bet the Democrats will win the House next election." Charlie was saying, "Do you really believe that? It seems like a majority of the county is Republican." Dingell said, "Look around. They may be Republicans, but they're not real happy." Even the Republicans are not as loudly supporting Bush.

ICONOCLAST: I read that conservative pundit Bruce Bartlett was fired this week from his position as a senior fellow at the National Center for Policy Analysis for his criticism of the Bush White House. All Bartlett said was that Bush was not a conservative in the small government, fiscally responsible sense.

BOOTHE: They used to say that Democrats were "tax and spend." But I heard a Republican on some radio talk show say, "Bush is borrow and spend." With tax and spend is at least you pay as you go. With borrow and spend, you saddle it with your kids and grandkids and generations.

Economists at the World Bank — I do



One Of Boothe's Earlier Books

some consulting work for the World Bank still — they're saying right now that it'll take 29 years for this country to absorb this spending of the Bush administration. Twenty-nine years to repay all this debt and to absorb it. It's huge. It's a huge thing. It's kind of like getting a new mortgage payment, and you're having to afford this for the next 29 years.

ICONOCLAST: Are the people at the World Bank concerned with this spending?

BOOTHE: Yeah. The GAO is concerned about it. Economists within the agencies of his very government are concerned about it. You know, if you think about it, how many treasury secretaries has it lost? The first one was fired because he came to Bush and said, "You can't afford to cut taxes and increase spending by \$400 billion." And they fired him. He wrote the book inside the Cabinet and disclosed all these — I mean, this is insane. He's trying to create so much new debt, that we'll have to cancel all our social services: Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security. He said that they'll all have to disappear because there's not enough money.

Snow, the current Secretary of the Treasury, is saying the same thing, but he's being a lot more diplomatic about it. (whispers) "You might want to reconsider taxes." He can't say that real loud or he'll get fired.

(Pointing to a picture on his wall) When I was at this breakfast with George W., I noticed in our conversation that anytime he brought up a subject that required a second or third layer of intellectual thought, he would blank out and tell a joke or something. I didn't know if he didn't want to address intellectual issues or if he couldn't. I could never gauge that, and I think that's what I'm seeing consistently from the policies that are coming out of this administration. He just doesn't have the ideas. They are just not there. If Karl Rove gets put in jail, he won't have any intellectual guidance.

ICONOCLAST: And it seems like the intellectual guidance that he's getting in this supply-side, trickle down economics, passed on down from the Reagan administration. Like you said, borrow and spend. It's a government financed by credit card.

BOOTHE: Yeah, which will bankrupt

you, which makes tax and spend look pretty good! Clinton raised taxes, and we had the first surplus in what? Twenty years? And what? We had a \$150 billion surplus when Clinton left office, and then we had a \$400 billion deficit the second year Bush was in office. It just gets worse and worse and worse.

And he makes things worse by the way he does things, just stupid things like New Orleans. We had 800,000 people in hotels at \$60 a night when we have something like 200,000 mobile homes that we never did open up and put into action that FEMA's got. That's strange. Well, FEMA was looking at Arabian horses instead of figuring, "Hey, we've got all of this temporary housing for these disasters. Why don't we use it?"

ICONOCLAST: Tell me about your political experiences.

BOOTHE: Well, I had a group of what we used to call "West Texas Democrats" or moderate Democrats. These would have been proteges of Mr. Sam Rayburn, who in a lot of ways was conservative, but he was Speaker of the House for what? Thirty-eight years. A very powerful man. And they said we need to do something about Joe Barton. The man is corrupt. And the DFW issue was on the boards, so I ran for office against Joe Barton.

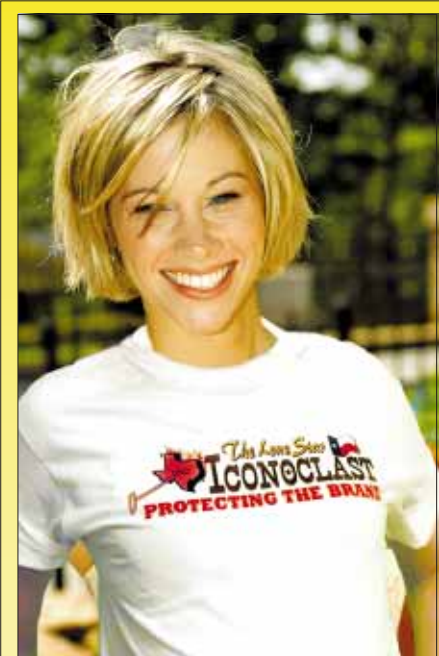
This is interesting about Joe Barton. He was giving Clinton a hard time on family values during our campaign. His wife filed for divorce because of all of his extracurricular activities that he was involved in. I thought that was kind of interesting that he would give Clinton such a hard time because of Monica Lewinsky and then the other thing is that a lot of his support came from mainline Protestant white church groups. That's where his big money came from, and yet even when that came out, they continued to support him.

That tells me the Christian ethic that's out there really doesn't care so much. It chooses to believe what it wants to believe. Today when I go to these churches and I see the American flag and they are praying for the destruction of these Iraqi infidels, I know Iraqis! They're pretty nice people! And I don't understand that kind of Christian ethic. I didn't understand Pat Robertson's quote about assassinating the president of Venezuela. It seemed inconsistent. I find that ethical inconsistency to be bewildering and scary. It reminds me of fascism we saw in Nazi Germany.

For example, when I go to India, and I was meeting with the minister of finance of India in Deli not too long ago, he said, "What has happened to the United States?" I said, "What do you mean?" He said, "We are threatened by the United States here in India." I said, "Hell, we're not a threat to you." He said, "You can watch us with your satellites. You can put jet planes over our country at will, and apparently declare war on any country at will for no reason. Look at Iraq. Our country is distressed about this. What has happened to the United States?"

And when I go to Mongolia where I've had business interests for some time, my friends there said, "Oh, we're friends of the United States. We're going to support you with your deal in Iraq." But quietly over there, they'll say, "Your country has gone crazy. You know, it's like an unbridled beast that has no controls. We're really nervous about this

Continued On Next Page



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• THE IDEA MAN — Ben B. Boothe ... Continued From Page 5

thing.”
You know, they’ve done a polling in Germany, and they said, “What is the most threatening country on the Earth today?” It wasn’t Russia. It wasn’t China. The country that caused people the most insecurity was the United States. That’s a real switch. For all of those reasons, I think we need to get knowledgeable, young people involved. People like you. Because people like me, I’m too old. If you’re going to get people in there, they’ve got to be young enough to get in there and make a difference. I’m passed my prime.

I was supposed to make a presentation at the Ghandi Institute, and always in years past when I would go do something there, I would have a lot of fun with the fact that I was from Texas and that my granddaddy was a rancher and raised horses and cows and that sort of thing, but they said on this trip that they would not promote me as being from Texas, and said, “In fact, we’re not even going to mention it. We don’t want you to mention it, nor do we

want you to wear a hat or anything like that.” And I said, “Why?” And they said, “Because it might not be safe for you, and we don’t want to have additional security measures for you.” And I said, “Why is that?” They said, “You don’t understand how much anger George Bush has caused in some elements of our country.” You know, that’s interesting. I even have to couch the way I present myself because our country is making such a bad impression in some places on Earth. So all of that tells me that our country needs desperately a new approach.

ICONOCLAST: In my last interview for The Iconoclast, I interviewed an activist in Maine by the name of Bruce Gagnon, and he described the same exact scenario that your Indian finance minister friend told you in terms of the United States building its military-industrial complex in space. Gagnon said that there is no way China can be a threat to us because they are so far behind in their space technology. Gagnon added that a Pentagon official openly admitted that the new role of the United States is no longer manufacturing and exporting products. It’s now “security exports.” The U.S. military’s role is to guard and secure the interests of corporations all over the world. Is that something that you see happening on your travels as well?

BOOTHE: Yeah, I’ve seen it happening, and it is happening. Right now, someone did a survey — I don’t remember which author it was — of the security forces that are in the hands of big business around the world, and the big corporations now are no longer American companies or German companies. They are global companies, and so they are not loyal to any particular government, but they are loyal to greed.

Some of these companies now have more assets than the governments that they work in, and some of these companies have huge security forces. It’s almost like they are an entity to themselves, which is real spooky, too. At least with a government, you have some kind ideology that the government is guided by. Corporations spread only by greed. Well, then, you have really no

ideological or ethical foundations in which to go. I find that spooky around the world, and people also find that spooky.

I was in Nepal, and I was meeting with some friends that are a part of the government. She was telling me that the king had taken steps to take away the rights of the democracy to fight the country’s Maoist uprising. Basically the Parliament was dissolved so that the king could have control. I said, “Where are the college kids on this? Where are the young people because if I know where the young people are, I’ll know that they are intuitively seeing something that maybe we’re not seeing.” The college kids are saying, “No, no, no! This government needs to be a democracy. No, no. This government needs to be sitting down and talking to these

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ome of these companies now have more assets than the governments that they work in, and some of these companies have huge security forces. It’s almost like they are an entity to themselves, which is real spooky, too. At least with a government, you have some kind ideology that the government is guided by.’

— Ben B. Boothe

Maoists. No, no. The problem with the Maoists is not because of communism at all. They are rioting because the people are starving to death.” The college kids in Katmandu are saying, “Let’s deal with these people that don’t have any food. If we give them food and a job, they’re not going to be holding a gun.” And so I’m thinking, that’s the global generation. They nailed the issue right there.

I got an email from a Parliament member. The king of Nepal is coming to the United States and she asked me if I would help arrange a meeting with the king of Nepal and Hillary Clinton. Well, why is he coming here to the United States? He wants the United States to support him. I find it interesting that he’s coming to the United States. He’s not asking for an audience with George W. Bush. He’s asking for an audience with Hillary Clinton. Why is that? He needs ideas. I don’t know if I can get that audience or not, but I find it interesting that they wrote me and said, “We want you to set up him with Hillary Clinton.” It’s kind of like when the prince of Saudi Arabia came to the United States. He met with two people. He met with George W. Bush out on the ranch and stayed up there for seven hours and then met with Bill Clinton for two days. He’s desperate for someone with ideas. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: Makes sense.

BOOTHE: Do you see the same thing I’m seeing?

ICONOCLAST: What do you mean?

BOOTHE: If you look at my employees, all of my employees here and all over the world are under 35 years old, and nearly all of them are in this global generation. They are smart, informed, articulate. Any one of them can do a better job at this interview than I can do. They know what to say. They know how to say it. They understand what’s going on.

I’ve got 10 employees in Mongolia. I’ve got people in different countries that work for me. I don’t have to pay them a lot, but the fact of the matter is this lady that was here a little while ago, she runs a bank in Mongolia. She flew here to help me with a project I’ve got

going on here. It’s amazing, and these people, if they get the chance to affect their governments, they’ll do a hell of a lot better job than what’s happening now around the world.

One of my best friends is an elected official in Ecuador. She’s 30 years old, the only woman elected official in that state. She’s attacking all the corporate interests, all the drug dealers. She’s taking her life in her hands because she believes in it. It’s not corruption for her. It’s not bribes. It’s not, “Hey if help somebody in big business, they’re going to make me wealthy.” It’s not on her radar screen.

You know who she took on in Ecuador? Burger King. You know why? They put a commercial on the air, and they showed this burger, and they showed this really sexy Ecuadorian girl, and they said, “Our hamburgers are like Ecuadorian women. Hot and ready.”

ICONOCLAST: That’s what Burger King put on?

BOOTHE: She got 10,000 women in the streets, saying “We don’t want our daughters portrayed as hot, willing and ready.” And Burger King pulled the ad. In America, you don’t see women in the streets challenging a commercial that makes them an object of derision.

This global generation, they are my family. That is the hope for this world. There is a whole network of this global generation. They’re with it. They know what’s going on, and it’s just a matter of time before they are elevated into situations in which they are in positions of power and control. I think that is incredibly hopeful. I’m really optimistic about it.

The fact that they are connected is important and that they are making a difference. I don’t know how many e-mails you get a day, but I get a lot. A lot of them are these people. “We saw your last article.” “We saw you last newsletter.” “How is your book coming?” “What are you doing next?” “Did you hear about so-and-so?”

When Chiapas was happening, I was getting e-mails from all over the Chiapas and Tabasco region: “You know, this NAFTA thing, it’s going to hurt us. It’s going to destroy us.” These were kids on the Internet, so they were the more educated and affluent. They were there with it, and exactly what they predicted would happen happened. Thirty percent of the farmers went broke since NAFTA passed. They were right there, and they could have much better informed their government than the politicians, had they had more confidence and been more active, but it’s coming. I see it coming. It’s a whole new movement. It’s not Democrats. It’s not Republicans. It’s not Communists. It’s not Socialists or Populists. It’s a new movement of enlightened, global young people that are just floating up. All they need is a little direction.

