

75¢ Per Copy

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 24

JUNE 14, 2006

www.lonestaricon.com

© 2006, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

INSIDE

Pentagon Must Study Health Effects Of

DU Exposure

Page 2

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



A Giant Leap For Mankind?

Page 7

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Neighbor Bush Advocates Child Abuse

Page 8

MIKE WITHAM



SOUL of the SOUTH

Author Captures Soul of the South

Page 12

WAR IN IRAQ

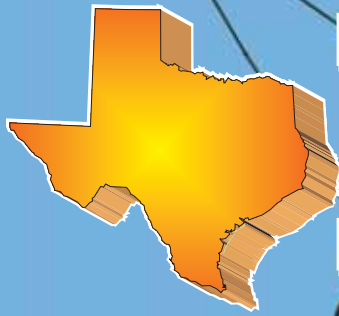
Casualties:

U.S. Military Deaths



2,492

U.S. Govt. Statistics



The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



Hook, Line & eSpeech

Will Congress Take Bait Against Net Neutrality?



SPECIAL REPORT

By Nathan Diebenow, Associate Editor
And Stephen Webster, Investigative Reporter

Page 3

Editorial

They Oughta Pass A Law...

Paper Only!

Page 8

Pentagon Must Study Health Effects Of DU Exposure

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House last month gave the green light on a bill that calls for the Pentagon to perform a comprehensive study on the health effects of depleted uranium exposure on soldiers and their children.

Veterans groups and advocates, includ-

ing the bill's author Rep. Jim McDermott (D-Wash.), praised its passage.

"If DU poses no danger, we need to prove it with statistically valid and independent scientific studies," said Rep. Jim McDermott. "If DU harms our soldiers, we all need to know it

and act quickly."

Depleted uranium (DU) is the material obtained after natural uranium is used in nuclear power plant reactors. Due to its density, DU is used as armor-piercing weapons and armor protection. U.S. soldiers have used DU munitions

since the first Gulf War.

Anti-nuclear weapons activists maintain that dust particles from a DU explosion causes major ill-health effects in exposed humans. However, the U.S. military says that the healthy risks of DU are "minimal."

MCC Spring 2006 Crawford Graduates Earn High Honors

WACO — Many local and area residents were named to the Distinguished Honors and Honors Lists at McLennan Community College for the Spring 2006 Semester. Six Crawford students achieved the honor.

The Distinguished Honors List is reserved for students who achieve a 3.8 to 4.0 grade point average for the semester, while students who achieve a 3.5 to 3.79 grade point average are

named to the Honors List. Students must be enrolled full-time during the semester to be eligible for either list.

Distinguished Honors

Nicole M. Allison
Terri M. Bukowski
Jamie S. Mauerman

Honors

Stan D. Hickey
David G. Hodges
Katie L. Robinson

Pentagon, State Dept. Bicker Over Detainee Policies

WASHINGTON — The Pentagon's decision to remove Geneva Convention protections from the U.S. Army Field Manual put the State Department in a huff recently.

These protections ban "humiliating and degrading treatment" of detainees.

This proposed policy erasure comes when global opinion on the U.S. is at an all-time low due to the detention center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the photos of

tortured Iraqis at Abu Ghraib Prison, and the killing of Iraqi civilians in Haditha allegedly committed by U.S. forces.

Such a change in military policy in and of itself hurts the administration's claims the aforementioned incidents are accidents, according to Bush's critics.

Senators forced a delay of the manual and its allowances of more brutal interrogations on enemy combatants. Others point out that the move would violate anti-torture legislation sponsored by Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.).

Senate Strikes Down Marriage Discrimination Amendment

WASHINGTON — By a vote of 49-48, a constitutional amendment banning homosexual marriage was struck down in the GOP-controlled U.S. Senate last week. The measure backed by President Bush and the Religious Right needed two-thirds of the Senate to pass for another vote.

Democrats criticized the Bush's call for the amendment as an election year ploy that distracts the public from the war in Iraq, skyrocketed energy bills, and the record-breaking national debt.

While Bush blamed "activist judges"

for preventing marriage discrimination laws to take affect in Washington, California, Maryland, New York and Nebraska, members of his own party remained divided.

Gay rights groups, including the Log Cabin Republicans, hailed the amendment's defeat, and praised Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) and others for voting down the measure.

Mary Cheney, 37, the lesbian daughter of Vice President Dick Cheney, called the amendment "a bad piece of legislation" on Fox News Sunday.

Lawmaker Calls For Nuke Safety Chief's Removal

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee called for the removal of the chief of the National Nuclear Safety Administration last week.

"And I mean like 5 o'clock this afternoon if it's possible," Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) said in a statement.

The reason for swift action, according to Rep. Barton, is that NNSA administrator Linton Brooks failed to notify senior Energy Department officials of a computer hacker who stole the personal records of about 1,500 government employees and private contractors last September.

The department was notified only last week of the breach of the NNSA, the semi-autonomous government agency that protects the nation's nuclear weapons stockpile.

Brooks explained to the House energy panel's oversight subcommittee that "bureaucratic confusion" caused the communication lapse.

"Just as the secretary just learned about this week, I learned this week that the secretary didn't know," Brooks said. "There are a number of us who in hindsight should have done things differently on informing."

Dad Of Dead Businessman Blames Bush, Not Zarqawi

PHILADELPHIA, Pa. — The father of a U.S. businessman who was beheaded in Iraq in May 2004 said that the death of an Iraqi al-Qaeda leader at the hands of U.S. forces last week will increase tensions in Iraq.

"I feel doubly bad, though, because Zarqawi is also a political figure, and his death will re-ignite yet another wave of revenge, and revenge is something that I do not follow, that I do want ask for, that I do not wish for against anybody," Michael Berg said on CNN last Thursday. "And it can't end the cycle. As long as people use violence to combat violence, we will always have violence."

Michael Berg, an anti-war activist and Green Party candidate for U.S. Congress, also blamed the murder of his son, Nick, on President George Bush, not the late Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the insurgent leader the U.S. military says performed the hideous job as well as organized countless suicide bombings in Iraq.

Berg told an anchor on the U.S. Fox News network last Thursday, "I don't think that Zarqawi is himself respon-

sible for the killings of hundreds of thousands of people in Iraq. I think George Bush is."

When asked about his initial reaction to al-Zarqawi's death in his interview with CNN, Berg expressed empathy for the leader's family: "Well, my reaction is I'm sorry whenever any human being dies. Zarqawi is a human being. He has a family who are reacting just as my family reacted when Nick was killed, and I feel bad for that."

Berg's son Nick was 26-years-old when he was videotaped while being beheading by hooded captors in Iraq. The video was posted on the Internet, and Zarqawi is said to have taken responsibility. Michael Berg has yet to be convinced as such however.

Military analysts, included President Bush himself, concur with Berg's assessment that al-Zarqawi's death would not halt violence in Iraq.

If anything, Zarqawi's tactics seemed to ignite a civil war between Sunni and Shiite Muslims. With funding from Saudi Arabia, Iraq's Sunni population views itself as nationalists

See ZARQAWI, BackPage



The Lone Star Iconoclast (USPS 022-833) is published weekly, on Wednesdays, by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638 and 310 W. 5th St., P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634

Periodicals Postage is Paid at Clifton, TX 76634.

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

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

DEADLINES: 5 p.m. Fridays.

Telephone (All Departments) — (254) 675-3634

Fax No. — (254) 675-4090 • Email: news@lonestaricon.com

Web Newspaper: www.lonestaricon.com

EDITORIAL

Associate Editors:

Don M. Fisher
Nathan Diebenow

Reporters:

Deborah Mathews
Michael Harvey

ADVERTISING

Melanie Harvey
Tammy Shelton

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF W. Leon Smith

BUSINESS

Kay Ortiz, Front Office Manager
Allison Smith, Internet Manager
Michael Harvey, Bookkeeping

CIRCULATION

Charlie Gandy
Pernie Stanford
Wayne Thompson
Bud Shaffer
Wanda Raines
Georgia Bell

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

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

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



Hook, Line & eSpeech

Will Congress Take Bait Against Net Neutrality?

By Nathan Diebenow, Associate Editor
And Stephen Webster, Investigative Reporter

CRAWFORD — A fierce political battle over the control of the Internet that erupted two months ago has caused Congress to take note while revising the United States' decade-old telecommunications law. When the final decision is made, experts say, the World Wide Web could change for years to come.

At the center of the dispute is the concept of "network neutrality" — the idea that all Internet websites should be treated equally by broadband providers. This assumption that anyone can have free and quick access any information, application, or service legally obtained on the Internet is what consumers and businesses have come to expect since the web was practically in diapers.

But while the telecommunication giants deplore net neutrality in the United States, arguing that government regulations would stifle the economy, members of grassroots coalitions and young web developers believe quite the opposite.

In fact, they say that without legal protections, telephone companies like AT&T and Verizon and cable companies like Comcast and Charter Communications would limit Internet traffic by manipulating its infrastructure in order to milk more money from users by dividing their service into fast and slow lanes.

Last Thursday night, however, the pro-net neutrality forces were dealt a blow when the House of Representatives voted 269-152 to dump a proposal by Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.), whereby a two-tiered Internet based on bandwidth consumption could be created by the telecom industry.

The outcome in the House failed to surprise the "It's Our Net" Coalition, whose members include web-based businesses Amazon.com, eBay, Google, IAC/InterActiveCorp, Microsoft, and Yahoo!

"While today's vote was a disappointment, we're not surprised, nor are we discouraged," noted a joint statement from the coalition after Thursday's vote. "Internet users and businesses across America are increasingly concerned about the prospect of Internet discrimination by network operators. We are confident that as more Americans learn what is at stake, Congress will act to protect Net Neutrality in a meaningful way."

Under the overall bill, the Communications Opportunity, Promotion, and Enhancement Act (COPE, H.R. 5252), the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) would investigate possible network neutrality violations individually. The FCC, though, had only adopted non-binding principles on net neutrality last year.

The author of the COPE bill, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (R-Tex.), has said that the FCC should not have a "blank check" to regulate the Internet.

"We do need the FCC to stop the cheats without killing honest creativity. We don't need anybody to be the first Secretary of the Internet," he said.

