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# INSIDE

**Mexican Port  
In Kansas City?**

**GOP Abandons  
Immigration  
Overhaul**

**Page 2**

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



**Terrorism Lives  
In Texas  
Public Housing**

**Page 8**

Editorial:

'Over-Reacting' ...Page 8

**UPDATE  
to  
RED  
ALERT**

**9/11/06**

NASA,  
Ft. Monroe  
& Houston



By Captain  
Eric May

**Page 10**



**Out Of  
The Blue**

By Jerry Tenuto

**King George's 9/11  
Tour — 2006 Edition**

**Page 12**

**Investigator Says Bush Administration  
Tipped Off Bin Laden To Sting Operation**



those who want people to worship  
the lord of the people, will not  
following the doctrine, will be  
following the doctrine of

**Discrepancies In Bin Laden  
Confession Tape Explored**

**Page 7**

# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

# Soldier of Conscience

**Interview With  
Charlie Anderson  
IVAW Member**

**Page 3**



**SPEAKING OUT** — IVAW Charlie Anderson spoke out in support of Spc. Mark Wilkerson during a press conference at Camp Casey. Wilkerson turned himself in to authorities at Fort Hood after going absent without leave for 19 months.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



# Mexican Port In Kansas City?

*North American Union — Mexamerica — Moving Forward*

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Texas Governor Rick Perry, in following directives from President George W. Bush's White House, appears to be undaunted by the onslaught of angry Texans who do not support the Trans-Texas Corridor-TTC, which is planned to begin construction next year.

The 10-lane toll highway which will likely parallel I-35 would extend from Texas to Oklahoma and eventually link up in the heartland in Kansas City, Mo., where controversy looms over whether a Mexican port should be established there. The NAFTA Super Highway would, from there, be stretched to Canada.

Centra Concesiones de Infraestructuras de Transporte, S.A., has been awarded the right to operate the highway through Texas and collect tolls for 50 years. The wide rivulet would consist of three lanes of passenger car traffic (both ways), two express lanes each way for trucks, rail lines both ways for people and freight, and a utility corridor for oil and natural gas pipelines, electric towers, cables for communications, and telephone lines.

Part of the NAFTA plan is to have the Kansas City Southern de Mexico Railroad bring Chinese goods in sealed cargo containers from the Mexican port of Lazaro Cardenas direct to Kansas City. Mexican trucks will drive the cargo containers up the Super Highway, perhaps inspected electronically, and make their first customs stop in KC.

Advocates of the NAFTA plan, such as the Council on Foreign

Relations, argue that the the illegal alien problem will be solved by eliminating America's

borders and legalizing the invasion, forging a "new American community."

Some opponents call this corporate-drive "economic integration" the formation of

Mexamerica, or the American Union, inspired by the European Union, which would mean absolute freedom of movement for the countries involved and "complete integration" of the nations. Their concern is that NAFTA is something the American people have never supported and it puts at risk the sanctity of the U.S. Constitution, which could be watered down, or eliminated, in favor of a document favoring corporate entities, which they say are the primary beneficiaries of this plan. Too, once trucks enter the United States, who is to say where they go and what is being hauled?

Although Kansas City economic development groups support the inland port idea, claiming that it is designed for goods simply to leave Kansas City bound for Mexico, not for goods coming from Mexico, the Kansas City SmartPort organization claims two main focuses on its website:

1. To grow the area's transportation industry by attracting businesses with significant transportation and logistics elements;
2. To make it cheaper, faster, more efficient, and secure for companies to move goods into, from, and through the Kansas City area.

Part of the NAFTA plan includes further developing the Mexican port at Lazaro Cardenas to better serve trade from China. At the port, Mexican drivers could access fast lines into the United States, perhaps hauling their goods inspection-free to Kansas City, and from there dispersing throughout the country and to the Canadian border north of Duluth, Minn.

## GOP Abandons Immigration Overhaul

WASHINGTON — THE NEW YORK TIMES reported last week that GOP leaders in both houses of Congress have decided to work for domestic security issues rather than reform immigration laws prior to the mid-term elections this fall.

Despite President Bush's insistence that immigration be a top priority, this move by Republican congressional leaders is seen as an attempt to hide divisions within the party in the weeks before Congress is to adjourn for the election.

Instead, the GOP intends to try to authorize port security measures, Bush's domestic surveillance program, and military tribunals for alleged enemy combatants. Republicans have been split on

whether to grant a full or limited amnesty or extend a guest worker program to illegal migrants from south of the U.S. border.

For the most part, Democratic lawmakers have remained on the sidelines as their Republican colleagues have duked it out on the issue of immigration reform.

Last week, Democrats increased pressure on the administration to call for the resignation of Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld over his handling of the Iraq occupation.

This tactic is seen by critics as a hollow attempt to cover up the fact that the majority of congressional Democrats voted in favor of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq, a country that is now in a spiral of civil violence.

## Short-Notice Protest Planned For Bush's U.N. Address

NEW YORK CITY — During President George W. Bush's scheduled address at the General Assembly of the United Nations, a march and rally will be held on the streets of New York City.

The event, organized by United for Peace and Justice, will begin at 9 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 19, at a location to be announced.

"We want to send a strong and clear message to Bush and to the representatives of the worlds' governments: The war in Iraq must end now, all U.S. troops must be brought home now!" said a UFPJ press release.

President Bush is expected to defend the Iraq War and Iraq War and the so-called "war on terror" to the United Nations.

For more information on volunteering for the New York City event, contact Nia of UFPJ. To make a tax-deductible donation, visit UFPJ's website for more details.

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## Bush Reveals Secret CIA Prisons

WASHINGTON — President George W. Bush has finally revealed the existence of secret prisons operated worldwide by the Central Intelligence Agency. The prisons will not be closed, though the 14 terror suspects were relocated to the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba to stand trial, he said.

Before last Wednesday, Washington had categorically denied this prison system was operational, even as European Union lawmakers acknowledged that the CIA had flown terrorist suspects to European countries to be tortured for information extraction. The prisons were first revealed by the Washington Post last November.

President Bush praised the tactics used by the CIA in gaining intelligence from the detainees, saying that such methods prevented terrorist attacks from happening inside the United States.

The CIA's interrogation methods were not specifically detailed in the president's White House speech; however, he denied that federal agents had used torture techniques, explaining that the agency had applied an "alternative set of procedures" that were successful in getting more information from detainees.

The Bush administration is currently seeking changes to the Republican-passed 1996 War Crimes Act in order to prevent federal personnel — including administration officials — from facing prosecution for handling and torturing detainees according to the Geneva Convention's definitions.

The administration is also pushing for Congress to pass legislation allowing evidence on detainees to be frozen in order to protect classified information. Republican Sens. John McCain and Lindsey Graham drafted a proposal directly countering the president's that instead gives detainees legal rights.

The U.S. Supreme Court in June struck down the administration's proposal to try suspected terrorists in military tribunals, such as those implemented after World War II.

On the same day as the president's announcement, the new Army field manual was re-issued. In it, torture of all prisoners, including terror suspects, is banned using language lifted from the Geneva Conventions.

For the first time, specific language detailing the types of unlawful treatment has also been included in the manual. The manual itself pertains to all the armed services, except the CIA.

# Soldier of Conscience

## Interview With Charlie Anderson IVAW Member

By NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — Hospital Corpsman Second Class retired Charlie Anderson was scared during his first demonstration against the war in Iraq two years ago this Oct. 3 in Washington, D.C.

"It started in Arlington National Cemetery, and we walked to the White House, and I was so scared. I didn't want to talk. I didn't want to say anything," he told the *ICONOCLAST*. "I had PTSD. I was going through treatment. I was on limited duty."

By that time, Anderson's PTSD, known as post-traumatic stress disorder, was preventing him from performing his duties running a supply department. The constant personnel changes

"was really hard on me psychologically," he said.

"Instead of saying, 'C'mon guys, let's go.' I'd be saying, 'Hey guys, I'll catch you later when you get back,'" Anderson said. "I really considered myself a leader. I still do. I clearly was a leader. I am a leader."

Right out of high school in July 1996, the Indiana native joined the U.S. Navy. He enlisted for a number of reasons, but two of the bigger ones were job training and "standing up for freedom and democracy."

"Having in my mind at the time, I didn't understand what any of that really meant. But those were the principle reasons that led me to a recruiter," he said.

Eight years later, his mother, who is active in Military Families Speak Out, forwarded her

son an e-mail from Iraq Veterans Against the War co-founder Michael Hoffman. IVAW formed at the Veterans for Peace convention in Boston, Mass. — right before the 2004 Democratic National Convention.

Hoffman's e-mail spoke of the IVAW members' experiences in the Iraq war and their efforts to put an end to U.S. occupation.

"I was almost crying when I read it because it was like somebody had just taken all these ideas that were in my head and put them on paper," Anderson said.

In a reply e-mail, Anderson thanked Hoffman for his work, but Hoffman wouldn't let Anderson off the hook that easily and encouraged him to join the organization.

Even though Anderson was on active duty at the time, he found that he could still participate in anti-war demonstrations. He had to only follow some of the U.S. military's rules:

"As long as I was not in uniform on government property or revealing classified information or claiming to speak for the United States military, then a soldier on active duty does have

the right to free speech. You can protest all you want. You can even speak at the protest as long as you don't do the things I just named."

Since being discharged from the Navy in March 2005, Anderson has continued speaking out against the occupation of Iraq and advocating for veterans health benefits across the United States. His efforts have also led him to help create a program to provide body armor to active soldiers, known as Bake Sales for Body Armor: [www.bakesalesforbodyarmor.org](http://www.bakesalesforbodyarmor.org). And he ended up joining IVAW and sitting on its steering committee.

Last month, Anderson stayed at Camp Casey III, participating in several actions designed to provide information to high school students thinking about joining the military. He also spoke with the *ICONOCLAST*'s Nathan Diebenow about his own military experiences and his thoughts on the changes needed to make the military a more effective and democratic fighting force.

*ICONOCLAST*: Are you from a patriotic family?

ANDERSON: (laughs) I'm going to re-frame that question a little bit. My family certainly holds the Bill of Rights and the Constitution in very high regard. My mother and I are really big fans of Thomas Jefferson. I did not come from a long military history, which is what I think you might have

Continued On Next Page



CHARLIE ANDERSON, Hospital Corpsman Second Class retired, performed David Rovic's Who Would Jesus Bomb? At Camp Casey III last month. Anderson is an active member of Iraq Veterans Against the War.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow



# Soldier of Conscience

From Previous Page

been asking me.

ICONOCLAST: I meant, patriotism, but that was a better question. (laughs)

ANDERSON: Okay. In this day and age patriotism becomes a buzzword. The dictionary definition of patriotism is loving one's country, and so yes, of course, we all love our homeland. No matter what country you're from, I'm sure you love your country. The question becomes now, "What does that mean?" I'm going to run back to Jefferson for a moment, and say that dissent is the highest form of patriotism. It's very easy to just say, "I'm going to go with whatever is popular." But I think loving your country means recognizing where your country is going in the wrong direction. That's where I am today.

ICONOCLAST: When did you realize that the military wasn't as cracked up as it wanted to be?

ANDERSON: I realized that I was not really where I wanted to be was on my second enlistment which put me somewhere around 2000, but by that time, I was married. The time around Sept. 11, 2001, was a very rocky time for everybody. For about six months before that, I had gone on a Mediterranean cruise with the 22 Marine Expeditionary Unit, and I was the First Lt. 8th Marines. One of the things my recruiter hadn't told me was that hospital corpsmen served with the Marines. I thought I was joining the Navy and I ended up with an infantry battalion, which was kind of a shocker, but I saw the aftereffect of the war in the Balkans.

I was on the ground in a place called Sloan, which had been ethnically cleansed. I was trying to rectify that for several months and since Sept. 11 happened, and I went back the other way. I did the one mission I'm proud of doing. For something like 62 consecutive days, we stood air alert after Sept. 11 waiting to fly out to anywhere there might be another terrorist attack on American soil. We were supposed to go in and secure the area and assist emergency response services.

I'm very proud of having done that, but then we started beating the drums for war, and I started realizing that it wasn't what I really wanted. I started questioning our foreign policy but then I was also questioning the wisdom of being in a profession where my job was really to follow orders, and I was going to violate every moral and ethical code that I had ever learned

growing up if for no other reason than somebody told me to.

The military does two things. We kill people, and we break things. You grow up going to church. "Thou shalt not kill." I was brought up to be respectful, and to try to see other viewpoints. Then basically, we're going to stand all that on our head and say it's okay because somebody signed a piece of paper that said it's okay.

But at that point, I was trapped. My wife was pregnant. I had lots of job skills, but nothing that transfers to the civilian world. The best that I could hope for would be in the emergency medical technician position, paying \$8 an hour which was not going to even help support a family. I didn't feel that I could get out, so I had to kind of hope. I was pretty sure that if I stayed, I'd end up in Iraq. This was as early as February 2002. I didn't know when, but I was sure it was going to happen.

