

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

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JULY 5, 2006

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INSIDE



**Caravan To Cuba
Stops At Crawford
Peace House**

Page 15

Lawsuit Filed

Over Restrictions
On Protesters
Outside President
Bush's Ranch

Page 17

WAR IN IRAQ

Casualties:

U.S. Military Deaths

2,537

U.S. Govt. Statistics

The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

SPECIAL REPORT By **ALDO VIDALI**, Director of 'Deflating The Elephant'

Begins On Page 3

Tort Reform Q&A

With **GEORGE LAKOFF**

Author of "Don't Think Of An Elephant"



Depicted In illustration: Geo. Washington, Abraham Lincoln, W. Leon Smith, George Lakoff, Aldo Vidali, Federico Fellini

Justices Overturn Bush's Military Tribunals

WASHINGTON — In the biggest tests to the powers of a U.S. president since World War II, the Supreme Court ruled by a 5-3 vote last Thursday that President George W. Bush's military war crimes trials for Guantanamo Bay detainees were unconstitutional and illegal under the Geneva Convention. Guantanamo prisoner Salim

Ahmed Hamdan, a former driver for Osama bin Laden, brought the case before the court. Hamdan was one of 10 detainees facing charges under the president's tribunal created after the attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

Justice Anthony M. Kennedy aligned himself with the court's liberal members against the

White House. Chief Justice John Roberts recused himself after having backed the U.S. government as an appeals court judge in a case against Hamdan.

Thursday's ruling covered only the military tribunals, not

the operational existence of the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba itself. It also failed to call for the release of the prisoners there.

"Nobody gets a 'get out of jail free' card," said White House spokesman Tony Snow.

President Bush, while promising to take the ruling "very seriously," he alluded to seeking approval from Congress to okay the tribunals. Sen. Lindsey Graham said that the Senate is working to bring a vote on new tribunal plans by September.

DATELINE: Crawford

Hometown of the President of the United States

Crawford Coach Ronnie Bruce Felled By Fatal Heart Attack

CRAWFORD — Crawford Independent School District coach Ronnie Bruce died Monday, June 26, at age 56, as a result of an apparent heart attack. Bruce reportedly was attending an educational workshop Monday, when he was taken to a Waco hospital sometime after 3:30 p.m. He died a short time after.

Bruce had coached at Crawford baseball coach suffers fatal heart attack for 26 years, and was the head baseball coach since 1992, taking the Pirates to the state's Final Four in 2003,

and advancing to the regional semis this past spring. He also served Crawford's coaching staff as an assistant football and track coach. In the classroom, Bruce taught health and seventh-grade history.

A U.S. Air Force veteran, Bruce was a member of Southside Church of Christ in Robinson, where he served as an elder. He also was a minister, and participated in the weddings of many of his former pupils.

A funeral service was held Friday, June 30, in the Crawford High School gymnasium. Honorary pallbearers included the Crawford ISD coaching staff, administration, teachers, and staff.

The family suggests memorials be made to Southside Church of Christ, 4800 South Loop 340, Waco, TX 76706, or to the Crawford Scholarship Fund, 200 Pirate Drive, Crawford, TX 76638.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Nancy Bruce; sons Josh and Daniel Bruce; brother Donnie and Johnny Bruce; sister Connie Fuller; his mother, Nell Bruce; and many other relatives.

Prim Named To Dean's List

NACOGDOCHES — Michael Dyton Prim, pre-dentistry major from Crawford, has been named to the Dean's List at Stephen F. Austin State University for the spring 2006 semester.

To be eligible for this honor, a student must be enrolled in 12 or more semester hours and maintain a grade point average of at least 3.5. Prim is a graduate of Crawford High School.

Dan Rather Leaves CBS News

NEW YORK — After 44 years of service to CBS News, reporter Dan Rather left the company last week before his contract ended, complaining that his bosses had ignored him since stepping down as anchorman six months ago.

"It isn't in me to sit around doing nothing," Rather said. "So I will do the work I love elsewhere, and I look forward to sharing details about that soon."

Rather, 74, is said to be considering to do a weekly show at HDNet. Katie Couric will sit in the anchor's seat the "CBS Evening News" in September. Rather replaced Walter Cronkite in 1981.

The graduate of Sam Houston State University exited as CBS anchor after his story on President George W. Bush's military service aired during the run-up to the 2004 presidential election. The documents Rather used as sources for the story were later found to be inauthentic.

Deeper Story

Investigative reporter Greg Palast has repeatedly rallied to Rather's side, saying most recently last week that "all the poor man did was repeat a story we put on BBC Television a year earlier."

Both stories reported that Bush's father, George H.W. Bush, used his influence to get him in the Texas Air National Guard away from the Vietnam War. However, Palast noted that Rather's "60 Minutes" piece

never mentioned that the Bush clan rewarded Texas Lt. Governor Ben Barnes and others for their services.

"We ran that full story — from the evidence of the fix to the evidence of the lucrative pay-backs — on the world's biggest network, BBC, and we've never retracted a comma of it. Nor, by the way, has the White House denied our accusations despite our repeated offers to respond," Palast wrote in his new book *Armed Madhouse*.

After serving in public office, Barnes helped a company he lobbied for called GTech receive a contract to operate the Texas lottery, according to Palast. When the contract fell through in a scandal, it was soon revived with no other bids to stop it during George W. Bush's term at

Texas governor. The chairwoman of the lottery board then was Harriet Miers, the same woman now-President George W. Bush nominated for U.S. Supreme Court in 2005.

"We don't know if Miers gave the overpriced GTech its contract back to help the governor keep his Air Guard secret a secret or simply because she liked GTech's record of high costs and corruption," wrote Palast.

Special Privilege

To Palast, Rather's demise at CBS is "a cautionary tale of how news is made in the USA—and unmade—and topics permissible during an election."

Still, Palast added, "The story that cannot be reported is not about George Bush's special treatment but about the special treatment of the specially privileged."

'Corrie' To Play In New York In October

NEW YORK CITY — After months of controversy surrounding its content, the one-woman play "My Name Is Rachel Corrie" will premiere on a New York City stage this October.

The London Royal Court Theatre production was pulled from a New York theatre's schedule last March, though during its 2005 run in London, it was nominated for an Olivier Award.

The play was constructed from the written works of a 23-year-old human rights activist who died as a result of trying to prevent an Israeli bulldozer from leveling a

Palestinian home in the Gaza Strip in March 2003.

An Israel investigation found Rachel Corrie's death accidental, but her motivations are still a point for debate.

In a statement released last week, Director Alan Rickman said that he and his production team wanted to present "a balanced portrait" of the late activist.

"The activist part of her life is absolutely matched by the imaginative part of her life. I've no doubt at all that had she lived, there would have been novels and plays pouring out of her," he said.



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'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

SPECIAL REPORT By **ALDO VIDALI**, Director of 'Deflating The Elephant'



Bio: Aldo Vidali

Production is under way on *Deflating the Elephant*, a film based on George Lakoff's bestseller "Don't Think Of An Elephant."

Producing the film is Aldo Vidali, and Italian documentary film director who lives in Northern California and teaches at the Fellini-Antonioni Acting Studio.

Vidali, an outspoken champion of individual rights, embarked on the film to illustrate how conservatives are using frames to negatively sway public opinion and to encourage the public to make a stand against tyranny while the opportunity remains.

The film is styled in the tradition of famed Italian director, the late Federico Fellini, with whom Vidali collaborated on films years ago.

Born in Ixelles, Belgium, Vidali was educated in Rome, Italy.

He and his family joined the Resistance Movement against fascist and Nazi forces during World War II. When he was only 13 years old, he was captured by the Nazis during the Fosse Ardeatine Nazi dragnet in Rome, but was released shortly thereafter because of his age. At the time, his family members were sheltering several Jewish refugees in their apartment to prevent their deportation to death camps in Germany.

At age 18, Vidali explored the tropical wilderness of
See VIDALI BIO, Page 10

A FILM STUDENTS' BREAKFAST

"Federico Fellini could help save democracy," said Lorenzo, an 18-year-old UC Santa Barbara film student, to his classmates during the complimentary Sunday brunch served by retired actress Rona Barb to her youthful room tenants.

"My dad," voiced Roger, another film student, "says democracy is dead, and our civil justice system and lawyers are being neutered by corporations that want to get away with murder without having to pay damages. My dad's an attorney — he knows."

"That's right," said Lorenzo. "My father is making a movie about corporations stealing the planet from under our feet by using frames. It'll blow people's minds. My dad worked with Fellini. He saw people in Italy change after *City Of Women* came out."

"That's the craziest thing I ever heard!" jumped in Ms. Barb, participating in the discussion while pouring tea.

"No, it's not crazy at all!" protested Lorenzo. "The movie I'm helping my father make is about framing ideas to reshape the way we see the world. I learned a lot about that subject when I assisted in filming Professor Lakoff."

"Okay, okay, but changing how we see the world and saving democracy? Changing the way Italian men see women? Wow! That'll take a lot more than a movie," argued Ms. Barb as the boys laughed. "It's like stopping global warming. That will take a lot more than Al Gore's movie."

"Some books changed the world, and movies can do it faster," insisted Lorenzo. "For years the media has been putting down trial lawyers as if ev-

ery lawyer was a bad guy. They pushed Congress to vote against public protection and cut damage awards so low that lawyers can no longer take big corporations who hurt people to court. People lost and business won."

"So, what's that got to do with a movie about saving democracy?" Ms Barb queried.

"A lot. If you're hurt, you should have the right to sue. So corporations spread the myth that trial lawyers are all bad.

That's



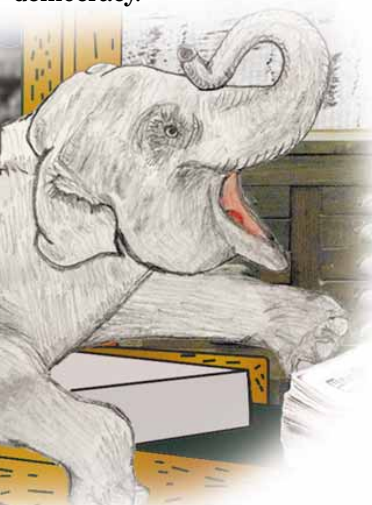
a dirty

corporate

trick. Professor Lakoff suggests that we call attorneys 'public protection attorneys,' not 'trial lawyers.' The 'public protection attorney' frame reminds people of the good attorneys do. It would look real bad for business to try and smear public protection, right? That's all got to do with framing language! The word 'trial' is a scary word, but 'protection' — that's a good word. People would wonder what is really going on if they saw 'tort reform' as an attack on public protection. Get it? Cutting protection for people — that's not reform, that's a con job."

"So? I still don't get it. What's that got to do with a movie saving democracy?" persisted Ms. Barb.

"Well," Roger, answered, quoting his dad, "Lawyers should never have to defend themselves *in propria persona* in the court of public opinion.' They know better. That's what they always tell other people. Well, they ought to follow their own advice. A movie can show Americans that controlled media is destroying our civil defense system. That's part of democracy."



"Thanks, Roger! Good argument! I rest my case," beamed Lorenzo.

SOUND FRAMES AND IMAGES OF LIGHT

Young energy is our greatest national asset. Let's help put that energy to work. To be a civilized nation, America must do all it can to unfold the full potential of our youth. Young adults finish college and are unable to find jobs that put what they learned to good use. Many grads end up bagging groceries or flipping burgers for years. What future do we offer them? None! The real question then becomes: "Are we a civilized country?" Gandhi was once asked what he thought of Western civilization. He replied: "I think it would be a very good idea."

An unforgettable film about civilization and the renewal of respect for human rights, a film showing how nations, after the horrors of World War II, attempted to establish a global civilization under international law with conscience and responsibility toward all life — this is what we need. For a brief period, countries achieved common consent on civilized principles and spelled them out in the magnificent 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights. All UN Member States solemnly agreed "[t]o cause it [the Declaration] to be disseminated, displayed, read and expounded principally in schools and other educational institutions, without distinction based on the political status of countries or territories." That was a solemn promise. Most failed to honor it, including the U.S.

Now 58 years later the appointed pResident of the U.S. and his Attorney General think that human rights are quaint, old-fashioned ideas written on weird, out-of-style documents — like the U.S. Constitution, the Geneva Convention, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Exposing this stark contrast through the power of cinema will shock most audiences, and that is why we need such a movie.

So, film students got talking about coming to democracy's rescue with what the great master of film, Fellini, called *cine magia* — cinemagic. When informed, young people want to take up the cause and honor that pledge of 1948 by inspiring citizens to act in defense of humanity's future.

Uneco's film, *Deflating The Elephant*, will illustrate the crucial articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which are essential to our survival.
Continued On Next Page

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

vival in this dangerous century, and vividly frame one of humanity's greatest achievements with cinematic images. After viewers of *Deflating The Elephant* see how far we have fallen since the Declaration's creation, their hearts and minds will be transformed and moved to renew the covenant.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in cooperation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge,

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly,

Proclaims this Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations, to the end that every individual and every organ of society,

keeping this Declaration constantly in mind, shall strive by teaching and education to promote respect for these rights and freedoms and by progressive measures, national and international, to secure their universal and effective recognition and observance, both among the peoples of Member States themselves and among the peoples of territories under their jurisdiction.

Article 1

All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 2

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

Article 3

Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

Article 4

No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.

Article 5

No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

Article 6

Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Article 7

All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Article 8

Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the

fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

Article 9

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile.

Article 10

Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

Article 11

1. Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

2. No one shall be held guilty of any penal offence on account of any act or omission which did not constitute a penal offence, under national or international law, at the time when it was committed. Nor shall a heavier penalty be imposed than the one that was applicable at the time the penal offence was committed.

Article 12

No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.

Article 13

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each State.

2. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.

Article 14

1. Everyone has the right to seek and to enjoy in other countries asylum from persecution.

2. This right may not be invoked in the case of prosecutions genuinely arising from non-political crimes or from acts contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 15

1. Everyone has the right to a nationality.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his nationality nor denied the right to change his nationality.

Article 16

1. Men and women of full age, without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion, have the right to marry

and to found a family. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.

2. Marriage shall be entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses.

3. The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Article 17

1. Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

2. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

Article 18

Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

Article 19

Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Article 20

1. Everyone has the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and association.

2. No one may be compelled to belong to an association.

Article 21

1. Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

2. Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.

3. The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures.

Article 22

Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each

State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Article 23

1. Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

2. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

3. Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

4. Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Article 24

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

Article 25

1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Article 26

1. Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

2. Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship

Continued On Next Page

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

3. Parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

Article 27

1. Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

2. Everyone has the right to the protection of the moral and material interests resulting from any scientific, literary or artistic production of which he is the author.

Article 28

Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

Article 29

1. Everyone has duties to the community in which alone the free and full development of his personality is possible.

2. In the exercise of his rights and freedoms, everyone shall be subject only to such limitations as are determined by law solely for the purpose of securing due recognition and respect for the rights and freedoms of others and of meeting the just requirements of morality, public order and the general welfare in a democratic society.

3. These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations.

Article 30

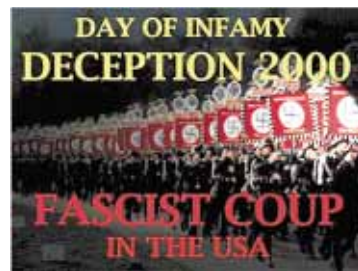
Nothing in this Declaration may be interpreted as implying for any State, group or person any right to engage in any activity or to perform any act aimed at the destruction of any of the rights and freedoms set forth herein.

Few clearly perceive how dangerous the world situation is becoming.

Inhuman money controls mass media and deliberately broadcasts as many frivolous distractions as possible to keep people from noticing the fascist beast closing in on millions of unsuspecting victims. Current diabolical schemers make Hitler and Stalin look like dilettantes. Their skills at diverting atten-

tion by frequently sounding terror-lurking-under-every-bush alarms have been honed to perfection. A movie can expose them with scandalous evidence.

As a boy, I experienced arrogant Italian Fascism and the evil of rightwing fanatical religionism. In December 2000, when America was flagrantly betrayed by five black-robed hypocrites, shivers of horror went down my spine. Our grassroots organization immediately net-published a large front-page headline: "DAY OF INFAMY - Fascist Coup in the United States!" which was printed over a photo of marching Nazi SS troopers.



Friends objected that to use the word "fascist" was an exaggeration. Now, six year later, most are as outraged as we were then and have been ever since.

In 2004, a second national election was stolen by the same fascist cabal and American democracy *de facto* ceased to exist, except in the deluded minds of sleeping TV network audiences.

That year, University of California Berkeley Professor George Lakoff's book, *Don't Think of an Elephant*, appeared and was an instant bestseller. What it revealed is how linguistic frames influence social conditions.

Reading *Don't Think of an Elephant* was a stunning clarification for me of how evil ideas throughout history are framed to allow "the few" to control and oppress "the many." Indeed, ideas projected through invisible linguistic frames can transform the mind.

Lakoff's scientific explanations brought back memories of working with Federico Fellini and learning from him how cinematic images change society. For example, after Fellini's *Casanova* and *City of Women*, I had watched downcast Italian males leaving theaters, stunned. Exaggerated Italian machismo was crushed by these great films and never fully recovered.

Fellini's demolition of century-old prejudices and Lakoff's linguistic art of framing suggested to me a potential cinematic cure for America.

It was my good fortune to share Federico's thoughts about dreams and metaphysical ques-



Fellini in his older years

tions while he was conceiving his mysterious story, *The Voyage of G. Mastorna*. This work contains some of his visions and speculations about the human state in this world and after death. During that unforgettable experience, Fellini explained how cinematic images liberate, dissolve fear, and open our lives to perceiving the subtle aspects of the world. That "sceneggiatura" — *The Voyage of G. Mastorna*. — is now known as the most famous never-filmed-screenplay in the history of cinema.

Fellini's insight on the magic of light gives us a glimpse of the profundity of his art. He said:

What is light? If cinema is images, light is its evident essence. In cinema, light is idea, sentiment, color, profundity, atmosphere, style, narrative, poetic expression. Light is the magic power that adds, cancels, softens, suggests, exalts, alludes, underscores, and renders the fantastic credible and acceptable, or, on the contrary, creates transparencies through which the gray daily reality becomes rich, fairytale like. With a single reflector and a pair of lights an opaque face, with as much expressiveness as a bare knee, appears intelligent, mysterious, fascinating; an open, benevolent, peaceful face becomes sinister, menacing, frightening.

