

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 41-A

NOV. 8 2006

\$2.50 Per Copy

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We started attacking Afghanistan and Iraq. And then we found out that the plans to invade Iraq were set the day the Bush administration came into office. It had nothing to do with 9/11, nothing to do with terrorists. It had everything to do with getting to the resources of Iraq and colonizing Iraq. Now we know. They're colonizing Iraq and privatizing Iraq for the multinational corporations. That's what the army was there for. The army is just being used as mercenaries for the economic interests of the government — not the government, but for Bush and Cheney and Rumsfeld.'
— Robert Watada

SUPPORT THE PARENTS — Robert Watada and Rosa Sakanishi — the parents of Lt. Ehren Watada, the first commissioned officer to speak out against the Iraq war — have been speaking out across the country on behalf of their son this fall.

— Photo By Beth Freed

U.S. Military Ignoring 'DU' Weapons' Cancer Risks: BBC

LONDON — An investigation by the British Broadcasting Corporation discovered that the United States military is still using weapons made from depleted uranium, though this radioactive material may cause cancer.

The claim that cancer is linked to depleted uranium (DU) exposure comes from a senior scientist with the United

Nations who worked on a health study for the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2001.

The WHO study found that the radioactive dust from DU munitions posed only a small risk for contamination; however, Dr. Keith Baverstock told the BBC that tests by the U.S. Department of Defense that might prove otherwise were withheld from the study.

Dr. Baverstock explained that once people inhale depleted uranium dust into their lungs, it scatters throughout the body via the bloodstream and could damage bone marrow, the lymph nodes, and the kidneys.

Because of its high density, depleted uranium is used as ammunition and armor for tanks and other military vehicles. It was used in the Gulf War in 1991 and in the Iraq War in 2003.

The WHO studied the effects of DU due to fears the material caused serious health problems for soldiers, their families, and in the people living on land the munitions were used.

Health statistics on a rise in cancer and birth defects in Iraq have led Iraqi scientists to assess the environmental and health impacts of the radioactive substance.

But until the U.S. government releases specific information on the weapons used in the war, scientists would be taking a shot in the dark, according to Henrik Slotte of the United Nations Environmental Program.

The Ministry of Defense in the United Kingdom denied that there

was any evidence connecting DU to health damages to Iraqis.

The lead scientist in the 2001 WHO study, Dr. Mike Repacholi, told the BBC that no one put pressured on the study's results and said that he felt depleted uranium was safe in small amounts.

Phoenix Company Starts New Liberal Radio Network

PHOENIX, Ariz. — Is the United States ready for another liberal radio network?

The founders of Nova M Radio think so.

The radio network rivaling Air America Radio started broadcasting last week from two stations — one in Phoenix, Arizona, and another in Little Rock, Arkansas.

The owners are Dr. Mike Newcomb, a Phoenix-based physician, radio host, and Nova M Radio CEO, and Sheldon and Anita Drobny, the original investors in Air America.

Newcomb broke into the radio business in 2003 with an hourlong show, and from this increased success and experience, he leased KPHX with the Drobny's and began developing radio talent in April.

Newcomb, whose own company attempted to purchase Air American, has criticized the fledgling liberal network for paying "too much for talent and management."

Last month, Air America filed for bankruptcy protection with more liabilities than assets.

Newcomb told The Arizona Republic last week that Nova M will operate from revenue generated through local and national advertising and pay-to-download programs from its website.

Newcomb plans to break even in a year by relying on listener downloads, trading Air America's content for advertising time, and on-air talent.

Brazil's President Wins Re-Election In Landslide

BRAZILIA, Brazil — Brazil's president was re-elected to office with almost 61 percent of the vote last week.

President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, 61, promised to make social justice a top priority during his second term.

The runner-up in the run-off election was Geraldo Alckmin, 53, a former Sao Paulo governor and an anesthesiologist supported by business interests in Brazil.

The October 1 election went into a run-off when Lula failed to obtain 1.4 points of a simple majority.

The cause for the close race is blamed on controversy that forced a number of officials in Lula's government to resign.

The scandal included the arrest of two members of Lula's political party (Workers Party) for attempting to purchase information presumably damaging to Alckmin's campaign.

Instead of campaigning on changes to public policy, Alckmin focused his campaign on these scandals.

Lula countered by first denying any connection with the scandals and then claiming that his opponent would privatize state resources including the energy company Petrobras.

Lula, a former shoeshine boy and metal worker with little formal education, is popular among Brazilians due to a governmental social program that assists over 11 million families.

Segregated Public Schools Riddle New York City

NEW YORK CITY — A new study says that some of the most segregated public schools in the United States are located in New York City.

Harvard University's Graduate School of Education found that a third of the school districts in the nation reported a jump in segregation among

white and non-white students.

The report "Racial Transformation and the Changing Nature of Segregation" came 50 years after the Supreme Court case (Brown vs. the Board of Education) that ruled that segregation was unconstitutional.

Since the 1960s, the student

population that was white in New York City dropped 22 percent — 80 percent to 58 percent.

Chungmei Lee, one of the authors of the study, said that when races and ethnic are separated, white students are at a greater disadvantage and might not work well in a cultur-

ally diverse work place.

As the white population has decreased and the non-white population has increased, a lot of whites moved to the suburbs, according to the U.S. census.

The other author of the Harvard University study is Gary Orfield.

Advertisers Shun Air America

WASHINGTON — Several dozen national advertisers have refused to allow their commercials to be heard on ABC Radio Networks affiliates during shows syndicated by a liberal radio network, according to an internal memo.

The Peter B. Collins Show, a syndicated radio show based on the West Coast, first reported the existence of the October 25 memo.

The "Air American Blackout" memo instructs ABC Radio affiliates to "blackout" advertisers that want none of their commercials on air during Air America programming.

Some 90 advertisers — such as Wal-Mart, Microsoft, Visa, McDonald's, and Exxon Mobil as well as the U.S. Postal Service and the U.S. Navy — are listed in the memo as companies supportive of the blacklisting.

"The ABC memo is evidence of the potentially censorious effect that advertisers' political preferences can have on the range of views presented in the media," said a press release from Fair & Accuracy In Reporting, a media watchdog group.

In response to the publica-

tion of the memo, ABC told another media watchdog group, Media Matters of America, that the ABC was merely following the advertisers' wishes.

"It is not uncommon for advertisers and/or agencies to request that their ads run or not run in specific programming environments or dayparts," said the statement. "ABC Radio Networks does not solicit nor encourage these requests from advertisers. If a request is made by an advertiser/and [sic] or agency we make our best effort to comply."

Such was not the case with REI. The outdoor gear and apparel retailer said that it had not participated in the blacklist, according to Media Matters readers.

"The memo posted on the internet is not correct. REI has not refused to advertise during Air America's programming. In fact, REI has placed radio ads on stations carrying Air America programming," said the REI note to the MM readers.

The note went on to say that the company in conjunction with its advertising agency is tracking down how it had been included on the ABC radio network's list.



The Lone Star Iconoclast (USPS 022-833) is published monthly by Smith Media, Inc., P.O. Box 420, Crawford, TX 76638, and 310 W. 5th St., P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634. Subscription rates: \$24/year in the United States and all its possessions; Canada and all other foreign add \$20.00 per year (U.S. currency). Single copies \$2.50 per copy, plus \$1.55 shipping and handling. PERIODICALS POSTAGE IS PAID IN CLIFTON, TX 76634. All editorial and advertising correspondence should be addressed to: The Lone Star Iconoclast, P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634 or e-mail: <news@lonestaricon.com>, or phone (254) 675-3634. Please give old address when requesting change of address. POSTMASTER: Please send address changes to The Lone Star Iconoclast, P.O. Box 569, Clifton, TX 76634. Nothing in this publication may be reproduced in any manner without specific written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States.

Deadline: 5 p.m. First Friday of Month • Online Edition: <www.lonestaricon.com> • Fax: (254) 675-4090 • E-mail: <news@lonestaricon.com> • Phone: (254) 675-3634

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Paternal Pride

Father Delivers Army Son's Anti-War Message Nationwide

By BETH FREED
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

DALLAS — When First Lt. Ehren Watada refused to fight and lead his men into Iraq, he had little idea that he was starting a movement.

As the first commissioned officer to speak out against the war, Lt. Watada says that he cannot morally submit to the unjust orders. His primary duty is to uphold and defend the Constitution, he says. His refusal to go to war is his refusal to participate in the war crimes of an illegal and immoral war.

With charges stacked against him and a court martial looming in the future, Lt. Watada is discouraged from public speaking. He is not allowed to leave the state of Washington, where he is stationed at Ft. Lewis. Robert Watada, has taken his son's case across the country with his wife, Rosa Sakanishi.

If you missed their tour through Texas, you can check their case out on YouTube.com (search for Watada) or visit ThankYouLt.org to sign the petition and make donations.

Freelance journalist Beth Freed on behalf of the ICONOCLAST sat down with Mr. Watada and Ms. Sakanishi at their stop in Dallas last week and asked them how their son is faring and how the speaking tour has gone so far.

This is her interview:

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ICONOCLAST: When and why did your son join the military?

ROBERT WATADA: He joined in March 2003. He signed the papers, yes, and then he went to training in June of 2003. So he went through basic training. After a couple of months, they selected him for officer school in Georgia. He was then appointed as an artillery officer. He was assigned to Korea after that.

ICONOCLAST: How old was he at that time?

WATADA: He was 25 when he enlisted. He had just gotten out of college at that time. He had graduated from Hawaii Pacific University.

ICONOCLAST: What was his experience at that time, at basic training, and in Korea?

WATADA: As an officer in Korea, he had quarterly evaluation



DOUG ZACHARY of Veterans for Peace introduced speakers — Robert Watada and Rosa Sakanishi — at the Dallas Peace Center last week.