What ended up happening was that I had to make that choice between, Do I stand for my ethics and my morals, and do I support my family? I chose family. In retrospect, it's been kind of one of those tragic things in that in doing that I actually lost my family and I pretty much made a complete train wreck out of my life doing it. I've got 30 percent disabled PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). I'll be divorced next month, so it certainly wasn't worth it.

ICONOCLAST: So when did you get back?

ANDERSON: Well, I left Feb. 1, 2003, and we crossed into Iraq I swear it was the 19th of March, but I'm being told it was the 20th. It might have something to do with the dateline. I don't know, but then we came back to the United States in May 2003 because if you remember, the president sat on the deck of an aircraft carrier and said the war was over. So everybody came home and we all lived happily ever after. Well, it all went to hell in a handbasket over the summer. We put more Marine units back in. By that time, I was having significant trouble with PTSD and I ended up getting a medical discharge in 2005. Actually, it's a medical retirement.

ICONOCLAST: What happened to you in Iraq to where you acquired this condition?

ANDERSON: (chuckles and pauses)

ICONOCLAST: Are you free to talk about it?

ANDERSON: Yeah, I can talk about it, but I'm thinking about how much I want to go into it. Well, there're several things that happened. Part of it was

seeing the complete carnage and destruction everywhere we went. I was with a tank unit by that time. I went to Iraq with the Marine Corps 7th Unit. Largely, I was in a logistic train behind the tanks, so we were following in their wake. We'd go through all these towns and there were all these bodies everywhere. Things blown up all over the place.

Then we got into Sadr City. We had driven all day. The day before, they camped us in a garbage dump over night. You couldn't even eat because you open an MRE, flies would be all over it. It started with a little bit of harassing fire in the morning. Then about one o'clock in the afternoon, we started to move. We moved into the center of the city. At the time, we called it Saddam City. Now, it's Sadr City. It's in the news a lot, unfortunately.

So there's tens of thousands of kids in the city. They're all begging for food. It was an absolute nightmare because there's thousands of people out here, and you're trying to watch all the doors, all the windows, and each individual person, and you're looking for the one person in this crowd of five or 10 thousand people that wants to kill you. And also at the same time, it was obvious that Sadr City was a slum. The conditions were horrible. You could tell the kids were starving, and we just had a collection of food, the MREs we would not eat because there are stuff in the MRE that you will just not touch. So we had been saving them, and we decided we'd start giving them to the kids. We were tossing food out.

We go around this corner, and (sighs) fire started coming from

the right. (pause) I'm sorry. It actually started from the left. I was in the passenger rear. The kid next to me started firing. I was trying to figure out who he was shooting at. He and I actually had gotten into a little bit of an argument right in the middle of this fire-fight because I was asking what we were shooting at. He said, "I'm shooting out there. Don't ask me what I'm shooting at."

Then it started coming from my side. I started shooting around and my first instinct was to get down. Then I realized that I'm not wearing body armor, and I'm hiding behind a canvas door. I was holding my 9mm service pistol at the time. My staff sergeant is firing. The kid next to me is firing. Even the driver was firing. He's got a pistol out the door. I sat up to point the weapon out the window and I started shooting.

I honestly have no idea. I was so scared. I had no idea what we were shooting at. I went from pointing to directly to the side. If someone hadn't told me to stop, I eventually would have ended up firing into my own vehicle. There were so many kids out on the street. I had no idea. Nine rounds. I have no idea where a single one of them went. I had never been trained for anything like that. I'd only been allowed to fire my weapon once before I entered combat.

That day just got worse from there. We moved out into the city to the countryside where we encountered secondary explosions from an anti-aircraft gun that had been fired and hit out of — It was way out of the rules of engagement. It was too close to the road. They shot at it anyway, and so we ended up stopping next to this thing. I'm watching rounds clicking off the vehicle that's about 30 feet from where I was sitting. The rounds were impacting next to my door.

We got to where we were go-

ing. To make an incredibly long story short, I ended up in a crossfire between Iraqi forces and American forces, stuck where there was nothing I could do, and very, very lucky I didn't get hit. That doesn't even count just seeing the day-to-day living, being dehumanized, and dehumanizing other people just to get through the day. That's what causes PTSD.

ICONOCLAST: So when you're out there, how do you cope?

ANDERSON: I don't know really how to answer that question. I would say being out there, part of it is you turn parts of yourself off actually, and then the other thing is that you — I can't speak for everybody. I can speak for me. I was basically crafting these little fantasies about what life was going to be like when I got home. There were already signs of trouble, but I managed to convince myself that everything was going to be okay, and that part of it is also believing that it's all for something, that some sort of good is going to come out of this eventually.

I honestly believed that up until probably October 2004. It was when they finally came out and said there were no weapons of mass destruction. I had been clinging to that like a life-raft. I remember very clearly that it was right after lunch, and I had checked the news. I would check CNN three or four times a day. It was the latest breaking news, that there were no weapons of mass destruction. That was the last thing to hold on to. There were no ties to al-Qaeda. There were no weapons of mass destruction. Iraq was therefore not the threat to anybody, especially us, and so then, people I knew were dead — a lot of people I didn't know were dead — and countless more had their lives torn apart for no justification

Continued On Next Page



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# Soldier of Conscience

From Previous Page

whatsoever. Just because somebody could do it.

ICONOCLAST: So when you come back to America, what's your opinion of the media?

ANDERSON: Absolutely I see the same cycles. I see the same so-called experts on the same shows, and some of them even use the same experts in some cases. When they're talking about Iraq, they're always talking to a general or a retired CIA analyst. They're never talking to the guy who was humping a rifle in Baghdad. They'll go on for 20 minutes about for example when Zarqawi was killed, they went on I want to say this was Fox or CNN — they went a good five to 10 minutes of talking about the technology that caught him, specifically they were talking about the cluster bomb. Well, that's all very interesting, but why do we have to have a general talking about a cluster bomb? Why can't we have a general and a doctor who will tell us what kind of injuries the cluster bomb inflicts? Why couldn't we have an engineer that could tell you what kind of structural damage that would be done to other buildings in the area aside from just this laser-guided — they make it sound as though this one little laser-guided pin-prick and now this guy is gone. Okay, it's still a bomb. It still explodes, so what else happened? There's so much to the story, but we only get that one side. We only get the military's side through the mainstream media, so when we don't get the rest of the information, we don't know what's really going on.

ICONOCLAST: So what have you been doing since you've been back from Iraq?

ANDERSON: Two days — literally two days after I got out, I went to Marimount University in Northern Virginia, and I was part of a debate with another veteran of the Iraq war. He was for the war. I was against it. I still am against it obviously.

Since then, I have been in at least a dozen states, speaking out against the war, speaking in a variety of forums, sometimes panel discussions, sometimes debates, sometimes at college campuses. I've been featured in several documentaries about the war and the peace movement. I've been to at least a dozen anti-war protests. I've been working very closely with Iraq Veterans Against the War, of which I'm a member. I've testified before Congress twice on the war in Iraq, how to disengage from Iraq, and veterans

issues, all three very important things. I've also been doing some writing of my own, mostly for Truthout.

ICONOCLAST: What's been the best thing about being back?

ANDERSON: Oh, wow, that is — I'm not sure I can answer that. (pause) Well, coming home from a war is a myth. You don't come home because what you

find is that the country you remember isn't the country you find when you come back. It's a very hard readjustment. It's compounded — we were just talking about this earlier today — I think the worst thing you can say to a returning veteran is, "Thank you for your service."

"Thank you for your service" is such an empty, condescending thing to say because you don't know anything about my service. Even if you know me, you don't know anything about my service. You don't know what I think about my service, and in my case, if you knew what I know about it, you wouldn't thank me for my service because I helped weaken the national security of this country. I destroyed I don't know how many lives including my own, and then people want to come up and shake your hand and thank you for it.

It's very hard, but coming here, and the people here actually listen to me when I talk which is rare. I know that when I'm here, I'm loved. A lot of times, especially speaking out against the war, you don't feel bad, but I guess to speak directly to your point, the best thing is that I have a relationship with my daughter, who for a while I didn't know if I was going to see again. She just turned four years old this past April. She's a lot of the reason why I'm doing this. I think that before you have kids, it's optional if you want to do peace and social justice work or if you just want to make a big pile of money and watch American Idol. After you have kids, it's not optional because you have to care about the world you're leaving your kids.

ICONOCLAST: I feel very naive when I come out here. (laugh) Very naive. And I'm asking dumb questions which two seconds after I ask them, I'm like, "Uhhh... damn it!"

ANDERSON: Well, you shouldn't because there's no

reason you would know what I know if you don't ask the questions. Like this afternoon at the recruiting station, we met a couple that was very angry at the fact that we were there, and we were basically inspiring thought. They were just shouting out cliché after cliché after cliché. "Freedom Isn't Free." "If you can read those signs in English, thank a soldier." Things that were really bumper sticker messages that really don't mean much.

If we don't have the discussion, if we don't have the dialogue, if we don't talk about it, then nobody is ever going to learn anything, so you shouldn't feel — I don't want to tell you how to feel, but —

ICONOCLAST: (laugh)

ANDERSON: (laugh) but if you want to feel naive, you can. I'm here because I want to communicate, and I want you to ask the questions. I don't want you to feel like there's a question you feel you shouldn't ask.

ICONOCLAST: You brought up the action today. How did that go?

ANDERSON: Oh, it was excellent. It was an excellent action. The point of the action was not necessarily to keep kids from joining the military. The point of the action was that we want the kids to have all the information they need to make an informed decision. They're not going to get that from the recruiters. They're not going to get that from the schools. They probably don't know they have to go out and find that information because they're kids and they don't realize that recruiters are essentially like any other salesman. They have a product to sell, and unfortunately, this product can and in many cases will kill you. If it doesn't kill you, it can cause irreparable damage.

So we went out today to the recruiting station in Killeen. The first thing that happened when we go there was the Marine and Air Force recruiter locked their doors and put up their closed signs. Then the kids started coming by. We

started handing out literature. We started talking to them, and Geoff Millard of Veterans Against the War and I talked to somewhere in between 10 and 14 kids, most of them turned around and walked away after we had talked to them instead of going into the recruiters' office. All of them that took information from us said they were going to think about what we said. Many of them didn't realize the scope of the decision they were going to make.

Then we spoke with a local TV reporter. He had interviewed the police officers that had come to ask us to move to public property and also the recruiters while he was in there, he said that two kids who were going to be signing paperwork told the recruiter, one told the recruiters that he wanted more time to think about it and the other one flat out said, "I'm not going to go." and left. I call that a very effective action.

ICONOCLAST: What should the role of the military be?

ANDERSON: The role of the military is to defend the borders of the United States of America, to do so as non-evasively to the public as possible. Again, I'm going to run back to Jefferson and the Founding Fathers — both Jefferson and Washington and I think Adams also, I think all of them warned against expeditious powers and colonization, and as I said before, the best mission I had was standing by in the event there was another cataclysmic event on our soil to aid law enforcement and medical services. That is flat-out our role — to defend these shores and these borders. Those borders do not extend to Iraq, Italy, Germany, or any of the other places — I forget how many other bases we operate worldwide. We have a military presence on every continent, and we patrol right up to the edge of international waters. We can extend our reach to anywhere in the world within 72 hours. I don't think that's what the Founding Fathers had in mind when they

Continued On Next Page

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# Soldier of Conscience

From Previous Page

created this country.

I think that Adams, Franklin and Jefferson and the others would be very appalled that essentially we have become a colonial power, perhaps not necessarily taking land but we seek to dominate economies and are certainly willing to be the central player. We like to say we are the last remaining superpower. I think that's a very dangerous tact for us to take. I think that actually makes us less safe, not more safe.

ICONOCLAST: What is the state of the U.S. military right now?

ANDERSON: Well, we know from a report that was released by the Pentagon Commission several months ago that ended up in the press that military experts are very concerned that we are essentially breaking the military. We're doing that by sending an ill-equipped force on multiple deployments into what is largely a guerrilla war — It could also be a civil war — for an extended period of time, extending enlistments involuntarily.

There were two reports that came out at the same week. I want to say that this was sometime around March or April. What they're saying is that very soon we're not going to be able to field an effective fighting force. In addition, we're also bogged down between Iraq and Afghanistan, and if we needed to respond somewhere else quickly, we wouldn't be able to do it because most of our assets are already committed.

So the military right now is on the verge of being combat ineffective. In addition to that, you have very poor working conditions. You have a fighting force that largely went into the military seeking economic gain — nobody joins the military to get rich — but looking for education, skill training, and a steady job. When they find that that's not the case, then they're attending to leave. In a lot of cases, like right now, there are over 10,000 people that have gone AWOL (absent without leave) since 2003. That's essentially a division that voted with its feet and said this isn't what I signed up to do and I'm done for whatever reason, whether that was economic, conscience, fear, family reasons, whatever. There are any number of reasons why people would decide to go AWOL, but that's a *division*. Ten thousand people. That's a lot of people.

