

75¢ Per Copy

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 26

JUNE 28, 2006

www.lonestaricon.com

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Chris Cooper

# Net Neutrality Rings Radnofsky's Cell Phone Off The Hook

*Democratic U.S. Senate Nominee Barbara Ann Radnofsky Fields Over 200 Phone Calls About Net Neutrality*

HOUSTON — Democratic U.S. Senate nominee Barbara Ann Radnofsky began receiving phone calls to her personal cell phone on June 21 from concerned citizens about her position on net neutrality. MoveOn.org sent out an email this week asking Texans to get in touch with their U.S. Senator and Senate candidates about Internet freedom. The phone number listed in the email was Radnofsky's personal cell phone, said the candidate.

As a result, Radnofsky said she personally answered well over 200 phone calls from Republicans, Democrats, and Independents alike who are concerned about current plans in Congress to tax the Internet and to sell access to the highest bidder.

After taking calls for three days, Radnofsky said, "I've spoken to hun-

dreds of people in the last three days and told each that I strongly support net neutrality. No one can get a position from my opponent's office. Radnofsky vs. Hutchison positions are clear: Radnofsky supports net neutrality, while my opponent has gone so far as to co-sponsor legislation which would tax children's and family use of the Internet. I call on my opponent to understand that the common good requires her to support net neutrality. I predict she will, because she now sees she will lose votes, and lose the support of the Christian Coalition and any hope of MoveOn support, if she does not. I predict she will flip flop."

Radnofsky opposes efforts to tax families' and children's use of the Internet, and she supports net neutrality. Radnofsky's opponent has yet to publicly support net neutrality, said Radnofsky..



Radnofsky is challenging Kay Bailey Hutchison for the U.S. Senate.

## Bilingual Ballots Irk GOP Over Voting Rights Act Renewal

WASHINGTON — The landmark act that helped thousands of African Americans vote was postponed due to objections from Southern GOP representatives last week. The main point of their concern was over ballots offered in foreign and English languages. They want English only with no interpreters.

The fury of these representatives was unexpected since lawmakers in both parties in Congress promised on May 2 that the 1965 Voting Rights Act would be renewed for another 25 years. Surprised by the complaints, Speaker J. Dennis Hastert (R-Ill.) issued a statement say-

ing that the Republican leadership "is committed to passing the Voting Rights Act legislation as soon as possible."

The postponement reflects a Republican division over the immigration debate. House GOP leaders say that the language on ballots is a non-issue because immigrants must learn English to become U.S. citizens. The Senate bill calls for English to be the "national language."

Still, Rep. Steve King (R-Iowa) found 80 House Republicans to sign his letter in protest of the Act's measures that pay heed to multi-language ballots. They argue that the mandate is too expensive and unfunded.

## New AT&T Policy Says Firm Owns Customer Info

NEW YORK — AT&T Inc. last week said it owns the phone records of its million-plus customers and will disclose such information to the U.S. government when asked.

The phone company officially changed its privacy policy Friday while under fire from lawsuits saying it and other telecommunication firms gave millions of records without permission to President George W. Bush's domestic spy program.

AT&T's claims that its customer's information is "business records," and "[a]s such, AT&T may disclose such records to protect its legitimate business interests, safeguard others, or respond to legal process," the policy says.

This claim is new to the company because before the policy it could disclose customer data to "respond to subpoenas, court orders or other legal process, to the extent require and/or permitted by law," and "to establish or exercise" its legal rights.

Privacy advocates took special note Friday of AT&T's newest provision that states the company could track its customer's television viewing habits, a term in which its customers cannot remove themselves.

In the words of Paul Stephens, policy analyst at Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, to Reuters: "It's frightening."

The firm is the first telecom to claim ownership of such records.

## 'Net Neutrality' Senate Committee Vote Delayed

WASHINGTON — A vote from the Senate Commerce Committee on "net neutrality" will have to wait until after this Tuesday. The committee delayed marking up the Senate's version of the telecommunications bill due to the lack of time to wade through its 214 amendments last week.

The sponsor of the bill (S. 2686), Commerce Committee chairman Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) wants the Federal Communications Commission to study the Internet market for five years and file annual reports with Congress on the activities of broadband-access providers.

On the other side, Sen. Daniel Inouye of Hawaii, the Commerce panel's top Democrat, would rather strengthen its "network neutrality" provisions by restricting broadband Internet providers than have the FCC address a series

of complaints.

Sen. Stevens and the cable and telephone lobbies, such as AT&T and

Comcast, are pushing the legislation's passage hard. Internet content providers, like Yahoo Inc., Google Inc., Microsoft Corp., and eBay Inc., and another coalition of consumer, labor, and religion advocates demand that if it passes, the law should protect their websites and content from discrimination.

At the same time, the telecommunications lobby has switched its rhetoric in the public square. Before, the telecom-led group "Hands Off the Internet" advocated that "net neutrality" legislation should die because it would regulate the Internet. Now, it is running a television ad stating that the COPE Act, which the House passed recently, does protect the Internet against discrimination from service providers.

## CEOs' Pay Outpace Workers By 262 Times

WASHINGTON — The heads of U.S. corporations outpaced the average worker in pay 262 times in 2005, according to a recent report from the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit think tank.

EPI noted that this figure represents the second-highest in the 40 years of gathered data on it. In 1965, the difference between CEO and worker pay was

only 24 times. By 2000, the difference grew to 300 times. Today, a corporate chief makes more money in one workday than a worker does in one year, the non-profit reported.

CEO pay equals salary, bonus, value of restricted stock at grant, and other incentives. Worker pay is defined by the hourly wage of production and non-supervisory works, EPI said.



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.

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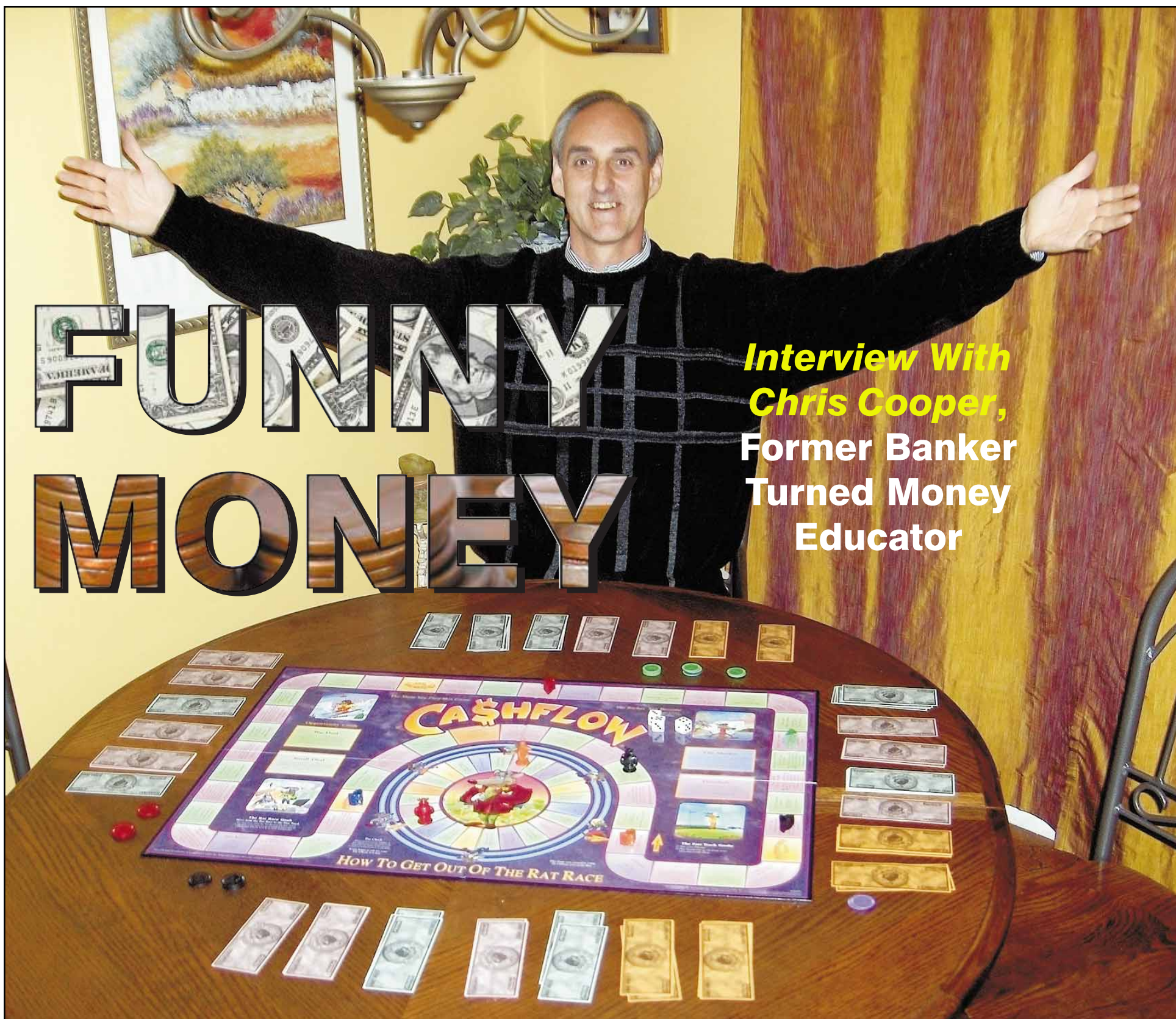
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**Interview With  
Chris Cooper,  
Former Banker  
Turned Money  
Educator**

