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I want to ask George Bush, "Why did my son die? What was the noble cause that he died for?"

— Cindy Sheehan, August 2005

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Falun Gong

Bush Urged To Raise Crackdown On Falun Gong Torture

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush was urged to raise Beijing's crackdown of the Falun Gong spiritual group during his talks this week with Chinese leaders.

"President Bush must bring up the Falun Gong in his public meetings with President Hu Jintao and China's leaders, and call for, in unambiguous terms, an end to the suppression," the group's spokesman Erping Zhang said.

"It is imperative China's leadership hear in strong terms that what they are doing to Falun Gong is unacceptable and needs to stop," he said in a statement.

Zhang claimed that there had been a rapid increase in the number of Falun Gong deaths from "torture and abuse in custody."

The Chinese communist leaders consider the rise of Falun Gong as a mass movement and a threat to its power, rights groups say.

The US State Department last week expressed regret over the "suffering" of Falun Gong followers in China while releasing its annual report on international religious freedom. In the report, China received a "poor" record for respect for freedom of religion and freedom of conscience.

John Hanford, the U.S. envoy for international religious freedom, said, "while the Falun Gong are not officially a religion, more a spiritual movement, the suffering that they have endured is unspeakable."

"There have been so many who have been arrested — thousands and thousands, many who have died in police custody and the problem just doesn't seem to abate. And so this is something we all are deeply concerned about."

Twenty-one US legislators had written to Bush to highlight alleged human rights abuses, including torture, when he visits Beijing on Oct. 19.

Ellis Troubled By Latest Voter ID Revelations

News Reports Suggest Politics Trumped Minority Voting Rights Concerns

AUSTIN — Senator Rodney Ellis (D-Houston) today expressed deep concern over the latest revelations surrounding efforts to require photo ID in order to vote, and warned proponents of the controversial measure not to revive efforts here in Texas.

According to the WASHINGTON POST, career attorneys in the Justice Department's Civil Rights Division recommended that the federal government reject the state of Georgia's plan to require voters to provide photo identification, but were overridden by political appointees within the department. According to the report, career officials found that the Georgia Voter ID plan would weaken African Americans right to vote. Last month, a U.S. District Court judge blocked implementation of the Georgia Voter ID plan, comparing the law to the poll tax.

"I am deeply troubled by these revelations," Ellis said. "This report confirms our worst fears — that efforts to require photo identification will significantly weaken minority voting rights, and that politics is being put before civil rights and sound law. The same concerns we raised here in Texas were echoed by career justice department officials."

During the 79th Legislative Session, Senator Ellis and Senator Leticia Van de Putte (D-San Antonio) led efforts to defeat the voter intimidation bill, which would have made it more difficult for elderly, low-income, and minority Texans from voting. Senate Bill 89 would have established some of the most restrictive voting laws in the nation. The legislation, opposed by groups ranging from AARP to the NAACP and LULAC, would require that a voter show a voter registration card and picture identification or two forms on non-picture identification in order to vote. If a voter cannot meet these requirements, the voter could be allowed to vote provisionally or the voter would have to go home to retrieve the necessary ID and come back to cast a regular ballot. Voters who didn't have the required ID with them and cast provisional ballots would have to go the courthouse to show photo ID within five days after the election, or their vote would not count.

The attempt to weaken voting rights is now a national movement, says Ellis. Twenty five states have either enacted

or attempted to pass legislation that would require photo ID to be eligible to vote despite no documented evidence that a voter has voted in any state using false identification.

"The Justice Department memo is just more evidence that the voter ID plan is a solution in search of a problem," said Ellis. "Supporters of this effort throw charges, anecdotal evidence and rhetoric around, but cannot point to one single case. Those of us opposed, however can cite case after case of voter intimidation and voter fraud."

Senate Bill 89 would also have created tremendous barriers for Texans to vote. Studies have shown that anywhere from 6 to 10 percent of Americans do not have a photo ID. These Americans are predominantly elderly, low-income and/or minority. In Georgia, for instance, 33 percent of seniors over 75 do not have a valid driver's license. In addition, with the passage of the *Real ID Act* in Congress, it will become more difficult to obtain an official state ID.

"We will not allow this Jim Crow plan to become the law in Texas," Ellis said. "We've come to far and fought too hard to go back."

Bush Pulled Security Clearances From 92 Senators

WASHINGTON — "We can't have leaks of classified information. It's not in our nation's interest." - President George W. Bush, 10/9/01.

President Bush's defiant statement came in the immediate weeks following 9/11, as the administration clamped

The leader of the opposition Democrats in the House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, said human rights should be "a top priority" in the bilateral agenda.

"We once again call on Beijing to release the thousands of prisoners of conscience whose only crime was to demand their basic human rights," she said.

down on the information it provided to Congress. President Bush issued an order limiting access to classified intelligence only to eight members of Congress - the Speaker of the House, House Minority Leader, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and chairmen and ranking members of the House and Senate intelligence committees.

What precipitated this course of action? Gannett News Service reported on Oct. 1, 2001 that Bush was restricting information because, "THE WASHINGTON POST reported last week that various lawmakers had been told there would be more terrorist attacks if the United States retaliated."

Here's what the WASHINGTON POST re-

ported:

Asked whether more terrorist attacks are inevitable if the United States retaliates, [Sen. Richard] Shelby said, "You can bet on that." U.S. intelligence officials have told members of Congress there is a high probability that terrorists associated with Osama bin Laden will try to launch another major attack on U.S. targets here or abroad. [WASHINGTON POST, 10/6/01].

Although there had been no evidence that information was being leaked and there was no ongoing criminal investigation nor evidence that all the members who had their access limited had leaked information, President Bush pulled classified intelligence access for the 92 senators.



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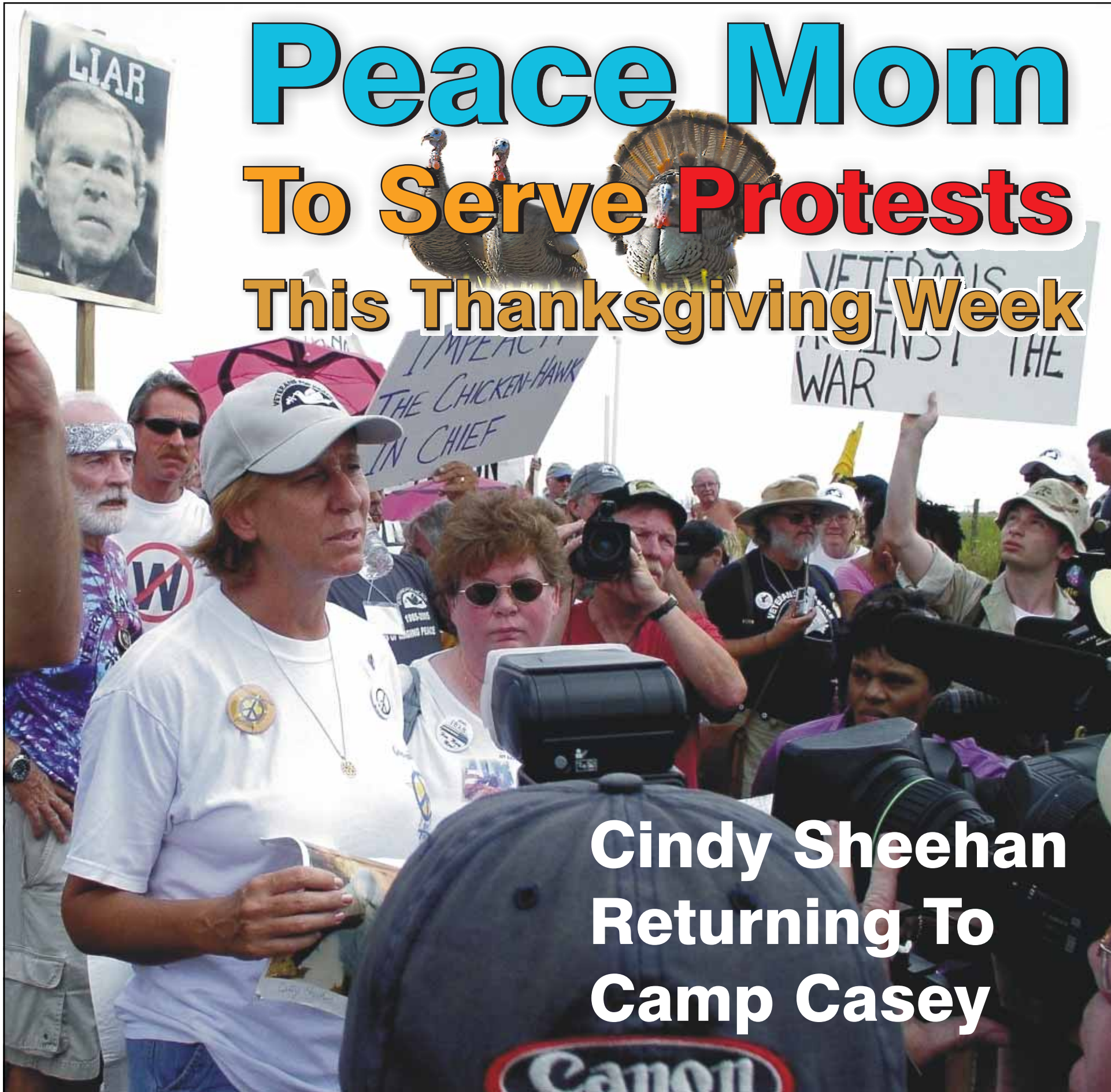
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Peace Mom To Serve Protests This Thanksgiving Week



Cindy Sheehan Returning To Camp Casey

Sheehan Spending Thanksgiving In Crawford

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Cindy Sheehan, the anti-war activist whose son was killed on a military mission in Iraq, is scheduled to arrive in Crawford this week three months after she held a month-long vigil to speak with President Bush last August to ask for what “noble cause” have U.S. troops died.

Since her first visit to Crawford, Sheehan has barnstormed America, calling on Congress to immediately withdraw troops from Iraq. That call initially fell on many deaf ears in Con-

gress, including Sen. Hilary Clinton (D-NY), though in recent weeks the American public and a few senators and congressmen have changed their opinion of the way the war began and is currently being handled by the Bush Administration.

Sheehan, 48, was last seen in Washington D.C. in a court that found her guilty of protesting without a permit near the White House. She and 26 other peace activists were each ordered to pay \$75 in fines and court costs. Sheehan’s lawyer plans to appeal.

Honoring the victims of two

CINDY SHEEHAN talks to reporters after a march in a ditch toward the Bush Ranch during the first day of a 26-day vigil last August. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

devisating hurricanes and the war in Iraq, the Crawford Peace House and its cohorts have plenty on the menu the week of Thanksgiving in Crawford, including a protest of the recent changes to the county’s “no speech zones,” an Iraqi-style Thanksgiving meal, and a dedication of a new “Memorial Garden.”

The first of five days of peace activism starts Tuesday, Nov. 22, when demonstrators plan to challenge new county ordinances that bar camping, eating, and living in ditches that run alongside county roads and parking for a seven

mile radius around the Bush ranch. These so-called “no speech zones” and “no parking zones” were passed by the McLennan County Commissioner’s Court amid health and safety concerns of area citizens.

The demonstrators, however, say that the zones violate their rights to free speech and free assembly. These folks intend to gather at a ditch called “Camp Casey 1” and wait for the media to take pictures of them as they presumably get arrested. This ditch lies a few miles from

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• SHEEHAN

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the Bush ranch where Sheehan held a month-long vigil.

For desert the next day, organizers plan to hold a meal that typical Iraqis would eat, in place of the traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. Food and monetary donations gathered before the meal will be taken to the hurricane victims of New Orleans. Guests must RSVP ahead of time.

The new Memorial Garden at the Crawford Peace House will be dedicated Friday. The last demonstration of Sheehan's visit is scheduled for Saturday, though details of the march/rally/caravan were yet to be announced Friday. An interfaith Sunday service is also on tap. Each day, the fun starts at Camp Casey II at 1 p.m.

For more information, contact the Crawford Peace House.

INFO

Crawford Peace House
crawfordpeace.nfshost.com/
(254) 486-0099

New Medicare Drug Plans Begin

WASHINGTON — Seniors as of last week began signing up for their new Medicare prescription drug plans, which corporations in most states offer 40 plans of various benefits and services.

Advice from those in pharmacy services says seniors should use caution before switching plans; however if they do, pick from the plans similar to their own pharmacists.

Mark McClellan, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, said there's no need to rush: "There's plenty of time to make a decision — and make a decision you can be confident about."

New Year's Day is when the new benefit starts. Enrollment continues through May 15, 2006.

President Bush praises the program, though Democrats lawmakers argue that the voluntary program is too confusing.

Bioterrorism Lab Opens In San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — The University of Texas at San Antonio recently opened a new \$10.6 million research lab for bioterrorism.

Researchers at the 22,000-square-foot Margaret Batts Tobin Laboratory Building will study diseases like anthrax, tularemia, cholera, and other parasitic and fungal diseases, which are potential bioterrorism agents according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new South Texas Center for Emerging Infectious Diseases will enlist 15 university researchers, who earlier this year received \$9 million in federal funding for bioterrorism research.



CINDY SHEEHAN sadly bade farewell to Crawford and headed to help victims of Hurricane Katrina after spending weeks in the hot Texas sun, awaiting a meeting with President Bush that never occurred.

— Staff Photo By Gene Ellis

House Rejects Immediate U.S. Withdrawal From Iraq

WASHINGTON — Three days after Senate Republicans blocked a Democratic push to call for President Bush to secure a timetable for military withdrawal from Iraq, the House flat out rejected a resolution that called for the immediate return of these same military forces.

House Democrats called the proposal a publicity stunt because it was designed to fail and smear Rep. John Murtha (D-Pa.), a prominent defense hawk and decorated Vietnam war veteran who authored an earlier resolution calling for troops to be withdrawn "at the earliest practicable date."

Rep. Murtha voted for the Iraq war, but last Thursday, he said, "It is time for a change in direction. Our military is suffering, the future of our country is at risk. We cannot continue on the present course. It is evident that continued military action in Iraq is not in the best interests of the United States of America, the Iraqi people or the Persian Gulf region."

Republicans immediately attacked Murtha for proposing a "cut and run" strategy and accused Democrats of political positioning at a time of war. Murtha, the top Democrat on the House Appropriations defense subcommittee, figured that all 160,000 U.S. troops would be withdrawn from Iraq in six months. His resolution also proposed that the U.S. seek stability in Iraq through diplomacy.

In place of a timetable for troop withdrawal, the Senate — by a 79-19 vote with five Democrats in the majority — settled for non-binding language that said significant transitions to Iraq's sovereignty would happen in 2006.



