

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 36

SEPTEMBER 6, 2006

\$1.00 Per Copy

© 2006, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST



Scores 'Die' At Katrina Protest

Page 3

Editorial

9/11: The Sequels

Page 10

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Another War

That Cannot Be Won

Page 10



FDA Approves Viruses To Be Sprayed On Food

Page 16

The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

G.I. RESISTANCE

Story By Nathan Diebenow

Page 4

AWOL War Resistor Returns To Fort Hood



AT FORT HOOD, Spc. Mark Wilkerson (center, left) on Thursday talked to reporters with supporters (back, from left) Dede Miller of Gold Star Families for Peace, Charlie Anderson of Iraq Veterans Against the War, and Ret. Col. Ann Wright of Veterans for Peace.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

When You Reach The Edge Of The Seas, Stop!



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

Page 14

RED ALERT: 9/11/06

(Chicago, Detroit & Houston)

Four-Square Analysis: The Who and Why

GUEST COLUMN / INTEL REPORT

Page 11



Captain Eric May



ACTIVISTS in Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, George W. Bush, Laura Bush, and Lady Liberty masks served the 30-plus peace picnickers Tuesday evening on the right-of-way near the former Camp Casey II just miles from the president's vacation ranch. An activist in a Condoleezza Rice (not pictured) was also present. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



FULL RIGHT-OF-WAY — About 30 peace activists took part in the picnic at the corner of Prairie Chapel Road and Canaan Church Road last Tuesday evening. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



TRIO — Charlie Anderson, Jesse Dyen, and Dennis Kyne (from left) play a few ditties on the corner of Prairie Chapel Road and Canaan Church Road within a miles or so of the president's vacation ranch. The trio performed as activists set up for a picnic and a vigil for the evening Tuesday. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

Surreal Picnic On The Prairie

By **NATHAN DIEBENOW**
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

PRAIRIE CHAPEL — About 30 peace activists held a picnic and a vigil within a few miles from the president's vacation ranch Tuesday evening.

Participants wearing masks of Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney, George W. Bush, Laura Bush, and Lady Liberty served sandwiches, fruit salad, hard-boiled eggs, and water to the members of Camp Casey III.

Intended for the president as he returned to his ranch, the action itself was set up on the 15-foot right-of-way between the former Camp Casey II and Canaan Church Road. Along the route to the ranch, two groups

of activists lined the road holding signs parodying the 1950s road-side Burma Shave advertisements.

To greet picnickers, guitarists played music as a 12-foot-tall depiction of Mahatma Gandhi was constructed.

The passenger of a black car exiting the check point from the Bush Ranch flipped the bird at the peace group. Later, four McLennan County Sheriff's Department vehicles were present during the picnic.

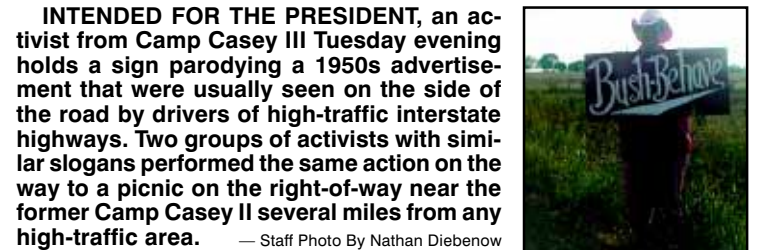
As the picnic wound down, Gold Star mother Cindy Sheehan stopped by to eat but was soon escorted by police to pay an outstanding ticket.

After the vigil, the driver of a

white pick-up truck honked his horn behind the activists entering their vehicles to leave the area. He then sped away. No one was hurt.



CINDY SHEEHAN (right) sat next to an activist wearing a mask of President Bush Tuesday evening. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



INTENDED FOR THE PRESIDENT, an activist from Camp Casey III Tuesday evening holds a sign parodying a 1950s advertisement that were usually seen on the side of the road by drivers of high-traffic interstate highways. Two groups of activists with similar slogans performed the same action on the way to a picnic on the right-of-way near the former Camp Casey II several miles from any high-traffic area. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



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
Web Newspaper: www.lonestaricon.com

EDITORIAL
Associate Editors:
Don M. Fisher
Nathan Diebenow
Reporter:
Deborah Mathews

ADVERTISING
Melanie Harvey
Tammy Shelton
Tiffany Shelton

PUBLISHER & EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
W. Leon Smith

BUSINESS
Kay Ortiz, Front Office Manager
Allison Smith, Internet Manager

CIRCULATION
Charlie Gandy
Pernie Stanford
Wayne Thompson
Bud Shaffer
Wanda Raines
Georgia Bell

THE ENTIRE CONTENTS of each issue of The Lone Star Iconoclast are protected under the Federal Copyright Act. Reproduction of any portion of any issue will not be permitted without the express permission of Smith Media, Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC: Any error or erroneous reflection upon the character, standing, or reputation of any person, firm, or corporation which may appear in this newspaper will be gladly corrected upon being brought to the attention of the management.

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST welcomes letters of up to 150 words on any public issue. Any letter that exceeds the word limit may not be considered for publication. We publish only original letters addressed to The Iconoclast. An address and daytime phone number must be included so the author's identity can be verified. No letters will be published until authorship is confirmed. Those who write letters are asked to limit their entries to one per month. All letters are subject to editing. The Iconoclast reserves the right to decline publication of any submission. Letters must be signed. Letters written in the promotion of political candidates or issues to be decided by an election will not be considered for publication unless they are scheduled for publication three weeks or more prior to the election. Individuals may purchase advertising space during the period prior to the election in support of candidates or issues to be voted upon. Letters written as cards of thanks may be charged classified ad rate and be placed in classified section of newspaper, at editors' option.

Scores 'Die' At Saturday Katrina Anniversary Protest In D.C. Area

SILVER SPRING, Md. — As the names of hundreds of people victimized by Hurricane Katrina and government negligence were publicly read out, scores of people lay down for 15 minutes on the sidewalk on Saturday in front of the Silver Spring, Md. headquarters of NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (see photo).

This large-scale die-in was the culmination of a rally attended by several hundred people organized by the U.S. Climate Emergency Council (U.S. CEC). The action called for housing, jobs, health care, environmental clean-up, and justice for Katrina survivors who want to return to their hometowns.

The action also called for an end to the cover-up by the po-

litically-appointed leadership of NOAA of the continuing series of scientific reports, six so far, which show a connection between global warming and stronger and more frequent Category 4 and 5 hurricanes.

Mike Tidwell, Director of the U.S. CEC, explained: "The leadership of NOAA openly denies this connection and censors its own scientists, according to articles in several media outlets. Their actions are placing tens of millions of coastal Americans at greater risk of experiencing, over the coming years and decades, storms like Katrina."

Many speakers at the Saturday rally called for a dramatic shift from the burning of fossil fuels to energy efficiency and renewables, to a "green economy" and for a "clean energy revolution" to reduce the

likelihood of such a dangerous future.

Speakers included Tidwell; the Rev. Lennox Yearwood of the Gulf Coast Renewal Campaign; Melody Drnach, Vice President of the National Organization for Women; Jenice View of the Just Transition Alliance; Karen Wimpelberg and Forest Bradley-Wright of the New Orleans-based Alliance for Affordable Energy; George Friday of United for Peace and Justice; Jared Duval of the Sierra Student Coalition; Kevin Zeese of Democracy Rising; and Allison Fisher of Greater Washington Interfaith Power and Light.

Protesters vowed that their campaign for justice, truth-telling, and a clean energy revolution from NOAA and the federal government will continue and be stepped up.



Camp Casey Adopts A Highway With Unveiling Of Camp Casey Invention: The 'Gulp 'n Grab'

CRAWFORD — Last week, the members of Camp Casey 3 were out in bright orange vests collecting trash on the two-mile stretch of highway that passes their front yard. The Gulp 'n Grab, created by Camp Casey members, will allow trash-picker-uppers to stay hydrated while collecting refuse.

The highway was officially

adopted on Tuesday, Aug. 29, when members inquired with officials if they could do unofficial highway adoption and cleanup in the two-mile stretch. Much to their surprise they were told that they could officially adopt that road and now the members are proud parents. The commitment includes a quarter

annual cleanup.

The official signs stating that highway has new adopted parents will be up in the next few months.

"We are pleased to be neighbors here in Crawford. And as our civil responsibility we want to keep our highways clean," retired Army Colonel Ann Wright of Camp Casey 3.

FBI Searches Student Financial Aid Data

WASHINGTON — The Federal Bureau of Investigation said it teamed up with the U.S. Department of Education to find evidence of terrorists committing student loan fraud and identity theft for the five years since the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The New York Times reported last week that the Education Department cross-referenced data in its federal student aid database with less than 1,000 names pertaining to F.B.I. counterterrorism investigations involving student visas and financial aid.

Both agencies refused to answer if the now-closed program called Project Strikeback produced any investigations. U.S.

citizens and permanent residents are generally only permitted to receive federal student financial aid.

The F.B.I. said that Congress and the Government Accountability Office were aware of the program. The agency also denied that its searches were sweeping, noting that the data swaps among federal agencies are allowed under law "for a civil or criminal law enforcement activity." Some 14 million federal student loan applications are processed each year.

A graduate student at Northwestern University, Laura McGann, 24, first reported the program in her project on national security and civil liberties earlier in the week. The documents on the program she re-

ceived per her Freedom of Information Act request were heavily redacted, she said.

David L. Warren, president of the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, criticized the Education Department's databases on grounds that agencies could abuse their data in cases such as the Strikeback program.

The Education Department is currently looking over a proposal for the creation of a national student database. This database would track each student to keep colleges accountable. The Commission on the Future of Higher Education first proposed the database last year.

FBI Database Holds Over 659 Million Records

WASHINGTON — THE WASHINGTON POST reported last week that the Federal Bureau of Investigation has a two-year-old database of over 659 million records. Top secret data is not held in the system, officials said.

The FBI revealed this system to reporters to assuage criticism of the agency's aging technology ahead of the fifth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks.

The system called the Investigative Data Warehouse includes records from across government agencies — such as the Treasury, State and Homeland Security departments and the Federal Bureau of Prisons, officials said. It was designed by Chiliad Inc. of Amherst, Mass.

The system allows investigators to access information faster than ever before. Agents can now search through 1,000 names and birth dates across

50 databases in up to 30 minutes. Before 2002, over 30,000 hours would have been needed to perform the same task.

While FBI officials say the system is legal, a privacy activist disagrees, noting that the Privacy Act requires it to be recorded in the Federal Register which it is not.

David Sobel, senior counsel of the Electronic Frontier Foundation, added that the agency's internal privacy check disregards the nature of privacy law.

Sobel called the database "the largest collection of personal data ever amassed by the federal government."

"When they develop the capability to cross-reference and data-mine all these previously separate sources of information, there are significant new privacy issues that need to be publicly debated," he said.

Internet Freedom Initiative Gains Four Senators

WASHINGTON — Four senators joined the effort to keep network neutrality the law of the land this past week as petitions swept through 25 cities damning telephone and cable companies' attempts to curb Internet freedom.

Sens. Mark Dayton (D-Minn.), Tom Harkin (D-Iowa), James Jeffords (I-Vt.), and Chuck Schumer (D-N.Y.) issued statements in support of net neutrality. Sen. Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) has already pledged his support in August.

"I will work with the two Senate sponsors to enact the Net Neutrality principles of equal access to the Internet into law this year," said Sen. Mark Dayton, referring to the Snowe-Dorgan pro-net neutrality bill.

This net neutrality legislation, if passed, would stop Internet service providers from discriminating against content based on its ownership.