— Photo By Beth Freed

reports, and he was always rated very highly. He was doing his job, basically, as best as he could. He didn't have much in the way of a negative experience. At least he never reported to me negative experiences. And then he came back to the stateside and was assigned to a striker unit in July 2005. He began training with the striker unit. This was at the time that he was told as a commander that he had to study all about war, all about the battles that he was going to go into, particularly in Iraq, because this is where he was going to have to lead his men. He had better be able to explain to them why they might have to give up their lives.

ICONOCLAST: Because he's in the position as a leader?

WATADA: He stays in the background and directs the shooting. He's not really in the direct line of fire. He's just back there in the striker, while direct artillery will patrol in front and in back — they're the foot soldiers. But yet he would be, they said there would be 300 men under him, he would have to ex-

plain to them why they're going to give up their lives. He took that seriously. He realized the extent to which the president had lied to Congress, to the people of the United States, to the military. He said there were terrorists in Iraq, and that's who we're going to get. Later, we learned there were no terrorists in Iraq.

ICONOCLAST: How did he find out about these sorts of things?

WATADA: Just by reading books and articles. We're talking about the latter part of 2005. A lot of this information started to come out. And some of this information that was available to the administration, what was clearly known, for example, the weapons of mass destruction and the chemical bombs, came out. There were 1,200 inspectors on the ground, so the administration knew that there were absolutely none. To this day, they still claim there were weapons of mass destruction, but none have been found.

ICONOCLAST: What would you say was the primary moti-

vation for your son to enlist in the first place?

WATADA: Purely for patriotic reasons. You recall that at this time, in 2002 and 2003, there was this hysteria and paranoia built up in the country that terrorists were all over the place. They wanted to guard the water supply, we had to do all this stuff to protect ourselves, surround the schools, and all this. Everybody was joining up. And he and I talked about it — I was against it from the start — but he said he had to do it for his country. So, you know, hey, he joined up.

ICONOCLAST: Why were you against him enlisting?

WATADA: I was very much against the United States' involvement in Vietnam. I was bitterly opposed to the U.S. involvement in Vietnam. For some reason, I had this feeling that again, our government was lying to get us into Iraq. I could see no reason why we had to invade Iraq. But yet, the younger people, they're saying, well okay, let's give the President of the United States the benefit of the doubt. The President says

there are terrorists, then there are terrorists.

And we started attacking Afghanistan and Iraq. And then we found out that the plans to invade Iraq were set the day the Bush administration came into office. It had nothing to do with 9/11, nothing to do with terrorists. It had everything to do with getting to the resources of Iraq and colonizing Iraq. Now we know. They're colonizing Iraq and privatizing Iraq for the multinational corporations. That's what the army was there for. The army is just being used as mercenaries for the economic interests of the government — not the government, but for Bush and Cheney and Rumsfeld.

Ehren started saying, "Why are all these people dying? 2,700 soldiers, hundreds of thousands of innocent Iraqis are dying, and that's just not right." So, he made a public statement. He had made many attempts to resign six months before that.

ICONOCLAST: What happened when he tried to resign?

WATADA: They ignored him. They wouldn't even give him a response. It's very common for military officers to say, I want to resign my commission. I want out of this. I took an oath to support and defend the Constitution — that's the only oath that he signed, was to uphold the Constitution.

He had made a commitment for three years, and this December, that time will be up. That was the extent of the commitment, but his real commitment was the oath he took to protect the Constitution against enemies foreign and domestic. He simply could not take that step to say, "I will go kill Iraqis. I will risk my men, put them at risk to be killed. I will not go be a mercenary for the government." He stood up and made a statement. Of course, the military doesn't want him to say that, so they slapped on charges for contemptuous behavior.

ICONOCLAST: What is Lt. Watada charged with exactly?

WATADA: They've done as much as they can to pile on charges. He said that this is an illegal and immoral war. Because of that, they said he's being disloyal, he's not being a gentleman, and the irony is,

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Paternal Pride

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who is misleading people? Bush. It's Bush who is being dishonest, making contemptuous statements and being disloyal to the Constitution.

[Lt. Watada is charged with missing movement, contempt toward officials, and conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman.]

ICONOCLAST: What are the objectives of your national speaking tour?

WATADA: Our first objective here is to let people know about why our son made the stand he did. To get public support, because we know from past experience that public support is important to the military. The military does not want to go against a lot of public opinion. So, a lot of public opinion will mitigate the charges, the sentence. Maybe we can get it down to two months or six months, or something like that.

ICONOCLAST: How can people help your cause?

WATADA: They can go to <www.ThankYouLt.org>. That's the website that friends have set up to support us. You can go there and make contributions to the legal defense fund and you can also sign the petition, which we're asking people to do. That's important — the more people we get to sign the petition and to write to General Dubik, the commander of the base. Our son's life is in his hands. We want to say that what our son has done is the right thing. They should not punish him for, one, not wanting to kill innocent people and, two, for being honest and speaking out against what's going on in Iraq.

Last week, John Hopkins University did a study that 655,000 innocent Iraqis have been killed. This is an incredible number of casualties, of innocent people, not insurgents. They just happened to be walking down the street.

We also have mercenaries over there, you know, private contractors. I've heard we have as many as 80,000 private mercenaries over there. Nobody will tell you the actual numbers, but we have a friend that's a colonel who's been over there, and he said they're everywhere, driving the Humvees. They're just going around killing people everywhere.

ICONOCLAST: How have people reacted to your speeches?

WATADA: This guy who is an active-duty soldier read that I was coming to town in the news-



ROBERT WATADA spoke at the Dallas Peace Center last week, on a cross-country tour with stops in Texas that included Austin.

— Photo By Beth Freed

paper. He came out to this private home where we were doing the talk. Now, he may be putting on a show, but he said he supports us, that he's for our son. But he's going to go back to Iraq in December. And the reason he's going to go back is that he sees what the military is doing to these young kids, these 18- and 19-year-olds, and he wants to protect them. He really cares about these young guys and he really cares about what the military is doing to them. And he is certainly not encouraging anybody to join the military, in fact just the opposite. But he feels there's an obligation to these young guys.

But he told me they have these concrete pillboxes in the intersections that are manned 24-hours a day by U.S. soldiers. This is how they're controlling the city — every couple of blocks they have these pillboxes that hold four to 12 people. He says it's a disaster waiting to happen, because there's no way they're going to be able to defend themselves if 1,000 insurgents come at them at one time. They'd just throw grenades into the pillboxes, and they can't get out, and they're dead, right there. We were talking about strategy, what they're trying to do in Iraq.

He also said that trying to depend upon Iraqi soldiers isn't going to work. The simple fact is, how are we going to train people to kill their own brothers? They're

not going to. And Americans had to kind of think about it, Rumsfeld had to think about it, that they're training local people — now if there were truly an enemy there, you might be able to do it, but the only enemy is Americans.

ICONOCLAST: What is your son's daily life like right now?

WATADA: He's assigned to Icore, which is an administrative unit in Ft. Lewis, WA. He's in the budget and accounting office. He has his own office.

ROSA SAKANISHI: He is not confined. He can go back and forth.

WATADA: They give him assignments. I ask him what he does all day and he says, "Oh, I push papers." He lives off base and goes back and forth. He works every day, 9 to 5. He does whatever they tell him to do. He's not allowed to travel outside of Washington State.

SAKANISHI: They don't want him doing speeches.

ICONOCLAST: Does he do any speaking within the state?

WATADA: He goes to schools and talks about democracy and the Constitution.

SAKANISHI: But the lawyer prefers him not to give speeches. He gave a speech at the Veterans for Peace conference, and they gave him one more year on his sentence just for that. They're telling him he



ROSA SAKANISHI spoke at the Dallas Peace Center last week, on a cross-country tour with stops in Texas that included Austin.

— Photo By Beth Freed

better not go that route. They don't want him to make public speeches.

ICONOCLAST: Do you know when the trial will be?

SAKANISHI: Not yet. We are



THE DALLAS PEACE CENTER last week hosted the Dallas stop of the parents of the first commissioned officer to speak out against the Iraq war. Pictured are (from left) Doug Zachary, Rev. Diane Baker, and Rusty Tomlinson.

— Photo By Beth Freed

waiting to hear about that. We thought they were going to announce that last week.

WATADA: As of today, the commander has not made a decision. But our attorney says its 100 percent likely that all charges will be moved to a court martial, because that's the way the military operates.

Our attorney, Eric Seitz, has been working on military cases for 38 years. Everybody says he's one of the best. Even Jane Fonda said he's the best. We had an event in Los Angeles, and she came and spoke and supported Ehren. With what she did in Vietnam, a lot of people didn't like her, but I loved her.

ICONOCLAST: Have you met with any resistance?

WATADA: You still have people that believe Bush, that we have to stay the course. We hear that over and over. This guy said the other night, "Don't you think there will be more sectarian violence if we leave now?" And I said, "Absolutely not. If you take all the United States forces out of there, and take all of the mercenaries out of there, and the United States gets out immediately, in the next couple of weeks, peace will come to Iraq. It's only Bush that has made us believe that there's this horrible sectarian violence over there, and we need to stay to quell that. We're creating it in our own minds."

We were in San Jose, and there's this husband and wife, Iraqi, and the husband is a Sunni and the wife is a Shi'a. They're just appalled that this American government is trying to make everybody believe that there's this huge hatred between each other. He says, mixed marriages are common. I mean, people don't ask if you are a Sunni or a Shi'a. It's like Catholics and Protestants marrying. But yet, we make

this big thing out of it. And I suspect that what is happening is that the mercenaries are killing some of the Shi'as and blaming the Sunnis, then killing some Sunnis and blaming the Shi'as.

Somebody told us the other day, you know, these mosques that get blown up? This guy said, "No Sunni, no Shi'a would ever blow up such a sacred place. It's got to be Americans. It doesn't matter if you're a Sunni or a Shi'a, they wouldn't blow up a sacred place."