**By NATHAN DIEBENOW**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

PORTLAND, Ore. — Chris Cooper likes to play games with money, but don't worry. You can have yours back once the lesson is over for a small fee.

Seriously though, for three years now, Cooper, 51, had facilitated workshops in the Portland, Ore. area for people who have little to no clue as to how the financial and monetary system can work for them.

His own experience with money has led him through various ups and downs. Out of college, the native of London, England worked with HM Customs and Excise in England. Soon after he became a middle manager with Barclays Bank whom with for 13 years he traveled across Europe, Africa, and the United States. Later, when his touring business in Portland fell through, he rebounded with his wife and family.

But it wasn't until five years ago that Cooper felt the need to share his knowledge about banking and finance with others. He decided to re-invent his life's

mission: "To leave a legacy of empowered and inspired communities, sparkling with health and vitality — a healer in every home and a world without pain!"

With this as an ethic behind his workshop series, he teaches the origins of money, its history, abuses, and alternatives.

"Right now, it's just one man and his dog," he modestly told the ICONOCLAST's Nathan Diebenow in a telephone interview recently. "I'll go where the crowd is."

The following is a mere morsel of that interview in which Cooper reveals his own initial naivety toward money, the notion of debt and interest payments as bondage, and his overall philosophy of money as energy.

.....  
ICONOCLAST: How did your interest in banking start?

COOPER: My interest in banking is very straight forward. Out of college I joined the Customs, a government department in England. My brother had graduated three years before me. He had joined Bartlet's Bank, which I ended up

joining. At that time, it was the biggest bank in the world. All I saw was him traveling around the world, visiting all these exotic locations, and having a really good time. I thought I could handle some of that, so I decided to follow in his footsteps. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: While you were there, what did you learn about the banking system?

COOPER: I had no idea what I was in at the time. I took professional exams. I studied banking theory. I made money as a manager. I lost money. Most of it came back. But at the time, I accepted everything that was being spoon fed to me. I had no reason to think otherwise. It wasn't until a few years ago, looking back on it, that I realized how I'd been duped like everyone else.

ICONOCLAST: Describe what this system is all about then.

COOPER: The thing that surprised me so much when I stepped back and looked at it is that the monetary systems operate in every country in the world these days are completely based on debt.

That's one thing like a sore thumb. While I was in banking, I didn't think about how money was created. I mean, it's always there, isn't it? If you need more money, you can always go to the bank and get more. But where does the bank get it from? I never asked those questions.

Now I come to find out that it all originates with the government borrowing money. In this country, it's easiest to talk about the government and the Fed (Federal Reserve Bank). The government starts the whole ball rolling by issuing various treasury bills, and the Fed gladly accepts them and credits them to the government's bank account. Then the commercial banks get in on the act. The Fed only requires them to keep 10 percent in the reserves ... and they can lend out the 90 percent, which keeps getting recycled to the point where the original amount borrowed becomes 10 times that. That is the only way money is created. Every dollar, every pound, every euro in anybody's account anywhere in the world has been borrowed by somebody.

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# FUNNNY MONEY

## From Previous Page

That's a staggering thought, and that's the cause of why we hear about these days the mounting debt whether its consumer debt, corporate debt, government debt, Third World debt. I mean, those are all the headlines. We're in a situation where now it's overwhelming. Interest keeps compounding, and countries can't repay their debt. I remember when I was working at a bank in Germany, the first major internationally crisis in debt repayment was Mexico. I believe it was in the early 1980s. I went into work Monday morning and we had to rush around and figure how much exposure we had to Mexico because suddenly they decided that they couldn't meet their obligations. Of course, after that, country after country started following suit, particularly Eastern Block countries, South American countries, and African countries.

Really, they were led into it by foreign governments and international banks who were out to make a quick buck. The only people who have ever ended up losing on it were the taxpayers. They have to bail all these people out all the time.

In Mexico's case, was it the Mexican taxpayer, the U.S. taxpayer, or a bunch of taxpayers from around the world?

It's usually the U.S. taxpayers. It's a bunch of taxpayers around the world depending on which bank and which government presents money in the first place. America is such a dominant force economically and financially that the majority of those debts ended up being swallowed by the American taxpayers. The banks write them off but they have to make it up somewhere...

ICONOCLAST: I found some of the essays on your website to be very enlightening. What struck me was this notion of debt with interest. The idea is that there's a fixed amount of money in circulation but people have to pay it back with money that isn't in the system. It's a lose-lose situation. It's like the system is rigged to enslave people.

COOPER: It's absolutely a form of bondage. There's no question about it. I have to say from the outset that I'm not an expert by any means. I've just found a passion for it because it took me by surprise given my background. The more and more I read, the more interesting it becomes. You've hit on a very interesting subject — the topic of interest itself.

Back in the earlier centuries after Christ, after Roman Catholicism, the charging of interest loans was strictly forbidden. It wasn't until I was doing my research that I learned that Henry the 8th when he broke away from the church of Rome, allowed interest to be charged again in England. That was the early 1500s. It had been a capital offence. You could be literally hanged for charging interest.

I can't help but ask the question to myself, "Well, if it was wrong for so long back then, what makes it right now?"

What does the interest actually represent? This is one of the points I bring out in the game. When banks lend money, if you take it to its extreme, which is the only way I can get the idea across to people, I sit around a table and I lend \$1,000 to everybody. They'll write me a note, and they'll give me some collateral for it. I'll hand over the money and have them exchange their money by way of trading. Each of them has an occupation.

I'll let them play the economy for a few minutes, and at the end, I'll say, "Okay, let's pretend it's been a year. You took out your loan for a year, and you all agreed on the terms. Let's see what happens." The terms were all the same. It's \$1,000 at five percent interest, so they'd owe me \$1,050, but the reality is that when the game started, I only gave them \$1,000, so if five people are playing, there is only \$5,000 in existence because we are the complete economy, and I am the only bank, so when I ask everybody for \$1,050, that would mean that in order for everyone to repay me, there would have been \$5,250 put into existence, which it didn't. So somebody somewhere has got to lose. That is such a crucial point to understand.

Now, that doesn't happen everyday obviously because in the real world, new players come into the game. The bank loans more money, and so those players are spending it in other places, so possibly the first five players in the game might have enough to repay at the end of the year. But the point is that anytime the bank wants to, it's in complete control of the game. If it decides to stop making

**I'll let them play the economy for a few minutes, and at the end, I'll say, "Okay, let's pretend it's been a year. You took out your loan for a year, and you all agreed on the terms. Let's see what happens." The terms were all the same. It's \$1,000 at five percent interest, so they'd owe me \$1,050, but the reality is that when the game started, I only gave them \$1,000, so if five people are playing, there is only \$5,000 in existence because we are the complete economy, and I am the only bank, so when I ask everybody for \$1,050, that would mean that in order for everyone to repay me, there would have been \$5,250 put into existence, which it didn't. So somebody somewhere has got to lose. That is such a crucial point to understand.'**

— Chris Cooper

new loans and call in old loans, then somebody is going to end up without a house or without their vehicle or whatever it is. To face that reality, it takes people back a little bit as far as they often perceive banks to be benign. That's certainly what they give people. They are active in the community, and clearly the vast majority of people who work in banks, me included, had no idea what was going on. Underlying it all is the intention to transfer assets from us to them, and that can't be good. The way they do it is putting people through misery to achieve those ends.