So you have this line of defense, if you will, that could be

made to be more cost effective and efficient in performing their duties and actually building up people instead of — well, the military says, "We're going to break you down, and we're going to rebuild you." But we're going to break you down and only rebuild you to a point and then say that you're on your own. We could actually provide a real opportunity, but we have chosen to divert those resources in different ways.

ICONOCLAST: How would you make the military more pleasant, more democratic, so that there would be more of a chance for servicemen and servicewomen would stay and participate?

ANDERSON: Making it "pleasant" has an ominous ring to it, but I know what you meant by that. But certainly, we don't have to treat people like they're less than human. We certainly do not have to put people through four or six years of hazing to be effective. In fact, if you treat people inhumanely, you make it less effective.

One of those things is that if you were to unionize. If government employees can unionize, if police officers can unionize, if firefighters can unionize, why can't the military unionize? Why can there not be a very clear grievance procedure in which we can say, "Well, wait a minute, we're given these 18-hour days. There are other resources available. We want X." I don't see why we can't have that happen through the military. It would keep a very open line of communication between the command and the subordinates which doesn't happen right now. Right now what you have essentially is one-way communication. The commander says, "Roar!" And the subordinates go, "Roar!" It's call and response, whereas if you opened that line of communication, you had the representative, you had that somebody say things that were not fair —

ICONOCLAST: But wouldn't there be some sort of problem getting missions accomplished? Wouldn't you not get people to work efficiently if you didn't have that call and response system of operations?

ANDERSON: That's been mentioned, but again, going back to the paramilitary organizations, I have yet to hear of SWAT team member that was given an order, and said, "No, screw this, I quit!" Sept. 11 would be a great example. We're talking about people who were told to go into a burning building. I haven't heard of any of them saying no, and certainly, if one or two of them did, it

wouldn't actually be unusual because that stuff happens on the battlefield. There are still incidents of cowardice on the battlefield. Even with the bad treatment and the hazing incidents and the constant conditioning to build muscle-memory, there are still people that that happens to. So I don't think there's necessarily a benefit there.

The union isn't the only answer, but when you have people end up voting with their feet — and the same thing happened in Vietnam. There's a film *Sir! No, Sir!* That talks about it. There's a book called *Soldiers in Revolt*. It talks about the mutinies and the strikes in the units going up to Vietnam. I think that's where we're headed. It's still going to happen if we want to have a specific procedure and things in place to create those open lines of communication or if we want to do things the way we've always done them for the sake of doing them that way.

Another thing that I think would be important is that we could create — for a lack of a better term — a defense college or a defense university that during your first enlistment doing something that gives you a real college degree that is accredited and accepted as a degree throughout the United States. Under your second enlistment, you can go to traditional education and there more or less you're on your own. We'll still do tuition assistance or whatever the current procedures is, but we at least put you up that one leg up, that missing step we're all looking for anyway when almost everybody says, "I want to go to college or I wanted to get a skill." So you will be guaranteed when you end your first enlistment, you will have a transferrable job skill or you will have a college degree and you get to pick what that is, or it works out that you have both.

The next thing is that there's a disparity between the way officers's enlisted commissions and contracts work. An enlisting soldier will always be enlisting for a set number of years. The initial is four years active, four years inactive unless your training requires you to have longer time, so mine was five active, three inactive program, but you're always going to have an eight year commitment.

Officers will have some sort of a commitment. Usually most officers come through an education program, so like they do four years at the Naval Academy or the Air Force Academy or wherever. You have to give them six years. If you take more specialized training, you may

have to give them longer than that. I knew a doctor that owed back 16 years. He was basically going to be career no matter what.

But after that officer does the first four to six years, then you go indefinite, and from that point on, aside from there being a time of emergency declared or a directive otherwise, you can resign at any time. I don't see why we can't do that with the enlisted. Why can't we do our first enlistment, and after that point, you have an open enlistment, and at any time, you can resign? You can make some reasonable accommodations in there. Obviously, if I'm one of three people on a ship that knows how to work on a system, clearly in the middle of a deployment, I can't just say, "Sorry, I'm done. I'm going home." But you could put reasonable accommodations in which could make it more democratic.

The other thing we can do is — the defense budget last year was somewhere around \$600 billion including Iraq and Afghanistan. That is more than twice China and Russia both spent on

defense last year, and those are the two countries that are closest to us militarily as far as capabilities and such go. So much of that stuff was spent on high-tech equipment, but boots on the ground level, people were going into combat without appropriate nightvision goggles, without ammunition, without extra magazines, without body armor. That's absolutely ridiculous! It's absolutely ridiculous.

We need to stop focusing on this high-tech equipment and redistribute that. I mean, that \$600 billion, by the way, is over 50 percent of the overall federal budget. That means we spend 49 percent on the rest of budget, on all the rest of the programs and services. That's seriously out of wack. That money needs to be redistributed. You could have an effective fighting force for much less than that, and you could fully fund other social programs such as education, health care, and serious reforms on our other infrastructure and so many of our other systems without having to raise taxes, if we just redistribute where the money goes.

## Blair Refuses Timetable For Resignation

LONDON — British Prime Minister Tony Blair refused to give a timetable for his resignation last week, causing seven junior members of his government to step down in protest.

The seven were part of 17 former loyal Blairists who called for their Labor party leader and Prime Minister to give a concrete departure date.

Blair is currently serving his third term in office, an unprecedented feat for his 100-year-old party. He has said he will not seek a fourth.

In response to the resignation of Tom Watson, Blair's junior defense minister, Blair struck back with a statement, saying he was going to fire the "disloyal" Watson.

This situation came after the SUN newspaper revealed that Blair intended to step down as party leader on May 31.

Challenges to Blair's authority expanded as another group of 100 MPs planned to encourage their party leader to set a timetable or face a tough battle for party leadership.

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# Investigator Says Bush Administration Tipped Off Bin Laden To Sting Operation

## Discrepancies In Bin Laden Confession Tape Explored



Bin Laden Tape

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Maher Osseiran, an independent investigator who has spent close to two years studying the 2001 Osama Bin Laden confession tape and the events surrounding its release, says that his analysis confirms what Jason Burke reported in *THE LONDON OBSERVER*, three days after the tape was released: “The tape, although absolutely genuine, is the result of a sophisticated sting operation run by the CIA through a second intelligence service, possibly Saudi or Pakistani.”

Osseiran goes on to say that his investigation and the timeline he developed shows that the taping was only one part of a two-part sting. The first part was to tape Bin Laden, the second part was to capture or eliminate him.

The failure of the second part, which is attributed to freezing rain, left the Bush administration with the fruits of the first part, the confessional tape.

Osseiran goes on to say: “As a highly sensitive intelligence material and the bi-product of a failed sting operation, by releasing the tape on Dec. 13, 2001, the Bush administration revealed to Bin Laden that he had been the subject of sting, therefore, pushing him more firmly into hiding.”

Bush’s playing the tape to the world “was as good as a de facto pardon,” explains Osseiran.

The investigator used statements by Saudi authorities, a detailed technical analysis of the tape, statements and footage inadvertently inserted or left in the tape, and what was leaked to the media about the tape, to develop a compelling timeline. He says his timeline and findings “contradict each and every statement made by the Pentagon,” the only known U.S. branch of government that had jurisdiction over the tape.

The investigator says that the sting was actually organized prior to 9/11, according to a UPI press report on Aug. 17, 2001, from Pakistan:

“The U.S. government has requested Pakistan to provide active support for an operation inside Afghanistan to catch terrorism-suspect Osama Bin Laden, a report said Friday. The United States has also discussed with Pakistani officials the possibility of ‘using U.S. special forces’ for a sting operation inside Afghanistan.”

Osseiran says that it appears

that the objective of the sting operation at that time was the capture of Bin Laden, since taping of a confession would not be applicable prior to the 9/11 attacks.

After 9/11, the sting became “a two-part affair,” said Osseiran. “Part one was the taping of Bin Laden describing the 9/11 attack.”

Part two, to come later, “was to be his capture or elimination,” said Osseiran, “but the capture did not happen, presumably because of an ice storm on the intended date. Had the capture occurred instead of or at the same time as the taping of the confession, there would have been no reason for the U.S. to invade Afghanistan.”

Osseiran questions the veracity of all Pentagon reports starting with the suggestion that the taping took place on Nov. 9, 2001.

“The facts dispute this, based on the extraction of statements made by Saudi authorities and the sheikh in the tape,” noted Osseiran.

“First,” said Osseiran, “the visiting sheikh, Khaled Al-Harbi, to whom Bin Laden confessed, left Saudi Arabia on Sept. 21, 2001. Second, on the tape, Al-Harbi gives us five instances that corroborate the official Saudi date of Sept. 21, and two of those instances indicate that he left in a hurry as soon as travel arrangements to Afghanistan were complete. Third, on the tape, Al-Harbi also tells us how he reached Afghanistan: ‘naturally, we were smuggled through Iran.’”

“The arrival of the visiting sheikh and his team to the guesthouse was around Sept. 25, 2001. The sheikh tells us that he arrived the day prior to the meeting, which makes the taping date Sept. 26, 2001,” explained Osseiran. The Pentagon’s “chosen date of Nov. 9 discredits them and can only be described as a convenient fabrication and an attempt to mislead.”

After the release of the tape, journalists in the Arab world played down the significance of the video. Several Arabic news agencies questioned the authenticity of the video, which brought a strong response from U.S. President Bush who said, “This is bin Laden unedited. It’s preposterous for anybody to think that this tape is doctored. That’s just a feeble excuse to provide weak support for an incredibly evil man.”

Osseiran, however, says that a frame-by-frame analysis of the tape by a videographer with 25 years’ experience in cinematography, video, and multi-media production indicates that two different cameras, and two different individuals, contributed to the tape. “Again contradicting what the Pentagon had told us,” he said.

Said Osseiran, “From the various official sources, it has been said that the taping took place in Kandahar on Nov. 9, 2001, that the tape was found in a private home in Jalalabad, and that, due to its poor quality, composition, and mishmash of topics — including the confession, the village, indoor and outdoor helicopter wreckage, and chanting — it was the work of an unknown amateur videographer who started taping Bin Laden three quarters of the way into a tape, ran out of tape, rewound it within the camera, and finished taping Bin Laden over earlier footage of a downed American helicopter.”

Osseiran disputes the location of the taping since it does not track with territorial logistics of Afghanistan when compared to what was said on the tape. He also notes that various cameo appearances by Bin Laden’s children throughout the tape, including the portion that featured the visiting sheikh, plus a statement in the helicopter segment by their mentor, Mukhtar, identifying his residence, indicates that the taping of Bin Laden took place in a small village in the Ghazni province, where the Bin Laden children and their mentor lived, and where a Special Forces helicopter crashed on Nov. 2, 2001, five weeks after what Osseiran deems to be the correct date of the Bin Laden confession.

The video expert who examined the tape says that at least two cameras were used to produce the tape footage, said Osseiran. “One camera was exclusively used to tape the Bin Laden segment and that footage bears only the effects of transformation from the European video standard to the American video standard. At least one other camera was used to produce the other segments that included footage of the helicopter crash site, village, and wreckage. Only this footage bears anomalies that are textbook descriptions of artifacts caused by poor electronic transmission through either a

phone line or satellite and are not the result of a camera malfunction.”

“The biggest question the analysis raises,” said Osseiran, “is why would only certain parts of the tape and not all bare electronic transmission artifacts and why would such transmitted footage make its way back into the camera? Governmental officials never addressed the issue of technical analysis, as if it never took place. Their explanation dealing with the poor quality of the tape was purely anecdotal.”

Osseiran says the identity of the amateur videographer is Mukhtar, a young associate of Bin Laden who is trusted to run sensitive errands, “trusted enough to also double as the mentor of his young boys and lives in that same village in Ghazni.”

“Mukhtar has a very distinctive taping style,” said Osseiran, “as if documenting the daily life of his charge, the Bin Laden kids. He always narrates while he is taping and the kids appear prominently in those segments he taped. He is only responsible for some of the helicopter footage.”

Osseiran continued, “Another person, whose style can be described as that of a voyeur, is responsible for the rest of the helicopter footage since Mukhtar was a subject in that footage, and, most importantly, a subject in the Bin Laden footage. Exposing the existence of another person responsible for the Bin Laden footage unravels the official explanation. Since Mukhtar lived in that same village where the taping took place, it is ludicrous to accept that he transmitted his own footage to himself electronically and re-introduced it into his camera.”

Osseiran contends that the voyeur cameraman utilized a hidden camera in taping the Bin Laden confession.

