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WAR IN IRAQ

Casualties:

U.S. Military Deaths

2,039

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Juanita Ulloa
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World Reacts In Horror At Secret CIA Prisons Report

CRAWFORD — The international community reacted in horror at a newly published newspaper account of a top secret CIA prison system scattered outside the United States.

The Washington Post reported last Wednesday that the CIA created this classified prison system hastily after the terrorist attacks in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001, to interrogate high profile terrorist suspects.

The Post report said that one secret jail was located in a Soviet-era compound and numerous others in eight Eastern European countries, Thailand, Afghanistan, and a center at the Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba.

Senior U.S. officials, however, barred the Post from revealing the names of these countries, fearing a compromise of counter-terrorism efforts, the safety of these countries from terrorist cells, and other legal and political reprisals from both the national and international community.

As of last Friday, at least 10 European countries, including Romania, Poland, Bulgaria, Hungary, Latvia, and former Soviet republics Georgia and Armenia, denied either conspiring to harbor such "black sites" or possessing information about them. British Prime Minister Tony Blair declined to comment.

Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra said denied the existence of these prisons and added that authorities in his country have only arrested one terrorist and immediately turned him over to U.S. authorities in 2003. The arrested terrorist was Riduan Isamuddin, or Hambali, who is believed to be an al-Qaeda point man.

Only a handful of U.S. officials are said to know the details of these secret jails, which former and current U.S. intelligence officials say house about 100 terrorists, according to the Post. Among the suspected detainees are al-Qaeda operations chief Abu Zubaida, and 9/11 planner Ramzi Binalshibh.

A spokesman of the European Union said that the EU would informally question its member 25 nations about the Post's claims. He said that any such prisons could violate two human rights treaties, the European Convention on Human Rights and the International Convention Against Torture, the latter of which the United States also signed.

Though a spokesman for Human Rights Watch would not reveal its sources, the group announced that flight logs in its possession show that the CIA moved terrorist suspects from Afghanistan to Poland and Romania. Both European countries deny these

claims.

National Security Adviser Stephen Hadley wouldn't confirm or deny the existence of the secret prisons in Eastern Europe.

"The President has been very clear that we are going to do that in a way that is consistent with our values, and that is why he has been very clear that the United States will not torture, the United States will conduct its activities in compliance with [the] law and international obligations," said Hadley.

Europe's human rights organization, the Council of Europe, and the International Red Cross are both seeking access to these secret compounds.

U.S. intelligence officials told the Post that the CIA kept these prisoners in secret prisons because it is illegal for the U.S. government to hold them inside the United States.

The Post's report came as yet another thorn in the side of the Bush Administration's mounting internal troubles. Members of his own party — like U.S. Sen. Chuck Hagel (R-Neb.) — called on President Bush to reexamine his administration in light of the indictment of Vice President Cheney's chief

of staff, I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby as well as these "black hole jails."

"It further erodes the world's confidence in America. We cannot continue to say one thing and do something else," said the Senate Intelligence Committee member last Thursday, adding that although he had no prior knowledge of the CIA's secret jails, Congress is still partially responsible.

"This is having an impact on [President Bush's] ability to govern, his credibility around the world, his credibility here. ... It's not surprising that the latest poll numbers have come out that show his job approval rating is the lowest of any incumbent president since Richard Nixon," Hagel said.

"This is just one indication of what has been done under this administration to change the policies that have persisted all the way through our history," said former president Jimmy Carter, in reaction to the Post's story.

Both houses of Congress began last Thursday to finish a bill that prohibits torture by any U.S. force. Though he denies sanctioning torture, President Bush has said he will veto it.

Greenspan Sounds Alarm On High Budget Deficits

WASHINGTON — Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan warned Congress last Thursday that more large budget deficits could cause "serious economic disruptions" from eventual increased interest rates.

Greenspan — who is to retire as Fed chief after 18 years on Jan. 31 — urged lawmakers to offset future tax cuts with either increases in taxes or reductions in spending.

"There are no easy choices. Easy choices are long gone," said Greenspan, whose replacement could be Ben Bernanke, President Bush's choice.

While Greenspan reiterated his idea that Social Security and Medicare should probably be trimmed to meet the needs of the retiring "Baby Boomers," congressmen questioned his support of President Bush's 2001 successful \$1.3

billion tax cut package over 10 years, which Democrats say caused record deficits.

Greenspan responded that with the information provided to him then, he still would have supported the tax cuts. The projections of huge government surpluses proved false.

This year's federal government budget deficit totaled \$319 billion — less than last year's deficit but still the third-highest on record.

Greenspan's warning came as Congress was in the middle of working on various bills to cut taxes and spending.

Economists have speculated that the Fed will increase interest rates two times before Greenspan's last meeting, once on Dec. 13 and then on Jan. 31. Another rate increase might occur on March 28, Bernanke's first official meeting as Fed chief, say other analysts.



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Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges Through Music

New Christmas CD 'Paz y Alegria' Spans Language, Cultures

Juanita Ulloa

Interview With Music Pioneer Juanita Ulloa Creator Of Operachi

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE ICONOCLAST

SAN FRANCISCO — International musical star Juanita Ulloa has embarked on the mission of spreading peace and joy through her music while at the same time encouraging women to overcome traditional barriers and free themselves to become creative for the benefit of mankind.

Her latest CD, "Paz y Alegria," will be released on Nov. 15, just in time for this Christmas season, and includes songs that are seasonal, yet with a Latin twist.

Ulloa has been described as the high priestess of Operachi, a new Latin-American sound which she invented. It combines classical opera mixed with a meringue of traditional mariachi rhythms, a fusion of classical stylings and contemporary harmonies, and its appeal is worldwide.

Born in North America into a bi-cultural American Panamanian family, Ulloa was raised in several Hispanic countries including Mexico, Spain, and Panama. She earned her music degree at Yale and UC Berkeley, received trainings at the Nice Conservatory in France, and has toured the world with wildly acclaimed solo performances in Spain, as well as Peru and Mexico.

As a youth, Ulloa was trained as a classical pianist and later became an opera singer. She learned to play the Sikus, or panpipes, saying that she found the sound of it fascinating. The six-time winner of the Festival de la Cancion Latinoamericana has since then expanded her talents into writing her own compositions, but specializes in singing boleros and rancheras that showcase her immense range and deep emotional expression.

Amidst touring, Ulloa has been a featured soloist singer for the San Francisco Giants, Toronto Blue Jays, the Golden Glove Association in the first encounter of Olympic hopefuls from the U.S. and Mexico in 34 years. She was again a featured soloist in the PBS prize-winning movie "A Fight in the

Fields" about Cesar Chavez. Ulloa has produced and performed on a CD that features bilingual music for children and families, has been a voice-over artist for such entities as Bank of America and Reader Rabbit Series, among others, and teaches music.

She has created, produced, and performed a CD series, *Canta Conmigo* (Sing with me) which includes three songbooks and CD's that feature bilingual music for kids and families. During her many other endeavors, work on the series continues. Ulloa also trains both young and professional singers, fostering award winning students who have created their own CDs.

She has performed with the likes of Chamin Correa, Joan Baez, Pete Escovedo, Emma Elena Valdelamar, plus numerous mariachis, such as Los Camperos de Nati Cano and Mariachi Nevin.

In an exclusive interview with THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST, Ulloa explained that her ambition has always been to build a bridge between the United States and Latin America with her music by emphasizing love, peace, and joy, traits that unite. With a deep admiration for Mexico's pioneering female composers who provided a great influence on her career, she hopes that her efforts inspire other would-be female composers to develop their talents as they break barriers and build bridges at the same time.

ICONOCLAST: Your Christmas CD is planned for release on Nov. 15th. Is this something you have wanted to do for sometime?

ULLOA: At least six or seven years. The seed of it was rooted in the fact that I have been releasing CDs since '95 and I'm always kind of taking note about what's not available. This has been a big issue in Latin-American music, because while all major labels are out there promoting Ricky Martin-type pop things, there's all this wonderful folklore and culture and history and music from

each one of those countries and I hardly ever hear or see Latin Christmas music.

Every time Christmas season comes around in the states, you hear Christmas music everywhere. There's a certain smell in the air, just the way there is for Halloween—you know like candy and all kinds of things, but none of the Latin elements are there; and yet you've got, in California for example, 40 percent of the state is Latino and so it just seemed appropriate to me that we share some of the Latin-American traditions. For me it was about fusing them into things that would be very familiar and accessible to, not only different ages, but also to different cultures and different religions.

ICONOCLAST: The download samples of the Christmas CD on your website, which is <www.juanitamusic.com> are quite stunning. Of the Christmas songs that you performed, is there one that stands out as your favorite?

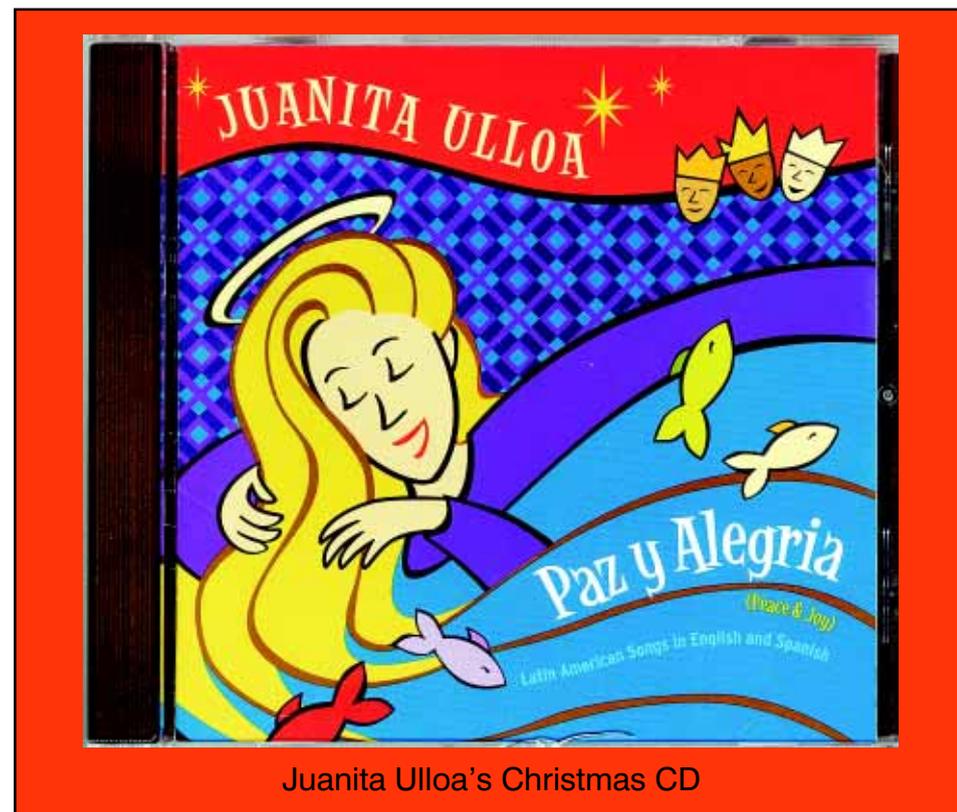
ULLOA: Oh. Thank you. Well, despite the fact that I'm not Jewish, I really ended up liking what some call the Hannukah song. It's the only Hannukah

song on the CD. It's called Ocho Candelika, (eight candles). That one intrigued me because it's the only one that I didn't sing in Spanish or English. I sang it in Ladino, which is the language of the Serphardic Jews from Southern Spain and you can kind of recognize the Spanish related words, but it's really different. I liked the flamenco connection that it has given the origin of the song itself. It's about lighting the eight candles. It has the rhythm of the Carmen Habanera from the opera Carmen, that same rhythm. When Bizet wrote that opera, he was setting it in Southern Spain, which is the same place. So that rhythm, Abanera, is very familiar. So, hence, in the introduction I sang a little piece from Carmen in a lower range to kind of kick it off just for fun.

ICONOCLAST: I look forward to hearing that one, but also, I look forward to hearing your rendition of *Oh, Holy Night*.

ULLOA: Oh! I was going to say that one was my other personal favorite. In the case of *Oh Holy Night*, which in Spanish I translated to Noche Inmortal,

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Juanita Ulloa's Christmas CD

• **BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC — JUANITA ULLOA ... Continued From Page 3**

which literally means immortal night, we're taking, as you probably know, a French carol, which many people sing operatically, and certainly I did for the eight years that I was an opera singer. That's a hymn, or a rather a carol, that's unknown in Latin America. Because I knew this CD would be sold throughout the Americas, North and South, I wanted Latin America to have an appreciation of some of the beautiful songs from, I say this culture, meaning the U.S.A., but also Europe.

ICONOCLAST: So this will be a new experience?

ULLOA: Yes, and they like it. Now I have to admit, when I was first practicing that tune, the arrangement is to an Afro-Peruvian rhythm called Lando. The Lando rhythm, we set as subtly as possible because this is the quietest song on the CD. None of the rhythms are that quiet. We wanted the general spirit of the CD to be danceable and spirited, which is the word *alegría*, (joy and spirit). So, I couldn't deviate too far from that, but I found a blend in that song between the quietness and still keeping a rhythm which, at first, was a challenge. I didn't know if it was going to work. Then as I got going with it, we found a way to make it work where it's very gentle as I'm singing the words. And then as the chorus breaks in, the rhythm is more driving. And then in the breaks, when I'm not singing the rhythm really gets active. The Lando rhythm is just a very earthy rhythm.

ICONOCLAST: I look forward to hearing that one.

ULLOA: It's the first time I've ever heard it sung in Spanish. So we did it bilingually. We'll see what people think.