ICONOCLAST: What have you gained from this experience?

WATADA: There are a lot of good people in this country. That's been the most gratifying part. Wherever we go, people open up their homes to us, because they want us there. In L.A., they put out of a call for us to stay. Over 12 people had offered. It's gratifying to see so many people coming together.

We had meetings in Los Angeles with 50 people there, and, you know, most of these people had never met each other. But we're able to bring people together, around a common issue, and that is, we have to do something about what's going on in Iraq. We have had really good support.

We went to Eugene, OR, and it was packed — standing room only. They expected 100 people, and they had to keep putting in another row of chairs, then another. There were over 200 people there. We've had a number of events like that. We know that people are working very hard to put these events together. They're doing it out of wanting to work for peace in Iraq, to get the U.S. out of there. It's very gratifying to meet all the different people who want to hear our story.

Illegal Tender?

Class Action Suit Accuses Banks Of Illegal Creation Of Money

By W. LEON SMITH
ICONOCLAST EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

VANCOUVER, British Columbia, Canada — John Ruiz Dempsey, a criminologist and forensic litigation specialist, last year filed a class action suit on behalf of the People of Canada alleging that financial institutions there have been engaged in the illegal creation of money.

According to Dempsey, the lawsuit, which could involve millions of Canadians, claims that money is being created out of nothing by Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (CIBC) and that the money is then entered into the bank clients' accounts as loans.

Dempsey says that these loans are not backed by currency or any real tangible asset and, essentially, "the bank never loaned any money of their own, nor do they stand to lose any money of their own at any time."

The complaint, the first of its kind ever filed in Canada, was originally filed on April 15, 2005, in the Supreme Court of British Columbia at New Westminster and later updated on Aug. 10, 2005, but on Feb. 27, 2006, presiding judge Nicole Garson called off a hearing scheduled for three days after hearing only 20 minutes of questioning in the matter, saying that the People's claim has no merit and that their claims are vexatious, frivolous, scandalous, and abuse of process.

Dempsey had filed a motion to have Garson recused, a motion that he had intended be heard by the Chief Justice, but it wasn't. Dempsey says that Garson should have recused herself since prior to becoming a Supreme Court justice, she was the lead counsel for one of the defendant banks, TD Canada Trust, a situation Dempsey deemed a conflict of interest.

During the last hearing on April 6, 2006, Dempsey served Garson a Writ of Summons and Statement of Claim, filing a lawsuit against Garson in her personal capacity for interfering with what Dempsey described as his personal right of unlimited contract with his principals. Says Dempsey, "Whatever



happens, this is only the beginning. The greatest battle, 'The People vs. The Banks,' has only begun."

In an interview with ICONOCLAST publisher W. Leon Smith, Dempsey explained that in Canada, as in the United States, where the similar Federal Reserve System is in place, all monies advanced by banks to its borrowers are simply IOUs where money is digitally created by computer entry.

"No cash or any valuable or legal consideration is received by the debtors," he said, noting that financial institutions who are in the business of lending money have been illegally creating money out of nothing since the 1950s and 60s and there is no law in Canada that empow-

ers any financial institutions to create money out of thin air.

Dempsey explained that in most transactions, there is no two-sided contract — the bank does not generally sign — meaning that a contract per-se does not legally exist.

The litigation specialist is also working with Indian tribes to establish banks within their sovereign nations that do not have ties to the Canadian version of the Fed.

Here is the interview:

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ICONOCLAST: You filed a class action suit in New Westminster, B.C. on April 15, 2005, accusing banks in Canada of the illegal creation of money. Can you explain the basis of this suit?

DEMPSEY: The suit is fundamentally based on the fact that money does not exist. When we go to the banks, they use our signatures to create the money and they're not telling us that. The whole concept is fraudulent. The contract that we sign with them doesn't exist in the first place because you are the only one that signed the document. The banks rarely ever sign anything in these contracts. So, for a contract to become a valid contract, there has to be a meeting of the minds, right?

ICONOCLAST: I see.

DEMPSEY: How can there be a meeting of the minds when you're the only one whose signing for it?

ICONOCLAST: Is the bank situation applicable in the



John Ruiz Dempsey

United States with banking over here?

DEMPSEY: Yes, it is because all these things came from the United States. All these ideas about central banking actually started in England. The United States, with its Federal Reserve system, are the ones who became the pattern for the worldwide banking system to follow and so, yes, it applies in Canada. It applies in the United States, everywhere that central banking system has been established.

ICONOCLAST: So, the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is the same thing as the Federal Reserve is here?

DEMPSEY: Oh, no. The Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce is just a bank. They have the equivalent in Canada called the Bank of Canada, which is also privately owned. They say it's government owned, but government is privatized, okay. It is not owned by the people. It's owned by the Queen of England, so it is private.

ICONOCLAST: What is the current status of your lawsuit?

DEMPSEY: The current status of the lawsuit is that they dismissed our claim without it being heard properly. It's before the Court of Appeals, but it's just a waste of time appealing this thing. So, we will just bypass the Court of Appeals and, hopefully, we can get to the Supreme Court of Canada. And that will take this thing to the international courts. We have to go through the motions, so to speak, even though we know we can't win it. We can't win in their dark alleys. When the criminal is accosting you, you can't tell them don't steal from me because this is illegal.

ICONOCLAST: So, if you win this, that would make this a landmark case that would be applied everywhere?

DEMPSEY: Absolutely.

ICONOCLAST: That is what

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the importance is, I would assume?

DEMPSEY: It's got international ramifications.

ICONOCLAST: How do the dynamics of banking in Canada relate to the United Nations of Turtle Island?

DEMPSEY: The United Nations of Turtle Island is different. We are establishing four banks for these people and the banks are not going to be established in the same way that banks are established in Canada. For example, in Canada, before anyone can start a bank, they have to have approval of the Parliament. Well, if we are going to be sovereign people, we do not need their approval to establish anything.

ICONOCLAST: So, there are six nations? The Anishinabe is one of six, right?

DEMPSEY: The Anishinabe Nation is just one of them. There are quite a few nations. There are other nations that are supporting us, as well. But, it will be just a matter of time. We are talking to them and they believe in what we do. A lot of what the Canadian government and the United States have done is that they have established Indian Acts and they made these Indians a part of their corporate structure. So, they made them subject to certain laws. But the Indians never accepted this; although some did. Because some of these reserves actually took advantage of what was available to them in their casinos and reserves to benefit themselves. But, we're not talking about these people. They did what was right for their people. But, what we're trying to do is what is right for everybody.

ICONOCLAST: So, if they're a sovereign nation, they would not have to answer to the Queen of England or to Parliament?

DEMPSEY: Well, like for the Anishinabe Nation, for example, there was a trust set up under Queen Anne, where the monarch became the trustee of the trust, with the Indians being the beneficiary. But, the beneficiary never got any benefit from the trust. So, the trust is invalid because there has been a breach of trust. Once a trust is breached, then the trust becomes nonexistent.

ICONOCLAST: Since Turtle Island is near the United States border, do you see any implications for the United States and what's going on over there?

DEMPSEY: Well, yes. Turtle Island encompasses not only

the Canadian side of North America, it's all over North and South America. That is what the Natives used to call Turtle Island. The whole North and South America was Turtle Island.

ICONOCLAST: I have been reading *The Creature of Jekyll Island* by Edward Griffin...

DEMPSEY: Yes, I spoke with him yesterday.

ICONOCLAST: He exposes the secret meetings related to the creation of the Federal Reserve System in the United States. Did something similar happen in Canada, or was it just modeled after what happened here?

DEMPSEY: Well, yes. In the United States, it was altogether different. The Rothschilds set up the Federal Reserve. They had to have Congressional approval before they could set up their central banking system. So what they did was impoverish the United States by giving out loans and forcing people into default. That was done to make sure that they accepted all these plans that they have. If you're being threatened with foreclosure of your property, you'd be forced to do whatever they want you to do, right? So, that is what they did to the United States.

Actually, these debts go all the way back to the colonial times. See, when the Americans declared independence, they did not obligate the contracts. They had to honor the contracts. Some of these contracts are debt contracts and they haven't been paid. So, when you compound interest, on a small

amount of debt, magnified by time, they were getting ready to set up the Federal Reserve. That was planned all along. But in Canada, the difference is that they don't have to have Congressional approval. Canada has been a British plantation since the establishment of the Hudson State Company in 1670. They have always been a colony of England. They still maintain that we have a queen, you know.

ICONOCLAST: So, they don't have a constitution.

DEMPSEY: They can't have a constitution. Canada could not have a constitution. How could they possibly have one when they're not a sovereign state? And, for a constitution to be a constitution, the said constitution needs to be ratified by the people, right? So, there is no record of any acts.

If they talk about the British North America Act of 1867, which is what they call the constitution today, it's really not a constitution. It's nothing but a British Act. It wasn't even enacted in Canada. It was enacted in London, England in the Parliament over there. The recent version of that constitution, the 1982 version, which calls for the Charter of Rights and Freedoms, that was also enacted in

Great Britain. You know, if you look at the records, what they call the Hansard Transcripts of the Parliamentary proceedings, you will see that some of the members of the Parliament were screaming that this is a fraud on the Canadian people. You know?

DEMPSEY: Well, everyone thinks that it's a joke, but nobody is doing anything about it.

ICONOCLAST: So they're not afraid it's going to happen?

DEMPSEY: Most people here are not concerned. They are just like people in the United States. They go to work and come home tired. The guy gets his beer, sits on the couch, and watches TV until he passes out. And the cycle begins again the next day. That's how the people around here live.

ICONOCLAST: So, are they politically apathetic?

DEMPSEY: They're worse, they're politically ignorant.

ICONOCLAST: I see. Then, they're not even concerned about something like that?