CRAWFORD PEACE HOUSE

has released this schedule of events for Nov. 22-27

- Tuesday, 11/22 - Civil Disobedience
- Wednesday, 11/23 - Organization of Katrina relief/Meal Preparation
- Thursday, 11/24 - Simple Thanksgiving Meal
- Friday, 11/25 - Memorial Dedication
- Saturday, 11/26 - March/Rally
- Sunday, 11/27 - Interfaith Service

Death Toll Of U.S. Soldiers Reaches 2,090, Says Pentagon

BAGHDAD — Violence continues in Iraq as 150 were killed in attacks this past weekend, including six U.S. soldiers, which, according to military numbers, brings the U.S. soldier death toll to 2,090 since the March 2003 invasion of Iraq.

A suicide bomb attack at a sheikh's funeral claimed what has reported as 50 lives, with another 75 were wounded when a car bomb blew up near a crowded tent in Abu Sayda about 40

miles northeast of Baghdad.

On Saturday, a suicide bomber killed 13 and wounded 20 at an attack on a market just south of Baghdad.

Five of the six U.S. soldiers were killed in a couple of makeshift bomb attacks during a patrol in Baiji on Saturday, while a Marine was killed the same day in a bomb attack near Haditha, 124 miles northwest of Baghdad.

Iraqi and U.S. forces have been fight-

ing Sunni Arab guerrillas in western portions of the country in order to get the insurgency under control prior to the Dec. 15 elections. Violence has been increasing as the poll date nears.

Late last week, other violence erupted when twin suicide bombings at Shi'ite mosques in northeastern Iraq killed 77 people on Friday and two suicide car bombs killed six and wounded 40 outside a popular Baghdad hotel.

Cheney Advocates Torture, Says Former CIA Head

LONDON — A former CIA director said Vice President Dick Cheney damaged the United States' reputation by managing the construction of policies for torturing suspects allegedly linked to terrorism.

"I am embarrassed that the USA has a vice president for torture. I think it is just reprehensible. (Cheney) advocates torture, what else is it? I just don't understand how a man in that position can

take such a stance," said Admiral Stansfield Turner, the head of the CIA in the 1970s, on ITV news last week.

The Bush administration has denied that detainees were tortured for information, though human rights organizations say prisoners released from U.S. custody in Iraq and Afghanistan were tortured to retrieve intelligence on terrorist networks.

Sen. John McCain, a victim of seven

years of torture during the Vietnam War, said last week on CBS' "Face the Nation" that the global image of the United States might be damaged further if Congress refuses to pass a measure the Arizona Republican wrote into a defense spending bill that bans torture.

The White House has said the president will veto bills that limit the handling of prisoners in U.S. custody because such a measure prevents the executive

branch from protecting Americans. This veto, if used, would be President's first ever and, therefore, might kill his popularity which is currently at its lowest.

The GOP-led Senate overwhelmingly backed the anti-torture measure by 90-9, but approval from the GOP-dominated House is another thing. Vice President Cheney has used much of his political power in the House to fight against the torture ban.

House Okays \$50M In Budget Cuts By Two Votes

WASHINGTON — The Friday before Thanksgiving, the U.S. House by a slim margin of two votes okayed a bill that Republicans say would cut federal spending by \$50 billion. Big chunk of cuts came from social benefit programs.

Dubbed the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, HR 4341 was supported by Texas Republicans, with the exception of Congressman Ron Paul, who voted against it.

All Texas Democratic Congressmen, including Central Texas' U.S. Rep Chet Edwards, voted against bill.

THE ICONOCLAST attempted to learn whether Edwards' Republican opponents in the next election would have voted for or against the bill. As of presstime, THE ICONOCLAST had not received a return call from Van Taylor, but Tucker Anderson indicated he would have supported the measure. "I just think the federal government spends too much money," he commented by phone.

Negotiators from both houses are expected to compromise on a final piece of legislation that whittles federal spending over a five-year period. Battles will be over oil drilling

in the Arctic, Medicaid, student loan subsidies, food stamps, and more.

The House version proposed \$700 million in cuts from the food stamp program anti-hunger groups say will hurt 235,000 people. Food stamps, a program which operates on more than \$35 billion a year, were spared from the Senate's own \$35 billion budget-cutting bill.

"We are disappointed that the House made cuts to the Food Stamp Program and is now poised to cut taxes mainly for wealthy people. Their choice takes food from families struggling to make ends meet and puts more money in the pockets of those who need it the least," said Rev. David Beckmann, president of antihunger group Bread for the World.

"This is morally wrong and will make Thanksgiving bleaker for hundreds of thousands of hard-working families," he added.

About 38 million Americans live in "food insecure" households, according to government figures. The House bill's cuts mainly affect working families with children, according to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

Hours earlier, 22 Republicans led by a solid Democrat block voted against a \$142.5 billion spending bill that included the first cut in education funding in a decade.

The cause of the close 224-209 vote was partly attributed to the loss of Texas Rep. Tom DeLay to legal troubles which forced him to step down as majority leader, as well as the nosedive in the public and the GOP's confidence in President Bush.

Democrats laid blame on the proposed budget cuts on GOP-driven tax cuts.

Days before the final vote, New York lost \$125 million in Sept. 11 aid for increased costs associated with sick and injured ground zero work-

ers from the congressional negotiation table.

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Woodward Knew Plame's Name Before Libby

WASHINGTON — Pulitzer Prize winning reporter Bob Woodward testified last Monday in CIA leak probe that he knew the identity of Valerie Plame about a month before her name was revealed in Robert Novak's column. This testimony contradicts the special prosecutor's claim that Vice President Dick Cheney's right hand man first disclosed Plame's name to the media.

Although he hinted that his source was a top Bush administration official, the WASHINGTON POST journalist declined to reveal his name. Woodward has already apologized to his bosses for keeping this information hidden for more than two years.

Since Woodward's testimony, documents reveal that special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald is continuing his investigation by seeking a new federal grand jury. President George W. Bush's top political adviser, Karl Rove, has not been indicted but he still remains under investigation and might be charged, said lawyers close to the case.

Woodward's revelation might be a boost to the case of I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, who resigned from his position as Cheney's chief of staff after being indicted on perjury charges stemming from the probe. His defense

team could argue that Plame's name was common knowledge on Capitol Hill, according to legal analysts.

Woodward learned the name of the covert CIA operative while finishing a book about the Bush administration leading up to the war in Iraq; however, Plame's "perplexed" husband former diplomat Joseph Wilson noted that the book *Plan of Attack* made no mention of the leak.

Wilson contends that the Bush administration leaked the name of his wife in revenge after his investigated refuted the White House's claims that Saddam Hussein sought weapons of mass destruction in Niger prior to the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq.

Last October, Woodward, the assistant managing editor of the Post, played down the leak's harm on Plame as "quite minimal" to CNN's Larry King. He also called special prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald a "junkyard dog" in at least one instance among others on television and radio that dismissed the CIA leak investigation.

As a young Post reporter, Woodward earned a reputation during the Nixon administration covering the Watergate scandal and keeping the identity of his source "Deep Throat" hidden for decades.

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Philanthropist Jimmy Walter Says Explosions Brought Down World Trade Center Buildings, Government Agencies Knew Ground Zero Air Quality Was Dangerous, But Ignored It

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

NEW YORK — Philanthropist, multi-millionaire Jimmy Walter, who has been in self-imposed exile in Europe for several months because of what he calls attacks and threats by the FBI and police, has returned to the United States and for several days has been picketing THE NEW YORK TIMES. He claims the newspaper is keeping the residents of New York in the dark as to what “really happened” during Sept. 11, 2001 and its aftermath.

Walter said he moved to Europe from the west coast after a lack of police investigation into the personal attacks which included destruction of some of his property. But Walter says that police did send an armed officer to his home to get his customer list and harass him over his T-shirts “mocking President Bush’s cowardice, AWOL military record, and drug abuse.”

“They can attack me physically to shut me up, yet the police and the FBI do nothing. I give away T-shirts and they send a sergeant to intimidate me and my secretary. You would have to be stupid to stay.”

Walter’s bone of contention with THE TIMES is that he is demanding the newspaper tell the “true story of how the Bush Administration deceived America about Ground Zero air quality.”

Walter says that the official story of what happened on 9/11 is not only improbable, but scientifically impossible. And he is putting his money where his mouth is by offering a \$1 million reward for the first person to prove mathematically and scientifically that explosives were not used in the collapse of the buildings. Rules for the contest are available on the <www.reopen911.org> website. Proof that is offered will be subject to verification by a scientific panel of Ph.D engineers, physicists, and lawyers, says Walter.

According to Walter, when President Bush came to Ground Zero two days after the 9/11 attack, “he urged everyone to shop. Ironically, the expression – Shop Till You Drop – would have been more appropriate. In fact, the raw truth about the air is that it was equivalent to dozens of asbestos factories, incinerators and crematoria.”

The White House Council on Environmental Quality changed Environmental Protection Agency press releases, turning warnings of asbestos into reassurances, explained Walter. “The EPA also said ‘The air is safe to breathe’ at the World Trade Center. This has seriously injured the health of Manhattan workers and residents. It is even killing some of the heroes who worked at Ground Zero,” he said.

Walter says that EPA administrator Christine Whitman and Mayor Rudy Giuliani lied to New Yorkers and visitors from around the world stating that there were “no significant problems.”

“Shockingly and with no concerned consciousness, the New York City Dept. of Health told residents to clean their apartments with a wet mop or wet rag,” he said. “What’s with the ‘WTC cough?’ Why all the shortness of breath and nosebleeds? Scientists Dr. Cate Jenkins, Dr. Marjorie Clarke, Paul Bartlett, and others, warned about inhaling toxic dust and fumes, but



Jimmy Walter

were ignored by the agencies in charge.”

Walter says that studies have proved that the air was toxic, including 200,000 pounds of lead from 50,000 computers at WTC, hundreds of tons of cancer-causing asbestos, over 10,000 fluorescents, each of which contained enough mercury to contaminate a quarter of a city block, thousands of smoke detectors containing radioactive americium 241, alkalinity of the air equivalent to that of Drano, and the highest levels of vanadium ever recorded.

“Some rescue workers were not allowed to wear respirators on the ground because they might frighten the public,” he noted. “Insurance companies often refused to pay for cleanup on the grounds that the EPA said the air was safe. Some children in nearby schools have developed serious respiratory problems. Half of those who cleaned Ground Zero have serious health problems. Hundreds of firefighters can no longer work.”

While picketing, Walter has been handing out the DVD *Confronting the Evidence*, which he says reveals that the man responsible for the cover-up was previously an industry lawyer who represented major asbestos and toxic polluters.

Walter, an environmentalist, said that “despite the studies which continue to point to the hazards of exposure to Ground Zero contaminants, neither the federal government nor New York City has yet cleaned up the city’s firehouses. One firefighter who did not join the department until after the World Trade Center fires had gone out has now been found to have new onset asthma attributable to exposure at his firehouse near Ground Zero. Plain and simply — extremely hazardous materials became airborne when the World Trade Center disintegrated and

thus posed a most serious health threat to people who live and work in the downtown area, not just Ground Zero.”

Walter says that public trust in government has diminished as many workers and residents have become sick and have required medical attention. “It is time that the various governmental agencies at the federal, state, and local level do whatever is necessary to protect the public health and safety and thereby regain the public’s trust. Comprehensive, representative testing has yet to be performed in the area affected by the dust and fires of the disaster,” he said.

This week, Walter is commissioning a Zogby poll to ask questions as to whether the New York attorney general and the Manhattan district attorney should open an investigation into the major discrepancies and unanswered questions in the official report on Sept. 11, 2001; whether they should open an investigation into Mayor Giuliani’s promise to New Yorkers that “the air is safe to breathe” on Sept. 13; whether respondents agree or disagree that some U.S. government officials knew in advance that attacks were planned on Sept. 11 and they consciously failed to act; whether they believe that 19 Arabs could have committed the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 alone, and that some U.S. government officials and citizens were actively involved; and whether they believe the news reported by mainstream media about the events of 9/11.

Walter explained that after the poll is taken and compiled, the results will go to 6,000 opinion leaders and newspapers. This poll is similar to one he commissioned previously. “Last time, the NEW YORK TIMES refused to print it,” he said.

“In the first poll,” said Walter, “66 percent of the people of New York thought the investigation should be reopened.” He predicts that the percentage will go up this time.

He said that some members of the mainstream media and the government “are in on it,” thus their lack of cooperation in providing information to the public regarding re-opening the investigation.

“People at the top have pushed this, and pushed this, and pushed this. I’ve known reporters who have wanted to do these stories and their editors say, ‘No, the guy at the top says no.’”

“On the ad that I tried to run here at New York City, there were five people in the company that agreed to run it. It passed clearance, they’d taken the money. The day before the ad started coming, one of the people said the boss said we can’t run it, the big boss,” said Walter.

On Dec. 7, Walter is planning a show in Florida that mirrors one held last year in New York under the title of the “Omission Commission” at which questions and reports were given by scientists and others regarding the 9/11 attacks and the environmental dangers that Walter says followed the attacks.

Walter said that it appears support for reopening the investigation is growing.

He noted that Steven E. Jones of the Dept. of Physics and Astronomy at Brigham Young University is calling for a serious investigation of the hypothesis that WTC 7 and the Twin Towers were brought down, as Jones said in his ab-

stract, “not just by damage and fires, but through the use of pre-positioned explosives. I consider the official FEMA, NIST, and 9-11 Commission reports that fires plus damage alone caused complete collapses of all three buildings. And I present evidence for the explosive-demolition hypotheses, which is suggested by the available data, testable and falsifiable, and yet has not been analyzed in any of the reports funded by the U.S. government.”

Walter said that among others to testify at the Florida event will be William Rodriguez, “the last man out” and “the highest profile survivor of the World Trade Center whose testimony is raising public awareness that a powerful explosion rocked the towers before the first plane hit.”

“Rodriguez, the former custodian of the World Trade Center, is a compelling speaker whose story has reached thousands of citizens across the United States and Europe. What Rodriguez says about a huge explosion occurring in the basement of the North Tower, seconds before the first plane hit, raises serious questions about the official version, which claims that fire was responsible for the destruction of the twin towers,” noted Walter.

In an interview with ICONOCLAST publisher W. Leon Smith, Walter discussed a number of issues:

ICONOCLAST: Has anything scientifically developed or changed beyond what was in Eric Hufschmid’s book *Painful Questions*, which examines the 9/11 attacks?

WALTER: Nothing in Eric’s book has been disproved one iota. We have added more arguments that other people have come up with. For instance, Eric’s book didn’t include reports from government and eyewitnesses of molten steel. We now have added that as a fact. As I said earlier, Professor Jones has added the physics question of what stopped the angle of momentum of the top of that building from falling over? So those are two major things. We’ve had stuff added like the AP thing that NORAD intercepted the hundred, whatever the number of times was, 12 months prior to Sept. 11, but failed to intercept four times that day. We just added facts.

We now have the firemen transcripts. NEW YORK TIMES forced the firemen of whatever department to release the transcripts of the firemen and the firemen clearly show that the fires in the buildings were small and controllable; that they had no fear of the building collapsing and now we know that FEMA told the firemen to pull back from building seven minutes before it collapsed. How did FEMA know? No steel building in a hundred years has ever collapsed. Look at the pictures of Hiroshima. The steel frame buildings are still standing after an atomic bomb. Yet FEMA knew on that day that a unique event in history was going to happen minutes before it happened. It’s in the transcripts. Then you have all of the radio calls from inside the building. You have the radio calls about the explosion, telling them that they hear explosions. They even hear the explosions on the actual tapes.