Sponsored by the [SavetheInternet.com](http://www.savetheinternet.com) coalition, last week's petition drive was in response to the \$100 million lobbying and propaganda campaign by telecom companies to derail net neutrality.

In New York, supporters delivered over 50,000 petitions to Schumer's offices in New York City and Buffalo. In Detroit, outside Sen. Debbie Stabenow's office, David Pettit of the Public Interest Research Group in Michigan told the crowd:

"Powerful telephone company lobbyists will tell you one of two things — both of which, of course, are false. First, they will tell you that the Stevens bill already preserves Net Neutrality. This is completely not true. Second, they might say, 'Don't regulate the Internet. Let the market decide.' ... All we want to do is reinstate the Net Neutrality principles that guarantee that the Internet treats everyone fairly."

More petition delivery events were held at senators' offices in Baltimore; Boston; Eau Claire, Wis.; Fayetteville, Ark.; Milwaukee; Newark, N.J.; Portland, Maine; Providence, R.I.; and Seattle. Previous events were also held in Albuquerque and Santa Fe, N.M.

The Senate is expected to consider the House's telecom bill (HR 5252) in September. The bill, which fails to contain a net neutrality protection, was introduced by Sen. Ted Stevens (R-Alaska).

For more information, visit [Save the Internet's website](http://www.savetheinternet.com).

INFO
www.savetheinternet.com

G.I. RESISTANCE

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

FORT HOOD — Army Specialist Mark Wilkerson turned himself over to authorities at Fort Hood Thursday afternoon after being absent without leave (AWOL) for 19 months.

Spc. Wilkerson said he decided to end his run in order to encourage other soldiers to speak out against the war in Iraq and urge Americans to support veterans with medical conditions obtained in combat operations.

"So this message is for those of who are AWOL right now: you are not alone. Don't let anyone judge you for what you believe in," he said in a statement at Camp Casey III, the property in Crawford named after the late soldier-son of peace activist Cindy Sheehan. "And I say this to every member of our Congress and our senate, and even our president: Don't leave any soldier behind. Give them the help and support they need, because you sent them there."

The 22-year-old Colorado Springs, Colo. native said he enlisted prior to Sept. 11, 2001, and was in support of President George W. Bush's decision to invade Iraq. However, his experiences in Iraq led him to question his mission and soul-search. For moral reasons, he said he decided to go AWOL when his request for Conscientious Objector status was denied by the Army in late 2004.

AWOL War Resistor Returns To Fort Hood

"It was a complete life turn-around, which allowed me to come to the conclusion that military service was no longer the correct path for me to take," he said with nine supporters standing behind him wearing T-shirts that read "I Support IVAW." "I am not willing to kill, or be killed, or do anything else I consider morally wrong, for reasons I don't believe in, and now today, I am turning myself in to face the consequences of my actions."

Spc. Wilkerson's fate is still unclear. He could face jail time, a court-martial, or an administrative discharge for leaving the 720th Military Police Battalion in Iraq, where he served over a deployment from March 2003 to March 2004.

Outside the visitor's center at Fort Hood, Maj. Joe Edstrom, a public affairs officer at Fort Hood, told the press that Spc. Wilkerson would be processed back into his unit that afternoon "with all the same rights as a U.S. Army soldier under the uni

Continued On Next Page



WAR RESISTOR Spc. Mark Wilkerson (center, left) at Camp Casey III publicly admitted to going absent without leave for the last 19 months in a change of heart over the Iraq war. Since turning himself into authorities, Spc. Wilkerson's fate has yet to be determined by his chain of command stationed at Fort Hood as of deadline.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

G.I. RESISTANCE

From Previous Page

form code of military justice. "Anything other than that is just speculation at this point, since it is up to his chain of command as to what will take place after he is in process to his unit," Maj. Edstrom said.

When asked about his parents' thoughts about his decision, Spc. Wilkerson said, "Me, my parents, and some members of my family don't always see the same way politically, but they have supported me throughout this process."

"It means a lot to me that people have supported me and that there are people who have come before me in this same sort of fashion, and I just hope we can get through this so I can move on with my life," he added.

Nervous and scared about returning to the base where he served in basic training, Spc. Wilkerson was accompanied to the visitor's center by members of Iraq Veterans for Peace, Gold Star Families for Peace, Veterans for Peace, and CODEPINK, as well as members of the media.

"To those of you who don't know, there is a G.I. resistance to this war, and Mark is standing at the forefront of it, said Geoffrey Millard, a member of IVAW, at the Camp Casey press conference. "I know there is a G.I. resistance to this war because I'm part of it."

Millard, a former National Guard sergeant, said that he had "multiple un-excused absences" from his unit and refuses to be deployed as long as the United States continues "to have illegal and immoral wars around the world."

"I cannot put on a military uniform and serve this country because when I put on a military uniform and serve this country, I'm saying that it's okay for the Bush administration to continue what it's doing," he said.

Millard referred to soldiers that have gone AWOL as "living in exile," a life-style that includes the constant worry of getting caught at any time in any place. He encouraged those in the pro-peace movement to do more to support war resisters such as Spc. Wilkerson and



G.I. WAR RESISTORS WELCOME — Cindy Sheehan (center, standing) welcomes any current or future G.I. war resisters to Camp Casey III during a press conference for Spc. Mark Wilkerson (center, left) Thursday. Also on the panel were (from left) members of Iraq Veterans Against the War, Geoff Millard and Charlie Anderson; the Camp Casey President of Veterans for Peace Ann Wright, and Conscientious Objector Chas Davis.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

others who have fled to Canada. "We here at Camp Casey have decided that we are going to support war resisters," said Millard. "We have decided that we will give the support necessary to G.I. resisters because when we refused to fight the war is going to be over — no questions asked."

"This is what stops it. G.I.s saying, 'I'm not going to go,'" he continued. "Mark Wilkerson, Ehren Watada, Suzanne Swift — these are people that going to make sure that there are no more Cindy Sheehans, no more Bill Mitchells, no more Gold Star families, no more vets who get turned away from VA clinics for PTSD, no more suicides because there aren't going to be anymore vets when we refuse to go to the war."

Sheehan said she was honored that Wilkerson had chosen "to become a part of our Camp Casey family" prior to turning himself in, and she encouraged the authorities at Fort Hood to treat him professionally during the rest of his time there.

Sheehan defended Wilkerson by referring to President George W. Bush's time absent without leave in the Texas Air National Guard during the Vietnam War.

"I've heard people ask Mark, 'Why aren't you fulfilling your obligation to your country?'" George Bush never fulfilled his obligation during the Vietnam war," she said to a roar of applause. "And George Bush and Congress have abdicated their responsibility to their military by doing what they did to them in Iraq."

Other Gold Star Family members present were Juan Torres and Bill Mitchell.

Spc. Chas Davis of Alvin,

Texas, explained that he empathized with Wilkerson and the unknowns he now faces. It took Davis nine months — three months longer than the normal process — to be discharged as a conscientious objector in January 2005. He did so with help from the office of Rep. Ron Paul (R-TX).

"I can only imagine what (Mark) is going through right

now because I know when I was going through the process, it's like your whole life is up in the air. You don't know if you're going to be stuck where you're at, whether you're going to be sent to the desert, whether your going home," Davis said during the Camp Casey press conference. "What Mark is going through is that times 10 be

Continued On Next Page



CHARLIE ANDERSON, a member of Iraq Veterans Against the War and a retired hospital corpsman 2nd class 5th Marine force, spoke in support of Spc. Mark Wilkerson before the AWOL military police officer turned himself in to authorities at Fort Hood Thursday. Anderson suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder, a condition he acquired while serving two deployments in Iraq.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR Chas Davis of Alvin, Texas, spoke in support of Spc. Mark Wilkerson before the AWOL military police officer turned himself in to authorities at Fort Hood Thursday. Davis works with peace-out.com, an organization that advises those in the U.S. armed forces on conscientious objector obtainment.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

G.I. RESISTANCE

From Previous Page

cause it's not just not knowing where he's going to be, it's not knowing what they are going to do to him and what kind of punishment he's going to face.

"The fact that he has the gall to stand up in front of everybody right here now and publicly admit the way he feels and what he believes and the fact that he has been able to operate for 18 months, I don't think I've ever met a more courageous person in my life."

Davis said that because he had "an extremely liberal chain of command and a very helpful congressman," he was able to remove himself from his position in the military police. He noted that this process is set up to disfavor soldiers seeking CO status, where 90 percent of the applications are approved.

"All soldiers are patriots whether they are pro-war or anti-war. They are all someone who took an oath to defend everybody else in this country, but there are a few that take it that extra step, and they read into what their responsibilities are," Davis said. "In light of that, I see Mark as one of the truest patriots we could ever have in this country. Thomas Jefferson said it best, 'Dissent is the highest form of patriotism.'"

Ret. Col. Ann Wright, president of the Camp Casey Chapter of Veterans for Peace, said that she is very proud of Wilkerson for refusing to obey illegal orders.

She said that there have been more people in the U.S. military that have stood against the war in Iraq than public civil servants who, unlike people in the military, don't face jail time or court martial for expressing dissent.

At the same time, Col. Wright expressed compassion for those troops who continue to serve in the armed forces while knowing their orders break international laws as well as the U.S. Constitution. The focus instead, she said, should be on ousting the cause of the war — the Bush administration.

"To the Bush administration, we say, 'You must stop the war. You must stop the killing. You must take our military out of this illegal, immoral, war-crime war,'" she added.

Col. Wright is herself one of three federal employees who resigned in opposition to the United States' March 2003 invasion of Iraq. She served in the U.S. Army for 29 years. So far, 12 soldiers have been court-martialed over the Iraq war, and somewhere between 8,000 and

40,000 troops have gone AWOL during this time.

Charlie Anderson said he, too, had to make the hard decision whether or not to go AWOL like Wilkerson. In Anderson's case, he struggled before his second deployment less than a year after he returned from Iraq and suffered the consequences of his decision.

Anderson, a retired hospital corpsman 2nd class 5th Marine force, told the audience that instead of taking his own life, he decided at the last minute to honor his oath to defend the United States and its Constitution. As a result of his deployments to Iraq, he is now living with post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Anderson was quick to point out that while 30 percent of veterans are seeking mental health care, those specific veterans might not necessarily have PTSD or other psychological injuries.

Nor is PTSD a mental illness, Anderson said. "The anxiety disorders that are caused by combat are not mental illnesses. The nightmares, the flashbacks, all of that is not a mental illness. That is a psychological injury," he said. "That was something that was done to us, and that is something that we have to live with for the rest of our lives."

Anderson then praised Wilkerson, whom he called his "brother in arms," for taking the consequences of his own decision.

"In bearing true faith and allegiance to the Constitution, when we realize what we are doing is immoral and illegal and does not stand for what this country stands for and is in direct conflict with that oath, we have no choice but to stand up and say, 'I'm not going to do it. I'm not going to go, and I'm going to take the consequences that go with that,'" he said. "And that is what Mark is going today, and I'm very proud of him."

About 30 people were in attendance at the press conference at Camp Casey III. Some of them wore pink tape with the number 2,639 written on it, signifying the most recent U.S. troop death toll.

Keith Crunk, a neighbor of President George W. Bush, commented during the question period of the press conference that he wanted Wilkerson to keep the public aware of his on-going situation. Wilkerson's blog is (markwilkerson.wordpress.com).

Crunk, 76, told the ICONOCLAST that more Americans should support soldiers like Wilkerson.

