

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 35

AUGUST 30, 2006

\$1.00 Per Copy

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# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

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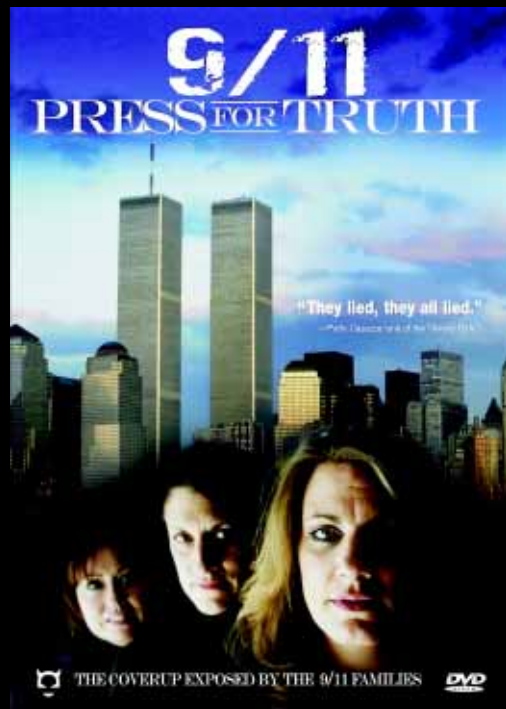
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**'Welcome to catastrophe.'**  
— Ray McGovern

FORMER CIA INTELLIGENCE ANALYST Ray McGovern spoke with the Iconoclast last week on his views of the current Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the relationship between the United States and Israel, and the effects on the United States if Iran is attacked.

— Photo By James E. Hill



DVD of '9/11: Press for Truth' and Co-Writer Kyle Hence

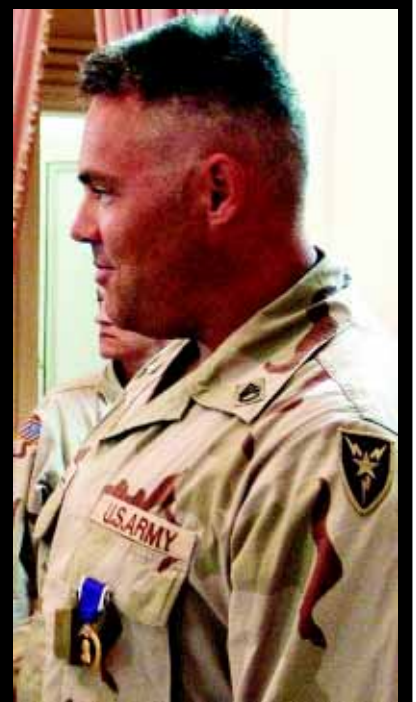
## Filmmaker: 'Sergeant Buswell Is A True Patriot'



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**'T**his move by the Army is about stifling dissent in this country regarding the most devastating attack on our soil in this country's history and censorship of those who want to know the truth.'

— Kyle Hence



Sgt. Donald Buswell

# GOP House Candidate Questions 9/11

NASHUA, N.H. — A Republican seeking the 2nd District congressional seat in New Hampshire said that she believes the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks were to instill fear in the American people, so they would relinquish their constitutional rights.

The candidate, Mary Maxwell, 59, also said that the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon were meant to stir up American hate against Arabs, so that the U.S. military could bomb Arab and Muslim nations like Iraq.

The Concord resident with no political experience stopped

short of saying that the government was directly involved in the attacks. However, she noted

that as a result of the attacks, stricter federal laws have been enacted that curb citizen's

rights, such as the USA Patriot Act and the Department of Homeland Security.

Maxwell, who is calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq, is running against the incumbent, Charles Bass of Peterborough, and Berlin Mayor Bob Danderson in the Republican primary Sept. 12.

THE NASHUA TELEGRAPH reported last week that its edito-

rial board had held an hour-long interview with the candidate, and: "[n]ear the end of the interview, Maxwell pounded her fist on the table and asked editors of THE TELEGRAPH why they weren't publishing more stories about the government's role in the terrorist attacks or proliferation of nuclear weapons."

INFO [www.maxwellforcongress.com](http://www.maxwellforcongress.com)



## PEACE TRAIN COMING TO CRAWFORD

Jewel Johnson's "Peace Train Holy Roller" will be in Crawford on Friday, Sept. 1, in the afternoon and all day Saturday, Sept. 2. All children, youths and adults are invited to ride free.

## Lamont Gets Close To Even With Lieberman

HARTFORD, Conn. — The pro-peace candidate in the race over the Connecticut senator's seat is getting closer according to two polls released last week.

According to the American Research Group poll, Ned Lamont is now within two percentage points — 44 percent to 42 percent — of tying Sen. Joe Lieberman, who is now officially running for re-election as an independent this November.

The Rasmussen Reports found that Lamont gained two points — 45 percent to 43 percent.

Both polls indicate that Lamont chipping away at the three-term senator's substantial lead as shown by a Quinnipiac University poll the week prior which placed Lieberman ahead by 12 percentage points.

Lamont, the cable business executive and political newcomer, defeated the 2000 vice presidential candidate in the Democratic primary in Connecticut this past month over the unpopular Iraq war.

# Former Generals Tell Bush To Negotiate For America's Safety

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. — President George W. Bush should change the course of his foreign policy and negotiate with Iran, Iraq, and North Korea, said a group of 21 former generals and high-ranking national security officials last week.

The group in a letter released stated that the president's current policies, especially those toward Iran over its nuclear energy program, have put the United States at greater risk for terrorist attacks from abroad.

"An attack on Iran would have disastrous consequences for security in the region and U.S. forces in Iraq," they stated. "It would inflame hatred and violence in the Middle East and among Muslims everywhere."

Retired Lt. General Robert Guard said in a teleconference Thursday morning that President Bush should take a page from the playbook of the late President Ronald Reagan.

"That seems strange since Ronald Reagan was willing to negotiate with the Soviets

even though they were the 'Evil Empire.' One wonders why George Bush can't negotiate with the Axis of Evil," said the special assistant to Defense Secretary Robert McNamara during the Vietnam War and now works at the non-profit Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation.

Still, the Bush administration indicated later last week that it is ready to lead a coalition against Iran outside the power of the United Nations over the Middle Eastern country's nuclear enrichment program.

Iran has until Aug. 31 to stop its program or encounter penalties, according to a Security Council resolution. After that date, Washington could enforce its own financial and military sanctions, said U.S. Ambassador John R. Bolton.

Over the next several months, the U.S. Marines Corps will be calling back about 2,500 reservists to serve for a year or more on an involuntary basis. They will be serving in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Protesters Unable To Challenge County Ordinances In Court

WACO — Two pro-peace protesters will be unable to challenge the constitutionality of McLennan County's ordinances on roadside parking and camping near President Bush's vacation ranch when

they stand trial this fall. Emily Hardy of Austin and Hiram K. Myers of Oklahoma were two of 14 people arrested during an Easter-time protest for refusing to remove their tents from the road to Bush's ranch.

Both are to go on trial separately on a state charge of obstructing a highway. Hardy's trial is Nov. 27, Hiram K. Myers Dec. 4.

If convicted, the maximum penalty for this misdemeanor is 180 days in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

Most of the members of the group arrested in April were also arrested last November in violation of the same ordinances.

The group did so because they wanted to challenge the ordinances in court on free speech grounds since county prosecutors charged no one in the November action.

However, since prosecutors intend to try Hardy and Myers on state charges, the county ordinances can not be challenged, said David Broiles, the group's attorney.

U.S. District Judge Walter S. Smith Jr. earlier this month found that the county's ordinances were in fact constitutional. The protesters might appeal.



The Lone Star Iconoclast (USPS 022-833) is published weekly, on Wednesdays, by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638 and 310 W. 5th St., P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634

Periodicals Postage is Paid at Clifton, TX 76634.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE: McLennan & Bosque Counties, one year: \$48.00; Elsewhere, one year: \$58. Give old address when requesting change of address.

POSTMASTER: Please send address change to: The Lone Star Iconoclast, P.O. Box 353, Clifton, TX 76634.

DEADLINES: 5 p.m. Fridays.

Telephone (All Departments) — (254) 675-3634

Fax No. — (254) 675-4090 • Email: [news@lonestaricon.com](mailto:news@lonestaricon.com)

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# Smarter Advice

## Interview With Ray McGovern

### Retired CIA Intelligence Analyst

By NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Ray McGovern is giving the American taxpayers their money's worth.

The former CIA officer is traveling the country giving people the information he acquired during his 27 years in service as a federal employee under seven U.S. presidents.

As the mid-term elections draw closer, McGovern will be on the road expressing his opinions on the Bush administration's foreign policy which he thinks is failing to protect the short- and long-term interests of the United States.

He is not alone in his analysis.

In 2003, McGovern and about five former CIA foreign intelligence analysts formed the Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). Their goal was to expose the mishandling of important intelligence on Iraq's military capabilities prior to the U.S.-led invasion.

VIPS has not stopped its knowledge sharing, especially McGovern who was in Crawford last week sitting on a panel about the war crimes and crimes against humanity in which the Bush administration has been involved in the post 9/11 world.

It seems as if McGovern and VIPS are not alone either.

Most recently, Benjamin Ferencz, a chief prosecutor of Nazi war crimes at Nuremberg, said last week that President George W. Bush and former Iraq President Saddam Hussein should both be tried for starting "aggressive" wars — Bush for Iraq in 2003 and Hussein for Kuwait 10 years earlier.

Also, last week, 21 former U.S. generals and high-ranking national security advisors sent a letter to the Bush administration saying that an attack on Iran would be bad idea and peaceful negotiations over the Islamic nation's nuclear enrichment program would be smarter.

McGovern told the *ICONOCLAST*

as much the day before the news of the generals' letter hit the press during an interview as a free speech program was going on at Camp Casey III in Crawford.

Earlier that afternoon, McGovern had participated in a counter-recruitment action in Killeen with the Iraq Veterans Against the War, Veterans for Peace, and Military Families Speak Out.

At the time of the 9 p.m. interview, McGovern was cleaned up. He wore a black T-shirt that said "We will not be silent" in English and Arabic in support of Raed Jarrar, the Iraq Project Director for Global Exchange who was prevented from boarding a flight at JFK airport because he was wearing a similar T-shirt.

An hour later, the *ICONOCLAST* got McGovern's views of the current Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the relationship between the United States and Israel, and the effects on the United States if Iran is attacked.

Here's that interview:

*ICONOCLAST:* What is the feeling in the CIA right now with the Bush administration?

*MCGOVERN:* Well, you really can't speak of one unitary CIA. I guess in biblical terms you call them "the remnant," the remnant being the folks who grew up and operated in the ethos to which I was accustomed, namely you speak truth to power, you tell it like it is, you speak out without fear or favor, and there are some of those left, but not too many.

The preponderance of folks there now, I dare say, are people who have been promoted or put into positions of responsibility who were pretty much doing what they were told. This includes, of course, the fiasco with respect to Iraq when they were pressured by the vice president who visited the agency about 10 times — pressured by him and the likes of Newt Gingrich and other people who visited the agency several times unprecedented in my experience — pressured into saying, "Yeah,

sure, Iraq probably has weapons of mass destruction, chemical, biological, maybe even a nuclear program going on," whereas they knew better.

The real blame goes to the director of the CIA who was not really an intelligence person but rather a politician, and he bends to the prevailing winds, carried favor with the president, and told the president what he knew the president wanted to hear — "It's a slam dunk, Mr. President. Sure, there are weapons of mass destruction there" which is a cockamamie sort of story then. Of course, he knew it wasn't true, so it's a very, very sad chapter in my professional life to see the profession to which I had devoted 27 years of loyalty and hard work to see that corrupted by a president who is hell-bent on starting an unprovoked war.

I mean, that was enough of an outrage but then to see a product of that process, namely the "cooked intelligence," to see that intelligence used to deceive our elected representatives into approving that war, in other words to trick them out of their constitutional prerogative to declare or authorize war. I mean, that's a constitutional crisis. That's even more important than the corruption of intelligence, so that is why we veteran intelligence professionals started our little VIPS — Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity — and started publishing in February of 2003.

Our first work had to do with Colin Powell's speech which we treated as we treated a speech by (General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, Leonid) Brezhnev. We dissected it, and we're very proud to have given Colin Powell an 'A' for performance and a 'C-' for content, and of course, if we knew then what we know now, we would have flunked him outright. It's just an outrageous performance, the worst possible set of lies that one could imagine to justify as I say an unprovoked war.

*ICONOCLAST:* So you used your tools from your profession of 27 years to dissect Colin Powell's speech.

*MCGOVERN:* That's exactly right. That's a good observation. That's how I would put it. In



RAY MCGOVERN, former CIA intelligence officer, and Col. Ann Wright (ret.), former foreign service officer, participated in a discussion of the Bush administration's war crimes and crimes against humanity during the last five years. — Photo By James E. Hill

other words, we were analysts, most of us. There were five of us at that time, and they assigned us the primary drafting responsibilities. We promised to AFP that we'd get it to them by 5 p.m. so they could put it out on their wire, and frankly, some of us, myself included, were sort of out of practice. We hadn't been doing this for a while and we were wondering if we were still up to it because Colin Powell was speaking at 10:30 a.m.; he wouldn't be finished until noon. We had to write the thing, and coordinate the thing among ourselves, and get it by 5 p.m. We missed, but only by 15 minutes. We got it out by 5:15 p.m. and we're very proud of that.

What we told the president was, "Look, Mr. President, you don't need a lawyer's brief to accuse Iraq of this or that violation of the U.N. regulations. What you need is a compelling argument for war, and there is none here." Our final sentence was this: "Mr. President, we strongly advise you to broaden the circle of your advisors beyond those already bent on a war we see no compelling reason for and from which we're convinced the unintended consequences are likely to be catastrophic." That's where we are now. Welcome to catastrophe.

*ICONOCLAST:* The state of the agency right now, how would

you describe it?

*MCGOVERN:* I was watching Admiral Stansfield Turner who is the director of central intelligence under President Carter on the TV a couple of weeks ago, and when he was asked that question, he said it should be dismantled. That's very strong language.

You need an independent analytic capability and you need an operation capability, but as far as the operations are concerned, they're being run by the Defense Department anyway, so why don't you just forget the charade and get it over to the Defense Department?

The analytic capability, well, that has also been so corrupted that unless they retrieve some sense of impartiality, some sense of professionalism, and objectivity, you might as well chuck that away, too, because you're fooling the president. Well, the president is not fooled. He knows what he wants.

The supreme irony is that the person hurt most by this is the president of the United States. His father knew better than anybody else. He (George Herbert Walker Bush) was director of the Central Intelligence Agency as well as president. He knew better than anybody else what an incredibly valuable, indispensable tool ob

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# Smarter Advice

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jective intelligence is toward the orderly making of foreign policy. Without it you can't do it, and yet this president, he not only doesn't read the newspapers, he gets his information from a very small circle, even a tighter circle that existed in 2003 when they started the war. I mean, not even Colin Powell, whatever he might have been worth is around anymore, okay?

So he gets it from a very tight circle, and he's not really interested in contrary opinions. Witness the fact that according to the latest book, when the CIA briefers went down to impress upon the seriousness of the terrorist threat in August 2001 — Sept. 11 being the next month — after they were finished, he said, "Okay, you can cover your ass. You can go now." It's an amazingly, amazingly flippant irresponsible response to a very critical situation as we were to learn just a few weeks later.

ICONOCLAST: Describe how the CIA has been transformed under Homeland Security, if you would.

MCGOVERN: After 9/11, there was the 9/11 Commission. They came up with a bunch of recommendations. None of them knew what they were talking about. There were no intelligence professionals involved, but it was an election year, and they felt that they had to do something. Well, they rigged up this new superstructure which involves John Negroponte at present as Director of National Intelligence. All that did was put another layer of bureaucracy on top of the intelligence community and enable the product to be more easily corrupted, more easily cooked to the wishes of the president.

Negroponte's record in Honduras and elsewhere shows that he is primarily a politician, not an intelligence officer, so he'll be sniffing the prevailing winds just as my more cowardly associates from yesteryear in the CIA did. They got moved up to high positions. He has moved up as high as he can go, but the syndrome persists, and he can be dependent upon what he thinks the president wants to hear, which is the opposite of what an intelligence organization should do, so Stansfield Turner is quite right if he is referring to the present CIA in its present shape with no real possibility of reform or improvement. They ought to dismantle it.