ICONOCLAST: When you say that it’s not driven by the political party, what is it driven by?

BOOTHE: I think it’s driven by communication. For example, I grew up in the Church of Christ, and they used to

say, “Everybody is going to hell but us.” But if you’re sitting on the Internet, and everyday you’re in your MSN Messenger talking to a Hindu that’s more deeply spiritual than you are, or you’re talking to a Buddhist over here who everyday is teaching you something about spirituality that you never dreamed of, it’s pretty hard for you to believe that person is going to hell because he doesn’t go to church on 7th Street.

And this global generation because of this communication and the fact that this global generation unlike your grandparents — did granddaddy ever really travel a lot? Go to India? Go to Mongolia? No, he didn’t because it was hard back then. This global generation is unusual. This global generation takes two weeks off and go, “Hey I’m going to visit someplace.”

I think travel and communication and the fact that this generation, most of this generation is college educated, so they are better educated, better traveled than their parents and grandparents, and they have more social interaction than any generation on Earth. I think essentially that makes us a world psyche. I see it there.

ICONOCLAST: What’s making these kids doing what they are doing and be active?

BOOTHE: Because they care. In Cambodia, there’s a girl I know whose daddy was pulled out of their house and executed. You know why? Because he wore reading glasses because they said, “If you wore reading glasses, you must be part of the intellectual elite.” And they executed him in their front yard. She’s never going to allow — she doesn’t like that to exist.

They are not going to be led like sheep by sheep, maybe like my generation was or maybe like your parent’s generation was controlled by religion or politics or some other institution that put shackles on people’s backs. It’s a matter of control. “Whatever you do, don’t hang out with a Hindu.” “Don’t date a Buddhist.”

ICONOCLAST: Or that doesn’t even come up.

BOOTHE: Right.

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Conflicting Testimony Puts Pressure On White House

WASHINGTON — The Bush Administration came under more pressure last week when it was revealed that prosecutors found evidence that two White House aides gave conflicting accounts of how they learned of the identity of a covert CIA officer's identity days prior to her blown cover in Robert Novak's column in July 2003.

President Bush's senior advisor Karl Rove told grand jurors that he might have first learned about Valerie Plame, the wife of Bush critic Joe Wilson, from Vice President Dick Cheney's chief of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby.

Libby said that Rove revealed his contact with Novak to him. Libby added that he had told Rove he learned about Plame from NBC newsman Tim Russert.

Russert, however, told authorities he could not have told Libby about the Plame's identity because he learned about it after it was published, according to the network.

Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald has until the end of October

when the grand jury expires to determine if the Rove/Libby conversation was a conspiracy to illegally reveal Plame's identity or if it was a normal information exchange inside the White House.

The prosecutor also is examining whether any witnesses gave false testimony or withheld information from the investigation.

Federal law prohibits government officials from knowingly disclosing the identity of intelligence operatives.

Inside the White House rumors swirled about the likelihood that Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice might step into the office of Vice President if Cheney is forced to resign. At the same time, GOP officials also discussed who would take the place of Rove if he were to be indicted and then forced to resign.

In a letter to the White House, Democratic Senator Charles Schumer, citing press reports that Bush was upset with Rove about his testimony, called on the President to reveal more details of the conversation.

"In light of these reports, I urge you to make public the details of Mr. Rove's involvement, your understanding of that involvement, and an explanation as to

why Mr. Rove was neither dismissed nor his security clearance revoked when you learned of his participation in the Plame affair," he wrote.

Four More U.S. Military Deaths Reported In Iraq

BAGHDAD — Three U.S. Marines were killed by a roadside bomb west of Baghdad this past week, and in a separate incident, a U.S. soldier was killed in Hit, northwest of the capital, according to the Pentagon.

The latest deaths bring the number of U.S. servicemen and women who have died in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion to at least 1,992, although some government officials have expressed doubt at the veracity of the numbers being released by the Pentagon, suggesting that the numbers are much higher.

Founder of 'Project House' Publishes Memoirs At 90

MOODY — A lifetime of achievements by a Central Texas man serves as a good example of "the greatest generation," that group of people who struggled through the Great Depression, fought oppressors during World War II and came home to raise families and build a great nation. At age 90, Norbert Arthur McNeil of Moody has written an autobiography, *A Memoir on My Life*, which relates an amazing life that spans most of the 20th century.

McNeil was born on a farm near Moody and as a boy was active in 4-H and farm chores. An early entrepreneur, he partnered with his mother in selling milk to customers in town until the family lost the farm in 1929 and moved to town.

He was able to attend Texas A&M by working on the college poultry farm, shoveling you can guess what, and living in a room there. This was in the middle of the Depression. Other boys from Moody wanted to attend A&M, but couldn't afford to live in a dormitory. McNeil helped secure an abandoned farm house near campus. A cook was hired and the boys brought food from home. Thus, the "project house" idea was born and soon many such houses surrounded the campus.

The "project house" idea spread across the nation. As originator of the idea, he was invited to Chicago to explain how the whole thing got started.

Jobs were scarce when McNeil got out of college, but he soon landed a job teaching vo ag in a nearby high school. He was later teaching at Alvin when he met and married his wife, Jane. They were married for 65 years until her recent death. They were parents of two sons and two daughters.

With war clouds looming in 1941, and as a graduate of R.O.T.C. at A&M, McNeil was inducted into the army as an officer. He was assigned as a liaison officer with a regiment in the Chinese army fighting the Japanese in the harsh jungles of northern Burma. Later he accompanied the same Chinese units in action in southern China. He was present in Nanking in 1945 when the enemy surrendered to the Chinese.

After the war, McNeil returned to A&M and got a masters degree in education and a Ph.D. The McNeils wanted to broaden their childrens' experience,

so he accepted a teaching job in East Pakistan (present-day) Bangladesh) in 1955. Less than two years later, they came home when he was offered a professorship at A&M teaching genetics. He retired from that position in 1979, amid many honors, and moved back to Moody. He was named an "Outstanding Alumnus" of A&M in 1994.

Throughout his busy life, McNeil was active in many varied fields. He was particularly involved in the Church of Christ wherever he lived. He selected the Kiwanis Club as an outlet for his interest in public service. As a leader in that organization, he was instrumental in bringing African Americans into the club.

As a lifelong Republican, McNeil was on friendly terms with most of the state party leaders. In 1980, after he had retired, he consented to a request from party leaders to run for state senate. He was outspent by far in the race and lost. "Jane and I visited all 18 counties in the district . . . and thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent," he said.

Another post-retirement activity McNeil and Jane enjoyed was a month-long tour of China in 1986. This was before all of the modern improvements in that country and the "old China hand" was able to show his wife many of the places he had experienced as a young army officer.

The book is available for \$16.50 (which includes postage and handling) by contacting McNeil at Box 26, Moody, TX, 76557; or by telephone at 254-853-3013.

Texas Literacy Coalition To Hold Monthly Meeting

WACO — The Central Texas Literacy Coalition invites the public to attend its monthly meeting to be held on Oct. 27, at 3 p.m., at the EOAC Community Programs Building located at 512 Franklin in Waco. The Coalition serves Bosque, Falls, Freestone, Hill, Limestone, and McLennan counties.

The meeting will be a presentation of the Students that are Reaching Success (STARS) program, presented by STARS Principal Norma Moon.

Parking is available to the right of the building in the CP spaces and also at the south corner of 6th and Franklin. For more information, call Shirley Crockett at 254-299-8777.

Waco Symphony Orchestra Releases Concert Calendar

WACO — The Waco Symphony Orchestra has announced its concert calendar for the year. The 2005-2006 Concert Series includes both classical and pop concerts, and Sunday Sounds features a series of intimate chamber concerts.

The 2005-2006 calendar of concerts follows:

- Sunday, Oct. 30 — Sunday Sounds: "A Sunday Septet" for woodwinds and strings; 3:30 p.m., Whitehall Center, Carleen Bright Arboretum, 9001 Bosque Blvd.

- Thursday, Nov. 10 — "An Evening With Al Jarreau" Jarreau is the only vocalist to receive five Grammy Awards in three separate and distinct categories— 7:30 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University Campus, Waco.

- Friday, Dec. 9 — Holiday Pops! The symphony, under the direction of Maestro Stephen Heyde, performs favorite carols, holiday hits, and classical Christmas favorites; 7:30 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University campus, Waco.

- Thursday, Jan. 19 — Philippe Bianconi, piano; Bianconi received First Prize in both the Casadesus International Competition and the "Jeunesses Musicales" International Competition, and received the Silver Medal in the Seventh Van Cliburn International Piano Competition; 7:30 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University campus, Waco.

- Sunday, Jan 29 — Sunday Sounds: "Happy Birthday, Mozart!" for strings and flute; 3:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 2621 Bagby, Waco.

- Sunday, Feb. 5 — Sunday Sounds: "Super Bowl Pre-Party," a jazz ensemble celebration; 2:30 p.m., Hooper-Schaefer Fine Arts Center on the campus of Baylor University, Waco.

- Sunday, Feb. 26 — Sunday Sounds: "Swing with Our Stellar Students," a mixed-rep of classical, pops, and jazz for woodwinds, strings, and piano; 3:30 p.m., George's Party Room, 1925 Speight, Waco.

- Tuesday, Mar. 7 — Denyce Graves, mezzo-soprano; Already well-known for her portrayals of the title roles in *Carmen* and *Samson and Dalila*, Graves gained national attention for her performance of "America the Beautiful" and "The Lord's Prayer" at the National Prayer Service in Washington's National Cathedral following the tragic events of September 11, 2001; 7:30 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University campus, Waco.

- Saturday, Apr. 8 — Helen Ann Shanley, flute; Winner of the Newly Published Music Competition and selected as Outstanding Creative Artist by the faculty of Baylor University, Shanley has performed with the El Paso, Fort Worth, and Cascade Festival of Music Orchestras; 7:30 p.m., Waco Hall, Baylor University campus, Waco.

Tickets for regular season concerts may be purchased by phoning the symphony office at 254-752-0851 or by visiting the Web site at <www.wacosymphony.com>. Tickets for Sunday Sounds may be purchased at the door the day of the concert.



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Waco Symphony Orchestra To Host Five-time Grammy Winner Al Jarreau

WACO — Al Jarreau, winner of five Grammy Awards and the only artist to receive Grammys in three categories, joins the Waco Symphony Orchestra for “An Evening with Al Jarreau,” on Thursday, Nov. 10, at 7:30 p.m. in Waco Hall, located on the Baylor University campus in Waco.

Jarreau released his first album in 1975 and has since recorded a string of commercially and critically successful albums. He remains the only artist to receive Grammys in three separate and distinct categories, including jazz, pop, and rhythm and blues. Jarreau’s many hits include “We’re in This Love Together,” “Mornin’,” “Moonlighting (Theme),” and “After All.”

Jarreau has been singing since the age of four, harmonizing with his brothers and performing solo at a variety of local events in his hometown of Milwaukee, Wis. Music, however, was not always the major force in his life. He excelled in sports and was an above-average student throughout high school and college.

He continued singing while enrolled at Ripon College in Wisconsin, performing locally with The Indigos. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Psychology, earned his Master’s Degree in Vocational Rehabilitation at University of Iowa, and subsequently relocated to San Francisco to begin a career in rehabilitation counseling.

While in San Francisco, Jarreau performed at a small jazz club with a trio headed by George Duke. In the late 60s, he relocated to Los Angeles and began his apprenticeship in such famed nightspots at Dino’s, the Troubadour, and the Bitter End West. He soon branched out to New York City, where he gained national network television exposure with Johnny Carson, Merv Griffin, David Frost, and Mike Douglas, and he teamed up with guitarist Julio Martinez to “spell” up-and-coming comics John Belushi, Bette Midler, Robert Klein, David Brenner, Jimmie Walker, and others at the famed comedy venue, The Improv.

In 1975, following his extended stint at the Bla Bla Cafe in Los Angeles, Warner Bros. Records signed Jarreau

to a recording contract. His debut album, *We Got By*, was released to unanimous acclaim, a reception that spread across the continent and over the Atlantic when Jarreau received a German Grammy for Best New International Soloist that same year. He received a second German Grammy for his follow-up album, *Glow*.

In 1977, Jarreau embarked on his first world tour, which provided the selection for his double live album *Look To The Rainbow*. That same year, he won his first American Grammy for Best Jazz Vocal Performance and was singled out for special honors in readers and critics polls in *Performance*, *Cashbox*, *Downbeat*, *Stereo Review*, and other respected music publications.

His fourth album, *All Fly Home*, was released in 1978 to further accolades and a second Grammy for Best Jazz Vocalist. It was followed by a string of innovative and original offerings, including 1980s *This Time*, and the million-selling *Breakin’ Away*, which brought him two more Grammys with awards for Best Male Pop Vocalist and Best Male Jazz Vocalist.