ICONOCLAST: When did you realize this, and what have you been doing since then with this knowledge?

COOPER: Probably, a lot of these ideas



Chris Cooper

first came to me from the book called "The Creature from Jekyll Island" by Edwin Griffin. It's a classic as far as exposing the mechanisms that governments and banks operate under. As far as what I've been doing since then, learning all this stuff gave me the inspiration to put together workshops because, well, I guess, it comes from a bunch of different places.

I do spend a lot of time on how the current monetary system operates and how unfavorable it is for the common person. That's really, really important, but I'm coming from a place a bit further away from that. What I mean by that is that if you've read some of the material, you'd see a few years ago I invented a mission statement for myself which was to create a legacy of empowered and inspired communities sparking health and vitality in every home and a world without pain. I chose those words carefully. It's the healing aspect of money that I'm trying to get at.

It was only over the weekend that I came upon the thing that I had been searching for in terms of trying to rede-

amount of money/energy out there, like in terms of an ocean. All of us have a pipeline that we plug into the ocean. We can draw off some of that money/energy. We draw that money through our pipelines, and we use it to say water our garden at the end of the pipeline. This is doing the stuff we do, like getting a job or participating in leisure activities or going to school.

You can over-water and some of it can soak into the ground and flow into a stream and the stream goes back into the ocean. It replenishes the ocean. Equally some of it will evaporate and go into the atmosphere and form clouds. Those clouds will rain on the ocean. When I think of it as a cycle in those terms, I can then look at individual parts of people's lives and see some of the things that go wrong. For example, sometimes the water pipe can get blocked, or sometimes the spring leaks. It happens in our own lives with money/energy. When we talk about debt being a form of bondage, that's really a blockage in the pipeline because if all we're doing is working for other people, then well, I guess it could be both a blockage and a leak.

ICONOCLAST: (laughs)

COOPER: The money is leaking out toward the government and not benefiting ourselves. But we never really learn about money. We kind of inherit our parent's attitudes, and we learn from our environment and our experience. All those little things influence us for the rest of our lives, yet we never really look back on them, examine them, and try to understand and use them to gain a different outcome. That's what I'm trying to get at.

While we play games on how banks lend money, learn what interest is, and learn about this horrendous debt situation around the world, it's equally valid that regardless of the monetary system we operate under, there's still a lot of people who are very successful. Why is it that they're successful and we're not? I know people who that it doesn't matter what they do, they always seem to land on their feet. I would suggest that that is not pure good fortune. It did happen for a good reason. Some people have it and it's obvious and some people don't. I'm interested in exploring it, and bringing the things I find to other so they can benefit from it. There's no reason why we cannot all be prosperous and all have abundance.

INFO

Chris Cooper's website

http://

PlayingGamesWithMoney.home.comcast.net

DATELINE:  
**Crawford**  
Hometown of the President of the United States

## Reich Graduates From MCC Fire Academy

WACO — Jicky Reich, a 1995 graduate of Crawford High School and current resident, graduated last month from the six-month Fire Academy program at McLennan Community College.

MCC's program entails 592 hours of instruction on the different aspects of fire fighting including vehicle rescue, high angle rescue and one week of live fire training.

Reich and his wife, Nicole are the parents of two children, Kinze and Gavin.

The class graduated with an average of 93.1 percent on the Texas Structural Firefighter's state test, the highest class average in the history of the MCC Fire Academy. All cadets passed the test, and Chris Harwell received the highest score in the class with a 99.3 percent.

## Three Crawford Residents Named To TSTC Honor Roll

WACO — Earning a place on the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring semester at Texas State Technical College

Waco was Brian Arnold, Jennifer Gardner, and Whitney Mitchell. The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes the scholastic achievement of students with a grade point average of 3.5 to 3.9 for the semester.

Arnold is a student in Computer Networking & Systems Administration. Gardner is a student in Web Design & Development Technology. Mitchell is a student in Advertising Design and Print Technology.

## Kelm Graduates From Texas A&M

COLLEGE STATION — Recently receiving degrees from Texas A&M University was former Crawford ISD graduate Maegan Leigh Kelm. Diplomas were awarded to 5,398 Texas A&M University graduates during spring commencement ceremonies.

Kelm earned a Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies.

## USDA Offering Small Minority Producer Grants

TEMPLE — Bryan Daniel, USDA Rural Development State Director, announced today USDA Rural Development is accepting applications for the Small Minority Producer Grant Program. Funding in the amount of \$1.473 million is available to cooperatives and associations of cooperatives whose governing board and/or membership is comprised of at least 75 percent minority members.

The grantee may use the competitive funding to assist small minority producers with technical assistance such as market research, product or service improvement, legal assistance, feasibility studies, business plan and marketing plan development and training. The maximum award per grant is \$200,000.

Applications, available online at <[www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/SMPG/SMPG.htm](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/SMPG/SMPG.htm)> or at a USDA Rural Development Local Office, must be completed and submitted no later than July 28, 2006. For information, call (254) 742-9775.

## Secretary Williams Expeditiously Certifies Independents For The November Ballot

AUSTIN — Secretary of State Roger Williams has notified candidates and minor parties who filed for a place on the general election ballot if they met the statutorily prescribed qualifications. By state law, candidates were required to submit an application for a place on the ballot accompanied by petitions with the required number of signatures.

"Texas has a process for verifying the eligibility of independent candidates for a place on the ballot and today we have finished that process," Williams said. "Our method of verifying every signature is the most accurate, has been upheld by the courts and was done faster than in years past."

Williams notified the campaigns of Richard Kinky Friedman and Carole Keeton Strayhorn last week that they had met the requirements for a place on the ballot in the upcoming gubernatorial election. Both Candidates exceeded the 45,540 signatures required by state law.

Friedman is an author and musician, while Strayhorn is the state comptroller of public accounts.

After a preliminary review of the

170,258 petitions submitted by Friedman, Secretary Williams' office has certified that 137,154 met the requirements. Similarly, Secretary Williams certified that 108,512 of the 222,514 signatures submitted by Strayhorn were valid signatures that met all statutory requirements.

The two independents will be joining Democrat Chris Bell, Republican incumbent Rick Perry, and Libertarian James Werner on the gubernatorial ballot.

In addition to the two gubernatorial candidates, five other candidates submitted applications as independents with Secretary William's Office, including Robert Belt and Arthur W. Loux for U.S. Senator, Bob Hise for U.S. Representative District 3, Steve Stockman for U.S. Representative District 22 and Harold Pearson for State Representative District 17.

None of these candidates met the state requirements for a place on the ballot, and therefore will not be certified by the state. The Green Party also applied for ballot access with the Secretary of State's office but did not submit the appropriate number of signatures to qualify.

## Democrats Kept Out Of The Loop On Iran

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Amid reports that military units previously scheduled for dispatch to Iraq are standing down in anticipation of being transported to Iran instead, Democratic Congressmen, who have been subject to a blackout by the Bush Administration with regard to Iran intelligence and policy, have introduced the Iran Intelligence Oversight Act.

The amendment suggests that few Congressmen have received access to U.S. intelligence on Iran and that key lawmakers have yet to be briefed in regard to administration policy.

According to a report in RAW STORY, both Republicans and Democrats have taken to holding their own briefings, inviting experts to give their opinion as outsiders looking in. Congressional staffers, intelligence and military officials have confirmed that these ad hoc briefings are part of an effort by Congress to learn what the Executive Branch is doing with its foreign policy. The briefings, however, are treated as classified and no information is available on who has attended or what has been discussed.

According to Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV), Congress has not been briefed on an offer to help Iran develop some nuclear technologies if they abandoned plans to enrich uranium.

"To the best of my knowledge, Congress has not yet been briefed on any of the key

details of the deal offered to Iran a few weeks ago," Reid said on the Senate floor this week. "The Iranians have been briefed, the Europeans have been briefed, the Russians have been briefed, the Chinese have been briefed — but not the U.S. Senate."

As Minority Leader, Reid is one of the Gang of 8, the eight members of Congress with top-level intelligence clearances.

Reid's bill (S.3536), introduced on the Senate floor Monday, assails the Republican-led Congress for what he sees as a lack of oversight and the body's demotion to a "rubber stamp" for Administration policies. In his floor speech, Reid painted the Legislative branch as impotent and weakened by an over-reaching Executive branch.

