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# INSIDE

**Peace Mom Buys Land Near Crawford**



**Cindy Sheehan Coming Back To Town In August**

**Page 2**

**Call To Mind**



**By Don M. Fisher**

**Andrea Yates: Washed In The Texas Blood**

**Page 7**

## Editorial

**Blackmailing The Poor**

**Page 7**

**GUEST COLUMN**

## Operation Apocalypse

**End-Timers & End-Game Strategy**

**By Captain Eric May**

**Page 8**



**Is Cease-Fire In The Cards?**

**Page 16**



# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



# Free Movie Tonight The Truth About 9/11



**FREE MOVIE!  
TONITE  
TRUTH ABOUT 9/11**

**Exclusive Interview With  
Dr. Morgan Reynolds,  
Member of Scholars for 9/11 Truth**

**Page 3**

**DR. MORGAN REYNOLDS:** From Bush Administration Appointee to Outlaw Truth-Teller, this Scholar for 9/11 Truth has a lot to say, and people are listening.

— Photo By Stephen Webster



## Peace Mom Purchases Property Near Crawford

By DEBORAH MATHEWS  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — In preparation of what is gearing up to be the second Vigil, anti-war peace mom Cindy Sheehan has purchased property in Crawford and plans to locate Camp Casey on the site. This new location will be the third temporary residence of the peace protestors in President Bush's hometown.

Acting as an agent for Sheehan, New Orleans native Gerald Fonseca purchased the five plus acres from longtime Crawford resident Bobby Ramsey. Disputing claims of misrepresentation, Fonseca said that the only information that he did not provide the land owner was that Camp Casey would be located on the property.

According to Fonseca, when Ramsey found out what the land was to be used for, he refused right-of-way easement for powerline installation.

Adding to the difficulties, Fonseca said that three out of four gravel companies refused to work on the site. They did finally find someone to build the road for the property and have begun the construction.

Plans currently are to have power and water installed before Sheehan's arrival in August.

Sheehan said that she is planning to be in Crawford on Aug. 12, three days before the President is set to leave the town.

Reporting that the idea behind the purchase is to accommodate the growing size of the "family" that has joined Sheehan in her anti-war activism, she said that when there is no longer a need for them to be in Crawford that the hope was to donate the land to the City in order to construct a park and playground called Specialist



Cindy Sheehan

Casey Sheehan Memorial Peace Park.

County Commissioners commented that the new location would remove the protestors from the current location on the property of Mark Matlage.

Matlage offered the one-acre site that became known as Camp Casey II following the enactment of ordinances prohibiting the camping in ditches surrounding the President's home.

Though the move closer to Bush's ranch took protestors off of the road and out of the ditch of Camp Casey I, there was still the problem of traffic.

Officials said that this relocation should help relieve that.

Fonseca reported that work is continuing on infrastructure and though nothing bad has happened yet, nothing good has happened either.

"We do understand that some of the neighbors don't want us here," said Fonseca. "We still plan to be good neighbors."

Sheehan said, "Our ultimate goal is to make Camp Casey obsolete. Until then, we'll be in Crawford."

## Anti-Choice Groups Buying, Closing Abortion Clinics

WICHITA, Kan. — An anti-choice website reported recently that buildings that house abortion clinics in the South and Midwest are being purchased and then closed by anti-choice groups.

According to the article on LifeNews.com, a Tennessee abortion business lost a bid to own a facility to the Pro-Life Majority Coalition in Chattanooga, Tenn.

Once purchased, the building was turned into "a memorial for all of the babies who died at the abortion center over the years."

The article goes on to say that more abortion clinics using the same method have been shut down in Kansas, Nebraska, and Florida.

This method, however, is nothing new, and pro-choice advocates have caught on.

Anti-choice activists attempted to buy a building that housed an abortion business in Omaha, Nebr. in 2000, but the business owner won a lawsuit, kept the facility open, and then started a fund to give loans to clinics that want to purchase their own property.

## Mexican Judges To Rule On Presidential Race Dispute Sept. 6

MEXICO CITY — Over the next four weeks, Mexico's Federal Electoral Tribunal will plow through 364 complaints lodged by parties disputing the results of the extremely close presidential race there.

The ruling of the seven judges set for Sept. 6 is expected to decide the political battle between the business-backed Felipe Calderon and the populist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who lost the official election by less than a percent of the vote.

Law experts agree that since the credentials of the judges are near perfect, and they each earn roughly \$415,000 a year, they will be hard to sway.

However, the job that lay ahead of them is tough. In the process, the judges' choices are three-fold: declare a winner, order a recount, or annul the vote — the latter of which would leave Mexico without a president for over a year.

Experts also say that such an annulment is highly unlikely since national and international electoral officials and observers



noted that the July 2 election was free from most corruption,

unlike previous disputes which were found to have irregularities "everywhere."

Popular opinion in Mexico is that 48 percent support a recount while 28 percent don't, according to a poll in the newspaper El Universal. Sixteen percent said they would protest if the populist candidate loses.

## SS Agent Arrested After Bar Fight

WACO — Two off-duty officers with the Waco Police Department arrested a U.S. Secret Service agent last week after a dispute in a downtown Waco bar turned violent.

The U.S. Secret Service is also investigating the incident involving John Scott Lewis, 30, who according to an affidavit had been subdued with an electronic stun gun.

Lewis, who had argued with the store manager and customers and refused to leave the bar, was charged with public intoxication, re-

sisting arrest, and reckless damage to property. He was released upon posting a \$1,000 bond.

Before being booked at the McLennan County Jail, Lewis suffered two cuts one to his forehead and another on this nose and was treated at a local hospital.

A spokesperson with the U.S. Secret Service said that Lewis is still employed by the government but gave no further comment other than to say the incident was being taken seriously inside the agency.



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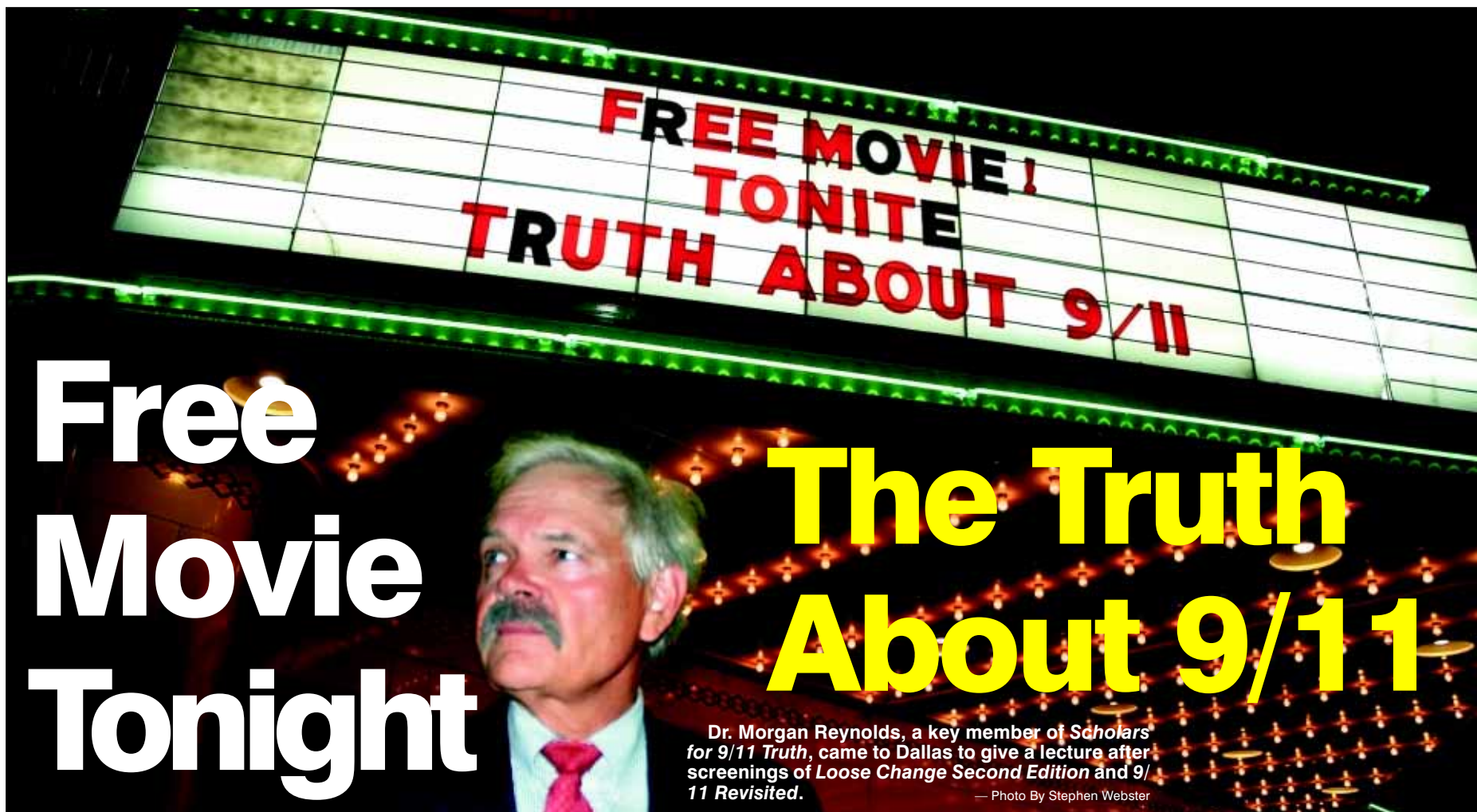
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# Free Movie Tonight

# The Truth About 9/11

Dr. Morgan Reynolds, a key member of *Scholars for 9/11 Truth*, came to Dallas to give a lecture after screenings of *Loose Change Second Edition* and *9/11 Revisited*.

— Photo By Stephen Webster

## Exclusive Interview With Dr. Morgan Reynolds, Member of *Scholars for 9/11 Truth*

BY STEPHEN WEBSTER  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

DALLAS — Dr. Morgan Reynolds is a penny-pinching, free market, small government Republican. As the former Chief Economist for the United States Department of Labor from 2001-2002, he enjoyed a lifestyle much easier than many in the United States, having been appointed to the position by the well-oiled Bush team. Currently professor emeritus with Texas A&M University, Reynolds spends nearly all of his off-time fomenting a New American Revolution.

Unlike his former government colleagues, Reynolds does not believe the official line on Sept. 11, 2001. On Saturday, July 22, in partnership with the Dallas Air America Radio group, the Lakewood Theater in North Dallas devoted a special free screening to *Loose Change: Second Edition* and *9/11 Revisited*. Reynolds was on hand to lecture the audience between films, and to give them several parting thoughts at the end of the evening. *Loose Change* played in front of a nearly packed house; about half

the crowd remained through the end of *Revisited*. Both films are available online, free of charge. See *further reading* at the end of this writing.

*The Lone Star Iconoclast* was on-hand to watch both films and sit down with Dr. Reynolds after he spoke.

.....  
ICONOCLAST: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us, Dr. Reynolds. You are currently professor emeritus with Texas A&M, correct?

DR. MORGAN REYNOLDS: Yes, I've taught there for 28 years. And in 2001-2002, I was the Chief Economist Department of Labor, a political appointee of the Bush/Cheney Administration. I was also the director of the Criminal Justice Center at the National Center for Policy Analysis, which is headquartered in Dallas, Texas.

ICONOCLAST: So, short version ... 9/11 was an 'Inside Job.' You lean more toward the side that says the Bush Administration made it happen, rather than those who think they simply allowed it to happen.

DR. REYNOLDS: Yes. I think we have compelling evidence

that 9/11 was done by elements of the Bush/Cheney government, aided by select outsiders. They did it. It doesn't have anything to do with Arabs or caves in Afghanistan. It was all set up to aid the war on terror, control, oil, promote the global domination project and the like ...

ICONOCLAST: So ... How far does that rabbit hole go?