ICONOCLAST: Operachi is being described as a new Latin-American sound, combining classical opera with traditional mariachi rhythms. Do you think that your vast background in diverse types of music plays strongly in the development of this new sound?

ULLOA: Yes. For me, it comes as the inevitable result of being a person that's always been bi-cultural. When I'm speaking in one language, they don't know that I am just as native in the other. When I speak in Spanish, they don't know I'm not Latin American. When I speak in English, they don't know I'm not American. The reason that I connected to that is because, the idea of crossing over began just so early on for me, growing up in all the different Latin countries, and yet speaking English all the time with my mother.

Being American has had its mix for me. I think it spilled over into music whereby I always base myself on the classical traditions. I was always a classical pianist as a child. My family really wasn't into music, but they supported me studying piano and yet the music I would hear out in the street was Mariachi (defined as a Mexican orchestra which sometimes strolls), in Mexico. I grew up hearing and singing Mexican ranchera music at our birthday celebrations and out on the streets and in restaurants in Mexico City. We also lived right next door to El Caballo bayo, a very famous restaurant with a mariachi always playing.

You don't think too much about integrating that. In fact, I never even thought about singing it at the time because I never saw any women composers or singers. I would always see men

running around doing it and I would imitate the men. When you imitate the men, you have a very low voice, as a female. And that, in fact, is the general style of women singing mariachi.

I remember when I first started taking voice lessons, I realized that I had a nice big low voice, but I wanted my voice to go high and I couldn't. So I trained, thinking I will train and I will get that. So I trained and trained and trained and did all that. Then I found out, after finishing all that, that my low voice was still the best part.

I couldn't use that low voice in opera. I can use it, but they don't consider it useful. It's not written into the repertoire. The high notes are considered the money notes in opera. I love singing the high notes, but my voice doesn't necessarily want to stay up there.

My teacher turned to me at one point after hearing me sing in Spanish and hearing the low voice which she had never heard before, and said "Oh! That is it." She initially called it mariachi coloratura (very high quick moving notes) because I do slip up into high notes



Juanita Ulloa (center) performs in the mariachi tradition.

In the case of *Oh Holy Night*, which in Spanish I translated to *Noche Inmortal*, which literally means immortal night, we're taking, as you probably know, a French carol, which many people sing operatically, and certainly I did for the eight years that I was an opera singer. That's a hymn, or a rather a carol, that's unknown in Latin America. Because I knew this CD would be sold throughout the Americas, North and South, I wanted Latin America to have an appreciation of some of the beautiful songs from, I say this culture, meaning the U.S.A., but also Europe.'

— Juanita Ulloa

much like a coloratura, but I don't stay up there. I'm really sitting in the low end and it's so low that you can't really call it opera anymore. It's really a contralto (low female voice) range that hits up into soprano range for certain notes.

We do that more on the mariachi CD, *Mujeres y Mariachi*, than in the new Latin Christmas one. On the new holiday CD on a song like *Oh, Holy Night*, you'll hear a little bit of both. I hope that that explained it. I hope the song I penned, *Cuando Canto*, gives people the vocal Operachi power

I intended, as it's so special and hard to describe tangibly. I should say that I'm really just the first woman doing this. There have been men doing this for a number of years, within the mariachi tradition.

Back in the '40s, there were some mariachi singers Pedro Infante and Jorge Negrete who were in fact, starving opera singers. In order to make ends meet, they decided to sing the music that they grew up with, which was mariachi, or ranchera music, as we call it (ranch music). They made a huge career. Until that point, in the mariachi tradition, the voice was not as developed as a solo instrument. There wasn't as high a level of vocal solo singing as there ended up being as a result of the vocal displays of those men. They contributed a lot vocally.

Now, I don't think people, Americans, or Europeans, people outside of Mexico, realize how highly skilled vocalists have to be in the mariachi tradition. Yet, I realized, I had never heard women using their whole range the way those men had been doing for years. Why not? That's how women were born. To express the full female vocal range God gave to us, which takes training to fully develop what every woman has, and balance it with full expression, the lat-

ter of which many Mexican women already do beautifully, like Lola Beltran, Lucha Vill, to name a couple, and contributing to the field, while still honoring it. I believe women have to blend in a certain level of vocal training to find their own full voice. Expressing this fully with my voice/vocal style, plus originating the text and musical message with feminine and earthy spirit combined — that's OPERACHI! It's not so much about the instruments, as the voice itself, even though the instruments added a great deal of flavor. I love working with either mariachi or symphony—either apart or event together—or just one great guitarist can also create great intimacy.

ICONOCLAST: It is said that the purpose of the mariachi ensemble is to present sharply contrasting sounds, with frequent shifts between syncopation and on-beat rhythm. When you perform, is there a special ensemble composition that you utilize to develop the Operachi sound?

ULLOA: Well, I love working with symphony, actually. I love bringing in a couple of Latin American specialists.

ICONOCLAST: What kind of musical instruments are you accompanied with?

ULLOA: In Operachi? Well, it can be either, it's very versatile. I can either be singing with a mariachi in the traditional Latin American, Mexican way, or I can be singing with a symphony. I have a Mexican guitarist always with me who knows the style. Or I could even do it as a soloist, with a guitar. It's about my voice and what my voice is doing. It's not so much about the instrument.

We have specifically designed the arrangements with symphony to turn them into a mariachi. When it's a more traditional folkloric mariachi, we usually have to deal with fairly high trained

mariachis, because we do add chords. We do do a couple more rhythmic changes here and there. I'm not scared to change the composition, add-ons, cadenza, like for example, there is a very famous song called *Cucurru-cucu Paloma* and I add a big cadenza onto the end. Then I do the same thing in *El Pastor* (The Shepherd). You can hear it in both. Those two songs I felt really adapted themselves. Especially, *El Pastor*, because it's a song about a shepherd playing his flute to call the sheep and the flute is something that's very akin to the high female voice. So I turned my voice into a flute.

ICONOCLAST: Flutes are used in Peruvian music?

ULLOA: They are, as well, the *kena* or *quena* (Peruvian vertical bamboo flute). In fact, I've always claimed that that song might have an Indian origin; even though it's so popular with mariachis, much *moreso* than in Peru itself. I'm not sure about the origin of that song. I wrote a new section in *El Pastor*, operachi style, in the middle whereby I turn the voice into the shepherd's slute. I am really excited about that style.

ICONOCLAST: I read in GLOBAL RHYTHM that it was the Iraq war that sparked your creative energies to do this Christmas album.

ULLOA: That was the straw that broke the camel's back. Yeah, it finally got me going on the project. I'd been thinking about it a long time and I hadn't really moved on it, even though I was going to do it at some point.

When that war broke out and I saw the morale after the initial shock kind set into this complacent acceptance of okay, well, there's less money in the schools now, okay. Well, people aren't calling musicians and celebrating or having par-

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• **BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES THROUGH MUSIC — JUANITA ULLOA ... Continued From Page 4**

ties anymore. All these okays that people just accepted offered a lower morale for themselves, I noticed. It just seemed to be that there was a downcast feeling.

I realized that I was slipping into it, too, just along with everybody else. I couldn't help thinking about that Shakesperian quote about daring to not always follow the popular current of thought, because sometimes that can be dangerous. I thought, in this case, it was, if we didn't stand up and declare peace and joy in our lives in some small way. Whatever way is right for us, that we're not helping the world.

That's the best way to find peace — to continually find small ways to express it. Small and big. Some are bigger than others. For me, it was about how can I bring peace and joy into people's homes? Especially during this next Christmas and the Christmas after, when so many people are missing loved ones and or feeling they're without funds or without help for one reason or another. That's how it was born.

ICONOCLAST: You had performed with Joan Baez.

ULLOA: Yea. Many years ago, I was her first act at Stanford at a couple of big rally type events where she was winding down her career. I enjoy the fact that she expresses who she is and she does it through her voice and that gift is a precious gift.

ICONOCLAST: You grew up in Mexico, Spain, and Panama, earned your music degrees at Yale and UC Berkeley, and received training at the Nice Conservatory in France. So you've been around the world. You have fans from



Juanita Ulloa

high end of the female voice, which is the more feminine part.

I totally respect and love the original costumes, but I also think that as women become more active in this genre, we have great creative ideas which include both feminine and masculine qualities. I think there's a lot of room yet to grow in that area. One of them is in the area of composition. There are practically no women composers in the mariachi genre and the ranchera music.

A lot of female groups have evolved that do what the male groups do, but they're doing the same stuff, or they're doing it their way, but they're not necessarily composing and I really think

'Paz y Alegria' Named Among iParenting Media Greatest 2005 Products

EVANSTON, Ill — Juanita Ulloa's "Paz y Alegria" CD has been named a winner in the iParenting Media Greatest Products of 2005 Call for Entries, during which the company evaluated items ranging from high-tech toys, strollers, car seats, fascinating books and videos to the latest software, sporting goods and kitchen products. All of the items were thoroughly evaluated by experienced reviewers to determine which ones exceeded the standards to earn an award.

The evaluation process utilized by the iParenting Media Awards program is so thorough it has attained ISO 9001:2000 Certification from the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). ISO is the world's largest developer of standardization regulations, and ISO 9001:2000 is an internationally recognized standard of quality assurance.

"At iParenting Media, we realize the importance of credible product evaluations when it comes to families, and that's why the iParenting Media Awards program carefully reviews and then recognizes the very best products in the marketplace and makes parents aware of them," says Alvin All, Chief Executive Officer of iParenting Media.

"During the Greatest Products Call for Entry, we received many wonderful items for families. The ones that earned the iParenting Media Award exceeded the high evaluation standards we set. We share them with our audience throughout our publications and connect them directly with consumers via our retailer network online directory."

To be considered for an award, each company submitted four identical samples of each product, which were then precisely matched within iParenting's database of hundreds of experienced reviewers using iParenting's state-of-the-art technology.

An expert, a childcare setting, and a family reviewed the products and submitted a thorough evaluation of each item. Results were compiled and submitted to the iParenting Media Executive Committee for final approval. The end result of this comprehensive process was a list of award-winning products families can feel confident in purchasing for their loved ones.

'The other issue is the message of love and peace and joy. As this Christmas approaches, I think we all need to pray for more peace in the world and overcome any sense of greed or power. I see it in a very humanistic way, because I'm not much of a politician. I do believe that if we all pray for that, that we will get results. For me, that is the true spirit of Christmas — for love to conquer all and for love to be present in people's hearts, because, for me, the coming of Christ is the presence of love in our lives. It's acknowledging that, regardless of religion or cultural boundaries.'

— Juanita Ulloa

throughout the planet. Music is a universal language. From that perspective, is there anything special that you want your music and influence to accomplish?

ULLOA: I want my music to heal hearts. And if it touches their soul, bringing their emotions to the surface and on helping people solve issues that they maybe couldn't verbalize. That's the biggest gift I think I could possibly hope to bring.

ICONOCLAST: From the tenderness of Mariposa to the power of Quando Canto, you have quite a range.

ULLOA: Thank You. Have you heard them?

ICONOCLAST: Yes. I was very impressed. What is your all-time favorite style of music?

ULLOA: Operachi (laughing). I love Operachi because, as a woman singing mariachi music, I love the low throatiness, the earthiness of that vocal expression. It's kind of like when I visualize women's semanco dancers and how earthy they are and their intensity. There's a power to it, a rawness, an earthiness, that I think gives women access to strength. That for me is amazing. At the same time, with Operachi, I'm able to share the beauties of the

that has to change. I'm not a full-time composer. I'm a singer first of all, primarily. I've made an effort to include at least two or three originals on every CD to just add a little step in that direction and I also lead a Latin vocal workshop where I encourage them all to get music theory training and to write down their ideas because it's about expressing ideas. Men and women both have ideas. Why are women not expressing their ideas through that genre?

ICONOCLAST: How do you go about composing a song. Does it come into your mind. What is your inspiration?

ULLOA: For me personally, I have to be burning inside about an emotional issue usually, which is pretty easy for me (laugh). I'm laughing at myself. I think that Phil Collins once stated that going through a divorce, he wrote some of his best music. It's that kind of thing. When you know you've got something to solve within yourself, there's nothing more healing than sitting down and just getting it out. It's a gift, because you resolve and digest a lot emotionally. At the same time, you end up sharing ideas that other people might not be able to express. I wish I could say I sat down every morning at that piano and did it. There have been periods where I do

that, but I feel like it's not my calling to do that full-time.

ICONOCLAST: Do the tunes come first or do the lyrics?

ULLOA: It used to be always the melody, but I think that's because I was a classical pianist first. I can just sit down there and a melody can pop out anytime. I have a little phrase on my piano that says "Inspiration comes with discipline, so don't wait to be inspired, just sit down and do your work." That reminds me to not make excuses about getting my practicing done or getting my composition done and the minute I sit down there, there's a freedom that I feel.

ICONOCLAST: Do you do a whole song at a time or do you do parts of one and then add to it later?

ULLOA: It usually comes out in the form of the hook first, for me. Usually the music comes first, but not always.

It comes in either language, English or Spanish. That was another thing that took a while. It used to only come through music first and then Spanish. Now that I'm singing bi-lingually as

on this last CD, it's coming in both, which is kind of fun. I have been writing a lot of English lyrics so there may be a way to incorporate beautiful Latin rhythms into those in some future projects.

ICONOCLAST: As far as the lyrics go, if you're going to make those bi-lingual and make the number of words or phrases match the tune, is that hard to

do or do you even worry about that?

