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# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

## CONFRONTATION

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## IN PINK



**THE FRONTLINE** — Reminiscent of her August 2005 attempt to speak with President George W. Bush face-to-face at his ranch near Crawford, Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan last Saturday stood outside the dining hall where the president's chief advisor was to speak at a Republican fund-raiser in Austin. She and 70 other pro-peace activists wanted to make a citizens' arrest of Rove, but Austin police officers and the hotel security prevented them from doing so. One activist was arrested during the rally.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

## Under Fire!

### U.S. Army Intelligence Analyst Targeted For Suggesting New Independent 9/11 Investigation

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**Army: Doubting Official 9/11 Story 'Disloyal To The United States'**



Purple  
Heart  
Recipient,  
Iraq  
Veteran  
SFC  
Donald  
Buswell

# Under Fire!

## U.S. Army Intelligence Analyst Targeted For Suggesting New Independent 9/11 Investigation

By **STEPHEN WEBSTER**  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

FT. SAM HOUSTON, Texas — Forty-one-year-old Sergeant First Class Donald Buswell is a hero. Having served over 19 years in the United States Army, Buswell has seen a lot of terrain. On April 15, 2004, he was injured in a rocket attack while serving a tour in Iraq. For this, SFC Buswell was given a Purple Heart. And until recently, Buswell was an Intelligence Analyst stationed at Ft. Sam Houston, Texas.

But if one were to ask Buswell's Commanding Officer what he thinks of the Sergeant, the response would likely sound a little bit more like, "No comment."

Such were the words given to THE ICONOCLAST by Lieutenant Colonel Jane Crichton after inquiring why SFC Buswell is the focus of an investigation initiated by Colonel Luke S. Green, Chief of Staff at Fifth Army in Ft. Sam Houston.

According to unnamed military sources contacted by THE ICONOCLAST, SFC Buswell "used his Government issued email account to send messages disloyal to the United States ..." Because of these statements, SFC Buswell could soon find himself dishonorably discharged, court marshaled, or worse.

It all started as a simple response to a common, unsolicited mass email, sent to 38 individu-

als at Ft. Sam Houston on Aug. 2, 2006. The message, as well as Buswell's response, is among documents obtained by THE ICONOCLAST. The sender of the first message is identified as "Anderson, Larry Mr JMC". It reads:

*This is being sent more as assurance for what happens when a plane hits a nuclear site more so than in response to that German website alleging a government conspiracy related to the 9/11 Pentagon plane crash (though the website does present an interesting perspective) — Larry*

**Subject: F-4 vs. Concrete Wall**  
*Take a look at this clip [not included] and you'll get a good feel for what happens to an airplane when it hits a concrete wall. Many of you have seen the produced (but not factual), Michael Moore-esque website that asks the question; "If it's true that a Boeing airliner hit the Pentagon, what happened to all the parts of it? Why do we not find more pieces of it?"*

*Where did all that mass GO???" (Therefore, the paranoid loony liberal reasoning, 9-11 must have been a US gov't conspiracy!) Well, for those who question what happened to "all the mass of that airplane".....watch this clip.*

*It's the old Air Force engineering tests of the concrete barrier that surrounds nuclear reactor domes — tests to see if it will indeed survive an aerial*

*attack. With the hi-speed cameras rolling, they accelerated an F-4 Phantom to 500mph and.....*

*Recall. "What happens when an 'Unstoppable Force' meets an 'Immovable Object'???" (Remember, as you watch in slow motion as the F-4 turns to vapor, the Phantom was one of the toughest airplanes ever built).*

SFC Buswell responded later that day, saying:

**Subject: F-4 vs. Concrete Wall**  
Hello,

*I receive many unsolicited e-mails daily, this one I chose to respond to. The below mentioned premise that an F4 Phantom fighter jet hitting that hardened concrete barrier is akin to the alleged 757 hitting the Pentagon is like oil and water; they don't mix, and they serve to muddy the issue. The issue is 911 was filled with errors in the 'official report' and 'official story' of that day, and, what happened that day. We all know and saw 2 planes hitting the WTC buildings, we didn't see the 757 hit the Pentagon, nor did we see the plane crash in Shanksville PA. Both the PA and Pentagon 'crashes' don't have clues and tell-tale signs of a jumbo-jet impacting those zones!*

*The Pentagon would have huge wing impacts in the side of the building; it didn't. Shanksville PA would have had*



**SFC DONALD BUSWELL (left) received the Purple Heart for injuries sustained on the battlefields of Iraq.**

*debris, and a large debris field; it didn't.*

*Getting back to the F4...The Pentagon isn't a nuclear hardened structure, so I can't follow your weak logic that since an F4 vaporized itself in a test impact on a nuclear hardened structure that the alleged 757 hitting the Pentagon should have exhibited the same characteristics!*

*I say Occums razor is the best*

*way to deduce this 'day of infamy'; if you weigh all options, do some simple studying you will see 911 was clearly not executed by some arabs in caves with cell phones and 3 day old newspapers! I mean how are Arabs benefiting from pulling off 911? They have more war, more death and dismal conditions, so, how did 911 benefit them? Answer: It didn't. So,*

**Continued On Next Page**



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# Under Fire!

Continued  
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*who benefited from 9-11? The answer is sad, but simple; The Military Industrial [sic] Complex.*

*It's not a paranoid conspiracy to think there are conspiracies out there...and, it's not Liberal Lunacy either, nor is it Conservative Kookiness! People, fellow citizens we've been had! We must demand a new independent investigation into 911 and look at all options of that day, and all plausibilities [sic], even the most incredulous theories must be examined.*

Upon returning to his office the next day, Buswell discovered the locks had been

the matter for a period of two days before he was ordered to not disclose any further information.

"My son spoke with me about [the investigation]," said Winthrop Buswell, SFC Buswell's father. "There was an unsolicited email. My son, without divulging anything, without usurping anything, without doing anything to discredit anyone in any way, simply responded to that saying 'Yes, there are what if's. And maybe there is something that is being covered up.' That's all that I know. He responded to it, but it was unsolicited. I think - of course, I'm dad, being very much in love

out the fire. It was a traumatic experience for him. ... He spoke about that a number of times, and how terrible that was to see the citizenry being killed and suffering so much."

"One of his heroes is Abraham Lincoln," Winthrop Buswell continued. "And Abraham Lincoln said many things, but one of the things he said - and I'm paraphrasing - was, 'I may disagree with the fellow who's speaking, but I will stand and defend his right to speak.' That's my son's position. He does look at the what if's. But that doesn't take away from his dedication and his patriotism. I don't know a fellow

**'A**braham Lincoln said many things, but one of the things he said - and I'm paraphrasing - was, "I may disagree with the fellow who's speaking, but I will stand and defend his right to speak." That's my son's position. He does look at the what if's. But that doesn't take away from his dedication and his patriotism."

— Winthrop Buswell

changed, his security clearance was revoked, and an investigation had been launched. Buswell's commanding officer, Colonel Luke Green, drafted a letter assigning Major Edwin Escobar to the investigation. According to sources, Colonel Green has asserted that SFC Buswell failed to obey Army regulations when he used his government issued email account to send what have been termed as messages disloyal to the United States with the intent of stirring up disloyalty, in a manner that brings discredit upon the United States Army.

It has been reported that Colonel Green also wrote that SFC Buswell claims to have information proving a conspiracy on the part of the United States Military Industrial Complex to attack targets within the United States, e.g., The Pentagon. Officials have suggested that the email response sent by SFC Buswell may be in violation of CFR 2635.705(a), DoD-R 5500.7, and Joint Ethics Regulation paragraph 2-301b. These rules SFC Buswell is said to have perhaps violated regulate how soldiers utilize government resources, how they use their off-duty time, and how they use their official time.

THE ICONOCLAST attempted to establish a dialogue with Colonel Green and Major Escobar, but calls were not returned as of press time. SFC Buswell declined to comment on the investigation, but noted that he spoke with his parents about

with his son and wanting to praise him - because he is a low man on the totem pole, of course he's of pretty high rank but not quite an officer, that maybe ... Maybe an investigation might be the scapegoat for whomever."

"That is so ridiculous," said Winthrop Buswell. "[To say he is disloyal to the United States] is totally ridiculous. And the discourtesy was, ah, very apparent at that particular time. ... I've always thought the American way is this: to disagree is important. To dissent is important. And my son simply said, without any fanfare, 'Look, let's take a look at the whole picture. If you want to take a look at that, maybe there are a few paragraphs that a Michael Moore might want to emphasize.' That is all that my son has said. Never, however, to at all disparage the country and the patriotism that is so necessary for all of us. But, patriotism, as suggested by FOX News' [Bill O'Reilly], is following the line of George W. Bush and cohorts completely! All my son is saying is, 'Hey, maybe there's a what if.' Never, though, did he get sidetracked from the fact that [he loves his] country."

"What disturbed him more than anything else, I think, was the fact that the Iraqi citizens suffered so much and are suffering so much now," said Winthrop Buswell. "The time that he was injured, there were several Iraqis burning to death in front of him. He tried to put

who gets more chills running up and down his spine when he sees the flag flying."

"As a boy, [Donald was] always a very curious fellow," he added. "Very daring, but never risking anything or stepping over the line. He loved motorcycles, but was always very cautious about it, always wearing proper clothing, always wearing a helmet. Also, he was very active in little model racing cars. He was in Cub Scouts. I remember walking to the gymnasium with him and having wonderful conversations with him years ago. His mother and I went through a divorce, and that is never easy for anyone. My son was also very close to his grandfather on his mother's side, and also his grandfather and grandmother on my side. Donald loves railroading, and my father has the best job that anyone could ever have. He's a locomotive engineer, and my son related to that. My son also has a strong belief in a power greater than ourselves."

"But one of the things that stands out ... is his love and his caring," said Winthrop, choking back tears. "He loves children. He's just the greatest guy, as far as I am concerned. He walks into a room with a big smile on his face. ... He's like my dad - he makes you feel like, you know ... I ... I care for you. Ah, he's ... He's my son ..."

THE ICONOCLAST will continue reporting on this story as new details become available.



SFC Donald Buswell

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# Bush & Co. Chain Gang Lands In Crawford

CRAWFORD — Below the billboard welcoming visitors to Crawford and touting a pride in being the hometown of Presi-



**BACKBONE CAMPAIGN Executive Director Bill Moyer was on hand at the "prison march" of the "Bush & Co. Chain Gang" in Crawford Saturday.**

— Staff Photo By Deborah Mathews

dent George Bush marched the "Bush & Co. Chain Gang."