And COPE — itself passing by a 321-

111 margin — would do just that as well as grant Internet Protocol television (IPTV) providers national video franchising, require Voice over IP providers to make E911 services available to consumers, and permits state and local governments to create their own telecommunications, cable, or information services.

The Senate will take up net neutrality

when the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee meets again in late June. A bi-partisan pro-net neutrality bill introduced by Sens. Olympia Snowe (R-Maine) and Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) is expected to launch the debate.

Real Threats

The net neutrality debate opened in the midst of cable and phone companies competing for market share in a technological realm that lacked of structural separation between the network owners, the infrastructure owners, and the content providers.

As such, telephone companies are at a disadvantage because, by law, they are not allowed to censor website content via the telephone lines. In 2004, for example, a small phone company called Madison River prevented their DSL users from using Vonage. Although the FCC fined the company, the regulations banning such blocking were removed.

Federal law is silent, however, on cable companies offering DSL or fiber-optic networks that discriminate. This silence has led to wireless broadband companies like ClearWire allowing their customers to access only their own affiliated Voice over Internet Protocol (VOIP) service to the chargin of Vonage and other VOIP providers.

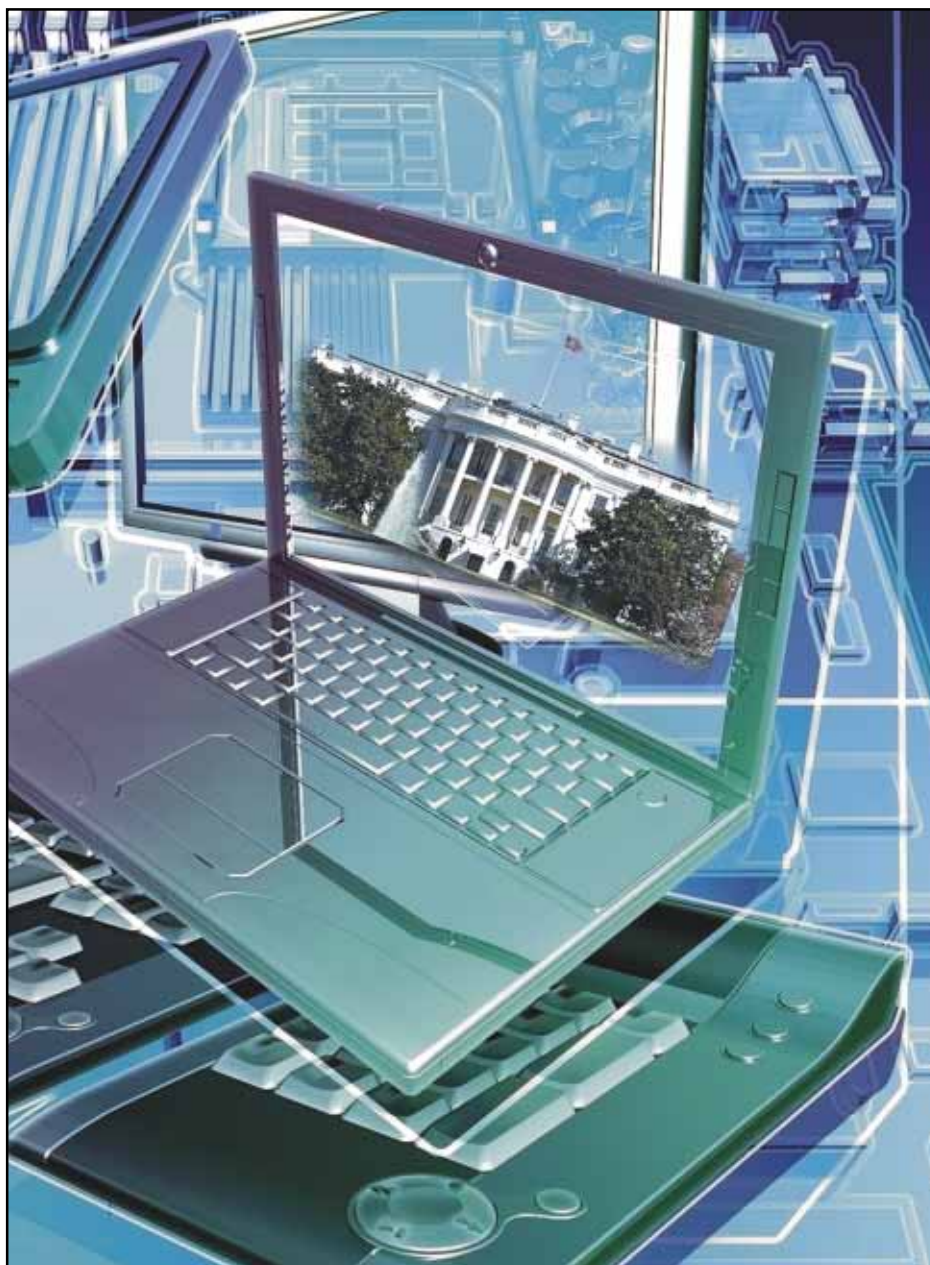
In their defense, the phone and cable companies that provide broadband argue that they have invested billions of dollars to create the Internet's infrastructure. They say that heavy users — such as those that support high-bandwidth applications like movies — should pay a fee for the delivery of better and faster services. Web-based firms that fail to pay will not have their website blocked or slowed, they add.

As of late, Ed Whitacre, then-SBC chairman and chief executive (current AT&T chief), has backed off, it would seem, comments he made last November to BusinessWeek in which he said no Internet content provider should use "his pipes" to deliver services like phone for free — "his pipes" being his company's broadband infrastructure.

"Now [Internet content providers] might pass it on to their customers who are looking at a movie, for example. But that ought to be a cost of doing business for them. They shouldn't get on [the network] and expect a free ride," he stated earlier this year.

Sascha Meinrath, co-founder and Project Coordinator of the Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network (CUWIN), told the *Iconoclast* last week that according to the telecoms' vision of

Continued On Next Page





Hook, Line & eSpeech

From Previous Page

the new Internet, “customers are charged once to actually access the Internet and then a second time to actually access content or applications they want to use, which has never been the case previously.”

Meinrath said that the telecoms have a history of breaking promises to reinvest their consumer-generated revenues to improve infrastructure. In all, American taxpayers lost about \$200 billion (or \$2,000 per household) from undelivered contracted services with telecoms that wanted tax breaks and right of way access, according to Bruce Kushnick’s book *The \$200 Billion Broadband Scandal*.

Strange Bedfellows

As a result of the telecoms’ activities, a host of strange bedfellows have come together, such as rival Internet content operators Microsoft, Google, and eBay. Although these web powerhouses could cut million-dollar deals with the telecom oligopoly, it’s really not in their best interests because their customers could have less choices when ISPs discriminate against their websites in favor their own, according to Google Inc. co-founder and President Sergey Brin.

“The thesis is that some content providers will pay for premium service. Why are they paying? Just because they feel charitable toward the telcos and ISPs?” Brin quipped to reporters after meeting with Senators on Capitol Hill earlier last week.

Mark Cooper, director of research at Consumers Federation of America, says that the fight for net neutrality affects more than big business interests though.

“This is not Google vs. AT&T. CFA has been battling to keep the phone companies from putting tollbooths on the Internet since the early 1980s, but now every business and every consumer that uses the Internet has a dog in the fight for Internet Freedom,” he said in a statement last Friday. “This coalition will continue to grow, millions of Americans will add their voices, and Congress will not escape the roar of public opinion until Congress passes enforceable net neutrality.”

To save the electronic commons from being privatized by the telecom oligopoly, millions of other Americans have joined forces across the ideological spectrum. Over 700 organizations have already formed under the SaveTheInternet.com Coalition, a loose alliance of consumer groups, labor unions, small e-businesses, educational institutions, and political action committees.

This grouping is so diverse and independent “because you don’t have a trade organization that brings together MoveOn.org and the Christian Coalition,” as Meinrath explained to the *ICONOCLAST*.

“I think that in many ways spells out how diverse this issue is.... It ties together an entirely new group — who in many cases never work together and who have been opposed to most issues — that tries to figure this out,” he added.

Like other political activist groups, the Christian Coalition of American supports net neutrality to keep its speech from being possibly suppressed online.

“There is nothing to stop the cable and

phone companies from not allowing consumers to have access to speech that they don’t support,” said Roberta Combs, Coalition President, to *Broadcasting & Cable*. “What if a cable company with a pro-choice Board of Directors decides that it doesn’t like a pro-life organization using its high-speed network to encourage pro-life activities? Under the new rules, they could slow down the pro-life web site, harming their ability to communicate with other pro-lifers — and it would be legal. We urge Congress to move aggressively to save the Internet.”

The effort to sway public opinion on net neutrality has been mostly influenced by the telecom firms, though the pro-neutrality grassroots has gained some momentum despite the House vote Thursday night.

After the House Energy and Commerce committee approved an amendment that had no neutrality provision, the U.S. House Judiciary committee passed a bi-partisan bill that extended existing anti-trust law to cover Internet content discrimination (Internet Freedom and Nondiscrimination Act of 2006, sponsored by Republican Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner and Democrat Rep. John Conyers).

In the week before the House vote on COPE, the service providers launched multi-million dollar media blitzes under the “Hands Off the Internet” and “DontRegulate.org” campaigns. At the time, members of the “It’s Our Net” Coalition lobbied Congress, in many cases for the first time ever, in addition to drumming up support from their customers.