ULLOA: I don't find it hard at all, but I notice it's hard for a lot of people. I just talk to them when I'm training them as a teacher about just matching the syllables for the beats, just feeling the pulse. If they come up with a melody line that goes has, for instance, nine syllables, it's kind of limiting when you think of it boxed in that way, but I think to initially conceive of it, it's helpful. It's also helpful sometimes if I'm ever feeling stuck, I go to stream of consciousness writing and I'll just sit and write some ideas out and it's helpful to me to feel free by just not saying this has to be the perfect song or the perfect hook or anything. I just say I'm going to write to feel free and let it out and then I make myself wait a day or two to read it. That gives me the distance to go back and say, "Oh, I think I only like those three words there" and I think "Oh, this could be a nice hook" and "This could be a really nice song here."

So, if I'm going from words back to music, that's the way it usually works. It's usually the music that sticks to me and gives me the words. They pop out

'If people love Latin American music, they will love Paz y Alegria because it fuses so many rich Latin rhythms and instruments into one united hispanic tradition, plus new compositions, adding into the rick tradition of Spanish villancicos, or Christmas songs.'

— Juanita Ulloa

in my brain. Even fragments of sentences where I don't know what the whole sentence is going to be. Do you know the music of Debussy? He was a French impressionist and his music came out in pieces, in fragments. He would connect them in these really unusual ways and it was so unusual he got kicked out of the Paris Conservatory

Continued On Next Page

Colorado Voters Kill 'Taxpayer Rights' Bill

DENVER — The so-called "Taxpayer's Bill of Rights," a 13-year-old measure designed to return taxes to Colorado residents, was voted down last week, 52 to 48 percent.

Fiscal conservatives felt the vote was a death blow to the movement that created the nation's strictest government spending limit. The TABOR cap is based on population growth plus inflation.

Supporters of Referendum C applauded the outcome as a way to remedy the state's million-dollar budget cuts in higher education, health care, and transportation.

Over a five year period the state is

expected to collect more than \$3 billion in tax refunds.

Colorado's Republican Governor Bill Owens has been called a Judas in his own party for joining Democrats in supporting the anti-TABOR bill. State conservatives once considered Owens a

presidential hopeful.

Conservatives fear a domino effect among other states that are considering new limits on government spending, like California, Kansas, Ohio, Maine, Nevada, and Oklahoma.

Californians will be voting this Tues-

day on one such measure, though polls suggest it has no future.

Other Measures

In Denver, voters agreed that raises and incentives for public school teachers should now be tied to student achievement through a program funded by an annual \$25 million property tax increase.

Denver also became the second city in the nation after Oakland, Calif. in 2004 to relax the enforcement of marijuana possession. Though the approved measure allows adults to possess up to an ounce of marijuana in the city of Denver, the city attorney expects law enforcement to comply with federal and state law.

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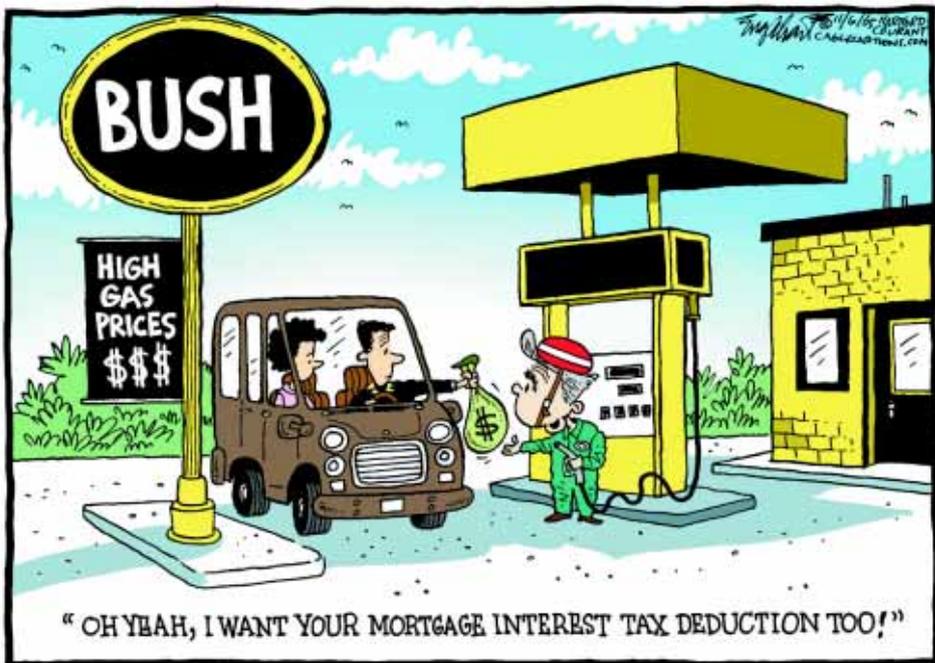
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Fair Trade Coffee Trickles Into McDonald's Locations

OAKLAND, Calif. — The McDonald's Corporation won warm praises last week from TransFair USA and Oxfam America when the fast food chain started selling Fair Trade Certified coffee at 658 locations across New England and Albany, N.Y.

Paul Rice, President and CEO of TransFair USA, called McDonald's entry into the Fair Trade movement was a "great moment" that sends a powerful signal to the food industry that "Fair Trade means quality."

Dunkin Donuts, Starbucks, Costco, and Sam's Club, and thousands of smaller independent companies already sell Fair Trade Certified coffee, he noted.

Rice also expressed his hope that McDonald's "will convert all of its U.S.

restaurants to Fair Trade in the next year or two." McDonald's currently has 30,000 restaurants that serve 50 million people worldwide.

McDonald's plans to sell Newman's Own Organics Fair Trade Certified coffee — sourced, roasted, and packaged by Green Mountain Coffee Roasters.

Fair Certified Trade products — like coffee, tea, cocoa, rice, sugar and fruit — are now offered in more than 30,000 cafés, restaurants, supermarkets and dining service venues nationwide.

More than 500 companies throughout the U.S. are licensed to sell Fair Trade Certified products.

INFO

www.fairtradecertified.org

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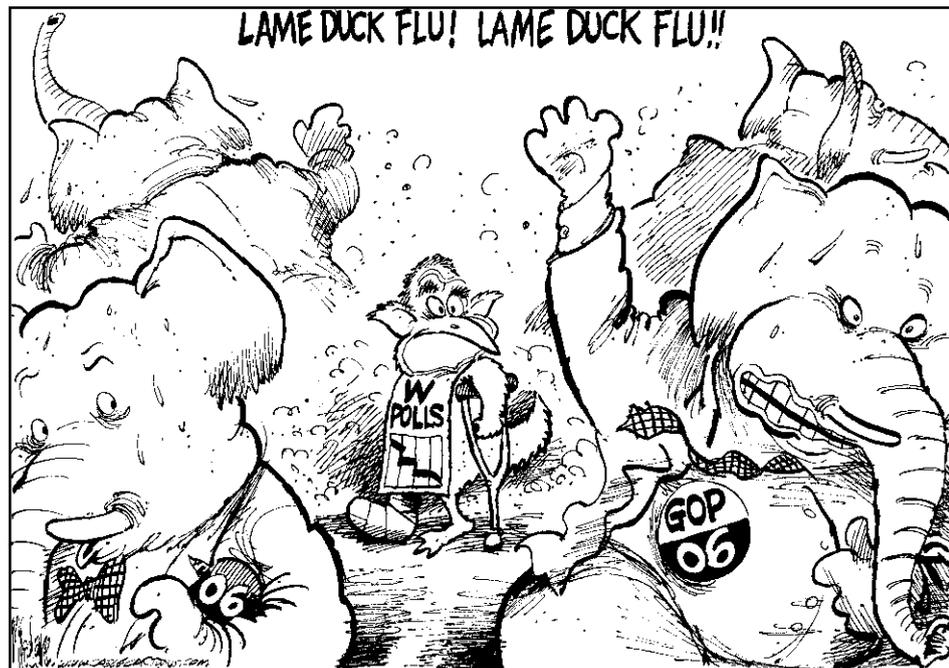
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More U.S. Soldiers Die In Iraq

BAGHDAD — The number of U.S. soldiers who have died in battle in Iraq increased by five more this weekend, as three died Friday and two Saturday, bringing the total released by the Pentagon to 2,039.

On Friday, three soldiers were reportedly killed when a bomb exploded near their Humvee, including Spc. Joshua J. Munger, 22; Pfc. Tyler R. MacKenzie, 20; and Spc. Benjamin A. Smith, 21.

Army officials said memorial services for the soldiers will be held in Iraq.

On Saturday, two U.S. additional soldiers were reported killed in separate incidents. One was killed after a roadside bomb hit his convoy in eastern Baghdad on Friday. He died of wounds received after a convoy struck an improvised explosive device.

The other Task Force Baghdad soldier was shot dead by small arms fire, also on Friday, south of Baghdad, according to the military. The soldiers' names are being withheld pending notification of next of kin, it was announced.

GOP Judge Steps Down From DeLay Trial

AUSTIN, Texas — Administrative Judge B.B. Schraub stepped down from handling Rep. Tom DeLay's trial last Thursday after District Attorney Ronnie Earle submitted a request for his removal.

Schraub departed because of campaign contributions he made to GOP candidates who are DeLay supporters. Prosecutors argued that these contributions tainted Schraub's ability to judge impartially.

This marks the second judge to be

removed from the trial in a week; the first one, District Judge Bob Perkins, was ousted for giving money to Democratic candidates.

The chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court — a Republican — has been asked to name a replacement judge to work the trial.

The House majority leader was forced to step down after being charged with illegally funneling corporate cash to Republican candidates for the Texas Legislature in 2002.



Global Bank Chiefs Urge Farm Tariff Cuts

WASHINGTON — Rodrigo de Rato, International Monetary Fund managing director, and Paul Wolfowitz, World Bank president, urged countries defiant of liberalizing trade barriers in agricultural to reach an agreement ahead of new global trade talks.

The chiefs' statements came through a joint letter sent in hope of persuading an unnamed bloc of countries to relax their farm subsidies and high tariffs before a WTO ministerial meeting in Hong Kong in December.

Europe, especially France, is said to be the target of the letter because it has stood its ground against the demands of the United

States and other nations for cuts to its farm subsidies and tariffs.

France, the European Union's biggest agricultural producer and the main beneficiary of trade barriers, said last Thursday that the European Commission's latest offer to cut farm tariffs overstretched its mandate.

The EC disagreed, saying its proposal to cut nearly half the average tariff on agricultural imports to a little over 12 percent is well within its mandate. The proposal, however, fell short of what the U.S. and Brazil wanted.

Pressure is mounting for the EU to slash these import tariffs or face problems with the WTO.

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Bedtime Stories In The Dying Night

(Editor's note: This column was written almost 20 years ago as a Veterans Day remembrance of a man who had been a soldier. The story is true, as nearly as my imperfect memory can regenerate it. I have tried to recall this tale again in an effort to remember the spirit of a man who fervently believed that we have forgotten too much.)

I don't think it was November.

It was early fall, a little cooler than usual as the arctic edged south a bit, its first hint of seasonal death hanging in the air like the omnipresent drizzle stripping the hardwoods of their first brown leafy sacrifices to the approaching god of winter.

We sat bored, our mood damp as the wool and the weather, watching our Boy Scout camping trip soak unceasingly into the soggy, slick Oklahoma hills.

While I certainly think of it now, back then no one questioned how Mr. Norwood was able to keep a fire going under the tent fly with no dry wood and no scorched canvas. It was just one of those things you took for granted, like the extra clean socks, underwear and jeans in your pack. You would have known your mother put them there if you'd thought about it, but

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



you didn't. Certainly you didn't talk about it.

Sort of like Mr. Norwood.

He was just the old man who drove the bus for the Boy Scouts, kind of a sour old guy. Never said too much except to yell at us through the rearview mirror to settle down, sit down and quit all that hollerin'. We just figured he went with the bus, part of the loan to the Scouts like the school gave us the bus and the Na-

tional Guard let us have the tents and the church let us have the groceries.

Except for the Hershey bars and cupcakes and ginger ale and stuff.

Nobody let us have that but us.

We never figured why old Mr. Norwood gave up his time and his summers to ferry a bunch of howling yard apes to camp. Like all a school bus driver has to do with his summers is haul more kids around.

We never wondered why old Mr. Norwood always slept in the bus instead of in the tents with us.

Until that night.

I guess he figured we were pretty much a mess, all of us running around in the rain, pitching mudball fights and water wars all day, and he took pity on us, starting a fire in one of the few tents still standing despite the weather-bound pranks.

Whoever said it regretted it.

But it didn't matter. We all joined in it.

We'd heard that Mr. Norwood was in the war, so we chorused, and repeated the refrain, "Tell us some war stories."

First he ignored us.

But we would not be ignored.

Like I said, we had a lot of war surplus equipment given to us.

He reached down and picked up an entrenching tool.

It was the first time I'd seen that look. I've seen it since, though I'm not sure I can describe it. It's a hard, brittle look, like glass in a fire; a piercing stare halfway between tears and rage; a maddened searching, demanding look from someplace hidden within the soul, someplace raw, scarred and bloody.

It is the look of a man who sleeps little and dreams much.

"I onct beat a man to death with one of these. He was a mail carrier. Had a picture of his wife and little boys in his boot. I beat him 'til we was both bloody and he just sat right down there in the trench and scratched his moustache with one finger 'til he died."

He fixed us all with that stare, and holding the entrenching tool toward us like a bitter accusation, went on; only now we weren't sure we wanted him to.

"You want to hear a war story? All right, you little snots. Here's a war story.