The Washington based Backbone Campaign, led by Executive Director Bill Moyer, hit the ditch Sunday, decked out in prison stripes, chains, and caricature heads, to inspire conversation about current political affairs and the need for change.

Of the organization, Moyer said, "The Backbone Campaign is a movement building organization providing creative tools and ideas to the progressive movement. The backbone symbol is a metaphor for an interlocking agenda to counter the perceived fragmentation of the progressive movement, as well as a symbol for personal courage, both for what we'd like to see in our elected representative and also what we'd like to see from ourselves."

He continued, "Our work concentrates currently in two areas, being visibility and accountability. On the visibility front, we employ tactics such as puppets, large scale bannering, and projects like the chain gain, and on the accountability side, we have a range of tools that we use and we



**BELOW THE BILLBOARD welcoming visitors to Crawford and touting a pride in being the hometown of President George Bush marches the "Bush & Co. Chain Gang." Caricatures of George W. Bush, Condoleezza Rice, Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, and Karl Rove were all present for the march.**

— Staff Photo By Deborah Mathews

offer them in collaboration with others in the movement, everything from our citizen lobbying tools, as well as awards for activists like Cindy Sheehan."

The organization is about two-and-a-half years old, according to Moyer, with the origins going back about four years to an artists affinity group that got together

and discussed what could be done with creative skills in service of the movement.

"We're not an impeachment organization, despite the strength of the imagery of the Chain Gang," said Moyer. "We believe that accountability is an essential component of a progressive agenda. Unless we defend our Constitution, all of our other priorities as progressives are irrelevant."

"The Chain Gang has been so well received because people have been longing for accountability," said Moyer. "It's a psychological relief to see these people actually shackled and paying for their crimes."

He concluded, "We came to Texas to support Camp Casey and continue our relationship with progressives in Texas that we met at Democracy Festival. At that festival, we met David Van Os, who is currently running for Texas Attorney General. We have decided to make him the very first candidate that our organization is endorsing. He's the gutsiest political I've ever met."

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# Veterans, Military Families Find Comfort At Camp Casey III

By NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Once the sun finally set, yesterday's evening vigil at Camp Casey III took on the intimacy of a family reunion broadcast over an old-time radio show. All one could do was listen to the guitar and banjo overture that opened the "tribute for veterans" and the eight speakers whose faces remained hidden by the night.

It was tough to see anything below the black sky and its constellations. The glow from the City of Waco a dozen or so miles away could be seen on the southern horizon. The lights from numerous cars and trucks trailed down Highway 185. Battery-powered lawn lamps marked the American flag and some of the memorial crosses in the field behind the circle. Because of the county fire ban, no one dared burn wood in the pit at the center of the circle of 40 listeners for better sight.

Despite the background road traffic and the occasional moo of a nearby steer, the messages from the speakers Wednesday night were still clear: honor the troops and veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars; understand the pain families of soldiers and veterans endure; and unite for peace and justice with those fighting for the rights of African Americans, Latinos, women, homosexuals, and workers.

Yes, there was praise bestowed to Cindy Sheehan for drumming support against the U.S.-led occupation of Iraq for the year since coming to Crawford to confront President George W. Bush. However, the mother of Casey did not speak during the vigil. The focus remained on the troops alive and dead, the veterans back from combat, and the struggle of the military families living through war.

Lisa Leitz, a member of Military Families Speak Out and long-time peace activist, said that she respects why people would want to join the military because her husband, David, an F-18 pilot, gave her another perspective into the lives of American soldiers and veterans.

"For Dave, it was his way of making a difference. Don't get me wrong — the boy wanted to fly, but additionally it was something he felt he could give back," she said.

Lights added that since being more active with MFSO and the Santa Barbara Chapter of Veterans for Peace, she has been comforted by people who understand the lives of veterans and their families but also under-

stand "how awful this war is and why we need to bring them home."

"It terrifies me that he might be going sometime this fall, but at the same time, I'm very proud of him, and I appreciate the wonderful things that the veterans here and their family members have been doing," she said, as friends stood by comforting her.

Another MFSO member, Tammara Rosenleaf, tearfully explained that having her husband in Iraq has been "undoubtedly the most painful experience I have ever had." She added that she feels "invisible" everyday because only a small percentage of the U.S. population understands her situation.

"Everyday they say things to me like, 'how are you?' and I say, 'There's a war in Iraq. My husband is in it. There's 127,000 troops over there in harm's way. I'm not well. How are you?' And they look at me like they wish I would go away. And the next week, they ask me the same question," Rosenleaf said.

Rosenleaf went on to say that military families and Iraq veterans gather together because it comforts all of them.

"When I'm at Camp Casey, I'm with my family who understands my heart is broken all the time. The one joy I have is to be with my family here and especially with the Iraq vets because every time I see one of them I have hope that my husband will come home, and he'll be like them, and he'll be okay," she said. "So, please, take time to honor the vets and the families when you see them, because that's how we hear."

Kathy Murphy, the sister of a Marine who died in the Tet Offensive in Vietnam, gave some insight into the healing process among veterans and families of their deceased friends. Three years ago, she said, three veterans who were her brother's best friends contacted her through the Internet to tell her that her brother, Pat, had really died. As a result, she said she feels like she has a "new brother."

"I definitely have a special place in my heart for veterans," said the member of Gold Star Families for Peace adding, "I love hanging out with the vets. I felt very comfortable with the vets. There was an unspoken bond between us. Don't underestimate all of the veterans. You are so comforting to them."

Choking up with emotion, Geoff Millard, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War, at-



**MEMORIAL WREATH** — Iraq war veterans Geoff Millard and Cloy Richards Wednesday night placed a wreath in the middle of a circle of gathered military families and their supporters to symbolize all the troops who have passed away in the Iraq war. Afterward, a lone flute player performed "Taps," followed by a moment of silence that ended the evening program.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

tested to the comfort he felt when he first saw the "welcome home" sign at Camp Casey II last year.

"That sign probably meant more to me than what anyone has ever said to me," he said, adding that he would keep the boots he wore for 13 months in Iraq off his feet because he feels at home at Camp Casey III. "I'm really glad that everyone has created this environment for us because we don't have it anywhere else we go."

Another member of IVAW, Cloy Richards, said that while he served as a Marine for two tours in Iraq, one of his biggest fears wasn't battle.

"It was the fear of being forgotten," he said. "It's such an honor to be at this place because as I walk down these rows of crosses and I see names of friends, people I trained with and fought with, I'm so happy because I know they will never be forgotten. They will live forever. They will live through you because you are the people who understand the pain of what it's like to be a veteran or to be a family member of a veteran."

"I can rest in peace knowing that they will never be forgotten."

Millard and Richards placed a wreath in the middle of a circle of gathered military families and their supporters to symbol-

ize all the troops who have passed away in the Iraq war. Afterward, a lone flute player per-

formed "Taps," followed by a moment of silence that ended the evening program.

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# Sick Or Well, Volunteers Make Camp Casey III Happen

By NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**CRAWFORD** — Bruce Hall came all the way from Fort Wayne, Indiana, to volunteer at Camp Casey III, and Wednesday morning, he was helping to construct wooden crosses for a memorial to fallen U.S. soldiers in the wars of Iraq and Afghanistan.

The materials surrounding him — the paint, the wood, the hand tools, the table saw, and the electric generator puttering behind — were borrowed and/or purchased using funds from donors from around the country.

Seeming fit enough in the Texas heat, Hall was working fast with the other volunteers to finish the project before the dedication service later in the evening. However, other die-hard activists there weren't quite so lucky and exceeded their health limits on the job.

Camp Casey medic Carl Rising-Moore put Jaime Branigan of Tacoma, Washington, on "sick leave" after she spent two days without sleep in order to get the camp in tip-top condition. The stress of organizing the grounds caught up with the former soldier, according to Rising-Moore. Her acid reflux disease flared up, she said, and a bleeding esophagus caused her to cough up blood.

Over the weekend, Branigan had assumed the role of Ret. Col. Ann Wright. The former U.S. diplomatic corpsman who had coordinated logistics for Cindy Sheehan's last few visits to Crawford was absent from camp during this time.

"It takes eight people to do her job," said Branigan.

Rising-Moore noted that camp couldn't have been

cleaned up in such a short amount of time had it not been for Branigan's efforts.

"We're all organizers, but we needed a leader," he said under the main tent on Camp Casey III before Branigan was driven to the hospital to receive a check-up. "She looks a lot better than before."

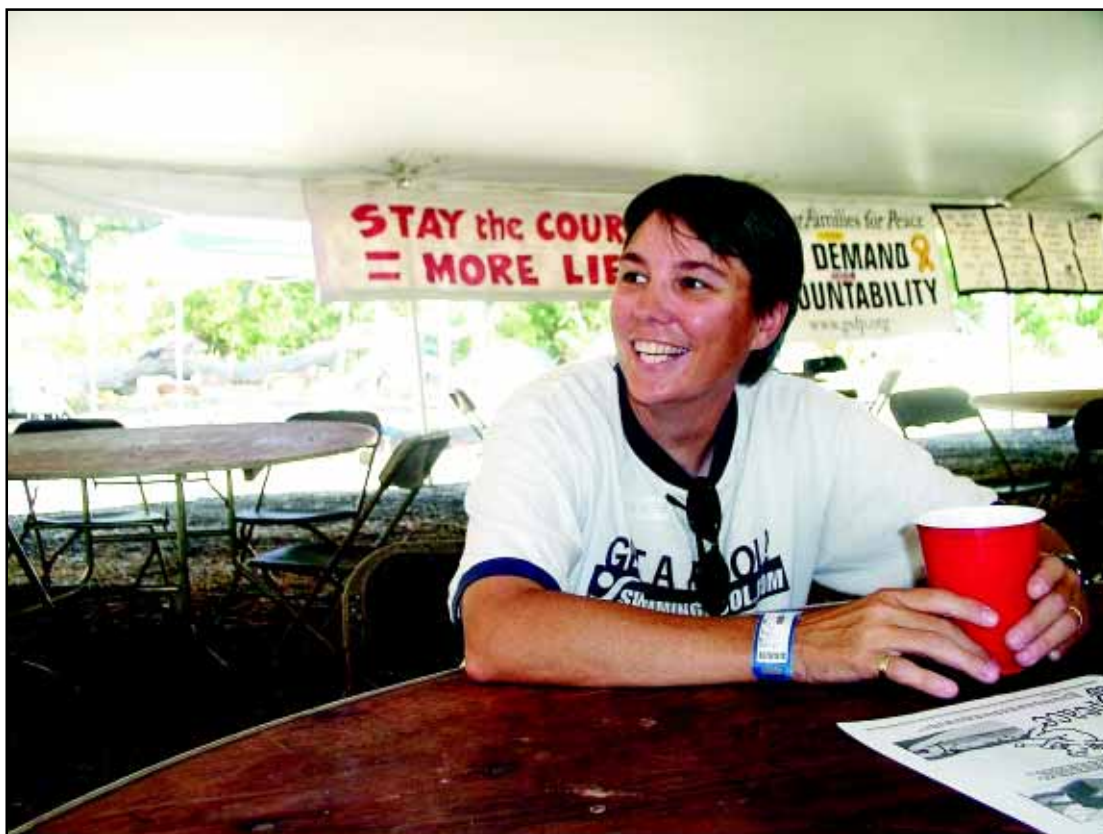
Health issues have also plagued Cindy Sheehan, a peace activist whose soldier son Casey passed away in Iraq in 2004. She remained out of sight most of the morning and afternoon Wednesday at the area named after her son. She was hospitalized and later released from a Waco hospital earlier this week after complications from her fast.

