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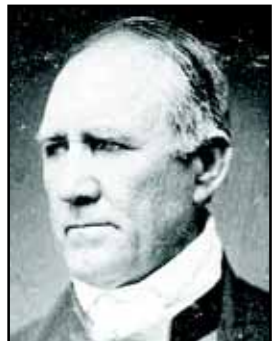
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U.S. Military Deaths

2,290

U.S. Govt. Statistics

The Lone Star 

ICONOCLAST

HAVE DU



WILL TRAVEL

Depleted Uranium Radiation From Iraq Blows Into UK

Says Dr. Chris Busby 'Contamination A Human Rights Issue'

EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEWS WITH SOME OF THE TOP SCIENTISTS IN THE WORLD

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HAVE DU WILL TRAVEL



Depleted Uranium Radiation From Iraq Blows Into UK

**SPECIAL FEATURE...
PAGES 2-16**

By **W. LEON SMITH**
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

When THE ICONOCLAST learned of a study conducted by Chris Busby and Saoirse Morgan that suggests that depleted uranium radiation had traveled from Iraq to Great Britain during “shock and awe,” we knew it was time to more fully explore the implications.

We decided to “lay it all on the table,” as best we could by interviewing noted scientists and people in the know about radiation, those who have become medical casualties, those who have gone through the military system, and those who possess an upper tier knowledge of radiation in general.

This is clear: the day that depleted uranium was introduced into the arsenal of doom was quite literally the day the earth stood still, with scientists worldwide uniting to voice concern that genocide had found a home on our planet. At the other extreme, militarists hailed the nuclear substance as their newest advantage in maximizing destruction. It became a trump card with the ability to destroy the masses, even those yet unborn.

On the battlefield, DU has been hailed as the best, and what country does not want its soldiers to be given the best of tools in a time of war? Yet the bloody afterglow of radiation and its dire consequences for civilization have caused others to describe DU as “death unlimited.”

We were told by the U.S. military in Iraq that there is no longer a need for depleted uranium munitions there and that, indeed, the current deployment is not using DU. However, this past week it was announced that the Army has placed a \$38 million order for new DU munitions, extending the original contract for fiscal year 2006 up to \$77 million.

DU is a controversial subject.

THE ICONOCLAST attempted to get some answers.

We were pleased that some individuals were forthcoming when we attempted to interview them and we were disappointed at others who broke promises to call us back after they

learned the subject matter was depleted uranium.

Although the quantity of text in this report tends to weigh heavier for individuals opposed to the use of depleted uranium, the ICONOCLAST spent considerable time attempting to obtain Q&A viewpoints that might be on the other side of the argument. It was in this venue that promised phone calls were not returned and our reporters got multiple run-arounds in reaching the “top brass.”



Smith

Nevertheless, THE ICONOCLAST has produced this special feature which provides our readers a chance to listen in on some of the conversations and draw their own conclusions.

Among those interviewed, in the order they appear in this feature, were:

- Chris Busby, author of the study: “Did the use of Uranium weapons in Gulf War 2 result in contamination of Europe?”
 - Lauren Moret, geological scientist and international radiation expert.
 - Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass, Emeritus Professor of Radiological Physics in the Department of Radiology, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine.
 - Dr. Rosalie Bertell, PhD, GNSH, President of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health (IICPH), and Editor in Chief of International Perspectives in Public Health.
 - Major Doug Rokke, Ph.D. (retired), former director of the U.S. Army Depleted Uranium Project, Vietnam and Gulf War Veteran.
 - Major Denise Nichols (retired), Gulf War Veteran and retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Major, Vice Chairman of the National Vietnam Veteran and Gulf War Veterans Coalition.
 - Ann Ham, Public Affairs, U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine.
 - Captain William Roberts, Multi-National Forces Iraq Spokesman.
 - Tim Hix, Vietnam Veteran exposed to Agent Orange, dying of cancer.
 - Karl Schwarz, presidential candidate, author, technology company founder whose son served in Iraq.
- We lead off with the news story about the study.



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DU Radiation Travels, Says UK Scientist

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

LONDON — A new study conducted by Dr. Chris Busby, Ph.D. and Saoirse Morgan has revealed that radiation detectors in Great Britain recorded spikes in radiation in the days immediately following the “shock and awe” bombing campaign in Iraq in March 2003, when in the first 24 hours more than 1,500 bombs and missiles were launched.

The “occasional paper” produced by Busby is entitled: “Did the use of Uranium weapons in Gulf War 2 result in contamination of Europe? Evidence from the measurements of the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), Aldermaston, Berkshire, UK.”

Busby, who obtained a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from the University of London, has served as the scientific secretary of the European Committee on Radiation Risk and director of the environmental consultancy Green Audit.

Busby contends that depleted uranium from munitions used in the opening days of the Iraq war was carried by wind currents to the UK, and bases his findings on figures that were obtained from the British government through freedom of information inquiries.

In his paper, Busby writes:

“The use of battlefield uranium weapons has been classed by some as weapons of indiscriminate effect; as such they would be implicitly illegal under various conventions of war.

“Those who defend or justify their use do so by arguing that the uranium is localized at the point of impact or nearby and that exposure of large populations does not occur.

“The history of disclosures of the data in this case supports the idea that AWE were aware that their filters provided evidence of the long range movement of uranium. They were first reluctant to release any data; it required a Freedom of Information Act request to force them to release the results of the monitoring. But significantly they did not send initially the block of data relating to the Gulf War period, and a second request was necessary. The long wait between this second request, and the appearance of the data, and the fact that the missing data came from a different organization, the Defence Procurement Agency in Briston, suggests that there was significant attention being paid to the interpretation of the results, and decisions had to be made about what the data would show and its political implications for the military.”

Busby continued, “Despite many pieces of evidence that the uranium aerosols are long lived in the environment and are able to travel considerable distances,

this is the first evidence as far as we know, that they are able to travel thousands of miles.

“The distance traveled from Baghdad to Reading following the wind patterns implicit in the pressure systems at the time is between 1,700 mmiles and 2,400 miles. Although this transport may be hard to believe at first, the regular desert sand events which occur in the UK should teach us that the planet is not such a large affair, and that with regard to ceretain long lived atmospheric pollutants, no man is an island.

“This was a lesson first shown graphically and alarmingly by the atmospheric nuclear tests of the 1960s and the subsequent Strontium-90 mimlk, and more recently by the Chernobyl accident. However, like the atmospheric tests, the use of battlefield uranium weapons, especially the new bunker busting bombs which are alleged to have more than one ton of uranium in the warhead, are events which are controlled by man; they are not accidents.

“The results of the AWE filters should teach us that the consequences are not restricted to the areas where they are used. Indeed, on the basis of the results reported here, there would have been a significant exposure to the public in many countries.

“Uranium is a powerful genotoxic stressor. In view of the many reports of heritable genetic effects in areas where uranium has been used, and in the Gulf veterans, time series analysis of infant mortality and congenital malformation rates assuming exposures to the fetus or the pre-conception parents in mid-march 2003 in European databases might be worth carrying out.”

According to the paper, sampling was reported at several control sites, which revealed increased radiation activity as compared to traditional baseline readings.

Busby told THE ICONOCLAST in an interview that there is “already an uprising against DU.”

“Everybody thinks that DU should be an illegal weapon,” he said. “Everybody. I don’t know anybody, except the military — who say that it’s a valuable weapon in tank warfare. I can’t think of anybody who thinks that the use of a radioactive weapon like that is justified under any circumstances,” he said.

“You might as well use nerve gas, or biological weapons. The same argument applies,” he added.

The UK Ministry of Defense, as noted in an article appearing in the Feb. 19 edition of THE LONDON TIMES, has taken exception to Busby’s theory that depleted uranium could have traveled so far, call-

ing it “unfeasible.”

Other critics have said that other environmental sources could be responsible, including the charge that the spikes could have been caused by natural uranium in the massive amounts of soil kicked up by shock and awe, according to Brian Spratt of the British Royal Society, or from emissions from a local power station, noted the TIMES article.

Busby countered, telling THE ICONOCLAST, “The point is that material from Chernobyl which is 1,800 miles to the east of Great Britain traveled to Great Britain and contaminated Wales, Scotland, and various parts of the United Kingdom.

And they might as well have said that it was equally unfeasible for it to travel that distance in the opposite direction to the general flow of the wind, but we have examined computer models of wind directions over the period of the Gulf War and it’s quite clear the material from Iraq could have come through the United Kingdom because of the particular types of depressions and anticyclone systems that were there.”

He called the Ministry of Defense’s attack a “knee-jerk” denial.

“It makes quite a big difference to the ethical basis of their use of uranium as a weapon,” he added.



Chris Busby

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HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

'To my mind, it's a human rights issue.'

Iconoclast Interview With Chris Busby

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: What impact do you think the report will have on the United States?

BUSBY: I think the most important thing is that it makes clear that the use of depleted uranium involves indiscriminate effects on civilians. And so it takes it away from being the weapon of legitimate use in a military situation and puts it in the same category as weapons like nerve gas that affect large populations. So that, to my mind, would make it illegal under the considerations of the Geneva Convention.

ICONOCLAST: THE LONDON TIMES did an article last Sunday and the Ministry of Defense said that it is unfeasible that depleted uranium could have traveled so far.

BUSBY: The point is that material from Chernobyl which is 1,800 miles to the east of Great Britain traveled to Great Britain and contaminated Wales, Scotland, and various parts of the United Kingdom. And they might well have said that it was

Dr. Chris Busby, who obtained a Ph.D. in Chemical Physics from the University of London, has served as the scientific secretary of the European Committee on Radiation Risk and director of the environmental consultancy Green Audit.



Chris Busby

equally unfeasible for it to travel that distance in the opposite direction to the general flow of the wind, but we have examined computer models of wind directions over the period of the Gulf War and it's quite clear the material from Iraq could have come through the United Kingdom because of the particular types of depressions and anticyclone systems that were there. The American NOAA

website has a computer program that enables you to model the origin of air masses that coordinate on the globe and we use the NOAA system to back track material that was in the Aldermaston field over the period and a lot of that material did come from Iraq according to the calculations of this computer program.

ICONOCLAST: Is monitoring still going on on a frequent basis and are you following the models?

BUSBY: Uranium is still being measured.

ICONOCLAST: How are the people of London taking this news?

BUSBY: There are a lot of different responses to our paper, from the Ministry of Defense and from the Royal Society and from the Environment Agency who are the people who deal with this in our country. They all seem to be different responses. None of them seem to be very sensible. The Environment Agency at one point said they thought it was somebody digging the road up. The Royal Society said that it might be from Iraq but actually it's probably natural uranium from a sandstorm. The Ministry of Defense is just saying it's unfeasible for it to come all that distance.

So really it's kind of knee-jerk denial, for, because as far as the MoD is concerned, it makes quite a big difference to the ethical basis of their use of uranium as a weapon.

ICONOCLAST: If they say it's from other local environmental sources, such as a power station, wouldn't that have alerted authorities to be on the lookout.

BUSBY: The problem with the argument about the power station is that we've looked at the data from 2000 to 2004, and there's data every two weeks. In that whole period from 2000 to 2004, there's only one enormous increase in radiation, in uranium, and that's during the time of the Iraq war. It would be quite extraordinary that the power station happened to produce these releases just at the same time as the war occurred, and, secondly, there aren't many power stations. The nearest nuclear power station is at Sellafield and the wind was blowing north at the time. It was blowing from the south so anything that would have come out of there would have gone north. It wouldn't have gone to Reading which is about 600 miles southeast of the power station.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think the result of this report will be. Do you think it will get people's attention?

BUSBY: I think it will have tremendous impact. At the moment, what happens is that they're just going to go off and think about it and try to bury it. There's a legal case in this country at the moment relating to some activists who damaged a B-52 bomber that was carrying depleted uranium to Iraq. It'll certainly be used in this court case. They'll argue that the U.S. was using weapons of indiscriminate effect. I hesitate to say mass destruction, because it's not quite in that category, but certainly it's a very toxic substance that can cause genetic damage and congenital malformations and cancer. And even if it's a very small risk of all of these things, and this is what they argue, if you are contaminating people in the United Kingdom, then you're clearly contaminating people in Turkey and Greece and Italy and France — a huge swathe of

Southern Europe, and so the population that has been contaminated is extremely large. So you are likely to have had some effect.

And in any case, it's a human rights issue. People don't actually want to inhale uranium, strange as it may seem.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think that the health of a good number of Londoners has been effected by this?

BUSBY: Not just Londoners, it would be people over the whole of Southern Europe. And the answer is that I don't know. We will certainly look, and the first place that we will be looking will be in infant mortality, congenital malformations.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think that there will be an uprising against DU?

BUSBY: There's already an uprising against DU. Everybody thinks that DU should be an illegal weapon. Everybody. I don't know anybody, except the military — who say that it's a valuable weapon in tank warfare. I can't think of anybody who thinks that the use of a radioactive weapon like that is justified under any circumstances.

I mean, after all, the military says, "Oh, we need this weapon because it enables us to win wars." Well fair enough! But you might as well use nerve gas, or biological weapons. The same argument applies.

ICONOCLAST: Here in the United States, very few people are aware of what DU is. It doesn't mean anything to them. So what do you think we need to do in the United States?

BUSBY: You people in the media need to make it more clear that the United States is the major user of this weapon and that it should be banned, because it's a very serious, and what goes around comes around. You can be sure that if it has come to the United Kingdom, it's certainly gone to America.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think your paper will open the eyes of many people in the government in Europe?

BUSBY: I think so. I think it will have a big impact. It might not have quite sunk into them yet, but over a period of time they will have to accept that this is the first clear evidence that this stuff is capable of traveling such large distances, and therefore it is capable of contaminating huge populations.

ICONOCLAST: Scientists have been saying that DU travels and that it is a global problem. Can they look at your study as being proof?

BUSBY: A lot of people have theorized that it travels long distances, because these particles are very small and they can be kept in the atmosphere, in motion and by electro-static effects and so on. There was always the fear that this was the case, and the military has argued that this was not true. I've been in Kosovo where I measured these particles, but this is the first really strong evidence that they can travel long distances, and irony is that the evidence has actually come deployed by the military themselves around the atomic weapons establishment.

To my mind, it's a human rights issue. Originally, it was an issue relating to whether or not it should be used in Iraq and if the population of Iraq is being contaminated and possible the Gulf War veterans being contaminated, but now we are seeing that everybody is being contaminated. We are all Gulf War veterans.

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'Depleted uranium is the trojan horse of nuclear war.'

Iconoclast Interview With Leuren Moret

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: What do you think of the Busby report? Do you think it's pretty accurate?

MORET: Oh, I think it's totally accurate. Those numbers are from the British government. There is absolutely no doubt at all that those numbers are completely accurate. That facility has been there for years. It was established out of concern for the public to monitor the nuclear powerplant emissions and the nuclear weapons facility emissions in Britain. They have the best equipment. They have the best technicians. They have the best scientists doing all of that monitoring, whose numbers have to be completely correct. If anything, they would be lower than the actual amounts that they were measuring. They would never make them higher.

ICONOCLAST: How would you describe what happened?

MORET: What happened is Dr. Busby is on a British government committee and he is an official scientific advisor on low level radiation to the British government. He also works with the European Parliament and they asked him to produce an independent report on low level radiation for the European Parliament. He produced something with 45 other scientists called the ECRR Report. It came out in January of 2003. I took it all over the Eastern U.S. and was introducing it and talking to it before they even had a press conference and released it in Britain. He went to Bosnia and Cosovo and collected depleted uranium samples and we've all been very concerned about the transport of these tiny particles all over the world. I am really the one who brought this issue out into the open. It was perfectly reasonable and justified for him to ask the Aldermaston facility for those numbers.

They'd always given them to him before, but when he asked them two years ago, out of concern about the transport of these materials, they refused to give them to him. I asked him why and he said that. Three years ago, Haliburton took over that facility. I asked, did Haliburton take over a British government air monitoring facility and he said yes. That's very interesting and they're the ones who wouldn't give you the numbers and he said yes. Last Jan. 1, in 2005, the Freedom of Information Act went into law and was effective on that day and that's the day he filed a Freedom of Information Act request to get the numbers. They still refused to give them to him and so there was a long delay. Finally, Haliburton gave him the numbers, but they wouldn't give him any of the 2003 numbers for the Iraq war. When I saw how high that number was, 1,700, I understood exactly why they had taken the facility over three years before. It was too high.

ICONOCLAST: What should the numbers be?

MORET: Less than 30. We should only be measuring natural uranium in the air that is coming out of mineral sources and natural sources. There already is contamination from nuclear weapons testing and even lower orbital space is contaminated with uranium and uranium decay products. I discovered a paper on it in the Journal of Environmental Radio-

activity, which was written in 2002. That is a very, very small amount. What they're measuring now are these horrendous peaks that exactly correlate with the battlefield events in Iraq and Kosovo and Bosnia and Afganastan. And there is even a piece during a Chechnya conflict in '98 and '99, which indicates the Russians are using it, too, in Chechnya.

ICONOCLAST: If you have shock and awe going on in Iraq and the readings are being monitored in the UK, is it like a sweep of these going through there and then you have your spikes and then it goes back down, is that in the air?

MORET: Yes. This is just pollution to have a point source, a battlefield or whatever that is releasing this into the air. On those filters in Britain, there were also sand and dust particles that were 1 to 5 microns that also came from the Middle East. These are well known all over Europe because sand and dust storms that originate in the Middle East and Central Asia and especially North Africa have been identified for centuries in Europe.

They were called blood rains because in the hot desert conditions, iron oxide coats the grains of sand and dust and when they're transported North over Europe and they're rained out, those iron oxides stain the rain kind of the color of a weak wine and they were a bad omen. Boy, they sure are a bad omen now, because they're also transporting radioactive isotopes. Now, that sand and dust, we already know where that's coming from, were on the filters with the much smaller particles of depleted uranium, which the average particle size for atmospheric test is a tenth of a micron. These DU particles form at really high temperatures under battlefield conditions and they're very tiny. They're called nanoparticles.

ICONOCLAST: Do they land on the ground?

MORET: No. These are so small that the movement in the air currents and the big convection cells which are weather fronts and stuff, keep them suspended. They don't settle out. They have to be rained out or snowed out or permanently suspended.

ICONOCLAST: If this is in the air in the UK and it rains, do they become part of the soil?

MORET: Yes. They rain on buildings and rooftops and on trees and leaves and on people. Because they're wet, they stick to whatever they land on and it is almost impossible to remove it.

ICONOCLAST: They radiate when they're there?

MORET: Yes. So, it's causing an epidemic of melanoma, globally. That means skin cancer, especially in children. There are increases in infant mortality now being reported in the NEW YORK TIMES a couple of years ago. I saw an article in January of 2003, Mysterious Increases in Infant Mortality in 20 Regions of Europe. It's a global disaster. There's a frog die-off going on. Frogs are dying off all over the world. The worst thing is the global increases in diabetes. Diabetes is an immediate response just within months to these depleted uranium battles. We can see especially huge increases in the Gulf states which are Texas, Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and then on up the east coast.



Leuren Moret, of Berkeley, Calif., is an independent scientist who works on radiation and public health issues with communities around the world. She earned her B.S. in Geology at U.C. Davis in 1968, and her M.A. in Near Eastern Studies from U.C. Berkeley in 1978.

Moret is a geoscientist who became a whistleblower in 1991 at the Livermore Nuclear Weapons Lab after witnessing fraud on the Yucca Mountain Project. She now dedicates her life to revealing and understanding the actual health effects of radiation exposure. She has worked extensively on the impact of radiation on public health from nuclear power plants and atmospheric testing and how radiation moves through the environment.

Moret works with the Radiation and Public Health Project, a group of independent scientists and has written a scientific report on depleted uranium for the United Nations subcommission investigating the illegality of depleted uranium munitions. She has been trained on radiation issues by a former Manhattan Project Scientist and retired insider at the Livermore Lab who is an expert on radioactive fallout and rainout. Together with Dr. Hari Sharma, they have studied high levels of depleted uranium measured in the tissue samples of 70 residents of Basra, Iraq, who died after the Gulf War from internal exposure to depleted uranium.

She wrote the foreword to Akira Tashiro's award-winning "Discounted Casualties: The Human Cost of Depleted Uranium," and appears in the recently released DVD "Beyond Treason" that was produced by Power Hour Productions <<http://www.beyondtreason.com/>>, an 89-minute film that presents comprehensive documentation from United States Government archives of a massive cover-up, including military and civilian experimentation, dating back over 60 years.