“There are eight consecutive frames, barely a quarter of a second of play time, that would go unnoticed under normal viewing,” said Osseiran. “The voyeur cameraman, caught off guard by the unexpected arrival of Bin Laden, rushed to put his turban on. He inadvertently filmed himself and gave us eight frames that are close up shots of him in the act of putting on his turban. Wrapping a turban around the head requires the use of two hands. How did this

voyeur cameraman sprout a third hand that held the camera? These eight frames reinforce the idea that the camera was covert and part of a sting operation.”

Osseiran continued, “Other facts supporting a concealed camera are: the total lack of eye contact with the camera, not a single instance, the many instances the camera was blocked, and the absence of any bloopers in the Bin Laden footage running 35 minutes.”

“A covert camera might also explain why we only have 35 minutes out of what is a three-to-four-hour visit. We only got the footage that incriminated Bin Laden. All other footage that would have easily exposed the taping as a covert operation, as compared to the hard-to-find eight frames, was edited out,” he said.

Osseiran says it is likely that the covert camera operator (intelligence operative of Saudi nationality) remained and, when it was learned that Bin Laden was returning on Nov. 2, 2001, informed military officials of the opportunity for Bin Laden’s capture, even though it was a day of freezing rain and hazardous flying conditions.

“The tragic crash,” he said, “apparently foiled the capture plan.”

“If Bin Laden was killed or captured on Sept. 26, the date of the taping, there would have been no public support, American or otherwise, for the military operations in Afghanistan which started 10 days later,” says Osseiran.

Questions have also been levied by Ed Haas in the online “Muckraker Report” as to why on the Bin Laden Most Wanted poster any direct connections with the events of Sept. 11, 2001 are not mentioned. In a report published on June 18, Haas says he contacted the Federal Bureau of Investigation to learn why and was told by Rex Tomb, Chief of Investigative Publicity for the FBI, “The reason why 9/11 is not mentioned on Usama Bin Laden’s Most Wanted page is because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11.”

Haas goes on to say that the FBI spokesman told him, “Bin Laden has not been formally charged in connection to 9/11,”

Continued On Page 9



# Terrorism Lives In Texas Public Housing

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "A man totin' a gun ain't usually scared of nothin'. But he orta be."

And now we come to the most difficult lesson to teach young working-class men and women: Humility.

Or, the "hat in hand" syndrome.

That comes from a long-time Titus County landlord named John B. Stevens, who once said, "I never took on a cropper without his hat in his hand."

That is, anyone who wouldn't accede to John B.'s rather extensive and explicit wishes should seek employment elsewhere.

Lucky them.

(And if you Yankees out there don't know what a cropper is, or the social and economic implications of taking one of them on, look it up somewhere else. I don't have the time or inclination to complete your educations on my own.)

Suffice it to say, following the sunny side of a mule or waltzing with a goose-necked hoe for 12 hours a day earning the privilege of giving half your recompense to John B. Stevens didn't exactly lead you out of the wilderness and set the supper table with milk and honey.

More like Reaganomics in a Waring blender.

Problem was, there was no employment elsewhere.

Which brings us to Estell Village and the amygdala.

Okay, the amygdala is a tear-drop shaped, peanut-sized, gray, squishy chunk at the base of the human brain that governs the way we treat things that go bump in the night.

Or in the daytime.

Or in your imagination, for that matter.

It's your internal car alarm.

It's that part of your brain that buys pepper spray and votes for people who bomb distant villages.

And, Estell Village is a low-income housing project in Dallas, the Texas state theme park for all things nasty.

Now, we have to accept some realities about any public housing unit in Texas.

First, it is probably located in a "low-income" neighborhood, where the land was cheap and once owned by a fascist political contributor who couldn't have unloaded it to anyone but the town drunk or the government.

Guess which pays better?

Not that either is otherwise distinguishable.

Second, due to the aforementioned economic and political

## Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



circumstances, public hovels are situated in a predominantly hyphenated neighborhood.

What we enlightened good ol' white boys call, at least out of earshot of anyone brown, "Niggertown," or, depending on how far west or south of Fort Worth you go, "Beanertown."

Quaint dialect like that elects guys like Lying Texas Governor Tricky Ricky Perry and Neighbor Bush.

Third and finally, the residents usually fall into two classes: young despair and old helplessness.

Consider that, according to the most recent study by the University of Wisconsin, backed up by at least a half dozen more from places that we generally agree know what they're doing, a young black man with no criminal record stands less chance of getting a job than a white felon. Last year almost 40 percent of young black men, almost 300,000, were out of work.

So much for Neighbor Bush's 100,000 new jobs.

Of course most of those jobs require the ability to say, "¿usted tienen gusto de las fritadas con eso?"

(Would you like fries with that, Gringo?)

So, at Estell Village, around a dozen residents are being evicted because young black men are standing around outside those apartments.

They don't have their hats in their hands, so they scare the old people.

Who ought to be scared.

I'm scared of despair, and I'm better armed than any young black man I know.

People who think they have no future are scary as snakes.

I spent too much time as a cop reporter to naively say some of the people hanging out in those concrete cliff dwellings aren't dangerous as cancer, just as mean and twice as quick.

But I remember visiting my ancestors' nineteenth century North Carolina cabin. It was about ten by 15 feet. Around a dozen people lived there, and at least that many more came and went from time to time.

Rather than watch the walls close in on them, they usually sat around outside when they weren't killing themselves in the cotton patch.

Some of them were dangerous as cancer, just as mean and

twice as quick.

One of them came to Texas after the war, where he killed and beheaded 19 men, then posted their heads on roadside fenceposts.

Another carried a live rattlesnake under his vest for a decade.

I cannot say that poverty contributed to their conditions, but I doubt if it helped.

Of course rich people are about as inclined to be sorry humans as poor ones.

But the poor die bloody on the asphalt and the rich die quietly

in Colorado condos.

Few of us are scared of stretch limousines, even though we ought to be.

Well, we're not scared unless a rap star is getting out of one.

All of which should lead us to the conclusion that, as a species, we don't have too much sense.

One of my best students is a big, stout black kid named Justin.

He's an A student, a defensive end who's tough as a Tonka toy and fast as a singed panther.

On short yardage he's the team's M-1 Abrams.

And it's just about impossible to talk to him without smiling.

At the end of every class period, he's there with a question about that day's work, making sure he's got it right.

He's under consideration by a half-dozen D-1 universities.

He's a good kid, as good as I've ever taught.

And he's big, tough and scary looking.

And I spend a lot of time hoping that some night he doesn't get in the way of somebody's socially over-conditioned amygdala.



## Editorial

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## Over-Reacting

A debate between Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and U.S. President George W. Bush would be a lovefest.

Let's not kid ourselves.

If these good ol' boys were to meet in New York City during the United Nations' mid-September gathering, they'd have a lot to agree on.

For one, they prefer religious fundamentalism over critical thinking.

Last week, President Ahmadinejad announced that Iranian universities should start removing their "150 years" of secularist influence by replacing their liberal faculty members with the ideals of the Islamic Republic's height in the 1980s.

While today's U.S. government isn't forcing its own professors into retirement as Iran's did in June, President Bush's policies, nonetheless, reflect a distorted Christian world-view. The Union of Concerned Scientists tracked his record in a February 2004 report, "Scientific Integrity in Policymaking: an Investigation into the Bush Administration's Misuse of Science."

Just to name a few instances — the White House has been caught editing EPA reports that warn against global warming, suppressing reports on mercury poisoning among women of child-bearing age, and ordering the deletion of information on comprehensive sex education programs from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) website.

But when it comes to supporting nuclear energy prospects in their respective countries, Ahmadinejad and Bush are not complete luddites. And, as much as their use of this specific scientific application may seem ironic, their near-sighted energy policies still endanger the physical and financial security of everyone on this earth.

Given the disasters of Chernobyl and Three Mile Island, no one should have reason to build any more nuclear power plants. No, money is better spent on developing cheaper and cleaner energy systems. This goes especially for us here in Texas where TXU re-

cently proposed plans to construct three new nuclear plants and 11 coal-burning plants in the coming years.

With that said, if President Ahmadinejad wants Iran to become a peaceful, first-class nation, then he should play by the rules set by United Nation's nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). If Iran expels the U.N.'s nuclear inspectors from the country, Russia has already promised to stop its construction of Iran's Bushehr reactor. Undoubtedly, the inspectors' expulsion would also increase pressure from the West to halt the Islamic Republic's uranium enrichment program.

On the flipside, President Bush has failed up to live up to the qualities a leader of a first-class nation would normally aspire — namely responsibility, accountability, and humility.

The American people must understand that the immediate threat to them is that Bush and his supporters are lumping Iran in with the so-called "war on terror" ahead of the mid-term congressional elections this November. Scaring voters into supporting Republican candidates is the only card the Bushites have to play since they have already demonstrated that they are unwilling to focus on domestic issues.

In reality, Ahmadinejad is no boogiemani, and according to most nuclear experts, Iran is within 10 years of having the ability to make a nuclear weapon on its own.

The head of Russia's atomic energy agency, Sergei Kiriyenko said late last week that the \$1 billion Bushehr reactor is scheduled to go online next September, which means nuclear fuel could be delivered in March or April of 2007. Kiriyenko added that there is no need for sanctions on Iran since the IAEA is in control of the inspection process.

There is also reason to believe that the Russians have continually postponed the reactor's start-up date in order to nudge Iran into agreeing with the U.N.

Basically, the Bush administration is over-reacting.

— By Nathan Diebenow



## Discrepancies In Bin Laden Confession Tape Explored

From Page 7

with the explanation that the FBI gathers evidence, which is turned over to the Department of Justice, which then decides whether it has enough evidence to present to a federal grand jury. "He (Bin Laden) has not been formally indicted and charged in connection with 9/11 because the FBI has no hard evidence connecting Bin Laden to 9/11."

The Muckraker Report asked in its report, "...it is conclusive that the Bush Administration and U.S. Congress, along with the dead stream media, played the video as if it was authentic. So why doesn't the FBI view the 'confession video' as hard evidence?"

Recently, MSNBC's Keith Olbermann (on *Countdown with Keith Olbermann*) ran a segment regarding the non-

mention of 9/11 on the Bin Laden wanted poster implying the absurdity of the non-listing.

In a later Muckraker Report, Haas noted that "there is no record whatsoever of any U.S. government official publicly declaring that the U.S. government had determined that the so-called 'confession video' was authentic before it was released to the U.S. media. To the contrary, independent media sources have actually done the side-by-side video comparisons of the 'confession bin Laden' and other confirmed footage of Osama bin Laden, and the results raise valid questions."

Haas went on to criticize THE WASHINGTON POST for an article published in December 2001 that claimed the confession video was authentic, "but failed to report the names and agen-

cies responsible for the authenticity process."

According to Osseiran, the copy of the original tape has been virtually sealed; based on failed attempts by a depository public library to receive a copy that is supposedly available to the general public for a fee of \$35. Also, it is not known whether attempts are being made by the government to have it officially analyzed to determine provenance and authenticity.

Haas argues that the people should demand the U.S. government release the original copy of the video for analysis to dispell "implied references" by the mainstream media that the tape is authentic when this has not been proved, and various independent studies suggest problems with the veracity of the tape.

## All-Female Radio Network To Launch

CRAWFORD — A radio network catering to a female-only audience is launching on three commercial stations this Tuesday.

The owners of GreenStone Media believe that their company will not only serve as a counter to ultra-right wing conservative talk radio personalities but also thrive in the process.

"The radio has become overbalanced toward the ultra-right. AM talk radio does not reflect the fact that only 30 percent of the country, at the most, is anywhere near Rush Limbaugh," said Gloria Steinem to the New York Times Magazine in a recent interview.

The network, however, will neither be polarizing politically nor the female version of

the almost all-male liberal Air America network, according to the founder of Ms. Magazine.

"No. No. They are very Washington-directed, very argumentative. What we are doing is more populist, centrist and community-oriented," said Steinem, a radical feminist.

To launch GreenStone, over \$3 million in venture capital was secured, and studio and satellite time has been rented from LLC, the corporation that owns Air America Radio.

Steinem is but one of the network's creators and investors. Among the biggest investors are left-wing activist-actress Jane Fonda and Rosie O'Donnell, a liberal

Continued On Next Page

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# UPDATE to RED ALERT 9/11/06

GUEST COMMENTARY

BY CAPTAIN ERIC H. MAY  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Last week the LONE STAR ICONOCLAST — and other media worldwide — carried my “RED ALERT 9/11/06 (Chicago, Detroit & Houston).”<sup>1</sup> The article warned of a fifth-anniversary 9/11 attack, code-named 9/11-V, to justify Big Brother government and an attack on Iran. After the monitoring of developments since then, the danger of a 9/11-V attack seems even greater now than a week ago.