The poorest scene — squalid, shabby — can with light reveal enchanting or ominous aspects...barely moving a 5000

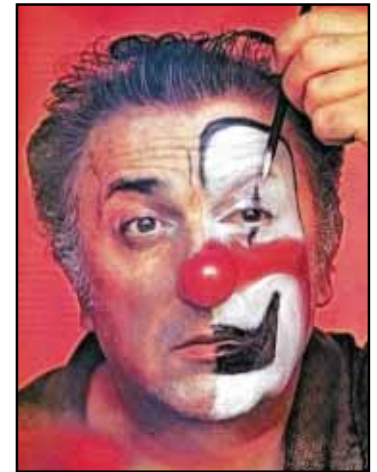


Fellini behind the camera

Images Of Federico Fellini



Fellini as a young man



Fellini portrait as a clown

watt light and lighting up an opposite light, all the feelings of anguish vanishes and everything is serene, comfortable, homey. Finally, film is written with light; the style of an authentic filmmaker is expressed with light.

THE MOVIE

Uneco Productions' *Deflating The Elephant* owes much to *The Strange Voyage of G. Mastorna*. Like *Mastorna*, it is a voyage into past and future ... in this world and in an imaginary world where humanity is at last cured and grown to maturity and sanity ... a satirical, historic, amusing, and symbolic movie.

Like *Moby Dick*, *Deflating the Elephant* is about hunting large beasts that incarnate evil. It will bring down the rogue pachyderms that are devastating our world (just as Twentieth Century fascists and Bolsheviks devastated theirs) by unmasking the secret class war the rich are waging against the American people. The hunting weapon this film delivers to the people is a Fellinesque-Lakoffian bow with arrows that

can pierce soft, bloated underbellies of the fascist beasts and deflate them of their foul, hot air.

George Lakoff exposed the fact that conservatives spent 40 years and billions of dollars to grow, feed, and empower these land-roving Moby Dicks. False conservative frames have just about destroyed our 230 years of progress toward a vision of democratic culture and equality before the law and have nearly extinguished the American dream.

It is especially important and urgent that millions of Americans clearly understand why sharply framed and well-aimed progressive ideas can *instantly* bring down the ugly beasts.

The speed of change possible through strategic use of visual frames must be understood by all those liberals who wring their hands and worry that the deceitful conservative frames erected over four decades by lavishly funded, right-wing think-tanks may take *just as many years* to demolish before our Constitution can be restored and "We The People"

Continued On Next Page

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

take our country back. This is not so! If we had to wait 40 years, there'd be no country left to take back and no environment to restore.

With vigorous action, immediate liberation is assured because of a self-evident universal law, which we all experience many times in our lives. It is this: to build takes time, but to destroy takes only an instant. Any structure — no matter how big, complex, or expensive in building — can be demolished in a tiny fraction of the time it took to erect. So, we must act now, without hesitation. No more wishy-washy, centrist, political correctness nonsense. It is assured that the ridiculous compassionate-conservative reputations of oppressive pseudo-religious fascists painted by years of false media hogwash will go up in acrid smoke the moment progressives strike back with well-framed truths and ideas because fascists fear the light.

Make this important truth your own and pass it on: all that is needed to remove their ugly framework in a day is a wrecking ball, and *Deflating the Elephant* is that wrecking ball. To put it to good use progressives needs only a small fraction of what neo-fascists invested to steal our country from under our feet.

The looming environmental and nuclear catastrophe set up by the insane military industrial complex is staggering. *Deflating the Elephant*, coming after Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*, will further galvanize many to act in self-preservation.

In 1997 Uneco understood the far-reaching vision of Gore's *Earth In The Balance* and awarded the Vice President an honorary position on its roster of *American Wilderness Heri-*

tage Guardians. Gore responded encouragingly as follows:

Soon after coup 2000 students organized by Uneco made a low cost video titled *Life & Liberty in the Balance*, which preceded and, we are told, inspired *Fahrenheit 9/11* since it touched on most of the same facts Michael Moore included in his powerful film almost a year later.

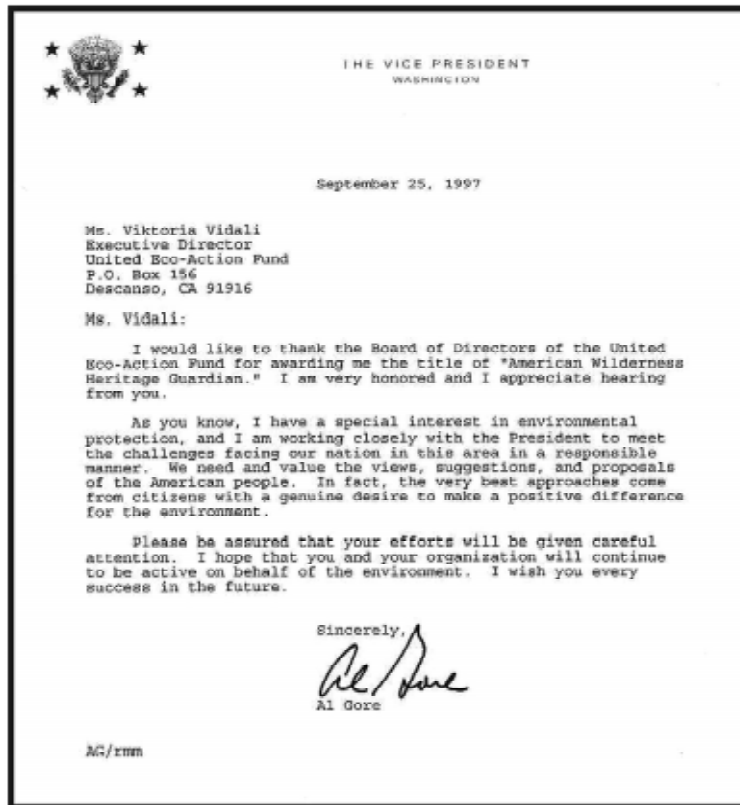
Now Uneco brings together the power of Fellini's cinemagic and Lakoff's art of framing in a nonprofit film brilliantly introduced by Academy Award Star Sean Penn, a true American, profoundly dedicated to saving his country from the present hypocrite-usurpers who have shown no love for the American people.

QUESTION: "Can powerful movies save our future?"

ANSWER: "Social change is caused by extraordinary content delivered with penetrating power. Think of how much Shakespeare, Dante, and Fellini changed minds."

Read on and you will marvel.

There are two kinds of content: the *cathartic* and the *inspiring*. The first grips us with fear, shock, desire for change, and finally compels us to action. The second shows us a safe and luminous future. To be effective, the screen must move us over a panorama of inspiring realistic possibilities for restoring the *commonwealth for the common good*. It must clearly explain why we can no longer allow our country to be the pig-trough for multinational swine. An inspiring call to action will show why our ecosystems on which all of life depends must become our national priority. The environmental insanity of current power holders is the worst danger threatening our survival. *Deflating the Elephant* reveals how a different world is possible.



Media whores owned by energy and military industries will lash out against this rising revolution with the usual tiresome lies, as they are presently throwing at Al Gore's *An Inconvenient Truth*. Fortunately, Gore has gone through that once before and is way above their smelly swamp. The public is not stupid and when shown the records will agree that free enterprise must cover the costs of its own productions. Corporations should not expect taxpayers to pay for the toxic mess they dump on our land.

Our system is not free enterprise. It is socialism for the rich with giant subsidies paid by the taxpayers as corporate welfare. "Free enterprise" without capital or credit is reserved for working people, the poor, and

the homeless. The poor are told to believe in the land-of-opportunity fiction: "Pull yourself up by your boot straps!" How can anyone perform such a miracle if they're barefoot?

RIGHTS AND OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG

All have an equal right to this world and the young must claim their share now while there is still time.

The illicit government of appointed and election-stealing crooks is cutting support for education so that many students start life in debt and without adequate jobs. In our hometown of Santa Cruz, in the shade of the redwood forest on America's beautiful California shores, I observe my older son, Orlando, at work, forging uphill for his own opportunity. I see

his good will, his compassion for others, his constant learning, as he creates side-by-side with his good friend and partner Keenan.

Now Keenan is a rare example for the young. Strong as Samson, he has raised a little dove named "Whoo" that he rescued at birth and has cared for for many years. Whoo follows this strong and gentle environmentalist, often landing on his shoulders or nesting in his hair while Keenan crafts beautiful, inspiring HD content in his self-built studio.

Watching these two young men working together discussing ecology, health, and life, I envision a progressive, peaceful future for America. They are struggling to succeed in the marketplace on a very uneven playing field, without capital or loans. So I ask: Why should they not also inherit their share of business subsidies to capitalize their creative enterprise? Why give billions in subsidies to energy companies that stole more money from California and the rest of the nation than a highway robber? Why not fund young entrepreneurs? Why waste billions to destroy first and then abusively privatize Iraq when our young people are struggling to get a start in life and cannot even afford healthcare or equipment?

It is time to get angry and resist this domestic oppression until this government collapses in its own rottenness!

HOW THEY STOLE OUR COMMONWEALTH

Exposing how we have been robbed is sobering.

Conservatives used many deceiving frames to steal from us. We'll tackle here just a few of the metaphors they employed to deform one of democracy's most fundamental pillars: jus-

Continued On Next Page

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'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

tice.

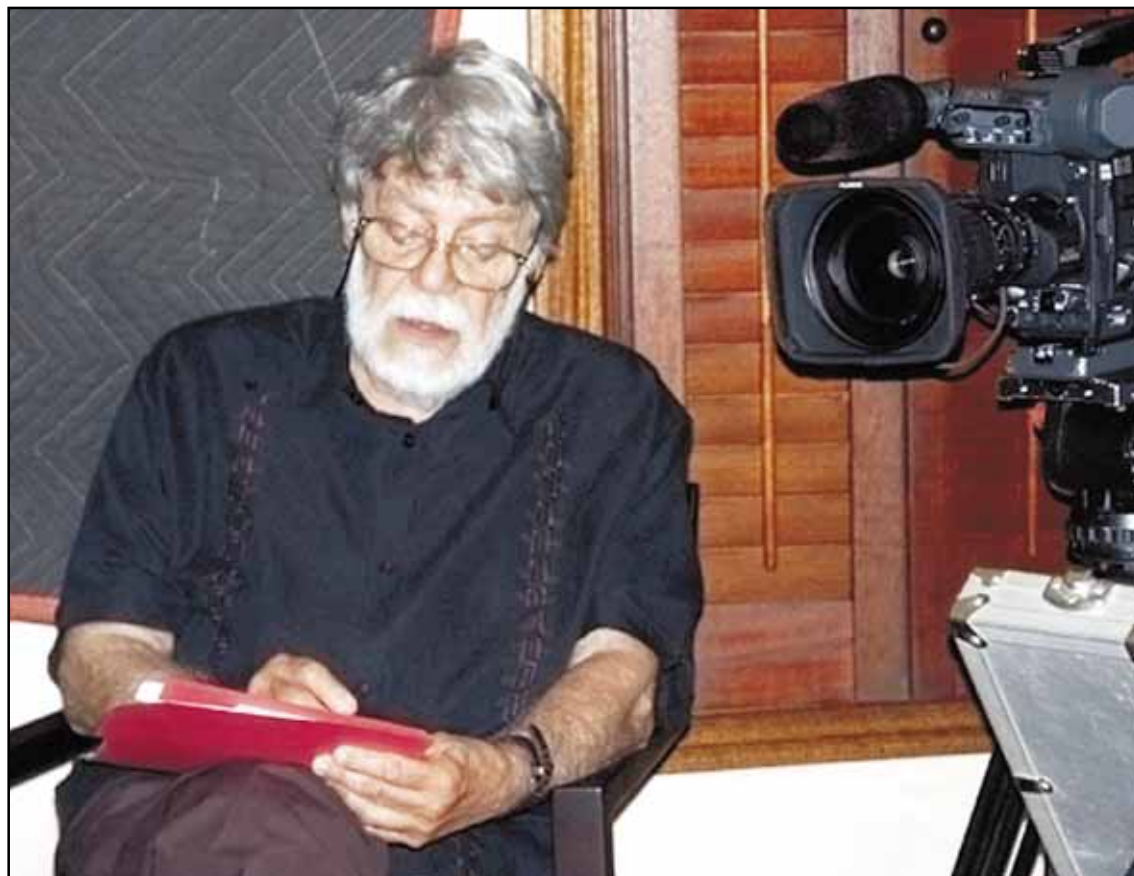
Mixing Fellini's cinematic secrets with Lakoff's scientific brilliance is like mixing *nitro* and *glycerine* — which makes up dynamite. Liars and thieves are in for a big surprise.

The neo-crooks have been fanning the flames of a still unexplained 9/11 tragedy into a fabulously profitable perennial frame: "war-on-terror." What should have been an international police hunt by civilized nations has turned into a deadly, trillion-dollar con job. In reality, there is no war. The phony "war" frame provides a legalistic and pseudo-moral justification for flag waving, criminal wars of aggression, and the dismantling of our Constitution. The 9/11 Commission colluded with Bush and Cheney so that the inseparable twins were conveniently questioned together — to avoid contradictions — behind closed doors, and not under oath for fear of future indictments for obstructing justice. The questioners were all tail-wagging administration's lap dogs.

Lights and cameras will capture the criminal activities of the national security organizations that colonize the world with prisons, torture chambers, and concentration camps. The horrors of so-called rendition (criminal kidnapping with torture outsourcing) and the deployment of massive domestic electronic spying networks that outrageously violate the Constitutional rights of American citizens and intrude even on their attorney-client privilege will be exposed.

What was once a country of laws is now a country run by a self-declared fundamentalist despot claiming the privilege to violate any law he chooses. The film will show how fundamentalist Christianoids want to control women's bodies and intrude in the privacy of our bedrooms, just as Mussolini did in 1929 with the Lateran Pact that gave the Pope and Vatican clergy control of family law and imposed obligatory religious education. The danger of religious fanaticism, whether Muslim mullahs or Texas Baptist Christianoids, deserves close monitoring.

[I]n order to understand the danger posed by Christian fundamentalist, we must first take a look at what they believe. What is it that these folks hold to be fundamental? What is it that they insist one must do in order to be saved? The answer is threefold: First, in order to be a Christian, a person must believe that the Bible is the one



Aldo Vidali is film director of "Deflating The Elephant"

and only infallible, truly inerrant, source of truth, and that the holy books of all other religions are of demonic origin; secondly, one must believe in an afterlife, that every human being will end up in either Heaven or Hell. And finally, it is essential that one understand that in order to go to Heaven he must accept Jesus Christ (the only Son of God) as his own personal savior, otherwise, and without exception, regardless of how good a life he may have lived, he will be sent to the agonizing fires of an eternally burning Hell. That is their doctrine ... that is what they believe to be The Truth of God. From: "The Most Evil People in the World," by Doug Soderstrom, Ph.D.

In his book: *Gangs of America* [download a copy at <http://www.gangsofamerica.com>], Ted Nace reveals the imposterous way the U.S. was taken over by big business. Historically, it was the battle between democracy and corporations that started the American Revolution. The Boston Tea Party was an action to block the British East India Company, the most powerful corporation that ever existed, from monopolizing the American commodities markets, starting with tea. The American Revolution was a pragmatic economic rebellion against an overbearing corporation and an

oppressive government thoroughly intertwined with it.

The East India Company had planned to replace independent local merchants with a company-owned distribution system, i.e., an early version of what we now call "vertical integration," like, for example, oil companies owning wells, refineries, and gas stations.

Boston pamphleteers — we had a free press then — laid out the scenario in detail, warning that if the British were to succeed in bringing the tea distribution system under sole control of the East India Company, they would inevitably repeat the same scheme for other imported commodities. Sound familiar? Think of the WTO.

The East India Company, if once they get footing in this (once) happy country, will leave no Stone unturned to become your Masters. They are an opulent Body, and Money or Credit is not wanting amongst them. They have a designing, depraved, and despotic Ministry to assist and support them. They themselves are versed in TYRANNY, PLUNDER, OPPRESSION and BLOODSHED. Whole Provinces labouring under the Distresses of Oppression, Slavery, Famine, and the Sword, are familiar to them. Thus they have enriched themselves, thus they are become the most powerful

Trading Company in the Universe. Excerpt from a broadside signed "A Mechanic," Philadelphia, December 4, 1773.

Imagine a private company so unaccountable that it conducts its own criminal trials and runs its own jails; so dominant it possesses a 250,000 man army, twice the size of Britain's, to fight company wars; and so predatory that for more than two centuries it squeezes the economy of the richest country in the world until observers report that some regions have been "bled white." A third of Parliament owns stock in it, and a tax on its tea constitutes 10% of the government's revenues. Even the King is dependent on periodic "loans" from the company!

When the cargo ship *Dartmouth* arrived in Boston Harbor on the night of December 16, 1773, approximately 150 men assembled at the home of the *Boston Gazette* and *Country Journal's* founder. They came from many backgrounds: some were apprentices, some tradesmen, some wealthy owners of businesses. By dawn, the entire shipment of tea had been destroyed. The American Revolution would soon be under way.

One glaring example in a long record of uncontrolled corporate evil was unleashed against this country in 1936:

[C]onsider this unpunished

crime, committed by the leadership of General Motors, together with Standard Oil of California, Firestone Tire and Rubber Company, B. F. Phillips Petroleum, and Mac Manufacturing.

In 1936, the five companies formed National City Lines, a holding company that proceeded to buy electric trolley lines and tear up the tracks in cities across the nation. Each time it destroyed a local trolley system, National City would license the rights to operate a new system to a local franchisee, under the stipulation that the system convert to diesel-powered General Motors buses.

By 1949, more than 100 electric transit systems in 45 systems had been torn up and converted. In April of that year, a federal jury convicted GM and the other firms of conspiracy to commit anti-trust violations. But the judge set the fine for each company at \$5,000. Seven executives were fined one dollar each. After the conviction, the companies went back to purchasing transit systems, removing electric trolley lines, and replacing them with buses. *Gangs of America*, Introduction p. 7.

As Atlanta mayor and former United Nations ambassador Andrew Young once observed, "Nothing is illegal if 100 businessmen decide to do it."

In 1882-83, Judge Stephen Field's Ninth Circuit Court, with twisted judicial sophistry, established the personhood of corporations in *Santa Clara County v. Southern Pacific*. This self-evident absurdity has proven to be a menace to democracy and humanity.

Judge Field's tortuous legalese behind the creation of immortal, frankensteinian corporations coincided with the view of Professor John Norton Pomeroy, namely: "The truth cannot be evaded that, for the purpose of protecting rights, the property of all business and trading corporations IS the property of the individual corporators. A state act depriving a business corporation of its property without due process of law, does in fact deprive the individual corporators of their property. In this sense, and within the scope of these grand safeguards of private rights, there is no real distinction between artificial persons or corporations, and natural persons."

Ted Nace explains why an understanding of this is critical:

As simple as this false argument sounds, it was a signifi-

Continued On Next Page



Filming of 'Deflating The Elephant' has begun. Shown are Gerard J.R. Kennan, producer (left) and (right) one of its stars, Sean Penn.