ICONOCLAST: How do you know they're attributed to DU?

MORET: Because the increases correlate each year with the battles. When there aren't battles or that stuff isn't transported sufficiently across the Atlantic, then there is not much of an increase. It drops off or stabilizes.

ICONOCLAST: The reason the Gulf states are affected more is because of the Trade Winds?

MORET: Yes. These are not hurricanes. These are huge sand and dust storms that are a million square miles in size.

ICONOCLAST: Are the affects permanent or if they quit using this type of ammunition, would it reverse?

MORET: Well, it's like atmospheric testing contamination of radioactive pollution of the atmosphere. As it's rained out and snowed out, it's deposited in the environment and it sticks to any surface where it lands. It's removed from the atmosphere. The most harmful pathway of exposure is inhalation. If it is sticking to things, at least it's not in the air and eventually it's going to end up in the ocean. But that will be a long, long time.

ICONOCLAST: One thing that the TIMES article suggested was that radiation experts also said that other environmental sources were more likely to blame. What would they be referring to?

MORET: This is typical spin. They've been saying this for years and they say, well, it's in your backyard. It's in the soil. That's true, but the concentration of uranium that occurs throughout the earth is like one part per two and a half million. So, it's a very low concentration and a lot of it is in the ocean. It's not getting these huge concentrations in Britain on air filters at atomic monitoring facilities because it's from a natural source. This is airborne. The air monitoring station isn't just measuring at one site. They had over five sites where they were measuring these numbers and they were actually higher away from the actual facility where the emissions are coming out. If it was from that facility, the numbers

would have been the highest at the facility because it would have been the point source. The fact that you're finding Middle Eastern dust and sand on the filters with the DU indicates that it is coming from the Middle East.

ICONOCLAST: You can tell what kind of sand it is by some kind of test?

MORET: Oh sure. All the nuclear facilities in every country in Europe — Greece and Romania and Italy — they monitor every single day, those sand and dust storms from whatever is coming from whatever direction. They've always done that. During the battle of Kosovo and Bosnia, the European Parliament requested that all those countries do air monitoring of radioactive pollution and of chemical pollution coming from the NATO invasion of Yugoslavia. These were very extensive reports and are available from the EU. I don't think there is any place it's more monitored than Europe because they just have the infrastructure and the facilities and they know everything.

ICONOCLAST: The spikes that occurred, when they occurred, were an oddity? You wouldn't have spikes normally.

MORET: There has to be a point first, to have such high levels. The highs and lows from the weather conditions and the direction of the wind currents is consistent with these high levels in Britain.

ICONOCLAST: It says in this article that on two occasions, levels exceeded this ratio in which the Environmental Agency must be informed so within safety limits.

MORET: They say that, but none of it is safe. A report issued by the National Academy of Sciences came out in July. It's the seventh report over the last 30 or 40 years, which is an official scientific academy report in the United States and it stated very clearly there is no safe level of radiation exposure.

ICONOCLAST: They also say in this article that other experts says local environmental sources, such as a power station, were more likely at fault. What

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would a power station be?

MORET: A nuclear power plant.

ICONOCLAST: Wouldn't they have had some kind of major...

MORET: It would have had to be a Chernobyl event in Britain, which they couldn't hide because of their country's, you know, I told you they are all monitoring, they would have been alarmed. It would have had to be a huge accident.

ICONOCLAST: So, that doesn't hold any water.

MORET: No. By the way, the abundance of uranium in the earth's crust is 2.4 parts per million. Sea water is actually smaller. It has a very low concentration. What they always say is that it's in the soil all over your yard and you can dig around and it's there. Or, it's coming from another source. It's coming from a nuclear power plant nearby. It just can't be true because the air currents were coming directly from the Middle East and they weren't being transported from other power plants or sources in Britain.

Dr. Busby, because he's an expert on radiation and this kind of stuff, because of how I told you this is transported all over the world, it's completely mixed in the global atmosphere in one year, no matter where they used it. It's just mixed that quickly. It's amazing. In the report that was produced after the first Gulf War, it was from all the oil well fires and all the munitions and all the battlefields. That was a thick, black cloud that covered the area for a whole year after Gulf War I. That city had material that was deposited globally in the ice record in tropical glaciers, on the Antarctic Ice Sheet, in Hawaii, in the Himalayas, in the Alps, and a year later, it was deposited in the ice record all over the world. What happens is that the equator is very warm and the poles are very cold and this temperature gradient caused a mixing in the atmosphere of hot and cold air. They need to all be the same temperature. That causes of this violent mixing and the new particles are part of all of that. They are just globally mixed in one year.

ICONOCLAST: What happens if the levels get real high in the waters and fish end up with...

MORET: They don't need to be high. Low level radiation is devastating. It's a thousand times more harmful, according to Busby's European Committee on radiation risk report.

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki studies only considered cancer and birth defects as legitimate diseases caused by radiation exposure. They only considered the exposure of the victims to neutrons and gamma rays, which were external. They said there was no internal contamination. We know that that's not true. Everybody in Japan was contaminated by the bombs. It wasn't until Chernobyl when they could actually measure the radiation and fields and dose. Then they looked at each chromosome and determined that the gamuts were 1,000 times higher than what that ICRP model would have predicted. Then they also counted the genetic mutation in wheat and in mice. They knew what the exact dose was and they saturated from the ICRP model how many defects there should be in the DNA and they counted a dozen times higher or a dozen times more than had been predicted.

We know the ICRP model is faulty. It can't be used at all for internal exposure. It wasn't done correctly, anyway. It was

perfectly reasonable and legitimate for Dr. Busby to request those air monitoring numbers from Aldermaston, because we know that that's the dust from the Middle East. We know it ends up in Europe and Britain. I've been to England in the morning and in the evening. I went out in the street, and there was this red sand all over cars and all over windshields and in the streets. That was from North Africa.

ICONOCLAST: Should the people in Britain be alarmed?

MORET: Yes! But there is nothing they can do. We have to stop these weapons.

They're altering atmospheric testing. The equivalent of 40 thousand Hiroshima bombs have been released into the atmosphere. The amount of radiation included with the emissions from the nuclear power plants have created, according to Dr. Roseleaf herself, the death and mutilation and diseases in 1.3 billion people. It's had a global effect. What they've released since 1991 is the equivalent of at least 400,000 Nagasaki bombs. That's 10 times more than during atmospheric testing. We are having a very serious public health threat globally. You can see it in the infant mortality increases. They started down as soon as they stopped testing in 1963. They kept going down until these darn uranium wars started in 1991. We're having a global frog die-out. They're living in the fresh water, rain waters that is washing out. We're having a decline in fisheries globally. We're just stripping this beautiful planet of all these diverse forms of life.

ICONOCLAST: This absorption into the atmosphere globally, there is no safe place?

MORET: There is no safe place. There is no possible way to escape from it.

ICONOCLAST: Are there uranium detectors that people can buy?

MORET: Yes. You're going to have much higher readings along the Gulf Coast region, right where you are. I looked at the diabetes rates in those states and Texas really got slammed. It goes up the East Coast. All of the nuclear power plants in the U.S. are on the East Coast. People are being exposed to various products from the nuclear power plants emission, but they're getting exposed to DU, too, the decay products. What is the most harmful effect from both exposures, surprisingly enough, is particulate from the nanoparticle. That is a nonspecific catalyst. Each one of them has an enzyme effect. Catalytic or enzyme poisons are biologically the most damaging of all. That's why the soldiers and people who were exposed are sick within 24 to 48 hours. It's that catalytical effect.

ICONOCLAST: If you live close to a power plant there's a chance...

MORET: You're absolutely being internally exposed 24 hours a day. Every breath that you take. A 100 mile radius is where you get the highest exposure. We collected chicken eggshells and baby teeth from people living around the Indian Point Reactor and the levels in the chicken eggshells was the same as in the baby teeth. It's just completely poisoning the air, the soil, the food, the water, and blood. These tiny particles go right through your skin. They go through ev-

erything and a really good example of the horrible effect is the World Trade Center disaster. All of the huge numbers of metal and tiny particles, the highest ever measured in the United States, in fact, I think around the world, were measured in the month after the Trade Center disaster.

ICONOCLAST: Is that because of fires or explosions.

MORET: The fire. That building came down and all this kinetic energy, you know all the energy that it takes to build a building and carry all those materials up, when that building collapses, that is kinetic energy which is released and it created a very hot pile which continued to burn for months.

ICONOCLAST: Did the EPA take action?



Leuren Moret

MORET: Well, the EPA scientists were very alarmed about it and about the nanoparticle pollution in the air, but they weren't allowed to say anything, because of the administrator who was a coverup artist. She and her husband had very strong ties, including personal investments in companies that were related to the insurance companies in the World Trade Center. The EPA scientists were not allowed to say anything.

ICONOCLAST: So people breathed all these particulates.

MORET: Yes.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think is the significance of Busby's report, overall.

MORET: It concerns everything that I've been saying for five years. That this pollution of depleted uranium particles are traveling. They're being carried on air currents and they're being transported all over the world.

ICONOCLAST: The reports by the military and the U.S. and Britain are wrong?

MORET: Well, the military job is to kill people and to destroy things. Depleted uranium is a very effective weapon. They are not responsible for anything that happens after that point. So they're going to cover it up so that they can continue to use weapons that kill lots of people and destroy things. The U.S. government, the British government, the Australian government and countries that have used DU are violating international treaties. They are violating the Geneva and the Hague conventions. They're violating the Geneva 1925 gas protocol that prohibits gas weapons that kill indiscriminately. We are violating our own federal laws. It meets the definition under U.S. federal code in two of three categories. It's a weapon of mass destruction under our own federal law. It violates U.S. military law. What they're really worried about is that they would be financially responsible

for these terrible weapons and it would totally bankrupt any country. We can never clean up the Middle East or Central Asia. We can't clean up the atmosphere. They poisoned our world.

ICONOCLAST: What is the long-term prognosis for Iraq?

MORET: Oh, Iraq, the former Yugoslavia, and Afghanistan are completely uninhabitable now. No one should be living there.

ICONOCLAST: Where do these people go?

MORET: Well, they're just going to slowly die. Their DNA is already destroyed.

ICONOCLAST: How long does a soldier have to be in Iraq before he has health problems.

MORET: What Major Doug Rokke told me, he was in charge of the depleted uranium cleanup team in Iraq, he said we were sick within 24 to 48 hours. Many soldiers have described that...

ICONOCLAST: What kind of sickness is it? What are the symptoms?

MORET: The symptoms are all of a sudden they started feeling sick and muscle and joint pain and rashes. Just a general malaise and losing control of their body functions. Some of them came back in adult diapers after Gulf War I. The men have burning semen and they internally contaminate their wives. VANITY FAIR magazine's David Rose did a wonderful ar-

icle. A very indepth, very hard-hitting article, in the December 2004 issue. I've been to panels. Some of them are so sick that their heads are down on their arms all of the time except when they are talking. They have chronic fatigue. Any surgery or wounds that they have will not heal because their immune system is completely damaged by the DU particles. One breath of air can give you a fatal dose.

ICONOCLAST: If this is happening through the Trade Winds coming up along the Texas coast, how would people tell if they've had exposure?

MORET: They can't tell. Suddenly, people are getting diabetes. Infant mortality is increasing. These are ways that they can tell or they can notice, for instance, the frog die-off in the environment. These are environmental indicators. There is no way to clean it up and there is no way to avoid exposure.

ICONOCLAST: There is no test you can do?

MORET: Yes. You can get a urine test, but you should have a geology lab measure the uranium in the urine and then look at the isotopic ratio to see if it has the signature of depleted uranium. It won't be the same as on natural uranium. I don't know of any uranium mines in Texas. It wouldn't be coming from the environment.

ICONOCLAST: Is there anything else you want to add?

MORET: We've got over 12 or 14 depleted uranium bills in the state legislatures and we did that because we couldn't get anywhere with the Federal government. It's been a presidential coverup under President George Herbert Walker Bush, under Clinton who used it in Yugoslavia. It was under George Herbert Walker Bush when it was used for the first time on the battle field by the U.S. government in 1991 in the Iraq war. George W. Bush is responsible for using it in

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Afghanistan and Iraq. These three presidents are the three biggest war criminals in the history of the entire world. They've gotten away with it because they're spending hundreds of millions of dollars on the coverup. As long as they can keep people studying it and there is no definitive proof and stuff like that, statements like that are coming out from established scientists in the Pentagon, then the big lie continues. We know by this horrific information published by Dr. Busby that, indeed, this is an environmental issue. It is a global issue and its all being transported all over the world. The Aldermasten Report is the most important one that has come out so far.

ICONOCLAST: What are the hopes of the bills before the Legislature.

MORET: What I did was take the Connecticut bill that got bogged down in the Connecticut Legislature, requiring mandatory testing by the state of returning soldiers who want it, to Louisiana in April of 2005. They had voted unanimously in the House and in their Assembly and the governor signed it into law within eight weeks of me giving it to them on April 19.

That was just astounding. I was really shocked. A week later, it was attached to Congressman McDermott's depleted uranium bill before Congress and, in fact, it was your interview with Doug and me and Melissa Sterry in that whole issue of the paper. I mean you're President Bush's hometown newspaper in Crawford, and your paper was attached as a supporting document to that bill. So everybody in the Pentagon and in Congress read that, not to mention the VA and probably the state department. Your paper went all over the government. That's very important.

ICONOCLAST: But there are other states that are following suit?

MORET: Yes. And now we have, actually, the states have legal jurisdiction over the National Guard so they're able to pass laws like specifically covering the National Guard. They can't do it for the regular soldiers, they don't have legal jurisdiction. What we're doing is forcing the Pentagon and the Federal Government to follow their own laws and directives and orders to test soldiers; to train them before they're sent over there, soldiers who'll be handling it, and then to give

them medical treatment when they come back and they're sick. We're forcing them to do that for National Guard and then the states are making the government pay for it, the federal government, because they're violating their own laws and mandates. It's getting a lot of local media attention. It's getting activists and citizens all riled up about this issue and then it's making the other soldiers and veterans who are not getting this treatment angry because they're entitled to it too. So we're pushing states against Federal law.

ICONOCLAST: So about a third of the states have moved forward on this.

MORET: We have it in the New York, Vermont, Massachusetts, Legislature. It's going into California and Oregon. It's in Washington, Hawaii and I think Michigan or Minnesota. Louisiana has already passed it. Connecticut has passed it into law. We're really started a snowball thing.

ICONOCLAST: Where do you start the ball rolling. Does someone contact the governor?

MORET: I think the most effective thing is to find two Vietnam veterans. They've already been through the Agent Orange poison and all the lies of the government. They've all been thrown in the trash can and filed lawsuits that were dis-

missed. The Vietnam veterans are really the most dangerous group to the federal government. They've been the most effective. I gave it to two veterans in Louisiana and they went into the Legislature and looked them in the eye and said now, you're not going to turn down two Vietnam veterans. It's impossible to do that. What happened just last week in the Hawaii legislature is that Rep. Ito, who was the chair of the Veterans Committee, refused to introduce the depleted uranium bill into the Legislature so Doug and I and other experts started writing to the Legislators and encouraging the citizens to put more pressure on Ito. A veteran wrote a letter to Ito that said we're a group of 3,500 veterans that have agreed to vote as a block and if you don't put that into the Legislature, we're going to vote you out. That's effective. You have to do something and you feel better already. The hardest thing is to take that first step and to do an action.

We need to remind people what Ghandi said . . . "Even a small lamp dispels the darkness."

Depleted uranium is the trojan horse of nuclear war. It keeps killing and there is no way to turn it off and there is no way to clean it up. After we're all dead and wipe out our own species, the earth will heal itself

'What we've done is to replace the fallout from bomb testing with the so-called small permitted releases from nuclear plants.'

An Interview With Dr. Ernest Sternglass

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: I thought maybe you would be willing to discuss depleted uranium and its health implications.

STERNGGLASS: I've been examining all the latest findings that have been reported and the evidence is just simply overwhelming that the DU particles travel around the world and they are far more toxic than anyone had suspected for uranium.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think the study is legitimate?

STERNGGLASS: The latest thing that has happened in this field is that Dr. Chris Busby together with another person prepared a paper that is called 'Did The Use of Uranium Weapons in the Gulf War 2 Result in the Contamination of Europe?' and he shows the evidence from the measurements of the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Britain and it's just overwhelming.

What he finds is just remarkable.

It turns out that the British people who develop atomic weapons have been monitoring activity in the air for years and under freedom of information he was able to get hold of the data they had stopped publishing years ago in 1999. They kept measuring it and essentially this is what they found. Compared to a period of a few years during which these measurements were averaged the article says that typically the levels were the order of 100 units. Then during the three weeks between the Gulf War events that took place on March 19, the first strike of our airplanes against Bagdad, then on March 20, the second round of air strikes took place, the 21st of March, heavy aerial attacks on many cities, on April 14, the major fighting was declared over.

So he looked at these three weeks and the number of stations that measured

radioactivity in Britain, and he found that instead of 100 units average in the background use in the same place suddenly it rose to 600 during those three weeks. They tested it in every possible way. They even looked at the details of the geographic and the meteorological data and he published the charts for the Atlantic and Europe and the meteorological office, and, low and behold, there is no other way, and in fact they could show that air from Africa in that direction moved all the way to Europe and deposited some sand from the Sahara, so there was simply no alternative to the use of battlefield uranium.

It has been clearly shown to allow these fine particles that have less than a quarter of a million diameter. They measured it and calculated in three weeks how many of these particles would be taken in by a person breathing normally and spending some time outdoors and they calculated that 23 million tiny particles of a quarter million diameter in the concentration that they measure would reach the body and go to the lungs and enter the lymphatic system and produce all kinds of organ damage.

ICONOCLAST: What does that mean to the average citizen of Great Britain? That they have a better chance of getting cancer?

STERNGGLASS: Not only cancer. I have been particularly studying the recent rise of diabetes that has taken place around the world. I've looked at the 50 states in the United States for which the CDC has just recently published the detailed data by age group, 18-44, 45-64, 65-74, 75+, plus the total for the whole number, and the age adjusted rates for every state between 1994 and 2004.

The overwhelming evidence is that, for instance, in Alaska there was a huge rise, especially sensitive in the 75+ age

Ernest Sternglass, Ph.D., is Director, and Chief Technical Officer of the RPHP Baby Teeth Study.

In 1963, Dr. Sternglass was invited to testify before the congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, as to how the exponential increase in strontium-90 in baby teeth caused by bomb-test fallout was associated with increased childhood leukemia. His research and testimony played a role in President Kennedy's decision to sign the Partial Test Ban Treaty.

As Professor Emeritus of Radiological Physics at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, Dr. Sternglass has written numerous articles on the health effects of low-level radiation.

His 1981 book *Secret Fallout: Low-level Radiation from Hiroshima to Three Mile Island* established him as a pioneer in the study of the health effects of low-level radiation.



Sternglass

group, which went from a low of 5.8% of the population that age in 1997 to as high as 13.7% by the year 2003. There was a peak in between of 15.1 in 2002 and there are no nuclear plants anywhere near Alaska.

A very comparable rise of the same order of percentage rise especially for the total age adjusted rate occurred in Japan. Evidence has been published in China about Japan and China recently that Japan has almost twice the rate of diabetes that we have in our nation. Typically, the greatest rises in our case have initially taken place in areas near large nuclear facilities like in Tennessee and downwind to the northeast in Kentucky and West Virginia. In fact, the areas in the west which are relatively far from the oceans on both sides, like Oklahoma, Wyoming, Colorado, those states had relatively low rates of diabetes in the early years of 1994. But then they rose and essentially achieved pretty much the same levels as the states with large nuclear facilities.

ICONOCLAST: How does radiation cause diabetes?

STERNGGLASS: There was an article

in January 2005 in SCIENCE, in which they found that what was going on, and this is really amazing, is that they find that obesity is also rising and no one knows quite why. They find that there are genetic factors, mutations, damage to the pancreas and to the islands of beta cells that produce insulin that normally produce adequate amounts of insulin. In the case of Type 1, they stop producing insulin all together and in the case of Type 2, they often don't supply enough.

