

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

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NECESSITIES FOR SCHOOL — A family picks up shoes, clothing and school supplies from Interfaith Ministries' Apple Tree project, which provides families with necessities for children to enter school. Interfaith Ministries is a United Way of Denton County partner agency.

— Photo Provided By United Way of Denton County

U.S. Army Nixes Halliburton Contract

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Army last week ended Halliburton's contract to administer support services to the military.

Soon after the announcement shares in Vice President Dick Cheney's former company dropped by a little over one percent.

New bidders will be sought for another multi-billion dollar contract, but Halliburton-unit, KBR, will be allowed to bid later this year, according to an official.

The Pentagon said that it believes splitting the contract between three companies will be more economical.

In the last five years, military auditors have accused Halliburton of cheated U.S. taxpayers of hundreds of millions of dollars in unsupported costs and overcharges.

Until now, the Pentagon has paid up regardless.

"If the administration's sudden change of heart is really about fiscal responsibility, it should demand that money back," wrote Pratap Chatterjee, director of CorpWatch, a group that investigates corporate malfeasance.

Chatterjee added that Halliburton its military supply business in Iraq had already been wanting to remove and focus more on its booming oil in-

terests, since the company's annual meeting in Oklahoma in May.

"Halliburton's real role was not making money in Iraq, it was over-seeing a vast army of minimum-wage Third World labor from countries such as India and the Philippines, who did the jobs that no American wanted to do, including digging latrines and cleaning them, doing soldiers' laundry in an active war zone," wrote Chatterjee in a special report on CorpWatch.org.

Halliburton has also left a trail of unfinished projects promised to Iraqis such as fixing their oil fields and their metering systems at southern Iraqi ports, Chatterjee noted.

"The United States could prove its resolve to help the people of Iraq by going beyond canceling obviously bad contracts and demanding the money back.

"With that money, we might provide the Iraqi people the real means to self-sufficiency and peace: working schools, hospitals and functioning oil fields which would provide the country much-needed revenue," he concluded.

PLAME CASE

Ex-CIA Agent, Husband Sue Cheney, Rove, Libby

WASHINGTON — Now that columnist Robert Novak has spoken out on his part in the leak of the CIA identity of the wife of a Bush administration critic, the former CIA agent and her

husband have decided to take action in federal court last Thursday.

The suit filed by Valerie Plame Wilson and her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, is against Vice President Dick Cheney, his former Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, the president's top advisor Karl Rove, and other unnamed senior White House officials for their role in revealing of Plame Wilson's classified CIA status publicly.

The defendants are accused of violating the Wilsons' constitutional and other legal rights because Mr. Wilson openly

criticized President George W. Bush's claims justifying war in Iraq in his 2003 State of the Union address.

Based on information obtained from senior administration officials,

columnist Robert Novak revealed Valerie Wilson's identity as a CIA agent in his column released on July 14, 2003. As a result of the actions of these officials, the Wilsons claim that their Constitutional rights have been violated, as well as their privacy, their safety and the safety of their children, and their job opportunities.

The Wilsons have not requested a dollar amount for damages, though the suit does seek compensation for damages, punitive damages, and attorney's fees.

British Bankers Extradited To U.S. To Face Fraud Charges

HOUSTON — After three years fighting extradition to the United States, three former bankers from Britain arrived in Houston last Thursday to face charges of fraud in connection with the fall of the Enron energy corporation.

Giles Darby, David Bermingham and Gary Mulgrew deny any wrongdoing, and could wait for at least two years before they stand trial. In the meantime, they are seeking bail in order to return to their families in England and prepare their cases.

The men known as the "NatWest Three" argue they should be tried in England, though they face no charges there. They have been extra-

dited under a January 2004 treaty created to bring terrorist suspects to courts on U.S. soil.

Critics in Britain argue that because the United States has not ratified the treaty, the agreement is unfair. The agreement also grants more power to the U.S. whereby American law enforcers are able to issue a warrant for arrest in the U.K. with only an outline of the alleged offense. British police, however, have to show "probable cause" in a U.S. court.

U.S. prosecutors might grant bail only so as the three former bankers live in Houston. The U.K. attorneys object on grounds that their clients must finance their bail, which is \$1 million each of them, by using

their houses as collateral. The men will also not be allowed to work in the U.S. to pay for their legal team.

The former bankers for

NatWest bank are accused of conspiring with Enron executives for selling shares of an Enron property in 2000 for less than it was worth. The sale

made them \$7.3 million.

As of deadline, U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair promised he would fight the extradition, but no signs of such a fight were seen.

Texas Law School Works To Foil FOIA

SAN ANTONIO — The USA Today reported last week that St. Mary's University School of Law in San Antonio will research state laws in order to create a national statute for federal and state lawmakers to pass to keep information from not only potential terrorists but also the public at large.

"There's the public's right to know, but how much?" said Jeffrey Addicott, a former legal ad-

viser in the Army's Special Forces who is now a professor at the law school. "There's a strong feeling that the law needs to balance that with the need to protect the well-being of the nation. ... There's too much stuff that's easy to get that shouldn't be."

The research, which is funded by a \$1 million congressional allocation to this year's Defense Department budget, is controlled by the Air Force Re-

search Laboratory in Rome, N.Y. It takes aim at the 40-year-old federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a law that gives reporters and citizens in all 50 states access to government meetings and record through written requests.

However, attempts have been made by Congress, the District of Columbia, and 41 states to curtail FOIA over the last four years.



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Mission Control

Texas Nonprofiteers Join Forces

Interview with Jason Sabo, Vice President for Public Policy, United Ways of Texas

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AUSTIN — As the Baby Boomers enter nursing homes, who's going to care for them in Texas?

As the younger generations in Texas, a majority of whom are Latino, enter public schools, who's going to make sure they have the jump-starts to succeed later in life?

As more service men and women return from war over-

frowns upon investing tax dollars in state-sponsored programs, he told the LONE STAR ICONOCLAST.

But the first challenge is to get these not-for-profit entities on the same page so they learn to work together with what limited funding sources are already available. That initial step was made on Wednesday, June 28, during the Texas Nonprofit Congress in Austin. Under the motto, "Many Missions, One

Voice," representatives of 60 Texas nonprofits and another 40 more watching online via webcams gathered their opinions for where the sector is headed. The results of their survey will be forthcoming in the next month.

THE ICONOCLAST'S Nathan Diebenow recently spoke with Sabo, the current manager of Texas' largest electronic network of human services advocates with the United Ways of Texas, to discuss his organization's work, the role of nonprofits as he sees them, his three "ics," and the strengths and weaknesses of nonprofits

themselves.

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ICONOCLAST: First off, tell me what the United Ways of Texas does exactly.

JASON SABO: We focus our work on three or four things. First, protecting the right and ability for non-profits to speak out on their behalf. We work a lot on improving access to prekindergarten. For example, in the just-completed special session, we were able to pass a provision in House Bill 1 that expanded eligibility for free state-funded pre-kindergarten to include children of active duty military, activated reservists, and any three- or four-year-old child whose parent had been killed or wounded in a war. That's multiple-thousands of kids roughly, costing the state \$6 million a year and increasing thereafter as more troops are realigned in Texas.

That work is funded by an organization called PreK Now which is an arm of the Pew Charitable Trust. We also do a lot of work on improving the number of Texas children who graduate from high school and go on to college. That work is funded by the Bill and Linda



Jason Sabo, Vice President for Public Policy, United Ways of Texas.

Gates Foundation.

We also do a lot of work on disaster preparedness and particularly disaster response because I'm sure as you know a lot of the Katrina survivors in Texas are increasingly have a difficult time getting by as FEMA is ending housing allocations and job training and all kinds of child care needs, etc., etc.

Those are broadly the four issues that we focus on in Texas from a policy perspective, but one of them obviously is the nonprofit central viability which is near and dear to our hearts.

ICONOCLAST: What precipitated the forming of this Texas Nonprofit Congress?

SABO: Well, I'm sure as you saw on the website, in October there's going to be a national Nonprofit Congress and the idea being to convene all nonprofits of all different kinds to come together with a common united voice. One of the things that is a hallmark of the nonprofit community is that we

don't necessarily always work together when we should.

For example, what do the art museums have in common with food pantries? I would argue that they would have a lot in common and that everyday they have more in common because as funding gets tighter and tighter, it's going to be harder and harder for both organizations to stay afloat and until we figure out that, as Anne Frank said, we either hang together or hang separately, or we're in deep trouble. So what we're trying to do with the Congress is to really kick-start that conversation between arts and culture nonprofits and health and human services nonprofits. It is a huge industrial sector but it is the only industrial sector that doesn't act like one in terms of lobbying and whatnot.

For example, before that congress, we convened a lobbying training. I have a fellowship with The Center for Lobbying in the Public Interest

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It's not Generation X or Generation Y. You're Generation Broke.'
— Jason Sabo

seas in need of support, who are they going to call?

Nonprofits! Nonprofits! Nonprofits! says Jason Sabo, Vice President for Public Policy, United Ways of Texas, a statewide association with roughly 75 member organizations.

Nonprofits will be the go-to organizations to meet the needs of millions of Texans in the future, especially in a political climate like today's that

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(<www.clpi.org>). I do trainings around the country on how to be a good nonprofit lobbyist and the basic laws about what nonprofits are allowed to do in terms of lobbying. So one of our goals in all of this is to make sure that nonprofits are aware of their basic tax laws about what they can do and say, and most nonprofits are surprised to be blunt about how much they can do and say.

But the ultimate goal of our event at the capitol last week was to create an opportunity to tell the Texas nonprofit story to this National Nonprofit Congress because I believe in my conversations with thousands of people who work in nonprofits across Texas, my conversations with people outside of the state who are working in nonprofits, that it's interesting what is happening in Texas right now to nonprofits because in many ways I think it is a bell-weather for where the nonprofit community is headed nationally, so people would be wise to pay attention to what is happening here regardless of whether or not they live in Texas.

ICONOCLAST: Going back to the lobby question, why haven't nonprofits been lobbying the state legislature? Have they not been aware of their rights?

SABO: I think it's a question of basic awareness. I have a bumper sticker I bought at the conference. I spent my two bucks and I have it on the wall in my office. It kind of sums it up. The bumper sticker says, "Don't tell the truth. You might lose your funding." (Laughs) And I think that that's to some degree where nonprofits are. We don't really understand the law. We've been convinced that for whatever reason, nonprofits are not allowed to lobby. So instead of a tipping-the-applecart, figuring out what our rights are, we're just going to go along as we've always gone along because it's easier and because we know with absolute certainty that we're not going to get in trouble.

But when you think of lobbying, you think of expensive suits, martinis and smoky backrooms. I've been a lobbyist for about five years now and, you know, suffice it to say, I've never had a martini, been in a smoky room, or worn an expensive suit. (Laughs) I think that's a lot of it, so a lot of my job is to simply de-mystify the process because democracy at its essence is a



LAURA WILLIAMS, Executive Director of Fred Moore Day Nursery School, a United Way of Denton County partner agency, calms a crying baby.

— Photo By Julie Bryant, United Way of Denton County

full-contact sport, not a spectator sport, and nonprofits have opted to be spectators and, as a result, have seen the gradual and ongoing erosion of their funding, of public policies that support the families for whom they work, etc.

ICONOCLAST: So there wasn't one particular move that sparked this coalition building. It was just about time it happened. It was a gradual thing.