ICONOCLAST: Has there been any other times in the his-

tory of the CIA to dismantle it? Is this the first time someone has advocated this?

MCGOVERN: No, not at all. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, senator from New York, who was at one time chair of the Senate Intelligence Committee advocated abolishing the CIA because of its failure to recognize change in the Soviet Union and its failure to indicate to the president that (Mikhail) Gorbachev was real and real change was happening in the Soviet Union. That was a justified criticism, and it had to do with the same problem we face today which is politicization.

Bill Casey who was head of the CIA during the Reagan years refused to believe that the Soviets would ever change, and those who did his bidding, notably Robert Gates who later became director of Central Intelligence and is now actually president of Texas A&M, he learned very well that Casey's need succeeded in leading the agency in analysis ranks with people who would smell the prevailing winds and tell it like Gates knew Casey wanted it, so what I'm saying is that this is not a new phenomenon. It started an institutionalized way under Bill Casey, continued under Robert Gates in the early 90s, and so by the time Iraq comes along, George Tenet had a thoroughly politicized upper ranks of the management in the CIA, people he knows he can depend upon to serve up false intelligence to the president just as they did prior to the Iraqi war.

Now it helped that Tenet let the vice president, Dick Cheney, come out to the agency more than 10 times to make sure they thought about everything and made sure they got the right analysis. That Tenet let that happen is just unconscionable. We don't need policy makers out there looking over our shoulder when it comes to intelligence judgments, but that's exactly what Tenet let happen.

So in a word, we had earlier instances where abysmal behavior on the part of CIA in the analytic realm having to do with missing the fall of the Soviet Union that there have been calls for the CIA to be canned, but never has it been a case before where we had both the analytical director and the operational director thoroughly corrupted and thoroughly politicized. That's why Admiral Turner is saying, "You really ought to dismantle it rather than pretend you have a viable intelligence agency."

ICONOCLAST: Now, you've

said in the past that "the crazies" were on the fringe of the intelligence community. Can you explain how Bush Sr. could have allowed his son to have allowed to be — I don't know the right word — "hijacked" by these guys? "Hijacked" might be the wrong word.

MCGOVERN: First off, George Herbert Walker Bush has in my opinion zero influence with his son. His son is out to prove himself better than the father. His father stopped before Baghdad. His son is going to "finish the job."

There's a very interesting book written on the psychological symptoms here. It's called "Bush On The Couch," and it's very, very alarming as well as interesting. In any case, the operative effect here is that George Herbert Walker Bush has no influence on his son.

Witness the fact that before the attack on Iraq, the two closest people to George Herbert Walker Bush, namely (Lt.) General (Brent) Scowcroft, his national security advisor, and Jim Baker, his secretary of state, both wrote open op-eds in key newspapers saying, "Don't attack Iraq. This is a crazy thing to do!"

Both of them did that. They would not have done that without explicit approval of the former President Bush, and this George W. Bush completely ignored their warnings as well as warnings from everybody else who had their heads screwed on right, and decided instead to go with the neo-cons, the Cheney-Rumsfeld cabal, which Larry Wilkerson, chief of staff to Colin Powell as Secretary of States of which Larry Wilkerson talks.

Now, how did George W. Bush get hijacked? Well, I think "hijacked," as you say, is not precisely the right word. He let it

be known back before he was president that if he had become president he was really going to do what needed to be done to Iraq and depose this Saddam Hussein. That was 1999, so he came in already susceptible to these kinds of influences, but moreso since Dick Cheney was so successful in picking the right person to be vice president, namely Dick Cheney.

Really, president George W. Bush has been leaning on Cheney for all key decisions, so in a word, it's no exaggeration to say that Cheney has been making all the decisions. George Bush has not been fighting them. He has been saying, "Oh, this sounds like a good thing to me." So that's why we have the president telling us that "We're not going to remove any troops from Iraq while I'm president. We're not going to cut and run." That's Cheney's line, and Bush doesn't know any better, so what we've got is the people that came in who are pretty much relegated to medium level positions under the first George Bush, coming in and running the Iraq policy, people like (Richard) Pearle and (Paul) Wolfowitz, who were really the prime movers behind the Iraq war, then willing accomplices Cheney and Rumsfeld. Who was brought in in April 2002 to run the policy from the National Security Council? A convicted felon! Eliot Abrams convicted in Iran-Contra. He'd be in jail if he weren't pardoned by the George Herbert Walker Bush.

So you have a lot of ironies here, but the bottom line is you've got the crazies in charge, and that's why even though it would be an admittedly crazy thing to do, there is equal chance in my opinion that this administration will start a war with Iran before this election as a way to distract attention from the debacle in Iraq and getting the American people to think they can't abandon the president's party in the middle of a still-widened war and hope

that the Congress can be kept under Republican rule in these extraordinary circumstances. This sounds crazy, I know, but again, I warn you. We're dealing with crazies.

ICONOCLAST: Describe the relationship and influence between the United States and Israel.

MCGOVERN: I describe it in the same terms that George Washington, our first president, described an alliance that encumbers one nation. He called it an entangling alliance. It's an alliance where one country without adequate reason takes on the objectives of another country, and it becomes the objectives of the first country. This sort of unholy alliance is what we have now with respect the relationship between Israel and the United States.

Never has this been clearer than the attack on Lebanon over the last two months. The United States of America, it is quite clear, not only gave the green light for that attack but encouraged the Israelis to attack Lebanon, encouraged them to bomb the hell out of Hezbollah in a very ill-advised attempted to bomb Hezbollah.

You can't remove a vibrant resistance movement by bombing it from the sky. We should have known that because of what happened in World War II and in Vietnam. These people will never learn. So they took our advise and bombed the hell out of Hezbollah: "They'll melt into the woodwork, we'll come in and clean up there and we'll be in good shape." And look what happened. Israel is bogged down in Lebanon in a way not dissimilar from the way the United States is bogged down in Iraq.

Now the worrisome thing here is that Israel has made it very clear that it will not tolerate Iran getting a nuclear weapon. Is it afraid of Iran? Well, Iran has no ability to attack Israel in any meaningful sense now. U.S. intelligence estimates say that Iran might have a nuclear bomb or nuclear weapon for another five to 10 years.

So what's the urgency? Well, the urgency is that the Israelis who are running that government — and I would submit that this is not a representative government of general Israeli thinking but rather an extremist fringe just as we have in our country, an extremist fringe — what they are concerned about is making sure that Iran doesn't become a threat even in five to 10 years. And they've got George Bush. What do I mean when I say they've got George Bush? General Brent Scowcroft was kept on by George W. Bush as chair of the president's foreign intelligence foreign advisory

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# Smarter Advice

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board (PFIAB). This is the most prestigious board ruling over intelligence matters, having access to all matter of information.

So Scowcroft was chair of that, and what he said two years ago was George W. Bush has let himself be mesmerized by Ariel Sharon, that Ariel Sharon has George W. Bush wrapped around his little finger. Now that happens to be true. That happens to have been sort of ratified at the very first national security council meeting Jan. 30, 2001, when the president led off by saying, "We're not going to do anymore of this honest broker stuff in the Middle East. On the other hand, we know who our friends are. We're going to let Ariel Sharon pretty much have free reign."

And Colin Powell said, "He could be using force and this could reverse what we've been doing for the last four decades." And Bush said, "Sometimes a show of force is a good thing. Let's see what happens." Well, that did reverse four decades of U.S. policy toward the Palestinian/Israeli issue. Everyone knew that. Everyone observed that in the ensuing months, and that's the core reason why there's so much trouble in the Middle East now because the U.S. is seen as a twin to the state of Israel, and of course, that causes so many kinds of problems for the U.S. in the Middle East.

Now they have George Bush wrapped around their little finger. A lot of this has to do with what Professors (John J.) Mearsheimer and (Stephen) Walt in their study of several months ago called "The Israel Lobby," the most powerful lobby on the U.S. political scene. So not only is the president wrapped around Sharon's finger, but Israel has influence in the U.S. Congress that is unbelievable. *Unbelievable!*

How can it be that 400 U.S. representatives would vote for a war of aggression started by Israel and defend Israel from mounting that war of aggression on Lebanon? Well, one thing has to do with money. If you look at how much many of these 400 get from AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), the funding mechanism for the Israeli lobby, you'd be very interested to know that they get a heck of lot of money. In fact, the billions of dollars we give to Israel each year a lot of that comes back to help these representatives here

get reelected.

So what am I saying? I'm saying that the Israeli government as present has the president wrapped around not Sharon, (but) Olmert's little finger, and Congress has no problem. They'll vote yes when the Israelis mount a war of aggression on Lebanon. So now is the time. Now is the time to get Iran. Why? Because George Bush only has two more years, and if the Iranians retaliate, which in my view they certainly will, they'll have George Bush for two years to defend them. He has already pledged to defend them. This is perhaps the most noxious of all factors. The president of the United States has lied to this country by saying Israel is our ally, and if it is attacked we will rise to defend it.

When I speak around the country, I say, "Of course, we have this mutual defense treaty with Israel, right?" I look out in the audience: "Does anybody doubt we have a treaty of mutual defense treaty?" Out of 200 people, two or three will raise their hand and say, "I don't think — no, there's not a treaty." Well, there's not a treaty, and so Israel is not our ally. The interesting thing is the reason there's not a treaty has much more to do with Israel than it has to do with the United States. Why? I always thought there was no treaty because the U.S. was pretty prudent with wanting to tick off the Arab countries any more than they already had and also prudent not to put themselves in jeopardy in becoming entangled in wars in the Middle East.

Not so, folks. Not so. After 1967, the United States of America broached the idea of a mutual defense treaty to the Israeli government: "Look, there's a war. We don't want you to get attacked again. If we have this mutual defense thing, maybe the Arabs will think twice from attacking you." Guess what? The Israelis said, "Thank you, very much, but no thanks." Why? Mutual defense treaties require very clear internationally recognized boundaries. The Israelis had just occupied extensive reaches of Arab lands. They didn't want any part of internationally recognized boundaries.

As a matter of fact, U.N. resolution 242 demanded that they withdraw from occupied territories. The second reason was the Israelis didn't want to be bound by the normal reciprocal obligations a party to a defense treaty is bound to, namely to notify the other party if they're going to attack another country or if

they're going to mount another war, so the Israelis said, "Thank you, very much, but no thanks."

So what did they end up with? They end up with their cake and eating it! They end up with the best of both possible worlds. No treaty obligations to us but the president of the United States saying, "They are our ally. If they are attacked by Arabs we will automatically spring to their defense."

So that's how entangled we are with the Israelis, and this is causing havoc in our relationship with Arabs and Muslims and what this administration doesn't seem to realize is that there are 1.3 billion. I'll say it one more time — *1.3 billion Muslims* out there in the world, and what they do in the evening, a very many of them, is watch Al-Jazeera or some of these other networks or TV stations, and what do they see? They see U.S. built helicopter gunships, U.S. built tanks, U.S. built Caterpillar bulldozers built in Illinois wreaking havoc bulldozing homes, building high stone walls in the occupied territories and in Gaza. They don't have to show pictures of Abu Ghraib. They do that as well, but these Muslims look at this and say, "No, we won't allow this. We're not going to allow this." And that, my friends is what gives rise to terrorism.

When (Defense Secretary) Donald Rumsfeld scratches his head and says, "I just can't understand why anyone would put a plastique explosive around his belt and blow himself up just to kill other people." Well, he ought to watch Al-Jazeera one evening. Just one evening, Don. Watch Al-Jazeera. You'll see that when people have no hope — you talk about "asymmetrical warfare." That's a fancy word to say. People who don't have helicopter gunships, or tanks, or bulldozers — they use what they have to retaliate for the injustices, for the grievances they've had ever since the state of Israel was set up in 1948 and Palestinians who had lived there for a millennium, that is 1,000 years, and were driven out of that part of the country without adequate compensation and with no right to return.

Okay, you ought to watch that because when you ask about what starts terrorism, it's the same thing on how you defeat terrorism. It's very much like malaria. When you want to defeat malaria, it's obvious what you have to do. You find the swamp, and when you find the swamp, you set up sharpshoot-

ers all around the swamp and you try to shoot all the mosquitos as they leave the swamp, right? Wroooooong! That's not what you do.

What you do is you find the swamp of grievances, of third and fourth generation Palestinians who have grown up in these camps that very much resemble concentration camps in Gaza and the West Bank, and you look at them and you say, "What are these grievances? How do we address them?"

One way we address them is, as we always have, work between the Israeli government and the Palestinian authority and other Arab nations to get these people talking to each other. Work out a *modus vivendi*, not an agreement to give Israel all manner of weaponry that can attack countries like Lebanon but to give them the assurance that we will stand behind them if they negotiate a peaceful agreement and give the Palestinians the right to have their own country. The U.S. has done just the opposite. It was before George Bush when we knew they were building settlements in the occupied territories. We should have stopped it because they were doing it with our money.

So when I talk about the analogy what you've got to do is not shoot all the terrorists. You have to drain that swamp, and once you drain that swamp, you don't get people like Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, or people like Ramzi Yousef, both of whom tried to knock down the World Trade Center, and the first of whom succeeded.

Now if you look at the 9/11 report, you'll find that Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, the mastermind behind the plot to knock down the Twin Towers — who went to Osama bin Laden and said, "Here's a good idea. Let's do it." and Osama bin Laden said, "Okay, let's do it." — that guy was captured while this report was being written. And somebody had the presence of mind since this commission was commissioned to find out why they did it, they said, "Hey, Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, why'd you do it?"

Now you just have to look just one place in that report. It happens to be page 147 and its says and I quote, "Khalid Shaikh Mohammed said, 'I did it because of my violent disagreement with U.S. policy favoring Israel.'" Then there's a little footnote. The footnote says, "This is the same thing Khalid Shaikh Mohammed's nephew Ramzi Yousef said when he was condemned to 240 years in a U.S. penitentiary for trying to knock down one of the Twin Towers in 1993." Well, that was interesting to know.

I went on the Google there to find out what Ramzi Yousef said. What he said was this: "I did it out of my extreme hatred for the one-sided actions of the United States favoring Israel in oppressing my Palestinian comrades. I'm delighted to spend 240 years if I live that long in a U.S. penitentiary for trying to redress that grievance."

So there you have it, folks. If you want to know why these folks do these things, why the mastermind did it, why some of these people who, you know, are not typically impoverished Arabs fought for an ideological and political label from those kids of motivations they had to do it.

You know, if you believe they did it because they hate our freedoms, well, if you believe that what the president says, then I have a bridge up there in Brooklyn where I used to live that I'd very much like to sell you. It's not that they hate our democracy. They hate our foreign policy, and unless we change that foreign policy, unless we cease and desist giving 100 percent support to what the Israelis are doing in the West Bank, in Gaza, and now in Lebanon, there will be 1.3 billion Muslims at our throats before our grandchildren are grown up. We have to change that. We have to recognize these grievances. We have to realize that even our substantial military capabilities can't solve every problem nor can Israel's.

If further proof be needed, we're going to have to get out of Iraq pretty soon, and the Israelis, once again, are going to have to get out of Lebanon because both countries are far overstretched in terms of their military capabilities and their political support both at home and internationally.

ICONOCLAST: What do you make of the Israeli military reservists who are openly criticizing their government and military superiors over their month-long Lebanon campaign?

MCGOVERN: There has always been a more vibrant refuse-nik — they refer to it over there — initiative there than in here. See, they're all citizen-soldiers, and they can see what's happening. There have been many air force pilots who have refused to bomb targets in the West Bank or in Gaza, so we don't hear about this, but the Israeli press is full of this kind of information. That's one of the ironies here, that there is freedom of the press in Israel. Many of these issues are openly debated.

In the American press, there is only a one-sided discussion

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# Smarter Advice

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on the terrible things Hezbollah has done in capturing two Israeli soldiers and very little criticism of what Israel has done in ostensible retaliation in destroying the infrastructure of a whole country — Lebanon. It's like somebody punches you in the nose and you go and burn down his house. There's a disproportion here. And it's recognized in international law as a war crime to do what the Israelis have done against Lebanon and what we have done against Iraq.

ICONOCLAST: How can the Israeli press be freer? One of the criticisms of our press is that it's profit driven, so you're not going to get the whole story or even the story. Why, is it not the same in Israel?

MCGOVERN: That's a very good question, and I have to plead to not be an expert on the Israeli press. What I do know is the fact they have many different papers, many different kinds of political parties, many more than we have, and there's a much freer discussion.