DR. REYNOLDS: (Laughing) It goes very far. But, first, 9/11 is the lynchpin event of this century. We have to bring the movement to a boil so we can prosecute the real perpetrators. Once this opens up, it'll open up a whole raft of things ... It will go very deep and very wide. Once the American public is really awakened, and it is happening week by week, this could lead, ultimately, to the paymasters, the so-called invisible government ... But we're not ready to go there just yet. We've got to crack 9/11. That's the key. People who just want to try to oppose the war in Iraq, or be supportive of the Israelis in Lebanon, or try to stop them [the Bushes] piecemeal are going to fail. None of this could be happening without 9/11. We've

got to break 9/11 open for this movement to go further. I call it a constitutional crisis that we need to have. We need to go there.

ICONOCLAST: How do you go about shaking the foundations of government's story of 9/11 in the minds of others?

DR. REYNOLDS: Well, a lot of us [*Scholars for 9/11 Truth*] have worked on the physical evidence front, because it is a lot stronger than eyewitness testimony. So, for good or ill, a lot of us are pursuing this from a scientific standpoint. That may not make the best marketing, but I think we need this powerful evidence. Now, when it comes to convincing the American people and getting the word out, and educating, and using various types of persuasion ... We haven't gotten that far yet. But with the help of the Internet and the alternative media, we are making steady progress. Just not any great leaps yet. One way to approach somebody about this — and this is the approach my wife uses — is to just ask somebody out of the blue, 'Are you satisfied with the 9/11 story?' For a lot of people, it almost just begs to say, 'Well, no, I'm really not.'

So, you ask what they find unsatisfying or suspicious. Now, when some people are confronted with this, they don't want to think about it. They don't want to look at this. They

want to shirk their duty as a citizen. So, maybe the nation can't be saved. But I'm not that pessimistic. If 90 percent of the public doesn't want to deal with the truth, deal with the facts, then the nation cannot be saved. I think it is only a small minority that doesn't want to deal with the facts. We have to go there. The truth is, to me, the most important thing. After 9/11, there is no more important issue in the world than 9/11.

ICONOCLAST: Many people will remember there was a 14-month delay, getting the 9/11 Commission up and running. The Bush Administration kept stonewalling. Why?

DR. REYNOLDS: "They didn't want, and they did avoid, an objective investigation of the facts, because it would lead right to the White House. They were forced by political pressure, especially by the Jersey Girls, to appoint such a commission. In normal circumstances, one would have been appointed or formed within a week. Any major event like this ... We find out what went wrong, and how to fix it. Their whole resistance to an investigation had to be modified. What they did, of course, is control the personnel."

Personnel is policy, as the old Reagan government used to say. They get sellouts like Lee Hamilton. Insiders like Philip

Continued On Next Page



# The Truth About 9/11

Continued From Previous Page

Zelikow. Thomas Keene ... As only a prosecutor would say, 'We're mobbed up.' There's no way they can serve on any kind of criminal justice forum. Even when Max Cleeland resigned, saying he didn't want to be part of a cover up, there was a lot of pressure to appoint Kristin Breitweiser, one of the four Jersey girls. But they didn't even do that. They appointed an experienced guy, Senator Bob Kerrey. So, they couldn't even let one outsider, a hopefully objective person, in on that. I mean, they appointed Henry Kissinger. (Laughs) But not even that made it in the mainstream, controlled media. They got a milder, cooperative-type set up. The idea of the government investigating its self objectively, I find, brings an even smaller chance of producing justice than any prosecution.

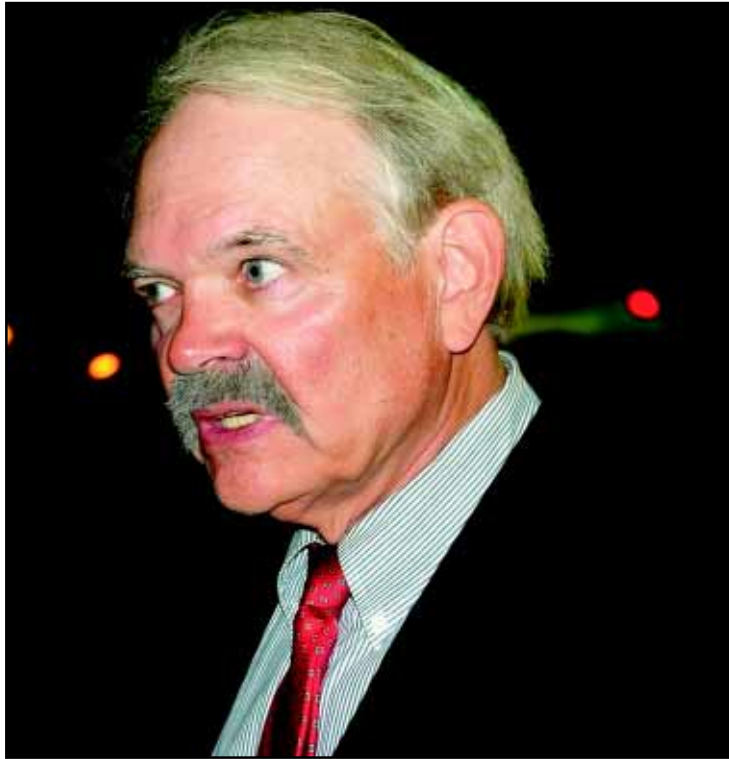
ICONOCLAST: What do you believe regarding the Pentagon? Was it a missile that hit it?

DR. REYNOLDS: Most likely. It was a cruise missile, I think. I mean, if you want to bust bunkers, which is what they're made for. They are sub-sonic, penetrating, explosive warheads. There are other theories that I would not reject offhand. It could have been an F-16. It could have been, and I don't believe this, but it could have been an AT Sky Warrior. There are others that believe it was an entirely internal explosion. On my website ([nomoregames.net](http://nomoregames.net)), I assembled the strongest evidence I feel proves that it was not a Boeing 757 that hit the Pentagon. The most recent development is that you couldn't, at 500 miles per hour plus, bring a plane in at the first floor. It is physically impossible.

ICONOCLAST: What about the light posts? Wouldn't a plane's wing get ripped off from hitting just one of those?

DR. REYNOLDS: Right. Yeah. As the movie *Loose Change* shows, there was a small, corporate aircraft that hit one light pole at Houston/Hobby and, um, it wrecked the plane. It was everywhere. People don't appreciate the difference between steel and aluminum. I mean, I went and weighed my sledgehammer. It is 9 1/2 lbs. I could take that hammer and just wreak havoc on a 757's wing. I could whack a few panels off very easily. The fuselage is only two millimeters thick. It would not be difficult.

The point is, while the towers were definitely more hardened than the pentagon, the plane would just shatter; crumple.



DR. REYNOLDS was Chief Economist for the Department of Labor from 2001-2002. He was appointed by members of the Bush administration. — Photo By Stephen Webster

There would be debris. I was talking on the radio to a woman just recently whose husband was witness to a plane crash out at JFK. You can't imagine what a mess ... There are people, there's limbs, there's blood, there's millions of pieces of metal and debris. A big, big field of stuff, everywhere. So, this idea that a big jet liner vanished into the pentagon is a big non-starter. It is totally laughable.

ICONOCLAST: Wasn't part of the official explanation that the debris from the jet 'disintegrated' in the ensuing fires?

DR. REYNOLDS: They had different defenses, including vaporization, which could never happen. Couldn't happen, physi-

cally. Some people believe the wings folded up and allowed the plane to enter a hole, which is also rubbish, physically. The plane did not leave a scar on the building where the wings would have been, period. If I put my arms out, and come walking toward you at a fairly fast pace, and then bump into you, my arms move forward. (Laughs) Just simple physics! This is 8th grade science, here! Then, you have these engines, with 50,000 pounds of thrust, driving these things into the building. And somehow they folded up and didn't impact the wall of that building? People need to do their homework on such an important issue.

### Further Reading ...

- <http://nomoregames.net/>
- <http://www.911truth.org/>
- <http://www.loosechange911.com/>
- <http://www.911revisited.com/>
- <http://www.scholarsfor911truth.org/>

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## Peace Prize Winner Would 'Love To Kill' Bush

BRISBANE, Australia — A Nobel Peace Prize winner expressed her deep frustration with President George W. Bush last week in front of cheering schoolchildren in Brisbane, Australia.

"I have a very hard time with this word 'non-violence', because I don't believe that I am non-violent," said the 64-year-old Betty Williams. "Right now, I would love to kill George Bush."

Williams, who was awarded the prize 30 years ago for her work to end violence in Northern Ireland, spoke during the Earth Dialogues forum at Brisbane City Hall on the deaths of innocent children during war-time.

"I don't know how I ever got a Nobel Peace Prize, because when I see children die the anger in me is just beyond belief,"

the Australian newspaper quoted her as saying. "It's our duty as human beings, whatever age we are, to become the protectors of human life."



Betty Williams

Williams continued to explain that during a recent trip to Iraq, a doctor told her that he believed every single one of the 200 children he cared for there was going to die from cancers obtained from the first Gulf War.

"[The children] needed five different kinds of medication to treat the cancers that the children had, and the embargoes laid on by the United States and the United Nations only allowed them three," said Williams, the head of the World Centres of Compassion for Children International, a non-profit that encouraged children to raise their political voices.

## Panel Says Earth's Temperature Hottest Ever In Past 400 Years

COLLEGE STATION — Conclusive evidence shows that Earth's temperature has risen over the past 400 years, and the last three decades have been the warmest period in history, a special scientific panel chaired by Texas A&M University professor Gerald North said in a report issued by the National Academy of Sciences.

"Our report states with virtual certainty that Earth's temperature has risen over the past 400 years," said North, the Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Sciences at Texas A&M.

The panel concluded that the period from roughly 1500 to 1850 on Earth was a very cool time, known today as "the little Ice Age." The report also says the

steep rise in temperatures started about 100 years ago, and the last decades have been like no other time period found.

"Our report says with certainty that temperatures have climbed over the past 400 years, and the odds are very good that they have climbed even longer than that, probably for at least the past 1,000 years," North reported.

The report said that from between 1 A.D. and about 1850, volcanic eruptions and other events had the biggest effect on worldwide climate.

But temperature changes, the report said, "were much less pronounced than the warming due to greenhouse gas levels" that have occurred since the mid-19th Century.



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# States Rejecting Abstinence-Only Sex-Ed Programs

NEW YORK — A new report from the Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS) found that state and local communities are rejecting federal sexual education programs that teach abstinence-only.

“With no sound research and no support from the public health community, it is clear that citizens and policymakers in states and communities are deciding a better approach is needed,” said William Smith, vice president for public policy at SIECUS.

At the same time, Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.) released his own report, showing that more than \$30 million federal dollars

were given to anti-choice crisis pregnancy centers and other right-wing groups through abstinence-only-until-marriage accounts.

“The curricula continue to be

riddled with false and misleading information and taxpayer money is being inappropriately used to fuel the spread of these programs in the states,” said Rebecca Fox, the author of

“SIECUS State Profiles: A Portrait of Sexuality Education and Abstinence-Only-Until-Marriage Programs.”

Over \$1 billion tax dollars have been allocated to abstinence only programs since 1998. The state of Texas received the lion’s share in 2005 with \$16 million, followed by Florida with about \$12 million.

In its report, SIECUS found several states rejecting or criticized these programs in some way, including Maine, California, Pennsylvania, New Mexico, and Ohio, while others showed signs of moving in favor of more comprehensive sex education programs, such as New York and Illinois.

Still, crisis pregnancy centers and other anti-choice organizations continued to receive federal funding. In Massachusetts, the governor allocated dollars intended for advertising these

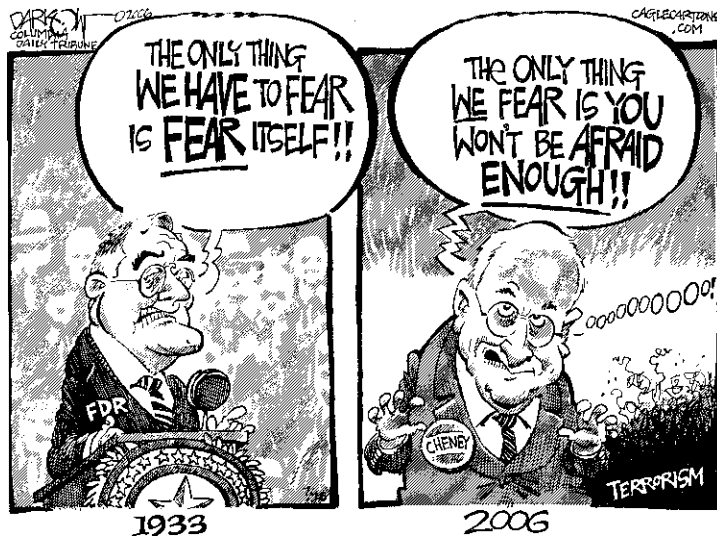
sex-ed programs instead to a crisis pregnancy center already receiving \$1.5 million federal. New Jersey gives one-third of its federal funds to these centers and over 60 percent to anti-choice groups.