Genes that control the production of certain hormones are damaged and all of this is explained. These biological mechanisms are now becoming clear, but nobody knows what is triggering the whole chain and that's exactly what is now available in the article that appeared in SCIENCE, Volume 311 on Feb. 3, 2006, page 622-628. It's an article called 'The Toxic Potential of Materials at the Nano Level.' It explains in detail how any kind of material, it could be ordinary carbon or a metal that is not radioactive, if these particles are small enough, that is tinier than a micron, which is a millionth of a meter, or one ten thousandths of a centi

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meter, if these particles are that small, it turns out they are toxic in themselves, whatever they are composed of.

That's exactly what's happening in the case of nanoparticles which are produced when the uranium burns upon impact and melts steel and the fine particles are so small, they act like a gas. So what you're getting is a gas of uranium that gets transported around the world and is now proven by these latest measurements.

And so what we're seeing is an epidemic of all types of conditions that we did not understand, that have been in continuous rise in this country in the last 15 years, actually since the mid-80s. A very consistent rise, especially in cancers that are known to be produced by radioactive materials.

The most well-known of these is thyroid cancer, and the incidence of thyroid cancer has the most new cases, not mortality, because most people do not die of thyroid cancer because it can be treated, but the incidence of thyroid damage in general and in particular thyroid cancer has been going up steadily and this is again due to radioactive products.

We know that this is true now that other cancers, especially pancreatic and breast cancer, have been rising. The incidence of mortality has leveled off in breast cancer and has come down slightly, that is the total number of people who die of breast cancer has been declining slightly because of the great improvement of medical techniques of early detection, early treatment, and successful treatment by chemicals and surgical techniques that have been developed.

We have had no real understanding of why diabetes has been rising so enormously and now it all comes together. It's all happening at this very moment, in fact.

I'm in the process of writing a paper that I will be presenting in Japan in the middle of March. I'm leaving for Japan on March 8 and it's just mind-blowing to what degree measurements by the Weapons Establishment in England show that these fine particles travel thousands of miles around the world and, in fact, Leuren Moret has pictures that NASA satellites

took showing the sand storms going across the Atlantic and all over the world so we have totally underestimated the very serious nature of the use of uranium as weapons.

ICONOCLAST: I know that the government in Texas, for instance, have been promoting better diets for students. They say junk food is the cause of obesity.

STERNGGLASS: It's the combination of all these factors. This is what happens a series of articles in recent years have shown that one key reason diabetes is produced is that in the centers in the brain that control appetite and that receive signals from fatty tissue, hormones are sent out, when either the brain center is damaged or the production of chemicals that signal that enough fat is accumulated so that there is no need to eat more, when this is damaged then people simply cannot stop eating and this happens particularly strongly in the case of young people who live in areas where there's a lot of milk that was shipped into inner cities from somewhere with nuclear reactors nearby.

It happens in Washington D.C., Baltimore, New York City, all of which we see milk from around the area, Three Mile Island, Peachbottom, and the Virginia reactors and the ones in New Jersey because the states, and we published a book that describes this in detail in 1990 called "Deadly Deceit," in which my associates Dr. Jay Gould, who just recently passed away and Ben Goldman, interviewed House officials in different states, especially D.C., and the states around this area and they said yes, we mix the milk from these areas because there is a law that was passed way back during the Roosevelt administration in the 1930s to protect farmers whose milk just doesn't taste quite good and it allows the federal government to help them by buying the milk and making sure that the farmer receives the full price and then they mix it with other milk and ship it to other areas where it is consumed.

ICONOCLAST: So you're saying that milk is contaminated with DU?

STERNGGLASS: Often is it not only contaminated with DU, but with the permitted releases of nuclear plants, which you know they typically emit such elements as cesium 137 and strontium 190, as well as fine particles of uranium and plutonium, and these products and other heavy elements that are produced in the reaction in the reactor. These are tiny particles that enter the environment, get into the milk, into the grass, a cow concentrates some of them like radioactive iodine and radioactive strontium, especially. The theory was that by diluting it there would be too small a concentration to see, but, unfortunately, the dose response curve over the last 20-30 years, it has been discovered, is not a straight line. In fact, the greatest effect rises for tiny doses. It rises rapidly for the first 50 hundred milligrams and then flattens out, and this is called the logarithmic dose response.

This diluted milk, or milk that has quite a bit of radioactivity in it, was extrapolated and was believed would be too small to make a significant detectable difference. But it turns out, in fact, to be very sensitive and, therefore, we find that in Washington D.C. which has no cows of its own, it developed during the recent years of nuclear reactors since the 1970s essentially, when the large reactors began operating D.C. began to have the highest infant mortality in the nation, together with the highest number of children born below normal weight. And this is moreso than in areas that have a very large concentration of black people like Mississippi, Louisiana, many of the states in the South.

And so the overwhelming evidence that is coming together is that it is a combination of many things that we did not fully understand. We did not understand that the dose response is not a straight line, but rises very rapidly for the tiny doses and curves down and becomes flat. That's why not everybody in Europe died from the huge releases in Cherynobl. We saw children and infant mortality peak in the summer of 1986 from

Cherynobl. We published papers on this. We found that wherever there were high levels measured by the EPA by radioactive iodine, and radioactive strontium that came from Cherynobl in certain parts of the country, in those areas, there was an increase in total mortality over the previous years, and also mortality and infectious diseases and infant mortality. That could not have been explained except for the existence of this superlinear dose response, which again,

‘These are tiny particles that enter the environment, get into the milk, into the grass, a cow concentrates some of them like radioactive iodine and radioactive strontium, especially.’

— Dr. Ernest Sternglass

is something that we had never seen.

With the number of ordinary x-rays, for instance, there was a straight line relationship between the number of x-rays given and the incidence of childhood cancer, when mothers received x-rays during pregnancy. That is a paper I published in 1963.

At that time, I was unaware of the evidence that the children who die of cancer as a result of the x-rays are not representative of what happens when you have internal doses from substances that keep giving you radiation over days, weeks, months, and years, especially since strontium 90 deposits in the bone and stays there for many years in children and even longer in adults. Typically in children two to three years, there's a half life, biologically in children, and about five to ten years in adults. We simply underestimated enormously, by factors of hundreds to thousands of times, what tiny doses of internally deposited materials do as compared to what we experienced in over a hundred years of experience with medical x-rays.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think needs to happen to correct matters?

STERNGGLASS: Number one, we absolutely have to convert our nuclear plants to natural gas, which we've done in Colorado and Colorado now has a relatively low rate of cancer and infant mortality, compared to other states. That can be done and has been done in other countries too. Sweden and many of the other European nations: Italy has now shut down its nuclear plants, Austria shut down its nuclear plants and the Germany is committed to converting to eliminating nuclear plants and replacing it with wind or solar power and geothermal power.

We're the only nation in the world that has spent the least amount of money on alternative methods of generating energy. We've invested so much in uranium in the ground, all the major investment firms urged and invested enormously in uranium. And we have enormous investments in oil and gas, of course. Many people want to continue to burn coal. It can be burned in a cleaner way, but all this has been done much more in Europe where people felt no guilt about having developed the bomb and tested it in the first place.

ICONOCLAST: Is it more dangerous having nuclear power plants or having DU ammunitions.

STERNGGLASS: I would say that you cannot make a comparison.

If you live downwind from a nuclear plant, and you can look at our website, <radiation.org>, you'll see a series of articles and some of them are directly available, including my book, "Secret Fallout," is available on the internet

through the website for free. You will see that there was a decline in infant mortality all the way since 1935 in the country and that leveled off when we began nuclear bomb testing in Nevada in the 1950s and actually rose for the first time in 1958.

Recently, in 2002, after declining a little bit after the end of nuclear testing in '63, it did not go back to the baseline as expected. Infant mortality, in a sense, is twice as many babies are dying in this country in the first year of life as should be if the initial trend had continued.

What we've done is to replace the fallout from bomb testing with the so called small permitted releases from nuclear plants.

We've confirmed this, as described in our website article listed there. There are 21 articles and letters to medical journals and international referee journals that explain all this and that warned about it but the industry and our present government and Washington wants to continue the construction of new nuclear plants and even consider new nuclear weapons to replace old ones and to build bunker busters that would supposedly penetrate deeply into underground storage of chemical weapons and so on.

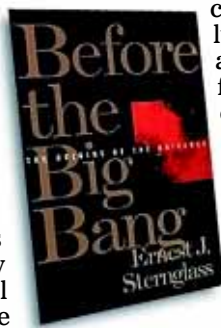
Russia, China, and England are also reluctant to end this, but it is now happening in many countries in the world that they are going to other alternative means of generating electricity. And finding other fuels and oils, such as biomass, of which I just recently attended a conference in Austria, and many of these countries are doing things that we should be doing. Right now, for instance, Denmark is producing more than 20 percent of the energy by wind power alone. Sweden has decided that in another 15 to 20 years, it will replace all its coal and nuclear plants with alternative means of generating electricity.

ICONOCLAST: Any other comments?

STERNGGLASS: I would say that we have to end the use of ammunition that contains uranium in any form. We have to understand that we made a tragic mistake in vastly underestimating the doses from internal emitters that we inhale with our air and ingest with our food and milk and our drinking water.

It is simply going to destroy the economy of this nation, as well as its health, and as I've published in papers, it affects the brain. It has led to a decline in SAT scores all through the period, typically 18 years after major nuclear test in Nevada. There was a decline in SAT scores that could not be explained. I predicted in the article that when the testing would end, 18 years later, the SAT score would begin to recover. That's exactly what happened. It never recovered its early level because we replaced the fallout from the bomb test with radioactive, permitted releases that we thought and felt, as I did when I was a young scientist and engineer and the research laboratory in Westinghouse here in Pittsburgh, when I believed it was a wonderful development to replace the dirty coal plants with clean nuclear reactors too cheap to meter.

We had no idea as to the enormous great seriousness of the low level of continued doses from the tiny amounts that we thought were so innocuous, based on all the years of our studies of x-rays.



A Sternglass book

HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

'It violates all traditional ideas of war.'

An Interview With Dr. Rosalie Bertell

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: I have some questions regarding DU and thought you might be willing to discuss it with me.

DR. ROSALIE BERTELL: I am an environmental epidemiologist and have worked for more than 30 years on low-dose radiation. I do know a lot about DU.

ICONOCLAST: I understand we are seeing a higher incidence of diabetes, cancer, and leukemia because of DU. Have you done any studies regarding that?

BERTELL: Well, obviously, they've used so much of it and it's an aerosol. An aerosol can float in the air a long time and can go great distances. So, that said, it's probably pretty well spread at least in the northern hemisphere from both Gulf Wars, and also they used it in Kosovo and apparently in Afghanistan. A lot of it's out there. But whether or not it's connected with diabetes I can't prove.

ICONOCLAST: How does exposure affect the body?

BERTELL: First of all, it's an internal exposure, and the current studies on internal exposure are not very reliable, so people have been speculating on what might be a reasonable outcome. It certainly can upset the hormone system and that is one of the causes of diabetes. But there is no hard evidence that it really does this. It is logical and credible, but the government is so focused on cancer that it doesn't ever study it.

ICONOCLAST: Are you familiar with the report due out on March 1 regarding the travel of DU to the UK.

BERTELL: Yes.

ICONOCLAST: What are your thoughts on that?

BERTELL: Well, it's a well-done study and, you now, I always keep a little reservation because often we don't have any idea what NATO or Aldermaston or the British military are doing, and so when

you find DU in the air, you can assume it's coming from the Gulf War, but it might be the military's doing something that you don't know.

Actually Chris Busby who wrote this is a yachtsman and he did check all the weather and the wind and the back breeze that does come from Iraq and he did a pretty good study. It's just that you always have an unknown factor because the military is not accountable to people.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think the people in the UK need to be alarmed at the results of this study?

BERTELL: Not just the people in the UK, but people all over.

ICONOCLAST: All over the world?

BERTELL: Yeah, at least the northern hemisphere.

ICONOCLAST: Is there anything people can do to protect themselves from the radiation that you know of.

BERTELL: I wish there was. About the only thing we know to do is drink distilled water to get heavy metals out of the body. That's one thing. Another is replace the proteins which would be lost. You know, a heavy metal does two things. It forms a compound with the chemicals in the body to get rid of heavy metals and it also causes free radicals and the same enzyme that gets rid of a heavy metal is also the one that fights the free radicals. Because you have a heavy metal which is radioactive, if it tries to get rid of the heavy metal it's not going to be there to fight the free radicals, so you are going to have some kind of problems internally with this. You can't use the same enzyme for two purposes.

ICONOCLAST: So we need to eat more protein?

BERTELL: Proteins would help because it would replace the enzyme that you need.

ICONOCLAST: As far as trying to put a stop to the use of depleted uranium,

Rosalie Bertell, PhD, GNSH, is president of the International Institute of Concern for Public Health (IICPH), and editor-in-chief of International Perspectives in Public Health.

Dr. Bertell served four years as co-chair for Canada on the Ecosystem Health Workgroup of the Science Advisory Board to the U.S. - Canada International Joint Commission (IJC) on the Great Lakes, and currently serves on the IJC Nuclear Task Force. She also serves as advisor to the Great Lakes Health Effects Program of Health Canada, and to the Environmental Assessment Board of Ontario.

Dr. Bertell directed the International Medical Commission - Bhopal which investigated the aftermath of the Union Carbide disaster in Bhopal, and of the International Medical Commission - Chernobyl, which convened the Tribunal on violations of the human rights of victims in Vienna, April 1996.

She has received numerous awards and five honorary Doctorate degrees since launching the IICPH in 1984. Awards include United Nations Environment Programme, Global 500 Laureate (1993); Alternative Nobel Prize: Right Livelihood Award (1986); World Federalist Peace Award (1988); Ontario Premier's Council on Health: Health Innovator Award (1991); and Marguerite D'Youville Humanitarian Award, Lexington, MA (1992).

Dr. Bertell is a member of the Grey Nuns of the Sacred Heart.

She earned a Doctorate in Biometry at the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., in 1966, and has been working ever since time in environmental epidemiology. She has collaborated in analyses undertaken in the U.S., Canada, Japan, the Marshall Islands, Malaysia, India, Germany, Ukraine, and other countries.

Author of "Handbook for Estimating the Health Effects of Ionizing Radiation" (1984, 1986) and the popular non-fiction book: "No Immediate Danger: Prognosis for a Radioactive Earth," together with other written works, Dr. Bertell has reached medical, scientific, and popular audiences around the globe.

"No Immediate Danger" has been translated into Swedish, French, German, and Finnish.

By choice, Dr. Bertell works with indigenous people and economically developing countries as they struggle to preserve their human rights to health and life in the face of industrial, technological, and military pollution.

She was a founding member of IICPH, an attempt to institutionalize her growing concern for human survival on an intact planet.



do you think the public should do that?

BERTELL: I think it shouldn't be used. It's a gas, and we've already signed the Geneva protocol not to use gas in warfare. It's already illegal. It's a metal fume. A metal fume is a gas.

ICONOCLAST: I see.

BERTELL: I think a weapon like this

is so indiscriminate, it's going to be exposing civilians, women and children and the elderly. You know, it violates all traditional ideas of war. And it exposes people who are not fighting, whether it's countries not fighting or civilians in the country where the war is.

That is unacceptable.

'There ain't no buck stopping anywhere.'

An Interview With Major Doug Rokke

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: We're doing a story about the release that's coming out March 1 . . .

ROKKE: Chris Busby's work.

ICONOCLAST: Right. What's your take on it.

ROKKE: Brian Spratt's comment in THE LONDON TIMES — he's from the Royal Academy of Sciences — he said if anything it was the stir-up of the natural uranium from the shock and awe. That's crazy. If there was that much there to begin with, it got there because we dumped it there.

Some other British Ministry of Defense people said that this was released from the nuclear power plants.

As you're totally aware, nuclear power plants don't have that stuff to release. It is totally encased in the power rods. That's also absolutely nuts.

When you look at it, it is extremely im-

portant to note that the use of uranium munitions is absolutely confirmed. It is thoroughly confirmed that they're absolutely refusing to comply with the Army regulations to clean it up. They're simply refusing to comply with the orders and mandates that regulate medical care, not only for the U.S. troops, but for all the coalition forces, and up and beyond that by the Geneva Convention, all the Iraqis and all the civilians. That's not just Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Afghanistan, or the Balkans, but here in the United States.

I think what was so funny is that the story broke from Chris Busby's work, where they're measuring the high concentrations. Now, if they're measuring the concentrations there in England, there's no doubt that it is all the way across the continent, which is extremely important. That goes back to even more emphasis on cleaning up the contamination as is required by the regu-

Doug Rokke, Ph.D., is a Vietnam and Gulf War veteran and an expert on 'depleted uranium.' He headed the US Army's DU Project after the Gulf War, and is a victim of DU contamination.

He appears in the recently released DVD "Beyond Treason" that was produced by Power Hour Productions <<http://www.beyondtreason.com/>>, an 89-minute film that presents comprehensive documentation from United States Government archives of a massive cover-up, including military and civilian experimentation, dating back over 60 years.



lation. And the same thing, even more important, for the medical care.

When you read the story in THE LONDON TIMES, and Brian Spratt says from shock and awe they stirred up all this stuff, natural uranium is at parts per million. That's like one grain of pepper in a salt shaker. With the DU, we've used thousands of tons over there and its scattered all over the place. On-site measurements verify that. Still photography

verifies it. Live video verifies it. All you have to do is watch this stuff on the evening news when they're hitting anything because the DU signature is absolutely distinctive. There is nothing like it. You can see from the Bunker Busters and everything else and all that's fired from the tanks, it's just absolutely crazy.

Now, what was really interesting yesterday, the Army just ordered \$38 million

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HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

An Interview With Major Doug Rokke

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worth of DU munitions from Allied Tech up in Minneapolis. That's 120 mm round, 829. This stuff is awesome. I've used the 829 round, it's absolutely awesome.

ICONOCLAST: In what regard?

ROKKE: It's a DU round. It just literally destroys everything. It's a 120 mm round, over 4,700 grams, incredible velocities. It just destroys everything. Now, there are no targets left in Iraq. We haven't had any armored targets in Iraq. We haven't had any, so why would they be ordering millions and millions of dollars worth of munitions, except to invade Iran. That's the only reason they'd be doing that stuff. We've absolutely verified that they've shot up apartment buildings, they've shot cars and trucks, they're shooting anything they can. If it moves, shoot it. If it doesn't move, shoot it, too, and use DU because it's a weapon of choice. It is that good.

ICONOCLAST: Are they at the point now that cleanup would be impossible?

ROKKE: It was from the beginning.

They never cleaned up the highway of death that's all around Basra. They just didn't do it and they didn't do the medical care. All the orders for medical care have absolutely just been totally ignored. The VA, and it should be coming out with a new publication, but the VA publishes a thing called "Gulf War Review." Volume 13, No. 1, on page 12 was published last spring so it's a year or so old. They acknowledged that in 14 years they had only tested 270 people. I had over 400 names submitted personally.

Now you look at Chris Busby's work. He is an incredible scientist. He is absolutely sound, solid.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think about the delay in getting the numbers because of the government not releasing those?

ROKKE: The government is not going to release that. They're not going to acknowledge using this stuff. The government is not going to acknowledge the environmental effects. They have no intention of it. The fact that they just



Doug Rokke

Nanny McPhee



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and went and bought 38 million more dollars of ammo just absolutely verifies and proves it. You know, Karen Parker has done work as far as illegal use of uranium munitions. In the stuff that we did it absolutely verifies it and Karen Parker's work in the United Nations shows this stuff is illegal.

When you go to the common task right now, it states point blank that it makes food and water unusable. Well, you can't do that. You can't clean it up.

In 1995, we released a report we had started in 1992, back when we got the task, and in December of 1992, a guy named Walker, assistant Secretary of the Army, told us at that time to figure out ways that would reduce the toxicity and DU so it could be used. Obviously, you can't do that. It's impossible, but they don't give a flying rat's ass. You've got everything going around and around. The guy from your hometown down there knows perfectly well this stuff is dangerous. He knows what the orders and the regulations are. He is the commander-in-chief of the military. Yet he's not enforcing the mandatory medical care. He's not enforcing the mandatory environmental remediation. Now, you've got contamination measurements as far away as England. This means you have to have incredible contamination figures all over the place. This stuff is not like playing checkers, where you can hop, skip, and jump a space.

ICONOCLAST: Anywhere in between there and London and beyond?

ROKKE: In all directions. It has to be. We know that gross contamination exists in Iraq. That's a given. We've got the videos. We've got the on-site measurements. The military has acknowledged that and has not cleaned it up. The key thing is we now have additional evidence of confirmed contamination, which we already knew. But, the consequences of the refusal to comply with the environmental remediation and medical care have now resulted in contamination all over the place.