There seems to be much less reluctance to criticize the Israelis for the policies they have adopted and moreso after the attack on Lebanon. Here in the United States we have the key mainstream media controlled by five or six mega-corporations, and the journalists that work in these atmospheres find it very, very hard to write stories, to show footage that puts Israel in a poor light.

Even after the attack on Lebanon, there has been a great reluctance by the U.S. mainstream press to tell it like it is. The coverage is very clearly in favor of Israel downplaying the legitimate grievances of the Palestinians and of the Lebanese now. You know, there's a million refugees in Lebanon. The infrastructure is broken and will be broken for 20 years, and yet there's very little criticism of Israel.

I don't know how this works. Some people say that AIPAC, the Israel lobby, has inordinate influence not only in the Senate and House but in the press, and I can only conclude that there must be something to that. As far as the Congress is concerned, sometimes you sort of have to sit back and almost have a little comic relief about this. One story that's not far off the mark asks this question, "Why are the Israelis reluctant to become the 51st state of the United States?" You know what the answer is?

ICONOCLAST: Nope.

MCGOVERN: Because then they would only have two senators.

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) Right, right.

MCGOVERN: I very much recommend the paper Professor Mearsheimer of the University of Chicago and Walt of Harvard University very courageously put out about four months ago. They couldn't get it published in the United States. Surprise, surprise. The subject was the Israel lobby. It did get published by the LONDON TIMES, and of course, we can get the text of it now, but even Harvard took its insignia off the paper and tried to distance itself from the criticism that attended the publication of these two papers.

What was distinctive about these? These folks spoke from a lot of experience. They are universally well-recognized in academic circles, and they told it — in my view — just like it is. They made the case that Israel had a lot to do with our decision to make war in Iraq, and I think it's absolutely true. I believe they exaggerated just a bit because I think equally important was the neo-cons' desire to project power and influence in that part of the world and not, by the way, control key resource in the world in oil and gas.

The reason I mention this is because that paper as direct as it is did not mention what I consider to be the most telling incident in U.S.-Israeli relations that happened during my professional lifetime. And I would ask you as an educated American to tell me if you know about the USS Liberty?

ICONOCLAST: I've heard of it. Wasn't it bombed by Israel and we just let it slide? Is that right?

MCGOVERN: That's exactly right. What happened was that during the war between the Arabs and Israel in 1967, there was a U.S. naval ship, an intelligence collector, off the shores of Israel, and they were doing a good job of intercepting Israeli and Arab communications. We had it pretty much down to a science.

The ship was run by NSA but it was under the aegis of the U.S. Navy. Israeli fighter bombers looked at that ship and made eyeball to eyeball contact with our own seamen. Our seamen put out an even larger American flag to show what this was all about. And those bombers were sent back to sink that ship. They sent torpedo gunships to hit it with torpedoes. They couldn't sink it. The ship limped back to

Malta. The toll was 34 U.S. sailors killed, 170 U.S. seamen injured, and when the survivors woke up the next morning, they were visited by high brass from the 6th Fleet and were told that if they mentioned that the Israelis did this deliberately that they would be court-martialed.

The commander of the 6th Fleet when he heard that one of his ships was under attack, he immediately sent fighter bombers to do battle with those attacking that ship. Those fighter bombers were recalled half-way by President (Lyndon B.) Johnson and (Secretary of Defense) Robert McNamara. The whole thing was suppressed in the U.S. press and the U.S. Congress.

There were secret ceremonies where some of these Navy survivors were honored, but not until three years ago when Admiral Thomas Moorer, former chief of staff of the U.S. armed forces, ran an inquiry. People came out of the woodwork. The navy lawyer said, "Yes, I was told to falsify the evidence and say the Israelis did it, but it was a big mistake." Now it's known but it's general known, but you won't find it in the NEW YORK TIMES.

Israel tried to deliberately sink that ship. Why? Because that ship was about to intercept very important Israeli messages having to do, one, with the massacre of hundreds of Egyptian soldiers in the Sinai and, two, Israeli intentions to go up on the Golan and do battle with Syria the next day. They did not want Washington to know about this because Washington would come to the Israeli premier and go, "Don't do that! We can't have that!"

Now why do I mention that? I mention that because as direct as Mearsheimer and Walt were they didn't even mention this one, and this to me is the most revelatory, most instructive. So what do you have here? We have an object lesson that the Israeli armed forces and the Israeli government can literally get away with murder. Thirty-four murders in this case and the American government cannot step up and defend its own navy ships against Israeli bombing. That was 1967.

When one country learns that they have that kind of influence over another country, this is not only as George Washington warned, terribly dangerous for both countries, but it's a sad commentary on what's happening now in the Middle East because our Siamese twin relationship with Israel has

served us very poorly ever since six years ago when the president of the United States decided to throw in his lot with Israel, and now Israel is pulling our chain.

If there is a war with Iran, there will be at least as much for the perceived aims of Israel as for the perceived aims of the United States. Those running our foreign policy in that part of the world — Eliot Abrams, for example, Cheney and Rumsfeld — they have a great difficulty in what they perceive to be the strategic vision, strategic interests of Israel on the one hand and the strategic interests and objectives of the United States on the other hand. This is a very, very unhealthy situation.

ICONOCLAST: What do you think of the idea that the U.S. policy toward Israel is indeed anti-Semitic because it keeps Israel as a front for our wanting to control that region?

MCGOVERN: That's a very interesting question. It shows a lot of thinking on this issue. It's a matter of who is using whom. Before Iraq we had the people who were the intellectual authors of Iraq — Richard Pearle, Paul Wolfowitz, and other people in the neo-con — we actually had them moving to attacking Iraq well before this administration took over in 2001, and wrote papers about it. The papers are very explicit in saying these were the interests of Israel and of interest of the United States.

Now the Israelis suffered from the first Gulf War when 39 Soviet-built scud missiles were shot by Iraq and most of them into Israel cities. Now, luckily, thank God, they didn't have chemical or biological or nuclear warheads, but this is a terror weapon of some great fear. That was 1991. The Israelis were never quite completely sure that there weren't some scuds hidden away somewhere in Iraq, and by that time, they thought they had chemical and biological warheads, but that was not true.

They thought it might be true, so what better than to have the U.S. attack and invade Iraq to clean it all out, and Colin Powell telling the U.N. before the attack that he thought Iraq had about two dozen scuds left. It turns out Colin Powell was just off by 24. Israel was openly out front pushing us to attack Iraq which we did.

The supreme irony now is that whereas before our attack on Iraq, there were no terrorists operating out of Iraq. Sure Saddam Hussein was giving house arrest hospitality to a couple of dying old insurgents but there were no active insurgency directed against Israel or anybody else out of Iraq. Now look at Iraq. For God's sake! Iraq is teeming with terrorists who identify our occupational presence with Israel. What does this mean? This means the Israelis and the U.S. policy makers were incredibly short-sighted, incredibly naive to go in, clean out Iraq, put in a puppet regime under Ahmed Chalabi, establish relations with Israel, and everything'll be hunky dory.

In the intelligence community, in Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity, we couldn't believe they couldn't be that naive, but that's the situation now, and that's one of the reasons why this regime, that is the Washington regime of George W. Bush, will not leave Iraq because were we to leave Iraq now, now there's a real threat to Israel from the terrorists who have taken up positions in Iraq.

With respect to Lebanon, as I mentioned before, it's very clear — even Charles Krauthammer has admitted that the U.S. not only gave the green light but also encouraged Israel to attack Hezbollah in Lebanon. Now what's going to be the upshot of that? The political developments in Lebanon of the last 18 months had given renewed hope for multi-confessional, multi-ethnic, multi-religious sort of body politic that could work out

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# Smarter Advice

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their differences and be what Lebanon used to be — a kind of pluralistic society .... The attack on Lebanon has dissipated those hopes.

And what does this mean for the medium and long term for Israel? It means that far more likely there will be an Islamist radical regime having a preponderant influence in Lebanon which will not leave Israel in any more security than they already were before but rather as in the case of Iraq more danger of terrorist activities against Israel. So what I'm saying here is that those of us, including myself, that have Israel's short-term, long-term, and medium-term interests in view and really want Israel to be protected are just agast at the short-sightedness, the myopia of the Israeli leaders and our own in creating conditions where in Lebanon they will always be a threat to Israel now. Iraq the same. And so "counterproductive" is a mild word to use when you talk about our actions and Israeli actions in these areas because over the long-term Israel is in much more danger now than at any time.

I would suggest people need to think about this — I who worry about the threat to Israel have concluded that there is more danger to the state of Israel right now as a result of what they've done in Lebanon than at any time since 1948-48 when they were trying to set up their independent state. I wouldn't say that lightly. I don't say that from my own experience. I say that from the professionals I know who are experts on Israel, Lebanon, the Arab states, insurgencies, counterinsurgencies, resistance movements, all of which exist in our 55 person Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

ICONOCLAST: If we do attack Iran, what would happen, in your estimation?

MCGOVERN: If we attack Iran, which would certainly come first from ariel attacks — you see, you have these blue-suited generals with stars on their shoulders that say, "Hey, we've got this great air force and we can do it all from the air and nobody is going to get killed. It's very effective, and they'll give up because they'll see our great power."

Well, you know, if the Israelis believe that with respect to what would happen to Hezbollah and we expected that would happen to Iraq or even

earlier in Vietnam, it's incredibly naive. So what happens? Let's say before the election the president's numbers do not get any better. He and (the president's chief advisor) Karl Rove and Cheney look at the situation and say:

"Oh, my God! It looks like the House is going to go to the Democrats, and you know what that means. That means automatic impeachment. That means not only endanger of political exile, that means prosecution of war crimes! Mr. President, you've openly admitted on the record that you broke from the Geneva agreements, that you said that the U.S. War Crimes Act really doesn't pertain with respect to al-Qaeda and the Taliban, and you permitted these prisoners to be tortured in violation of those agreements. Now that is U.S. criminal code 18 U.S. Code 2441 of the War Crimes Act passed by a Republican dominated Congress in 1996."

Now we know that this is really chutzpah that you could hardly believe, they are trying to change that act now. They are trying to change it, so that they can protect themselves, but the immediate future holds incredible jeopardy for these folks, not only political jeopardy in this country but international jeopardy and criminal jeopardy in terms of violations of acts — the War Crimes Act on the one hand and the FISA Act, the Foreign Intelligence and Surveillance Act of 1978, which the president has admitted violating. And now Judge (Anna Diggs) Taylor in U.S. District Court in Detroit has said, "No, this is unconstitutional with what the president has done and he better stop right away."

So there are all kinds of jeopardy and when I visualize these guys getting together — Rove, Bush, Cheney: "If the House goes to the Democrats, it's going to be hell for the next two years and maybe even after we leave public life. You know we can't travel abroad, and we're liable for prosecution in this country."

So the stakes couldn't be higher is what I'm saying, and now if the generals with the blue suits say, "Now, Mr. President, we can take out Iran's nuclear capabilities as such as it is, a fledgling program, from the air, and it's going to be a cakewalk." There's really going to be a tremendous incentive on the part of the president if only to make himself in the position of being able to claim he's a wartime president: "Whatever you do,

folks, don't pull the rug out from under me. Don't elect a cut and run Democrat to Congress. We're in a major war now. You can't do this."

There's a lot of political incentive for him to do that. From a political point of view and from the Air Force's point of view, it all would make sense. Now I was an infantry officer and I'm an intelligence officer both in military and civilian life, and I'm here to tell you that that would be crazy. If Iraq was crazy, this would be crazy to the Nth degree. Why? Because in answer to your question, what would Iran do?

The first thing they do is just bomb a couple of the oil heads there in the Persian Gulf. Drive the price of oil up to \$10 a gallon. I repeat \$10 a gallon. Give the world economy almost a mortal blow. And if that didn't reverse what we were trying to do to Iran, they could easily block to the Strait of Hormuz. That is the strait that allows half the oil in the world to get out to places like China, Japan, and other places that need that oil.

And another thing they could do is send a couple of divisions over to the Yalu. What I mean by the Yalu? Just as the Chinese sent a couple of divisions over the Yalu River into Korea in 1950, so too could the Iranians send two of their Revolutionary Guard divisions into Iraq, break our supply line — the long one between Kuwait and Baghdad, and we would have the equivalent of the Tet Offensive in Vietnam that finally persuaded the United States that it couldn't stay the course because the course was crazy to begin with, so what could they do? They could do all these things.

I haven't even mentioned the incredible terrorist capability that Iran has which makes al-Qaeda look like a freshman. They have cells all over the world and can prove their ability to do mischief. If the United States went ahead and bombed Iran thinking they could intimidate Iran, and this is the thinking in the Pentagon, it'll be such a devastating blow that we will at the same time warn them that if you retaliate in any way, well, then we're going to blow your country to smithereens to include possibly the use of what they call mini-nukes.

And that's the scary thing, folks. Let's say our 130,000 troops in Iraq get cut off by Iranian sponsored terrorists that break the supply line between Kuwait and Baghdad. We don't have anymore troops to send in there. What would we do? What

would be do in contingencies where we have inadequate resources? Well, the temptation will be terrifically great to use nuclear weapons because these guys have not ruled it out. These fellas think that nukes and mininukes are pretty much the same as really powerful high-explosive weapons. They have no political consciousness, knowing the difference between using nuclear weapons for the first time since 1945.

That's scary. You know why? You know why that's scary? Because the president's circle of advisors is narrower than it has ever been. We have a situation in my view where the world is in danger of nuclear war coming out of this scheme of events in a way that has not been endangered since 1962 during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

One thing about that crisis is very, very telling because the air force typically had their planes loaded with these nuclear bombs. They were ready to go. All that JFK had to say was "Go!" and (Gen.) Curtis LeMay would have bombed the hell out of Cuba and the Soviet Union had he been allowed to. He was prepared to do that. And it got to be pretty close.

At the point where they had pretty much decided to let the generals do this, who spoke up but Llewellyn Thompson. Now, Llewellyn Thompson had been a long-standing ambassador to the Soviet Union. He had just gotten back really. He finished his career, but he knew (Soviet Leader Nikita) Khrushchev personally, and at a crucial moment, and you'll see this on that wonderful tape that featured Robert McNamara, the name escapes me right now, but you see that Luellan Thompson in the midst of all this speaks up and says:

"I disagree, Mr. President." Who? What? "Mr. President, you have two messages here from Khrushchev. One is very conciliatory. One is very hard-nosed. We can assume the hard-nosed one was written with the generals looking over his shoulder. The answer in my view is to answer the conciliatory one because I know Khrushchev. He has overextended himself. What he wants to do is be let down easy, and we can do that. We can negotiate with this guy. I know it. I know him."

Kennedy, to his great credit, had insisted the Llewellyn Thompson attend every meeting of that strategy meeting concerning the Cuban Missile Crisis. He looked at Thompson and said, "I think you might have something there. Curtis LeMay, take those bombs out of your planes. We're going to try this first." You know the rest of the story.

Why do I rehearse all this? It

should be obvious. There is no Llewellyn Thompson around today, and if there were, he wouldn't be let anywhere near this crowd of neo-cons, the inbred crowd that has run our policy, and that really scares me because I really believe they see no great difference between these mini-nukes and the conventional weapons we've been accustomed to.

ICONOCLAST: And that's even before China and Russia enter the scene, right?

MCGOVERN: Yeah, we haven't even — that's again another great question. China and Russia. China is adding three to four million cars. They all need gasoline and have concluded very lucrative agreements with the Iranian government for oil and for gas. They're not going to, as the Chinese would say, sit by idly and watch us take over Iran. They're not going to let us do that, and they have, as you know, quite a number of capabilities to cause all manner of mischief not only in the Taiwan Straits but elsewhere. They are a power to be reckoned with. They and Russia are the only ones that endanger us from a strategical point of view.

I'm quite frankly surprised that the Chinese public posture has been so quiet on us. Now, it may be that I have not been following on what the Chinese have been saying. It's quite possible, but I would have expected at this point the Chinese be speaking out very strongly about the dangers about trying to attack and, God forbid, occupy a country like Iran.

When we see the Chinese trying to do that, then I think we all have to worry a lot because I'm not sure this regime in Washington will recognize this as a legitimate threat and before we know it, we could have war not only in the Middle East, we could have hostilities in the

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# 'Bush's War Crimes' Takes Center Stage At Camp Casey III

BY NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — *Let the national debate grow over war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Bush administration!* said three participants of a panel at Camp Casey III last Monday night.