With or without Sheehan, the camp itself is more organized to more meticulous detail than in its previous incarnations.

At the entrance off Hwy. 185, a welcome tent was pitched with food and water containers, a handful of chairs, and a piece-of-paper hanging from the tent with the phone numbers of local emergency services. Each volunteer serves to not only welcome newcomers but also distribute "Camp Casey" car decals to keep track of parking.

Fire safety has also been of high importance there during the three-digit-degree heat wave that has enveloped Texas for the last several weeks. A half-a-dozen "burn ban" warning signs were placed strategically around the entire area. In fact, there is even a small tent for campers who smoke. The black dirt ground has been cleared of any dry grass and covered with more sand to capture cigarette ash. A bucket of water was also placed nearby.

"That's all Jaime," said a



**JAMIE BRANIGAN** of Tacoma, Washington was in good spirits Wednesday after a hospital visit to check-up. Her stress from lead the construction efforts of Camp Casey III caused her acid reflux disease to re-emerged.  
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

smiling Rising-Moore.

Over the span of 10 days prior, Gerry Fonseca and a crew of volunteers cleared brush from inside the tree thicket on the five-acre property. Fonseca recently purchased this land from Bobby D. Ramsey next door for Cindy Sheehan, the mother of a soldier slain in 2004 during operations in Iraq.

Late morning, Fonseca had received lumber for the construction of a 300-foot-long, six-foot tall privacy fence between Camp Casey III and the Ramsey property. By 5 p.m. the project seemed behind schedule.



**BRUCE HALL** of Fort Wayne, Indiana drills holes at the bottom of memorial cross for a dedication ceremony at Camp Casey III Wednesday evening.  
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



**GERRY FONSECA**, a Vietnam veteran, walks back to some shade after accepting lumber for the construction of a privacy fence between Camp Casey III and the Ramsey property.  
— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

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# CONFRONTATION

**CODEPINK Activist  
Arrested At Rove Protest**

# IN PINK

BY NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

AUSTIN — What started out as a creative nonviolent protest to perform a “citizens’ arrest” of President George W. Bush’s chief advisor — Karl Rove — at a fund-raiser dinner turned into a scuffle with the arrest of a peace activist last Saturday evening.

Earlier that afternoon, about 70 protestors gathered on the property of the Renaissance Hotel in Austin. One activist was almost arrested, but the police officers with the City of Austin let that person go. At that point, the police were “great,” according to Carl Rising-Moore, field director for Veterans of Peace. A negotiation was brokered with hotel security officials to move the protestors onto a grassy area at the hotel’s entrance.

Along both sides of the street, the protestors chanted slogans, performed music, recited poems, and unfurled such banners as “Rove: Guilty of crimes against humanity,” “Bring Troops Home Now,” “Turd Blossom = Bush’s Brain,” and “Liar Liar Bush On Fire.”

“Give me liberty or give me death,” shouted one protestor. “Save our republic!”

Vehicles driving by the protestors honked their horns in support. Three protestors handed out leaflets to vehicles pausing for the stop sign. Several vehicles in the hotel parking lot were dotted with flyers denouncing the dinner guest of the Associated Republicans of Texas.

To enter the hotel to get closer to the reception inside, the protestors then decided to have a snack inside the hotel’s restaurant. In all, about four or five other tables filled up with protestors who displayed their posters, talked amongst themselves, and nibbled on their food in relative peace. At one table, a protestor was breast-feeding her child; however, one person, perhaps accident prone, spilled some water at another table.

Some activists also stood inside the hotel silently holding American flags and signs: “Peace Now,” “We Love Our Troops! Don’t Let Them Die For Lies!!” “King Karl The Kleptocrat Stealing Elections,” and “Killer King Karl Murdering The Bill of Rights.”

Other activists attempted to start conversations with the guests of the Republicans dur-



TIFFANY BURNS, a member of CODEPINK, (center) asks an Austin police officer if he would join her and the other pro-peace activists in making a citizens’ arrest of the president’s chief advisor Karl Rove inside a Republican fund-raiser behind him. Burns was later arrested for inciting a riot, according to Annie Nelson, the wife of country musician Willie Nelson.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



FACE DOWN in the carpet, CODEPINK member Tiffany Burns was detained and later arrested outside a Republican fund-raiser where the president’s chief advisor Karl Rove was to speak last Saturday evening.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



AN AUSTIN POLICE OFFICER restrained CODEPINK member Tiffany Burns outside a Republican fund-raiser last Saturday evening.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



THE PINK POLICE, members of CODEPINK Austin, walk toward the dining hall to make a citizens’ arrest of Karl Rove, the president’s chief advisor, at the Renaissance Hotel in Austin last Saturday.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

ing a happy hour reception, but the guests for the most part kept on sipping their drinks and chatting amongst themselves. A handful of Austin police officers were present, one standing between the two groups. Rove, ART’s guest of honor, did not attend the reception, though he was scheduled to speak to the Republicans during the dinner.

Inside the hotel, the activists escalated their message-making. One protestor was seen

traveling up and down the elevator with a pink sign that read “Rove Is A MISleader.” On the other end of the hotel’s closed courtyard, a small group of protestors unfurled a three-story banner that read “Rove v. Truth: No Contest. Pink Slip Rove.” from a sixth story balcony and chanted “Tis the Season. Karl Rove For Treason.” A dozen guests at the hotel, hearing the chants, came out from

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INVISIBLE SIDEWALK — A group of pro-peace activists line the corner of the entrance to the Renaissance Hotel in Austin where President Bush’s top advisor Karl Rove was to speak at a fund-raiser last Saturday evening. Since there was no concrete sidewalk there, the activists called the grassy area the “invisible sidewalk.”

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

# CONFRONTATION

## CODEPINK Activist Arrested At Rove Protest **IN PINK**

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their rooms to check out the action. The chanting soon petered out.

However, moments later, Cindy Sheehan and a half a dozen members of CODEPINK Austin, the later of whom were dressed in their very own hand-made pink police uniforms, arrived downstairs from one of the six hotel rooms they had reserved there. With yellow crime scene tape, the women quickly walked through the hotel restaurant to gain entrance to the main dining hall where the ART dinner was to be held. Hotel security, by this time, descended on the scene to stop them, as the ART organizers ordered their guests inside the dining hall.

A small group of activists unfurled their three-story-tall banner again but this time closer to the hall. The group of activists then took over the space the guests had left in front of the dining hall entrance. There, Sheehan called for the citizens' arrest of Karl Rove. In response to each item on her list of charges, the protestors yelled, "Citizens' arrest!" Looking a little pale, Sheehan stopped to rest, but the crowd repeated the chant with a new refrain for Rove — "Traitor!"

"You say you advocate peace. This is not peace," said an African American police officer, trying to encourage the crowd to leave the hotel grounds.

Once or twice before this point, CODEPINK activist Tiffany Burns had asked the police officers to help the group arrest



A PRO-PEACE ACTIVIST carrying an American flag overlooks the reception thrown by the Associated Republicans of Texas prior to their dinner with Karl Rove, the president's chief advisor, last Saturday.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



APPETIZERS were had by pro-peace activists at the restaurant in Renaissance Hotel in Austin. The hotel's dining hall nearby was where the Associated Republicans of Texas had their dinner with Karl Rove, the president's chief advisor, last Saturday.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



PRO-PEACE ACTIVISTS protested across the street from the Renaissance Hotel in Austin last Saturday. They were demonstrating against Karl Rove, President Bush's chief advisor, at a Republican Party fund-raiser he attended that evening. In all there were about 70 activists present.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



THE GRAND BALLROOM'S ENTRANCE was the scene of a rally against the president's chief advisor Karl Rove last Saturday before a Republican fund-raiser in his honor was held in an Austin hotel.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

Rove. The last time she requested, the police officers forcibly restrained her. As two officers grabbed her arms, she screamed, "Help!" An officer flipped her body and face down on the carpet. During this scuffle, Sheehan's sister DeDe Miller and another activist fell to the ground, but were not restrained by police.

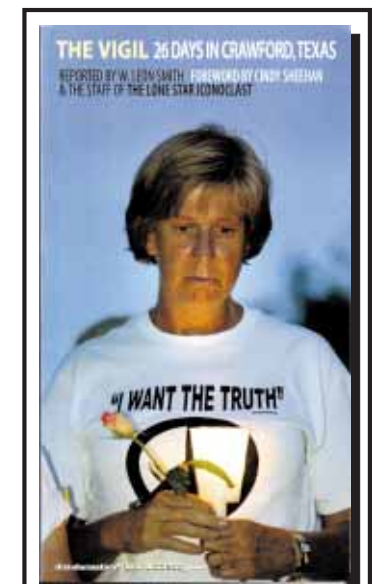
Outside the hotel entrance, as the police were escorting the group from the building, an officer told an inquisitive activist that the police detained Burns because she appeared to be the "ringleader" of the group. Laughing, the activist replied that Burns was not the so-called ringleader. Annie Nelson, the wife of country musician, Willie Nelson, informed the remaining activists that Burns had been arrested and charged with inciting a riot.