"All of us are painfully aware of this Congress's unwillingness to hold this administration accountable for its mistakes and misjudgments," Reid stated. "There has been virtually no oversight on anything."

Specifically, Reid pointed to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence's failure to complete the Phase II investigation into pre-war Iraq intelligence and the role of the Defense Department's secretive Office of Special Plans.

"Nearly three years into its investigation of the White House's politicization of Iraq intelligence, we still don't have a report," the Nevada Democrat remarked.

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300-400 lb. 115-135  
400-500 lb. 110-125  
500-600 lb. 100-120 \$3-5 Up  
600-700 lbs. 95-110  
700-800 lbs. 88-100

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THE WILD SIDE OF THE WILDEBEEST is evident when the entire herd bolts in an instant. The herd of 47 at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose seems particularly on guard following the addition of 17 new calves to the herd.  
— Staff Photo By Deborah Mathews



HELLO — Joining 16 other new calves just born at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center outside Glen Rose, this baby Wildebeest will enjoy the concentrated conservation efforts of a facility dedicated to the protection of endangered and threatened species from all over the world.  
— Staff Photo By Deborah Mathews

# Wildebeest Thriving With Fossil Rim Wildlife Center

## 17 New Calves Join The Herd

By DEBORAH MATHEWS  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

GLEN ROSE — With the addition of 17 new calves to the Wildebeest herd maintained at the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center in Glen Rose, the group tops 47 in number, making it possibly the largest herd in captivity.

Fossil Rim is a not-for-profit 501(c)3 organization committed to the conservation of species in peril. The “highly gregarious” animal with a range from Southern Kenya and Angola to northern South Africa, now making its home alongside Blesbok, Zebra, and rhino, is considered conservation dependent.

Efforts of the staff of Fossil Rim, over a period of more than 20 years, have culminated into a thriving herd. Watching the “wild animals” from the safety of a vehicle, one gets a feel for the fact that

the name, Wildebeest, truly fits the nature of the animal. The new babies remain tucked tightly next to the mother as the large group moves quickly through open areas of the reserve.

The apparently erratic behavior probably comes from the fact that the common wildebeest is usually the preferred prey of the lion and spotted hyena in its native environment of Africa.

Demonstrating all the qualities of a prey species, the Fossil Rim herd isn't likely to come up to the touring vehicles for a nibble of pellets; however, the instinct to follow makes calves approach any moving object, including a dangerous one, until it learns to discriminate. It is entirely the mother's responsibility to stay with her calf for the day or two needed to become imprinted upon her.

The calves are generally standing and seeking

Continued On Page 8

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# Hungary Celebrates; We Shouldn't

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "If we remembered everthing 'stead of what we want to remember, we'd all be too ashamed to come out of the outhouse."

Neighbor Bush has a spectacular way of showing the reflection from the bottom of his toilet bowl.

Central to this self-aggrandizing bowel movement is his singular inability to discern between a great nation and a powerful one.

That, and a profound ignorance of history.

Take last week when he went to Hungary to celebrate that country's 1956 revolt against the Soviet Union.

In which our non-participation cost 2,500 Hungarian revolutionaries their lives.

When demonstrations against post-war Soviet occupation turned into open revolt, complete with Soviet soldiers joining the demonstrators and a siege of both parliament and the Russian puppet Hungarian police headquarters.

Russia initially seemed to acquiesce; all the insurgents wanted, after all, was open elections and neutrality.

A socialist-style government might have formed a coalition.

However, Hungary was a Nazi ally during the war, and the Russians figured that would be a bad place to experiment with popular sovereignty.

Not that Russians really need an excuse to put any body or any place through the Moscow malt machine.

Meanwhile, General Dwight D. Eisenhower was now President Ike Eisenhower running for his second term.

And here's why some people on that dais last week probably would have liked to urinate down Neighbor Bush's leg during his speech.

In 1956 Radio Free Europe, the U.S.'s most effective propaganda tool, was rattling the windows in Budapest with promises of military support for the revolution. They even broadcast advice on the best military strategy to take advantage of the impending allied invasion.

But the president's men believed that best campaign strategy might involve the nation in a world war over a country most Americans couldn't find on a Fisher-Price globe.

They also believed they had their hands full with Egyptian insurgents taking over the Suez Canal.

The president was busy threatening to sell U.S. reserves of British currency and collapse their economy if they didn't give up their canal to the Egyptians.

And the Arabs.

Oil, anyone?

Back to Hungary.

The insurgents there draped Hungarian flags over their handful of captured Russian tanks, tore up the cobblestones and waited for the Americans.

And then that great American statesman John Foster Dulles delivered the greatest foreign policy declaration since Chamberlain left Munich:

"We do not look upon these nations as potential military allies."

That's all Moscow was waiting to hear.

The Hungarians got the dog meat kicked out of them.

The political effect was two-fold: Russia came off looking like vampires (Ike knew there was no way they couldn't.) and Ike got re-elected for keeping the peace.

After all, we weren't driving those Rus-

## Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



sian tanks.

Or any other kind.

Peace with honor.

No one "From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic" would trust in American assistance again for more than 40 years.

Republicans may not know much about decency, but they sure know how to win elections.

Thing is, it's pretty hard to *continue* winning elections without decency.

So, why *didn't* some people on that dais last week urinate down Neighbor Bush's leg during his speech?

Iraq.

And the battle of Mohács.

In 1526 Hungarian King Louis II tried to unite a Hungarian revolt against the Ottoman Turks.

He appealed to the rest of Christendom.

He got the pope's blessing and sweet nothings from the rest of the Christians.

So he met Sulayman I at Mohács with 28,000 men and the prayers of Rome.

Sulayman showed up with 200,000 and the will of allah, and Hungary got Islamic rule until another battle at Mohács in 1687.

They also got literature, art, architecture and education, but they got it at sword point.

The point (no pun intended . . . yeah, if you believe that, I've got some lovely bayside property on the Texas coast you might be interested in.) to all this is, to Hungarians, "Islam" means "Turk."

Turkey's interest in Hungary has waxed and waned during the four centuries since.

The Hungarians got waxed most of the time.

Right now, we are at war with Islam, which is keeping Turkey occupied elsewhere, specifically with all the makings of a Made-In-USA Kurdish state.

But that's a whole 'nother history lesson.

And although Islamic terrorism might reach Chicago, it is hardly likely that anybody with a prayer rug is going to occupy Moline.

Mohács, on the other hand, is still a rifle shot from the largest and most pow-

erful Islamic standing army in the world.

That's why the Hungarian diplomats patted Neighbor Bush on his rump and praised his perpetual motion war ma-

chine.

They have become wise to the ways of powerful nations.

And the absence of great ones.



## Editorial

### Living On Splinters

The wage floor for American workers was left in splinters for the ninth-straight time in 10 years as both proposals to increase the federal minimum wage failed to pass the U.S. Senate last Wednesday.

Sen. Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) put forth a proposal that would have temporarily patched the current \$5.15 floor to \$7.25 an hour in three stages over the next two years. His bill was voted down 52-48, even after a backroom deal was made to dodge an accompanying anti-abortion amendment filed by Sen. Bill Frist (R-Tenn.).

An alternative bill submitted by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-Wyo.) truly was a "poison pill," as Sen. Kennedy explained. It would have reduced overtime pay and increased tax cuts to businesses as it raised the minimum wage to \$6.25 an hour. Kudos go to the nine Republicans who joined the Democrats to vote it down, 45-53.

Though Enzi's minimum wage proposal could hardly be called noble, Kennedy's effort was poor as well. The federal minimum wage would need to be raised higher than \$8 an hour to just make the federal poverty level. In the end, both parties played election-year politics with the lives of the working poor — 5.4 million of whom are new to poverty since the presidency was stolen in 2000. According to the Economic Policy Institute, 35 percent of minimum wage workers are their family's sole earner. Women comprise 61 percent of these workers alone.

If this latest backstab to working women weren't enough, Congress shamelessly twisted the knife when it raised its own pay through a FY 2007

spending bill the week prior. Neither Democrats nor Republicans need to see the reality of their women-bashing. If they refuse, then it's time to close the leadership and compassion gaps in Washington.

Come November, look for candidates with carpenters' eyes. Their tools and methods are of no secret: increase the federal minimum wage higher than the poverty line and tie it to inflation so it becomes a true living wage protected from rising costs.

This with an expansion of the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit would boost their purchasing power which has already sunk to a 51-year inflation-adjusted low.