SABO: Right, it was a gradual thing about what we're seeing in Texas, and not just here. What we're seeing nationally, too, is that as there is less public will and less public funding for services that were traditionally provided by government. Somebody has to pick up the

that, and if it's not going to be government, then it's going to be the nonprofit sector and it's going to be faith-based organizations. Those are the two groups that, in essence, are left who could possibly be asked to provide those kinds of services.

ICONOCLAST: In the future, where are nonprofits going to be needed the most?

SABO: I think in the health and human services realm is where we're going to see ongoing interest, ongoing involvement, etc. I tell people that I have my own opinion on what's happening congressionally as everybody does, but it doesn't matter if you're for the war or against the war. War costs money. It doesn't matter if

stand because the health and human services here are incredibly reliant upon federal funds.

So if the federal funds evaporate, which they are, just because there's only so much money, then there's a corresponding impact on the ability of the state and local government to provide basic social services. As the ability of state and local government to provide those services becomes less and less, the issue then becomes, who picks up the slack? It's the nonprofit sector and the churches.

ICONOCLAST: So the big concern is the Baby Boomers retiring?

SABO: Well, I call this my

'So if the federal funds evaporate, which they are, just because there's only so much money, then there's a corresponding impact on the ability of the state and local government to provide basic social services. As the ability of state and local government to provide those services becomes less and less, the issue then becomes, who picks up the slack? It's the nonprofit sector and the churches.'

— Jason Sabo

slack. As you downsize government, poor people don't go away. Kids don't stop being hungry. Seniors still need somebody to wipe the apple sauce from their chins. Somebody's got to pick up the slack. Somebody's got to do

you're for tax cuts or against tax cuts. Tax cuts cost money, and the simple reality is that there's less money available from the federal government, and if you live in a place like Texas, that's particularly important to under-

three "ics." You've got demographics, politics and economics. The politics stuff I kind of just walked through, the preference for small government and less public spending at least on these kinds of things, and then

you have the demographic reality which is you have a population of Baby Boomers who are the highest earners and thus the highest contributors to the tax base. If they exit the workforce and take those tax-based contributions with them, at the very same moment they become the largest consumers of publicly funded services, particularly really expensive healthcare.

So that's one end of the demographic reality. On the other end down the age spectrum is the fact of this exploding population of primarily Latino kids, many of whom are living in extreme poverty, not just poverty, and the choices we're making now about whether or not we're investing in their education, in their healthcare, in their basic safety, will determine whether that coming generation is going to have the skills needed to replace the tax base contributions of the Baby Boomers. We're 20 years down the road right now in insuring that those children have adequate health insurance, have adequate food and nutrition, have adequate early childhood education, so that it's likely that they go on to graduate high school and go on to productive and engaged citizens.

That's the demographic reality in this, and then the economic reality is that many states including Texas are losing manufacturing jobs and we have this growing service industry sector. Many of those jobs don't provide the kind of family supporting wages and benefits that people need not to become reliant on social services be they funded by the non-profit community or funded by the public sector. There's this great book called *Strapped* by Tamara Draut which is looking at the reality of 20- and 30-year-olds. It's not Generation X or Generation Y. You're Generation Broke.

People your age have consumer debt, credit card debt, massive student loan debt, and we're essentially creating a generation that, you know, legitimately believe that it probably from a financial perspective isn't going to do as well as its parent's generation did. What does that mean for this notion of an American Dream? What does that mean for our ability to provide for our own communities? I think it's troubling just from a general sense but I think it also highlights the fact that nonprofit organizations that are increasingly being asked to provide for these basic services are going to

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be even more strained.

There's a huge opportunity to be had with this exploding population of Boomers. There's a huge opportunity for this exploding population of bilingual kids. But the reality is that the choices we're making now, many of which are pretty short-sighted, and I'm not pointing partisan fingers here at all — we've got to be mindful of the impacts.

ICONOCLAST: As operational institutions, what are the strengths and weaknesses of nonprofits? What are the legal limits that nonprofits operate under?

SABO: Nonprofit organizations are allowed to lobby. They're allowed to talk about issues. They're allowed to effect legislation. They just need to be mindful of the fact that there's certain percentage as a part of the budget and funding that they are allowed to use for those activities. Additionally many public dollars, state and federal funds and some foundation funding, doesn't allow for that direct lobbying, so for example, if an organization has a fundraiser, say a fish fry every Friday night, those are dollars that aren't restricted and could be used for lobbying, even if the organization receives funding from the state or federal governments. You have to be careful about which dollars you are using to do which activity.

This is not something that is unusual for nonprofits because nonprofits do pretty complex accounting all the time. I would argue that nonprofits are more



PLANTING KINDNESS — Services Program for Aging Needs, a United Way of Denton County partner agency, delivers plants to the elderly.
— Photo Provided By United Way of Denton County

savvy about how to manage multiple funding sources and multiple income streams than a lot of small businesses are because nonprofits are constantly looking for ways to feeding two birds with one seed. Nonprofits are really good at feeding two birds with one seed because if they're not, they wouldn't be in business anymore. They don't have that many seeds to go around.

ICONOCLAST: What about weaknesses?

SABO: In many ways, a real weakness of many publically

funded nonprofits is that when a nonprofit organization that helps the homeless comes to the capitol and asks for advocacy on behalf of homeless programs, the immediate reaction of legislators is that "Yeah, they care about the homeless, but they are also looking out for their own paycheck."

From a perception standpoint, that's a limitation which is why its so important for nonprofit organizations engage their boards of directors because there are limits on what nonprofits can do in terms of lobbying but those board members who sit on these organizations are all volunteers. What they do on their own time as a volunteer is completely their own business.

So if they're not paid staff and they're advocating for whatever issue and whatever legislation, it doesn't count against the lobbying restrictions placed on nonprofit organizations. There are limitations, but there are ways to not get around them so much as to be mindful of them and look for new opportunities to solicit and engage new voices for your issue.

One of the things we've been talking about is that the organizations that do lobby, that do a lot of the policy work, are very focused on their own issues. If you are concerned about the disabled, you work on disability issues. What we haven't been

very good at that is another one of our limitations is thinking outside the confines of our own issues. How do we stop thinking about self-protection and start thinking about sector protection? It's not just about protecting my nonprofits. It's about creating a viable climate for all nonprofits.

That's hard because in essence — I call this the "soup bone principle." You get a large group of people sitting in a room together, and a hole in the ceiling opens and a soup bone falls into the room. Everybody in that room — you're disability nonprofits, you're senior nonprofits, you're art organizations, you're symphony —

they're all sitting there going, "You know what? I really appreciate the fact that on the 4th of July, the symphony plays down at the park while the fireworks are going off, but you know what? I also know that my homeless organization is going to go out of business if I don't get that soup bone, so I'm going to fight for the scraps I can get."

We've got to stop fighting for the scraps we can get and look at how we can get the metaphor to its logical conclusion and use the soup bone to make a pot of soup. Nobody is going to be completely satisfied about what we'll be able to make out of that soup bone, but hopefully, either figuratively or in reality, nobody is going to starve to death either. We've got to figure out how we can make better advantage out of our relationships and tightening up the sector itself.

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STORY TIME — Children enjoy story time at Fred Moore Day Nursery School, a United Way of Denton County partner agency.
— Photo By Julie Bryant, United Way of Denton County

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Israel, Lebanon Conflict Escalates Over 2 Kidnapped Soldiers

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Conflict between Israel and Lebanon escalated late last Friday as an unmanned aircraft armed with

explosives rammed into an Israeli warship off Beirut's Mediterranean coast.

Since Wednesday, Israeli war-

planes bombed Lebanon's airport and main roads, bridges, gas stations, hospitals, army bases, a television station, as

well as the headquarters of Hezbollah leader, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, in response to the kidnaping of two Iraqi soldiers by the Islamic guerrilla force.

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said his forces would pound Hezbollah out of southern Lebanon. Hezbollah, which is backed by Syria and Iran, shot dozens of rockets on positions in northern Israel. The nation of Lebanon, which is anti-Syrian, is backed by the West.

Prior to the G-8 summit in

Russia, President George W. Bush stated that he backed Israel's right to defend itself but told the Lebanese Prime Minister over the phone that Israel should reduce its fire on civilians.

Israel said that its two captured soldiers could be taken to Iran, but Iran called the claim absurd.

The death found 73 Lebanese and about 12 Israelis by Friday's end. The two Middle Eastern neighbors have not been in such open conflict in 24 years.

FDA Licenses 3-in-1 HIV Pill

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved a license for Atripla, a once-a-day treatment that battles HIV with three drugs in a single dose.

The pill contains a common drug combination for HIV patients, efavirenz and tenofovir. The other drug is emtricitabine.

In collaboration with Merck, which owns the rights to efavirenz, Bristol-Myers-Squibb and Gilead Sciences created the new doses.

HIV Experts and patients hailed the merger after increased demand. Still, Atripla holds an expensive price tag — more than \$1,000 a month.

Strayhorn Applauds Dunnam's Request For SAO To Investigate State Lobbying Contracts

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn today applauded Rep. Jim Dunnam's request for State Auditor John Keel to investigate four lobbying contracts, valued at more than \$1 million and paid for with taxpayer money.

"I applaud Rep. Dunnam's call for an investigation into the obvious misuse and abuse of more than \$1 million of taxpayer money," Strayhorn said. "For six years this governor has been rewarding his friends and

supporters with taxpayer dollars in backroom deals.

"As the state's chief fiscal officer I am committed to making sure taxpayer dollars are spent wisely and in absolute accordance with the law. By any measure, using tax dollars to pay a private firm to lobby the federal government or members of Congress is a wholly inappropriate and unwise use of public money."

In January, 2006, Comptroller Strayhorn initiated an expenditure audit of the lobbying con-

tracts between the Office of State-Federal Relations and two Washington, D.C. lobbying firms, Cassidy & Associates and the Federalist Group, after questions were raised concerning the firms' lobbying practices. In March 2006, Strayhorn suspended payments to Cassidy & Associates and the Federalist Group, that employ Drew Maloney, former chief of staff for Tom Delay and subject of Rep. Dunnam's call for a State Auditor's investigation.

Sales Tax Rebates In Crawford 2.85% Down From Last Year

AUSTIN — Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn reports that the state received \$1.49 billion in sales tax revenue in June, up 15.6 percent compared to June 2005.

Strayhorn delivered \$412.4 million in July sales tax allocations to cities, counties and other local taxing entities, up 19.7 percent compared to last July. So far this calendar year, sales tax allocations to local governments are running 15.9 percent higher than last year.

Although there are gains in sales tax monies statewide, the City of Crawford is behind last year's tally to-date by 2.85 percent, having received \$28,643.49 so far this year, as compared to \$29,484.73 last year. For the month, however, Crawford's take is up 2 percent, the city receiving \$3,972.67, compared to \$3,012.38 last year.

Comptroller Strayhorn sent July sales tax allocations of \$277.6 million to Texas cities, up 19.3 percent compared to July 2005. Calendar year-to-date, city sales tax allocations are up 15.1 percent compared to the same period last year. Texas counties received sales tax payments of \$25.5 million, up 23.3 percent compared to last July. Calendar year-to-date, county sales tax allocations are 17.2 percent higher than last year.

The 110 special purpose taxing districts around the state received July sales tax allocations totaling \$12.3 mil-

lion, up 24.8 percent compared to last July. Ten local transit systems received \$96.9 million in sales tax allocations, up 19.4 percent compared to a year ago.

June state sales tax collections and July sales tax allocations to local governments mostly represent sales that occurred in May.