"That may sort of sound abstract, but just think about it," asked Larry Everest, of Berkley, Calif., author of *Oil Power & Empire*. "What if the debate we were hearing on television and throughout the country was not, 'Does Bush have plan for victory? Did Bush make a mistake? Did Bush get bad intelligence?' No, what if the debate was, 'Is Bush guilty of war crimes?'"

This national debate needs to happen quickly, Everest said, because as long as the Bush administration is still in power, there is a strong possibility that the United States will go to war with Iran.

In front of about 40 people within 10 miles of President Bush's vacation ranch, Everest and his fellow panelists, Ray

McGovern, a former CIA intelligence agent, and Col. Ann Wright (ret.), a former foreign service agent, shared their professional insights on the war crimes and crimes against humanity the Bush administration has caused thus far.

**Bush Crimes Commission**  
All three participated in the International Commission of Inquiry on Crimes Against Humanity Committed by the Bush administration — nicknamed "The Bush Crimes Commission." It was held over two separate weekends in October 2005 and January 2006 in New York City. Evidence from 45 witnesses and experts was gathered that not only includes the administration's policy on the war in Iraq but also on global warming, global public health, and its response to Hurricane Katrina.

"One of the things we did was break new ground on this whole concept of 'What is a war crime?' and 'What is crimes against humanity?' because international law really has not



LARRY EVEREST, of Berkley, Calif., author of *Oil Power & Empire*, participated in a discussion of the Bush administration's war crimes and crimes against humanity during the last five years.

— Photo By James E. Hill

## Smarter Advice

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Far East as well. Of course all this time, North Korea is looking on, you know. North Korea has the distinction of being the only country in the world that is really happy it doesn't have any oil. I mean, you can see those guys in Pyongyang going, "Oh, we got a lot of problems, but you know at least we don't have any oil!"

This isn't funny, of course, because they have enough plutonium for 10 nuclear weapons and they've been left alone, so after a rather strenuous effort by the Clinton regime — a successful effort I might add — to prevent them from developing the kind of material to have these bombs, George Bush comes in and focuses on Iraq and let's North Korea go ahead and develop the kind of nuclear capability that they have, refuses to talk to them directly just as he has refused to talk to Iran directly, and this, of course, I see as a direct result of his taking advice of these very, very ideological neo-cons.

ICONOCLAST: Of the Democrats and/or Republicans out there that are itching to be president, which ones are you looking who has a policy view that is like VIPS?

MCGOVERN: This is a really tough question. I think the first factor is we need a candidate who will be honest about the war, who will have the courage to speak out; if he or she has al-

ready voted for the war, they need to have the courage to distance themselves and say, "I was mistaken. I was misled by the intelligence served up by the regime." and say, "We have to change course because the current one makes no sense at all."

Now it's going to take a pretty courageous person to do that, but there have to be some. Russ Feingold is one who has spoken out very clearly, and there are others out there that hold some promise in doing that, but they have to start doing this and rally the real Democratic base if they are going to have a really viable candidate.

As for the Republicans, I wouldn't rule them out. I don't see John McCain as being able to reverse his instincts. He thinks we have to quote, "Win this war." and he has no concept of what that might mean or how many thousands more of U.S. and other people would be killed. So I don't really see much on the other side.

Hillary Clinton, my goodness. Hillary can't have it both ways forever. She can't say, "We've got to win this war." and she can't bless what we are doing in Lebanon and still appeal the real Americans, so having said that, being an intelligence professional I don't get much into politics or candidates, but you know, it cries out spreading around truth for once and having these candidates address the true situation.

kept up with the developments in the world," said Everest.

With regard to global warming, Everest noted that the Bush administration has knowingly suppressed the scientific evidence that proves global warming is a threat, has gagged scientists from talking about it, has tried to rewrite scientific reports on the subject, and has tried to undermine the international efforts to control global warming.

"This is the future of the planet here. It's catastrophe dwarfs — war is horrible. It's a terrible thing, but we're talking about an impact on hundreds of millions of people here," said Everest. "So we indicted the Bush regime for this."

On global public health, Everest took the Bush administration to task for preventing the sale of cheap drugs, condoms, and abortions to curb the HIV/AIDS pandemic. As a result of this policy, "millions of deaths" have occurred in Africa where about 15 to 20 percent of the population is HIV positive, he said.

"Uganda at one point had one of the most successful HIV prevention programs in Africa until the Bush regime insisted on 'abstinence only,'" said Everest. "We recently learned that the infection rates are starting to climb as a result of this, and thousands and thousands of condoms are locked in warehouses where people can't get these things. This is a crime against humanity."

On the government's response to Hurricane Katrina, Everest then said that the survivors testified that they had been left to die by the administration.

"When they tried to save themselves, they were threatened, sometimes shot at by the authorities," said Everest. "Instead of bringing in the military and other people there to help, the Bush administration declared martial law and tried to clamp down on people while thousands were trapped in the Superdome."

"It's an attack on African Americans — straight up!" he later said.

On the Iraq war, Everest made it clear that prior to the invasion, the U.S. intelligence on there being no weapons of mass destruction in Iraq was accurate; the Iraq war was an attempt to secure power and natural resources in the Middle East; and the administration's plan for Iraq is "a nightmare for the Iraqi people."

"We found 15 specific areas under the occupation where the U.S. was committing war crimes and crimes against humanity," he said. "As you might be aware of, 100 Iraqis a day are killed, and the U.S. is fostering this both through driving a resistance and putting people in power who are reactionaries and who are resorting to ethnic violence and actually helping to spark a civil war."

The Bush Crimes Commission jury has yet to make its final determination as to whether the Bush administration has committed crimes against humanity and war crimes because these crimes are continued to be committed, Everest said.

Everest added that after he heard all the initial testimony, to raise one issue above the rest of the administration's evils doesn't do any justice.

"The whole is greater than the

sum of the parts," he said. "There's an agenda. A coherent program at work here that is bad on all fronts."

### Illegal War, Illegal Orders

Col. Wright, who served in the U.S. military for 29 years and in the U.S. State Department for 16 years, said that hundreds of international legal scholars agree that the Bush administration committed war crimes by invading and occupying Iraq, a country that did nothing to the United States.

"The invasion and occupation of a country that has done nothing to us is what is called the supreme crime of aggression," she said. "The supreme crime of aggression under the Nuremberg principles is a war crime, a war of aggression."

Col. Wright then said that this recent debate over U.S. war crimes committed on Iraq can be boiled down to the legal battles of an Army lieutenant who has refused to his order to deploy to Iraq with his unit five weeks ago. Lt. Ehren Watada, who tried to resign his commission twice but was turned down both times, has argued that since the U.S. war in Iraq is illegal according to international law, then an order to be deployed there would be illegal.

"For 29 years, I was in the military, and we are told that you only have to obey the lawful orders of your superior officers, and that right there says that you don't have to obey illegal orders," said Col. Wright.

If the U.S. had convinced the U.N. Security Council to war with Iraq when then-Secretary of State Colin Powell made his plea in February 2003, then the war would have been legal by

Continued On Next Page



## WAR CRIMES

From Previous Page

international law standards; however, this was not the case, said Col. Wright. Powell failed, but the U.S. went to war anyway with its small force dubbed the "Coalition of the Willing" the following month.

International law expert Frances Boyles was one of three professionals that testified in support of Lt. Watada at his Article 32 pre-trial hearing the week prior. Col. Wright said that as a senior military officer, she agreed with Lt. Watada for taking responsibility as a military officer to refuse an illegal order to participate in an illegal war.

"In fact, I had given up my career in the State Department for exactly those same reasons," she said to a round of applause. "But when you look at it, my resignation wasn't much. I gave up a career, but I didn't face jail time, and that's exactly what the military are facing when they tell the administration and the military, 'I believe you are wrong...'"

Col. Wright said that Lt. Watada would undoubtedly be court-martialed. At the same time, he would join 12 others who have been court-martialed for refusing to fight in Iraq. There are perhaps 200 more that have refused to serve jail time and have instead fled to Canada. Anywhere between 8,000 to 40,000 U.S. troops that have gone AWOL or have deserted, she said, noting that the latter estimated figure was released by the United States Air Force just last week.

"We have a lot of people who are resisting this war. A lot of people, and they are resisting it because they refuse to participate in war crimes and crimes against humanity," she said.

"I think the entire cadre of U.S. Air Force officers should go AWOL," said Ray McGovern.

McGovern said that President Bush paved the way for torture right after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when the subject of international law came up among Sec. Of State Colin Powell and Richard Clarke, the counter-terrorism adviser on the U.S. National Security Council. According to Clark's book, the president told them at the White House, "I don't care what the international lawyers say. We're going to kick some ass."

"That, my friends, set the tone. The next thing you know, the gloves are off," said McGovern, adding that from then on, it was open season on using any methods to obtain information from



**WAR CRIMES PANELISTS** — Ray McGovern (from left), Cindy Sheehan, Col. Ann Wright (ret.), Larry Everest, participated in a discussion of the Bush administration's war crimes and crimes against humanity during the last five years.

— Photo By James E. Hill

anyone suspected of being a terrorist.

Then, once word got out that the U.S. government was offering top dollar for anyone suspected of being a terrorist, the Afghani people turned in shepherds, shopkeepers, and other people who had nothing to do with Osama bin Ladin. And the U.S. military gladly set them to the detention centers at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, said McGovern.

The order for torture came in the form of a memo from the president's lawyer Alberto Gonzalez dated Jan. 25, 2002. The memo is "the document that shows the Bush administration is guilty of at least one war crime," said McGovern. It says that these suspects can be exempt from protections in the Geneva Conventions; however, it warned the president of U.S. criminal law as Congress passed under the 1996 War Crimes Act that states:

"Whoever inside or outside the United States that commits a war crime shall be fined under this title or imprisoned for life or any term of years or both and if death results from the victim shall be subject to the penalty of death."

Two weeks later, the president convicted himself in his own words of this war crime when in a Feb. 7, 2002, memo to Powell that stated the U.S. government doesn't have to follow the Geneva Conventions with regard to torture, though it would treat each detainee "humanely as appropriate and consistent with military necessity."

"That was the loophole that (Sec. of Defense) Don Rumsfeld drove a Mack truck" through, said McGovern.

In the Hamdan decision, McGovern said, the judge ruled

that Gonzalez and Addington was wrong and that the president had committed a war crime under U.S. as well as international under the Geneva Convention. Both memos can be found online, he added.

### Almost Too Late

Still, five years later, the damage has already been done, and McGovern said he believes that it is almost too late for the U.S. people to change its course in Iraq.

"Martin Luther King's celebrated Vietnam speech at Riverside Church talked about the fact that there is such a thing as 'too late,'" said McGovern. "I think we have to sort of realize that there is such a thing as too late for us as well, and I think personally that we are approaching that time, and I see some of that creeping fascism that is coming into this country, and in the by-and-large pragmatic attitude of the American people, I see great danger.

McGovern said that the next two-and-a-half months are very important "to change the coloration of the political scene." "I appeal to us all to try to figure out how we rise to this occasion," he added.

Cindy Sheehan, who the next day was going to have surgery in Waco, said that she fears that President Bush will suspend the elections in November, reinstate the military draft, and order martial law because of "some terrorist event."

She also expressed her fears that the American people would fall in line with it because "We've stood for two stolen elections. We've stood for rendering and torturing people. We've stood for spying on us without warrants. We've stood for letting them detain people without warrants, without charges, without any kind of due process.

We've stood for them trampling all over the first amendment. What else have we stood for?"

"The American people are dumping out millions of dollars of cosmetics everyday because it's keeping us 'safer,'" Sheehan added. "I was never afraid of my deodorant. Why do you make me dump it out? So I'm not confident that if that would happen, we would get up and say, 'Enough is enough.'"

### We Can't Be Silent Anymore

On a more positive note, Sheehan mentioned an online correspondent of hers, a major in Iraq, who said he would join her when he returned from service.

"We have support all over the place. It's just when 65 percent of America disagree with the war and disagree with George Bush, that means millions of people, and I've only seen thousands of people out on the streets," she said.

Sheehan said she knew Camp Casey would be held together while she is away for the remainder of the week, but encouraged the peace movement to reach out into the community more.

"We can't wait until November because even if they don't steal the elections, how do we know the Democrats will do any better than the Republicans?" she asked, qualifying that there are some Democrats doing good work. "Over 800 have died since we sat in the ditch last year, and I'm not okay with that, and I want to stand up and say, 'I'm not a war criminal.'"

"That's what we all have to do because if we don't repudiate what they're doing, by our silence we're giving them approval for what they're doing. We can't be silent anymore," she ended.

## U.S. Military Could Implant Chips In Troops

DELRAY BEACH, Fla. — A company based in Delray Beach, Fla. is "in discussions" with the Pentagon to implant their chips in the arms of U.S. soldiers, according to a Washington D.C. based news organization.

The VeriChip Corp. says that these devices will be a replacement for the metal dog tags in use for the last century.

Known as RFID (Radio Frequency Identification), these chips could be placed under the skin of the right arms above the triceps or in the hand.

The devices, which are invisible to the naked eye upon implanting, will be able to store more information than dog tags, such as medical records. The company has also suggested that their product could also be used to track illegal immigrants.

The government has already started using this technology. Starting last Monday, the State Department is issuing passports that use RFID chips from a California company called Infineon Technologies North America. These chips are 14 percent more expensive, but decrease travelers' time through customs, according to the agency.

Infineon's success can partially be attributed to at least one of its members on its board of directors — former secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson.

Veterans' groups and privacy advocates remain worried over the chips, saying that the cons outweigh the pros of such products.

Liz McIntyre, co-author with Katherine Albrecht of "Spychips: How Major Corporations and Government Plan to Track your Every Move with RFID," fears RFID is a danger to privacy.

McIntyre told the D.C. Examiner: "They'll start with people who can't say no, like the elderly, sex offenders, immigrants, and the military. Then they'll come knocking on our doors."

Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-Vt.) in an email to the Examiner questioned the need for such technology as well as the government's role.

"What checks and balances, safeguards, and congressional oversight would there be?" Leahy asked. "What less-invasive alternatives are there? What information would be entered on the chips, and could it endanger our soldiers or be intercepted by the enemy?"

The Examiner added that the company has its own doubts about its product. Radio frequencies from emergency vehicles could malign chip's effectiveness, and the chip could travel around the body of its recipient and also cause infections, according to VeriChip's filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

# 'Camp Democracy' In D.C. To Follow Camp Casey

WASHINGTON, D.C. — After Camp Casey packs up after the August series of events in Crawford, Cindy Sheehan will set up camp in Washington, D.C. on Sept. 5, expanding it into a weeks-long demonstration against the war, with emphasis on justice here at home, for environmental sanity, and for accountability from the White House and Congress.

Events will include panel discussions with well known speakers (including Howard Zinn, Ann Wright, Marcus Raskin, Barbara Olshansky, Michael Avery, Lennox Yearwood, Elizabeth de la Vega, Ray McGovern, and many more), workshops, concerts, training sessions, films and performances, hands-on creative arts projects, lobbying training, nonviolence training, and other activities.

Billed as a "demonstration for peace, justice, and impeachment in Washington, D.C.," the announcement of the camp will consist of a press conference on Aug. 29, at the National Press Club, Murrow Room, Washington, D.C., at 10 a.m. (ET). Speaker will be leaders of the organizations sponsoring Camp Democracy.

Camp Democracy will be located between the National Mall, Constitution Avenue, 14th Street and 15th Street on Sept. 5, 6, 7, 8 and 12, and on the National Mall between 3rd and 7th Streets on Sept. 9, 10, and 11.

While Sept. 9-12 will include a variety of events, other days will focus largely on single themes:

- 9/5 — Opening day.
- 9/6 — Organizing the Progressive Agenda
- 9/7 — Immigrants' Rights

- 9/8 — Labor Speaks Out
- 9/11 — Gandhi Day
- 9/13 — Verdict on Bush's Crimes
- 9/15 — Electoral Reform
- 9/16 — Peace
- 9/17 — Accountability and Impeachment
- 9/18 — Lobbying Training
- 9/19 — Lobbying
- 9/20 — Women for Peace

A detailed schedule is available at <http://campdemocracy.org/schedule>.