Also, inaccurate curricula is spreading. Texas uses Choosing the Best LIFE, a program that expanded to 17 states in 2005.

Choosing the Best LIFE states that “relationships often lower the self-respect of both partners — one feeling used, the other feeling like the user. Emotional pain can cause a downward spiral leading to intense feelings of lack of worthlessness.”

For more information about the SIECUS, visit its website.

**INFO**  
SIECUS Report  
[www.siecus.org/policy/states/index.html](http://www.siecus.org/policy/states/index.html)



## Exxon Mobil Rakes In \$10.36 Billion Last Quarter

IRVING — The Irving, Texas-based Exxon Mobil Corp. announced a \$10.36 billion in earnings last quarter, fueling more political criticism in Washington for the world’s largest oil company.

Through high oil prices, the company increased its revenue by 12 percent. If the revenue was any higher, Exxon Mobile would have broken its record profit \$10.71 billion set in the fourth quarter of 2005.

The \$4.9 billion of the earnings, Exxon Mobile said, went toward capital and exploration projects during the three-month time frame. Shareholders received \$7.9 billion in dividends and share repurchases.

## Net Neutrality Vote Could Haunt Sen. McCain

WASHINGTON — Advocates for network neutrality have targeted 11 Republican senators who voted against the amendment in committee last June, according to a recent article in Computer World.

Among those put under pressure is Sen. John McCain, a Republican from Arizona who is a member of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee.

Net Neutrality, which is currently a de facto law of

the Internet, would prevent Internet service providers from discriminating against web content by such methods as offering different speeds on a variable pay scale.

Supporters, like MoveOn.org and the Christian Coalition of America who make up a broader coalition called Save The Internet, want the concept codified in an updated version of the 1996 telecommunications act.

Nora Miller, a freelance

writer and editor from Arizona, said in an email to Computer World that this act “minus any protection of Net neutrality, amounts to a giant giveaway to telecom companies that do not have my best interests at heart.”

“My federal dollars created the Internet specifically to provide free and equal access to all users,” she added.

Computer World noted that the people like Miller and Gordon Geiger, semi-retired engineer, executive and professor, also of Arizona, say

that the way their elected representatives voted on net neutrality will help determine their vote in the November elections.

“I use the Internet to find teaching materials, order all sorts of items that are not available in Tucson stores, communicate widely and keep up with world events,” he said. “As far as I am concerned, the government paid to develop the Internet, and there is no excuse to turn it over to business interests.”

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# The Devaluation Of Human Life

The rockets and missiles fired during the military attacks in the Middle East this past two weeks are carrying an indelible message — that human life is cheap. That people are merely things.

The intel reports gathered by various ICONOCLAST contacts from throughout the world have squarely placed the blame on just about every side, depending upon perspectives.

Some say that Israel must be allowed to defend herself, therefore the attacks are warranted.

Some say that Israel has gone too far.

Some say that the only way to extract Hezbollah is through complete annihilation.

And others say that the battle has nothing to do with those countries, but instead with Iran — and that this is merely a way of slowly expending Iran's stockpile, which is why the U.S. has defanged Condi in favor of letting the fireworks show continue.

These are just a few of the

## The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



opinions.

Unfortunately, by missiles plowing into civilian homes many innocents are killed. The dead women and children, the disabled and the elderly, become known statistically as collateral damage.

Let me paraphrase Clint Eastwood in a recent western movie, in which he portrayed a bounty hunter, "When you kill a man, you take everything he's got....and everything he's ever going to have."

That's the underside of the conflict.

The scenario around the recent bloodshed is sort of like having a bank president calling the local police to report an armed robbery in progress. The police arrive, throw a stick of dynamite into the building, and

blow it and everybody up. Problem solved. And profits go to those who get to rebuild....and, of course, to the manufacturers of the dynamite. The "collateral damage" is beside the point.

Perhaps the most annoying aspect of the Lebanon-Israel battle is that people are beginning to again sing the old chants about the apocalypse, the end of time as foretold in the Book of Revelation. Many are re-reading the passages and are trying to put a modern spin into the visions. This happens with every generation. This is not new.

I believe in the sanctity of Revelation, but am reluctant to want to force its prophecies to happen.

Here's the rub.

What if the masses become entranced by the Neo-Cons that we are now entering the end of time and begin to act accordingly, behaving passively to political treachery, giving in to the rhetoric of the day? What if they abandon the idea of

peace as an option because they are told the end of times are near and it is out of everyone's control (when it really isn't).

Indeed, our leaders have accomplished a mass obliteration of the ultimatums in the Commandments, which lends itself to prophecy.

But that's our fault, for letting

them get away with it.

Likewise, it is our fault if we don't hold these individuals accountable and replace them with bearers of truth.

Let's not give up on Planet Earth, just yet.

And let's not go willingly into a humanly manufactured black hole of doom.



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# Andrea Yates: Washed In The Texas Blood

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "I got a vision from the Lord to take care of all the cattle I could, no matter who they belonged to."

Why couldn't Miz Rove have tried to save little Karl's soul back when he was a toddler?

That way Rancho Arbusto wouldn't need a scarecrow.

So, according to Andrea Yates' jury, if you love the lord, it's okay to baptize your children to death.

Or, viewed another way, being born again is a form of insanity.

I told you Preacher Falwell is crazy.

If Angela Yates deserves to be sent to the Texas Department of Delusion, so do all those Al Qaeda types in Cuba.

Maybe that's the answer.

Just send all the terrorists to Rusk State Hospital.

They believe they are being told by God to commit murder.

So just put them on Andrea and Deanna's ward.

In case you need a menu for the Texas psycho-deli, Deanna Laney was found insane earlier this year by a Tyler jury after she stoned to death her eight- and five-year-old sons, then blinded her infant with another rock.

For you Yankees not familiar with Tyler, Texas, it boasts more holy criminals than Mecca or Branson.

Of course they usually confine their illicit activities to snake-handling, extortion and fraud . . .

Don't misunderstand.

Being turned over to the tender mercies of the Texas Department of State Health Services is NOT a short visit to La-la Land.

The chances that either of these two will ever be released to anyplace other than the bone orchard are about as likely as a live thought occurring to the Republican National Committee.

In fact, here are some correctional corrections to a few gross misconceptions about the insanity defense.

Crazy murderers don't get a walk in Texas. The criminal court retains jurisdiction over the case for the max sentence that the law provides. That, in these cases, means life, since there is no cure for schizophrenia, and no judge is likely to risk re-election by cutting loose a child-murderer. Not even if she's cured as a side of bacon and holier than Swiss cheese.

No murderer granted an insanity plea in Texas has ever left the hospital alive. Only since 1990 has the state provided the

## Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



indigent with psychiatric exams. If you were crazy *and* poor, criminal behavior constituted your third strike.

There are five places in Texas where Andrea and Deanna could be locked up with any of a couple of thousand other psychopaths (try getting a good night's sleep with that little bedtime story ringing in your ears): Vernon, Big Spring, Kerrville, El Paso and the Daddy of Them All, RUSK. The East Texas facility has changed in recent years, but Satan once tried to rent it for the sixth level of hell. Guards were charged to shoot to kill any inmate who tried to flee. Until the mid-70s, no criminal or "forensic" inmate committed to Rusk was ever released. Not even non-lethal criminals. In the case of one Harry Reynolds back in the '70s, the high court ruled that Texas had to release those held beyond the maximum sentence if they were not considered a threat. We in Texas consider killing people somewhat threatening.

Further, the DSHS State Hospital Forensic Admissions Clearinghouse must first consider any release, which takes the hospital's mental health types out of the decision-making. The clearinghouse has a backlog, which is bureaucratized for "We'll get around to it some of these days." So even serving out the sentence doesn't guarantee a quick release.

In 1999 only 16 percent of state hospitals' 2,278 beds were occupied by forensic commitments. Now it's about 30 percent. There are 642 available beds. Do the math; I'm tired. But "crazy" and "overcrowded" don't usually play well together.

In Texas the insanity defense is only tried in about one percent of the total criminal cases and only successful in a few more than a fourth of those (26 percent, if you really have to press the point). There's a good reason for that.

Texas' insanity defense is based on the McNaghton Standard with an inclination to the "irresistible impulse" test. In 1843 John McNaghton shot and killed Edward Drummond, the secretary to British Prime Minister Robert Peel. McNaghton, probably a paranoid schizophrenic, believed Mr. Peel was persecuting him. The deranged

McNaghton had no notion of what Peel looked like and decided that Drummond was Peel, who'd never heard of McNaghton, either. The court ruled that since McNaghton was so buggy that he didn't know right from wrong (or Drummond from Peel), he required treatment rather than punishment. Of course treatment in 1843 involved high-pressure ice water hoses and submersion in pits filled with live snakes, so McNaghton would have been better off with a rope. Nevertheless, the public, which still enjoyed a good old-fashioned English hanging, was outraged that the miscreant got off so lightly. In 1887 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Parsons v. Alabama* that if, by reason of mental illness, the defendant was unable to stop him- or herself from committing a crime, he or she may be considered insane. We in Texas have seen no reason to improve on the subsequent 119 years of successful torment. (In both recent Texas cases, these women made a *decision* to kill their children, negating the "irresistible impulse" defense. They also knew that what they were doing was against the law, i.e. WRONG, since both called the police after the slaughter and turned themselves in. Therefore, unless the Bible-thumping jurors considered the divine intervention defense, neither murdering Mommy is insane under Texas law.)

Insanity examination of prisoners in Texas usually involves only two interviews, morning and afternoon, on a single day. The interview is not privileged, and any confession to the psychiatrist can be used against the defendant. Can't imagine why this defense isn't used more often! The evaluation is based on four issues: Is there a history of mental illness? Is this commensurate with the person's usual behavior? Is there an otherwise rational motive for the crime and did the person act crazy when interrogated?

But why should anyone care whether god's little killers get life among the Freddie's and Jasons instead of Texas' Final Solution?

Frankly, I don't.

So far as I'm concerned we could march them all into the woods and play a rousing game of Who's Got The Chainsaw.

Although I must admit I do enjoy a good old-fashioned Texas hanging.

What bothers me is this:

If Andrea had been a Muslim or Satanic Hedonist, this jury

would have been dousing cotton balls with alcohol and filling syringes on their way out of the deliberation room.

And her proselytizing husband and the Imams and the High Priests would be charged

with conspiracy to commit murder and awaiting trial among tattooed bisexual powerlifters.

But call the cult a church, and we get sermons disguised as press conferences.

Suffer the little children . . .



## Blackmailing The Poor

With twilight nearing, the U.S. House of Representatives late last Friday night passed the first minimum wage increase in a decade.

But not until the House Republicans first poisoned the concoction with language to cut inheritance taxes on multimillion-dollar estates, which, when it all goes through the meat-grinder, results in a dilution of the purported increase of funds for the lower and middle income classes.

Another way of looking at this is that the poor got theirs, but so did the rich.

It's just that, if this bill passes muster with the Senate, the poor will eventually pick up the tab caused by the loss of the inheritance taxes.

So, they're back at the line of scrimmage while the wealthy advance 20 yards.

To quote Sen. Harry Reid, who has predicted that the Senate will kill the bill, along with its 10-year, \$300 billion-plus cost, "The Senate has rejected fiscally irresponsible estate tax giveaways before and will reject them again. Blackmailing working families will not change that outcome."

We'll see, maybe this week.