ICONOCLAST: Do you have some of
Continued On Next Page

• **MILLION DOLLAR REWARD — INTERVIEW WITH JIMMY WALTER ... Continued From Page 6**

this information on your website?

WALTER: Most of it you can get on there. The firemen tapes I haven't posted yet, but I'll get it to you. It's on my list of things to do today.

ICONOCLAST: How long do you protest each day?

WALTER: I did two hours in the morning — she's got me so loaded up with interviews, I don't have that much time to protest. I try to do two hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. I vary the two hours so that I get everybody that's coming in and out, because they come in and out all day long.

ICONOCLAST: And you hand out material?

WALTER: I hand out the free DVDs and I haven't had any printouts for them yet.

ICONOCLAST: Can you think of anything else that we might want to put into this interview?

WALTER: Professor Jones was on MSNBC last night and they gave him three minutes, didn't allow him to talk and didn't show the video and then dumped him — flushed him as they say in the trade.

ICONOCLAST: Kind of what happened to you with Geraldo (Rivera)?

WALTER: Same exact act. They're desperate to discredit us.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think about the war in Iraq?

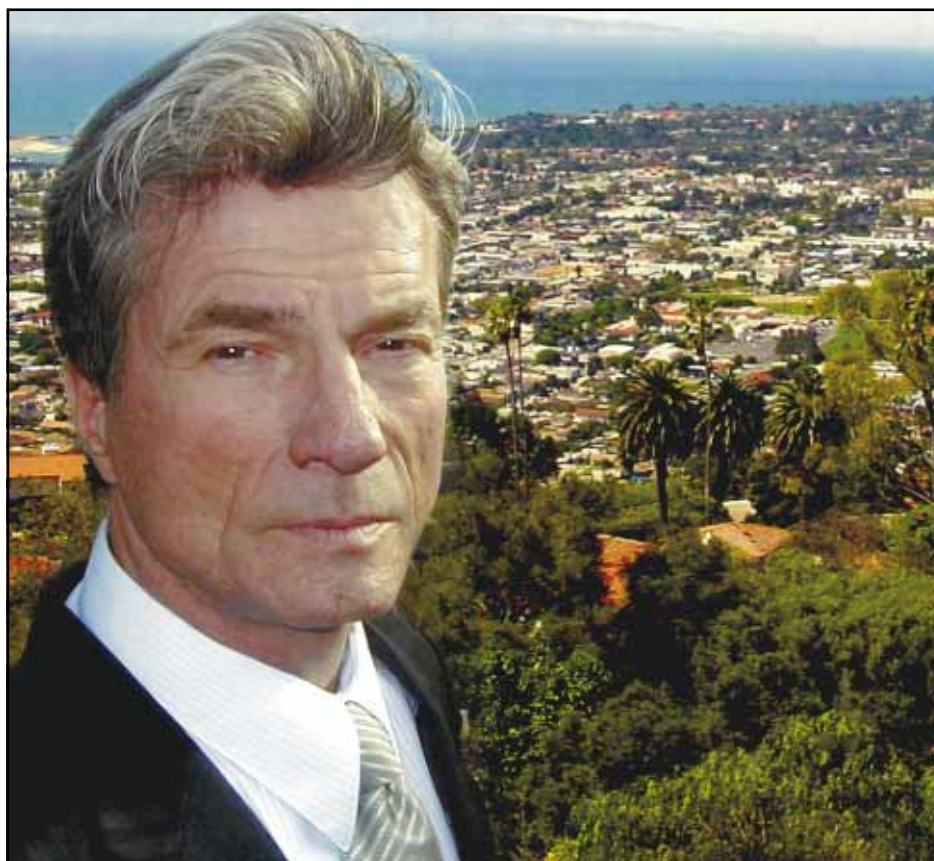
WALTER: (laugh) Well, you mean the "occupation" of Iraq that's going so badly? ICONOCLAST: Have you been monitoring that pretty thoroughly?

WALTER: Yeah! Let's go to the most recent thing. I saw John McCain say yesterday that we should increase the number of troops in Iraq. Where is this guy coming from? They could put half a million troops in Iraq. It wouldn't stop what's happening there. We have lost in Iraq. There is no way that we can win. Those governments there are totally illegitimate. They still got that guy whose name starts with a "C" I can never pronounce. He was the guy that mislead us on everything and he's going to be one of the heads of the government. It's totally insane what they think they're going to do over there.

Depleted uranium is everywhere. The babies are being born so deformed, so disformed. We have sewn the dragon teeth over there. They're never going to forgive us for this. They're going to be dying for thousands of years. The fact of the matter is that in open desert warfare, tanks and helicopters can win. But in urban warfare, the RPG, the rocket propelled grenade — guy steps out of a doorway, puts one through the side of the tank, he's gone. A \$40 munition destroys a one million dollar tank. He puts one in the belly, destroys a \$10 million helicopter. They've got suicide bombers. They've got people hiding for God and they don't have a centralized core to attack. We cannot win in Iraq.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think ought to happen?

WALTER: I think that we should get out. I think we should have the UN go in, with not one single U.S. soldier either there or in support. Then you have a chance of getting a peace. But, as long as they're fighting the United States, there will be no truce and we will continue to muddy up the waters. We've got no choice. It's just like Vietnam. Go back and read the news excerpts from Vietnam. President Johnson was heightened by the Vietnam elections, in spite of the terrorists' attempt to disrupt them. President Bush is heightened by the Iraqi elections, in spite of the terrorist efforts to disrupt them. President Johnson said that the reason we're in Vietnam is that we promised that we cannot leave. We'll be disgraced and we owe it to them to bring them democ-



Jimmy Walter is planning a show in Florida during December.

racy. It reads just like Bush's script. You could have taken President Johnson's speeches and just substituted Iraq and terrorist for Vietnam and Vietcong. It's the same old speech.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think that peak oil is true or is it just a hoax? You know, they're saying that we're going to run out of oil.

WALTER: Here is the deal on that. We have more natural gas than you can shake a stick at. You can take natural gas and make oil. The Germans discovered how to do that back in WWII. You waste energy doing it, but not that much. And you have all the oil that you possibly want.

Now whether or not we have reached peak oil in the ground as oil, I think that we probably have, but you're not counting the oil shales and all the other forms of oil that oil can be gotten out of. As I said, you can take methane gas which would be far less environmentally destructive and start making oil out of it than it is to dig up the oil shales, which is basically strip mining and also takes a huge amount of energy as well.

The Russians have come up with a theory that oil is really nonbiological. That what happens is that this methane gas that's always coming out of the earth, the earth is saturated with it, coming out of the core of the earth, goes up through certain forms and comes pressure cooked to make the methane into oil. Then the oil seeps through the biological layers contaminating it to make us think it is a biological origin. Not the same as coal, which was definitely brought by the compression of green material, which you can actually see the stuff in. It's a big argument worldwide. The real thing that we have a peak on is refining capacity. There are no new refineries built. None planned and it takes like 10 years to finish one up, you know, from soup to nuts.

ICONOCLAST: So what do you think about the gas prices going up because of the peak in refineries?

WALTER: It's the refineries. It's nothing else. And of course, Katrina didn't help, because we have only one oil platform there for 1/3 of the oil that comes into the United States. The refiners were hurt there as well.

ICONOCLAST: How do you think Washington will ultimately handle the 9/11 situation?

WALTER: What they're going to end up doing is use what I call the incompetent exit strategy. By that I mean, they're going to say, you know, you're right. We screwed up royally. We're sorry. We resign. You take care of the mess. Not admit that they were actually involved with having it happen.

Whenever I see these things about the wire transfers that they had and all this other stuff, I throw up my hand and say guys, this is a red herring. This is trying to prove the Arabs did it, when no way did 19 Arabs with boxcutters fly 130-foot wide, 60-ton, 50-foot tall airliners at high speed, low altitude turns, lower than those planes can actually fly — I don't know if you know about aerodynamics, but an airplane at full speed cannot fly closer to the ground than one wingspan. The vortices coming off the wingtips act like a cushion. You can fly right at the one wingspan full speed and actually cut your drag and it's a more efficient way to fly. When you try to go down, it's like pushing into a spring.

ICONOCLAST: New category. Do you have any thoughts on global warming?

WALTER: Leon, I'm going to get a lot of heat for this one, but I've been reading this new website called <Iceagemail.com> and it's a based on a book by a guy named Robert Felix and he points out that world volcanism has increased a hundredfold in the last hundred years and it increases more and more rapidly every day. You can go on the Web and find in the world volcanic activity report, and the number of eruptions and earthquakes is going up every month.

For instance, back in last year, there were no eruptions in January and then they had an eruption in February and then some other stuff. This year, in November, there were 19 reported eruptions. This guy Felix is saying, and they're finding new volcanoes, new rifts, new things, over every day, at the bottom of the ocean. Moreover, all of the glaciers are getting thicker in the middle. They're melting at the edge. He points out that the reports on Antarctica all focus on the Antarctic peninsula, which is a thin, snakelike piece

of land surrounded by water. He points out that where they touch the water they're going to melt. The fact of the matter is that all of the glaciers, the Greenland, the Swiss, the Norwegian, the Antarctica ones are getting thicker in the middle and the glaciers are growing faster. Now the scientist have tried to say that they're moving faster because they have got water underneath them and it's making them slip. If it were making them slip, it would be breaking apart in the middle and they're not. They're getting thicker in the middle. Go to <Iceagemail.com> and have a look. The guy has got loads of stuff to back up what he's saying. And it gets worse, Leon.

ICONOCLAST: Why would they get thicker in the middle?

WALTER: The reason is that increased volcanism is causing the water to heat up. Causing the evaporation to increase. When this water goes up in the upper atmosphere, it's cooled by space and by the time it gets to the Arctic, it falls down as snow. We had record floods this year all over the world. We had record hurricanes all over the world. Hurricanes depend on the temperature of the water. He points out, is it more sense that the water is heating the air, or that the air is heating the water? He points out by heating the water in the ocean 1 degree, you release more carbon dioxide than all of the pollution, all of the carbon dioxide man has put in the air in his entire history. It's a very convincing argument.

ICONOCLAST: Does he predict a trend? Is it going to get worse?

WALTER: He points out that every major glaciation period has been tied to what are called magnetic reversals. And that the earth's magnetic flux has been decreasing rapidly for the last 100 years and is decreasing more rapidly now. He thinks that the magnetic field of the earth keeps volcanism in check, and when that magnetic reversal happens, everything goes wild, and an ice age begins, because of the heating of the oceans which keeps piling up more and more snow at the poles and on the glaciers and it marches down to the continents.

ICONOCLAST: So he's predicting the start of a new ice age?

WALTER: He says we're at the beginning of a new ice age. He points out that the many ice ages in the 1600s and then there's a 340 to 1,440 of 10,400 and 100,000 year cycle for the ice age, a 100,000 year cycle is the biggest cycle. He says right now, we've got a triple witching hour. It all relates to the solar system's position in the galactic, magnetic plane. The solar system is right now in the middle of the galactic plane. So we're going to go from one pole of the galaxy's magnetic plane to the other. He relates it to those little doggie magnets you used to have where you tried to put the noses together and one spun around. Only in this case, the other dog is the galaxy and we're the little dog, the solar system. So that the earth's magnetic field will reverse and when it reverses, all hell breaks loose. Not at the other end, but in the middle, when it's zero. At the exact point where it goes to the zero point.

It's very convincing to anybody with an open mind.

ICONOCLAST: Anything else?

WALTER: Again, I'm trying to get the attorney general or the district attorney here to open up a criminal investigation into the lies on 911, because two firemen have died. That's makes it manslaughter or second degree murder for lying that the air was safe to breathe. There are no Arabs, high-jacker, or terrorists involved in this. Just New York City, Mayor Giuliani, and the White House.

TFT Urges Congress To Take Quick Action To Aid Schools In Wake Of Hurricanes

Public Schools Face \$300 Million Hit From Educating 45,000 Displaced Students

AUSTIN — The Texas Federation of Teachers is calling on the U.S. Congress to take quick action in offering financial aid to Texas public schools. A preliminary estimate by the Texas Education Agency last month put these instructional costs for services to at least 45,000 hurricane-displaced students at about \$300 million. The final tally of hurricane-

impact costs is likely to be higher, once all school districts report to the state.

"So far, the federal government has not addressed the costs related to the hurricanes and not covered by disaster relief," said TFT President Linda Bridges. "Now we face the real possibility that Congress will adjourn until January without addressing this crucial

need. That's too long to wait."

Disaster relief is a prime federal responsibility, and prompt federal reimbursement for the hurricane-impact costs absorbed by Texas public schools should be enacted immediately, Bridges said.

"Great as the storm damage and emergency response costs have been, they are dwarfed by the hundreds of

millions of dollars needed for additional textbooks, teachers, and other instruction-related expenses that are not eligible under current federal law for disaster-aid reimbursements," she said.

"Before these hurricanes hit, Texas schools already faced a financial crisis as local tax capacity has been exhausted and state funding has failed to keep pace with growth in enrollment, student need, and state achievement mandates. Now our schools face the additional financial crisis of absorbing 45,000 more high-need students."

Bridges said TFT is asking its 51,000-plus members to "light a fire" under the feet of their representative and senators to get the financial aid flowing fast.

TFT members and the general public can send an e-mail letter urging Congress to take fast action via the TFT Web site, <www.tft.org>.

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

Former DeLay Aide To Plead Guilty In Indian Tribe Defraud Case

WASHINGTON — Michael Scanlon, who has been accused by Federal investigators of conspiring to defraud Indian tribes of millions of dollars and was charged Friday, has indicated, through his attorney, Stephen Braga, that Scanlon plans to plead guilty this week in exchange for his cooperation with the investigation, a declaration that is sending chills through the upper echelons of Congress.

Scanlon, 35, is a former aide to legally embattled Congressman Tom DeLay, who is under indictment in Texas and was forced to step aside as House majority leader this past fall.

Scanlon is a one-time partner of lob-

byist Jack Abramoff, who has not been charged but who has been named in the investigation. Scanlon's cooperation with Federal prosecutors is expected to broaden the investigation to perhaps include several top members of Congress.

The single charge against Scanlon alleges that he and Abramoff had sought to "corruptly offer and provide things of value, including money, meals, trips and entertainment to federal public officials in return for agreements to perform official acts."

Congressman Bob Ney (R-Ohio) has been implicated as part of the inquiry, but other lawmakers, including DeLay,

received campaign donations from Scanlon's and Abramoff's Indian clients.

Texas tribes were among those that became victims of the conspiracy, as were tribes in Michigan, Louisiana, and Mississippi, according to Scanlon. Prosecutors say that Scanlon and Abramoff earned about \$82 million representing tribes between January 2000 and April 2004.



Chance Of Alito Filibuster Possible, Says Sen. Biden

WASHINGTON — When the judiciary committee questions Supreme Court nominee Judge Samuel Alito in January, a filibuster might occur, says Sen. Joseph Biden (D-Delaware).