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page
 cant departure from established legal doctrine, which had always made a distinction between corporate property and individual property. The most

crucial distinction is that owning shares in a company allows a person to own property without being subject to the sort of accountability to the community that normally attends the

ownership of property [emphasis added]. For that reason, courts had never assumed that shareholders in a corporation should expect equal rights; on the contrary, the enjoyment by corporate shareholders of privileges such as limited liability justified applying special restrictions to corporations and their owners. *Gangs of America*, p. 118.

It is self-evident that giving legal personhood to a corporation, while enjoying all other rights, also creates the right to do wrong and escape responsibility. In the 2006 California primaries, the residents of Humboldt County said enough is enough and successfully challenged corporate personhood [see insert].

Citizens 1, Corporations 0

In states across the country Tuesday, primary elections named candidates for Congress, governorships and other important offices. But the most interesting, and perhaps significant, election did not involve an individual. Rather, it was about an idea.

In Northern California's Humboldt County, voters decided by a 55-45 margin that corporations do not have the same rights — based on the supposed "personhood" of the combines — as citizens when it comes to participating in local political campaigns.

Until Tuesday in Humboldt County, corporations were able to claim citizenship rights, as they do elsewhere in the United States. In the context of electoral politics, corporations that were not headquartered in the county took advantage of the same rules that allowed individuals who are not residents to make campaign contributions in order to influence local cam-

paigns.

But, with the passage of Measure T, an initiative referendum that was placed on the ballot by Humboldt County residents, voters have signaled that they want out-of-town corporations barred from meddling in local elections.

Measure T was backed by the county's Green and Democratic parties, as well as labor unions and many elected officials in a region where politics are so progressive that the Greens — whose 2004 presidential candidate, David Cobb, is a resident of the county and a active promoter of the challenges to corporate power mounted by Democracy Unlimited of Humboldt County and the national Liberty Tree Foundation — are a major force in local politics.

The "Yes on T" campaign was rooted in regard for the American experiment, from its slogan "Vote Yes for Local Control of Our Democracy," to the references to Tuesday's election as a modern-day "Boston Tea Party," to the quote from Thomas Jefferson that was highlighted in election materials: "I hope we shall crush in its birth the aristocracy of our monied corporations which dare already to challenge our government to a trial by strength, and bid defiance to the laws of our country."

Just as Jefferson and his contemporaries were angered by dominance of the affairs of the American colonies by King George III and the British business combines that exploited the natural and human resources of what would become the United States — and way of the machinations of those who would establish an American economic royalism — so

Humboldt County residents were angered by the attempts of outside corporate interests to dominate local politics.

Wal-Mart spent \$250,000 on a 1999 attempt to change the city of Eureka's zoning laws in order to clear the way for one of the retail giant's big-box stores. Five years later, MAXXAM Inc., a forest products company, got upset with the efforts of local District Attorney Paul Gallegos to enforce regulations on its operations in the county and spent \$300,000 on a faked-up campaign to recall him from office. The same year saw outside corporations that were interested in exploiting the county's abundant natural resources meddling in its local election campaigns.

That was the last straw for a lot of Humboldt County residents. They organized to put Measure T on the ballot, declaring, "Our Founding Fathers never intended corporations to have this kind of power."

"Every person has the right to sign petition recalls and to contribute money to political campaigns. Measure T will not affect these individual rights," explained Kaitlin Sopoci-Belknap, a resident of Eureka who was one of the leaders of the Yes on T campaign. "But individuals hold these political rights by virtue of their status as humans in a democracy and, simply put, a corporation is not a person."

Despite the logic of that assessment, the electoral battle in Humboldt County was a heated one, and Measure T's passage will not end it. Now, the corporate campaign will move to the courts. So this is only a start. But what a monumental start it is!

Sopoci-Belknap was also-
 Continued On Next Page

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'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

lutely right when she portrayed Tuesday's vote as nothing less than the beginning of "the process of reclaiming our county" from the "tyranny" of concentrated economic and political power.

Surely Tom Paine would have agreed. It was Paine who suggested to the revolutionaries of 1776, as they dared challenge the most powerful empire on the planet, that: "We have it in our power to begin the world over again. A situation similar to the present hath not happened since the days of Noah until now. The birthday of the new world is at hand, and a race of men, perhaps as numerous as all Europe contains, are to receive their portion of freedom from the events of a few months."

It is time to renew the American experiment, to rebuild its battered institutions on the solid foundation of empowered citizens and regulated corporations. Let us hope that the spirit of '76 prevailed Tuesday in Humboldt County will spread until that day when American democracy is guided by the will of the people rather than the campaign contribution checks of the corporations that are the rampaging "empires" of our age.

Expanding on the danger of corporate personhood, the movie screen will explode with images of corporate abuse against individuals and society.

THE NEAR FUTURE IN LIGHT OF HISTORY

America won its greatest victory against Italian fascists, German Nazis, and Japanese imperialists while fighting for democracy under the leadership of liberal President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. After WWII, humanity renewed its hope in the flowering of a great civilization founded on the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: a world in which nuclear holocausts like Hiroshima and Nagasaki would never again happen; where war, death-camps, fascist oppression, and gulags, would forever be mere memories of past insanity; where international law would settle disputes and people everywhere would become self-governing; where victorious nations would cease selling instruments of death and instead spread the profitable tools of healthcare, economic prosperity, and environmental conservation.

However, the realization of this hope, this beautiful dream, never did come to pass. Bloodshed and destruction quickly

resumed and continue to this day: Korea, Vietnam, Palestine, Nicaragua, Guatemala, Iran, East Timor, Africa, Cambodia, Chile, Argentina, Bosnia, and Iraq. Why did all members of the UN including the U.S. fail so miserably? Because of the perennial Oids!

THE ODIUS OIDS - WHO ARE THEY?

Thomas Paine said: "He who dares not offend cannot be honest." So, we are going to tell you about the Oids, and then insult them with every name in the book. Read on.

Christianoids

To pre-empt the extreme rightwing's evil reaction to well-deserved insults, we refer hateful and blind Christianoids to the ultimate authority on how to deal with hypocrites: Jesus of Nazareth — but not the fictional straw-Jesus invented by triple-born-again fundamentalists (we say "triple-born-again" advisedly because to be a Christian already means to be born again, so to be a "new born" Christian means to be a "new born-new born," which equals being born three times!).

Deflating the Elephant takes us into the Dantesque otherworldly nightmare of triple-born Christianoids who commandingly claim that a fetus is an unborn soul or child even when the Bible, their ultimate authority, contradicts them. Scripture speaks of life from birth to death, not from conception to decay, of the soul entering the body when the body receives its first breath, and ending when it exhales its last. To "expire" is defined as "to die; to breathe one's last breath; to exhale; to breathe out." Confer Genesis 2:7: *And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*

Clearly, the body of Adam came to life not when God completed the molding of his flesh from clay, but when his body received its soul by inhaling the spirit, which is God's breath and which must return to God when we breathe out or exhale our last breath.

When we die, our flesh and organs are still living and are in fact viable enough to be transplanted into another person. However, once the soul is gone with the last breath, the body — even if parts of it are technically living — is not a person. So it is for the fetus. Whether it is aborted by nature or choice, the fetus never incarnated the divine breath, the soul. Until the first breath vivifies it into a person, the fetus is only a vessel, a

body, and not a living human being. This fact will never be accepted by Christianoids because it is one more politically inconvenient truth. Unborn flesh (a miscarried fetus?) has never been legally considered a person. Even so, fascist rightwing pseudo-Christians backing the Bushist partyline are unabashedly trying to trump thousands of years of precedent.

Jesus would lash out against these Christianoids — witness his kicking the moneychangers out of the temple — for he never spared the feelings of hypocrites (hypocrite Ann Coulter so perfectly incarnates nasty neo-fascism that she uses this Jesus episode to attack liberals when most money changers are conservatives; in doing this she dumbly set herself up again as the proverbial dumb blonde she is). So, *Deflating the Elephant* will treat hypocrites by throwing caution to the wind and mercilessly hurling at them every insult in the book, just as Jesus did without fear:

Matthew 23:

13 But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!...

14 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretense make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.

15 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

16 Woe unto you, ye blind guides...

17 Ye fools and blind!...

19 Ye fools and blind!...

23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: judgment, mercy, and faith. These ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone.

24 Ye blind guides, who strain out a gnat and swallow a camel.

25 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess.

26 Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also.

27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchers, which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets and garnish the sepulchers of the righteous...

33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers! How can ye escape the damnation of hell?

So, who are the Oids!? They are that recurring percentage of psychotics throughout history that makes peace and justice impossible. It is imperative that Oids be exposed if we are to cure humanity and create a progressive world.

By way of explanation, adding "oid" to any word alters its meaning to: "made in the form of" or "pretending to be." For example, when "oid" is affixed to the word "sphere," it becomes the word "spheroid," which means "made in the form of a sphere" (not a real sphere). "Oid" is, therefore, a label for "hypocrites" and for all those who pretend to be something they are not. A Christianoid can then be defined as "a pseudo-Christian" or anyone pretending to be a follower of Jesus while at the same time supporting war, torture, and the death penalty."

Let's be creative here.

A patrioid is a flag-waving idiot who forgot that the flag represents the Union established by the U.S. Constitution. "Monkeys can wave flags, but that does not make them patriots!" noted Scott Ritter (who is a real patriot).

All evildoers can be lumped under a single label: "humanoids" — that is, beasts made in the shape of humans.

What makes the Oids what they are? It takes great writers and film authors to penetrate and expose the dark workings of reptilian brains in humanoid form. Indeed, to explain the intrinsic Oid madness and how to deal with it is a Dantesque, Shakespearean, or Fellinesque task.

EMOTIONAL HONESTY vs. POLITICAL CORRECTNESS

Recently Senator Murtha — who is to be highly commended

for is outspokenness against the war — protested criminal military actions in Iraq. While he deserves praise for this, it is evident that Senator Murtha is unfortunately still a victim of political correctness. After the Haditha massacre committed by U.S. troops, he said: "One woman, as I understand it in talking to the officials in the Marine Corps, was bending over her child, pleading for mercy, and they shot her in cold blood. That's the thing that's so disturbing." What an astounding hyper-understatement!

As much as Senator Murtha must be admired for his courage, in following the Washington-accepted PC communications style imposed by the conservative culture of hypocrisy, he failed to galvanize public condemnation. How can murder in cold blood be referred to as simply "disturbing" — is such a satanic crime not outrageous beyond belief? Diabolical? Insane? Nauseating? Evil? Does it not call for Divine vengeance?

To bring it home, just imagine yourself finding your own family slaughtered in cold blood and hearing someone politely saying: "I am troubled" or "I'm disturbed." Emotionally honest people express their pain and anger openly and directly.

One trick satanic corporate media use is to make justified outrage and righteous indignation look like hysteria. Any sincere expression of shock and revulsion in the face of a crime is treated as excess so insistently by criminal media whores, that all truth is neutralized and soon forgotten.

This is how the odious media-oids subliminally train decent people to restrain sincere dismay, disgust, and rage to grotesque levels of apparent indifference to the suffering of others. We are told by inhuman monsters never to "lose our cool," never to let anger roar to the level of rage in our voices, never to dare call killers murderers, especially if they are a part of our own despicable government.

ROOTS OF TERRORISM

The kind of shameful injustice deliberately perpetrated in Haditha against the innocent without remorse, honest apology, or meaningful restitution is the proverbial root of all terrorism and the cause of endless violence.

Deflating the Elephant will examine some historical instances of terrorism with the stark realism of Gillo Pontecorvo's famous film, *The*

Continued On Next Page

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

From Previous Page

Battle of Algiers (which the Pentagon is studying today).

One example: For centuries, Samson, a suicide terrorist, has been viewed as a biblical hero, invoking the same Semitic God as he brought down a crowded temple in Gaza and killed 3000 Philistines as Muslims invoke when they slaughter innocents and blow themselves up. This evokes a strange similarity to the destruction of Manhattan's World Trade Center 3000 years later. Samson did not bring down the temple because he hated freedom — that's bush-shit — he did it after having been cruelly blinded and brutally chained to a stone mill for many years. He probably loved freedom, but had no hope for it or for justice being done. As a consequence, he committed an internecine terrorist act.

Not a single corporate media whore has mentioned the glaring fact that the Bible regards Samson's act of terror as a good thing. For centuries Christian cultures have accepted it as justifiable revenge on the part of a badly persecuted Jewish Samson. The neo-cons never called him a terrorist! Figure out that one. Doesn't God talk to Bush? Is God a racist? Is America the only "nation under God" or is God above all nations? Con-

fusing, to say the least.
**DEACTIVATING
THE OIDS**

Let's confront this failed Administration of appointed criminals and all who betrayed us in Congress, regardless of party, and kick them out of office. We can do it by peaceful resistance, boycotts, loud protests, massive turnouts at the polls, cleaning up our voting and election systems,¹ and, if it becomes necessary, by calling general strikes in the spirit of a full-fledged Gandhian revolution.

Our reward will be an economically sustainable future where wealth is multiplied by all, for all, with fair compensation for labor and renewal of our environment so that at last we can lift the poor out of despair, increase our general security and wellbeing, and eliminate most crime.

**A STIRRING
PROGRESSIVE FUTURE**

In conclusion, a stirring progressive future can be ours if we educate ourselves and invest some of our time and resources to actualize the principles contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the U.S. Constitution. By learning the art of language framing we can participate in deactivating the Oids and in finally deflating the elephant. When progressives unite in their common vision, the fascists who have taken over our country will scurry into the woodwork. Then our world will be renewed and the future will be very bright.

¹ Both the 2000 and 2004 elections were stolen. Ref. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.'s Rolling Stone article. To learn how the Oids did it and about their plans to steal the next one, read Greg Palast's *Armed Madhouse*.

VIDALI BIO

Continued From Page 3

the Brazilian interior selling Coleman lamps and stoves to primitive villages as a way to earn college tuition.

He came to the United States to study geology at the Colorado School of Mines in 1950 and later prospected in the Mexican states of Sonora and Durango. After selling his interest in his Mexican mineral discoveries, he returned to Europe to do documentary film work.

It was here that he collaborated with director Fellini on a project entitled *The Strange Voyage of Mr. Mastorna* and learned directing and cinema acting during the Fellini creations of *8-1/2* and *Boccaccio 70*. He had a brief professional relationship with Luchino Visconti. Vidali also dealt with government and entertainment industry VIPs such as President Johnson, Jack Valenti, John Mecum, and Peter Sellers.

His documentary works originated a new genre, superimposing fiction on real-life documentary backgrounds. *Straw Hat and the Crown*, shown on the Italian R.A.I. Television Network, received recognition even from the Vatican for its subtle moral theme set off by contrasting a fairy tale on a background of real life events.

In 1963, Vidali went to Africa as Second Unit Director of the feature documentary *Good-bye Africa*, a Rizzoli Production. He covered South Africa, Southwest Africa, Mozambique, Kenya, Zanzibar, Congo, and Angola. This exposed him to a wide range of human beings, both as a film director as well as the liaison officer between the South African government and the Italian film unit.

Back in the U.S. in 1965, Aldo wrote and directed *Sunset at Dawn*, a predictive environmental film essay on the worsening ecological crisis, followed by *Trail to the Stars*, a film view of the NASA space program contrasted with America's pioneering past. These were followed by a series of minor commercial works.

In 1978, Vidali participated in the environmental-political campaign in Kauai, Hawaii, to save the island's pristine shorelines at Nukoli'i from yet another tourist development.

A champion of the environment, Vidali later challenged Republican Interior Secretary James Watt, when Watt opened vast sections of Federal lands to exploitation. Vidali developed a plan to preserve the wilderness by rushing to the Denali region of Alaska, forming the Alaska

Capital Corporation (ALCOR), and leasing thousands of acres of federal oil lands.

Explained Vidali, "The Watt Administration had assumed that small entrepreneurs could not afford to drill in the Arctic, thus leaving the course clear for major players. ALCOR deliberately proceeded to subdivide the leases into impractical 40-acre parcels, which would oblige major oil companies to buy out each and every one from far too many owners before they could move in and drill. One single holdout lease could stall exploration for years."

Vidali hired and trained agents to successfully distribute tiny oil lease parcels across the nation. This maneuver caught the oil industry by surprise, and by the time they pressed the government to impose a minimum parcel size of 2,500 acres, it was too late. Big Oil tried to make the law retroactive. Vidali blocked that illegal attempt by notifying all leaseholders to demand their rights against this undemocratic scheme of Big Oil. This tactic was successful, and thus prevented major exploitation of the Denali for 10 years.

Vidali returned to the mainland in late 2000 where his family created a film with students under the UNECO label entitled *Life & Liberty in the Balance*, protesting the court appointed Bush administration. Vidali is currently in pre-production of a full feature documentary: *Toward a Global Open Society*, a dialogue between great contemporary minds and the American people. This film addresses the urgent need of all citizens to participate directly in dialogue and action to restore their Constitutional Republic.

Reviving the motion picture work developed under Fellini's guidance, Vidali is now teaching and preparing productions dedicated to promoting the restoration of American Democracy, defense of the Bill of Rights, and openly denouncing the neo-fascist "Patriot" Act and the neo-con imperialistic scheme against America.

Vidali currently lives with his wife and two sons on California's Central Coast. He volunteers as Chairman of UNECO, a non-profit environmental and humanitarian corporation, and is active in the United Defenders of Liberty Movement.

He speaks English, Italian, Spanish, French, and Portuguese, and is a public lecturer on social, educational, and environmental subjects.

Want To Get Involved In 'Deflating The Elephant?'

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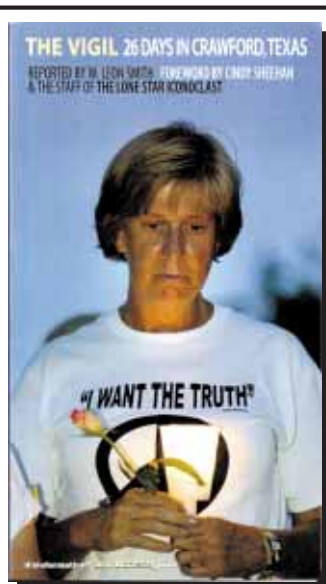
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'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

George Lakoff Discusses 'Tort Reform'

Restrictions on tort lawsuits and other kinds of lawsuits are issues near and dear to conservative hearts. The following interview with Rockridge Senior Fellow George Lakoff explores various aspects of "tort reform," including the manner in which conservatives have framed the discussion, the problem with the progressive response so far, and ideas for more effective progressive framing of the debate.