Captain Eric May

## Bush Media & the Al Qaeda Script

Since Labor Day the media has blitzed us with terror, showing the official devil, Osama Bin Laden — along with the official diabolical team, Al Qaeda. He praises the 19 hijacking terrorists officially blamed for the 9/11/01 attack, and the 19 are shown making pre-martyrdom statements with the flaming Twin Towers and Pentagon in the background. Other masked and menacing minions practice karate kicks and judo grapples as they go through rigorous training.

Even normally mum mainstream media joke that it seems Bin Laden works for George W. Bush. In the wake of the Bin Laden propaganda package, Bush has asked Congress to strengthen his powers against the judiciary and Constitution with specific regulation authorizing domestic spying and Gitmo torture — all to protect the public, of course.

Bush and his media know that the more they terrorize us, the more willingly we shall accept a police state and a world war. The only thing that could make us even more willing would be another 9/11 attack. The new Bin Laden tapes remind us of what the media constantly tells us: It isn't really a matter of IF, but a matter of WHEN.

## A Deadly Duo:

### Ft. Monroe & NASA

A rapidly growing third of the public now believes that the Bush Administration staged the attacks of 9/11, and don't trust the government when it conducts terror practice. They correctly point out that on 9/11/01, U.S. air defenses were running terror drills simulating aircraft crashing into U.S. buildings; and on 7/7/05 London police were running terror drills simulating the bombings of their London trains. In both cases, the terror drills were used to set up the

## (NASA, Ft. Monroe & Houston)

terror events.

On Wednesday, 9/6, the VIRGINIA BEACH NEWS reported that Ft. Monroe, Virginia, will be conducting highly suspicious terror drills from Monday, 9/11, through Wednesday, 9/13.<sup>2</sup>

In the last year, two Ft. Monroe exercises, each simulating a Hiroshima-style Al Qaeda nuclear attack, have coincided with terror set-ups in the Houston Metro area.

To make things worse, NASA's space shuttle Atlantis lifted off on Saturday, 9/9, just ahead of the Ft. Monroe exercises. The launch of the shuttle allows the federal government to exercise national security controls — especially in Houston, NASA's Space City — that make it quite easy to set up a terror attack, or cover up the details afterward. NASA has sent the space shuttle into orbit two times since the Columbia catastrophe of three years ago, and both of those shuttle missions have coincided with terror set-ups in the Houston Metro area.

### Ft. Monroe, NASA & Texas City: 7/28/05

Ft. Monroe was simulating a U.S. Hiroshima and Discovery had been in orbit for two days on Thursday, 7/28/05. That afternoon in Texas City, just south of Houston, British Petroleum blew up. Hours later, after dark, hundreds of thousands of Houstonians looked south and saw a sight that created mass terror: a nuclear attack on Texas City — or so they thought. My Houston police contacts and I discussed the explosion the next day and agreed that it was a one-hour eruption of energy that was intended to look like a nuke. We wondered whether it was a new kind of weapon on board the space shuttle. We placed the explosion either directly over Texas City or further south over the Gulf of Mexico. We believed it was originally to coincide with the Hiroshima nuke Ft. Monroe was setting up, and instead of being an officially suppressed event (as it is now), it would have been played a million times, the way the Twin Towers demolition has been played, to make the USA want to attack the Middle East.

### Ft. Monroe, NASA & Texas City: 1/31/06

Ft. Monroe was simulating another U.S. Hiroshima on 1/31/06, and we had been warning the

citizens of Texas City that they were in great danger for two weeks previously. What sent us into red alert mode that time was NASA's launch of the New Horizon Pluto Mission — a 9-year mission to the 9th planet, named after the god of death — on 1/19. We believed the 1/19 date (a backwards 9/11) and death god theme comprised a “go code” for another attack, and events supported our analysis. As the Ft. Monroe exercises were running, Texas City residents, edgy because of our Internet alert, became terrified when Bush Administration nuclear forces turned up on the beaches south of the city, saying they were part of secret exercises.

### NASA & Baytown: 7/2/06

This summer NASA originally scheduled its space shuttle Discovery launch for 7/1/06, and once again we were active in our public affairs effort to warn the public, especially in the Houston area. In previous weeks I had published a widely read article in the ICONOCLAST stating that there might be a set-up in the petro-cities of Southeast Texas. Again events bore out the analysis and prediction: One day after the scheduled Discovery launch, there was another set-up explosion of a refinery, this time in Baytown's Exxon Mobil.

### Summing Up Serious Trouble

None of what I've written above is new to my readers. I wrote an overview of the ongoing danger in my 7/17/06 LONE STAR ICONOCLAST article: “9/11, 3/11, 7/11 Terror Dates — Is There a Code?”<sup>3</sup>

The article contains mainstream and alternative links to validate my assertions of an official set ups of terror attempts, and official cover ups afterward.

The most frightening part of my red alert is the way the Pentagon, sworn to defend the American People, has reacted to it. After weeks of correspondence with command echelons of the Army, I sent the red alert straight to them — but they have been anything but straight in reply. A one-paragraph, unsigned reply from the Army Inspector General proves that our military leaders are quite aware that the American People are in grave danger, and quite intent on passing the buck and shirking their duty:

*Captain May,  
Perhaps you have the wrong agency. The Department of the Army is not responsible for ad-*

*ressing criminal matters. I recommend you reevaluate (sic) your concerns and submit them to one of the agencies responsible for handling issues of this magnitude. I am certain you know who they are. I am sorry we could not be more helpful regarding your efforts. [Unsigned]*

It's hard to read such a reply without remembering that the Pentagon closed its eyes and ears when loyal American officers warned of an imminent Japanese attack against Pearl Harbor 65 years ago. Historians have suggested that the Penta-

gon did so because it wanted a Pearl Harbor attack to mobilize the nation for World War Two. Do they now want a 9/11-V attack to mobilize us for World War Three?

###

*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.*

<sup>1</sup> <<http://www.lonestaricon.com/absolutenm/anviewer.asp?a=484&z=59>>.  
<sup>2</sup> <<http://feeds.thevirginiabeachnews.net/?rid=6e2b997658195392&cat=622ebe3a790ef0e4&f=1>>  
<sup>3</sup> <<http://www.lonestaricon.com/absolutenm/anviewer.asp?a=318&z=44>>.

## ALL-FEMALE RADIO STATION...From Previous Page

comedian and new co-host of “The View.”

GreenStone's website notes that its women hosts will cover everything from cooking and cleaning to health and fitness topics in an entertaining way.

Its on-air talent will include radio veteran Rolanda Watts; writer-comedians Cory Kaheny, Nelsie Spencer and

Maureen Langan; author Lisa Birnbach; actor-comedienne Mo'Gaffney, actress Kathy Najimy; and actress Shana Wride.

So far, radio station in Jackson, Miss., Hartford/New Haven (Conn.), and Albany, N.Y. have picked up GreenStone shows.

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# Boots On The Ground

GUEST COMMENTARY

By JIM PARKS  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

On one hand, it's the world's worst lawyer joke, one involving the placement of a single comma, a joke that is not really funny.

On the other hand, it is the most horrific nightmare of any terminally ill person subject to the managed care of a large health maintenance organization.

The U.S. Veterans Administration certainly qualifies as such.

Consider the mind-boggling, eye-crossing task that confronted Judge J. Moorman of the United States Court for Veterans Claims when he ruled on Aug. 18, 2006, that the VA's change in its adjudication manual must be set aside in the cases of thousands of sailors that served in the "coastal waters" of Vietnam between the years 1962 and 1975 and claiming illnesses due to exposure to Agent Orange.

Early in the Bush Administration, the General Counsel of the Department of Veterans Affairs issued a change in M-21-1, the adjudication manual that determines how the department's decision review officers should proceed in granting health care and compensation and pension benefits to those with service-connected disabilities.

In a move labeled by the department's own Board of Veterans Appeals as "rather arbitrary," the policy change required that a veteran must have actually set foot on dry land to prove exposure to the deadly toxin. This meant that to receive medical care and pensions, the ships in which the sailors had served must have docked, and the sailors must have "visited" in the Republic by setting foot on dry land to qualify for the benefits.

This change was made in spite of the substantive law passed by Congress that provides for health care and compensation for veterans that served in the Republic of Vietnam or its "coastal waters."

In part, Judge Moorman's reversal stated:

Compare 38 C.F.R. § 3.311 a(a)(1) (1985) (defining "service in the Republic of Vietnam" as "including service in the waters offshore and service in other locations, if the conditions of service involved duty or visitation in the Republic of Vietnam") with 38 C.F.R. § 3.313 (1990) (entitled "Claims based on service in Vietnam" and de-

fining "service in the Republic of Vietnam" as including "service in the waters offshore, or service in other locations if the conditions of service involved duty or visitation in Vietnam"). Based on the different syntax and punctuation used in these regulations supposedly using the same definition for Vietnam-era service, it is easy to see how one could interpret and apply this definition differently in practice. For example, based on the placement of the comma in § 3.311 at (a)(1) (1985), the clause "if the conditions of service involved duty or visitation in the Republic of Vietnam" can be read to modify both "service in the waters offshore" and "service in other locations," although even that interpretation is not certain to flow from the language and syntax. The same clause, however, in § 3.313 "Claims based on service in the Republic of Vietnam" regardless of whether the veteran visited or had duty on land in Vietnam. It is further unclear what the reader should conclude from the use of "and" after "waters offshore" in §3.11 at (a)(1), and the use of "or" after "waters offshore" in §3.313. The Court cannot conclude, therefore, based on these varying definitions, that Congress intended to adopt either the international law definition as the appellant contends, or, as the Secretary asserts, the regulatory definitions extant at the time that the Agent Orange Act of 1991 was enacted. Thus, the Court cannot conclude that the text of the statute is clear on its face. See *Chevron, supra.* (*Chevron, U.S.A., Inc., v. Natural Res. Def. Council, Inc.*, 467 U.S. 837, 842)

The case, Jonathan L. Haas v. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, involves the claim of a sailor that is now blind due to complications of diabetes, including neuropathy and retinopathy. He served aboard an ammunition ship that resupplied other ships with food and ammunition, often within close proximity of dry land. However, since the ship was laden with explosives, she never docked because of security concerns about sabotage. Mr. Haas has testified that he often saw airplanes spraying clouds of an unidentified chemical that he could feel on his skin.

The VA has declined to state how many similar claims are pending or have been denied involving sailors that did not dock

or set foot in Vietnam but now suffer from the long term effects of a long list of diseases: chloracne, a skin disorder; porphyria cutanea tarda; acute or subacute peripheral neuropathy, a nerve disorder; and numerous cancers, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, soft tissue sarcoma, Hodgkin's disease, multiple myeloma, prostate cancer; and respiratory cancers, including cancers of the lung, larynx, trachea, and bronchus.

The diagnosis of any of these amounts to "presumptive evidence" of exposure to Agent Orange under the provisions of the Agent Orange Act of 1991. The burden of proof is on the VA that a serviceman was not exposed. The VA has also declined to state how much these claims could ultimately cost the government if awarded.

The claimants must first go through the process of registering for a diagnostic protocol, fil-

ing a claim, and following its progress through the entire hierarchy of administrative venues and appeals.

The Court reversed the denial of Mr. Haas's claims of exposure to Agent Orange, and that, furthermore, "M21-1, part III, paragraph 4.24(e). change 88 (Feb. 27, 2002), is SET ASIDE pursuant to 38 U.S.C. § 7261(a)(3)(D)." He based his reversal on "unreasonable interpretation of regulation" and "plainly erroneous regulatory interpretation."

When questioned by the Court about the VA's interpretations of the regulations, "The Secretary's responses only served to confirm the Court's conviction that VA's interpretation is unreasonable, and when applied, results in such disparate outcomes that it cannot be said to comport with Congress's intent..."

Further pressed, the Secretary's responses de-

scended into absurdity. "When asked to apply the regulatory interpretation in the case of a veteran who was in the waters off of Vietnam, in such sufficient depth of water that his feet did not touch the seabed, versus a veteran who was in the waters off of Vietnam and was able to touch the seabed, the Secretary responded that neither veteran would be entitled to the presumption because the regulatory definition is limited to those veterans 'who set foot on land, if you will, boots on ground, not touching the ocean floor'... Finally, when asked whether the issue was if the veteran had been subject to being sprayed with Agent Orange, the Secretary simply reiterated that the veteran in this case, who testified that he had served within close proximity to the shore, did not have service in the Republic of Vietnam according to the regulatory definition. Thus, when further given the opportunity to provide a reasoned basis...the Secretary could not."



Jim Parks

## A Modest Proposal: Save A Fetus; Stop A War

By MYRIAM MIEDZIAN  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

It hit me like a bolt of lightning. We have a president whose deepest moral concern is for the unborn and the brain dead, so it is obviously to this concern that we (those of us who have been trying to influence President Bush to stop the war in Iraq and not start one in Iran) should have been appealing all along instead of constantly harping on the suffering of the born.