"They come in about three hours before daylight. Barrages. Tons of it. Hear? Hell, you couldn't even think. Suck th' air right out of you. Couldn't draw a breath. Boys down the line from you just got blowed up. One second they was there and then they wasn't. Sometimes you'd git buried. Shells and bombs would just cover you plumb up with dirt. Two, three foot deep. You'd lie there and pray for it to stop, and when it did, you'd pray some more that it was just a letup. 'Cause when it quit, that meant they was comin'.

"You'd get up and knock the mud out of the action best you could and lock out the box, git you a handful of rounds and start killin' single-shot at five, six hundred yards. They kept comin', us killin' 'em the whole time. When they hit our wire, you unlocked the box and used them last five rounds fast as you could. Then it got down to whatever was handy.

"They jist kept on 'til there wasn't no more of 'em to keep on. I seen 'em come over them trenches with arms, heads blowed off, jist run over th' top and fall down dead. Shovels was the best. We'd sit around and whet 'em like a knife. Some boys used a pick axe, butcher knife or jist a good stout stick of stovewood. Bayonets wasn't much good when a

bunch of 'em got in on you like that.

Sometimes one of us would jist go crazy. Turn to water when they come over the top. Best thing when that happent was just to grab him quick as you could and shove him down in the trench and stand on him. Hope if it ever happent to you - and it happent to everbody sometime - somebody'd do th' same for you 'cause if they ever seen you wallerin' around like that, cryin', screamin', they'd stick you f'r sure. Like they couldn't stand it. Skeert it would happen to them, I figgered, like it was catchin'.

"Then all of a sudden there just wouldn't be nobody there. Nobody left to kill. Then you'd git your rifle, or somebody's, and git ready. Whistles would blow most times and we'd go right back at 'em. They'd commence to shellin' us again when we hit no man's land.

"It was like a warshed out cotton patch out there. But it was better for them bar-rages than in the trenches. They didn't always git your range.

"Course when they used gas it was worse. It run downhill. If you jumped in a shell hole, it was full of gas. If you didn't you got shot or blowed up. Sometimes wind would come up and it blowed back on 'em. We run up on their trenches an' they was jist full of dead men, gassed."

He stretched out a partially clenched, somehow imperfect but not scarred or misshapen hand, over the fire. It quivered slightly, uncontrolled, suspended in the smoky dampness. Then he pronounced like some undeniable horror:

"Gas."

He went on through the night to the soft staccato on the canvas. He took us from the troopships to death's quagmire, barely trained boys denied knowledge that could have saved them on the theory that, had they known what they faced, they might have deserted. Some units were not even taught how to clean their rifles on that same theory, reasoning that after the first action, only half would need to know how. How little the theorists knew who they were.

Together we crawled back through the dark terrors of no man's land after some aborted raid or ill-conceived assault. We learned the feel of fire in in our chests, Satan's faith in a mustard seed. We heard a comrade's cough that became constant by nightfall, fatal by morning. We thought how one should word a letter that a son died of a cold in a distant place where colds kill. We ate horses and rats and Christmas candy that tasted of cordite. Our teeth fell out. Our toes rotted. We shot, stabbed, strangled and were done the same. We learned it all.

Except why.

It was a long night.

But we had our war story.

None of us went back to our tents that night. We slept where we sat, huddled close in a crowded tent, often awakening to one another's fretful stirrings, and each time, there, tending the fire, a man made old by time and events, sat at the edge of the night holding an entrenching tool like an accusation.

At 11 a.m. on the eleventh day of the eleventh month of each year, there is a special memorial that I have always recalled, a special tribute I always pay.

Norwood, Owenby
Sergeant

American Expeditionary Force.

Who once killed a postman with a shovel, and made sure a troop of would-be warriors never forgot it.



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Editorial

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OP/ED

— Editorial —

Can Feds Be Trusted To Not Take Land?

Our Land, Our Lives Resurrected In Coryell County

Back in the mid-1970s a battle raged in southern Coryell County, deep in the heart of Texas, when military brass and Congress decided it would utilize imminent domain to attempt to acquisition land to expand the Fort Hood military base. At that time, this meant the dissolution of communities, albeit small ones, the moving of cemeteries and homes, and the reduction in the size of farms and ranches.

A group called Our Land, Our Lives was established to fight it, and won, after months of hard debate and capturing the spirit of rural landowners from throughout the state.

Fort Hood had already taken land from the agricultural community, breaking up farms that had belonged to families for generations. Now the military wanted more, but its arguments were shallow.

A new battle wages in Coryell County, over land....again.

Fort Hood wants landowners to participate in the "Army Compatible Use Buffer" program, which would prevent the residential and commercial development of land adjacent to the base. The bill was authorized by Congress in 2003 with the intention of helping protect wildlife habitat around Army bases, which is one of the arguments being used by Ft. Hood promoters who are now desiring a 90,000 acre buffer, complete with restrictions on how this land can be used.

This, they say, would mitigate some of the Army base land that is now considered wildlife habitat for birds such as the golden-cheeked warbler that nests on Fort Hood, for example.

Although the military says it has no

intention of taking land at this time, a recent survey that was asked of potentially targeted landowners raised the question of how they would feel about selling their land or being subject to conservation easements.

Most did not take kindly to it, which has resulted in a resurrection of Our Land, Our Lives.

According to Maj. Gen. James Simmons, Army officials did not do a good job of clearly communicating their intentions, which offended neighboring landowners. Simmons noted that Ft. Hood is not planning to use the buffer area for training, nor is it planning to extend boundaries.

The grist, of course, deals with the word "planning."

Plans change.

Our Land, Our Lives won the fight over territory in the '70s through tenacity, not giving an inch.

The buffer zone would actually result in "control" of the land by the military, which would ultimately call all the shots. As new commanders come and go, and the federal government is inhabited by new faces, the goals could change. By giving up rights, landowners could easily find themselves backed into a corner.

About a quarter of Coryell County has already been sliced away for Fort Hood. The relationship between the Army base and the communities of Coryell County has been good, for the most part. However, lines must be drawn.

Our Land, Our Lives has drawn that line and should now stand firm.

— W. Leon Smith



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Cartoonists and Cockroaches

By DARYL CAGLE

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

A column in Sunday's LOS ANGELES TIMES starts off like this:

"POPE JOHN XXIII, or 'Good Pope John,' remains one of the most beloved figures in recent Catholic history.

Among treasured memories of this kindly, roly-poly pope, perhaps none looms larger than the evening of Oct. 11, 1962, when he told a vast crowd on a moonlit night in St. Peter's Square, 'Go home tonight and give your children a kiss, and tell them that this kiss comes from the pope.' When German Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the Vatican's stern doctrinal enforcer, was elected as Benedict XVI in April, an editorial cartoon in an Italian paper showed him looking at a similar crowd and saying, 'Go home tonight and give your children a spanking, and tell them that this spanking comes from the pope.'

"In a nutshell, the cartoon captured many people's expectations of Benedict XVI: a hard-line taskmaster who would bring liberals and dissenters in Roman Catholicism to heel."

Speakers and columnists, like this one, often quote cartoons but seldom mention the name of the cartoonist. With this writer, one fourth of his column came from an uncredited cartoonist. (I think it is fitting that one

fourth of my own column starts off with a quote from a writer whom I have chosen not to name.) Writers are almost always named when they are quoted, but cartoons seem to be mere anecdotes that deserve no attribution beyond, "I saw this cartoon ..."

An unnamed op-ed page editor at the Los Angeles Times told me that he doesn't like political cartoons because they tend to "overpower the words that surround them." He went on to tell me that his two favorite cartoonists are Tom Toles and Ted Rall, two cartoonists with rudimentary drawing styles who put lots of words into their cartoons; this editor liked these cartoonists because they were "more like writers than artists."

There seems to be a natural friction between the "picture people" and the "word people" who are troubled by those powerful pictures. A famously unnamed editor at The New York Times is quoted as saying, "We would never hire an editorial cartoonist at the Times, because we would never give so much power to one man." Another unnamed New York Times editor is quoted as saying, "We don't like editorial cartoons at the Times because you can't edit a cartoon like you can edit words."

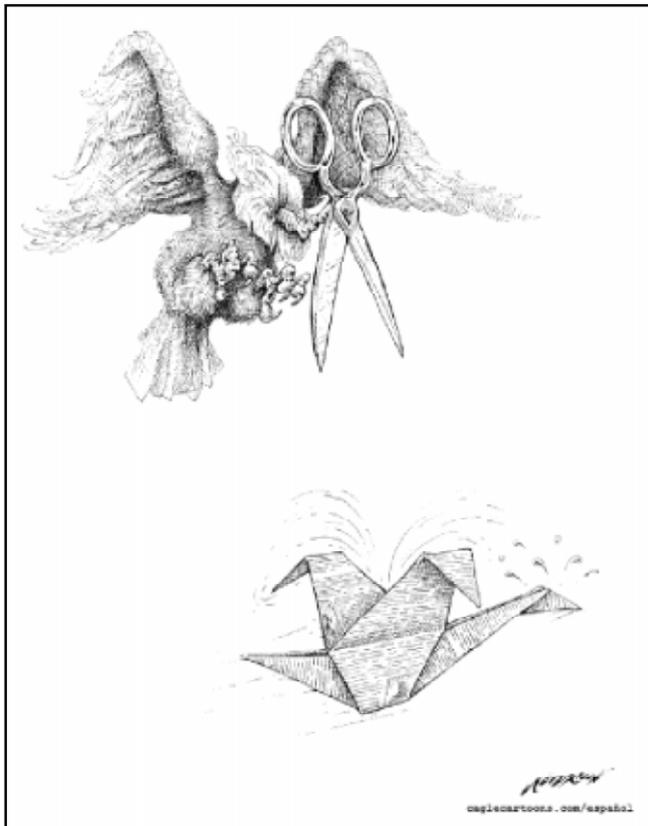
Editors see cartoonists as "bomb throwers," because cartoonists enjoy a different set of journalist ethics than writers. Cartoonists can put any words into the mouth of a public figure, whether those words were actual quotes or not. Cartoons make readers angry. A strong political cartoon generates much more mail from readers than the strongest words. Most editors are timid and want to avoid controversy;

they choose to run syndicated cartoons that are unobjectionable gags about current topics. Cartoonists call this "Newsweekification" after the inoffensive, bland and opinionless - but funny - political cartoons that Newsweek magazine chooses to reprint each week, fur-

Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The New York Times, the New York Daily News, the Chicago Tribune - none have political cartoonists on staff.

The newspaper industry often complains about a dwindling and aging readership as younger readers prefer to get their news through other media. The old-line "word people" lament that youngsters nowadays get their news from Jon Stewart on "The Daily Show." In fact, most young people get their news from political cartoons. Every state in the United States has middle and high school students interpret an editorial cartoon as part of state-mandated testing. Teachers who must "teach to the test" include political cartoons in their classes. Students learn their current events through political cartoons and, ironically, most of the students see newspaper political cartoons on the Internet rather than on paper (visit www.cagle.com). The "word people" who run newspapers have "Newspapers In Education" programs to try to develop a younger readership, but when a stack of newspapers is dropped on a teacher's doorstep once a week, there is usually only one political cartoon on the editorial page - not very useful to a teacher who only needs the newspaper to teach about editorial cartoons.

Perhaps in the future we'll see this turn around, and see more columns like this one, where cartoonists' names are mentioned and writers' names are not; when that happens, I expect traditional newspapers will have long gone extinct.



ther trivializing political cartoons.

The power and effectiveness of political cartoons cause more and more newspapers to avoid cartoons. There are half as many editorial cartoonist jobs as there were 75 years ago. Of the biggest newspapers in America - The

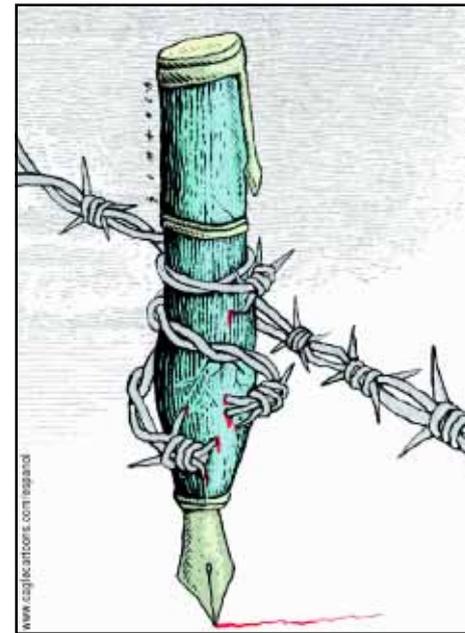
Italian Official Cites Pre-War Warning, Senate Democrats React

WASHINGTON — Democrats forced a close session in the senate to question the Republican administration's pre-war intelligence last Tuesday as an Italian lawmaker said his country's secret service warned the United States that documents on Saddam Hussein's plans to purchase uranium in Niger were falsified.

Sen. Massimo Brutti told journalists that the warning was made in January 2003, three months before the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq; however, he did not know whether the call was made before or after President Bush's 2003 State of the Union speech.

Italy's spy chief and prime minister and the White House all deny any knowledge of discussing or transferring the alleged documents during a Sept. 9, 2002, meeting between U.S. and Italian officials, contrary to allegations reported by an Italian daily newspaper.

The newspaper, LA REPUBBLICA, reported that an Italian gave Britain the forged documents from Niger. Italian officials last week identified Rocco Martino, a former informant for the Italian secret service, as the source of this falsified dossier, according to Sen. Brutti.



