

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 41-C

NOV. 22, 2006

\$2.50 Per Copy

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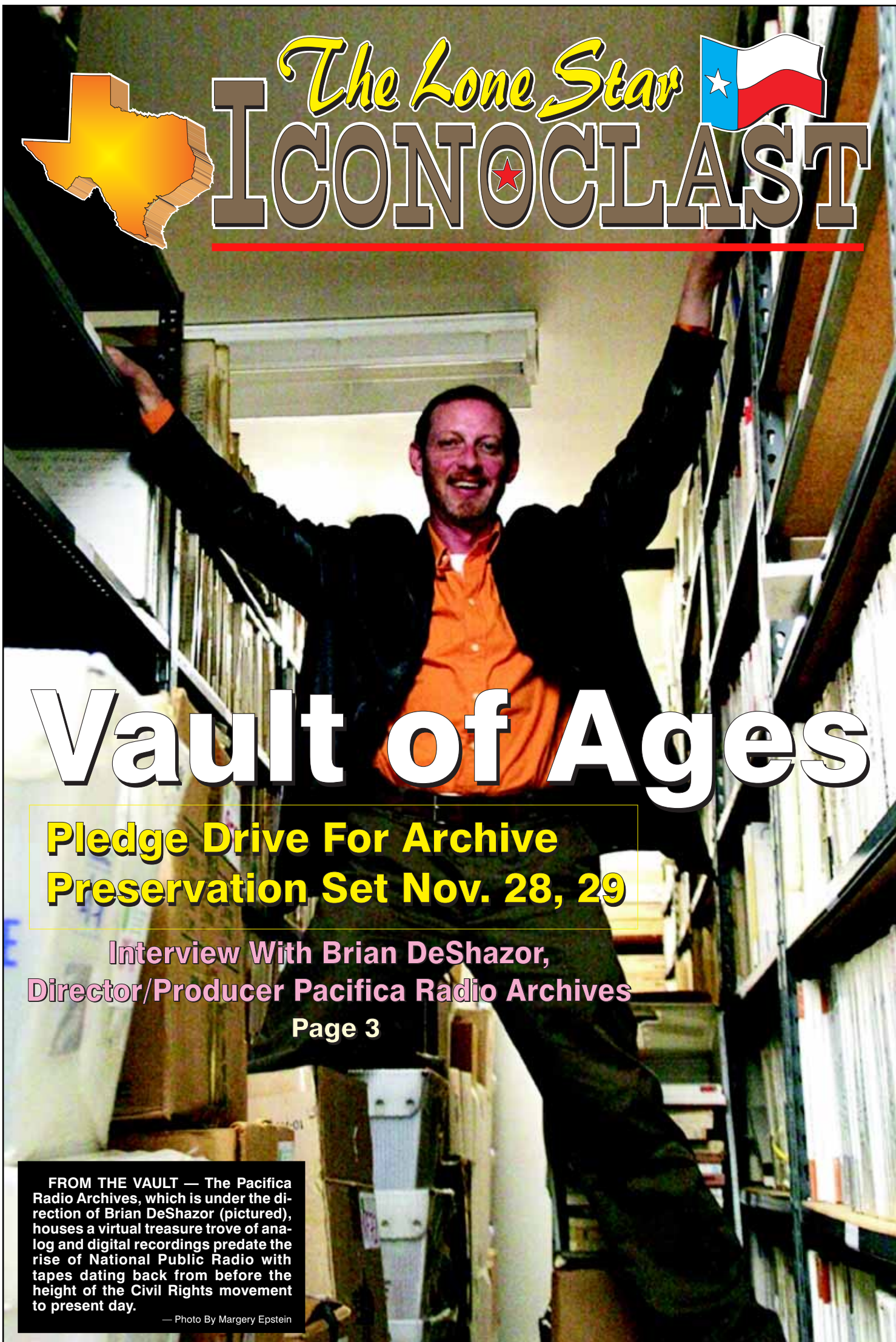
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TO OUR READERS:  
Happy Thanksgiving



# The Lone Star ICONOCLAST



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FROM THE VAULT — The Pacifica Radio Archives, which is under the direction of Brian DeShazor (pictured), houses a virtual treasure trove of analog and digital recordings predate the rise of National Public Radio with tapes dating back from before the height of the Civil Rights movement to present day.

— Photo By Margery Epstein



# Texas Dominates Big-City America

By **BRYAN POPE**

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

COLLEGE STATION — Everything is bigger in Texas, including the cities. At least that is according to recent U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates. Three Texas cities made the bureau's list of the country's top ten most populated metros for 2005.

Houston ranked fourth with a population of more than two million, San Antonio came in seventh with almost 1.3 million,

and Dallas placed ninth with more than 1.2 million.

"The post-2000 period has clearly turned into a time of rapid growth for Texas cities, particularly its large and suburban cities," said Dr. Steve Murdock, state demographer and research fellow with the Real Estate Center at Texas A&M University.

Not only does Texas have some of the largest cities, but it has some of the fastest-growing. From 2000 to 2005, Texas was

the only state to have more than one city among the fastest-growing in America, and it had four: San Antonio, up more than 105,000 since 2000, ranked fourth; Fort Worth, up 82,700, ranked fifth; Houston, up nearly 60,000, ranked seventh; and El Paso, up nearly 35,000, ranked tenth.

Only Los Angeles (up 150,300 to 3.8 million), Phoenix (up nearly 140,000 to 1.5 million) and New York (up more than 134,500 to 8.1 million) added more new

residents than San Antonio and Fort Worth.

For 2000–05 population growth by percentage, Texas again had four cities in the top ten. Fort Worth ranked first with a 15.3 percent increase. San Antonio ranked fourth at 9.1 percent, El Paso ranked seventh at 6.2 percent and Austin was tenth at 4.6 percent.

In fact, of the more than 1,200 Texas cities and towns covered in the Census Bureau's 2005 report, 70 percent showed growth in the previous five years, with some smaller towns boasting especially impressive numbers. Hutto had a 492 percent growth between 2000 and 2005, while Dallas-area Fate and Little Elm grew by 406 and 365 percent, respectively.