DEMPSEY: No. They just believe everything that the mainstream media makes them watch. They believe the newspapers and news events on TV. And, that's sad. They don't do their own research.

ICONOCLAST: Is the mainstream media in Canada owned by big companies?

DEMPSEY: Oh, yeah. They're monopolized by a few people. The same people that own the banks own the newspapers. This is why my class action suits were not even published in the newspapers.

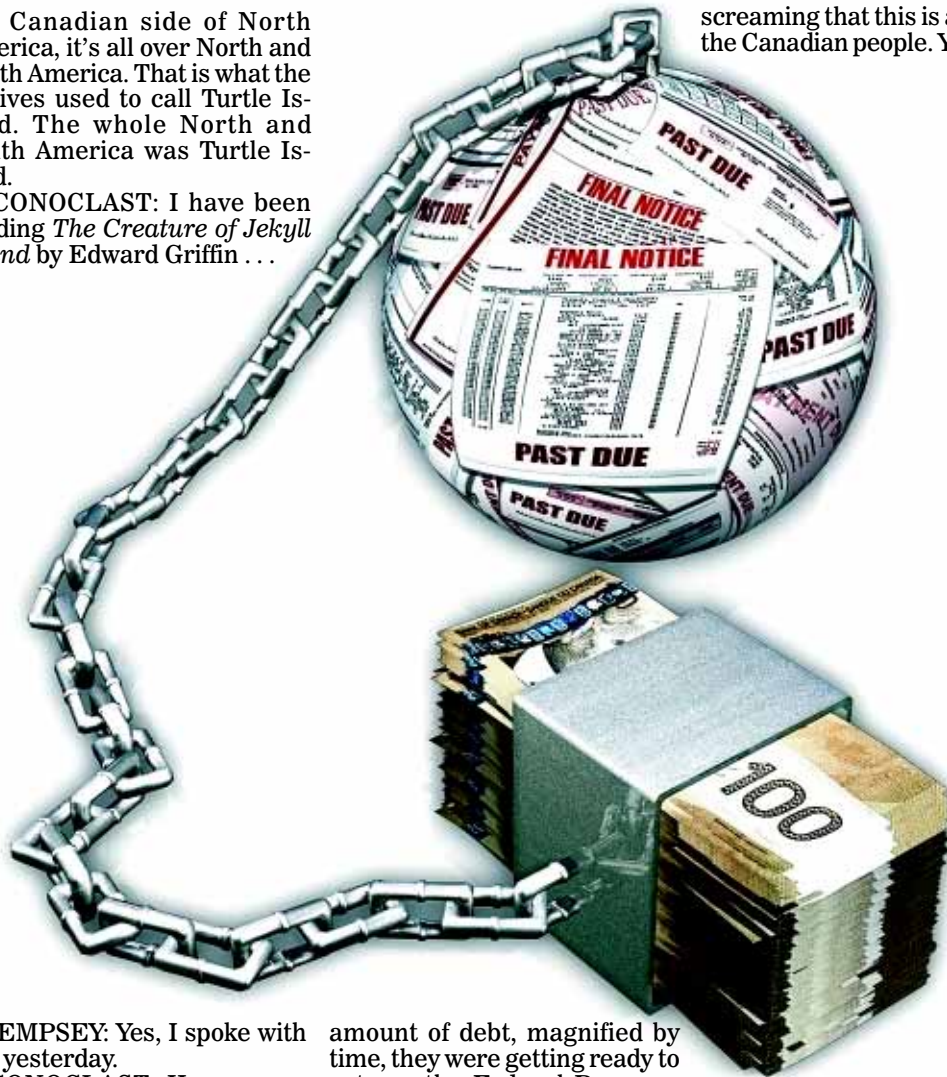
ICONOCLAST: So, what's next for you. What are your plans for the future?

DEMPSEY: With the banks? We will continue. I have started a debt elimination process, which I offer to people for a fee. We're successful. We've been defaulting banks. What we do is challenge them to prove up their claims. If they can't prove it, then they have to discharge the debt. So, the evidence that I'm going to gain from that will be used in future class action suits. Even though the class action suit has been dismissed, it was dismissed without proper jurisdiction. So, we don't have to accept that dismissal. As far as I'm concerned, the class action suit is ongoing. A case that's been dismissed without hearing the merits of the case is really not a dismissal, it's actually a crime.

ICONOCLAST: As far as the banks in the Indian areas go, those are being set up as examples, I guess, of what banking systems should be. Is that what I gather?

DEMPSEY: Yes, it could be, because, if we set up those banks, the major depositors will be the people that are actually creditors. People, for example, with the Anishinabe Nation. We estimate that each one is worth \$73 million, without even factoring in the compounded interest that they're entitled to receive. We just go with the basic claims. Each one is worth at least \$73

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The Lone Star ICONOCLAST

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

From the recent revelations about Ted Haggard, Mark Foley, and James McGreevey, back to the uncloseting of Michael Huffington and before him, J. Edgar Hoover, we see some of the loudest anti-gay bullies are themselves homosexual. Next time one hears homophobic hate-mongering, one should ask, "where is this person coming from?"

Yours truly,

Bruce Joffe, Piedmont, CA
Dear Editors,

Remembering Our Heroes on Veterans Day

What does Veterans Day mean to you?

To me, it is a special time to remember our Servicemen and women "living and dead" who for 230 years stood up in defense of this great nation. The liberty bell continues to ring because of people like: George Washington, Robert E. Lee, George S. Patton and the Tuskegee Airmen of World War II.

Saturday, November 11, 2006, is Veterans Day!

The movie "The Flags of our Fathers," depicting the Battle of

Iwo Jima, touched me because my Uncle Lewis fought there. He was with the 1st Marine Division and by the grace of Almighty God came home to a joyful family. Lewis was named after his Great Grandfather Lewis Milton Griffith who served in the 39th Mississippi Regiment, Company B-CSA during the War Between the States. My family is proud of both these men.

On Veterans Day let us not forget that it was American Patriot Patrick Henry who said:

"It can not be emphasized too strongly or too often that this great nation was founded, not by the religionists but by Christians, not on religion but on the Gospel of Jesus Christ." Can you imagine what some people might say today about such a bold statement as this? There was a time when his words were the soul of our nation.

Let us remember that George Washington led his troops in prayer before they crossed the Delaware River on a cold-snowy night to surprise the British and Hessian Troops on December 26, 1776.

Our children should know of

Andrew Jackson and a ragtag army who defeated the British in 1815 at the Battle of New Orleans. A young officer named Wade Hampton of South Carolina rode 750 miles in ten days to Columbia, South Carolina, and then to Washington, D.C. to tell President Madison and the country of the great victory.

We shall never forget that in March, 1836, a small group of men at the Alamo stood between Santa Anna's 5,000 man army and the unprepared small army of Sam Houston. In the lonely monastery of the Alamo were Davy Crocket, Jim Bowie and less than two hundred men under Colonel William Travis. Just days before Santa Anna's final assault, these men came into the Alamo, knowing they might die.

On their last night on earth the men of the Alamo prayed that their battle would, somehow, lead to victory even though they might not see it. A short time later at San Jacinto Houston defeated Santa Anna with the battle cry of "Remember the Alamo!"

Let us forget the men of the Confederacy and Union who fought four long-bloody years during the War Between the States, 1861-1865. There have been many names but the United States Congress would officially name it "The War Between the States." Since the Spanish American War the Confederate Battle flag has been

the blood brother of the Stars and Stripes as Southerners have taken their place at the front in all our nation's wars.

May we continue to remember that in February 1898, the American Battleship Maine blew up in Havana Harbor with nearly 300 dead.

The Spanish-American War brought Teddy Roosevelt's "Roughriders" to Cuba to charge up San Juan Hill to victory. Old Joe Wheeler, an former Confederate Cavalry General, was there with him. Wheeler got excited and forgot which war he was in. He shouted, "There they are, go get those Yankees!"

In Greensboro, North Carolina a six year old girl named Mary Frances Barker awoke to the shouts of a boy far down the street. It was 5:00AM November 12, 1918. It was the paper boy shouting, "The war is over, the war is over!" World War I had finally come to an end on the 11th day of the 11th hour and the 11th month of November 1918.

The United States Congress proclaimed "Armistice Day" a year later on November 11, 1919.

On Sunday, December 7, 1941, the first word of the attack on Pearl Harbor came by radio. Newspapers did run "extras" that Sunday with little information and a lot of fear. That Sunday would become "a day of infamy." On Monday December 8th President Franklin D. Roosevelt, during a special session of congress, spoke of the attack and declared war on Japan. His speech was broadcast on the radio.

F.D.R.'s closing words were: "With the abounded determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph, so help us God!"

Since that time there was Korea, Vietnam, Grenada, Desert Storm, Afghanistan and Iraq. We can not forget that we were attacked again on September 11, 2001.

Since World War II, we have seen prayer taken out of our schools and "Under God" under attack on the pledge of allegiance. Are we still a nation of God as we once was? With all that is happening in the world today, it seems to me that we may need God more then ever.

Armistice Day became Veterans Day in 1954. Let's all remember men like: Ira Hayes, Mike Strank, Franklin Sousley, Rene Gagnon, John Bradley and Harlon Block who placed the United States flag on top of Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. Three of these men were later killed at Iwo Jima and the other three helped promote the sale of war bonds.

They say the soldier did not think of himself a hero; he be-

lieved the heroes were of the soldiers who died in battle.

Take a few minutes this Veterans Day to thank a Veteran and light a candle for those serving our country around the world and in harm's way.

We Will Never Forget!

Calvin E. Johnson, Jr.,
Kennesaw, Georgia

Dear Editor:

USA Destruction Under Way

Relatively few Americans are aware that the destruction of the United States is well under way. How can this be? It is because the federal government wants to entangle us in a North American Cooperative Security Act with Canada and Mexico.