How could we waste our time pointing to the young Americans who are losing their lives in Iraq, or returning home without legs or arms, or the 100,000 Iraqis blown up since we "liberated" their country, when all along we should have been bringing to the president's attention that there are tens of thousands of fetus carrying pregnant women in Iraq and Iran, (not to mention the brain dead—the Iraqi and Iranian Terry Schiavo's scattered across these nations.)

As I ruminated excitedly over this new insight and its implications for radical changes in our foreign policy, I realized that Bush's devotion to the unborn is in no way limited to fetuses. His devotion to stem cell carrying embryos—of which there are undoubtedly a good number in Iran and Iraq—is equally profound. While victims

of Parkinson's, multiple sclerosis, and other tragic illnesses point out that the stem cells required for research would be taken from frozen embryos likely to be discarded, the president's commitment to the stem cell is such that he is unwilling to take moral responsibility for the willful destruction of even one. He sees every single human embryo as "a unique human life with inherent dignity and matchless value."

Clearly, Bush was so excited at the prospect of starting his very own war and being commander-in-chief of all armed forces, that he did not think through the implications for the foreign unborn of his military interventions. Once we make him aware that as Commander-in-chief he must take responsibility for the killing of large numbers of unborn and brain dead in Iraq, he will undoubtedly be grief stricken and guilt ridden. Can anyone doubt that he will overcome his natural inclination towards warfare and revulsion at negotiation, and will hasten efforts to bring peace to Iraq? All thoughts of attacking Iran will be abandoned.

Some might argue that his concern for the unborn is limited to American fetuses, embryos, and stem cells, but this is not so. One of his first acts as president was to cut funding to third world non-governmental organizations

GUEST COMMENTARY

(NGO's) if they provide legal abortion services, or are involved in any activity that supports abortion. He has also cut funding for the United Nations Population Fund which provides help for family planning in third world countries.

Some might argue that there is nothing in his commitment to the unborn to prevent him from bombing Iranian or North Korean nuclear facilities which would only take the lives of borns. But this view fails to consider that there might be fetus carrying pregnant women working at some of these facilities. And yes our adversaries might take advantage of our president's moral fiber—if there are no pregnant women working at their nuclear facilities, they could decide to surround them with frozen embryos which would prevent even such limited military intervention.

But such "taking advantage" could work to our own advantage. If only it had occurred to Saddam Hussein—when Iraq was about to be attacked—to inform Bush of the number of brain dead, and pregnant women and frozen embryos in his country, and of his intention to surround his palace with mobile fertility laboratories. What pain and suffering might have been avoided!



Myriam Miedzian



# King George's 9/11 Tour — 2006 Edition

In what was an eerily appropriate coincidence, King George XLIII held the fourth rally of his "Frighten the Electorate Into Voting Republican-2006" tour on Sept. 7, 2006 — the 66th anniversary of the onset of Nazi Germany's Blitz upon London.

It's also the day the English news services reported the bombardment of Tony Blair's political career and party, thanks in large part to his playing "Deputy" to George W. Bush's "Town Marshall."

The morbid irony is one that I'm certain went sailing right past our dear befuddled Fearless Leader completely unnoticed.

His Majesty's first rally took place eight days earlier at the American Legion Convention, following lead-ins by Condoleezza Rice and Donny Rumsfeld, which I wrote about here last week.

Now, in the days leading up to the Fifth Anniversary of the Attacks on America, does King George use the time to honor the fallen?

Is there any true remembrance of the heroism that took place in those first 24 hours or so?

Does he make an effort to bring fractured American sentiments together, repair some of the divisiveness the Regime has been responsible for creating?

In a thinking, caring person — a leader — those thoughts might have come to the fore.

However, in a shallow, callous rich frat boy cheerleader who's only concern is keeping Republican asses in Congressional seats, making more money for himself and his peers, and keeping his position of absolute power absolutely, there is nothing to be thought about.

The events of Sept. 11, 2001 are simply there to be used as tools of propaganda, just as Herr Oberst Karl Rove has directed.

Be sure to mention the "nearly 3,000 dead" once per speech, in passing, without any show of emotion. Allude to the brave first responders who ran into the buildings, many of whom never came out — again, once per appearance, no more.

Most importantly, do not say one word about the families left behind, unless addressing the few of them who would actually attend a "closed-audience" event and buy the Party-approved horse manure.

This week, I've been treated to three hours of mind-numbing blather from our chickenhawk ersatz Commander in Cheese. Only someone who's never seen military service outside the



## Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

Continental United States would be as focused on neverending war as George.

Tuesday, Sept. 5, found Fearless Leader as the guest of the Military Officers Association of America. These are the most hardcore of the lifers, not necessarily in terms of combat tough but more along the lines

of political aggressiveness. Why else would they be found congregating at the Capitol Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C.?

Early on, King George stated the obvious, that we've taken the offensive against terrorists on every battlefield "and we'll accept nothing less than complete victory."

Just what is "complete victory" when dealing with terrorists? As Fearless Leader states a few paragraphs later, "It is foolish to think you can negotiate with them." Therefore, the only alternative seems to be total annihilation. That's a right big task, considering how many

Muslims join the various jihads every day. And, how are we going to be certain we're rubbing out the right ones?

If you missed it on CNN, visit [WhiteHouse.gov](http://WhiteHouse.gov) and read what they officially mislabel as "President Discusses Global War on Terror," aka the transcript of Bush's Sept. 5 oratory (not at all a discussion), wherein he used low level intelligence each one should have already known to mesmerize this audience of senior military officers — what al Qaeda had planned, how American intelligence stopped those plans, and how the evildoers adapted.

According to King George, those who attacked us are men without conscience — but they're not madmen. "They kill in the name of a clear and focused ideology," a set of beliefs that are evil but not insane. These are violent Sunni extremists, "driven by a radical and perverted vision of Islam that rejects tolerance, crushes all dissent, and justifies the murder of innocent men, women, and children in the pursuit of political power."

How coincidental... the United States is ruled, unwillingly except for a small minority, by an authoritarian cabal of ideologues, none of whom seem to have any conscience. They kill in the name of this ideology, spouting beliefs that are somewhat insane if not purposely evil. These religious extremists are driven by a radical and perverted vision of Christianity that rejects tolerance, crushes all dissent, and justifies the murder of innocent men, women, and children in the pursuit of ultimate power.

In the Sept. 5 diatribe, King George actually has the chutzpah to blame Osama bin Laden (using quotes dating back to 2002) for the "media campaign... to create a wedge between the American people and their government." This will expose how our leaders are sacrificing people, money, and resources for the benefit of big investors, especially the Jews.

Facts are facts, and we didn't need al Qaeda to point out to whom this Fascist Regime panders.

He refers to Osama's remarks about the defeat of American forces in Beirut in 1983 as "proof" we do "not have the stomach to stay in the fight." A silly example, after 23 years, from both points of view.

The real George W. Bush hubris arose — and the very one for which these military officers should have run him off the premises — when he invoked a comment by Zawahiri: Americans "know better than others that there is no hope in victory. The VietNam specter is closing every outlet."

The sheer arrogance to mention that country, and quote an enemy's cockeyed view of the war George avoided so avidly, was a slap in the face to each person in that room, as well as everyone who's worn the uniform of our Nation's Armed Forces with honor.

I can now answer Keith Olbermann's question: "Unequivocally, the man has absolutely no decency!"

Continued On Next Page

## No Extra Charge For UFOs And Aliens

And you thought your latest hotel bill was high? Las Vegas entrepreneur, Robert

Bigelow, hopes that within 10 years, he'll be able to charge guests somewhere between \$5 million and \$13 million for a weekend at his proposed hotel. Even accounting for inflation and that raise your boss keeps promising you, the price seems a bit steep. On the other hand, you'll be able to bring home some fantastic photos because his proposed hotel will be in space.

His idea is to send an inflatable space module on top of a rocket, and then have it inflate and orbit the earth. It's kind of a combination blimp and space station. He launched a one-third scale model on top of a Russian rocket in July, and it's orbiting the earth right now. If he can just get that other two-thirds up there, people will soon be lining up to bribe the bellman to get the best moon-view rooms.

NASA worked on inflatable space modules until 2000 when budget cuts ended the project. So, they sold their plans to Bigelow, feeling that he wasn't some nut, but was a guy with a viable research plan.

It's ironic that Bigelow made his fortune with the Budget Suites of America hotel chain. At his hotels, guests often pay \$79 a day for a two-bedroom suite with a kitchen. Now, he's thinking of charging people thousands of times that just to go around in circles in a room where you can't even open the window.

Bigelow has had a fascination with space since he was a child. His grandparents told him about a "close encounter" they had had with a UFO, and ever since then, he has



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

wanted to become involved in space exploration.

Not everyone who works for and with Bigelow shares his belief in the paranormal. He has hired professors, engineers, and even former astronaut, Edgar Mitchell, the sixth man to walk on the moon. Many of his colleagues don't believe in things like UFO's, but they do believe that sending an inflatable object into space might be both possible and practical.

On the surface, it probably seems like the price tag is one of the major hurdles for the project. I know millions of dollars sounds like a lot of money for a weekend, but I'm sure there are a some superrich people who would be tempted to cancel their weekend in the Hamptons or Vail, and go for the outer space experience. It would have great snob appeal. They could brag that they were finally able to relax without worrying about "ordinary people" sharing their vacation space. They won't have to get upset about not being able to park their Mercedes right in front of their favorite wine and cheese store because some weekend tourists parked their old Toyota there.

Weightlessness could turn the space hotel into the universe's most desirable health spa. And if guests have any encounters with cute little aliens, they can always treat them as pets like those little dogs they carry in their purses.

But what about those of us

who have limits on our Visa card somewhat below \$5 million? How can Bigelow make this kind of travel appealing to us?

I have an idea for him. How much would it be worth to you to travel by air and actually have it be a pleasant experience? You know, like it used to be.

So, Bigelow should hire flight attendants who love their jobs and enjoy serving the public. He should let you use your cell phone in the air. He should have the air conditioning set to a temperature that doesn't freeze or broil you. You shouldn't ever have to sit next to someone who elbows you the whole flight. And passengers should be able to eat meals that are actually edible.

I don't know about you, but those kinds of perks would make it awfully tempting to me. And when you think about it, is \$5 million really that much to pay for a real-sized pillow and enough space so that your feet and your carry-on bag can both fit under the seat in front of you? In fact, I think I'm going to start saving now just so I can fly without today's hassles. And if I start buying more generic stuff and make sure the living room light is off every night, it shouldn't take me long to save \$5 million, right?

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



## TENUTO

### From Previous Page

By some strange bending of the time-space continuum, in three short sentences King George managed to blame Lenin's revolution for Stalin's policies of mass murders, then link them both to Nutty Nikita Khrushchev playing a "Global Thermonuclear Warfare" version of chicken with John F. Kennedy years after both of them had passed away.

He followed with a three-sentence lesson in the rise to power of one Adolf Hitler. Of course, he left out the part about how Grandpappy Bush got rich helping to launder Nazi money and advance Hitler's agenda.

Then fearless leader attempted to make the case that Osama bin Laden was the next Lenin or Hitler.

A ludicrous comparison, at best. First of all, bin Laden has no government. He isn't even a citizen of any given country. Lenin was a powerful political and military leader; Hitler was a high-ranking elected German official who weaseled his way into the office of Chancellor.

Next, the al Qaeda structure isn't set up to organize a community properly, much less a nation. And Bush is coming up with scenarios these dolts are bragging about, have been dreaming up for 10 to 20 years, about uniting the "Holy Lands."

We're talking people who can't figure out infrastructure, who can't agree on water purification or irrigation. These are guys who function on emotional impulse, not reasonable thought — they'd rather dance in the street than do an honest day's work.

Like Ralph Kramden, these schmoes make big plans filled with falafel in the sky, but when it comes down to Earth it's just bird crap. Outside of destroying a building or ship here and there, they haven't accomplished one damn constructive thing — and the only thing any of them know how to make is a bomb.

That's not a real productive skill.

After they kill all the Americans, Europeans, and Asians who's going to design and build the computers, cars, televisions, appliances, and other handy-dandy infidel devices these putzes enjoy so much? Don't forget cell-phones — the jihadists do love their cell-phones!

These guys can't even repair the devices that exist now!

The Islamic radicals can't possibly kill all 300,000,000 Americans, all the Canadians, Mexicans, everyone on Planet Earth who doesn't believe in Al-

lah as do all Muslims.

During the speech of Sept. 5 the phrase "September 11" or "Nine-Eleven" was used in 13 applications; the word "terror" or that as its root passed George W. Bush's lips 70 times. There were also so many repetitions of the words "attacks," "enemy," and "extremists" that their very use became stultifying.

On Sept. 6, in the East Room, King George presented part three in his latest campaign of fear, "President Discusses Creation of Military Commissions to Try Suspected Terrorists."