"What happened inside?" rhetorically asked Ret. Col. Ann Wright, the Camp Casey Chapter president of Veterans of Peace. "Well, it was a great day for peace."

Sheehan and others returned to their hotel rooms upstairs, while activists from Camp Casey III returned to Crawford about 100 miles from Austin where they have been for the past half month. The groups that participated in Saturday's action included Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, Military Families Speak Out, Gold Star Families for Peace, and CODEPINK Austin. Since last summer, Sheehan

has unsuccessfully tried to meet with President Bush to ask him for what "noble cause" did her oldest son Casey die for while he served in Iraq in 2004. She will be attending a protest in Salt Lake City, Utah, during President Bush's visit there on Aug. 30 and the next day to speak at a American Legion

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# Watada In Court

## First U.S. Military Officer To Refuse Iraq Deployment

FORT LEWIS — The first U.S. military officer to refuse to be deployed to Iraq appeared at his first pre-trial hearing in Seattle last Thursday.

The day-long hearing was to determine whether Army First Lieutenant Ehren Watada, 28, should be court-martialed but it was also a stage on which the legality of the Iraq war is being addressed.

In June, Lt. Watada expressed his views that the war in Iraq is illegal and maintained that he would not fight in Iraq with his army unit. He told the court on Thursday that his refusal was his "obligation to the country."

Lt. Watada is charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, missing troop movement, and contempt toward officials. If Lt. Watada is found guilty in his court-martial, he could face five years in prison. His father, Bob Watada, has said he supports his son's decision.

Three witnesses were called in defense of Lt. Watada: Francis Boyle, a University of Illinois professor of international law; Army Col. Ann Wright (ret.), who resigned her foreign service post in opposition to the war on Iraq; and former United Nations Undersecretary Denis Halliday.

Each witness attacked the administration's reasons and methods for entering into a war with Iraq. Boyle said that the Army's field manual required a U.N. Security Council authorization for an offensive war, but since none was given for the Iraq war, the war itself was illegal from day one.

However, the Army prosecutor, Capt. Dan Kuecker, noted that the Army itself does not find whether or not war is legal. In addition, the legality of the Iraq war has not been ruled in any U.S. court, he said.

Lt. Watada's defense attorney Eric Seitz said that most Article 32 hearings turn into court-martial hearings. Whether the defense could use the testimony of the three witnesses has yet to be determined.



**THE NEXT MOVE** — Ret. Col. Ann Wright (center), president of the Camp Casey Chapter of Veterans for Peace, explained the next moves to the pro-peace activist group last Saturday after a rally outside a Republican fund-raiser. Accompanying her were Jennifer Crick, a member of CODEPINK Austin (left) and Annie Nelson (right), the wife of country singer, Willie Nelson.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

## CONFRONTATION IN PINK ... From Previous Page

convention.

This Thursday, President

Bush is expected to arrive in Kennebunkport, Maine. He will

be staying at his parents' summer home for the weekend. He

is scheduled to attend a wedding for a relative.



**BANNER WATCHERS** — Pro-peace activists watch as a three-story-tall banner reading "Rove v. Truth: No Contest. Pink slip Rove" denouncing the president's chief advisor, was unfurled in the enclosed courtyard of the Renaissance Hotel in Austin.

— Staff Photos By Nathan Diebenow

# Domestic Surveillance Program Unconstitutional, Says Judge

DETROIT — President George W. Bush's warrantless surveillance program violates the U.S. Constitution, according to a ruling from a federal judge in Detroit last Thursday.

U.S. District Judge Anna

Diggs Taylor in her 43-page opinion said that the program run by the National Security Agency not only abuses the freedom of speech and privacy but also the separation of powers. She called for the

program to end immediately.

The Bush administration blasted the judge's ruling, saying that it would appeal to the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati because the program is needed

to fight terrorism. The administration, however, refuses to show the program's successes because doing so would violate state secrets and national security.

Critics, such as the American Civil Liberties Union which filed the suit, said that the administration showed plenty of evidence of the program's existence so the judge could rule such that the state-secrets argument is worthless.

The ACLU added that the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act already provides the secret court from which law enforcement can to attain warrants for such spying techniques, making Bush's program unnecessary. The civil liberties group acted for journalists, scholars, and lawyers whose jobs, these professionals say, are hindered by the communications surveillance program when their contacts and/or clients overseas are accused of having ties to terrorists.

An aid to the investigation that led to the impeachment of former President Bill Clinton said *MNBC's Count-*

*down with Keith Olbermann* last week that if Taylor's ruling wins in the appeal, President Bush would have broken federal law more than 30 times.



U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor

These violations alone could be evidence for his impeachment, according to Johnathon Turley, law professor at George Washington University.

"This ruling is a bad situation that just got worse for the White House," said the Constitutional scholar.

Turley called Taylor's opinion "very thoughtful," and focused his concern on Bush's Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez's "lack of authority."

"You know, when Gonzales says I've got something back in my safe, and if you could see it, you'd all agree with me, well, unless there's a federal statute in his safe, then it's not going to make a difference," said Turley on Olbermann's show.

Gonzalez said the domestic spy program would remain online during the appeals process, which means a ruling could be made after Bush leaves office.

## I Have No Column This Week

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "Might near anyplace can turn into New York City if a man don't watch."

Memo to: The Evil Dr. Trenchwalker, esq.  
From: Your Wild Texas Coast Correspondent  
Subject: No column this week.

Dear Evil Dr. Trenchwalker,

I will have no column this week.

I am in jail.

But that is not the reason I will have no column this week.

I will have no column this week because I have no internet connection.

Which is why I am in jail.

It all began when I went down to the local cable company, Merle and Alice's Bait and Tackle Live Shrimp Cable Television and Internet Provision Company We Fix Flats.

They said they should be able to get to me Saturday week if the crab run wasn't too heavy Friday night and the game warden decided not to work late.

Merle said I should stay home all day Saturday because Alice's middle brother, Warton Lee, did the installing, and he wasn't too reliable, but he did work cheap, and if he fired him, Warton Lee'd have to go back to working offshore, and if he got into another mess like that one with the cutting torch and the diesel barge, Alice would never let him hear the end of it, and besides, replacing 1,785 feet of drill stem doesn't come cheap.

Come Saturday morning, the doorbell rang, and I answered it to find the cable guy asleep on the front porch. I gathered that said prostrate figure was Warton Lee from the fairly reasonable likeness of Alice tattooed on the bottom of his foot.

That and the logo of a television inside a crab trap and the words "Merle and Alice's Bait and Tackle Live Shrimp Cable Television and Internet Provision Company We Fix Flats" painted on the side of the '54 Dodge panel truck that was nosed into the bouganvillas.

I had to go around to the tailgate and read the whole sign to be sure before I awakened Warton Lee.

"My name is Warton Lee Drumdiddle, and I represent Merle and Alice's Bait and Tackle Live Shrimp Cable Television and Internet Provision

Company We Fix Flats," he said as he sat up and retrieved his other shoe from the mesquite thicket.

"Warton Lee, are you sure you're all right? You don't look all that well."

"Oh, no, I feel fine. I'm drunk as a skunk!"

"Warton Lee, you're drunk on the job?"

"No, on dollar-a-bottle port wine, but I got a good reason for showing up drunk."

"What's that?"

"I been drankin' all night."

"Was there some occasion?"

"Oh, yeah. Big family to do. I didn't get to bed until five. We was celebratin' the game warden decidin' to go home early. Well, he did after Alice's youngest brother backed a truckload of crab traps over his foot. He was all right, though. Dynamite ain't all that heavy. Anyway, Marcel's still too young to drive all that good yet. They wouldn't learn him how in th' pen."

"Would you like a cup of coffee, Warton Lee?"

"I'll take a beer if you got it."

"I don't."

"I unnerstand. Hard times ever'where. Well, I better git started. Where's your truck?"

"You're supposed to be connecting the cable."

"Oh, yeah. Guess I won't need my jack. Or all this dry ice."

He wandered around the house for a bit, then went out into the back yard and surveyed the eaves of the house until he fell out of the neighbor's ash tree.

A few minutes later he came back inside.

"I'm gonna have to reschedule you folks. I don't think I got the right equipment."

"What do you mean?"

"This equipment don't look like it did in Seattle."

"I don't understand."

"Me neither. I ain't never been to Seattle."

"Warton Lee, this is starting to sound pretty fishy."

"Oh, that's from all them oysters. You git used to it."

### Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



"Are you going to install my cable or not?"

"One of them two, prob'ly."

"How about the internet?"

"Yeah! How 'bout that internet. I hear you can git on them chat rooms and talk to nekkid wimmen all night. Wisht I'd learnt to type. Then maybe I coulda learnt to write. Read. Who knows how far I could have gone?"

I would have given Warton Lee a piece of my mind, had he not passed out in the hibiscus.

I let the fire ants eat Warton Lee and took my complaint to the home offices of Merle and Alice's Bait and Tackle Live Shrimp Cable Television and Internet Provision Company We Fix Flats.

"Merle's gone to Denver."

"When did he leave?"

"When he seen you turn up the lane."

"Alice, I paid you to have my cable installed, and it hasn't gotten done."

"Well, I guess I have to give you some of your money back."

"What do you mean, 'Some?'"

"Well, Warton Lee showed up didn't he? He don't work for free."

"He didn't do anything but fall out of a tree."

"Fed your ants, didn't he? That's worth sumpum."

"He showed up drunk."

"How do you know he was drunk?"

"He said he was drunk?"

"Ain't you got better sense than to believe anything a drunk says?"

It was at that point that I began to disturb the peace.

There is, I understand, a remote chance I may be able to send you this memo in lieu of a column.

The chief jailer said Warton Lee ran a piece of mooring cable through the air conditioning duct as part of his last community service, and sometimes he can get internet service if he hooks that cable up to the toaster and puts it in the microwave during a thundersto . . .

## Editorial

### Burnt To A Crisp

This is the hottest summer on record in the United States. While weather and climate are two vastly different things, this is a portent of how things will be — if we don't do something about emissions.

We have wasted six years due to idiocy — blatant, blind stupidity on the part of George Bush who has refused to get behind a push to assure that the future environment of this world can sustain our children.

His preference is ignorance. He revels in it.

It will be someone else's problem.

One of many.

Too many.

His allegiance to Big Oil and the promotion of the fossil fuel industry all over the world from China to Albuquerque is the problem and has tragically put us on a losing track. Not only have we lost those key six years, but the problem itself is growing.