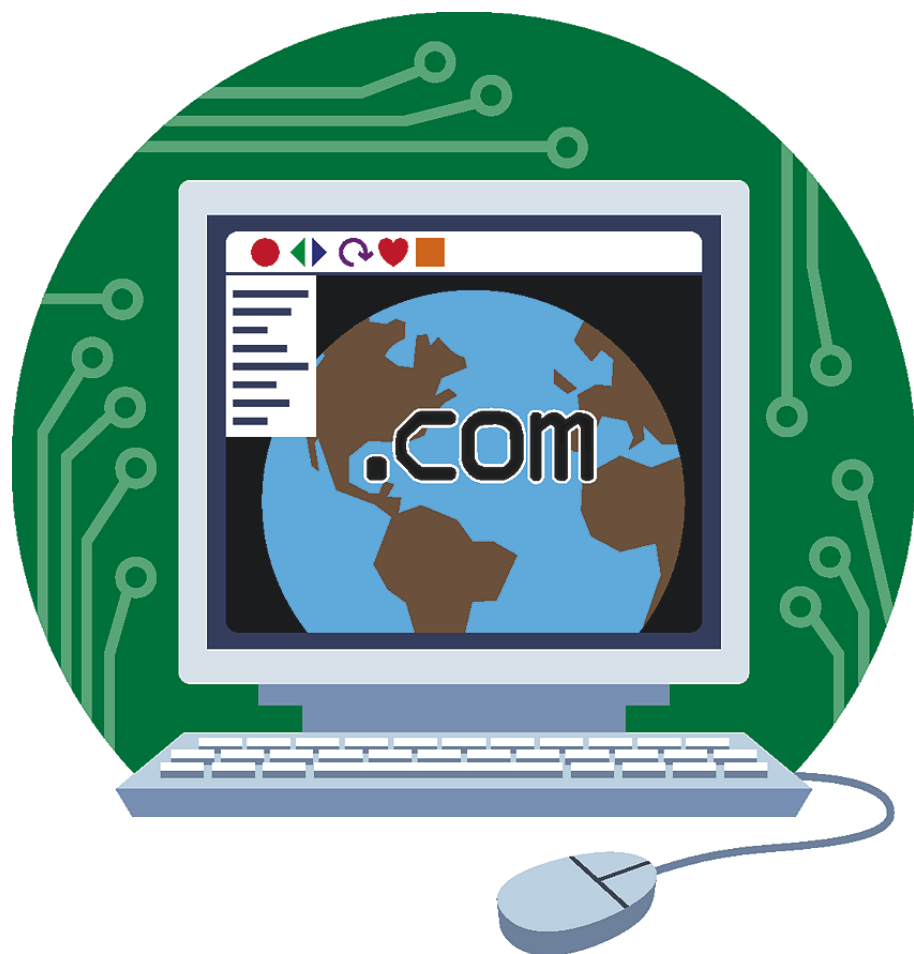
‘This coalition will continue to grow, millions of Americans will add their voices, and Congress will not escape the roar of public opinion until Congress passes enforceable net neutrality.’

— Mark Cooper

Separately, SaveTheInternet.com rallied millions of individuals from each of its affiliate groups, gathered 750,000 signatures for its pro-net neutrality petition, and sponsored a video with Grammy-winning music artist Moby that was distributed through YouTube and the STI’s MySpace profile. Their total effort was financed by \$6,700 of its own cash, with no corporate aide.

The battle lines in the Senate have already started to be drawn over net neutrality. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) announced her support for these provisions to be included in the reform package of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. It should also be noted that Rubert Murdock, owner of News Corps, threw a fund-raiser for her recently. His newly acquired Internet property, the popular networking website MySpace.com, would be directly effected should net neutrality laws not be put in place.

“Unfortunately, if Congress does not act, the age of digital democracy will come to an end,” Sen. Snowe, a Republican from Maine, has said. “Innovators with great ideas, but without deep pockets, will be relegated to the Internet’s dirt road.”



Controlling The Web

While the United States debates the regulations of its Internet platform, Japan, South Korea, and the United Kingdom currently have laws that prevent service providers, network managers, and even their governments from blocking web content. And they don’t want to see more tolls on the information superhighway either.

“What is very important from my point of view is that there is one web,” said Internet-creator Tim Berners-Lee to the British Broadcasting Company on June 6, 2006. If the Internet were to be split,

at any point in America’s history. To put it bluntly, the “Information Operations Roadmap” is electronic obfuscation through distortion, the creation of artificial controversy, covert propaganda and, at its peak, censorship.

The Pentagon plans to tap the most powerful outlet of thought on geopolitical affairs and stop it before it triggers outright revolution. Given the massive potential for revolutionary catalyst social networking sites like MySpace provide, and its increasingly “leftist” population, it is of the Pentagon’s utmost interest that these operations be accelerated.

In early 2000, it was revealed that psy-ops (psychological operations) personnel from the Third Psychological Operations Battalion had been employed with CNN’s headquarters in Atlanta, working as regular newshounds — two in television, two in radio, and one in satellite. It was a program known to CNN executives that ended abruptly when they were confronted by questions from Dutch daily newspaper *Trouw*. But that was then.

Today’s psy-ops are far more complex and sophisticated, involving all types of telecommunications, not just television. The military has had bloggers on staff since 2003, reporting never-ending good news from Iraq and Afghanistan. The fall of Saddam’s statue in Baghdad is another example of a piece of military-manipulated media that is solely intended to affect opinion. It was nothing more than a photo-op, with Iraqis being rounded up by U.S. forces and herded into the square as props.

The MySpace Deployment

Recently, a new brand of psy-ops has perhaps emerged on social networking websites, such as MySpace.com. On April 6, 7, and 8 of this year, an *ICONOCLAST* reporter made multiple attempts to post bulletins — messages that a MySpace user’s entire friends network receives — regarding pending immigration legislation and upcoming student-led protests. A vast majority of these messages never appeared once sent. Attempts to post similar messages on discussion boards were fruitless. The system would confirm

Continued On Next Page

he warned, the most powerful tool for good humanity has ever created could enter “a dark period.”

However, that “dark period” may already be here despite the fight for net neutrality as the Pentagon, the NSA, and the FBI have cordoned off people’s lines of communication since the terrorist attack on Sept. 11 2001. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld has even gone as far to declare that the Internet is an “enemy weapons system.” A major focus of concern is a “disruptive” MySpace.com, which at most recent count has over 84 million users on its network.

“The Information Operations Roadmap,” a recently-declassified document brought to public knowledge by the BBC, details the U.S. government’s plan to take over the Internet and control the free flow of information. The Pentagon, along with other branches of the military and intelligence wings, sees electronic discourse as a serious threat to their efforts to manipulate the public’s opinion.

Since the Bush Administration seized power in 2000, a thick cloud of secrecy has surrounded nearly everything they do. Executive privilege and state secrets laws are being invoked more often than



Hook, Line & eSpeech

From Previous Page

the post, but it would never appear.

Attempts to post material related to the death of Nicholas Berg, the American journalist beheaded in Iraq, also proved impossible. When Berg's father was interviewed by Soledad O'Brian on CNN, he compared the recently-dead terrorist al-Zarqawi to President Bush. "Well, my reaction is I'm sorry whenever any human being dies," said Michael Berg. "Zarqawi is a human being. He has a family who are reacting just as my family reacted when Nick was killed, and I feel bad for that. I feel doubly bad, though, because Zarqawi is also a political figure, and his death will re-ignite yet another wave of revenge, and revenge is something that I do not follow, that I do ask for, that I do not wish for against anybody. And it can't end the cycle. As long as people use violence to combat violence, we will always have violence."

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said, "We all have to be concerned about terrorism, but you will never end terrorism by terrorizing others." Michael Berg, the father of one so brutally murdered and set up for the whole world to see, echoed this sentiment, and MySpace would not allow such a thing to be posted. It stopped the reporter's attempts to pass along this information at every turn. However, when passed on to user Loyed Blackburn, a 35-year-old resident of Texas who goes by the name "Lump O'Dirt" on the site, the bulletin suddenly appeared across his network.

"I mean the whole thing is crazy how they are singling people out," said Blackburn. "They drastically fear an organized news body here on MySpace. That part probably didn't fit into the plan when they bought it."

Not long ago, a MySpace anti-censorship discussion group sprang to life. Calling itself "Will Rupert Murdoch shut this thing down?" these e-activists post about MySpace censorship on a daily basis. Many of them are also associated with the 9/11 Truth groups. Others are simply concerned with the recent purchase of MySpace by NewsCorp owner Rupert Murdoch. And given that recently Murdoch appointed a MySpace safety czar, claiming his goal to be the protection of children from pornographic content and the erasure of "other objectionable content," one must wonder what NewsCorp defines as "objectionable."

Digital Disclosure

In 2002, the United States Congress forced closed a project called "The Office of Total Information Awareness." Its logo was comprised of a pyramid with an eye perched atop, staring down upon the entire world. Congress was under the impression that it was closed once and for all. But it was simply renamed and moved under the control of the Pentagon. Now incorporated into "The Information Operations Roadmap," the branch is heavily involved with the NSA's data harvesting efforts, as part of what it called the "Disruptive Technology Office."

This sector of the intelligence com-



munity, along with being heavily involved in the briefing of journalists, manipulating the thoughts of enemy forces and attacking potentially hostile networks, are developing methods to mine the data Internet users casually spill out on the Internet. MySpace, which, with its 80 million plus members, is a virtual treasure-trove of personal data — data that its new owner is more than happy to sell to information-gatherers, be they advertising firms, corporations, or government entities. How else could a website that deals in more bandwidth than any other on the web — save one or two — survive with no real business model or revenue structure? The real money is in the background. The Pentagon could then determine how many degrees of separation are between any number of users and build a massive database on every citizen in this country and others.

"Strategy should be based on the premise that the Department will 'fight the net' as it would an enemy weapons system," reads the Pentagon's roadmap. "Networks are growing faster than we can defend them ... Attack sophistication is increasing ... Number of events is increasing. ... [We should seek to] provide maximum control of the entire electromagnetic spectrum."

The current Secretary of Defense has indicated that control over every electronic device on planet Earth is important to the security of the United States; he has approved multiple forays seeking to usurp the digital revolution by utilizing the Internet. This new form of repression will no longer be used just as a tool to gather information and build illegal databases but to turn this "weapon" held by the hands of a supposed enemy against its wielder, subverting the electronic commons and morphing the digital landscape into something far more dangerous to America's free thinkers. The most shocking part is that most people will probably never even notice when the switch is flipped. Preserving 'Net Neutrality, while necessary, would then be just the tip of the iceberg.

(Read more online about net neutrality, community wireless networks, and more from Nathan Diebenow's interview with Sascha Meinrath, co-founder and Project Coordinator of the Champaign-Urbana Community Wireless Network, on <www.lonestaricon.com>)

U.S. Troops Murdered More Civilians: Iraqi Party

BAGDAD, Iraq — U.S. troops are now being accused of murdering two dozen Iraqi civilians in two separate incidences in May.