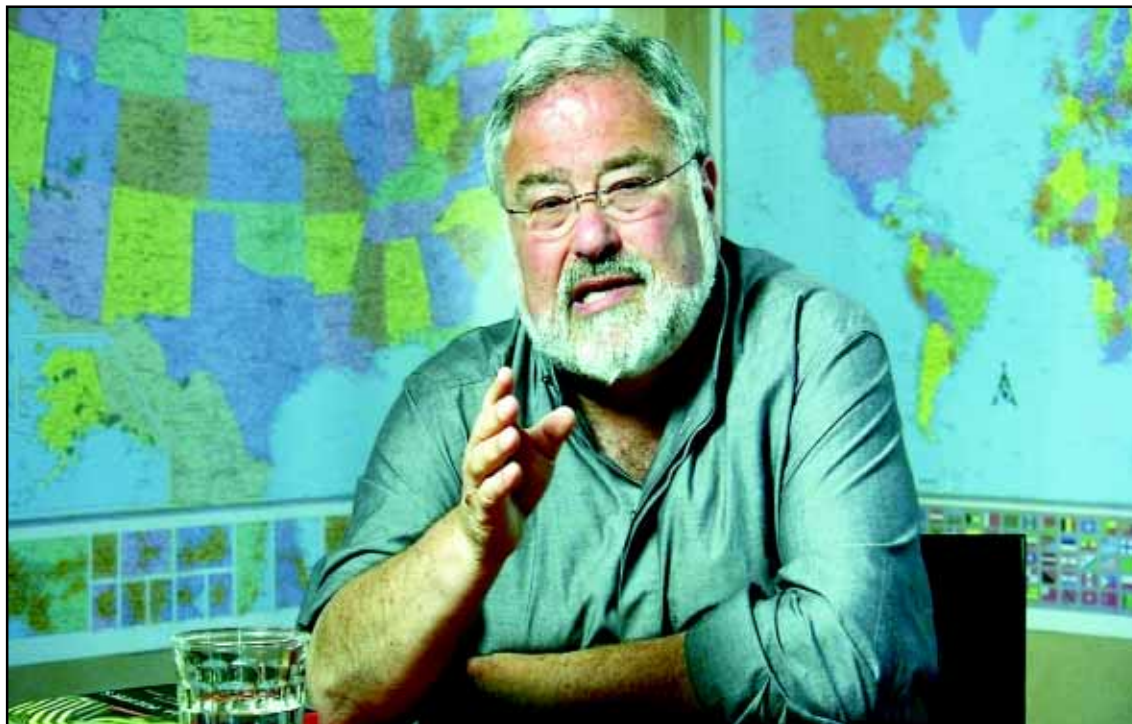
Q: Professor Lakoff, why have conservatives made such a major issue of "tort reform" and "lawsuit abuse"?

Lakoff: For two main reasons. The conservative worldview includes the fundamental belief that business is only about profits. They believe that anything that interferes with the opportunity to maximize profits, including the range of protections that are so important for society, should be eliminated or at least severely restricted. And of course, lawsuits to compensate for injuries and to punish those who knowingly caused them are some of those socially important protection mechanisms that can diminish profits.

So, the right wing is attempting to destroy this system by promoting legislation to eliminate punitive damages and cap compensatory damages to relatively small sums. This legislation benefits business both by minimizing the risk of any single suit and by creating a disincentive for lawyers to take cases. Lawyers have to spend their own money to search for evidence of harm, to put together a case, and to prosecute the trial. Their compensation, if any, is a percentage of the "recovery" — the compensatory and punitive damages. Though the lawyers' fees sound high, most of those fees go to support the system. If damages are capped or eliminated, the system will break down for lack of funding.

The attack on tort suits also amounts to an attack on those lawyers who represent injured parties. Those lawyers have historically supported progressive causes and candidates. Not to put too fine a point on it, conservatives want to dry up the flow of contributions from trial lawyers by squeezing their source of income.

Q: How have conservatives mounted their attack?



George Lakoff, author of "Don't Think Of An Elephant"

Lakoff: They have very cleverly framed the public discussion and have repeated these frames so often and for so long that they have become ingrained in the public's mind, which means that those frames have become realized physically in the brains of many members of the public.

Q: What are some of those frames?

Lakoff: To begin, the very phrase "tort reform" evokes a frame. In two words, it communicates that something is the matter with the tort system, which requires reform or correction. In this respect, the phrase is similar to another effective conservative phrase, "tax relief." Once the public accepts these phrases, they have bought into the idea that they need to be relieved from the affliction of taxes and that they need to fix the tort system. The debate then turns to the question of how and how much. At that point, progressives can't win the debate; the best we can do is limit the losses.

Q: What other frames have the conservatives employed?

Lakoff: They repeat the phrases "lawsuit abuse" and "frivolous lawsuits." They refer to "greedy" and "out of control" lawyers. These words suggest that the speaker is a good, honorable, hard-working, God-fearing person. Opposition to abuse

communicates reverence. Being against something frivolous is to be prudent and serious. Opposition to things out-of-control implies being orderly and law abiding.

Let's take another expression that they often use: "litigation lottery." In order to meaningfully use a word like "lottery" you need a frame. That frame has in it everything about a lottery. It's gambling. It says you're not making money by being an honest, hard working person going to work every day. You're trying to make money just by gambling. That sets up a contrast between the kinds of people who are diligent, careful and frugal and those who want something for nothing and perhaps are willing to cheat to get it.

Once they've twisted the discussion to the point where people accept that lawsuits are bad things, the "tort reformers" take it another step. They say that the "frivolous lawsuits" are the cause of the high costs of health care and health insurance. Because people have accepted the frames, they are willing — even in the face of contrary evidence — to believe these statements.

Q: How have the conservatives been able to come up with such effective frames and messaging?

Lakoff: That's easy. Time and

money. Extremely well-funded conservative think tanks have been tackling these issues for the last 40 years. They have become quite expert at figuring out how to frame messages that appeal to persuadable voters.

Q: Have consumer advocates, trial lawyers, and other progressives had much success responding to these conservative frames?

Lakoff: No. Despite spending great sums of money, they have had very little success, as we've seen with all the new tort reform legislation at both the state and federal levels. And more legislation is in the pipeline.

Q: To what do you attribute this lack of success?

Lakoff: The primary reason is that the progressive groups you mention have fought the fight on the "tort reformers'" turf, that is they have merely offered facts to rebut the conservatives' frames, leaving the frames intact. They've tried to show that lawsuits aren't frivolous, that lawyers aren't greedy, that plaintiffs are genuinely aggrieved. It's like Nixon saying, "I am not a crook," which made everyone think of Nixon as a crook. As I said before, once you go down that road you've already lost the fight. It's only a question of how badly.

Q: What's the alternative?

Lakoff: First, we have to recognize that when the right wing

says "tort reform," what they really mean is destruction of the civil justice system. Just what is the civil justice system? Most people have a frame for the criminal justice system, but not the for the civil justice system. Since a corporation isn't literally a person, it can't be put in jail for performing harmful or murderous acts. When corporations engage in practices that harm or kill people, the only way through the legal system to punish them and give them an incentive to stop their harmful practices is to sue them and make them pay.

In the civil justice system, the trial is in the form of a lawsuit. The victims of harm are the plaintiffs and the defendants are typically corporations. The roles of police and prosecutors are played by the plaintiffs' lawyers. The victims come to lawyers (the only police). The lawyers search for evidence of harmful corporate behavior. The plaintiffs' lawyers act as prosecutors. The punishments are of two kinds: compensatory damages (compensating victims for harm); and punitive damages (punishing corporations that do harm).

Since a billion-dollar corporation cannot be imprisoned, only very large compensatory and punitive damages can provide sufficient disincentives from doing harm. Given the current climate of less and less regulation of business and increasingly lax or underfunded enforcement of what regulations remain, the civil justice system is rapidly becoming society's only line of defense. Without it, the unscrupulous can and will run roughshod over the American people, maiming people, making them seriously ill, and sometimes killing them — all in the name of profit. Limiting profits is the only deterrence in many cases. Bear in mind that conservative voters believe in deterrence. It's a basis for their support of the death penalty, for example.

Conservatives also believe in the concept of being responsible and accountable. It relates to their strict father family model for society and government that I've written about.

Q: With that understanding,
Continued On Next Page

'Tort Reform' Fraud, The Oids & Corporate Class War On America

GEORGE LAKOFF INTERVIEW

From Previous Page

what do progressives do?

Lakoff: What we have to do is create and communicate our own major frames, frames that communicate this fundamental role of lawsuits and trial lawyers in protecting the public. These frames must be communicated through narratives that people understand and resonate to. There are two key components here. The first is the notion of protection. The second is the idea that it is the public that is protected rather than certain individuals being compensated for injuries.

Q: Why is that important?

Lakoff: Because as a general rule, people don't readily identify with victims. They tend to think that those victims somehow haven't taken care of themselves properly. So the more effective frame is the bigger picture of societal protection.

Q: How would that work?

Lakoff: Let me back up slightly. Progressives must understand that the business of America is business. Most people are involved with business. Most people are honest and want to do the right thing. Trust is an essential component of a healthy, functioning business economy. But there are dishonest, unscrupulous business people that undermine that trust. We must emphasize that the marketplace itself is under threat from those bad actors. Lawyers are necessary to bring the suits that ferret out those who undermine trust and threaten the health of the marketplace.

Q: What other frames do you think would be effective?

Lakoff: Plaintiffs are and should be portrayed as courageous souls. After having suffered harm at the hands of the defendant, they must stand up to the rigors of the justice system, including intense cross-examination and personal attacks, and must display the great patience to withstand the delays of the process. They do it not just for themselves, but for the public as well.

I should emphasize that though I feel strongly about these ideas, none have yet been researched and tested. That's something that we at Rockridge have on our plate.

Q: How do you communicate these points?

Lakoff: We must create narratives that reclaim the moral high ground: unscrupulous businesses against lawyers — the police and prosecutors — who protect the public. An important image is the open door to the courthouse. Conservatives want to slam the courthouse door shut. We want to keep it open. That concept encompasses everything from preserving the laws that protect the public, to the right of juries to impose fair damage awards that won't be taken away by judges, to the right of plaintiffs to be able to contract with their lawyers without government interference.

Q: Are word choices important as well?

Lakoff: Of course. I'll give you a couple

of examples. I've already mentioned the phrase "tort reform." This plays so well into the conservative frame.

Progressives should not repeat this phrase. They should point out over and over that conservatives are trying to

destroy our precious system of justice. Another example is "trial lawyers." It's a label that conservatives have been vilifying for a long time. It would take a lot of effort to try to revive any positive connotations. More importantly, it doesn't communicate the frames that I've discussed. By contrast, "public protection attorneys" communicates the right frames and avoids the negative connotations. But this can't be used until the idea of the civil justice system and protection is first in place in the public mind.

Remember that it's not just a matter of words. It is a matter of conveying a complex truth to the public, a truth in the form of a high-level complex frame. This cannot be done just by describing it once. The civil justice system has to be described over and over, and portrayed in the arts and the media. Words are important, but ideas come first.

This is not a matter of one ad campaign. It must become part of the system of progressive ideas, part of the framework progressives use to think about public issues.

Q: Where do we go from here?

Lakoff: That's what Rockridge is all about. We are in the process of writing a Progressive Manual that will offer a fresh, reframed approach to the whole range progressive values and issues. The issues we've talked about today will be included in our section about public protection. With help from the progressive community, we'll be able to do our work quickly and well, and generate a product that will help reshape the political dialogue for the long term. We are running a marathon here, not a sprint.

Defense of the civil justice system is not just a trial lawyers' issue. It is an issue for all progressives, just as "tort reform" is an issue for conservatives in general. The trial lawyers should not be standing alone here. They should be supported by the environmental community, the labor community, the anti-poverty community, and every other progressive in America. Trial lawyers are not just defending their clients; they are defending all of us by making the civil justice system possible.

Lawyers Fight For The Public

By Bill Straub
Deputy Communications Director,
Association of
Trial Lawyers of America

It was the great Clarence Darrow who asserted "the trouble with law is lawyers," and many people seem to have taken that admonition to heart.

Trial lawyers have attained a rather unenviable status in the public's eye. People who reserve judgment about rabid dogs or members of the New York Yankees appear eager to spew vitriol about attorneys, blaming them for everything from soaring medical costs to the heart-break of psoriasis.

It's an odd position. Trial lawyers, after all, usually represent small people with big problems, whether it's an injury resulting from time spent on the operating table or utilizing a simple, though defective, home appliance. Without a trial lawyer guiding them through the civil justice system, consumers and patients would suffer in silence, be dismissed as frivolous and giant corporations would escape being held accountable for gross negligence.

Recall for a moment the experience of Erin Brockovich, who in 1993, working as a legal assistant for a California law firm, discovered that a Pacific Gas & Electric plant near the small desert town of Hinkley was leaching chromium 6, a rust inhibitor considered a human carcinogen, into the village water supply. Brockovich lined up about 650 plaintiffs and the firm filed suit, claiming the infestation led to an untold number of health problems, including breast cancer, Hodgkin's disease, miscarriages and spinal deterioration.

In 1996 PG&E settled the case, forced into paying for health care costs and damage they'd done the residents. Brockovich was hailed as a hero, and well she should have been. But this is the just one example of the type of incidents trial lawyers are endeavoring to bring to the public's attention everyday.

Trial lawyers are, or at least should be, secure in the knowledge that they are on the right side of both the issues and history. They are the ones pressing the case against interests who have a financial stake in making America less safe. Ironically, and sadly, that's why they are held in such disregard.

It should surprise no one that powerful interests have taken a passionate dislike to trial lawyers, precisely because they are using the civil justice system to hold them responsible for

their sins. Organizations like the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and PhRMA, not to mention the entire insurance industry, would party like it was 1999 if the civil justice system suddenly curled up into a big ball and died. They're already holding a straight flush, ace high, and razing the courthouse would leave them sitting with all the chips.

So the big corporations are using their collective power and billions and billions of dollars to disparage trial lawyers, accusing them of destroying the American way of life by undermining the economy and driving kindly, old, country docs from their practice. The campaign has proved as relentless and destructive as Sherman's

March to the Sea, resulting in a general loathing of trial lawyers and what they stand for.

And they have potent allies sounding the same theme. President Bush has founded a cottage industry attacking trial lawyers, taking the opportunity on scores of occasions to assert that "junk lawsuits" filed by trial attorneys are responsible for lost jobs and high health-care costs. Administration talking points appear to travel from U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Tom Donohue's lips to the president's ear.

The U.S. Chamber, the nation's largest lobbying outfit, an organization with access to a bottomless money pit and an agenda focused on further enriching the titans of multi-national corporations, is pummeling trial lawyers to get at consumers and workers who, through no fault of their own, face ruin as a result of a defective product or piece of equipment.

Like the schoolyard bully it is, the Chamber is pulling out all the stops to assure Big Business won't be held accountable for the faulty, often dangerous, sometimes deadly, merchandise corporations push on the market. They're achieving this end through strategies with technical names like "tort reform." Whatever titles the Chamber chooses to use, you can be sure it's all to the detriment of the American consumer and worker.

Trial lawyers have historically taken a reasoned approach to deflect the incessant slander, repelling efforts to destroy the nation's civil justice system by noting that the number of doctors is rising while the incidence of malpractice suits is falling. That it's been trial lawyers holding pharmaceutical giant

Continued On Next Page



Bill Straub

Editor's Note — The Iconoclast is interested in publishing additional viewpoints regarding the importance of public protection attorneys in today's world, and solicits submissions of about 700 words from lawyers.

We had asked, through ATLA, for submissions for this special section from attorneys depicting, first hand, how attorneys have succeeded in championing individual rights and the importance of the legal system in being able to function in this manner in the future, but none were forthcoming, so we are now making that appeal through the newspaper. Submissions may be sent to The Iconoclast at P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634. Please provide contact information for verification purposes.

Lawyers

Fight For The Public

By Bill Straub
From Previous Page

Merck accountable for marketing the pain-killer Vioxx long after it was determined to have a dangerous health impact.

But there's no denying that the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and others of its ilk are winning the public relations war. Using its billions to spread lies aimed at destroying the civil justice system, corporate CEOs have trial lawyers on the ropes.

Well, to quote the great 20th Century philosopher, Popeye the Sailorman, "That's all I can stand, I can't stand no more!" The time is long past due for trial lawyers to switch tactics and counter-attack with the sort of zeal that, to this point, has been reserved for those who would endeavor to destroy the very system lawyers are sworn to uphold. The defensive crouch trial lawyers have assumed has to be replaced by a full frontal assault on those using deception and fraud to hurt America.

Trial lawyers have the facts on their side. Studies firmly establish that malpractice insurance rates are attributable to poor investments, not large claims. The number of lawsuits is declining, along with payouts and there are more doctors practicing than at any time in history. Not exactly the crisis foes of the civil justice system describe.

And there simply is no logical explanation for imposing an arbitrary, one-size-fits-all cap on non-economic damages in cases where a company's gross negligence leads to an individual's massive injury. Ask a worker if the loss of an arm, or ask a mother who has lost her daughter, whether such limits should be placed on their grief.

But that's not sufficient. It needs to be pointed out that it's corporate CEOs and the insurance industry that benefit from destroying the civil justice system to the detriment of the public at large. The American people are being sold a bill of goods so corporations and insurance firms can further enrich themselves and not be held accountable for their instances of gross negligence. CEOs don't want to be held

responsible but they sure want to pick the pockets of an innocent public.

There's a lesson to be learned from people like Carlene Lewis, who died much too young this month at age 51 from ovarian cancer. Lewis was a trial lawyer in Houston who, in the fall of 2000, grew concerned about the health implications of Vioxx, a painkiller manufactured by Merck. It seems the mother of a friend started taking Vioxx and lost her job after falling ill. Merck wanted to settle, but Lewis invested precious hours and money into research to determine the extent of the problem.

It turned out to be massive. Merck's own memos prove the company knew Vioxx had heart risks as early as 1997. Those risks were confirmed by a clinical trial in 2000. Yet Merck continued to rake in billions of dollars by aggressively marketing the drug, even inventing a game called "Dodgeball" to teach drug representatives how to evade doctors' tough questions about the drug's safety. FDA scientist David Graham told Congress that Vioxx contributed to the death of as many as 55,000 Americans.

Through the efforts of Lewis and attorneys like her, America is a safer place and the wrongdoers are being held accountable. Remember that next time someone bad mouths a trial lawyer.

It's true that Darrow warned that the trouble with the law is lawyers, but he also said, "As long as the world shall last there will be wrongs, and if no man objected and no man rebelled, those wrongs would last forever."

An Answer From The Heart

Sometimes people water down what they really believe in order to be polite.

I did so a couple of weeks ago and regret it.