Sponsoring organizations include: Velvet Revolution, Traprock Peace Center, Consumers for Peace, Democrats.com, CODE PINK, National Immigrant Solidarity Network, National Organization for Women, Focus on Democracy, Bush Crimes Commission, Progressive Democrats of America, De-

mocracy Rising, Justice Through Music Project, International Socialist Organization, AfterDowningStreet.org, Veterans for Peace, VotersforPeace, U.S. Labor Against the War, National Lawyers Guild, World Can't Wait, Democracy Cell Project, OpEdNews.com, Detention Watch Network, Center for Constitutional Rights, National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, DC Labor for Peace and Justice, Charlottesville Center for Peace and Justice, The Enviro Show, The Crisis Papers, D.C. Anti-War Network (DAWN), and Delaware Valley Veterans For Peace #144.

Camp Democracy is also sponsored by the individuals listed here: <http://campdemocracy.org/sponsors>.

Camp Democracy is being

promoted by United for Peace and Justice, Volunteerforchange.org from Working Assets, and Green Commons, and is endorsed by Gold Star Families for Peace, Global Exchange, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), New Orleans Voices for Peace, Cities for Peace, Backbone Campaign, Hip Hop Caucus, San Juan Peace Network, Texans for Peace, Buddhist Peace Fellowship, Campus Antiwar Network, Cedar Valley United for Peace and Justice (Iowa), One Global Community, Bake Sales for Body Armor, Iraq Veterans Against the War, Crawford Peace House, Declaration of Peace, Vietnam Veterans Against the War, Friends Committee on National Legislation.



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A BAKE SALE FOR BODY ARMOR for U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan gathered just under \$600 at Kenpo Karate in Carrollton last Saturday. Those who participated in the bake sale included members of Junior Catholic Daughters of America, a boy scout, U.S. military veterans, candidates for state and national public office, and dozens of caring consumers. Some of the helpers were (back, from left) Paula Sotelo, Katee Vllirin, Amanda Sotelo, Matthew Sotelo, Sarah Sotelo, Jim Drybugh; (front, from left) Amy Manuel, Andie Barrera, Christine Ramirez, Megan Sotelo, Marcela Torres, and Gary Page. For more information, visit the website at ([www.bakesaleforbodyarmor.org](http://www.bakesaleforbodyarmor.org)).

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

## Counter Terrorism Program Launched Against U.S.

CENTRAL ASIA — War games in direct response to U.S. military threats to areas of Central Asia began on Aug. 24, according to a report by Michel Chossudovsky of <[GlobalResearch.ca](http://GlobalResearch.ca)>.

Known as the Rubesh-2006 exercise, organized by Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikstan under the Collective Security Treaty

Organisation (CSTO), the activity will involve 2,500 members drawn from various armed services of member states, according to IPWR (News Briefing Central Asia).

According to Global Research, "The entire region seems to be on a war footing. These CSTO war games should be seen in relation to

those launched barely a week earlier by Iran, in response to continued U.S. military threats. These war games coincide with the showdown at the UN Security Council and the negotiations between permanent members regarding a Security Council resolution pertaining to Iran's nuclear program."

The update went on to note that while Iran is not a member of the CSTO, it has observer status in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), of which China is a member.

The update suggests that the conduct of the CSTO war games must be seen as a signal to Washington that an attack on Iran could lead to a much broader military conflict in which Russia and the member states of the CSTO could potentially be involved, siding with Iran and Syria.

"Also of significance is the structure of bilateral military cooperation agreements. Russia and China are the main suppliers of advanced weapons systems of Iran and Syria," the report added.

## Peace, Migrant Advocates Protest Outside Border Governors Meeting

AUSTIN — Peace and justice advocates demonstrated last Thursday in Austin outside the Border Governor's Conference in support of migrant worker's rights, non-citizen soldiers, fair trade practices, and the demilitarization of the U.S./Mexican border.

The governors of Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California met at the capitol to talk about issues ranging from trade and the environment with the governors from Mexico's six border states — Sonora, Baja California, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, and Tamaulipas.

Illegal immigration remained the politically volatile topic inside the private meeting. A resolution against a long-term U.S. National Guard deployment on the border was introduced by California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger and New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson.

Outside the meeting, the California Nurses Association protested a fund-raiser for Gov. Schwarzenegger at the Four Seasons Hotel.

At the same time, CODEPINK, a peace and justice advocacy organization led by women, symbolically "arrested" the four U.S. governors for supporting federal programs that protect the environment and citizens.

"Build friendships, not fences," chanted members of the activist group.

Activists honored of the U.S. soldiers who only become

American citizens as a result of their deaths in combat operations. These non-citizen soldiers account for eight percent of the total number of casualties, though they are only two percent of all active duty soldiers, according to Defense Department statistics.

The advocates for migrant workers' rights said they appreciate the peace activists who stand in support of their fight against racist immigration laws, the building of a proposed wall and the placement of troops along the border, and the all-around war against migrant workers.

"It means a lot. We're also against the war," said Che Lopez of the Southwest Workers' Union of San Antonio to Geoff Millard of Truthout.org. "We're also against the military recruiting migrants and undocumented workers to join the military and go fight the war in Iraq."

"We feel it's not right," he continued. "[The governors and the Bush administration are] contradicting themselves in a way which says they have the right to go to war and sign in the military but they don't have the right to go to work. They don't have the right to social services like health care, education, housing... it's a low-intensity war against migrants."

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff — a guest of honor during the governor's meeting — repeated President Bush's proposal to add 6,000 additional Border Patrol agents by 2008.

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# Filmmaker: ‘Sergeant Buswell Is A True Patriot’



Sgt. Donald Buswell

## Update On Sgt. Buswell

By **STEPHEN WEBSTER**  
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

Last week, *The Lone Star Iconoclast* broke news about an Army Intelligence Analyst stationed at Ft. Sam Houston outside of San Antonio, Texas. Sergeant First Class Donald Buswell, a loyal soldier of 19 years and recipient of a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in Iraq, offered a dissenting opinion of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in response to a mass email. For this, his security clearance was revoked and he is currently facing an investigation as to whether he violated certain Army rules regarding use of government networks for unauthorized purposes.

His commanding officer, Colonel Luke S. Green, reportedly wrote that Buswell is to be investigated for making statements disloyal to the United States.

Since the story was published, thousands have rallied to Buswell's side. The story was published on [TheRawStory.com](http://TheRawStory.com), [LookingGlassNews.org](http://LookingGlassNews.org), [911Truth.org](http://911Truth.org), and [911blogger.com](http://911blogger.com), among others. *Iconoclast* editor W. Leon Smith has given numerous radio interviews, and this reporter is



Kyle Hence

scheduled for a live call-in show on Air America Radio's Eugene, Oregon affiliate, KOPT ([www.kopt.com](http://www.kopt.com)), at 9:30 a.m. (CST) on August 30.

Likewise, SFC Buswell and his father, Winthrop, have been overwhelmed with phone calls of supporters and well-wishers. Among them was Kyle Hence, the Executive Producer and co-writer of the new documentary *9/11: Press for Truth*. Hence is also the Executive Director of 9/11 Citizen's Watch, an independent watchdog group formed in mid-2003 with the intent of placing intense scrutiny upon the actions and conclusions made by the administration-appointed 9/11 Commission.

The film, *Press for Truth*, follows the now-famous Jersey Girls: four women who lost their husbands in the destruction of the World Trade Center towers. The Jersey Girls went public with their grief and questions, and are credited as the driving force behind the formation of the 9/11 Commission a full 14 months after the attacks; a commission that members of the Bush administration adamantly resisted. But for Hence and the Jersey Girls, questions still remain. Now, with the retaliation against SFC Buswell, Hence is springing into action once again.

‘What’s happening now, and how the Army has reacted to this email sent by Sergeant

Buswell, has nothing to do with National Security or Buswell's loyalty to the country,’ said Hence during an interview on Aug. 27. ‘Sergeant Buswell is a true patriot. This move by the Army is about stifling dissent in this country regarding the most devastating attack on our soil in this country's history and censorship of those who want to know the truth.’

After reading the story in *The Iconoclast*, Hence contacted Winthrop Buswell and asked him to come to Washington D.C. on Sept. 11, 2006. At press time, Winthrop is on the fence about attending, but will update *The Iconoclast* when his decision is made. Should he attend, said Hence, 9/11 Citizen's Watch will ask him to speak to the crowd.

‘I'm not saying definitely no [to going to Washington D.C.],

I'm just considering my son's position,’ said Winthrop Buswell. ‘He doesn't want this whole issue to become too politicized. But when he gets out [of the Army], he will be very much in favor of continuing the questions he has and the belief that he has, that it certainly was a cover-up and now there's a conspiracy to cover-up the cover-up. That is his belief.’

‘Donald is a wonderful ally,’ continued Winthrop. ‘He is an asset to all of us. And he'll be even more of an asset when he is out of the Army. But for now he cannot speak on the issue because that could get him in trouble. I would like to speak on behalf of my son [in Washington D.C.], but I don't know. That might put my son in jeopardy because he is still in the Army.’

Kyle Hence has a different view of the situation. ‘Basically, here is yet another American whose voice is being ignored by the mainstream media,’ he said. ‘This is a story that, you would think, every network

would want to report on. This man just said ‘We want a new investigation,’ and as a result, he's under investigation. I think that if Buswell is becoming an icon, it is because most Americans, or at least half according to recent polls, now believe there has been a cover-up.’

‘Here's a Purple Heart recipient that is saying, ‘We don't know the whole story,’ who is suspicious of the government's story and thinks we need a new investigation,’ continued Hence. ‘And that they're trying to shut them down and silence him is very reminiscent of what they do to whistleblowers who have real information they tried to bring to the [9/11] Commission. They were gagged.’

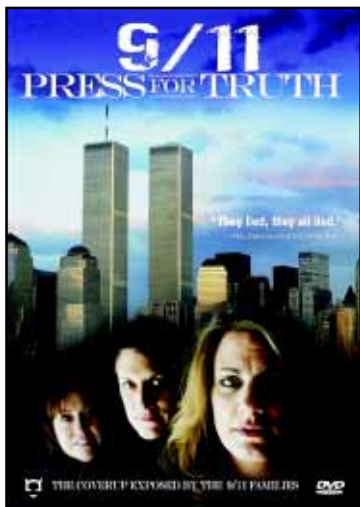
‘Take the case of the FAA flight controllers,’ he said. ‘[On tape] they recounted their memories of what exactly happened the morning of Sept. 11, and then a higher level official destroyed those tapes. Here you have someone who destroyed information to keep it from the American people.

Now you have the U.S. military trying to destroy the life of a Purple Heart recipient who simply said there needs to be a new investigation and doesn't believe the account offered to us by a now discredited 9/11 Commission.’

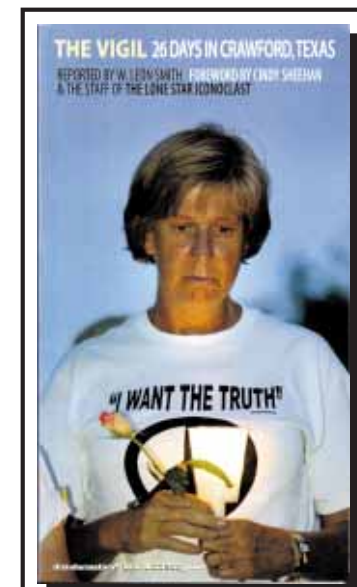
From Sept. 11-18, Camp Casey and Camp Crawford will be moving to Washington D.C. for an event they have dubbed ‘Camp Democracy.’ On the morning of Sept. 11, at 8 a.m., between First Street and Third Street in front of the Reflecting Pond, Camp Democracy will begin its roll call. Various speakers are confirmed for the week-long event, including Dr. Morgan Reynolds, and several docu-



Winthrop Buswell



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# Army Investigator Recommends Trial For Anti-War Officer

FORT LEWIS, Wash. — An Army lieutenant who refused to deploy to Iraq in June could face a court-martial trial on three charges stemming from his belief that the war is illegal.

The investigating officer's report was to be made public last Friday. The day prior, Lt. Col. Mark Keith had recommended that 1st Lt. Ehren Watada, 28, of Honolulu, Hawaii, be tried by a general court-martial.

The charges leveled on Lt. Watada are missing troop movement, conduct unbecoming an officer, and contempt toward an official. The final say on Watada's trail is in the hands of Fort Lewis' commander Lt. Gen. James Dubik.

A conviction on Watada carries with a maximum seven years in prison and a dishonorable discharge.

Watada's civilian lawyer expects Lt. Gen. Dubik to decide on a trial within the next two weeks.

The American Civil Liberties Union has no position on Watada's fight against the legality his orders to deploy to Iraq; however, the ACLU has supported his right to freedom of speech.

"Soldiers should not be court-martialed for explaining their views on important political issues when doing so does not adversely affect military functioning. Lt. Watada was exercising his free speech rights as a citizen in a democratic society," said Kathleen Taylor, Executive Director of the ACLU of Washington.

Watada finished college and then enlisted in the army after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001. He received good reviews for his service in Afghanistan and Korea.

Watada has receive criticism from Japanese-America veterans groups for his refusal to be deployed to Iraq. His father, Bob Watada, said the lieutenant hon-

ors the legacy of the older veterans.

"My son is doing the same

thing, fighting for the Constitution, fighting to preserve civil liberties," Bob Watada said. "He

is standing up for our Constitution and all the principles it stands for."

## 'Peace Mom' Released From Waco Hospital

CRAWFORD — Peace activist Cindy Sheehan was released from Providence Health Center in Waco last Thursday following two-days of rest after her hysterectomy surgery.

As Sheehan's sister Dede Miller told their cheerful supporters at Camp Casey III Tuesday night, "It's all well. Cindy already kind of snapped at me, so she's fine, so thank you all."

The 49-year-old's vigil is scheduled to continue in Crawford until Sept. 3 when she is to join a pro-peace protest in Salt Lake City, Utah, where President George W. Bush is to speak at an American Legion convention. Sheehan was invited to lead the protest by Salt Lake Mayor Rocky Anderson.

At the Veterans for Peace Conference in Seattle earlier this month, Sheehan was hospitalized due to dehydration, exhaustion, and urine bleeding during a hunger strike. Upon arrival in Texas three weeks ago, the founder of Gold Star Families for Peace was hospitalized again and when released, rested for a time at the ranch of Willie and Annie Nelson.

During her recovery period, a few dozen of her supporters have staged another vigil on property Sheehan recently pur-

chased in Crawford. Each day members of Military Families Speak Out, Veterans for Peace, Iraq Veterans Against the War, and GSFP, have been participating in various actions such as a counter-recruitment in Killeen and an awareness-raiser at Fort Hood for a hotline for soldiers ask legal questions about the military. One Saturday saw the group protesting against the president's chief advisor Karl Rove in Austin.

Last year Sheehan failed to confront the president near his vacation ranch on the question of what "noble cause" her son Casey died while serving in 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq in 2004. However, during her initial 26-day vigil, she received international attention and brought over 10,000 pro-peace activists to the ditches off the road to the Bush ranch. Since then, she has traveling around the globe, most recently to Jordan to speak with members of the Iraqi Parliament.

President Bush is to return to his Prairie Chapel ranch over Labor Day weekend. His normal month-long August vacation here was abbreviated this year to 10 days. This past weekend, a protest and march was held in Kennebunkport, Maine, where

the president was visiting to attend the wedding of his father's cousin's son, Walker Stapleton.

This protest-march was endorsed by Cindy Sheehan and Camp Casey, NH Peace Action, Seacoast Peace Response, Peace Action Maine, Global Network, the Maine Green Independent Party, the Maine Veterans for Peace, and Dexter Kamilewicz for Congress.

Sheehan is expected to move Camp Casey to Washington, D.C. on Sept. 5 for a week of demonstrations against the Iraq war and other events including panel discussions, workshops, concerts, training sessions, lobbying and nonviolence training, and more.

This "Camp Democracy" will be located between the National Mall, Constitution Avenue, 14th Street, and 15th Street on Sept. 5, 6, 7, 8, and 12 - 21, and on the National Mall between 3rd Street and 7th Street on Sept. 9, 10, and 11. For a more detailed schedule, visit the website.

As of deadline, 2,611 American soldiers have died in Iraq and more than 19,511 have been seriously wounded.

INFO  
[campdemocracy.org/schedule](http://campdemocracy.org/schedule)

## Business Networking And Breakfast At MCC Sept. 6

WACO — The McLennan Community College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) will host its monthly Sunrise Business Breakfast on Sept. 6, from 7:30-8:30 a.m., at the Art Center Waco at MCC (1300 College Drive).