This Act will be used as a stepping stone to build a North American Union (NAU) similar to the European Union (EU). Our borders with Canada and Mexico will be erased, and we will be subjected to rulings from an unelected NAU governing body. We will lose our sovereignty and our constitutional protection. This is not speculation. It is official government policy. Go to

www.thenewamerican.com/artman/publish/article_4213.shtml for details.

Futhermore, as part of the NAU, the federal government plans to build a NAFTA Super Highway throughout our country. It will be linked to both Canada and Mexico. It is expected to be about a quarter-mile wide. The government will use the power of eminent domain to condemn private property for this highway.

Inspection stations will be moved from our borders to hundreds of miles inland because our borders will have been erased. This means that terrorists and contraband can easily enter our former independent United States.

Concerned citizens should contact their two U.S. Senators and their U.S. Representative and urge them to stop this so-called Security Act: S. 853 in the Senate, and H.R. 2672 in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Edward Milton Ventresca,
Canyon Country, CA

Dear Mr. Smith,

Allowing President Bush and those around him to break the law and NOT doing anything about it is creating a sense of helplessness among Americans. When people feel helpless, when they think their vote does not count, when they are afraid to express dissent, when they feel there is nothing they can do, when the people representing them are not listening, when leaders do whatever they want even if it is illegal or ethically wrong, or immoral, we

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Illegal Tender?

From Previous Page

million and that will be the money that will be deposited in these banks. So, the deposits will have a firm foundation because they have a valid claim against the Queen, the monarch of England. And they have a valid claim against Canada. You know, Canada is not really a du jour government. It's a defacto government.

ICONOCLAST: Do you have any other comments you'd like to make?

DEMPSEY: My comment is that I really thank the Lord that we are able to talk like this and that the Lord is giving us the opportunity to be aware of what everyone is doing. We are all here with one common goal and that is to set the people free with truth. It's good that I'm coming across people like you. People like Roberta Kelley and Ed Griffin and Aaron Russo and all these people that are willing to make personal sacrifices, expose themselves to the powers



that be, and educate the people with whatever tools that they are able to share with them. This is also my goal. We have a common goal and I thank the Lord for that.

ICONOCLAST: One last question. Are there any newspapers like the ICONOCLAST in Canada?

DEMPSEY: No. Hopefully, we can set something similar here.

The problem is funding. We run everything with a shoestring budget. Hopefully we can find somebody that can assist us financially.

ICONOCLAST: But there is freedom of the press over there?

DEMPSEY: At the present time, there is some semblance of it. I don't know how long it will last.

Oatmeal, Fruit and Morning Shows

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "One thing folks never run out of is sons of bitches."

It's my fault for resorting to healthier living.

Instead of a sensible diet of doughnuts and coffee or *huevos con pappas y frijoles* from Adriana and Jeanettes each morning, I've succumbed to the health fascists' propaganda.

Lately I've been breakfasting on oatmeal, fruit and morning shows.

In the interest of cardiac wellbeing; however, I have now rediscovered Wellbutrin of the airways, PBS radio.

Shortly after we buried the fourth television I've shot this year.

The Ed Sullivan news cranked up heavily to head off the threat of representative government last week, but probably the worst were the propaganda bunnies at Good Grief America.

Diane Sawyer and Robin Roberts is a Martin and Lewis minstrel show looking for an end man.

Sawyer's video trip to North Korea was like drowning in Cream of Wheat with too much sugar.

Her "interview" with the QKP (quaint Korean peasant) ended with a knowing mascara wink from the former Nixon bomb-

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



shell as she pointed out that her victim was wearing a Nike Swoosh baseball cap.

And the poor silly little hoe-hand didn't even know where it came from!

She was buying American and was too stupid to know.

And if Kim Jong Il's rewrite men saw that piece, she's now too dead to know.

And Bubbles chortled into commercial break.

Actually, Diane, you dimpled doll, in case you haven't looked at a Nike label lately, it came from right across the Yalu River in CHINA.

The last time Nike made anything in this country, someone in your audience knew who Steve Prefontaine was.

Pull her string again, and she'll take a licking and keep on ticking

And then came the feminist answer to Clarence Thomas.

Lacking all but the Aunt Jemima do-rag, Robin Roberts savaged yet another "Democratic spokesperson" for failure to plan in Iraq.

When the unsuspecting

nimrod tried to be polite and explain that this was a Congressional election, not a presidential one, and that the U.S. Congress only serves as oversight to the executive branch in matters of war and torture, the ESPN Peter Principle shut him off with "I'm still not sure I heard a plan there."

Now dance nice fo' Little Massa George, Topsy!

Without going into a civics lesson that her personal tutor for Govt. 1301 evidently didn't think was germane back at South-eastern Louisiana, let me just point this out:

Consider the brilliant strategy of invading a third world country, pouring billions of dollars into a profiteers' rathole, turning it over to looters for six months before rigging an election that empowers a pack of theocratic oligarchs backed by a warlord army that can't even find a fourth of the firearms we gave them and, incidentally, getting a half million Iraqis and 3,000 U.S. soldiers killed, not to mention 30,000 more G.I. disabled in a war we couldn't win if we moved it to Los Angeles.

If you actually think that constitutes a *plan*, no wonder you couldn't make the cut at SportsCenter.

Back to you, Barbie.

It is an outrage to me that the general population believes that drug addicts have no place here except prison. How tragic for mothers and children who lose a child or parent to drugs. As a successful, single mother of two I never thought I would be an addict. A journey I thought I would never take, but I did.

I hear stories of families who give up and it makes me so sad and even angry, how do they give up on someone they love? I have a brother who refused to give up on me. He searched for weeks to find a rehab that would work and finally found it. His diligence saved my life. He is my hero. Without him I would have surely ended up in prison or dead.

Rehabilitation works! Because of what happened to me he now helps others who refuse to give up. You can call him at 866-648-7609. He helps Moms and Dads and their children and even little sisters everywhere and he does it for free because he likes being my hero. He says I am his angel. Imagine that, an addict turned angel. Of course anything is possible....if you don't give up.

Thank you,

Holly Lyn Conklin, Tulsa, OK

I urge people to vote and act for the good of Democracy, for the good of the country, for the good of the PEOPLE.

Brenda Freed, Wimberley, TX

Dear Editor:

LETTERS ... From Previous Page

have a DICTATORSHIP rather than a democracy.

The Bush administration runs the country like a dictatorship. I live in this country because it is supposed to be a democracy where the people have a voice and where they know that if they vote and speak out, representatives will listen and act on behalf of the people. America is losing the characteristics that have made it a democracy because the people feel HELPLESS!

I urge people to please help turn America around from the damage that has been done by all the illegal and sneaky things this administration has done to take away the rights of Americans, and further perpetuated a feeling of apathy and helplessness that is discouraging Americans from even exercising their right to vote! We must not let our country take on any more characteristics of a dictatorship!

Recently CNN reported: The Pentagon cannot account for 14,030 weapons — almost 4 percent of the semiautomatic pistols, assault rifles, machine

guns, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and other weapons it has been supplying to Iraq since the end of 2003. The missing weapons will not be tracked easily: The Defense Department registered the serial numbers of only about 10,000 of the 370,251 weapons it provided — less than 3 percent. Missing from the Defense Department's inventory books were 13,180 semiautomatic pistols, 751 assault rifles and 99 machine guns.

This President and his administration must be held ACCOUNTABLE! What happened to checks and balances? What will come next from this President if you do not hold him accountable for breaking the law? Democracy is truly failing if President Bush is allowed to break the law repeatedly and the voices of the people are ignored! Americans need renewed hope in the system.

I urge people to vote and act for the good of Democracy, for the good of the country, for the good of the PEOPLE.

Brenda Freed, Wimberley, TX

Dear Editor:

Editorial

How To Beat Those Post-Election Blues

The 2006 election season is wrapping up this Tuesday. And you've done all you can to get out the vote from working the phone banks to walking all the missed blocks to waving signs over the expressway.

So what are you planning on doing *after* the election?

Burn out?

Not a chance!

Before all you political and social activists everywhere extend yourselves too far and form a pity party, prepare to take some time off to relax, re-energize, and regroup.

Why?

Because all healthy hands are needed on deck to gear up for the next event, be it a neighborhood recycling program or the 2008 U.S. presidential election.

First off, win or lose, accept your feelings toward the situation for what they are, and express them in a safe atmosphere. The joy, anger, relief, pain, denial, and/or fear will feel sharp at first, but they will pass sooner or later.

Still, should you feel the post-election blues coming on, then consider these four tips to beat depression and anxiety:

— **Renew Friendships** —

There's no need to wallow in negativity by yourself when you can do it with a support group, right?

Though, if you must work with rivals that gloat, don't be afraid to respond in kind. Your thoughts should still be shared and respected, but remember to choose your battles wisely.

Also, while this election may be over, you can still work at the grassroots level outside of political parties to change public opinion on issues meaningful to you.

This way, you can broaden your support base and get your objectives heard without the hassle of being branded a liberal Democrat, a fascist Republican, a tree-hugging Green, a psycho Libertarian, or a soulless Communist.

— **Respect Yourself** —

There's no need to go off the deep end and hit the self-destruct button.

Instead of harming yourself and others, treat yourself with care and respect.

Go on a weekend vacation, buy yourself a fancy dinner, or do something is inexpensive, like sleeping-in one morning.

It might even be worthwhile to seek a special advisor, be it spiritual and/or psychological.

Remember: it's easier to control yourself than it is to influence the actions of others.

— **Vent Responsibly** —

There's no need to waste your negative energy on easy, unproductive targets.

There are unlimited opportunities to participate in democracy and empower others with your native skills and professionalism.

Thousands of non-profit organizations need volunteers for their campaigns. Thousands of journalists need stories for their publications. Thousands of advocacy groups need advocates for their causes.