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Low Yielding 40 to 45 \$1-2 Up
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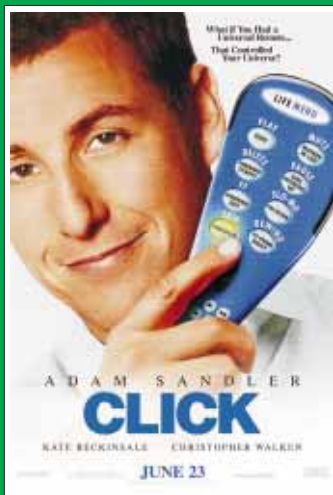
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To The Editor:

The U.S. federal government is building the world's largest dirty bomb at Yucca Mountain where over 77,000 tons of plutonium, uranium, and other radioactive materials are to be stored in 392 degree F casks in tunnels that will be hot enough to evaporate minor leaks. The layer of porous rock above the tunnels is advertised as beneficial, but it can hold large quantities of water after heavy rains. Two earthquake faults intersect both the porous layer and the planned tunnels. If an earthquake were to occur, Yucca Mountain could experience a steam explosion similar to Mt. St. Helens, but with deadly fallout as dust and rain.

Southern Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Arizona, southern California and New Mexico would become death zones. Florida would be too close for safety. If it happened during a Santa Ana wind, all of Southern California would become a death zone.

Think the Department of Energy (DOE) doesn't know?

Letters from one government agency to another discuss bribes allegedly being paid to Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) inspectors by the DOE to approve the various stages of Yucca Mountain "... without asking any more technical questions."

The alleged bribes were as high as \$22 million. You may have heard of the data falsification by United States Geological Surveys (USGS) personnel last year, but you may have not yet heard about this activity.

Respectfully submitted by
Bill Holmes, Portland,
Oregon

To The Editor:

Mr. Smith, I think that if you'll read the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997, you'll be able to understand why DHS agencies are damaging so many children and destroying their families. IT'S ALL ABOUT BONUS MONEY!

The ASFA gives DHS agencies and courts Bonus Money when they can find a way to meet their adoption quota (mean adoption rate). Oklahoma's 'mean adoption rate' is about 350 children. Oklahoma is one of 30 states that has received Bonus Money EVERY YEAR since 1997. In 2005, DHS agencies were given more than \$17 trillion dollars for adoptions finalized in 2004. Oklahoma received \$12,000 for finalizing the

adoption of my ONLY grandchildren to a NON-biological family. They were nine and 11 years old when they were adopted. The adoptive family changed ALL of their names. I'm really concerned about them having to learn completely new names at that age. I know my grandchildren have failed at least one grade in school since OKDHS took them into custody and I know that they're being home schooled now.

Oklahoma's priority placement laws state that OKDHS tries to place children (1) with the parent(s), (2) with the grandparent(s), (3) with other members of the biological family and (4) with the foster family. OKDHS never made even one attempt to place my granddaughter with any member of the family! She was placed with the non-biological family!

You can find most of this case posted on <www.ripoffreports.com> under CPS. You'll find response postings interesting. The mother, whose children were taken into custody with fragile bones, posted her story on the site. She said DHS wouldn't believe the diagnosis of her private physician! Evidently, DHS didn't pay him to diagnose them as THEY wanted them diagnosed.

Yes, indeed, the Adoptions and Safe Families Act of 1997 is promoting the destruction of families and as they permanently damaging our little children. The ASFA should be rescinded.

President Bush extended the ASFA from 2002 through 2008 and then announced that our Social Security Fund would be broke by 2008. He also lowered the requirements so that more DHS agencies could qualify for the Bonus Money. Instead of doubling their adoptions, DHS just has to meet their 'mean adoption' quota to get the Bonus Money. The ASFA states that the Bonus Money comes, UNLIMITED, from our Social Security Fund (FICA Taxes). Employees and their employers are paying FICA taxes to help GIVE DHS agencies Bonus Money for destroying our families and permanently emotionally disabling our children. Medicare pays for the EXPERIMENTAL mind-altering drugs and/or counseling. That's our tax money! That's our FICA taxes!

Mr. Smith, I hope you can put something in your newspaper

encouraging congress to rescind the ASFA. President Bush's 'No Child Left Behind' program actually means, "There will be no child left with their biological family!"

By the way, you may want to read about the 11 children that were adopted into one adoptive home. They were found cared for in CAGES while the parents were on an extended vacation. They were taken back into DHS custody and will be adopted again so the DHS agency can get another batch of Bonus Money from the ASFA. If they're twelve or older, they'll get \$16,000 Bonus Money for each of them.

Adoptive Parents get Adoption Subsidies of \$500-2,500+ EACH MONTH for EACH CHILD they adopt. EVERY adoptive parent will continue receiving the Adoption Subsidies (or Adoption Assistance) until the child is 18 years old or 22 years old if they're still in school.

There are even cases where the children are adopted TO THEIR OWN BIOLOGICAL PARENTS! The more times a child can be adopted, the more Bonus Money the DHS agency will get. OKDHS will NOT place children with parents or relatives who live in another state. They have the interstate agreement but they don't want the children moved out of state because the money would go to another state instead of Oklahoma. Their excuse is, "The children will SOON be returned to the parents so they need to stay here." Oklahoma has the Swift Adoptions Unit which is supported by the Bonus Money from the ASFA. If the ASFA is rescinded, the Swift Adoptions Unit will have little or no funds to continue operations. The Swift Adoptions caseworkers will lose their job or be placed somewhere else in OKDHS.

Our Oklahoma Legislature just voted to hire an additional 100 caseworkers. There will be NO end until DHS agencies are given Bonus Money to HELP children and families instead of adopting them. Caseworkers are humiliated by managers, supervisors and agency directors when they make an attempt to help the family.

One caseworker from Texas reported that her co-workers humiliated her terribly when she told them she had found a member of the family to place the children. IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY! DHS agencies are NOT about helping children or helping families. They're about destroying families, fabricating stories and providing EXPERIMENTAL mind-altering medicine and/or counseling. Almost all of the children taken into DHS custody are considered

emotionally disabled and placed on SSI and Medicare. Foster parents are paid \$750-2,500+ to take ONE child into their home. IT'S A GET RICH PROGRAM sponsored by our state and federal government!

The brochures describing Adoption Subsidies is available on the internet or in the DHS office. IT'S ALL ABOUT MONEY!

Respectfully,
L.I.H. Music

To The Editor:

Abortion Justified

Seems to me that there is ample moral justification for abortion. How about aborting the President's ill-conceived plan to destroy the time-proven efficacy of Social Security and Medicare?

Wouldn't it be prudent to abort unnecessary, wasteful spending and lack of accountability in the out-of-control Defense Department budget? Why isn't Congress aborting no-bid contracts with the Defense Department?

How about aborting the incompetent 'leadership' in the Bush Administration? At the very least, had we had competent leadership, we could have aborted the unaccounted-for loss of over eight billion dollars IN CASH that was earmarked for the reconstruction of Iraq. Neither the General Accounting Office nor this Administration have a clue as to where that money went. Couldn't they have at least gotten a receipt for the transaction?

Surely it would be prudent to abort the President's hare-brained scheme to permanently reduce taxes for the richest among us and instead to raise taxes accordingly to pay for his war.

Better yet, why don't we promptly abort the President's reign of error and impeach him?

Paul G. Jaehnert, Vadnais
Hts., MN

To The Editor:

'Stop US-Oman Agreement'

The John Birch Society at <www.jbs.org> has issued a Legislative Alert warning citizens to demand that congress stop the U.S.-Oman so-called Free Trade Agreement (regional government) Treaty, between us and the country of Oman in the Mid-East, that recently passed the Senate and is now in congress.

This is another phony "Free Trade Agreement" that analysts are saying will not only threaten our jobs, national security, independence, access to health supplements, and border security, but can facilitate the re-entry of a Dubai Ports World-type operation putting our port security under Arab control, and giving Communist China major

tariff advantages among other charades.

We should see: <www.thenewamerican.com> for more information and contact our congressmen to stop it immediately as it is coming to a vote this month.

Wake up America, we shouldn't fall for this subterfuge.

Ed Nemechek, Landers,
Calif.

Cable Giants' Merger May Hurt Net Neutrality

WASHINGTON — The split of media properties once owned by Adelphia to the nation's largest cable companies — Comcast and Time Warner — has a real potential to harm democracy in the United States, said watchdog groups last week.

"The result of this merger will be fewer choices and higher prices for consumers," said Ben Scott, policy director of Free Press, in a prepared statement. "These two giant regional gatekeepers will wield immense, unchecked power over what we watch on TV and where we can go online."

Scott added that because there were no measures to protect "network neutrality," the two new owners could discriminate against Internet content providers that hold views in which the companies disagree. Recent telephone merger agreements, on the other hand, had limited net neutrality conditions.

Last Wednesday, the Federal Communications Commission approved the \$17.6 billion merger that would strengthen the two media giants' regional domination of cable markets. Time Warner now has the markets in Los Angeles, Dallas and Cleveland, while Comcast has services in Miami, Northern Virginia, Boston, Minneapolis, and Pittsburgh.

In related news, Cebridge Connections recently acquired 90 percent of Cox Communication's cable properties in Texas. Taking effect on Aug. 1, the deal places Cebridge as the eighth biggest cable operator in the United States.

Under the new name Sudden Link, the company's reach will be from San Angelo to Amarillo to Midland-Odessa and south to Victorian and Bryan and up the I-35 corridor.

Truth Is Stranger Than Friction

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "When you ain't got nothin' to say, go ahead and say it."

There is so much foolishness in this world I sometimes just don't know where to start.

So, let's remember a nursery rhyme from my childhood:

"When in danger or in doubt, Run in circles; scream and shout."

And let's get started.

The Trans Texas Catastrophe

Does anybody see Neighbor Bush's fingerprints all over this one?

Especially this recent move to bring the Führerbahn close enough to throw a black SUV to Rancho Arbusto. (That's Guest Worker for "Bush Ranch.")

Property values, anyone?

Now, the only people who want this toxic tollway traversing their townships own gas stations, motels or outlet malls, excluding, of course, Bush babies who run the big pink pimple in Austin and the Spanish-owned company that will export your tax money to Europe for the next 50 years.

Can you say "payoff?"

Bri-ber-y.

I thought you could!

Of course we can't prove that because the Conquistadors and the Texas Department of Transportation of Taxes are fighting the deal disclosure like a boar coon in a hollow log.

I like to toss in a coon hunt-

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



ing metaphor now and again just so I don't forget my roots.

And who'll be able to afford the fuel to drive on this thing?

Not you, Prius breath.

How about multi-trailer road trains loaded with hazardous materials and cheesy imported crap for Wal-Mart?

The regrettable factor in all this is that everybody along the proposed route is perfectly willing to foist this concrete cancer off on somebody else, so long as they're somewhere else.

Hey, Pete, hear that rooster?

If it's bad for you, it's bad for them.

So what's going to happen is this: the Fascisti are going to build this thing, the citizenry be damned.

The Sheep of State will be happy that somebody else is getting bulldozed, and we will just let our fellow Texans get paved over.

Those profiting from your money constantly parrot the "no other suggestion" phrase, as though we are somehow ordained by God to build a gateway for importing the overpopulated and exploited economics that has decimated the once-rich Latin American culture.

What's In A Name

NOBODY knows Carol Keaton Rylander Strayhorn as "Grandma" except her publicists and her grandchildren.