"The tent should have been filled," said Crunk, a veteran of



I SUPPORT I VAW — These pro-peace activists at Camp Casey plus three more stood behind Spc. Mark Wilkerson in support of his decision to go absent without leave for 19 months over his change of heart over the war in Iraq. Spc. Wilkerson turned himself over to military authorities later Thursday afternoon.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

the Korean conflict. "Everyone should have heard what these young men had to say, and I have full sympathy for them, and I highly respect and admire them."

Media in attendance included Truthout.org, WACO TRIBUNE-HERALD, NBC 6, and the Associated Press. En route to Fort Hood, Wilkerson had a telephone interview with National Public Radio.

Later in the afternoon, the veterans from Camp Casey performed an action informing soldiers of their legal rights at Fort Hood. Thursday and Friday night, "Sir, No Sir!" was shown at a Howard Johnson hotel in Killeen. This documentary shows the history of G.I. resistance during the Vietnam War at Army bases such as Fort Hood.

For more information on the legal rights of enlisted soldiers, call the G.I. Rights Hotline. To donate to a defense fund for Spc. Wilkerson, visit the OIF-OEF website.

INFO
Hotline
1(800) 394-9544
OIF-OEF
www.oif-oef-assistance.org

Statement
by Mark Wilkerson,
Thursday August 31, 2006,
Camp Casey, Crawford, TX

First, I would like to thank you all for being here today. Today is a big day for me. I am turning myself in from being absent without leave, or AWOL, from

the military. I have been AWOL for a year and a half.

My name is Mark Wilkerson. My experience in the Army began in June 2002, shortly after my high school graduation. I enlisted prior to September 11, but I found a new resolve to join after that tragic day. I thought that somehow, through my upcoming military experience, I would be able to avenge those people that had been killed on that day. After basic training, I ended up in Ft. Hood, TX where in March 2003, I deployed to Iraq with the 720th Military Police Battalion. I was nervous and scared, but at that time I was supportive of my president's decision to go into Iraq, and I was optimistic about the good things that we could do there for the people of Iraq. I quickly learned that wasn't going to happen. There were many experiences that I had in Iraq that made me question my mission, and also made me change the way I viewed spirituality, relationships, our government, and my life in general. It was a complete life turn-around, which allowed me to come to the conclusion that military service was no longer the correct path for me to take. This revelation led me to apply as a Conscientious Objector, or C.O., immediately upon return from Iraq in March 2004.

The military states that a conscientious objector is a person who objects to participation in all forms of war, and whose belief is based on a religious, moral

or ethical belief system. I felt I met those requirements, though the military disagreed. I told myself I would never return to Iraq, but that I would make sure I was discharged in the right and legal way. I told myself I would never go AWOL. In July, while my C.O. paper was still being processed, my unit was told we were returning to Iraq in January 2005.

My C.O. claim was denied in November, so I applied for a rebuttal, and was told it wouldn't be considered until my return from Iraq, more than a year away. So I made the difficult decision to go AWOL, for political, spiritual, and personal reasons. I am not willing to kill, or be killed, or do anything else I consider morally wrong, for reasons I don't believe in, and now today, I am turning myself in to face the consequences of my actions.

I read a USA Today article that said that there are over 8,000 soldiers who have gone AWOL during the Iraq War. I think it would be naive to assume that all 8,000 went AWOL in direct protest to the Iraq War, but I'm sure that many of them did. So this message is for those of who are AWOL right now: you are not alone. Don't let anyone judge you for what you believe in.

As of August 27, there have been 2,628 U.S. soldiers killed in Iraq, on top of the over 19,000 wounded there. I honor and respect every soldier who has

Continued On Next Page

G.I. RESISTANCE

From Previous Page
made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. I honor them and their families. May the soldiers who have been killed remind each and every one of us that life is short, and life is fragile, and life must be respected. I also respect every soldier who makes the decision to enlist into the military, and to go to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, regardless of their personal opinions on war. Let me remind you all as well that there are many other soldiers who should not be forgotten either, and that's the large number who return from war with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, or PTSD, which is very hard to diagnose. And without treatment, many of these soldiers have a very difficult time adjusting to their normal lives. Many soldiers affected with this disorder, this injury, don't come forward to make a claim, for one reason or another. Again, I say to them: you are not alone. If you have a family member who is suffering, urge them to come forward and tell someone who can help. And I say this to every member of

our Congress and our senate, and even our president: Don't leave any soldier behind. Give them the help and support they need, because you sent them there.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped and supported me along this journey of the past year and a half. Family, friends, fellow veterans. When I left the army, I made what I felt was the right decision for me to make. I joined the military with honorable intentions, and I still feel honor in my heart. I love my country; I want no one to doubt that. I am unsure of what actions and punishments will be placed on me for my decision. I am scared, but I go with peace in my heart and hope for the future— not only my future, but the country's future as well. This is a difficult and scary time for our country, but hopefully in the end, peace will rule this great land. John F. Kennedy once said that war will exist until that distant day when the conscientious objector enjoys the same reputation and prestige that the warrior does today. I look forward to that day. There comes a



STANDING BEHIND MARK — Supporters of Spc. Mark Wilkerson stood behind him Thursday while he admitted to going absent without leave from the U.S. Army for 19 months.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

time in a person's life when they must do the right moral decision for themselves, doubtless of how popular that decision is in other's eyes, or what others feel about it. While I would not consider myself a very religious man, I do believe in the teachings of Jesus Christ. I would like to share two passages from the bible. The first - from Psalms Chapter 33, verse 5: Seek peace, and pursue it. The second from Matthew chapter 5, verse 9 - Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the sons of God. I believe that through my actions, I am doing my best to live by the values stated in those quotes. Thank You.

To read Mark's blog, visit (markwilkerson.wordpress.com)
A defense fund has been set up to help Mark and other resisters with legal counsel. Please go to (www.oif-oef-assistance.org) to donate. The OIF-OEF assistance fund in a 501(c)3 tax deductible fund.

For more information, visit these websites: (www.ivaw.net), (www.gsfp.org), (www.codepinkalert.org), (www.couragetoresist.org).

EMPLOYMENT

MARKETING POSITION — The Lone Star Iconoclast has an immediate opening for an advertising marketing representative. Tasks include calling on business clients, submitting advertising orders, and proofing advertising to be published. Openings are for representatives in California, New York, Illinois, Florida, and Texas. Send resume to The Iconoclast, P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634. Sales experience desired but not absolutely necessary.

w14ftn

Family Is Most Important. Be Home For Them Daily.

Positions Available for the Petroleum Products Delivery Drivers in the DFW and Waco Area.

\$1,000 Sign On Bonus

**Waco 1-800-782-5064
DFW 1-888-371-9107**

- Excellent Pay
- Paid Holidays
- 401K Retirement
- Great Benefits
- Paid Vacation
- Paid College Tuition for Children

Class A CDL License with X Endorsement and 1 Year recent driving experience necessary

www.coastaltransport.net



C & C Collision Center, LLC



• Truck
• Trailer
• Auto
Repair Specialists

"We Make Friends By Accident"

- Free Estimates at your place or ours
- Pick-up & delivery (if needed)
- PPG certified paint specialists
- Fiberglass specialist
- Expert frame straightening
- Computerized Comp-Est and Mitchell Estimating Software
- Eagle Spray-on Bed Liners
- 30 day billing for Approved Fleet Accounts
- DOT inspections for commercial trucks and trailers
- State inspections for automobiles
- Lifetime warranty
- E-mail updates regarding your vehicle (pictures included)

www.cccollision.com

**254-848-7008
1-888-345-1178
5849 N. State Hwy 6
(Speegleville Area) Waco**

WORKS HARD. RIDES SMOOTH. ACT FAST.



REBATES OF UP TO
\$500
(ON SELECT MODELS)

PLUS

\$99 MO.
AT 10.9% FIXED APR*

POLARIS
FACTORY AUTHORIZED
CLEARANCE

LAKE WHITNEY POLARIS

211 S. Hwy. 22, Whitney, TX • (254) 694-2655

*Offer is good at participating Polaris® dealers through September 30, 2006, on select models and subject to product availability. Rebates are not available on all models and models vary by mass. See participating Polaris dealers for complete program details and eligible models. On approved Polaris StarCard® qualified consumer purchases. 10.9% APR and \$99 for purchases up to \$9,000 or \$129 for purchases of \$9,001 to \$15,000 or \$159 for purchases of \$15,001 to \$16,000. Payments may increase due to debt-cancellation fees or any late fees. Standard Rate 17.9% APR. For Accounts not kept current, the promotion is canceled and the Default Rate 21.9% APR and Standard Minimum Monthly Payments apply. Minimum Finance Charge: \$1. Certain rules apply to the allocation of payments and Finance Charges on your promotional purchase if you make more than one purchase on your Polaris StarCard. Call 1-888-345-4200 or review your Cardholder Agreement for information. The Polaris RANGER general-purpose off-road utility vehicle is not intended for and may not be registered for on-road use. ©2006 Polaris Sales Inc.

The Lone Star
ICONOCLAST
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To the Editor:

The tragedy of 9/11 did not happen without warning. Early in 2001 the Bush administration was warned by Clinton officials on at least three occasions of the grave threat al Qaeda and Osama bin Laden posed to America. Counterterrorism head Richard Clarke offered a plan to defend us against al Qaeda.

The Hart-Rudman report warned that we were unprepared for the growing "mass-casualty terrorism" threat to the U.S. It urged the formation of a "Homeland Security Agency" to protect us by coordinating intelligence, an agency Bush failed to create until after 9/11. German intelligence warned Bush that Middle Eastern terrorists were planning to hijack aircraft and use them to attack "American... symbols which stand out". In June CIA director George Tenet warned, "It is highly likely that a significant al Qaeda attack is in the near future, within several weeks." But Bush did virtually nothing.

On Aug. 6, shortly after Bush began a month long vacation, the CIA delivered a report to him entitled "Bin Laden Determined to Strike in U.S." Bush's response was to tell the CIA briefer, "you've covered your" butt, and he continued his vacation without following up on the report. George Tenet later wrote, "the system was blinking red." But the 9/11 Commission, which Bush did not want to create, found no evidence that Bush discussed the threat of terrorist attack again until after we were hit.

We'll never know if Bush could have prevented 9/11. We only know he did little to try.

Sincerely,

Doug Long, Rio Rancho, NM

Letter to the editor:

With the American electorate so totally disgusted with George W. Bush's incompetent leadership on matters both at home and abroad, and maybe even from outer space, Carl Rove's new propaganda tactic seems to be: hey, this administration and Republican Congress has screwed things up so badly that you don't dare turn the mess over to anyone else.

By the way, is the Bush manned mission to Mars back yet and will the Martians also benefit from Bush's Social Security reform, his reconstructive improvements in New Orleans and Bagdad, the mission accomplished, and ... ah?

Hey, so the guy has had a bit of bad luck. But as President Harry Truman once asked the American people: "How many times do you have to get hit on the head with a hammer before you ask who is hitting you?"

It is time to give Bush and the boys in the backroom the answer.

Sam Osborne, West Branch, IA
 Letter to Editor:

Another un-controlled fire season is upon us bringing terrible destruction and loss of life, with fire officials AGAIN expected to continue restricting the ONLY effective tool against uncontrolled wildfires. Namely the 747, DC-10 (now in limited use), & Ilyushin-76 Super Tanker type aircraft (see: Evergreen Supertanker (on internet) that corrupt government aviation and firefighting officials have restricted from service since 1995!

Meanwhile, as usual, we're forced to endure untold lost lives and destruction in these fires across our country while self-serving government fire and aviation officials drag their feet and protect their fat paychecks, pensions, and vested interests built on the carnage of American citizens by what morally amounts to criminal malfeasance and mass murder.