The best way to start building a community is with education.

— **Take Pride** —

There's no need to follow the mopers and naysayers since no one has the patent on your self-worth.

You can never have enough self-love if you want to accomplish all your goals and still make time to love your partner, friends, family, and community.

You must define your values, dream your dreams, and fight your battles.

By standing up for yourself, you just may attract a loyal following.

— Nathan Diebenow

Secret Sect Plans Invasion Of Mexico

The commander-in-chief of the Knights of the Golden Circle announced from his San Antonio headquarters on Oct. 31, 1860, that another 11 companies of volunteers were armed and ready for the invasion of Mexico.

But most Texans knew by then that George Bickley was blowing smoke. All, in fact, was not going according to plan. Even though the conspiracy had every indispensable ingredient — men, money, materiel, and mass support — Mexican independence was never in jeopardy.

The creation in 1854 of the super-secret, pro-slavery sect taxed Bickley's vivid imagination to the max. The hazy objective of the underground group, which also inspired its exotic name, was to complete the "golden circle" of the Gulf by uniting Mexico and Cuba with the South.

Displaying a gift for the bizarre, Bickley invented three levels or "degrees" with separate emblems, costumes, and rituals. Recruited as street fighters and future soldiers, the vast majority of members made up the "Knights of the Iron Hand." The second level was reserved for big contributors called "Knights of the True Faith." At the peak of the pyramid were Bickley and his buddies, the self-styled "Knights of the Columbian Star."

From its birthplace at Lexington, Kentucky, the KGC spread swiftly through the Gulf states as militant Southerners enlisted in droves. Nowhere was the response more remarkable than the Lone Star State, where thousands of Texans joined 32 lodges or "castles" in 27 counties.

Soon bored by the monotonous war of words with northern abolitionists, the restless rank and file demanded a concrete strategy for conquest. Bickley obliged by calling for the military takeover of Mexico.

The sensational scheme intrigued Texas' pro-Union governor, who for years had toyed with the idea of a Mexican protectorate. While the move might require the restoration of the Lone Star Republic, Sam Houston hoped his constituents would be too busy south of the border to bother with a new southern order.

Concealing his disgust for the arch-secessionists, Houston discreetly contacted the Texas grand commander of the KGC. Addressing the old hero as "our sovereign head," Elkanah Greer officially put the growing army of Knights at his disposal.

Countless Texans, that previously scorned the Knights as a

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



bunch of crackpots, immediately signed up after learning of Houston's involvement. An editorial in the DALLAS HERALD egged on the adventurers: "Let these Texans range on the Mexican Frontier and infuse some of the Anglo Saxon ideas of progressiveness into the stupid, leaden souls of that people."

But after Gen. Robert E. Lee, then stationed in Texas, flatly refused to command the expedition, Gov. Houston lost interest. Assuming the Knights would automatically obey his orders, Houston issued a pro-

clamation on March 21, 1860, calling the whole thing off.

But the Knights were not about to abandon their crusade just because the aging general had lost his nerve. Besides, they faced a far graver problem than Houston's defection, the failure of Bickley to provide the promised shock troops from the Deep South.

The Texas leaders took their complaints to an emergency meeting of the KGC at Raleigh, N.C. To avoid answering his critics, Bickley played the martyr by submitting his resignation. Cleared by a sham inquiry and backed by a vote of confidence, he resumed the duties of commander-in-chief.

Bickley had never realized his impressionable followers took the proposed march on Mexico so seriously. But he re-

solved to make the most of his reprieve and devoted every waking hour to the mobilization.

Scores of newspapers throughout Dixie published his rousing appeal for 100,000 Knights to assemble in South Texas no later than Oct. 1. While Bickley himself did not reach San Antonio until ten days after the deadline, he acted like the invasion was right on schedule.

But by early November dreams of conquest were overshadowed by protests against the election of Abraham Lincoln. In a speech at Marshall, Greer warned Texans not to "wait for the North to inaugurate her withering, dishonoring, and diabolical policy. Let the South speak out or forever hold her peace!"

Mexico was forgotten in the stormy stampede toward secession. The Knights of the Golden Circle did not have to pick a fight with foreigners to satisfy their lust for combat. Within four years, even the most bloodthirsty fanatic would be praying for peace.

As for George Bickley, he was arrested in 1863 in Indiana on suspicion of espionage. His real crime, of course, was the founding of the KGC, which Union authorities refused to believe no longer existed. Held without trial until October 1865, Bickley died in obscurity two years later at age 47.

Bartee Haile welcomes your comments, questions and suggestions at haile@pdq.net or P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549. And don't forget to visit www.twith.com.

Bond With Your Child On Halloween; Dress Them As A Portobello Mushroom

For some of you, Halloween is an exciting time that allows you to bond with your child by making their Halloween-costume dream come true.

For the rest of us, it's a time when we cross our fingers and pray that our child's "Halloween costume dream" is hanging on a rack somewhere at Wal-Mart. Because if it isn't, we'll have to make something, and therefore put our child's emotional health at risk by creating a costume that could potentially scar them for life.

After 32 years, I still remember my mother carefully wrapping me in layer after layer of tissue in order to turn me into a frightening replica of The Mummy — and how it took less than five minutes for a light drizzle to turn me into the considerably LESS frightening Soggy Toilet Paper Man. Things weren't much better the following year, when I dressed-up as a pirate and missed-out on all of the good candy after spending 45 minutes with my plastic hook stuck in the car door. By the time I hit the streets, all that was left were Sweet Tarts and half-opened rolls of breath mints.

However, as Count Dracula, I knew it was going to be MY year. Aside from maybe swallowing my own fangs, there wasn't much that could go wrong. I remember leaping from the porch and sprinting into the night with my long cape flapping behind me. I remember the sound of my

polished shoes clattering across the pavement, and the eerie, greenish tinge of my glow-in-the-dark teeth — particularly as they flew out of my mouth after my cape caught on the neighbors' fence.

Granted, these situations weren't entirely about design flaw. In fact, I'm willing to accept

the small role my own flawed coordination skills might've played in all this. However, that only adds to the pressure of coming up with a costume that can be safe, functional and, if necessary, used as a stretcher.

Our son is still young enough that he has no real plans when it comes to what he wants to be



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

for Halloween, which is fortunate. Not only because it makes my job easier as a parent, but also because there's a good chance he won't remember freaking out a couple of years ago after the cardboard robot costume I made him cut off the circulation to his arms, rendering them unresponsive for a full two minutes. This was discovered on our third stop of the night, when he tried to lift up his plastic jack-o-lantern for candy and, instead, fell headfirst through the screen door.

This year, we're taking no chances; he will be going as a mummified football player, which means he'll be wearing a helmet, lots of pads, AND be confined to a sarcophagus that we can move from door to door.

This brings us to our daughter, who likes to put her own spin on things. As of right now, she remains undecided. I will tell you that for recent Halloweens she has been a ghost dog, a cowgirl-fairy type of thing and the Grim Reaper. So, being that her big fascinations right now are dinosaurs and mushrooms, I am already envisioning a fossilized Portobello mushroom.

Not exactly something we'll find on the rack at Wal-Mart. Trust me, I checked.

(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/blog/)

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Tomorrow Never Knows

A quote by President Harry S Truman, a brilliant individual and genuine “man of the people” reads thusly:

“Once a government is committed to the principle of silencing the voice of opposition, it has only one way to go, and that is down the path of increasingly repressive measures, until it becomes a source of terror to all its citizens and creates a country where everyone lives in fear.”

(Found at *Information Clearing House*, operated on the web by Tom Feeley)

The past week or so we’ve been treated to some vile, outrageous attacks upon freedom of thought by the right.

We’re all aware of Rush Limbaugh’s scurrilous and offensive belittlement of Michael J. Fox, a popular actor who suffers from Parkinson’s Disease, and his fight to kickstart the Federal Government into funding stem cell research. At a time when the blubber-butted, hate and lie spewing Rush should have just said “no,” he used our public airwaves to trounce all over a young man whose life, family, and career have been smashed to pieces by this horrendously debilitating disease.

As the son of a mother who suffered for 40 years and died as a result of Parkinson’s, and now a brother who’s been likewise diagnosed, I can accurately gauge the level of ignorance – no, make that stupidity – of Limbaugh’s portrayal of Mr. Fox.

So, too, do I know the ignorance and stupidity of any self-righteous, Bible-thumping politician who refuses to allow funding for the advancement of stem cell research.

With what does Limbaugh then follow up his attack on Mr. Fox? The self-medicated, drug-addled feces-in-mouth purveyor of Rightist mistruths tells his audience that to vote for someone who would support financing stem cell research is giving “false hope” to the people who are afflicted by these dreaded diseases.

In other words, as Frost Lady Queen Laura has gone on record in the past, the Righties figure if the cure doesn’t already exist, well, there’s no sense in looking for one.

If there’s no hope, why in the hell should anyone bother to vote at all?

America is a Nation – THE one Nation – on this Planet founded upon the very concept of hope. Obviously, the Right Wingnuts don’t believe there’s any hope left.

It could be that’s why they despise the ‘Man From Hope’ and his wife so thoroughly.

Another sign of how divisive this Fascist Regime has made our country, the first radio talk show King George XLIII and his boss, Dark Lord the Dick Cheney run to is Rush Limbaugh. Instead of chastising the bloated blowhard for demeaning one of our nation’s persons in need of assistance, the little dictator and his decider depend upon Limbaugh’s uncensored daily diatribe.

Let John Kerry leave a two-letter word out of an ironic joke about King George and the Righties go bananas, as if he had provided arms to al Qaeda and the Taliban. But, it’s perfectly okay for Rush to mock the afflicted. Such is the childish nature of our Fascisti.

What’s most vomitous is Rush’s slogan: “Excellence in Broadcasting.”