Biden noted Sunday that Alito had

opposed 1960s rulings on reapportionment based on the principle of equal voting rights and suggested that a filibuster would not be ruled out. This, he added, would depend upon how Alito answers questions regarding the issue.

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Railroad Commissioners Provide Tips On Frying Thanksgiving Turkeys Safely

AUSTIN—The three Texas Railroad Commissioners today urged Texans to practice safety when frying Thanksgiving turkeys using propane-fueled, hot-oil cookers.

Texas Railroad Commission (RRC) Chairman Elizabeth A. Jones explained the RRC's role in propane safety. "The Texas Railroad Commission is the state agency charged with propane safety in Texas," Jones said. "This responsibility includes educating the public about the safe use of propane appliances. Each year, Americans buy an estimated half million hot oil cookers, and more than 10 million households cook with fryers. So, it's important that consumers know how to correctly use these devices."

Commissioner Michael L. Williams noted that it is important to pay attention to the location of a hot-oil cooker. "Cookers should be placed outside in an open area away from all walls, fences or other structures. You never want to place a cooker in, on or under a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or any structure such as a wooden deck that could catch fire. Also be sure to keep children and pets away from the fryer during and after use because the oil can remain hot for hours."

Commissioner Victor Carrillo said thawing and drying a turkey before it is placed in hot oil also is an important safety step. "Partially frozen turkeys placed in a fryer can cause a spillover effect when ice melts and water seeps into the boiling oil," Carrillo said. "Plan for about 24 hours to thaw every 4 to 5 pounds of turkey or about two days if you are using a 10-pound turkey, which is the general size recommended for these hot oil cookers."

According to the latest figures available from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, there have been 112 incidents that involved fires or burns associated with turkey fryers since 1998.

THANKSGIVING DAY TURKEY FRYING TIPS Hot Oil Cooker Set Up

Place fryer on a flat stable surface in an open, low-traffic area away from all walls, fences or other structures.



Never use fryer in, on or under a garage, breezeway, carport or any structure, such as a wooden deck, that can catch fire.

Keep children and pets away from fryer during and after use as the oil can remain hot for hours.

Keep the fryer in full view while the burner is on

Make sure there is at least two feet of space between the liquid propane tank and fryer burner.

Place the liquid propane gas tank and fryer so that any winds blows the heat of the fryer away from the gas tank.

Cooking Process

Follow the manufacturer's cooking instructions, including the amount of oil needed to fry the turkey.

Check the oil temperature frequently. Never allow oil to exceed 375 degrees F.

If oil begins to smoke, immediately turn off the gas supply because the oil is overheated.

Completely thaw and dry the turkey before adding it to the hot oil. The U.S. Department of Agriculture recommends 24 hours thawing time for every 4 to 5 pounds of turkey. Partially frozen or wet turkeys can produce excessive hot oil splatter when the poultry is added to hot oil.

Follow the manufacturers instructions to determine the proper amount of oil to add.

Cover bare skin when adding or removing food. Always use cooking mitts.

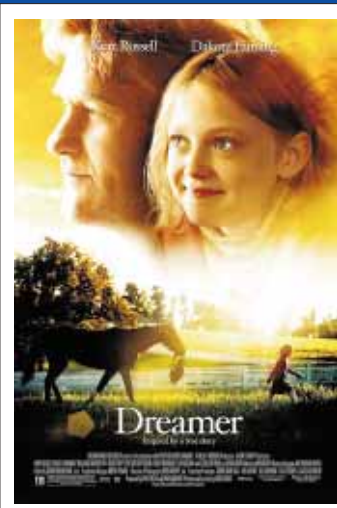
Use only cookware and accessories designed for frying turkeys; never use glassware, ceramic or plastic cookware.

Raise and lower food slowly to reduce splatter and avoid burns.

If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. Do not attempt to extinguish the fire with water. An operable, dry-chemical fire extinguisher may, in some circumstances, contain the fire.

After Cooking
Never move the cooker or pot while in use or while hot.
Allow the oil to cool completely before removing it from the pot.

Dreamer




Ben Crane (Kurt Russell) was once a great horseman, but now he bides his time training the horses of rich businessmen. Sonya was a great horse whose career was suddenly cut short by a broken leg. Considered as good as dead by her owner, who also happens to be Ben's boss, Sonya is given to Ben as severance pay. Ben's young daughter, Cale (Dakota Fanning), convinces him to pursue a seemingly impossible goal: winning the Breeders' Cup Classic.

Rated: PG
Runtime: 2 hour 10 min.

Thurs. Nov. 24 7 p.m. All Audiences	Friday Nov. 25 7 p.m.	Sat. Nov. 26 7 p.m.	Sun. Nov. 27 7 p.m.
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Two Books On Sheehan Coming Out

CRAWFORD — Two books about Cindy Sheehan's August 2005 journey to Crawford, Texas as she attempted to speak with President George W. Bush about the war in Iraq will be available in bookstores soon.

The first book becomes available this Wednesday, Nov. 23. It is entitled *Not One More Mother's Child*, authored by activist Cindy Sheehan herself, with a foreword by Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

Published by Koa Books (Northridge, Calif.), the book chronicles Sheehan's thoughts and actions as she reflects on war and peace, truth and accountability.

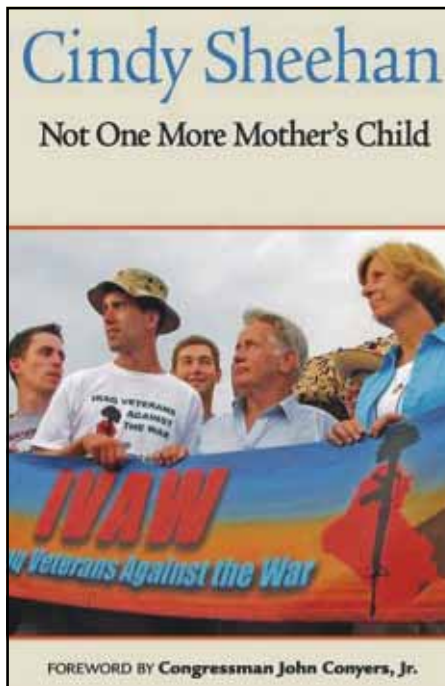
A second book is *The Vigil—26 Days In Crawford, Texas*. The book consists of a compilation of reports and interviews conducted by reporters and editors of THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST as they provided blow-by-blow coverage of the events in and near Crawford. Cindy Sheehan wrote the foreword for the book, taking to task

the mainstream media.

Published by Disinfo Books (New York), it will become available in bookstores everywhere in December.

According to the publishers of *Not One More Mother's Child*, "Cindy Sheehan lost her son in an ambush in Iraq in 2004. As information became available verifying that the war was based on lies and "cooked intelligence," she began speaking out and testifying in the halls of Congress. In August 2005, she went to Crawford, Texas, to confront President Bush, and the floodgates of a renewed American peace movement were opened. Ten thousand people joined her, and millions more world-wide.

"Cindy Sheehan is a moving writer and vibrant storyteller. During her first year of activism, she chronicled her thoughts and actions, and now she shares them for the first time in book form. Reflecting on war and peace, turth and accountability, she takes the Bush administration to task for its corruption



and incompetence and tells the story of her own journey from grieving mom to ardent activist. Cindy Sheehan is founder of Gold Star Families for Peace."

Publishers of *The Vigil—26 Days In Crawford, Texas* say this about the book written by ICONOCLAST editor-in-chief W. Leon Smith and reporters for the newspaper:

"In August of 2005, a grieving mother and her supporters laid siege to Crawford, Texas. Cindy Sheehan set up camp outside of President Bush's ranch, determined to find some answers. For 26 days, all eyes were on Camp Casey.

"At the center of it all was Crawford's own LONE STAR ICONOCLAST. In the heart of the reddest of Red States, THE ICONO-

CLAST found itself caught between the public's (deeply conservative) expectations, and the paper's publisher, W. Leon Smith's, sense of journalistic duty to report objectively. THE VIGIL is an invaluable record of THE ICONOCLAST'S coverage, with Sheehan herself providing a scene-setting foreword.

"The result is a high stakes, blow-by-blow account of the events as they unfolded. You experience this vigil right along with the writers and participants: the heat, the fire ants, the gunplay, the celebrity appearances, and the intense emotional rollercoaster that has yet to end. Smith and his crew demonstrated a level of professional virtue that—to quote Sheehan herself—"shines like a lone spark of integrity in the prairie darkness."

Lone Star Iconoclast To Cover Sheehan's Return To Crawford

CRAWFORD — THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST plans to provide extensive coverage of this week's return to Crawford by Cindy Sheehan and other peace advocates.

According to publisher W. Leon Smith, updates will be provided fre-

quently on the newspaper's website, <www.lonestaricon.com>, as appropriate, during the week.

A more complete wrap-up will be published in next week's hard-copy edition, as well as on the website, he said.

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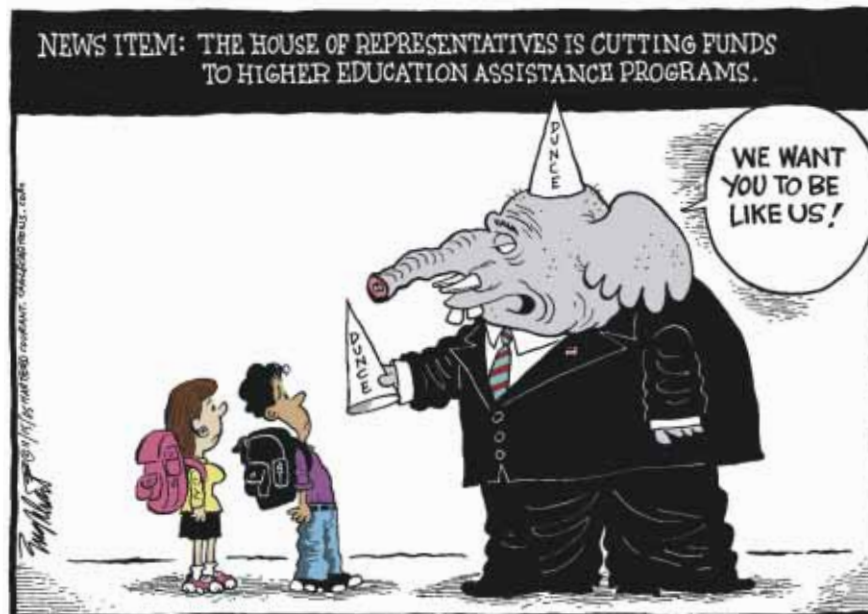
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Why Armadillos Thought They Were Republicans

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "A 'possum in a henhouse will swear it's a chicken."

No, you cannot run down an armadillo on foot.

There are times in this life when you simply cannot help being friends with a Yankee.

They're sneaky that way.

But, sadly, they do not become wiser by association with a Southerner.

Friend Jim McKeown, alias the Philadelphia Kid, somehow refuses to move to Texas, even though he has lived here for a decade or so.

He cannot be convinced that hotdogs and hamburgers do not constitute a barbecue, even if they are cooked outside.

He eats peaches without peeling them.

Yes, the poor benighted heathen eats peach fuzz, DDT and all.

And he thinks armadillos are slow.

I don't have the heart to take him on a snipe hunt.

Or give him a pet 'coon.

Maybe a baby javelina.

But he has made a common non-indigenous error:

Armadillos are not slow.

They just aren't in any particular hurry.

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



But they can jump about head high and beat a Corvette off the line if you try to catch them.

They usually move slowly because they're about as blind as a Republican in a hurricane.

But unlike Republicans, Armadillos do consider hurricanes and efforts to catch and put them behind bars as emergencies.

And they run like hell.

That's because armadillos are incapable of lying.

Or calling press conferences.

You rarely see armadillos on TV because they have a certain credibility.

If an armadillo tells you the enemy possesses weapons of mass destruction, believe it.

Just remember that, to an armadillo, a 14-year-old Texas farm boy with fox terrier and a single-shot .22 is a weapon of mass destruction.

And a coyote is a terrorist.

Which it is.

If it thinks you're trying to steal from it.

Coyotes, however, have an over-developed sense of territoriality.

And if I keep using words like "territoriality," I could become as obsequious as one of them pseudo-scholastic conservative columnists.

And I don't even own a bowtie.

But this is not a column about coyotes.

It's about armadillos.

Good ol' slow-moving, half-blind, fast-acting armadillos.

Sounds like a pharmaceutical ad, doesn't it?

Symptoms may include drowsiness, uncontrollable burrowing, motor vehicle accidents, leprosy and death.

(Editor's note: An integral part of the preceding joke involves the somewhat arcane knowledge that armadillos are among the few mammals that contract leprosy. Funny, hunh?)

I was reminded of Friend Jim's misapprehension when I read a *Dallas Morning News* story last week about suburbanite parents who were surprised to learn that Carpetbagging Neighbor Bush's No Child Left Unscathed program includes giving graduates' names and addresses to military recruiters, who then promise that if they enlist, they get a trip to the moon, their own private jet and unlimited sexual encounters with 72 busty virgins each year until they retire as major generals.

Or general majors, whichever comes first.

Welcome to fascism, folks, complete with prayer in schools, hidden homosexuals in attics, public officials in grand jury sessions, tax vouchers in private schools and your kids in a box.

Who did you people think you were voting for?

I'll give you a hint.

It wasn't another armadillo.

Time to jump head high and run like hell.

Editorial

Opinion - Columns - Letters

OP/ED

— Editorial —

Mr. Vice President, This Is A Democracy

One mind. One religion. One party. One platform. One voice.

No accountability.

This is not America.

This is Dystopia — a place where Vice President Dick Cheney wants to take us, where torture is a norm and lying is to be applauded. He wants us to embrace these ideals, or else.

The VP recently had the gall to tell the world that if anyone disagrees with him, they are, for instance, hurting the war effort, enabling terrorists, destroying democracy.

Who made Cheney God?

Striking down morality for an ideal of money-grubbing and forcing accountability down the chute of a false-floor are more than simply meds for his political survival, they are his only hope. The world is becoming enlightened to the truth, or lack thereof, as it relates to Bush's bruised, moldy second banana. For him, it's too late to make pudding.

One word sums it up.

Betrayal.

Not only have Americans been betrayed by an individual elected as a public servant, an individual many believed in, but the baggage accompanying this betrayal goes to the heart of America and the belief that we are the light of the world...that we are the virtuous example.

The shimmering gold has now turned to tarnish.

We all know this, deep in our hearts, but many are yet reluctant to admit it, for they had a hand in letting it happen.

The contract of freedom etched in blood by our Founding Fathers has been subjugated to a New World Order that sneers at due process, truth, and decency, and Cheney has been one of its most ardent demons. Cheney has been front-and-center with the Bush Administration's contract as a henchman for the Grim Reaper that was co-signed by America five years ago and was renewed last November thanks in part to an ignorant secretary of state in Ohio whose alter-ego was that of "election terrorist."