At the other end of the spectrum, the Wichita Falls population dropped by nearly 4,400. Beaumont was next with a decrease of almost 1,900, followed

by Pecos with 1,250.

For more on Texas growth, read "Big State, Big Cities, Big Growth" in the October issue of *Tierra Grande* magazine, the Real Estate Center's quarterly journal. The article is available online at <http://recenter.tamu.edu/tgrande/vol13-4/1790.html>.

For more information about U.S. Census Bureau Population Estimates, visit <http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.php>.

*The Real Estate Center <http://recenter.tamu.edu> has been providing solutions through research for 35 years. Funded primarily by Texas real estate licensee fees, the Center was created by the state legislature to meet the needs of many audiences, including the real estate industry, instructors, researchers and the general public.*

## Texas Joins Race For New Wind Turbine Research Facility

### \$80 Billion International Market For Turbines At Stake

AUSTIN - Jerry Patterson, Commissioner of the Texas General Land Office, announced that Texas is now in the nationwide race for a new U.S. Department of Energy-backed large-scale wind turbine research and development facility.

Patterson made the announcement on behalf of the Land Office and the Lone Star Wind Alliance, a Texas-led coalition of universities, government agencies and corporate partners created to prepare the proposal for submission to the federal government. The University of Houston co-headed the effort with Commissioner Patterson and filed the proposal yesterday. Patterson said he expects the bid winner, or a short list of candidates, to be announced in December.

"Where else but Texas can they build a test facility large enough to handle the nation's needs for the next generation of wind turbines?" Patterson asked. "The General Land Office and our fellow Alliance members are confident that our proposal will bring this facility to Texas."

Patterson has likened the potential impact of the Alliance's proposed National Large Wind

Turbine Research & Testing Facility to that of NASA on Houston during the space race in the 1960s.

"Anyone building wind turbines will want to be next to this facility," Patterson said. "Our facility will be a magnet for research and manufacturing. It will establish Texas as a worldwide leader in wind power for many years to come."

The Lone Star Wind Alliance includes the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering, The University of Texas at Austin, Texas A&M University, Texas Tech University, West Texas A&M University, the Houston Advanced Research Center, Stanford University, Montana State University, New Mexico State University, Old Dominion University, the Texas General Land Office, the State Energy Conservation Office, Lt. Governor David Dewhurst, the Texas Workforce Commission, Governor Rick Perry's Emerging Technology Fund, Good Company Associates and the Wind Coalition.

"The Alliance possesses extensive world-class university research centers and expertise on all aspects of wind power," said Ray Flumerfelt, Dean of

the University of Houston's Cullen College of Engineering. "What's more, our proposal enjoys strong political support in Texas and in Washington, DC. That support will ensure the viability of the project, which will make the U.S. wind power industry more competitive on a global basis."

In May, the Department of Energy announced it is seeking partners to build a new facility capable of testing blades up to 70 meters long.

The Texas General Land Office is the management agency for state lands and mineral rights totaling 20.4 million acres. This includes vast properties in West Texas, the Gulf Coast beaches and bays and other "submerged" lands extending 10.3 miles out from the shoreline, a variety of state agency acreage and timberlands in East Texas. Texas leads the nation in offshore wind development and is committed to establishing itself globally as a wind friendly state. Every penny earned by the Land Office from wind development projects is constitutionally dedicated to the Texas Permanent School Fund, which helps pay for public education in Texas.

## Truckers Condemn Toll Roads

AUSTIN — The executive vice president of the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association, OOIDA, is asking truckers to bypass the Indiana Toll Road that has been leased to the Spanish investment consortium, Cintra, the same outfit that Governor Perry and TXDOT contracted with to operate the hated Trans Texas Corridor (TTC).

"The Bush administration is bending over backwards to accommodate Mexican trucks coming into the United States," Spencer said. "Worldwide, trucks are the weapons of choice of terrorists. Nobody is going to check [what is really in that truck]. We evidently have a lot of people in the U. S. who have lost their minds," he continued.

Spencer said once Mexican truckers cross the border they will be able to go anywhere.

"There's never been any 20-mile commercial zone in Texas that the Texas Department of Public Safety enforces." Spencer said since Mexico does not have stringent safety regulations, there is no way to verify the safety of Mexican trucks or drivers.

"Who is going to do a background check on a Mexican driver," Spencer asked.

TXDOT wants to charge truckers 40 cents a mile to travel the TTC. "This is the equivalent of about \$2.40 (per gallon) in new fuel taxes," Spencer continued. He points out that the toll revenue will go to Spain and the "no compete clause in the Cintra contract bars Texas from making improvements to parallel routes. You better believe that highway users will be forced to use the TTC toll roads even if Texas has to close down lanes on existing highways."



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](mailto: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](http://www.lonestaricon.com) • Fax: (254) 675-4090 • E-mail: [news@lonestaricon.com](mailto:news@lonestaricon.com) • Phone: (254) 675-3634

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# Vault of Ages

## Interview With **Brian DeShazor**

**Director/Producer  
Pacifica Radio  
Archives**

By **NATHAN DIEBENOW**  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — Ever wondered what Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s laugh sounded like?

Well, if there was any place to find a recording of it, it would be in the Pacifica Radio Archives.

The archive of the five listener-supported Pacifica Radio stations house a virtual treasure trove of analog and digital recordings predating the rise of National Public Radio with tapes dating back from before the height of the Civil Rights movement to present day.

Looking for a recording of African American writer James Baldwin talking about artistic integrity? They've got it.

Looking for Aldous Huxley on human responsibility? They've got it.

Looking for Muhammad Ali, Noam Chomsky, Dorothy Dandridge, Bette Davis, Ossie Davis, Ruby Dee, Dolores Del Rio, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Johan Galtung, Mahatma Gandhi, Allen Ginsberg, Ruth Gordon, Fannie Lou Hamer, Jim Hightower, bell hooks, Langston Hughes, Molly Ivins, Mahalia Jackson, June Jordan, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., J. Krishnamurti, Malcolm X, Jim Morrison, The Peace Pilgrim, Ann Richards, Isaac Bashevis Singer, Jacques Tati, Maxine Hong Kingston, Jean Renoir, Alan Watts, Howard Zinn?