I haven't quite been able to discern of whom the audience was made up. No doubt since the event was staged within our White House the guests were not typical, average Americans.

Fearless Leader kept going on and on about something he referred to as "this program," yet even with the transcript sitting right in front of me I have no idea what he was talking about. He spent a good chunk of the speech telling us nothing, how information from one al Qaeda operative led to another led to another, etc.

I suppose George just figured out that's how this interrogation thing works.

He went on about how one particular higher-ranking al Qaeda character was persuaded to give up a slew of his cohorts.

But, the King assured us thusly — "I want to be absolutely clear with our people, and the world: The United States does not torture. It's against our laws, and it's against our values. I have not authorized it — and I will not authorize it."

Yep. And pigs have sprouted wings, so now they can fly.

King George expressed his displeasure with the Supremes for daring to adhere to the Constitution, requiring that military tribunals for terror suspects be explicitly authorized by Congress. In an effort to complete an end-run around the Supremes' decision, His Excellency has insisted that Congress rush through the 85-page legislation he wants passed during the upcoming three-week session. This would allow any prisoners to be persecuted to the fullest extent of the Regime's satisfaction.

George has also found it "unacceptable" that the Supremes apply Common Article Three of the Geneva Conventions to terror suspects. These are the provisions that prohibit "outrages upon personal dignity" and "humiliating and degrading treatment." It seems to me these are the same things the senior ranking people at Abu Graib got away with while those poor lower grade reservists wound up going to prison.

In this speech the terror word

and its derivatives surfaced 71 times; there were 13 references to Sept. 11; plus overuse, of course, of "extremists," "attacks" and "enemy."

"President Bush Discusses Progress in the Global War on Terror" was the misnomer attached to King George XLIII's appearance before the Georgia Public Policy Foundation on Thursday, Sept. 7.

This was a speech with absolutely nothing new.

He did quote LtGen Russ Honore, US Army, who was in attendance. You might remember the general as the man who took control of New Orleans when Homeland Security stepped all over FEMA's attempts to do anything positive. Well, the quote went, "Don't get stuck on stupid."

Wow! Wouldn't it be great if the entire RoveBushCheney Fascist Cabal took that to heart?

Again, he questioned the legal expertise of a Federal Court that struck down the warrantless wiretap program as illegal. It's absolutely amazing how knowledgeable George W. Bush is about Constitutional Law. How did America make it through the latter part of the 20th Century while he was down in Texas?

Throughout the talk, His Excellency kept reminding us how much safer the United States is since he's made these changes in our lives the past five years.

Somebody please call the bunko squad, because I'm not buying that "we're safer" garbage.

Like everything else that emanates from King George's mouth, the more he says it, the bigger the lie.

The biggest whopper of all: "If America pulls out of Iraq before the Iraqis can defend themselves, the terrorists will follow us here, home."

This day, George invoked Sept. 11 on 39 instances, and terror 64 times.

George W. Bush did not set out to talk to the people of the United States as a leader, as one of us. He, for the third straight election period, used the Rovian tactic of ripping out stitches of the wounds of Sept. 11 and pouring the salt of fear directly into those openings which have yet to heal.

It's the politics of fear, fear, fear.

The Republicans have nothing left. And if the Democratic Party gets the majority it should come November, those thugs in the White House are in for some very big surprises.

These four speeches, delivered with callous disregard by a phony president who would be king, showed exactly how little he and his staff care about this Nation and the people who com-

prise it.

Let me see a show of hands from everyone who thinks George W. Bush is a sincere person...

(Precisely — I didn't expect to see any.)

We've been down this road of scare tactics before — we can't let ourselves and the World down again.

According to George W. Bush, everyone else is at fault for anything that he deems an error.

According to most Americans and citizens of the Planet, the fault lies with George W. Bush.

Unfortunately, a megalomaniac will never recognize his own deficiencies.

That's why there are honest, straightforward newspapers — and the process of impeachment.

Ken Herman of Cox News posed this question recently to

King George: "What did Iraq have to do with the attack on the World Trade Center?"

His Excellency's reply: "Nothing."

A better question might have been: "What did your Regime have to do with the attack on the World Trade Center?"

Shalom, to Everyone, Everywhere.

*(Jerry Tenuto is an erstwhile Philosopher and sometime Educator. A veteran with seven years of service in the U.S. Army, he holds a BS and MA in Communications from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. Depending upon your taste in political stew, you can either blame or thank Jerry for his weekly "Out Of The Blue" feature in THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST. Visit his blog BLUE STATE VIEW at [illinoiscentral.blogspot.com](http://illinoiscentral.blogspot.com))*

## Dems Say GOP Legislators Misusing Campaign Cash To Rent Homes, Condos

AUSTIN — Is it ethical for candidates to use campaign money to rent Austin-area homes or condos from their spouses?

Democrats are saying yes, that it is a violation of the state's rules regarding housing for lawmakers, while GOP party officials are brushing off the practice, claiming that Democrats are simply "mudslinging" in the waning days of the campaign season.

The same debate surfaced 15 years ago when Sen. John Montford (D-Lubbock) bought a house with campaign funds and Republicans screamed "foul."

Now five Republicans have been identified as renting from their spouses during the legislative sessions in Austin, saying their actions do not violate any ethics code or state laws.

Democrats have labeled the practice as violating the spirit of the law by letting contributors buy houses for family members. In 1991, the Legislature approved ethics reform legislation prohibiting lawmakers from buying homes with campaign money and using their need for temporary housing in Austin during sessions to justify it.

## School Property Tax Cuts Are Being 'Gobbled Up'

AUSTIN — According to Gov. Rick Perry, the reductions in school property taxes, as passed by a special session of the Texas Legislature, is being "gobbled up" by soaring assessments. He is urging a 15-member Texas Task Force on Appraisal Reform to address the problem of property tax bills that appear to be continually rising higher and higher.

"You have an immensely difficult task ... to stop skyrocketing appraisals and, in some jurisdictions, runaway spending" by local governments, the governor said.

The task force, chaired by former Texas Republican Party Chairman Tom Pauken of Dallas, will hold a series of public hearings around the state over the next three months and

make recommendations to the Legislature that convenes in January of 2007.

Currently, property appraisals for tax purposes are limited to a 10 percent increase a year, but some taxpayer groups are suggesting a 5 percent cap, which failed during the regular session of the Legislature last year.

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# Famed Ranger Captain A Fugitive From Justice

Under the assumed name of George Washington Arrington, an Alabama fugitive enlisted in the Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers on Sept. 1, 1875.

John C. Orrick, Jr. grew up fast going off to war at 16 and fighting at both battles of Manassas or Bull Run, Harpers Ferry, Antietam, and Gettysburg. He spent the closing months of the conflict as a guerrilla and occasional spy with Mosby's fabled Rangers.

Like so many restless veterans north and south, Orrick had trouble readjusting to civilian life. He joined the mass exodus of ex-Confederates to Mexico but arrived too late to offer his services to the French puppet Maximilian.

In June 1867, the same month the Mexican emperor was executed by a peasant firing squad, Orrick killed a black businessman in cold blood. He admitted his guilt in an interview with his hometown news-

paper, telling the editor that "he would allow no damn negro to call him a damn liar."

The wanted man fled Alabama never to return. For two long years, he roamed Central America careful to stay far from the beaten track. Then at last he decided that it was better to be a fugitive in Texas than in the tropics.

The grim young man, who walked down the gangplank at Galveston in 1870, called himself George Washington Arrington. The tight-lipped stranger took whatever job he could find, working in a Houston sawmill, farming in North Texas and punching cattle on intrastate drives over the next five years.

In the summer of 1875, Arrington met by chance Major John B. Jones, commander of the Frontier Battalion of the Texas Rangers, in Brown County. The two got to talking, a rarity for both, and the southerner with the distinctive

## This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



drawl expressed a desire to enlist.

Arrington came clean about his past, the trouble back in Alabama as well as his war record. Impressed by his combat credentials and unfazed by the murder charge, Jones agreed to a tryout as a scout.

The 46 year old Ranger may have seen his younger self in the applicant. Each was below average in height and skinny as a rail — one biographer described Arrington as "rather small, almost frail" — and nonsense men of action who kept to themselves.

On the first day of September, Major Jones told Arrington he was hired and assigned him to

Company E of the Frontier Battalion. Under the watchful eye of Capt. Neal Coldwell, the new but obviously experienced recruit tracked hostile Indians in west-central Texas and hunted outlaws in the Rio Grande Valley.

Arrington was promoted twice in 1877 — first to sergeant and later to lieutenant — and within a year made captain. Major Jones rewarded him with his own company based at Coleman.

In deference to his rank, Arrington's men called him "Cap" though never to his face. Walter Prescott Webb explained why in his classic, "The Texas Rangers:" "He was a strict disciplinarian, never took his men into his confidence, and discharged them for infraction of his rules. Many of them disliked him because of his unyielding nature."

Arrington stayed six months in Coleman whipping Company C into shape before receiving orders to relocate north to Fort Griffin. After killing the crooked sheriff, vigilantes had Shackelford County all to themselves and badly needed a dose of real law and order.

While Arrington was bringing the nightriders to heel, reservation Indians were running amuck in the Panhandle. On government-sanctioned hunting trips to Texas, small bands would slip away from their military escorts and raid isolated ranches.

When Washington ignored repeated protests from Lone Star authorities, Arrington was sent to investigate. In September 1879 east of present-day Crosbyton, he established the first Ranger camp in the Pan-

handle and wasted no time in taking the army to task.

Arrington figured out that AWOL braves from the Indian Territory were not causing all the trouble. Tribes far to the west were picking the Panhandle clean, and he resolved to track them to their source.

In the dead of winter, Arrington and a dozen other Rangers picked up the trail of an Apache raiding party. Their pursuit of the retreating band took them, to quote the captain's report, "into country that was at the time unknown to white men."

Although Arrington did not realize it until later, the trek took the Texans into the New Mexico Territory. Low on supplies, they turned back only to run straight into a blizzard and below-zero temperatures. But the discipline the stern captain had instilled his troops enabled everyone to survive the month-long exploration.

Eighteen months later, Arrington resigned from the Rangers and put down roots in the Panhandle. He resumed his career in law enforcement in 1882 as sheriff of Wheeler and 14 unorganized counties, a post he held until 1890.

Until the day he died in 1923, Cap Arrington always had a pistol within reach. Whether it was a healthy fear of his enemies or paranoia about the Alabama murder charge, the old Ranger never stopped looking over his shoulder.

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

## Screaming Children, 50-foot Imaginary Snake: Welcome To Uncle Ned's Day Care

(First published May 5, 2003)

Our child care provider is more than someone who watches our son for us during the day. She's also our friend. So when she found herself in a bind, I told her I'd be happy to watch the kids for a couple of hours; six children, all under the age of four.

I did this yesterday.

Today, I'm writing to you from a locked treatment facility for the emotionally disturbed.

Being a parent, it's not like I didn't know what to expect; I simply multiplied my three-year-old son by six.

I was prepared.

I came with a plan.

I had ideas for things to do.

And, if all else failed, I came with a bungee cord large enough to wrap all six of them together in the middle of the lawn.

Let me just say that, for any men who might find themselves in this situation, I'd suggest wearing an athletic cup. That's because, for some reason, all children believe that the only way to get your attention is to stand directly in front of you, wait until you're not looking, and then poke you directly in the [censored].

I say this all in retrospect, having NOT brought an athletic supporter and, instead, resorting to the next best



## Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

thing: Duct-taping a coffee mug to myself.

As anyone will tell you, the key to supervising children is keeping them active. Provide them with things to do and they'll be totally unaware that you are, in effect, slowly going insane. To accomplish this, we played softball, soccer, hopscotch, and then colored a giant dragon that I drew on the sidewalk in chalk. Thanks to my planning and organization, these activities kept everyone entertained for well over 15 minutes.

Which left me with another hour to fill.

Desperate, I did what any good child care provider would do in this situation:

I kindled their imaginations by telling them I had a giant snake in the car.

This, of course, was very exciting, and we spent the next 10 minutes talking about how big it was, where it came from, and whether or not it had once been an executive from ENRON.

Everything was going great until, naturally, they demanded to see it.

Now, because I didn't actually

HAVE a 50-foot anaconda in the car, I was left with only one option, which was to tell them it must've escaped.

If you've never heard the sound of six small children screaming at once, you can experience the same thing by sticking a bull horn next to your ear and pushing the "siren" button.

I should explain that our child care provider's home is somewhat secluded, which is what kept anyone from reporting a strange man with a coffee mug strapped to his pants chasing down a herd of screaming children on the front lawn. On the bright side, it did shave another 20 minutes off the clock, which left me with just enough time to get everyone calmed down and back inside before anyone showed up.

To the parents, I apologize for any future psychological treatment your children may require. To our child care provider, I've gained an even higher level of appreciation for what you do.