This occurred when Melinda Pillsbury-Foster interviewed me for her Spiritual Politician radio show in California and asked about my take on how George W. Bush has conducted himself since being elected President.

I answered that I was "disappointed."

I was trying to be nice.

It was an answer from the head, not the heart.

Looking back, I wish I had listened to my heart and let it speak, since our country has gone beyond "being nice."

The answer should have been, "I am outraged."

Our cover story in this week's ICONOCLAST was written by Aldo Vidali, who has a superb grasp on reality and during his formative years experienced up-close what happened to Europe during the lead-up to World War II.

Back then, it was a matter of people of these European countries forfeiting rights and putting faith in a less-than-honorable, though it proclaimed itself honorable, power machine..

It was also about a modern-age Caesar who was going to lead his countrymen into a new world — one of his creating, where exclusions to humanity persisted.

Fear was the tool of the moment.

We all know what went down. We are all aware that the war was a death march and the skeletons were just collateral damage in the minds of the insane.

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



Today, some of us are willingly advancing into a new world order — similar to the one aforementioned — while others are fighting it.

Some don't give a damn about the Constitution and what it stands for, while others would defend it with their lives. Yet others would simply fillet it and call it an antique of the pre-911 era, applauding as King George and his neo-con delinquents spit upon it.

Here's the rub.

My generation is letting this travesty happen.

My children's generation will be the ones that have to live with it, if they live at all.

Fewer freedoms, more fear spouted by a ruling government, increased poverty, fewer opportunities.

Unfortunately, it goes a lot deeper than that.

You have to throw endless wars into the mix, removal of all personal financial safety nets, no more privacy, your body and soul owned by corporate interests, and no way to fight the system. Remember that last phrase.

Perhaps it is impossible to turn back the clock to 1999 and find the America of hope and dignity. Some things cannot be regained, no matter how much we desire them. I would settle for a reasonable facsimile.

But the small doses of corruption that we have seen in the neo-con camps are expanding and the track marks are bulg-

ing on neo-con arms as addictions to power are getting out of control.

Some might argue that we've always had this problem — unreined power — if not by the Republicans, then by the Democrats.

But what was once considered an exception is becoming the rule.

The rule of law, not unlike accountability, is vanishing.

THE ICONOCLAST is featuring in this edition an important element of protection that is being subordinated and trounced upon as evil.

Remember that phrase I asked you to remember? "and no way to fight the system?"

Referral here is to public protection attorneys as a key defender. The public is being conned into thinking that attorneys are evil, in it for gigantic gain, causing prices to rise everywhere as they go after "torts," and, therefore, should be obliterated.

Why do the neo-cons think this?

Because lawyers are the last insulation of hope for the downtrodden, for the little guy, for you and me. They are the gunslingers who can outdraw a failed and corrupt system. Take away their bullets and we have Barney Fife as our last beacon of defense.

In his guest column in this edition of the ICONOCLAST, Bill Straub, Deputy Communications Director, Association of Trial Lawyers of America, describes some good examples of the importance of lawyers and assuring the public does not forfeit its individual rights in the name of

See TRENCHWALKER,
Page 14

PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH



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The Trenchwalker

Continued From Page 13

profits for big corporations.

It isn't that premium costs go up when a big corporation loses a lawsuit. Profits in the hands of the higher echelon CEOs perhaps go down some. Lawsuits are the tools that force wolves to do what's right.

For example, we know the case where a woman had a stroke. Her insurance company intervened immediately after learning of the stroke and ordered medical personnel to stop the therapy, because the company didn't want to pay for it. So therapy was stopped. When the family finally discovered that this had happened during the all-important first days after the stroke when regaining function is critical, a lawsuit was launched and eventually some retribution occurred. The insurance company didn't think anyone would notice and even then thought nobody would fight it. Insurance companies might call it tort. The family deemed the actions by the insurance company as those of a demon. Lawyers made the difference.

And what about this?

You have to buy insurance if you have a mortgage on your home or if you drive a car, so you buy insurance — which is forced gambling, against yourself.

Lightning hits your home, blowing out a number of appliances and causing other damage. Your deductible is \$200, but damage amounts to \$1,000. You are encouraged by the insurance company not to file a claim, for if you do, your rates will go up, if you can find anyone to insure you at all in the future, which could affect your ability to adhere to the conditions of your mortgage loan. So, what do you

do? You pay the entire cost of repair out of pocket.

Multiply this scenario by tens of thousands and ask what is this type of maneuver adding to the insurance companies' profit line?

You are being forced to buy something that is useless, which succinctly defines today's neo-con corporatism. Stealing from the little guy and giving to the rich.

Without lawyers, things like this, or bad meds allowed to continually flood the marketplace, will go unchecked. They win. You lose.

When caps are placed on lawsuits, this undermines the capability of our citizens not only to regain what they might have lost, but to even be able to find representation, for the paperwork and legal maneuvering through the justice system is expensive.

So by denying attorneys the ability to utilize the judicial system, tort laws are actually removing individual rights of the common citizen, cutting recourse dead in its tracks.

We are advancing to a day when the majority of the assets of the United States will be owned or controlled by a few big companies, corporations that define our government, dictate our laws, ramrod our courts, and put into action military conflicts that result in monetary profits for the stockholders as they control our everyday lives. They will know everything about us, they will be able to track us, and they will hasten to dampen any and all attempts at rebellion.

When the trance wears off, I can hear Texans griping among themselves, "Why didn't somebody do something about this?"

My stock answer: "Where were you when you had your chance?"

19 Scientists Give Gore's Movie Thumbs Up For Accuracy

WASHINGTON — Former Vice President Al Gore's documentary on global warming received glowing reviews for accuracy from the 19 climate scientists who had seen it or read the book and contacted the Associated Press. The news service had asked over 100 climate researchers, including skeptics.

Most said they had not seen neither the movie nor read the book.

The documentary called "An Inconvenient Truth" depicts the possible disasters that would be the result of humans burning more and more fossil fuels into the earth's atmosphere. The effect of this warming would melt

the ice sheets at both poles thereby raising the sea level above major cities around the globe.

Some scientists, however, did say Gore oversimplified and at times sugarcoated the problem of global warming. In one case, the Tennessean connected hurricane strength to global warming, though many scientists have yet to reach a consensus on the issue. Gore listed five recent studies that supported his position.

Of the more than a million people who have watched the movie since May, none of them have included President George W. Bush and the chiefs of the Environmental Protection Agency and NASA.

INFO
www.climatecrisis.net

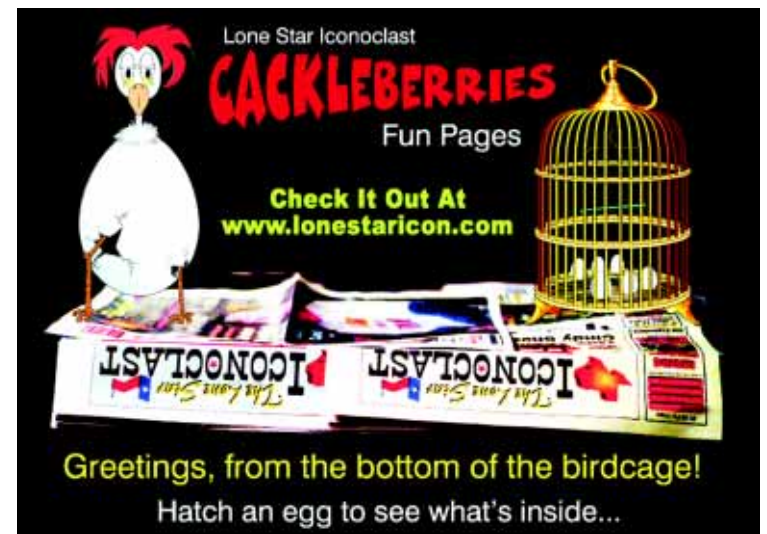
Net Neutrality Could Be Revived On Senate Floor

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Senate Commerce Committee last Wednesday threw out a "network neutrality" provision to a larger telecommunications bill in a tie vote. An amendment to keep Internet service providers from discriminating against traffic from content providers could still be made on the Senate floor before a vote.

When that vote would be, no one knows, but Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) said in a statement that he could use a parliamentary procedure to stop a vote until a net neutrality proposal is included.

Net neutrality advocates found a silver-lining to the split vote, noting that members of their grassroots efforts would have more time to contact their senators over the issue. There is still cause for concern since the House passed its own version of the telecom overhaul without a net neutrality provision last month.

If no net neutrality legislation passes the Senate, phone and cable companies would have much better chances to charge content providers and consumers fees for faster delivery service on the Internet.



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17th Caravan To Cuba Stops At Crawford Peace House Saturday

CRAWFORD — On the way to the U.S. border with Mexico where they will defy U.S. restrictions on travel and aid to Cuba, the 17th Pastors for Peace Friendshipment Caravan visited the Crawford Peace House on Saturday, July 1. The following day, hundreds of volunteers from the U.S. and seven other countries are slated to cross the U.S. border into Mexico with the humanitarian aid they have collected for the people of Cuba.

The caravan was welcomed during the afternoon in the Peace House garden, and sent off with the support and good wishes of local activists, along with contributions of a bicycle and goods. The gathering was open to anyone wishing to attend.

The contingent coming through Crawford was headed by Rev. Luis Barrios, who is the associate priest at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in West Harlem and associate professor of psychology and ethnic studies at John Jay College of Criminal Justice-City University of New York. He is also writes weekly column for a Spanish-language newspaper.

"We look forward to the Pastors for Peace caravan each summer," said Kay Lucas, a board member of the Crawford Peace House. "The blockade on aid to Cuba is contrary to the humanitarian character of Americans and we hope it will soon be ended."



NICHOLE PAQUET and ALISA GEISER are traveling with Friendshipment and are documenting the caravan to Cuba.

The blockade policy was responsible for last summer's seizure of computers from the Friendshipment by border officials. They were only released in May and this victory was celebrated at the Peace House

event.

Late last year, the United Nations General Assembly voted 182-4 to end the blockade, but the Bush administration instead continues to seek ways to tighten it. The policy on Cuba

relations leaves the U.S. isolated in the world community.

The 17th Friendshipment is traveling to Cuba via school buses, trucks, and cars on 13 different routes and along the way has visited more than 120 US and Canadian cities. It is collecting medical and educational supplies from groups across the U.S. and Canada, refusing U.S. Treasury Department licenses, as a collective challenge to the blockade and travel ban.

Pastors for Peace has used hunger strikes and mass mobilizations to successfully chal-

lenge the U.S. governments past attempts to confiscate vehicles and humanitarian aid crossing the Mexican border on its way to Cuba. Since 1992, IFCO/Pastors for Peace has delivered more than 2,350 tons of urgently needed assistance to the Cuban people without seeking a U.S. Treasury license.

Accompanying the caravan were Alisa Geiser and Nichole Paquet who, through a grant from the University of Colorado at Boulder and some private funding, were documenting the trip.

"We're here to document the group and travel with them all the way to Cuba," said Geiser. "It's been an amazing opportunity so far and it's only getting better. The people we've met along the way have been amazing — the communities we've seen, have been embraced by, have been incredible little pieces of America we didn't even know existed."

For Paquet, this was her second trip to Cuba.

Brianna Harris, one of the coordinators of the Friendshipment caravan commented in Crawford, "This year our focus in on collecting humanitarian aid for children with special needs, so a lot of the aid we're collecting from across the United States will go to children who are blind, deaf, or learning disabled, going to support what Cuba does for those children."

The Crawford Peace House is located at 9142 East Fifth Street in Crawford, near the intersection of highways 185 and 317, just east of the railroad tracks. You can contact the Peace House by phone at 254-486-0099 or by email at <crawfordpeacehouse@yahoo.com>.

For more information on the Friendshipments, see <www.pastorsforpeace.org>.



POSING WITH supplies and a bicycle donated from people in the Crawford area, supporters of the Friendshipment caravan pose in front of the bus making the trip south.



THE FRIENDSHIPMENT Caravan is being documented on film. This scene is at the Crawford Peace House in Crawford.

By Dawn's Early Light

The handwritten manuscript left by George Royalty Hopson entitled *By Dawns Early Light*, is an account of his feelings and thoughts around the time of the surrender of Japan at the end of World War II. The manuscript is courtesy of Rex C. Hopson, nephew of George R. Hopson.

George Royalty Hopson, 1912 - 1984, the son of Meridian Shoe Shop owners during the 1920s and 1930s, Rueben H. and Lydia Hopson, graduated from Meridian College and Howard Payne College of Brownwood. He served in the U.S. Navy during World War II and in the Navy Reserve until 1971.

Hopson was both a Baptist minister and a weather man in San Angelo. He was also considered a writer and a genealogist. In the 1960s, he served on the San Angelo City Council.

According to the information contained in *Bosque County Armed Forces Veterans — Volume 1*, George R. Hopson served as a weather observer in WWII.

Aerographers Mate/2c George Royalty Hopson, the son of Mr. and Mrs. R.H. Hopson, was born Sept. 12, 1912, in Coryell County, Texas. He lived in Meridian from 1916 until 1933, and received his public school education in Bosque County. He attended Howard Payne College as a ministerial student and pastored several churches in west Texas. He was married to Opal Williams July 13, 1934, in Houston.

He then went into professional Boy Scout work, becoming a field executive in Del Rio before entering the U.S. Navy in 1944. He attended the naval aerographer school in Lakehurst, New Jersey where he trained as a weather observer. Discharged from active service in 1945, Hopson remained in the Naval Reserve until retiring in 1971. While in the reserve he was a senior chief aerographer's mate. Her served during World War II with Atlantic Fleet Central in Norfolk, Virginia.

Hopson came to San Angelo in 1947 when the weather service put in its station at Mathis Field after serving in a similar capacity in Del Rio. He was employed at the National Weather Service office here until his retirement in 1971.

Hopson entered his first campaign for public office in 1968 and was elected a city commissioner and later was elected mayor pro-tem of San Angelo. He was a former president of the Knights of the Round Table.



George Royalty Hopson

He authored a book called "Some Very Fine Folks." At the time of his death he was a deacon of the First Baptist Church and a teacher of the Goodfellow Bible Class.

George R. Hopson was buried with military graveside rites in Fairmount Cemetery, San Angelo in 1976. Survivors at that time were his wife, a daughter, Daphne A. Hodges, and a grandson.

By Dawns Early Light

I have for years been intrigued by a phenomena I observed among servicemen while I was in the Navy during World War II. As military men, it would likely be expected that they would have a little more patriotism than the average person. Indeed they may have, and if so, then I am certainly at a loss to explain the tendency of service men to avoid paying simple respect to the flag.

I am referring primarily to the color ceremonies in the early morning and the late afternoon on military bases and stations, including ships. When the flag is being raised in the morning or lowered in the late afternoon, all outside activity momentarily stops. Men in uniform who are not under cover, meaning those outside of buildings and shelters of any kind, on hearing the bugle or band must face the flag and salute as long as the music continues. If the flag is not in sight, the salute is made anyway, facing in the direction of the music. With the last note, the salute is dropped and the carry on is assumed.

This little ceremony is really a rather pretty and meaningful thing but for some reason, most service men avoid it when possible to do so. I have often observed sailors to suddenly break for an open door or quickly jump

into a shelter when they saw the bugler put horn to his mouth, rather than to stand the sixty second ceremony. Lest I sound too critical of my shipmates, let me confess that on occasion I have been guilty of doing the same thing myself. That makes the act even more difficult to explain because I cannot explain why I did it. Observing this ritual is not at all unpleasant and the time involved is so short that one could not use loss of time as an excuse. In fact, few people are in that much of a hurry even on a wartime base.

I have already confessed my occasional guilt in the violation of their patriotic etiquette, but a thing happened that made me double ashamed of myself and all other service men who neglect any opportunity to pay tribute to our national emblem.

Within a few days after the A-Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, I was transferred from the Atlantic Fleet Weather Central in Norfolk, Virginia to the Recovery Station on Hampton Boulevard. In Norfolk for further transfer to Bermuda Navy weather station. While I was in the receiving station, Japan sued for peace and in a few days, V-J Day came when the war was over. I was still on that station on V-J Day.

Since the war had been winding down to a close for several weeks, many men were in the process of being transferred and the receiving station had men everywhere they could be bedded down. To keep these men even moderately occupied, every conceivable task was dreamed up. They even had men standing guard over the garbage.

The signing of the treaty by President Truman took place late in the afternoon. I was standing guard duty in the records building where all transfers were finally made and issued. What I was guarding was never told to me but it was really pleasant duty. I had the run of the complete large and open office with access to the coffee and refreshment bar. A very pleasantly dispositioned lieutenant had a radio on his desk and several of us were gathered at his desk that fateful afternoon to follow the momentous happenings of history as they took place.

The radio announcer, with an emotionally charged voice and almost in breathless whisper, described the president as he left the White House on foot to walk to the nearby State Department building, carrying a large manila envelope. After he en-

**Manuscript By George Royalty Hopson,
Submitted by Rex C. Hopson, New Mexico**

tered the State Department building the announcer nervously tried to say something that would keep his unseen audience listening until the president should reappear. The announcer need not have feared the loss of his audience if they were all like the group around the desk in Norfolk. We hung on every word with no thought of trying to start a conversation of our own. Traffic was moving at its normal later afternoon rush down Hampton Boulevard as Navy base personnel left their job for the day. Many people were traveling in the other direction toward the Newport News ferry.

The air seemed charged with excitement in the office where we were and I am sure we all wondered how any other people knew what was going on, as we did. It was almost as if we were waiting for the announcement of the winner of the big prize. In this case the prize was indeed great and we knew who the winner was going to be, but tension mounted by the moment.

Suddenly the voice of the announcer quickened and even changed pitch as he said that the president had come out of the State Department and was smiling as he was approached by a group of newsmen. He then switched the microphone to one of the news announcers who asked the president if he had any announcement to make concerning a peace treaty with Japan. In a pleasant but solemn voice he said, "Yes, I am glad to say that Japan has accepted and signed our terms of unconditional surrender and the war is ended."

We immediately had our answer as to how many people might be aware of what was happening, for it seemed that every car on Hampton Boulevard started blowing its horn. Indeed, I dare say every car on every street in Norfolk was wildly blowing its horn. In the office, enlisted men were embracing WAVE officers and men alike, rank, rate, and sex had suddenly been forgotten when we realized the fighting, killing, expense, broken homes, and wartime inconveniences were soon to be ended. Our party was soon over because it was closing time, but the celebration went on all night in most of the USA.

My guard tour in that office ended at 6 p.m. and twelve hours later I went on another two-hour watch standing guard over the loading dock for incoming personnel. Those buses that brought men into the station

during the night would drop the men at the barracks, then bring their luggage to the unloading platform, where it would be picked up by the men in the morning. This was one bit of good duty that did make a little sense, however; there never was much of a tendency among Navy men to steal another man's gear, and since the war was over, more military gear was the last thing anyone wanted.