The follow ups to *Breakin’ Away*, 1983s *Jarreau* and *High Crime* spawned a string of R&B and pop hits. *All Jarreau Live in London*, recorded before an SRO crowd at Wembley Arena in 1985, continued to solidify Jarreau’s reputation as a world-class master of both studio and stage. Following the live album, Jarreau teamed with top producer Nile Rodgers for *L Is For Lover*. He continued to top the stateside charts in 1987 and became a weekly guest in America’s living rooms singing the Grammy-nominated theme song for the hit television series *Moonlighting*.

He soon launched into the recording of the *Heart’s Horizon* album, which contained the #2 R&B smash “So Good” and earned him another Grammy nomination, this time for Best R&B Album. After touring the globe for nearly two years, he returned to the studio—this time with Narada Michael Walden—to fashion the sound that would launch him into his third decade of music-making. The result was 1992s *Heaven and Earth* for which he received his fifth Grammy for Best R&B Vocal Performance. With this, he became one of the rare artists to have received Grammys in the three categories of jazz, pop, and R&B.

Jarreau will be accompanied by the Waco Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Maestro Stephen Heyde.

Ticket prices are \$40, \$35, \$30, and \$20. Students with valid ID may purchase tickets for \$10. For ticket information and availability, phone the Waco Symphony office at 254-754-0851 or visit the Web site at <www.wacosymphony.com>.

“An Evening with Al Jarreau” is sponsored by Central Texas Corrugated; American Classifieds, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Treese; Dr. Pepper Bottling Company of Texas; Jim and Julie Turner; American Bank; Fashion Glass & Mirror, Ltd.; Montez, Williams & Baird, P.C.; and Phipps Memorial.

Additional information about Al Jarreau may be found at <www.ALJarreau.com>.

Murder Victims’ Families To Speak Against Death Penalty

WACO — Family members of murder victims will be making a stop in Waco on a state-wide tour speaking out against the death penalty this Wednesday, Oct. 26, 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Waco Amnesty International is hosting “Journey Of Hope: from Violence to Healing” at the Waco Central Library, 1717 Austin Ave. This event is open to the public.

The event is one of many stops in Texas led by murder victim family members that conduct public education speaking tours and addresses alternatives to the death penalty.

For more information, visit the Journey of Hope website.

INFO

www.journeyofhope.org

Nonviolent Communication Workshop Set Nov. 11-12

FARGO, N.D. — Renowned trainer Susan Skye will lead a workshop on nonviolent communication, Friday-Saturday, Nov. 11-12, at FM Unitarian Universalist Church, 121 9th St. S. Fargo, N.D.

This two-day “basic training” seminar is for people who are new to this process as well as for people who have some familiarity with nonviolent communication and would like to integrate this process into their lives.

Friday’s session lasts from 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.; Saturday, 9:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Some objectives of the seminars

are to: recognize hidden attitudes and everyday language that disconnects you from yourself and others; experience the liberation of a judgment-free perspective; powerfully express your feelings, needs and desires; immerse yourself fully into active empathic listening; speak your mind without creating hostility; resolve conflicts peacefully and with mutual satisfaction; and generate interactions that fulfill everyone’s needs and values.

The seminar leader Susan Skye has been a certified trainer for the Center for Nonviolent Communication since 1994 and is currently the CNVC Certification Coordinator for North and South America.

For registration information, contact Laurie Baker or visit the website for North Dakota Peace Coalition. For more information on CNVC, visit its website.

INFO

Baker
(701) 866-1197
ljbaker@cableone.net
www.ndpeace.org/nonviolentworkshop.htm
www.cnvc.org

Hillsboro To Hold Grave Finding Demonstration

HILLSBORO — On Saturday, Oct. 22, at 9 a.m., the Hill County Historical Commission and the City of Hillsboro are sponsoring a demonstration about how to find a grave. The event will be held in the Old Hillsboro City Cemetery on North Waco Street in Hillsboro.

Giving the presentation will be Ray McCoy of Yellow Rose GPR, Inc. McCoy is a member of the Texas Community Cemetery Association which offers a number of programs available to aid cemeteries in raising funds, maintaining records, and identifying lost graves.

Ground Penetrating Radar is a noninvasive electromagnetic geophysical technique for subsurface exploration, characterization, and monitoring history.

Following the demonstration, a meeting will be held in the Hill County Annex at 126 South Covington, beginning at 10 a.m. Information will be provided on a variety of subjects of interest to cemetery caretakers and associations. Topics will include tombstone care and repair; financial and legislative updates, and other pertinent subjects.

“We all have the same problems and this is an opportunity to share our knowledge and experience,” said Cleo Young Davis. “This could be the beginning of several workshops designed to help those of us who care about our cemeteries.”

For additional information, contact Cleo Young Davis at 254-582-3603 or <cleoydavis@yahoo.com>.

Consumer Mag Launches Website To Rate Green Products

CRAWFORD — The consumer watchdog magazine Consumer Reports launched a new website dedicated to rating the environmental impact of consumer products.

The Consumer Reports website (www.greenerchoices.org) helps consumers find health and environmental information — including an energy-efficiency rating — on products for home and office, or home office, including consumer electronics, cars, home appliances, and garden products.

The Recycling Center offers a list of recycling and donation programs for computers and cell phones.

The site also features basic information on environmental issues such as climate, waste, toxins, and household energy.

INFO

www.greenerchoices.org

Clarifications, Corrections

Van Os Misquote

CRAWFORD — In the Wednesday, Oct. 12, edition of THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST, two errors were made in the story Defeating Defeatism.

David Van Os was misquoted twice in the interview.

On page 3, Van Os said, “It’s about service, and people should not put themselves out for public service for promotion.”

Then, on page 5, he said, “The Democratic Party over the last 30 to 35 years stopped believing in itself, stopped fighting for the people, stopped fighting for the family farm to have a fair chance to resist the encroachment of agri-business.”

These errors were verified on Saturday, Oct. 22.

THE ICONOCLAST apologizes for any harm these errors may have made.

Group Circulates Petitions Calling For Local Option Election In Waco

WACO—The Waco area citizens group, Citizens for a Better Waco, that circulated petitions earlier this year to hold a local option alcohol election, is making another effort to get the measure on the ballot. The group formed to attract more restaurant and retail businesses to the area and is working to bring uniform alcohol laws to all parts of Waco. Citizens for a Better Waco is calling on Waco registered voters to support the effort so that an election can be held next May.

"We came very close in our first effort. We needed slightly more than 7,400 signatures and came up less than 100 short of getting the measures on the ballot," stated group co-Treasurer and local businessman John R. Cawthron, Sr. "With the Fair and November elections, we think we can get the petition in front of more people who are eligible to sign the petition. In fact our efforts at the Fair were very successful where we collected over a 1,000 signatures in the first week."

"Most people think of communities as either being "wet" or "dry." The City of Waco is "damp," stated Sammy Citrano, treasurer for the Citizens' Group and owner of George's Restaurant. "Part of the city allows alcohol sales in restaurants without private club and some parts of town still require it. Grocery stores in Woodway and Bellmead can sell beer and wine, but stores in some parts of Waco can only sell beer. This puts Waco businesses at an unfair disadvantage with other businesses," noted Citrano. "This election will put all restaurants and grocery and convenience stores under the same laws."

The issue is complicated because of the growth of the City of Waco and the different versions of the laws that have been passed. Today, there are 10 versions of "wet" in Texas and the City of Waco is covered by two different sets of rules.

In 1956, the voters approved countywide the sale of beer. In 1972,

Alison Brown Quartet To Headline TEC Benefit Concert

NASHVILLE — The second annual Tennessee Environmental Council Benefit Concert will be held Thursday, Nov. 3, at the Belcourt Theatre, 2102 Belcourt Ave., in Nashville.

The Alison Brown Quartet will headline the show and will be joined by Blue Merle (special acoustic appearance) and the John Cowan Band.

Adding their talents to the evening will be Darrell Scott and Andrea Zonn, making for a night of great music for a great cause — protecting Tennessee's environment.

For more information, call the Tennessee Environmental Council or visit its website.

INFO

TEC,
(615) 248-6500
www.tecfn.org/

voters in the City of Waco approved the sale of all alcoholic beverages. However, Texas law allowing alcohol sales approved by city voters are not treated like city ordinances. When a city expands the city limits, the city's laws and ordinances also cover the newly annexed area. This is not the case with Texas alcohol laws. Only the boundaries of the city limits at the time of the election, is permitted to sell under that version approved by voters. As the city grows over time, the new areas are not automatically included in the area that allows alcohol sales.

Those parts of Waco added to the city limits since 1972 are only eligible to sell beer. Restaurants that wish to serve alcohol must do so as a "private club" or as many know as the "unicard" system. The Texas Restaurant Association places the additional costs for maintaining the private club requirements to be from \$3,000 to \$20,000 per year for each restaurant.

The issue is being raised because the

Sustainability Seminar For Execs Set Nov. 11-13

LOS ANGELES, CALIF. — A sustainability seminar for busy executives, nonprofit and government leaders, and senior professionals will be held Nov. 11-13 in Los Angeles, Calif. at the University of Southern California Center for Sustainable Cities.

"Meeting the Sustainability Challenge" aims to help management professionals meet the challenge of improving eco-performance within their organizations. Topics include facility design and management, operations, logistics, procurement, urban infrastructure and land-use, and product development.

The curriculum is designed to give business and government leaders an integrated understanding of sustainability concepts and innovative ideas for improving operations in three core components: Sustainability as a Business Development, Management, and Eco-Efficiency Strategy; Sustainability in Architecture, Design, and Construction; and Sustainability in Land Use, Conservation, and Watershed Practices.

Keynote speakers will include engineer Braden Allenby, former vice-president for environmental, health, and safety at AT&T and a leader in industrial ecology; architect Elizabeth Moule, co-founder of the Congress for New Urbanism and winner of the 1998 Seaside Prize; and Andy Lipkis, president of TreePeople, a nonprofit group nationally known for innovative work on urban infrastructure.

For more information, contact USC Center for Sustainable Cities.

INFO

USC Center for Sustainable Cities
(213) 740-0521
www.csceexecutiveeducation.org

City of Waco has annexed three of the four corners of property located at Interstate 35 and Hwy. 6. These developments will generate a great deal of retail sales and property tax for the City, says Cawthron. In addition, there are other parts of the city that have been annexed since 1972, also at a disadvantage to other parts of the city, he noted.

"These properties will be a great asset for Waco. We just want the restaurants and retail centers that move here to be under the same rules and guidelines as the rest of Waco and in order for that to happen, State law says we must have an election," commented Cawthron.

"We already have Kohl's and other great retail centers at the Northwest corner of I-35 and Hwy. 6, but our restaurants like Logan's and Smokey Bones, must be private clubs while the restaurants one mile down the road do

not," said Ty Dabney of Central Texas Marketplace Associates.

The group is circulating two petitions. One will allow the legal sale of beer and wine in grocery and convenience stores and the other will allow restaurants to serve alcohol without being "private club." Grocery and convenience stores can already sell beer as approved by voters in 1956, so the change will only add the ability to sell wine in those areas annexed after 1972.

The group must collect approximately 7,500 signatures of qualified voters in the City of Waco in order to call the election. The group has 60 days to collect the signatures.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or contribute to the effort can contact Sammy Citrano at 254.744.6990 or mail contributions to John R. Cawthron, Sr. at Citizens for a Better Waco, P.O. Box 8256, Waco, Texas 76714.

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And In The Face Of A Republican Majority, You Liberals Want To Restrict The Use Of Firearms?

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "That steer that follows the feed sack into the slaughter house is over-educated."

Ah, the Texas Legislature is at it again.

Having chased their tails from the basement to the rotunda during two failed special sessions on education finance, the big pink pimple pustules are once again proving that Texas lawmakers are the greatest threat to education since the New London School fire.

Okay, for all you Yankees out there and all of you who should be ashamed of calling yourselves Texans for not knowing about New London:

In 1937 the administration of oil wealthy New London school district decided to save themselves a \$300 per month gas bill and tap into a "green" natural gas line that ran across the school grounds. Green gas is under higher pressure than your household plumbing.

There was a leak.

A colorless, odorless massive gas bubble built up beneath the new, state-of-the-art school building and on March 18, 1937, 298 teachers and children died a fiery death.

Horrible enough to elicit a telegram of condolence from Adolph Hitler.

Real Texans cannot say "New London" and stay dry-eyed.

As a result, by the way, the gas piped into your home has a chemical odorant added so that you have to be about as stupid as the average Texas legislator to blow yourself up.

There are some lessons there the Texas Legislature could learn.

But won't.

And there are some lessons in the Texas Legislature the rest of the country could learn.

But won't

Lying Texas Governor Tricky Ricky

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Perry, who would have been a popular figure on that long-ago New London School Board, has begun fueling the latest Texas educational disaster by touting a program to require that 65 percent of a school's expenditures go directly into the classroom.

Sounds good, right?