That's absolutely unacceptable.

Now, with this big new purchase of DU ammo, it's sort of like what is going on here? To me, and I have to look at it from a military point of view, for Gulf War II we started planning back in

'95, was thoroughly ready to go, and they finally implemented it.

They just had to have justification to scare the population and do it, okay?

It had nothing to do with 9-11 or terrorism or anything else. It was just strictly, we're gonna do it, you know, for oil shit. So you've got all of that stuff and then you're using it where there are no real targets. They called for it and now we've got it all over.

I've got video, I mean I've got entire apartment buildings that were totally destroyed with DU munitions, civilian apartment buildings. The Army officers on tape refusing to clean it up. Someone needs to ask the president if he intends to enforce the law.

You've got to have some sort of accountability.

We had gotten fed up the the Clinton administration and so we went over to the Bush side, hoping for improvement. It all fell apart completely. It just fell apart.

ICONOCLAST: Why do you think it fell apart?

ROKKE: Cheney.

ICONOCLAST: His influence?

ROKKE: Completely. When you look at this stuff, you've got everybody lying through their teeth. You've got everybody lying through their teeth and ignoring everything. Georgie Bush didn't know what was going on. Cheney has always been there. Cheney was there when we did those no bid contracts with Haliburton per Madelyn Albright back in '92, '93. I've still got those things.

If you look at everything with Haliburton and with KBR., total misuse of funds. They're billing for stuff that they're not doing. They can't account for anything.

To me this is just symptomatic. Total carelessness. Total disregard for everything.

Army regulations have the force of U.S. law.

On the medical care order, Ron Peak ordered that medical care. Colonel Bobbing, according to the order, that supposed to make it happen.

I was born back in the time when Harry Truman said the buck stops here. Well, there ain't no buck stopping anywhere. The buck is getting blown all over the place.

HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

'We're like little sheep, little lambs that didn't know the truth.'

An Interview With Major Denise Nichols

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: What is the current status of individuals coming back from Iraq:

NICHOLS: They're not getting tested for DU and they should be. There should be an organized approach that everybody gives urine samples as soon as they hit the ground back home. There should be an organization doing that across the board. It's not happening.

People are having to go to the states to at least get the opportunity for the National Guard, and that's ridiculous. There needs to be an organized program. Every single one of them needs to be tested, whether they are National Guard, reserve, or active duty.

Dr. (Henry) Dorochoovich who was punished, also, who was part of Doug Rokke's team needs to be the head person of the lab that ultimately does this. Our trust in the system, as currently set up, is not there because they don't even take calls from the Gulf War vets that were tested for DU, as they call and try to tell them their health has changed. They are not actively tracking these people's health even though they tested a small number. I say small in comparison to the numbers of us that served in the first Gulf War.

ICONOCLAST: They did about 200 out of thousands?

NICHOLS: Oh, yeah. We had 689,000 deployed. When I first started asking, I asked for heavy metal testing at the VA. They wouldn't do it. I begged them. I said, "Come on. This might give us some answers of what's going on." That was back in '93-'94. It hasn't changed one iota.

They are passing bills in the states. It's a shame because people are trying to do something productive, but I doubt that it will really change anything because there's not an organized approach to getting everybody tested. And it shouldn't just be if you think there's a problem. No. There is a problem. Accept that there was DU used in theatre that we want to know just as much as the firefighters in New York want to know their health status. It should be open. It should be transparent.

I've been in D.C. when Melissa McDermott presented. She wouldn't address the questions from people that were there. She wouldn't answer those. She brushed them off. So the transparency is not there.

ICONOCLAST: Is there a disconnect between the Congress and the Administration on this? This testing is required by law, is it not?

NICHOLS: By law it's not. They say it's available if they request it, and so many of them don't understand. We're like little sheep, little lambs that didn't know the truth. I was over there and served on the border between Saudi and Iraq and I finally sent my urine off 10 years after to Dr. Dorochoovich's uranium metals

project, and it came back with a trace. I was showing even that. They're not even doing hair sampling, which would probably be cheaper and would show it right off the bat.

Major Denise Nichols (retired), is a Gulf War veteran and retired U.S. Air Force Reserve Major, Vice Chairman of the National Vietnam Veteran and Gulf War Veterans Coalition.

They're not making that information available to the troops. You know, here's a hair sampling kit if you want to pay for it yourself.

They're not doing anything, nothing in an organized manner, and it's because they don't want to acknowledge what the truth and the hazards are. We now have three bills up there, but when the Democrats put it out the Republicans aren't signing on. I've been pushing those three bills and telling people to send e-mails and write letters, call your Representatives, get them to sign on to these bills, show them that we are still alive out here and we want this done. There are three bills. If you go on <house.gov> and click on "thomas" and put in DU, they'll pop up.

ICONOCLAST: Do you know what the thinking of the military brass is on DU?

NICHOLS: Basically, to not trigger any controversy.

ICONOCLAST: The reason for that would be...

NICHOLS: Let's compare this to Agent Orange. Tactically DU works great, just like Agent Orange defoliated the triple canopy forest in Vietnam, cut down sniper attacks and all that. Okay. DU is a weapon that is very, very effective. They don't want to give it up. When you're fighting a war, you want the best, to protect lives in, but they don't look at the long-term health effects. They never do. They never have. And until they learn that lesson, people need to keep speaking up and we need to keep educating and trying to get there. Everybody needs to be involved in bringing it up.

ICONOCLAST: Are you seeing a lot of soldiers in greater numbers with DU problems?

NICHOLS: I'll tell you what's going on right now. Gulf War vet have kind of gone quiet. They are trying to get the compensation if they haven't. If they have gotten their compensation, they're afraid to speak out. The other thing is when we have the casualties coming back like we do, arm and legs missing, the traumatic brain injuries, it's very hard for each of us to stand up and keep going on because those are so obvious and such outstanding wounds. It's almost like, "Well, we're still alive. We're whole. We would have rather lost a leg than deal with this life-long health problem." And cancer is topping the deaths that we continue to have. We can't get them to do a Social Security match for the deaths of the Gulf War veterans for Gulf War I.

But, you know, having been a service person, you hesitate to come forward. If they have compensation, they are fearful they'll lose it, no matter what little bit

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HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

An Interview With Major Denise Nichols

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they've gotten. They're scared to speak up.

And then when we talk about the new soldiers, it's the same way. They saw their buddies killed. I found a few of them when I went to the NGWRC meeting. We had a handful of them come in. And there's the obviously undiagnosed illnesses that are going on and the strange illnesses.

One guy had already had his perithyroid gland removed. I mean, that's not normal, not at an early age. But his driver was killed. It's hard to get them to stand up and start talking about these things.

We've got so much legitimate PTSD that's not being dealt with effectively and you don't want to mix the cases, because there are those with PTSD that are ill and will be ill and they are separate things.

That's what we've had to battle against. They wanted to stick us in the PTSD and for a long time, therefore, tried to get people help. Our vets that were Vietnam vets, I was told the only way I can get them help is put them under PTSD, and I'd go, "He's got some PTSD, but he's got medical problem that are separate. Claim them both. Don't let them classify them one way or the other."

We're still with that problem of dealing with all the different issues. It's like the whole system is broken and nobody is seeing that it is broken.

You have people raising money publicly for the center that's going to be developed in San Antonio. They are out there raising money now to try to get a state-of-the-arts center to help our amputees to recover as quickly and to the utmost.

ICONOCLAST: Are you familiar with the DU study being released on March 1?

NICHOLS: Yes. I haven't read the whole study, but have picked up information coming out of Britain by Chris Busby.

ICONOCLAST: I guess the bottom line is that it somewhat proves that DU travels.

NICHOLS: Oh, yeah. There's no doubt in my mind. I was at the border of Saudi/Iraq, and I have been saying that all along that we had sandstorms, and the sandstorms were like hurricanes coming through. And you're telling me that stuff didn't carry with the sand? Oh, come on. And not only that, the sand was contaminated when we were over there, when they hit the chemical facilities on the Thomasia and 50 others that we can't get any proof out because we haven't had anybody come forward with the videotape like we did for Thomasia. And, the chemical contamination. You've got a mixture of contamination on Gulf War I.

Gulf War II is, hopefully, just DU and anthrax. Hopefully. And the sand factor, which is a factor since sand has a silicon content.

Look at David Bloom, riding his Bloom-mobile, sucking in the sand. I was sitting there going, "My God." And wondering if he took the shots that the military offered, which I bet he did, and we found out since that he did, breathing hazardous material into his lungs in the back of the Bloom-mobile, covering the story. And so, having been involved in a study that looked at hypercoagulation, a small sample study that every time we tested a Gulf War vet he showed positive, and that means you have sick blood, blood that's going to clot, and so when he died a few of us were raising hell on trying to

get people to pay attention to that hazard. We thought with David Bloom's death that we could get some attention paid.

We got a little-bitty blip.

And all our soldiers were out there going through it, too.

Geeze, guys, the Agent Orange bill didn't get passed until '91, and it didn't effectively take care of their problems. They got limited to one agent, and there was red, white, and blue. There wasn't just dioxin. Okay?

The vets get so tired of trying to go up there and push. You're sick and you're trying to advocate for other sick Gulf War vets. It gets mighty hard. I go to every meeting of the research advisory committee in D.C. They meet about three times a year now, and I'm always bugging them. Come on, guys.

I got a couple of them to go to the environmental medicine meeting, the chairman and the co-chairman. I was getting them together with a couple of docs, who were big doctors at one time, and an active duty flight surgeon who had gone into environmental medicine, who had the expertise.

In 1990, while we were all going over there, they knew we were going to come home sick. They went to this VA headquarters and begged, "Let us teach you all what we do with environmental medicine. We can train the doctors. You can put this program in effect, finding out what's missing in the body and replacing those components as they become deficient so that your body can continue to try to fight.

And, they were ignored.

And, we've been lied to.

They kept saying, "We're going to give you new money for research. Well, sh..., that was a big lie.

They're dodging it every which way!

I just sit here and I shake my head every day, staying in tune with what's going on.

You know, with this port security and Katrina? I'm going, "Boy, I only thought one part of the system was broken, veterans care and all. I look around and feel sorry for my daughter. I feel sorry for our kids. I've been out there trying to make a difference for the veterans. I sacrificed my life and my relationship with my daughter to go and do that a month at a time in D.C. My God, I shouldn't have had to do that.

When some of us got tested Dr. Dorochovich collected urine samples to start getting them tested, and every urine sample got lost. He decided, "Well, I'll start testing them here," and he started ordering equipment and the VA fired him, of course. A remarkable man. He and Dr. Rokke have suffered. The whole team has suffered. I bumped into them one at a time until I had the whole team, and I didn't know who they were until Doug Rokke sat me down and said, "Now let's see, little Air Force nurse, let's see who all you've met." And kind of explained to me who the team Army was. Interesting. I went "Oh, my God."

What are my choices? I was over there. Thought the anthrax shot was there to protect us, until I got home and found out the truth. Thought the PB was supposed to be good. Had my people take them. Didn't force them, though. We weren't told anything.

I'm one of the sick vets, too.

I also lost a brother-in-law, and now my

brother. I will be headed back to Dallas shortly. I lost my brother-in-law in June and in November my brother got diagnosed and is dying of cancer. He's back in the hospital and things aren't looking good, so I'm trying to get my act together, my mind and emotional being together enough to face that.

So many things in our country are broken, and I hope America is waking up. I hope America looks and sees what's going on with this.

One of the things that this country is supposed to be responsible for is defense and then taking care of veterans, and then natural disasters.

And they're failing.

Every time I look I go, "My God." It's not just this administration. This has been going on for years. And our Congressmen and our Senators end up being paid for. Their seats are paid for. There are people that want to run that don't have the money backup and can't run. There are some good veterans running with a heart and soul, but they don't have the money, and they probably won't win, maybe one or two, hopefully.

The shame of it is that our country is not the way it was set up to be. with the common person going up there. It's ruled by money and corporations. That's part of the apathy in America.

I look for small changes, like in '93 or '94 we lost Jason Clifton, who was out of Oklahoma. There was a hustle then, because the family wanted to donate his brain for research, to see if it could help us at all. And we've had ones after that. I kept bringing that up to the research advisory committee. Why don't we have a place that if people want to donate these parts when they die, that might help us to find some answers for what to do,

whatever. Well, lo and behold, we got the money for that and one that just died of cancer donated his brain. So they moved fast because we had one dying of cancer at the time.

On the other hand, as a lot of my vets tell me, "Denise, dammit, they know! Why do we have to spend money on research? And I agree with them. There are a lot of unpublished studies in the Army and they damn-well know and you can read it in the DU documents the way some of them are worded. If the consequences of DU became known it would become a political hot subject. If we could get people to carry the story. Where do you start?"

During the Clinton administration we had to deal with the stain on the blue dress, over the vets. Fires in California, I mean, we've gone through everything. When we have thought we had a hot story that would make it, something would come up and take the news media off.

I feel for the Katrina people still living in tents. *You're history.*

They're all battling with whose fault it is and they leave the people, you know, just out there. I identify with them. I'm going, "Hey, a new group."

I've got some Vietnam vets who have done investigations and have gone in quietly and, "We know there's a sex trade out there," but they don't talk about that. When they do a story they miss what they really should concentrate on and I'm going, "God!"

You know, they're controlled.

We've tried to do rallies in D.C. Well, it's hard to get people to travel. Just like seeing the few that went up there to the Katrina hearings, a handful of them. How do you get the masses up there to say "We're not going to take it anymore."

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HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

'Depleted uranium arms are not utilized by units currently deployed here in Iraq.'

An Interview With Captain William Roberts

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: We are doing a story pertaining to what was published in the LONDON TIMES last Sunday. They did a story about depleted uranium radiation traveling to the U.K. during shock and awe. What is being done regarding U.S. Army regulation 700-48 that mandates immediate thorough en-

Captain William Roberts is a media spokesman for Multi-National Forces in Iraq.

vironmental remediation in Iraq?

CAPT. WILLIAM ROBERTS: Actually, sir, any questions pertaining to things that happened in units that are no longer deployed to Iraq need to be referred either to the units that were here at the time or to the Pentagon U.S. Army Public Affairs Office. The units that are here do not utilize that type of munition.

ICONOCLAST: They do not utilize

what? Depleted uranium?

ROBERTS: Depleted uranium arms are not utilized by units currently deployed here in Iraq. We don't have that type of combat operation during this time. And we cannot speak for units that are not here under our command. So any question on actions or activity that took place by previously deployed units have to either be sent to the units deployed here at that time or to the Office of

the Chief of Public Affairs at the Pentagon which I believe is your appropriate point of contact and their contact information is available on the internet, at <www.usarmy.mil> and go to the public affairs link.

ICONOCLAST: When did they cease using depleted uranium?

ROBERTS: When combat operations ceased. We had uh, as I said I can't speak for when they were used or what they were used for, but we do not have them. We're not exactly facing an armored threat here in Iraq at this time.

'That reminds me of the ash with Mount St. Helens. It darkened the skies in different continents.'

An Interview With Tim Hix

By DEBORAH MATHEWS
ICONOCLAST REPORTER

ICONOCLAST: When were you in Vietnam?

HIX: '66, '67, and '68.

ICONOCLAST: Then, did you know that you were exposed to Agent Orange?

HIX: Not at that time.

ICONOCLAST: When did you find out?

HIX: Well, I suspected when my brother died from it nine years ago and

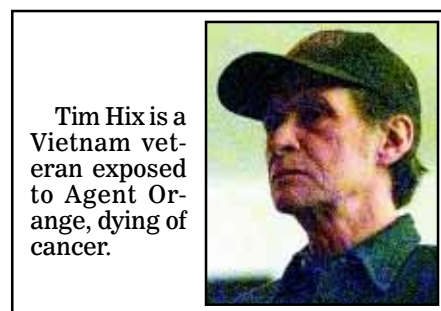
he and I had been stationed together.

ICONOCLAST: Where were you stationed?

HIX: All different places. We were on the rivers and in the different harbors. Actually, we were up in the estuaries.

ICONOCLAST: You said your brother passed away nine years ago and up until that time you didn't think of Agent Orange?

HIX: Not really. Here about four years



Tim Hix is a Vietnam veteran exposed to Agent Orange, dying of cancer.

HIX: About seven or eight months. They first thought he had pneumonia and then they found that it was mesothelioma.

ICONOCLAST: Have you had any trouble getting any of your treatments?

HIX: No, I haven't had any trouble that way.

ICONOCLAST: Did they have to establish that you were sick from Agent Orange?

HIX: No, I'm fighting that to this day. That's what my appeal is. They're saying that I wasn't. These things are caused by Agent Orange and that is presumed by the VA to be true, but because I was in the Navy, they say if you didn't walk on the ground, which that wasn't my primary function. Had I been in the infantry, there would be no problem. You get it automatically. Air Force and Navy have a problem. The thing of it is that Agent Orange was airborne. They sprayed it. That is my contention.

One of the guys that I served side-by-side with has been drawing 100 percent compensation since 1996. They arbitrarily changed the rule, the VA did. They didn't change the congressional law, but they changed their manual.

ICONOCLAST: Why?

HIX: So they don't have to pay. It encompasses hundreds of thousands.

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'I love DU!'

Former U.N. Weapons Inspector Scott Ritter Discusses Depleted Uranium Weaponry

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AUSTIN — Scott Ritter, former U.N. weapons inspector during most of the Clinton Administration from 1991 to 1998, unapologetically said that he looked at the use of DU weapons from the standpoint of a U.S. marine in the heat of battle.

"You put me in charge of a couple hundred marines, and we're dug in and a T80 battle tank comes over. I don't want to fight an equal fight. I don't want him anywhere close to me. I'm going to open up a 120 millimeter battletank gun with continued depleted uranium rounds that will carve up that tank like a hot knife through butter and kill everyone inside before they can even come close to me," said Ritter, who, as a Marine, served as a ballistic missile advisor to Gen. Norman Schwartzkopf during the first Gulf War.

"I love DU!" he added during a talk at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church sanctuary in Austin last Saturday. "I want



Scott Ritter

to be able to use it on my 20 millimeter Bushmaster, on my LAB25, so it'll cut through T62 tanks. Why? I don't want an equal fight, ladies and gentlemen. You send me to war, and I'll kill the enemy. I'm going to slaughter them! I'm going to eviscerate them! I'm going to annihilate them! And I'm going to do it in a way that brings all my marines home or at least as many of them as I can. THAT'S-MY-JOB! My job is to wage war, not make the world lovey dovey. You click the "on" switch on, it's going on, and I'm going to them, and you better give me the weapons to do the job.

"And you better understand that when you give me those weapons, and I use those weapons, there are repercussions. When I pull that trigger on a DU weapon I'm creating conditions that are harmful to American service members. I'm creating conditions that are harmful to innocent civilians that have to live in that area. If you don't want that, don't send me to war."

ago I started thinking that he died of it and I had heard them talking about the Agent Orange registry. You have to sign up for it. I just went down and signed up and they do all kinds of testing on you. They told me that everything was fine. Well, that night, the Central Texas Agent Orange doctor, this oriental lady called me and she said that there was an abnormality in your blood, but it is nothing to worry about. So they did more testing and stuff and then said that I had cancer. I was diagnosed in June of 2002 with prostate cancer and in the lymph nodes too. That's how it started. Now, not only do I have the cancer from it, but I also have the type two diabetes, which is also caused from Agent Orange.

ICONOCLAST: How long was your brother sick before he passed away?

Army Orders \$77 Million Worth Of New DU Rounds

MINNEAPOLIS — The U.S. Army has extended a previous order for 120-mm ammunition for its main battle tank to \$77 million, it was announced last week.

Alliant Techsystems revealed that the original contract for M829A3 tank rounds had been extended for fiscal year 2006 by \$38 million, increasing the number of rounds to 35,000.

This type of round, which is based on a depleted uranium penetrator, has been described as

the most advanced armor-piercing kinetic-energy ordnance available, with outstanding accuracy and lethality.

Although critics claim that radiation from depleted uranium is a potential health hazard to tank crews and to individuals exposed to the material upon impact with its target, the military says that the heavy depleted uranium is not only a superb armor-piercer, but is a hardener for the Abrams' armor.

'They have exposed close to a million of our troops.'