Just as the cockroach will continue to roam the Earth long after mankind has disappeared, political cartoonists will still be crawling out from dark corners long after the "word people" have killed off newspapers.

Daryl Cagle is a political cartoonist and blogger for MSNBC.com. He is a past president of the National Cartoonists Society and his cartoons are syndicated to more than 800 newspapers, including the paper you are reading. His books "The BIG Book of Bush Cartoons" and "The Best Political Cartoons of the Year, 2005 Edition," are available in bookstores now.

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Unless You Are Taking It With You, Never Sit In A Kindergartener's Chair

Though it had been five years since our daughter's first parent/teacher conference, my wife and I felt the same familiar anxiety as we entered our son's kindergarten classroom, sat across from his teacher, and realized:

Neither of us is getting out of our tiny chair without having it surgically removed.

This is what is going through the mind of every parent at every conference for the first two years of their child's education. Sure, we may be smiling and nodding and looking at samples of our child's work while listening to assessments regarding key areas in their curricular activity, but, in reality, we're just trying to keep our tiny chairs from becoming impacted.

When a voice from the intercom interrupted our meeting and briefly called the teacher away (possibly to help with an emergency chair extraction), my wife immediately turned to me and asked if I'd heard anything that had been said during the past 10 minutes. I told her I'd basically missed everything after, "Hello Mr.



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

and Mrs. Hickson. Please have a seat." My wife, who was obviously upset by this, asked what we were going to do. I told her, from what I remember, at this stage kindergarten was about basic numbers and writing their names, and assured her that our son was probably doing just fine.

"I mean about the chairs!" she hissed.

I told her I didn't have a plan. However, if we were going to come up with one it needed to be now, before the teacher returned, or before our chairs were no longer visible — whichever came first. We decided the first part of our plan would be to, very carefully, try

standing up. This was achieved after several attempts, the last of which involved a maneuver similar to something I saw in a Jackie Chan movie. I can't really be more specific than that because 1) This may go to trial, and 2) My wife would kill me.

Not necessarily in that order.

The second part of our plan was to replace our chairs with something less invasive. We agreed it would have to be a subtle change. Something that would allow our conference to continue without drawing attention to the fact that we were no longer sitting six inches off the floor with our knees up around our ears, like a pair of grasshoppers ready to leap over the table. Knowing our time was running out, we made a quick scan of the room and improvised as best we could. When our son's teacher returned, it was apparent that our plan had failed — partly because the switch wasn't one hundred percent complete.

But mostly it was because, in our haste, we hadn't taken into account that the SpongeBob Squarepants bean bag chair — while tough enough to survive

several years of hyperactive kindergartners — was never intended to withstand the impact of two full grown adults leaping onto it simultaneously. The result was a loud pop, followed by a burst of high velocity bean buckshot peppering the chalkboard and a good portion of the reading area. If not for being shielded by an oversized world atlas, there's a good chance Biffy the mouse would not be alive today.

Once the bean dust settled, the only thing left to do was untangle ourselves, climb to our feet, retrieve our tiny chairs, and sit on them with as much dignity as possible. Given that we had none left, the rest of our conference went very quickly. On behalf of my wife and myself, I'd like to apologize for what happened. In the future, we will be happy to sit on whatever chairs are made available to us.

Assuming we're allowed to sit at all.

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

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ICONOCLAST

Deflating The Greedy Oppressive Pachyderms (GOP)

By ALDO VIDALI

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

The current White House troubles are evidence of a cosmic law: *The truth shall be revealed.*

Many who followed the heroic stand of Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a fallen soldier, in Crawford, Texas' *Lone Star Iconoclast* may have noticed that the question Cindy repeatedly asked was one too embarrassing for W to answer: "What is the noble cause for which our soldiers are dying?" Conniving George couldn't answer because his "noble cause" metaphor is an outrageously false frame coined to cover the ugliest of facts (which are the exact opposite of anything noble): the "cause" George paints as "noble" is a series of vile, premeditated international crimes, the worst being an illegal armed aggression against another nation.

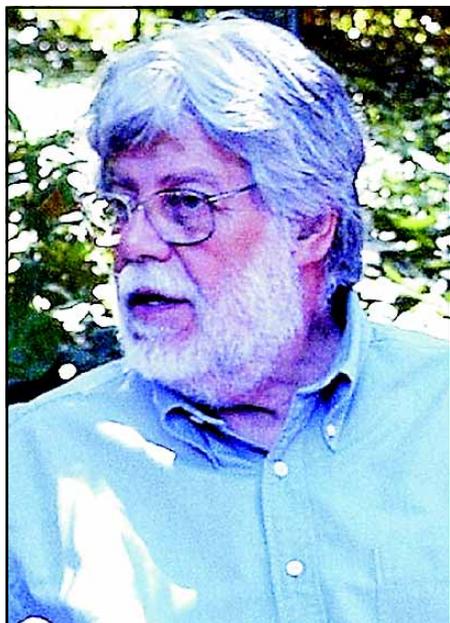
The 1945 Nuremberg Charter is clear: "To initiate a war of aggression...is not only an international crime, it is the supreme international crime, differing only from other war crimes in that it contains within itself the accumulated evil of the whole." At the Nuremberg trial of the Nazi leadership, counts one and two, "conspiracy to wage aggressive war" and "waging aggressive war," refer to "the common plan or conspiracy." These are defined in the indictment as "the planning, preparation, initiation and waging of wars of aggression, which were also wars in violation of international treaties, agreements and assurances."

A wealth of evidence is now available that George Bush, Tony Blair, and their advisers did just that. Nazi leaders were sentenced to death and hung for their crimes. Under U.S. law the penalty for the same crimes is capital punishment. In the near future when the American people realize fully what has been done to them and their country and understand the irreparable damage they and their children have suffered at the hands of greedy, treasonous murderers, we will witness another war crimes trial.

No presidential pardon could ever be valid for such crimes against humanity no matter what platitudes and false frames right wing media cook up to defend these criminals.

In "The Epic Crime That Dares Not Speak Its Name," John Pilger reports:

At Nuremberg, counts three and four referred to "War crimes and crimes against humanity." Here again, there is overwhelming evidence that Blair and Bush committed "violations of the laws or customs of war" including "murder... of civilian populations of or in occupied territory, murder or ill-treatment of prisoners of war." Two recent examples: the US onslaught near Ramadi in which 39 men, women and children - all civilians - were killed, and a report by the United Nations special rapporteur in Iraq who described the Anglo-American practice of denying food and water to Iraqi civilians in order to force them to leave their towns and villages as a "flagrant violation" of the Geneva Conventions. In September, Human Rights Watch released an epic study that documents the systematic nature of torture by the Americans, and how casual it is, even enjoyable. This is a sergeant from the US Army's 82nd Airborne Division: "On their day off people would show up all the time. Everyone in camp knew if you wanted to work out your frustration you show up at the PUC [prisoners'] tent. In a way it was sport... One day a sergeant shows up and tells a PUC to grab a pole. He told him to bend over and broke the guy's leg



Aldo Vidali

with a mini Louisville Slugger that was a metal [baseball] bat. He was the fucking cook!" The report describes how the people of Fallujah, the scene of numerous American atrocities, regard the 82nd Airborne as "the Murdering Maniacs." Reading it, you realise that the occupying force in Iraq is, as the head of Reuters said recently, out of control. It is destroying lives in industrial quantities when compared with the violence of the resistance.

No false frame like "noble cause" can ever blot out the infamy of evil men pushing the planet back to the death camp days of the past. The truth is surfacing everywhere.

Metaphors, slogans, proverbs have shaped all cultures for good or evil. In the best historical periods inspiring verbal frames have elevated and liberated human societies from oppression. The French Revolution followed the outcry of a people rising against the oppression and cruelty of greedy aristocrats: *Liberté, Egalité, Fraternité* (liberty, equality, brotherhood). That was a noble cause, a sincere aspiration. In dark times evil frames enslaved millions. Mussolini's frame was: *Credere, Obbedire, Combattere* (believe, obey, fight). Hitler called for German supremacy with: *Deutschland über Alles*. The deluded Bush Administration has adopted the Mussolini-Hitler pseudo "patriotic" framing style to incite hatred of Islam as a way to justify his invasion and control of one of the world's richest oil regions.

The sinister Orwellian aspect of right wing frames is embedded in their blatant duplicity. It is nothing new. This goes back to the invasion of native lands on this continent. "Manifest Destiny" was the false frame that justified a chain of Native Americans massacres. That evil frame was concocted by hypocrites like the present Republicans to make satanic genocide of native tribes appear as an act of Divine Will.

A transparently deceiving frame was created by the Bush mob to pay back coal and oil industries' campaign cash bribes. This frame hides the illicit licensing of

more poisonous pollution, allowing a brutal gradual repeal of our clean air and clean water legislation. It is purposely misnamed the "Clear Skies Initiative." More than 300,000 Americans a year die victims of air pollution, 100 times the number who died on 9/11. Instead of being punished or held responsible, the corporate killers of these people are rewarded with tax cuts. The pollution costs of production — instead of coming out of their burgeoning corporate profits — are paid by the American people in this land of "freedom and justice for all...billionaires!"

It takes brass-faced impudence for conservatives to voice one of their most hypocritical frames: "Leave No Child Behind!" One wonders how criminally negligent right wingers dare to utter this grotesque misrepresentation when millions of children are left in desperate poverty behind the smoke screen of corporate media blackout. "Leave no child behind?!" What atrocious crap! That frame really means: "cast poor and black kids aside...let them starve or drown" or in Bennett's evil words: "Let them be aborted."

The Katrina tragedy was a wake up call, a bolt of lightning in the darkness of conservative egotism, evidencing again that Truth, in the end, will always be revealed. That irrefragable law liars never learn. It came home to conservative America with the shocking power of a hurricane. With Katrina, facts of widespread poverty, hunger, the uncared for sick in the richest country on earth were suddenly out in the open. The tempest of wind and tides aggravated by the Bush cabals' long suppression of global warming science was a preview of coming attractions. The Administration's choice to ignore predictions of a potential New Orleans disaster in favor of repaying campaign finance bribery with tax cuts left thousands of our citizens unprotected. "Let them pull themselves up by the boot-straps!" "Let Jesus come walking on water again and

or alive! Bring them on, buster-Bush!"

The storm exposed facts so overwhelming that corporate media bordellos faced in house revolts of pundit-whores who, for a few days, recovered their journalistic principles, shocked enough to protest. But that fresh air of honest reporting did not last long. Now the media pimps and harlots have been whipped back into their dungeons, tied down with even thicker chains and ordered to avoid the glaring images of a country ruled by treasonous liars like George Bush, Tom Delay, Dick Cheney, Scooter Libby, Karl Rove, Condi Rice, Donald Rumsfeld, and the rest of the cow-dung-patch mob.

Republicans do not want body counts on TV. That would upset advertisers. How can you sell cars or diapers after seeing dead bodies floating in the streets or after watching flag wrapped caskets bringing home the body parts of young Americans? Definitely not good for Halliburton's bottomline.

On the political left the stagnant pool stinks a little less than the right wing sewer. A pathetic bunch of blindfolded donkeys has been intimidated by the loud trumpeting of elephant trunks, broadcasting endlessly deceiving verbal frames. And the Greedy Oppressive Pachyderms the (GOP) have been winning because Democrats are not even trying to be a real opposition party. The intimidated donkeys forgot that they were once the people's party. If they don't fight back, they may soon be extinct, leaving Democracy crushed under the iron boot of a coming neo-fascist dictatorship.

Now the remedy. If you haven't read the explosive best-selling little book published by a brave independent publisher Chelsea Green from the best-run state of Vermont, you should get a copy ASAP to protect yourself and the future of your kids. George Lakoff's, *Don't Think of an Elephant: Know Your Values and Frame the Debate*, exposes the 30-year-long conservative linguistic-fraud that cost us our country and freedom.

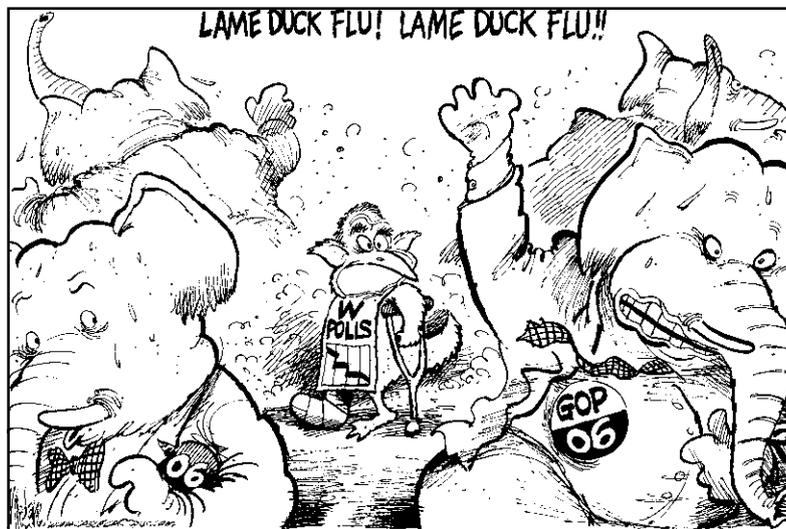
A Fellini-style film now in production — *DEFLATING THE ELEPHANT: The Art and Science of Framing* — based on Lakoff's ideas, will show people how to deflate rogue elephants in a short time. Find out how to effect immediate change through the power of language at: <http://www.communication-evolution.org>

Here is a frightening example of the power of words every American should hear about.