A 747 pilot told me a Supertanker can control massive wildfires in ONE day when used. We must investigate and prosecute these officials at the top of the FAA, Forest Service, and state and county fire agencies, who obviously care nothing about human life and suffering, for deliberately protecting their vested interest in error for a decade by facilitating massive death and destruction by restricting the Supertankers, and meanwhile demand the Boeing 747 (or any) Supertanker aircraft be used to save lives NOW!

Supertankers mean the END of uncontrolled wildfires in America!

Sincerely,

Ed Nemechek, Landers, Ca.



BILLIONAIRES FOR BUSH, a guerrilla theatre action mocking corporatists, was staged near the Bush ranch last Saturday afternoon.

— Photo By Rick Hamlin

Camp Casey III Moves To Washington On High Note

BY NATHAN DIEBENOW
 ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — What started on a down note in early August ended with up-beat reggae music last Saturday afternoon.

Over 100 people attended a rally at Camp Casey III to celebrate the burgeoning community created by a mother who just wanted to talk to her president about the noble cause for which her son died in the Iraq war.

"I really didn't have any goals," said Gold Star parent Cindy Sheehan, "but you know, I've been in and out of the hospital practically the entire month. Then when I wasn't in the hospital, I was recovering from being in the hospital."

Sheehan returned to Crawford in July to purchase five-acres of property she dubbed Camp Casey III after her late son, Casey. From there, she intended to continue the vigil she started in a road-side ditch near there last year, but she was instead whisked to an emergency room in Waco upon her arrival on Aug. 6.

Since her treatment for exhaustion and her hysterectomy surgery, she has cancelled most of the dates in her fall calendar in order to make a full recovery.

During much of Saturday afternoon, however, Sheehan sat in a canvas chair relaxing in front of an industrial-sized fan and listening to songs, speeches, and slam poetry with her friends, family, and supporters — and the occasional reporter.

While the mainstream media



ATUN REGGAE AND JAZZ BAND performed at the closing rally at Camp Casey III on Saturday. The band from Dallas consisted of (from left) David Willingham, Young Heo, John Kohathuth, and Dave Buris.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

noted that turn-out for this year's vigil was incredibly lower than last year, dozens of panels, teach-ins, counter-recruitment actions, and workshops were accomplished around Central Texas without the "peace mom" present. Supporters from as far away as France and Italy spent time sharing their knowledge and resources with other activists as well.

Late Saturday morning, for instance, two teach-ins were performed, one led by Richard Bowden of Austin's Instruments for Peace and another with State Rep. Lon Burnam.

By early afternoon, about 40 activists had finished their 30-

minute guerrilla theatre action known as "Billionaires for Bush." The action itself consisted of activists portraying "pro-war demonstrators" that attempted to win over anti-war protestors at a check point near the Bush ranch. At one point, two actors dressed as President George W. Bush and his wife, Laura, were turned away from crossing over the check point. As entire group left the scene, real police officers showed up. No one was arrested.

"(Vice President Dick) Cheney did forget his little bird shot, which I guess made us all safer," said actress Amy Marschak of Boulder.

Continued On Next Page

Style Station

Vintage Clothing
 17265 NIH 35, West, Texas 76691
 between exits 347 and 349
 254-829-0047
 ART and REBECCA DE VITALIS
 PEACE T-SHIRTS

Camp Casey Moves To Washington

From Previous Page

Colo., jokingly referring to a "Billionaires for Bush" skit performed the previous night at the camp.

Another participant in the "Billionaires for Bush" action, Midge Potts, gave a glowing review of Camp Casey III. She called her time a "vacation" after her campaign to unseat the House Majority Whip Roy Blunt failed.

"It's been great. From the get-go, I saw a lot of miracles happen here, and most everybody I met here are incredible people with a lot of energy, passion, and compassion," said the self-described progressive Republican from Springfield, Mo. "This is not just a protest here. We're building a community here."

"Community building" was a phrase frequently used here during the month of August. For Lisa Lietz, a graduate student whose husband is an F-18 pilot in the Navy, it was a place where veter-

ans, their families, and Gold Star parents could relax together in a

common community and also work toward a common goal — to stop the Iraq war.

"Camp Casey is bigger than just Cindy Sheehan. It's bigger than Casey himself. It really is

just about a place for peace activists to gather where we want to from here go out and do other kinds of things," she said. "Before it was just staying at the ditch protesting Bush, but this time, he's not here, so we get to go some other

things (such as distribute literature on the G.I. Rights Hotline at Fort Hood)."

This experience has also helped Lietz gather information for her doctoral dissertation in sociology
Continued On Page 11



LIVE AUCTION — A live auction was held at Camp Casey III to pay for the \$20,000 it took to make the month-long vigil a reality. Richard and Camp Casey's poet laureate Rick Hamlin (from left) aided the auction.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



MUELLER, INC.

STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS & COMPONENTS

*Now Stocking Material for Customer Pickup
Call For Availability — Delivery Available*

Waco: 800-525-3814
Mark Noland (ext. 5426) - Roland Hicks (ext. 5427)
5591 N. Hwy. 6, Waco • 254-848-2560 • Fax: 254-848-9997
www.muellerinc.com

Services



Karen's Embroidery

Karen Castillo
Owner

102 FM 708
Clifton, TX 76634

Phone: (254)675-8930
Fax: (254)675-8495
karensdigitizing@htcomp.net
www.karensdigitizing.com

J Bar Truck Accessories

Authorized dealer for Diamond B
Frontier and Ranch Hand

Grill Guards Tool Boxes Bumpers

Justin Slone (254) 471-5718
Evant, Texas (254) 258-2822

New Mac's Construction
Remodeling Contractor

James McDaniel
owner

Residential & Commercial
Remodeling

Portable Buildings - Wood or Metal
Foundation Work and
All Flooring Needs

Cell: 254-784-1204
Office: 254-386-0099
Supervisor: 254-784-0949

"NEVER PAINT AGAIN"

NORANDEX/REYNOLDS

FARM & HOME BUILDERS

Vinyl Siding & Window Specialists
ED PETTIT, Owner/Operator
www.farmandhomebuilders.com

206 Hickory (254) 796-4507
Hico, TX 76457 TOLL FREE 866-219-1923

Texas "Ranch" Improvements

LAND OWNERS

Are young Cedar Trees taking over
your Pastures or Deer Leases?

- Cedar Tree Grubing - Young trees: removes tree & "root"
- Cedar Tree Shearing - Ground level
- Mesquite Field Shredding
- Oak Tree Undergrowth Removal
- Oak Tree Removal
- Mesquite Tree Shearing
- Welding

Les Ratliff • (254) 675-6776 794 FM 1991, Clifton

INFOSUPERSTORE

geocities.com/horsewoman102/infosuperstore.html

Quit Smoking Without Patches or Pills!
Save BIG \$ On Your Disney/Orlando Vacation!
Keep Your "Long-Distance" Romance Alive!
2500+ Native American Names & Meanings!
Legally Fight/Beat Speeding Tickets!
Download Unlimited PSP games!
Make Your Own Cooling Vest!
Many More Topics!
NEW/VALUABLE INFO ADDED WEEKLY!

Truck Repair

A/C • Clutches • Engines
Transmission • Repair
Some Mobile Work Done

Call Justin at (254) 945-3618 or 749-8834

Wrecker Service 24 Hr. Full Service Glass Work Service by Lynx Foreign & Domestic

Bill's Body Shop

REPAIR FACILITY ALWAYS OWNER'S CHOICE
Brewco Frame Machine & Measuring System

Highway 6 in Valley Mills, TX phone: (254) 932-6536
fax: (254) 932-6588
cell: (254) 709-2235

Leon's
FLOOR COVERING

Carpet & Vinyl
Formica Cabinet Tops
Wallpaper
Eureka Vacuum Cleaners
and Service

QUALITY MATERIAL SOLD AND INSTALLED WITH PRIDE
302 West 5th Clifton, Texas FREE ESTIMATES Phone 675-8686
Mike & Kim Prescher Home 675-8291

The Other 'War On _____' — That Cannot Be Won

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "A man can make about as much enforcin' the law as breakin' it."

It would be easier to rewrite the U.S. Constitution than stop the war on drugs.

Richard Nixon first declared war on drugs.

Next day, the war was over.

Drugs won.

First, let's examine the whole concept of taking drugs, from heroin to penicillin.

We're not going to stop.

At least we never have.

Shortly after man discovered fire, he put a distillery on top of it.

Then we threw some funny-smelling plants on it, and we got all warm inside and out.

Which is a real deal during an ice age.

We take drugs for only one reason.

They make us feel better.

So the whole notion that we can convince people not to take drugs is just pretty stupid.

As stupid as Nancy Reagan, even.

Astrology makes more sense.

Through our propaganda campaigns, we might be able reduce the numbers of people who take some drugs, but it's doubtful.

More likely, such efforts merely reduce the number of people who admit to pollsters that they take drugs.

But let's assume that the posterizing and proselytizing against some drugs does work.

It works, at best, only a little while, for a generation or so at the most.

The drug that was so evil in grandfather's day crept back into your kids' popularity spectrum while we shifted attention to the threats of our youth.

It's like the gopher machine at the arcade.

You succeed in bopping marijuana, heroin pops up. Cocaine? There comes speed.

There are just too many holes.

But even if we could convince people to stop doing dope, the war on drugs cannot be dismantled.

It's as plain as the pistol in your pocketbook.

Money and power.

Almost every aspect of our economy depends on it.

Seventy percent or more of our law enforcement budget is generated by drug laws.

Consider the effect of 70 percent of police officers, judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, public defenders, prison employees and the industries that provide them with equipment and infrastructure suddenly out

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



of work. (Let's face it, about the only thing you can convert a prison to is . . . well, Alcatraz.)

It figures heavily into politics; the U.S. State, Health and Human Services, Justice and Defense Department all need the drug war to maintain the current status quo.

And bureaucracy WILL maintain the current status quo.

Drug funding reinforces the military and political infrastructure of our paid allies around the globe.

Afghanistan was bought and with the promise to re-open the opium trade that the Taliban shut down. (The 21st Century equivalent of making the trains run on time.) Colombia's pro-U.S. government would have collapsed two decades ago without the money from the DEA and the American entertainment industry. Imagine the chaos if the drug trade did not funnel so many U.S. dollars into the Mexican economy on both sides of the equation.

The U.S. military, meanwhile, has its fiefdom enriched by drug interdiction, just like State and Justice.

And what would happen to all those federal and state prevention and treatment programs without drug abuses to prevent and treat?

Every domestic department from education to public health has its bread in all that hot gravy.

What would all those people do if we plugged up a nipple on the federal teat?

What bureaucrat is going to stand quietly while any politician threatens size or funding for his department?

The only people who could stop the drug war abuse are those who benefit from it most.

Finally, at the root of the U.S. drug problem is the advertising and drug industries themselves.

Why do we have a drug problem?

We like drugs.

We sell them by the ton, and we urge each other to take more.

Turn on your TEEVEE and count the number of times per hour that you are told to consult your physician about getting high, have a beer, relieve the congestion of coughs or colds, dope up your teething toddler or crank up the caffeine!

Our whole culture has become based on external stimu-

lus.

Eat me, drink me, BUY me!

Side effects may include headache, nausea, confusion concerning which products to purchase to relieve headaches and nausea, vapid intellectual growth, ethical decline and cultural corrosion.

Even when a ruthless, un-

seen enemy supposedly attacked us, what was the solution offered by the leader of the free world?

Go shopping!

Buy some stuff that will make us all feel better.

Heroin, cocaine and marijuana are just natural by-products of antihistamines, beer and

new Fords.