Notice, however, that Tricky is not suggesting that 65 percent of *all* education spending go to the classroom.

That would mean that Texas Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley, the bottle blonde who got her commissioner's job with an inflated resume' and little sacks of snack food she used to bring the governor on their junkets together, would lose about half her staff.

The half that goes for coffee and lays out the doughnuts at receptions.

No, Tricky's plan means local money.

Our money.

Not his money.

We can't spend our money on frivolities like buses, new school buildings, counseling, libraries, and after-school programs.

We can, however, still spend it on FOOTBALL!

God bless Texas.

We're gonna need it.

As a matter of fact, at least two-thirds of Texas schools do spend that much on the classroom.

Way to research, Tricky.

Next time you might want to try getting your facts from the world the rest of us live in.

Most of the rest of Texas schools are in the boat with Balmorhea.

You probably never heard of it.

Closest big town around there would be Pecos.

If you want a town you're heard of.

Look it up. I ain't gonna live your life for you.

Balmorhea schools are exemplary. Win more awards than an county judge's hog. They've got 80 percent Hispanic students and 71 percent on free or reduced lunch. Poor folks to the vast majority of you who don't know c'mere from sic 'em about education.

Balmorhea has bus routes more than 100 miles long.

Some of those ranch kids have to come stay with kin or friends in town through the week because it's just too far to get to school every day.

Districts like that live and die on

their transportation and after-school budgets.

But, as Tricky would say, "Let 'em eat footballs."

Meanwhile, down the hall at House Speaker Tom "Cretin" Craddick's office, the legislative Sopranos are meeting to figure out how they should oughta shut up those teachers and administrators who lobbied the legislature to protect their schools from Cretin's ax.

After all, we wouldn't want decency of motivation to mar the reputations of our lobbyists.

Along with denying educators the First Amendment, Ol' Cretin hasn't given up on sneaking a voucher bill past the 70 or so percent of Texans who oppose it.

He also wants to limit government spending on such wasteful programs as children's health care insurance and stem cell research.

So if I might suggest a way to save money, here's how the Legislature could save a lot on its gas bill . . .

Editorial OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

Trading Public Interests For Private Interests

The deadly Sept. 23 bus fire that killed 23 elderly hurricane evacuees should never have happened.

Blame rests squarely on the U.S. Department of Transportation and deregulation enthusiasts such as President George W. Bush and Governor Rick Perry who are quick to champion private interests over those of the public.

The question now being asked by federal regulators is how Global Limo Inc. of Pharr, which operated the bus, kept its satisfactory rating for 20 months although it was forced to cease operations on Oct. 7 after the motor carrier administration conducted a compliance review and found 168 violations of federal safety regulations.

The Texas Department of Public Safety, after receiving complaints from customers, had also found violations prior to the fire, but no enforcement action or follow-up reviews were undertaken.

There are two ways to deregulate.

(1) Pass laws making it official. (2) Ignore laws on the books and claim that manpower and funding does not exist to do the job of regulating.

Either way, the public suffers as encounters with tragedy become more likely and more frequent.

Private interests (profits) become more important than public interests (the safety of individuals who might not suspect that there is a problem).

The Bush Administration is determined to sacrifice public interests in favor of corporate profits. Just look at the onslaught of new laws that take away protections of the individual. For instance, Americans' inability to sue for damages, to have recourse in the courts, is fast becoming nonexistent.

Most regulations were created for a reason — as a protection of the public.

These are being stripped as more and more regulated industries are taking control of regulatory agencies and the government itself and the focus is away from the individual.

The fascist doctrine thrives when giant corporations become graven images that public officials idolize for the lucrative rewards they receive in return. As legislators turn their backs on citizens of this country, they are saying, quietly, "Killing you and taking away your rights and freedoms is for your own good."

The neo-conservatives and their Religious Right toadies have tricked the masses in the red states into believing that deregulation is the 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt kick your neighbor when he is down."

This has to stop.

— W. Leon Smith



Sheehan Returning To D.C. When 2,000th Soldier Dies

NEW YORK — Cindy Sheehan, the woman who held a 26-day vigil at Camp Casey near Crawford, Texas during August in protest of the War in Iraq and in hopes with speaking with President Bush, will journey to Washington, D.C. upon learning of the death of the 2,000th soldier in that war. She recently led a 100,000-person demonstration there and was later arrested.

"I am going to D.C. the day the 2,000th soldier is killed to do civil disobedience," she told THE ICONOCLAST.

"I will sit on the sidewalk again and demand that the war criminals who live and work in there bring our troops home," she said.

She has mentioned that candlelight vigils will likely be held all over the country to honor the ones who have been killed.

"That is nice," she said, "but that doesn't help bring our troops home or insure the safety of the Iraqi people."

"I suggest, instead of candlelight vigils and singing 'Give Peace a Chance,'

every person who cares about ending the immorality of the occupation of Iraq take signs and their presence to their Congressional offices near them and demand that each and every Congress person do everything in his/her power to bring our precious lifeblood home from the nightmare. It is time to get peacefully radical."

Sheehan has complained that the mainstream news media has not done enough to "keep the war on the front pages," before the eyes of the public, while nearly every day soldiers are dying.

"Our young people aren't numbers. Our young people are confined to early graves because of criminals who should be confined to prison, who are profiting handsomely from the undeclared mess in Iraq. The Iraqi people are less than numbers. If they are counted or thought of at all, they are very often wrongly counted as 'insurgents,' when they are children and women. They are not numbers," she said.



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Cat Writes Column For Trenchwalker

Meow out there in humanland. My name is Yucca. Actually, it is Yucca Frank Smith.

One of the Trenchwalker's daughters who likes the Paul Frank monkey provided the name, so I am kind of named after him. They call me Yucca, except occasionally when something bad happens that they think is my fault, then I might be called "that yucky cat," which I feel I don't deserve.

Mr. Smith has called me that twice.

The first time was when I jumped onto his head unannounced and the other is the time I tripped him.

I don't trip him anymore.

This was the deal. When I was younger I used to like to dart in front of his feet when he was walking, which beautifully irritated him. One day he was not watching where he was walking and didn't know I was near, and squish. I don't do that anymore.

But, to his credit, he actually apologized to me.

That's about the time the tradition of the "dry cat food, milk chaser" began.

He often comes home very late at night, when everyone else is sleeping (except me). Before he has time to kick off his shoes I am already at my dish. If I squint my eyes a certain way and look up sadly, you can bet I will get about a tablespoon of dry catfood with a little milk poured over it. I never take it for granted and I do work hard for this, for he generally is not accommodating without a little pressure.

At first, he was reluctant to let me write this column for him — human insecurity, I guess.

But again, persistence paid off.

VANITY FAIR magazine recently did a story that included THE ICONOCLAST. In it, they described Mr. Smith as the grandfatherly type. I do know he has performed as Santa Claus in the past, but I have also heard him, on numerous occasions, say that most of the time he feels like an 18-year-old. Now is that vain, or what? To me, he's a right jolly old elf.

I have, however, witnessed his ire.

Just ask him if he is Pro-Life or Pro-Choice. I've heard him really go off on that one.

"It isn't Pro-Life or Pro-Choice," he says. "It's Pro-Choice or Anti-Choice. Most Pro-Choice people don't condone abortion and would never have one. But there can be extenuating circumstances."

Then he goes off on the abortion of planet earth through destroying the environment, the abortion of young men who die in war, the abortion of women and children killed in a place called Iraq, and the abortion of financial security in the poor.

Don't get him started.

He's the same way about liberals and conservatives. He says that liberals tend to be for change, while conservatives do not. To be true to Webster (as in the dictionary), this would make President Bush the most liberal president ever. Mr. Smith has a problem with the Religious Right's interpretation of conservative, since, through deed, they believe that murder is acceptable and by act may be excluded from the Ten Commandments.

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



He calls the Patriot Act the Un-Patriot Act and says that No Child Left Behind is actually the "Let's Make 'Em Into Zombies Like Me Act," as he references NCLB's instigator who attempted to destroy quality education in Texas back in the early 1990s. I've heard him say that electing the guy president was one way "to get this greenhorn out of Texas."

When I asked Mr. Smith if I could write this column, he gave me one of those deadpan smiles and replied, quite sarcastically, "So you want to become my Karl Rove?"

Now that was quite an insult.

But sometimes you have to compromise.

"Just for a few minutes," I purred.

Anyway, humans should know that a catastrophe is not something left behind in a litter box (cat ass trophy). Most are man-made occurrences that derive from a lack of thought and decency. Even house cats have to fight off a journey back to the trees, because to us, sparrows still often look like cheeseburgers.



This is one of my favorite places. He'll never know I've been there.

Willpower is not easy when runaway power tempts to inebriate.

It is now 2:25 a.m. Mr. Smith has just spent the last hour flipping channels on the TV, trying to find something to watch. When I asked him how to spell "cheeseburger," he spelled it for me and then went to the kitchen and rattled around in the refrigerator and found a cold half-eaten cheeseburger left by one of his daughters. It didn't last long. Talk about power of suggestion. Hmmm. Is that what Rove does?

Anyway after he finally finds a show to watch or pops in a tape you can count on him dozing off in about 15 minutes. Lately he's into twelves: "12 O'Clock High," "High Noon," "12 Angry Men." Twelve must be his lucky number. I do know that yellow is his favorite color, and I happen to be a yellow (sort of) cat.

Now he's starting to snore.

That's my cue. I have to end this here to protect my regular routine.

I'll now jump into his lap and take a nap. He'll never know I've been there.

It's Official: The Red Queen is Programming the Sunday News Programs

By JOHN M. KELLEY
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Watching the Sunday pundit shows is always an exercise that most of the time varies from me making corrections of fact out loud to the TV set to out right hollering, but today was like watching an alternate universe. I tuned in to *Meet the Press* with Tim Russert interviewing Louis Freeh, Clinton FBI Director. This is the man who was in charge of internal security when Saudi terrorists were taking flight lessons in the U.S. but lived in a world where he reputedly refused to have a computer in his office. This is a man who in his book seems to indicate that he still thinks there is something to Whitewater. Given Freeh's somewhat questionable success as an FBI director and obvious prejudices, the whole tone of the show was, well quite incredible.

If memory serves me right, last week the President set new lows for public support, his top advisor and that of his vice president were both close to indictment for revealing classified information, the House Majority Leader is under indictment and the Senate Majority Leader is under investigation. It has become accepted fact that the President lied to put us into a quagmire, that his generals are saying it will take another eight years to win, the economy is hanging by a thread, the Republicans are gutting the environment and the President is arguing for right to torture people. On top of that there is the potential for a catastrophic pandemic that the President seems to be as prepared for as Katrina (which by the way is still an ongoing disaster), except he proposes sending in the troops to, I guess

GUEST COMMENTARY

shoot people who violate the quarantine.

So, back to Russert who has Freeh on, the man who quit just two months before 9/11. What does he ask? What did Bush know, how much information was given to Bush by the FBI, what was the administration's reaction? No, he focuses on an allegation that Freeh makes in his book that President Clinton hit up the Saudi's for a contribution for his presidential library. The two of them go on to focus on whether this is a crime.

Freeh who despite his denials on the program, has a palpable dislike, if not outright hatred for Clinton that is obvious in his *Meet the Press* discussion and the excerpt from his book at (www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4954665) was treated mostly by Russert as having some new breaking super scoop. The lack of a story here, and the fact that he was focusing on President Clinton ala Rush Limbaugh while the nation falls apart and nears a constitutional crisis shows what a part of the problem he and others like him are. What shame he has brought to the proud history of *Meet the Press*. Hey Tim, your Fox contract is in the mail!!!

After this deplorable display, I watched Bob Schieffer on *Face the Nation* which thank God, actually lowered my blood pressure to its normal Sunday morning semi-rage level at real problems. He is the last I'm afraid of a generation of good reporters. Then I followed it up with the *McLaughlin Group* which is always a great exercise in news sumo wrestling with multiple wrestlers.

After that I was doing much better, but then I had to go and let myself get totally

discouraged at the faux media by watching the *Wall Street Journal Editorial Report*. If you've missed this *WSJ* infomercial, Paul Gigot and an incestuous stable of group think *Journal* wiz kids discuss the world from the viewpoint of capitalistic cynical opportunism. They discussed at length the threat of a major flu pandemic that might kill 1.2 billion people. But not the threat to people, mind you. After discussing the terrible woes of the poor major pharmaceutical companies, they put forth their major concerns. What would happen if companies and countries just produced vaccinations or medicines to save lives without honoring copyright laws, oh the horror of it all.

They almost topped this towards the end of the program by skewering the U.N.I.C.E.F program for using a cartoon of the Smurfs being bombed to heighten awareness of the problem of children soldiers. They seemed offended at what they felt to be the use of a great marketing image to promote an anti-war agenda. What! Promote an anti-war agenda! How distasteful. I would agree, let's not use the Smurfs, next time. Let's show pictures of real children we bomb. Besides, Tim Russert might want to interview the little blue people about what kind of moral degeneration Bill Clinton's dalliance introduced into the Smurf community.