No matter how much executive branch aristocrats beg to differ, the notion of accountability in high office should be taken to the limit. Only if the public demands it will it happen.

In a true democracy, the people are the bosses. They elect individuals to conduct business for them, in their name.

Cheney knows a democracy when he sees it.

Unfortunately, in America he sees it as history.

— W. Leon Smith

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Veterans For Peace Roll With The Peace Train

By SUSAN VAN HAITSMAN
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Jewel Johnson, a 79 year-old U.S. Navy veteran, is happiest piloting a dry-land rig. His early fascination with trains led him to leave high school and work the railroad until he was drafted at age 18. After the war, he earned a GED and went on to study the ministry. He was ordained in the Methodist Church and served as pastor of Evangelical & Reformed and United Church of Christ congregations before his retirement. In the early 1990's, Mary Johnson was diagnosed with cancer, and Jewel Johnson cared for his wife throughout her treatment. She survived.

To ease his mind during his wife's illness, Johnson put himself to work. He took a riding mower and fashioned it into a miniature locomotive. Gradually he added cars. He painted them and called his train The Happy Day Express. He painted messages on the sides of the cars — statements such as a quotation from Pope Paul VI, made at the United Nations in 1965: "War Never Again." A carved white dove holding a wire olive branch served as the cab's hood ornament. Johnson's creation became known as the Peace Train.

This recent Veterans Day morning was not the first time that Johnson engineered his Peace Train up Congress Avenue toward the Texas State Capitol amid marching bands, vintage cars, girl and boy scout troops, Junior ROTC units and various groups of uniformed vets. And it wasn't the first time that other Veterans for Peace (VFP) members marched in the annual parade along with the Peace Train. The train was fitted with large placards that relayed to the crowd the mission of VFP, and about a dozen VFP members carried banners and distributed several hundred invitational pamphlets to on-lookers and other vets in the parade. Mary Johnson, who is an associate VFP member, rode in the caboose to oversee the brakes. All along the route, the Peace Train and its Veterans for Peace crew were greeted by steady applause.

Somehow, a crowd that applauded veterans in a truck labeled, "Tin Can Sailors — Destroyer Veterans" also cheered a Navy vet driving a train declaring, "Pre-emptive Peace On All The Earth." It's true that the Peace Train's cargo elicited as many expressions of plain surprise as outright approval, but there were few frowns. Not many could resist the wave of the smiling engineer in his dapper conductor's uniform or reject the hand-made messages: "Working to Make War Obsolete" and "Justice For Veterans And Victims Of War."

Jewel and Mary Johnson have long been active supporters of Veterans for Peace, and they also are members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the United Nations Association. They take part in local or national meetings of these organizations as well as their denominational gatherings. When he was in the Pacific just after the atomic bombing, Johnson was part of a patrol that went ashore at Hiroshima to pick up American prisoners of war. At one



I THOUGHT I COULD is written on "The Happy Day Express" operated by Jewel Johnson, a 79 year-old U.S. Navy veteran and peace activist. This miniature peace train has been driven in a number of holiday parades in small towns across Central Texas.

— Photo Courtesy of Mary and Jewel Johnson



A CHOO-CHOO FOR PEACE, owned by Jewel Johnson, a 79 year-old U.S. Navy veteran and peace activist, heads a recent march through Crawford, Texas.

— Photo By Steve Fildes

point while he was walking through what was left of the city, a Japanese citizen offered him a tangerine. It was a humane gesture in the midst of horror that he never forgot.

The Johnsons don't stop with Veterans Day; they take the Peace Train to holiday parades in small towns all around Central Texas. Children love it and instinctively climb aboard. Having served as pastor in a small Texas town, Johnson understands the population, while he firmly speaks his mind. He frequently writes letters to the editor of his newspaper, expressing frankly and respectfully his views on war from a Christian perspective. Where he and his train go, he proudly introduces himself as a Veteran for Peace. On the side of the Peace Train cab is lettered, "I Thought I Could."

Jewel and Mary Johnson are diminutive, quiet people who act boldly and creatively. They know what war does and what it looks like. The Peace

Train carries a sign reading, "Justice For All Victims Of Agent Orange And Depleted Uranium." The Johnsons know that their VFP chapter is named for a much beloved Vietnam veteran who died too young of liver cancer that was attributed to his exposure to Agent Orange. And they know that the youngest vet carrying the VFP banner ahead of the Peace Train this Veterans Day, their new chapter co-chair, risked DU exposure during his tour in Iraq.

The Happy Day Express carries these burdens and displays them for all to see. Its crew knows that peace is a train that moves forward only when it is powered by the engine of truth.

Susan Van Haitsma is active with Nonmilitary Options for Youth, Austin Conscientious Objectors to Military Taxation, and is an associate member of the Neil Bischoff Chapter 66 of Veterans for Peace.

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Radio Has Gone To The Dogs...And The Cats

As many media critics have noted over the past several years, "broadcasting" has become "narrow-casting." In the past, television and radio programs were aimed at the widest possible audience. Today they go for "niche programming." So, on the radio, there are all-sports stations, all-talk, hip-hop, country, oldies, and classical stations. TV gives us cartoon stations, all news stations, crime shows for adults, sex-oriented comedies for adults, and sex-oriented comedies for young people. Now there's a new niche in radio programming — a radio station just for the listening pleasure of pets.

DogtCatRadio.com is an Internet radio station that aims its programming at, well, dogs and cats. It's broadcast from — no surprise here — Los Angeles. Adrian Martinez started it when he noticed that his cat, Snickers, likes to listen to music — especially 80s rock. I remember when Pet Rock was a silly gag gift.

Success in the radio and television business is all about demographics. Since there are approximately 140 million pets in the United States alone, this is a listening audience that won't go untapped for long.

DogtCatRadio.com has DJs who play the music, but so far they are all human. That doesn't seem right, and I'm sure dogs and cats will soon be manning — uh, animating — the turntables. How hard can it be to teach a pet to turn on a record? The difficult part will be keeping their headphones on. But if pets can walk around in those silly sweaters that some owners make them wear, I'm sure they can be taught not to tear off their headphones.

The station takes requests, and among the most popular songs are, "Hound Dog" and that "who let the dogs out — woof, woof, woof" song. I'm not sure if these requests are made by humans who assume their pets like certain music, or if the animals themselves call the station.

One human listener complained to the station that they weren't playing anything specifically for "our equine friends." This leads me to believe that soon the niche will have other niches. HorseRadio.com, Parakeet Radio, and All - Gerbil, All the Time will not be far behind. And let's not forget, "Radio Flea Europe." Sorry about that.

Those of you who have been reading my column for the past couple of weeks should know that DogtCatRadio is bilingual. In addition to English, it broadcasts a Spanish program. It's not clear if this is for the benefit of Spanish-speaking owners or if it's for pets who might prefer Spanish, like Mexican Chihuahuas. If it's the latter, soon we'll be seeing demands for equal time from French Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers, and, of course, Alaskan Malamutes.

I have the feeling that DogtCatRadio.com is just the beginning. And with the holidays around the corner, and the knowledge that we spend \$35.9 billion a year on pets in the United States, smart businesspeople will be trying to fetch a bone or two from this latest development. Watch for i-Paws, little iPods that attach to a pet's collar. Laptops for Lapdogs will probably be on sale soon. And don't be surprised if you



Modern Times
By
Lloyd
Garver

find yourself buying a computer mouse for your cat.

Once radio cashes in, you can bet a pig's ear that TV will follow. And I don't think it will stop at pet programming.

Television is always looking for ways to air all those failed pilots and canceled shows that cost millions of dollars. I can just see some Harvard MBA/Vice President of Programming saying, "Why don't we just put those unsuccessful shows on for the cats, dogs, and fish? They won't know the difference." You know, the same attitude they have towards people.

I hope this doesn't happen. I think that attitude underestimates our pets' intelligence, and subjecting our pets to bad TV would definitely qualify as animal cruelty.

I played DogCatRadio for my dog. He just continued to sleep through the

songs and the pet-friendly chatter. Now, if they were to broadcast the sound of food hitting the inside of his bowl, he'd perk up and start wagging his tail right away. Just a suggestion. Acutally, make that a request.

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

Lee Harvey Oswald: JFK Assassin Or 'Just A Patsy?'

As police hustled Lee Harvey Oswald past the sea of microphones and cameras on Nov. 22, 1963, the accused assassin told the world, "I didn't shoot anybody. I am just a patsy."

Oswald was not a suspect for long. The very next day, Capt. Will Fritz of the Dallas homicide division, confidently declared, "We're convinced beyond any doubt that he killed the president." Forty-two years later, a whole lot of people are not so sure.

Lyndon Johnson understood it would take more than press conferences in Dallas and smug pronouncements by FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover to convince the country that his predecessor had been killed by a single sniper acting completely on his own. So seven days after the assassination, he created a "blue ribbon panel" to put Americans' minds at ease.

If it had been up to the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Warren Commission would have had another name. But LBJ would not take no for an answer, and Earl Warren gave in after a little arm-twisting.

The seven-member body convened on Feb. 3, 1964, and submitted an 888-page final report to the president 237 days later. Given the haste of the once-over-lightly examination of an incredibly complex crime, an early critique of the Warren Report was aptly titled "Rush to Judgment."

Lee Harvey Oswald's education ended where it had began — Fort Worth. He dropped out high school in 1956 and enlisted in the Marines the week he turned 17. Like two brothers before him, military service was his ticket out of an unhappy home and away from a domineering mother.

Oswald was sent to Japan right out of boot camp and assigned to Atsugi Air Force Base, home of the U-2 spy plane specializing in secret surveillance of the USSR and mainland China. That was where some believe he was recruited for intelligence work.

During the last 11 months of his two-year hitch, Oswald was stationed at El Toro Marine Base in California. Nelson Delgado, his nearest neighbor for almost the entire time, poked two important holes in the portrait of Oswald the Warren Commission painted.

Delgado swore under oath that the supposedly vocal Marxist "never said any subversive things." He also scoffed at the suggestion Oswald was a crack

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



shot. "It was a pretty big joke because he got a lot of 'Maggie's drawers,' you know, a lot of misses."

Oswald filed for a hardship discharge claiming his mother was in bad shape after dropping a box on her foot. The Marines cut him loose a month early in September 1959.

After a three-day visit with his mother at her home in Fort Worth, Oswald headed for Russia by way of New Orleans, his 1939 birthplace, France, and Finland. Arriving in Moscow in mid-October, he strolled into the U.S. Embassy two weeks later and declared his intention to "dissolve his American citizenship."

In January 1960, Soviet authorities accepted the American as a genuine defector. He was sent to Minsk and given a rent-free apartment, a job in a radio-TV factory, and various perks unavailable to the average Russian.

Oswald returned to the United States two and a half years later with his Russian wife Marina, the niece of a colonel in Soviet internal security, and their baby daughter. As far as the U.S. government was concerned, all was forgiven. No charges were ever filed, and the state department even paid Oswald's way home.

(In the 1970s, the House of Representatives decided to take a second look at the political murders of the previous decade. A former finance officer with the Central Intelligence Agency told the

Select Committee on Assassinations that while in the Marines Oswald was recruited by the CIA for "a double agent assignment in the U.S.S.R.")

The Oswalds settled in Fort Worth, and Lee went to work for a welding company. He soon quit that low-paying job, when a new and influential friend arranged for much better employment with a defense contractor. The position required a security clearance, but that proved to be no problem for the former defector.

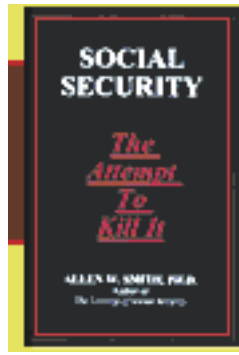
Oswald's benefactor was George DeMohrenschildt, a prominent member of the "White Russian" community in Dallas. His father, a baron and provincial governor under the czar, fled to the United States with his family after the Bolshevik Revolution.

What did a high-school dropout with presumably left-wing politics have in common with a well-educated and wealthy anti-communist rumored to have worked with the Nazis during World War II? The Warren Commission never bothered to ask. The Select Committee on Assassinations tried to talk to DeMohrenschildt in 1977, but he committed suicide the day of a scheduled interview.

At a party in February 1963, George DeMohrenschildt introduced Lee and Marina to Ruth Paine. A White Russian by choice rather than birth, she enthusiastically embraced their cause and spoke their language fluently. Paine took DeMohrenschildt's place in the Oswalds' life after he left Dallas for Haiti.

(To be continued)

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



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When It's Peachy, It'll Be Rosie

"A tyrant must put on the appearance of uncommon devotion to religion. Subjects are less apprehensive of illegal treatment from a ruler whom they consider god-fearing and pious. On the other hand, they do less easily move against him, believing that he has the gods on his side." Aristotle*

The why and wherefore have entangled me in great internal struggle regarding precisely how to broach the subject about which I've elected to write today.

There is a certain word I have previously been loath to use, lest this little composition add fuel to a notion simmering across all states, and possibly heap further injury upon our Nation.

But dammitall, I am an American, born and bred. I'm a veteran of the U.S. Army. I pay taxes, and always vote. And despite being a radical, progressive thinking Liberal, and damned proud to say so, there's an American flag hanging in the front of my house.

There's one more thing that I am.

I am, most begrudgingly, one of George W. Bush's employers.

As such, I believe it's way beyond the time we, all of us, his bosses, *fire* the incompetent blackguard.

For the first time in this column, on these pages, in a public forum, I shall invoke the word: IMPEACHMENT.

Wow! It does feel good to get it out there in the open!

Are you reading this, anyone in the Senate or House?

The time has come for you, our elected Federal officials, entrusted with the health, welfare, and goodwill of the citizenry of the United States of America, to protect us from this woodenheaded puppet of Karl Rove and the Right-wing extremists.

For nearly five years George W. Bush has made every attempt, and continues down that bike trail, to morph the U.S. into the very theocracy expressly renounced by our Forefathers in The Constitution.

At the same time, he and his evangelical Neo-con overlords jabber about following the strict letter of The Constitution, and trowel on the bullshit about how religious Jefferson, Washington, Hancock, Franklin and the others were.

In reality, all they're doing is falsifying our Nation's most sacred documents, and re-writing history as they want it to be perceived.

"Why is this man in the White House? The majority of Americans did not vote for him. Why is he there? And I tell you this morning that he's in the White House because God put him there for a time such as this." LtGen William Boykin, speaking of G.W. Bush, New York Times, 17 October 2003*

Horsefeathers!

We all know how George W. Bush got into our White House — through deception, strongarm tactics, and well-placed connections.

Remember when George couldn't recite the axiom: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me?"

He (and Rove) sure fooled a hell of a lot of American voters.

Twice.

As to voting for George the first time around, people are human and make mistakes.

But anyone who voted for George the second time, after he got us mired in Iraq and Osama bin Laden was still nowhere to be found, *shame on you*.

It most certainly was not, as LtGen Wil-



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

liam Boykin suggested, God's will.

It was George W. Bush's propaganda machinery, aimed squarely at those less sophisticated among the American people.