And to my family:

They say I can leave any day now — just as soon as I give up the coffee mug.

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

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## EMPLOYMENT

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# Drought... With A Capital D

There's stuff falling from the sky. When I announced to Zack yesterday that I felt a drop of water, he quipped that it must be a bird. But no, it was really, truly — what did we call that stuff? It's hard to remember such ancient history!

When everyone around us had measurable precipitation during the last three months or so, we were almost always bypassed completely. On the one or two occasions we actually had something in the rain gauge (besides dust), it was always less than our neighbors had. We would watch hopefully as the clouds circled us and passed on, and we were constantly disappointed. Twice we received a little drop in temperature for a few hours, which was welcome indeed. Once, we were treated to a beautiful rainbow. But no water. There were days it was raining in town, raining all the way to our county road, raining on the neighbor's land across from ours, but as soon as we turned into our cattle guard, the air would be dry as a bone.

Last week I was standing in front of the post office chatting with a friend, and we actually saw a little "dust devil" right there in town. I've seen a few of them on the ranch lately. Dirt has been blowing around here like it's West Texas desert instead of the top of the hill country.

"One day closer to rain," we would say to each other — and to anyone else who needed cheering and encouragement. But as the summer heat droned on, we were less and less confident that rain or cooler temperatures would ever come again.

Rains did finally arrive; a short but heavy inch-and-a-half last week, and now a nice, steady drizzle for the last 10 or 12 hours (so far). And we're so grateful. A friend even called from Dallas tonight to ask if we were getting rain (as they were). Even if this doesn't amount to much, it will be something, and the cloudy days have provided a much-needed break from the intense heat of the last few months. I believe this is the hottest summer on record. Unofficially, the summer ends today with Labor Day. Officially, we aren't out of the woods yet. Like many folks have admitted, the hot, dry weather wore us down. Not only that, but it was depressing to boot. And that doesn't even begin to address the fact that people's livelihoods depend on the weather around here.

Something is coming up in the fields where we planted

## 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.

grasses for the last couple of years. Timing is everything. A two-year drought isn't the optimum time in which to plant WWB Dahl, perennial rye, or Klein grass. But, of course, one doesn't realize one will BE in a two-year drought before the fact. Hindsight is always 20/20.

Two springs we planted. Two springs the only plants coming up were goose grass, foxtail, and weeds. (We were so desperate for hay this time around that we baled the goose grass). Now something is coming up again in the fields that were first planted in B Dahl and Rye grass and then both in Klein. What do you want to bet it's a second round of goose grass? And you know, we'll take it! If it turned out to be Klein seed finally sprouting — well, that would be just wonderful. Somehow I can't believe there's much chance of it, but hope springs eternal. I expect that in a few weeks, what cattle we have left will be hungry enough to eat anything.

And speaking of cattle — A few years ago when we changed out bulls (planning to keep back heifers — which didn't happen as planned. Nothing seems to happen as planned), we intentionally waited to introduce Babe and Lou to "the girls" so as to insure a specific calving season throughout the entire herd. There's an old proverb that goes like this: "Man plans and God laughs." We have proved this proverb again and again. Not only did our plan not work, but we have had three distinct calving seasons this year. We now have calves of all ages and stages. So much for the great plan.

With a scarcity of grazing, we were forced to start haying (two to three months early). The older calves will have to go ASAP. Old cows without young calves must go. Somehow we will manage to feed those who will stay with us a while longer. We are representative of most ranchers in the area. We must sell off most of the herd it took years to build. Someday we hope to buy back and start over. Everyone will lose.

Our government spends huge amounts of money on relief efforts for disasters in both our country and other countries. Billions of dollars have gone to

other countries that wouldn't lift a finger to help us in a similar disaster. (How many came forward after Hurricane Katrina to offer aid?) Our tax money helps fight starvation and malnutrition in other countries while children go to bed hungry in our own country. What's wrong with this picture?

Elected officials vote themselves pay raises while attempting to lower social security benefits to the hardworking masses and raise the age at which people can retire. Oil companies turn huge profits while individuals must choose between buying their (overpriced) prescription medicines (the very same ones that are cheaper out of this country) — and filling their gas tanks. People work for minimum wage so they can afford overpriced health insurance. Or they just give up, don't work and either receive no or poor health care or let everyone else take care of them.

Our tax dollars go to fund conjugal visits for prisoners. Like I care whether or not a convicted felon enjoys a conjugal visit. (It isn't supposed to be a country club). Money goes to fight wars most people don't want, (wars in which some of the soldiers must provide their own protective gear. Let me get this straight: These kids are risking their lives fighting for a cause we're not even sure warrants the ultimate sacrifice, and they have to pay for their own gear?)

Second and third generation welfare mothers (often teenagers) receive money for having (often multiple) babies (usually out of wedlock) that neither parent works to feed or care for. In many cases, no one is quite sure who one of the parents IS. Welfare has become a way of life, perfectly acceptable in some areas. This is not acceptable to me. Is it to you? If I had my way, a "first timer" would receive mandatory implanted birth control before WICK money. And mandatory birth control would continue until gainful employment was ensured and proven for at least two years. Lose the job — immediate new implant on the way into the unemployment/welfare door. Does this seem too harsh?

So most of us are watching what we spend, carrying coupons to the grocery store, going without luxuries and some necessities to ensure we won't go into debt or be a burden on our loved ones — and our tax dollars go to provide sustenance to irresponsible people we don't even know?

Where has common sense

gone? I'm trying to put things in perspective.

The plight of the small farmer or rancher in Central Texas won't attract Hollywood charities. Despite the recent rain, we are in a drought. This little bit of moisture, no matter how welcome, is too little and too late to help most of us. Farmers and ranchers in this area have been hit very hard. Our drought is a Disaster with a capital D, make no mistake. But no one will step up to assist us. Proud farmers and ranchers would probably never ask. We're too quiet, too meek.

And our government can't even figure out a way to get reasonably priced hay to our area so we may buy it. I guess we're just not important enough to catch anyone's attention. Our officials ask us to vote for them. We're important enough to them at that point in their careers. But when we need their

help, we suddenly disappear from their radar.

Before the next election, perhaps we could form a substantial lobby to force often self-serving politicians mired in bureaucracy and red tape to notice us hardworking rural Americans. But we'd need some sort of powerful trump card, so I'm not holding my breath. Anyway, by that time, the breeding cows I've watched over, laughed at, chased, written about, drawn cartoons of, nursed back to health, fed and cared for — and that have in turn helped to provide our livelihood, a good, simple life — will be hamburger. They will go to market despite all our best efforts and hard work, because we simply have nothing left to feed them, and no way to keep them.

This is our personal disaster and should be viewed as a nationwide shame and tragedy.

## Study Shows That Texans Are Paying Twice For Education

It's more of our tax dollars NOT at work!

The *San Antonio Business Journal* discusses a study released by the Alliance For Excellent Education that shows many college students are retaking courses they should have passed in high school.

In college these are termed "remedial" courses and students cannot take their required college courses until the remedial courses are passed.

According to the article, "*The state of Texas is spending more than \$88 million a year to provide community college students remedial education, according to a report released Tuesday.*"

Apparently public schools, students, and parents aren't doing their jobs, so taxpayers are paying twice for many students in college to take the same course again.

Before entering college tests are given to review an individual's aptitude in the basics: English (reading and writing), Math and often General Science. If the scores are below average, the student must strengthen the lack of ability by taking a non-matriculated course (one that doesn't offer credit towards a degree).

In addition it is obvious that legislators are failing public education and our children by setting up standards for success based mostly on passing state exams.

What good are such test goals if our children continue



Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

to do poorly in the basic subjects?

More simply stated, what happens to kids who continue to failure a difficult state exam that most legislators themselves couldn't pass?

And what happens to the kids who can pass the exam but remain below average in reading, writing and math?

One fact is certain. Until public education is enabled to reduce class sizes at all levels more children will continue to fall through the cracks, and the quality of education will NOT improve.

We are doing our own children a great disservice by permitting legislators to avoid the REAL issues.

If lawmakers would set REALISTIC and TANGIBLE guidelines for educational goals in a joint effort with school administrators and educators, we might finally be able to resolve some long-term educational issues.

*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>.*





## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To The Editor:  
**"Why All This Secrecy About the SAT?"**

Texans have a right to know where their students stand on reading and grammar usage on the SAT. The College Board decided not to release any data regarding the 49 multiple-choice grammar/usage questions. This is outrageous since this part of the Writing test is worth close to 70% of a student's Writing score.

We Texas State Board of Education members need all the 2006 SAT data because the SBOE is presently in the process of rewriting the curriculum requirements for English / Language Arts / Reading. It is important to us to know how well prepared in grammar/usage our Texas students really are.

To make matters worse, The College Board also did not release the 2006 SAT data which shows how the Texas students did on the essay part of the Writ-

ing section.

Why is The College Board deliberately burying the 2006 SAT data? How can state policymakers use the SAT to help them assess their students' progress when The College Board only releases partial information?

I personally feel we have not taught grammar well in our schools for over twenty years. When Corporate America has to spend over \$3 Billion annually to train workers to speak and write correctly, something is badly wrong with our schools.

Even if the SAT results are poor, we Texans still need to know the truth. If we need to improve grammar instruction, we need to know that. It is important for us as SBOE members to gain a realistic picture of our graduates' strengths and weaknesses so that we policymakers can make informed decisions. The SAT could be a helpful instrument;

but if only partial data is released, we members only get a partial view of our graduates' abilities.

The College Board's partial release of data honestly makes me wonder if their leadership has been unduly influenced by progressive ideologues who do not support the direct, explicit, and systematic instruction of grammar.

One thing is for sure: The College Board's management of the 2006 SAT data does nothing to help bring meaningful reforms to our classrooms.

Under a new \$275 dollar per student allotment (Grades 9-12) approved by the Texas Legislature, Texas Education Commissioner Neeley has told the public that schools can use that money for SAT registration fees or for programs that would improve scores measured by the test. It would be a smart thing for The College Board to practice full disclosure of their SAT data since taxpayers' money may well be funding an increase in the number of SAT test-takers.

At this point I am not impressed with the position that The College Board has taken to cloak their 2006 SAT data in secrecy. Perhaps the Legislature needs to take the position that the failure of testing companies to provide complete data might result in a demand for them to refund Texas taxpayers' hard-earned dollars.

Terri Leo, State Board of Education

District #6, Spring, Texas  
 Dear Editor,

Why commemorate 9-11? That was the day we were sucker-punched, flat-footed, after our President spent a month vacationing in Texas instead of heeding intelligence warnings about Osama Bin Ladin. Instead, let us remember that glorious day in May when our President's jet landed on an aircraft carrier and out he popped, bedecked in his flight suit, to

announce "Mission Accomplished." Mission Accomplished Day! On that day, more than 90% of our soldiers who have since died in Iraq were still alive. On that day, we were proud to be American!

Yours truly,  
 Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, CA  
 Letter to Editor,

**"Basics of Americanism"**  
 Relatively few Americans have a good understanding about our rights. Yet, our Founders clearly defined both the source of our rights and the proper role of government over two hundred years ago.

The Founders studied thousands of years of history and were very familiar with different forms of government. They incorporated their knowledge into the Declaration of Independence and later into the U.S. Constitution.

On July 4, 1776, in the first fifty-six words of the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, the birth certificate of our nation, the fifty-six signers stated:

*We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness, That to secure these Rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the Consent of the Governed....*

Here, we have the basics of Americanism:

Each person is born with the right to life, liberty and property. Each can do whatever he or she pleases except interfere with the equal rights of others.

The only legitimate function of government is to help protect the rights of its citizens. To accomplish this, government needs to use only the minimum force necessary to keep people from harming each other, to compel them to keep their contractual agreements, and to

protect them against possible aggression from a foreign power.

Founded on these principles, the United States became the greatest nation in history.

However, when our government assumes other powers, as it has for many years, it threatens our lives and freedom, and eventually we will be living in a police state.

Go to [www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article\\_3788.shtml](http://www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article_3788.shtml) for details.

John A. Clibourn, North Hills, CA

## California Passes 'Greenrush' Bill

LOS ANGELES — California legislators backed by Republican Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger passed a measure at the end of August that could deliver a serious financial rush to invest in green energy systems in the Golden State.

Believers in the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006 say that businesses will create new jobs and develop more efficient energy producers while curbing greenhouse gas emissions at the same time.

The University of California, Berkeley, study found that this act would infuse \$60 billion to California's \$1.5 trillion economy and 17,000 more jobs annually.

California is already the world's eighth largest economy and the 13<sup>th</sup> largest greenhouse gas polluter.

The act's passage is but one of many challenges on global warming's existence that Gov. Schwarzenegger has won over the wishes President George W. Bush.

In July, for instance, the governor of California signed a statement for joint research on climate change with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

China and India are also seen as financial friendlies to California's green-energy investment community.



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