John M. Kelley is a teacher, philosopher, writer, artist, political activist, singer of ballads, rebellious Irishman and agent for change who worries daily about the world he is leaving for his grandchildren. His blog is at (www.mytown.ca/johnkelley).

Texans Make Big Fuss Over Mud Fort

A small detachment of Lone Star rebels rode out of Goliad on Oct. 25, 1835, with orders to attack the government garrison at Fort Lipantitlan.

As conceived by Capt. Philip Dimitt during the early days of the Texas Revolution, the Lipantitlan Expedition had two equally important objectives: the rescue of two rebel prisoners and the destruction of the strategic fortification on the Nueces River. And by "destruc-

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



tion" Dimitt made it clear to Ira Westover that he meant the death or

capture of each and every defender.

The perfunctory nod from the Massachusetts-born merchant indicated acknowledgment instead of agreement with the troubling instructions. Dimitt might be a frontier barbarian with no respect for human life, but Westover refused on principle to shed any more blood than absolutely necessary.

While James Power, the Irish emissario, completed a preliminary reconnaissance, Westover rounded up the horses and supplies generously donated by the residents of Goliad and Victoria. Leaving under the cover of darkness to avoid detection by enemy spies, the 35-man column slipped out of Goliad and slowly wound its way west.

Picking up reinforcements along the way, Westover had 60 combatants at his side on the night of Nov. 4, 1835, when the mud fort on the Nueces came into view. In the hope that the size of his force would convince the garrison to give up without a fight, he asked for a volunteer to parley with the Mexicans.

After lengthy negotiations that lasted almost until midnight, the emissary returned to report that the prisoners were no longer on the premises. They had been transferred to the interior to thwart any rescue attempt.

As for the enemy, only a small fraction of the full complement of a hundred troops was present. Acutely aware they were outnumbered nearly three to one, the 22 surrounded soldiers were quite willing to surrender.

However, as a condition of their capitulation, the Mexicans insisted upon parole rather than confinement as prisoners-of-war for the remainder of the Revolution. According to this curious nineteenth-century custom, they would be given their freedom in exchange for their weapons and their solemn promise never again to take up arms during the current conflict.

Over the strenuous objections of several subordinates, who argued loud and long that their orders excluded such a questionable compromise, Westover cut the dubious deal. Total victory without firing a shot was, to his way of thinking, well worth risking Dimitt's wrath.

Moments later, the smiling Mexicans stacked their guns and exited the mud fort. While Westover traded salutes with his counterpart, there was grumbling in the rebel ranks. If the tables were turned, the Texans asked each other, could they count on the enemy to be so accommodating?

After spending the night in the vacated fort, the Lipantitlan Expedition left the next morning for Goliad. Lying in wait at the nearby Nueces was the bulk of the government garrison, 80 or so soldiers eager to avenge the loss of their home base.

The Texans waded into the river oblivious to the danger. When their unsuspecting quarry was waist-deep in the murky water, the enemy sprang the trap.

Even though they had the numbers as well as the element of surprise, the Mexicans still took a licking. The gutsy insurgents fought their way to shore and inflicted heavy casualties on the ambushers.

The half-hour skirmish ended with the frantic retreat of the government

guardians. Twenty-eight were dead or disabled, while the lone wound suffered by a Texan was a finger neatly snapped off by a stray bullet.

Westover's men pleaded for permission to pursue the mauled Mexicans, but the mild-mannered merchant ruled out any mopping-up action. He simply did not have the stomach for further fighting.

Upon his return to Goliad, Westover was raked over the coals by the indignant Capt. Dimitt for his direct disobedience. On top of the inexcusable parole of a score of enemy soldiers, his failure to finish off the routed garrison had resulted in the reoccupation of Fort Lipantitlan. In the final analysis, the expensive excursion had accomplished absolutely nothing at all.

But the temporary commander-in-chief of the rebel army had a diametrically different opinion. Stephen F. Austin hailed the Lipantitlan Expedition as an inspirational success and its squeamish leader as the first bona fide hero of the Texas Revolution.

Four months later, the out-dated idea that war was a gentleman's game cost Ira Westover his life. He was one of the helpless hundreds slaughtered in the infamous Goliad Massacre.

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

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— GUEST COMMENTARY —

Basking In A False And Empty Light

Bush, Pentagon, and Congressional Promises Exposed As Lies

If you are one of those Americans that think George W. Bush, Dick Cheney and Donald Rumsfeld love our soldiers and are pro-military, you need to read, pay attention and wake up.

On Oct. 28, 2004 the U.S. Congress passed Reserve GI Bill Chapter 1607, (RGIB 1607). The bill basically laid out additional educational benefits for the many National Guard and Reserve military personnel that are having their lives upended and called into duty to go to far off places and serve in the bogus Bush Global War on Terror.

GI Bill: For Activated Guard and Reserves (Chapter 1607)

A new education benefit for Activated Guard/Reservists was signed into law on October 28, 2004. The new benefit, Chapter 1607, makes certain individuals who were activated after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits.

The Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and VA are working on an implementation plan for this new benefit and at this time we are unable to provide more than general information about the Reserve GI Bill (RGIB chapter 1607).

IMPORTANT- New education benefit for Activated Reservists — H.R. 4200 authorizing the creation of a new education benefit was signed into law on October 28, 2004. The new benefit, Chapter 1607, makes certain individuals who were activated after September 11, 2001 either eligible for education benefits or eligible for increased benefits. The Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and VA are working on an implementation plan for this new benefit and at this time we are unable to provide more than general information about chapter 1607. **Please be patient as we work with DOD and DHS**

to get this program implemented. Text of H.R. 4200

Here we are in October 2005, almost a year has passed, and this additional benefit has not been funded. Apparently it is just another idle bill, full of idle words, and another idle promise from Washington, DC to lure our military into thinking how much they are loved in our national capitol. On the other hand, it might have been funded and the money misappropriated for other Bush desires or into the "right pockets."

It is bad enough that the words of Bush are mere dirt, but it apparently applies to the members of the Bush Administration, the US Congress and especially those members on the Senate Armed Services Committee and House Armed Services Committee that cannot seem to provide an explanation as to where this money is and why it has not been funded and paid to our veterans that are returning from active duty. Many are asking and they are refusing to answer any questions about where they sent this money that definitely was not sent to our soldiers.

And the insults just keep piling up, not to mention the now over 2,000 dead and tens of thousands maimed U.S. service men and women.

Some of you might have heard, or know military personnel, that accepted a \$15,000 bonus to re-enlist for another six years of playing the bogus Global War on Terror that the Bush Administration dreamed up. Well, it came out several days ago that the Pentagon is reneging on the payment of those bonuses, even after many persons in the National Guard and Army Reserves did in fact re-enlist to get the bonus.

This is newsworthy material but it seems that only the *Stars & Stripes*, *Arkansas Democrat Gazette* (since the 39th Infantry Bridge just returned from Iraq in March 2005 and many of them

got suckered by Bush and Rumsfeld), and the Tacoma, Washington paper *The News Tribune* carried the story.

Citing from two recent articles out of the Tacoma newspaper:

When a bonus isn't a bonus, Murray fires

LES BLUMENTHAL; The News Tribune
Published: Oct. 16, 2005 12:01 AM

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon has reneged on its offer to pay a \$15,000 bonus to members of the National Guard and Army Reserve who agree to extend their enlistments by six years, according to Sen. Patty Murray (D-Seattle).

The bonuses were offered in January to Active Guard and Reserve and military technician soldiers who were serving overseas. In April, the Office of the Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs ordered the bonuses stopped, Murray said.

"This is outrageous," the senator said in a telephone interview. "It makes me angry that this administration has broken another promise to our troops."

A Pentagon spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Ellen Krenke, confirmed the bonuses had been canceled, saying they violated Pentagon policies because they duplicated other programs. She said Guard and Reserve members would be eligible for other bonuses.

Pentagon must keep its promises to soldiers

THE NEWS TRIBUNE
Oct. 18, 2005 2:55 AM (PDT)

If the Pentagon reneges on widely publicized signing bonuses it promised to certain National Guard and Army Reserve soldiers, will it allow the soldiers to renege on re-enlisting?

It should. To do otherwise would send a terrible message to anyone considering joining the military or re-enlisting for another hitch.

With recruitment numbers down precipitously, the military must be able to offer attractive incentives for people to sign up or to re-enlist. If the word gets out that those promises are empty, it will only make recruiters' jobs that much harder.

Members of the Washington National Guard complained to U.S. Sen. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) this summer that they weren't receiving the tax-free \$15,000 bonuses they were promised in



Karl W.B. Schwarz That folks is about as low-life, four-flushing, double crossing as any act of any presidential administration in the history of the United States. This is not honor, this is not integrity, this is not something to be held up high.

Maybe the meaning of the yellow ribbons tied on trees, lamp posts, porch columns should be changed to mean the underhanded lies of our federal government and the abuse they heap on all Americans, especially our soldiers.

Karl Schwarz is President, Chief Executive Officer of Patmos Nanotechnologies, LLC, and Chairman, Chief Executive Officer of The Sassenach Capital Trust, LLC. He is also the author of "One-Way Ticket to Crawford, Texas," a blistering critique of the deceit and corruption of the Bush-Cheney Administration, and the author of numerous articles that have been published on Internet news source websites, and which can be accessed on his websites: <www.karlschwarz2008.com> and <www.karlschwarz.com>. Schwarz is currently leading an independent third-party alternative to the two-major parties. He has previously been a member of both the Democratic National Committee and the Republican National Committee. He says he quit both when he saw first-hand that each had sold out to elite international corporate special interests, and each was corrupt beyond repair.

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— GUEST COMMENTARY —

Texas Politics Killing Texas Families: A Slow, Painful, Agonizing Death

By PETER STERN
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Special interest politics and economics are killing Texas families in their wallets and quality of life, slowly but surely. After years of setting-up the public by sliding through "back-door" legislation, the corporate sector and their in-pocket state and local officials are working hard to put the screws into their taxpaying constituents.

Point of Fact: Several election revolutions are needed to kick-out a lackluster governor and a few dozen incompetent special-interest elected legislators and appointed officials.

During the past several years legislators circumvented resolving the inadequate financing of Texas public schools and the repercussions of that avoidance hit homeowners hard in their property taxes. In five years property taxes of some homeowners sky-rocketed from \$2,400 to more than \$10,000 per year.

Beware of promises! The governor and legislators promised to make school financing and high property taxes the sole priority. Well, blatantly stated, they lied! They did NOT resolve the school finance issue, nor were homeowners provided any relief. In fact, property taxes via tax rate and/or appraisal values rose again.

Furthermore, since the state consistently refuses to resolve the urgent inadequate public school finance issue many districts have had to hold bond elections to repair or build schools. When bond issues are approved by voters, property taxes increase again. In addition, when bond issues are approved the state has pushed its own re-

sponsibility onto local government.

Another issue hitting Texans hard is that families no longer can afford to send their children to private higher education institutions thanks to the governor and legislators, who pushed the legislation for tuition deregulation. Even with the tuition deregulation, Texans pay additional taxes to higher education institutions via the state's gasoline tax. You know, that tax that is supposed to go to building and maintaining Texas roadways? Well, a large chunk of the gas tax still goes



Peter Stern

to universities and colleges. Isn't it interesting that now after diverting those taxes to higher education the governor and legislators want to build toll roads because the state doesn't have the money available to build "free" roads?

Special interests via the governor and state officials are pushing through toll plans and approving projects contrary to the public's wishes. Texans will be paying toll taxes forever and thus, will be a plague upon our children's children. The GOP platform of "NO New Taxes" has left the state on this issue. Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn appears to be the only Republican gubernatorial candidate who plans to keep the Party's platform and who considers Texas families. Most elected officials have sold out to the highest bidder — like, toll road icon CINTRA. Meanwhile, TxDOT is permitted to sit on taxpayer dollars until the need for toll roads becomes paramount. There is no question that TxDOT needs an independent panel for oversight to ensure that taxpayer dollars are used for those reasons tax-

payer provided the dollars in the first place.

Currently, most of the mainstream Texas news media, e.g., *Austin American-Statesman*, *Dallas Morning News*, et.al., are advocating all or most of the proposed amendments (November 8th election) to the Texas Constitution PROMISING voters that these 9 proposals are in the best interests of the Texas community.

Voters need to think for one minute... **Now, where have we heard that before?**

VOTE "NO" ON ALL PROPOSITIONS on November 8th!

VOTE OUT ALL SPECIAL INTEREST INCUMBENTS in the next several elections!

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.