As I arrived at my post at 6 a.m., it was just getting daylight. I sat down on a stack of sea-bags on that otherwise deserted platform that was covered by a sheet-iron awning. Once in a while a sailor would walk by, so I had nothing to do but sit and think about what had happened the day before and how it would affect the days ahead. The end of the war had been a dream, but now the dream was a reality and I felt the urgency to make some plans for the future, but felt a complete loss as to when I might start. While I was thinking such thoughts, time was passing rapidly. I heard the familiar sound of a marching cadence being chanted by a Marine non-com.

Glancing at my watch I saw it only a few minutes before 8 a.m., the time for raising the flag. The flagpole was less than a hundred yards, and in plain view from where I sat. The Marine drum and bugle corps with the folded colors stopped in front of the flag pole, and the color guard made preparations by snapping lanyard into the grommets on the flag. All but one of the color guard stepped back and the drum and bugle corps came to attention.

There I was sitting peacefully "under cover" where no salute nor standing at attention was expected of me — but suddenly the thought hit me, "What if my country had been the loser in the war?" But thank God we won and by His grace our flag was going to fly proudly and victoriously again today. As if propelled by a catapult, I left my comfortable seat and jumped to the ground in the bright early morning sunshine and at the sound of the first note of the bugle, I was standing rigidly at attention and had thrown the snappiest salute I had ever made. I saw our star spangled banner start up the mast, but long before it reached the top, it faded from view because I could not see it through my tears of joy and thankfulness.

I had some idea of how Francis Scott Key must have felt.

George Royalty Hopson
July 4, 1976

ACLU Of Texas Files Lawsuit Over Restrictions On Protesters Outside President's Ranch

Plaintiffs Include Cindy Sheehan, Daniel Ellsberg, Ann Wright

WACO — The American Civil Liberties Union of Texas last week asked a district judge to block McLennan County officials from enforcing orders aimed at restricting anti-war protesters outside President Bush's ranch in Crawford, saying the orders violate free speech rights and exceed the officials' authority.

"This suit is not about the president or politics. It is not even about the war," said Will Harrell, Executive Director of the ACLU of Texas. "It is about the County Commissioners' decision to overstep their own authority in an effort to unlawfully restrict the protected activities of a group of protesters and the media by limiting their access to space, restroom fa-

cilities, and shelter from the elements."

The ACLU is representing Cindy Sheehan, whose son Casey was killed in Iraq on April 4, 2004, and became a leading voice against the war after going to Crawford last summer in the hopes of meeting with President Bush. She was joined by thousand of activists from across the country at "Camp Casey I," including plaintiff Daniel Ellsberg, author of the *Pentagon Papers*, and plaintiff Ann Wright, a Colonel with the U.S. Army Reserve and former Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Afghanistan, who resigned from the State Department in protest of the invasion of Iraq in 2003.

The challenged orders are aimed at shutting down Camp Casey I. The orders specifically prohibit stopping and parking vehicles on specific roads in McLennan County, and "residing, erecting shelters or erecting sewage receptacles on the right of way of public roads." The effect of the orders, the ACLU said, was to force protesters to stand in direct sun at all times in a location where temperatures in August regularly top 100 degrees, and drive or walk 10 roundtrip miles each time they needed to use the bathroom, or face arrest and possible criminal charges.

"The County Commissioners do not have any legal authority to restrict access to roads beyond that delegated to them by

the state, but that is exactly what they did here. The Commissioners also created a criminal penalty for a violation of a state civil law, which is an action only the legislature can take," said David Broiles, a cooperating attorney and state board member of the ACLU of Texas. "In its zeal to shut down the protests, the county simply ignored the statutory restrictions on its authority and the relevant legal definitions in the Texas Transportation and Natural Resources Codes."

Lisa Graybill, Legal Director of the ACLU of Texas, added: "As recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions confirm, no governmental body — be it local, state, or federal — is entitled to simply ignore the limits on its own

authority. And when it does so in order to squelch a message it doesn't agree with, as the county did in this case, it violates the most fundamental promise of the First Amendment."

McLennan County Commissioners passed the two ordinances last September, prohibiting parking within four miles of President Bush's property and restricted the erection of portable restrooms and camping activities alongside the county roads.

The county has taken the position that the ordinances do not restrict free speech and the local Sheriff's office has made 26 arrests related to the ordinances, some in November 2005 and some in April 2006.

The Supreme Court Meets The Cowboy Clowns

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "There's a good reason why widders and judges both wear black dresses."

In the worst decision since Dred Scott, the fascist Republican Supremacy Court approved bribery, propaganda and outright lying as the standard for American elections.

The Reichs oberstes Gericht ruled that the Tom Delay takeover of Texas government is perfectly perfect, and that the interests of the voting public is subordinate to political power play.

In the event you have been too busy trying to keep your base camp ahead of the melting Antarctic shoreline during the last five years, Delay used his House leadership position to bribe out-of-state businesses to finance extensive fascist Republican media campaign lies that resulted in a takeover of the Texas Legislature. This involved grouping small towns and rural areas with frat cat big city suburbs where voters have about as little in common as Jesus Christ and the Southern Baptist Convention.

Delay, of course, is from Sugarland, a notorious black prison farm converted to a Houston suburb.

Oh, the black folks left, for some reason.

Once Delay had torched the Texas Reichstag with his toadies, he gerrymandered the state again into a U.S. House wrecking, going from an even two-party split

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



in Texas to a ten-seat takeover of American politics that will be almost impossible to break until the inevitable disaster that Republican power grabs have engendered throughout history.

The First Street widows decided last week that, other than one South Texas District that, according to Delay's calculations, had no Mexicans in it, politics should rule redistricting rather than commonality of the people.

In other words, political parties are more important than representation.

This, sadly, reflects the status of places like Texas, where money is starving not only the quality of life, but its character.

Texas farm and ranch land is now unaffordable to those who would grow things.

Instead it is being bought up by modern carpetbaggers, low interest drugstore cowboys willing to borrow up to their eyeballs to have some claim on a way of life they neither understand nor could survive without their corporate

salared servitude back in the city. Texas is being eaten alive by weekend partiers who are buying up real estate and wasting good land on spavined pet horses and deer stands.

As a result whitetail deer car-

riages line Texas highways like armadillos once did, thanks to an ecology thrown out of balance by feeders and breeders as predation actually diminishes.

In fact, an experienced deer hunter's season will last about half an hour.

These guys stretch it into a three-month drunk, and one in ten actually sees a whitetail, much less an edible buck.

Of course they don't eat anything they are actually lucky enough to kill.

Deer are creatures of habit and repetition.

A little pre-season tracking will reveal the right place and the right time.

If you know what you're doing 25-yard shot will fill your tag on opening day.

Then you can go back to work.

If you're not too hung over or asleep.

Real cowboys haven't grown accustomed to getting to the office by nine.

And they aren't still drunk at daylight.

'Cept Sundays.

It takes three generations to make a farmer.

It's a tough, mean and risky life.

There ain't no air conditioning and only the calves suck up.

All you get at the grocery store is flour, coffee and sugar.

Once a month.

That's why I don't farm.

Or pretend to.

That's why you guys getting strangled with neckties

shouldn't play like farmers.

Feeding this country ain't play.

And it is too important to turn over to Archer Daniels Midland.

What does that have to do with the Widows?

Power politics serves the privileged, the play-like cowboy clowns who produce nothing but money.

Democracy serves those who produce, and increasingly, this country has stopped producing.

We lost one more step in the journey to a time when this country made things instead of buying them.

We have lost one of those three generations.



Lend Support To 'Deflating The Elephant'

It is rare that an individual exhibits the courage to embark upon a venture of conscience that could revolutionize the world, but Aldo Vidali has done just that with the filming of "Deflating The Elephant," which is a motion picture that everyone should ultimately see.

Although the picture is still in the early stages of production, it is imperative that it garner support from the public to ensure massive distribution and the financing to make this happen even sooner, for the time is now for people to wake up.

In this week's feature article, Vidali has provided a brief description of the film that is based on author George Lakoff's bestseller, "Don't Think of an Elephant," which explains how terms are framed to elicit certain responses from the public and how these impact public opinion.

When frames are based on a lie, the citizenry is at grave risk. THE ICONOCLAST urges its readers and those in the motion picture industry to get behind Vidali's work and move it to quick completion and distribution. He can be contacted at <uneco@uneco.org> or by calling 831-454-9191. The film website is <<http://www.communication-evolution.org>>.

— W. Leon Smith

Burned-Out Adventurer Takes Own Life

Dazed, depressed, and at the end of his rope, Samuel W. Jordan wandered the streets of New Orleans on June 22, 1841, looking for a place to die.

Like many volunteers who arrived too late to fight for Lone Star independence, Jordan found life in the peacetime military too tame for his tastes. Resigning his commission as a captain in the Texas Army, he took part in the Rio Grande campaign which gave birth to the short-lived republic of the same name.

Federalist leader Antonio Canales appealed to Texans in 1839 to join the struggle to liberate the northern provinces of Mexico from the dictatorial rule of the centralists, the same enemy they had defeated three years earlier at San Jacinto. To sweeten the deal, Canales offered the Anglo-Americans a fair share of the spoils, \$25 a month and a half league of land.

A hundred and twenty-eight Texans under the command of Samuel Jordan and Reuben Ross answered the call. They crossed the border north of Reynosa, linked up with 400 federalists and on Oct. 3, 1839, routed the overconfident centralists at the Battle of Alcantra.

Eager to sever the compromising connection with his foreign friends, Canales furloughed the Texans, who went home in a huff. He created the Republic of the Rio Grande in January 1840 only to be driven into exile two months later by a centralist counterattack.

With the exception of Reuben Ross, who had died in a December duel, the Texas troops rallied around the charismatic Canales. Three hundred Mexicans, 80 Indians, and 140 Anglos led by Jordan mustered at San Patricio in June. In a matter of weeks, the Republic force numbered nearly 1,900 men.

Mariano Arista, the centralist general that had crushed Canales in March, slipped across the Rio Grande in late August with 1,100 seasoned soldiers and four artillery pieces. Worried about his unprotected rear, he doubled back to Matamoros to await the federalist advance.

Meanwhile, Canales sent Jordan and 90 Texans on a risky reconnaissance behind enemy lines. Soon after entering Mexican territory, Jordan received revised orders directing him deep into the dangerous interior. The mysterious way Juan N. Molano materialized with the change of plans aroused the suspicion of the rank and file but not the trusting commander.

At Molano's urging and over the strong objections of his men, Jordan proceeded to Ciudad Victoria 200 miles south of Matamoros. Soon after reaching their destination came word that Gen. Arista was closing in for the kill. But before the deadly trap could be sprung, the Texans departed for Saltillo 180 miles to the northwest.

During the long march, Molano clandestinely corresponded with their pursuer. The secret exchange ended with the snake in the grass accepting Arista's surrender terms, which included betrayal of the Texans.

Four miles from Saltillo, the federalists were met by a superior centralist contingent. The traitor Molano rode forward with a white flag ostensibly for a truce talk and vanished from sight.

Moments later a federalist colonel switched sides shouting, "Viva the supreme government! Death to the Texans!" At that prearranged signal, the bulk of the Mexican troops abandoned their Anglo allies.

The Texans dismounted and took cover behind a stone wall. Repeated attempts to storm their defenses were repelled by small-arms and rifle fire. By dusk, however, they were running out of ammunition and precious time.

Well, I Do Declare, King George

It was 230 years ago this date, adopted by Congress on July 4, 1776, a singular document notating the birth of what was to become the greatest Nation this orb would ever host.

The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America
The Declaration of Independence

One hell of a document.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

Right there, in the very opening sentence, our Nation's founders decided this would be a haven where the individual could live free, go about daily business unencumbered within common law, and not be bothered by governmental dictates as to style of life and personal choices.

"That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

Governments deriving their powers from the governed, hmmm. I suppose Inquisitor General Alberto Gonzales would call that notion "quaint." Could somebody please tell me one instance when King George XLIII actually performed an official duty on the good faith bidding of the American people?

"That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."

Only those 32% among us who are blinded by King George's quasi-omniscient light are unable to see the nihilistic perdition this Fascist Regime, submissive to the will of Herr Oberst Karl Rove and Dark Lord the Dick Cheney, has wreaked upon the United States in just five years.

As the Colonials continued on in their Declaration, they delineated the major grievances against the King, a number of which apply to our current King George:

"He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary

for the public good."

"He has forbidden his governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them."

"He has made judges dependent upon his will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries."

"He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance."

"He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to civilian power."

"For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of trial by jury."

These are direct quotes from our very own Declaration of Independence. There are lots more where these came from, but this sampling can be the tail pinned right on the ass of the new and unimproved King George.

The same George who keeps spewing chunks about democracy and the Constitution. Let us see...

Article the third (Amendment I)
"Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

One of the first things Georgie did after taking the oath as president was to suggest Congress allocate funds be distributed among church groups as "faith-based initiatives," thus attempting to mutilate the very Constitution he had just sworn to uphold. Ever since, he and his Fascist Gangsters have been giving it the iron boot treatment.

The "faithful" among evangelical religious groups and hard-edged religions seem to have multiplied exponentially in recent years. From what I know of the teachings of Jesus Christ, the man would be appalled at this show of numbers as well as lack of humility. He was very much in favor of prayer as a personal matter, not these swarms of humanity packed into mega-churches with superhero preachers beaming themselves via satellite across the continent,

Continued On Next Page

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



With a blood-curdling yell, the Texans charged the centralists on foot and broke through their lines. Before the frightened foes could regroup, they jumped on their waiting horses and galloped away.

The Texans fought their way to the border losing only four comrades on the remarkable cross-country escape. The Republic of the Rio Grande quickly collapsed, and Antonio Canales followed the example of his unscrupulous subordinates by making peace with the victorious central government.

Sam Jordan must have lost his mind in the angry aftermath of the misadventure. In a bizarre incident on Dec. 10, 1840, he took a swing at Sam Houston with an ax handle, but a bystander blocked the potentially lethal blow.

Jordan spent the next six months in New Orleans preparing for a private invasion of Yucatan. When the ship sailed without him in June 1841, he sank into a suicidal depression.

At a corner pharmacy, he bought a bottle of laudanum, a common but potent painkiller of the day that was 10 percent opium in an alcohol-water solution. Returning to his dingy rented room, he gulped down the deadly mixture, closed his eyes, and drifted into oblivion.

Bartee Haile welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at haile@pdq.net or P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549. And don't forget to visit www.twith.com.

New York Times Stands Firm Against GOP Attacks

NEW YORK CITY — The New York Times stood firm last week against attacks to its patriotism from the White House and other GOP operatives for revealing the U.S. government's surveillance of global banking transactions.

The Times editorial titled "Patriotism and the Press" said its report had not endangered national security by aiding terrorists since people who threaten the United States would already suspect such programs. Regardless, the source of the story was a 2002 U.N. report made available to the public.

The editorial was a response to accusations leveled by President George W. Bush as well as the GOP chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security Peter King, the later of whom called for the Times to be prosecuted under the Espionage Act.

The newspaper added that the Bush White House is following a pattern developed since Sept. 11, 2001 of working around governmental checks to his office powers by claiming security concerns.

"It has created powerful new tools of surveillance and refused, almost as a matter of principle, to use normal procedures that would acknowledge that either Congress or the courts have an oversight role," the editorial said.

• **TENUTO** ...From Previous Page

getting fat, rich and famous on the hem of Christ's robe.

This kind of charlatanism used to take place in a traveling tent show – in your town for a week, back in three months or so. Now the GOP leaders have encouraged its growth into an arm of the Government, a billion-dollar cotton industry interwoven within the new theocracy.

As for assembling peaceably, that's okay. It's in the Constitution. So the authorities usually provide a fenced-in area about half of a mile or so from the event you wish to protest. Make as much noise as you like, 'cause nobody will hear you, anyway.

The media won't cover the protest, because it's too far from the main event and they can't justify splitting up resources in the budget. Besides, if anyone dares to speak out against King George and his policies, that's just treason and it doesn't deserve to be spread around.

Like THE NEW YORK TIMES publishing an article about the administration searching through millions, possibly billions of Americans' bank transactions since 9/11 under the façade of hunting for al Qaeda suspects. Bush, Cheney and Treasury Secretary John W. Snow, in what has become an all too familiar shoot-the-messenger posture called the TIMES story "disgraceful." (By the way, why does Snow weigh in on all these discourses? I never heard of a Treasury Secretary with an opinion before; nobody ever knew who the Treasury Secretary was without

looking at their money.)

Cheney's the last dude in D.C. who should open his yap. Last week, when going through his no-sweat, oh-so-torturous softball-toss with CNN's John King, Dark Lord the Dick commented that if we pulled out of Iraq it would show the enemy Americans have no stomach for a fight. Real tough, he-man talk from a schlub who hid behind Lynne's apron for five deferments during the VietNam war.

Now, that's what I call having no stomach for a fight.

Several Republicans took the rhetoric to laughable, albeit frightening, levels. Kentucky Senator Jim Bunning, who should know better, wants Gonzo to empanel a grand jury to see if the publisher, editors and writers at the TIMES should be indicted for treason.

Although the story also surfaced in THE WASHINGTON POST and the conservative WALL STREET JOURNAL, Bunning's spokesman said he went after the TIMES because they ran it first. Not true. All three had it on their websites that Thursday night, but quite possibly the POST had it on the street first.

Former attorney general Edwin Meese echoed Bunning's claim that the newspaper had given "aid and comfort to the enemy."

Rep. Peter King, R-NY, chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee, went on national television railing that the Bush Regime seek criminal charges against the newspaper. "We're at war, and for the TIMES to release information about secret operations and methods is trea-

sonous."

Harrumph! Harrumph, harrumph!

The truly treasonous thing to do would have been for these three publications to not disclose anything.

It would be an even more horrific act of treason for the Department of Justice to do as Sen. Bunning proscribed and begin grand jury proceedings with the intent of prosecuting and, eventually, muzzling one of America's great newspapers.

Could a panel of honest Americans be found who would be parties to such a heinous act? The Germans didn't think such a thing could happen... but it did.

Once we were to take a sharp right turn down the road as these good members of the GOP Congress demand, our Nation would cease to be the home of the brave and land of the free.

Our dunderheaded Republicans in Washington, D.C. have lost sight of whom they serve – US, the same two letters that make up U.S.!

It's the vital role of the press, electronic media, whatever means, to keep us informed as to what the schmoes in Government are up to.