He and his cabal, with Herr Rove, the Dick Cheney, Donald "You go to war with the Army you have" Rumsfeld, and CondoLizza Rice calling the shots, have damn near destroyed this country.

They've done absolutely nothing to improve the infrastructure.

The economy has tanked.

In January, 2001, there was a Treasury surplus. The deficit is now so deep it will probably take our children's children's children to climb out of the abyss.

Providing, of course, there are any children left after the Personal Crusades of George W. Bush, or should I say his neverending wars, in Afghanistan, Iraq... and beyond.

To date these insanities have cost more than 2,300 brave American military personnel their lives, and brought unimaginable suffering to their families.

The tally increases daily.

They will not be home for Christmas, George, this year or ever again, thank you very much.

Muslims don't celebrate Christmas, but that's no reason an estimated 100,000 or more Iraqis, primarily "collateral damage" (non-combatant children, women, men of peace, elderly) should have died.

What about the nearly 16,000 wounded American military? How many will be incapacitated for life?

Can you count the Iraqis and Afghanis who have had their bodies ripped apart?

Dare we add to the numbers American civilians, Allied troops, and assorted other Foreign Nationals killed, wounded, maimed, and disfigured?

What will be the cost in psychological trauma for hundreds of thousands of people from all walks of life and nations, the lucky survivors who merely witnessed the horrors of George W. Bush's Crusades?

How is that to be measured?

Dare we even consider the effects on their families?

George, you heartless, spoiled brat, are you even capable of *imagining* the shrieks and screams of brave young men and women as their bodies are being mangled and disfigured by hot lead and shards of shrapnel?

What about the women, the old folks, the little children — the innocents — those who never hurt anyone and had no say in your lunatic scheme to rape their homeland?

All resulting from a neverending litany of lies emanating from this Fascist Regime that called upon Jesus and Big Business to take over the uppermost level of our Government.

For the 2004 Election, the fix was in again. This time, knowing that screwing around with the votes in Florida only would be risky, Rove added Ohio to the "sure thing" list.

Just last week the Government Accounting Office released findings of myriad inconsistencies, irregularities,

and apparent un-Constitutional misbehaviors that took place before, during and after the 2004 vote in Ohio.

Let's fast forward a bit to Bush #43's abominable behavior on Veterans' Day, Nov. 11, 2005, and the following Monday.

It's tradition that on Veteran's Day, the president acts presidential. He (or she) makes a ceremonial visit to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. There should be solemn speeches to honor our fighting forces — the dead, the wounded, the survivors.

The president, as our Nation's leader, has this one day, a single weekend, out of each year to pay tribute to those who have sacrificed a portion of their lives, part of their personal freedom, or perhaps everything, for America and its principles.

Not being personally familiar with anything even remotely close to such lofty ideals, George W. Bush sent the rarely seen, excessively secretive vice president, that Dick Cheney to do the heavy lifting.

From the enthusiasm registering in his voice as he read (his eyes almost never left the paper) a truly uninspired speech, it was unmistakable that the Dick wanted to be anywhere but in Arlington.

George W. Bush chose to hide out in Pennsylvania, at the Tobyhanna Army Depot — a facility so small its commanding officer is a colonel.

Being a supply depot, you've got your "far behind the lines" kind of personnel George could relate to and feel comfortable being among.

A typical Bush-friendly audience, no one would dare ruffle a superior's feathers by dissenting.

Well, the George W. Bush Veterans' Day 2005 speech started out by letting those present know his staff had researched Tobyhanna's background. After a couple of minutes retracing general military history, skimming lightly over what he missed out on, it was politics as usual.

Out came the terrorist message. I thought this was a campaign speech from last October, because most of it was the same lame claptrap.

This went on... and on... and on... ad nauseum...

Because, as we all know, Veterans' Day isn't about those who sacrificed for our Nation.

No.

It's about George W. Bush who, during the VietNam War, hid out in Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Connecticut — hell, *anywhere* but 'Nam, or even a real military post!

Then, his hubris came bursting through for the entire world to see.

At a United States Army Depot, on Veterans' Day, filled with GI's and their families, the fictitious president attacked the duly-elected Legislative Democrats for doing their jobs!

How dare these officials stand up for the people they represent, by George?

How could they ever have the nerve to call you out on your lies?

How could they question this schmuck who dares to unrightfully occupy the Oval Office?

As usual, George spoke that one line too many. In his speech, he let slip, "When I made the decision to remove Saddam Hussein from power, Congress approved it with strong bipartisan support."

What he presented Congress with was a threat from WMDs.

Now we all know George's real purpose in going to war with Iraq was in fact regime change, something he's been deny-

ing all along.

And against the law.

This schlemiel exposed the very lie he accused the Democrats of using to lie against him!

The question is: How dare *you* continue to lie, George?

How dare *you* refuse to admit the problems come from within you, your staff, your cronies?

In whose America is it not allowed to question the actions of the person who stole two elections and had himself crowned president?

That's right, it's only acceptable to criticize an honestly elected president.

Your actions, George, have caused disgrace to our Nation worldwide; mass destruction to other sovereign nations under false pretenses; a global escalation in terrorist activity the likes of which has never been seen before; indiscriminate death and destruction.

There's no end in sight, and George refuses to do a damned thing to plan on one.

There are Democrats and Republicans alike on the Hill, even former Presidents, who are calling out for this regime to show some responsibility for its actions.

William Jefferson Clinton has come to the forefront, stating his opinion that the war in Iraq was ill-conceived; it's time to make a withdrawal plan and save American lives.

Jimmy Carter has released a new book, published articles, and is touring to get out the word that America is going off into too many wrong directions.

Yet, Bush, Cheney and the rest continue to be defiant. Not a one will take accountability for any of his or her actions.

Since 2001 they have shoved all blame off onto Bill Clinton (who chose not to invade Iraq because the were no WMDs); the "weak" Democrats; the media; anyone who does his job properly.

Next they'll be accusing Special Counsel Patrick Fitzgerald of making up lies about Scooter.

They continue to be the most secretive White House in history.

Meanwhile, Bush, Cheney and their serpentine support web of apologists continue to accuse Democratic Senators, other officials, the mainstream media, and anyone who shows true Patriotism of being liars, re-writers of history, and lacking support for our troops.

I can't remember the last time there was an ounce of truth from Scott McClellan in what passes these days for a White House Press Briefing. All the Press Secretary does anymore is deny George's lies, and blame Democrats for the Regime's inadequacies.

They, we, are not the ones using rhetoric like "stay the course," "keep the war going indefinitely" and "it's okay to torture."

Bush and Cheney are the *chickenshit* warmongers bent on getting as many brave young Americans killed and maimed as possible.

Now Bush is in Asia. Instead of taking care of business with Japan, the Koreans, and other nations, he's attacking Democrats and pissing off the Chinese!

What kind of leadership is that?

What does this say to these Allies on the other side of the world, classless George with his backbiting and sniveling encroaching upon their hospitality.

No Asian leader would even think to do that under any circumstances.

"God gave the savior to the German people. We have faith, deep and unshakeable faith, that he was sent to us

Continued On Next Page

• **WHEN IT'S PEACY, IT'LL BE ROSY — TENUTO ... Continued From Previous Page**

by God to save Germany.”

Hermann Goering, speaking of Hitler*
Here's a list, to the best of my recollection, in no particular order of reasons why this incompetent dry drunk, frat house layabout should be impeached:

Balderdash on virtually every issue since January 20, 2001

Disinclination to be concerned about the welfare of the people

Fairytales WMDs

Refusal to accept accountability and admit errors

Restriction of 1st Amendment rights

Torture

Department of Homeland Security

Intolerant of disagreement with Regime policy

Thousands upon thousands dead

Countless more thousands wounded and maimed

Psychological problems for decades, and the fallout yet to come

Illegal wars

Wars with no end

More wars on the horizon

Hurricane Katrina

Most children left behind

Tax Cuts for the Rich

America the Hated

Prisoners held incognito without charges, denied right to counsel

Saddam Hussein in Cahoots with

Osama bin Laden

9/11/2001 and the Tale of the Iraq Connection

Hurricane Rita

FEMA

John Ashcroft

Complete waste of taxpayers' money

Reluctance to work positively with

Democrats or anyone else who has a viable, reasonable idea

Secret meetings with big business to decide who gets which slice of our pie

Complete lack of moral fiber and ethical standards

More vacation time than raindrops in Seattle

Department heads who are wholly unfit for the jobs

Karl Rove

Dick Cheney

That smirk and snotty “wanna fight?” attitude about everything

Greed

Untrustworthiness

Stubbornness

Conversations with God

Unwillingness to do anything the American people want

Total inability to govern effectively

Attempt to take over the CPB and make it Neo-con media

Ken Lay and Enron

Oil Companies

Ecological disasters
Economic breakdowns
Jobs vanishing from the Homeland
More Tax Cuts for the Rich
Outsourcing
Wolfowitz
Bolton
Condoleezza Rice
Rumsfeld
The busted Treasury and our National Debt
Diebold, Inc.
Walden W. O'Dell
Scooter Libby
America as the Laughing Stock of the Planet

The Bible superceding Scientific Advancement

Intelligent Design

Stem Cell Research

More lies

I know a plethora of reasons to throw the bum out of Washington, D.C. that are not listed here. If you can think of any others, please feel free to send them to me right here at THE ICONOCLAST.

Once George is impeached, we can start in on Cheney and the rest of those fascists.

* Found in
<www.informationclearinghouse.info>, operated by Tom Feeley.

Let's Keep American Literature Out Of Cage Fighting

Like a lot of syndicated columnists, I get hundreds of e-mails every week. And just because, unlike other columnists, most of mine involve some type of male enhancement product, it doesn't mean I'm not occasionally inspired to do more than press the “delete” button so many times I develop a blister.

Such is the case with David Harris-Gershon.

David, who lives in Washington, DC., recently contacted me about a unique item he is auctioning off at <www.mywritingfund.com>.

BUT WAIT!

Before everyone jumps online, creating a massive Internet shutdown inadvertently raising the terrorist threat level to “Sea Foam,” I'll save many of you valuable time by clarifying what David is not auctioning off:

1) An opportunity to purchase advertising space across his forehead, back, recently-shaved head, or buttocks.

2) Tupperware containing a hermetically preserved slice of raisin toast baring the likeness of an individual known for brief, mysterious public sightings, such as Jesus, Elvis or Dick Cheney.

3) Anything related to Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie.

For those still interested, the two of you should know that David's auction item is more valuable than any of those things. That's because he is offering something no one else (without unfettered access to free pharmaceutical samples) can offer you: *Total, unsubstantiated optimism.*

...That your \$100,000 investment toward his Masters degree in creative writing will usher in the next great literary voice;

...That your philanthropic ges-

ture will make a difference in the life of a struggling writer;

And perhaps most importantly, ...That your 20 percent share in David's future earnings as a writer will make you — his sole shareholder — filthy, stinking rich.

Before we continue, there are a couple of things you should know about David:

1) He is an excellent writer. Therefore,
2) He earns his living as a cage fighter.

OK, not really. He's actually a schoolteacher. But I think we can all agree the line between these two occupations is very thin. The difference, of course, is that he would make a lot more money as a cage fighter, even one with a name like “Language Hammer,” whose unique fighting style included shaking hands, then immediately curling into a fetal position around his Thesaurus while shouting descriptive, one-word insults from between his tightly-clenched thighs. I can tell you after exchanging e-mails with him and visiting his website, David would never be a cage fighter. That's because, in addition to being a man of principle who loves his family too much to sacrifice his integrity, he doesn't really have the thighs to withstand that kind of punishment.

What he does have is a natural gift for writing about life in a way

that is simultaneously personal and universal. His story Sense of Direction, which was published in the Colorado Review, is a touching and witty journey through his family's past, set in the context of getting lost with his wife while re-visiting his home town of Marietta, GA. It's a wonderfully told and insightful piece that had particular relevance for me since, as many of you know, I get lost on a regular basis.

As a University of Georgia graduate with an English degree, David has supported his family for the last seven years by doing the unthinkable: Attempting to educate teenagers. He would now like to pursue his Masters degree in creative writing full time and become a unique voice in American literature. And by that I don't mean the voice that has to keep telling students to stop drawing body parts on their textbooks.

Being a family man with a second child on the way, David came up with the idea of holding an auction as a way to avoid strapping his family with a large debt. The minimum bid amount of \$100,000 covers his tuition — with the winner receiving 20 percent of his future earnings as a writer.

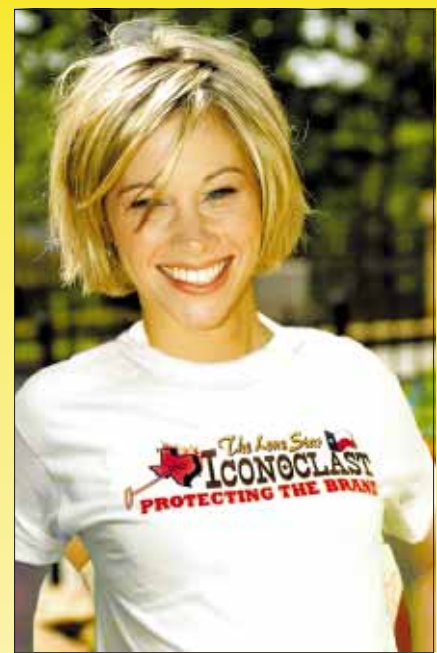
Even if you don't have enough to cover the minimum bid amount, visit his website and cheer him on. If you DO have \$100,000 to help cultivate a great literary voice, enter a bid.

If nothing else, it'll be worth it just to keep “Language Hammer” out of the ring.

(David Harris-Gershon's website is located at www.mywritingfund.com. You can write to Ned Hickson at the Siuslaw News at P.O. Box 10, Florence, OR 97439, or visit his weblog at www.nedhickson.net.)



By
Ned Hickson
Siuslaw News



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Good Morning Vietnam, Goodnight Iraq

There are too many mixed messages re: the Iraq "war" and the "restoration" of that sector of the world. The game plan in Iraq is much like the hidden ball play in baseball. Everyone thinks the pitcher has the ball until the first baseman tags you out.

The U.S. is there mostly for all the wrong reasons. We had no business invading Iraq — none at all from a humanitarian perspective and also being the nation who believes in "freedom" and nations governing themselves, our invasion of that country is absurd if not illegal.

We are there for an economic reason and an imperialistic perspective. With the invasion of Kuwait, Hussein and government showed their volatility to the world's oil supply and other governments in that region, and from that perspective, it was necessary to go into Iraq and dismantle the Hussein government to ensure the safety and "stabilization" of the region — but mostly to protect the world's oil supply.

It was an imperialistic move because the Bush administration gave an economic shot in the arm of Corporate America. Still, it was a move that had any other nation done it, we'd all be at the World Court in Den Haag demanding answers and accountability for those actions.

In addition, the Bush administration tried to justify its actions against Iraq by focusing the American public on false pretenses and "intelligence" because otherwise it knew Congress and the American People would NOT permit the transgression against Iraq.

By the way, why has the administration pretended that the "Downing Street Memo" doesn't exist? Why hasn't the Bush administration answered the questions regarding the points and issues of that document?