An Interview With Karl Schwarz

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

ICONOCLAST: Regarding Chris Busby's study about DU traveling, I would like to get a political perspective from you. You know, THE LONDON TIMES printed a short story about this recently and the Ministry of Defense there said that it's unfeasible that depleted uranium could have traveled so far.

KARL SCHWARZ: Well, that's what their stance is, but if you look a lot closer at the comments of this ministry and also the Royal Academy people, they come up with two diametrically opposed solutions and answers. One person says that this was natural uranium that was stirred up in the atmosphere through shock and awe in Iraq. If natural uranium could reach there, by God, the DU probably could, too.

I mean, that's just to cut straight through the political-speak, okay?

You have to read that article real close to detect that, and you might even have to quote the article or cite it. They are actually saying that "no, this wasn't DU from the use of depleted uranium weapons, this was natural uranium from Iraq that got stirred up into the atmosphere through shock and awe. Now that's the official British stance "one." Okay?

Official British stance "two" is somewhat more problematic. Evidently, according to this governmental official, they've had a Chernobyl that they didn't bother to tell their citizens about. Because he claims that uranium was local source from their own nuclear reactors, you know, electrical power plants, and didn't have anything to do with DU from Iraq. Well, as a matter of fact, the reason that they put them in pellets and they put them in cores and they sink them in heavy water is so that uranium can't get out, and they are sealed.

Those plants do not put any uranium in the air whatsoever. If they do, they have to shut them down. Period.

ICONOCLAST: What are your thoughts politically on this. What do you think our government needs to be doing?



Karl Schwarz is a 2008 candidate for U.S. President, an author, and a nanotechnology company founder whose son served in Iraq.

SCHWARZ: I think our government needs to face this issue head-on, not only as a public policy issue for the troops that they've had exposed to this ever since

Desert Storm which includes Bosnia, which includes Afghanistan, also includes Iraqi Freedom, the second go-round over here. They have used depleted uranium weapons in all four of those deployments. The troops, if you start backtracking, you don't ever read about this, but you can find it if you look for Bosnia syndrome, like Desert Storm syndrome. One of the reasons and how I got on this story, Leon, was up in Canada. They have a thing called the Uranium Medical Research Center.

They actually have one in Canada and one in the United States. The Canadians told me, "Oh, for the record, the reason we didn't go to Iraq is we are already seeing some huge health issues on the Canadian troops that participated in Desert Storm, Bosnia, and Afghanistan. We're not going to be exposing our folks to this stuff anymore. We're against it." Now, they're coming to grips in their own country with some very real and very tragic health stories, and our government is sitting on it.

Now, from a public policy viewpoint, they need to take care of our veterans.

They put them over there on deployment on questionable issues. If you look back at this issue, we have created the circumstances to attack Iraq the first time. There were some very questionable issues surrounding Clinton's bombing of Bosnia. If you go back on 9/11, dissect that story, it won't stand the light of day. Within 12 hours they were ready to attack Afghanistan and they were actually practicing that invasion in the late spring and early spring of 2001. And then, all of a sudden, we find out that everything about Iraq was fabricated.

So, basically, the last four engagements, the last four deployments, are under questionable circumstances. And they have exposed close to a million of our troops. Now, if you go back and start to look at the health implications that's going on, they put 425,000 Americans in

Desert Storm and over 300,000 of them are having medical disability issues.

They go over there some of the healthiest people on the face of this planet and come home with their life devastated.

ICONOCLAST: I know that some of the state legislatures are in the process of allowing testing for DU...

SCHWARZ: They are mandating it. Actually 10 have the legislation pending and two others have passed it.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think Texas should do it?

SCHWARZ: Yes.

ICONOCLAST: Why haven't we?

SCHWARZ: Why haven't we? Because it's not politically acceptable to this federal government. A lot of the states will run scared if the federal government starts threatening them with loss of funding.

ICONOCLAST: Do you think that that's going to happen to some of those 12 states?

SCHWARZ: They may have some toning to do. I heard that an overwhelming number of the Republicans in the Louisiana House and Senate voted to pass that legislation down there. I'm trying to get it stirred up in Arkansas. That's where my son is from. I want him tested. He was over there a year in the Green Zone. Even though he wasn't out where they were dropping the bombs, this stuff was spread everywhere.

I talked to one lady down in Florida. She's a doctor and tested 87 of them and every one was positive.

ICONOCLAST: If they test positive, what's their future?

SCHWARZ: Well, first off they are going to have to get a urine test and chromosome test, which costs about six grand to get those tests done. There are some things they can do related to heavy metal poisoning treatment. You know, if you can get the damn metal out of your system through various medical means of treating metal poisoning, the prognosis may be much better than it is right now.

ICONOCLAST: High protein diets?

SCHWARZ: That, but they also give you certain types of medicine to flush it out of your system. This stuff tends to go for you liver, your kidneys, your brain, and most of the vets I've talked to about this are having side effects, blurred vision, blurred memory, aching joints. They went over there healthy and came home like they were crippled.

ICONOCLAST: Is the federal government doing anything for them?

SCHWARZ: Stalling. The VA has been locked up in committee. They aren't even proposing to be out with the fourth draft until December 2006. I can tell you that for some of the people who served in 2003, that will be too late.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think needs to happen?

SCHWARZ: I think the government needs to (1) honor its word to the U.S. soldiers, (2) I think they need to start testing anywhere downstream of these firing ranges, the bases, the nuclear weapons labs, the storage facilities. I think they need to start looking at the watershed and air drifting issues right here in the states. And I think they need to come public with what they are detecting on these high volume air sensors. We have them. I've been on some on two of our military bases and also government labs. They have those sensors on them.

And, for some reason, they don't want anybody to know about it.

Now, the other thing I've noted, because I'm watching it, is the story that broke in the U.K. (about DU traveling) and was posted within 24 hours in Australia and has not been picked up by any U.S. newspaper, and I've personally put about 600 of them on notice. I also sent it to Canada, Germany, France, Ireland, U.K., Australia, Japan. The world desk, national news editors.

ICONOCLAST: What about the people that live in Great Britain. Have you heard any feedback?

SCHWARZ: Yes. Some of the people on my e-mail update list, who are from Armenia, all the west to Singapore and Australia. Then there's about 18 or 19 of them in the U.K. They have all posted this on their blogs if they have blogs. Canada has been very actively pushing this out, because now it's adding up in their heads why so many Canadian troops came home sick.

A lot of the Canadians I know said they felt ashamed when their government wouldn't go to Iraq with us. That is the first time Canada has not joined us in a jolly good war. They felt a little ashamed, but now they are starting to see the truth. In fact, some of them that served in Afghanistan are now dead. Some of them in Bosnia, now dead.

ICONOCLAST: Do we need to change our munitions to something different?

SCHWARZ: Yes.

ICONOCLAST: Or can we?

SCHWARZ: We could. Well, we can and

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An Interview With Tim Hix

From Previous Page

ICONOCLAST: So, now, you are getting all of your medical care through the VA?

HIX: I still pay for it. I had to have a radical prostatectomy in September of 2002 and I got the bill and consequently ended up filing bankruptcy. This stuff is only paid for by the VA if it's service connected and that is what I am fighting, to get the service connection.

ICONOCLAST: They say that your cancer was not a result of your time in the service in Vietnam.

HIX: Yes, and I even have a letter from my radiation oncologist at the Dallas VA Hospital. He is Vietnamese. He was in

the very same places I was and he wrote a letter that is now in my file in Washington D.C., that in his professional opinion it was caused from Agent Orange in my military service.

ICONOCLAST: What do you know about DU?

HIX: Not a whole lot, but some. It's going to cause all kinds of cancers and things like Agent Orange did.

ICONOCLAST: There is a study that has just come out about the DU showing up in England.

HIX: That is another thing about Agent Orange exposure. For a long time, they wanted you to prove where you

were. I have a friend who had a cotton crop that was killed by diaxon, which is the active ingredient in Agent Orange. It had drifted over a hundred miles, right here in the state of Texas, from one guy killing some brush with it. It drifted over one hundred miles and killed their cotton crop and they collected on it. What is the difference there from Vietnam. It could drift a hundred miles there the same as here.

ICONOCLAST: Going back to Vietnam, you weren't given any information to alert you to risks?

HIX: No. We were gung ho. They are now, too, and we just have another Vietnam. I don't disagree that Sadaam should have been ousted, but we should have done it differently.

ICONOCLAST: I had an interview with Daniel Ellsberg and one of the first things he said to me is that he wished he had

done what he had earlier and it would have made more of a difference. He also compared Iraq to Vietnam. If you could do something to get information out there to others...

HIX: I already do, but I'd like to get through this legal stuff and help other guys in my same situation. There are a lot of people who need help and answers. I'd like to see something like that happen with this depleted uranium.

I think DU is like Agent Orange. It kills every living thing. The vegetation it kills quickly, the people, it takes years to manifest.

ICONOCLAST: With DU, studies show that it is traveling around the globe.

HIX: That reminds me of the ash with Mount St. Helens. That cloud of ash traveled everywhere. It darkened the skies in different continents.

HAVE DU — WILL TRAVEL

An Interview With Karl Schwarz

From Previous Page

we can't. Sometimes we're a victim of our own successes. I'm pretty sure the Russians and the Chinese are going to try to come up with tanks that have the same type of depleted uranium and armor that the Abrams tank has. We can't penetrate them. A tungsten-tipped projectile will not be effective enough. You'd have to kind of shoot it in the ass, like the tiger thing. You can't go head-to-head with them.

What you could do is tremendously scale down the reasoning behind some of this stuff. Like they're using depleted uranium as penetrators for bunker busters just so they can bust those up. There are ways to take those bunkers out in a ground assault. You could get in there and blow the doors open, take the thing out that way. You might have to bomb it from the air. You might lose a few more people, but at least you aren't condemning millions of people.

The story that you saw coming out of the United Kingdom is a very typical response that even U.S. government labs do when they get caught with their britches down polluting the environment and exposing people to nuclear contamination. They basically always try to say "Oh, that was natural uranium." The only problem is once you start doing these samples, you find plutonium, you find neptunium, and you find U-236, which is not naturally occurring, at least plutonium and U-236 are not. And they are finding that, as well. Now, those two things are highly radioactive and highly toxic, in fact, there may be one or two things invented by man that are more toxic than plutonium. That is lethal stuff. It doesn't take much to do you in.

ICONOCLAST: So their arguments don't hold water?

SCHWARZ: They don't hold water. And this is one of those things, as long as they obfuscate, they are literally guilty of genocide. They are guilty of cruel and inhumane treatment of our soldiers. And, you

stop and think about it, our allies, our coalition partners are starting to see this and I think that's why they are starting to fold up on some of these military policies. They're not going to keep exposing their populations to this crap.

And now, if this story is true, that they're being exposed thousands of miles away, you may see a worldwide uprising to nuclear arms, period. That would be a good thing. Darn, Leon, I'm not even an anti-war person.

I'm standing here, outside, right now, looking around. I mean, what if this crap is right out here on these people's yards? They're out here doing their gardening, maybe getting exposed to this crap. You have no way of knowing, and it doesn't take much of this stuff to put your health over the edge.

ICONOCLAST: Some of the scientists I've talked to say that it is everywhere, and that it's in what we consume.

SCHWARZ: In an article I have coming out tomorrow, I talk about how this is probably in our water, it's in our food chain, it's in the air we breathe, it's in the materials we touch. You know, yeah, it's around. And that scares me because I've been sitting here for the last 25 years wondering why my friends are getting so damned sick with disorders they don't even have names for.

About the only science that I'm aware of that can address this is nanotechnology. They have not come up with any chemical means whatsoever to neutralize this crap. Nanotechnology might be the answer.

ICONOCLAST: How would that be the answer? What form?

SCHWARZ: You are actually getting down to submolecular size that could actually trap and catch this stuff, maybe change its properties, with the damage caused to the nanotube and not to the human body.

O'Reilly Wants U.S. To Leave Iraq ASAP

WASHINGTON — In a strange turn of events, it appears that anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan has a new ally in bringing the troops back from Iraq.

Bill O'Reilly.

Yes, the same Bill O'Reilly of the hit FoxNews cable channel show The O'Reilly Factor.

The conservative pundit suggested last week on his nationally syndicated radio show that the United States "hand over everything to the Iraqis as fast as humanly possible" because "[t]here are so many nuts in the country — so many crazies — that we can't control them."

According to Media Matters for America documentation, O'Reilly during previous shows called people advocating for the immediate withdrawal from Iraq "pinheads" and compared them to Hitler appeasers.

However, on his Feb. 20, 2006, show, O'Reilly said that the "big mistake" was actually "the crazy-people underestimation."

In context, these comments came after O'Reilly mischaracterized complaints from an Iraqi province in the Shiite-controlled Iraqi south.

O'Reilly inaccurately stated that "the mayor of Karbala ... has banned any fur-

ther government dealings with the American military in his province," when according to the Feb. 20 Associated Press report, a spokesman for the province said that contact would be suspended with U.S. forces "until U.S. forces apologize" for their actions during a recent visit to the governor's office.

The spokesman went on to complain that "U.S. soldiers brought dogs inside the [governor's office] building," which was "considered an insult by the council," and "blocked roads leading to the governor's office, preventing council members and the governor from parking cars outside the building."

O'Reilly noted on his program that "the mayor of Karbala" alleged that U.S. soldiers were "not behaving well."

In a related story, a new Gallup poll says that now 55 percent of the American public think the war in Iraq was a "mistake." This figure increased four percentage points since late January.

The poll service questioned 1,000 people across the nation.

Opposition to the Vietnam War peaked at 61 percent, according to Gallup. The percentage of the public against the Korean War peaked at 51 percent.

Privatization Won't Solve Port Security

WASHINGTON — Regardless of its race or ethnic background, corporate control of U.S. port operations will never provide security in the best interests of the American people, wrote John Nichols of the *NATION* magazine, because multinational companies are only interested in the bottom line — money.

Nichols, in his piece entitled "Corporate Control of Ports Is the Problem," explains that the issue of security with regard to the United Arab Emirates-owned corporation DP World seeking operational control of six or even 21 U.S. ports, as UPI later reported, should actually be about who runs the ports in the first place.

"It is no secret that federal authorities have failed to mandate, let alone implement, basic port security measures. But this is not merely a federal failure; it is, as well, a private-sector failure," he said. "The private firms that control so many of the nation's ports have not begun to set up a solid system for waterfront security in the more than four years since the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks."

Nichols continues: "And shifting control of the ports of New York, New Jersey, Baltimore, New Orleans, Miami and Philadelphia — along with control over the movement of military equipment on behalf of the U.S. Army through the ports at Beaumont and Corpus Christi — from a British firm, Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Co., to Dubai Ports World, is not going to improve the situation."

In the end, Nichols argues that corporations Arab-or U.S.-based are not going to compromise their profits by lying in bed with terrorist organizations, and they are also not going to invest in the nation's infrastructure, be it security or transportation.

The point seems to have been missed by not only Republicans who have criticized President Bush for his approval of an Arab firm's deal but also progressive Democrats, such as Sen. Barbara Boxer of California who is co-sponsoring legislation that would ban any foreign government from controlling U.S. port operations.

None of the nine administration officials assembled for the briefing could immediately say how many of the more than 3,000 port terminals are currently under foreign control.

Ibrahim Hooper, spokesman for the civil rights organization Council on American-Islamic Relations, noted on CNN's Paula Zhan Now that U.S. politicians are exploiting racism against Arabs with this port-ownership issue to position themselves for the coming 2006 mid-term elections.

"But I think the politicians on both sides are exploiting underlying anti-Arab and anti-Muslim sentiments and post-9/11 fears to try and use this as a political football, to say, I'm more in favor of national security than you are, and, therefore, vote for me in the fall," he said.

Hooper said he was more concerned that the issue was being "mischaracterized." As an example, he noted that the ports aren't going to be "sold" to Arabs, as suggested by the letter Republican Rep. Sue Myrick

of North Carolina wrote to President Bush, stating "In regards to selling American ports to the United Arab Emirates, not just no, but hell no." Instead the port terminals will be managed by the company, while the U.S. Coast Guard is in charge of security, and the Department of Homeland Security will be screening the cargo, he added.

Other distortions, Hooper noted, were that "the UAE is funding the insurgency in Iraq," that "they're sending nuclear weapons (abroad)," and that "they're a laundromat for money."

"They're a banking center for the world. Money goes through Dubai, and through the UAE. These are the distortions that are feeding this fear and hysteria that is leading people to come to a — a completely distorted conclusion," Hooper explained.

Since the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United Arab Emirates, had made moves to strengthen its ties to the United States in the Middle East, such as disassociating itself from the al-Qaida-friendly Taliban government in Afghanistan; frozen roughly \$1 million in alleged terrorist funding; participated in tests for nuclear products in cargo; and allowed the U.S. access to their military bases and airspace. The Pentagon says that about 77,000 U.S. soldiers are regularly on leave in the UAE.

Controversy erupted over the handover of British-owned Peninsular & Oriental Steam Navigation Co. to the UAE-owned Dubai Ports World, when the Associated Press broke the story on Feb. 11. Late late week, Dubai Ports World and Britain's P&O called for a 45-day U.S. national security review of their deal.

The Bush administration has approved the \$6.8 billion deal and threatened to veto legislation meant to kill it. Unless Congress acts, the merger deal is scheduled to be completed March 2. The White House has maintained that the deal has passed the necessary governmental agencies for security issues. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, however, meets in secret and is made up of officials from 12 agencies including the National Security Council and the Department of Homeland Security.

Many of the U.S. port terminals are operated by foreign bodies such as Singapore. The P&O leases terminals in 21 ports, 11 on the East Coast, from Portland, Maine, to Miami, Florida, and 10 on the Gulf Coast, from Gulfport, Miss., to Corpus Christi, Texas, according to the company's website.

Some members of Congress are also upset that the White House failed to inform them of the deal. Sen. Charles Grassley (R-Iowa), for instance, asked Bush in a letter for current information on any foreign investments with potential national security risks. His initial request was made last year after a Chinese company proposed to buy an oil company.

Controversy also surrounds the Dubai deal because President Bush appointed a DP World executive, David C. Sanborn, as the administrator for the Maritime Administration of the Department of Transportation. His role in the deal remains unclear.

States Offer Solutions To Energy Independence: Apollo Alliance

AUSTIN — Instead of saying the nation is “addicted to oil” and then proposing budget cuts to renewable energy sources, President Bush should follow the lead of states already implementing solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and end the use of foreign energy sources, according to the Apollo Alliance.

While President Bush visited several renewable energy facilities last week, Apollo Alliance president Jerome Ringo said noted that the president could look to Texas for strategies to develop clean energy and good jobs.

Austin Mayor Will Wynn recently introduced a resolution to the Austin City Council that promotes the use of plug-in gas-electric hybrid vehicles, providing a model the nation should follow to reduce our oil dependence, according to the Apollo Alliance report “New Energy for States.”

The report also documents policies from Arizona, Vermont, North Carolina,

and 21 other states that have adopted public-private funding mechanisms to foster clean-energy investments without straining budgets or raising taxes. New

York, Missouri, and Hawaii, the report also noted, have adopted programs to replace oil imports with homegrown fuels.

For more information about the Apollo Alliance, visit its website.
INFO
www.apolloalliance.org

Hay Hauling Permit Requirements Suspended

AUSTIN — Gov. Rick Perry has made it easier for ranchers to bring in hay from out-of-state for their drought-stricken herds by acting on a request from Texas Farm Bureau (TFB) and Texas Agriculture Commissioner Susan Combs.

In response to a letter from TFB President Kenneth Dierschke, Gov. Perry issued an executive order Feb. 14 that suspended the permitting requirements and legal height restriction for round hay bales — along with associated permit fees — carriers transporting round bales of hay to areas affected by drought and wildfire.

Hay supplies are short due to drought and wildfire, and ranchers statewide have been scrambling to find enough for-

age to feed their cattle. There have been instances where trucks loaded with large round hay bales destined for disaster areas were detained by law enforcement agencies for over-height loads. Some of those trucks have been forced to unload a portion of their cargo on the road side before being allowed to continue the delivery.

“The governor’s action gives hay haulers a chance to bring in much-needed forage to our cowherds without interference,” Dierschke said. “Ranchers appreciate Gov. Perry’s quick correction of this problem.”

“To ensure the safety of the traveling public,” Gov. Perry directed carriers with loads exceeding 14 feet in height to con-



tact the Texas Department of Transportation’s Motor Carrier Division to receive expedited routing. All other legal requirements, including licensing, registration, insurance and safety, remain in place.