They've got something from them.

How about Rage Against the Machine rocking out in the streets of Los Angeles? Hey, they've got it, too.

In fact, Pacifica Radio will be broadcasting rare recordings from these and other social and artistic figures during a two-day marathon nationally-broadcast special produced by the Pacifica Radio Archives (PRA).

All five Pacifica stations — KPFA in Berkeley, Calif.; KPFA in Los Angeles, Calif.; KPFT in Houston, Texas; WBAI in New York City; and WFPW in Washington, D.C. — will air the event on Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Wednesday, Nov. 29.

Purpose of the broadcast is to raise money for the on-going preservation of the archives as

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## Pledge Drive For Archive Preservation Set Nov. 28, 29

**BRIAN DESHAZOR** directs the preservation of thousands of historical sound recordings from Pacifica Radio Archives in Los Angeles, Calif. To raise funds for the archive's further preservation, Pacifica Radio will broadcast a pledge-drive marathon over the course of Tuesday, Nov. 28, and Wednesday, Nov. 29 on all five Pacifica Radio stations.

— Photo By Margery Epstein



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well as to show the Library of Congress that the American people value the historical contents of the archives.

Thus far, the PRA's Preservation and Access Project has saved several hundred hours of unique recordings of American cultural and political history with the support from the Pacifica Radio Stations, donations from PRA friends, and modest grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Ford Foundation, and the Grammy Foundation.

Leading the effort for the preservation of spoken word recordings is Archives Director Brian DeShazor.

On the final day of the fund drive broadcast, DeShazor will testify at the Los Angeles hearing of the National Recording Preservation Board of the Library of Congress to contribute to the National Recorded Sound Preservation Study on the current state of recorded sound preservation.

THE ICONOCLAST'S Nathan Diebenow spoke with DeShazor last week about the beginnings of the archive, its "gems" and their preservation, and the consistency of Pacifica Radio's mission as first promoted by founder Lewis Hill almost six decades ago.

Here is that interview:

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ICONOCLAST: How did the Pacifica Radio Archives begin?

BRIAN DESHAZOR: It started organically. In the early years of reel-to-reel tape, Pacifica Radio Network and the producers every time they recorded something if it was a program they deemed pertinent or relevant to rebroadcast, they would save the tape. If not, the tape was usually recycled because there was no money at that level, certainly during the times in the 50s. There was really no idea what Pacifica really was. It was still experimental. Our tapes really start in the late 50s/early 60s, rather than 1949.

So someone finally went into a rooftop garage, basically — a storage room where these tapes were — and started to catalog them. That was in the late 60s when two people started to list what we had. In 1973, the Pacifica Board of Directors established the archives formally for preservation and conservation of the tapes.

So here we are almost 37 years later. We've tried to store and preserve the tapes and transfer them to new media, which is what we have to do. It's the nature of the age of tape.

ICONOCLAST: How did you

come to work on the archives and produce your show "From the Vault"?

DESHAZOR: About 10 years ago, I guess 1998, I came in just green as a crocus in snow in terms of what I knew about progressive thought and a leftist perspective, so I came in as a cataloger. I was basically typing descriptions of *Democracy Now!* I was a volunteer and I became a hired temp, and then over the years, I learned more and applied myself to become the manager. As I started becoming director, I saw the vision of formalizing preservation and raising our standards and finding out methodology and trying to be one of the leaders in sound preservation which we have been able to achieve.

ICONOCLAST: What kind of condition are the tapes themselves?

DESHAZOR: Most of them are in fair shape. You know, we can get a flat transfer from them, but thousands of them are deteriorating just because they're flaky. Sometimes they're stretched or if they're not wound right onto the reel initially, if it's all bumpy, then there's a problem of re-winding it.

And of course in the 1980s, there was a new tape stock that was deemed by all of the world of sound preservation as the new fancy tape stock to transfer all your old tape to. That was done with a big NEH grant, and unfortunately, that tape stock included a bad formula in the binder which means that moisture could go into the tape and ruin it. So a number of tapes just from the 80s are having what's known as "sticky tape syndrome." The water gets into it and it gets gummy on the machine, so now we have to add the task of baking the moisture out of the tape and then having basically one opportunity to transfer the material to new media and maintain as much of the integrity of sound as possible.

ICONOCLAST: So you guys record on DVDs or CDs or what?

DESHAZOR: Right. There's a number of methodologies. Right now, we're sort of positioned with the Grammy Foundation with their methodology meeting their standards, so we've added standards to ourselves because we need to be able to listen to it. Right now we do a gold CD, two silver CDs, a hard drive copy and various MP3 formats, MP4, and a wav file. There are various redundancies that are done when we preserve.

ICONOCLAST: How do you



LISTEN UP — Christopher Sprinkle, staffer with the Pacifica Radio Archive listens to some audio for an upcoming *From the Vault* show.

— Photo By Margery Epstein

figure out which tapes you should preserve first? What is your method for triage?

DESHAZOR: The method is basically one, through the funding. We've gotten grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Grammy Foundation, and the Ford Foundation. Each of those funding organizations will have interests in a certain category of tape, so with the NEA, we obviously looked at the arts and poetry and literature.

Out of those we have Dylan Thomas reading poetry in '52,

Ginsberg's *Howl* — the very first airing of *Howl* in 1956 — so those sort of started it and we did have an advisory panel of various people of interest and knowledge from poets to program producers to help us pick the first hundred through that grant.

We convinced The Ford Foundation to look at protest, rally, and demonstration recordings during the anti-war movement and Vietnam — the women's movement from the early '50s even. So we sort of find a category, find the funding, and kind

of go from there.

Now that Pacifica Foundation Board of Directors at the last board meeting voted to assess the stations and commit up to \$300,000 for the next two years to do new tapes, so under that, to be able to really attack the deterioration at that level, now we have a way to create our own selection process. Obviously, priority is to the damage of the tapes. Which ones are in the worst shape? And the next thing is, which one is more signifi

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cant? That's really the hard thing — to find those jewels in all that we have.