And the world is dying.

All because an infinitely stupid and arrogant president and his uncaring team won't publicly believe what is in front of their faces.

Or do they believe and just don't care?

What does it matter, as long as they get theirs?

After all, he thinks he was elected so that he and his chums can simply "follow the money."

— W. Leon Smith

# Jackson Sends 'Scamp' To Buy Back Texas

Col. Anthony Butler strutted like a peacock out of the White House on Aug. 13, 1829, with a five-figure line of credit and secret orders to make the Mexicans an offer they could not refuse.

Andrew Jackson regarded the Rio Grande realm as "lost" territory, a legitimate part of the Louisiana Purchase which the

## This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



Monroe Administration had seen fit to surrender to Spain. Five months into his presidency,

he decided to buy Texas back and settled on five million dollars as a fair price.

While pondering possible pitchmen, Old Hickory remembered the cocky Carolinian who had expressed enthusiasm for the enterprise. Impressed by Anthony Butler's firsthand knowledge of Texas and his can-do confidence, the president

gave him the assignment.

Jackson could not have made a worse choice. His new charge d'affaires in Mexico City was a diplomatic tenderfoot, whose ignorance of the country, culture and language was an embarrassment. On the personal side, according to a reputable historian, he was "a bully and swash-buckler openly scandalous in his conduct and a national disgrace."

The Mexicans had Butler's number from the start. The government controlled press exposed his hidden agenda and scornfully dismissed as a national insult the pittance he was prepared to pay for the northernmost province.

Although Jackson later disavowed bribery as a diplomatic tool, his original instructions sanctioned the practice. The president candidly confided to Butler that he "scarcely ever knew a Spaniard who was not the slave of avarice, and it is not improbable that this weakness may be worth a great deal to us." The emissary concurred with his boss' assessment calling the Mexicans "selfish, corrupt, utterly unprincipled," adding, "Any of them may be successfully appealed to through their cupidity."

But for all his big talk, Butler had nothing to show in August 1833 for four years south of the border. Realizing his superior was a sucker for pompous promises, he swore, "I will succeed in uniting Texas to our country before I am done or will forfeit my head." Practically salivating at the prospect, Jackson replied, "If you succeed it will be a feather in your cap."

When Old Hickory began to question the propriety of paying off foreign officials, the third-rate envoy delivered a condescending lecture. "How little you know of Mexican character! I can assure you, sir, that bribery is not only common and familiar in all ranks and classes but freely spoken of."

Butler picked the wrong president to patronize and was promptly punished with a notice of recall. He not only ignored the summons but countered with a lamebrained scheme for the military seizure of the prize that had exceeded his grasp.

Jackson could not believe his eyes, when he read the preposterous plan. "If you will withdraw me from this place and make the movement to possess that part of Texas which is ours placing me at the head of the country to be occupied, I will pledge my head that we will have all we desire in less than

six months."

"A. Butler: What a scamp!" the president scribbled in the margin of the incredible communication and reiterated his desire to have the loose cannon recalled "at once."

For leading Texans the removal of Butler could not have come too soon. "Such men as he is would destroy a country," snorted a disgusted Sam Houston, "but take my word for it, he will never gain one!"

"I have never known so bad and base a man," complained Stephen F. Austin, whose two-year detention was due in part to the diplomat's petty refusal to intercede on his behalf. Butler did not lift a finger to free Austin because imprisonment was an effective way to silence the influential colonizer he considered his chief critic.

Butler finally returned to Washington in June 1835 but not with his tail between his legs. To prove that money truly did talk in Mexico, he brought a letter from Father Ignacio Hernandez, a member of Santa Anna's inner circle. For half a million dollars, the priest promised to pull the strings that would make Texas the property of the United States.

"Plausible denial" may have been what the president had in mind, when he recorded his opposition to the arrangement right on the Hernandez document. If Jackson wanted no part of the shady deal, why did he let Butler keep his job?

Even after the Texas Revolution was well underway, Butler refused to give up on his pipe dream. He kept stalling for time until the very day of his replacement in January 1836 and hung around Mexico City until the month after the Battle of San Jacinto.

Butler settled in the new Republic and actually persuaded a sufficient number of voters to grant him a seat in the Third Congress. His constituents must have seen through his smoke-and-mirrors routine, however, because they did not elect him to a second term.

On the one occasion Anthony Butler put the interests of others above his own, he got himself killed. He died a hero on the Mississippi River trying to save passengers from a fire aboard a blazing steamboat.

"Outlaws & Lawmen" - "Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. VI is \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Barte Haile, P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549. And don't forget to visit [www.twith.com](http://www.twith.com).

## Too Much Information

By now, we all know that the latest threats to airline travel are liquid and gel explosives. A terrorist attack was apparently thwarted when these types of explosives were exposed as having the dangerous potential that many of us had been unaware of. Up until now, I thought hair gel was just a slimey, smelly product that made my nose itch when the guy next to me had it on. I thought a diet soda was just a fat guy's rationalization to help him wash down a pizza. I thought nail polish remover was, well nail polish remover. But like the rest of the world, now I know that these and other common products are potential weapons.

When hearing about the bans on things like lipstick and bottled water, I heard many people complain about the inconvenience. I wasn't one of them. As with all the other safety measures, if I have to be slightly inconvenienced in order to be protected, that's okay with me. I admit that at first, I was worried that we weren't going to be allowed to board the plane with any fluids in our bodies, either. But once I was reassured that wasn't the case, the whole thing didn't seem like a big deal to me.

No, I wasn't disturbed by the potential inconvenience. I was disturbed by the news coverage of these liquid explosives that I think went too far. I appreciated that the press applauded those who protect us. But then the media went a step farther into the dubious zone. They taught us all how to turn these everyday products into weapons.

In my opinion, it would have been enough to report that these things could be made into weapons. But on every



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

newscast that I saw, in every paper that I read, there were very explicit directions for how to make explosives out of these products. Was this really necessary? Was a step-by-step "cookbook" of instructions really an important part of the news story? Wouldn't it have been sufficient to inform us that in the wrong hands, these things could be dangerous?

I'm a big fan of the First Amendment. In fact, it's one of my favorites. So, I'm not suggesting that the press and others be banned from giving out information that could be dangerous. I'm just asking for a little common sense and restraint.

Anyone can go on the internet and get instructions for making a nuclear bomb. Somehow, this doesn't please me as a demonstration of how much free information is out there for every individual. I wouldn't be surprised if there were sites named, "How To Impersonate A Secret Service Agent," or "The Home Phone Numbers And Addresses Of Every Pilot In The United States," or "How To Break Out Of A Maximum Security Prison." But I wouldn't be happy to learn that they were on my neighbor's "favorites" list.

Suppose you were an alienated young man, watching the news reports on the liquid explosive dangers last week. You're already bored writing crank letters and making phony phone calls to the bullies who

picked on you at school and the girls who turned you down when you asked them out. You've been fired from every job you've ever had, because the boss always had it out for you. Several psychiatrists have prescribed medication for you, but you stopped taking it because you didn't like its side effect - it took the edge off. When you're in a crowd, nobody seems to notice you. You desperately want attention. Is it the best idea in the world for the nightly news to teach this kid how to blow up a plane?

I would have much rather those reporters turned their serious faces towards the airlines, and talked about how they should pitch in during this crisis. And how can they pitch in? Once everyone has boarded, just give each passenger a bottle of water, a toothbrush, and some toothpaste. They could give it out instead of those little bags of pretzels and wheat chex or whatever that cardboard-tasting snack is supposed to be. That way, we could all be safe on the plane, but we wouldn't have to be thirsty, and we'd all have fresh smiles. That kind of journalistic approach would have left a good taste in my mouth.

*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)*

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## Nothing Like Mesquite To Put You To Sleep

Lately I've been catching up on ranch chores, braving the scorching Texas summer sun (with a baggie of ice bandanaed to the back of my neck. Try it. It really helps! I start about 7 a.m. each day or earlier (not easy for a night owl) doing things like spraying mesquite trees, checking the windmill, fences, troughs and cows, scratching Babe's ears (the 1,000 pound bull that thinks he's a lapdog), etc. —to the interior tune of "I Am Woman, Hear Me Roar" (which I absolutely despise). I wish I could get it out of my head. If I don't have my outside chores done before 10 a.m. or so, I might as well just make a reservation at the ER for heatstroke at noon.

I've always been a tomboy, but lately, with so many manly chores, I feel like saddling up and lighting a Marlboro (and I don't smoke). I suddenly feel an irrepressible urge to don something from my closet with lace or ruffles, watch soap operas, do needlework and eat bon-bons—just to restore some kind of feminine balance to all this macho butchy ranch work (which I actually do love. Plus I have no choice. It needs to be done). However, I don't own clothing with lace or ruffles. The bon-bons, I could most certainly do, confirmed chocoholic that I am. And I happen to do some needlework now and again.

Anyone who has a connection with Texas agriculture knows the legendary tenacity of the mesquite tree. Here we are in a drought, and as everything else wilts or dries to dust, the mesquite is going strong. I should know. I've been up close and personal with several hundred of them in the last week, maybe several thousand. I thought we had killed them last year and the year before. Boy was I wrong. I pulled from the ground a tiny two-inch tall mesquite tree. It had an eight-inch root. Everything you've ever heard about this plant is too, too true.

I'm not fighting just any old mesquite. These are very mad mesquite. Farmers and ranchers know I'm not kidding. Cut down and spray or otherwise try to kill a mesquite tree or bulldoze it and miss part of the root, and you succeed in making the critter fighting mad. It doubles its efforts to survive, sending those tap roots down to find water

### 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.

and sending up vigorous new growth like tentacles of the Leviathan in *Pirates of the Caribbean II* (GREAT MOVIE, could have been shorter). And the remarkable plant does this with amazing speed, growing faster than anything else around, and in even the direst of conditions. (I have often thought that efforts to reforest Haiti would be successful with the introduction of the mesquite tree). The horrible thorns aid the plant in keeping enemies at bay. I have a nice scratch on my arm (as usual) to prove it.

It's fairly easy to spot mesquite trees on the horizon, even tiny ones. I've trained my eyes to search the landscape for their distinctive leaves. They're almost the only things that are green here after two years of drought. Even the frost weed is droopy and brown. When I was small and we picked pecans out here for hours on end, I would close my eyes at night and see pecans. Now when I close my eyes, I see mesquite leaves (for about five seconds before I pass exhaustedly into blissful sleep).