The House vote was split, 230-180. It would increase the minimum wage from the current \$5.15 per hour, to \$7.25 per hour, phased in over three years. It would also exempt \$5 million of an individual's estate, or \$10 million of a couple's, from estate taxes by 2015. As it stands, the estate tax is set to be completely phased out by 2010, then jump to 55 percent on estates larger than \$1 million in 2011.

There should be a law outlawing hybrid bills. Let each issue stand on its own merits.

— W. Leon Smith





# The Flag, The 'Da Vinci Code,' Gas Prices, And More

It's that time again – time for me to share with you some of the comments that readers have sent me in response to my columns. Enjoy.

In a recent column, I talked about a man who is suing Michael Jordan and Nike because he's tired of being mistaken for Jordan. Your comments included:

JEANNE: "This one you must have made up!"

TAMMY: "People actually wonder why the courts are so tied up and why insurance rates are so high. Hmhmhmhmhmhmhmhmhmhm... maybe I should sue Mr. Heckard for pain and suffering. I laughed so hard at him, I pulled a neck muscle. I hear soft tissue injuries pay big bucks."

I discussed the announcement from President Bush that he authorized the leaking – or the declassification — of a classified document regarding some conclusions about Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

BARRY: "Well, Lloyd... Now we find out that Bush did not lie. The lies are coming from our 'free left-wing press,' from partisan liberal Democrats like you."

DIANE: "What I've noticed with this administration is if their lips are moving, more than likely it's not true."

I discussed the difficulty in buying a simple cell phone.

JERRY: "At last, a subject that is neither liberal nor conservative ... if they didn't have all the extra features, the phone companies could hand out these phones for free the way they did when I was a kid."

JEFF: "When I asked for the simplest phone they had, it came with a 100 page instruction book and sounds like the Boston symphony. Whatever happened to "Ring, ring?"

I wrote about the traumatic experience of my first \$3.00-a-gallon fill up.

DAVE: "Last fall I had a knee operation which kept me driving for 6 weeks. During the time I was (convalescing), gas prices dropped. Sure enough, they began to rise a couple weeks after I returned to work."

AAR: "It's called supply and demand. And you suggest that we become more like socialist France, where they pay around \$7.00 per gallon. Come on, get a clue."

I expressed my dismay about why so many people were taking a work of fiction, "The Da Vinci Code," so seriously.

THOMAS: "As I watch the controversy around this book/movie, all I can think of is Oscar Wilde. In the preface to 'The



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

Picture of Dorian Gray,' he said, 'There's no such thing as a moral or an immoral book. Books are well written or badly written. That is all.'

ED: "The more his book gets banned, the more copies he will sell."

ALAN: "Please note the best novels are often used to propound a theory or teach a lesson about the human condition, not just tell a story. See 'Les Miserables' and 'War and Peace.' I doubt this novel is on the level, yet it may not be meant just to be taken as an interesting story, but to bring attention to a theory."

I wrote about Republicans dropping out of the Congressional Softball League, after 37 years of bipartisan play.

JEFFREY: "I always enjoyed the White House Correspondence dinner for their ability to put aside differences with humor. Now even that is strained."

After my recent trip to France, I noticed how much more likely Parisians were to wish me a "good morning" than those back home in the good of U.S.A.

ARTHUR: "No one knows anymore how to speak politely and sincerely. I must tell you it \*\*\*\*es me off."

SHERVONNE: "Come to Texas.... (Greeting people) is one of our traditions. Perhaps we're not as afraid of people as the folks in your area may be."

DIETTER: "I believe that it is cultural. Black folks, I am one, greet each other all the time. ...I've tried to extend the 'hi' to

random folks of other races. I'm usually left hanging."

KATE: "If you come to Tennessee, you will hear plenty of 'Good Mornings.'"

SHEN: "Come South!"

CSS: "If you go to a relatively small town, one that's viewed as 'safe,' lots of people will say, 'good morning.'"

In BETSY ROSS WOULD BE SO PROUD, I discussed the proposal for the "flag burning" Amendment.

NANCY: "Contrary to the pompously patriotic, no one has ever died for the flag – they died to defend the freedoms it represents."

CHIP: "If cigarette smoking is

illegal in many places, shouldn't flag smoking be illegal in those places, too?"

"Flag smoking?" Well, Chip, who could argue with that logic? Thanks for all the emails.

Keep them coming.

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

## Strayhorn Predicts \$49 Million In Sales Tax Holiday Savings

AUSTIN—Texas Comptroller Carole Keeton Strayhorn announced that Texas' annual opportunity to shop tax-free for clothes and shoes is coming up Friday through Sunday, Aug. 4-6. She predicted Texas families will save \$49 million in sales taxes during the eighth annual Sales Tax Holiday. The estimated savings include \$38.5 million in state sales tax and \$10.5 million in local sales taxes.

"This tax break is real and it is available to everyone," Strayhorn said. "Families save about \$8 for every \$100 they spend on school clothes for the kids and new outfits for mom and dad."

During the Sales Tax Holiday, most clothing and footwear priced under \$100 are tax-free. Examples of items that can be purchased tax-free Aug. 4-6 include kids' clothes

and school uniforms, adults' clothes and work uniforms, shoes (including tennis shoes), socks, and underwear.

Items that cannot be purchased tax-free include handbags and wallets, jewelry, accessories, and athletic shoes, uniforms and safety gear. Backpacks and school supplies are not exempt from sales tax.

Shoppers saved an estimated \$47.4 million in state and local sales taxes during the 2005 Sales Tax Holiday. Since the first Sales Tax Holiday was implemented in 1999, taxpayers have saved \$287 million, including \$226 million in state sales tax and \$61 million in local sales taxes.

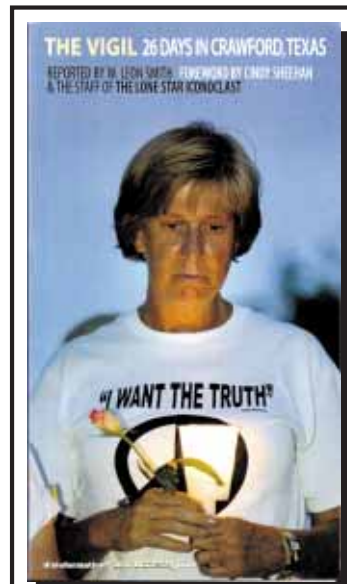
More information about the Sales Tax Holiday, including a list of tax-exempt items, can be found on the Comptroller's website <[www.window.state.tx.us](http://www.window.state.tx.us)>.

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# Operation Apocalypse

## End-Timers & End-Game Strategy

*Writer's note: Rather than insert references into the text, I've provided a short list of them all at the end of the essay.*  
CPTMAY

### Wolves in Sheeps' Clothing

In the last week of July, just when the Israeli offensive was stalling against a tough Hezbollah resistance in Lebanon, *Operation Apocalypse* went into high gear in the United States. All at once the corporate media mouthpieces began to urge the American People to jump right into the quicksand war of Lebanon — and Syria and Iran, of course.

Monday, July 24, CNN began to run a story from Paul Zahn about End Times Christians who were predicting billions of dead in a war that had begun with Israel's offensive in the Holy Land — and how this was what they were praying for. Within a day the same CNN crew crowed that the End Times "Rapture meter" was at its highest level since 9/11 — and pretended to have nothing to do with it.

Tuesday morning the Houston Chronicle carried an essay by Zev Chafets, *All quiet at Armageddon, but will it stay that way?*, that praised the willingness of End Times Christians to see things in a one-sided, pro-Israel way, no questions asked — to Kingdom Come, if need be.

A bit later at breakfast, my dad handed me a brochure — professional PR stuff — passed out by thousands, paid for by pro-war money — promising nuclear war before fall. The author, Yisrayl (Israel) Hawkins promised four billion dead and a sorting out of the elect from the remaining two billion.

The idea of Armageddon is gaining traction in every part of our global war media, which now treats World War Three as a foregone conclusion. Hannity and Colmes had a guest, Cham Dallas, who prophesied (five times in five minutes) that Al Qaeda and Hezbollah were going to nuke America to bring on the great, final contest of civilizations.

The nation prepares for the genocide and suicide of world war, and the media cheer-leads to doom like a Jonestown Cult. *Operation Apocalypse* has begun all right — and there's no doubt in my military mind about it.

### False Miracles

Last week's LONE STAR ICONOCLAST presented an editorial showing that in the last decade —

particularly since 9/11 — there has been a multifold increase in world seismic activity. It suggested that, as one possibility, the government's ultra-secret HAARP program, based in Alaska, may have been disturbing the earth's crust and climate.

My own induction into this irregular research of HAARP came last summer. One of the thousands who put in with Camp Casey in August, I was returning to my home-

town of Houston from Crawford the Sunday night after Katrina plowed into New Orleans — and the locals swore that there had been operatives dynamiting the levees to drown the poor folks. Watching the huge black clouds still menacing in the east as we drove home, I told my wife that Katrina had removed Cindy Sheehan from the news for Bush. For the first time a suspicion formed and I added, "Was it meant to?"

Back home, I began to examine the most irregular meteorological data behind Katrina, and in a few days had seen enough research to conclude that it was a HAARP-induced event. Rita came next, and like Katrina followed a very distinct hot water trail across the Gulf of Mexico, as if someone had been pouring the energy it fed on into the Gulf waters ahead of it to lure it onward. It, too, served the political convenience of the Bush administration, since Cindy Sheehan was then blasting away against the war in a Washington, D.C. rally — on the very Saturday when Rita slammed into the Texas/Louisiana coast.

Like Katrina before her and Wilma after her, Rita was a category 5, and those three of them, in one season, meant that there were more super-hurricanes in 2005 than in all the previous 100 seasons combined. The three weird sister storms struck the Gulf Coast hard, resulting in record profits for the oil allies of the Bush administration. Catastrophes of convenience.

### Four Terror Scenarios

*Operation Apocalypse* looks to this officer like an End Times extravaganza to launch us into the truly "global" part of our global war, rigged to explode now that Israel, our "special friend," has gone into action to clear out their ungodly Arab enemies.

In order to keep the spirit of war booming along, there must be more national terrors in the

## GUEST COMMENTARY

near future, more proofs of End Time Armageddon for the faithful followers. My cyber-associates and I have analyzed four types of created terror. Each has its direction, and its element:

**Western Earth:** Many believe that the Jakarta tsunami of Christmas 2004 was induced by HAARP tectonic warfare. I didn't believe it when it occurred, but do now. Further, the Pakistan quake of 2005 occurred in the middle of the three weird sister hurricanes. What are the odds?

For the last half year we've been following FEMA and Homeland Security exercises along the West Coast, all of them simulating once-a-century earthquakes and tsunamis. One media outlet after another has been selling us on *catastrophe* programming. Disaster-industry companies are increasing their personnel in anticipation of a mega-quake that someone in the government is telling them will come soon. Does it seem like they know something we don't?

**Northern Wind:** The Windy City of Chicago has long been in the cross hairs for a "terror" attack, as was supposedly planned as part of 9/11. When King George and Mayor Daley met in late June it made many of us think that the set-up is still on.

It is interesting that two days after the Bush/Daley party, Central Illinois media and officials issued a bird flu alert, urging the public to prepare for an outbreak in September or October. State officials I contacted couldn't explain why there was this sudden and sure warning of a pending bio-terror. They couldn't say why there would be an outbreak in Central Illinois, of all the areas in North America. They couldn't say who it was who sent out the alert — though, alarmingly, they said that they'd been rehearsing the bio-terror scenario for over a year.

**Eastern Water:** The Internet research community chats about the man-made hurricanes as HAARPicanes. Before the three weird sisters of 2005, there was the "Florida Four" of 2004, all of which defied all odds to hit Brother Jeb's state — including Ivan the Terrible, which

hit the state, did a circle in the Atlantic, then hit it again. The weather warriors who run the HAARP program can put the HAARPicanes where they want them, and the Florida Four show that they tested them in 2004 before getting down to business with the three weird sisters in 2005.