ICONOCLAST: Did anybody in the late 40s and early 50s at least write down a description of the shows that have since been lost during that time period?

DESHAZOR: Vera Hopkins was the woman that first started the cataloging process, and she did a dissertation describing the whole thing, like what Pacifica had to start the discussion on establishing the archive. So there's sort of like one or two documents that certainly talk about it in the bold strokes. But no, again, this was something that was just a public radio network that saw the vision of being their own scribes because no one else was doing it.

ICONOCLAST: Well, I hear that Martin Luther King Jr. was a jokester. Have you come across any tape of him throwing down any one-liners before a show?

DESHAZOR: No, no, I haven't. We do have some tapes of Dr. King that are very spontaneous. The most famous one that we can talk about was we found a tape that was a press conference. It wasn't even a press conference. He went to the Santa Rita Prison to visit Joan Baez and her mother when they were arrested for protesting the war, protesting the draft. He came out of the prison, and that is where Pacifica reporters came out and visited him.

He talked about draft resistance, the Vietnam War, and Joan Baez and his relationship with her, so it was completely candid, certainly unprepared, and very spontaneous. That's one of the jewels in our collection.

We played that recording for Ms. Baez herself only three years ago, and she had no idea that he had even recorded any comments because she was inside the prison. She had no idea about what happened when he left, so we brought her to tears when he talked about why he was there to meet Joan and her mother.

ICONOCLAST: Wow. Well, I would also hope you have some tapes of James Baldwin singing or something. (laughs)

DESHAZOR: No, James Baldwin — of all the recordings, we have, I think, about 25 or 28 recordings over a 25-year trajectory of his relationship with Pacifica. There are those candid moments. There's a recording

of him, Langston Hughes, and Laraine Hansberry — all three of them at the same table. They refer to each other very familiarly. Laraine was "Lannie." Langston was something else, and James was "Jimmy."

The last speech that Martin Luther King gave in Los Angeles was at a major donor party house. We don't know whose house it was, but it was to raise funds for the movement. James Baldwin introduces Dr. King, so there's James Baldwin for like 10 minutes basically standing in front of a grand piano extemporaneously saying why he's there to introduce Dr. King. We don't know how many people are there in the room. It doesn't sound like very many, but that was the last speech that Dr. King gave in Los Angeles before he was assassinated.

ICONOCLAST: So how does that work legally? I mean, do the families of these late activists have any rights to these tapes since their relatives are featured on them?

DESHAZOR: Oh, yeah, absolutely. With the King family particularly, it's messy. They are very protective. It's one of the hardest nuts to crack. I think that our cause is to preserve the recordings and to do our best. When we have funds available, then we can work to clear the rights and distribution rights to



**SYSTEM ON THE AIR** — Serj Tankian, member of rock band "System of a Down" and peace activist (back), recently sat down for an interview on Pacifica Radio. The show was engineered by Pacifica Radio Archive staffer Mark Torres (front).

— Photo By Margery Epstein

**W**hat people can do, they can pledge to our fund drive. Go on our website at ([pacificaradioarchives.org](http://pacificaradioarchives.org)) and pledge. They are actually taking a message to Congress, saying that the spoken word in these recordings of these social movements are worth preservation and are worth recognizing as a national treasure, not just a radio station's history in a little broadcast-room.' — Brian DeShazor

those recordings to make them accessible for educational purposes, not necessary for money-making purposes. Our first order of business is to save the tapes and preserve them. That doesn't require permission.

ICONOCLAST: How often do recording artists come down to the archive and request permission to use these materials for their albums?

DESHAZOR: I'd say maybe three or four times a year. Just recently Ry Cooder has been doing some research in the archives, and he has been working with a recording of Coretta Scott King, a speech that we had found after she had passed away. It was a speech she gave three weeks after Martin Luther

King's assassination. In April 1968, she gave a speech he was supposed to give at a peace rally in New York City at Central Park.

She said in the recording that she took the notes out of his dead pocket and gave the "10 Commandments against Vietnam," ending with "Thou shalt not kill." It's an extraordinary moving speech. It's the first time she spoke publicly after his assassination, I think. At least that's as far as we've been able to assess.

We've worked with Stanford University and the King papers, so they have copies of these recordings for their purposes, and hopefully, we'll get to the point where we can discuss the abil-

ity to make these available for educational purposes, but in terms of Dr. and Mrs. King, and what we've been able to find, Ry Cooder was actually writing a song for his new album using some of the sound from Coretta Scott King in that recording. He came up against rights issues, too, so the song is half finished, but it'll never be heard by anybody. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) So you'd probably have to go through the King family.

DESHAZOR: Exactly, so Mr. Cooder took the first two steps to find out how to go about it, and realized that it really is one of those brick walls that is just going to have to be cracked later after the family sort of resolves

some issues. But, you know, God bless them. Ultimately, we know that even at Stanford University in the papers project and at the home, there are important one-of-a-kind documents of Dr. King's that are basically in boxes collecting dust, not in an area that is conservation quality. I mean, they really are being ruined, so archivists all over the country are sort of chomping at the bit to help preserve the materials before we decide about rights issues.

ICONOCLAST: And not to point any fingers at the King family.

DESHAZOR: Absolutely not. ICONOCLAST: You have other stories like that, I'm sure.

DESHAZOR: Sure, sure, and I wish the King family well because I do understand the protection because Dr. King's message and persona are so easily exploited. I certainly understand why they have such difficulty in assessing everybody's requests.

ICONOCLAST: Yeah, I'm sure they have a lot of them. Well, are there any specific "From The Vault" shows that you've done and liked the most? Have you guys done that Black Panther Party show yet?

DESHAZOR: We haven't done that yet. We're still doing our research. We do have more audio of the Black Panther Party history than anybody in the world. We worked with the U.C. Berkeley - Moffett Library on a social project, so all our audio is available for streaming on their educational website. It's a huge undertaking to figure out how do you curate all those recordings and what they were really about.