Mesquite is most successfully killed in the hottest weather (like now) when it is vigorously growing. Instructions on the herbicide caution the mesquite murderer to cover all skin, wear a mask, high boots and gloves. I tried all that for about five minutes. Fearful that I would pass out from the heat (even in early morning), I lost the mask and long sleeves. How I will explain these very brown arms to the dermatologist next week will indeed require some creative thought.

Today I succeeded in destroying our last viable sprayer. We go through these like a knife through butter. And the other I was hoping to use is stuck shut. If you tighten the tops well enough to allow pressure to build for spray action, it is impossible to actually remove the tops when finished, a major R&D problem, if you ask me. A friend recommended Vaseline applied to the gasket before use. I'll try that tomorrow — with the NEW sprayer I plan to buy as soon as the hardware store opens.

Stay cool folks!

## When Our Republic Ceased To Be

A few evenings ago we watched Oliver Stone's excellent celluloid treatise on the American political landscape in the latter half of the 20th Century, "JFK."

Looking back on what has transpired since the release of this incredible film, only a fool — or a complete idiot — would not agree that Stone's vision was nothing short of the likes of H.G. Wells or George Orwell.

I suppose we chose that particular film because his latest observation of America, "World Trade Center," has been all over the media and we just haven't gotten around to seeing it yet. Marketing, plus the DVD was right there, on the shelf and handy.

With "JFK" Stone was then, as he continues to be now, assailed from certain quarters as playing fast and loose with the truth, making up facts, and glorifying a scalawag.

Piffle, say I.

The majority of those who make these comments haven't the foggiest idea of film theory or what the movie watching experience is supposed to entail. How many hardcore, Right-wing Conservatives, especially Neo-cons, show any true acumen for popular culture or societal awareness?

It wouldn't surprise me if a sizeable percentage of those who lambasted "JFK" and Stone's other "anti-American, Leftist" movies hadn't even seen any film by VietNam veteran Oliver Stone.

I'm sure the list of VietNam vets among his detractors — let's say military vets in general — would be a short one, indeed.

"JFK" opens with footage of outgoing President Dwight David Eisenhower's farewell speech in January, 1961. He leaves American public life with an ominous warning to beware the rapidly burgeoning Military-Industrial Complex.

Fast-forward less than three years to the funeral procession of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy.

It's an iron-clad cinch that by Nov. 22, 1963, most Americans had forgotten, if they'd paid attention at all in the first place, Ike's dire prediction.

On that bier, being drawn by horse power, for all the World to see on black and white television, was a casket containing the corpse of my parents' and grandparents' generations' belief in the vitality of enchanted Camelot.

Well, even in the ancient tale that wondrous land and its beneficent leader were laid waste through the evils of deceit, greed and avarice from within



### Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

at the highest of levels.

When Kennedy's trip to Dallas was finalized, several key senior security personnel had been told their presence would not be needed. One of them commanded the military unit that would have been assigned security detail; it had been instructed to stand down.

As four to six shots echoed through Dealey Plaza that warm Friday afternoon one November in Dallas, the Democratic Republic, which had for 187 years been the United States of America, existed no longer. A coup d'etat had taken place; the conspiracy was now in overdrive.

There were no three shots fired in a lightning-quick 5.6 seconds by the lone Lee Harvey Oswald with a cheap-o, Italian-made bolt-action rifle with smart bullet accuracy from his inconvenient perch on the sixth floor of the Texas Book Depository.

That he was even on the sixth floor at 12:30 that afternoon has never been proven.

Nor did any proof exist that Oswald was in fact the person who had ordered the weapon found on the sixth floor from a mail order house.

A dumbass move in a state where he could have bought a rifle and scope just about anywhere, no questions asked. Oswald was not as stupid as he appeared or was portrayed.

The Depository building was not put under lockdown in a timely fashion following the shooting.

In violation of Texas law, the president's body was whisked away from Parkland Hospital to Washington, D.C. before the Dallas coroner could perform a proper autopsy; the "autopsy," as performed at Bethesda Naval Hospital, was overseen by numerous high-ranking military officers, a plethora of suited individuals also in attendance.

The military doctors, not specialists at post mortem medical examination, found themselves tossed into the ring greatly outnumbered and seriously outranked. They were precisely instructed how to conduct the autopsy.

Nothing that took place in the room even came close to resembling normal procedure.

The ranking doctor, who thought he was in charge of the

procedure, was not allowed to make written notes as prescribed by law; he was forced to do so secretly at a later time from memory, thus rendering them incomplete and somewhat inaccurate.

Only four photos of JFK's body on the table survive, with one verifying the written notation of a bullet wound near his right shoulder blade — not in the back of his neck as the Warren Commission officially determined for posterity.

The Dallas Police Department, excessively corrupt in 1963, only sort of investigated the assassination. During the nearly 48 hours Oswald was in DPD custody no notes or tape recordings were made of any conversations or questioning interviews. The FBI was just as remiss, or hid whatever it had.

As soon as Jack Ruby murdered Oswald — the first murder on live national television, Sunday, Nov. 24 — the DPD's responsibility shifted to the latter killing.

Oswald had also been accused of the murder of DPD Officer J.D. Tippet. There were neither corroborating witnesses testifying to nor forensics evidence put forth that placed Oswald at the scene or the gun his hand.

Tippet was an honest cop who had enemies on the force, and it's long been assumed that he was set up.

Thus, the Kennedy assassination, although a murder that occurred in Dallas jurisdiction, illegally became a full-fledged Federal investigation.

And, most conveniently, the prime — only — suspect was dead.

Virtually all witness testimony that indicated it could have been anyone beside Oswald was either altered or disregarded completely.

Within a matter of months at least a dozen people with eyeball or firsthand knowledge that would have disputed the Government's official story died unexpectedly in violent or suspicious ways — mysterious accidents, shootings, sudden "heart attacks," et alia.

Watching "JFK" 15 years after Oliver Stone crafted it has now become an ethereal experience.

It's like looking at America backward through a crystal ball.

The murder of John Fitzgerald Kennedy was the first salvo in the War on the American Citizen.

The man wanted no part of VietNam, among other things; the Military-Industrial Complex needed a place to sell weaponry and assorted sundry associated goods.

Bottom line, the men who

# TENUTO

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killed Kennedy needed to get him out of the way.

FYI: George H.W. Bush is apparently the only living person on Earth who doesn't remember where he was when John Kennedy was shot. A memo dated Nov. 22, 1963 places him at the Sheraton-Dallas Hotel that night.

How else could nearly bankrupt Bell Helicopter sell billions of dollars worth of rotary-wing aircraft to the military?

Who's been able to keep track of the corporations and combinations thereof that have profited in the thousands of billions over the past 43 years supplying weapons of mass and micro destruction to our military and satisfied consumers worldwide?

I sincerely doubt Halliburton has missed one day of being under government contract in all this time.

Even Mattel and other toy manufacturers got in on the VietNam gravy train. The M-16s issued to me at various Army units were designed and built, at least in part, by Mattel — the very same company that made the best guns in my arsenal without death.

I knew an old radio station engineer, whom I'll call Wyatt, in Arizona who worked as a toy designer at Mattel in the 1960s or early '70s. One of his pet projects was a scale model guided missile system. Now, Wyatt was quite happy at his work — the man loved his job — until he discovered the end result wasn't going to be quite as expected.

Once Wyatt got the system to work reasonably well, the overseers came along and told him to put the specs and dimensions on steroids, so to speak. They wanted his "toy" increased in size many times over.

Wyatt asked his immediate supervisor what the deal was, why were the honchos messing with his toy design. The response was that Wyatt didn't really think Mattel had sunk that much money into developing a toy; it would never pay for itself.

No, Mattel had failed to inform Wyatt that his project was in fact a prototype for a real live guided missile system — and if it was good enough the U.S. Government was going to use it to kill people.

From a long distance and in mass quantities.

Blowing women, children, men, animals, maybe even soldiers into little pieces, for real.

Weapons of mass destruction, one might call them.

Say, where have we heard *that* term before?

Not quite the hours of imaginative and thoughtful scientific fun Wyatt had envisioned.

From a dream to a nightmare.

Wyatt stayed on at Mattel for a bit after that revelation, and played along with the big boys. He used the time wisely, sabotaging as much material as possible until absolutely certain the project would be an utter failure.

As soon as he felt his work was through, Wyatt bid a final though less than fond farewell to Mattel. As of 1981, the last time I saw him, he had never worked for another major corporation again.

Since I met Wyatt, I have never had any desire to work for a major corporation.

Now, we were not at war during the entire eight years of President Clinton's administration. At least not outside of our national boundaries.

There were actions in Somalia and Bosnia, of course. We also had some problems in Haiti that needed fixing. Now and again there were the bombing runs over Iraq, just to keep Saddam awake and moving from palace to palace.

Overall, we were just doing what the United States does around the World, being Steve McGarrett and the Five-0 guys (c'mon, the show really sucked the season they added women).

However, since Election Night 2000 our Nation has been in a constant state of war. Sure, there was a period of relative calm between December, 2000 (following the abolishment of the individual's right to vote for the president by Rehnquist's Federalist Supremes) and September, 2001.

If you remember, however, John Ashcroft used that time to attack certain Constitutional Freedoms, such as the 1st Amendment by imploring the FCC to find more reasons to infringe upon the rights of broadcasters and viewers. He also covered priceless artwork that he personally found distasteful with \$50 sheets because it glorified the human body — created in God's image, so I've been told.

Personally, I find Ashcraft's singing beyond distasteful, and his songwriting ability strictly sophomoric, but you don't see me censoring him or covering the man with a sheet (he can do that all on his own, now that his home state of Missouri has resurrected 19th Century Jim Crow voting laws to go along with its antiquated Sunday "blue laws").

If you're wondering what good Christian former Attorney General Brother John Ashcrafty is doing now, he's the head of his own lobbying firm right down the street from the Justice Building in D.C. Having not just

one foot in the door, as with the typical GOP ex-congreedperson or aide, but both feet, hands, head, and soul have given Ashcrafty an edge — his rather neophyte organization already sports 30 clients in just two-and-a-half years.

You tell me if the set up could get any sweeter: Ashcrafty was at the helm of the creation of the Department of Homeland Security. Now, he helms a lobbying firm that specializes in high-tech security firms.