Unless otherwise extended by Gov. Perry, the waiver expires April 30.

U.S. Workers Accomplish Less: Study

NEW YORK — A study from Day-Timers Inc. says that American workers last year finished less of their projects in an average day compared to results of a 1994 study.

In 1994, 82 percent of the respondents said they completed about half their planned work per day. Last year, however, 50 percent said the same thing. A decade ago, 40 percent of workers called themselves very or extremely successful, but that number fell to just 28 percent.

Experts say that as technology has improved making work more efficient, added work has piled up as have expectations to get those jobs done with the new tools, which has made it more difficult for workers to concentrate on one task thereby causing them more stress.

For instance, in 1994, workers spent an average of 9.5 hours a week on the computer. Last year that number increased to 16 hours a week, Day-Timers reported.

However, companies stand a better chance of success when they give employees more time and control over their work, experts noted.

The Day-Timers study randomly sampled about 1,000 people who work at least part time. The 1994 study sampled about 1,300 workers.

Average U.S. Families Bringing Home Less

WASHINGTON — The Federal Reserve reported late last week that after inflation adjustments, the average American family income dropped by 2.3 percent to \$70,700 in 2004 compared to 2001 levels.

The medians for both family income and net worth rose slightly in 2004 compared to 2001 levels.

The median for the families income increased 1.6 percent to \$43,200 from 2001 to 2004; the midpoint for net worth bumped up 1.5 percent to \$93,100 during the same time frame.

By contrast, the growth of median net worth increased by 10.3 percent from 1998 to 2001 when the stock market was booming at record highs.

Militarist Indians Slam Gandhi, Says Filmmaker

BANGKOK — The India-born director of a controversial film “Water” said that the people of her country no longer revere Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of nonviolent resistance for India’s independence from Great Britain.

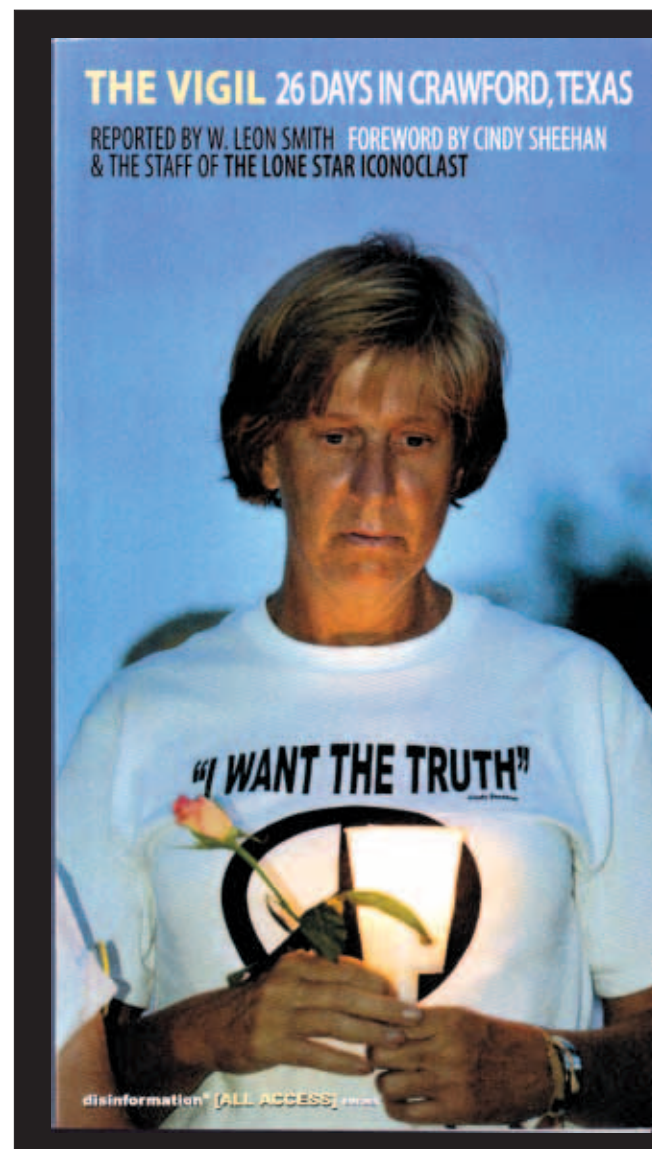
“It’s not PC to say this but I’m an admirer of Gandhi,” Deepa Mehta told reporters last week at the Bangkok International Film Festival. Her comments came while answering why Gandhi’s words were included in her film about widows in India during the 1930s.

“He’s getting a lot of flak these days because of what he preached. We’re increasingly getting to be a militaristic society. Gandhi was against that,” she added.

Mehta, who lives in Toronto, Canada, moved production of her film from India to Sri Lanka after she received daily death threats and an effigy of her burned in 2000 amid protests of Hindu nationalists. A few years after authorities revoked her licence to film for fear of her protection, the film, however, was made in secret.

Mahta insisted that while Hinduism is a religion of tolerance, militarism has increased in India in the last 15 years.

Gandhi led a political movement across India during the 1930s and 40s in a creative nonviolent resistance to British colonial rule which fell in 1947. A Hindu shot the leader dead in 1948.



AVAILABLE IN BOOKSTORES & ON THE WEB...

THE VIGIL

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 Iconoclast* 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.”

CENTRAL TEXAS HISTORY

‘March 2, 1836 – Texas Independence Day’

Washington-On-The-Brazos, March 2, 1836



By **JOE MARCHMAN**
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

AUSTIN — On Feb. 18, 1836, in accord with an act of the Provisional Government of Texas, delegates of the General Convention were elected. Two prior consultations lacked enough gumption to deal with Mexico and shake off the barbarous and ignominious yoke that the Mexican dictator, General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, had placed around their throat. This convention was clothed with full and complete powers to act. Their instructions were to draft a “Declaration of Independence” and “Constitution.” This is considered by most historians to be the single most important event in Texas

history. *Joe Marchman is a state-recognized award-winning writer for The Clifton Record. A researcher and investigator, Marchman specializes in the intricacies of Texas history.*

On the appointed date, March 1, 1836, the convention assembled at Washington-On-The-Brazos. Danger threatened Texas...the life of every delegate was in precarious uncertainty; in reality, all of Texas was in peril and the outlook for Texas seemed almost hopeless. Death hovered over every camp in the land. The tyrannous General Santa Anna and his Mexican troops were responsible for deplorable reprisals inflicted on Texans that opposed him. Outcries for assistance against Santa Anna’s dastardly seduction had been denied by the United States and others for want of a “Declaration of Independence.”

When the Convention met on March 1, 1836, the inhospitable weather was bleakish, cold, and raw. The weather conditions confronting the assemblage that frigid and wet March morning precipitated a lot of hard-drinking and disagreements among the delegates.

The Convention was held, unceremoniously, in a blacksmith shop owned by Noah T. Byars, which had no windows and doors...a heavy cotton cloth was stretched over the openings to keep out the freezing wind and rain.

At this time, Washington-On-The-Brazos had fewer than 100 inhabitants...tree stumps still dotted the main street witnessing the short time the town had been there.

The Convention delegates’ task called for courage and decisiveness, as they declared that “Texans do hereby resolve — that our political connection with the Mexican Nation has forever ended, and that the people of Texas do now constitute a free, sovereign, and independent Republic.”

The delegates, quivering from the cold and fear, could not afford to waste time, because the dark-some developments happening westwardly around San Antonio and the Alamo were exceedingly disheartening. General Santa Anna reached San Antonio on Feb. 23rd and forced the small garrison there, under the command of Colonel William B. Travis and James (Jim) Bowie, into the Alamo, which he now had under siege...San Antonio was 150 miles away.

Forty of the more than 50 Convention delegates were under 40 years of age...most of them having originated from the southern states...two were native born Texans of Span-

ish descent and five had come from foreign countries.

The population during this “Gilded Age” of Texas history varies from source to source...some say 20,000 and others estimate 30,000.

Some of the well-known delegates that were most influential at the assemblage were Sam Houston, Lorenzo de Zavala, Thomas Rusk, George C. Childress, Richard Ellis, David Burnet, Collin McKinney and 42 other courageous souls.

Lorenzo de Zavala, a Mexican statesman, was one of the most distinguished members of the Convention. Zavala had a great influence on the proceedings with his grandiloquent manner. Delegate Zavala, who obviously had a weakness for speechifying, began what was to be a lengthy discourse by euphoniously stating...“Mr. President, an eminent Roman statesman once said” ... Where upon, he was unceremoniously interrupted by Thomas Rusk with the comment that it behooved the Convention to “give less thought to dead Romans and more attention to live Mexicans,” thereby expressing the overwhelming sentiments of most Texans seated there that morning in that chilly, dank blacksmith shop. The assembled members labored day and night to frame a Constitution for the Republic of Texas.

Richard Ellis was elected President of Constitutional Convention. The first act of most importance was the adoption of a Declaration of Independence. George C. Childress headed the committee charged with the task. Childress wrote the Declaration document, which he patterned after the one that Thomas Jefferson had written some 60 years earlier for the American Colonies.

Sam Houston was made Commander-In-Chief of the Armies of the Republic of Texas. David G. Burnet was elected President and Lorenzo de Zavala Vice President. Thomas Rusk was made Secretary of War.

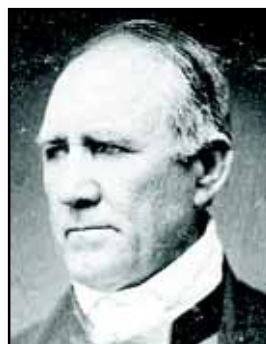
Houston had been in the real estate business with fellow delegate David Burnet before the revolution. Apparently, they, Houston and Burnet, had never had differences before the convention at Washington-On-The-Brazos. However, sharp and resentful feelings developed between these two strong-willed men...These two were to become bitter political enemies for the rest of their lives.

From whence in Texas until 1860 and the Civil War, there were only two major political parties; “Those For” Houston and “Those Against” Houston...Burnet was the outspoken opponent and leader of “Those Against” Houston.

David Burnet was deeply religious and professed to be a “Teetotaler”...Houston was his direct opposite and sincerely enjoyed antagonizing Burnet on many occasions... Houston accused Burnet of secretly sipping a brandy toddy when he was alone with none to witness. If the truth was known, Houston, himself, was probably under the influence when he labeled Burnet with the nickname “Wetumpka”...meaning “big hog thief” in Cherokee.

These two Texans did have one belief in common; that it was a great tactical military “faux pas” (blunder) to defend isolated fixed positions such as the Alamo.

General Houston, because of the situation with General Santa Anna in San Antonio, had to leave the Convention the afternoon of March 6 to take command of the Texas Army... this, be-



Sam Houston



Gen. Santa Anna



William B. Travis



Jim Bowie



David Burnet



Richard Ellis



Lorenzo de Zavala



Thomas Rusk



Collin McKinney



Erastus (Deaf) Smith



George C. Childress



Noah T. Byars

fore much work of the Convention had been accomplished. General Sam’s parting words to the other delegates was “Let us then, Comrades, sever that link that binds us to that rusty chain of Mexico.”

Houston left and proceeded to Gonzales, a little over half-way to San Antonio, where he had determined to organize his men and go to the relief of the Alamo. Joining General Sam in Gonzales was Erastus (Deaf) Smith.



Washington-On-The-Brazos Monument

“The wonderful Mr. E,” as Houston referred to Deaf Smith, who was the eyes and ears of the Texas Army. Fearing the rumors about the Alamo to be true, Houston sent Deaf Smith the 76 miles to the Alamo to learn the exact situation. Smith had gone only about 20 miles when he met Susannah Dickenson, wife of Capt. Almeron Dickenson who had perished at the Alamo. She related the final story

Continued On Next Page

'March 2, 1836 – Texas Independence Day'

From Previous Page

of the fall of the Alamo and the entire garrison there.

With the victorious Mexicans already on the march for Gonzales there was but one answer for Houston...retreat.

The last work of the Convention at Washington-On-The-Brazos before adjournment was to set up an "ad-interim" government of which David G. Burnet was elected President by only four votes...probably because his political rival Sam Houston was in Gonzales and couldn't contest his election.

The "ad-interim" government was to function as the government for the newly formed Republic of Texas until the Revolution was over.

It was to be that, as soon as possible after the defeat of Santa Anna and the Mexican forces, a national election was to be held. Therewith, the citizens of Texas could ratify the Republic's new Constitution and elect the officials for which the new Constitution provided.

As fate would have it, before the Con-

vention completed its work on March 17, the delegates received word from Sam Houston of the atrocities of Santa Anna in the fall of the Alamo. This fired the passion of the delegates. Upon learning from Houston that he was retreating from Gonzales and Santa Anna would soon be approaching Washington-On-The-Brazos, the Convention delegates hastily completed their work and moved the new Republic's government to Harrisburg.

It was a season of oppressively heavy rains; the Brazos River was swollen way beyond bank limits; contagious epidemics prevailed; the misery and suffering was indescribable among those Texas settlers in a desperate rush to stay ahead of Santa Anna and the Mexican Army.

The new government fled with the people. Many of the delegates sullenly dispatched themselves to General Houston's Army...Being informed that Santa Anna was a scant 30 miles away, the new government moved again from Harrisburg to Galveston Island...with the thought of moving on to New Orleans if

they must.

General Santa Anna, a half-step behind, got the news that the new government was in Harrisburg. Abruptly, he changed his objective from Sam Houston to the new Texas government. Without waiting for the rest of his Army, Santa Anna crossed the Brazos River and gave chase. He arrived at Harrisburg a few hours too late...Angry at the elusive Texans, he hurried eastward to Morgan's Point overlooking Galveston Bay...Santa Anna missed again; however, an advanced party of the Mexicans reported seeing the boats within rifle ball range crossing the bay, but were disposed not to shoot because Mrs. David Burnet was standing in the boat and she was the most prominent target. Santa Anna felt Houston could be disposed of later. He would first seize David Burnet, the new President, and his Cabinet, and by all means Vice-President Lorenzo de Zavala, his dearest enemy of long standing.

Deaf Smith was Houston's chief spy...and he reported to General Houston that Santa Anna had made the tactical mistake of dividing his superior numbered troops.

By an ironical twist, Santa Anna marched northward, moving up the prairie from Galveston Bay to almost Lynch's Ferry... On April 20, Santa Anna pitched camp with open country on his left flank, the San Jacinto River on his right, Buffalo Bayou and Sam Houston's Army before him...another tactical error by Santa Anna, who thought of himself as the "Napoleon of the West."

General Sam Houston, kindling the mood of his men to an intense emotion, reflected the horrid deeds of Santa Anna with his despicable inhumane treatment of those men at the Alamo and Goliad...men, who had been rushed into eternity fighting a just war...for a just cause.

The names of those Texas hero's you know. In future issues we will endeavor to spark an opportunity to remember.

Houston Casts Most Unpopular Senate Vote

In the eyes of Texas and the entire South, the Hero of San Jacinto flunked a loyalty test on Feb. 28, 1854, by voting against passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill.

Negotiations with the Plains tribes, which concluded in the summer of 1853, opened 13 million acres north and south of the Kansas River to immediate settlement. When congress convened in December, legislation was introduced for organizing the vast new realm.

By the time the bill reached the U.S. Senate, amendments had been added dividing the domain into the Kansas and Nebraska territories and, more importantly, leaving the question of slavery up to the future inhabitants. The second refinement effectively repealed the Missouri Compromise, which for more than three decades had prevented the westward expansion of Dixie's "peculiar institution."

The historic debate started in the senate on Jan. 30, 1854. Sam Houston came out early against the proposal provoking a spiteful outburst from the "Richmond Enquirer." "Nothing can justify this treachery nor can anything save this traitor from the deep damnation which such treason may merit."

Would the living legend from the Lone Star State really break ranks with the solid South? The whole country held its breath in anxious anticipation.

The star attraction took the senate floor on Feb. 14 and delivered a marathon two-day address. Ever the outspoken champion of Indian rights, he opened with a long recitation of the promises to the original Americans broken by the U.S. government. He asked what would become of the 40,000 Indians in the region only to answer that any appeal he might make on their behalf was bound to fall on deaf ears.

Resuming his remarks the next morning, Houston argued the act would do the South more harm than good. "The vast northwestern portion of our continent, unadapted to slave labor, will not be filled up by southern men with slaves," he reasoned. Northern people will increase

This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



that preponderance until the North is connected with California."

Senator Sam closed with his heartfelt concern for future generations. "Our children have two alternatives presented. They are either to live in after times in the enjoyment of peace, of harmony, and prosperity, or the alternative remains for them of anarchy, discord and

civil broil."

Thirty minutes before midnight on Feb. 27, Sen. Stephen A. Douglas of Illinois called for the long-awaited vote. Houston interrupted with a motion to adjourn in a desperate parliamentary attempt to delay the decision but was shouted down by his impatient peers.

The Texan did, however, have the last word with an impassioned three-hour plea for preservation of the status quo. As the sun rose over the capitol, he roared, "Maintain the Missouri Compromise! Stir not up agitation! Give us peace!"

But it was far too late to change any minds. The Kansas-Nebraska Bill passed 37 to 14 with Houston registering one of the two nays from a southern

state. Although the margin was narrower in the house of representatives, the watershed measure was never in danger of defeat.

Houston went home to nearly universal condemnation. The ferocity of the criticism from friends as well as foes shocked and saddened the old warhorse, who was genuinely mystified by the backlash. After all, he had voted in 1848 to ban slavery from the Oregon Territory and two years later to admit California as a free state and to abolish the slave trade in the District of Columbia without incurring the wrath of his constituents.

Typical of the press reaction was a tirade in the Corsicana "Prairie Blade." "Will Texas endorse this course and tamely submit not only to be misrepresented, but have her interest assailed by Houston in conjunction with his abolition allies? Is there not enough of the spirit of '76 and '36 in Texans to defend their own interest from the attacks of their own Senator?"

Houston confided to his personal pastor that the Kansas-Nebraska vote "was the most unpopular I ever gave." But he was quick to add with characteristic conviction that "it was the wisest and most patriotic."

Rather than blow over, the political storm intensified. Twenty-two county conventions passed resolutions in the fall of 1855 taking Houston to task for his unforgivable heresy. Hays County Democrats declared that his unique contribution to Texas independence and presidential service to the Republic did not balance his recent betrayal. Even his neighbors in Huntsville called for his resignation.

On Nov. 11, 1855, the Texas legislature formally censured Sam by a lynch-mob vote of 77-3. Since lawmakers instead of the people would pick U.S. Senators for 60 more years, the reprimand served notice that Houston's second term, which expired in 1859, would be his last.

Barte Haile welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at haile@pdq.net or 1912 Meadow Creek Dr., Pearland, TX 7758.

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Recovery Not Always Best Solution For Alcoholism

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "It ain't that people are stupid. Its just that ever' onct in a while, they're a little short on bein' smart."

There's a major conflict going on in Texas.

No, it's not about turning over the state's three biggest ports—including the loading of military supplies bound for Iraq and Afghanistan — to Dubai.

It isn't about Lying Texas Gov. Tricky Ricky Perry's plan to increase wiretapping and broaden conspiracy statutes to include all human endeavors.

It's not even about the child abuse of high stakes testing, which a new poll shows a majority of Texans oppose and the Republican legislature vows to increase until all brown children bleed from the ears..

Nope, it's about where to put the Bush library.

There's something incredibly TEXAN about demand for the library of a man who doesn't read!

Just about every poll taken shows Texans are opposed to virtually every plank in the Republican gallows (their platform always has a trap door), yet we keep electing them.

We even elected them when they were Democrats.

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Texas politics is sort of like the first Bush library: half as big as they thought it would be and erected by people too incompetent to build a fire.

But the race for Brush Arbor II is between the rich people of Dallas, the rich people of West Texas, and the Waco Baptist cult.

It would appear that lovely little Lubbock has the current edge, since a condo developer has sued the SMU edifice builders over property rights.

So what'll it be, a house on a lot you don't own or a presidential video game you can't win?

Baylor is reportedly sucking wind because they were the first to kick out Tom DeLay.

DeLay and Neighbor Bush raise the proposition that perhaps recovery is not

always the best solution for alcoholism.

We'd all be better off if they'd just stayed hammered.

Especially them.

They would be worried about a night in the drunk tank instead of a long term of years in prison, the country would still have cheap gasoline and most of its industry, and Texas would have real schools and a legislature that doesn't play with itself in public.