Featured speaker Scott Connell, Vice President of Economic Development for the Greater Waco Chamber, will speak about small business activities identified in the Chamber Strategic Plan.

The meeting is free-of-charge, and breakfast is included. Reservations are required by Sept. 5 at noon.

The MCC SBDC hosts the Sunrise Business Breakfast the first Wednesday of each month. Business owners, entrepreneurs, MCC employees, and others meet to network, share business ideas and information, and hear important speakers.

To make reservations for September, or for more information, call the MCC SBDC at 299-8141.

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# What We Print ‘Might Upset People’

In our profession, we hear a lot about apathy...

... how someone ought to wrestle that bull to the ground, but none on the sideline are actually willing to get into the ring and grab hold, for fear of getting some dirt on his fingers, or worse.

When the ICONOCLAST was met with significant threats after it did not support Bush in its notorious presidential endorsement editorial in late September 2004, the aftermath persuaded us that the First Amendment was in danger and it became our mission to grow — to prove them wrong and to attempt to become one of the big boys in the mainstream. And we’ve worked very hard to try to get there.

But there have been nuclear enforced concrete walls in our path.

Our first initiative was to have THE ICONOCLAST available in bookstores, in supermarkets, and in discount stores across the nation.

Didn’t happen.

Our inquiries to corporations that specialize in distribution such as this were met with unanimous turndowns. A common response was that what we print “might upset people,” so “sorry, we have to think of the customers.”

Of course, you’ll find racks of tabloids that talk about aliens from Mars giving birth in a parking lot or magazines on how to grow better roses, but no ICONOCLAST.

We do have a significant free-of-charge presence on our website, where most of what we print in the hard copy appears, but we are still lacking a hard-copy subscription base that will afford us the capability to become one of the monsters of the mainstream. It takes money to pay for reporters and investigators and we are continuously maxed out, so there is much that we would like to pursue, but just don’t have the staff for it. And advertising-wise, The ICONOCLAST is still being boycotted, so our dreams of the entire nation getting a good dose of THE ICONOCLAST along with their NEW YORK TIMES or WALL STREET JOURNAL have not yet been realized.

One important function of THE ICONOCLAST has been to em-

## The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



phasize stories that get frequently bumped from the mainstream while much of the media is drowning us with the likes of, for instance, the JonBenet Ramsey case, or whatever the flavor of the moment is.

You might remember some of our fairly recent headlines, like those dealing with a planned detonation in Nevada, Divine Strake (Toxic Cocktail), or uranium radiation blowing from one country to another (Have DU, Will Travel) where we interviewed some of the world’s most noteworthy scientists, and, most recently, Sgt. Buswell, the soldier being silenced for having an opinion on 9/11 that differs from the company line — which were only footnotes,

if even that, in the mainstream media in America.

The bottom line is this.

We hear complaints daily about the mainstream media’s ignoring important stories and showering the public with fluff.

THE ICONOCLAST is an independent paper that is willing to go after these important stories, and we already do to some extent with our very limited financial resources, but we could do a lot more. We simply have to have more public support to do it.

This means your spending \$45 for a subscription, and if you own a business, spending part of your advertising budget with us, and helping to sell others on the idea of reading and supporting THE ICONOCLAST. We want the ICONOCLAST to become the paper of the masses. It’s got to start

somewhere, so why not begin now, from the grassroots level?

I realize that much of what we provide is already free online, so why should readers pay for it

and then wait for the hard copy to come in the mail? The answer: Because there will be even more available online if we can expand our staff and afford

to do more stories.

Too, there will then be at least one big independent out there whose mission is truth.

The bull is in your corral.



# Editorial

## Hold The Pork, Not The People’s Website

Corporations not only have their federal contracts and eat them, too, but they are also able to do it away from the public’s eyes.

Why? How?

Because a piece of popular legislation — Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 — is being prevented from hitting the Senate floor.

To make matters worse, a cowardly senator or group of cowards holding this bill from a vote is in hiding, too, using a parliamentary maneuver known as the “secret hold.”

The legislation in limbo — S.2590 — if enacted, would create a single website with access to information on nearly all recipients of federal funding, worth \$2.5 trillion last year alone!

This searchable online database would allow Americans to access any government contracts, grants, insurance, loans, and financial assistance by name, the annual dollar amount, and the location of each legal business entity, including non-profits. Data on individual citizens that receive Social Security, Medicare, etc. would be exempt from the program.

The Office of Management and Budget would be given the job of maintaining the site, posting all federal assistance within 30 days of an organization’s finances being granted. OMB has said it would gladly support this endeavor.

Congressional Budget Office estimates that the program’s start up would cost \$4 million in 2007 and then another \$15 million over the 2007-2011 period would be needed to run it.

This bill has received bi-partisan support and was on the fast track before being held. Sens. Tom Coburn (R-Okla.) and Barack

Obama (D-Ill.) introduced it. Senate President Bill Frist (R-Tenn.) and Minority Leader Harry Reid (D-Nev.) as well as Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) support it.

Ballooned spending from no-bid contracts for the reconstruction of the Gulf Coast after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita — alone — should be reason enough to fund this website.

But apparently not even the outrageous federal spending going on in Iraq was good enough for the “Secret Holder.”

So which Republicans and Democrats in the Senate have denied being the “Secret Holder?”

Check out Porkbusters.org, a website that prides itself on “blogging the waste out of government.”

Holds, by the way, aren’t new. Sen. Clinton used it to stall the president’s nominee to head the Food and Drug Administration until Plan B emergency over-the-counter contraception was approved.

Unlike the coward(s) that are holding up S.2590, Sen. Clinton had the guts to use her hold tactic out in the open and accountable to voters during the mid-term election season.

Passing the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 would have been a much better investment for the people of the United States — much better than any number of Internet-linked cameras posted along the U.S./Mexican border.

And removing this “secret hold” from Senate rules would keep lawmakers more honest.

Let’s smoke out the “Secret Holder” and pass this bill.

— Nathan Diebenow

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# The Hidden Draft In Our Schools

BY CAPTAIN ERIC MAY  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

## The Texas Military-educational establishment

Last year the big scandal in the Houston-area recruiting racket was the sergeant who threatened those he was recruiting with arrest if they didn't enlist into the Army. This year the scandal has come back with a vengeance, with reports that the same recruiter who coerced the clueless last year, far from being removed from recruiting, has been promoted to be in charge of other recruiters.

Top generals are urging the Bush League to pull out of the quicksand war of Iraq. Still, no argument seems able to sway the man who urged the Iraqi Resistance to "bring it on" three years ago, when he boasted of victory in the war we have clearly lost. Recruiters are under orders to do what it takes to find new cannon fodder.

It's never hard to find a recruiter at some Texas high schools. Every day at lunch they prowl the cafeteria like the Marine tandem in Michael Moore's *Fahrenheit 911*, cozing up to

the marginal students who are their targets, giving them noogies and bandying their nicknames. Impressive to the impressive, they're approved and applauded by too many coaches and counselors, academics and administrators.

Texas has plenty of such "Bush League" campuses, most run by the middle-class Republicans utterly in favor of The Global War on Terror. They are eager to fight — to the last drop of everyone else's

blood, and are perfect clones of the cheerleader-in-chief, who avoided Vietnam in a Texas Air Guard unit.

## How they Shanghai students at my local high school

Not long ago, as I waited to order at the local coffee shop, a young man approached anxiously and asked if I'd been in the Army. I told him yes. He said he was cutting morning classes to be with his girlfriend, who sat anxiously waiting for him at a nearby table, and he told me that he was about to go to the Army, too. He wanted to talk about it, so I paid for the coffees and joined them.

He was clueless about what he was getting into, and didn't

## GUEST COMMENTARY

even know what his military specialty would be — until I assumed the worst and asked if it would be infantry, to which he nodded yes. He said his Army recruiter had assured him that the Marines are doing the fighting in Iraq, so he'd be safe. (I later found out that a local Marine recruiter tells it the other way around, assuring students that the Army is doing the fighting.)

His girlfriend said she didn't want him to go as she held his hand between both of hers, which shook. He said he didn't want to get shot or shot at, or even shoot someone, but that he was from a single-parent home with family debts, and no money for college. The Army said it would solve all his old problems, and not cause new ones.

So goes the story of a single recruit, conned into a war into which the whole nation was conned. First the Bush League said we were fighting to stop Saddam's WMD's (which weren't there); then to bring democracy (as we killed thousands); then about preventing civil war (caused by our invasion).

## Taking a principled stand — and making principals do the same

I'm hard to mistake for a peacenik parent. I've served in three different decades with the Army, Army Reserve and Texas National Guard, at ranks from buck private to captain, with units from the cavalry and infantry to opposing forces and general staffs. I'm also a taekwon do instructor who studies and teaches fighting. Still, I don't like it when educators help con their kids into a quicksand war.

It's up to us parents and teachers to demand schools — and elect school boards — that advocate critical thinking and the Constitution, not a follow-the-leader mindset that supports a military-industrial con-job. Principled educators should tell parents that they can "opt out" of having their children targeted for enlistment into the services by recruiters.

They should tell parents that recruiters have access to public school records, thanks to the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, which was part of a pre-911 plan to fill military ranks for the post-911 war. The fact that most parents don't even know about opting out proves that many Texas school boards are working for the recruiters, not us.

According to recent polls, nearly two-thirds of the American People loathe the current war, and fully a third believe that 911 was a set-up job to lead us into it. The time is ripe for standing up to the Texas military educational system. If full-grown men with impressive uniforms and glittering medals entered our schools to hustle our children into bed, we'd call for the cops. Yet our schools invite them in to hustle our children into the quicksand of Iraq, and call themselves patriotic. It's time for a change.

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

*Captain May is the founder of Ghost Troop, and antiwar and infowar group of former and current service members, cyberjournalists and citizen activists. He is the subject of a recent Iconoclast story: <<http://www.lonestaricon.com/absolutenm/annviewer.asp?a=402&z=52>>. Shortly after he wrote this essay, the AP a probe into recruiters who raped recruits: <[http://www.truthout.org/docs\\_2006/082006A.shtml](http://www.truthout.org/docs_2006/082006A.shtml)>.*

## Unreal Real Estate

Want to sell your house? Before putting it on the market, you'll probably want it to look as good as possible. So, you'll do a few things like paint the gutters, fix that leaky faucet, and finally throw away all those piles of papers you're never going to look at. But that's the old-fashioned way. Today, the business of getting a house to look as good as possible before you sell it is much more sophisticated. In fact, there are professionals you can hire to do this for you called "home stagers." They'll toss your old furniture in storage and rent you better looking stuff, they'll place beautiful plants all over the house, and they'll hang impressive paintings on the walls. When I first learned about this, it seemed a bit excessive, but I figured "business is business." That was until I heard about the latest thing that home stagers will do to make your house seem



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

more appealing — they'll hire actors to be a fake happy family in your home.

Since I live in the city built on fantasy, I assumed that this "home staging" was just an L.A. thing. But it's happening all over the country. I can't speak for the rest of the world, but if it's going on in Tupelo, Mississippi, can Paris be far behind?

There is even an organization that trains and "accredits" home stagers. Their website explains that an "ASP (an Accredited Staging Professional) is a professional who has completed a rigorous three-day training program that teaches specific techniques and concepts in home presentation and Staging. This includes

one day of classroom instruction and another day of actual hands-on Staging in a real home on the market for sale." Wow, after that impressive training, I'm surprised these people aren't performing brain surgery on the kitchen table when prospective buyers come by. Oops, maybe I shouldn't have put that idea out there.

Now that we know that the house might be filled with actors, how do we know that the "owners" we're introduced to aren't just hired by the owners? How do we know that the "grandma" who's sobbing about moving out of a place that has been "more of a member of the family than just a house" isn't an actress? And how do we know that couple that's oohing and ah-ing about the house and loudly shouting that they're going to put in a bid today aren't really actors?

At least one Southern California company likes to stage a phony birthday party while prospective buyers look at the house. That way, the would-be buyer can see a crowd of happy people hav-

ing a good time in the home. Some stagers make sure there's a fire in the fireplace, install a good swing set in the backyard, and put romantic, scented candles in the master bedroom. As UCLA's assistant marketing professor, Ely Dahan says, "It's all about appealing to the emotions of the buyers, subtly suggesting things to help them envision themselves living in this house."

Well, if that's the goal, I think the actors they hire should be conveying more inviting images than just a birthday party. When a couple walks into a house they're thinking about buying, they should hear things like: "You know, you look so much thinner in this house." Or, "You really look like you have more hair in this house." Or, "I've heard all the kids in this neighborhood are very respectful of their parents."

If they really want to attract buyers, maybe the phony "owners" should stage a conversation like this: "Honey, I can't believe it! We won the lottery!" "And we're the third family on this block

to win!" But these companies have to make sure they stay away from hiring actors who like to perform in a more realistic style. Otherwise, when the prospective buyers walk into the master bedroom with the scented candles and see the actor couple in that antique king-sized bed, they're likely to hear something more realistic like this:

"This never happened in our old house," followed by: "I'm sorry, but I just can't get in the mood while I'm worrying about making the mortgage payments on this place."

*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)*

## Adventures Under The Influence

Someone I know (we won't mention any names here) has had a couple of episodes of dental work in the past few years. I think he has another one scheduled soon. (Woe is me). The dentist prescribes a sedative (probably to keep the not-so-patient patient from whining, moaning, and squirming in the chair or otherwise bothering the nurses).

Now a sedated person obviously can't drive. I'll have to deliver him and retrieve him, make sure he doesn't fall down steps, walk into traffic, operate heavy equipment later in the day, etc. I'll have to write his check to the dentist. . . . and the next day he will remember very little to nothing. When he is impaired in this way he's certain he's functioning normally, believes he is absolutely fine.

The last time this anonymous person had dental work done, he told all the nurses how cute they were on his way out. They thanked him and assured me they always forget immediately the words and actions of all sedated patients. (Thank goodness. No telling what he might have said before I picked him up. Luckily, he probably couldn't speak too clearly with the dentist's instruments in his mouth).

He was hungry after the appointment and just HAD to go to Chili's for a SOFT bowl of —what else? —chili! I urged him to return immediately to the ranch, but oh no, he wouldn't hear of it. He ate. He enjoyed. When I asked how he felt, he answered, "Sharp as a tack." That's when I knew I was in trouble. He had absolutely no idea later that any of this had transpired. He fell asleep on the ride back from Waco, thought he was reading his book. It might as well have been upside down as he stared at the same two pages for over 30 minutes. Often during his "reading," I noticed that his eyes were tightly closed. He slept all afternoon and remembered nothing.

On the occasion of a previous dental visit, before returning to the ranch, I stopped at a craft store. Anticipating a quick dash in for one item. I asked this very relaxed Person-Who-Should-Remain-Nameless to sit safely in the truck for five minutes. — Just five minutes. But oh no, that would have been too easy! Of course, he wished to accompany me into the store and

### 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.

was by this time actually WEAVING as he walked. I slipped a shopping cart into his hands to steady him. Sure enough, we ran into an old high school classmate, and after making little sense in the first bits of attempted conversation (which I tried in vain to translate), he laughed and admitted he was high on drugs from the dentist! The next day, he didn't remember even seeing the old classmate, much less speaking to her (in tongues).

Last spring The-One-Who-Will-Not-Be-Named needed an MRI to diagnose a slipped disk. (Like many folks confronted for the first time with a "tight spot," he didn't realize he was the least bit claustrophobic when he had undergone his FIRST MRI years and years ago, before major knee surgery. And in most normal situations he is certainly not claustrophobic. There's just something about MRIs). This time he was prepared, older and wiser. He requested a sedative. It must have been stronger than the stuff the dentist gives. Within 10 minutes of taking the pill, he fell asleep in the truck going TO the appointment in Waco. Now this was interesting because only HE knew the location.

Gleaning this information was a challenge, probably much like conversing with some unfortunate person in semi-coma. When I finally managed to locate the correct medical office, I needed to help him from the truck, up a ramp (forget the steps), and through the door. He needed assistance finding a chair and negotiating that tricky sitting down part, needed help filling out the paperwork, too. Mellow doesn't begin to describe his condition.

The MRI took almost an hour. He remembers it as five minutes, lost as he was, in a pharmaceutically induced time warp. Of course he slept during the entire drive back — and all afternoon, yet another lost day. He awoke refreshed, told anyone who asked that it had been an absolute breeze. I, on the other hand, was completely exhausted.