The human rights branch of the Iraqi Islamic Party said last week that 29 Iraqis died during U.S. raids in Latifiyah and Yusifiyah and in Baghdad. One of the raids

took the lives of women and children, according to the Sunni Arab political party.

These claims come on the heels of civilian massacres allegedly performed by American forces in Haditha last November and in Ishaqi last March. Soldiers in the Ishaqi deaths were recently exonerated, but the Haditha investigation remains open.

BULLETIN BOARD



CC, Etc.

675-3511 • 675-3732 • Toll Free 866-439-4794
402 N. Ave. G (Hwy. 6), Clifton

POLARIS RANGER
HARDEST WORKING. SMOOTHEST RIDING.

BIG. BAD. FUEL-INJECTED!

LAKE WHITNEY POLARIS
2711 S. Hwy. 22, Whitney, TX
(254) 694-2655

THE POLARIS RANGER IS THE HARDEST WORKING, SMOOTHEST RIDING OFF-ROAD UTILITY VEHICLE YOU CAN BUY.

- New, Limited Edition RANGER XP in Super Graphite Flame
- Powerful 700 EFI Twin Cylinder Engine
- Exclusive Lock & Ride™ Cargo System
- Legendary Smooth Polaris Independent Rear Suspension
- Exclusive Seating for Three

The Polaris RANGER general purpose utility vehicle is not intended for and may not be registered for on-road use. ©2006 Polaris Sales Inc.

Endtime Ministries To Host 666 Rally

GARLAND — The largest No National ID rally in the history of the United States will be held at the Garland Special Events Center, 4999 Naaman Forest Blvd. in Garland, on June 17, at 6 p.m. The event is being hosted by the prophecy ministry, Endtime Ministries, and is expected to draw 5,000 to 8,000 attendees.

Speaking at the No National ID rally on June 17 will be Dr. Katherine Albrecht, co-author of Spychips and head of the national consumer privacy group CASPIAN, and Irvin Baxter, President of Endtime Ministries and the host of the daily nationally syndicated talk show "Politics & Religion." Albrecht will speak

on "ID Technology and the Future." Baxter will give the keynote address titled "666: Satan's Master Plan."

On May 11, 2005, President Bush signed the Real ID Act, mandating a national ID card for all Americans by May 2008. The move has drawn widespread criticism from civil libertarians, citizens groups, and religious leaders across the nation.

"When implemented, Real ID will spell the end of freedom as we have known it," says Endtime founder Irvin Baxter. "We must work to repeal the Real ID Act before it is too late."

A special edition of Endtime magazine addressing the national ID issue has been sent to every U.S. Senator and Congressman and to every State Governor. A copy has also been mailed to President Bush. The magazine explains how the establishment of a national ID will create the mechanism for the enactment of the biblically prophesied Mark of the Beast.

In Revelation 13:15-18, the Bible foretells a time when every human being will be required to receive a number or a mark in order to buy or sell. The Real

ID Act will set this development in motion. Without the national ID, Americans will not be able to board an airplane, drive a car, hold a job or open a bank account. Asks Baxter, "Without a job or a bank account, how much buying or selling will a person be able to do?"

As part of the No National ID pledge, Endtime Ministries has created a special website, <www.NoNationalID.com>, dedicated to the repeal of the Real ID Act. Endtime will ask every national politician running for office to detail his or her stance on the Real ID Act and will publish their responses at the website.

Concerned citizens who have taken Endtime's "No National ID Pledge" vow they will not knowingly vote for any politician who does not commit to the repeal of the Real ID Act. The original goal for the pledge was 10,000 commitments.

"Already, that goal has been vastly exceeded," says Craig Treadwell, Executive Director of Endtime's No National ID Campaign. "We have received over 20,000 pledges so far, and more continue to pour in each day. This is truly a hot button issue for Bible-believing Christians."

Classifieds

1-254-675-3634

are non-bordered, text-only, ads that are categorized on the classified page/s by: For Sale, For Rent, Garage Sales, Miscellaneous, Notices, Employment, Services, Cards of Thanks, and Real Estate.

Ad Rate: \$5.00 (paid in advance) or \$6.00 (billed, WAC) minimum for 10 words or less, then 20¢ per word thereafter.

We Accept

Bordered Ads Are Charged At The Regular Display Rate

Real Estate



We Make Farm & Ranch, Country Land & Home Loans

That's What We Do.

TexasLandBank.com
1-888-467-6411

Steve Ostrom or Justin Wiethorn
Waco Credit Office



Part of the Farm Credit System



BUY - SELL - TRADE



LOG ON to
www.lonestaricon.com

Real Estate Tracker is a good way to find real estate throughout the United States. Word ads are placed by individuals or companies wishing to sell property. Display

ads include visuals of some of the property offered.

The Real Estate Tracker Directory provides a listing of participating real estate companies in the United States, with a link to their website. The listing begins with a breakdown of states, so if you are looking for property in a certain area, it is easy to navigate to that state or region.

To offer your property on this site, call (254) 675-3336 or send an e-mail to news@lonestaricon.com.

Rates:

Word Ad Listings...\$10 for 30 words or less, then \$5 for up to 15 words more (per up to four weeks).

Real Estate Company Directory (link to website)...\$45/year

Banner Ads...\$50/month (four weeks)

Display Ads (with art)...\$25/week

Rep. Chet Edwards Says VA Data Theft 'Inexcusable'

WASHINGTON, DC — U.S. Representative Chet Edwards (TX17), Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life and Veterans Affairs, today expressed his deep concern regarding the data breach at the Department of Veterans Affairs that has jeopardized the personal information of 26.5 million veterans and 2.2 million active duty and reserve personnel.

"This breach of faith with our veterans and service men and women is simply inexcusable. It was not just the mistake of one person taking a laptop home but rather a failure of an entire security system. No individual should have the ability to put at risk the privacy of millions of veterans and service personnel, and any system worth its salt would have made it impossible to do so," said Edwards.

Edwards has joined others in requesting that the GAO conduct an independent investigation to review the VA's data se-

curity practices following the historic data breach.

"The Government Accountability Office is in a position to quickly determine what went wrong, without interjecting partisan politics into the situation. Once Congress has the facts, we should put in place control systems to ensure this never happens again and then hold accountable those who had direct responsibility for protecting the privacy of our veterans," commented Edwards.

Edwards has also cosponsored legislation, H.R. 5455, to provide relief to those veterans and servicemembers affected by the VA data breach. "The VA, not our veterans and troops, should be responsible for any losses caused by this data breach. Our troops in Iraq, Afghanistan and around the world have enough to worry about without having to be concerned with identity or financial theft," concluded Edwards.

Crawford Sales Tax Rebates Down Compared To Last Year

AUSTIN — While Texas saw an increase in sales tax rebates to cities and counties in May, up 5.8 percent overall, the city of Crawford saw a decrease, according to figures released last week by Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn.

Strayhorn sent \$398.3 million in June sales tax allocations to cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 15.5 percent compared to last June. Since January, sales tax allocations to local governments are running 15.4 percent ahead of last year.

Crawford received \$3,513.19 in May, which is down 2.65 percent from last May's \$3,609.07. So far for the year, Crawford's rebates are down 3.40 percent, the city having received \$25,570.82 so far this year compared to \$26,472.35 at this point last year.

McLennan County's totals are up 6.73

percent so far this year compared to last year, the county receiving \$860,616.57 in May, compared to \$860,616.57 in May last year. To-date totals equal \$5,763,101.81 so far this year, compared to the same period last year of \$5,399,216.62, according to Strayhorn's report.

**TO ADVERTISE
IN THE
ICONOCLAST,
CALL
(254) 675-3634**

A Giant Leap For Mankind?

I was lying in bed, half dressed, with the ceiling fan whirring above me. I was drenched from mowing.

It's hot in Texas!

As I lay there, the orange cat named

Yucca, who spends about a third of his time in the house, came into the room and walked past the bed.

He strolled to the dresser and easily jumped upon it, then jumped down. It was as though he had simply taken a step, didn't see anything he wanted, and stepped down.

The equivalent of this none-to-fantastic feat would be me standing in the yard and, all of a sudden, jumping onto the top of the house. No big deal. Then stepping down and going about my business.

With the options for surgery as varied as they are today, I think if I had the money to spend on a facelift, I would instead choose to have the sawbones work on by elbows and knees, with extensions or something so that I could jump from the ground onto the house. Whether the anatomical correction would be toward that of a grasshopper or a cat is beyond my knowledge, and I wonder if the newfound ability would put me into X-man status, although it would be forced mutantcy.

Then again, there is a lot to lift. I'm the guy who has been compared to Santa.

But the jolly old elf has spent a lot of time on roofs, too.

I have obsessed about being able to spring onto the house so much that I have started to dream about it at night.

In the latest dream, I was informed that no surgery is necessary, that virtually everyone has the capacity to do it, but they never consider it. It is one of those things you never think about. It just never enters anyone's mind.

So, you've guessed it. I am now in training.

With a mashed pinkie finger and some skinned knees, I have advanced to the height of a chair seat, although I always land on my belly, not on my hands yet. And the shoulders are pretty sore. And, by the way, I'm on my second chair. The first one has graduated into firewood heaven.

One of my daughters analyzed the situation for me.

"You now, this is really pretty stupid," she said. "By the way, how many situps can you do?"

"Not very many," said I, knowing that the actual figure would be very close to zero.

"You need pilates," she said, pronouncing it poolatees.

So, we did them together. I could barely move the next day and

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



the day after that.

Now I am hoping that science will provide an answer. Stem cell research as a rejuvenator.

Someone at the office opined that the first thing I should do is lose some weight. "Think of the chairs you would save." "But Fritos need people like me."

Is this a lost cause — or, rather, a *worthy* lost cause?

Is it a new frontier, destined someday to become an event in track and field, the new four-minute mile?

I leave it to our readers to now work on this, as will I.

Just think. If you "stay the course," someday soon we can all say, "Mission Accomplished!"

CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION CO.