On September 9, 2005, only a month after Katrina's blow, the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court

of Appeals struck an even more devastating blow to America by illegally overturning a lower court's ruling that denied the President the authority to indefinitely detain any U.S. citizen without due process, thereby abolishing the most fundamental principles of our Constitution. This ruling set a staggering precedent for absolute executive power over citizens. No American citizen can let this outrageous, treasonous ruling stand unchallenged. The Germans made this mistake with Hitler. Let us not repeat it!

Our Constitution states: "The Privilege of the Writ of Habeas Corpus shall not be suspended, unless when in Cases of Rebellion or Invasion the public Safety may



save them!" So the poor were abandoned and died.

Meanwhile, America's criminally negligent leadership was out playing golf, shopping for expensive shoes strumming an acoustic guitar, imitating Nero while Rome burned. Now our low life politicians are busy playing the "pass the White House buck" blame-game. So much for "homeland security" farce with its bison-dung color coded alerts. The Taliban are laughing themselves silly at the Robinson, Falwell, Dobson failure of prayer. The christianoids couldn't keep their psychotic God from devastating their holier-than-thou red states. They better go back to Sunday school.

Osama is singing, "Come get me dead

Continued On Next Page

Deflating The Greedy Oppressive Pachyderms (GOP)

From Previous Page

require it." Is there a rebellion? Not yet. Have we been invaded? No. We are the invaders. This Administration is in rebellion against our Constitution.

There can be no democracy without due process of law and a presumption of innocence.

The Fifth Amendment guarantees due process: "No person shall be... deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law."

The Fourteenth Amendment contains the same guarantee

Unless we impose an absolute restoration of our Constitution and punish those who have betrayed their oath to defend it, we are no longer the land of the free.

In the words of a real patriot, Mike Whitney:

All the icons of American liberty — the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Statue of Liberty — are sad, empty shrines. The Vietnam Memorial,

Declaration of Independence, the Gettysburg Address, the 4th of July, the Federalist Papers, the American flag are empty souvenirs of a greatness that has vanished from America. Every man and woman who died in the service of our country, died in vain. Their sacrifice has been rendered completely worthless.

The problem is that most Americans are not well informed and don't know that their democracy is being methodically stolen from under them. To change this is our most urgent task.

Let all be aware that by spreading false frames that incite public fear like "war on terror," immoral media corporations, driven by evil men, have intimidated our representatives into passing legislation that violates the Constitution and our civil rights, like the maleficent "Patriot" Act. That vile, repugnant law never stopped a single act of terror: it just took away our liberty. False terror frames and outright lies swindled us into an illegal war that increased terror all over the world, made

the plundering of our treasury possible, and sanctioned the pirating of a sovereign nation's oil wealth.

All this evil was done by persistently using the power of verbal frames that demean traditional American values, values that have always been progressive. The repetition of false words through the vehicle of mass media allowed evil men to confiscate and distort the image of one of the most liberal and progressive teachers of all time: Jesus of Nazareth. They turned him into a grotesque supporter of oppression, assassinations, and ugly fanatical cults.

To survive this onslaught of poison, we must fully understand the awesome power of human language. Language can incite violence, start wars, and prevent us from resisting the destruction of our country. On the other hand, if we realize the magic of words, we can liberate ourselves from deceit. We must transmit to our young the liberal and progressive ideas we inherited from great Americans like

Jefferson, Franklin, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, and others.

DEFLATING THE ELEPHANT will illustrate the science of framing so it is easy for people to use. We must deflate the rogue elephants or be crushed by them. Any person exposed to this coming film will become immune to political hogwash. The liars who dragged America in the right wing cesspool of corruption and pollution will find it impossible to deceive people who learn how to see through the transparent dishonesty of neo-con fascists. The Fitzgerald investigation is another proof that sooner or later the truth must be revealed.

Tell your friends to contact the production team of DEFLATING THE ELEPHANT at uneco@uneco.org or by calling 831-454-9191 to contribute their verbal bow and arrows. Join the rogue elephant hunt so together we can take back our country peacefully and with some deserved fun.

Let's get started.

Did Swindler Give Senator \$50,000?

Did a swashbuckling swindler slip a certain Texas senator a big wad of cash on Nov. 6, 1960? Four years later, that was the \$50,000 question which threatened to sink Ralph Yarborough's re-election campaign.

The swindler was, of course, the infamous Billie Sol Estes, whose specialty was suckering banks into loaning him millions on nonexistent tanks of chemical fertilizer. When his house-of-cards empire collapsed, the pudgy promoter was indicted on a laundry list of federal charges.

Ralph Yarborough was the liberal maverick of Lone Star politics who, after striking out in three trips to the gubernatorial plate, won a special election in 1957 to fill a vacated senate seat. He defied the odds-makers again the next year by beating Bill Blakley for a full six-year term.

Catching up with Sen. Yarborough on the campaign trail in April 1964, a reporter for the DALLAS MORNING NEWS solicited a comment on a soon-to-be published story. Did he accept \$50,000 from Billie Sol Estes during a 1960 barbecue at the con man's Pecos home?

The volatile politician exploded, "This is an infamous lie out of the whole cloth! I doubt that Estes even made that statement. It sounds like another dirty DALLAS NEWS trick!"

But the Big D daily was merely repeating an allegation made by Billie Sol in a recent interview. Unwilling to take his word for it, newspaper sleuths found a Midland policeman and a former Estes employee named Earnest Keeton, who swore they witnessed the transaction.

Estes' motives were somewhat suspect since he had a personal ax to grind with his fickle friend. When told two years earlier about the West Texan's arrest, Yarborough had asked, "Billie Sol who?" The prison-bound promoter wanted to give the forgetful senator something to remember him by — a nasty scandal.

Under fire from the statewide news media and his Democratic challenger,

This Week
In Texas
History

By Bartee Haile



radio tycoon Gordon McLendon, Yarborough's memory gradually improved. He recalled attending the patio party at the Estes estate and admitted receiving the piddling sum of \$900 from the high roller.

Yarborough also remembered Estes handing him \$1,700 in May 1962 to keep his weekly radio show on the air. By

sheer coincidence, the donation came three days before the senator spoke out in favor a grassroots movement to "draft" Billie Sol for governor.

Criminal misconduct was never at issue in the \$50,000 flap. Under the more lenient campaign finance laws of the day, Yarborough would have committed no crime by pocketing the cash. At stake was the senator's credibility, which had been called into question by his piecemeal recollections of the November 1960 incident and his relationship with the unsavory swindler.

The afternoon before the May 1 Democratic primary, Yarborough announced at a press conference that an FBI investigation carried out at his re-

quest had cleared him of any wrongdoing. This finding was supposedly based in large part on a last-minute confession by Earnest Keeton that his statement was a pack of lies. The next day the presumably exonerated incumbent defeated McLendon with 57 percent of the vote.

Two weeks later, reporters tracked down Keeton in El Paso, where he had gone into hiding following his motel room interrogation by the FBI. He insisted a pair of federal agents had pressured him into changing his story after a pistol-packing stranger warned, "If you stand on that statement, it will be the last statement you ever make."

On May 20, 1964, Keeton signed a third affidavit reaffirming his original version of events at Billie Sol's barbecue. He had indeed seen the money change hands.

But public interest had peaked, and the \$50,000 question was fast becoming yesterday's news. Although George Bush, the GOP candidate in the general election, tried to breathe new life into the dead issue, he was tuned out by voters unwilling to send a second Republican to the senate.

In November 1964, Ralph Yarborough obliterated Bush the Elder, and Billie Sol Estes began serving a 15-year sentence in a federal penitentiary. Six years later, the politician was unseated by fellow Democrat Lloyd Bentsen, and the convict quietly made parole.

His involuntary return to private life in 1970 did not diminish the gadfly's exuberant self-confidence one iota. "I've had my eye on the governor's office for 30 years and on the presidency for 13," said the ex-senator, "and frankly I could fill any of those jobs."

Even though Ralph Yarborough lived another quarter of a century, dying in 1996 at the ripe old age of 92, he never again held public office. And to add insult to injury, Billie Sol Estes is still alive and kicking in his eighties.

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

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Notices

LONE STAR TRUST presents outing scene for August Dog Days in Crawford and more. www.wacoexaminer.com.

w44-46

Must Everyone Speak English?

About half the states have passed laws that make English the official language of their state. Why is there a need for these laws? Isn't English already the language of the United States? Yes and no. What English-only advocates are bothered by are things like bilingual education, election information and ballots being in languages in addition to English, etc. The attitude is, "my ancestors had to learn English to get along in this country, why shouldn't the new immigrants have to do the same thing?" At first glance, it doesn't seem to be very controversial, does it? So, let's take a few more glances at it.

Not everybody learns English immediately when they come to this country. Some of us had ancestors who could barely speak English their whole lives. Many of these "old" immigrants — the ones from Europe that the English-only people seem to consider the "good" immigrants — lived in neighborhoods with other people from their homelands. That made it natural for many of them to speak the language from the old country at home. This is one thing some English-only advocates say they don't like about the "new" immigrants. They see them as cliquish people unwilling to assimilate.

One troublesome aspect of this movement is that while many people simply and sincerely believe that English should be the only language used in public schools and public documents. But there is a more sinister attitude among some other people. Some people just hate people from foreign lands. I saw a bumper sticker on a car yesterday that read, "Speak English Or Die."

Believe it or not, I'm not the expert on heavy metal music that you may have thought I was. So, I had to go to the internet to learn that "Speak English or Die" is the name of a song recorded by the group with the pleasant name, "Stormtroopers of Death." The chorus of the little ditty goes like this:

*"You always make us wait
You're the ones we hate
You can't communicate
Speak English or die."
They also have a verse that says,
"You come into this country
You can't get real jobs
Boats and boats of you
Go home, you F&#%#ing slob."*

Obviously, I have no way of measuring how many of the pro English-only people have these prejudiced views. But just the fact that there are some is disturbing enough. These words are certainly a far cry from the inscription on the Statue of Liberty.

Many people claim that the main reason they're for this is to save money by doing away with public documents in non-English. But is that just an excuse for some bigoted people who hate "foreigners?" Are they the same people who get upset no matter where they travel in the world because the people they meet can't speak English?

One could get carried away with this "must speak proper English" thing. For one thing, if that were a requirement for public service, George Bush could not be our President.

The English-onlies seem to want one uniform language that all Americans can understand. That's not how English was ever spoken in the United States. If a person from one part of the country has trouble understanding a person



Modern Times

By
Lloyd
Garver

from another region, should we outlaw regional slang and accents, too?

When President Bush pronounces "nuclear" properly, maybe I'll consider getting on board. When I stop hearing good American-born citizens say things like, "That's between you and I," (instead of "between you and me"), when I stop reading the non-word "alright," when I stop hearing people tell me that something was "funner" than something else, maybe then I'll think it's time we challenged immigrants to speak as well as native-born Americans. But until we can set a better example, it's hard to be upset about new arrivals who don't speak properly.

One thing the English-onlyites seem to forget is that America has always been a melting pot. There are examples of Spanish, French, Yiddish, and German words that have been absorbed by English and are now used by Americans every day. It makes for a richer language and culture. Is there any reason to think that in the future when we start to adopt some of the language of the "new" immigrants, that English will be any less enriched?

I know some people may say that my attitude "literally" made them explode, but unless they actually blew up, they, too, should learn better English before they criticize others.

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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You free your life.
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Eternal prize.*

—System of a Down, *Aerials*

My fellow countrymen lend me your eyes. Open your minds for a moment, even if it hurts. And I know it *really, really* hurts for a few of you. My friends, today our freedoms are under assault from within. The most sacred of these, the freedom of speech, is now embattled to the point where it can only reside in small, fenced-in areas far away from the target of dissent. That target, in the case of this particular column, is our current president, George W. Bush.

'Oh boy,' you're thinking. 'Here goes one of those liberals on a soapbox.' And you may be right. I'll say it outright; as clear as possible: I AM A LIBERAL, and Extremely Proud of It. I keep myself Aloof, and vote for politicians of various allegiances. I support free thinkers, and Distain Partisanship. As far as I am concerned, the established corporate parties are the propagators of the current Oligarchy we call our government, and both are Equally Guilty of this Treason. That Oligarchy is trying, *again*, to shunt our freedom of speech by corralling dissent into little pockets far away from the subject of public ire.

I am talking about the so-called "Free Speech Zones" that have become all the rage since Sept. 11, 2001. If you are an avid politician, you likely remember the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston, Mass. As the career politicians filed into the stadium to talk about Their Agenda and Their Philosophy, over 4,000 dissenting voices gathered a half-mile away inside one of these "Free Speech Zones" to protest. They were kept behind razor-wire and watched by guards with guns and dogs. Inside, presidential-wannabe John Kerry sang on and on about how great freedom is. Those shoved into the detainment camp - I mean, Freedom Camp - had a different view.

Weeks later in New York, the Republican National Convention set up a similar "Free Speech Zone" nearly a mile away from the where their own Godless Orgy was to be held. Hours before the event, a few hundred protesters had been quarantined in a Gitmo-esque camp, far out of sight and earshot. Even the mass media had a hard time finding them.

But a few sly protesters put the coming storm on notice. Using cell phones to send text messages, they notified other protest groups of the constitutional infringement and warned them to stay away from the cages. When the storm of dissent finally arrived - over 1,000,000 people - the NYPD, Secret Service and FBI could do little to stop the crowd. They walked right through the blockades and directly past the RNC with only a few TV cameras taking notice.