It Would Be Nice If We Could Trust Them

I'm tired of political scandals, aren't you? I don't mean that I'm tired of scandalous behavior coming to light. I mean, I'm tired of people in power acting scandalously. Now we're in the midst of the Tom Delay-Bill Frist-Scooter Libby-Karl Rove accusations. Before you start your e-mails, I know that none of these guys has been found guilty of anything. All of the alleged improprieties might turn out to be groundless. But if they are, I guarantee there will be others either in the Administration or in Congress who will be found to have committed crimes and/or ethical lapses. That's just the way it's been with all the Administrations in recent memory. Now, you can say that some people in all walks of life commit crimes. But doesn't it seem that the people we have entrusted with power are crooks at a higher rate than the rest of the population?

Every Administration is criticized and scrutinized by the party not in power. Innuendos are whispered, charges are brought, and hearings are held. But in every Administration — certainly since the Nixon days — someone in power, or close to it, is found to be guilty of wrongdoing. It's not a partisan thing. There are people on both sides of the aisle who turn out to be bad. Each time a new party wins the national election, those who support that party breathe a sigh of relief and exclaim that at last, we can clean up Washington, restore ethics, and get rid of all the sleazy (FILL IN THE OUTGOING PARTY). And then the new scandals begin.

I know government officials aren't the only people who commit crimes. There were the big business scandals that involved Enron and other companies. But compared to the number of big businesses, those scandals only involved a small percentage. Most people don't work for companies where the people at or near the top are being given federal indictments.

No one in the office down the hall at any job I've held has even been accused of lying to the American people, fraud, leaking the name of a secret agent, or war profiteering.

How about you? Have you worked with anybody ever accused of a cover-up to hide a federal crime? Has anybody in your carpool served time for



Modern Times

By
Lloyd
Garver

conspiracy? Has that kid who brings the coffee and donuts been guilty of obstruction of justice?

Yet it seems that all these crimes are considered "business as usual" in American politics. And that's the outrage. The people we trust our government to should have a higher standard of ethics, not a lower one. If someone we've given power to lies, cheats, or steals, it's unforgivable.

Is this just the nature of the beast? Is it like complaining about the weather? Maybe not. I've got one suggestion that might help. It's time we pressure the lawmakers to have stronger penalties for those in power who commit crimes. Politicians are always calling for stiffer laws, so how could they not approve of this idea? Let's just double the fines and sentences for crimes that public officials commit. If perjury is a two-year offense for you or me, make it a four year offense for a Congressman. If misappropriation of funds can get the average Joe 10 years, it should get the average Senator Joe 20. And make them serve their sentences in jails surrounded by prisoners whom they represented.

The F.B.I reported last week that the crime rate is down in almost all categories. That's something to celebrate. One of the categories they didn't mention was "Crimes Committed By Public Officials." If the day ever comes that they announce that those crimes are down, they should declare it a national holiday.

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

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The Postperson Doesn't Ring At All

A member of our household, who shall remain nameless, belongs to several mail order book clubs.

For the sake of clarity, it is definitely not yours truly. I rarely read books. Thanks to Herr Rove, Bush #43, CondoLiezZa, Ol' Bug Hammerin' Tom DeLay and the rest of them Beltway Evildoers, there's hardly enough time to keep up with newspaper and magazine reading.

Besides, the typical "factual" book is at least six months out of date by the time it reaches its audience, and its alleged "facts" are often so lopsidedly researched they would cause a FEMA-contracted cruise ship to keel over.

As for fiction, my take on contemporary novels is most are bombastic drivel, written to satisfy the egos of the authors. I can wait for the better ones to be made into theatrical movies; the cheesier books will be turned into miniseries, to be avoided at all costs.

My preferences run to stuff written in the early part of the 20th Century by real guys, like Raymond Chandler and Dashiell Hammett, or short stories.

Anyway, the books in our home are of three basic genres: Novels of varying types; reference materials, most left over from university and some currently in use therein; Left-wing comic punditry, essays and collections by, say, Al Franken, Jon Stewart, Michael Moore, etc.

So, what should arrive in the mail the other day, in full color, addressed to the family member who buys the preponderance of books?

A catalog for a newish book club called: "AMERICAN COMPASS — The Conservative Alternative."

Across the top is the catch phrase, in large, bold caps — 'voices you respect' — with pictures of Michael Medved, Ann Coulter, and Zell Miller, plus quotes from books they're hawking.

Yeah, right.

Now, on a list of individuals for whom all of us in this household have absolutely no respect, turncoat Zell Miller would rank impressively high.

Michael Medved would most likely only show up on mine because he's really just inconsequential, an unrecognizable noodge and former Liberal; a has-been hack movie critic who sold out to become a Right-wing, Neo-con blowhard radio talkshow host.

Close to the top of all of our lists, though, would be the Queen Witch of the Coven; the Maven Superior of Poison Penmanship; the major instigator of what then-First Lady Hillary Clinton called, "(A) vast Right-wing conspiracy" to do in the Presidency of Bill Clinton...

Ann Coulter spent the entirety of the Clinton years, from his campaign days to sometime past Bush #43's inauguration, bitching about Bill and Hillary ad nauseum. Through unwarranted face time on every talk show, kowtowing networks allowed this neurotic virago to spew vitriolic hatred into tens of millions of American homes. They provided a free podium to espouse her views that Liberals and all things associated with Liberalism are evil and should be destroyed.

Ann Coulter was a spoiled rich brat to begin with, and she made herself tons



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

more money by demonizing Liberals.

The title of Medved's book is *Right Turns*, a double entendre: It was right for him to turn to the Right. Get it? Oh, how clever, these Neo-cons!

On the cover, Medved's quote goes, "...conservatives aren't just more astute and practical than their liberal counterparts, they are also happier, more fulfilled in their lives and their work." Hey, he really wrote this derogatory crap. I copied it verbatim.

And it was sent, unsolicited, through the U.S. Postal Service, plain as day, right into my home.

It took less than one sentence for this pompous boor to demean all Liberals as dimwitted goons who lack any ability to reason through a situation; therefore, we're a bunch of depressed, unloved losers.

But, hey, that's mandatory behavioral attitude for the modern 21st Century self-righteous Conservative — I'm bet-

ter in every way than any lowlife Liberal.

Self-deception incurred through continual exposure to programmed counter-indoctrination.

Truth is, it's only the Conservatives I know who have to be conditioned on or instructed about how to think, dress, eat; what to read and watch on television; how big their SUV and how small their waist must be; the proper church and pre-school; the correct number of mixed-race friends to have.

Mind control sure beats the effort of producing any thoughts on your own.

The pearls of wisdom that emanated from Miller in his quote went thusly, "...There is so much America needs right now. And yet so little gets done. So much time is wasted. So much money is wasted. Just as a fish rots from the head down, the head of our government (Washington, D.C.) is decaying."

This is the defector from the Democratic Party who practically went berserk in his tirade at the Republican National Convention last year. He was frighteningly adamant in his zeal to turn on his own and get the RoveBush Fascists in for another four years.

Who in the hell does he think is wasting all that money while not doing a damned thing? The minority Demo-

cratic Party maybe?

On page four there's another quote from the book. Zell, not one for speaking lightly, advocates abolishing income tax as well as the IRS itself. He would also do away with all individual, corporate, and payroll taxes; Social Security and Medicare taxes; capital gains, self-employment, estate and gift taxes.

On the Federal level, I do believe that runs the board.

So just how are little things such as military, security, infrastructure, parks, rescue and relief programs, et al, supposed to be financed?

Zell the loon believes this will be taken care of with a faith-based view of our heritage and future.

Did I miss it when the separation of church and state concept was annulled?

I dunno. Spending four long years* in the Senate has undoubtedly given Zell powers of insight far beyond those of moral, er, make that *mortal* men. Of course, with a foreword by Sean Hannity, Miller's *A Deficit of Decency* is undoubtedly the be all and end all of Neo-con reading.

Only four years? What? Couldn't this nutjob even get properly elected?

As for the perfect Ms. Ann Coulter... perfect in her own mind, that is... I sincerely doubt a more grandiose ego has graced this planet since Nero.

I read the entire first chapter of her book, *How to Talk to Liberals (If You Must)*. To say she is smug or conceited simply doesn't do the woman justice. Perhaps we could come up with an equation, "conceited to the power of smugness." At least Medved and Miller are smiling in their pictures; Coulter just looks like she's about to hop on her broom.

Her book begins by labeling all Liberals as jobless, lacking direction, and residing in their Mothers' basements. Then Coulter continues with a laundry list of generalities, assessing every attribute that she personally doesn't like to every Liberal.

One of her biggest generalities is that Liberals never have a cogent responding argument in a discussion. Have you ever seen Queen Ann's idea of a discussion? She starts up her mouth at about 60 words per second and 150 decibels, then won't shut up until the credits stop rolling.

It's not that the Liberal(s) sharing that particular space and time don't have a viable opinion, the Queen B just steamrolls over them and won't let it be heard.

There are some cursory critiques of television shows and movies in which she didn't appreciate the Left-leaning sentiments. The bottom line, whenever I see Queen Ann on my telly, and whatever I've read of her rantings in print, it's pretty clear that this is one woman with some deep-seated issues.

On national television, shortly after 9/11, she made a comment that Timothy McVeigh should have forgotten Oklahoma City and targeted the New York Times building. Oh, Ms. Ann thinks she's ever so clever and funny, in a typically mean-spirited Neo-con way.

The networks did not blacklist her, or even slap her wrists, for that contemptuous remark advocating the mass mur

Continued On Next Page

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The Postperson Doesn't Ring At All

TENUTO...Continued From Previous Page

der of Americans.

Ann Coulter's solution to interacting with Muslims is equally caustic, if not more inflammatory. The quote that appears on the catalog cover for all to see is, "I am often asked if we should invade their countries, kill their leaders, and convert them to Christianity. The answer is: Now more than ever."

THIS is the quote Conservatives applaud her for!

It travels well beyond madness, venturing into the realm of the sick and depraved, a harbinger of evil in its most insidious form – fomenting hate and espousing mass murder in the name of Jesus Christ, with the end result being the reaping of excessive personal glory and wealth.

A track record of books and columns rife with untruths and questionable sources. A key player in the biggest conspiracy to steal the government, and overturn a duly-elected Presidential Administration, for personal gain. A history of talking down co-panelists on television shows so they cannot voice their side.

And still Ann Coulter is provided time on networks other than Fox. Go figure.

This book club catalog is chock full of similar goodies. Many of the offerings exist to dispel the "lies" and "myths" uncovered over decades by myriad scholars, authors and reporters as the Liberal fallacies they are.

One lets us in on the secret that Sacco and Fanzetti really were guilty. Another is Edward Klein's distasteful waste of a tree all about the real Hillary (wink, wink). The synopsis of *Big Fat Liars* makes the Liberals out to be the people trying to control all of our lives.

You've got your section on revisionist American history – forget that twisted Leftist stuff they taught you in school. These good folks don't like Abe Lincoln, 'cos he weren't no real Republican. Hell, he turned all them Negras loose.

There's the Faith/Inspiration section, including Joseph (Pope Benedict XVI) Ratzinger's *Milestones* and (former Judge) Roy ("Ten Commandments in the Courthouse") Moore's *So Help Me*. There's a book on the correct interpretation the Bible, and of course, *The Purpose Driven Life*.

Since the evangelicals don't recognize Catholics as real Christians, the Pope's book must be in there based on his experiences as a Hitler Youth.

If you're into presidents and God, try out *God and Ronald Reagan*, and *God and George W. Bush* – both written by the same dude.

You've got your Big Bully Bill O'Reilly, not-really-a-Dr. Laura Schlessinger, something called *The Vast Left Wing Conspiracy*, Ari Fleischer, even a biography of the astounding CondoLiezZa Rice.

Then, check out Bernard Goldberg's *100 People Who Are Screwing Up America*. How coincidental that this arbitrary list, made up by the author, includes not one Conservative. Well, I saw Mr. Goldberg being interviewed when the book first came out, and, in all honesty, he is a bit of a schlub.

According to these clueless clowns – so say virtually all the books listed in this catalog – being a Christian is a prerequisite for Conservatism, and vice

versa.

I'm not exaggerating here.

The Editor-In-Chief of the club catalog, Brad Miner, has said that 99% of all Conservatives believe in God. According to Miner, religion is essential because: It is true; it defends against absolute politics; it provides a basis for the moral order upon which law is derived; it presents man with a paradox designed to complete him. He goes on to say that to be free, we must be obedient: Because God made us free, obedience must never be compelled.

Golly gee, do ya think Brad has taken a look at the RoveBush Fascists, Tom DeLay, Bill Frist and the rest of those good Christians occupying the Beltway lately?

Try reading Brad's opinions several times and damned if they don't begin to feel like something emanating from Germany, circa 1933.

He's written a book entitled *The Compleat Gentleman: Chivalry In A Democratic Age*. Apparently, this is the handbook on what all guys must do in order to be real men, because Brad, like any truly good Conservative, knows what's good for everyone.

He's even written an encyclopedia for Conservatives.

What in the hell do they need with their own encyclopedia?