Sale Every Saturday

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

Date: 6-3-06

No. 1 Steers
under 300 lb. 160-215
300-400 lb. 130-155
400-500 lb. 120-145
500-600 lb. 110-126 \$1 Up
600-700 lb. 100-119
700-800 lb. 95-105

No. 1 Heifers
under 300 lb. 140-185
300-400 lb. 120-140
400-500 lb. 115-135 \$1-2 Up
500-600 lb. 105-125
600-700 lbs. 95-119
700-800 lbs. 88-98

Slaughter Cows
High Yielding 45 to 51
Low Yielding 38 to 42 \$1-2 Up
Fats 43 to 49
Thin & Shelly 32 to 39

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)
Yield Grade 1&2 53 to 66 \$1 Up

Cow & Calf Pairs
Young Choice 1100 to 1250
Young Fair 900 to 1100 Steady
Aged Pairs 600 to 800

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker
Replacement Cows
500 to 1050 Steady
Number of Head....1169

SALE WILL BE CLOSED SAT., JULY 1ST

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

Over The Hedge



RJ (Willis) is caught red handed stealing snacks from a hibernating Bear. RJ has to replace everything down to the red wagon he took. He stumbles on a group of animals as they awake from their winter hibernation. The group includes a turtle Verne (Shandling), a Skunk (Sykes) and a family of porcupines. RJ cons the group into invading the new subdivision that was built in their backyard over the winter to satisfy his debt to the Bear. They run into some unforeseen problems. But they all pull together in the end to help one of the family.

PG

Runtime: 1 hour 25 min.

Thursday June 15 7 p.m.	Friday June 16 7 p.m.	Saturday June 17 7 p.m.	Sunday June 18 7 p.m.
---	---	---	---

Since 1916



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

COMING SOON: The Da Vinci Code, X-Men III: The Last Stand, The Break-Up, Cars, Garfield 2

Services

For advertising information,
call (254) 675-3634

Bluebonnet Café

1506 New Dallas Hwy.
Waco, TX 76705
(254) 799-3068

Wrecker Service 24 Hr. Full Service Glass Work Service by Lynx Foreign & Domestic

Bill's Body Shop

REPAIR FACILITY ALWAYS OWNER'S CHOICE
Brewco Frame Machine & Measuring System

Highway 6 in Valley Mills, TX phone: (254) 932-6536 fax: (254) 932-6588 cell: (254) 709-2235



Leon's FLOOR COVERING

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

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

Neighbor Bush Advocates Child Abuse

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Nobody's closer than blood kin 'cept a lynch mob."

So, Neighbor Bush and the Congressional Hypocrites are still afraid they're going to marry gay people.

We're fighting a war we aren't going to win (not that we ever intended to), the majority of Americans are making less money than they have since before WWII, hurricane season is upon us and Costa Rica is better prepared for it than we, banks are opening branch loan offices in gas stations and the Mexican border is a free-fire zone.

But the burning issue of the age is: Who can get married?

Personally, I have no dog in this hunt. IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS!

I've got my own marriage to worry about.

Which is fine, thank you, not that it's any of your business.

Or the guvnamint's.

Therefore, let's put Klostet Karl Rove's phony issue to bed once and for all.

Same-sex marriage poses less threat to children than a Republican marriage.

More than seventy percent of spousal and child batterers, incidentally, identify themselves as "conservatives." A little more half claim to be "very" religious and say they have god on their side.

They confuse their sides with their backs.

Statistically, your child is about 20 times more likely to be abused by a preacher than a gay person.

Here's the issue in a nutshell.

Homosexuals are almost never pedophiles, even though pedophiles have about a 50-50 chance of preferring same-sex acts.

There have been virtually no reported incidents of sexual or physical abuse among gay couples who have adopted children, but then the number of gay adoptions is infinitesimally small.

Frankly, I couldn't find any published reports of child abuse in same-sex adoption.

Probably only three percent or less of the total population is gay, and perhaps one percent of those have adopted children.

The fascist Republican majority trots out a single, discredited 1985 study by Dr. Paul Cameron, who made the error of assuming homosexual acts of abused foster children meant that the abusers were practicing a homosexual lifestyle. In fact, all Cameron's subjects were in heterosexual marriages, or they would not have been allowed foster children.

By law.

According to a Dr. Carole Jenny's Denver hospital study of sexually abused child emergency room patients, only two abusers out of 385 cases were found to be homosexual. A Massachusetts study done two years after Cameron's showed none of 175 randomly chosen convicted child abusers were exclusively homosexual.

All studies, including Cameron's, have shown that the greatest threat of child abuse comes from bisexuals who marry to find victims among their children, step-children or the children's friends.

Perfectly legal and ready to pass muster with the new Clean Marriage Amendment.

Dr. A. Nicholas Groth, among the foremost researchers on the subject of abuse and homosexuality, summed up this way:

"Are homosexual adults in general sexually attracted to children and are

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



preadolescent children at greater risk of molestation from homosexual adults than from heterosexual adults? There is no reason to believe so. The research to date all points to there being no significant relationship between a homosexual lifestyle and child molestation. There appears to be practically no reportage of sexual molestation of girls by lesbian adults, and the adult male who sexually molests young boys is not likely to be homosexual."

Consider that researchers, including Cameron, agree that lesbian mothers have reared a comparatively large number of children, since divorce laws generally favor moms. Women homosexuals are better able to hide their preferences socially.

A child is at least seven times more likely to be sexually abused by a person married to someone of the opposite sex, with a 99 percent chance that the abuser will be heterosexual.

These would be the very people that Neighbor Bush's political red herring is drawing attention away from.

These are the people Neighbor Bush is protecting.

In fact, the majority of male homosexuals avoid children altogether, even their own, for a variety of reasons, according to an overall research review published by the University of California, Riverside.

Among their concerns is that their own children will reject them, or that the kids' schoolmates or peers will harass them because mom or dad is gay.

Perfectly rational fears.

Seventy percent of Americans consider a straight convicted murderer in a more positive light than a homosexual.

So how many kids can handle their friends knowing that dad is a fag?

Gay men tend to avoid other children for what must seem like obvious reasons.

A child is about 100 times more likely to suffer abuse through humiliation from homophobic reactionaries than have a homosexual relationship.

In terms of spousal abuse, the incidence among gay couples is pretty much the same as among heterosexuals, according to the U.S. Justice Department.

But more than 90 percent of domestic violence is committed by men against women. Women are five to eight times more likely to be attacked by their husbands or live-ins than by street criminals.

These are the people Neighbor Bush is protecting.

In seven states, according to the University of Chicago, spousal abuse among homosexuals is not against the law. In 21 others, the victim must admit to and be charged with violating sodomy laws in order to report abuse.

Murderers of homosexuals, on average, receive 20 percent less jail time than killers of heterosexuals. Crimes against homosexuals are less than half as likely to be solved, even though police patrols in gay communities are generally higher than in straight neighborhoods, excluding brown territory, or course.

In brief, homosexuals are infinitely

more likely to be victimized than to victimize.

In America, you're still free to beat up

your kids, your wife or a queer.

These are NOT the people that Neighbor Bush is protecting



They Oughta Pass A Law... Paper Only!

Let it be cumbersome.

Let it take longer to count.

The point is this: Every election will be in doubt until all hackable machines bite the dust and there is a return to paper.

It is easy for lawmakers to become mesmerized by new gadgets and call them the spoils of the march of time.

But, dammit! We want a receipt!

At least a paper trail.

Not unlike the Texas Legislature that for years addressed a myriad of unimportant issues and ignored education finance until the last possible moment only then to screw everyone in the state, the Feds are trying to re-define marriage to fit onto a bigoted 5½ floppy when the world rates the complexity a 4.7 GB DVD.

Their attention should instead be focused on how to hold fair elections.

To ignore the issue is an unpatriotic disgrace, deserving of political retribution in terms of jail time.

To silently adhere to the status quo is to condone it.

The U.S. House race in California that recently pitted Francie Busby (Democrat) and Brian Bilbray (Republican) in a special run-off election is a prime example of electronic ballot regression, for the 50th district race is now permanently in question.

Brad Friedman, who has since 2004 been solidly involved in exposing the corruption of electronic voting machines in hopes that the world will take notice and say "enough is enough," wrote in his popular <bradblog.com>, "Unless every optically scanned ballot is counted by hand in San Diego's 50th district race for the U.S. House — and only if the margin of difference after that count between the two leading candidates is less than the number of votes cast on the touch-screen machines — can there be any scientific certainty that the U.S. House race for the 50th CA congressional district was decided accurately."

Conservative CNN anchor Lou Dobbs has joined the fight, encouraging the public to become outraged. He commented: "The security of our elections and the integrity of our democracy is in jeopardy."

Friedman reported during the weekend that in the Busby/Bilbray race, uncounted ballots reported by the Registrar has decreased by 2,000, but the number of votes in the race has increased by 8,000.

He said:

"I'm sure there's a perfectly good explanation for this. There always is.

"As ever, it underscores the need for verifiable elections, and begins to remind us that the folks who give a damn about this down there in San Diego County better damned well be keeping an eye on the chain of custody for those paper ballots and "paper trails" as they are being theoretically "counted" by the SD County Registrar of Voters.

"According to this web page from the SD County's Registrar of Voters office, as of 5 p.m. last night, the number of uncounted absentee and provisional ballots in the entire county of SD has decreased by 2,000 from the reported 68,500 that were announced as "still to be counted" on election night.

"The number of votes in the now-questionable Busby/Bilbray US House (CA-50) special election, however, has been increased by 8,000 votes.

"Since the number of votes in the CA-50 race is a smaller subset of the total votes within SD County, one would think that if 2,000 absentee or provisionals were counted for the entire county, the number of votes in CA-50 might go up by a fraction of that number. Instead, they've gone up by 8,000, according to the county's website!

"So far, I've been unable to get any comments from "quotable sources" at the Registrar's office on the reported updates. Very few in the office, apparently, are allowed to speak on record to the press for some reason.

"As mentioned, no doubt there's a perfectly good explanation for all of this. Right? It's just that you and I may never know it. And, if we do, the election officials will likely never have to prove that their explanation - or the veracity of their reported vote counts - is valid. To anybody."

If Congress and the White House want to regain the confidence of the American public, the sanctity of elections must be restored. This includes making it easier for voters, including all minorities, to cast ballots.

What happened in Ohio in 2004 was, at least ethically, criminal.

Too many failed systems are deciding elections.

Voting machines are to elections as Homeland Security and FEMA were to Katrina.

Think about it. Then contact your Congressman.

This problem will not be solved until the American people demand it, in droves!