Inside, Mr. Bush stepped on stage to give the speech that would define his campaign. He was interrupted by infiltrating protesters *five times*. Pardon me for taking pleasure in this, but I had not seen anything like it since



Electronic Horizons

By
Stephen
Webster

2000's Inauguration Day. Remember that day? It was an odd day in America. As Bush's limo pattered down Capitol Blvd., the crowd that came to greet him turned into an angry, snarling mob of dissenters armed with signs and eggs. Over 100,000 angry citizens earmarked the event as one this president should never forget.

And he apparently hasn't. The American Civil Liberties Union has been decrying what they feel to be the Executive Branch trampling our right to protest. Citing 10 separate cases, the group charges that citizens with dissenting opinions are placed in these internment camps by the Secret Service while those supportive of the Prez are allowed to stand just feet from the royal limo. Many peaceful protesters have been arrested for a variety of made-up charges, ranging from trespassing on public property to protesting without a permit.

Okay, so you've heard me out. And I know, I know - a *whole lot* of you support Bush and all his *bushiness*. But consider the other side of this coin. Recently, California Superior Court Judge William MacLaughlin ordered that all public areas of the Los Angeles County Courthouses be declared "no speech zones." This ruling was passed down to prevent two local Christian ministers from standing in front of one particular courthouse and sharing their beliefs. These two men had been participating in this free speech for nearly three years with no complaint against them. On Sept. 30, 2005, police officers escorted the men off the property and drove their point home: come back and you will be arrested. What was their offence? They did not have a "permit." They were "trespassing" on public property.

This is the same charge being used against political protestors - particularly those in opposition to the Bush regime. Let us not forget Nixon's Enemy List. Have we forgotten Senator Joseph McCarthy's rampage? Remember Filegate? What about Woodrow Wilson's Espionage Act and Sedition Act? Does history condone Roosevelt's forceful detainment of Japanese-Americans? Need some help absorbing all of this? I'm told truth goes down a bit easier with a helping of jell-o. Hm. Make that Freedom Jell-o.

Friends, this cannot happen again. You may disagree with today's loudest dissenters. And you may express your disagreement with just as much volume. But please, before the rhetoric blinds us all, know that those you disagree with so passionately would bleed every last drop of life they have to ensure your freedom to call them idiots.

Mahalo.
Stephen Webster is an Investigative Reporter with North Texas weekly The News Connection. Republished with permission.

We Took Back Illinois, Let's Get Texas And The Nation

This day, this week, I am indubitably proud to be not just an American, or an Italian-American.

Since yesterday afternoon, Nov. 1, 2005, it has been my immeasurable pleasure to be able to shout (metaphorically speaking, that is) to the world, "I AM A DEMOCRAT!"

It was almost as though a Medieval Tale had unfolded...

Verily, the Democrats from within the Senate, they who strive to Govern for the real people of the Land, finally hath perceived the Kingdom of George XLIII, he who hath been anointed by the Word of God Almighty as Lord Ruler of All Earth, (thusly spake directly to him privately in yon courtyard as communication deemed worthy of executive privilege), with its drawbridge down and unattended.

Invoking consideration therefore two-thirds of the American public who are "angered as he himself the Devil, thereby inclined no longer to accept biased treatment," these rascals, these rebels... these Democrats seized the opening, rushed in, pulled up that drawbridge, and had at those who would protect George XLIII, as well as the one who provides the totality of his cerebration, Karl the Malignant, Sheriff of Washington.

Such protections, thus blindly afforded by those known throughout the land as Senate Republican Loyalists, have been patterned as obfuscations to the despicable nature of untruths put forth and misdeeds carried out by George XLIII and Karl the Malignant, as well as their confederates and agents.

Let it be known throughout the Land that Lo! This Tuesday past, the day following All Hallows's Eve, 1st November, being in its own significance the Day of Remembrance of All Saints, did in fact the Democrats of the Senate bring forth to the benefit of all peoples the Rite of Senate Rule 21.

Thus behind closed doors and walls with no windows did the jousting begin.

Simply put, the Donkeys told the Elephants, "It's accountability time. You will get to the bottom, the real truth, of how your Fascist Regime got us into war!"

Consider all the good that has come out of Texas – heroic, inspirational people; electronic advancements; the wonder that is the space program; Walker, Texas Ranger.

Then, as a result of some terrible tear in the fabric of the matrix, in what we can point to as living proof of the chaos theory, just as the new Millennium dawned – at precisely the moment when mankind should have been reaching some sort of higher level of achievement and enlightenment – we were pulled back about 60 years into the past by the dimmest excuse for a president in American history, George W. Bush.

What's worse, he arrived being led around by his own puppet master, Herr Ubermeister Karl Rove, top evildoer who runs the Executive Branch of our Government in total secrecy.

I have always considered the sacrifice those exceptionally intrepid men made at Mision San Antonio de Valero – you remember, The Alamo — back in 1836 to be the epitome of American courage. Their valiant stand against insurmount-



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

able odds virtually guaranteed freedom for Texas.

Since being stationed at Fort Sill, Okla. back in the 1970s I've made myriad visits to Texas, and for the most part have enjoyed them immensely.

For the past 10 to 15 years, however, I've detected a simmering increase in testiness on the part of Texans toward outsiders.

As far as I've been able to discern, since Herr Karl Rove came along to pollute your great state's political system, then weasel George W. Bush into your Governor's office by besmirching Ann Richards, Texas has been going steadily downhill.

Along with its personality.

And that is a rotten shame.

For example, your Senators, the irascible Kay Bailey Hutchison and righteous John Cornyn, exhibit such unquestioning devotion in their fervor to satisfy the whims of Bush #43 and the Right-wing extremist minority, rather than tend to the needs of America.

As for the House, what more could Texas want or need than Thomas Dale DeLay, Chief Congressional Playground Bully and, whenever it suits his needs, SuperChristian?

After all, Ol' Tom makes sure the other Republicans in Congress vote as he commands.

Or else.

With my warped sense of civic duty I mistakenly thought the idea for going into Congress was the betterment of one's district and America.

How silly of me.

Tom DeLay's model for becoming a member of Congress is the expansion of his personal fortune by millions of taxpayer dollars, while feeding his Texas-sized ego on the fear and carcasses of fellow elected officials.

Despite being under indictment and forced to relinquish his position as Majority Leader, Ol' Tom refuses to give up his office and staff. He exists in a world of perpetual denial, insisting this is but a temporary situation.

Apparently that's the logic DeLay employs in keeping the people who should now be working for Roy Blunt (aka Tom DeLay lite) busy doing his own bidding, such as sending out voting instructions and orders to GOP House members.

When DeLay and his wife traveled to Austin for his Oct. 21st arraignment, they showed up at the courthouse in typically grandiose style; strutting his arrogant swagger and displaying that "can't touch me" playground bully smile, while leading a royal entourage that included the three guards allotted to the Majority Leader (Federal employees who most likely traveled at taxpayer expense).

Many House Republicans are disgusted that Speaker Dennis Hastert allows DeLay to free range throughout

the leadership wing of Congress, where by rights he should be *persona non grata*. The pomposity this schmuck displays demeans and mocks our entire system of Government. He flaunts the rules, does exactly as he wants, then flips the bird at all Americans.

Take, for example the several dozen extremist DeLay backers. It's not known who concocted this stunt, or where the money came from, but these putzes are walking around the Halls of Congress – our Congress, yours and mine – as if it belongs to Tom DeLay, wearing lapel pins in his support. The pins are in the shape of a "hammer," symbolizing Tom's rather repellent nickname.

Back in the 1990s, it's no secret that during Georgie's five miserable years as governor of Texas pollution ran rampant, befouling the air, water and wildlife with irresponsible environmental policies that severely wounded what was previously perhaps the most beautiful of the contiguous 48 states.

Your once-exemplary school system hit rock bottom; the poor became increasingly more destitute; child welfare programs took a nose-dive.

The population among death row inmates grew at record rates, while the number of executions far exceeded those of any other state. Yet, not one person, even the mentally incompetent, was pardoned or had his execution commuted (a record that Herr Rove puffed up and used to advantage with hardcore Christians during Georgie's 2000 presidential campaign).

Meanwhile, the handlers of inept, failed oilman Georgie W. Bush made certain that the bank accounts of his oil company cronies, Texans and Arabians alike, continued to be fattened up like Texas beeves.

Speaking of Texas beeves, it was during Georgie's watch, in 1996, that those cattlemen over in Amarillo made the mistake of suing that "all-powerful and God-like," Yankee African-American fee-male Oprah Winfrey.

They charged her with breaking Texas law by libeling the beef industry (although Ms. Oprah was in Chicago at the time), and even blamed the talk show host for a drop in the price of beef futures.

Sure. As if it could have ever been proven that one woman's comments would alter the balance of the international meat market.

Remember, this was during the early "mad cow disease" scare, as well as when the stick people were telling everyone not to eat meat, er, actually, anything with flavor.

As things went it didn't work out too swift for the hard, calloused he-men cattle breeders. The good-natured, extremely wealthy Oprah moved her talk show – lock, stock and barrel – down to Amarillo for the duration.

It was a ratings Bonanza.

And those cattlemen, well, they never had a chance. These guys completely underestimated Oprah. She came a-blastin' out of Chicago and hit them with a Texas Twister (we have tornadoes here, too, don'tcha know), some very excellent

attorneys, and a little obstacle called the 1st Amendment.

Anyway, even with a local, home-grown jury that was supposed to be friendly to the plaintiffs, in Texas vernacular those big, bad Cattlemen got their asses whipped by a gal.

It's kind of funny that during the 2004 campaign Georgie used "tort reform," the restriction of lawyers becoming rich through "frivolous" lawsuits, as a major issue.

Of course, we've not heard one word about tort reform since last November – might be because he and his posse are going to need all the legal eagles they can buy in the coming weeks and months.

Now, many consider members of the bar to be contemptible individuals, hangers on to the lowest rungs of the ladder of humanity, right there alongside of politicians and used car salespeople. Yet, they do serve their functions.

And when the occupier of our White House, himself not a member of the bar, starts spewing ludicrous notions such as restricting just what an attorney may or may not present before the court, it's time we each get a book on the history of Germany, circa 1928-1945, and do some studying.

My understanding of Texas politics is that it's always been somewhat slippery; moves kind of like a rattlesnake — there you are, trying to plug that sidwinder with a cap-and-ball .44 Colt revolver while sitting astride a right skittish horse.

You are never gonna hit it at all.

Hey, what state hasn't got strange politics? In Illinois we've just cleaned out 25 years of Republican mismanagement by voting in a complete Democratic makeover.

So now, even as the previous Governor, Republican George Ryan, is on trial in Federal Court for a bunch of "maybes" and "he says" that don't seem to be holding much water, after only two years Gov. Rod Blagojevich's office is being interrupted almost daily by Feds with warrants. They're taking files, computers and work product based upon the word of finger-pointing malcontents who have been around the capital, Springfield, in some instances for decades, and are themselves hip deep in pig slop.

California, Florida, Ohio, Colorado – at one time or another every state has internal strife.

However, the problems that beset Texas during the 1990s were unnecessary, brought in from the outside: Herr Rove and his brand of Fascist Conservatism masquerading as the Republican Party.

If Travis, Crockett, Bowie and the other heroes of The Alamo knew of the takeover of their Republic, how so many residents of Texas seem to no longer truly appreciate or feel moved by the sacrifice they gave, I truly do believe they would rise up, return and reclaim that for which they paid the ultimate price.

And this time there would be no stopping them.

If they asked me, the first place I'd point them to would be Prairie Chapel Ranch.

— GUEST COLUMN —

Nazism Never Dies, It Survives Within Our Shadows

By PETER STERN
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

In today's America there are two main types of Nazis. There are political Nazis and corporate Nazis. Both varieties are extremely patriotic and have similar platforms, agendas and motivation.

During the 1930's, Adolf Hitler rose to power in an industrialized but chaotic Germany, in which the middle and lower classes were living in poverty and unrest. Another reason for Hitler's immense popularity is that the prevailing government was failing the people and he instilled in Germans the sense of pride and nationalism, and promised the majority a better life.

Hitler cherished all things German and hated all other cultures and the people living within them. His priorities and likes were passed along to and accepted by many Germans. When Hitler became that country's leader, government took over German factories and businesses to manufacture the necessities of war, e.g., the auto manufacturer Mercedes Benz began to develop war equipment and machinery, which included many of the gas chambers Hitler used in his attempt to exterminate the Jews and various other ethnic peoples who were not "true" Germans.

The slogan of the time was "Deutschland Über Alles" (Germany above all/everything else), which became the Fatherland's National Anthem — and which is Germany's national anthem to this day.

There are many similarities of the Nazism depicted briefly above with Nazism prevalent today in the United States, and specifically in Texas, which has become the microcosm for all other states since George W. Bush (Jr.) became President.

Perhaps the past five years of reviewing the Texas Legislature and the corporate involvement in state government affairs best underscores the Nazism rising from the shadows to a more pronounced visibility in its recent evolution.

Today it is the corporate/business sector that virtually has taken over state government in an unprecedented attempt to actively forge its own future destiny, which is to accumulate extreme power and vast monetary wealth — doing anything to achieve these goals. During the past decade via large campaign contributions, the wealthy business sector has executed a *Coup d'Etat* and is now the ruling entity in Texas and nationally. Wealthy companies and businessmen have bought-out most legislators and now dictate most of the bills viewed for future legislation that will add to the glory, prestige, power and wealth of those in charge.

Those legislators who align themselves with their wealthy business patrons will themselves prosper politically and financially.

On the national level we have seen the emergence of corporate Halliburton, whose foothold in the United States government is no less than Vice President Dick Cheney, a former executive with questionable yet obvious ties remaining with the company. Despite blatant con-



Peter Stern

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.

flicts of interest between Cheney and Halliburton, the company has profited extremely well from the platform and actions of the Bush administration and has received numerous government contracts both here and abroad. Halliburton's profits currently are in the billions.