That's just flat out *wrong!*

One of Ashcrafty's clients is ChoicePoint, Inc. This data marketer that gathers public records and sells access to them had a contract with the Justice Department going back to 1998. According to its chief marketing officer, James Lee, ChoicePoint signed on with Ashcrafty in 2005 to make the connections with "the right people within the agencies who could match up our capabilities with their needs..."

The former Attorney General made a rather weak case for this sort of match up. He doesn't think the government should be involved with information warehousing. Said Ashcrafty, "The private sector does a better job of maintaining and developing information." He continued by saying that Americans "don't want government to have access to any more information than necessary."

This horse manure from the schmuck who brought us warrantless, free range wiretaps and e-mail searches!

The last non-governmental clown on the planet I want with access to my privacy is John Ashcroft! I'd sooner re-route all my electronic transmissions to Fidel down in Cuba!

Also, in those early days of the Fascist takeover Dark Lord the Dick Cheney was extra busy plotting the "energy policy" in secret with his buddies. Damn the House of Representatives and Senate for even asking what went on in those meetings! How dare the elected officials of the people want to know what was plotted?

It's none of the people's business what the Dick does in secret meetings to make more money for himself, King George XLIII and Herr Oberst Karl Rove at our expense.

Let's not forget about all their friends and the ludicrous profits they're making off our backs.

With all that money flowing in, is there any reason BP should even worry about maintenance on its Alaskan oil pipeline? Don't be absurd!

Here we go again... again. It's August during an even-numbered year. Our pals across the pond caught some al Qaeda-

types (we're still not certain of their ties to the big boys of the terror movement). Herr Karl and King George are scrambling to find some way to steal the credit and turn MI5's success into yet another a rallying cry for a "Democrats are soft on terror" load of crap. So far so good — they haven't been able to spin it into GOP gold.

I know you've heard about Dark Lord the Dick's wholly asinine comments regarding the outbreak of Democracy in Connecticut. Sure, it's old news by now, but I really need to share: "The thing that's partly disturbing about it is the fact that, the standpoint of our adversaries, if you will, in this conflict, and the al Qaeda types, they clearly are betting on the proposition that ultimately they can break the will of the American people in terms of our ability to stay in the fight and complete the task."

Everytime Mr. Five Draft Deferments says something about staying in the fight and completing the fight I want to vomit!

*Five-count 'em — Five deferments!* Most guys were lucky to get one!

Cheney is the biggest chickenshit of the VietNam era, without equal!

And his statement doesn't even make any sense.

Democracy is fine for Afghanistan and Iraq, but we'll just have none of it here in the U.S. of A!

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

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

*"That whenever any form of government becomes destructive to these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or abolish it, and to institute new government, laying its foundation on*

*such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their safety and happiness."*

— **The Declaration of Independence**

A few days ago John Prescott, the British Deputy Prime Minister, summed up the regime of our illustrious King George XLIII in one word: "Crap."

I'm sure he was using a great deal of what the English might call tact, something unheard of among the Cheney-Bush crowd.

Then, just this morning (Aug. 17, 2006), in a 43-page opinion upholding the Constitution on behalf of a suit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union against the King's warrantless wiretap scheme, U.S. District Judge Anna Diggs Taylor of Detroit concurred, in spirit, with the Deputy PM's assessment of Bush's regime.

The court found the warrantless wiretap program illegal and ordered that it cease immediately.

Naturally, King George laughed away such folly, for no law ever written has applied to him.

You have the power to alter the Government, to institute a new Government.

We all have that power. Let the voters of Connecticut be the voices that begin to silence the evil that has cast its dark shadow over our great Nation for more than five years.

Democracy, and Democrats, frighten Cheney, Bush, and especially Rove. Vote for a new tomorrow, and watch the worms as they squirm!

Shalom, y'all.

*(Jerry Tenuto is an erstwhile Philosopher and sometime Educator. A veteran with seven years of service in the U.S. Army, he holds a BS and MA in Communications from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Visit his blog BLUE STATE VIEW at [illinoiscentral.blogspot.com](http://illinoiscentral.blogspot.com))*

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# 'Abstinence Only' Fuels Sexual Ignorance

The recent discovery of a high school sex-ring at Ozen high school in Beaumont probably comes as a shock to most parents, teachers, and citizens of Texas. Should it though — given the state's, and this Administration's, fanatical promotion of abstinence-only sex education?

Those of us in the reality based community know that research shows abstinence programs don't do much to stop teens from having sex. So, while some programs have had success in delaying students' loss of virginity — which

we all agree is a good thing — that benefit is negated by the movement's relentless anticondom message, which basically tells teens not to bother with protection when they do have sex. It is no surprise then that those abstinence-only programs have been shown to actually increase the risk of contracting AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs). And that is not even bringing into play Texas's rising teen pregnancy rate under such programs.

So, if the purpose of sex education is to prevent sex, pregnancy, and STDs, then abstinence-only based education is obviously not the answer. Just ask the students at Ozen. Had they been given age-appropriate sex education which featured medically accurate information about STDs, birth control, and the effects of peer pressure, topics that are against the rules with abstinence-only sex education, perhaps they would have made the choice not to engage in sexual activity. At the very least they would have been armed with accurate information upon which to base their choices.

A look at overall state trends reflects the same. According to a study conducted by researchers at Texas A&M University, teenagers in 29 high schools became increasingly sexually active, despite taking courses emphasizing abstinence-only themes. The study showed about 23 percent of ninth-grade girls had sex before receiving abstinence education. After taking the course, 29 percent of the girls in the same group said they had had sex. A look at boys in the tenth grade showed an even greater increase, from 24 percent to 39 percent.

So how much money is being spent on this failing policy of abstinence-based education? Quite a lot, actually. Federal funding has steadily increased each year under the Bush Administration. According to the U.S. Department of



Vivian Greentree

Health and Human Services, approximately \$82 million was spent on abstinence education in 2001. By 2005 that amount had doubled to about \$167 million. And the president's 2006 budget asked for \$206 million. Governor Rick Perry is also a champion of abstinence-only sex education. Are his advisors not reading the same studies the public is? Or is he intent on "staying the course" despite ever-accumulating evidence that the curriculum isn't working?

## GUEST COMMENTARY

Since both the facts and figures are on the side of comprehensive sex-education programs, perhaps religious radicalism has something to do with our state leadership's dogged determination to suppress our student's knowledge of sex. I know it does for abstinence educator Pam Stenzel, a Bush appointee to the a 12-person task force at the Department of Health and Human Services designed to implement abstinence education guidelines in our schools. Her non-profit organization, Enlighten Communications, also puts on seminars in public schools, where her stance that condoms don't work is part of her syllabus.

An example of the extremism of Stenzel's paradigm on sex education can be seen in her speech at a 2003 Reclaiming America for Christ conference, where she said, "Let me tell you something, people of God, that is radical...AIDS is not the enemy. HPV and a hysterectomy at 20 is not the enemy. An unplanned pregnancy is not the enemy. My child believing that they can shake their fist in the face of a holy God and sin without consequence, and my child spending eternity separated from God, is the enemy. I will not teach my child that they can sin safely."

I respect Stenzel's, and others like her, right to replace science with religion in their own homes. The problem is, Stenzel isn't just teaching her own children. She is teaching yours and mine, too. And while I would love for my children to abstain till they are married, I believe suppressing and distorting the information they receive, while using federal and state funds to boot, is not the way to accomplish it.

*Vivian Greentree graduated from the University of Georgia with degrees in Political Science and Public Relations. After serving as a Supply Officer in the U.S. Navy for four years, she is currently pursuing her Masters degree.*

# The GOP And The 'Need For Greed'

The insatiable "Need For Greed"

I first became interested in the GOP as a youth in the late 1950's during the Dwight D. Eisenhower administration. In fact, I recall working for the campaign handing-out buttons reading "I Like Ike" with patriotic red-white-blue colors. *And yes, I'm old!*

The Eisenhower administration was a true Republican organization that believed in less government, free enterprise and in rights of all Americans. At that time the GOP believed in bipartisanship and in doing what was best for the American People — all Americans, not just the wealthy. In short, Eisenhower by working together believed in the "American Dream" for rich AND poor alike.

I still believe in American democracy and in the right of every American to make a buck! I believe in American representative government and that people can still become millionaires by using their ingenuity and making their profits. I believe that those who are millionaires have the right to make more money for themselves and their families.

And there, folks, is where I draw the imaginary line.

Today's GOP has lost its way. It has run amok. Instead of doing what's best for America and all Americans, the current GOP, unbridled, just DOES FOR ITSELF. There is an urgent and compelling "Need For Greed" that



## Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

has undermined the GOP and our representative democratic republic's ideals. Consequently, we have all lost our American way.

Today the wealthy seek greater wealth by stepping on our democratic representative principles to get richer. Ethics have been cast aside in order to reach the primary objective ever-more quickly — the "Need For Greed."

The GOP is impeding democratic ideals and is intruding more into the daily lives of Americans. Control is a paramount imperative at domestic and world levels. The Republican Party is rewriting our American Constitution to redevelop an America created in its own image. Apparently the GOP sees no "right" or "wrong" in its own objectives, behavior and actions. Yet it has no problem preaching "right" and "wrong" to all Americans and world nations.

Folks, that is NOT the representation our forefathers had in mind when they fought against King George's England for basic freedoms and inalienable rights.

That is NOT the Republicanism supported and practiced by the Eisenhower administration. Yet, American was a great nation during that administration and

all Americans shared in its prosperity.

So what happened? The "Need For Greed" has changed the core of our lives. There is no reason that the wealthy should not become more wealthy, but NOT at the ongoing expense of the majority of Americans and their families.

At this point the only way to reverse course, the only way to return to open and honest American representative government is to vote-out the toxic elements.

Instead of voting on party lines, we must vote for the best and most viable candidates. Those are the people we need in government at the national, state and local levels. We voters must get smarter in selecting the right people to represent us. Without such quality representation, we may as well become the Fascist dictatorship we are heading for.

Most urgently, we must eliminate the "Need For Greed" as being the ultimate objective.

*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>.*

# First Step To Good Golfing. Get A Grip

I sometimes wonder where I might be today had my sports career not been tragically cut short by my complete lack of athletic talent. This discovery was made as early as first grade, when, during a dodge ball game, I was knocked unconscious and rushed to the nurse's office after being hit by the ball.

Forty-seven times. (And I should mention that recess only lasted 10 minutes in those days.)