One of my favorite programs is called the "Iran Hostage Crisis." We found the recording from a couple of months after the hostage crisis was happening. In the middle of the night, like at 4 a.m. on the Los Angeles station, Elliot Mintz and Roy Tuckman were doing a regular phone-in call where callers call in and somebody just really absurdly angry that they were promoting Elliot Mintz's book when people are being killed and hostages are being taken in Iran, so they said, "Well, what do you think we ought to do about it?" And the caller said, "Well, why don't you call them and find out what's going on?"

The government had been saying, "We can't connect. We can't communicate with them." So on the air, this recording you hear them going through the American operator, the international operator, calling the American embassy, and actually connecting with one of the hostage takers, a 21-year-old

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man and they interviewed them. They asked him, "Why are you doing it? Are the hostages safe? What are you going to do? Why are you doing this?"

I mean, this discussion in the middle of the night is one of the most incredible recordings because it was so spontaneous and it just happened. I mean, nobody could believe they actually got through, and of course, the government the next day really did come down on them, claiming that they could have jeopardized the safety of the hostages by talking to them without permission.

We contacted Elliot Mintz. When he came on the air with us and explained what was going on, but with that recording, we mixed in a documentary that was done about the 2,500 year anniversary of monarchy in Iran. The Shah of Iran had this big fancy party that cost, you know, multi-million dollars. Just to have a party. This reportage from Britain talks about how many wigs that were bought for his harem and how much they cost and how much eyelashes, and the French designer that designed all of the plates and the gowns for the harem.

But we mixed it with another documentary that talked about the statistics in Iran at the time. The poverty. It was the largest city without sewage control. It was the highest illiteracy rate, and that juxtaposed helps the audience understand what was going on at the time. Like even me, I was alive then, but I had no idea what was really going on with the Shah being protected by (President) Jimmy Carter and that the students in Iran really wanted him there for a fair trial. That was what was in play, and I never knew that, so this recording is really looking at an event that happened really in 1979 that is still so relevant.

I have to say, though, that when someone says, "Listen to this program on the Iran hostage crisis," I almost want to vomit. (laughs) Who wants to revisit that thing? But really listening to it and listening to the words of that hostage taker as a real human being — you know he's not one of the evil ones that we don't give a face to but he's a guy with a name, an age, and a purpose, a background, and a family — and that's when you start to understand what the Pacifica archives represent. It's that idea of free speech, dialogue, and trying to understand the other side, and trying to understand our place in it.

ICONOCLAST: Here's a self-critical question then. In your

estimation from listening to the past 50-some-odd years of Pacifica programming, how consistent has Pacifica been in addressing racial issues from the non-white perspective? Is it better, worse, or the same?

DESHAZOR: You talk about the balance of reporting. I think Pacifica early in its venture, say in the late 50s/early 60s and through the 60s, there was a strong vision of both sides being invited. There were a lot of right-wing people before the phrase "right-wing" was even coined. They came on Pacifica and had their own shows.

Somewhere as diversity started being defined, that's as women's collectives, African American collectives, and gay and lesbian started coming in, and there was more of a community ground-up grassroots level of producing at Pacifica, then they started to see that the media landscape was so overrun by the right-wing that the balance of reporting really sort of had to address that. Pacifica is really the other side of that coin to balance it.

Most of the recordings we have is from the civil rights movement and the African American studies, if you will. Because African Americans had no place in mainstream media in the 60s to really go to, Pacifica was the place that they went. So what we have in terms of documenting that social movement is absolutely unique in documentation in the United States, even in book form.

It is so much more extraordinary because as people do studies of the civil rights movement and write books and gather their information from interviews and factoids of dates and events, that's one story, but to listen to the recordings of Fanny Lou Hamer telling us in her own words how she got beaten in prison by other prisoners by order of the jailers — she was beaten by black men because the white officers gave them the blackjack and said, "Beat that woman until I tell you to stop." — that makes you understand and have an emotional connection with these events, not just an intellectual, academic reaction.

I think that's where the power of these archives are. It's in that recorded voice. To listen to Fanny Lou Hamer in her own dialect, intonation, and you know, her education is there in her voice. It moves somebody. There's an emotional connection when you hear it rather than just reading her name in a book.



**MARK TORRES**, staffer for the Pacifica Radio Archive, does some research on the computer for an upcoming *From the Vault* show.

— Photo By Margery Epstein



**BUSY BEHIND THE SCENES** at the Pacifica Radio Archive are (from left) staffer Hunani Singer with volunteers and sound engineer Mark Torres.

— Photo By Margery Epstein

ICONOCLAST: Yeah, so Pacifica has a unique place in history, but since then, how has Pacifica adapted to the changing social climate with addressing or at least being a place where other subcultures could get their voices heard?

DESHAZOR: I think that's the strength of Pacifica now. In just recent years, they've covered the march on Washington for reparations. They covered the very first anti-war march in Washington which I think was in the March before we bombed Afghanistan. I think they've done long-form, day-long broadcasts of protests in San Francisco and New York and

Houston all at the same time and Washington. You know, remote broadcasts, and I think the Senate hearings on certain issues like the war.

I also think that because the programming is at the grassroots level, we still have black voices talking about black issues, and we have gay and lesbians reporting and documenting that movement, so I still think that Pacifica is really strong in that aspect of giving voice to the voiceless and also looking to the visionary thinkers that are not being represented on mainstream media — Noam Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Helen Caldicott, all of those intellectuals — Cornel

West — all those voices have so much to say, and you'll never find them in mainstream media, except maybe on Chris Matthews being attacked and cut off and misrepresented.

ICONOCLAST: What are the voices of today you think will be preserved in the archive in the future?

DESHAZOR: I think that list — Chomsky, Howard Zinn, Dr. Helen Caldicott, Michio Kaku is a programmer that is doing amazing work in the field of global warming and the environment and the anti-nuclear movement — that still isn't over yet. I think the Berrigan brothers. We have

Continued On Next Page



# Vault of Ages

From Previous Page

extraordinary recordings of them.