So she ought to appear on the ballot as who she is.

Sort of like Tom DeLay.

He should be running as "Hot Tub Tommy."

However, I wouldn't object to the Texas gubernatorial incumbent topping the ballot as "Lying Texas Governor Tricky Ricky Perry."

Eva Braun Coulter

Considering that the only people who listen to Ann Coulter have never read any books that weren't required by their fifth grade teachers, who'da figured she'd get accused of plagiarism?

Which most of her fans probably think is some kind of European disease.

We call this exercise dharma.

Frequently confused with karma, which dictates that Frau Koulter will one day be a pregnant former North Carolina textile worker who's now a convenience store clerk addicted to methamphetamine and Camels.

The Iraqi Civil War

That's dharma.

D-H-A-R-M-A.

Which includes the sleepless nights of a balding, overweight school teacher who used to advise his young and poor high school students that joining this nation's military was a viable

option to continue their educations, never thinking it through and considering that oil merchants would pervert the

American democratic republic and throw away my students' lives and souls in the name of the profit.

Public Hearings Set For TTC-35

AUSTIN – Texans have another opportunity to participate in the decision-making process on the Trans-Texas Corridor 35.

Beginning in mid-July and continuing for five consecutive weeks, the Texas Department of Transportation will hold 54 public hearings throughout the TTC-35 study area to answer questions and listen to public comments.

The hearings, scheduled from July 10 – Aug. 10, will be the fourth set of public meetings on TTC-35 that give residents an opportunity to comment on the proposed development of TTC-35. These public hearings will wind up a two-year public involvement process that has already included 117 public meetings netting more than 4,000 comments.

On July 24, a public hearing will be held at the Waco Convention Center, Brazos Room, 100 Washington Ave., in Waco

"The sole purpose of the public hearings is to get comments from citizens, local governments, business, property owners and other stakeholders," said Tim Brown, chairman of the Trans-Texas Corridor Advisory Committee. "Decisions will be made based on those comments,

so it's important that people participate in the process."

Each hearing will begin with an open house at 5 pm so that residents can review maps of the preferred corridor alternative and ask questions of TxDOT staff. The presentation and oral comments begin at 6:30 pm.

To ensure that everyone gets a chance to participate, the 54 hearings cover all parts of the study area.

A complete list of hearings is posted on

www.keeptexasmoving.org. After the public hearings, staff will analyze the comments and submit a final environmental impact statement to the Federal Highway Administration. A decision from FHWA is expected next summer.

FHWA approval would allow the environmental process to continue with additional environmental studies focusing on the narrowed 10-mile wide study area. It is within this study area that a final project route would be determined for roads, rail and utilities. Construction could only begin after the additional studies are completed.

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Editorial

Speak Out Against Trans-Texas Corridor

Too many people in Texas don't know what it is.

If they did, they would not only kick its supporters out of office, but to kingdom-come.

First and foremost, the Trans-Texas Corridor is bad for Texas.

It is even worse for those residing alongside the proposed superhighway system, for it could easily disrupt the heritage, hopes, and dreams of the inhabitants of the area it would traverse.

On July 24, a public hearing will be held at the Waco Convention Center, Brazos Room, 100 Washington Ave., in Waco regarding the TTC-35, which is the branch of the corridor that could come through the

middle of McLennan County, forever wreaking havoc on the lives of our citizens and on the fortitude of our county.

McLennan Countians who care about their direct homeland should attend this hearing in droves and let their outrage be known.

McLennan County residents are not unlike people elsewhere in the state who might not be up to speed on the detrimental aspects of the corridor. For most, it will not affect them directly. So, if it is happening to someone else, their emotional responses to the spectre of the corridor might be light or nonexistent. This underscores the necessity that every faithful

Central Texas citizen take a stand now. After July 24, it might be too late.

But beyond the local impact, as a statewide initiative the corridor idea is flawed. It would become an expensive boondoggle — a constant thorn in the hearts of taxpayers deep into Texas' future. The system replaces the "public trust" approach to service: with privatization, forcing Texas citizens to not only pay for a service of which their oversight and control will be vastly limited by handing it over to corporate interests in a foreign country, but also to pay for corporate profits.

People here take pride in their homeland. It is unique in its historical heritage, in its



Light blue area shows alternative general route of corridor.

fronts would be devastating.

You can't mitigate lost revenues to our communities and rural areas.

You can't mitigate our way of life.

We urge all true Texans to not only voice their outrage at the state's targeting our homes for this nightmare, but to loudly criticize the project as a whole, for if it continues to be developed, no Texan is safe — anywhere — no matter the empty promises that might be levied.

Loudly register your comments with TxDOT and take a stand for yourself and your state.

But go beyond that.

Contact your elected state and federal officials, for the corridor is part of a bigger picture — globalization.

Let them know, in no uncertain terms, that you consider the corridor an asinine project and a personal affront upon the dignity of your state.

Let's stop the Trans-Texas Corridor now, before so much time, energy, and money is invested that we reach the point of no return.

— W. Leon Smith

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The Puppet Looks New, The Routine Hasn't Changed

July 14, 2006

I don't buy George W. Bush's new façade.

No Texas gunslinger just hangs 'em up that quick.

As much as his good ol' boy routine is an affected persona, this new, retooled 'sensitive' George is yet another role from the depths of his carpetbagger's kit of chicanery.

It was obvious Herr Oberst Karl Rove needed to present a less caustic individual to the World, and especially the American voters. The stubborn George, whose "I'm the decider" and hang the cost in lives, money and suffering spoiled frat-boy attitude just wasn't cutting it any longer.

Every facet of Karl's Conservative takeover was coming unglued. George and Dark Lord the Dick Cheney's hopes for an American monarchy were melting in the summer heat more rapidly than the Polar ice caps they had denied were thawing. Herr Rove's own Republican membership began turning against the increasingly tyrannical edicts emanating from the Executive branch.

Despite the attempt to tilt Lady Justice's scales by cramming the Supremes full of Federalist activists, King George XLIII was knocked down from atop his lofty perch by the very Rule of Law he has ignored literally his entire life; laws, treaties and civilized behaviors he has proclaimed lo, these past five years, that as president he need not concern himself with.

Georgie, Dickie, Rummy, Condi and Turd Blossom are finally getting the message that there will be no *Fuhrerprinzip* in the United States.

Yet, they won't stop trying. My Mother was wise enough to save a copy of the first issue of the now defunct Chicago Sun newspaper. It's dated December 4, 1941. In huge letters the headline foretold of impending war with Japan. However, also on the front page was an article entitled, "Hitler Faces Challenge on Third Front."

I'd venture a guess that's the same ringer our own megalomaniac with delusions of a New World Order has both his derriere cheeks in right about now.

Which will be King George's third front? Iran or North Korea? Or, possibly an impeachment hearing?

If only it were the last option... perchance to dream.

With thoughtful acuity among the voting public, and thorough independent testing of all voting machines, GOP Senators and Representatives who impart more allegiance toward Herr Karl, the Dick and King George



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

than their Country and constituents will be looking for new employment come the 8th of November.

I'm talking Rovian toadies and "evangelicals" who are trying to speciously rush cockamamie new laws through Congress just so the prisoners in Guantanamo, Abu Graib and other hellholes may be mercifully abused and debased again as soon as possible.

Or at least "tried" and guaranteed to be convicted, in the name of the lawd, Amen.

Why, George says over and over he'd like to close Guantanamo, but he doesn't know where to send the men now that he's made them mortal enemies of our Country.

This has been his favorite refrain since he stabbed all the World's citizens in the back in January, 2001 and reneged on the Kyoto Protocol: "I wanna do it, but I haven't figured out a way t'do it yet."

Besides being spanked by the Supremes, something the White House Fascists never figured on, they and their cronies have been getting hit from all sides.

Not the first issue, but certainly one of the most outrageously contemptuous in terms of utter disregard for our military personnel and the taxpayers, was the no-bid contract slathered onto the coffers of Halliburton (the company presided over by one Dick Cheney prior to the onset of the Millennium).

In the post-9/11 World, Halliburton has been paid \$15 Billion for "services" rendered the Army. The original contract was a 10-year/\$100 Million deal.

That's 150 times the business transacted in half the time the agreement would have lasted. Imagine, it all began immediately after tragic events occurred that have yet to be fully investigated or explained – less than one year after Bush, Cheney and Rove slithered into their West Wing offices.

It would really be nice if all America got to see Dick and Lynne Cheney's Halliburton holdings, and the sum they will be collecting come January 21, 2009.

The possibility exists we just may get to see those holdings. Valerie Plame and Joseph Wilson are suing the Fascist thugs, et al, who screwed them over as political retaliation for telling

the truth about the Iraq WMD bullshit.

Something tells me that Cheney, Rove and I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby are not going to play out as sympathetic characters in front of a jury of regular folks. It still amazes me that these schmucks, along with that man among men Bob Novak, were allowed to skate away free by Patrick Fitzgerald's Grand Jury, despite George H.W. Bush's own speech denouncing anyone who would leak the name of a CIA operative as a traitor. (The Wilson's have wisely used this as the opening statement in their suit.)

At present, I'm having sincere doubts about precisely where Mr. Fitzgerald stands. Prior to the Plame investigation he was sold to the public as a straight shooter, especially since he was in charge of prosecuting that no-good Republican Illinois Governor George Ryan. Although I was never a supporter of Ryan, as a resident of Illinois I do feel the man was railroaded.

Not being a "team player" like Denny Hastert and some of the other "connected" GOPers, Ryan operated by his own rules. Hell, unlike King George he detested killing people, even ordering a moratorium on executions. And this George actually cared about and got things done for the people, such as infrastructure construction and repair, schools built, etc.

This is conjecture on my part, but it seems that George Ryan may have been a fall guy, sacrificed to make Fitzgerald look tough on Republican screw-ups.

Meanwhile, all the King's men go free. It's a pretty good scam.

Anyway, that strangest of all pairs, Jack Abramoff (Orthodox Jew) and former Christian Coalition chief Ralph Reed, now running for Lieutenant Governor in Georgia, are among those named in a suit for defrauding the Alabama-Coushatta tribe of Texas.

The others named in this case involving losses in the millions – possibly tens of millions – are former Abramoff co-worker Jon Van Horne; and, two former Congressional aides who pleaded guilty to corruption with Abramoff, Neil Volz (Bob Ney of Ohio) and Michael Scanlon (Tom DeLay).

Speaking of DeLay, this putz has so much hubris he could fill the entire Astrodome, with enough left over to power a shuttle to the space station and back. He's under indictment and awaiting trial, with myriad scandals hanging over his head. He's given up his seat in the

House because, let's face it, nobody wants him around there dirtying up the hallowed halls anymore. He dumped all over his constituents when he told them, essentially, I took all the money I conned out of you and stole from taxpayers everywhere else, bought property in Virginia – and I ain't comin' back.

But... as a result of a quirk in the law that might keep his name on the November ballot, because Smiler Tom was too much of an egomaniac to step aside and let the primaries proceed without his smarmy interference, the guy's now threatening America that he'll actually run.

He knew damn well what the law was, and stayed in the primary just for this very reason. Smiler DeLay even said at the time of the primary that he felt an entitlement to the seat in that district, and there was no way he was going to let some Liberal Democrat take it over.

Providing he hasn't been jailed or convicted.

As former Nixon aide John Dean's new book title states,

these Neo-cons have no conscience among them at all.