## Land Promoters Lure Settlers To Panhandle

The Texas legislature created 54 counties in the Panhandle and South Plains on Aug. 21, 1876, but it took more than lines on a map populate the last frontier in the Lone Star State.

The region was still cattle country well into the 1890s with only a scattering of villages like Clarendon and Tascosa. But the coming of the railroad, improvements in agriculture and a drastic drop in beef prices, which made the ranchers' range more valuable as farmland, set the stage for a turn-of-the-century land boom.

The willingness of the XIT and other cow kingdoms to sell off huge chunks of pasture attracted the interest of heartland sobdusters. Land prices across the Midwest had soared from \$20 an acre in the 1880s to as high as \$125 by 1908, and the lure of dirt-cheap real estate was absolutely irresistible.

To counter the parched plains' reputation as an arid wasteland, land promoters came up with wet names like Spring Lake, Oasis, Roaring Springs, and Running Water. But the buyers of waterfront property at Shafter Lake discovered the salty body of water was as dry as a bone in the spring and fall and too shallow for pleasure cruises in the summer and winter.

Though guilty of exaggeration and poor judgment, the zealous agents that extolled the virtues of the Panhandle paradise had considerably more scruples than their California and Florida counterparts of the 1880s and 1920s. The only full-blown fraud was Virginia City, where a dirt road was deliberately disguised to look like a rail line under construction.

While they rarely resorted outright deception, land promoters did not miss an advertising trick. A photograph of two adorable types identified as "products of the Panhandle" carried the caption: "If you invest in land, it is here as long as you and your children live. It is a legacy as sound as the earth and as enduring as time."

Sales pamphlets often contained a special pitch to housewives, such as the Big Spring brochure that stated, "We want the ladies to realize the land we have for sale is God's country." An advertisement for Stratford in Sherman County was even more direct. "Urge your husband to move to the Panhandle. Tell him that you desire an easier life and future which will be free from hardship."

As towns took root, unattached women were welcomed with open arms. Hundreds came and many stayed support-

### This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



ing themselves as store clerks and hotel managers.

Another selling point was the healthy climate. "The purity of the air together with its unusual dryness in the winter season makes the High Plains country a veritable harbor of safety to a man or woman with weak lungs and a tendency to consumption," crowed a Lubbock outfit. An ad for nearby Littlefield claimed the weather coupled with the low cost of living could "cure a bad temper or a lean pocketbook."

The Littlefield booster also predicted, "We will soon have the largest German Mennonite Colony in the United States." The recruitment of specific religious denominations and ethnic Europeans was a common and profitable practice which resulted in the mass relocation of ready-made communities.

Crosbyton was founded in 1908 by Julien Bassett, an aggressive visionary whose offspring included Idalou and Lorenzo. Bassett's most successful project began as the county seat after he convinced the inhabitants of Emma to move lock, stock, barrel, and courthouse to Crosbyton.

The original residents of Dalhart were real go-getters not satisfied with the Dallam County seat. They fought hard to add the Hartley County courthouse to their collection and failing that took advantage of

their two-county site by offering booze on one side of town while forbidding the sale of intoxicants on the other.

A hundred and seventy miles to the south, a land peddler emphasized the absence of temptation. "There is not a saloon in the county; the nearest is over a hundred miles away. There is not so much as a billiard or pool room in the good town of Lubbock."

Cash was not the sole qualification. Agents sought experienced and financially secure farmers "who have been in America long enough to understand the country and its ways."

The blacklist was not restricted to first-generation immigrants. "Come and get a home among a good class of people," urged a Lubbock promoter, "where there are no negroes and where you can leave your home and remain away for weeks at a time without fear of returning to find that a horrifying tragedy has befallen your loved ones."

A brochure for a northern Panhandle bluntly repeated the same skin-color theme. "Our population is entirely white and we are glad that this is the case."

The success of the promotion was in the numbers. Farms increased 470 percent between 1900 and 1920, as the acreage under cultivation expanded 900 percent. The population growth was phenomenal rising from 14,000 in 1890 to 200,000 by 1920.

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

## The Sound of Music Coming Soon To Waco Civic Theatre

WACO — The final collaboration between Rodgers & Hammerstein was destined to become the world's most beloved musical. When a postulant proves too high-spirited for the religious life, she is dispatched to serve as governess for the seven children of a widowed naval Captain.

Her growing rapport with the youngsters, coupled with her generosity of spirit, gradually captures the heart of the stern Captain, and they marry. Upon returning from their honeymoon, they discover that Austria has been invaded by the Nazis, who demand the Captain's immediate service in their navy.

The family's narrow escape over the mountains to Switzerland on the eve of World War II provides one of the most thrilling and inspirational finales ever presented in the theatre.

Performances of "The Sound of Music" (appropriate for G audiences) will take place on Sept. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16 at 7:30 p.m., and Sept. 3 and 10 at 2:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors and can be reserved by calling the box office at 254-776-1591.



# All Hail Plutonia!

Warning to all citizens of Planet Earth –

The Plutonians are pissed off.

That is, they will be when the CNN signal reaches them in about 30 years.

It's bad enough when General Motors and Ford employees are mercilessly "downsized" so the corporate *massahs* can retain their luxurious lifestyles.

But to downsize an entire planet?

Without even discussing the matter with the inhabitants of Pluto.

Neither was anyone at the Magic Kingdom conferred with regarding their views on the alteration in lowly Pluto's status. That's right, nobody sought out the opinions of Mickey, Donald, or Goofy.

You might have thought Ludwig von Drake would have been consulted. This eminent scientific genius, the voice of authority in all disciplines, certainly would've never been snubbed back when Uncle Walt Disney was still walking around, unfrozen.

Has anyone stopped to think just how irritated Uncle Walt's going to be when he does thaw out? Then again, he's got a hell of a lot to be ticked off at, like Michael Eisner's ludicrous golden parachute; the cost of a single day admission to any Disney theme park; the scantily-clad, talent-challenged, buxom 14-year-old girl singers Disney's been cranking out the past 20 years; the forced exit of anyone named Disney from the board of directors...

In most matters that concern the scientific community I've learned to not question the folks with the superdegrees. There are some things that regular guys like me shouldn't try to know or figure out, else our heads would flat-out explode.

Growing up in the 1950s and '60s I was fascinated with scientific stuff such as space exploration and blowing up the Planet with atomic and hydrogen bombs – like most boys of the era.

There were very few kids around my neighborhood who didn't like science fiction movies and television shows; we quickly learned to discern the intelligent television sci-fi ("Science Fiction Theater") from the imbecilic ("Rocky Jones, Space Ranger").

It was fairly easy to grasp the basic ideology of how a rocket ship could be propelled into outer space, and return to Earth. We understood that it



## Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

was necessary to have reflective surfaces without painted markings when heading toward the sun, otherwise there would be one doozy of a fire. The concepts of heat shields and short-term acceleration for re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere weren't very difficult to comprehend – even for Catholic school students.

Although the guys in white shirts with pocket protectors were often looked down upon as social pariahs, everyone maintained at least a modicum of respect for them. Within the walls of my high school these fellows weren't subjected to rude behavior or taunting because it was accepted that they would be doing very important things one day, stuff none of the rest of us could ever be capable to accomplish.

They were even revered by the biggest, meanest "greasers" in school.

As portrayed in the movies and on television, the scientists were always the ones who tried to warn the military – and as the voice(s) of reason they were right virtually every time.

It was also the only field of higher learning that was regularly depicted as allowing women to participate as equals to men. Truly advanced in every way.

No matter what the situation facing our World, science and scientists came together as a unified body. There were no national boundaries, despite all attempts by governments to stymie amalgamation; gender was not questioned; nobody considered the race of the next person – the only concern was that they were scientists and there was an Earth-threaten-

ing problem to solve.

Scientists do share a feeling of camaraderie that does not exist among many other professionals. Perhaps this is because it is such a small fraternity, and so few outsiders understand the World and Universe as they do.

In 1957 scientists from 46 nations assembled to study Planet Earth. This megaresearch project, known as The International Geophysical Year (IGY), took place from July 1, 1957 until Dec. 31, 1958.

IGY was modeled on the International Polar Years of 1882-83 and 1932-33. Scientific technology and methodology in the latter half of the 1950s had accelerated by light years since the 1930s, in part due to rapid advancements necessitated by World War II, the atomic age, and the space race.

By the time IGY came to a close, its member nations had grown nearly 50% to 67. The following is a short description contained in an undated "Space Age News Map" from KCMO AM-TV-FM, Kansas City, Mo. (found at [www.n4mw.com/igy.htm](http://www.n4mw.com/igy.htm)):

"The International Geophysical Year is a period which will see over 8,000 scientists from more than 60 countries cooperating in a world-wide study of the planet Earth. Their energies will be devoted to GEOPHYSICS - a field of study which includes all sciences concerned with the earth: Its interior, crust, land masses, oceans and the surrounding gaseous envelope of the atmosphere. The period July 1, 1957 to December 31, 1958 was chosen for the IGY largely because it is during this time that the eleven-year cycle of sunspot activity will be at its height. In the United States the geophysical program is being conducted by the U.S. National Committee for the IGY, a part of the National Academy of Sciences, with the support of the National Science Foundation and

the Department of Defense.

"While great publicity has been given to the artificial satellites which are a part of the IGY program, there are many other fields of activity which are important. These include studies of the Aurora or Northern Lights; Cosmic Rays in the upper reaches of the atmosphere and in outer space; Geomagnetism Gravity; the Ionosphere; Oceanography; Meteorology, or the causes and patterns of weather; Geology; Seismology, or the study of earthquakes, Volcanoes, and tidal waves; Latitude and Longitude positions of more precise accuracy; and all scientific aspects of Solar Activity, especially sunspots."

So, last week the International Astronomical Union (IAU) of Planet Earth got together in Prague, Czech Republic, to vote on the fate of little old Pluto.

Now, don't you think by being the ninth and furthest from Sol it already felt like the red-headed stepchild?

Not only that, but Pluto wasn't even "discovered" until 1930, which had to add to its inferiority complex of being the runt of the litter.

So, the IAU goes and kicks sand in wee lad's face by demoting it to "dwarf planet" status.

That is just so mean.

One website I came across, "The Nine Planets" by Bill Arnett, referred to Pluto as a "Planet Emeritus." That seemed far kinder and gentler.

I'll tell you one thing, I sure am glad I won't be around in 60 years or so after news travels to Pluto, its inhabitants learn that the Terrans have dissed them, and they make their way here to exact revenge upon us.

Of course, if we don't get more Liberals in Congress and the Senate this November none of that will matter. The RoveBushCheney Fascists and their Neverending War will have destroyed everything long before the Plutonians even hear about their demotion.

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. Depending upon your taste in political stew, you can either blame or thank Jerry for his weekly "Out Of The Blue" feature in THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST. Visit his blog BLUE STATE VIEW at [illinoiscentral.blogspot.com](http://illinoiscentral.blogspot.com))

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## Whose Victory Are We Celebrating?

BY KAPIL KOMIREDDI  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

A lot of left-leaning liberals are celebrating the perceived defeat of Israel in its recent war against Hezbollah. Their cheers are muted, but there are cheers, nevertheless. Often, the denunciation of Israel is dressed-up in language designed to condemn Israel while projecting its authors as true sympathisers of Israel ("Israel has the right defend itself, *but...*"; "Terrorism is unacceptable, *but...*"). Well, they are not, and there is no apparent reason why they should be. But, in celebrating Israel's "defeat," whose victory are they applauding?

It has been claimed, and the claims substantiated with evidence, that Israel's attacks were "premeditated."<sup>1</sup> It even sought, and received, Washington's approval and support.<sup>2</sup> Tel Aviv was merely awaiting the appropriate opportunity to initiate attack. But before we start excoriating Israel, let us remind ourselves that, during this period, Hezbollah was not busy debating secularism or organising seminars on the benefits of liberal democracy. It was meticulously preparing to attack Israel.<sup>3</sup>

Now let us not forget that Israel is a country, while Hezbollah is an organisation. Israel is governed by a state which derives its just powers from the governed in the *most* democratic of ways, and the state's primary responsibility is the protection of its citizenry. Hezbollah's aim remains the destruction of Israel. It recognises "no treaty with [Israel], no ceasefire, and no peace agreements..."<sup>4</sup> It is Hezbollah which established the practice of suicide bombings in the region. Israel and Hezbollah are different. They should be treated differently. To demand similar treatment for the two is unfair. When Israel strikes to disarm Hezbollah, it is the act of a sovereign state trying to preserve its existence by destroying its enemy.

If indeed Israel had planned the attacks in advance, it did not, at any rate, fire the first shots. Hezbollah did that to execute its own premeditated attack. Analysts have claimed that Israel could have prevented this war by negotiating with Hezbollah, whose aim, they say, was the release of 15 prisoners illegally held by Israel. "It seems clear," George Monbiot argued in *The Guardian*, "that if Israel had handed over the prisoners, it would — without the spillage of any more blood — have retrieved its men and reduced the likeli-

### GUEST COMMENTARY

hood of further kidnappings. But the Israeli government refused to negotiate."<sup>5</sup> So, in other words, terrorism should be rewarded with a seat at the negotiating table. If it is, then the "likelihood of further kidnappings" is "reduced."

When will we realise that rewarding terrorism will not abate but, rather, boost it? Has the ceasefire negotiated by the U.N. put and end to, or even undermined, Hezbollah's agenda? It is being hailed as the clearest sign of Hezbollah's "victory" over Israel. Syria's Assad and Iran's Ahmedinejad have declared that Israel has lost against Hezbollah (implying, perhaps, that if a small organisation can "defeat" Israel's military might, imagine what the combined powers of West Asia could do to it—another reason to halt Iran's nuclear programme). Hassan Nasrallah has been lionised.

Interpreting the ceasefire as an indication of Israel's "defeat" is absurd: it was Hezbollah, through the government of Lebanon, which demanded ceasefire, not Israel, which had intended all along to stop only after fully disarming (at worst) or destroying (at best) the Hezbollah.

Let us unambiguously condemn Israel's use of disproportionate force. Let us denounce unequivocally Israel's murder of Lebanese civilians. (Israel's war was against Hezbollah—a few thousand in number— not the millions of Lebanese civilians who have been displaced as a consequence of the war.) But let us realise, for our own sake, that in celebrating Israel's "defeat," we are applauding terrorism's victory.

*Kapil Komireddi, a freelance writer who has contributed to various publications, is presently working on a compendious biography of Sen. John Kerry, to be published in 2008. He can be reached at: [kapskom@gmail.com](mailto:kapskom@gmail.com).*

<sup>1</sup> See Monbiot, "Israel's Attack Was Premeditated." *The Guardian*, 8 August, 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> See Robert Fisk, "Hizbullah's response reveals months of planning," published in *The Independent*, 17 July, 2006; reproduced in full here: <http://www.albawaba.com/en/countries/Lebanon/200843>

<sup>4</sup> See "An Open Letter: The Hizbullah Program," reproduced here: [http://www.ict.org.il/Articles/Hiz\\_letter.htm](http://www.ict.org.il/Articles/Hiz_letter.htm)

<sup>5</sup> See Monbiot, "Israel Attack Was Premeditated." *The Guardian*, 8 August, 2006.

## Before Flushing Remote-Controlled Toilet, Duck Behind Inflatable Sofa

Hello, and welcome to another edition of *High-Tech Watch*, a consumer information guide to the latest technology, and the exciting items you can expect to see following the eventual collapse of the Consumer Products Safety Commission.

We begin in Scotland, where textile researchers are currently working to perfect material that can generate and store electricity. This would allow wearers of clothing made with "Smart Yarn" to generate their own power for things like cell phones, pocket radios, Game Boys, or, in the case of a full-length muu muu worn by Shaquille O'Neal, a small Chicago suburb. The technology is relatively simple, and dates back to the early 1970s, when a combination of corduroy pants, wool socks and shag carpeting was blamed on the electrocution deaths of several people in the U.S. and Canada.

According to Scotland researchers, they are close to finding a way of harnessing that power while, at the same time, reviving as few fashions from the 1970s as possible.

Next, we have Spanish designer Marti Guixe, creator of the "Flamp," a phosphorescent lamp that absorbs light from other sources and can illuminate a room for up to 20 minutes without electricity once the lights go out.

Sounds pretty cool.