It's called "checks and balances," and I'm really getting pissed off at: How Republicans throw hissy fits every time King George and his Fascist Gangsters get caught stealing yet another Constitutional Right out from under our feet; how Rove concocts lies and fallacious, malicious fabrications to cover the asses of Bush, Cheney, Rice, Rummy and himself – and they continually get

away with the scams; how the mainstream media *en toto* repeatedly gives this slimy lot a pass; how everyone in the Beltway is too afraid of their own shadow, or Herr Karl's, to do anything to save America.

When my Grandfather came to this Country, he was around 12 years old. It was he and his brother, alone on a ship, crossing the Atlantic Ocean with little more than the clothes on their backs.

Neither of them knew a word of English; I doubt the immigration service at Ellis Island bothered to hire anyone who spoke Italian back in 1912.

When these two kids from a small rural town in Calabria, as far south in Italy as one can get without hitting Sicily, saw land for the first time in weeks, they were met with the imposing grandeur of New York City. Even in 1912 it had to be a sight to behold, especially for kids who never saw a building taller than two stories high or a paved road.

Then, there she was. A lady. The lady. What a babe!

Lady Liberty.

The woman who used to greet every newcomer to America's front door.

No other country had a welcoming committee quite like her.

She was, and remains to this day, the only woman of her kind in the World.

My Grandfather and his brother may most likely never noticed a plaque with a poem at the Statue of Liberty. Since it was written in English, to them it would have been unreadable anyway. Yet, the message was clear:

*"Give me your tired, your poor,
Your huddled masses yearning
to breathe free,*

*The wretched refuse of your
teeming shore.*

Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me,

I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

— (Final lines of "The New Colossus" by Emma Lazarus)

Now the King is building a fence to keep our closest neighbors, the very people with whom we share this continent, out of our country. The country that was theirs before we ran them out. And we've got armed soldiers – the military – patrolling the border with Mexico.

Well, King George and his Fascist Gangsters sure know how to get the rest of the world to hate US.

Watch out, my Canadian friends. I like you folks and your beer, even better than Corona.

HAPPY 230TH BIRTHDAY, U.S.A.!!!

Have a great Fourth of July – and grab yourself some Independence!

Shalom, mis Amigos and all you hoseheads, eh.

(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)

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Eisenhower's Warning True Today:

Under the Thumb of the Corporate-Military Complex

The truth is plain and simple. Special interests have destroyed our nation. Americans live in the new era of rule by a huge Corporate-Military Complex and it has crippled our representative constitutional government.

Powerful members of the corporate sector, protected by our U.S. military, determine and dictate American political, social and economic policies that directly benefit their own agendas and increase their generally world-wide tax-free bank accounts.

From gas and oil concerns to policies of illegal immigration, wealthy special interests have "bought the best government money can buy." Wealthy lobbyists have made and continue to make huge contributions to legislative campaigns; consequently, the lives of most Americans are falling apart fi-



Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

nancially and we are losing our rights and freedoms. The representative constitutional government/republic founded by our forefathers rapidly is diminishing. The majority of Americans, individuals and families, are paying with their life savings for the insatiable conquests and profits being made by special interests. We are paying via higher taxes, the outsourcing and loss of our jobs, rights and freedoms, and with our children's lives in special interest wars overseas in Iraq, Afghanistan and elsewhere. The middle class is becoming extinct and we are reverting back to more feudal times.

The America we once knew and loved has lost its way. It has been overtaken by the improper meshing and immense greed of the merger of wealthy corporations and military might. The tentacles of President George Walker Bush and his administration are reaching out into the daily lives of most Americans, destroying American lives and rewriting our great Constitution to benefit the needs of special interests and wealthy campaign contributors.

Noting the possibility of such a conglomeration of military and corporate might and interests, in his farewell address on January 17, 1961, former President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower tried to warn all Americans by stating,

"The total influence - economic, political, even spiritual - is felt in every city, every statehouse, every office of the federal government.....The potential

for the disastrous rise of misplaced power exists and will persist. We must never let the weight of this combination endanger our liberties or democratic processes. We should take nothing for granted. Only an alert and knowledgeable citizenry can compel the proper meshing of the huge industrial and military machinery of defense with our peaceful methods and goals, so that security and liberty may prosper together."

Eisenhower knew then that influential men of government and industry often are weak-spirited and may become significantly misguided by their lust for greed, and that "The prospect of domination of the nation's scholars by Federal employment, project allocations, and the power of money is ever present... and is gravely to be regarded." What Eisenhower called the *industrial* division during his time period has evolved into the *wealthy and powerful corporate sector*.

Obviously the majority of our current leaders (*of which most profess to be Republicans as was Eisenhower*) did NOT heed Eisenhower's concerns and advice. As a retired general, he knew that peace was a more urgent priority than war and that the good of the American community must overshadow the insatiable human lust for greed. However, the Corporate-Military Complex is in power and will stop at nothing to ensure greater profits.

Consequently, it is up to the American people to determine the direction of our once great nation. Many already believe it is too late to correct our nation's current and irresponsible path. Many lives overseas have been destroyed as well as those of thousands of American families, who have found it impossible to meet their daily living expenses. Those

daily living costs increase daily — taxes, food, clothing, gas and oil, electricity, health care, education, insurance, mortgages, etc.

In addition, many Americans have lost their jobs while many of those jobs have been outsourced overseas or remain here for cheaper and/or illegal labor.

Currently in order to fulfill their destiny, our leaders are changing the laws of our Constitution and unless the American people join forces and rise together as a giant tsunami of public outcry and internal political revolution against the selected myopic path by the Corporate-Military Complex, the United States of America no longer will exist.

So, it's up to each and every one of us to do whatever possible to correct our current plight. If noth-

ing else, we must communicate our outrage publicly to our legislators and news media. Those of us who are and remain complacent, passive or prefer to remain politically apathetic already are enslaved, for to do nothing is to lay down and die as *lesser* Americans.

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: <pstern@austin.rr.com>.

High Court Paves Way For More Frequent Redistricting Maps

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court paved the way for more frequent congressional redistricting in a 7-2 decision last Wednesday. The ruling ends assumptions of Texas Democrats who argued that such redistricting attempts be made once a decade by state lawmakers.

Though the U.S. Constitution states that congressional district lines should change every 10 years to meet population shifts, the nation's highest court allowed the line changes at the whim of any state political party that holds the most power.

It remains to be seen whether the majority parties in other states would act on the high court's decision. In any case, state legislatures around the country could hear the uproar of their minority parties as it was with the Texas Democrats in both state Houses who fled the state to block passage of redistricting legislation benefitting the GOP in 2003. That year,

Texas Gov. Rick Perry called three special sessions to vote on the maps.

Another high court ruling Wednesday upheld all but District 23 of the 2003 Texas congressional redistricting map forged by former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay to solidify Republican control of Congress. The redrawn 23rd Congressional District failed to protect the voting rights of some 100,000 Latinos in south and west Texas, according to the 5-4 ruling.

A federal panel will hear oral arguments to change this vast district on Aug. 3 in Austin. On July 14, the proposed maps are due in court. These lines might swing votes in favor for El Pasoan Rick BolaZos, 56, a Democrat challenger to Republican incumbent Henry Bonilla for representation of District 23. However, the high court's decision left no timetable for the lower courts or the state to redraw the district boundaries.

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The Serendipitous Sinclair Lewis

Man it's getting hot - hot - hot
I said man it's getting hot - hot - hot
It's getting hotter
And hotter
Man it's getting hot - hot
It's getting hot around here

It's a meltdown
It's a meltdown

—AC/DC, *Meltdown*

As I write this, it is a relaxing 81 degrees. A partly-cloudy, early Summer morning, the office is cool and the skies are mostly blue. It is hard to believe that our globe is under dire threat due mostly to my own activities. This isn't something that I have seen *within my own lifetime*, granted I am a mere 20-something. Nor is it something that even my father had seen or noticed; he once told me in my youth that Global Warming is not real, and that before I reach his age I would be worried about Global Cooling. And he wasn't even a member of the College Republicans ...

After seeing Al Gore's rather terrifying film *An Inconvenient Truth*, I finally began doing some research of my own. Rather than swallow a politician's *Truth*, which is often quite far removed from the every-day realities of MY world, I put my ear to the rail, and my eyes on the newswires. After all, Gore was one of the architects of the "pollution credits" scheme, which would have allowed the dirtiest of corporations to creating a "free market" for these credits. Any company that has the urge to purge just needs to pay out the almighty dollar and Volia! Sulfuric soil à la mode. So, Gore got a raised eyebrow from me. Certainly, I thought, he was laughing all the way to the bank on this one.

Global Warming is THIS hot! Oh, that SMARTS!

Then, last week, I was convinced Global Warming is real by a small man in a wheel-chair with an eye for Chinese women.

"I like Chinese culture, Chinese food and above all Chinese women," said famed American scientist Stephen Hawking to a group of students in Beijing. "They are beautiful." While I agree with this sentiment, it was his remarks on Global Warming that alarmed me. He claimed that Earth "might end up like Venus, at 250 degrees centigrade and raining sulfuric acid." Oh.

He went on to say that he wishes he could live out the next 100 years, just to see if humanity will survive. "It is important for the human race to spread



The Webster Retort

By Stephen Webster

out into space for the survival of the species," said Hawking. "Life on Earth is at the ever-increasing risk of being wiped out by a disaster, such as sudden global warming, nuclear war, a genetically engineered virus or other dangers we have not yet thought of."

Um. That's not good. But, with so much controversy over the issue and all, I dug a bit further. While talking about this issue with a group of intellectual 20-somethings, a book called *The Satanic Gasses*, by Robert C. Balling, Jr. and Patrick J. Michaels, was recommended. A quick trip to Borders Books and I had the hard-back in hand. Two hours and three cups of coffee later, I arrived at some inconclusive conclusions.

Balling and Michaels say that to fight Global Warming, which they claim to be a *hoax*, would devastate America's economy. To refocus efforts into developing alternative fuels that could replace gasoline and standard methods of electricity production would break us as a nation. I wasn't so sure of this. Then the EPA released a report on June 22 that claimed the development of alternative, carbon-neutral fuels like biodiesel and ethanol would not drive up prices but lower them. The agency also claims the eco-friendly industries would create jobs and boost the economy.

Balling and Michaels also claim "there seems to have been no warming in recent decades either." Try as I might to soak up this argument, I decided to place my faith in the National Academy of Sciences, which, on June 23, issued a report claiming that "recent warmth is unprecedented for at least the last 400 years and potentially the last several millennia." They add that recent warming up-trends are due largely to human activity. But if there are no warming up-trends, as *Satanic Gasses* claims, no worries, right?

A few days after I had taken the book home, I discovered that Balling was paid by Exxon-Mobil in 2002 to pen a study entitled "The 2000 United States Historical Climate Network Update: What Changed?" He has also been the recipient of hundreds of thousands of dollars from oil and coal industries from Kuwait,

the U.K. and Germany. So, I got my money back from Borders. Damn hucksters. Never mind the former Bush Administration official who censored NASA scientists about to go public with new concerns over Global Warming. Now he is a lobbyist for Exxon-Mobile.

*Nobody knows for sure
Whatever happened to good
time buddy
I don't see hem round no more*

*The heat is on, everybody has
gone underground*

*The heat is on, everybody hid-
ing out just like Jesse James*

My old home town

*Lord, it don't seem the same
—Allman Brothers Band,
The Heat is On*

Many climate scientists insist that the two land masses that weigh in the most on global climate and weather patterns are Greenland and Antarctica. The Greenland Ice Shelf is two miles thick, and so broad that it could cover the entirety of Mexico and have a Texas-sized serving of cold cubes on spare tap. Should the ice here disappear, claims Glaciologist Jay Zwally, worldwide sea level would rise by 21 feet, drastically alter ocean currents causing droughts and freezes in places unexpected, and fuel the ever-increasing strength of hurricanes and tornados.

On June 25, the L.A. TIMES reported the Greenland Ice Shelf is melting twice as fast as it was five years ago. Thinking this headline sounded a bit cryptic, I hunkered down for a long, complicated read. Turns out researchers have found the glacier ice to be something of a record of Earth's ever-changing climate. Here, they discovered particles of snow that fell over a quarter of a million years ago, perfectly preserved. They analyzed carbon samples by drilling deep within the ice, which led them to conclude there have been 20 abrupt changes in global climate over the last 110,000 years. Temperature averages varied nearly 15 degrees in a single decade, at one point. Obviously, *that* could not have been due to human activity.

Then, in March of this year, Zwally and his team found that the ice sheet had actually *grown* very slightly between 1992 and 2002. But the good news did not last for long. By 2005, the scientists had documented losses of 52 cubic miles of ice per year. The amount of fresh water being dumped into the ocean had tripled since 1995. They found

the average winter temperature in Greenland had risen 10 degrees since 1991, causing strange melting incidents as late in the year as December. Then the bottom fell out; almost literally.

Zwally's team documented the shelf's three largest glaciers' speed of withdrawal. According to their report, the Kangerlussaq and Jakobshavn Glaciers have doubled their pace since 2002. The Helheim Glacier pulls back *half a football field* every day. Twelve major glacial outlets drain the ice shelf of melted water that endangers the structure as a whole, in the same way rivers drain watersheds. If the glaciers continue to pull back this quickly, in a decade – two at most – the entire ice sheet will "suddenly collapse" into the ocean. Greenland will go back to being three large islands, and Waco, Texas will be beachfront property.

**Surf's up ... in Crawford!
Just give it a couple decades.**

Anyone with a vivid imagination can close their eyes and see the devastation this would cause. But it would be difficult, even for the most ardent Rolland Emmerich disciple, to picture the *full scope* of the damage. It would be the greatest natural disaster humanity has ever seen. And for a 20-something like me, it means either dying in one such disaster, or potentially living in a domed city by the time I am 40. The thought is, shall we say, somewhat troubling. Sounds a lot like what Stephen Hawking said in Beijing.

My baby gimme high temperature

My baby gimme high temperature

97... 98 is just a... false alarm

My temperature 105 when I hold her... in my arms

103... 4 and 5... It get too hot to stay alive

—Aerosmith, *Temperature*

On a personal level, I must come clean. I have no idea if this is real or not. I do not see it day to day. Sure, several of the top 10 "hottest years" on record have taken place within the last *five*, but what does this mean? Yes, the air quality in Dallas gets so bad on some days even I dare not venture out into the soup. And it is indeed true that America and her corporations are the top polluters in the world. But does this *really* affect world climate?

Weighed on my scales of logic,

Stephen Hawking and the National Academy of Science are a ton and a half heavier than a "researcher" on Exxon-Mobil's payroll. I believe it was Upton Sinclair who wrote, "It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon him not understanding."

So, what can be done about this? It is actually pretty simple on a personal level. Until alternative, carbon-neutral fuels are available to a mass market, try to carpool to work. A good resource is eRideShare.com. Get your car tested for emissions and consider buying a catalytic muffler to help control your carbon output. Think about switching electric providers to a green alternative. In Texas, such a provider is available: Green Mountain Energy. It is the same price as TXU, and they operate on green energy credits from wind farms and hydroelectric plants. Buy some energy-saver light bulbs: not only will it put some extra dollars in your account come bill time, but they last over five years so you don't have to buy new ones as frequently.

Also, keep your air-vent filters clean and changed, as your air conditioner has to work extra hard when there is a mass of dirt and grime blocking its passage. You'll breathe a little better, too. Keep your thermostat at least four degrees higher in the summer and four degrees lower in the winter. Insulate your home and make sure your windows are calked. Plant a tree in your yard. Buy fresh food instead of frozen goods, and shop it at your local farmer's market instead of Wal-Mart. Try to use clotheslines instead of dryers. And unplug that power strip when you're not using it.

These are very simple steps you can take as just one person to help reduce your impact on Global Warming. It is not too late to help turn the tide back to our favor, and it does not *necessarily* require the type of "political will" Mr. Al Gore calls for (though some would be helpful). All that is being asked of you is a slight pause for additional thought. This is not "environmental extremism," it is simple logic that can help us all look forward to a more stable future. Change is within our grasp, and living in fear of the Great Greenland Shelf Collapse does not have to be our predetermined next decade. You can do it, and we can all help. It is easy.

Continued On Next Page

Angry? Don't Beat Yourself Up Over It

Hello and welcome to another edition of our special in-depth medical feature *Health Yak*, which has been recognized by the U.S. Surgeon General as “extremely topical,” meaning that you should not attempt to ingest any portion of this column without first consulting your doctor.

Today we will be discussing a study that suggests as many as 16 million Americans — or roughly the number of people who never receive their appetizers during an average season of Hell's Kitchen — suffer from periodic outbursts of anger.

I know what you're thinking:

What makes this different from a typical outburst of anger, like when I open the air vent in my car and release a cloud of spores the size of shiitake mushrooms?

The answer, of course, is that there IS no difference, at least not until someone funds a clinical study, at which point it becomes an official “disorder” treatable by a new drug with minor side effects, such as having your liver grow to the size of Shaquille O'Neal's seat cushion.

According to Dr. Emil Coccaro of the University of Chicago's medical school, which, as you may recall, conducted the definitive study on the yawning habits of the Tibetan mountain yak (Conclusion: After 3,000 yawns, researchers become suicidal), what used to be known as “road rage” has now escalated into a nationwide problem called Intermittent Explosive Disorder. By definition, IED involves “outbursts that are out of proportion to the situation.”

For example: Let's say you're at a drive-thru trying to order a bacon cheeseburger and, for the seventh-straight time, the person taking your order insists there is no one named “Macon the Sheep Herder” working there, and to please place your order. And let's say, in frustration, you exit your vehicle and

rip the image of a cheeseburger directly from the menu board and begin gnawing on it, causing those in line behind you to drive off through the patio area.

Chances are, you could be an IED sufferer.

According to Dr. Coccaro, his conclusion was based on the results of a nationwide, face-to-face survey of 9,282 adults who were scored based on their response to highly formulated and complex diagnostic observations, such as “I'm guessing most dogs would probably introduce themselves by sniffing your face.”

Amazingly, all 9,282 participants in the study were identified as IED sufferers.

“Obviously, the disorder is more widespread than we thought,” stated Coccaro, who then added, “You got a problem with that?!”

To determine if you might be an IED sufferer, answer “Yes” or “No” to each of the following scenarios:

1) When my computer crashes, I try to remain calm by thinking about the solitude and freedom of skydiving, ascending through the clouds, and then letting my computer drop from 1,800 ft. into a lake.

2) On at least one occasion, I have attempted to affect change and contact someone in our nation's capitol by yelling at the top of my lungs.

3) I find it difficult to remain calm when, after paying \$40 for gas, I have to pay another 25 cents for AIR.

4) Because I have been told it is an important social issue facing our nation, I am frustrated by my inability to really care where the heck Katie Couric goes.

And lastly,

5) Recently, I have been performing yoga as a way to limber up before handing out a good butt-whoopin'.