So, when I was asked to captain a golf team for a local charity event, I gave myself a crash course on golfing. I decided to start with golf terminology and went on-line for help. In no time at all, thanks to the power of the Internet, I found myself on an inappropriate website after typing in the first term on my list:

*Mixed Foursome.*



## Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

For anyone else who might be looking to the Internet for golf-term clarifications, I'd also suggest avoiding *Scotch Foursome, Shag Bag, and Loose Impediments*. While these are all legitimate golfing terms, try explaining that to your wife when she finds doing an Internet search for the term *Double-D*.

(Which, by the way, means when a driver is used on the fairway after it has also been used to tee off — so THERE, Mrs. Smarty Pants.)

After getting a handle on the game's terminology, the next thing on my list was golf etiquette. For a lot of people, one of the things that keeps

them from actually trying golf is the fear of unintentionally doing something that, as a result of not knowing the proper etiquette, gets them clubbed to death by someone with a 9-iron. That's because, to the outside observer, things that seem to warrant a good clubbing are actually no big deal. You want to swing your club and take a six-inch gouge out of an otherwise perfect lawn?

Fine. Want to drink a beer AND drive an electric go-cart through the woods? Perfectly acceptable.

However, walk between someone's ball and a small hole in the ground, and there's a good chance you'll be found floating in a water hazard.

The thing to remember is that you will undoubtedly make some mistakes your

**Continued On Back Page**



# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

Every summer, come Hell or high water, George Bush can be found in Crawford. High water, especially, is of little interest to him. Last year it was New Orleans. This year it is El Paso, Texas.

It's not normal for this desert city to be flooded, but during the last week of July and the first week of August, that is exactly what happened. Governor Perry and Senators Hutchinson and Cornyn sent the President a letter on Aug. 4 asking him to declare El Paso a disaster area. So far he has not responded.

I seem to recall that Bush immediately declared Houston a disaster area when Hurricane Rita was approaching. In El Paso, almost two weeks after the floods began, we still have 500 homeless families, many businesses that have been destroyed, and streets full of rubble.

El Paso is the only large city in Texas that consistently votes Democratic. Our Republican Governor and Senators nevertheless understand that this city needs Federal help. Is President Bush motivated by a desire for vengeance, or does he just not care?

Patricia McDermott  
Rhodes, El Paso, TX

Dear Editors:

Yup, just can't thank the British enough for stopping another catastrophic terrorist attack. How did the British do it? Why, with good, old fashioned detective work. They planted a mole and found out what the bad guys were gonna do and stopped them before the terrorists could act.

How did the British stop the terrorists? Did they declare a War on Terrorism? No. Did they invade a sovereign country under false pretences? No. Did they need to bomb or kill anyone? No. Did they blow up entire cities and destroy whole infrastructures? No.

The British stopped the terrorists by *outsmarting* them. Yes, that's right — the British used their brains to outsmart the terrorists.

Now will Bush get the message? Or will he Stay the Course? The current Stay the Course strategy is costing billions of taxpayer dollars, caused the national debt to skyrocket and has killed at least 2,500 fine young Americans as well as an estimated 30,000 to 100,000 innocent civilians.

On Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2006, the American voter gets to let the members of Congress know what kind of a job they're doing. Just ask Joe Lieberman.

Concetta Castro Murray,  
Atlantic Highlands, NJ

Dear Publisher Smith:

Strong evidence indicates George W. Bush launched "an illegal war of aggression" against the Iraqi people, based on "false pretenses," "a clear breach" of the UN Charter, violating International and U.S. Laws, "lied" to Congress, repeatedly and willfully, about Iraq's WMD, based on "fabricated intelligence," "lied" about the ties between Iraq and al-Qaeda and 9/11, "spied" on Americans without Court Approval, "leaked" classified information, produced "phony news reports," "imprisoned with charge" and "without trial," "tortured" targeted civilians, resulting in the death of "detainees," violating the Geneva Conventions and the War Crimes Act, used "illegal weapons," "ignored" the 9/11 threats, "ignored" the Katrina threats, "ignored" the Global Warming threats, "failed" to protect the nation on 9/11 by reading "My Pet Goat" in a classroom, while "America Is Under Attack Mr President," without issuing a single order for the defense of our nation!

Also, a Congressional Report entitled "Bush Versus The Constitution" cites 26 different federal laws and regulations violated by Bush, ranging from committing "fraud" against the U.S., thereby violating the RICO and Conspiracy Statutes, repeatedly making "false statements" to Congress, "misuse" of Government funds, "obstructing" Congress, "retaliating against witnesses," grievous violations of the War Powers Resolution, the Whistleblower Protection Act, and further violations of the "war crimes," "torture statutes," and "treaties"!

Certainly, these horrendous offenses constitute High Crimes and Misdemeanors, without "a shadow of a doubt"! Bush "in the dock" facing "Impeachment Charges" and "War Crimes Charges"? Probably "out of the realm of possibilities," or is it?

The Republican Congress remains "silent," as if overlooking his "misdeeds," as if taking "great pride" in his results so far, while Justice is waiting on them for her Due!

Sincerely Submitted,

Lance Ciepiela, Gilbert, AZ  
Dear Editor:

Today, people are blaming the oil companies for high gas prices. Unfortunately, the people should be blaming the creator of this situation: the federal government.

In 1850, wood was our most commonly used fuel. Today, we still have plenty of wood because our free market system replaced it with a better fuel: coal. And we still have an abundance of coal because oil has replaced it. Our marvelous free market system was working very well without government interference.

Now oil would normally take a secondary role to nuclear energy in our fuel cycle evolution. However, massive government interference in our free market system has stifled production of nuclear energy and oil. Visit [www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article\\_3970.shtml](http://www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article_3970.shtml) for details of these government regulations.

We are awash in oil, but Congress refuses to allow drilling in the huge tracts offshore and in Alaska. We also need more oil refineries. None have been built in the last 35 years because of government regulations. New nuclear power plants also have been stopped by regulations.

Congress is prohibited from regulating our energy sources by our Constitution.

But, Congress does it anyway because our voters are not paying attention to the unconstitutional laws being passed. This is an election year so Congress is more willing to listen if voters demand that these regulations be removed. Also, voters should know that if the oil industry gave up all profits, the price of gas would only drop about a dime per gallon.

Yours truly,  
Christopher H. Fogleman,  
Reseda, CA

My letter:

How can Kinky Friedman campaign for governor of Texas to promote education for Texas kids while publicly smoking his cigar?

Recently reported that legal-but-lethal tobacco will painfully abort one billion adults this century? No joke.

Wonder if any of the \$125 million dollars to fight tobacco donated by NY City Mayor Michael Bloomberg will be used against Kinky?

Electing a smoker would be a setback for all humanity even "compassionate rednecks."

Fatherless by tobacco at age 11.

Mike Sawyer, Birmingham,  
Alabama

Dear Sir:

I must say that I am very amused by some of the letters

that you receive.

It is grossly apparent that a lot of them are written by persons lulled into complacency by the mainstream media, just as are most of the U.S. population.

However, since I am an actual Texan, it really makes me cringe to read about people, who crow such regional blasphemies as "Crawford (or Texas, or whatever) Is Bush Country;" you seem to have many of that type in your town.

Most of the time, these people are of the same type that would complain about "Yankees" moving to Texas and such. Which brings me to my point. Are all of these "Bush sheeple" really unaware that he is NOT a Texan, and the Howdy Doody act he performs is all about image?

He was born in Connecticut, just like his father. He spent a scant few years in Texas as a child, none of them even during what would normally be considered the "formative" years of growth. He was then sent to private, elite prep schools on the East coast of the nation, followed by attending East coast colleges and beginning his post-graduate life in that region. He was an adult before he came here to dodge Vietnam and fail in the oil business.

He must've had to continuously work on trying to speak with a "Texas twang" in the midst of those elite environments. He has never been anywhere near being the "plain folk kind of guy" image into which, apparently, some of your readers have blindingly bought. I would be surprised if these "Bush sheeple" don't recall that Bush's "ranch" (which, when considered, actually does not meet the definition of a "ranch," and is nothing but a house on empty land) was purchased just before he started to campaign for president, in an attempt, yes, to make him look like he was "plain folk" and hadn't had everything in his life handed to

him. When he speaks of his "Texas roots," I try not to reflexively vomit, as those roots are literally non-existent. So, the truth is that it was a "Yankee" who gleefully kept the Texas Death Row execution chamber humming, executing record-breaking numbers of Texans.

It was a "Yankee" who jumped ahead of literally thousands of Texans on the waiting list to get into the Texas Guard instead of being drafted to Vietnam. Anyone aware of the Texas political structure would tell you that the most power and political duties are, in accordance with the Texas Constitution, vested in the Lieutenant Governor and the Texas Legislature, both of which "Dubya" was never a part. Therefore he had virtually no political experience that would have prepared him for the presidency. He milked the "Texas image" and, somehow with a straight face, "swaggered" his way to the White House. It was a gross exploitation of Texas.

And we won't even delve into the hypocrises of his non-answers regarding possible prior illicit drug use, or his display of very un-Christian behaviors while thumping his Bible. He's a 60-year-old man who, when in his official capacity, still gives people (anyone, anytime, anywhere in the world) the "middle finger" (I'm still trying to twist logic to try to understand how anyone in their right mind would find that behavior acceptable for anyone older than sixteen years of age, much less sixty and a self-declared "sole guardian" of White House integrity).

So, what was it again about Bush that should cause actual Texans to swoon? By the way, I'm a registered life-long Republican, to this day; so your readers can save their automatic, knee-jerk, talking-point, "dumb liberal" response.

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# HICKSON

From Page 14

first time on the course, and that's to be expected. What won't be expected is a hollowed-out golf club that can be loaded with tees and used as a blowgun should you need to defend yourself.

But you didn't hear that from me.

This brings us to the actual fundamentals of playing golf — which begins with finding your "natural swing." Ask any

golfer the secret to doing this, and they'll tell you it's all about having the proper grip. To achieve this, simply make sure the back of your left hand as well as the palm of your right hand are both facing your target. Then, using the thumb of your right hand as a guide, wrap your fingers around one side, then do the same with your left while, very slowly, bringing them both back into a perfect arch so that your beer doesn't spill on the way to your mouth. After a couple of practice swigs, place your beer

back in the cooler and you're ready to tee-off.

This may not improve your swing much, but it will provide you with a legitimate excuse as to why you shot a 167 on a par 72 course.

And if that isn't enough, you can always claim that playing in a mixed foursome was just too darned distracting.

(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).)

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