The drug problem isn't going away.

We've got too much invested in it.

And it's good for you.

So kick back!

Pour yourself a cold Coors light, light up a Lucky and rub on the Preparation H.



9/11: The Sequels

The Bush administration has a nasty habit of playing with numbers.

And we expect a continuation of "stay the course" yet again on the fifth anniversary of 9/11.

President George W. Bush and his posse will probably point out that 3,000 Americans died as a result of the World Trade Center towers collapsing, which is undoubtedly true.

However, what will fail to be said is that the United States has already experienced several more sequels to Sept. 11, 2001, that were allowed to happen under the Bush administration.

So far, a little under 3,000 U.S. troops have died as a result of these illegal operations in Iraq. This figure doesn't include the tens of thousands of American G.I.s injured both physically and mentally in the subsequent occupation.

And let's not forget the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens dead and/or injured because Bush refuses to withdraw our troops from their homeland.

Unfortunately, the sequels keep getting worse.

Now, Bush has taken personal responsibility for the lack of federal response to Hurri-

cane Katrina, a disaster that took the lives of roughly 15,000 elderly, disabled, and poor people from the City of New Orleans alone!

Still, the administration has spent more time window dressing the Gulf Coast than allocating dollars to actually reconstruct it with consultation of its noble residents.

As a result of this national tragedy, over a half a million people — most of them African Americans — have been disbursed around the country with no federal nor state financial incentives to return home.

What's so disturbing is that the Bush administration knew about the threat of terrorism ahead of time, just as it knew about the threat of nature — not to mention its doctoring of environmental reports on the global warming crisis! And the administration's response has only served to endanger this country more.

Yes, we can blame Bush and Company, but many of us have let ourselves get mesmerized by their lies and seceded our responsibility as citizens.

We can undo the spell this fall.

For starters, let's remember that America stands for better ideas and values like truth and justice.

— Nathan Diebenow

Be Discovered

Call (254) 675-3634 Today



With An Advertisement In
The Internationally Renowned.....



www.lonestaricon.com

RED ALERT: 9/11/06

(Chicago, Detroit & Houston)

Four-Square Analysis: The Who and Why

BY CAPTAIN ERIC MAY
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Almost five years after the first 9/11, all America is divided into three equal parts, and all of them have strong beliefs:

A third says it just doesn't trust this government, citing Iraq or Katrina as the main reasons why. They want to get out of the war in Iraq and stay out of the war with Iran.

A third says it simply hates this government, and wants to remove it for ordering or allowing 9/11 five years ago to take us to war in the Middle East. They say the media covered up 9/11 and is setting up the second, follow-up 9/11, so they use the Internet to get around the media, and the media calls them conspiracy theorists.

A third says it supports the government, which is run by the Neocon Republicans, and who now say that the only way to win the global war is to start a world war. Almost five years after 9/11, their war has been an utter failure, and they are fighting mad about it. In recent days they have threatened consequences for their foreign and domestic enemies, calling the one group fascists and the other appeasers. The joke in Washington now is that they'll need Osama Bin Laden to save the Republican Congress on the 11/7 elections, or to save their president from impeachment afterwards.

The Neocons wrote their "Project for a New American Century" world domination plan in 2000, stating in it that the U.S. would be difficult to lead to war without "some catastrophic and catalyzing event — like a new Pearl Harbor." 9/11 was just the kind of thing they'd wanted, and on the night of 9/11, their president wrote in his diary that "the Pearl Harbor of the 21st Century took place today," and the next day they began their war plans.

They have used the threat of Al Qaeda in the last two elections, but the threats aren't budging falling poll numbers any more. Only a second 9/11 might reverse this slide, and energize the public — like another new Pearl Harbor. If it were to happen, they could lead the nation to a second war, this time with Iran instead of Iraq; they could shut up appeasers at home; and if necessary they could arrest, confine and prosecute the conspiracy theorists who think that the government had anything to do with either the first or the second 9/11.

The media has spent five years saying that a sec-

ond 9/11 is inevitable, and all this summer they've said that homegrown terrorists in Canada, Florida and the UK are planning to blow us up in our buildings, airplanes and tunnels. Last week they said Homeland Security was setting up terror exercises in major Midwestern cities around 9/11/06, to protect us. The conspiracy theorists don't feel protected, though, since they have learned that on 9/11/01 the U.S. government was holding exercises to protect us from the very attacks that happened to us, and on 7/7/05 the UK government was holding exercises to protect their citizens from the very attacks that happened to them. To conspiracy theorists, it's clear that the terror exercises were setting up the terror events.



Captain Eric May

Three Targets and Times: The Where and When

CHICAGO, 9/7/06: Chicago has major terror exercises on 9/7, four days before 9/11/06. Recently the CHICAGO SUN-TIMES carried the story "Daley: Loop evacuation drill to be spontaneous" — <http://www.suntimes.com/output/news/evac28.html>. The media says that Al Qaeda once wanted to destroy the Sears Tower ago on 9/11/01, and once Al Qaeda has chosen a target, they're sure to strike it sooner or later. Just this spring media said that Al Qaeda was casing the Sear Tower, and just this summer they said that a Florida Al Qaeda cell was planning to blow it up. Citizens of the Windy City were terrified during the strange 7/11 train derailment in one of their underground tunnels. When it happened everyone on the train immediately thought of the London 7/7 train bombings of just over a year before — and of the Bombay 7/11 train bombings of that very day. They believed their city was the next terror target, and they may still be right.

DETROIT, 9/9/06: Detroit has major terror exercises on 9/9, the two days before 9/11/06. THE WINDSOR STAR recently carried the story "Detroit on guard for huge disaster" — <http://www.canada.com/windsorstar/news/story.html?id=958eb806-ba02-4908-ad17-a5e2e9dd91de&k=65105>. The Motor City is quite close to the Canadian border, where media said a Canadian homegrown terror was plotting, and who would be surprised if they crossed the border to do something in Michigan? The exercises are reacting to tunnel attacks, and recent exercises have practiced falling buildings like the Twin Towers or

GUEST COMMENTARY

Sears Tower.

HOUSTON, 9/11/06: This summer Houston media has said that Al Qaeda is a strong local threat, and would like to blow up area refineries, which are abundant around the Bayou City. The Houston media has kept a tight lid on a series of major, market-rocking explosions in the Texas City British Petroleum and Beaumont Exxon Mobil refineries, all of which I predicted and published weeks in advance. I covered the subject in my 7/17/06 Lone Star Iconoclast commentary, "9/11, 7/11, 3/11 Terror Dates — Is there an embedded code, and can we use it to save ourselves? — <http://www.lonestaricon.com/absolutenm/anmviewer.asp?a=318&z=44>". If there is a petro-9/11 the biggest city of the Bush home state, look for Big Oil to make a killing on price changes — and for that reason keep a close eye on them and their refineries.

A Pair of Points: The What and How

We Americans want our liberty back, especially our liberty from state terror, but we must pay for it with simple and sensible efforts to behave like a free people. In the 19th Century the American Wendell Phillips wrote "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." I urge every American to buy back their liberty due vigilance, especially from now to the 11/7 elections. We must speak, write and act freely, even if it is an unwelcome duty from which too many have hitherto hidden. As a lifelong military man, I swore an oath in 1977 to defend my country and its constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Writing and posting this commentary is my way of that duty, that I still carry in my middle years, even if it means they may be my last years.

It is worthwhile to oppose the tyranny of our times because it's clear — at least to me — that we shall regain our balance. Five years ago we lost it badly when we were shoved into a quicksand war from behind, then told that the people the Neocons wanted us to attack had done the shoving. It was all a lie. Our true enemies are apparent now, and becoming more apparent with each passing day. The once-powerful Neocons are but a poor copy of the real Nazis who proclaimed and pursued a Thousand Year Reich. Their war plan has failed, their New American Century, which was the proclamation and pursuit of their Republican Reich.

###

Captain Eric H. May is the founder and commander of Ghost Troop, the 300-strong 911 Truth Movement's cyber-cavalry unit, made up of military and police veterans, along with citizen researchers and activists. His most recent interview and Iconoclast articles are available via Visibility 9-11 at http://visibility911.libsyn.com/index.php?post_id=123423.

Camp Casey Moves To Washington

From Page 9

on the involvement of the military community in the anti-Iraq war movement.

Johnny Wolf, co-founder and owner of the Crawford Peace House, told the ICONOCLAST that for him, the biggest difference from Sheehan's last vigil here was the building of the infrastructure on her property.

"This is a miracle here in just a month's time," said Wolf. "There's just been so much work to do thinking on a permanent level."

On her three previous visits to Crawford, the Crawford Peace House had provided the logistics and served as a support base. This time, things changed a bit, Wolf said, when he found out in May that

Sheehan's non-profit group, Gold Star Families for Peace, was soliciting funds for another vigil.

"I didn't feel like it was ethical to do that any more, and so I contacted Cindy and asked if everyone focusing on Camp Casey could focus on making it its own entity, so that it could raise it's own funds for its own infrastructure," he said.

Wolf said that keeping the Peace House's identity separate from Camp Casey III's was important in order to provide platforms for other areas of the peace movement, such as the Darfur crisis in Africa and the Israeli/Palestinian war.

"I think we don't want to get lost in the fold," he said. "Camp Casey has a

lot of incredible people coming all over the country to be here, and the Peace House is more about supporting people coming here than so much generating our own message.

"We're all about feeding people. No matter who comes in, that's part of who we are."

Due to Sheehan's vigil last August, the Peace House has enough funds to operate through the rest of the Bush administration, he added.

For the next few months, Wolf said the Peace House's volunteers would be taking a rest, updating its own database and property, recruiting more volunteers, and being more proactive on bringing retreats and classes on "being peace" to the area.

"It's one thing to come here to protest, but we're organizations that are doing work that are actu-

ally tangibly helping people," he said. "We don't like to be intellectual. We'd like to be a part of helping good people that are doing things.

"It's time for more people to join in and help with what they can do to cross the line into activism, but also about being better peacemakers so we don't have wars in Iran and other places around the world."

Sheehan said that she appreciated the work the Peace House has given Camp Casey III, including a new permanent kitchen to be constructed along with dorms this fall.

"I could have never done this without the Crawford Peace House," she said. "Well, I probably would have been doing it because I didn't know there was a Crawford Peace House before I came last August, but their help has been so invaluable. Johnny, Hadi, and Kay — they'll be life-long

friends of mine."

Sheehan still intends to mobilize Camp Casey every time her new neighbor President Bush returns to his vacation ranch; however, she expects to come back more frequently to oversee the construction of the property.

In the meantime, Camp Casey III will be open to U.S. soldiers from Fort Hood and abroad to gather information on their legal military rights, relax in their off-time, and/or seek refuge from deployment to war-zones.

Coming up is Camp Democracy, a 17-day event filled with workshops on election reform, labor rights, environmental sanity, and governmental accountability. It runs from Sept. 5 to Sept. 21 in and around the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Dixiecrats Court Texas In 1948 Presidential Election

Two weeks after accepting the Dixiecrat nomination for president, Strom Thurmond spent Aug. 25, 1948, politicking across the Lone Star State.

That the governor of South Carolina was seen as a serious candidate reflected the unprecedented unpopularity of the in-

cumbent. With the Democratic Party split into three warring camps, how could Harry Truman hope to defeat Republican Thomas Dewey?

Left-wing critics already had turned on the president and formed the Progressive Party to wreck his reelection.

Their standard bearer was Henry A. Wallace, who resigned as commerce secretary in 1946 in protest of the new cold-war policy toward the Soviet Union.