Accept for the fact that, once I turn the lights out, it's usually because I want to go to sleep. And I should mention that the "Flamp" doesn't come with an "Off" switch, which means that, unless you regularly read before bed, you will need to find a way of killing the 20 minutes it takes your "Flamp" to fade out each night.

My suggestion is to hold it directly under your chin, make a scary face, and then peek into your neighbors' windows before bed time. Eventually, they will get used to it and begin to welcome your nightly visits.

Or, quite possibly, you'll get your "Flamp" shot off the very first night.

Either way, your problem will be solved.

Also on the high-tech home front is something that is sure to re-ignite fond memories of that first apartment.

No, I'm not talking about cardboard coffee tables, but the next best thing—inflatable furniture. That's right, for a mere \$800, you can again have the same bedroom ensemble you once paid \$6 for. In addition, Ikea USA, makers of the new



### Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

*Siuslaw News*

inflatable furniture, also offers sofas and chairs made from a "special plastic" that's guaranteed to last for 10 years—which is about how long it will take for you to blow up your new six-piece living room set once it arrives.

And finally, we go to Tokyo, where a recent trade show featuring "Homes of Tomorrow" unveiled the perfect example of what happens when technology meets toiletry. I'm talking, of course, about a new computerized toilet introduced by Matsushita Electric.

(And let me just say right now

that the idea of sitting on a toilet designed by a company with the word "electric" in its name doesn't exactly thrill me.)

According to Matsushita, the new Laboratory Toilet has a number of improvements over older toilet designs, including a remote control flushing system.

This is particularly useful when...

Or should you somehow..

Or in the event that there's a ...

Nope. I honestly can't think of a single reason I'd need to flush my toilet from anywhere other than the bathroom. And if I ever DO need to gain a safe distance from my commode before flushing, finding the remote will be the least of my worries.

(You can write to Ned Hickson at [nhickson@oregonfast.net](mailto:nhickson@oregonfast.net), or visit his website at [www.nedhickson.net](http://www.nedhickson.net))

## DSHS Launches Pertussis Prevention Campaign

AUSTIN — The Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) is beginning a pertussis education campaign today (Aug. 21) in the face of an increasing number of cases of the serious bacterial illness.

The campaign will provide information about new vaccines to protect older children and adults against pertussis, also known as whooping cough, and serve to remind parents of the critical importance of having their children complete the vaccine series at the recommended ages.

The all-time low number of cases in Texas was 36 cases recorded in 1976. But last year DSHS reported more than 2,000 cases of pertussis with nine deaths. Eight of those who died were infants.

"Pertussis used to kill as many as 10,000 people a year in the United States," said DSHS Commissioner Eduardo Sanchez. "After a vaccine was licensed for use in 1949, those numbers dropped dramatically. But the disease is on the rise again."

Pertussis can be especially threatening to infants too young to be vaccinated. It also is a serious health threat for older children, teens and adults whose immunity from vaccinations has waned. Pertussis symptoms include runny nose, sneezing and a cough similar to a cold, severe coughing fits and coughing spells lasting more than

six weeks.

"The good news is we now have new vaccines designed to protect people in the 10 to 64 age range," Sanchez said. "These new vaccines coupled with on-time immunizations for children are major public health tools that can help prevent serious disease and death."

Five doses of a combined diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP) are recommended at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, between 15 months and 18 months and between 4 years and 6 years of age.

The new tetanus, diphtheria and acellular pertussis vaccine, known as Tdap, is recommended to be given to adolescents beginning at 11 to 12 years of age to replace the tetanus/diphtheria (Td) booster dose usually recommended at that age. A single dose of Tdap can replace a single dose of Td booster in adults and can be given five years after the last Td booster as protection against pertussis. Pregnant women who previously have not received Tdap should receive Tdap after childbirth, before being discharged from the hospital or birthing center.

More information about pertussis and immunizations is available from DSHS online at [www.immunizetexas.com](http://www.immunizetexas.com).



# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:

With the new school year beginning, parents should add one more important task to their family's back to school checklist: ask questions about their school's plans to protect children during emergencies.

In 2005, Texas Legislators signed into law Senate Bill 11, which requires that schools adopt a multi-hazard emergency plan, audit their plans, and discuss school safety issues with parents and community members.

In light of where we live (high prospect for severe weather events) as well as recent events in Great Britain, parents and children alike will feel better knowing that their school has an adequate plan. In the same vein, there is no better time than today to talk with your family about having a family disaster plan and building a disaster kit of food and supplies.

We all need to be prepared.  
Lt. Gen. Donald Jones, USA-  
Ret, Waco

To The Editor:

Mr. Buswell is right on, this country is under control of fascist psychotic thugs. Journalists are beaten and intimidated for investigating 9/11. Somehow we must fight back. The neocon smear machine and the fascist neocon takeover must be reversed.

The Bush regime is the true perpetrators of 9/11. The truth cannot be stopped now. I urge you and your publication to help us, help our country, our people. The Bush administration must be tried for mass murder and treason.

Jeff Tanzer, Salem, Mass.

To The Editor:

Thank you for the well done article about the Sgt. First Class Donald Buswell. Slowly the American people are waking up to the fact that our rights are being taken away. Many, many more instances as this have in the past gone on and will be happening more in the future. Any person who has looked at the available evidence will find that we are being lied to about 9/11. Zogby poll indicates recently 36% believe the Government is covering up.

A patriot is a someone that protects out country from our government. Unfortunately, with more and more rights being taken away, we may not be able to hold on too much longer.

Regards,  
E.J.

To The Editor:

Just a simple note..... wanting very much to offer my support for SFC Buswell and his father, Winthrop, in their struggle for free speech in the Land of the Free.

I regret your tribulations very much, and wish you all the best in what now has turned into a struggle with a government that should be supporting you for service rendered.

There are so many now who question a report the 9/11 Commission itself admitted was filled with loose ends. I hope a new commission is called soon, that will vindicate your views and restore what you have fought for; the trust of the American People, and the freedom so voice one's own thoughts. It now appears we should have been afraid of the thought police... but not the ones we were previously told to be afraid of.

Peace and Happiness be yours, and let me know if I may be of help.

Rob Kalish, Anchorage,  
Alaska

**EDITOR'S NOTE:**

**As of Saturday afternoon, The Iconoclast website <[www.lonestaricon.com](http://www.lonestaricon.com)> had received 143 comments on the Buswell story. They are accessed by clicking on the yellow stars at the bottom of the story.**

To The Editor:

Watching Van Taylor on *Hardball* Tuesday night made me realize the voters of your district have a decision to make.

Based on Mr. Taylor's contortions/distortions of the role of Al Queda in the sectarian violence in Iraq, your votes will have to decide if Mr. Taylor is intellectually dishonest or if he is just plain stupid.

Bill Whitaker, Palm Beach,  
Fla.

Dear Editor,

President Bush had a press conference on August 21, 2006.

The exchange went like this :  
President Bush : "You know, I've heard this theory about everything was just fine until we arrived, and kind of "we're going to stir up the hornet's nest" theory. It just doesn't hold water, as far as I'm concerned. The terrorists attacked us and killed 3,000 of our citizens before we started the freedom agenda in the Middle East."

Reporter : "What did Iraq have to do with that?"

President Bush : "What did

Iraq have to do with what?"

Reporter : "The attack on the World Trade Center?"

President Bush responded : "Nothing..."

He actually finally said it.

Talking about the recent Israelis invasion of Lebanon he said, "Today, I'm announcing that America will send more aid to support humanitarian and reconstruction work in Lebanon, for a total of more than \$230 million."

He also said, "...I'll also work closely with Congress to extend the availability of loan guarantees to help rebuild infrastructure in Israel, infrastructure damaged by Hezbollah's rockets."

Israel and Lebanon have received billions already. What did they do with that cash? The Israelis spent it on invading another country. President Bush is paying off both sides.

If in the American Civil War Britain had given money to the North and the South what do you think would have happened? If you stand for everything you stand for nothing.

What will he do next? No one can predict.

He is undependable.

Sincerely,  
Alfred Brock, Canton MI

To The Editor:

What can we do to stop Bush and his criminals from pulling off another 9/11 before November elections. Do you think that we are to the stage like the war of independence? With all the internet and all you guys doing all this work of exposure why can you not organize a mass march on Washington or mass walks like the immigration walks. Surely with the number of people that read the internet it could be organized.

God bless keep up the good work

Mike Beirens

Letter to Editor:

**"Right to keep and bear arms preserves freedom and life"**

Mankind's greatest threat is war waged against the unarmed citizen by his or her own government. That is the main reason a person needs a gun. This was the thinking of the Founders when they established our nation. Furthermore, 20th-century history clearly proves this very remarkable fact.

Professor R. J. Rummel of the University of Hawaii provides the needed evidence to support this fact. He coined the word "democide" to describe the intentional murder of people by government. It includes genocide, political and terror killings, and massacres.

Rummel is perhaps the world's foremost authority on this horror. In his fourth book on

the subject, "Death by Government" (New Jersey: Transaction Publishers, 1994, 496 pages) he documents nearly 170 million victims of democide from 1900 to 1987. That is more than four times the 38 million battle deaths from all civil and international wars during this period. He points out that democide has been inflicted "on unarmed, helpless citizens and foreigners" and has killed over 200 million in the 20th-century.

Rummel also establishes that the more freedom in a nation, the fewer people killed by their government. He shows that communist and other police state governments—that don't allow their citizens to have guns—account for most of the democide.

Obviously, too much government is more deadly than war. Freedom, which includes the right to keep and bear arms, preserves life. Guns help to preserve both freedom and life. It is important to remember this when government officials threaten to enact laws to restrict our weapons.

Larry William Bradbury,  
Reseda, CA

To The Editor:

I've been following and fighting legal-but-lethal tobacco since 1986.

My passion to stop abortion by tobacco has attracted criticism from high places like Rush Limbaugh who committed one of his 1998 radio National Commentary (which he chose to replay the first Monday of 1999) about me and my kid's baseball teams in Kentucky that I named "Smoking Kills."

Outside of losing my dad from smoking at age 11, one of my most heartbreaking moments created by pure evil tobacco was this past week was learning that my friend from the first grade and four years of high school football is now suffering from Stage III lung cancer due to smoking. He asked me if I would conduct his anticipated funeral.

If I outlive my friend, I would be so thankful for the brilliant-minded Rush to assist me in writing the funeral message.

With compassion,  
Mike Sawyer

## Suddenly, 'America, the Beautiful' Doesn't Look So Pretty Anymore

**Millions Out Of Work!  
More On Their Way!**

Maybe the president needs to clean the White House windows to get a better view of Middle America.

*Eleven million Americans are out of work, while thousands have lost their homes to foreclosure.*

Hundreds of jobs are being exported to cheaper labor overseas.

Our children's education has taken a back seat to the net profits of the corporate sector.

Daily living expenses continue to skyrocket!

Toll roads are replacing free roads to enable increased profiteering.

American soldiers continue to die daily in Iraq and Afghanistan, while our Veterans' needs are NOT being met.

America has become an oppressive nation to its own people. Money begets more money, while the poor spiral down into the man-made muck called **poverty**.

There's no good reason why all Americans can't share in America's fortune — except for one culprit, **GREED!**

Never has an American president appeared so disassociated with the harsh realities of the majority of the American people.

Suddenly, "America, the Beautiful" doesn't look so pretty



**Texas  
Commentary**

By Peter Stern

any more.

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

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# Wilkins New Texas State Chili Champion

HOUSTON — Cindy Reed Wilkins recently proved once again why they call her the Queen of Chili.

After 144 cooks signed up to compete in the Texas Open Chili Competition, held at the Montgomery County Fairgrounds, just north of Conroe, the temperature became hot and the competition was even hotter. There were championship cooks from all over Texas, sweating and stirring and making bets on who was going to win. After all the smoke cleared from the judging; the best of the best rose to the top. Cindy Reed Wilkins emerged as the 2006 Texas State Champion for the CASI organization.

This was the one title that had always eluded Wilkins. Sure she has two first-place Bronze Peppers from Terlingua. She has her first-place trophy from Texas Ladies State. She has over one hundred other trophies from various cook-offs; but she had never been able to claim the Texas State Championship title before. It was her Cin Chili recipe that put her over the top.

Wilkins' success with chili started with her parents dragging her to a chili cook-off back



Cindy Reed Wilkins

in the 1980s. She started cooking with and competing against them in chili competitions around Texas.

In 1992 she qualified to cook at the International Chili Competition in Terlingua, Texas. Her

mother, Maxine Reed, taught her well. Cindy took first place that year and received her first Bronze Pepper.

The following year, 1993, Cindy returned to Terlingua to defend her title. Once again, she proved she has what it takes. Cindy became the only person in history to win The International Chili Cook-off Competition twice, and back-to-back. There are only 39 Bronze, first-place Chili Peppers in the world and Cindy has two of them.

This year, Wilkins was chosen to be on the Food Network's new series called Throwdown With Bobby Flay: The Chili Challenge. Cindy's new chili mix called Cin Chili was featured on the show along with her culinary expertise with chili. It became a challenge between Texas and New York, when Bobby Flay showed up for a Throwdown. Cindy proved once again that she's unbeatable; although Bobby did tie her. Watch for re-runs of this show.

To sample some of Wilkins' chili, visit her web site, [www.cinchili.com](http://www.cinchili.com), and try her many recipes made with Cin Chili.

According to Wilkins, "They're Cin-fully delicious!"



The Thunderbirds In Action

## 'Wings Over Houston' Airshow Set. Oct. 21, 22

HOUSTON — The 22nd annual Wings Over Houston Airshow will be held Oct. 21-22, beginning with gates opening at 8 a.m. and flights beginning at 10 a.m., at Ellington Field.

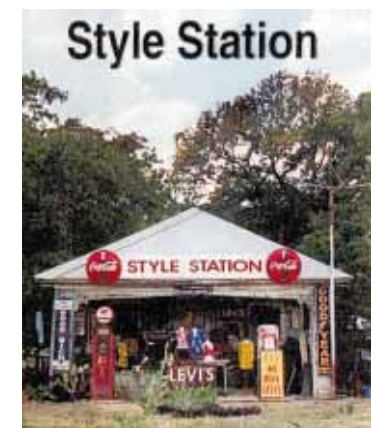
Presented by Ron Carter Dealerships, the show takes flight with the USAF Thunderbirds, USAF Reserve Jet Car, the Naval Tailhook Legacy Flight F-18 and F4U Corsair, F-18C Hornet, AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, and WWII air power re-enactment of Tora!Tora!Tora!, as well as aerobic performers. There will also be static displays of vintage aircraft, plus a wide array of modern military aircraft.

General admission advance tickets are \$15 for adults, \$4 for children ages 6-1, and free for children under age of 6. Reserved prime view and hospitality tickets are also available at higher cost. Tickets may be obtained at [www.wingsoverhouston.com](http://www.wingsoverhouston.com) or by calling 888-435-9746.

There will also be M-4 simu-

lator rides, a children's carnival area, plus a "Legends and Heroes Autograph Tent."

Wings Over Houston is a non-profit all-volunteer event designed to benefit its scholarship program.



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## 7th Annual Tonkawa Traditions Festival Slated For Crawford Oct. 6-7

CRAWFORD — A downtown Crawford parade will kick off the 7th annual Tonkawa Traditions Festival on Friday, Oct. 6.

Following the parade, there will be a dance in Crawford's Tonkawa Park, admission \$1.

Saturday, Oct. 7, will witness a full day of activities, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the park.

Here is the schedule:

9 a.m. — mutton bustin'.

10 a.m. — lawn mower races.

1-3 p.m. — live remote with Max and Tammy.

1-5 p.m. — live music by Johnny Mandel and the Muddcats.

3:30 p.m. — cow patty bingo.

10 a.m. - 4 p.m. — silent auction.

The kids' corner will feature moon walks and a dunking booth, plus there will be food and craft vendors in the park.

The traditional barbecue cook-off and baking contest will

be held during the festival. Judging times for cook-off items include: homemade pies, 10 a.m.; salsa, 11 a.m.; beans, 12 noon; chicken, 1 p.m.; ribs, 2 p.m.; and brisket, 3 p.m.

A classic car show will take place with the assistance of the

ladies from HOOTERS in Waco, and a dance in the park will begin at 8 p.m., admission \$1, to conclude the festival.

For more information, contact Joyce Smith at (254) 855-5507 or Donna Conrad at (254) 486-9206.

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