Regarding world terrorism and 9/11 — Saudi Arabia should have been and still should be the target of our search for terrorists because most of the 9/11 terrorists were citizens of or had ties with that government. But since the Bush family dynasty has long-time relations with the Saudis, that government was NOT and still is NOT being pursued.

Lastly, our Fascist pseudo-democratic government should NOT be pushing its "ways and means" in Iraq. We have lost way too many of our children soldiers so that Halliburton's elite and other special interests continue to cushion their bank



Commentary

By
Peter
Stern

accounts.

In addition, as the population of dead and disabled veterans grows, the Bush administration is cutting the funding of VA Hospital Services and other GI benefits. Why? There will be a whole new generation of Post Traumatic Stress phantoms roaming on the streets of our nations, needing medical and financial help but no where to go — much as the Vietnam-era disabled veteran population. By the way, soldiers in Nam were NOT provided the same government and public "pat on the back" as the soldiers in Iraq have. Yet, those returning will find that there is no REAL support in America, only verbal support. The cutbacks continue.

We need to get out of Iraq and Afghanistan. If we need to protect the oil fields, fine, guard them — but stop the nonsense in Iraq. We need to stop killing off more human beings on both sides in the name of Democracy.

Anyone who has traveled extensively throughout the Mid-East knows that you will NEVER get the "ancient" nations to accept Democracy any more than you would get most Americans to accept Islamic ways. Why can't anyone see that?

The whole Iraq fiasco is just another special interest scam perpetrated and supported by the current administration along with the majority of uninformed Americans.

Peter Stern is a political writer well-known and published frequently throughout the Texas community and nationwide. He holds three post-graduate degrees. During the past seven years Mr. Stern has studied and followed legislative politics in Texas and writes prolifically about various urgent issues and proposed legislation to inform the community without political bias or affiliation. He is a life-time member of the Republican Party but does NOT support the party's current platforms, philosophies and actions. He maintains he is an "intelligent" Republican with a conscience — a minority branch of the ruling party.

Rumble On The Prairie 2

"Thanksgiving is a time for families to gather to give thanks and celebrate the year's achievements."

This is how a press release begins promoting Cindy Sheehan's return to Crawford this Thanksgiving holiday.

But, really, who are they fooling?

I mean, even the most healthy of families try to begin a Thanksgiving meal with the best of intentions, but when it comes time to carve the turkey, we're all trying to grab as many of grandma's yummy yeast rolls as possible.

Screw Uncle Johnny! Ha-Ha!

The organizers of what I'd like to call "Rumble On The Prairie 2" would like to paint Norman Rockwell strokes over this Thanksgiving feast in Crawford, though in reality it's going to be your typical American family get-together filled with anger, conflict, police, an arrest or two and mainstream media reports.

It's so bad that as I write this — the Friday before Turkey Day — already one member of our American household is taking shots at another and her kid.

"On April 4, 2004, your oldest child killed my oldest child, Casey Austin Sheehan," wrote Cindy Sheehan in an open letter to President George W. Bush's momma, Barbara, dated Thursday, Nov. 17.

Whoo-wee! Praise the Lord and pass the ammunition!

Ur, I mean, pass the *gravy*. I want some for my yeast rolls before they go cold.

Sheehan, the mother of a U.S. soldier slain in Iraq, goes on to rip Barbara Bush for instilling "bad manners" in her oldest son not only because George W. "lied" about the reasons for going to war in Iraq but also because he didn't want to meet with her in a fire-ant infested ditch under the blazing Texas sun last August. Instead, the war president sent two White House aids in his place.

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



To Sheehan, this behavior looks an awful lot like Bush when he went AWOL from Alabama Air National Guard.

Sheehan continues in her letter to burn Barbara Bush personally for not caring about the other fallen servicemen and servicewomen. "Why should we hear about body bags and deaths? Oh, I mean, it's not relevant. So why should I waste my beautiful mind on something like that?" asked Barbara Bush on *Good Morning America*, March 18, 2003.

Sheehan wants Barbara Bush to get her son to apologize to every Gold Star parent for that "cruel and careless" comment, but then, the founder and president of Gold Star Families for Peace quips, "Your son's amazingly ignorant, arrogant, and reckless policies in Iraq are responsible for so much sorrow and trouble in this world."

Wow! That's one way to get into the will, although who really wants blood money on their hands anyway?

What's so great about Cindy Sheehan is that she won't stop. She keeps going and going and going like the Energizer Bunny, only less a product whore.

Come to think of it, how has EB lasted this long on TV? Rabbits don't have *that* long of a shelf life. Plus, when they get sick, don't they eat each other? I don't know — could it be that the Energizer Bunny is using performance enhancing drugs?

Congress should look into this. Think of all the baby bunnies!

Ah, screw it! Pass the ammunition!

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

Thanks for your editorial and endorsement of John Kerry. In your situation, you constitute a great example of old-fashioned, "call-it-as-it-is" journalism.

Your editorial analysis for your endorsement was clear and well-thought out!

I hope you can weather the storm of financial slaps. I loved the argument, "Bush is our neighbor."

Now that's a great reason to vote someone into the most powerful position in the world, one that ought to be exercised with a humble sense of the awesome responsibility that goes with every decision, indeed with every off-hand remark. I like my neighbors but, if any one of them throws his/her hat into the ring, I'll probably still vote for one of the major candidates.

You have restored my pride in being a Texan — now, if we can just get the "Chicks" back on the radio. . .

Orville Blum

To The Editor:

What happens to a president whose hubris and self-absorption govern him and who lacks the benevolence, concern and commitment to truly govern; who was created and molded by self-aggrandizing men as the vehicle for an ambitious ideology designed solely for power and profit rather than for the good of their compatriots?

Although he prefers to be only partially informed by his aides, George Bush, Jr. must be held fully responsible as president, for the nefarious policies implemented by his administration. He is a president who was never intended as more than a front for greater minds and is, in short, a pawn and a patsy, exploited by his party and now becoming a liability, yet bound to continue satisfying his big business backers whom he owes big time. Through the brazen and arrogant bumbling of all concerned, including himself and his own willful, wanton and perverse actions and self-indulgent inattention, his government is crumbling, his creators feverishly rethinking their choice, the Republican Congress scattering and so, in desperation, he will seek some outrageous means of salvaging his popularity and support and deflecting attention from the various scandals besetting his presidency, possibly another war, although his boastful phrase, "war president," has lost its luster and such a war would have a reverse effect.

In time, this hollow president will be depised by his own, as well as by his adversaries.

Elizabeth Gerteiny, Westport CT
To The Editor:

All the buzz about Judith Miller makes me wonder. The US Senate's Church Committee revealed in 1976 that the CIA was actively influencing all media in this country and abroad (google: Operation Mockingbird), and the Church Committee at that time secured a sort of "gentleman's agreement" with then CIA Director G. H. W. Bush:

"February 11, 1976, CIA Director George [H. W.] Bush announced new guidelines governing the Agency's relationship with United States media organizations: "Effective immediately, CIA will not enter into any paid or contractual relationship with any full-time or part-time news correspondent accredited by any U.S. news service, newspaper, periodical, radio or television network or station." [Final Report of the Select Com-

mittee to Study Government Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities (April, 1976)].

Of course it's easy to think of 1,000 ways to seduce journalists without a formal contract, signed and notarized. There is the romance of considering your journalistic self as a sort of 'James Bond' (cf. Christopher Hitchens), there is the access to contacts in high government places as sources for your articles (the ultimate job security for a journalist), there is the confidence of knowing you'll always have some kind of highly paid job through the CIA's network of large international corporations who are too happy to repay favors, and there is the warm and fuzzy thought that, if something goes wrong and you are put in jail, John Bolton will bring you a teddy bear. It had probably been difficult to enforce those signed CIA contracts, anyway.

Therefore it is difficult to believe that this kind of thing is not still going on, even when we are not showered with stories of Judith Miller et al. at the New York Times, and others at Fox, CBS, Reader's Digest, etc. The Church Committee report describes the dangers:

"Domestic "Fallout": The Committee finds that covert media operations can result in manipulating or incidentally misleading the American public. Despite efforts to minimize it, CIA employees, past and present, have conceded that there is no way to shield the American public completely from "fallout" in the United States from Agency propaganda or placements overseas. Indeed, following the Katzenbach inquiry, the Deputy Director for Operations issued a directive stating: "Fallout in the United States from a foreign publication which we support is inevitable and consequently permissible." . . . "The domestic fallout of covert propaganda comes from many sources: books intended primarily for an English-speaking foreign audience; CIA press placements that are picked up by an international wire service; and publications resulting from direct CIA funding of foreign institutes. For example, a book written for an English-speaking foreign audience by one CIA operative was reviewed favorably by another CIA agent in the New York Times. The Committee also found that the CIA helped create and support various Vietnamese periodicals and publications. In at least one instance, a CIA supported Vietnamese publication was used to propagandize the American public and the members and staff of both houses of Congress. So effective was this propaganda that some members quoted from the publication in debating the controversial question of United States involvement in Vietnam." [Final Report of the Select Committee to Study Government Operations With Respect to Intelligence Activities (April, 1976)].

Many people are still mystified at this point about the source of the "yellowcake document," which has so far been traced to the Italian counterpart (and cohorts) to the CIA.

Duh. The "yellowcake document" obviously fits under the category in the Church Committee report called, "domestic fallout of covert propaganda." However this is a new development in the sense that it was covert propaganda intentionally produced to provide specific fallout here in our country: WAR. A line has been crossed.

The Church Committee determined the

danger to our democracy of "contractual obligations" by media figures with the CIA. Someone needs to point out the dangers of our current system of journalists' 'gentlemen's agreements' with the CIA, which in this case has cost us the lives of thousands of Americans and tens of thousands of Iraqis, and more to come: Syria, Iran. . .

T.R. Phillips

To The Editor:

I'm a veteran on Veterans Day.

The McCain Anti Torture Bill. The straight truth is this; if America allows the defeat of the McCain Anti Torture Bill we will at that point in history have become allegorically an avatar of the 'Dark Side' of George Lucas's 'Star Wars' series. And Chancellor Bush will at that moment be revealed as Darth Sithius, Lord of Skull & Bones. And also of course, Dick Cheney is Darth Vader and the rest are like unto being the sundry and various sychophantic cadre of der fuhrer. The supreme irony is that Condi Rice is the Bushian Leni Ravenschtall who is Mistress of Reich's Propaganda PR. But in fact Rice is only the puppet of Karen Hughs. Karen might also be puppet master of Dick Cheney as might even George himself also be. The laugh's on the nation who thought that they had actually elected a real President. And Karen Hughs is the Texas Fried Wizard of Oz. That's rich.

How weird that would be that such a dark neocon agenda would be the fruit of our first defacto woman Commander and Chief?

While we're on George Lucas's apt political commentary from 'Revenge of the Sith': How noble will history truly judge our military when it can so easily be turned to any unethical puse by a corrupt administration. Congress should have been a guard against this but they failed miserably. It could be said that much of the German Wermacht of WW-II were also merely pawns of the corrupt Nazi regime in much the same fashion. This is tragically sad for our troops. And as a veteran I am deeply troubled by this scenario unfolding before America's eyes in Iraq. And now we actively support torture when we are supposed to be the architects of the Geneva Conventions. And it must be mentioned that we managed to vanquish the 3rd Reich without resorted to such despicable and cowardly Bushian means. This is irony at its ugliest.

How did it get this far? We had two Presidential candidates who both still bleat out inane slogans to justify a fool hardy war in Iraq. And both men were Skull & Bones; two sides of the same coin. So much for the concept of an opposition party. Curiously convenient: Bush's Rovian attack dog strategies returned on the Veteran's day of which gold-brick George is such a sorry example. And they counteronce again off of Kerry's lame stance on Iraq. Isn't that handy? Kerry's tailor made two faced stances are free gifts to the neocons. Is this an accident? Again: Two sides of the same Skull & Bones coin. Howard Dean needs to quit quoting Kerry for sure.

Is the concept of a black shadow government pulling the strings from off stage merely silly and paranoid conspiracy delusions? And how morbid to think that some shadow fuhrer controls all as the Master Panderer to the various special interests. Odd to think that disparate extremist factions are unified to agree to once unthinkable agendas using unthinkable means to derive their idealized ends.

When the flames of chaos, and decension, and division are fanned much mischief thrives behind the smoke and confusion. That is exactly why Adolph & Co. fired the Reich's Chancelory back in the day. And suspiciously this is also a pet tactic of the neocons of today's America. When they get overly offended and outraged at the comparisons of nazi-ism to

neocons I can only think; "Thou protests too much, my dear!"

America, You've been had.

They are not even ashamed, on Veteran's Day, to have the arch liar & murderer Chalabi walk again their halls of power with impunity; grinning sweetly. What mealy and spineless creatures have our government representatives become? Chalabi deserves the firing squad and not one of our congressmen stands up to render that lying whore the denouncement that he so sorely deserves.

Is all Lost? Is our system so rotten and neutered with narrow minded greed and insular partisanship?

Are the Skull & Bones Neocons America's Sith Lords? And will Karl rove mock America from his cat bird seat next to Darth Bushius in the coming years with arrogant impunity?

Is the Rubicon crossed; and is Congress merely a null conclave of impotently acquiescent puppets?

What dark lord do they really obey while Pat Roberts & Dr. Dobson & Jerry Falwell issues neocon fatwabs of war and murder against their own citizens and other nations in the name of their 'god' as well? Did the world seem to go insane like this just before WW-II as well?

Who and what really is George W. Bush and the neocons?

Who and what really are Karl Rove and Lewis Libby?

Who and what really is Richard Cheney?

They consort with liars to promote paranoia, blood shed, and pandemonium.

Paranoids are liars; and liars are paranoid. One and the same. Their pet delusion is that the whole world conspires against them and that all others are lying behind their backs. Thusly living within their own web of lies is justified to their own eyes as a form of enobled self defense. And torture is easy as pie after that.

Thus was Nixon and thus is Cheney. George W. Bush is merely a willing egoistic pawn. And who and what truly hide behind the front of the Cheney-Rumsfeld-Wolfowitz-American Enterprise Institute Cabal?

Colin Powell knows the inside truth, but it could be hazardous to his health to publicly divulge it. It maybe more hazardous for him not to though.

Things are only just now beginning to get interesting.

P.S. If you have to debate on what types of torture are acceptable or not; forgetaboutit! You are already morally bankrupt and a traitor to all that America stands for. You are indeed quite lost.

John Sorensen, Las Vegas, Nevada
To The Editor:

Today I'm very seriously concerned about: The Torture Trio; Chalabi, Bush, & Cheney.

The open door: The Bush Cheney pro torture policies have forever opened pandora's box for the ugly downward spiral of Abu Ghraibs and CIA torture gulags across eastern Europe. And as follows now the Chalabi Administration's hideous torture system in Iraq has initiated the new Iraqi holocaust.

The Bush Administration has replaced one monster in Sadam with another in Chalabi using the ruse of democracy as cover. And like it or not this appears glaringly obvious to the entire world.