The rest of the U.S. population gets it. Eighty-three percent of those polled said they want a minimum wage increase. Eighteen states have taken it upon themselves to set their minimum wages higher than the federal standard. Dozens and dozens of municipalities have passed "living wage ordinances," such that curtail poverty-level job creation by mandating that government contractors and businesses that receive tax breaks pay a decent wage to their workers.

What the House conservatives don't know when they refuse to vote on a fair minimum wage, as they are now, is what small businesses owners do: such a wage reduces workers' dependency on taxpayer-based assistance and strengthens local economies by stabilizing labor productivity. Anything less would harm not only the health of the U.S. economy but also the security of her people.

— Nathan Diebenow

## PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH



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# Statewide School Property Tax is Illegal — So, Let's All Sue The State?

The Texas Supreme Court recently ordered the Legislature to fix part of the school finance system by June 1, or the state will cut off money to schools.

The court's ruling focuses on a marginal part of school finance. The court declared that the \$1.50 cap per \$100 of valuation on local school property taxes is unconstitutional. Because so many school districts are at or above that cap, the court reasoned that it amounts to an illegal statewide property tax. Districts must have "meaningful discretion" to set their own rates.

The court ruling didn't address the "Robin Hood" aspect of school finance that sends money from "property-rich" districts to "poor" ones. It didn't tell the Legislature to spend more on education. It just told the Legislature to fix the property tax.



## Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

So, the question is: **"If the statewide school property tax is illegal, then why are homeowners still paying it?"**

This is the reality.

In order to appease the court's ruling, legislators are "theorizing" to reduce school property taxes by one-third in a two-year period and found other sources of tax income for schools to replace the amount reduced from homeowners.

The bogus nature of this "resolution" is that these lackluster efforts by the legislature don't publicly recognize that, *even as I write this commentary*, our property rates have increased again. They were increased in appraisal value, local county tax rate, and/or school district taxes. Some property values were just raised up to \$25,000, which puts a pretty good dent into monthly mortgage payments and in the wallets of homeowners.

Furthermore, there is little doubt that school districts once again will raise their index of the \$1.50 cap per \$100 value next year because they need additional income to provide teacher salaries and program financing. Legislators did NOT provide new additional financing for public education, so the problem won't "go away" by itself. Obviously, the governor and legislators don't really care nor want

to provide homeowners with REAL relief from astronomical property taxes.

Perhaps Texans need to file a class-action suit against the governor and legislators for initiating and then continuing the illegal school property tax system? Apparently resolutions for public education reach some resolution only in the courts and NOT within our legislative system — where they are supposed to be resolved.

*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 Disabled Vietnam Veteran and holds three post-graduate degrees. You may contact Peter Stern at: <psstern@austin.rr.com>.*

## 911 Truth And Texas Terror

By CAPTAIN ERIC H. MAY

MI/PAO, USA CO, GHOST TROOP, 3/7 CYBERCAV+ MISSION OF CONSCIENCE / PATRIOTS IN ACTION

SPECIAL TO LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

The Chicago 911 Truth Conference has moved to the forefront of 911 truth history with its creation of strong statements at its recent meeting, *9/11 Truth - the Key to Stopping World War III*.

The bottom line is that conference members believe the White House needs a successful 911-2B attack to maintain Bush's grip on power and continue the global war on terror.

One of the statements the group adopted is called "911-2B," or the 911-to-be follow-up attack that the controlled media keeps programming us to accept when it comes. After all, they tell us (as they set us up), it's not a matter of IF it's going 2B, but a matter of WHEN it's going 2B. Ergo, our code for the next event: 911-2B.

They say that indicators point toward some sort of false-flag terror event in the near term, as both Bush and Congressional collaborators fear any radical transition of power in the 2006 elections. What on earth would they do if, for instance, an uncontrollable Democrat were to win the leadership of either the House or Senate? It could actually mean independent investigations, and that's simply impossible, in light of what has happened.

The American Political Establishment, the statement argues, needs a 911-2B event to save the *man* if they want to save the *plan* (GWOT — Global War on Terror). Nothing but 911-2B will work at this point.

The Cyber-Resistance of the Internet community is tying down a huge number of the military and police forces conducting COINTELPRO operations against it. 911 Truth Movement forces are growing, and is adopting an attitude much more like that of a collective intelligence network. We recently saw the rapid publication by several hundred cyber-publishers (especially Indymedia) of the collective Internet article by Michel Chossudovsky, Paul Watson, William M. Arkin and me, *Bunker Time: Federal Gov. to Conduct Large-scale Anti-terror Drill*.

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Abroad, things are getting critical, too, for the Bush administration. The antiwar movement is spreading, and the friendly, "embedded" media has failed in its prostitute task of spinning the Arab nightmare into the American dream. As the clever predicted, Iraq isn't just a quagmire, it's quicksand, and whether the media admits it, we can see that the Army and Marines are just sinking in deeper in a failed war.

Diplomacy isn't going to fix a thing, under the current administration.

But 911-2B would solve it all — especially Bush's complaint about his nation failing to remember the lessons he taught it — by ramping up public aggression against Bush enemies (who would be the ones blamed for the event, of course), and warranting expansion of the war to the *nuclear* level. The boy-president would finally have the ultimate plaything at his disposal to use in this "post-911" reality.

My associates and I believe that the most likely target for terror on American soil this summer will be the Texas Gulf coast.

In the last month we have confirmed terror drills or alerts along the Texas Coast (from east to west) in Beaumont's *Exxon Mobil*, Deer Park's *Shell*, and Texas City's *British Petroleum*. We believe that the Houston Metro area is the center of the Southeast Texas target zone.

Please join me and other concerned Internet activists who are learning how a multi-cyber-media infowar campaign can shut down a false-flag attempt.

<[http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/Captain May/capt1.htm](http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/Captain%20May/capt1.htm)>.

*Captain May, a former Army intelligence an public affairs officer, is the founder and commander of Ghost Troop, a 300-strong unit comprised of military and police veterans and active duty, along with civilian research/activists. He is on a self-declared "mission of conscience" to oppose the Bush War Cabal.*



Captain Eric May

## Wildebbeests

Continued From Page 6

the mother's udder within an average of six minutes, occasionally less than three minutes. After gaining their feet, if the mother moves away, the calf must stay beside her.

Even within the safe confines of the wildlife center, well away from predation, millennia of learned behavior of prey species is hard to undo.

Director of Animal Care Kelley Snodgrass commented on the management challenges of what he called a real, functioning and natural herd. Snodgrass explained the incredible social nature of the animals, along with their unpredictability.

He said that the name certainly suits an animal that he calls the ultimate herd animal.

The animal described as a large, high-shouldered antelope with broad muzzle and cowlike horns, illustrates evidence of being more structured during calving than at any other season.

The Fossil Rim herd adults keeps the calves generally in the center of the group, especially when they are outside the cover of the trees. The circling of the young is another indication of antipredator behavior.

Accenting what Snodgrass points out about the natural environment is the

complement of animals such as the Addax, Gemsbok, Sika Deer, Greater Kudu, Waterbuck, Gazelle, Guanaco, Ostrich, Giraffe, just to name a few. The 1,800 acre complex supports over 1,000 head of exotic and endangered animals of more than 50 breeds.

The "well-kept secret" of Fossil Rim is being exposed through their endless conservation efforts and all-inclusive tours. As an American Zoo Association member, the center has an education department that has helped it become one of the most renowned species survival facilities in the world.

Fossil Rim is a major participant in captive breeding programs for animals such as the cheetah, black rhino, white rhino, red wolf, and Attwater's Prairie Chicken.

Through the availability of a hands-on learning adventure focusing on wildlife, wildlands, and the issues of biodiversity in Texas and around the world, Fossil Rim offers something for everyone. There is even opportunity for volunteers who choose to help with the conservation of a species in peril.

Information about the facility, its efforts, and education can be obtained by calling 254/897-2960, or visiting the website at <[www.fossilrim.org](http://www.fossilrim.org)>.

## Local Media Ownership Rules Up For FCC Review

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission renewed its attempt to change the rules for local media ownership last week. A coalition of labor, consumer, human rights, and religious groups called on FCC Chairman Kevin Martin to reveal more information on the agency's proposed plans.

Last Wednesday, the FCC took its first step in reviewing the regulations by issuing a "Notice of Proposed Rulemaking." The public will have 120 days in which to comment. About six public hearings are planned along with independent studies.