President Truman then alienated Deep South Democrats by sending to congress

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



a civil rights bill that posed the greatest threat to racial segregation since Reconstruction. Then the controversial plan was incorporated into the party platform, the entire Mississippi delegation stormed out of the national convention followed by half of the Alabama contingent.

Defiant dissidents from all corners of the old Confederacy as well as California, Maryland, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Kentucky met the next weekend in Birmingham, Alabama. The most influential Texan in attendance was Longview judge Merritt Gibson, who was chosen chairman of the executive committee.

To Strom Thurmond, 45-year-old first-term governor of South Carolina, went the dubious honor of leading the uphill charge. Fellow governor Fielding Wright of Mississippi agreed to be his running mate.

The States' Rights Democrats had no intention of repeating the mistakes of third parties of the past. Their goal was to get Thurmond and Wright on the ballot in every southern state as the official candidates of the Democratic Party and thereby force Truman to run as an independent.

The Dixiecrats' backdoor strategy was based on a southern sweep that denied Truman and Dewey a majority in the electoral college. Thurmond would eventually emerge as the only acceptable alternative, when the members of the deadlocked House of Representatives refused to surrender the White House to their party rivals.

Three weeks after the Birmingham meeting, the Dixiecrats reconvened in Houston for a rowdy campaign kickoff. Ten thousand zealots waved Confederate flags and chanted, "Wallace, Truman and Dewey. Phooey!"

In his introduction of the presidential nominee, the rally chairman linked Thurmond with two immortals from Texas history. "He is from Edgefield, South Carolina. You will be happy to know that from Edgefield also came William Barrett Travis and James Bonham to die in the Alamo!"

Thurmond tried in his acceptance speech, as he did throughout the campaign, to play down the race issue by focusing on the

danger of an all-powerful central government. He accused his three opponents of wanting to give the United States "the new Russia look" by transforming the nation into "a federal police state such as Stalinist Russia, Hitler's Germany, and Mussolini's Italy."

To the dismay of the Dixiecrats, party leaders in only four states went along with banning Truman from the ballot. Except for South Carolina, Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana, it was Thurmond who wound up the outsider.

In spite of significant support for the Dixiecrat ticket among rank-and-file Democrats, Texas was never in doubt. Speaker Sam Rayburn, Sen. Tom Connally, and Gov. Beauford Jester held the line for the embattled president.

Meanwhile, Truman essentially wrote off the South and concentrated on the North and West. He did not, however, neglect Texas, the sole southern state where the feisty underdog put in more than a token appearance.

Thurmond closed his campaign with a frantic three-day blitz of the Lone Star State. He spoke at Fort Worth, Austin, and San Antonio before going home to vote on Nov. 2, 1948.

But the Dixiecrat's last-minute electioneering was a waste of time and money. He netted a disappointing nine percent at the polls and failed to carry a single county, while Truman attracted two-thirds of the Texas turnout on his way to the political comeback of the century.

Even though the third-party also-rans, separated by just 13,000 votes nationwide, siphoned off enough support to hold Truman below 50 percent, 28 states, and 303 electoral college votes were enough for his outright reelection. However, if Dewey had won extremely close contests in Illinois and Ohio, the House would have picked the winner.

Contrary to the dire predictions of the day, Strom Thurmond did not fade into political obscurity although he did eventually switch parties. Elected to the U.S. Senate in 1954, he served a record 48 years before finally stepping down at age 100.

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

Drought, Mesquite, and the Bible

My faith is restored. Some of us have been feeling a bit biblical lately, sort of like Job, although he had it a whole lot worse. And skipping around in the Old Testament, I was (not so jokingly) comparing recent events here in Central Texas to the 10 plagues as described in the Book of Exodus (or at least those I remember). Although we haven't had locusts, we've certainly had grasshoppers large enough to saddle up and ride. We've had all manner of insect pests. It seems they each have their season. We battled crickets and flies for a while, then mosquitoes, and ants at all times.

The river hasn't run with blood, but it did stop running over the dam on Riverside Drive completely, certainly not good. We've had a few frogs, but nothing out of the ordinary. In fact, the dry weather brings out more lizards. Vigorous growth of mesquite wasn't in the Bible, but as far as plagues go, it could have been. And we definitely have a drought.

Luckily for some of us who have had almost none for months and months, there was a little rain the other day. I guess I can put my worries aside for now about sliding into some sort of Biblical Apocalypse. We've also had a break from the intense heat, and everyone is grateful. I can hear the animals (human, domestic and barnyard) breathing a sigh of relief.

The little bit of rain some folks received won't do much good as far as the feeding of animals for the next year or so. Since everything has burned up (other than mesquite), there's nothing for livestock to eat. And this is only August. The small stores of hay we had produced for the winter are being fed already to starving animals. Herds will have to be sold off or sold down (again). The cattle go out each day to graze, and for the life of me, I can't see what they find to eat, other than mesquite beans. So we have dug into our pockets and bought them molasses and grudgingly given

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.

them the hay we were saving for November.

Because mesquite (with its deep, ground-sucking, water depleting tap root) seems to thrive when everything else is drying up and dying, these plants are producing beans like crazy. The worse conditions are, the stronger becomes the plant's survival mechanism. The worse everything else does, the better mesquite grows. We had several acres of the stuff bulldozed last spring. What was flat ground in May is now peppered with hundreds of mesquite trees two to three feet high. It has grown this large (in a drought) in less than four months. Wherever there was a root left in the ground, one or more trees have sprouted. And as I mentioned in a previous column, this is "mad mesquite," coming up thickly from an obviously still intact root system. So much for the efficacy of bulldozing.

Mesquite is a wonder of nature that I've had to question, like the mosquito, wasp, avocado, and mango seed, or the design of the pomegranate. I'm sure there must have been some divine plan in mind when these evolved. I know there are obscure plants somewhere that depend for their very existence on pollination by some noxious wasp or pesky, disease-carrying mosquito. (—Still haven't figured out the purpose of those big seeds, proportionately too large for the surrounding flesh of the fruit, or in the case of the pomegranate, just too many. But still, who ever said the fruit of the earth was required to be user friendly to humans and animals? It just would have been a nice gesture, that's all).

So hungry cows are devouring the mesquite beans all over Central Texas and other areas that have been hit with both

mesquite proliferation and drought, a nasty one-two punch. And in yet another confounding quirk of nature, the beans not only survive the digestive system of the cow but also seem to germinate better having gone through it. After processing out the business end of the animal, the seeds sprout happily in the droppings. Ain't nature grand? Sometimes it just sort of makes you want to give up.

Even I have to admit that this is astonishing, even miraculous, if exceedingly troublesome. In times of drought, mesquite seems to reproduce geometrically. The drier conditions are, the better mesquite grows, so adept is it at ensuring it's own survival under stress. The less there is of normal grazing, the more the cows consume mesquite beans. The more they cows eat the mesquite beans, the more mesquite trees will come up this spring in my pastures. It's a vicious cycle.

One thing is for certain. I won't have any extra time on my hands for the next several decades. I'll be spraying mesquite. As the *Calvin* cartoon quips, "God put me on this earth to accomplish a certain number of things. . . . At the rate I'm going, I'll never die". I don't expect earthy responsibilities to ensure immortality. But as long as mesquite is around, I'll certainly never, ever be bored (or wealthy, with the price of Remedy herbicide and diesel gasoline being what they are). And I suppose a busy life can be a blessing in itself. So you see, there's always that silver lining if you can just dig around and find it —and then convince (brainwash) yourself of certain points. — Thing is that I had a few other projects in mind for my spare time as I grow older that had nothing to do with eradication of mesquite.

It has been said (by many much wiser than I) that happiness results not from receiving all one wants but from being grateful for and happy with what one has.

Taking Time For A Moment Of Pause

As a columnist, I feel each reader is part of an extended family. Most of the time we get together to share a laugh and point fingers at what life and the world brings. Over the years, there have also been a few times when the laughter stopped in order to reflect on something of a more serious nature. While life is often a funny place, there are moments when we must pause and take in the uncomfortable silence of a difficult card that has been dealt.

For 16 years, my wife and I have built a life together and raised a family, with the experiences of our marriage and struggles as parents providing the inspiration for many columns over the years. However, the inspiration for today's column comes not from a funny experience, but rather from one of those quiet moments of pause:

Regrettably, our marriage is ending.

While growing up together from high school sweethearts to the parents and adults we are today, somewhere along the way we have grown apart. The road of every marriage is unique, each with its own sharp curves, straight-aways and hills to climb. There is no road map, and even the most mindful set of drivers can take a wrong turn. At some



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

point along our marriage's journey, we chose a road that brought us to where we are now; out of gas and at a fork, with each of us now setting out on a different path. Because we still value and respect each other as individuals, while our paths will be different, they will remain parallel. We will stay within sight and within reach; we are committed to remaining friends, for ourselves and, most importantly, for our children.

This is going to be a difficult transition, and one that requires our full attention and commitment. I understand myself well enough to know I will need time to gain perspective and find a place where the laughter comes more freely than it is now. Because of this, I'll be running handpicked "Flashback" columns while I look for that place. When I find it, I promise you'll be the first to know.

Sincerely,
— Ned

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

Reality Or Racist TV?

The newest edition of CBS' popular television series "Survivor" has an interesting twist — segregation. In the early rounds, there will be four teams or "tribes" competing against each other: the White Tribe, the Hispanic Tribe, the African-American Tribe, and the Asian-American Tribe. There is no truth to the rumor that the winner will go up against the Hooded White Sheeted tribe.

I'm not an expert on this show. I saw an episode or two in the very first season. However, my main reaction was the same as it is to most "reality shows:" where is the reality? I find it hard to worry about someone who is supposedly in danger when I know that just off-camera is an entire film crew, medical personnel, and dozens of doughnuts.

But if I understand it correctly, competitors on "Survivor" have to figure out puzzles and pass various physical challenges. In the case of the newest survivor, the winner gets a million dollars. In the producers' minds, the show must have been getting a bit stale for them to come up with the new race-based version.

The host and producers of the show say that this idea came to them after interviewing many prospective contestants and seeing how important their culture and "ethnic pride" were to them. They also suggest that the show could actually help race relations, because it might dispel some long-held racial stereotypes.



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

Although celebrating ethnic diversity and helping eradicate racial problems from the face of the earth may have been the primary motives behind the show, I have the feeling that the desire for publicity and bigger ratings probably played a little part in the creative process, too.

It's probably natural for some members of the audience to root for people on the show that they identify with. It happens all the time in sports. Joe Louis and Jackie Robinson were huge heroes to black people. Sandy Koufax could do no wrong in the eyes of his Jewish fans. While watching a boxing match on TV, the home audience will be reminded by the commentators that the Hispanic fans in the arena are "naturally" rooting for the Mexican boxer. And in Evander Holyfield's recent fight, I'm sure all of the white, 250-pound insurance salesmen watching the bout were rooting for Evander's opponent.

So, the audience rooting for a team based on race doesn't bother me nearly as much as the inevitable rooting against the other teams because of race. It's one thing if a family shouts, "Go White Guys" at the

TV. It's quite another when they start making disparaging remarks about the opposing teams that don't happen to share their skin color.

There is at least one gambling site that is taking bets on the outcome of the show. That's right, they are giving different odds depending on the race of the tribe. If people actually bet money on this thing, you know there's going to be a lot of rooting and booing.

And how are members of the audience going to explain all this to their kids? Responsible parents spend a great deal of time demonstrating to their kinds by word and example that they shouldn't have negative feelings about people of different races. Now, as they settle down to watch the show, are some of them going to excitedly say to their kids, "Tonight, I really think we're going to kick those Hispanics' butts?"