And also transparently this is under the directive of Prince Bandar 'Bush' Bin Sultan of the Saudi Wahabi leadership in Wahabist Saudi Arabia. The obvious reason is to use American blood and dollars to destabilize Iraq which raised Saudi oil revenues immeasurably and further secures the Saudi Wahabi Lords of Mecca in their strangle hold over world Islam. They are the sole and central originating

Continued On Next Page



Continued From Previous Page

source of Islamist world terror. And as Tom Friedman of the New York Times says thusly, "The Bush Administration is financing and enabling both sides of the war on terror."

Clearly the current American administration and its ugly aggressor policies in Iraq along with their sponsorship of a world wide network of torture identifies them squarely as the most deadly clear and present danger to American National Security.

And as clearly onerous as it is to characterize our efforts in Iraq as the above; we have blindly fallen into that trap because of the headlong charge into a dubious war of choice. This type of policy is clearly anathema to everything that America has always stood for. Thusly our National Honor is impugned and we have all but lost our moral authority on the world stage.

The Bush-Cheney chief architect of American world torture policies, Donald Rumsfeld, as the U.S. Secretary of Defense, is fast entering the world historic arena as a rival to the nasty record of the 3rd Reich's Eichmann and Dr. Mengele.

Yet Vice President Cheney continues to staunchly support and promote, and is even the expansively making declaration of America's so-called 'right' to torture whoever and whenever at their dubious discretionary pleasure. Is this arrogance, or insanity, or both?

Tom Friedman's expose' of the Bush-Cheney two faced kow-towing to the Saudi Wahabists highlights the magnum insult that one of Bush's Wahabi supporting friends, the Saudi Prince, perpetrated when he tried to 'tip' Rudy Giuliani a few million bucks hush money immediately post 9-11 NYC. Thank God that Rudy had the guts to tell that jerk to go take a hike.

All the rest of the world sees the situation crystal clear while once hopeful Americans are just beginning to get the real picture. And that is to their huge disappointment by the current low character of the Bush-Cheney administration. America's pro torture policies are beginning to build to critical mass in a world upheaval of censure and wrath from an international collective which will even include many of our traditional allies. Bush has not only managed to squander his own political capital, but has also managed to squander America's precious post World War II diplomatic and international political capital around the globe. This will in fact be the sum sorry total of the historic Bush legacy. And the future America will pay the debilitating price.

How long are we going to let the current administration's quizzing blunders drag us down into the mire? Will we have to live to see our current leadership and military and CIA torture enablers stand before a Neurenburg style world court?

Even if only symbolic; if American leaders are convicted in absentia, America's days as the only world economic and moral leadership super power will be functionally over. The world will see us as only possibly one of the most militarily deadly atomic rogue states of the 21st century.

Will a future more benignly positioned Chinese &/or Russian super power refer to the U.S. as one of an 'axis of evil.' That bad joke would be on us thanks to the

Bush-Cheney torture regime. Only I'm quite sure that not many of us will be laughing much.

America needs to wake up to the fact that although we cannot be seriously militarily threatened; we can indeed be economically isolated. In this new world of Chinese and Russian rising affluence as well as many others; simply put, the world can deal us out of the economic poker game. And then we can be left to 'eat' our weapons arsenals like unto the ridiculous state of the isolated North Korean dictator now is while his people go without.

America rest assured, we will in very short order be taking the earned anti capital of the Bush-Cheney torture regime to the international bank, empty handed.

And Osama's Saudi Wahabists will have won!

Thank you.

Jack Scott, Phoenix, Arizona.

To The Editor:

We have to watch our blood pressure on Prop 2, my friend, but you have done an outstanding job of summing up this disgusting episode in Texas history. I, too, have lots of gay friends — in Texas and New Jersey.

None of them ever did anything to hurt my marriage. They were just that — friends. They had a LOT to offer — humor, art, poetry, buildings, delicious dishes, and plumbing work. I watched a friend of mine die from AIDS. It was horrible.

And the worse thing was he was abandoned by his family. He was a wonderful artist. My only regret was that I never bought one of his paintings while he was alive — I could not afford them, but all those people who could, all the ones that elbowed up next to him at the art gallery wine parties, were no where to be found when he needed a bit of comfort and friendship.

The nuns use to tell us about the eleventh commandment, Don Fisher calls it the "Unwritten Commandment." Maybe it should be written, maybe we need a constitutional amendment guaranteeing a right to privacy. That would be the Christian thing to do!

Jim McKeown

To The Editor:

I'm a veteran and a bullish GOP guy as I've been my whole life long. And I've had just about enough of yer'all's shenanigans playin fast n' loose with the truth. Without the truth we're just a herd of 'yea I did not have sex with that chippy' kinds've guys. And that ain't cuttin it. Savvy?

I've heard way too much of yer crap lately Dick. Head up a task force on that one like yer Iraqi group. If yer not liars, then you're morons. Or one of you is the Champ Liar and the other is the Howdy Doody with yer arm up his butt.

I didn't know that my vote fer you two clowns was a vote for the scumbag Chalabi too. Hells Bells: It'd been better to write in Hillary on the ballot than have this stinkin mess that you bozos have made of things.

Damn you on Veteran's Day Fat Dickie. I see yer still up to yer old attack dog tricks. You related to Nixon any? Dickie you look like the nasty little White House Gollum with thyroid problems these days. I'll just bet you'd like to get waterboarding demonstated on yer fat butt and then tell us all, 'Na, this ain't torture.' Pat Fitz is

yer waterboard Dickie. Let us all know how ya like it.

Heck yea, everybody knows yer the master of the Rat Out the CIA Agent Conspiracy. And now yer legacy is that you were just the nasty little white fatso up in the slimey White House up on the Hill. And yer DNA and yer boy george's DNA are all over this one budd.

When it comes to Pat Fitz's justice just think Judge Roy Bean & White Phosphorus. To think that you and yer boy will likely spend yer dyin days as soap jockies in old clubfed is now amusing to think on. And yer conviction will stretch on out to the next administration which yer fat butt has handed to the democrats likely porky. Oops no pardon there. Serves ya right fer selling the farm sly Dickie. But not quite sly enough I think. Georgie is a legend in his own mind and Dickie the Trick went and out smarted his own self. Now that's a legacy!

You likely won't keep suckin air long enough to get yer promised Halliburton kick backs from the 'You'll be greeted with roses' crappy scheme over in that dry-hole in Iraq. Yea Dickie I'm from the Patch and yer just one more greedy scumbag with American Soldier Blood all over yer hands.

Yer gettin the spotlight all over yer liar B.S. which is not and never will be an attack on our soldiers and veterans you fat little draft dodging creep. You wouldn't make a zit on a buck private's butt scumbag. Yer not fit to be seen in public on Veteran's Day.

I figure that you likely won't keep suckin air long enough fer Halliburton to sneak yer kick backs into your heir's bank accounts. That's only if they honor your sleazy inside deal with'em. But never forget that there's really no honor amongst thieves my old buddy. That goes double for old bear porn Libby, obviously another future clubfed soap jockie.

But do you think that yer daughter will give all that Halliburton blood money to yer buddies Jerry Falwell, Jim Dobson, and psycho Pat Robertson to boost their fine neocon ministries? Somehow I kinda doubt it.

This is what a decorated veteran and American Businessman thinks of yer whole B.S. life slime ball. Sin Loi & Adios Pendejo!

P.S. I think we really need to apologize to the Dixie Chicks and that poor lady up in Canada's Government for calling yer boy george a moron. She should be reinstated with a raise!

Faron Van Horn, El Paso

To The Editor:

The colossal failure of Dubya's regime every facet of this presidency must be obvious even to his most fanatical devotees. This man has been a failure in every facet of his personal and professional life except the luck of his family name, which made him the perfect puppet of the Republican power brokers and Neocons who saw the opportunity to place a ventriloquist's dummy in the Presidency, whose lips would move speaking only their words. Against the will of the people, they manipulated two presidential elections with their Diebold, Sequoia, ESC electronic voting machines (still in use), thereby undermining the basic life blood of our republic, free elections, corrupting our voting forever so that no one can any longer have faith in the legitimacy of our elections.

Dubya has made The Lie administration policy and continues to bamboozle the faithful with the divisive Republican triumvirate of Gays, Guns and God, all the while killing thousands in his Oil Field Wars, sacking the U.S. Treasury and cementing the hatred of the world against all Ameri-

cans. He uses fear to keep his minions in line while sacking the United States for the aggrandizement of the wealthy few. His administration has no shame in taking from the poor to give to the rich.

American patriots have the opportunity to vote for anyone but Republicans in the 2006 Congressional Election so that Dubya, our Fascist President, can be impeached for his high crimes and misdemeanors as the prelude for his indictment by the UN War Crimes Tribunal for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Time have come for ordinary Americans to take back their government.

Jack L. Sanchez, Auburn, Calif.

To The Editor:

With each passing day the trust and credibility of our current presidential administration seems to be eroding faster than a levee wall in a hurricane. Their whole platform seems to be based on instilling fear in people with everything from terrorists to social security to bird flu epidemic. What ever happened to "the only thing we have to fear is fear itself" or a strong America? This administration is trying to make people believe that if you question any of their policies or decisions you are un-American or unpatriotic. If you dare question the motives or evidence for the invasion of Iraq, you don't support the troops. Nothing could be further from the truth! Questioning our elected leaders is patriotic. Questioning the situation in Iraq shows that people are informed, and do care deeply for the troops and want them home safe.

People need to understand that being patriotic and supportive consists of more than slapping a yellow ribbon on your S.U.V. or an American flag pin in your lapel. Now, with a cloud hanging over this administration regarding the possibility of distorted and manipulated evidence and intelligence leading to the invasion of Iraq, we are lead to believe. As I heard someone from the Bush administration say on the radio, (and I believe it was Ms. Rice) that the peace and security of America depends on a free and stable Iraq.

To the Bush administration, I would like to offer this verse from the Bible: Whenever it is they that are saying "peace and security" then sudden destruction is to be instantly upon them just as the pang of distress upon a pregnant woman and they will by no means escape. 1 Thessalonians 5:3.

Bobby Palmer, Rich Hill, MO

Dear Lone Star Iconoclast:

It is with great enthusiasm that I ask you to renew my subscription to your newspaper for another year. I would like to express my gratitude for all the money you have saved me in psychiatric care by keeping me sane. The crazier the loonies at the White House get, the more puzzled I am that more people in this country are not clamoring for their dismissal yet I always find comfort in the articles of Jerry Tenuto (you go Jerry) and the rest of your staff.

Having spent my childhood under the constant threat of a communist dictator (Castro) I recognize all too well the symptoms of a propagandist administration. It is why we must persevere in speaking out against all the wrongs perpetrated by those in power (absolute power right at about now...)

Thank you once again for doing your job and doing it well.

"The existence of newspapers is not to generate profiles, but to expose society's misbehavior so that its citizens can continue to live civilized and in freedom."

Lottie M. Garcia, Miami Fla.

TxDOT Roadside Treecutting Angers Centex Landowners

Residents Say Hazard Elimination Program Ruining Beauty Of Area

By DEBORAH MATHEWS
STAFF WRITER

CLIFTON — Contracted workers continue cutting trees along the roadways of Bosque County as part of the hazard elimination program and more than a few citizens have voiced concerns that it is not only unnecessary, but also an infringement upon the rights of ownership. Recently attempting to obtain an injunction against the cutting, local landowners Larry and Beverly Lawson were thwarted by “sovereign immunity.”

Lawson, among other local landowners, has tried to obtain any information regarding the project and has been met with a refusal. Backup information for the project is considered safety information and therefore confidential. These reports would include a safety index formula outlining the cost of accident versus the cost of repair.

The Lawsons have recently received a letter from the Texas Department of Transportation stating that the information they are trying to obtain is not for public information. The program is a 10 percent state, 90 percent federally funded program and Lawson believes that there may be some discrepancies with the funding.

“In the name of safety,” 200-year-old oak trees measuring four to five feet in diameter and standing within 30 feet of the outside of the travel lane of the roadway are being removed from the ditches of Bosque County, including those on State Highway 44, Farm Road 203, FM 708, FM 1473, FM 1637, and FM 1991.

The couple is considering class action possibilities now and say that they are determined to stop the cutting.

Saving two trees on their property so

far, Beverly said that many others have been unable to do the same as the workers sent to remove the trees are “intimidating some people.” According to Lawson, information provided by the workers to the landowners includes specification of liability of the owner in the instance of an accident.

Landowner Ken Van Tassel said, “We’ve called everyone and their brother and we still can’t get any information.”

Lawson said, “They don’t keep up with the right-of-way anyway, so we do it ourselves or hire it done.”

According to TxDOT Engineer Kurt Krause, “The TxDOT right-of-way includes 30 feet from the outside edge of the travel lane. This land is owned by Texas.”

Krause reports that he has had mixed input from the citizens. Some report approval of the cutting, while others adamantly oppose the idea. “We are trying to work with people,” he said. “We have approved a 30-day wait for the cutting of the Lawsons trees, giving them time to see if they can find any information in the land deed.”

Many of the citizens’ complaints are related to other safety hazards along the roadway. Residents feel that narrow bridges and no shoulders on the roads pose more of a problem than the trees. Krause responded by saying, “I agree that some of these issues need to be addressed. We have money for specific projects. We don’t have the money to do the other projects, yet.”

Describing a program designed to provide more “forgiving roadsides,” Krause explained that all roadways are “headed in that direction.” Signs, reflectors, guardrails, and any other state owned safety measures are being designed to be “break-away,” slowing down the vehicle and giving, rather than completely stopping the car. “This allows the driver more time to recover,” said Krause.

In response to the lack of information available to the public, Krause responded, “There was a press release sent out prior to the project’s beginning, but we have decided that we can notify people a little better next time.”

Lawson and Van Tassel have contacted Rep. Rob Orr’s office seeking help. Orr immediately began looking into the project and, as yet, has not gotten the requested information. Waiting, he said, “My staff and I have become very involved. I’ve got the calls in and I’m sure they’ll get back to me.”

Besides the two Lawson trees, work in Bosque County is nearly complete. FM 708 and 1637 are the only roads where trees are left to be cut. Orr said, “What county is next? I’ve asked the



MEASURING NEARLY FOUR FEET IN DIAMETER, this tree is one being removed by TxDOT along the roads of Bosque County. The Hazard Elimination Program is nearly complete, lacking tree removal on FM 708 and 1637.

— Photo Courtesy of Ken Van Tassel



WHAT REMAINS OF A LARGE LIVE OAK tree sits along FM 708 outside of Clifton. TxDOT removed this tree as part of its Hazard Elimination Program.

— Photo Courtesy of Ken Van Tassel



THIS TWO LANE ROAD has signs marking the bridge, but lack of sufficient lane width leave no room for error. Local say that this is a much greater concern than the trees.

— Photo Courtesy of Ken Van Tassel

head of TxDOT not to cut anymore trees until we get some answers.”

As the work in Bosque County contin-

ues, Lawson said, “They’re raping our community. We are the stewards of our land.”

WAKE UP



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