FCC commissioner Michael Copps said in a statement that this issue will be "the single most important public policy debate the FCC will tackle this year."

"It means deciding whether or not to accelerate media concentration, step up the loss of local news and change forever the critical role independent newspapers perform for our country," he said.

Copps and Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein went on to express their distaste with the agency's move.

"The manner in which the Commission is launching this critical proceeding is totally inadequate," Adelstein said. "It is like submitting a high-school term paper for a Ph.D. thesis. The large media companies wanted, and today they get, a blank check to permit further media consolidation."

The coalition members formed under the moniker StopBigMedia.com hope that this round of public hearings would not reflect the same closed-door practices that the former FCC chair Michael Powell performed in 2003. That year, millions of U.S. citizens voiced their opposition over the media consolidation measures which were later rejected in the courts.

"[T]he public's views are clear: Big Media is already big enough." Robert W. McChesney, president of Free Press.



# Voters Deny Depression Governor Second Term

Ross Shaw Sterling kicked off his campaign for governor on June 20, 1930 by introducing himself to the Huntsville crowd as "the fat boy from Buffalo Bayou."

The 265-pound multimillionaire poked fun at his gigantic girth to divert attention from his much bigger bank account. Sterling also never let voters forget that he started life as a dirt-poor farm boy in Chambers County, who had to quit school at 13 to lend his widowed father of 12 a full-time hand.

Sterling's meteoric rags-to-riches rise began in 1903 at Sour Lake, where he sold everything under the sun to the oilfield workers. Within a decade, he was the founding president of Humble Oil Company and well on his way to amassing a colossal fortune estimated at \$50 million.

Selling his oil interests in 1925, Sterling plowed his profits back into real estate and publishing in his new hometown of Houston. He merged THE POST and THE DISPATCH into a single newspaper and recruited former governor William P. Hobby to oversee the enterprise. THE POST-DISPATCH waged a no-quarter war of words with Gov. Miriam A. Ferguson and her husband Jim, Hobby's impeached predecessor, and helped Attorney General Dan Moody upset "Ma" in her 1926 reelection bid.

Presuming the amnesty bill enacted during his wife's administration had restored his political rights, "Pa" Ferguson in February 1930 unveiled his plan to succeed Moody, who was in the last year of his second and last term. But after party leaders refused to put his name on the primary ballot and the state supreme court reaffirmed its 1924 ruling that banned him for life from public office, Jim again persuaded his obliging mate to run in his place.

Sterling entered the congested race against the advice of friends, who argued that his enormous wealth would alienate an electorate hard hit by the deepening Depression. Although he trailed "Ma" Ferguson by 72,000 votes with barely 20 percent of the ballots, an anti-Ferguson avalanche carried him to victory in the runoff.

The affable amateur could not have picked a worse time to rule the Lone Star roost. Like the puzzled occupant of the White House, Sterling was blamed for the dead-as-a-doornail economy, the disappearance of thousands of jobs and the lack of a "safety net" to keep the unemployed from falling through the cracks. He was, in short, the Herbert Hoover of Texas.

The quasi-populist appeal of Fergusonism was made to order for the campaign of 1932. "Farmer Jim" hammered away at the incumbent's dubious devotion to high interest rates, seemingly superfluous highway construction projects and controversial armed occupation of the East Texas oilfield. Sterling's attempt to curtail production by small-time operators smacked of corporate cronyism, especially since the National Guard commander was the top attorney for Texaco and his right-hand man was a Gulf executive.

Sterling's vulnerability attracted a horde of hopefuls, who split the anti-Ferguson forces into hostile factions and enabled Miriam to build up a six-figure lead in the first round. She held on to win their hard-fought August rematch by less than 4,000 out of 951,000 votes.

Sterling refused to accept the photo finish claiming he had been robbed. Citing the Fergusons' reputation for stuff-

## This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



ing ballot boxes, he dragged the legislature back to Austin for a special session and indignantly demanded a full-scale investigation. As expected, the lawmakers wanted no part of a precedent-setting post-mortem and in effect told the lame duck to take it like a man.

But there was no stopping the sore loser, who would have gladly sold his soul to the devil to prevent the

Fergusons' return to power. Sterling went to court to have the election results set aside only to provoke a successful counter-suit by "Ma," who was declared the undisputed Democratic nominee for governor.

Sterling shocked and saddened his most steadfast supporters by endorsing the Republican candidate in the general election. This symbolic act of defiance had no decisive impact at the polls but made the defector permanently persona non grata in the Democratic Party.

An inflammatory off-the-cuff comment strengthened speculation that Sterling had taken leave of his senses. He actually wished out loud for "somebody to shoot Ferguson in the foot so as to end the threat he presented to Texas politi-

cians every two years." Even in the no-holds-barred arena of Lone Star politics, his irresponsible remark was clearly out-of-bounds.

As a parting gesture of contempt, the outgoing governor broke with tradition by boycotting the inauguration of Miriam Ferguson in January 1933. To most Texans, this was just bad manners and final proof that the state was better off with Ross Sterling in the board room than the governor's mansion.

*"Outlaws & Lawmen" - "Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. VI is \$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.*

## Warning: Do Not Cover Face With Newspaper While Driving

There was a time when manufacturers included warnings on their products as a way to provide useful information that could potentially save our lives. Or, at the very least, our eyebrows and/or stomach lining.

However, that all changed 10 years ago when McDonald's had to serve up a McMillion dollars to the lady who didn't realize that spilling hot coffee on yourself while behind the wheel of a car can lead to a condition commonly known as "The Open-Road Lap Dance."

Taking a deeper look, that condition is really just an extension of the more common rule known as "Cause and effect," which states:

"Cause I'm dumb enough to place hot coffee next to the most vulnerable spot on my entire body, I am, in effect, going to do something even dumber by spilling it there. Probably before I leave the drive-thru."

That landmark decision opened the floodgates to a barrage of wrongful injury cases aimed at sending a clear message to American businesses:

We will buy your products.

We will use your products.

And, God willing, we will hurt ourselves with your products and retire early.



## Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

The reason I bring this up is because of an actual, real-life warning label I discovered on the handle of a friend's new baby stroller, which reads:

Always remove child before folding.

First of all, I'd like to point out that this timesaving tip was NOT included anywhere in the instruction manual. Had he known how much easier the folding process is by simply removing his child first, he wouldn't have spent nearly an hour trying to pry his son loose from the grip of his \$200 stroller.

Ha ha! I'm kidding, of course! He never, at any time, actually folded up his son inside the stroller. At least not without his son's written consent (which, by the way, an attorney keeps on file.)

Ultimately, this experience led to the discovery of more examples of warning labels aimed at those who would otherwise be eliminated through the process of natural selection.

This first one was sent in by Phillip Rankin of Coral Springs, Florida, who cut out the following warning from a Band-Aids box: **For serious injuries please seek medical attention.** That's good advice, at least until Band-Aid comes out with a super-absorbent "severed limb" option, preferably in the less obvious "skin-colored" tone that can be worn by people on the go.

This next one is from Wilma Pettig of Marietta, Georgia, who found this helpful warning on a box of nails: **Do not swallow nails; May cause irritation.** And that's just on the way down. Imagine how irritable you'll be the next morning.

This last warning was on a can of primer in my own home: **Do not spray contents into face.**

That's right. If you seem to be going through a lot more paint than you expected (and your retina's are primer gray) try flipping the nozzle the opposite direction.

Good luck.

Oh, and don't say you haven't been warned.

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

## Iraq Government To Call For U.S. Troop Withdrawal

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As a fresh round of violence caused a curfew on Baghdad last Friday, The Iraqi government announced that on perhaps Sunday, it would reveal a peace plan with Sunni insurgents, a timetable to withdraw U.S.-led forces from the country, and an amnesty to various jailed insurgents.

A senior U.S. official noted that such a plan was put in place after all the major wars the United States dating back to its own civil war, according to a British newspaper. This 28-point plan comes after months of talks among the head of the Iraqi government, seven Sunni groups, and a U.S. ambassador.

Proposed provisions of the plan include compensating Sunnis for their lost jobs in the Saddam Hussein-backed government and army and acting against the Shia Muslim death squads accused of killing Hussein's defense lawyer last Wednesday.

This plan comes as U.S. President George W. Bush's job approval ratings remain low and his party faces a tough mid-term elections in November congressional races mostly because of the

mounting deaths of U.S. troops in the war in Iraq with no end in sight.