OK, tally your score by giving



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

yourself one point for “No” and

two points for “Yes.”

Answer key: If you took the time to actually answer any of these questions you are an IED sufferer. According to the study, you should go ahead and join the millions of Americans already on some type of anti-depressant. And if you have a problem

with that, you KNOW where you can find me!

I'll be waiting right here in the lotus position.

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

Betsy Ross Would Be So Proud

You can always tell when the President's popularity is getting dangerously low or when an election is coming up. That's when those in power — and those who would like to be in power — shamelessly start pandering to the American public. That's when they try to imply that they're more patriotic than the other guys. So, they trot out issues like sex and violence on TV, illegal immigration, and English as America's official language. In addition to demonstrating what good Americans they are, these issues also distract attention from the fact that they're not dealing with other important things — like a war in which people are dying every day. Recently, they dusted off an old favorite — a proposal for a Constitutional Amendment that would ban desecrating the American Flag. It failed to pass the Senate by one vote, but I promise you, it'll be back.

It's a perfect issue for those who want to avoid controversy. How do you criticize someone who's against people burning or otherwise marring our flag? In the past, similar laws were found to be unconstitutional because the Court ruled they violated the First Amendment. So, some people thought this Amendment would conflict with Amendment Number One. Others just thought the flag Amendment was unnecessary. It's not like there has been a recent rash of flag desecrations going on that only an Amendment could prevent. (Unless you count some of the people who wear little flags in their lapels while they act in complete defiance of what the flag stands for).

An Amendment to the Constitution is much more dramatic than simply passing a law. That's what makes a possible Amendment so attractive to those who present themselves as professional patriots. If the “Don't Mess With The Flag Amendment”

had passed, it would have been one of only 28 Amendments passed in the history of this country. You might not think it ranks up there in importance with outlawing slavery and giving women the right to vote. But try arguing that point with those who apparently feel that since it wasn't passed, the uncounted legions of flag desecrators will continue to roam America, free to continue to commit this offense.

As long as public officials want to avoid dealing with difficult issues, and as long as they want to be perceived as more patriotic than their opponents, there will be the potential for the Flag Amendment to be brought up again. And again. It's quite possible that it won't be the only proposed Amendment of questionable necessity and very little risk in terms of supporting it. In the near future, I won't be shocked to hear about:

THE NATIONAL ANTHEM AMENDMENT — would guarantee that “The Star Spangled Banner” would be the official National Anthem. This will be a big blow to the lobbyists who have been pushing for “I've Been Working On The Railroad.” I know it's already the National Anthem, but those who vote for this Amendment will be demonstrating just how patriotic they are.

THE AMERICAN WAY TO CROSS THE STREET AMENDMENT — would clearly state that a red light means stop, and a green light means go. Whether it's okay to turn right on a red light will not be a Federal issue.

THE WHITE HOUSE AMENDMENT — would prohibit any future President from having the White House painted any color but white. It may be painted off-white with 2/3 approval from both Houses of Congress.

After a while, they'll have to look even harder for “good ol' American issues” that need to be guaranteed by Constitutional Amendments:

THE AMERICAN DIET AMENDMENT — will guarantee



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

that nobody has a right to tell us to be wiser about what we eat. If we Americans want to kill ourselves with fast food, that's one of our inalienable rights. The second clause of this Amendment states that AMERICAN CHEESE will be the official cheese of America. Foreign cheeses will continue to be viewed with suspicion.

THE AMERICAN SPORTS AMENDMENT will guarantee that “soccer” will always be called soccer in America, even though the rest of the world calls it “football.” Furthermore, even if it ever really catches on here, soccer is forever barred from becoming this country's “National Pastime.” The Constitution will recognize only those sports as “American” that don't involve the bouncing of a ball off one's head.

THE AMERICAN GOLF PANTS AMENDMENT — would bar the wearing of brightly colored golf pants from anywhere in America except on a golf course. (I'm no expert, but I believe this Amendment has the greatest chance of passing).

By the time you read this, some people in Washington will probably have thought of other “important” Constitutional Amendments that we can't even imagine. But whatever they are, I guarantee they won't be about expanding the powers of columnists.

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

• WEBSTER...From Previous Page

Suppose Exxon-Mobil turns out to be a greater fountain of knowledge than Stephen Hawking and The National Academy of Science. Suppose everything I just wrote is pure crap and Global Warming really does not exist. It is a hoax designed to hurt America, and Whew! Good thing we didn't fall for it. Even then, if we all expended just the slightest bit of effort, we wouldn't have to worry about soupy air and “red ozone alerts” anymore. Our kids would be healthier and our allergies would not flare up so often. We would save on medi-

cal and electric bills, and every front yard would have some nice shade. Really, how is that so bad?

Stephen Webster is an Investigative Reporter with North-Texas weekly *The News Connection*, a Staff Writer with George W. Bush's hometown paper *The Lone Star Iconoclast*, a Contributing Writer to *Peace Journalism Magazine* and *The Bleeding Quill*, a former contributor to *The Dallas Morning News' Science & Technology* section and the former Editor-in-Chief of *Binary Culture*.



To The Editor:

My heart is breaking, our America is gone.

"Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet deprecate agitation, are men who want rain without thunder and lightning. They want the ocean without the roar of its many waters."

— Frederick Douglass

Kathy Schroeder,

Fredericksburg, Texas

Dear Editor:

In a few days, a number of people will have to appear in a courtroom in Crawford. The charge? Criminal Trespass. Their crime? Being on a shoulder or in a roadside ditch near the President's ranch.

A year ago this wasn't illegal. The Texas legislature recently passed a law to apply specifically to the demonstrators near Crawford.

The problem? Unconstitutionality. Firstly, there is the equal protection clause in the Constitution of the United States, which reads something like, "What's good for the goose is good for the gander." In other words, this law isn't enforced anywhere else in Texas. I can walk on a shoulder, hitchhike, or sit in a ditch anywhere in Texas, and nobody will be sent out to get me. It is a selectively enforced law.

Secondly, the law was passed expressly to prevent freedom of speech, also guaranteed by the constitution. And thirdly, there is the right to assemble for a redress of grievances, also guaranteed by the constitution, and also intended to be repressed by that law.

One might think that this is just about "outside agitators," like in the old days, but it puts a clamp on the rights of Texans, too. If Texans take glee in "getting those guys" who were demonstrating to the President, just remember that what goes around, comes around. It's one of those dogs intended for nipping a scalawag, that will turn around and bite you in the kazoo.

Man, would this make great fodder for a skit on Saturday Night Live!

They'll get the hats right, but how about the accents?

Sincerely,
E. E. Douglas

Dear Editor,

Uner contract law, and reaching into contracts made in the social arena of our lives, it is held that any contract agreement

based upon deliberate fraud by one of the parties, is *void ab initio*.

When Bush, with his hand on the Bible, promised us, the other party, that he would uphold our laws and the Constitution, and knew when he gave his oath to us that he did not intend to uphold our laws or Constitution, and when the actual proof of his illegal manipulation of the vote counts in Ohio and Florida came to light and can now be evidenced in court, the contract to hand him the reins of our government ergo was null and void.

He should be thrown out of the White House and any office pertaining thereto, and his aides (cabal) outlawed at the same moment.

What is our court system doing about this because they all are aware of this adage of law. Please publish this and see if we can get people educated in this matter.

Truly,
Veronica E. Sissons JD,
a fellow iconoclast. lamuch
@cox.net

Leon,

I want you to know that as an American that I applaud the efforts of you and your paper to stand up for the truth and expose the falsehoods about the direction our government is taking our country.

I think too many Americans are in denial about their government and refuse to consider that a neo-fascist regime may have taken control right under their noses.

The whole War on Terror reeks more and more as a "wag the dog" tale of deception and hidden agendas. I still can't believe the 9/11 attackers just waltzed through our country's supposedly "fool-proof" security network and scored such a devastating blow. Were that many of our country's security personnel asleep at the wheel on 9/11? I'm not a conspiracy theorist, but there's sure a lot that doesn't add up or make any sense.

Presently it seems so many of our Bill of Rights safeguards are being subverted and perverted, it's chillingly scary. The USA Patriot Act reads like it was copied from the anti-terrorist statutes from Nazi Germany, and that's no exaggeration, their similarity is unbelievable. I live near Berkeley, CA., the City Council there is putting a draft resolution on the November ballot to impeach President Bush. Now I'm not so sure the

Bushwacker is guilty of "high crimes and misdemeanors" but the evidence is mounting that he probably violated the FISA Act, and that's a punishable offense under the law. What else has secretly gone on "behind closed doors" in the name of the War on Terror?

Freedom of the press is what your paper is all about and thank God for that. Keep up the good work, you are a tribute to good citizenship and a caretaker of our Constitution.

To those folks in town who've given your paper the "cold shoulder" and canceled their subscriptions, they do so at their own peril. If you close your mind to objective debate and a willingness to examine the facts you become easy prey for any despot disguised as a "wolf in sheep's clothing." I'm very proud of you.

Sincerely,
Dean Marshall

To The Editor:

Disarming Citizens in Louisiana

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, certain federal agencies confiscated the firearms of citizens of the State of Louisiana. This violated our Second Amendment, deprived these citizens of the right to keep and bear arms, and rendered them helpless against criminal activities. (See www.thenewamerican.com; Homeland Security Leviathan).

The Disaster Recovery Personal Protection Act of 2006 (H.R. 5013 in the U.S. House of Representatives and S. 2599 in the U.S. Senate) would prohibit such unlawful activities in the future. Federal agents could not seize any legal firearm nor disarm any person authorized to carry a firearm simply because they are operating in an emergency situation.

Furthermore, this legislation would prevent would-be tyrants from opening a loophole in the Second Amendment by branding any situation an "emergency." Concerned citizens who value their freedom should immediately contact their U.S. Representative and both U.S. Senators to urge them to pass this Protection Act.

Sincerely,
Alex Randis, Northridge, CA

To The Editor:

The State of Texas just keeps on passing out the bad news for the senior citizens and handicapped. An HMO may be in their future — surprise.

This is the third cut that Texas Seniors have had in a month - ouch!

Last week, the state said it would cut the amount of money it pays hospitals to treat Medicaid patients by eight percent.

The month before it announced the new Call Centers that would require the elderly

and handicapped to call a phone number in a telephone boiler room to get food stamps, a provider, and other help. The state had fired 2,300 experienced case workers that used to do these services in person. It was when news hit the fan that in a pilot program here in Texas that the company in charge of the call centers was providing terrible service, with old folks waiting 20-30 minutes on the phone then getting their call disconnected, and files getting lost. The state rehired some laid off case workers and put off the call centers for now anyway.

Now the state has a SURPRISE for the elderly of Bexar, Comal, and surrounding counties.

Elderly and handicapped people that get Medicaid could be placed from Medicaid into an HMO for their health care. The names of the HMO's look to be Community First, Molina, and Superior. Our senior adults look to lose their freedom of choice in doctor selection and end up using the doctors and facilities that the HMO decides that they should use. Though it is rumor, it has been said they may be forced into the HMO's by the state to save money.

Who will help the sicest, and people with language problems?

Now that 2,300 experienced state Case workers have been fired, and community resources are cut back, and disappearing, we wonder just who will be there to help Senior Adults that may have dementia, or unable to follow complex instructions. We question who might be there for the senior citizen who is unable to hold 20 minutes on the phone to get needed health care, or worse, what if no phone is in the home. We are at a loss to know just who will help those with a language problem make the contacts with the HMO to get the medical assistance they need. Now the poor elderly person calls the doctor they selected, in the future they deal with the doctor the HMO has provided them, whose first alliance may well be to the HMO instead of the patient and her/his health.

AND A LAST SURPRISE BY THE STATE - Timing is everything.

The program to put the Medicaid elderly into HMO's is set to take place in January 2007. This is so conveniently placed just after the election, so the issue does not come up during the election. That way voters will not have their minds clouded by what is happening to Grandpa and Grandma's health care by the state. Cause some politicians that pushed this plan along are running for re-election.

Somehow I just am not surprised.

Kensabbe

Dear Leon Smith:

I'm writing in regard to your editorial in the Iconoclast paper about "Hidden Agendas" by Greg Palast.

First of all, you have no idea how long I have waited to finally read that someone out there feels exactly like I do! "Vote Bush out or impeach him, by writing our congressman." However, I need to know exactly who is our Texas and New Mexico congressman?!?

Please answer my letter as soon as possible? A quick response, will get quick letters to our congressman of Texas and New Mexico!

Thank you for your time. It is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Vicki Newman

Dear Editor:

In response to the Unspoken Injustice of Child Abuse articles, a very obvious premise for appropriate legislation emerges.

It is clear that the most dangerous pedophiles and predators exist in and gravitate into government authority positions and other law enforcement occupations wherein they can have unquestioned access to their victims.

These occupational positions often come with built-in virtual immunity from accountability for such predatory activities and these victimizers are often discovered to have had a long history of victimization before they are finally held to account for it.

Since government occupations are where the worst and most dangerous offenders are known to exist, all government and related employees should be required to give their DNA, and consent to have all their communications monitored (email, Interned websites, mail, telephone, library books, and magazines, etc.) and all their activities tracked and traced 24 hours a day by RFID.

Given the obvious demonstrated danger which this class of individuals poses to society, it is not unreasonable to require the type of monitoring to root out these criminals and maintain public safety.

If all of America is suspect in the War on Terror and the War on Drugs and We The People are all subject to this scrutiny without our consent, then our Liberal Activist Courts and Congress should have no problem citing themselves for total surveillance as the highest risk group for criminal activity of the child abuse type.

It is time we acknowledge the fact that police and government

Continued On Next Page

From Previous Page

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

are filled with sick puppies and pass a solid law to deal with it that comes with stiff mandatory life sentences for their vile abuse of the Public Trust combined with the

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Cars

The latest Pixar CGI comedy / adventure involves a young upstart race car Lightning McQueen (voice of Owen Wilson) who discovers that life is about the journey you take and not the finish line. On route to the Piston Cup Championship in California, McQueen unexpectedly finds himself detoured in the sleepy Route 66 town of Radiator Springs. It's there he gets to know the town's offbeat characters who help him realize that there are more important things in life than trophies, fame, money and sponsorship.

Runtime: 2 hours 5 min. **G**

Thurs. July 8 7 p.m.	Friday July 9 7 p.m.	Sat. July 10 7 p.m.	Sun. July 11 7 p.m.
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abuse of their helpless victims.

Sincerely,
David Somerville,
Lexington, KY

Dear Editor:

A fine, courageous, accurate — much needed paper — your work is appreciated as the toady government in Canada has commenced to sacrifice young Canadians to

US terrorist attack on the Afghans.

Home Grown draft dodge terrorists, Cheney, Bush.

E. Wolf, Calgary, Alberta

Unspoken Injustice

Washington Post Columnist Breaks The Silence

By STEPHEN WEBSTER
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

On June 11, longtime WASHINGTON POST Writers Group columnist Neal Peirce keyed an article titled "Violent Sex Crimes: Free the Children." The subject of this article is none other than Christopher Largen, co-founder of Building BLOCK and a key interview subject in LSI's series. Since Peirce is syndicated through *The Post*, dozens of national newspapers have played host to this outspoken advocate's cause, and to great effect.

"Now a recovered and spirited man in his mid-30s," wrote Peirce, "Largen is crusading for toughened police, prosecutor and judicial action to arrest, sentence and hold child molesters. And not for vengeance, but because 'American children are being molested, raped, tortured, even murdered.'"

LSI contacted Peirce as soon as his contribution to Building BLOCK became public. Within mere hours he had responded, and thanked LSI for initiating media coverage of the group. "[This is] an amazing story," he wrote. "[Of] how very widespread the phenomenon of sexual abuse is in the United States, how many haphazard police departments and prosecutors are in apprehending and holding dangerous offenders." Included in LSI's correspondence with Peirce were several emails he received in response to his column.

One respondent, identifying himself as a member of Bikers Against Child Abuse, wrote, "Despite what our name says, we are not big burly bikers out to stamp out child abusers — although at times we might like to. We are essentially a support group for victims of child abuse who need our support and sometimes defense against the perpetrators who would intimidate them and bully them into recanting or changing their stories. The 'system' as it is set up does nothing to help these victims, especially in the early stages when the perps are still innocent until proven

guilty." He goes on to plug the group's website — www.BACAUSA.com.

Another letter Peirce received expresses concern about predators in the home — not just the prowler next door. "[O]ne crucial factor you failed to mention is that many — perhaps more than half — of the children who are molested are victims of someone in their own family of a close friend. ... I know at least three women who told me they were raped by their fathers when they were in their early teens. None ever pressed charges."

This writer drew a response from Largen, the man at the epicenter of this sudden media spotlight. "This is a very good point," he replied. "Out of my seven assailants, one was in my family, four were acquaintances of my family, and two were strangers. While it is true that stranger assaults are more likely to be of a fixated/predatorial nature (and more likely to result in a kidnapping and/or murder), family members and acquaintances of family members can also be fixated and predatory. For example, there have been men who have married women simply to gain access to their young children. Nauseating, but true."

Largen's solution: "We need to teach children to be their own first responders, which means they must be given access to information about their bodies and their rights. Contrast the proliferation of DARE programs, while our public school districts often lack an equivalent program to teach kids what sexual abuse is, how to reduce danger, and what to do if anyone hurts them. *Children absolutely need to know that someone will be an advocate for them if they speak out.* This concept is a bone of contention for some people, because they mistrust the idea of

state officials teaching their children about sex. They want sex to be a private issue for the family, but the reality is, many parents aren't arming their own kids with vital information. We also need better educated parents who know how to talk to their kids about sex, how to spot warning signs, and just as important, how to develop empathetic and open lines of communication with their children."

"We argue over issues and vilify people in the press," wrote another respondent. "What if we instead looked through the lens of development and started to access ethical, psychological, social and cogni-

tive development? When our elected officials think the world is black and white, clearly they are cognitively underdeveloped. When they think it is all about them and power, we are often looking at power addicts. When they lie, cheat and steal, what sort of ethical development have they accomplished? And where are our discernment skills when we elect them? ... I am committed to empowering children with the skills they need to look inside and protect, heal and develop themselves. It's the Pogo thing — the enemy is us; our lack of development individually and collectively."

From the deluge of responses Peirce received after picking up this chalice from Building BLOCK and LSI, he has drawn several conclusions. "[T]he American public wants (1) to see that this issue is addressed because of the immense lifelong peril to children, (2) recognition of how hard it is to prosecute many cases, and (3) both determined and fair prosecution of offenders.

We at *The Lone Star Iconoclast* could not agree more, and offer our thanks to Neal Peirce of THE WASHINGTON POST Writers Group for speaking out on this, a formerly Unspoken Injustice.



Columnist Neal Peirce