By the way, he's not a Republican; rather, he's a member of the Conservative Party of New York (a 1%er).

So you have to be Christian to be Conservative, Conservative to be Christian?

From what I understand, and as my personal experience with the Roman Catholic Church would indicate, Jesus was most likely a Liberal. But then, Catholics aren't really welcomed with opened arms and warm hearths by your typical, sundry Conservative; they're not true Christians, don'cha know (wink, wink).

I've had some personal experience with this: As a young soldier of 19, all alone at Fort Sill, I fell in with a churchfull of Southern Baptists off-post in Lawton, Oklahoma. They lured me in with some home-cookin', and kept me a-comin' back by paradin' around some gorgeous, sweet-lookin' 17- and 18-year-old gals.

That's how they get lonely young men, the promise of sweet sexual pleasure, kinda like the Jihadists.

Well, it didn't take long before I discovered I wasn't ever gonna get to touch one of those gals in any way, shape, or form – not like Catholic girls. Hell, they didn't even listen to rock music or dance! These were hardcore Christians, their every move wrapped around church and the Bible.

They didn't want me for the Catholic I was; no, they wanted to turn me into one of *them!* Because bein' a Catholic just weren't bein' Christian enough t'their likin'.

I wound up teaching Catholic Sunday School on post to 8th graders, mostly the kids of senior officers. It was fun as well as fulfilling.

Also Liberal were a certain group of Colonists who constructed and signed some most unique documents in America, circa the late 18th Century.

Unfortunately, these Neo-con putzes

would have us go all the way back to the anarchy of the Mayflower days, when excessively tyrannical religious zealots left Europe to foist their sense of Biblical intolerance upon the Native inhabitants (or murder them).

Look, I don't have a problem with the Conservatives having their own little book club. What the hell – they have as much right to the 1st Amendment as Liberals. I think.

It's just that there's so much bile and misstated information, so much anger and rage against their fellow Americans

by these authors, and it spreads like a pandemic among Conservatives in general. These folks control everything, yet that's not enough – they want to stifle all other forms of thought and expression.

You're perfectly welcome to your own "American Compass," Brad; just let me stick to mine. However, when yours points in my direction, then you need get it recalibrated.

We've got more than enough toilet paper and recycle material – keep yours out of our home.

The Sightless Pet Bull

We have a thousand-pound, blind, pet bull. Never could I have imagined such a thing. If anyone had predicted a few years ago I would ever enter a pen, feed such an animal by hand and rub his head and ears, I would have been certain this person was certifiably crazy.

How does such a thing come to pass? Where does pink eye infection come from? And of all the cattle, how does it happen to strike the one that is so tame, the one we were planning to keep here for the rest of his life?

A couple of weeks ago, we spotted the bull in a pasture, and his eye was in bad shape. It seemed to happen overnight. We couldn't see any way to entice a half-blind bull up to the cattle pen and into a trailer ride to the vet clinic. Even a friend who should know about such things figured it was a bad injury, not pink eye. We obtained some topical powder from the vet and treated the eye as best we were able. We figured Babe might lose the eye. We could live with that.

When the other eye started to look cloudy a few days later, we realized our diagnosis must be faulty. Through dumb luck, Zack found the bull near the cattle pen and enticed him into it with range cubes. Naturally this occurred at exactly the same time I was due to pick up my daughter at the airport.

As soon as I returned, we enticed the bull into the trailer. Thank goodness he's so tame. Poor thing, almost blind, and he was still calm and docile. Off to the vet we went. He was treated, medicated, and kept overnight while we attended a "command performance," a family thing in Dallas, the reason my daughter had flown in from Miami.

When we picked Babe up, both of his eyelids had been temporarily sewn shut to encourage the medication to stay put. Zack led him into the

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.

trailer by putting sweet hay before him – just like all the cartoons we had ever seen of a carrot held before a donkey.

Now you are probably asking the same question I was at about this point; how will we ever get those stitches out? Fortunately they will dissolve. In fact, that process seems already to be starting. It's too early to tell if eyesight will return in even one eye, but we are hopeful. We will wait a long time, give the bull a chance to heal. The alternative is a little too harsh to bear at this point.

We have this rule that we never name calves unless we are planning to keep them. We assumed the young bulls, Babe and Lou, would be with us for many years to come. So it was OK to get attached. And how can you not when one of the huge animals thinks he's a pet? When we bought "the boys" from Don over a year ago, he assured us Babe would forget all about humans after he was released into our herd of cows. But he never did. He will still seek us out for a little companionship, a scratch on the head, a little ear rubbing. (We have to be alert so he doesn't startle us. After all, a little nudge from the Babe could end in injury). He simply seems to like people and the human touch. And range cubes, of course.

One should never become too attached to one's farm animals. Can anyone tell me how to accomplish that?

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Every Monday Should Start With A Comatose Computer

Sometime between Sunday afternoon and Monday morning, my computer slipped from its normal "sleep mode" and into a deep coma. This became apparent after hitting the space bar and getting no reaction whatsoever, not counting a low-pitched whirring sound that — if I didn't know better — I could swear was snoring. Realizing there might be a serious problem, I gathered all of my computer troubleshooting experience and, over the course of the next 10 minutes, applied that experience by hitting the space bar no less than 400 times. When that didn't work, I unplugged the computer and plugged it back in. Tried a different outlet. Switched keyboards. Wiggled my mouse. Considered finding a different occupation, preferably one involving explosives. I eventually realized the only thing left to do was call the Help Line listed in the service manual and hope someone there could either (a) talk me through this or (b) talk me down should our conversation move to the rooftop.

As expected, I was greeted by an automated voice telling me, in that creepy robot word-splice tone, that my call was important to "them" and to please hold until the next representative became available, just as soon as his larynx had been removed and cyber-genetically fitted for a generation of artificially intelligent beings slowly taking over the earth.

Thank.

You for.

Your patience.

Next came the music, a collection of Michael Bolton, Celine Dion, and Whitney Houston standards re-mixed — I'm guessing — by either John Tesh or Yanni to keep people on-hold from growing impatient. This is little like trying to talk a suicidal jumper off the ledge by giving him a pogo stick. Making mat-



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

ters worse, I was reminded every 30 seconds — by that same creepy robot voice — that my call was "very important to 'them'" and to remain holding for the next available representative, keeping in mind that my weak, carbon-based body was slowly deteriorating with each passing minute.

Again thank.

You for.

Your patience.

When my service representative broke the line 20 minutes later asking for my computer's serial number, I was unprepared. Not just because it was the first unsynthesized human voice I'd heard in nearly an hour, but also because I didn't have the serial number ready. That's when I was told I could easily find the number by going to my computer and — very carefully — turning it upside down. Upon hearing these helpful instructions I cocked my head to one side and, while pinning the phone against my shoulder, fought off an aneurism. I was then instructed to call back when I had the serial number readily available, to which I replied I was "readily available" to catch a flight to Atlanta and strangle him with a USB cord unless he waited for me to flip my computer over and read him the number.

After entering the serial number into his data bank, he informed me all the hardware was still under warranty.

However, I needed to pay \$45 in order for the service call to continue. I thanked him for his time and, before hanging up, told him how much I was looking forward to having a glass of sweet tea when I got to town.

My next move was to take my computer to an approved repair service located 60 miles away. The up side is that I could deal with real humans. The down side is that driving there would cost about as much as following up on my threat and actually flying to Atlanta. After careful consideration I decided to stay here. That's because, the way my luck was going, "Chaz" was probably a 260-lb Martial Arts champion whose passion for the sport began when his wife left him for a loudmouthed humor columnist. Even if I got my computer

fixed, what good would it do if I had to type everything with my tongue?

So, as of today, my computer is still in the shop. According to the repair guy they're just waiting for a new "logic board" to arrive which, well...

Makes sense, I guess?

In the meantime, I'll continue working on a back-up computer that is too old to handle things like getting on the Internet, updating my blog, or performing any function in under 10 minutes. I hope to have my computer back in a few days. Until then:

Thank.

You for.

Your patience.

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

The Hairless Summit

Gather round, children, and listen the story of The Hairless Summit.

It all started one morning as I was drinking some fair trade coffee and checking my email when I read this note from my boss:

"You need to pick up a copy or two of the current *Vanity Fair* (November). You are quoted in it."

Right as I say, "Wow! That's cool," who walks into the kitchen to make himself some soy milk and fair trade cat food but Nemo.

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

"What's that, man?" asked Nemo. "Did my buddy Constantine tell you he shed hair on the Cabbage Patch Kids collection of the thief who stole your identity?"

"Cabbage? No, this is better," I said. "I'm in *Vanity Fair* magazine this month. They did a story on Crawford."

"Really? That's cool. Who's on the front cover?"

"Oh, that's the coolest part. I'm on there naked and pregnant," I said.

The image of me naked made Nemo laugh so hard that soy milk shot out through his little pink nose and into the sink.

When we finally dried our happy tears, Nemo gave me a high five and said, "You know, *Demi*, that was the funniest thing since I heard that UNICEF bombed the Smurfs."

"Yeah, I hate the Smurfs, too, but what's so funny about child soldiers in Africa? I mean, that's the awareness that UNICEF is raising with those advertisements in Belgium," I pointed out.

"Oh, geez, why are you being this way? I mean, this from a guy who thinks it's funny that a tabby cat was the inspiration for AC/DC's *Dirty Deeds Done Dirt Cheap*," Nemo replied.

"No, I don't, but now that you mention it, is that true?"

"No, you idiot!" Nemo continued. "But cats are fighting for their rights every day all over the world. In the States, our only real weapons are removed from our paws, and on top of that, we get spayed and neutered, so we can't even have kittens of our own.

"So where's our commercial?"

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



Where's our international all-star charity rock concert?" he huffed. "Where the hell is Bono?"

By now, Nemo's pupils had turned big and black, and his ears were folded back in a fighting position. He was definitely on a roll, so I kept listening, sipping on my delicious fair trade coffee.

"That poor excuse of a human should lick my litter box clean if he doesn't bring at least one poor African cat with him the next time he meets with any G-8 leaders about forgiving Africa's debt," he said.

Nemo then told me that if his great-grandfather Solomon was alive today, Bono would be dancing a more progressive jig. Solo, as he was known on the street, split from the Black Panther Party in the '70s to focus his energies more on feline self-determination and empowerment.

Then, in the blink of Nemo's cross-eyes, he had an idea.

"Dude, let's get a clowder of poor cats and humans and hold our own summit with Bono when U2 comes to Dallas on Oct. 29th," he said. "Don't worry about how we're going to get in. Damian Marley is their supporting act, and I know this hairless cat in Miami who's friends with him."

And so, children, that's the story of The Hairless Summit, and how felines and humans overcame their differences to shed hair all over U2's dressing room in protest of Bono's elitist top-down debt relief schemes for so-called Third World countries.

Until next storytime, children, ask your parents to subscribe to the *Rock and Rap Confidential* newsletter, and connect with a grassroots community of musicians and activists that works toward more realistic poverty eradication solutions.

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LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

Dear W. Leon Smith,
Since the Bush Administration started war on Iraq in 2003, the probability of severe terrorist acts against America has increased. It is now clear that reducing terror against the United States is not (and never has been) the purpose of the war on Iraq.

The purposes of the war have been 1) to ensure Bush's re-election in 2004, 2) establishment of permanent American military bases in the Middle East (why Halliburton is so needed), 3) oil, and 4) protection of Israeli interests.

Even though the Iraq War was advertised as part of a "war on terror" (with Saddam Hussein painted as a major terror threat), this Administration knew when they started the war that Iraq had almost nothing to do with real terror threats from al-Qaeda.

Because this Administration pursues its objectives using both terror and torture, it has dramatically increased the number of persons nursing grievances against us. It is rapidly manufacturing terrorists in very large numbers.

For starting this unnecessary, immoral and foolish war, the responsible parties deserve shame — and impeachment.

Mike Ford, Austin, Texas

To The Editor:

Re: Press Conference? More Like Vice Press - By Jerry Tenuto

Why doesn't the writer of this article tell us what he really thinks!

I am embarrassed for him that he obviously did not go to journalism school yet tries to write for a newspaper.

Well, what passes in Crawford for a newspaper anyway.

President Bush doesn't have much to worry about from such ignorant people. Thank goodness for a president who does not live and govern by polls or what small town nobodies think of him.

He must be the first president who appointed people he could trust to positions of authority.

We all know that Bill Clinton brought the best and brightest youngsters he could find in Arkansas to trash the White House.

Get used to it, President Bush is going to be your neighbor for a very long time.

Sylvia Simpson, Trophy Club, Texas

To The Editor:

We're currently, in our a rapidly declining republic, in the grip of a commander-in-chief who punishes dissenters and surrounds himself with sycophants and powerful mentors, the underlings terrified to tell a testy, waspish president the truth, the higherups, to further their own agendas, telling him only what he "needs to know." When their puppet president makes statements or decisions on his own, his advisors become ashen with apprehension, as well they might.