As an Opinion Research Corporation poll showed that a 53-percent majority of Americans want the troops brought back from Iraq, the White House and its British counterpart, Downing Street, continued to reject a timetable for troop withdrawal last week.

A Democrat-led bill for troop withdrawal suffered collapse in the U.S. Senate Thursday. This vote was taken the day after the tortured bodies of two dead sol-

diers were found in Iraq.

Earlier in the week, Japan ordered its group troops to return home from southern Iraq, while still offering support for Iraq's reconstruction. This order occurred amid the public's worry over non-combat troops there.

British and Australian forces had already announced they would take over operations in the area the Japanese forces had controlled. This was Japan's first deployment of its military since the end of World War II.

## Airstrikes In Afghanistan Increase

WASHINGTON — The Washington Post reported last week that the U.S. military increased its airstrikes in Afghanistan over the last three months. A total of 340 airstrikes — "more than twice the 160 carried out ... in Iraq," the newspaper said, quoting U.S. offi-

cials in the Middle East.

The report added that the strikes coincide with U.S. counter-offences against the Taliban in the south and southeast region of the country. Every aircraft from B-52 bombers to drones have been deployed during the attacks.

# Even In Daylight, Cheney Brings The Dark

The Dark Lord made a rare daylight appearance on national television today. Even more rare, he agreed to an interview — on CNN.

The recipient to have been bestowed honor such as this exclusive face-to-face with the Dick Cheney was John King, the news giant's chief national correspondent.

Yep, whenever the real fun stuff comes along, such as a secret flight to Baghdad, King's the guy to whom the White House gives the personal invitation.

And when *El Veepeo* orders up a talk on the veranda, actually in the sunlight, complete with softball questions — all conditions in forward mode to make him appear sweet and lovable — King's the go-to guy.

Because there's no way he's going to ask any question as difficult as those even the tough Larry King (no relation, I'm sure) might pose.

Besides, whenever hard-hittin' John asked a question Dark Lord preferred to not answer, it simply went unanswered. John knows not to press an issue, lest he be silenced and ignored by the Regime a' la Helen Thomas.

That shotgun leanin' against the doorframe off-camera might have been a mild deterrent to open debate, too.

Despite all the facts we now know, such as all the "facts" conjured up by Cheney, Paul Wolfowitz and Donnie Rumsfeld were not facts at all but Faerie Taelles based upon fantasies of the deepest, darkest dimensions, the Dick refuses to budge one mil (0.0001/inch) as to the reasons behind the illegal invasion of Iraq.

Of course, King hasn't the cojones to call Cheney out on any of that.

On any number of issues, the Dick fell back on "I support the president's policy," which we know would be pretty much his own or that of Herr Oberst Karl Rove. But on the record these policies belong to egomaniacal George W. Bush. Ain't it nice having a fall guy?

Dark Lord scooted around the Scooter Libbey issue, using the excuse that he may have to testify. When asked if "Executive Privilege" will be a White House strategy, he began scooting faster in ever-widening circles.

King asked Cheney where had the jokester of 10, 15 years ago gone. The Dick said it was hard being lighthearted after 9/11 — that 9/11 changed everything in America.

Now, where have we heard *that* before?

King George XLIII certainly has no problem joking around, even at the most serious press conferences.

George always manages to smile (well, he at least smirks) when talking about death, destruction, and how he's gonna git some evildoer or another. It's not uncommon for those whose synapses aren't firing in proper synchronicity tend to smile a lot, with or without reason. These people also display a tendency to make jokes or play around in inappropriate settings.

It's nice to see a dude happy in his job, even if it is "hard work," as he continually reminded us during Herr Rove's 2004 Campaign to Steal America, Phase III.

Toward the end of the interview, Cheney was queried as to his feelings about having poll numbers lower than the 33% enjoyed by George.

With typical hubris the Dick responded that the King and he would be done with politics after this term, so they didn't pay attention to the polls.

Said he, We're doing what we think is best for the Country.

Damn what the people want!

They refuse to pull our troops out of Iraq because that will cause terrorists to attack U.S. targets at home.

He's talking with callous disregard about your sons and daughters, husbands and wives, partners and parents; somebody's brothers, sisters, grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins; everyone's friends and neighbors.

Realize that not one person in the White House Fascist Regime has a direct link to anyone serving in the military — or even getting smashed nightly in Alabama on an Air National Guard flight lieutenant's paycheck.

Mr. Five Deferment Cheney quit school in the middle of his doctorate program as soon as the draft would no longer affect him.

Doing what's best for the Country, my



## Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

100% Italian-American posterior!

The longer we stay in Iraq, the more money Halliburton and other Rove/Bush/Cheney/Rumsfeld/Rice Charities make off U.S. taxpayers and dead brown people.

These people don't believe in traditional charities, such as the United Way and Jerry Lewis' MDA Telethons. They feel an entitlement to line their own pock-

## Ring-A-Ding-What?

Some things never change. I'll bet when

Beethoven was a

kid, his father used to say, "I've got nothing against the new music, but do you have to play it so loud?" And I'm sure ever since Adam and Eve, the most common words exchanged between husbands and wives have been, "What? I can't hear you." People are always perplexed that what seems like a perfectly reasonable volume to them is either inaudible or thunderous torture for someone else. Finally, there is some scientific research to explain why this is so.

Kids can hear high-pitched noises that adults can't hear. According to the House Ear Institute in Los Angeles, most adults' ability to hear high frequency noises disappears in "early middle age." (Once again, Mother Nature is looking out for us, because it's also at "early middle age" that we don't want to hear people shrilly asking us things like, "Have you gained weight?")

A Welsh security company decided to put this difference in hearing ability to use. They devised a high-pitched noise that would annoy teenagers, but that adults couldn't hear. The purpose of this devious invention — called the Mosquito — was to make would-be loitering kids disperse from storefronts while not discouraging adults from shopping there. It doesn't seem like a very nice invention to me.

I guess it didn't seem very nice to some technologically minded kids, either. Some clever young person turned this invention on its ear, and made it something that would appeal to kids: phones that could ring without alerting parents or other adults — like teachers. They took the sound that adults can't hear and made it a cell phone ring tone. It's bad enough that kids can talk so softly we can't eavesdrop on them. Now they can receive calls right in front of us without our knowing.

There is some other sound research that might also have some booming consequences. A study presented at this month's meeting of the Acoustical Society of America revealed some interesting results. First, non-Hispanic

white people, in general, hear worse than other groups.

However, I don't

think this explains, why, historically, people of color have had such a hard time being heard by white people.

Secondly, women, in general, hear

better than men. So,

if you're the kind of

man who mumbles

under his breath,

stop being shocked

when the woman

you love calls out, "I

heard that!" On the

other hand, I'm sure

there are many

women who are frustrated because whenever they ask their man why he didn't do something, he always seems to answer, "I never heard you ask me to do that." Now, it turns out that he might be telling the truth. His hearing just isn't as good as yours. Maybe he really can't hear the baby crying when you do. Maybe.

This might be the greatest legitimate excuse since scientists discovered there is a biological reason why some women tell a story in twenty minutes that would take some men thirty seconds to tell. So, just as women have been able to tell men, "Hey, sit there and listen. I'm not rambling. My brain works differently from yours," men can now say to women, "I wasn't ignoring you. My hearing's different from yours."

Of course, all of these things may occur simultaneously. A woman might have gone into great detail about something that happened during her day only to have her husband ask, "Huh? Were you talking to me?" And then, right when she's about to yell at him at a level he can definitely hear, their teenager rushes into the room, screaming, "I'll get it." And both parents will turn to him saying, "You'll get what?"

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](mailto:lloydgarver@yahoo.com).

By Lloyd Garver



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

ets is a grand charity, the best and only one — and all the lesser beings of the World must contribute.

On the recent anniversary of the Columbine shootings, Bill Clinton was present to turn a shovel of dirt, finally starting the long-awaited memorial which he worked hard to make a reality. I couldn't begin to imagine a member of the Royal Bush's or Dark Lord Cheney's participating in any such event.

The memorial fund had raised something like \$1.2 Million, but as of that day was still about \$350,000.00 short. One speaker mentioned that the golf club across the road offered to match the next \$50,000.00 in contributions that came in.

From the back of the dais, Mr. Clinton said tell them to write the check, because he was taking care of the first \$50 thousand.

Now, this isn't something the former President did for a photo op. He wasn't looking for glory. This wasn't on any network news show that I know of; rather I came across a relatively small article in a Colorado newspaper.