— W. Leon Smith

U.S. Navy Goes Overboard On Rio Grande

Reacting at last to the trouble on the border, President Ulysses S. Grant issued an executive order on June 6, 1875, sending a gunboat to the Rio Grande.

By 1871 the beleaguered inhabitants of South Texas believed armed action was the answer to regular raids by Mexican marauders. "Give us the privilege to strike," pleaded THE BROWNSVILLE DAILY RANCHERO, "and our despoilers shall know that the daring of Texans is as audacious, their rifles as unerring, their steel as sharp, as in other days."

Then on a tour of western forts, Gen. William T. Sherman accused the frightened civilians of exaggerating the danger. Coming from the man who put Georgia to the torch, his callous disregard for their safety caused Texans to wonder if he wanted their homes to go up in flames, too.

The commanding officer at Fort Brown did not share Sherman's heartless opinion. He risked the wrath of his superior by warning Washington of a possible "predatory war" if the bandit onslaught continued unchecked.

Yielding to public pressure as well as repeated requests from the occupation forces, the Reconstruction Congress grudgingly agreed to an investigation. The final report submitted in 1873 by a special commission substantiated the claims of South Texans and cited the countless casualties inflicted by "the knife and pistol of the Mexican assassin."

Predictably the report was filed and forgotten. Unfazed by the alarming facts, policy-makers neither strengthened the border garrisons nor made any serious attempt to goad the Mexican government into corralling its cutthroats.

The crisis came to a head in March 1875 with the deepest incursion to date. Mexican outlaws plundered and burned a small settlement on the outskirts of Corpus Christi 150 miles from the international divide.

Like other Confederate components, Texas had been dragged kicking and screaming back into the Union. The time had come, insisted Gov. Richard Coke, for the United States to keep its end of the distasteful bargain by providing the second-class state with a raider-proof bor-

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



der.

Lt. Commander Dewitt Kells dropped anchor at Brownsville in November 1875. Carrying a crew of eight officers and 45 men, the gunboat "Rio Bravo" lived up to her name with four howitzers and a 30-pound deck cannon.

Although restricted by presidential order to purely defensive patrols, Kells was anxious to put his peacetime training to the combat test. Fellow officers familiar with the frontier had no trouble convincing him that war with Mexico was not only inevitable but desirable.

Kells suggested taking the "Rio Bravo" on a leisurely cruise up the Rio Grande to provide Mexican marksmen with a tempting target. He would return their fire officially commencing hostilities. After that, no matter what the diplomats did, there would be no turning back.

Just in case the enemy refused to play their part, Kells had an alternate plan. Several cooperative Texas Rangers conveniently stationed on the foreign shore would squeeze off a few rounds at the passing gunboat. In the end, he reasoned, it mattered not who pulled the trigger first.

Getting wind of the reckless scheme, the American consul tipped off the state department by telegraph. Within hours,

Kell received an urgent wire advising him not to budge from Brownsville.

Pleased at having nipped the hare-brained adventure in the bud, the diplomat rewarded himself the next morning with a stroll along the docks. To his horror the "Rio Bravo" was steaming out of the harbor with a Ranger captain and a full company of cavalymen on board.

The dumbfounded consul watched the gunboat and the last prospect for peace disappear in the distance. In brazen defiance of his orders, Lt. Commander Kells was headed upriver hellbent on picking a fight with Mexico.

And if might have succeeded if the "Rio Bravo" had not run aground. The badly damaged vessel had to be towed back to Brownsville for repairs.

Kells viewed the mishap as merely a temporary setback and vowed to try again as soon as the "Rio Bravo" was shipshape. However, before the gunboat could be fixed, his replacement showed up and relieved him of command.

But Kells would not quit even at the risk of cutting short his high-seas career. He had the nerve to ask the navy department to rent him a large launch for the unauthorized invasion.

Kells was genuinely surprised by the firm and emphatic refusal. The naive naval officer could not understand why the brass was giving him such a hard time. After all, didn't everyone want another war with Mexico?

"Outlaws & Lawmen" - "Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. VI available for \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Bartee Haile, P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549. And don't forget to visit www.twith.com.

A Man's Guide To Romantic Cuisine: Insert Beer Can Into Chicken Cavity

Grilling season is now upon us and men, by their very nature, are grillers of food. This is because grilling, aside from providing men with a legitimate excuse to drink beer and play with fire, is actually a sign of romance and affection dating back to the discovery of fire itself. We know this thanks to recently discovered cave paintings depicting what archeologists believe is a romantic meal prepared by a Neanderthal named Glork soon after the discovery of fire. According to archeologists, the sequence goes like this:

Painting One: Glork makes a small fire using a careful mixture of embers, dry leaves, and an assortment of twigs. He then douses it with liberal amounts of highly flammable liquid, creating a massive fireball that scorches the roof of his cave.

Painting Two: Glork adds a marinated pterodactyl drumstick to the fire and begins drinking an unidentified beverage.

Paintings Three through Six: Glork continues drinking a lot more of his unidentified beverage.

Painting Seven: Attempting to capture the attention of an attractive cavewoman, Glork uses the flaps of his animal skin to fan the aroma of dinner in her direction. In the process, he inadvertently exposes himself, leading to the creation of what archeologists believe is the very first "Kiss the Chef" apron.

Painting Eight: Archeologists are still debating whether this final drawing depicts 1) his high level of infatuation with the cavewoman, or 2) his high level of intoxication after drinking too much unidentified beverage. However, ALL agree that Glork is clearly unaware that the flaps on his animal skin have suddenly caught fire and are threatening to engulf his drumstick.

Though millions of years have now passed, grilling remains an important tool for men when it comes to express-



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

ing feelings of romance. Unfortunately, just as it did millions of years ago, it also still involves a dangerous combination of beverage consumption, fire and, in many cases, some type of poultry item. To substantiate this theory, I offer these three words:

Beer-can chicken.

As you might expect, this grilling endeavor involves two essential ingredients:

- 1) a whole chicken body
- 2) a can of beer

As you might NOT expect, the beer isn't meant to be used as a thirst quencher while you grill the chicken. On the contrary. The beer is meant to be inserted directly into the chicken cavity.

Here are a couple of tips that can help improve your beer-can chicken experience.

First, make sure that the beer can is OPEN before inserting it into the chicken and placing it on the grill. If you don't, there's a good chance that your beer — once it reaches an internal temperature of 300 degrees — will become a propulsion system capable of launching your chicken with enough force to take out a Defense Department satellite.

Secondly, and perhaps most importantly: Never EVER, under any circumstances, attempt to fan the flames of desire by wearing nothing but a "Kiss the Chef" apron.

Especially if your name is Glork.

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

C & C Collision Center, LLC



- Truck
 - Trailer
 - Auto
- Repair Specialists

"We Make Friends By Accident"

www.cccollision.com

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

254-848-7008

1-888-345-1178

5849 N. State Hwy 6
(Speegleville Area) Waco

Family Is Most Important. Be Home For Them Daily.

Positions Available for the
Petroleum Products
Delivery Drivers
in the DFW and Waco Area.

Waco 1-800-782-5064
DFW 1-888-371-9107

- Excellent Pay
- Paid Holidays
- 401K Retirement
- Great Benefits
- Paid Vacation
- Paid College Tuition for Children

Class A CDL License with X Endorsement and
1 Year recent driving experience necessary

www.coastaltransport.net

\$1,000
Sign On Bonus



From E-Mail To Z

“Weird scenes inside the goldmine...”
— The Doors, “The End” (1966)

We awakened to some very weird occurrences in our home this morning (June 8, 2006/Sivan 12, 5766). I’m noting the date of this writing so there can be no question when a copy is discovered in a few years — after the rebirth of true American freedom for all.

Then again, it may be dug up or decoded some time in a future century or millennium; there’s also the possibility intrepid travelers might deposit it into the “hands” or “minds” of inhabitants indigenous to worlds light years from Earth.

Anyway...

The morning news was dominated — fixated — on the bombing raid that allegedly caught Abu Mussab al-Zarkawi with his robes around his ankles.

You know how CNN is. The newschannel never met a story it couldn’t report on into infinity and beyond. This day, apparently nothing else transpired on Planet Earth.

But, MSNBC gives me the shivers; ABC, CBS and NBC have lost most of their credibility with retirements and deaths of the old guard real newpeople; I can’t afford the BBC 24/7; and Fox, well, that’s not news, it’s just screaming opinions at the camera until the viewer begins to believe the network’s agenda.

As for the local news, we get four network affiliates that rarely cover anything beyond the daily strike threats at the Caterpillar factory and the latest murder in Peoria. Since Peoria is 40-some miles away, and I don’t know anyone who works at Cat, my concern is equal to that of MAD’s Alfred E. Neuman: “What — Me Worry?”

So, on an everyday basis my morning choices are limited to CNN or complete ignorance (I do read a variety of newspapers, but television is so much faster).

Well, at the very same time the military and commander-in-cheese King George XLIII, as well as Secretary of Nihilism Donnie Rumsfeld were patting themselves on the backs and gloating about turning al-Zarkawi into a martyr, the second weird occurrence was taking place.

Our computer had been sucked clean of e-mail. Nothing. Nada. Null. Non. Niente. Gornischt. Blank white screens at six e-mail addresses. Even the subfolders were gone.

How long this had transpired was anyone’s guess.

Then, just before 8 a.m., CDT, the e-mail system began restoring itself. Within 10 minutes or so, all of our e-mails and folders were back.

Everything intact and in place... as far as I could tell.

Magic, or the National Security Agency?

A close encounter of the second kind, perhaps?

How coincidental that this total white-washing of e-mail just happened to occur at a point in time when most folks would have been either getting ready for the day, or paying attention to the news about al-Zarkawi.

I’m sure that even with a supercomputer it takes a fair amount of time to download millions, probably billions of electronic communications.

Or, could little old me, a stern critic of the current Fascist Government overthrow, have been singled out?

My doctors provide me with sufficient drugs to *not* be paranoid.

This phenomenon is one which I had

never previously encountered.

No kidding, dear reader — this really happened. Former Boy Scout’s honor.

At this juncture it doesn’t seem to have done any damage, and my newly-updated security system hasn’t given off any warning signals.

I’d be interested to know if anyone reading this experienced the same loss and restoration of data.

As to the glorious victory over al-Zarkawi, jolly good show, vastly superior U.S. military forces!