The affect of these ongoing conflicts of interests with dozens of special interests has hurt millions of American workers and families. Because of special treatment, increased production and/or activity, and a cheaper labor force overseas, corporations like Halliburton are reaping vast fortunes by outsourcing the jobs performed formerly by Americans and also by charging American taxpayers top dollar for their services and products.

Here in Texas, the Spanish corporate toll maven CINTRA has signed lucrative state contracts with Gov. Rick Perry and pro-toll legislators "behind closed-doors" despite large public resistance to the plan for a huge network of roadways named The Texas Toll Corridor. CINTRA is approved by special interest elected and appointed state officials to build and manage toll roads for the next 70 years!

Various approved "back-door" legislation developed secretly and was inserted within various separate and inconspicuous bills, purposely to push them through chambers very quickly and approved before legislators had sufficient time to carefully review the details. Furthermore, aggressive public resistance to toll roads increased when it was noted that many of the proposed toll roads were already paid for with taxpayer dollars and that Texans will be double and triple-taxed.

Such legislation was determined, developed and approved to form the Regional Mobility Authorities (RMA's), which were given the authority to oversee the emergence of toll roads without the responsibility of accountability to the people of Texas.

Special interest committees and agencies of the government, e.g., Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) and the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) are influenced by powerful businesses and top state officials to promote the toll road plan contrary to the public's demands NOT to build toll roads in Texas. TxDOT may be sitting on taxpayer dollars to create the imagined need for toll roads.

What we are witnessing in Texas is a political, economic and social campaign much like the Nazi regime under Hitler. The oligarchy of those in power dictates the state's future direction for the majority of families and workers. The poor

get poorer and the rich get wealthier, while the middle class is destroyed when its members move left or right to either extreme in order to survive.

One might ponder what permitted this latest version of Nazism to emerge in our nation, specifically in Texas. One view is

that it has been years of careful planning by those powerful entities living in the shadows, the passage of lax and/or special interest legislation, and the lethargy and ambivalence of the majority of voters/taxpayers ignorant to the plan being perpetrated by the powerful few.

Will the contemporary Nazis win out in Texas and throughout the nation? They already have; however, all life and actions are patterns of cycles and as the saying goes, "Nothing lasts forever."

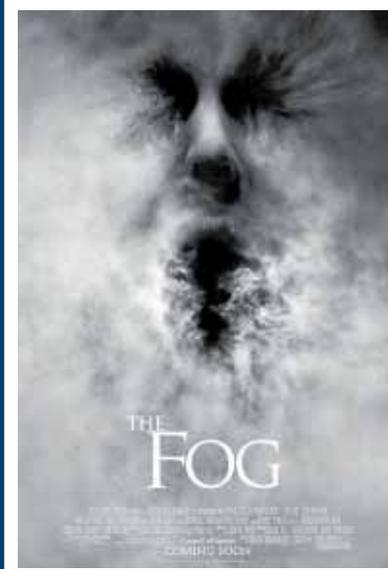
Although currently the small bands of Nazis have gained some momentum (politically, socially and economically), it is doubtful they will succeed over the long haul of several decades. However, they may actually triumph if voters consistently continue to ignore the impor-

tance of elections by not voting or voting ignorantly, such as the one in Texas on Nov. 8th, 2005, whereby special interests again have mastered the technique of pushing through legislation in minor elections, a.k.a., the 9 Propositions. In carefully phrasing the words of each proposition, the Nazis hope to sway the voters for each. By scheduling the voting for a minor election, the Nazis hope for a small voter turnout.

Texans primarily are an intricate, independent and resilient group who over the long term do NOT want to be told what to do, how to act, and what to read. Furthermore, it's a question of time before the majority of people wake up to the realities that their government is NOT doing its job to benefit most Texans or to increase the quality of life for most Texas families.

Until these realities are hammered into the minds and hearts of the American people, modern Nazism will flourish. Until Texans have decided they have had enough political, economic and social abuse under the pretense of progress, the Nazis remain in power.

Will Nazism ever die? No, it cannot die for it survives within our shadows, always observing for that time of struggle, weakness, poverty and chaos, when it again will rear its ugly head.



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LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

Dear Leon,

My response to Michelle Malkin's article in THE NATIONAL CONSERVATIVE, HUMAN EVENTS ONLINE.

Dear Michelle,

Cindy Sheehan has been the most effective voice for the peace movement calling on The President to bring the troops home, not only from Iraq, but Afghanistan.

Although we come from perspectives, I do agree with you that "2000" is a bogus number. 2,000 is the number of U.S. military deaths that the Pentagon chooses to release. The Pentagon only counts death by bombs and gunfire. The Pentagon does not count heart attacks, strokes and illness leading to the death of our men and women serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

2,000 is a bogus number, because the number of Iraqi and Afghan women and children dead is much higher. These innocent people died from the U.S. weapons of mass destruction, including depleted uranium used in U.S. weaponry which is killing indiscriminately on both sides of the battle field.

The number of men and women injured in battle is higher than 2,000 and each one of their injuries, physical and mental should count for something, medical care, care for their families and assistance for re-employment, after they have been discharged.

1 is not a bogus number. Cindy lost one son. Her son died and no matter how you and I view the war in Iraq, 1 young and beloved son is too many to loose.

Take a moment Michelle, to think about the Iraqi and Afghani people voting under U.S. occupation for governments clearly propped up by the U.S. occupation and weapons of mass destruction. Take a moment to think about these men and women braving U.S. checkpoints to get to the polls and our men and women battle scarred from not knowing exactly who the enemy is and killing men and women at these checkpoints. Is this pro-life?

Do you know who the enemy is? Do you think we should kill each and every one of them, women and children included? Do you think we should buy oil from them? Do you think every American man, woman and child wishes to fight this war in your name? Do you know that 5% of Americans

are involved in the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan? Do you know any of the 5%? Would you send a condolence card to a Mother, grieving her lost son in Iraq or Afghanistan with your article?

Some of those Mothers are Gold Star Mothers, in solidarity with Cindy Sheehan because "2000" is a bogus number. Is "91" a bogus number? The 91 Senators who stood proud with John McCain and supported his anti-torture amendments? Is One a bogus number. One is a lonely number, pardon my reference to the song, but One is the number of American Presidents who has skewed priorities, supporting a bill to strengthen the rules to enable the CIA to use more torture in the "war on terror". One is a bogus number for one man to claim political capital, when millions around the world oppose the war against a country that did not attack us.

We support our government by asking Congress to take a stand and stop robbing the national treasury in the name of "the war on terror". We are not bogus when we call for SMART SECURITY, protecting our nation within our borders. How many conservatives ask how we can defend the borders of Iraq and yet we can't defend our borders in the U.S.?

We do not support this President's policies and for those of us who march, light a candle, write letters to the editor, write a letter to you, the war is not in our name.

We support our troops and we want them home ALIVE and WELL. That isn't bogus.

Peace,
Linda Zoblotsky, Dallas

Linda Zoblotsky is Writer, Producer and Director of the entertaining and educational one-woman play, LINDA ZOBLOTSKY IS LUVCHILD, about adoption and an adopted adults search for her birthparents. There are 6,000,000 adopted people in the United States. LUVCHILD helps the non-adopted population understand the obstacles that adopted adults face when searching. In searching for intelligent designs of life, Linda was a volunteer for Kucinich for President and has been seeking to bring more people into awareness about the criminal regime that is occupying the United States from The Washitonian and Western White House.

Three Wife Minimum

This whole issue of the separation of church and state is a no brainer.

So are all these proposed state constitutional amendments that are supposedly meant to "protect marriage."

You don't have to be a Bible nerd, a constitution dork, or a pastor's kid (like me) to figure this out.

I mean, think about it — do you really want the state and/or federal government interfering with your church activities and traditions?

- Do you want more regulations on the size, scope, and quality of your Christmas decorations?

"Your Nativity scene's manger does not fit safety standards, and the inn cannot have a neon light 'No Vacancy' sign.

"Your house does not have enough Christmas lights; your inflatable Grinch on your lawn is not inflating correctly; the paper on your presents is wrapped poorly.

"Your Christmas tree is a palm tree, and you have a monkey sitting on top of there dressed like an angel.

"That'll be a \$500 fine, Mr. Diebenow," says the inspector.

"Cut me some slack, officer," says me. "Jo Jo is a good monkey. He's potty trained. See his diaper."

"Well, he is kinda cute with those wings and the halo," she says. "On second thought, I hate monkeys and your lame attempt to comment on evolution."

- Do you want state legislators passing a bill requiring your pastors to baptize your babies in Dr. Pepper?

"I baptize you, Nathan Diebenow, Jr., in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy — Hey, this doesn't smell like Dr. Pepper," says the pastor. "This is Pepsi!"

"We ran out of Dr. Pepper, pastor. Your son drank it all," says a parisoner. "All we had left was Pepsi."

"My son drank it all!" says the pastor. "That idiot."

"But isn't Pepsi the choice of the next generation?" says the parishioner.

"Not in Texas! Here's 50 cents. Go pick up some DP from the fellowship hall. I'll excommunicate my son later."

- If you already thought this same-sex marriage business was crazy, do you fellas want to be forced to marry and

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



provide for a minimum of three wives? "Heck, yeah! Three wives! Where do I sign up?" you say.

"Right here," the pastor says. "Awesome! Now, where are my wives?"

"They're taking the stage right now."

"Oh no! Not the Dixie Chicks!" you say. "But my son, they're millionaires," says the pastor. "All three of them."

"You don't say. Wait. Aren't they already married?"

"Not a problem. Suzie, get Nemo — the cat owned by Dieb's roommate who has no interest in being famous — on the phone."

"Thanks, Padre!"

- Do you want the taxman billing you for every prayer your child prays in school?

"You know what? My kid prayed 1,960,573 times at school this year," says my buddy. "That's \$10,000!"

"Whoa! That's a lotta praying," says me.

"I don't know about you, but I think this school prayer tax was not the answer for reforming school finance," said my buddy.

"Why not?," says me. "If it wasn't for the school prayer tax, we wouldn't have had the money to not only build an Olympic size pool but also fill it with the blood of a thousand virgins!"

"Yeah, you're right," says him. "Thank G-d for small miracles."

Although I appreciate the times when our governments and churches (get around to) help people through disasters, churches and everyone else are still better off under the system created by the Founding Fathers — well, *maybe* except for the three wives law.

Surely, *that's* not going to harm anybody, right?

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Don't Mess With Texas, Central Texas Girl Scouts Team Up for Litter Prevention

Targets Younger Generation

AUSTIN — Don't Mess with Texas is teaming up with the Central Texas Girl Scouts to launch a new litter prevention patch program. The patch signals a renewal in the longstanding partnership between Don't Mess with Texas and the Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council, representing 18 Central Texas counties.

The new patch is part of an increased focus on teaching younger children about litter prevention. Earlier this summer, TxDOT introduced the "Litter Force," a group of animated superheroes and trash villains who educate first and second grade children about the consequences of littering.

"We are teaching a whole new generation about Don't Mess with Texas," said Doris Howdeshell, TxDOT Travel Division Director. "When young

people understand the importance of litter prevention, they become excellent teachers for their peers, their families, and others in their communities."

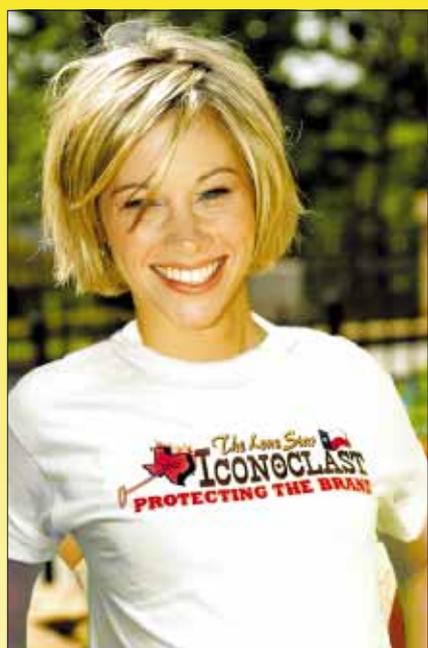
Howdeshell says the patch will be more widely available in the future. "We hope to expand our patch program to both Boy and Girl Scouts all over the state," Howdeshell said.

Leslie Wright Hay, director of communications for the Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council, says the patch represents an important learning opportunity. "The Don't Mess with Texas patch was very popular when it was initiated in the early '90s," Hay said. "So we're very glad today's generation of our scouts will learn the latest on litter in Texas and grow up without ever starting that bad habit in the first place."

Patch Requirements involve the Girl Scouts performing a series of litter prevention activities to earn the new patch. Depending on the age and level of the Girl Scout, she will have to complete anywhere from five to 10 activities, including:

- Assisting with an "Adopt-A-Highway" cleanup;
- Developing and executing a personal action plan to combat litter;
- Writing a story that traces a piece of litter from its source to its decomposition;
- Creating a poem, poster or skit about littering and displaying or performing it in a public place
- Leading a troop discussion about how litter affects our water supply.

For more information, contact Leslie Wright Hay, Girl Scouts - Lone Star Council, at (512) 453-7391 ext. 136; or Melissa Smolensky, EnviroMedia, at (512) 476-4368.



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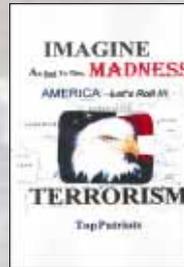
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