This is bad news for New York City, where federal and local officials have been preparing for a once-a-century New York hurricane in 2006. Some officials are so sure of the pending event that we who follow weather war believe they know it's coming. If it happened, the storm surge could wash away as many impediments to urban development (i.e., poor people) as Katrina's did. People who knew it was coming would clean up on the redevelopment, of course.

**Southern Fire:** Worldwide petrochemical powers have profited from King George's reign, beyond all reckoning, and control the Houston area. With failed-war political pressures building toward a November election eruption against Republicans, the powers that be could turn things around immediately with a staged terror attack in a Texas petroleum town, afterwards paying off well the parties that sponsored the deed, while blaming it all on Al Qaeda

or Hezbollah — to lead the country to world war.

In recent weeks the ICONOCLAST has published my analysis of a two-year string of petrochemical explosions in Southeast Texas, from Beaumont through Texas City and into Houston. I urge it on anyone concerned that there may be more.

8/8 and 8/28

In previous columns, I have explained the code analysis of terror event dates, and how disasters seem to frequently occur on dates with embedded numeric codes. With that in mind, the next dates to be watched are 8/8 and 8/28, for all areas, all scenarios.

It's a tough road to salvation in these twilight zone days of the American Republic, in the face of *Operation Apocalypse*, the diabolical plot to pull together all the dark forces of our greed, fear and hatred to start a world war and call it God's Will.

*On July 11, 2005, Captain May received emergency baptism from two Jesuit in the Sagrado Corazon church of El Paso, Texas. The priests waived normal protocols because they thought it likely that May's mission of conscience against the Bush administration would end in his assassination.*

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

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# A Republican Woman Asks Why Democrats Do Not Demand Impeachment

BY MELINDA PILLSBURY-FOSTER  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

"The tea was held upstairs, past open doors that held the portraits of First Ladies and mementos of previous administrations."

I wrote the above to appear in a newsletter for the National Federation of Republican Women soon after the tea. I had gotten my invitation to the White House

Tea as a Regent for NFRW and because I had donated to No Child Left Behind. The sandwiches were delicious – but subsequent events have persuaded me that to remain loyal to America I need to ask that Laura's husband be impeached. Since it is clear the Republicans are not going to clean their own house I am urging Democrats to act now and remove both President Bush and Vice President Cheney from office.

As a long time Republican, who worked for Barry Goldwater, I have watched with dismay as events play out in the Administration of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney. The reasons grow more compelling every day.

It is not that our military are dying in a war, but that the war was sold with lies and that the real reason over 2,500 Americans and God knows now many Iraqis have been killed is to stop the flow of oil to France and Russia. Those countries had just signed an oil deal with Saddam Hussein when the war began.

As events played out it became gut wrenchingly obvious to me that Bush and Cheney had not just overlooked their oaths of office; they had shredded the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, documents that any American should respect. Torture in the name of freedom? Taping Americans in the name of security? Someone has obviously lost their mind or is following an agenda that has nothing to do with their rhetoric.

I understand why Republicans can't take this necessary step; the Republican Party was quietly taken over by the NeoCons who run the Bush Administration, starting a while ago.

In California they marched into the Republican State Convention several years back and just took over, overthrowing leadership that really represented the grassroots. Exerting control happens in many different ways and Rove most probably made sure of that first.

Republicans, the kind of

people who believed and lived the ideas of Barry Goldwater, low taxation, local government, and individual rights, have been

marginalized throughout the Republican Party. The only people left in positions of authority, for the most part, are either NeoCons or NeoCon sympathizers. Long time organizations like the Republican Assemblies, the John Birch Society, and the newly formed Republican Liberty Caucus despise Bush and understand that we stand on the brink of fascism. They do nothing but wring their hands, unfortunately. Some of that is probably fear; some comes from the Republican Command, "Thou shalt not speak evil of another Republican."

I disagree obviously. I have always felt that political parties are just tools used to work for an agenda agreed on by those who are active. If we owe loyalty to anything it is to the principles for which America was founded. Today we have confused the word, 'rights,' with 'privileges.' Rights are not a list of specifics, they are the acknowledgment that each of us is born possessed of inherent rights to act, own the property we earn, and to be free in our own persons. That is Jefferson's, "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." Converting those God given rights to privileges made all of us subject to government when the whole idea was that our freedom existed before any government we adopted as a tool for ordering our human world.

Loyalty to a political party should never be stronger than your loyalty to that original vision of a people coming together to govern themselves, using persuasion and consent. Members of Congress should burn their party membership cards before being sworn. It is as if you felt loyalty to your hammer, a tool, instead of to the family you love who live in the house you built using that tool.

I have been wondering for a long time why Democrats have not taken action. John Conyers has proposed a *censure*, a good start. Others outside Congress are talking about impeachment. But nothing happens.

Why is the Democratic faction of Congress tip toeing around, pretending that all is well in Congressland?

I have a nasty streak of cynicism so answers did occur to me. I hope I am wrong, but my reason says I am dead on.

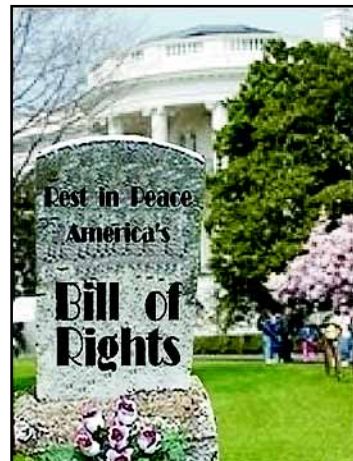
The Democratic contingent of

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Congress spends its time watching the steady roll of fascism through America's Institutions, silent where you would expect outrage, because they are all too aware that if they speak out their own dirty laundry will be dragged out for examination. They watched the appointment of federal judges carefully steered through the process of ratification through the system who had been solicited by the Federalist Society. Founded in 1982 by Republicans and Libertarians that organization had an agenda that includes lofty rhetoric that states, "that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to our Constitution, and that it is emphatically the province and duty of the judiciary to say what the law is, not what it should be."

That is what they say. One wonders if they ever read it. This is one of those times when rhetoric is used as cover; I suppose. The actions of the Federalists included placing judges with a political agenda who do as they are told. Clarence Thomas was their shining moment and the destruction of Anita Hill business as usual. Time and several thorough books have determined the truth of those questions.

I think it likely that Democrats serving in Congress cringe at the idea of an investigation into matters they know will not stand the light of day in a court overseen by one of these Federalist graduates. The meaning of 'is' does not even come close to not being able to see the difference between the separation of the branches of government and the monolithic state that confronts our eyes



today.

Remember the downcast eyes of Teddy Kennedy during the Clarence Thomas hearings. There is a reason that Democrats are afraid to speak out.

Democrats are vulnerable and they know it. Some of them probably wonder what the NSA picked up in its tapings or what kind of home movies Bush gets from his operatives and if they played starring roles. Not all of them have that kind of worries; I am sure there are good, decent, honest Congressmen on both sides of the isle. But there are enough to make it impossible for any counter move to be successful. Enough is all the NeoCons needed.

If an individual Congressman has dirty laundry he is vulnerable. He can be depended on to be quiet on those issues that really matter and the censure and impeachment matter. If this Congress fails we will lose more than the illusion that the Democratic Party is at least marginally competent as a tool of political action.

I used to believe that there was a vast Left-Wing conspiracy! Ha! A conspiracy implies effective organization.

Impeachment matters; removing this administration is essential if America is to re-

claim the vision that summoned it into being, if it is to again be the means by which a people govern themselves.

No president has ever violated the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, and the other tenets of American thought as thoroughly as the weedeating wonder who occupies the White House today.

Any Democrat who asked to be re-elected to Congress without having signed on to the Censure by Conyers, promised to work for it, and then put his or her name to a bill of impeachment is a traitor to freedom and to America. I am a Republican and I am telling you the truth. I wish those in my own party would step up to the plate, but I do not expect it.

Our lives and the future of our country depend on taking action. Now.

In 1776 a group of men, supported by their wives who would also suffer, pledged, "Their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor," on a venture that looked impossible. The world expected us to fail; instead we won the Revolution and then lost the battle for freedom with the Great Compromise that ignored the inherent rights of blacks and women.

I suspect that the Founders know that now and hope that we will do better.

The Founders were mostly well off or at least middle class. Life and doing the right thing is about risk and they understood what they could lose. Life is temporary, honor is forever. They were imperfect and so are we. They had the courage to do what had to be done. Do we?

If the Democratic Delegation to Congress is afraid they should remember that the Constitution and Bill of Rights is precisely what they are sworn to protect. If doing that means

Continued On Next Page

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# 'Machine Gun' Kelly Kidnaps Oklahoma Oilman

The hysterical wife of an Oklahoma oilman called J. Edgar Hoover at home in the wee hours of July 23, 1933, to tell the FBI director that her husband had been kidnapped.

At that moment, the victim lay bound and blindfolded in the back seat of a sedan speeding toward the Red River. Even with no pursuers in sight, George "Machine Gun" Kelly kept the pedal to the metal. He could not wait to show his wife that for once he had done something right.

Following a short stretch in the New Mexico state prison, the small-time bootlegger came to Texas in 1927 to continue his nickel-and-dime career. Then one night in a Fort Worth honky-tonk, he met the 23-year-old widow who changed his life.

Kathryn Coleman Thorne

## This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



had recently lost a woman-chasing mate under circumstances so suspicious that her indictment for murder seemed likely. But the coroner ruled the death a suicide, and Kathryn resumed her search for a knight in tarnished armor.

The easily dominated drunk satisfied her requirements, and she went to work molding him into a Depression desperado. She gave the pudgy punk a machine gun and frequently drove him to her step-father's ranch for hours of closely supervised target practice.

"Boss" Shannon kept a few head of cattle around the Wise County spread merely to maintain a respectable cover. In reality the ranch was a rural retreat for fugitives, who bought sanctuary for \$50 a night.

Although Kathryn was grooming her boyfriend for the big time, bootlegging was still in his blood. Slipping across the state line in 1930 to peddle whiskey to the Indians, George was busted as soon as he entered the reservation with his illicit load.

After her hubby did a year in Leavenworth for the federal offense, Kathryn landed him a job with a gang of bank robbers. When the second stick-up resulted in the machine-gun murder of a guard, the squeamish amateur demanded less hazardous duty.

By 1933 kidnapping was the latest underworld rage. Her appetite whetted by press accounts of six-figure payoffs, Kathryn browbeat George into snatching Charles F. Urschel, a wealthy Oklahoma City oilman.

The Urschels were playing cards with another couple on that summer evening, when two armed intruders suddenly appeared on the front porch. Unable to identify their target, George and crony Albert Bates forced both men into a waiting car and later dumped the extra hostage on the edge of town.

Four days later, Mrs. Urschel finally received instructions from the kidnapers. A family friend would board the express to Kansas City with a satchel containing \$200,000 in small bills. At the instant a second signal fire was sighted, he was supposed to toss the bag off the train.

Mrs. Urschel did her part, but George failed to light the fires on schedule and the courier car-

ried the money to the end of the line. The ransom was eventually paid in broad daylight on a Kansas City street, but only after George promised that his prisoner would be home within 12 hours.

With the golden egg in hand, Kathryn ordered George to kill the goose. For the first time in their one-sided relationship, the hen-pecked husband defied the volatile vixen. George had given his word that Urschel would be released unharmed, and he intended to keep it.

Questioned at length by the FBI, the millionaire remembered that during his ordeal an airplane passed overhead twice a day at the same hour. Checking the regular flights over North Texas, agents deduced Urschel had been held somewhere in Wise County.

Information supplied by Fort

Worth police led the FBI straight to the Shannon Ranch. Kathryn's mother and step-father were taken into custody and quickly spilled the beans to save their own necks.

The September 1933 capture of George and Kathryn in Memphis, Tenn., became part of FBI folklore. Hoover himself wrote, "As the FBI agents and local police surrounded the house and entered, one of them called out, 'We are Federal officers. Come out with your hands up.' 'Machine Gun' Kelly's hands were trembling as he reached for the ceiling. 'Don't shoot, G-men! Don't shoot!'"

A dramatically different version of the arrest appeared in a national magazine. A Memphis cop claimed he got the drop on George, who surrendered as he quietly said, "I've been waiting for you."