Medea Benjamin and Cindy Sheehan. Those women. Medea Benjamin is one of my heros. She's really an extraordinary person who has taken so much action and taking so much risk, and we have more recordings of her from the very beginning of Medea. She has been a great friend of the archives, too. I mean she understands the importance of our collection and what we can actually offer in terms of education, not only in the anti-war movement, but also in the feminist movement.

ICONOCLAST: How common, everyday people help the Pacifica preserve its archive?

DESHAZOR: That's a really good question. Recently I was invited by the Library of Congress Recorded Sound Preservation Board to testify before their board. By act of Congress, their duty is to do a study on the state of sound preservation here in the United States. I'm really representing public media and the spoken word. The board and the Library of Congress now really look at sound preservation as music industry. They've saving Bessie Smith recordings and Louis Armstrong and early recordings, and they're really not recognizing spoken word and what our archive has to offer.

That's actually going to happen on the day of our fund drive on Nov. 29. We're going on the air on all five Pacifica stations on Nov. 28 and 29 to raise money for preservation. What the Library of Congress is really looking to do is get enough information to go back to Congress and re-authorize the funds to continue the study.

So what people can do, they can pledge to our fund drive. Go on our website at ([pacificaradioarchives.org](http://pacificaradioarchives.org)) and pledge. They are actually taking a message to Congress, saying that the spoken word in these recordings of these social movements are worth preservation and are worth recognizing as a national treasure, not just a radio station's history in a little broadcasting room.

People can also help by listening, engaging with us, doing database research through our database and telling us what they've found. Oftentimes, things that are identified for preservation are done by listeners who are looking for something specific that we would never in a million

years look for. They can help us that way, but mostly, their dollars are what will speak. The dollars will speak not only to a tape actually being preserved but it sends a direct message to our new Democratic government in Congress to take action and recognize this archive as a national treasure.

ICONOCLAST: So are you like the Alan Lomax of the spoken word preservation world?

DESHAZOR: (laughs) Am I the Alan Lomax of the Pacifica board? (laughs) I wouldn't ever raise myself up to that level.

ICONOCLAST: Well, I had to ask, but one last question: will listening to Pete Seeger actually make me a better person? (laughs)

DESHAZOR: Well, you know what? I will say absolutely, 100-percent yes. I had my own preconceived notions of who Pete Seeger was. I'm 43 years old, so I grew up singing "If I Had A Hammer," but I never knew what it meant. I never knew what he meant, so as Marc Torres has been producing this wonderful documentary on Pete Seeger, we went to Pete's house. We interviewed him with Tim Robbins for five hours in his log cabin, and Tim talked to him about his entire life.

What we have to add to that is archival footage of Pete as early as 1964 to now. Every story, every song, every social movement from Nicaragua to all over the United States teaching people to sing. And as we listened to the stories, as he responds to the Depression and to basically coming out of the grapes of wrath, and as we see him live and still be optimistic and still give us a message by saying with one grain of sand, with one person, you can make a difference. Yes, it changes me. It totally changed me, and I'll challenge any listener to listen to it and not be changed by it.

**INFO**  
Pacifica Radio Archives  
[pacificaradioarchives.org](http://pacificaradioarchives.org)

**Pacifica Archives**  
A Living History

**The Origins of Community Radio**  
(born in 1949)

[pacificaradioarchives.org](http://pacificaradioarchives.org)

Where were you in 1949?

Brian DeShazor promotes the living history that radio offers.

— Photo By Margery Epstein

## Deadlines Noted For Sending Military Mail, Packages Overseas

WASHINGTON — Postal Service officials are reminding military families and friends sending holiday packages and letters to service men and women overseas — including Iraq and Afghanistan — to remember the deadlines to make sure that packages reach their destination in time for the holidays. There are more than 80 military installations worldwide.

"Mail is one of the greatest morale boosters we can give our troops during the holidays," said Postmaster General John E. Potter. "When they see that package or letter waiting for them on their bunk or hear their name at mail call, it brings them that much closer to family and the comforts of home."

All packages and mail must be addressed to individual service members, as required by U.S. Department of Defense

regulations. All military units are assigned an APO or FPO ZIP Code and, in many cases, that ZIP Code travels with the unit. The Postal Service places APO/FPO mail on special charter flights, commercial airlines, and military service aircraft to reach armed services members overseas as quickly as possible.

Deadlines for holiday delivery of mail to those serving overseas include:

- Express Mail Military Service — Tuesday, Dec. 19.
- First-Class Letters and Cards, or Priority Mail — Monday, Dec. 4, or Dec. 11, depending on zone.
- Parcel Airlift Mail — Saturday, Dec. 2, or Monday, Dec. 4, depending on zone.
- Space Available Mail — Monday, Nov. 27.

Express Mail Military Service is available to selected military

post offices. Local Post Offices can determine if this service is available to an APO/FPO address.

Parcel Air Lift is a special service that provides air transportation for parcels on a space-available basis. It is available for Parcel Post items not exceeding 30 pounds in weight or 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Space Available Mail are parcels paid at Parcel Post rates that are first transported domestically by surface and then to overseas destinations by air on a space-available basis. The maximum weight and size limits are 15 pounds and 60 inches in length and girth combined.

Complete details about sending items overseas to military addresses are available at local post offices or on the USPS website <[www.usps.com](http://www.usps.com)>.

## Stop Targeted Killing, Say Nobel Laureates To Israel

GAZA STRIP — Three Nobel laureates joined hundreds of Israeli peace activists in petitioning the nation's highest court to outlaw the Israeli army's attempts to employ targeted assassinations of Palestinians.

The group — pointing to last week's Israeli shelling

in Gaza's Beit Hanun that killed 19 people, mostly women and children — says that the targeted attacks put innocent civilians in danger.

The Nobel winners who signed the petition to the court with the 10 peace groups and 200 other individuals were Harold Pinter (literature in 2005), Betty

Williams, and Mairead McGuire (both for peace in 1976).