Even a rat couldn’t escape the fury of two 500 lb. bombs dropped on its head.

I won’t question the why’s and wherefore’s of using instantaneous death from above rather than ground troops in an effort to capture the sombitch alive. Honestly now, come on, we’ve all seen the video, and everyone knows the dipstick couldn’t even figure out how to fire an AK-47 without assistance.

A mostly intact, breathing Mussab might have been valuable to try out some of those torture techniques King George, Inquisitor General Alberto “Gonzo” Gonzales and the intelligence operatives are so fond of — he may have proven to be a total wuss and cracked at the very suggestion of pain.

Zarkawi could have been shown “Predator” on a 72” screen with 6.1 Dolby surround at full volume, then told that if he didn’t talk “The Governor” would pay him a personal visit. Now, *that* would have started his gums flappin’ a mile a second.

Then again, maybe the regime didn’t *want* al-Zarkawi taken alive. It wouldn’t be the first time a notorious figure was killed rather than captured just to make sure he couldn’t let any cats out of the bag.

I’m fully convinced that if ever in a personal face-off with the reality of a shootin’ fight, King George, Rummy and al-Zarkawi would wilt, soil themselves, and fall to the ground in helpless heaps of quivering wimpishness.

Let’s face facts — this schmuck Mussab had been running around the Middle East for years, openly defying all authority, making videos and brazenly having his picture taken, behaving like the Al Capone of Iraq. Alphonso thought he was invincible, too, because he had certain connected people in his pocket.

A power mad brutal, psychopathic murderer is nothing more than what he is, whether his reign of terror emanates from the Chicago suburb of Cicero, or the Baghdad suburb of Baquba, or Washington, D.C.

King George XLIII continually referred to al-Zarkawi as a brutal, sadistic murderer of thousands, who beheaded innocent foreign workers in Iraq.

The part that His Excellency omits is how the door was opened to al-Zarkawi, allowing him access into the Iraqi insurgency network: Had the BushCheney illegal Fascist regime not lied to the entire world and overrun Iraq in a *blitzkrieg* highly reminiscent of the 1939 German takeover of Poland, Abu Mussab al-Zarkawi never would have approached anywhere near the position he achieved.

Had George W. Bush not ordered the deaths of what is now approach-



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

ing a quarter-million innocent Iraqi civilians, and some 2,500 American troops — plus the countless tens of thousands more who are scarred or maimed for life, physically as well as emotionally — al-Zarkawi could never have instigated his disciples to kill and maim thousands more. Without Bush’s self-serving war he wouldn’t have even had most of those disciples; there would not have been any reason.

However, as I stated at the top, by bombing Iraq’s latest mass-murderer the American master-mass-murderer has made a martyr out of al-Zarkawi. And we all know what happens when Muslims get themselves a new martyr, don’t we?

They go on killing sprees in the name of that martyr!

I was thinking the following, then saw Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del. on the telly speaking my thoughts: Okay, we got this guy (I’m paraphrasing here), and things might quiet down for a while. But in two weeks or so, people will begin to be pulled off of buses again and shot, workers will be kidnapped and beheaded, car bombs will be set off in crowded areas. And there will be yet another fanatical leader our troops will have to ferret out.

It’s an endless cycle.

I’ve written this before, but it requires repeating: George W. Bush should have really paid more attention in Early American History class. Our Nation’s founders were the insurgents to the king’s occupation forces. George Washington’s Continental Army, despite being overmatched in every possible way, never gave up.

The British eventually went back across the pond.

No insurgent movement ever quits.

Even the French Resistance fought off German invaders. (Well, there were women to help show the men how to be brave.)

There was a Bush, and Rummy, behind the creation of Saddam Hussein. There was a Bush, and Rummy, behind the ruination of Hussein and Iraq. There was a Bush, and Rummy, behind the creation of Abu Mussab al-Zarkawi. There was a Bush, and Rummy, behind the ruination of al-Zarkawi.

There will be a Bush, and Rummy, behind the creation of the next Hussein/al-Zarkawi.

Thousands more will die and be maimed.

And none of this needed to ever happen.

Yet millions will laud King George XLIII because he is a Christian, and stands with the hardcore Right-wing nutbags against gay marriage and stem cell research.

Because gay marriage is the very issue that will destroy American society from within.

And we can’t possibly use Petri dish cells that would never be viable human beings under any circumstances to end suffering, heal or save the living.

A quick additional note: With the release of Ann Coulter’s horrid book (which will remain nameless in this column) the date 6/6/06 lived up to its full connotation for evil. The latest trash from the Madwoman of Christian-based Hatred includes this line zeroed in on

New Jersey widows of 9/11 victims: “I’ve never seen people enjoying their husbands’ deaths so much.”

That’s not the sickest part. She also writes in the book:

“These broads are millionaires, lionized on TV and in articles about them, reveling in their status as celebrities and stalked by grief-arazzis.”

“And by the way, how do we know their husbands weren’t planning to divorce these harpies? Now that their shelf life is dwindling, they’d better hurry up and appear in Playboy...”

“These self-obsessed women seem genuinely unaware that 9/11 was an attack on our nation and acted as if the terrorist attacks happened only to them.”

On Wednesday, June 7 NBC-TV gave her a coast-to-coast soapbox via the Today show, where she lashed out at Matt Lauer — screaming as no one has before at Rockefeller Center — simply because he dared question her. She even attacked Katie Couric, who wasn’t even there, having left several weeks earlier to move to the CBS Evening News.

Coulter referred to “the Jersey Girls” — Kristen Breitweiser, Patty Casazza, Mindy Kleinberg and Lorie Van Auken, four widows left with seven children, questions and emptiness who were instrumental in pressing the 9/11 Commission inquiry — as “the Witches of East Brunswick.”

Later that evening, on MSNBC’s “The Situation with Tucker Carlson,” Coulter continued her attack upon these women who lost so much that terrible day.

In between, she took her ranting and raging to the streets of New York at book signings for the complete idiots who ponied up the \$30 or whatever and waited on line to get autographs.

Coulter didn’t like the Clintons, so she used Paula Jones as a pawn in a failed attempt to destroy Bill and Hillary. Since then, she’s spent her energies attacking all Liberals, all Muslims, all Democrats — and, of course, the Clintons.

So, now she has sunk lower than any sea bottom feeder, attacking and slandering widows and orphans of 9/11 dead.

In one article, Coulter bragged about how wealthy she is.

Following the release of this book and the excessive level of vitriol expressed through her histrionics on television and in public, it would seem to me those “Jersey Girls” have a good chance to substantially lighten Ann’s bank accounts and portfolio.

Now, I abhor corporal punishment in all of its forms. However, my suggestion for one condition of a suit would be that Coulter has to stand in place while these widows, and all other interested 9/11 widows, get to slap her face (open-handed, one to a customer, cheek to be determined by slapper, not slappee).

(Psst: Coulter can’t claim insanity, although from all appearances she is crazy as a loon. Several weeks ago in a column, surely after this book had gone to press, by her very own admission Miss Old Maid Annie vociferously denied being nuts.)

Be sure to keep track of your e-mail now.

Shalom, y’all.

(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)



LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

To The Editor:

Iraq is a devastating situation as you relate/connect it to/with war. In the content of almost any/all parts of *the Iraq War it is of criminal intent* merely because we shouldn't be there. Insurgents/Guerillas mix with the population and if you shoot at the population your in war it is an animal/dog eat dog kind of thing you hit children, their parents etc. Who knows if children have weapons, often they do and if a child kills a buddy there is no forgiveness. Those Marines for the most part are 18-19; I'll repeat for the most part are 18-19 and hey! let's mix it up and shoot and until they get hit a couple times and than they age from 18-19 moves toward a more like mature 28-29; fast maturity.

The preparation toward serving your country is beyond gung ho of sports, let us use sports as an example; even there, walls sometimes get busted with holes, people get hit pushed aside. Cops sometimes have to be brought in and even they cannot always handle the excitement without damage. Now move up to the training, excitement of marines in combat or worse the insurgent/gorilla heat of the Iraqi War. Once you get moving it's hard to stop, a buddy gets killed who knows what goes through an 18-19 year old minds. Let get those dirty bastards is more likely the immediate movement. Whoever gets in the way dies. The fun and games of San Diego are not reality but following through on stories they have been told is likely to become the reality.

In between lets us shoot those dirty bastards go home and get our hero medals, it's not like WWII. We had front lines and distinct areas for the most part to shoot at. We/they didn't have the insurgent/guerilla problem in Europe and even in the Pacific the guerillas for the most part had a front so WWII was a war with millions of combat people and two fronts, anything in between wasn't discussed much or we let Ernie Pyle, Walter

Cronkite, Andy Rooney and the like cover it, what they wrote is what the people got.

The story most often associated with WWII for me of the meanness and the unethical/immoral was forgotten. Of course the numbers of WWII alone, the area or territory all over the world the numbers of casualties even in a day make it impossible for comparison to the piddy paddy example of Iraq. We shouldn't be there, unfortunately we don't have the people to clean it up get their governments, our governments moving and bring our troops home.

I was a very young replacement in Naples, the 10th Mountain Division went over with me. I landed in Naples and I don't know where they landed but it was sometime before I saw any of them again. But I have an unusual experience in that a friend of mine had relatives in Rome and The Air Corp let me spend a couple days with them. They were well to do people so I had a great time but the thing that rung my bell or whatever was the discussions we had about the war.

The most impressive part was the telling of the Nazi's going through pilfering murdering and raping on the way to North Africa and when we the USA, Great Britain and our other allies got our feet on the ground and all the armed forces headed toward Austria; pilfering murdering and raping all the way to Austria. The stories of we our allies varied very little from the Nazis. Ethics and morals were forgiven most of the time, of course, because of the numbers and fierce pounding of the Nazis.

We don't have that in Iraq and in fact I don't know of a time where we had the fierce battles like of WWII but we didn't have the leadership either. How long was Tommy Frank over there before he ran the war from Florida?

As I see it we need to put Murtha in charge and if he has any problems with the current administration they need to be told that Murtha is on a mission to finish up the dirty work and they are to stay

TxDOT Denies Media Credentials For <CorridorWatch.org>

By DAVID STALL
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

CorridorWatch.org was notified Friday (June 2) by e-mail from TxDOT Public Information Director Randall Dillard that "applications for media credentials are being accepted only for mainstream news media."