Of the adoring unqualified women he appoints to high office, presently in the news is a White House counsel, Harriet Miers, his choice to occupy the Supreme Court seat vacated by Sandra Day O'Connor. Her personal notes to then-Governor Bush have been released by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission from her record as 1995-2000 chair of the Texas Lottery Commission. In one note, she writes, "Have I told you lately you're the smartest and most wonderful human being on the planet?" In another, "You are the best Governor

ever—deserving of great respect!" She also writes, "Keep up all the great work. Texas is blessed!"

She describes a plane ride with him as "cool."

His co-president, Dick Cheney, now drawn into the Valerie Plame scandal, is being investigated by Special Prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald. His deputy chief-of-staff, Karl Rove and Cheney's deputy chief-of-staff, Scooter Libby, already deeply involved in the leak of Ms. Plame's identity as a C.I.A. operative, are not likely to have acted independently in discussing Ms. Plame with journalists Robert Novak, Matt Cooper and Judith Miller. Mr. Cheney has a long history of feuding with the C.I.A. over the pre-war intelligence he compiled to justify the invasion. Former ambassador Joseph Wilson's report to the administration that Saddam Hussein was not attempting to purchase uranium for nuclear weapons from Niger, a direct contradiction of the administration's claim, inadvertently made his wife, Valerie Plame, in Karl Rove's own words, "fair game."

If Mr. Fitzgerald finds Messrs Cheney, Libby or Rove guilty of any malfeasance in this case, it will prove, at the least, very awkward and embarrassing for the president and devastating to his stature—the much-touted loyalty to his people rooted in necessity. He's already showing signs of bewilderment as his support—agonized and antagonized over Iraq, Katrina, the national debt and soaring energy prices—begins to crumble.

Now, new allegations of detainee torture, this time in Falluja, again suggesting the direct involvement of his defense secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, have surfaced and in this connection, the public must at last ask themselves, as does Sean Hannon in a recent letter on that subject to the papers, "Who are we?"

In the face of all these events, more questions arise: Why was Scooter Libby finally willing to admit that he was the source for Judith Miller, incarcerated for 85 days for refusing to reveal her source? When will administration officials begin to turn against each other? How can President Bush ever be taken seriously again?

Elizabeth Gerteiny, Westport, CT.

Dear Editor,

Do you notice how dark it is in the morning? It is long past the equinox; Wintertime's daylight hours grow shorter. Yet, our clocks are still set to Summertime's daylight savings time (DST). It is more difficult to arise, and to wake up the kids, when our windows are still dark. It is more dangerous for our kids walking to school, crossing streets while sleepy commuters squint into the rising sun.

The pending Energy Bill will extend DST to even later in the Winter onths. This is wrong; it puts our kids in greater danger. DST should end around the Autumn Equinox, at, say, end of September.

There are many reasons responsible Senators should oppose this bill. It would allow special interest oil drillers to rip open the Alaska Nature Wildlife Reserve. It threatens the safety of our children as they walk to school in an unnaturally early morning sunrise.

Yours truly,

Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, CA

Nathan,

Thank you for such a terrific article on

the Bainbridge Graduate Institute (9/19/2005). Of all the articles I've read in he past three years, yours was the most comprehensive and accurate. I for one plan to use it as a means to educate more of the public about the school and it's broad-reaching effects.

Thanks again.

Ann E. Brudno

To The Editor:

Reagan as California Governor helped them swiftly start down hill on the path of ignorance and devastation. Later he did it to the country. Reagan never rose beyond a class B actor, but if he were give the words he could talk. He was the head of California and the USA and destroyed them both.

He pointed out those whom he thought were communists for McCarthy and destroyed some people. Was a union leader in his profession and he betrayed them, he busted the comptroller union as one of his first acts as president and unions have gone down hill ever since then. Look at the California mess, it started with Reagan.

Ronald Reagan did not grow up poor; his house was not a log cabin and when you went to college and were a lifeguard you were sorta in the upper respected. It was depression time and I'd bet he never missed any meals. Being a snob was a part of the class at depression time for those less fortunate that were on relief. Being on relief was shameful during the depression

Reagan was a bit of a smart-ass' and a bit of liar in the old days but back then it was considered cute. It is today.

You'd think people would know about him and be smart enough not to vote for him. Of course if you didn't check it out you'd go for the pretty, story telling and lies. The media loaded on Jimmy Carter about his letting our people be kept in Iran. It's been said, Reagan or some in his bunch made a deal with Iran to hold back until the election? I believe it. Following is part of the other side of the story.

Why doesn't/can't the whole/real story, be told?

Ronald Reagan is not a George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, F.D.R., or any other president of greatness. In modern time he doesn't match Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower, Jack Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson; he's more akin to Richard Nixon but that's questionable. Politically, he doesn't match very well with Gerald Ford; even though Ford gave Nixon a pardon,

Jimmy Carter was the victim of Reagan's slams and dirty claims about the Mid-East. H.W. Bush was right about Reagan's voodoo economics and was a better President.

President Bill Clinton was a far superior (probably the best since Roosevelt) President and those right-wing religious and neo-conservatives knew that, they started shooting Clinton down in Arkansas before he ran for President. They are fearful of him (his sense-brightness) they are digging him this very day.

G.W. Bush's Presidency is more sorrowful than Reagan's. G.W. doesn't know what is going on, nor does his administration. Bush is attempting to do the old Reagan flim flam but is not, the actor thus doesn't know which way to go nor has had the years of experience, to deliver the line, he delivers but it's getting worse and/but does he understand what he's saying?

The country has been the victim of the Reagan flim flam with by the kitchen cabinet and Nancy Reagan. As Governor with the kitchen cabinet, Nancy, Pete Wilson and Proposition 13 he/they destroyed the best education and criminal justice in the state of California and laid the foundation for Pete Wilson and the Republican party

to cripple it more so and help develop the fiasco we have in California today.

We are now beginning to see the weakness of California that started with Reagan, his kitchen cabinet, Nancy, Wilson and the Republican Party. They finally, took out the Democrats and replaced them with a Conservative Austrian from a conservative part of Austria. A part, of Austria, that has control of their party, that's where the terminator, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger came from.

Ronald Reagan; even though Jimmy Carter screwed up his presidency by bringing his Georgia advisors who failed to work with the Democrat party and Congress; Reagan had to go Iran with his promises of an unknown nature to win the presidency.

With his good old boy philosophy, power building for a strong America, good jokes, personable stories, commits by/from letters and the personal FDR radio type plans. Reagan and his bunch bowled the country over with a Jack Armstrong personality. We got caught with only play acting in the end. What did Reagan do for the country but to set it up as it is today?

Two experiences of his career, one as an actor pure and simple were the luck of the draw. On the gipper thing Pat O'Brien was having trouble getting a gipper and asked, at least get some one who has played football, Reagan happened to be there to fit the role, good looking, charming, excellent background for the role, he played football. He was good at remembering lines and delivering them.

The other was "Gorbachev, tear down this wall." That line almost didn't make the speech, he lucked out again. Although Reagan and his bunch and the news media give him credit for getting rid of the cold war by out spending the Soviet Union; it wasn't needed as Gorbachev, if asked would/did deliver; it was more dramatic for Reagan the way it happened.

Another thing that's is left in the cold war demise is that the pressure of the Pope for peace ended the cold war. It wasn't Reagan, nor the Pope that ended the cold war; it was at the pleasure of Gorbachev that ended the cold war

The Democratic process in Russia was because of Gorbachev, the remnants today in the former Soviet Union wouldn't have been there without Gorbachev. After the cold war there was peace.

How does America get to know the story of Reagan's boost to the wealthy and down grading of education, criminal justice of avoiding the poor and elder. How about the terrific debt on war material he left; the warmonger image by putting Marines in Lebanon where 249 that got killed, the war in Granada to save American medical students that didn't need to be saved.

The story of Oliver North and friends in Iran, and the secret deals and shredding papers of whatever. The support of the Alleged freedom fighters, against the Sandinista, why doesn't that get left out of the story and what Reagan gets away with.

I know you know more, how do we get it distributed? Read: "The Great Divide;" by Studs Terkel for, some, ideas.

"Ronald Reagan lacked the knowledge he should have had in every sphere both domestic and international. Most of the time he was an actor reading lines who didn't understand his own programs. I hate to say this about such an agreeable man but it was sinful that Ronald Reagan ever became president."

"I've known every president since Harry Truman and there is no question in my mind that Ronald Reagan was the worst."

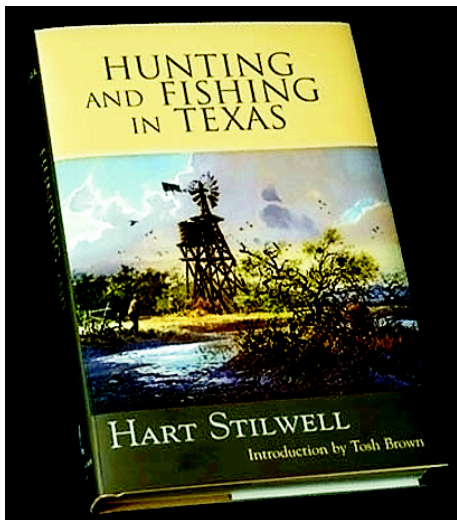
—Tip O'Neill "Man of the House"
Louis (Lou) Freitag, Carbondale, IL

'Hunting and Fishing in Texas' (1946) Being Re-published

DALLAS — Collector's Covey announces the re-publication of a Texas classic by the late author, Hart Stilwell. First published in 1946 by Alfred A. Knopf (New York), *Hunting and Fishing in Texas* is a retrospective view of a simpler time.

"From the Texas Trans Pecos to the Coastal Prairies, Hart Stilwell lived a dream-life of hunting and fishing adventure. In this collection of essays and vintage photographs from the early 1900s, Stilwell documented the Texas outdoors with narrative detail, engaging anecdotes, and a prophetic sense of conservation," notes the publisher.

An accomplished plug caster, rifleman, and wing shot, Stilwell honed his craft during a hardscrabble period when fishing lures, shotgun shells, and rifle cartridges were worth much more than an undiscovered stretch of coastal shoreline or a gate key to a fine deer



Cover Art: Magic Minutes (1979) by John P. Cowan pasture.

"If you've ever cast a line or fired a

shot in the Texas outdoors, you'll appreciate Stilwell's enthusiasm for sport, his keen sense of humor, and his suggestion of a precisely balanced mix of consumption and conservation."

The book's introduction is by Tosh Brown.

About the Author:

Hart Stilwell (1902-1975) earned a degree in Journalism from the University of Texas, enjoyed a successful career and a newspaper reporter, and was a contributing writer to most large daily

newspaper in Texas. He wrote articles for *Field & Stream*, *Outdoor Life*, *Esquire* and *Sports Afield* magazines and had several books published.

About the Publisher:

Collector's Covey is a fine art and book publisher located in Dallas, Texas. (800) 521-2403 <www.collectorscovey.com>.



Crawford Peace House To Host Halloween Cook-out

CRAWFORD — The Crawford Peace House will host a Halloween/All Saints costume cook-out on Saturday, Oct. 29, starting at 4 p.m. The Crawford Peace House is located at 9142 E. Fifth St.

Guests are encouraged to come

dressed as their favorite saint, sage or hero and bring non-alcoholic beverages, snacks and bewitching treats, along with anything special to put on the grill.

For more information, call 254-486-0099.

Feds Give Florida Go-Ahead To Curb Medicaid Services

WASHINGTON — The Bush Administration last week gave the State of Florida authority to place limits on how much the state will spend medically for each poor elderly person on Medicaid.

For those who choose to participate in the Medicaid program, the state now has the authority to force elderly persons to choose an HMO or private care provider to manage their health care. If the individual does not make a choice, he will automatically be enrolled in one that the state selects for him.

Under the sweeping plan, which is expected to spread to other states, the State of Florida will then pay the private health care provider so much a month to provide health care to the senior citizen, and the state will give the private HMOs new freedoms to limit the services they give the elderly which previously they could not legally do, giving insurance companies discretion on health care decisions for individuals.

The new plan allows the state to set a

ceiling on spending for each recipient, although children under the age of 21 and pregnant women will be exempt from the limits.

Michael O. Leavitt, secretary of health and human services, approved the proposal after Florida Governor Jeb Bush provided strong support for it.

Joan C. Alker, a senior researcher at the Health Policy Institute of Georgetown University, said, "Florida's proposal is one of the most far-reaching and radical proposals we've seen to restructure Medicaid. The federal government and the states now decide which benefits people get. Under the Florida plan, many of those decisions will be made by private health plans, out of public view."

President George W. Bush has proposed similar changes at the federal level, but Congress has not accepted those ideas.

Medicaid provides health insurance to more than 50 million low-income people. The states and federal government jointly finance it.

AT LAST... the MAGI as THREE WISE WOMEN

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