Over in Georgia, the first woman to be elected state school superintendent, Linda Schrenko, attacked Democrats for corruption when she ran in 2002 as a Republican gubernatorial candidate.

Now, she's a few weeks away from beginning an eight-year sentence after robbing the educational funds for deaf and gifted students of \$600,000, half of which she used in the campaign to fight Democratic corruption.

Schrenko is obviously somewhat of a prima donna – she spent more than \$9,000 of her ill-gotten loot on a facelift; she showed up at her sentencing not looking demur and contrite, rather dressed like a successful businesswoman, made up as though she was on the prowl, and wearing the same "what, me worry?" smart ass smile DeLay always has spread across his mug.

In a show of total chutzpah, her attorney requested that she be incarcerated at the women's

Continued On Next Page

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Whatever Happened To ‘Good Morning?’

My recent trip to Europe is still fresh in my mind. I particularly remember all of the friendly “bonjours” (“good day” or “good morning”) I would receive every day in Paris. You don’t get all those “good mornings” here in America.

Let’s say, you’re in Paris and you go to the neighborhood bakery for your breakfast bread and croissants. If there’s a line there, the person you get behind will wish you a “bonjour,” and expect a “bonjour” from you. You’ll also get a “bonjour” from the salesperson and another one from the cashier. And anyone who works there is likely to say, “bonjour” to you as you leave. When you walk down the street with your baked goods, complete strangers will say, “bonjour” to you, and you’ll return the greeting. What a cheery way to start the day: before eating breakfast or arriving at work, dozens of people have wished the typical Parisian a “good morning.”

Since I’ve been back home, I’ve kept up the practice of doing walking a lot. And while walking, I’ve tried giving other



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

walkers smiles and greetings just as I did in France. The results haven’t been all that good. Some people look right at me, but say nothing. Then there are those who look at the ground, pretending they haven’t heard me. But what’s really disturbing is that many people seem to think that my wishing them a “good morning” means I’m either crazy, dangerous, or intruding on “their space.”

In the old movies, people wished each other “good morning” or “hello” whenever they saw each other walking. Men even tipped their hats to women. I know most men don’t wear hats anymore, but until I saw the contrast between France and here, I hadn’t realized that “good morning” had gone out of style, too.

I still try anyway, and I’ve become aware of a weird, but definite “good morning etiquette.” If I say, “good morning” to a woman who’s alone and walking towards me, there’s a good chance she won’t respond. I get the impression that many women think that if they smile and return the greeting of a man, they might be inadvertently encouraging him to pursue the relationship beyond the “good morning” stage to something unwanted. If the woman does return my greeting and smile, she often quickens her pace as she walks away from me. That’s to make sure that I get the message that ours is just a “good morning” relationship, and it’s not going to go any further.

When coming across another guy, I can’t just smile at him. He almost definitely won’t smile back. If I say “good morning,” he might respond. Nodding at each other silently is a compromise position that seems generally acceptable among guys. A silent nod might be very manly, but it seems awfully serious for the morning.

If a woman is walking with a guy, and they’re heading towards me, I have to use a completely different approach. No matter how tempted I am to smile at her, instead, I look at the guy. Then I say “good morning” to him. Usually, he’ll “good morning” me back, and only after he’s done so, will she feel it’s okay to say “good morning” to me. So, I might eventually get a pleasant greeting from the woman, but I’ll have to go through the charade of “I’m really just saying hello to the guy you’re with” first.

Doesn’t it seem crazy to need to go through all these gyrations and strategies just to say “good morning?” So, why do so many people not believe that “good morning” just means “good morning?”

I guess it’s because of the, somewhat justified, paranoid times we live in. Adults don’t only teach children not to talk to strangers, but now we apparently teach that admonition to ourselves, too. Nobody wants to be accosted by some wacko, and since you can never be sure who’s a safe person, many

people don’t take the chance of talking to anybody they don’t know. I completely understand that. But I still feel it’s sad that we’ve gotten to this point.

I remember how all those strangers in Paris greeting me each morning put a smile on my face. And maybe my greeting them made them a little happier, too. If you’re not comfortable smiling back at every stranger who smiles at you, don’t. But maybe you could try it every once in a while. The French know what they’re doing when it comes to things like bread and cheese. Maybe they know what they’re doing when it comes to “good morning,” too.

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

All Cultures Agree On The World’s Worst Smell — Except For New Jersey

As some of you might have noticed, there has been very little talk lately of the star wars missile defense system, which was once heralded as the ultimate defense for our nation and the world. This highly advanced system was to have been launched into outer space where, with the push of a button, it could send out missiles capable of targeting a single movie theater — or even an entire chain — should it threaten to actually screen any Star Wars movie made after 1983. It was this threat that kept George Lucas at bay for nearly 20 years.

Since then, the U.S. military has been looking for a new “ultimate” weapon, something affective that also possesses worldwide applications.

The result is something simple; something terrifying; and something that, according to Pamela Dalton at the Monell Chemical Senses Center, “is so universally repulsive it would be considered unbearable by people from ALL cultures.”

According to Dalton, the military has been looking for a non-lethal weapon that can effectively clear crowds and deter people from restricted areas throughout the world. It wasn’t until fate intervened — in the form of franks and beans and a crowded elevator at the U.N.



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

building — that ideas for the ultimate stink bomb began rumbling throughout the Pentagon.

Since very little research exists on cross-cultural odor preferences, scientists at Monell decided to avoid food and personal products as candidates for stink bomb odors. That’s because what some cultures may consider stinky, others may not.

For example: A stink bomb that smells like burning flesh, Ben Gay and cocoa butter would be effective against any Oregon resident, while, in Florida, that IS the smell of most residents.

This has led researchers to pursue what they call “universally repulsive odors” of biological origin, such as human waste, vomit and rotting garbage — smells that, thanks to years of exhaustive research, scientists have determined “people from all cultures really try to avoid.”

Dalton and her team then created a mixture of these three odors and tested it on volunteers.

“People’s heads jerked back, their face contorted with revul-

sion, and they held their breath for as long as possible,” said Dalton, who added that once volunteers became accustomed to the New Jersey air, most were still willing to begin the testing phase.

Amazingly, creating these combinations of odors doesn’t require huge volumes of “source material” (which would take the cooperation of college frat houses throughout the

U.S.).

Instead, they are chemically synthesized from air particles surrounding small samples, and then reproduced through the use of chemical agents such as sulfur, fatty acids and “That brown gravy stuff in microwavable turkey dinners.”

It’s thanks to the efforts of scientists and brave volunteers that the components for the ultimate stink bomb have now

been successfully identified — which should provide us with some real peace of mind knowing that we have the capability to unleash mass revulsion anywhere in the world.

Not counting New Jersey.

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

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TENUTO

From Previous Page

Federal facility in Tallahassee, Florida. What gall! She stole from deaf students, now be nice to her. Warm weather, 365 days a year.

Let me see — for someone who's used to Georgia's warm climate, true punishment would include the harsh winters of a northern Yankee state.

What is it about people like DeLay and Schrenko? Are they truly clueless, or completely void of any sense of morality?

At least in Georgia a court ruling came down, allowing that it won't be necessary to provide a picture ID to vote. Score one for the poor and downtrodden.

Traveling a bit north, can anybody tell me why Representative F. James Sensenbrenner, Jr. (R-WI) has such an anti-Mexican phobia? For the love of Mike, it's almost impossible to get any further from the southern border in the contiguous 48 than Wisconsin! Yet, he's been one nasty sombitch regarding illegals as long as this ridiculous debate has been shoved to the front of all the more important issues.

I don't know. Maybe Sensie's just frightened to death that his state's, like, going to be overrun one day by a massive invasion of Canadians, eh? Y'know, there, it's like virtually impossible to tell a Hosehead from a Cheesehead, okay, eh.

Thus, now that our King George XLIII has either made enemies with other world leaders (Hugo Chavez); pissed off the ones he had been pals with (Vladimir Putin); or caused those who stood by him no matter what to be screwed over (Tony Blair), he's running out of heads of state to get into trouble.

Well, over in Deutschland they have a relative novice at this game of diplomacy. In her own way, she's kind of like Harriet Miers. Yes, German Chancellor Angela Merkel does seem smitten with our Cowboy King.

His recent visit to Germany did not set well with the natives. As when His Excellency faces a crowd in the U.S., the people whom he saw were hand-picked — all 1,000 of them. Of those, 300 were soldiers in civilian clothes.

All other residents of the community were instructed to stay indoors; shops were not allowed to open. Traffic was redirected. The hotel had even been freshly decorated with razor concertina wire around its perimeter.

The party of the Left, the Social Democrats, compared the scene to the days of Communist rule. One man compared

Bush Regime policies to those of the former Soviet rulers. About 5,000 members of the party protested the presence of an American president whom they called "unerwünscht" (not wanted).

Isn't it eerie how the Christian Democrats are now the party of exclusion?

Chancellor Merkel really must give more consideration to whose company she keeps. It always seems cool to be accepted by the bully when you're the new kid, but hangin' with King George can be hazardous to one's political career.

And here we go again:

Because neither King George nor anyone else in the Fascist Regime has one ounce of diplomatic skill in their collective bodies, Israel and Lebanon have been sucked into his Middle East maelstrom.

How infantile, for the "leader" of the United States to take a side in fight.

This isn't junior high school. Neither is it an old time Texas town.

This is the 21st Century, and it takes far sterner stuff than George W. Bush is made of to handle it.

Damn it! We, the U.S., are not supposed to pick a side! We're supposed to do what Bill Clinton and George H.W. Bush, Ronald Reagan and Jimmy Carter, Dick Nixon and John Kennedy — what men of wisdom and vision did and do — get angry factions to talk *before* hell comes bubbling out of the earth!

But that's impossible with a Regime led by people who feel they have a divine right to kill.

There's not a real man among that bunch sitting on their useless behinds in the West Wing (including Condoleezza), collecting paychecks from taxpayers with one hand while robbing us with the other. The only things they're good for are getting other people's children killed and trashing our Personal Freedoms.

And now they've aided and abetted in starting a war in Israel.

What a gang of greedy, selfish bastards.

Shalom, everyone — Please.

(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)

Houston's Third Choice Fills Washington Vacancy

This Week
In Texas
History

By Barte Haile



Anson Jones boarded a ship at Galveston on July 11, 1838, for the long, roundabout trip to Washington, D.C.

As much as the Massachusetts native dreaded the difficult journey, he disliked the destination even more. But Dr. Jones always found it hard to say no to Sam Houston.

With the end of his term in sight, the president of Texas wanted to pick the next minister to the United States rather than leave such an important decision to his successor. The time had come for the Lone Star Republic to withdraw its request for annexation, but the task demanded the delicate touch if statehood were to remain a possibility.

When his first and second choices turned down the appointment, Houston offered the Potomac post to Anson Jones. Although the taciturn physician was no world-class diplomat, The General took comfort in the fact that he would follow his instructions to the letter.

Shuddering at the prospect of an extended stay in the national capital, Jones tried in vain to decline the honor. In the final analysis, he realized it was easier to accept the distasteful assignment than to change Houston's steel-trap mind.

Since the very thought of ocean travel made Jones queasy, he suffered from seasickness throughout the entire three-day crossing of the Gulf of Mexico. No sooner was he reunited with his stomach than the two again parted company on the agonizingly slow cruise up the Mississippi.

Veering east onto the Ohio River, Jones' misery was compounded by boorish traveling

companions. "A Hoozier undertook to root me out of my bed last night," he recorded in his diary, "but I succeeded in driving him off by speaking some English, a language he did not understand."