I know it's just a TV show. It's not going to change the world. But it will be seen by millions of people, and there are so many other choices the producers could have made. For example, they could have pitted wealthy CEOs against hard-working middle-class "tribes." It might have been interesting to see workers competing against their bosses to see who's better at surviving on an island. I guess having a Republican vying against a Democratic tribe wouldn't be a good idea. Both sides would ignore the rules and probably kill each other. But I'm sure there are other kinds of teams they could have come up with besides those based on race.

And if having teams based on race is a success, can pitting religious teams against each other be far behind? TV executives might not get that excited by the thought of Mennonite vs. Amish carriage race. But will they be able to resist having Jews, Christians, and Muslims fighting it out? I hope so, because we've been watching them fight in the real world for years, and, let's face it, there's nothing entertaining about it.

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

'Deregulation' Is Just Another Politically Correct Dirty Word!

Let's Be Sure to Thank Gov. Rick Perry and Texas Lawmakers This November!

Gov. Perry and other legislators who received large campaign contributions from utility companies helped campaign **HARD** for deregulation, promising consumers it would lower electricity bills.

A recent Galveston Daily News editorial said: "The four big power companies that control 70 percent of the residential market have increased their rates a mean average of 83.7 percent since deregulation."

Many electric companies have raised electric costs after the deregulation.

The editorial continued to reference "Reliant energy, which serves people in this area, has raised its rates by 89 percent in that time. Meanwhile, the municipal utilities serving Austin and San Antonio raised their rates an average of 40 percent



Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

in that same period."

Gov. Rick Perry and most Texas lawmakers lobbied hard for deregulation of electricity costs, just as they've lobbied hard for toll roads and other special interest issues.

They should have worked equally hard to finance public education and to provide REAL tax relief for property owners.

They should have lobbied that hard to provide affordable health care!

They should have fought for reasonable college tuition instead of for deregulating higher

education!

Perhaps "once upon a time in America" deregulation was a good thing, whereby good old American competition stabilized honest costs for needed quality services. However, in today's American market "deregulation" is just another politically correct dirty word synonymous with GREED!

Thanks to the conscious hard lobbying efforts of Perry and our legislators, the insatiable greed of large corporations is being fed by increasing their profiteering and now places consumers at their mercy.

With losses and outsourcing of American jobs and ever-growing cost of living increases, more people are losing their homes than ever before and are falling below the poverty level. BTW, Texas is one of

the leaders in having the most people at the poverty level!

Texas voters should thank Gov. Perry and his well-rewarded legislative puppets by voting them out in the next several elections.

We need REAL leaders who work to better the quality of life for hardworking Texans and their families.

Start voting out Perry and special interest legislators this November!

Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas 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).

When You Reach The Edge Of The Seas, Stop!

Some people are natural “joiners.”

They have to be a part of something, it's important to their psyche to belong.

Take your typical, sundry street gang member, for instance. This youth is usually detached if not completely ignored by any parental figure. The gang provides the aegis of “family” structure and order missing in life.

It may be lopsided structure, but it is a “safe” place – till the bullets start to fly.

Many of nature's lower creatures are joiners. Birds travel in flocks; various simian and feline subspecies are community-oriented.

Then, there are those goofy lemmings. These furry little round rodents are so intent upon joining in that periodically the communal migration leads directly into the sea. As the lemming is not a creature made adept by nature at the art of swimming, these exercises in follow-the-leader result in the drowning of hundreds, even thousands at a time.

Lemming C follows lemming B follows lemming A wherever it goes, and so on and so forth down the line. Whatever possesses the first one to commit suicide is anyone's guess; the bigger mystery is why the rest of the line follows lemming A into the water.

People often act just like lemmings, too. For instance, where I live most folks drive with lemming tendencies.

Maybe it's because Central Illinois is so full of Rightists, but the biggest majority of people around here just refuse to use the left lane for anything other than making a turn.

I learned to drive in the Chicago area, where it is much more of an aggressive and vigilant activity, so to me each and every lane is fair game at all times.

However, I've lived in a number of regions throughout the United States, Europe and Asia; I've driven over even more of North America and Europe. Nowhere nor never have I observed drivers quite like those around these parts – and I've lived here for 11 years.

Perhaps it's like this where you live:

At every four-way stop or stoplight, where both lanes are straightaways, there will be some 10 vehicles lined up like lemmings in the right lane, but one or none in the left lane.

Despite the option of three or more possible routes to get from, say, Mundane Avenue to Tickytracky Drive, over 90% of

the drivers will, every time they get behind the wheel, take the most obvious, highly-traveled route – the one where it's most likely they'll get clogged in a jam or involved in a collision. Even if that road takes them out of their way.

And at every light there will be twice as many vehicles in the right lane as the left lane(s), lined up like... uh-huh, lemmings.

Then, there are the self-appointed “traffic moderators.” These are not necessarily the elderly and infirm – they can usually be spotted and rather easily avoided. I'm referring to the jamokes who manage to get in front of you, either because you had a momentary lapse of reason and were nice enough to let them in or they blatantly and maniacally cut you off, then proceed to drive precisely two miles below the posted speed limit.

There always seems to be some sort of Christian symbol affixed to the back of their vehicle, usually an oil burning 1983 Toyota Corolla pollution spreading hazard or a 2006 Honda minivan. The license plate generally starts with WWJD or IPRAY or some other such religious braggadocio that is wholly inappropriate on a state-issued emblem.

When asked why they insist upon holding up traffic by driving below the speed limit, the response is some lunacy about how it's against Jesus and the Bible to break traffic laws, and they're afraid to go all the way up to the legal limit because they might inadvertently exceed the allowable speed. (I am not making this up – more than one good Christian has told me this, including my dear, departed Mother who once tried to get me to drive the *minimum* posted speed on a Chicagoland expressway while in heavy traffic.)

People can also be lemming-like when it comes to religion, especially where church is concerned. Now, many people change religions during the course of a lifetime. After all, none of us picked the religion we were baptized or indoctrinated into at infancy. This is not such a strange or unique phenomenon; hell, it's been going on at least as long as there have been organized religions and travel between different lands.

If you think about it, there were a lot of folks whose religious points of view changed in the early years A.D.

So, whatever the local preacher or the favorite television evangelist says is followed as if it were written in stone.



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

The true believer adheres to the message as put forth by the person doing the talking with the idea the words are coming directly from Jesus Christ's lips through that human vessel.

If the message is never drive so much as one mile over the speed limit, lest you get left behind come the rapture, then damn the non-believers and drive below the limit.

When the message is send more money to this ministry, then send all you have!

There are still messages floating around that womenfolk are lower than men, and thus are to be subjugated as lesser beings.

And most importantly, whom ever it is deemed proper and righteous to vote for had better receive your vote – Glory Hallelujah!

Of course, politics really makes for lemmingistic behavior amongst humans.

Take your basic Democratic or, worse yet, Republican gathering. Such events are little more than the deification of an individual whom nobody at the venue knows anything about (other than those behind the curtain).

The Republican Party is so frightened that it will lose its stranglehold on the Senate and House come November that the rhetoric of fear is getting ever more idiotic and intense than the last two election years.

This past week the American Legion held its 88th Annual National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

It was a sterling example of why I make it a personal policy to never join anything unless the end result will be a paycheck.

I am a registered Democrat simply because I prefer to vote in its primaries than the others. However, I have not nor intend to donate money to the DNC. For one thing, as a journalist I really should not be a card-carrying this, that or anything else.

That noted, if it's financially feasible for me to contribute to a specific candidate whom I feel deserving of my support, that's a different and personal matter.

After the display of Bush Regime hubris that took place at the Legion Convention, had I been a Legion member I would

have returned my card in shreds.

Four of the five people responsible for the most heartache, death, destruction and torture this Planet has seen in 60 years were the featured guest speakers. These are four of the world's most nefarious, greed-infested evildoers; the gang who never spent so much as one day in harm's way, yet have no compunction or remorse when it comes to sending other people's loved ones to certain death or dismemberment.

Condoleezza Rice, the most useless, ineffective secretary of state in U.S. history, was actually awarded the 2006 American Legion Auxiliary “Woman of the Year” for doing that job!

From the auxiliary's press release: “Dr. Rice's service to our country as National Security Advisor and now as Secretary of State has been done with honor, grace, and compassion. She continues to serve in the role of peacekeeper, ambassador, and trusted ally to a multitude of countries and nations. Through her professional success and public service, she exemplifies for women, the very best in allegiance and dedication to our country.”

Are they kidding? I seem to remember a bit of non-responsiveness to calls for a ceasefire in Lebanon just last month. And, how many nations have expressed trepidation at having to deal with Condi – the woman lies so much she has no idea where the deceptions end and reality begins.

Her allegiance is to King George XLIII and his regime, not the Nation.

Said National Auxiliary President Carol Van Kirk, “I cannot think of a more fitting woman for the honor of the American Legion Auxiliary's ‘Woman of the Year.’”

“Dr. Rice is an inspiration to us all and serves as a model to the impact that one woman can have in her community, state and nation.”

What a crock! Condi's community is the RoveBush Regime, her state is the West Wing – and her “nation” is wherever it is she's stashed all that accumulated wealth!

During her speech, which came after dubiously receiving this award, just as she did at the Baptist convention Condi thanked the families for sacrificing their young sons and daughters to the wars. Good for her, woman with no offspring to lose.

Then, she had the unmitigated gall to bring up the aid Legion posts nationwide provided victims of Hurricane

Katrina. Of course, Dr. Rice failed to mention her unique contribution to the relief effort, by staying as completely detached from it as she possibly could. When you think about it, Condi dilly-dallying around Manhattan probably *was* the best thing she could have done for the Gulf storm victims.

I got a headache reading the transcript of her speech. It was the usual Condoleezza Rice claptrap doublespeak, utilizing lots of words to fill up the time but saying nothing of any real substance. You know the drill – America is safer; September 11th; most Muslims want peace, only a small minority want to kill all Americans, so we must dedicate all of our military might exterminating them; President Bush is right and good at all times; rebuild Iraq; and blah, blah, blah...

Okay, so Dumsfeld... oops, I mean Donald Rumsfeld had his turn at the podium. The most inept secretary of defense we've ever had; the doddering old fool whose egomania has thrust hundreds of thousands of brave young Americans into two ill-conceived wars without the proper numbers or equipment.

It's one thing for Dusty Baker to say “It is what it is” about all the bad breaks the Chicago Cubs have gotten this season. That's only baseball, and we'll get over it.

For Rummy to take the same tone and attitude about “his” troops in wars he has no clue how to conduct is criminal. That's life and death.

What in the hell is wrong with these people? Why weren't they tar and feathering Rummy, or throwing rotten fruit at him – at least booing him the hell out of the hall?

No, they're applauding this idiot!

Obviously, he does not understand the definitions of the words “Fascist” or “fascism.” The terms have nothing whatsoever to do with religion or religious ideology. According to Merriam-Webster, fascism (n) is “a *political* philosophy, movement, or regime that exalts nation and race and stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition.”

The Fascisti are quite literally the schmucks holding our White House illegally hostage. What we have here is a classic case of the pot calling the kettle black.

Just as Condi brought up the Nazis and Japanese in her speech, Rummy invoked

Continued On Next Page

TENUTO ... From Previous Page

Hitler's name. Could they be any more brazen, utilizing old Nazi tactics while dredging up the most vile of memories and painful old wounds.

And the lemmings of the American Legion applauded these warmongers for it.

But that's been the way of this particular Fascist Regime ever since they stuck it to John McCain in the 2000 primary.

Then, King George XLIII made his appearance at this gathering of brave fighting men and women, and their families.