Since militants kidnaped an Israeli soldier in Gaza in June, Israeli strikes have killed over 300 Palestinians while attempting to kill militants along the coastal area.

The Physicians for Human Rights reported that of those

Palestinians killed since June, 60 percent were civilians and over 20 percent were minors.

Israeli's supreme court justices have yet to rule on a second appeal over the state's policy on targeted strikes. It has been over four years since the appeal was filed.



# New Senate Leader Promises To Stop Troop Deployment

WASHINGTON — Sen. Harry Reid (D-Nevada) promised last week that the new Democratic majority in Congress would stop President George W. Bush from deploying more U.S. soldiers to Iraq.

Earlier in the week, President Bush called for as many as 20,000 more troops to be sent overseas to train Iraqi security forces among other measures.

Sen. Reid, the new majority leader in the Senate, said that he doubted such a move would happen since the American forces are already overextended.

The Democratic Party leaders, however, have already vowed to continue funding the occupation, so as to not appear to backstab American military personnel already deployed.

Since the Democrats won back seats in Congress earlier this month, the Republican president has shied away from describing his policy toward Iraq as “staying the course” and expressed his willingness to work with his opposing party.

Still, President Bush — even as he claims to want new ideas to manage the crisis in Iraq — isn't leaving that impression with Sen. Reid.

“[President Bush], in talking about Iraq, didn't give Senator [Dick] Durbin and I a lot of hope he has a willingness to change,” said Reid after a meeting to discuss the situation in Iraq at the White House.

The administration has also refused to be bound by the findings of the so-called bipartisan Iraq Study Group, headed by Bush family loyalist and former Secretary of State James Baker III and one-time Democratic Rep. Lee Hamilton. The recommendations of the ISG report are expected to be revealed next month.

At the same time, Gen. Peter Pace has commissioned a review of the conflict as well as another military assessment from the national security council. Gen. Pace is the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

The head of the U.S. central command in Iraq, Gen. John Abizaid, gave a “Catch 22” assessment of Iraq during a Senate hearing Wednesday.

Gen. Abizaid said that while more U.S. soldiers in Iraq could tarnish the validity of the Iraqi government, a complete removal of forces could increase sectarian violence there.

U.K. Prime Minister Tony Blair suggested last week that the U.S. government approach Iran and Syria for more help in easing the regional conflict, though this suggestion would bring a major policy shift to the administration. President Bush

included Iran in the so-called “Axis of Evil” during an address to Congress.

The American people, according to a new Associated Press-Ipsos poll, have indicated

yet again that they are upset with the president's handling of Iraq. Down from 33 percent in

June and August, now 31 percent of those surveyed approve of the situation in Iraq.

## UCLA Investigates Into Student's Arrest

LOS ANGELES, Calif. — The arrest of an Iranian-American student at the University of California, Los Angeles, last week has prompted a university investigation in the use of force by campus police.

“I can assure you that these reviews will be thorough, vigorous and fair,” said Interim Chancellor Norman Abrams in a statement.

Civil rights groups such as Amnesty International want an independent investigation though.

The investigation revolves around Mostafa Tabatabainejad, a U.S.-born Iranian, who was repeatedly stunned with a Taser and taken into custody for refusing to leave

a campus computer lab in a timely manner.

Tabatabainejad, 23, was asked to leave the lab late Tuesday night because he had refused to show his school identification to the community service officer.

Tabatabainejad claimed he was targeted through racial profiling, though the police spokesman said that random checks are routine after 11 p.m.

A statement by the UCLA Police Department said that Tabatabainejad continually refused to leave, and as officers tried to escort him from the building, the student “went limp” and “encouraged library patrons to join his resistance.”

The police report, however, contradicts eye-witnesses who

said that Tabatabainejad was leaving as the campus police showed up. The Iranian-American student then yelled for an officer that grabbed him to release him, witnesses say.

When the officers stunned him, Tabatabainejad fell to the ground screaming in pain. One witness said he saw a handcuffed Tabatabainejad get stunned, though a police spokesperson said that in the heat of the moment, the officers didn't know if the man was armed or a student.

Tabatabainejad was told repeatedly that if he would not stand up and comply, he would “be Tased again.” The police spokesperson said that Tabatabainejad was stunned a few times each for three to five seconds, but a charge from the

“drive stun” setting which was employed on the student would not demobilize him.

Footage from a six-minute video taken during the incident seems to back a 2001 Lancet study noting that a three to five second charge could immobilize a person for up to 15 minutes. The video showed Tabatabainejad on the ground unable to stand, but also it and eye-witnesses could not verify the police account that Tabatabainejad had urged student resistance.

The police later released Tabatabainejad of his own ability and gave him a citation for obstruction/delay of an on-duty peace officer. He and his family have turned down requests for interviews.

## Fort Hood Could See \$93 Million For Base Projects

WASHINGTON — The army base at Fort Hood is expected to receive \$93 million for projects and improvements for fiscal year 2007 from a Senate-approved appropriations bill.

“Fort Hood is making important contributions to the ‘war on terror,’” said Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX), the chairman of the Military Construction and Veterans Affairs

Appropriations Subcommittee.

The allocation for Fort Hood projects is a part of the \$94.3 billion 2007 Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations bill that passed the Senate by a voice vote on Tuesday. The details of compromise bill with the House version should come before the end

of the year.

The Senate version overall grants \$77.9 billion for the Veterans Administration and \$16.3 billion for military construction — \$5.2 billion of which goes to base closure and realignment expenses.

For Fort Hood, the Senate bill would allocate \$47 million for a new barracks complex, \$18 million for a women's

health services addition, and \$28 million for a Combined Arms Collective Training Facility.

The active-duty branches of the military would receive about \$3.3 billion total in the Senate bill — the Army, \$2.1 billion; the Air Force and the Department of the Navy, \$1.2 billion each. The reserves would gain \$1 billion.

## Students Organize To Aid Darfur Refugees

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nick Anderson and Ana Slavin, two students from two western Massachusetts high schools, had a bright idea.

Why not use social networking websites like MySpace and Facebook to organize a nationwide competition among high schools to raise money for humanitarian efforts for Darfuri refugees?