This is the first time I have been denied media credentials to cover a transportation function. Over the last three years many of you have seen me at Commission meetings or working at events, such as the Texas Transportation Summit in Irving (now boycotted by TxDOT).

TxDOT knows who and what CorridorWatch.org is. Randall Dillard and I have appeared as radio guests together. And certainly TxDOT knows that CorridorWatch.org isn't a fan of the Trans Texas Corridor (the Transportation Commission appointed CorridorWatch.org founder Linda Stall to the TxDOT Trans Texas Citizen's Advisory Board). But we are a recognized Internet publisher. Oh sure, CorridorWatch.org isn't network television, nor are we major print or radio. But, we do publish an Internet newsletter with thousands of subscribers who are particularly interested in Texas transportation issues. Additionally, I have written a number of articles for other periodicals ranging from community newspapers to national magazines such as Robb Report's Worth Magazine (August 2005).

Transportation Commission Chairman Williamson was very direct when he said that the Texas Transportation Summit organizer (David Dean) was



David Stall

working at cross-purposes to TxDOT. At his direction TxDOT has boycotted the state's largest and best established transportation forum (sponsored by local government) and created their own.

Is barring CorridorWatch.org from reporting on the new TxDOT Forum an effort to suppress critical coverage? I think so.

GUEST COMMENTARY

This is a state sponsored forum, hosted by a state agency; with many speakers that are public agency employees. Accordingly, I believe that there is a greater responsibility to allow for openness and public disclosure.

I believe that the information TxDOT shares at their \$300 per person forum is of significant public interest and should be widely and freely reported. CorridorWatch.org newsletter readers are uniquely interested and should have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a free press.

TxDOT should not deny CorridorWatch.org access to report on this important forum.

CorridorWatch.org has a larger readership than many community papers and perhaps other newsletter and trade organizations being granted media credentials by TxDOT. I believe it's a serious threat to freedom of the press to exclude the reporter from any publisher, even an Internet publisher, based on their critical perspective.

out of the way until he gets done. We may need a temporary committee to run our government until it is in working order. Smarter people need to be at the helm of our government.

Louis Freitag, Carbondale, IL
To The Editor:

BUSH'S FAMILY VALUES

I think the American people are finally beginning to learn what George W. Bush's Family Values really are: . . . ignorance . . . bigotry . . . intolerance . . . avarice . . . deceit . . . incompetence . . . corruption . . . hypocrisy . . .

I certainly hope these 'Family Values' are being kept out of our public schools. Let's keep the teaching of Bush's 'Family Values' within the purview of such experts as

Pat Robertson, Jerry Falwell, Jimmy Bakker, Oral Roberts, Ralph Reed, Jimmy Swaggart., Rush Limbaugh, Bill

O'Reilly and Sean Hannity.

Paul G. Jaehnert, Vadnais Hts., MN
Dear Editor,

Today, Bush and Rumsfeld proudly announced that they had killed al-Zarquawi by dropping two 500-pound bombs on the house he was in. As proof, they displayed pictures of his corpse, and said that papers and computers were retrieved which will help track down other Al-Qaeda members.

How big is a 500-pound bomb? One bomb would blow a 30-foot deep crater out of a city block. Bush and Rumsfeld dropped two bombs, guided with lasers and GPS for a direct hit. So tell me, how could they extract such seemingly certain proof from so smothered a wreckage? Sounds doubtful to me.

Yours truly,
Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, CA

Americans Gas Guzzled

Americans are so adaptable it's pathetic.

The cost of gasoline continues to escalate and we all drive to the pumps to fill up, without hesitation. We need to view the reality of gas prices. There is no legitimate reason for the sky-high costs pumped-up within the past several months.

President Bush, so outspoken and indignant on so many issues, is willing to be as laid back as most Americans about the rising costs. There are special interest reasons for the escalating costs of gasoline. Furthermore, Bush has given the "green light" for his Saudi buddies and OPEC to hold up oil production so that the demand remains higher than the supply.

Americans have become too politically complacent. We've become the placid sheep that enables a President like Bush to manipulate our government, our dreams, and our lives without fear of consequences. It's one of the reasons we're in Iraqi quicksand without any vines nearby to pull ourselves



Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

out.

Bush has proven time and again that he is the captain who with no rational forethought will go down with his ship, no matter what. The problem is that he'll take all of us with him.

Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas, a former Director of Information Services, University Professor and Public School Administrator, 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>.

Coming Soon to www.lonestaricon.com:

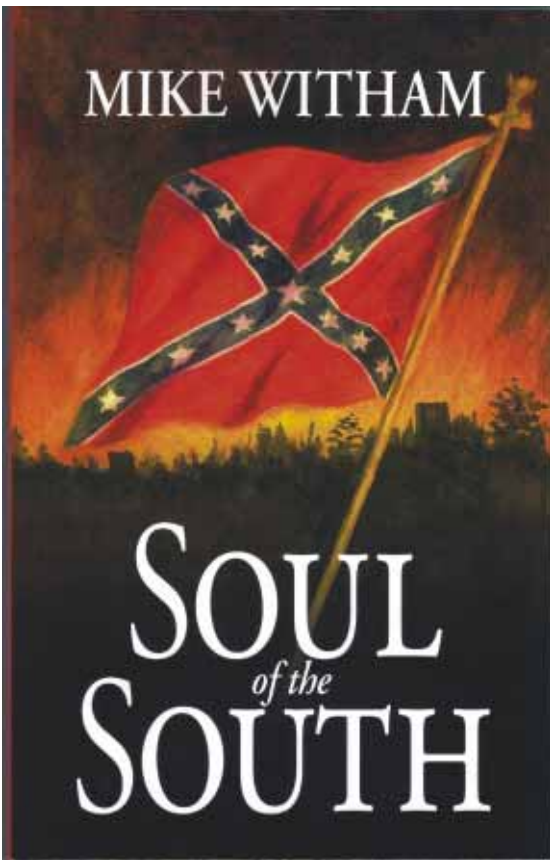


- Columns By Attorneys
- Legal Services Directory
- Advocacy For Individual Rights

The Iconoclast encourages those in the legal profession to take advantage of this unique opportunity, while at the same time financially helping The Lone Star Iconoclast remain afloat.

We encourage your participation. Please call Deborah Mathews at (254) 675-3336 for details.





Author Captures 'Soul Of The South' In First Novel

By W. LEON SMITH
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah — Mike Witham, a high school teacher in Ontario, Canada, has capably merged fact and fiction in his first novel, *Soul of the South*, which tracks the War Between the States through the personage of William Lytham, a fictional character who embodies the spirit of many soldiers on both sides of the war.

Witham touches upon history with the inclusion of notables such as Abraham Lincoln, Ulysses S Grant, Robert E. Lee, and others who are icons of that era, as they interface with Lytham, who, as an Alabama military academy graduate, decides upon the Confederacy to place his faith and energies.

Lytham becomes a spy and assumes the code name S.O.U.L. — South Over Union, Lytham. His triumphs, and the struggles to get there, are what make this book memorable, as does Lytham's emergence as a leader and his metamorphosis as a soldier and gentleman when playing politics or engaged upon the battlefield.

The book has a vague textbook feel, but Witham's method of describing the war and the internal conflicts of its protagonist make it a joy to read.

The book is published by Bedside Books (imprint of American Book Publishing, P.O. Box 65624, Salt Lake City, Utah). For more information, visit Witham's website at <www.mikeiwitham.com>.

GOP-Hardened House Panel Cuts PBS Funding

WASHINGTON — Big Bird is under fire again by Republicans.

This time, a House Appropriations subcommittee along GOP lines approved a \$115 million budget cut for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

In 2005, Republican lawmakers took aim at reducing public funding of the CPB, the entity responsible for the Public Broadcasting Service and National

Public Radio programs such as the children's education show *Sesame Street*.

Democrats and public broadcasting advocates plan to fight the cuts as they have done so since the CPB was created during the Johnson administration. Last year, 87 House Republicans joined unanimous Democrats in stopping the \$223 million funding cut

approved by the same House panel.

Republicans claim that public programming has a liberal slant and that such broadcasting should not take priority over healthcare and education initiatives.

At stake for CPB are educational programs such as a television literacy show and an online teachers' resource, and technological upgrades. Public radio stations in rural areas would shut down as a result of the cuts, accord to NPR president Kevin Klose.



LIMITED SUPPLY...
Get Yours Now!



BLACK GOLD...TEXAS TEEEEEEEE-shirt

More than just a statement of fashion...

... a statement of **INDEPENDENCE**

T-SHIRT

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

\$19.95 ea.
+ shipping

T-Shirt Order Form

Indicate # of each size

S ___ M ___ L ___ XL ___ XXL ___ XXXL ___

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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

shirts: _____

X \$19.95 _____ (circle)
Cash
+ s/h: _____ Check
(see above) Visa
MasterCard
= Total: _____ American Express

Credit Card Orders Include
Name on Card, Card #, Expiration Date

Send orders to:
The Lone Star Iconoclast
P.O. Box 569
Clifton, TX 76634
or order online at:
www.lonestaricon.com

MUELLER, INC.
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS & COMPONENTS

Now Stocking Material for Customer Pickup
Call For Availability — Delivery Available

Waco: 800-525-3814
Mark Noland (ext. 5426) - Roland Hicks (ext. 5427)
5591 N. Hwy. 6, Waco • 254-848-2560 • Fax: 254-848-9997
www.muellerinc.com

ZARQAWI

Continued From Page 2

and the Americans as occupiers, and are using the insurgency and the Iraqi police as their makeshift militia. To defend themselves, the Shiites are accepting arms and cash from Iran.

U.S. military officials hope the Sunnis and Shiites disarm and participate in more peaceful politics. If not and anti-war feelings grow in the United States before the coming mid-term elections, analysts believe that U.S. troops would return home.

PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH

IN WACO: 254-772-7500
www.withvic.com
1-877-WITH-VIC
9 4 8 4 8 4 2

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS
WITH OFFICES IN WACO,
TEMPLE AND AUSTIN

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

Principal office in Austin.
Meetings with attorneys by appointment only.

MEMBER
BETTER
BUSINESS
BUREAU