And they didn't kick the wuss out. No, instead he got a hero's welcome reception.

Women hugged Fearless Leader. The crowd applauded him.

The feather duster who sat out his VietNam years in the Alabama Air National Guard getting drunk and stupid stateside — then not even showing up for duty — stated his case to send more young heroes to fight and die in

Iran.

While the lemmings at the American Legion Convention cheered him on.

People who fought Nazism, Imperialism and Communism are now rooting for America's first Fascist imperial dictatorial monarch to get us into yet another war.

Meanwhile, Dark Lord the Dick Cheney, with a record five deferments to his credit because he was that frightened of military service during the unpleasant VietNam era, was making personal appearances at the Veterans of Foreign Wars National Convention in Reno, and then a troop rally at Offutt Air Force Base, Omaha.

Okay, the Air Force personnel are on active duty and they have no option but to put up with Dark Lord's line of crap.

However, it really makes me disgusted that none of those VFW folks stood up to that traitor whose only goals are the demolition of as many of our Constitutional Rights as possible; making as much money as he can off the backs of honest Americans; and, absolute power without end.

How could none of them get Dark Lord's nefarious message when he reiterated the mantra that anyone who dares to disagree with (regime) policies is aiding and abetting al Qaeda, or an "al Qaeda type?"

Is there any doubt that Cheney, Rumsfeld, Rice, and Bush — with Herr Oberst Karl Rove as the architect — are the very evildoers about which George W. Bush spoke following the events of September 11, 2001?

I find it absolutely incredulous that people who have seen combat, or at least served their country in uniform overseas, can follow these five confidence artists as though they are nothing more than lemmings being led to drown in the sea.

Shalom, and hope your Labor Day was restfully relaxing.

Television viewing alert: On Sunday and Monday, September 10 and 11, the ABC-TV Network has scheduled a five-hour miniseries "The Path to 9/11." According to a column by William Rivers Pitt (truthout.org) this is a Right-wing exercise in misinformation, designed to wash the truth off the hands of King George's Regime. Written by Cyrus Nowrasteh, the entire blame for the tragedy is placed upon William

The Lutherdor Says...

Lions and Tigers ... and Lutherans!

BY THE LUTHERDOR!

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Dear Dr. Stephen T. Colbert D.F.A.,

You are the best thing that has happened to Lutherans since beer.

I must admit I was very skeptical at first, but when I was shown the video of the origin of your "On Notice" board on YouTube.com, I saw the light.

Before my enlightenment, I was so mad at you that I planned to camp out in the gutter outside your ritzy New York City pad for the entire month of August until you answered my question:

"What exactly do Lutherans have in common with grizzly bears?"

Luckily, for both of us, that all changed when those five airport security guards beat me silly.

Apparently, somewhere along the way it became against the law for one to wear his luche libre mask aboard a plane.

Anyway, while I was there in intensive care, I watched your "On Notice" board origin video.

It was brilliant!

Your mockery of Lutherans is just what we followers of Dr. Martin Luther's brand of Christianity needed ... to get the Gospel out, of course.

See, prior to your jokes, Lutherans were lower than the Rodney Dangerfields of Christianity — the Baptists — because while the only respect they get is no respect, we can't get a death threat to save our lives!

Okay, that's true unless you're Lutheran Bishop Medardo Gomez of El Salvador.

But, thanks to you, people see that we never went extinct, unlike the Democrats, and the Lutheran faith is being beamed all over the world faster than I could have ever done with just my mask, unitard, and Small Catechism.

On a side note, I've also got to hand it to you Catholics for playing President Bush like a banjo.

You guys are regular Steve Martins circa 1979. Let me tell ya — the fake arrows through your skulls just adds yuk-yuks to his administration's injustices.

Need I review?

First, it was Pope John Paul II before the Iraq war.

Then, it was Michael Moore during election season.

Next, it was Cindy Sheehan last summer.

Most recently, it was you at the annual White House Correspondents Dinner.

Don't even try to be all self-effacing about that one, Dr. Colbert. We all know better.

True, even after all that and Sen. John Kerry's floundering (he's Catholic, too, despite Ann Coulter's objections), Bush is still in office, but what have my Lutheran brethren done lately?

Okay, so last spring Kris Kristofferson released a new album "This Old Road" with a couple of tracks blasting the concept of "holy war."

It's sweet. It's earnest. It's spiritual.

But it ain't funny, and that's the closest thing to nonviolent political jiu-jitsu we Lutherans can put up against these "Amerikanische Christen" (i.e. people who compromise the church's existence by wedding American ideology to Christ).

I guess if being the butt of the joke is the only way we can help, then so be it — as long as our butts are on your lips, I know we're in good hands.

Your butt,
The Lutherdor!



CORYELL COUNTY COMMISSION CO.

Sale Every Saturday

Cattle 12:00 Noon
Jody & Robin Thomas
(254) 865-8219

Date: 8-26-06

No. 1 Steers

under 300 lb. 150-210

300-400 lb. 135-165

400-500 lb. 115-142

500-600 lb. 110-127

600-700 lb. 105-119

700-800 lb. 100-110

\$2-3 Up

No. 1 Heifers

under 300 lb. 130-185

300-400 lb. 115-135

400-500 lb. 110-128

500-600 lb. 105-124

600-700 lbs. 98-112

700-800 lbs. 87-97

\$3-4 Up

Slaughter Cows

High Yielding 41 to 48

Low Yielding 32 to 38

Fats 40 to 46

Thin & Shelly 24 to 31

\$1-2 Down

Packer Bulls (1250-2075 lb.)

Yield Grade 1&2 52 to 59 \$1-2 Down

Cow & Calf Pairs

Young Choice 800 to 960

Young Fair 700 to 800

Aged Pairs 500 to 650

Steady

Young Pregnancy Test Stocker

Replacement Cows

350 to 790

Number of Head....1370

Steady

Gatesville

Jody Thomas (254) 865-8219

Sale (254) 865-9121

Mobile (254) 223-2958

Jefferson Clinton. I suggest you read the Pitt piece, which outlines all the efforts made by President Clinton to hunt down and capture or neutralize Osama bin Laden — among many facts completely ignored by Nowrasteh. Stated Democrats.com:

should be ashamed of itself for pandering to the right wing nuts."

(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 Communica-

tions 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)

LEAKY POND??

SODIUM BENTONITE is a swelling clay.

★ 100% NATURAL ★ NON-TOXIC

★ A PROVEN SEALANT FOR PONDS, DAIRY LAGOONS, LANDFILLS & TOXIC WASTE LAGOONS

TEXAS SODIUM BENTONITE POND SEALANT

IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION

ON THIS PRODUCT CONTACT:

GEORGE BURTON

at 325-885-2339 or FAX 325-885-2138

He will be happy to help with any pond problems you may have.

CHECK OUT OUR WEB PAGE AT: www.texasodiumbentonite.com

(1-800-433-5495)

Bosque Supply (Clifton, Texas) has Texas Sodium Bentonite Products for sale in 50 lb. bags by the Bag, Ton, or Pallet.

FDA Approves Viruses To Be Sprayed On Food

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Food and Drug Administration announced in the Federal Register on Aug. 18 that it has approved the spraying of viruses on ready-to-eat (RTE) meat and poultry products.

Approved was the use of a bacteriophage preparation made from six individually purified phages to be used on RTE meat and poultry products as an antimicrobial agent against *Listeria monocytogenes*, which was in response to a food additive petition submitted in 2002 from Intralytix, Inc., based in Baltimore.

This is the first time the FDA has regulated the use of a phage preparation as a food additive. However, phages are currently approved in the U.S. for pesticide applications, including uses on crops. Although not currently permitted in the U.S., phages are used in other countries in antibiotic therapy.

According to the FDA, the phage preparation will be used in meat and poultry processing plants for spray application to the surface of RTE meat and poultry products, such as lunch meats and hot dogs, to kill *Listeria*. The phage preparation will be applied to the surface of RTE meat and poultry products at a level not to exceed 1 ml per 500 cm² food surface just prior to packaging. These foods can become contaminated with *Listeria* during production, but unlike fresh meat and poultry, these foods are consumed without additional cooking that would kill the bacteria, thereby increasing the risk to Listeriosis, an infection caused by the bacteria.

Furthermore, says the FDA, *L. monocytogenes* is capable of multiplying at low temperatures, so it can multiply in food over time even when the food is kept in the refrigerator. Persons with increased risk to Listeriosis are pregnant women, newborns, those with a compromised immune system, and the elderly.

To support the safety of the proposed use of the *Listeria*-specific phage preparation, the petitioner submitted published reports from animal studies and results from the use of phages as therapies in the treatment and prevention of infections in humans caused by bacteria. Based on this and other information, FDA says that the additive does not pose any safety con-



cerns, providing that it complies with the identity and specifications in the regulation. However, they cannot possibly be certain the viruses will not attack the friendly bacteria that make up the lining of your digestive tract," he noted, adding that the FDA approval was based on scant human testing.

In his article, Richards contends that the FDA-approved cocktail actually contains six different viruses intended to attack one strain of bacteria, resulting in "massive viral replication inside the bacteria, until such point that the bacteria simply bursts," which causes significant production of bacterial poisons called "endotoxins," and, ultimately, "these, along

with the victorious live viruses, will be on the food that will be eaten."

INFO:

<<http://www.newswithviews.com/Richards/byron7.htm>>

<<http://www.cfsan.fda.gov/%7EEdms/opabacqa.html>>

dish NETWORK

CC, Etc.

675-3511 • 675-3732 • Toll Free 866-439-4794
402 N. Ave. G (Hwy. 6), Clifton

cerns, providing that it complies with the identity and specifications in the regulation.

In an article on NewsWithViews.com, Byron J. Richards, CCN, takes exception to the FDA approval.

He writes, "The FDA wants you to believe it will be safe to consume these viruses every day for the rest of your life with no adverse health effects. This is a monumental announcement by the FDA, indicating they are throwing all caution to the wind regarding the safety of our food supply."

Richards asks, "Are you willing to stand in line for a virus-laden sandwich? How do you like the idea of buying virus-infested food for your family?"

Richards notes that live viruses will be sprayed on foods such as cold cuts, sausages, hot dogs, sliced turkey, and chicken, and that the FDA "plans to use one infectious organism to fight another."

"The carnage of battle will

Since 1916

CLIFTEX

TALKIES

All tickets \$5 per person
306 W. 5th St. (Hwy 219), Clifton
(254) 675-1229

RATING, RUNTIME, REVIEW

PG-13 Runtime: 1 hr. 40 min.

Ricky Bobby (Will Ferrell) is a born speed demon. He races up to the tote board with his best friend as his winning edge. Along the way he picks up sponsors, a hot wife and two kids. But it isn't until he is involved in a bad accident on the track that he comes to understand what in life is really important.

COMING SOON

COMING SOON: Barnyard, Accepted, World Trade Center, Invincible, The Wicker Man

NOW SHOWING

TALLADEGA NIGHTS

SHOWTIMES

Thur., Sept. 7 7 p.m. ADULTS ONLY	Fri., Sept. 8 7 p.m.
Sat., Sept. 9 7 p.m.	Sun., Sept. 10 7 p.m.

PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH

IN WACO: 254-772-7500
www.withvic.com
1-877-WITH-VIC
9 4 8 4 8 4 2

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS
WITH OFFICES IN WACO,
TEMPLE AND AUSTIN

THE LAW OFFICES
Vic Feazell P.C.

TRIAL ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS OF LAW

Principal office in Austin.
Meetings with attorneys by appointment only.

MEMBER
BETTER
BUSINESS
BUREAU