Bill Clinton gave of himself because he felt compassion for the people of Columbine, and as President he had made a solemn promise to them.

These are the things a Leader does; Bill is a President of the people.

What we're saddled with in the era of Bush and Cheney are tyrannical ideologues, who don't care one for anything beyond their own power, wealth and comfort.

We're just numbers to them, a fact that was pointed out quite succinctly by Tony Snow when our military dead had reached 2,500 in Iraq.

"I told you so" is such an ugly phrase, but following the martyrdom of Abu Mussab al-Zarkawi I said there would be jihad to pay.

Too, al Qaeda looked to its farm system and brought in another non-Iraqi to kill and maim Iraqis and Americans for Iraq and Allah, Sheikh Abu Hamza Al-Muhajer.

These guys have at least as much chutzpah as King George and his (unwitting) Crusaders, bringing in a dude whose name actually translates into "the immigrant."

That makes at least two sides who have absolutely no business in Iraq terrorizing the indigenous populous under the guise of screwed-up misconceptions of holy laws.

So here's Dark Lord the Dick Cheney, on CNN, on my television, trying to get me to believe that there hasn't been a "terrorist" attack on U.S. soil since 9/11 because we invaded Iraq, nor will there be one as long as we keep wasting humanity, infrastructure, equipment and money by the ton in that godforsaken land.

And Herr Karl Rove, essentially the Viceroy (it's the Viceroy who's always the one pressing the nation on to war yet himself too soft and wussy, even effeminate to serve in the military), accusing the Democrats of always "cutting and running" — Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry S. Truman showed a tad of moxie in beating the Axis during World War II; John F. Kennedy was cited for heroically saving his PT crew in the Pacific, then saved the Planet during October, 1962 with the able assistance of super-Liberal Adlai E. Stevenson; Truman stood up to the North Koreans and Chinese; Lyndon Johnson escalated the mess in VietNam; John Kerry was thrice wounded in 'Nam.

Continued On Next Page

## TENUTO....From Previous Page

If we Dems and Liberals are perpetually wrong, wrong, wrong, as Rove is so fond of saying, why are we the ones who have done in the bad guys pretty much all of the time? Why are Republicans connected way back with the sheikhs and mullahs and despots who run Muslim countries?

Some guys merely drive a ridiculous sports car to extend their penises; Karl Rove needs a war in Iraq just to find his.

I doubt sincerely, with all my heart and every fiber of my being, that there was any kind of terrorist attack from persons outside the U.S.A. on September 11, 2001. The "terrorists" were then and are now based at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. They are connected to the same evildoers who attempted a coup d'etat in 1998, then stole our Nation away from true, honest Americans in November, 2000.

It doesn't make any sense to me that those who've never served, or served while doing nothing but partying and getting wasted in Alabama and Connecticut, are running our military - especially a "war" military.

No matter what Dark Lord the Dick Cheney says, or anyone else, for that matter, having our soldiers, Marines and National Guard tied up in Iraq, rather than in place guarding U.S. soil and nearer regions such as Europe, has not, does not, and can not possibly make our Nation safer.

They keep reciting that mantra over and over, again and again, yet not once have we been given a scenario explaining just how this works.

The Dick said that if we leave Iraq the "terrorists" are just going to follow us wherever we go.

When it comes to banal logic, that's about as banal as I've ever heard!

One more comment: Could Michael Chertoff have truly gotten it right when he allocated more Homeland Security money to Chicago, as Mayor Richard M. Daley has screamed for years? Did he know about this plot in Miami, and use the funding shift to make himself look smarter than he really is? Or did he just get damn lucky?

A plot against the Sears Tower? What in the hell's wrong with those clowns? They had to have been confused - Sears was bought by innocuous Kmart, not the wicked Wal-Mart.

Adios amigos, y Shalom!

*(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)*



Editors,

There is no slick, sellable, campaign-ready solution to Americas war in Iraq. The Democrats cannot point to a course of action that would lessen Iraqi and American casualties, encourage a stable government, diminish sectarian violence and extricate U.S. forces. Well, of course not. How could they? How could anyone? Even God would be hard pressed.

But these days, the Democrats are pressured to be more than naysayers, to not just rehash the Presidents shortcomings. How does the mantra go? "All the Democrats do is complain. Cant they say anything positive?" Not really. Because theres nothing positive to say. If all the violence in Iraq suddenly ended tomorrow, if, by some miracle, Iraq began a peaceful if fractious course towards an inclusive government, it will be weak at best, and Iran is strong. When the dust settles, if it ever does, it will occur to policy-makers that Americas long-favored tactic of using Iraq to balance Iran, is gone forever. Iran won, and without a doubt, the best thing that ever happened to Irans world standing is George W. Bush.

Still, each potential Democratic candidate for president will rush to differentiate himself or herself from the rest of the pack vis a vis Iraq. Some will stoop to "Bring our boys home now," a posi-

tion which no serious observer of the region advocates. Others will attempt to tackle the intricacies, articulate a nuanced exit policy, and get slaughtered by the press for sounding vague and slaughtered by liberals for insufficient anti-war fervor.

And sadly, the litmus test that liberals will use to chose their candidate is, "Did you or did you not vote for Authorization?" Anyone who voted to give Bush the go-ahead to invade back in 2002 will be persona non grata at the table. That's bad news, because many good people wanted to give Bush the benefit of the doubt way back then, when he still had a bit of post-911 halo. Not everyone understood that he had lied so deeply. But really, is being the first on your block to recognize the ethical depravity of George W. Bush a true test of leadership?

The real lesson is that its very easy to start a war, and once started, the familiar world is gone. The Democrats should not have to pretend that "regime change" in the White House will magically restore peace in the Middle East. Its a tragic and complicated mess that Bush and his Oil Men have instigated over there, and no matter what party wins the upcoming elections, everyone will be paying for their profit-driven adventurism for years to come.

Robert Fripp

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# Lightning In Season

## 'Leon the Lightning Lion' Joins Effort To Educate Children

AUSTIN — Reducing the risk of being struck by lightning has been the recent focus of Lightning Safety Awareness Week.

Lightning is most common in the summer months, but can be a hazard throughout the year. And although most lightning victims are struck outdoors, lightning poses a threat to those indoors as well.

"All thunderstorms produce potentially deadly and destructive lightning. Knowing lightning is in the forecast and being prepared to react to the first sound of thunder are the initial key safety steps," said Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service.

If you are outdoors and see darkening skies or hear thunder, seek a sturdy, enclosed shelter immediately, such as a building or hard-top automobile.

"Don't wait for rain to start falling to seek shelter from the storm — by then it could be too late," says John Jensenius, lightning expert with NOAA's National Weather Service.

"Lightning causalities frequently occur before the rain begins and soon after the rain ends. Wait at least 30 minutes after the last sound of thunder before returning outside."

If you are indoors during a thunderstorm, try not to use corded appliances and electronics, such as computers and phones, as well as plumbing. Electrical wiring and pipes can provide a path for lightning to enter an enclosed structure.

"Lightning is a cunning and powerful force of nature. It is important to realize there are no guaranteed safe shelters — rather only ways to reduce your chances of becoming a victim," adds Jensenius.

Last year in the United States, lightning was reported to have killed at least 43 people. On average, lightning is responsible for 66 fatalities annually. Additionally, hundreds of people are injured by lightning. "Lightning survivors are often left with debilitating health effects, such as permanent nerve damage or brain injury," says Dr. Mary Ann Cooper, professor at the University of

Illinois's department of emergency medicine.

To stress the importance of lightning safety for people of all ages, the Lightning Safety Alliance created a cartoon character, Leon the Lightning Lion, who promotes the slogan "When thunder roars, go indoors!" created by a private group, Struckbylightning.org. Both organizations are among the NOAA partners providing public information about lightning safety.

Leon is featured in a new children's coloring page that can be printed from NOAA's lightning safety Web site.

The National Weather Service is



part of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Department of Commerce, is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources.

Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with our federal partners and more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global earth observation network that is as integrated as the planet it observes.

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# X-Men 3

The discovery of a cure for mutations leads to a turning point in history. Mutants may now choose to give up their powers and become fully human or retain their uniqueness and remain isolated. War looms between the followers of Charles Xavier (Patrick Stewart), who preaches tolerance, and those of Magneto (Ian McKellen), who advocates survival of the fittest. Based on the comic book series.

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