In addition to George and Kathryn Kelly, the Shannons and Allen Bates, all sentenced to life terms, 17 other defendants wound up behind bars for the sensational kidnapping. The last to be turned loose in 1958, Kathryn vanished without a trace.

Pathetic George, the perpetual patsy, served his full sentence. Shortly before his death in Alcatraz, the broken-down bad man wrote a letter to Charles Urschel. "These five words are written on the wall of my cell. Nothing can be worth this!"

Barte Haile welcomes your comments, questions, and suggestions at [haile@pdq.net](mailto:haile@pdq.net) or P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549. And don't forget to visit [www.twith.com](http://www.twith.com).

## FOSTER

From Previous Page

they risk having their sins exposed to public sight then they should remember that the only two people who matter already know; they themselves and God.

Speak out, act, risk what is only yours on trust anyway. The courage must come, as always, from individuals. For a moment imagine what might be possible. What if those who are controlled by guilty secrets came forward and simply admitted what has been hidden? What if these with guilty consciences offered to make amends for any wrongs they have done?


Confessed to those they had harmed? Asked forgiveness? That would be a powerful statement that would leave them feeling better about themselves and on a firmer footing with everyone around them — and with God. Their fellow members could support and encourage them. Many would find that much would be forgiven them. It would be a revival of American trust, something much needed by all of us today.

America needs clean, open, politics and the means for ensuring that the government we pay for does not become the government that owns us. Impeachment is necessary; impeachment is appropriate.

I suggest that the Democrats in Congress get off their duffs and get started. Forget your favorite entree in the Congressional Dining room; forget that plush retirement; forget the junkets and perks. Your country needs you NOW. Time is short and should not be wasted.

A Republican woman told you so.

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# War's Been Called A Lot Of Things, But 'Birth Pangs'?

In the inestimable opinion of Condoleezza Rice, the region where Northern Israel meets Southern Lebanon, home to millions of Jews and Muslims, is going through a stage of "birth pangs" these past few weeks.

"Birth pangs."  
As if Condi would have even the vaguest notion of what that remark might mean.

Birth pangs, indeed.  
Birth involves the beginning of life. Apparently, good Ms. Rice doesn't realize that launching rockets and shelling people with artillery, not to mention intrusive fighter-bomber sorties, all involve the destruction of life.

Just what is the region giving "birth" to, anyway?

Why, it's the joyful noise of democracy, or more accurately "Bushocracy," bouncing along a half-ton at a time, crafted in the USA and dropped right onto the heads of select Semites around the Middle East not affiliated with the Jewish or Christian faiths.

Glory Hallelujah, praise the lawd!

I was watching newsfeeds from Qatar (our pals) and another neighboring country last night. How confused these broadcasters are: The gorgeous women anchors were dressed and made-up to the 9s, and with their luxurious hair they put the majority of their Western counterparts to shame; however, despite this definitely non-Islamic façade the semantic alliteration of the copywriters left no doubt precisely who's in charge of the governments.

Every citizen of Lebanon who happened to be standing a little too close to the point of arrival when one of King George's gifts of Bushocracy came bouncing into his or her neighborhood was referred to as a "martyr." Conversely, every dead Jew was an enemy dealt with by Allah; each Israeli tank disabled was a victory for Allah.

No other news services in the World report events in the same manner as those of the state-run Muslim nations, even our best Mid-East friends. At its worst the off-killer Soviet news was never this bloodthirsty in arousing public furor through the beliefs that have been ground into people's psyches for umpteenth generations.

Funny how their downed tank count was some three times higher than the Israeli, American and British news reports. Maybe three different interns monitored the different sources and the numbers were inadvertently added together.

On the other hand, the Christians and Jews may have lowballed the World citizenry in its



## Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

reporting to make Israel appear tougher than Hezbollah. Ya think?

Well, we all know the first casualty of war is truth, even if CNN has some 95% of its recognizable faces in and around Israel and Lebanon, while those faux-journalists at FOXNEWSCHANNEL are doing the preponderance of what they bogusly refer to as "reporting" direct from the studio with celebrity experts such as Wayne (Trapper John) Rogers and Ben Stein. (Ben, you're a Jew, and extremely well educated - you should be ashamed of yourself! If I had won any of your money I would send every cent of it back!)

All of a sudden that old Aussie... oh, bugger! I won't call Rupert Murdoch a nasty name, because you can't get much lower than a self-righteous Conservative multi-billionaire who has been playing a major role, and wants to continue to be a major force, in manipulating the minds of the weak and depth-deprived (rural Americans, stock market players and shut-ins).

Rupert's NEWS CORPORATION media-based travesty, of which his ownership as a foreign-born individual was never allowed by either of the Federal Communications Acts until Saint Ronnie Reagan came along and "de-regulated" the airwaves for his ultra-rich Right-wing fanatic buddies, has helped install the first king on the North American continent and keep him in power, fueled an insane nationwide call to arms for wars that never needed to have begun, acts as a propaganda voice for the illegal executive branch regime, while spreading lies and innuendo disguised as news and

spewing instructions on whom to hate to its audience. The most unfortunate thing is FNC viewers are as loyal as if God Almighty spoke through Bill O'Reilly's and Shawn Hannity's mouths.

And, what's up with FOXNEWS becoming a propaganda arm of the Knesset? All of a sudden Rupert's turned FNC into the "Jews Are Us" station. Heed my warning, Bubbie, don't buy it!

So, last week Condi couldn't be bothered to make an appearance in the explosion-afflicted region to attempt a cessation of hostilities. She said it wasn't worth the effort to arrange for a ceasefire if it could not be sustainable.

This course of action was quite all right with King George XLIII. He's real familiar with the concept of "stay the course," and now's a good time to try it out on the Israelis, Palestinians, Lebanese and Hezbollah terrorists.

Besides, Hezbollah Grand Poobah (or whatever his self-appointed title is) Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah has repeatedly stated in his broadcasts that his organization will not stop until they've spilled the blood of and wiped out all Jews and reclaimed Palestine. Then, they intend to take out all Americans, Europeans and any other infidels who have the bad judg-

ment to try to co-exist on this planet.

But Nasrallah is ever mindful to let us know Hezbollah, which translates into "hand of God," is not a terrorist organization. So why all the weapons, ordnance, suicide bombers, sneak attacks, and hate rhetoric?

Just as our Fearless Leader does, Nasrallah talks a good game filled with bravado, but when it comes to putting his derriere on the line he's nowhere to be found. As it is, nobody seems to know where on the Planet the guy is right now.

All this macho ranting about how he's going to tear Israel a new one, then its European allies, and the USA - yet the schmuck is more afraid to come out into the open than Dark Lord the Dick Cheney.

Meanwhile, Herr Oberst Karl Rove wants to rid his Amerika of all non-Conservative Republicans who refuses to walk in lockstep to his marching cadence.

Dark Lord the Dick will 'pepper' anyone who would dare question him regarding those secret energy plots, his profit-sharing from Halliburton holdings, or who leaked the name of Valerie Plame to the press.

Donny Rumsfeld just sends young Americans off to Kamp

Kabul and the Sandy Dunes of Suburban Baghdad for fun in the sun at taxpayers' expense, and hasn't got a clue as to when they'll be coming back, if at all. Some don't, you know.

But, Rummy isn't worried. To him it's kind of like Peter Pan and Neverland.

Then there's Condoleezza Rice.

Condi.  
The preacher's daughter.  
Kept safely hidden away inside the house, studying her school lessons and practicing those classical pieces on the piano, wearing lace-trimmed dresses and learning to be a proper lady and all - while everyone else of color in her town lived in total, constant fear as dished out by the ignorant white folks.

She knew children who were killed by the KKK, or at least wannabe Klansmen.

Condoleezza's parents built a protective barrier around her to keep the evils of the real world out. Now, she's risen to one of the most powerful positions on the World stage, but that protective barrier still encompasses her, making her grossly inadequate for and wholly unprepared to do the job.

Like her rich, white male cohorts, there is never a visible sign of compassion or concern on Condi's face, in her eyes or the timbre of her voice when the subject includes death and destruction. She comes across as every bit the thug each one of them is. It could be Condi's even more cold, calculating and cruel than they.

Would it have been acceptable under any other executive for the Security Adviser to ignore a document warning of an imminent attack on our Nation by terrorists using hijacked aircraft as weapons? Not if there was more to the "attack" than the "official story" has expected us to believe.

Who can forget the woman at the highest echelon of the presidential cabinet who went shopping in Manhattan for

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# TENUTO

From Previous Page

four-figure designer shoes, then headed off to be entertained on Broadway at a Monty Python comedy, while New Orleans was being washed away and hundreds of its citizens drowned.

During her tenure as Secretary of State, Ms. Rice has accomplished nothing, unless one regards incurring the wrath of the leaders of our Planetary neighbors as a positive accomplishment.

She lacks the necessary skills to be a diplomatic negotiator. Like her boss, King George XLIII, Condi goes into meetings with her mind already made up as to what the outcome will be — or else.

Worse than that inflexibility, she lacks the warmth and sincerity required to be a true statesperson. One never gets the impression that Condi really quite gets what the human condition is all about.

The more direct impact an issue will have on human beings, the more disingenuous Ms. Rice will be in her comments.

She's so adept at the con even she sometimes forgets where fact ends and fabrication begins. And fact is the smallest portion of anything the woman says.

At first, Condi told the media she wasn't going to go negotiate regarding the Israeli-Hezbollah conflict because she had no idea what to do to resolve the situation. Had she been even remotely near the ballpark where honesty plays its home games, the response would have been that she and the gang didn't wish to break up the fight.

A few days later Condi stated there was no way to stop the Israel-Hezbollah fighting with a long-term solution, so she saw no reason to bother.

After she and our king met with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal, who gave Bush a letter from Saudi King Abdullah asking to assist in a trip to the Mid-East and Europe. Before leaving, she again ensured there would be no ceasefire.

It had been two weeks since this round of hostilities first erupted.

A ceasefire plan was presented by Syria on Sunday, but rejected by John Bolton, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

So, after making the rounds of the various Middle Eastern nations, Condi attended a world summit in Rome, hastily arranged to find a path to a ceasefire agreement.

Virtually the entire body was agreed on a cessation of hostilities.

With the exception of two holdouts.

The American Secretary of State refused to accept any ceasefire that would not be long term.

She got the British representative to go along with her.

Thus, because King George XLIII has dreams of a New World Order, where every land is filled with the glory of Jesus, the freedom of Bushocracy, and all vistas as well as urban neighborhoods have been renovated by bombardments, the fighting shall continue.

After all, one of the barriers to his holy goal is the existence of Hezbollah, so George is perfectly okay with allowing Israel to continue pounding away at this organization that exists for the sole purpose of engaging in genocidal annihilation.

But what about all the innocent victims who are being caught in the crossfire: The women, children, men, and elderly Lebanese, Palestinians and Jews who are being sacrificed and maimed while King George and Condoleezza play their deadly game?

Who will replace all the houses, apartments, schools and businesses that are being destroyed?

How will the people who are being given yet another reason to hate be taught not to detest Americans along with their immediate enemies?

When a world leader has the option and power to eliminate bloodshed even for a week, to give peace at least the slimmest chance, to provide those in the line of fire an opportunity to escape the carnage and desolation, yet purposely and callously refuses to agree with the rest of the nations on a cessation of hostilities because it does not suit his or her endgame, we're living on the knife-edge of tyranny.

Whom does that make the evildoers now?

*"You cannot qualify war in harsher terms than I will. War is cruelty, and you cannot redefine it..."* (Gen. William Tecumseh Sherman in a letter to the mayor and councilmen of Atlanta just prior to its burning, September 12, 1864)

Birth pangs would be a most welcome and pleasant improvement over the realities of war.

*(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](http://illinoiscentral.blogspot.com))*

## Texas Politics: Evolutionary or Extinct? Or ...Where's the 'Intelligent' in Intelligent Design?



### Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

Let's look for a moment at Texas politics for what it has become. Currently we have a political structure evolved into a system that does NOT work for the people it supposedly was created for.