Another fellow traveler got under his skin by claiming Iowa and Texas had much in common. "The man is a fool," Jones scribbled furiously. "There is no comparison between them." Twenty-four days out of New Orleans, the ailing doctor reached the District of Columbia only to discover that no one was home. To escape the unbearable heat and humidity, politicians and bureaucrats evacuated Washington every summer.

The hot-weather hiatus left Jones in limbo. Until formally received by President Martin Van Buren, he could not begin to function in an official capacity. To keep busy, he spent days studying the files of the Texas legation.

During this cram course, Jones came across a communication from Houston to his predecessor advising the envoy to drop the matter of annexation if congress adjourned without taking favorable action. That sly old dog! He had written those words only days after criticizing Jones for publicly advocating the same policy!

Van Buren finally returned to Washington in October and granted the new minister the obligatory audience. The meeting met the guest's low expectations. Barely able to conceal

his hostility toward Texas, the president stiffly accepted Jones' credentials and sent him on his way.

Nine days later, Jones hand-delivered the historic note to the state department which announced "the formal and absolute withdrawal of the proposition for annexation of Texas to the United States." In view of the shabby treatment of his countrymen since the Battle of San Jacinto, he took grim satisfaction in being the bearer of such richly deserved tidings.

Depending upon the Washington press for the latest news back home, Jones read about the presidential election of Mirabeau Lamar. Following the suicides of his two chief competitors, the outcome had been a foregone conclusion. The only good that would come out of a Lamar administration, believed Jones, would be his own prompt replacement.

But the inauguration was two months away, and the lame-duck minister felt duty bound to labor on behalf of what he affectionately referred to as his "spunky little independent Republic." He courted the resident representatives of the European powers and succeeded in scoring points with most.

Through no fault of his own, Jones failed to break the ice with the British ambassador. Few ever saw the eccentric Englishman, an inaccessible recluse who led a vampire existence sleeping in the daytime and working all night.

By the spring of 1839, Jones believed Lamar must have forgotten that a Houston appointee was still holding down the diplomatic fort in faraway Washington. The delay, in fact, reflected the commitment of the second president of Texas to a permanently independent nation that depended upon the U.S. for nothing more than a steady stream of immigrants.

Not until five months after Mirabeau Lamar took office was Anson Jones relieved of his unwanted post. He knew better than to expect a pat on the back for a job well done, but the blunt wording of the recall notice cut him to the quick. The future president never forgave nor forgot the insult.

Barte 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.twit.com.



Welcome To The United States Of America-Mexico-Canada!

There are secret meetings going on between these nations that are planning to change North America physically, politically, socially and economically. The great minds behind the scene are plotting to bank more wealth than most can realize.

It will start with miles of international toll corridors that will permit non-stop travel and economic profits between "The 3 Amigos"!

Whether there will be one recognized person as leader or the development of a special tribunal to govern the three-nation merged entity is yet to be determined; however, *don't you "bet the farm" against the success of this proposed merger.*

Let's ask ourselves some questions:

- How can the three nations continue to compete individually in the ever-costly world market?

- How can they prosper individually despite world fuel costs?

- Why aren't the U.S. President and Congress striving towards the resolution of immigration problems?

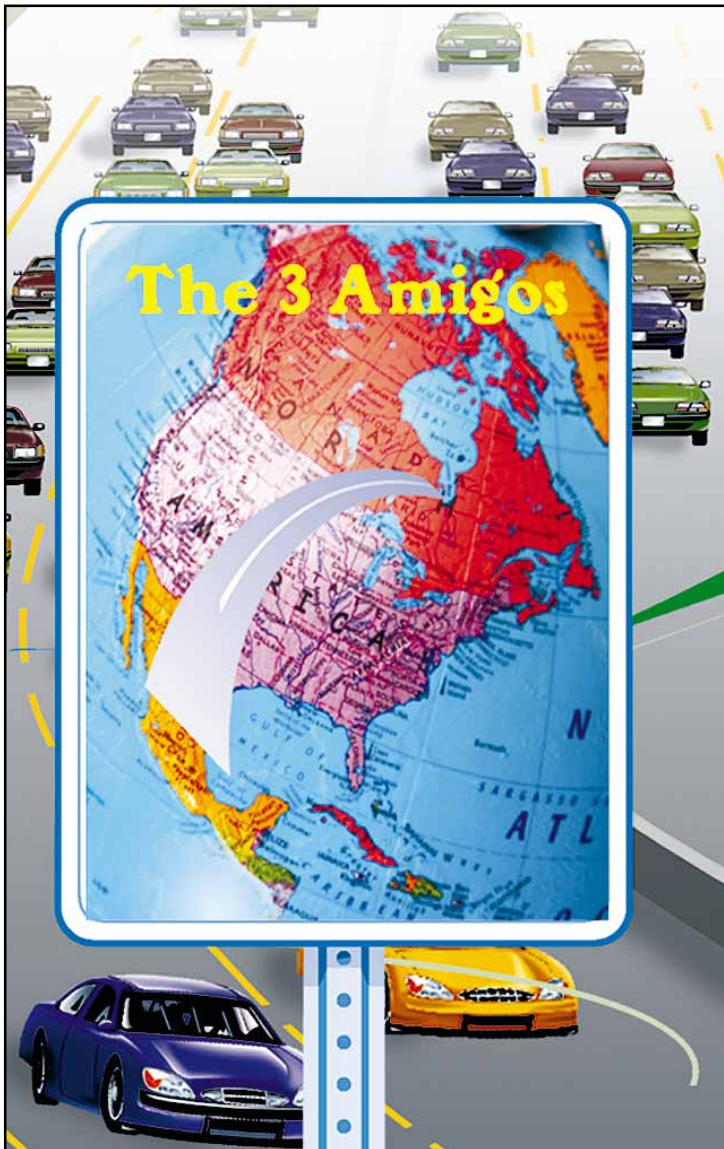
- What can the nations do about their individual currency devaluation on the world market?

- Why is there such a massive push for mega toll corridors stretching from Mexico through the U.S. and into Canada?

- Are three heads really better than one?

The answer to these and many other questions is to merge the nations of the U.S., Mexico and Canada as one nation or organization to compete

Is There A Conspiracy Afoot For A Three-Nation Merger?



with European rivals, China, and other world nations who are undercutting prices of goods and services.

Currently, the European Market recognizes Euros as the currency of choice. Will the new triad of North America eliminate the individual currencies of dollars and pesos to establish the new currency of — "Ameros"?

Certainly there is much to spark such a proposed union; however, there is still the age-old question to answer, "Is bigger REALLY better?"

In any case, relative few of the national and world media are focusing on this opportunity and whether the merger of the three nations into The United States of America-Mexico-Canada is a reality, a dream or a nightmare.

One last question: "Why isn't the media reporting on whether the U.S., Mexico, and Canada are considering a merger of nations?" Why not ask the media directly?

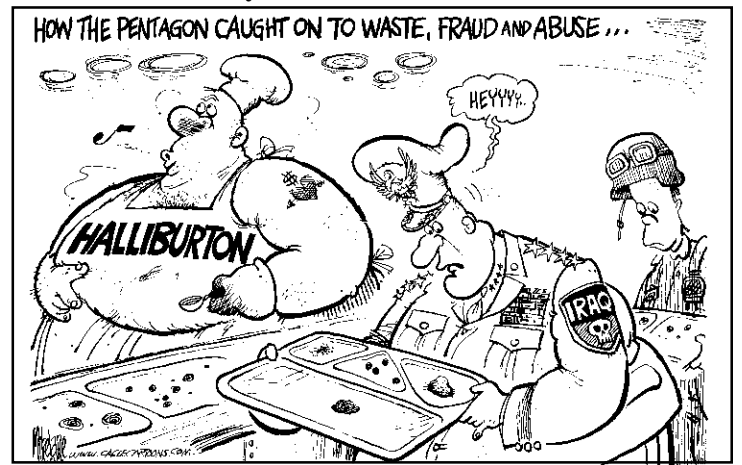


Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

Let's keep our eyes and ears open on this one!

Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas, a former Administrative Consultant to the NYC Metropolitan Transportation Authority, 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>.



Oil Imports Could Drop 20 % With Real Mileage Standards

WASHINGTON — A new study from the Environmental Working Group (EWG) shows that if car manufacturers used realistic standards to set the mileage for their products, oil imports to United States would drop by 20 percent. The savings in turn would amount to 710 million barrels of oil per year. In comparison, the U.S. imported 525 million barrels from Saudi Arabia last year.

"Congress is letting automakers test their own products and deceive the consumer about the results," said Richard Wiles, senior vice president of EWG. "The price of this deception is increasing dependence on oil from unstable regions, increased pollution, and more pain at the pump."

Twenty-five years ago, documents show that Congress called the situation a "needless waste of automobile fuel," but since then, the Environmental

Protection Agency (EPA) has been prevented from imposing a valid mileage test on automobiles.

Currently, automakers use testing methods to meet federal mileage standards that assume drivers never exceed 60 miles per hour, never accelerate rapidly, never use air conditioning, never drive up or down hills, never carry passengers, and never encounter potholes or wind.

"The most successful energy efficiency initiative ever undertaken by the United States has been undermined by fake tests demanded by auto manufacturers and false stickers foisted on the car buyer," said Rep. Ed Markey (D-MA) in a prepared statement. "We need to return to what works — an honest accounting of fuel economy and an aggressive exploitation of technology to improve efficiency."

Miss Texas Pageant Crowns First Black Contestant

FORT WORTH — The first black women was crowned Miss Texas last weekend. Shilah Phillips, 24, of Frisco now heads to represent her native state in the Miss America pageant.

This was Phillips' first attempt to attain the Miss Texas title, which comes with a \$10,000 prize and a chance to run for the Miss America crown.

Phillips said that her unsuccessful audition for the "America Idol" television talent contest helped her prepare for the Miss America pageant reality show scheduled for broadcast on the CMT network in January. Viewers will be able to vote for their favorite contestants.

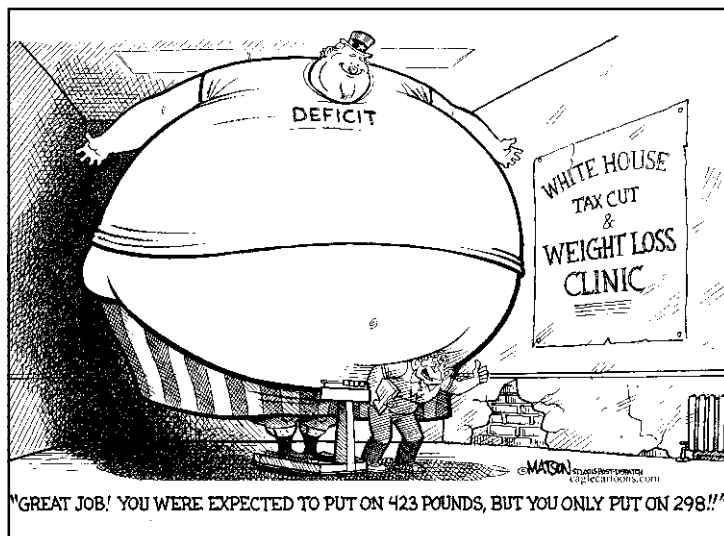
First runner-up to Miss Texas was Miss Woodlands, Molly Hazlett; followed by second runner-up, Miss Southlake, Shea Yarborough; third runner-up, Miss Houston, Brooke Webster; and fourth runner-up, Miss

Plano, Heather Hodges.