I personally favor giving Bush to Tech. They should have *something* out there to remind them, at least nominally, of trees.

In comparison it could make hiring Bobby Knight look good.

Bush and Knight have a lot in common.

They both cost a lot of money, neither produces any winners and having them around will eventually choke the life out of you.

And, just in case you really do care about the real issues:

Port security isn't really the problem in the Dubai deal.

After all, keeping terrorists out of the country will still be up to Homeland Bureaucracy, which handled Katrina so well.

These ports load and unload the cargo in New Jersey (New York), New Orleans,

Miami and the Texas Coast.

Since the United States economy is now one big Pier One Imports franchise, should Dubai take exception to U.S. foreign policy, a slowdown at the fabled six ports could leave the country sucking hind tit to the milking machine.

Not to mention supporting our troops, who depend on little niceties that may go through these ports.

Like bullets and stuff.

And there wouldn't have to be a big deal made about strangling the American economy.

Just lay off a few guys and we'll start to miss our textile industry.

And our steel mills.

Not to mention our automobile industry.

We will, however, save fuel.

Trucks won't be running around delivering stuff.

Thing is, the Bush toadies responded to the country's concern by pointing out that lots of other foreign countries own lots of port facilities in the United States.

That's supposed to make us feel better?

Hey, these are foreign companies who are friends of America.

For now.

Call For A Nuclear Moratorium

Perhaps this generation of the human species has gone too far, and reached the point of no return.

Lying beneath the insurgencies and conquests of battle are deadlier guerillas that breed cancers and deformities, and, according to some of the most respected scientists in the world, are at our doorsteps, in our homes, and in our bodies.

They attach to wind currents and sweep across our planet.

They pulsate near nuclear power plants and are parasitical stowaways in our food chain.

Low-level radiation, thought 35 years ago to be safe, now has a time-proven track record that scientists say reveals the opposite.

The results of their studies show that declining physical and mental health and an increase in dreaded diseases and conditions have accompanied that timeline and is getting worse. Because of the nature of the new-found frailties and cellular changes in the human body, they know that radiation is the culprit.

These scientists had long speculated that depleted uranium — fragmenting and bursting into the air as an aerosol or gas from expended munitions during warfare — travels. They now have proof.

It was officially announced this week that this harbingers of low-level radiation was carried in the wind from the battlefields of Iraq to at least as far away as the United Kingdom, depositing contaminants on Britain and filling the air with radioactive fallout that evolved from depleted uranium munitions used in shock and awe.

Militaries that use DU are not convinced and intend to continue use of the heavy, radioactive metal, and



leave it to the residents of the occupied territories to eventually clean it up, something which expert Major Doug Rokke says is impossible. He wrote the manual on the subject and says it can't be done.

The United States has just placed a multi-million-dollar order for 35,000 more depleted uranium rounds to be purchased during this fiscal year.

What it comes down to is war versus science.

Humanity versus genocide.

The short-term present versus the long-term future.

At stake is the survival of our planet as we used to know it, back when there existed the American dream, when peaceful coexistence was a virtue, prior to the highly politicized and forced-down-our-throats New World Order globalization.

Ninety-five percent of the populations of the world do not want globalization. Only gluttonous corporatists and politicians want it. War is a natural by-product and greed is its engine.

The regular person just wants to be left alone.

A conservative planet would not play roulette with its survival, especially when the best science strongly suggests that the use of depleted uranium weaponry and the existence of nuclear power plants are not safe.

The time has come for a moratorium on nuclear energy and weapons.

We must act swiftly to exchange nuclear energy with a dependable, safer alternative, and forbid the use of nuclear weapons of any kind, anywhere.

This can only happen if the United States leads the way and does it unilaterally. No small country will stop trying to get them as long as the U.S. has them.

The exorbitant expenditures on war and destruction, on killing and maiming, on desecrating the future of our children, should instead go toward securing this planet environmentally while raising the standard of living for its inhabitants.

It is clear that political leaders of the world cannot append peace and prosperity.

They are in the minority and are drunk with what they conceive as power to plunder.

Our politicians pay lip service to the Ten Commandments because it's what we want to hear, but then ignore the creed's ideals and call it patriotism.

Instead of leading our most valuable assets toward learning to create a virtuous society, one that would shine as a positive beacon for humankind, our children are instead ushered into the dark age of violence, death, disease, and debt.

As a civilization and as protectors of humanity, we must shed the cloak of apathy, ignore the primordial belches that command we be afraid, and do that which is truly patriotic — demand a world without nuclear interference and contamination.

Escalations of war must be ceased, lest we find ourselves again swinging from branch to branch.

— W. Leon Smith



May God Bless The Peacemakers

On Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, the U.S. National Council of Churches denounced the war in Iraq. The statement was issued at the largest gathering of Christian churches in over a decade. Thirty-four world-wide denominations stood together and declared the war to have been "launched in deception, and [in violation of] global norms of justice and human rights," adding, "We mourn all who have died or been injured in this war. We acknowledge with shame abuses carried out in our name."

Now, before you write off that entire paragraph as the grumblings of a handful of west coast liberal intellectuals, consider the scope of the announcement. The U.S. National Council of Churches encompasses quite a few Christian denominations, including the Episcopal Church, the Presbyterian Church, the United Methodists, Orthodox Christians, and Baptists. In other words, most of your neighbors now belong to an organization that is opposed to the Iraq war. The council does not include the Catholic Church, but that's okay - the Pope doesn't support the war either.

The announcement is the first of its kind from America Right. The perception of many liberals in America is that the largest Christian denominations are the driving force behind much of the pseudo-fascism emanating from the White House. But I knew better. I was raised Methodist. I even went to private Christian academies until my mid-adoles-



The Webster Retort

By
Stephen Webster

cence. Deep down inside, I knew that true, peace-loving Christians would not - could not - go along with the war for very long. I was right, thank God.

Around the world, human societies are in the midst of a great upheaval; a social evolution that has pitted the systems of old against the forces of new, driven by the ever-expanding human consciousness. In America, we have our Neo Conservatives and Liberal Elite. That group, though divided by bitter, partisan struggle, wants one thing: control. The Republicans are also privy to small government conservatives, whereas the Democrats have their "liberty" liberals (a term of my own invention). Both groups seek peace and the betterment of our society and others around the world. This group connects people in an ever-shrinking global economy.

The Connect Culture and the Control Culture are philosophical inventions of Harvard Sociology professor Phillip Slater. He argues that the two are in the midst of a great struggle around the world. Indeed, the existence of control

and connect negates the right versus left divide that has been imposed on American politics. The idea cuts each half into fourths, bringing members of both groups closer together.

The revolt began in the 60s, when a large portion of our society spontaneously rose up against the Control Culture. For the first time in our history, the people of this nation stopped a war and embarrassed those who started it. Today's American Neo Conservatives are a multiplication of the hate and fear elicited by the rapid movement of the earliest connectors. The Bush administration is a fierce rebuttal to a brief period when the connectors of both America Left and Right - and around the world - began to make progress. As the internet and mass communication becomes the norm, people are being drawn closer together. For the first time, all over the world, truly civilized societies are realizing the utter worthlessness of war and the immense value of cooperation. In a global society, stepping on another's toe can effectively break your own leg.

However, the transition from Control to Connect is far from over. One system has yet to relinquish its grasp, and the other has yet to fully take hold. Ideologies cut from the same mold hold sway over America and the very modern Islamic Republic of Iran. When Mahmoud Ahmadinejad makes statements that put a shine to Adolf Hitler, the connectors of

Iran pitch fits. When George W. Bush evokes the crusades - the wholesale slaughter of Muslims at the hands of Medieval Christians - American connectors cringe just as greatly. Together, the controllers of both cultures are trying to whip up a new conflict to perpetuate their power, extending the systems of old.

The U.S. National Council of Churches is the first sign that the connectors of America Right are waking up again. Welcome back, friends. We may disagree on economic policies and social programs, but a very clear, defined majority of Americans now stand together with the joined purpose of ending the Iraq war and preventing the invasion of Iran. It is good to know some of my Christian brothers and sisters still believe the peacemakers to be blessed by God.

The end of the Control Culture may not come within my lifetime, as movements such as this are more a force of human evolution than conscious choice. Given the transcendental scope of mankind's awakening, I find comfort in knowing that future generations may not have to suffer the unending tragedy of war.

Stephen Webster is an Investigative Reporter and Syndicated Columnist with *The News Connection*, a Staff Columnist with *George W. Bush's hometown weekly The Lone Star Iconoclast*, and a former Contributor to *The Dallas Morning News' Science & Technology* section. For more of Webster's musings, visit GonzoMuckraker.BlogSpot.com.

SELLING AMERICAN PORTS:

Political Distortion is Secondary to Relinquishing Control and Stuffing Wealthy Pockets

Those in favor of selling American ports to foreign nations and companies want us to believe that there is no danger in doing so. Exactly how does selling our ports to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) help our nation's economy, protect American jobs, and more specifically, how is it in the best interests of American families and in fortifying our national security?

There are several interesting issues that arise from prospective port sales.

First, we are told that a foreign country already owns one port. Managing much of the stevedoring operations in Baltimore is British-based, privately owned Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company, (P&O), which has been supervising "container cargo operations at the publicly owned Seagirt and Dundalk marine terminals" for the past several years. Not large in the public eye, the P&O has recently been purchased by Dubai Ports World for \$6.8 billion.

According to William Hughes, a prominent Baltimore attorney, as per his 2/20/06 commentary Arab Port Deal Distorted for Political Gain in the *Baltimore Chronicle*, "The critical point is that Dubai Ports World won't be running the port of Baltimore, or any other U.S. port for that matter. What it would be doing, as ex-Rep. Helen Delich Bentley (R-MD), a respected expert on Maritime matters, explained in a Feb. 18th letter, to the *Baltimore Sun*, is hiring the longshoremen to load and unload the cargo from the vessels. The Maryland Port Authority, an agency of the state, she underscored, would continue to 'run the port of Baltimore's public terminals and be the spokesman for the port in general.'



Commentary

By
Peter Stern

Bentley added that this transaction only means that the 'UAE's Dubai Ports World will be the firm bidding competitively for contracts to handle cargo coming off or loading on to ships in the six ports where P&O Ports has contracts.' Baltimore is one of those ports.

This is a naive statement.

In the 1970s a group of Japanese businessmen bought up real estate in New York City, which included The Empire State Building and Rockefeller Center. For at least one generation Chinese investors have purchased properties and businesses throughout the U.S. To this date, exactly how those deals benefited American citizens is unclear.

Mr. Hughes wants us to believe that unions like the one for longshoremen will continue to protect the rights of American workers. Consequently, we are supposed to be relieved in that "secure" feeling.

Does anyone recall the United Steel Workers Union? How was the steel industry protected when foreign nations took over the steel manufacturing priorities of the U.S.? And what about the union for American automobile workers? When nations like Japan showed us that they could build quality cars and trucks more cheaply than we were able to and turn a bigger profit, were the jobs of American

auto workers well-protected?

Furthermore, where is the legal document that shows the UAE promises to keep Americans in their jobs? How do we know that in 10 or 20 years, American stevedores still will have their American jobs and at proportionate pay scales?

Another issue in question is security. With government paranoia against "terrorism" and illegal immigrants and advocating Internet spying and telephone wiretapping, how are we a safer America when we sell or lease our ports to Arab nations? More than forty years ago would former Senator McCarthy have pushed to sell American ports to the "commies"? After all, the fear of Arab "terrorists" and "rogue" terrorist nations has replaced our previous concerns about those former pro-Communist countries.

There is some rationale, rather than some political distortion or conspiracy, for us to be concerned about the ongoing sale of ports to outside nations and influences. Above all else, we are relinquishing control over important aspects of American industries, management and processes. We continue to outsource all areas of operations and services without the slightest concern of the political, economic and social outcomes.

Lastly, during the past several generations, those in charge of managing our nation's efforts and daily activities have been short-term thinkers. Rarely do American leaders consider any long-term effects from their actions. A case in point is the Iraq war and restoration. Currently the U.S. trade deficit is at \$8 trillion. President Bush has approved more than \$3 trillion for U.S. efforts in Iraq. Roughly 20-percent of American industry is owned by foreign companies

and nations. These figures are devastating.

With all due respect, Mr. Hughes does show his concern for the global purchasing of American companies and industries but he is vehement in downplaying specifically foreign port purchases apparently based upon his strong belief that American unions will ensure that our ports remain secure and will always be operated by American workers.

While I applaud his faith in American unions, we must always be concerned and vigilant regarding the vice of greed. If management and organizations believe they can earn greater profits by outsourcing American jobs, then they will do so. Look around. They already have done so. No union will have the power to combat that resolve for increased profits. We've seen it happen with the steel, auto and real estate industries. We have become increasingly dependent on foreign nations for products and services. We are dangerously dependent on foreign oil. By conceding one industry after the other to foreign ownership, we are relinquishing our control over our own economy and well-being, thereby ensuring our further dependency on outside influences. We become a nation at the mercy of other nations.

Having faith in unions protecting American jobs just isn't sufficient in promoting port sales to foreign nations. At best it is naive to think so.

Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas is a political writer well-known and published frequently throughout the Texas community and nationwide. He is a Vietnam-era Disabled Veteran and holds three post-graduate degrees. You may contact Peter Stern at: pstern@austin.rr.com.

I Don't Blame Jesus For 'Christian' Politicians

The past few weeks it seems that I may have been a little harsh on one Mr. Christ who hailed from Nazareth some 2000 years ago, give or take. If anything I wrote brought offense to some readers, please know that was never my intent.

I have the utmost respect for this Man who was the first known as Jesus.

It is they who distort his words, pervert his actions, and shame his existence to suit their own narrow agendas with whom I take umbrage.

Jesus may have been God and Man, as the sweet Franciscan Sisters of the Blessed Kunegunda (I'm not making that up) beat into my head on a daily basis for eight years; He might have been something else altogether, as modern science and "Star Trek" tend to suggest.

Whichever theory is correct, of what we know Jesus always spoke gently and of kindness. At least, that's what His biographers remembered decades later.

One thing the Sisters were up front about was that the Epistles and Gospels were not set to "paper" until many years after Christ's time had passed. Unfortunately, far too many fundamentalist, evangelical preachers tend to omit this fact while instructing their congregations as to which righteous candidates they must vote for.

How convenient the fundamentalists' selectivity in Biblical passages, failing to mention how Jesus looked at a coin and noted folks should leave the business of Caesar to Caesar, the business of God to God.

Hence, because the Roman Catholic Church is pragmatic in its non-verbatim approach toward acceptance of the Bible, both Old and New Testaments, most evangelicals deny inclusion of Catholics as true members in the realm of the "faithful" Christians.

Not only is that blatantly un-Christian in spirit, it is antithetical to Christ's own words (taking them as literally as the modern evangelicals): "Thou art Peter, and upon this Rock I shall build My Church." Peter was the first Pope, making him the founder of the Catholic Church of Rome.

There was no other Christian church until Martin Luther protested and broke from Rome in the 16th Century. This is why all non-Catholic religions are called "protestant."

Here, though, we see the first pitfall in a long list of abominable bastardizations of "your opinion doesn't count" in the name of Jesus — Americans who belong to the original Church established (allegedly, I'll admit) by Jesus' own words are not even considered Christians by religious fundamentalists; folks so addled by blind faith mixed with fear of hellfire and damnation they are possessed of an inability to employ common sense reasoning while misunderstanding their mandatory daily Bible readings.

We know today that our elderly suffer from any number of a wide range of debilitating impairments — strokes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, adult ADD, just to name a few. It's also pretty much accepted among Catholics that the 12 Apostles were not learned men, and most likely could neither read nor write. There wasn't a secretary taking notes when Mr. Christ was speaking or performing miracles.

Not that he didn't truly make brilliant statements and use wonderful parables, mind you, giving mankind a wealth of valuable concepts to ponder and live by. As to the miracles, well, by the time those were actually documented, the remaining loyalists were spread out all over the Holy Roman Empire. So many years had elapsed that all logic dictates the likelihood was few if any who had witnessed Jesus in the flesh



Out Of The Blue

By
Jerry
Tenuto

would have been around to dispute the accounts.

When considering the life of Jesus Christ, one has to realize there was no mass communication, no formalized system of education existed, and, out of all the thousands upon thousands of people who witnessed Him (Jews, Romans, Arabs, et al), only 11 Jewish followers passed the story along.

At that, the documentation was not forthcoming until at least 20 to 30 years after the fact, when dictated to scribes. So, the possibility arises for errors from lapses in memory.

The different scribes may have misinterpreted events and facts, or added embellishments to make the stories more interesting, creating more misstatements of fact. These stories weren't inked all at once, but over long periods of time, leading to more flaws in accuracy.

Then there were decades and centuries of copying by hand, translations, numerous variations based upon religious orthodoxy — Roman Catholic, King James, etc.

Now, here we are in the 21st Century and Jesus Christ has been injected, painfully and wrongly so, into the decision-making process of the United States Government.

Or so some in power have hoodwinked many into believing.

From all we know about Jesus of Nazareth, He was a Man of Peace. He never exactly said He was the "Son of God" — man laid that title upon Him. When queried on the subject, I believe His answer was, "My Kingdom is not of the Earth."

"Turn the other cheek." Who are the biggest warmongers in our Government? The guys who get the most political mileage, and voter support, out of spewing chunks about what great Christians they are: George W. Bush; Wayne Allard; Kit Bond; Tom Coburn; Thad Cochran; John Cornyn; James Inhofe; Pat Roberts; Jeff Sessions; et al. These are also the dudes who think torture is a good thing.

Jesus personally ran the moneychangers out of His Father's Temple. (He said on numerous occasions that God was Father to us all.) Has anyone seen one of these multi-thousand seat mega-churches? Have you been inside one? Some of them are like malls, complete with shops, snack bars, you name it. Then guys like Smilin' Tom DeLay repeatedly uses the altar and bogus self-serving Christian-based charities to prop himself up as the "Holier-than-any-of-the-other-Guys" Congressman. For the uninitiated, Smiler DeLay was one of the first to hop full-force on the "Impeach Clinton" bandwagon; ran with Jack Abramoff and created the "K Street Project" which made him a multi-millionaire while receiving a paltry U.S. Congressional paycheck; is currently under several indictments, with more possibly to come, making him number one contender for "Most Crooked Politician of the Millennium."

These schmucks, and others in the cabal, just keep getting richer and fatter off the backs, blood, sweat, fears and anxieties of average, everyday Americans. They are directly responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands — I'd venture a guess at somewhere around 99% or more innocent non-combatants, aka collateral damage. With every death, their personal Earthly fortunes increase. Somewhere King George XLIII

and the rest missed the passage about it being easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for a man of wealth to enter the Kingdom of Heaven.

These Republicans who keep telling us what good Christians they are do nothing to show us that we should believe them. First, Christ was emphatic about how much more it meant to pray alone than in large groups — yet the really, really good Christians who hate Catholics, Jews, Muslims, Blacks, immigrants, anyone else who isn't one of them, keep building bigger and bigger churches to show how faithful they are.

Christ was instructive about keeping one's faith to one's self, as well as caring for the Earth. Yet, wherever I go there is no shortage of overpriced gas-guzzling, road-hogging SUVs and luxury sedans with some sort of Christian sticker or, what really irritates me, license plate. Jesus has absolutely no business on a license plate! Then there are those idiots who wear bloodied Christ t-shirts to places where folks go to have fun, like baseball games and theme parks! (The last time we went to a Six Flags it was noted that these types of clothing had been included in the "inappropriate attire" rules.)

When reading or listening to news sources outside of the U.S., they can't understand the level of fanaticism that has sprung up here. It's like a virus, and I myself can, but at the same time don't, comprehend why so many people allow themselves to be so easily swayed by preachers. Our friends and allies, the average citizens of England, Germany, South Korea, for example, are frightened, as am I, at the effect of evangelicals over Government in the U.S.A.

Do you think for one minute Jerry Falwell or Oral Roberts or many of the others would be so "fervent" if there weren't huge bucks to be made, not to mention White House and other red carpet invitations? These guys, virtually all preachers who take to the airwaves, have egos and appetites of Godlike proportions in need of constant feeding and sating.

The same is true, possibly more so, with the little guys who run these off-the-wall churches with maybe 100 parishioners give or take, one finds all over — mostly in small rural communities. These churches generally broke away from already hardcore religious groups because the folks who comprise them didn't think there was enough harshness in the interpretation of The Bible.