The two major political parties refuse to work together to resolve crisis issues for the people of Texas.

The governor, generally the leader who ties the system together, refuses to do so. Gov. Perry has many options and resources at his call to resolve party frictions and legislative stalemates.

However, during the past five years of his reign, the governor has determined to remain rigid and myopic in his resolve to force the issues of toll roads, redistricting, deregulation of various industries, etc., whether or not they are in the best interests of Texas and Texans.

While on a daily basis each party blames and bashes the other for just about everything imaginable, it is the people of Texas who continue to pay the staggering price for a political system run amok.

It particularly is a sad recognition that both parties have NOT evolved significantly within the political food chain. It is infinitely more disconcerting to realize that elected officials, hired by the people, continue to play out their "Holy Political Crusades" rather than work together to fight the common foes of political,

economic and social disaster and corruption.

One only prays that the evolution of time or the theory of intelligent design quickly repairs the damage being caused presently in this turmoil, and that a "legislative cavalry" will arrive relatively soon to reaffirm and revive a political arena that works beneficially for the people of Texas.

*Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas, a former Director of Information Services, University Professor and Public School Administrator, is a political writer well-known and published frequently throughout the Texas community and nationwide. He is a Disabled Vietnam Veteran and holds three post-graduate degrees. You may contact Peter Stern at: [<pstern@austin.rr.com>](mailto:pstern@austin.rr.com).*

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# Snafu Month In Astrology

A friend just informed me that if one believes in astrology, this is the month when machines break down and computers foul up. He went on to express the hope that he didn't jinx me by mentioning computers. I expect he did, the way my luck is going these days. Everything else has started to break down. Gee thanks. He also thought it would be nice if there was a month when equipment would fix itself. I heartily agree. I have a list all ready.

I'm thinking at least some of the foul-ups may have been a direct result of the heat and drought. It's going to be 104 degrees tomorrow. In July. This is a month too early for this. That means at least 106 degrees here. We're always a degree or two higher than folks in town for some reason (and a degree or so lower in the winter. Go fig). I thought it was supposed to be the opposite. —Probably all that bovine flatulence or something.

Today was incredibly oppressive for people who don't actually use A/C all the time like us. There have to be a lot of folks who will have trouble with this heat. Some don't have the choice whether or not to use the A/C. (We're mostly just stubborn, and if we're outside working anyway, what's the point of keeping the farm house nice and cool to the tune of probably \$15 a day? The good news is that the clothes on the line dry really, really fast.

We finally broke down and turned on a window unit about 4 p.m., hid in the one cold room and watched a movie we had trouble following. It was 100 degrees in the rest of the house. And speaking of movies, we're starting to think that all the newer ones must be produced for a generation of kids who've grown up on fast-paced video games like my son did. (Have you ever watched a kid play a video game and seen the way the view changes so quickly? And the kid will zoom after the villain or whatever with lightning speed, from view to view. (We're training a generation of airline pilots with all this simulation training). I can't follow it visually, much less play these games myself. For that matter, have you ever tried to follow a young person (or computer expert of any age) scroll around and flash from option and option or window to window on a computer screen?)

Well, my point was that the scenes in recent movies change

## Rustic Ramblings

By Dr. Gene Ellis



Gene Ellis, Ed.D. is a Bosque County resident who returned to the family farm after years of living in New Orleans, New York and Florida. She is an artist who holds a doctoral degree from New York University and is writing a book about the minor catastrophes of life.

so rapidly that we can't follow them and don't think the direction's so great either. Or maybe we're just getting old and slow. Have you noticed this? — Not that we're old and slow, but that the movies seem to be heading in this direction where scene changes are so fast-paced that no one under the age of 25 can follow them or figure out where things are headed. . . . Of course this is just one more reason why Zach prefers the old movies. He knows the plots and how all of them end.

But back to the foul-ups; the first snafu happened last month just before a big party/family reunion brought 115 people to our ranch. Now we've bought seven big 220-volt window A/C units from Ace Hardware in the last five years (for the little farm house and my metal building studio). We don't use them much, and that's usually not good. But we tried them all out before our big event. They all worked just great. . . except one. Of course this one was in the big metal building where we had expected to cool folks off. Naturally it was the only unit in an upstairs window. It will be the most difficult to remove and replace. And of course we'll have to carry the old unit downstairs and the new one up.

During our party, it seemed some of the 115 guests just couldn't master the intricacies of the required toilet flusher jiggle. I left a note of instruction. It isn't rocket science. This little jiggle is absolutely necessary to close the flapper valve at the bottom of the tank —so it can refill to flush yet again. (Otherwise, well, it uh, won't). You don't want to know the problems this caused. We've never have any difficulty with this ourselves. It's all in knowing your equipment. Before the next big party, I suppose we'll need to fix the toilet. And honestly, I'll probably miss the quirkiness of it all.

Since there's been no rain and it was beginning to burn up, we baled the second cutting of Sudan hay. We were lucky the first time to get as many bales as we did. The hay seemed really thick, different than in times

of normal rainfall. The bales were also very tight. Plus the guy who does this for us has a nice, shiny new baler that must work a bit differently than the one he's used for the last decade or so. We were lucky with the second cutting to get a few more bales.

For some unknown reason, for the first time in history, the hay bales are too heavy for our little, old tractor to pick up. This has absolutely never happened before. They can't be wet. There isn't anything in Central Texas that isn't bone dry right now. We can't move them anywhere. This means we actually got lucky enough in drought conditions to have some hay bales —and now we won't be able to feed them to the cows this winter because we can't pick them up to move them. Do you realize how ironic this whole situation is? (—Might actually have to buy a new tractor. . . or a three-point hook-up and hay fork for the old Farmall M —or a hay buggy. —Might be no other choice. What a revolting development this is, as Chester A Riley would have said. . . Buying a tractor wasn't in the budget. . . and this just after I lost my job of course, another snafu.

Ever since we got high speed Internet through the phone company, I can't understand anyone on any of our phones. At first we were convinced this was because I neglected to install filters on all the phones. Well, I didn't know. So we had to purchase a kazillion of them and now have all the requisite filters in place. We have a filter to connect to the Dish network. We have a filter for the computer, even for the answering machine, anywhere there's a phone line. We've done everything we were supposed to do to ensure success. (Sometimes you can do that and you still won't succeed, something I have learned lately in a very big way).

For a while after we added all the filters, it seemed things were OK. Then suddenly, the sound quality and clarity diminished markedly. At first I feared for my hearing. Then we figured it was the phones. —Went out and bought new ones for several rooms. —Didn't do any good at all. I have to use my cell phone now to be sure I actually understand what anyone is trying to communicate to me. What a disaster. The contract for the Internet service runs another six months or so. Until then, I guess I'm stuck with expensive unintelligible phone service. Sometimes I think we just live in a weird world, with so little control over most things, the little ones and the really big ones, like the price of oil and war. It's very frustrating.

We've had problems since installation with a satellite TV system. This has gone on for years and is NOT the fault of the local installer. It has to do with some rare equipment we needed for one of the TV's. The whole system works fine except for this weird, magic, infrared laser something-or-other for the bedroom that works without wires. It seems to work well for other people but not for us. We've replaced the little magic thingy twice. Well, the new one stopped working consistently yesterday, just as its predecessor had. I thought Zach would absolutely lose his mind without an old movie to salve the pain of all the other problems. There was no escapism available, a dire situation.

So we rented the movie I mentioned before, slid it in, and the DVD player insisted that there was no disk. Yes, there was! I placed it with my own two hands. I saw it there. No disk! No disk! There was no convincing the year-old machine (just out of warranty, of course) that there was indeed a disk in place and ready to roll. You simply cannot argue with these things. So we gave up, read, and went to sleep, movie unwatched. We purchased a new DVD player today (another unexpected expense. When it rains, it pours). And as I said, we finally watched the movie, the one that flashed from screen to screen, the one we couldn't follow, and paid for the privilege of keeping it the extra day, to add insult to injury. Somewhere in the back of my mind I wondered if I had forgotten to put filters on something. You don't want to know the hoops I had to jump through to change out the old DVD player for the new, the connections, the wires, the indecipherable instructions, the drawings that didn't jive with the equipment we actually own. As usual, it was a nightmare. As usual, Zach disappeared during this procedure. This man is afraid of nothing, works with all kinds of power tools and heavy equipment, but show him video connections, coaxial cables and computer connections, and he suddenly find something pressing to attend to.

About a week ago, I got the ax from my job, so I hope to be

drawing, painting, sculpting and writing a lot more columns — like I did before I started dedicating my life to nine-hour days for a paycheck. (Lot of good that did me). So if you don't see more columns from me for a while, it won't be for lack of trying. . . . it'll be because my computer died.



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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

# Insuring Your Buttocks Could Require A Big Premium

To The Editor:

I just wanted to tell you all how great I think ChristaAllen's site and open letter is! She says what I too feel and thank you for the link! I am in the Dallas area and sent her an email offering her any help I can give her since she seems to see so much the same way I do. Great job in all you are doing and again, thank you for your site and for the link to hers!

Regards,  
Mary Turner

To The Editor:

Two coming elections—Democrat Ned Lamont vs Democrat, Sen. Joe Lieberman, in the August primary and Democrat Diane Farrell vs Rep., Chris Shays, in the November midterms—can be considered as referendums on President Bush and his policies.

It's unlikely that either Mr. Lieberman or Mr. Shays, both virtually established institutions in Connecticut, expected to be so energetically challenged.

Impossible as it is to predict with any certainty everything a winning candidate will do once in office, a fresh start in both these instances seems well worth the risk.

Mr. Bush and his lieutenants lumber on complacently, though now, with a degree of caution in their rhetoric, apparently still unaware that escalating Middle East friction and global terrorism as well as the sway increasingly enjoyed by Iran and growing numbers of drug lords and the resurgence of the Taliban in Afghanistan can be traced back in great part to their two major errors in judgement: ignoring the Israeli/Palstinian conflict and waging a war on Iraq. An obsession with domination of the Gulf states and control of their oil assets has spawned a mindless refusal to recognize a truth so obvious to others.

The United States is losing its influence over the Middle East. It has failed to negotiate disputes between Israel and the Palestinians and hostilities between Israel and Lebanon seem beyond its power (or will) to neutralize. Sectarian violence in Iraq between Sunnis and Shiites could spread like wildfire across the entire region which could give rise to a generalized war. Criminal activity is also out of control.

Sheeplike and mulelike, both Sen. Lieberman and Rep. Shays

continue to follow the administration in their support of a war that drains human and monetary resources on a daily basis. Additionally, Sen. Lieberman and Rep. Shays support virtually every other failed policy fostered by the Bush administration.

Conversely, Mr. Lamont and Ms. Farrell have both stated among their concerns, diversely, energy independence, security from enemy attack, employment, reproductive freedom and reform of the health care system. Both are highly critical of the administration's conduct of the war in Iraq and how and why it was ever begun.

A victory for these candidates, as well as for Democrats across the country, can give at least one house in Congress a majority and make serious investigations into the 5 1/2 years of administration crimes and misdemeanors that much more probable.

Elizabeth Gerteiny,  
Westport, CT

Dear Editor:

Every day our citizens make thousands of contracts for goods, services, or other reasons. Each party to the contract is expected to abide by it. However, there is one contract that seriously affects every citizen and very few pay attention to it. It is the U.S. Constitution, a contract between our citizens and the federal government.

The President, Vice-President, all Members of Congress, Supreme Court Justices, Cabinet Secretaries, and others take an oath to abide by it—but few if any do.

We are creating a police-state type government by allowing the many violations of this contract. The Patriot Act is a good example. It trades some of our freedoms for a false sense of security. Go to <[www.thenewamerican.com/focus/patriotact/](http://www.thenewamerican.com/focus/patriotact/)> for details of how this is happening.

Permitting our servant—the federal government—to restrict any of our constitutionally protected rights implies that we accept it as our master. Governments are happy to assume that role. Ours certainly is, and it will continue to do so until enough citizens pay attention and demand that the Constitution be strictly adhered to.