Then, there’s a pleasant little lady by the name of Lynne Cheney. (I use the word “lady” only in jest, of course.)

If ever a more venal woman has walked this Planet, I’d be hard-pressed to venture a guess as to whom. I doubt even Lucretia Borgia would’ve entered a dark alleyway knowing Ol’ Lynne might be lurking about.

On Friday, Oct. 27, CNN’s Wolf Blitzer had Lynne in “The Situation Room” for a 15-minute segment, ostensibly to shill her new children’s book. It was also agreed that some policy matters would be discussed. The interview was so contentious that he felt compelled to share it, uncut, on Sunday, Oct. 29, with those around the World who missed it.

How ironic that Wolf had to face down Big Bad Lynne just prior to Halloween.

Let’s remember a few tidbits about the good Mrs. C: She was at the forefront of covering Dark Lord’s record five VietNam era draft deferments, which included timely ones for marriage and paternity; Lynne is a former board member of Lockheed Corporation, a top benefactor from military contracts; this “educator” has tirelessly fought to keep cultural diversity out of our nation’s classrooms, yet makes millions writing children’s books about cultural differences across America.

Throughout the interview, Madame Cheney showed her fear of free speech, and utter contempt for the news media – CNN, her former employer, in particular.

Among Lynne’s attacks upon CNN were how dare they run a (continuing) series titled “Bro-

ken Government?” She accused CNN of using “Democratic talking points.”

That comment took me completely by surprise! I was wholly unaware that there are such things as “Democratic talking points” – it’s the first time I’ve heard such nonsense. Leave it up to Lynne to spread manure on global television.

The woman who controls Dark Lord’s every move then spewed the standard laundry list of now-infamous GOP talking points, in an angry assault attempting to dissipate the truth behind CNN’s finally having enough chutzpah to stand up to the White House: 9/11 wasn’t our fault, and “there haven’t been any attacks since”; we were hit with Katrina (but no acknowledgment that nothing was done prior to or afterward); “we took on a recession” (Bill Clinton’s fault, wink, wink) and now the “economy is doing great”; the Republican “tax cuts” have helped everyone (in the highest tax brackets, don’tcha know).

Oh, for crying out loud, Lynne. You don’t get it – your entire batch of Fascist, greed-soaked gangsters are responsible for our “Broken Government!”

After five years of the mainstream media pooping in its pants rather than face up to the corruption from the West Wing on down, this odious boil on the backside of American history had the nerve to say, “I shouldn’t let media bias surprise me.”

Madame Cheney put into question the patriotism of Wolf and all the staff at CNN, just as this entire gang has done every time somebody has dared disagree with them. She referred to reporting the truth as “distortion.”

To her, CNN’s airing of an insurgent video showing an American soldier being shot – then getting up, thanks to his body armor – as “running terrorist propaganda.” As Wolf put it to her face, it’s news, and it’s their responsibility to the people to tell the truth.

All Lynne wanted to do was sell her book.

However, Wolf stood his ground. After all, it was his show.

He brought up the tactic being used by Republican George Allen in Virginia’s Senate race against Jim Webb. Webb is a former combat Marine and Navy Secretary who has also written a number of fictional books.

Allen, not exactly known for utilizing a straightforward or



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

level approach, has been attacking Webb not on his record but on sexual content within his works of fiction.

As a counter to this, Webb tossed out an off-hand remark about the sex in one of Lynne Cheney’s novels; he said it was just fiction, so what?

Thus, as is the case when Conservatives are met with their own inconvenient truths, Ol’ Lynne had a lapse in memory concerning the plot and substance of her novel. Sweetheart that she is, this lady went on to say “Jim Webb is full of baloney” (not once, but repeatedly).

Oh, Dark Lord’s woman is pleasant enough while you agree with her, as she was during the last few minutes when Wolf finally got around to lauding her book... but don’t ever follow her down a dark alley.

Following this interview, I was haunted by visions of Angela Lansbury in the original film version of “The Manchurian Candidate.” They compelled to not only watch one of my favorite movies of all time (I love all the political cold war films of the early-to-mid 1960s), but this time I studied it particularly for Ms. Lansbury’s character of Mrs. Iselin.

The book, published by Richard Condon in 1959, was originally released as a movie in 1962. One could argue the case that it may have served as a primer for then teenaged Lynne’s formative years.

We know that her son, Raymond Shaw, has been renditioned and conditioned to be a Sino-Soviet assassin. Her husband, Sen. John Iselin, a drunken fool, has been maneuvered by her to the lofty position of vice-president. Does this latter part sound familiar?

We never actually hear Lansbury’s character called anything but “Mother,” “Dear” or “Mrs.”

The parallels between Mrs. Iselin and Lynne Cheney are myriad, and somewhat chilling: Mrs. Iselin exhibits a complete hatred for truth and honesty in the media.

She controls everything Sen. Iselin says and does.

She foists her husband onto an unsuspecting U.S.A. to do her bidding through fear of a non-specific Communist threat.

The Iselins label anyone who disagrees with them a Communist; they bandy about a phony list of nameless, faceless Commies in the State Depart-

ment.

Any lawmaker who disagrees with Sen. Iselin is accused of treason.

The Iselins are Republicans who use images of Lincoln to make themselves seem more Democratically-oriented.

She uses her son as a pawn and stepping stone to open doors.

Other members of Congress consider the Iselins as “Fascists.”

Mrs. Iselin’s goal – Total absolute power, with no Constitution or Bill of Rights to get in her way.

It’s a kind of frightening, and I don’t mean this as a putdown of the Liberal Ms. Lansbury, but Lynne Cheney even resembles Mrs. Iselin...

Before closing, I’d like to share with you some Republican Pearls of Wisdom in their own words:

King George XLIII (on Rush, Nov. 1, 2006 – *The Day of the Dead*)

“...one reason I’m optimistic I trust the will of the people... I know that we’re right on the issues... low taxes and winning the war on terror and protecting the American people.”

“No, I really don’t think about the idea of having a Democrat-led House and Senate because I don’t think it’s going to happen.”

“I am deeply concerned about a country, the United States, leaving the Middle East. I am worried that rival forms of extremists will battle for power, obviously creating incredible damage if they do so, that they will topple modern governments, that they will be in a position to use oil as a tool to blackmail the West.”

House Majority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, (on *This Week with George Stephanopoulos*, ABC-TV, Sunday, Oct. 29)

“Donald Rumsfeld is the best thing that’s happened to the Pentagon in 25 years.”

(on CNN’s *The Situation Room* with Wolf Blitzer, Tuesday, Oct. 31)

“Well, there are a lot of people who want to blame what is happening in Iraq on Donald Rumsfeld, but when you look at the transformation that our military has been through, it’s nothing short of remarkable. And I think there’s only one person in America who could have brought about that transformation, and that is Donald Rumsfeld.

“...I think Rumsfeld is the right guy for the job, and I know the president supports him and I’m glad he does.

“...let’s not blame what’s happening in Iraq on Rumsfeld... the generals on the ground are in charge, and he works closely with them and the president.

Continued On Next Page

A Guaranteed Way To Lose Pounds And Inches

I have a new plan for those who want to get rid of extra pounds and inches without dieting or exercise.

We've all heard the discouraging reports that Americans are heavier and fatter than ever before. The average man in the United States weighs 25 pounds more than the average man weighed in 1960, and the average woman is 24 pounds heavier. Despite all the warnings about the dangers of being overweight, as a country, we just keep getting bigger and bigger. Why do so many people ignore the sound advice to eat less and exercise more? One reason is because it's hard work.

I came up with my solution after learning about what's going on in the women's clothing industry. Curiously, as women have become bigger and heavier, they still wear the same dress sizes as they did before — or even smaller sizes. It's all because of something called "vanity sizing." Because of its success, I think this concept could soon be used to make all of our measurements and



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

weight go down.

Here's how vanity sizing works: When a woman who knows she has put on a few pounds and expanded a few inches lately goes shopping, she may be pleasantly surprised that she still wears the same size she wore when she was in high school. She knows this is impossible, but she still makes her purchases with a smile.

Certain designers and stores have fudged the numbers. What used to be a size 12 is now a size 10 or an 8. They know that shoppers are more likely to buy clothes that don't say, "Wow, you've really gotten fat." And again, even if the consumer knows deep down that these numbers have been played with, she's still happier about buying clothes with a lower

number.

I'm sure this will soon spread to men's clothing. Those guys who barely squeeze into an extra-large T-shirt will probably soon be squeezing into T-shirts labeled "medium." And I'll bet they'll buy an extra shirt or two just because the new sizing makes them feel good about themselves.

But what about men's clothing whose sizes are in inches? If a guy used to have a 32-inch waist, and now he has a 40-inch waist, how are they going to trick him into thinking that he hasn't really gained all that much weight so he'll buy a new pair of pants instead of just walking out of the store and getting something to eat?

That's simple. Vanity sizing for men. Clothing manufacturers will just come up with a new way of measuring. Instead of using traditional inches, maybe they'll use something called "new inches." Let's say the new inch is 1/4 the length of a real inch. So, the guy with the 40-inch waist will wear a size 32 in new inches. Once this plan is

adopted, just watch those pants fly off the racks. And soon the "new" will be dropped, and this measurement will just be called "inches."

Weight can be dealt with in the same way. A "new pound" could weigh 1/4 times as much as an old pound — or 20 ounces. So, if you weigh 200 today, under the new system, you'll be a svelte 160.

With these changes, imagine how much happier people in our country will be. Their self-esteem will grow, their productivity at work will increase, and their personal relationships will improve. Our country will no longer have the shameful label of the "fattest nation in the world." We'll be a happy and proud land once again.