Others named to the top 10 were Miss Central Texas, Brooks Dennard; Miss Concho Valley, Madison Emert; Miss East Texas, Melissa Griffin;

Miss Lufkin, Adrianna Nelson; and Miss Texarkana, Dawn Hughes.

Last year's Miss Texas, Morgan Matlock, will step down from her role.



"GREAT JOB! YOU WERE EXPECTED TO PUT ON 423 POUNDS, BUT YOU ONLY PUT ON 298!!!"

9/11, 3/11, 7/11 Terror Dates

Is there an 'embedded code,' and can we use it to save ourselves?

BY CAPTAIN ERIC MAY
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Prologue: How my students taught me to code

The first time I realized the full force of codes didn't have anything to do with decades in Army military intelligence. Nope, I was teaching high school in an inner-city neighborhood back before 9/11 when I noticed that an uncommonly high percentage of semi-literate gang members were running to be the school homecoming king. Since they hardly seemed to have much school spirit, this perplexed me. Still, my fellow teachers and I, college grads all, were bemused to see their wholesome efforts. They painted more candidacy signs and handed out more clever brochures — long on "street art" — than I ever would have imagined possible.

It wasn't until the day after the elections that a gang task force police officer came to the school and looked at the posters and brochures, and began to explain reality to us. Virtually everything posted was filled with gang graffiti, he explained! There was a real-life code at work, one that uncomprehending Americans can find in one form or another across the USA's rail cars, alleys and bus stops. The "homecoming king" elections had been a contest for power and prestige between the various factions of my high school's gangs, legible to any of them, and illegible to all us "intellectual" teachers!

That was the last time that I had any doubts about whether, as Shakespeare said through Hamlet:

There are more things in heaven and Earth, Horatio, than are dreamt of in your philosophy.

Street-smart students were my teachers, no doubt about it. It was only after being schooled by those high-schoolers that all my training in military intelligence and languages (Latin, Greek, Russian and Spanish) began to add up to any ability in *cryptanalysis* (code-breaking). My lesson came just in time, as the 911 event was just around the corner.

Connecting dots (and numbers): 9/11 (NY/DC) and 3/11 (Madrid)

Soon after the outbreak of what my former military asso-

GUEST COMMENTARY

ciates and I termed the "Quicksand War" in Iraq, I set up a cyber-intelligence group, Ghost Troop, to counter the blatant propagandizing we detected in the U.S. media. Nowadays, it's pretty easy to see that the media monopoly that hijacked our once free press glibly told every lie necessary to lead us into a war, and has told every lie necessary to keep us there. In the spring of 2003, though, those of us military experts and writers who had such views were in danger of losing our media connections — or were simply in danger. We drew courage from our Ghost Troop camaraderie, and with each passing month we became more skeptical about the media presentation of the war. As time went on, we even came to suspect the way they reported the 911 event that led to the war.

By the winter of 2004 we were joined by a brave former Marine Corps officer, Captain Jeff Cross, who had been in the Big Apple the day of the attacks, attending a boots-to-business-suit course as he completed his military service and prepared to return to civilian life. He was the first member of the 9/11 Truth community I had met — and is still the best witness of them all, in my book. Capt. Cross wasn't obsessed by arcane questions of whether it was thermite or a mini-nuke that brought down the towers — it was enough for him that he had been five blocks away and had seen it all happen. He was utterly convinced that 9/11 was an inside job. The treatment he received from the various police and press people he

contacted with his information was typical for 9/11 witnesses: He was told to shut up, shut down and shove off.

Already starting to believe him, I was convinced utterly of his accuracy by the Madrid bombings of 3/11 (2004). Everyone who wakes up to 9/11 does so in a different way, I suppose. In my case it was a combination of the earnest testimony of my brother officer — and because I had picked up numeric anomalies in the 9/11 and 3/11 events that defied explanation as coincidence:

- The 9 and 3 month numbers were square and square root of each other

- There were exactly 911 days between the dates 9/11 (2001) and 3/11 (2004)

- There was a reported body count from the Madrid bombings of 199 (which was 911 with the numbers "flipped" — 9's to 1's; 1's to 9's: 911/199)

- There was even a reversion of the body count *downward* (who got up and left the morgue?) to 191 — which is an *anagram* (mix-up) of 911!

I never spent as much time or effort on any math problem as I spent on exploring my hasty hypothesis that there was an "embedded code" in the numbers of the 9/11 and 3/11 events. I didn't sleep for two days, so disturbed was I by the inability to disprove my worst suspicions. By the end of the second day I was convinced of quite shocking things:

- that the embedded code was real, and was being carried by the collaborative media (which was probably designated

an "embedded media" as a way of reminding itself that it was a vehicle of encryption);

- that the 9/11 and 3/11 events were orchestrated with the aid of this embedded code, and were "signed" with it every bit as much as my street gang students "signed" their work with graffiti;

- that an understanding of the code enabled those who orchestrated the bogus terror attacks of 9/11 and 3/11 to "set it up" without alarming the unknowing public

- that those who could "crack the code" (like Ghost Troop) could use their knowledge to anticipate and alert the American People against planned future attacks.

After my 48-hour "epiphany," I wrote an extraordinary article, in which I predicted a phony Al Qaeda attack against Houston, Texas, to be carried out in the wake of the Madrid bombings, as a means of spurring the American People into a genocidal World War Three. I issued a specific date of 3/31 (2004), and immediately began to make calls to the Houston FBI.

The FBI at first took a keen interest in my cryptanalytic work, given that it was produced by a trained intelligence professional, and began a week-long discussion of my techniques and conclusions. As the target date of 3/31 neared, though, they tried to brush me off, and when I refused to be brushed off they began to threaten me with prosecution if I didn't desist. I switched tactics then, avoiding them and instead making contact with my former colleagues

in the Houston media, particularly Tara Howard of KPRC radio. She alerted FBI National to my work and predictions, and FBI National put the Gulf Coast under terror alert on March 25, 2004.

On 3/30 (2004) the British Petroleum refinery in Texas City, Texas, exploded, sending gasoline futures to the highest level in history. Our prediction of a Houston event on 3/31 had been wrong by 24 hours and 24 miles — and the odds against that kind of accuracy were astronomical!

Houston CID Sergeant John Karshner, with whom I had been collaborating in my terror alert, thought I had indeed broken a code and likely prevented a far worse explosion in Texas City, but was timorous about what to do about it. After all, my premise had been that I could predict the 3/11 Madrid sequel because the terror events were orchestrated by the Bush administration — and what can a local cop do about that? The Houston FBI wasn't at all conflicted, though: When I tried to make contact with them the day after the explosions they again threatened me with prosecution — and worse — if I didn't desist.

More predictions and proofs in 2004 & 2005

In the two years since that first prediction, Ghost Troop has used its "embedded code" analysis to detect and warn against one potential false-flag terror attack after another — most of them in the Houston Metropolitan area.

We predicted a fake terror event in the fall of 2004 — as the FBI was hiking up the terror alert index and promising exactly what we were predicting as a pending Al Qaeda attack to dis-

Continued On Next Page



Captain Eric May

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CAPTAIN MAY

From Previous Page

rupt our presidential elections. I published an article specifying a 9/27 (2004) event in Houston. This time the prediction was exact in time, though still off by 24 miles, as there was a major sabotage of a pipeline in New Caney, Texas, just north of Houston.

Both the 3/30 and 9/27 (2004) events are explained and explored by our first national article on the embedded code, which predicted the 9/27 event on 9/6 (and contained the information that had led to our earlier 3/30 event prediction. The analysis is a bit technical, but it gives invaluable mainstream confirmation of our claims, and a fine introduction to our cryptanalytic method: <http://www.rense.com/general57/sepo.htm>

The next year we predicted a 7/27 (2005) event in Houston, writing our forecast the first day of July — and a week before the 7/7 (2005) London event that set up the idea of a follow-up attack on the US, much as the 3/11 (2004) Madrid had set up the idea of the 3/30 (2004) attempt against Texas City. Our 7/27 prediction was off by 24 hours and 24 miles, as British Petroleum, Texas City, exploded on 7/28. Once again oil prices shot through the roof, making record profits for those “lucky few” who knew something was coming.

Many will remember that last summer was when the U.S. media was selling us the story that Al Qaeda was likely to nuke a U.S. port in the near future, and we Ghost Troops have no doubt that the Texas City event of 7/28 would have been a nuclear false-flag attack had it not been for our intervention. The mission file must be read (or better yet, listened to, as we did live broadcasts of the events of 7/28): <http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/Captain%20May/capt1.htm>. What happened the night of 7/28 was as frightening an event as I ever want to witness. Sgt. Karshner and I, who worked that mission together, agreed afterward that what we and all the city had seen in the skies above Texas City that night was a deliberately simulated nuclear explosion. My police partner again became timorous at the enormity of what had occurred, saying that there was nothing the Houston Police could do about what had happened, since it was a *national* mat-

ter!

Making assurance double sure: 2006 predictions & proofs

Our next prediction was of a 1/31 (2006) attempt to nuke Texas City, Texas. That time we didn't have any kind of explosive signal to confirm that something had been up, leading many who doubted our methodology to say we had discredited ourselves — until a mainstream Galveston County Daily News article by TJ Aulds ran two days later, on Feb. 2, 2006: http://truthdefender.homeunix.com/~hutch/Capt_May/Galveston.pdf. The article revealed that there had been a secret deployment of a U.S. Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team to the beaches south of Texas City, where they deployed to take measurements of Texas City — all in practice, they said (while assuring the public that any appearance to the contrary was mere “coincidence”).

HPD Sgt. Karshner admitted that he was surprised by this deployment, and disturbed that it had been made in secret while the U.S. government was running exercises simulating a nuclear attack on a U.S. port city — as it had been running exercises simulating terror airplane crashes into skyscrapers on 9/11. Again, the mission file offers confirmation: http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/Captain%20MAY/FEB_2%20BRIEFING.htm

Nearly three months after the 1/31 (2006) Texas city save (for so we know it to be, and so we call it), we made a prediction of a 6/6 (2006) attempt to bring down the Sears Tower in Chicago, largely basing our shift in “target zone” from Houston to Chicago on the strength of two things: the zip-coding of the Sears Tower (60606 — or “666” to numerologists, since “zeros don't count”) and the fact that “Lucky” Larry Silverstein, the man who bought the World Trade Center two months before 9/11 — then made a killing off the insurance pay-off — had helped to purchase the Sears Tower on 3/11 (2004). More amazing numerological “coincidences!”