I cannot understand how they get harsh and intolerance from belief in a Man whose message was gentility and understanding. Many religions disallow drink, yet Jesus' first recorded "miracle" was turning water into wine. The fanatics insist it was without alcohol content, but the Catholic version described it as better than the store bought wine the hosts served.

The funny thing, when one of these extreme Christians tosses out a passage to make his or her point, more often than not it's from the Old Testament! Say "God," they reply "Christian."

And, despite their incessant referrals to the Old Testament, many of them equate Jews with Satanists. As for Muslims, they're just downright evil beings whom, as Ann Coulter put it, those who won't convert to Christianity should just be wiped out.

Yes, these are the modern Christians of 21st Century America. It's sad, but many are throwbacks to the 19th Century. The Republican Party, as led by Herr Ubermeister Karl Rove, planned correctly, banking on this group mentality. The GOP continues to, in addressing not only the fundamentalist Christian issues, prey upon the fears, no matter how irra-

tional and unreal. According to the GOP, the party that cares not one iota about the individual person, Democrats are the godless enemy that will allow evil Muslims to destroy America and take away your way of life and freedoms.

One need only read a history of how the National Socialists stole power in Germany in the 1920s and 1930s to comprehend where Herr Rove has taken Amerika so far, and intends to go with his nefarious plans.

Yes, these are good Christians, and I'm not disparaging anyone for their religion. Yet, they've been Bushwhacked by GOP propaganda, a lame-brained mainstream media, and self-serving preachers into voting for politicians who: Turn other nations into rubble for no good reason; allow the merciless torture of human beings (as long as they ain't Christians); engage in secret dealings which cost the citizens more and more in taxes and out-of-pocket expenses, while their cronies get richer by the minute; have systematically dismantled our Constitution and severely limited the Bill of Rights; spy upon Americans without cause or warrants; lie on a daily basis; openly alter laws or renege on existing policies as suits their whims and needs; since Jan. 21, 2001 have consistently neither acted in accord with the wishes of the people, nor kept the Nation abreast of the activities in which they've been engaged.

America, it's time to wake up. The very tyrannical rule from which George W. Bush said he was saving the Iraqi people — killing countless tens of thousands of them in the process, plus some 2,300 American troops to date, while draining America's financial and military resources to the point where we're far less secure than in January, 2003 — that tyrannical rule is spreading across our Nation from the inside.

It began the day Herr Rove fixed the Florida elections, and the man behind America's Fuhrerprinzip, Cheese Justice William H. Rehnquist illegally elevated the puppet to King George XLIII of Amerika.

But what the hell — Glory Hallelujah, anyway! Everything George W. Bush does, he does in the name of Jesus, don'cha know!

"What happened here was the gradual habituation of the people, little by little, to being governed by surprise; to receiving decisions deliberated in secret; to believing that the situation was so complicated that the government had to act on information which the people could not understand, or so dangerous that, even if the people could not understand it, it could not be released because of national security. And their sense of identification with Hitler; their trust in him, made it easier to widen this gap and reassured those who would otherwise have worried about it..." Milton Mayer — Excerpt from pages 166-73 of "They Thought They Were Free" First published in 1955 (compliments to Information Clearing House)

Shalom, y'all.

DAY 1,907 OF AMERICA HELD HOSTAGE — our White House and the Executive Branch overrun by the Karl Rove-controlled Neo-con Fascist Regime.

Impeach George W. Bush and Dick Cheney, run the rest of their cabal out of our Nation's Capital.

(Jerry Tenuto is an erstwhile Philosopher and sometime Educator. A veteran with seven years of service in the U.S. Army, he holds a BS and MA in Communications from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Depending upon your taste in political stew, you can either blame or thank Jerry for his weekly "Out Of The Blue" feature in The Lone Star Iconoclast. Visit his blog Blue State View at illinoiscentral.blogspot.com)

Anti-snoring Devices Leave Many Too Scared To Sleep

When you begin waking up each morning with mysteriously bruised ribs, your mind races through any number of plausible nocturnal scenarios, including the very real possibility of being a sleepwalking kick boxer. Fortunately, I have a wife who knows when I'm troubled and who wastes no time in delicately quelling my fears.

"You've been snoring lately, so I've been whacking you in the ribs."

"How often," I asked, gingerly fingering my discolorations.

"Well, let's see...How often do you sleep?"

Because I've never been a snorer before, I conducted some research to better understand the root cause of this debilitating, rib-bruising condition. I got onto the Internet and soon discovered that an average of 100 million Americans snore every night. In fact, according to a recent study conducted by the American Sleep Institute, between snoring, insomnia and late night television, only 11 Americans actually get any sleep.



By
**Ned
Hickson**
Siuslaw News

This isn't to say snoring is a problem limited to the U.S. The loudest snore ever recorded belongs to a man living in Great Britain, whose uvulatic pentameter measures 92 decibels — 10 decibels louder than traffic in upper Manhattan.

This man is divorced.

Needless to say, with the snoring problem reaching global proportions, an entire industry has sprung up offering solutions. Most of these products are endorsed by some type of doctor explaining why (Snore-B-Gone, Snore-No-More, SnorBan, Snorway-to-Heaven) is the

most effective anti-snoring (lotion, throat spray, mouth cork, lip clamp, staged-suicide kit) available. After scanning through countless websites (five), I narrowed down the possibilities to three.

The first was a spring-action mouth piece called a Mandibular Advancement Device (appropriately known as M.A.D.) that can be "conveniently inserted into the mouth at bedtime" to jut my jaw forward and out of its relaxed position, thus opening the air passage and eliminate snoring. After careful consideration, I decided against this device based on the notion that dislocating my jaw on a nightly basis sounds like a real pain.

Next was something that resembled an undeployed parachute which, when worn at bedtime (as opposed to, say, while eating out) promises to keep a snorer from rolling onto their back. While this was certainly more promising and less invasive than the M.A.D. device, we already have a cat that pretty much serves the same purpose; I roll over, and she draws blood from my backside.

This left me with Dr. Fritzenhoffen's laser surgery technique known as Uvulopalatopharyngoplasty, which comes from the Latin "Uvulopalato Gopla" meaning *Do I smell my tonsils burning?* According to his website, Dr. Fritzenhoffen uses a "cold" laser beam to eliminate the soft tissue around the "general uvula area" that causes snoring.

Yes, I decided against this solution as well, mostly because I was bothered by the phrase "general uvula area," which included my esophagus, vocal cords and nasal passages. I'm no doctor, but those "general areas" sound important to me and not worth the risk of eliminating.

I presented these findings to my wife she agreed none of them sounded right for us. She then gently took my hand and, in her own tender way, suggested I just keep snoring.

And she'll just keep whacking me.

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

A Double Cheeseburger And A Side Of Tax Breaks

When I first heard that President Bush was talking about health at the corporate headquarters of Wendy's recently, I was proud of him. I figured he had joined medical experts, his wife who has spoken about heart disease in women, and former junk food junkie, Bill Clinton, who is heading a campaign against childhood obesity and for healthier fast foods. I assumed that the President was telling the corporate heads of Wendy's that he was sure they could still make a huge profit while providing healthier meals. I loved that he was standing up to a big corporation in favor of America becoming a healthier nation.

But I was wrong. It wasn't for this noble reason that he was speaking at the nation's third largest hamburger and fries company. He was talking about health and his health care plan.

The White House claims that the President was attracted to Wendy's because its health care plan is similar to the one he likes. Wendy's offers employees "health savings accounts," and that's what Bush is pushing in his plan. He's suggesting that Americans be able to put money in special tax-free savings accounts, and use that money for health care in addition to catastrophic health insurance. The idea is that these accounts will make people more aware of the money they are spending on medical needs and will, therefore, drive down the costs as the worker looks for the best bargain in medical care.

But nobody has explained how someone who is just getting by on a paycheck is going to be able to afford to put away extra money in a health savings account. So, critics believe that the main result of such a plan will be for those who aren't well off financially to forego necessary medical treatment. Meanwhile, the rich will be able to have tax-free savings accounts.

I'm not so sure if Bush's choice of Wendy's as the site of his speech was really because of Wendy's health plan. Surely there are other companies that have similar plans but don't sell food that's helping America to become the nation of obesity.

So, why Wendy's? President Bush is



Modern Times
By
**Lloyd
Garver**

not a fast food addict like President Clinton was. He's in great shape, and obviously cares a great deal about his own health. So the choice couldn't have been because he's a big fan of their food. Was it a "wink and a nod" location? Was he saying, "I have to say that I'm concerned about health care for the middle class and the poor, but what I really care about are big corporations like Wendy's?"

Or was it part of this administration's anti-science bias? Maybe it was his way of saying, "All of this talk about unhealthy food leading to unhealthy lives is bunk. America has been living on junk food for years, and look how much healthier we are than all those starving countries in Africa." It would be like his standing on a melting glacier saying, "What global warming?" Or maybe like his saying, "schools should teach both evolution and intelligent design" at the monkey cage at the zoo.

Or maybe it's part of his personal responsibility thing. "If you think fast food is bad for you, nobody's making you eat it. I gave up liquor, and so can you. So, stop blaming the wonderful companies who make this stuff."

Another possible reason for choosing Wendy's headquarters is that they're in Ohio, a pivotal electoral state. A recent state poll showed that only 38 percent of Ohio voters approve of the President's performance. Maybe he felt if he gave a speech there, he'd get a few more Ohio voters to like him.

Or maybe I'm digging too deep looking for the President's motives. He usually does things just because he feels like it and because he's the President who, apparently, can do whatever he wants. Maybe he just always wanted to visit Dublin, Ohio.

Or maybe it was just a bad decision. The Administration has had its share of those. Maybe it was like nominating then un-nominating Harriet Miers for the Supreme Court. Maybe it was like, "Way to go, Brownie." Maybe it was like "Mission Accomplished" on the U.S.S. Abraham Lincoln. At least he didn't give a gun safety speech in front of Dick Cheney's house.

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Frasier" to "Home Improvement." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He writes the "Modern Times" column for CBSnews.com's Opinion page and a weekly column for SportsLine.com. He can be reached at lloydgarver@yahoo.com

— Guest Commentary —

'2005's Trade Gap Tops \$725 Billion'

(Headline from the Los Angeles Times)

This is a \$725 Billion LIE

BY KENNETH L. RUSSELL
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

There is no trade GAP

We traded 725 billion dollars worth of our productive wealth to other countries to balance the account. I assure you we did not get the products from the rest of the world for free. We traded our factories, our farms, our businesses and our skills for products made in other countries.

We traded the cotton farm instead of the cotton. The garment factory instead of the garments. The cow instead of the milk and cheese. In other words we trade all of the things that produce products instead of the products.

We are also trading millions of jobs instead of the products made by our own workers. This is economic suicide! Africa practiced this same idiotic insanity in the 17th and 18th centuries and look at the plight of Africa today. Congress should immediately stop this lie that there is a Trade Gap with an export tax of at least 99 percent imposed on our factories, farms, and forests, that are being traded for cheap oil and cheap plastic junk.

We need free trade for the products that America can produce with American labor. We should not be trading the basic wealth of America to China and

other nations, especially for items that we can produce at home.

Suicide is supposed to be against the law and Congress is turning a blind eye to this self inflicted murder of the United States.

Kenneth L. Russell, Professor of Education, Emeritus, Sam Houston State University Huntsville, Texas; was born on a farm near Chilhowee, Missouri on Easter Sunday, April 16, 1911.

He is founder of The Educational Video Network, Inc, also known as Educational Filmstrips, and producer of best selling titles such as "Understanding Money and Inflation" and "Parliamentary Procedure in Action" used in classrooms across the US and around the world.

Russell, 94, is a member of Kappa Delta Pi, Phi Delta Kappa, American Association of University Professors, Who's Who in American Education, President of Alpha Gamma Sigma, University of Missouri, 1933-34.

Famous the world over for his publications on Economics, Government, and Parliamentary Procedure, and showing no signs of slowing down, it is obvious that Russell has no intentions of "retiring." Russell and his lovely bride of 70 years, Marjorie, have three children.



To The Editor:

IMAGINE NO INCOME TAX

There are very few who look forward to income tax filing and the IRS, especially around this time of year! Yet, many probably consider it un-patriotic to complain about the tax system, even if they quietly wish we could come up with something better.

Now, after years of grassroots effort, there is broadly supported legislation before both houses of Congress that would eliminate both the IRS and the income tax system!

The legislation, H.R.25 and S.25, is called the FAIR TAX PLAN <www.fairtax.org>. It replaces the income tax system with a national retail sales tax on new goods and services. It would generate enough tax revenue to completely replace *all federal personal, gift, estate, capital gains, alternative minimum, Social Security, Medicare, self-employment, and corporate taxes.*

The Fair Tax eliminates all payroll tax withholding as well as the 7.65% employer matching of FICA taxes.

The Fair Tax is imposed on new goods only. No sales tax is collected on the transfer of used property. It is also a progressive tax, with a monthly rebate paid to each household in the amount equal to the sales tax on that household's poverty-level income. Those at the poverty level would essentially pay zero effective sales tax.

Imagine the Fair Tax benefits of taking home your whole paycheck (no taxes withheld); never filing another income tax return; not thinking in terms of tax write-offs and deductions; American goods competing against imports without the embedded cost of corporate income taxes.

This is a tax system of which all Americans can be proud! The FAIR TAX PLAN would be real tax reform! Be sure to write your congressman and senators requesting their support for the FAIR TAX BILL.

Robert J. Ransom, Jr., Petaluma, Calif.

Dear Editor:

What can be more indicting of the discredited and much opposed war in Iraq then to read recent news reports that 12 veterans of both the Afghan and Iraqi warfronts have committed themselves to run for Congress and that 11 of them have allied with the emerging "young Turks" of the Democratic Party!

As our troubled nation enters its fourth year of an endless occupation of Iraq that continues to devour our troops and massive expenditures at a never ending rate, it is refreshing to witness the political bravery of former troops who survived the misuse of our military by those warmongers safely tucked away in "Fortress White House."

Truly, the fight for our real freedom lies not on the battlefields of a nation where half of the population supports the roadside bombings of our poorly armored young men and women soldiers and where the vast majority want us out, but in the bloodless realm of Congress.

The voting public can no longer permit the intimidated leadership of both major parties to continue their surrender to an arrogant and uncontrollable executive office usurped by George W. Bush and his corporate supporters.

New political blood is needed in Con-

gress lest the real blood of our troops, our declining allies and the Iraqis continue to be spilled.

Sincerely,

Gene Muccolini, Mount Holly, NJ

To The Editor:

WHERE IS THE OUTRAGE?

According to a General Accounting Office report on Dec. 19, 2003, tax-dodging schemes, especially those involving illegal offshore credit-card accounts, have been growing faster than the IRS' ability to crack down on them.

"Abusive tax-avoidance schemes could threaten our tax system's integrity and fairness if taxpayers believe that significant numbers of individuals are not paying their fair share of taxes," the report concludes. IRS documents indicate that the schemes are depriving the Treasury of as much as \$40 billion dollars each year. That estimate references only illegal accounts. Many billions more in tax revenues are lost through 'legal' outsourcing of jobs to other countries. The number of companies leaving the United States each year is accelerating at an alarming rate. The huge loss in tax revenue is becoming almost incalculable.

According to the Dec. 2003 report, the IRS had identified over 400,000 taxpayers who are involved in tax-evasion strategies that are likely illegal. Earlier that year, the IRS had estimated the number at 131,000. It's clear that the IRS (and Congress) doesn't have a clue as to how much revenue is being lost — but it is substantial!

Now, two years later, with the foxes still guarding the chicken coop, you can be sure that the problem is only getting worse. The IRS tax code has become so complicated and incomprehensible that virtually nobody can understand it, obviously leaving it subject to broad interpretation. The IRS Tax Code needs to be completely revamped. Tax loopholes for 'special interests' must be curtailed. So, what has the Bush Administration done to solve the problem? They have declared that outsourcing of jobs is good for America, tax cuts will reduce the deficit, and have reduced IRS auditors by several thousand.

Paul G. Jaehnert, Vadnais Hts., MN

Dear Editor,

Was it due to incompetence or treason that Bush failed to heed the warnings about the attack on 9/11?

Was it incompetence, or treason, when Cheney and Rumsfeld fabricated the assertion that Iraq had WMDs in order to start the war?

Was it incompetence, or treason, that Bush's administration has drained our national wealth with this endless, unwinnable war, killing tens of thousands?

Is it incompetence or treason that Bush, Cheney, Rumsfeld and Rove are using the endless war as an excuse for curtailing our civil liberties and for torturing people in American gulags?

Was it incompetence that Bush's administration cut funding to rebuild the levees in New Orleans before Katrina, and Chertoff prevented a coordinated emergency response to the flood? Or was it treason that Bush lost New Orleans, the major port to our heartland?

And now, as Bush and Chertoff want to let the Dubai Ports World company, from United Arab Emirates, run the six largest ports on our East and Gulf coasts, is it incompetence or treason, to risk Al Qaida sneaking a bomb into our cities? Connect the dots, America, before Bush loses our entire country.

Yours truly,

Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, Calif.

To The Editor:

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES (Feb. 20, 2006) published an article by Richard B. Schmitt entitled, Privacy Guardian is Still a Paper Tiger. It lamented that the White House Civil Liberties Board had not met — indeed, had not even been fully staffed.

Imagine a Board appointed by President Bush — and staffed with wannabe-

Attorneys-General. And this Board is going to protect our civil liberties from an imperial Executive!

This Board's purpose is to bail the Executive out when it gets caught. It is just one of the government's innumerable institutionalized tools of deception.

The staffing delay is because it takes time to find people with the specialized loyalties of an Alberto Gonzalez, a Janet Reno, and a John Ashcroft. When the Board convenes, it must be ready to rescue, cover-up, delay, obfuscate, or do whatever is necessary to keep the American People in the dark about the government's violations of their civil liberties.

You got to admit though — Civil Liberties Board sounds good.

Mike Ford, Austin

The Cold Civil War

I had the best homemade meatloaf the other day.

The recipe was from Alton Brown, the host of the Food Network show *Good Eats*.

This meatloaf was so good because we used a meat thermometer to prevent it from over-drying.

Now if we can only get Congress to stick a probe up President Bush's domestic spy program!

I'm not sure I'd want to eat it, though, after Bush and the NSA are done roasting, but it might go good with investigations into the Downing Street Memo and the death of Pat Tillman, and maybe throw in a side of conviction for Dick Cheney in the CIA leak for dessert.

And you thought Elvis had weird tastes!

Well, that's the kind of guy I am. I prefer do-it-yourself government to fast-food government.

This is why Alton Brown and cooking shows in general are so sweet; they teach you to cook awesome meals.

This is nothing new to Southerners — like those in Brown's adopted home state of Georgia — who know their cuisine can't be boiled down to Colonel Sanders and Dairy Queen.

And they better know that their heritage and identity encompasses more than their cuisine and a four-year window in which white power elites on both sides of the Mason-Dixon warred over the issue of its labor force.

Sure, some Southerners still honor the memories of their dead ancestors who fought in the Confederate Army. Every relative of a serviceman is entitled.

However, regardless of the reasons these Confederate soldiers fought, the white guys running the show were all about keeping the institution of black slavery intact. The Confederates Constitution and secession documents said so.

Still, this fight over labor continues

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



in what I'd term a *cold* Civil War.

From the auto industry's layoffs here to sweatshop labor in Asia, all races hold the short end of the stick as this battlefield has spread internationally through the use of multinational corporations.

Though black slaves became U.S. citizens under the Constitution (as well as corporations later on), this new Civil War has raged, deadening the lives of both consumers and producers that harness cheap labor and cheap materials to create cheap goods.

The only way to turn the tide of this war, like with any war, is for families of these business forces to call their relatives home.

These men, women, and children must confront their relatives who are CEOs, middle managers, salesmen, shareholders and whatnot who miss soccer games, family reunions, summer vacations, even Sunday dinners because they are "away on business."

This specific system of war that produces huge amounts of wealth and privilege also produces teenage drug use, eating disorders, and a host of other social problems, such as serial killings and suicide cults.

It's time for these white-bred corporate warriors to come home to their families and reprogram themselves from their self-induced Stockholm syndrome. They need to let go of their false sense of security and be fairer to other people, especially women and men of color.

And for your first meal, I know a good meatloaf recipe you can try.

It's killer.

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