Sincerely,  
Kathie Shaffer, Sylmar, CA  
To The Editor:

I have the peace candle on my profile. [myspace.com/](http://myspace.com/)

Given that Jennifer Lopez was reportedly able to insure her buttocks for a million dollars, and British food critic Egon Ronay had his taste buds insured for \$400,000, I couldn't help but wonder how much I could get for my legs, which my wife has often referred to as "cute" after a few glasses of wine.

After filling out the necessary paperwork and submitting a photo, it turns out my legs have a combined net worth of just over \$68.50.

That's according to Lloyd's of London, which assured me their appraisal was pretty much the going rate for hairy-legged, 30-something, non-celebrities whose wives admire their husband's legs while mildly intoxicated. As you can imagine, I was absolutely shocked by the insurance company's appraisal of my legs' value, and immediately responded by firing back

baglickson/ I think the purpose of the online vigil is to get people to visualize the possibilities and to generate a discussion about peace.

Everything we encounter in the media is war, WAR, violence, and MORE WAR!

When will it end? How will it end? What will it take to stop the insanity? These are the questions that a single flame may spark.

mySpace is the way to speak to the millennial generation. After all, if there is a draft, they will be ones enlisted. I want to hear what they have to say and



Life Is A  
Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

a letter telling them—in no uncertain terms—to sign me up before they changed their mind.

That's right. For just \$100 a month, I have the security of knowing that in the event of an accident, my legs—just like our vehicles and home—will be assessed by an experienced claims adjuster and immediately declared a total loss.

No matter how minimal the damage.

That's because, in each case, I've already paid more into the policy than I'll ever get back.

For example: Both of our cars are over 15 years old. Neither of them has full coverage. Each costs us about \$500 a year to in-

understand how they feel about current world affairs.

I have been shocked and awed by the hateful, suspicious posts that the peace candle has generated. There are less than 500 people doing it. What's the threat? Why are people so opposed to it? Are people really that jaded? Why are they so distrustful of such a simple and rather insignificant gesture?

I am fascinated by what's unfolding on mySpace. Stay tuned...

Peace,  
Amy Glickson, Pine,  
Colorado

## High Gasoline Prices Send Americans To Public Transports

DALLAS — High gasoline prices are sending motorists to public transportation and city officials to invest in those same transport systems, according to transportation agencies last week.

The trend is being seen by a rise in the number of hits transit systems are experiencing on their websites, said a representative of the American Public Transport Association. Dallas Area Rapid Transit (DART) spokesman Morgan Lyons told Reuters that its website "spiked with the rises in gas prices."

Because of this rising interest in public transportation, several ballot initiatives to improve transit systems are sprouting all over the country, including Salt Lake City where a 65 percent of the public there want to approve a plan to raise \$900 million in taxes for more light rail tracks.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration said that the last time gasoline prices caused this kind of exodus was when Hurricane Katrina landed on U.S. soil last year. Since then, the average retail price for gasoline rose 71 cents.

APTA reported that the estimated savings for using public transportation is \$2.56 billion at current average prices for a gallon of regular.

sure. And, according to the Blue Book reference chart, their combined net value is still worth less than the premium on my legs.

In fact, the only way I might be able to break even with all these policies is if the following were to happen:

While using one car to tow the other, my legs suddenly caught fire, causing me to drive both vehicles directly into the side of our house.

Being an average insurance holder, I find this disparity hard to understand. Especially when I think about J. Lo's buttocks.

...I'm sorry.

What was I saying?

I remember! The point is my legs shouldn't be any less valuable than, say...Michael Flatley's, which Lloyd's of London insured for \$25 million.

Okay, sure. He is Mr. Lord of the Dance.

And yes, his legs can do things mine could only do if I were dancing barefoot on a mound of writhing scorpions covered with cooking spray. At the same time, I've seen the Riverdance video. As impressive as it was, my footwork in a video taken of me trying to run past the water sprinkler while carrying our two cats was equally impressive. And, if I may add, a lot more dangerous.

In fact, plans are being made to release this exciting video, which includes footage of:

- My sprinkler dance with the cats.

- Our neighbors making tourniquets.

- Me riding in an ambulance.

All of this performed to the dramatic musical score of *Cat Scratch Fever*.

As an added bonus, the first 100 people to buy Sprinklerdance will also get a free documentary about skin grafts.

That said, I must issue a disclaimer telling anyone who watches this video NOT to attempt Sprinklerdancing at home. Unfortunately, this warning came too late for one celebrity who received an advanced copy. The good news is, seeing that her buttocks were already insured for a million dollars, she's expected to make a full recovery.

The cats, however, are another story.

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



# Rice Returns To Middle East To Broker Cease-Fire

CRAWFORD — A week after Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice promised no U.S.-backed cease-fire agreement on her trip to Beirut, Lebanon, President George W. Bush ordered her to return to broker a deal that would end the three-week-old fight between the nation of Israel and the guerrilla wing of Hezbollah.

However, this past weekend she was headed back to the United States with no deal in hand, as fighting escalated.

"I have no interest in diplomacy for the sake of returning Lebanon and Israel to the status quo," she said, during the United States' first diplomatic gesture on the conflict. "Such a cease-fire would allow terrorists to launch attacks at the time and terms of their choosing."

After meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair in the White House Friday, President Bush announced that he was sending Dr. Rice back for a second trip to the Middle East. He added that both leaders want a U.N. resolution ending the crisis by early this week and a multinational force in place.

However, Blair and Bush stopped short of demanding an immediate cease-fire, a wish almost every European and Arab nation wants to come true.

The week prior in Lebanon, Dr. Rice expressed her deep concern for the Lebanese people. The U.S. government then had also pledged \$30 million in goods to the Lebanese. She also proposed the deployment of an international force, a move in which Nabih Berri, speaker of the Lebanese Parliament, felt skeptical.

Prior to Dr. Rice's visit, the Guardian UK reported that the



Bush administration had given Israel a week to take out as many Hezbollah targets as possible. Hezbollah, whose political wing consists of Shiite Muslims, had extended its rooted in southern Lebanon since Israel's withdrawal from the region in 2000.

Before Rice's trip, the U.S. House voted almost unanimously (410-8) in support of Israel. The U.S. government has Hezbollah listed as a terrorist organization, though Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah hasn't leveled any threats against the United States recently.

U.S. intelligence officials remain suspicious, however, since Hezbollah bombed and killed 241 U.S. Marines and Army and Navy servicemen in their barracks in Beirut in 1983. In the 1990s, the group significantly toned down its rhetoric toward the United States.

## Iraq Denounces Israeli Attacks

In his speech before the U.S. Congress last Wednesday, the prime minister of Iraq made no mention of his week-old denouncement of Israel's disproportionate attacks on Lebanon, though he denounced acts of terrorism in general.

Prompting a few cold shoulders from congressmen, PM Nuri Kamal al-Maliki — whose political party is Shiite Muslim, the same ethnic group that controls the Iranian and Syrian governments — also failed to condemn Hezbollah militants for kidnaping two Israeli soldiers and demanding a prisoner exchange.

Israel has used this kidnaping as a pretext to inflict military action to its northern neighbor, although Israel and Hezbollah have performed such prisoner swaps in the past. Pundits have speculated that Iran and Syria encouraged Hezbollah's recent

actions and even provided weapons to it.

Hezbollah has also supported the cause of Palestinians and its new ruling government Hamas, who in recent weeks have experienced an escalation in their conflict with Israel. Hamas, also labeled a terrorist organization by the U.S. government, and Hezbollah both were voted into power by their people in democratically held elections within the last year.

## Fasting Activist Speaks Out

Medea Benjamin, co-founder of CODEPINK: Women for Peace and Global Exchange, disrupted al-Maliki's speech when he said that Iraq's ink-stained fingers evidenced their desire for democracy. From the gallery, she shouted, "Iraqis want the troops to leave, bring them home now! Listen to the Iraqis!"

Benjamin, 54, of San Francisco, was promptly arrested on her 23<sup>rd</sup> day of fasting for peace as part of a collective effort called the Troops Home FAST ([www.troopshomefast.org](http://www.troopshomefast.org)).

Earlier, the Iraqi Prime Minister broke a promise to meet privately with Benjamin and Cindy Sheehan, the peace activist who camped near President Bush's ranch last year. The two activists has agreed to break their fast if the meeting happened.

Sen. Conrad Burns (R - Mont.) made no mention of Benjamin's First Amendment rights to the New York Times, but he did note that he respected al-Maliki's right to speak "in an environment which respects and reveres free speech in the United States, a right we hope will continue to gain progress throughout the Middle East."

Former counter-terrorism officials have said that the Bush administration's bias towards crippling Hezbollah

may lead to more threats of terrorist attacks inside the United States.

## Arab World Reacts

The 275-member Shiite-led Iraqi Parliament last Sunday unanimously called the Israeli acts "criminal aggression." Its stand reflects the fervor of Shiite citizens who protested in the streets of southern Iraq towns.

The so-called "Arab World," however, is not so unified being that it consists of various cultural, ethnic, and religious groups. Sunni Arabs and their governments have not taken a position on Lebanon either way because Iran's ties to the little country are so tight. Still, some critics of Hezbollah have proposed more partnerships in dealing with Israel and the United States.

Eighty-percent of Iraqis want the U.S. to set a timetable for its troop withdrawal, according to a recent World Public Poll.

## Europe, Canada React

Calls for Britain to suspend arms exports to Israel erupted last week as internal documents were uncovered showing that arms sales to Israel doubled in 2005. The call also came amid a poll that found that 61 percent of Britons felt Israel's attacks were "disproportionate."

The pressure to freeze military exports was directed toward Prime Minister Tony Blair, whose relationship with the Bush administration is seen negatively by about two-thirds of the British public, according to a Guardian/ICM poll Blair disregarded a cease-fire in the House of Commons the week prior.

In Spain, Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero accused Israel of excessive force in Lebanon. Zapatero, who at the time of his comments wore a Palestinian scarf during his meeting with young Socialists, later rejected claims that his critique was anti-Semitic.

Across the Atlantic in Canada, Prime Minister Stephen Harper reiterated that Hezbollah was responsible for waging war against Israel as he offered his empathy to families of four adults and four children killed along with 11 members of a Lebanese family last week.

## Israeli Bomb Kills U.N. Observers

An Israeli bomb killed four United Nations observers on a U.N. post near Khiyam, Lebanon, last Tuesday. The four men were from Austria, Finland, Canada, and China.

The Ottawa Citizen reported

Thursday that the Canadian who died, Maj. Paeta Hess-von Kruedener, had sent emails over the previous nine days noting that Hezbollah fighters had used the post as a shield to protect themselves from enemy fire.

The emails apparently contradict claims from the U.N. that Hezbollah had not been in the area at all. However, U.N. officials are sticking to their story.

CNN reported that the observers, prior to their deaths had called the Israel military 10 times in six hours to stop the attacks in their immediate area. Each time, the Israeli liaison promised the bombing would cease.

China condemned the death of its U.N. peacekeeper. Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert expressed his regret to the act to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who later issued a statement calling for a full investigation by the Israelis.

## Performance Pressure

Inside Israel, Prime Minister Olmert has received mixed criticism of this military campaign against the Shia force and its leader, Hassan Nasrallah. If Israel were to not put a dent into Hezbollah, the ramifications could be disastrous, said Moshe Arens, a former Likud defense minister.

"This will be a disaster for Israel," he told the Ha'aretz newspaper. "Nasrallah will be seen as someone who fired thousands of katyushas at Israeli communities for weeks and came out unscathed."

In any event, Israel called up about 30,000 troops from reserve to train for duty last Thursday, but stopped short of expanding the campaign into Lebanon Friday. Israeli officials said that its military was given the green light to continue its campaign against Hezbollah, after a high-level conference in Rome on Wednesday; however, the European contingent, not the White House, urged the cease-fire there.

"Hezbollah attacked Israel. I know Hezbollah is connected to Iran," Bush said in Washington earlier in the week. "Now is the time for the world to confront this danger."

As of deadline, the Lebanese civilian death toll was estimated to be over 600. On the other side, over 50 Israelis are believed dead after three weeks of fighting.

According to records at the Beirut Government University Hospital, about 55 percent of casualties there are children under 15 years old.

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