Our “Sears Tower 666” prediction was the furthest off-base we had ever been, although it was still largely accurate. In late April, 2006, we detected, confirmed and exposed “Chicago 911” exercises aiming to simulate a major attack and building collapse in downtown Chi-

Numeric Concordance

Skull and Bones cult number: 322

NYC/DC & New World Order
9/11 (2001) — NYC/DC attacks
1/19 (2006) — Amman, Jordan bombing
6/11 (2004) — Ronald Reagan funeral
9/11/1990 - 9/11/2001 — 11-year NWO cycle
9/11/2001-3/11/2004 — 911-day New York / Madrid cycle

Madrid / Texas City
3/11 (2004) — Madrid bombing
3/30 (2004) — aborted Texas City attempt
3/23 (2005) — Texas City mass-fatality explosion
1/31 (2006) — aborted Texas City attempt

London / Texas City / Mumbai
7/11 (2006) — Mumbai bombing; 7 bombs in 11 minutes
7/7 (2005) — London “777” bombing
7/27 (2005) — aborted Texas City attempt
7/11/1997 - 7/11/2004 — 7-year George Tenet cycle (appointment/departure)
7/7/2005 - 7/11/2006 — 369-day London-Mumbai cycle

Australia / Bali Bombings numerics
10/12 (2002)
10/1 (2005)

Infowar propaganda pieces:
In search of a friendly Ghost: 9/11 (1995)
Don't laugh at duct tape; it saves lives 2/23 (2005)
A Beautiful Mind — 12/21 (2001)

ago during May 2-4, 2006 exercises (from which Chicago Mayor Daley was conveniently absent to visit Israel). The results of this Ghost Troop save were so widely publicized that the Irish 911 Truth Movement picked began to research and post our results — and nowadays we have a more intense readership in Ireland even than in the USA: <http://www.911truth.ie/ghosttroop.html>

The most recent Ghost Troop prediction and interdiction derived in part from material published in the LONE STAR ICONOCLAST (May 28, 2006), in our *911 Truth and Texas Terror*. In that article, and in greater detail in phone conversations with editor-in-chief Leon Smith, I predicted a 7/1 (2006) attempt at a small-scale attack (“homegrown” is the term *du jour* in the media) in one or another Southeast Texas petrochemicals town, specifying Exxon Mobil as one of the likely targets. On 7/2 (2006), Ghost Troop was proved accurate to within a day once again, as Baytown Texas saw felt the explosion of its Exxon Mobil plant. As with the other petro-events, this one made money for anyone in on the plan, as the highest oil prices in history were recorded when the markets opened up again on the other side of the long July 4th weekend. The mission file contains the ICONOCLAST ver-

sion of my article, along with a longer version originally submitted that specifies the 7/1 date: http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/_GHOST%20TROOP/countdown_to_terror.htm. It's worth noting that a Southeast Texas TV station, NBC's KBTX, was interested in our prediction work until after it came true — and we haven't heard a word from them since.

Conclusions to prevent catastrophe

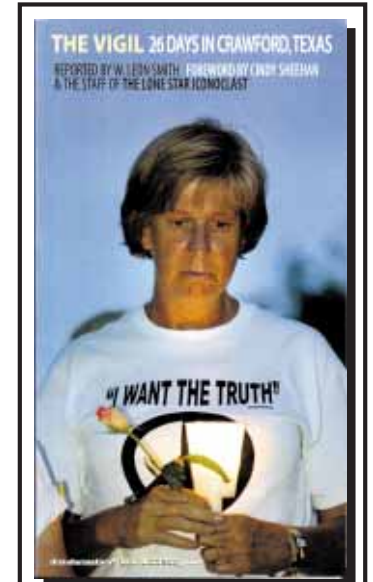
As anyone referring to the links I've provided will find, Ghost Troop has never flinched from doing its duty — as a patriotic cyber-intelligence unit trying to save American lives — by taking to the airwaves, and publishing on the Internet. Indeed, so much have we availed ourselves of the tools of cyber-publication and cyber-broadcast that anyone who wants to know more — far more — than I've written here can easily simply take the item of interest and write it into any search engine, along with “Ghost Troop.” It's worth noting that this article contains all the Ghost Troop predictions — we've never made an invalid one.

The poignant question I'm regularly asked by show hosts is “Why are you still alive, after doing all this to shut down mass murder and treason?” My reply has been that perhaps I've become so conspicuous through my analysis of the embedded

code, and so well-known in leading Ghost Troop to shut down planned terror events, that for me to suddenly die — however “accidental” the appearance — would set off an epiphany among the many readers and listeners who somewhat believed in our Ghost Troop work. If such is the case, then I am glad that my duty and salvation both call me in the same direction — that of action for my country. Like every other Armed Forces member, I was trained to defend the constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. My conclusions about the embedded code make it clear to me — and an ever-increasing part of the American People — which kind of enemy we face today. The Founders said that tyranny must return to every free people, and they wrote a Declaration urging that patriots resist it when it arrived.

Captain Eric H. May, MI/PAO, USA CO, Ghost Troop, 3/7 Cybercav+ Mission of Conscience / Patriots in Action

Captain May has posted an July 14, 2006 interview with Cloak and Dagger radio host Lenny Bloom at http://www.cloakanddagger.de/media/GHOST_TROOP/CLOAK_GHOST_JULY15.htm. The interview has a concordance of embedded code dates and numbers, which should be refined further by the analysis of the American People, then forwarded to their loyal law enforcement and military officials.



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Shrub-a-Dub-Dub, Thanks For The Grub

Before thousands of ballots were discovered in a Florida swamp; before the GOP voter purge list was discovered to contain the names of thousands of African-Americans guilty of committing crimes in the future; before the Supreme Court appointed its very first president; before the nightmarish September atrocity; before the Taliban's visit to Texas, and Osama's Presidential Pardon; before the Weapons of Mass Distraction; before the Patriot Act and the cancellation of a majority of the Bill of Rights; before 2,500 small troops fell to a vicious series of lies; before Camp Casey, Cindy Sheehan and the new Civil Rights Movement; before the plan for a North American Union, and before the erasure of the American Congress ... Before all that, I was there.

I met the man, as a kid. I asked him a question, and



The Webster Retort

By Stephen Webster

posed for a photo. How naive I was.

Yes, I met George W. Bush in 1998, during his campaign for re-election to the office of Governor. The day was March 8. I was attending high school in a place called Brenham, a sparkling gem in the crown of what Sociologists call "White Flight." In this small, Texas town, all the cows are happy, all the ice cream is Blue Bell, and all the coloreds are under thumb. I was sitting, as usual, in the Journalism lab, happily building the latest edition of *The Cub Growl*, our school newspaper.

Seemingly in a rush, my Journalism Professor, Allen Crenshaw, burst through the doorway. "The Governor is at Blinn!" he exclaimed. (Blinn College, a.k.a. "A&M Prep," is the two-year school in Brenham, where I learned everything I didn't need to know.) "What are you guys waiting for? Get over there!"

So, being the good Journalism students we were, a crew of us packed up and headed out to meet the Man Who Would Be King. At the time, I had no idea that I would be writing about the Age of Bush for so long. I was young, dumb and full of ... well, chocolate milk, as the day was still within morning hours.

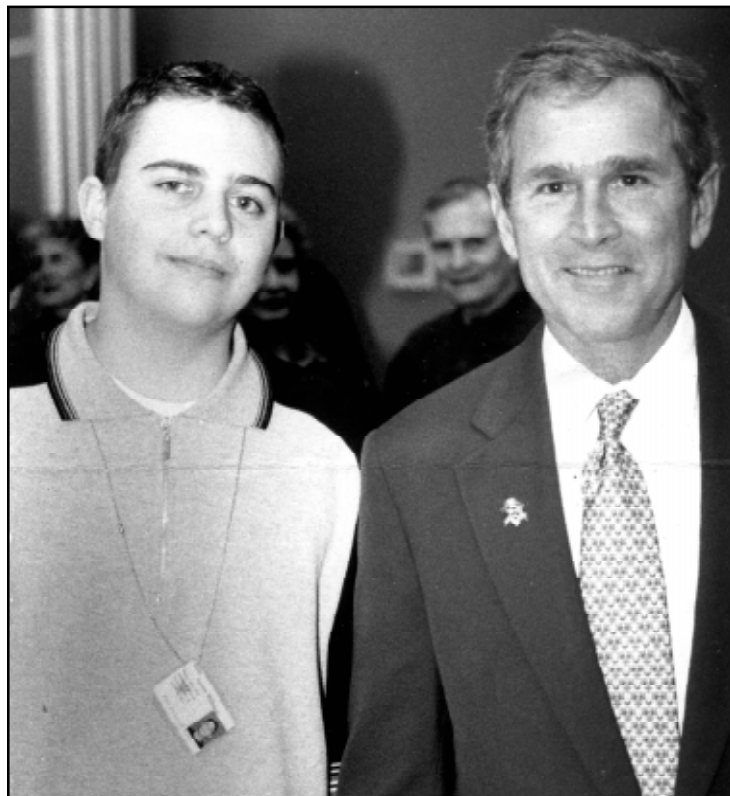
Walking into a ramshackle auditorium, packed collar to collar with the Good 'Ole Boy Elite, I found myself standing head and shoulders above much of the crowd. As it is to

this day, I top off at six-foot-four-inches, having been born at that height, much to my mother's dismay and agony. An awkward little perp, you could spot me from across the room with little effort. Then, a silence swept through the hall. Chucklehead had arrived.

Dubya was plodding across the room, surrounded by a cowboy-hat'ed entourage. He clasped hands with every other person, grinning and hee-hawing and nodding his way through the crowd. I jumped out in front of him at the last minute, pointing to a camera perched on a tripod. We shuffled in together, side by side, and the flash ignited: a moment in time, preserved in photographic form. The black and white image rests on my newsroom perch to this very day.

Finally making his way to the small, hastily-built stage, the audience quieted and piled in as close as possible. He talked about "helping" the old and poor off welfare programs, and how he was going to "save Texas" with a tax cut. Even then, in my disinterested, little center-of-the-world head, I though he sounded insincere. Had I looked underneath those words - had I read between the lines - it would have translated as something more akin Mark Twain's appraisal of the political archetype W was groomed to be ...

"I admit also that I am not a friend of the poor man," wrote Twain at his most satiric. "I regard the poor man, in his present condition, as so much wasted raw material. Cut up and properly canned, he might be made useful to fatten the natives of the cannibal islands and to improve our export



Webster meets Bush

trade with that region. I shall recommend legislation upon the subject of my first message. My campaign cry will be: 'Desiccate the poor workingman; stuff him into sausages.'"

Then, to my great shock, Bush opened the session for questions from the press. All those around me raised hands, but mine stuck up higher. "You, with the shirt," I remember him saying with a smirk, his stumpy index finger aimed right at me. Perhaps he thought it was clever to call on a high school student before a *Houston Chronicle* or *Dallas Morning News* reporter. But who was I to complain? I happily fired away.

"Mr. Bush," I began. "If you could be either in the Texas Legislature, working to solve this state's many problems, or at the Ballpark in Arlington, watching the Rangers play, which would you choose?"

His arms went up in a dunce shrug; that quirky, mischievous little grin he flashed just moments before announcing the start of the Iraq War plastered itself across his then youthful face. "Wul' come on! I think it should be obvious," he said.

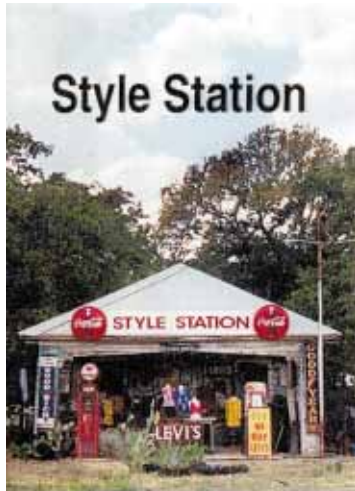
"I'd be at the ballpark," he exclaimed to a chorus of laughter. "I love them Rangers!"

That was the first and last time I spoke with Der Dummkopf-Kaiser.

Sadly, it seems the only thing that has changed about the man since then is the number of gray hairs on his head. But, I must say, sausage sure is cheap these days.

New Orleans, R.I.P.

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.



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