For those of you who think that we will be reluctant to change the way we are weighed and measured, I have some words of encouragement. Some people thought there would be a great resistance to the Euro in countries that had their own currency for years and years. But quicker than anyone thought, the Lira, the Mark, and

the Franc have become antiquated terms as Europe has embraced the Euro. Similarly, our old pound and old inch will join the ranks of quaint measuring terms like the dram, the digit, and the cubit. Just as with the new size 8, we'll throw all logic to the winds and embrace the new inches and pounds because they'll make us feel good.

Changing people's mindset about weight and size — not to mention completely revolutionizing the tape measure industry — may sound like a lot of hard work. But is it really any harder than the alternative — eating less and exercising more?

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

TENUTO

From Previous Page

We've seen this run up in violence as we get closer to the election, as we get closer to Ramadan (*note: Ramadan was already over when this interview took place*)... As we enter into Ramadan, we see this big

spike in violence and there's no question, in my mind, that the terrorists, very smart people, are also trying to increase the violence as we get closer to the U.S. elections."

October, 2006 — 106 American deaths in Iraq.

November is starting out in much the same way.

The folks in the White House don't give a damn about polls.

Herr Oberst Karl Rove is smiling with that smarmy grin nobody can seem to wipe off his fat little uber-weiss face.

The GOP Reps at the higher levels are trolling the talk shows, acting with their usual hubris as though they're in on a secret the rest of us know nothing about.

Meanwhile, numerous computer labs and other indepen-

dent testers have been blowing whistles warning about the complete fallacies of the "faultless" computerized voting machines that miscount votes and leave no paper trail.

So, when the smoke clears late tonight (Nov. 7) or early Wednesday morning, and the GOP has retained control of Congress, we'll know for sure, to paraphrase Billy Shakespeare,

that there truly is something rotten in D.C.

One thing I nearly forgot to mention: What frightens these misogynistic Neo-cons and Righties so much about Nancy Pelosi and Hillary Clinton?

Hope for the best, Dear Friend, but prepare yourself for the worst...

Shalom, Y'all.

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Lord, Have Mercy

I'm ashamed.

I'm ashamed I voted in this election.

Actually, I'm ashamed that I believed my vote would improve this screwed up country I call home.

I probably would have gotten more mileage from destroying all the electronic voting machines in Texas.

Better yet, I should have sparked riots in the streets — judging by the way the Bush administration is ruining our planet!

Then again, maybe riots are not the answer.

Who needs to herd barbarians to the gate when empires tend to fall by their own weight anyway?

Either way, how can anyone put their faith in the U.S. government?

And how can anyone have faith in the earth, especially when we're depleting our natural resources at never-before-seen rates?

Yeah, don't tell me consumerism isn't sadomasochism with style—

Still, the way we're going, I'm not sure there'll be any fish to sleep with!

Geez, that and I can't understand why anyone would choose to have kids nowadays.

What hope do leftist musicians like David Rovics with his little girl and Ani DiFranco with her bun in the oven have in this pollution?

I mean, it almost seems like it's too late to start a Girl Scouts-like organization for true-blue leftists.

You know, the kind that would pay girls a decent wage to sell cookies made from fair-traded ingredients.

There probably is a troop like that somewhere already, and I don't know it.

If there is, somebody please tell Neil Young, too, so he

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



doesn't act the fool from his ivory tower again.

Yeah, tell him before he and Bill Cosby tag team our collective self-esteem to death!

On second thought, maybe we should turn the baby-industrial complex into a smarter gear.

Maybe Cosby ought to adopt African babies away from Madonna.

I'm sure cross-country road trips are more sustainable with pudding.

And just imagine the "I Spy" games!

Hmmm, maybe Uncle Bill will adopt me instead!

I can ignore systemic racism just like the rest of white-privileged America!

Ooo, pick me! Pick me, Bill! I loved *The Cosby Show*!

Oh, forget it. Who am I kidding? It'll never happen. I loved Madonna's music videos more.

Well, so what am I going to do after the election?

Honestly, this whole "peace and justice" business has left my knees and back bloody and raw.

So, for starters, I'm going to put my faith in something bigger than this here ant hill, so my hope can grow without fear of giant children with magnifying glasses on a sunshiny day.

I would like to give the U.S. Congress of 1845 a little credit.

They chose to keep Election Day from falling on Nov. 1, All Saints' Day, a Holy Day of Obligation for Roman Catholics.

But for a Lutheran like me, though, days come and go, and all that remains is all that remains.

Lord, have mercy.

Whistleblower Protections Vary By State

WASHINGTON — Depending on which state whistleblowers live, they could be risking retaliation from their bosses in government.

Most U.S. states give some, if any, protections to state employees who report fraud on behalf of the public good, according to a study from Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER).

PEER, an organization that works for environmental whistleblowers across the country, measured state whistleblower laws based on 32 factors, and found that there is no clear "red state" versus "blue state" nor geographical pattern to state employee protections.

For example, Oklahoma's law is stronger than the one in New York, and Oregon's legislation beats its neighbor to the north — Washington — which ranks near the bottom of the survey, PEER reported.

The states with the most complete laws are California and the District of Columbia; South

Dakota, Alabama, Georgia and Connecticut have the weakest laws; and Virginia, New Mexico and Vermont have no whistleblower laws at all.

"Whistleblower laws are a key measure of how transparent state governments are to their citizens," said Jeff Ruch, PEER Executive Director. "Suppression of critical information behind closed doors is the principal prerequisite for official corruption."

The reason why state whistleblower protections are so important is because state employees also have to solace using federal whistleblower laws, according to the nation's highest court.

It has also been increasingly difficult for state employees to just "do their job" in informing the public of maleficence since the Supreme Court ruled in *Ceballos v. Garcetti* that governmental employees have no First Amendment protections on the job.

Zapatista Leader Lends Support To Oaxaca Protestors

JUAREZ, Mexico — The leader of an indigenous rebel group from Chiapas, Mexico, called the Zapatistas last Wednesday lent his support to his fellow Mexicans suffering during the current stand-off in the city of Oaxaca where violence escalated between police and civilians the previous weekend.

Wearing a black ski mask and smoking his trademark pipe, Subcomandante Marcos also criticized the Mexican Presidential election, the killings of women in Juarez, and the border fence bill signed into law by U.S. President George W. Bush the week prior.

No violence erupted, though a U.S. Homeland Security helicopter flew overhead, during Marcos' late morning appearance in front of an estimated 2,500 people on the Stanton Street bridge on the border between the United States and Mexico.

In his address, Marcos, who has been identified as Rafael Sebastián Guillén Vicente, 49, a former university professor, echoed his earlier call for solidarity with the people in Oaxaca who

have occupied their city for months in peaceful protest. The international spotlight found Marcos when he joined the peasants in Chiapas (Zapatista Army of National Liberation) during their struggle against the Mexican government in the 1990s.

The call from the Sixth Commission of the Zapatista Other Campaign on Monday promoted a "nation-wide shut down" in the form of highway and communication blockades throughout the country. The Zapatistas have also demanded that all the federal police forces be withdrawn, all the detainees be released, and "the assassins" be found and punished.

The Popular Assembly of the People of Oaxaca (APPO), a group of 350 social organizations, has been demanding the resignation of the state's governor — Ulises Ruiz, a member of the ultra-conservative wing of the Institutional Revolutionary Party, PRI.

Five months ago, President Vicente Fox ordered 5,000 federalized police officers to take back control of the city from the

protesting teachers and activists. During that time, over 15 people have died and hundreds injured with no end to the conflict in sight.

The conflict gained more attention in the United States last week end when independent journalist Brad Will was murdered along with three other members of the APPO in Oaxaca. The Fox administration used this bloodshed as an excuse to keep forces in place, though he has not explained why he hasn't gone after the murderers, the paramilitary groups on the side of Ruiz.

While the Fox administration and some members of the PRI have pressured Ruiz to step down, Ruiz has refused to do so, and the APPO has refused to negotiate any further with the Fox government, which will be handed off to president-elect Felipe Calderón of the governing National Action Party (PAN) on Dec. 1.

The PRI ruled Mexico from 1929 to 2000 when Fox came to power. For 77 uninterrupted years, the party governed Oaxaca.

State Regs Sabotaging Abortion Access: Group

NEW YORK CITY — A paper by Human Rights Watch says that states laws written to sabotage access for women to have legal abortions "seem to be on the rise" in the United States.

The most blatant example of such laws will be voted on in a South Dakota referendum this week. The law which passed the state legislature last March bans abortion unless the pregnant woman's life is in danger.

Georgia, Indiana, Ohio, Louisiana, and Tennessee have tried to impose similar legislation.

"Experience shows that

criminalizing abortion does not eliminate the need for it," said Marianne Mollmann, advocacy director in Human Rights Watch's Women's Rights Division.

"Criminal sanctions only push the provision of abortion services underground with potentially fatal consequences to the woman," she continued. "As the United States gears up for elections, I sincerely hope no U.S. politician favors a policy option that places women's health and lives at real risk."

Other laws passed by some

state legislatures have included more subtle mandates, such as:

— forcing medical personal to give women unscientific information on abortion during pre-abortion counseling sessions.

— establishing waiting periods for women between the counseling session and the abortion.

— compelling young girls to gain the consent of one or both of their parents prior to obtaining an abortion.

"These regulations undoubtedly are a back-door attempt to curtail women's rights," said

Mollmann.

These obstacles to abortion services could also break U.S. Supreme Court rulings that maintain that states must not impose "undue" rules on females wanting to end her pregnancy.

On the federal level, legislators are poised to strengthen parental consent laws in the form of the Child Custody Protection Act in the Senate in July and the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act in the House in 2005.

This law, if enforced, would

make it a federal crime for any adult to aid a girl in obtaining an abortion in a state in which there are no parental consent laws.

Mollmann said that this law would endanger girls "who don't find parental support" because they "need all the friends they can get."

"The Child Custody Protection Act and its similarly draconian House version ignore this basic truth and leave pregnant teenagers without family support to fend for themselves," she said.