Thus began the “Dollars for Darfur” campaign.

“Dollars for Darfur harnesses two powerful energy sources, the Internet and teenagers,” said Slavin, a junior at the Northfield Mount Hermon School. “We will use the connections that we make online and turn them into political leverage and much needed relief for people whose suffering stretches far beyond our imagination.”

The Dollars for Darfur campaign joins the efforts of the

Save Darfur Coalition to stop the Sudanese government from committing genocide in Darfur, a western region of Sudan, Africa.

Since February 2003, the conflict in Danfur has killed more than 400,000 people, including women and children, driven 2.5 million Darfurians from their homes, and forced over three million people to be dependent on international humanitarian aid., but just under half of those needing aid can't get it because of recent attacks that have strained security measures.

“Everyday more and more innocent people are killed in Darfur. We realized that there are 27,000 high schools in the US, and if each school raised just \$10, we could easily have over \$200,000,” said Nick Anderson, a junior at the Northfield Mount Hermon School. “The amount of good will from high school kids is enormous, how-

ever we need to find new ways of tackling global issues, and for us, it starts with Dollars for Darfur.”

Half of the money raised will fund humanitarian efforts for Darfuri refugees and the other half will fund the advocacy efforts of the Save Darfur Coalition, according to a press release.

The challenge will end on

April 21, 2007, and the winning high school will be recognized nationally by the Save Darfur Coalition and receive a surprise prize, to be announced at that time.

To join the challenge, students can sign up their high school at the Dollars for Darfur website.

INFO

[www.savedarfur.org/dollarsfordarfur](http://www.savedarfur.org/dollarsfordarfur)

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## U.N. Chief Equates Climate Change To WMDs

NAIROBI, Kenya — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan told world leaders last week that preventing climate change should be held with the same seriousness as stopping war and weapons proliferation.

“Climate change is also a threat to peace and security,” he said to delegates at the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. “Global climate change must take its place alongside those threats — conflict, poverty, the proliferation of deadly weapons — that have traditionally monopolized first-order political attention.”

Annan made his comments at the beginning of a three-day event that brought politicians and scientists from 189 nations together under one roof. He said that evidence has been found linking the changes in rainfall patterns to increased destabilization of natural resources that can lead to human conflict.

The conflict in the Darfur region of Sudan, Africa, is said to have been caused in part to

competition over dwindling water resources brought upon by severe drought there. As a result, more than 400,000 people have died due to Sudanese-sponsored genocide and over two million people have fled their homes to neighboring Chad since February 2003.

Annan, in fact, announced that the United Nations was considering the deployment of observers in Chad to assess the Chad/Sudanese border and to work with both governments who are blaming the other for supporting rebel groups in each other's lands. The goal is to install, with the permission of both nations, a hybrid security force on the border to quell raids on Chad and guard the 200,000 Darfuri refugees inside Chad.

The effects of climate change can be seen elsewhere including the melting of snow in the European alps, the Greenland glacier, and the Siberian permafrost, as well as rising sea levels that engulf coastal cities

and spreading diseases carried by insects. The financial costs of such extreme weather patterns have been estimated to be in a thousand billion dollars in one year by 2040

To combat this future brought upon by carbon pollution, the growing economies of Brazil, China, and India have been encouraged to join next year's negotiations to renew the UNFCCC's Kyoto Protocol

In the meantime, an agreement was reached at the Nairobi conference to identify vulnerable areas in rich and poor nations with respect to climate change through a five-year program. Another agreement defined rules for projects under Kyoto's “Joint Implementation” initiative — a plan to encourage rich nations to export clean energy technology to former Soviet eastern European countries in exchange for their own carbon emission amnesty.



## Houstonian Wins 40th Terlingua International Chili Championship

AUSTIN — Dana Hay Plocheck of Houston recently became the 2006 CASI Terlingua International Chili Champion at the 40th anniversary of the event.

Under clear, high desert skies and against 329 seasoned chili cooks, her pot of chili withstood seven rounds of critical judging to emerge the winner. A competitive chili cook since 1988, Plocheck cooks under the banner of “Lady Bug chili” and has placed first many times in local and regional cook-offs, and also won the prestigious Texas Ladies State cook-off in 2005.

When asked the secret to her winning recipe, Dana replied, “It was a tablespoon of Mexene, a large dose of Lady Bug Luck, and also my husband's birthday, so the stars aligned just right and smiled at me.”

Each year on the first Saturday of November CASI holds the granddaddy of all chili cook-offs at Rancho CASI de los Chisos in Terlingua, Texas. Three to four-hundred cooks qualify annually through a point system to be invited to partici-



pate at TICC. However, the event also draws 14,000-plus spectators, bringing a major boost to the economy of the area.

The Chili Appreciation Society International's, Inc. mission is to promote chili and raise money for charity.

A 501 (c) (3) corporation, CASI has no compensated officers or employees which allows the organization to channel all proceeds to charity.

CASI sanctions over 550 chili cook-offs and raises over \$1,000,000 annually for local charities through cook-offs held by local clubs called pods. In addition, CASI currently sponsors 22 students with four-year scholarships at \$1,000 per year through the national scholarship program.

## Next Media Ownership Hearing Set For Nashville

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The second of six official FCC hearings on local media ownership limits is scheduled for Monday, Dec. 11, in Nashville, Tenn. The time and place is to be announced.

The intent to these hearings is for all five FCC commissioners to gather input from the public before the communications agency launches the rule-making procedure that could change local ownership limits.

Prior to the Nashville hearing, Northeast Citizens for Responsible Media is sponsoring its own media ownership hearing with Congressman Maurice Hinchey on Nov. 21, at 6 p.m., at the Wallace Center in Hyde Park. ([www.re-media.org/](http://www.re-media.org/))

Reclaim the Media, the Seattle Times, KBCS 91.3FM, and others will also be sponsoring their own hearing at 6 p.m., Thursday, Nov. 30, in the Seattle Public Library's main auditorium. ([www.reclaimthemediamedia.org/deepmedia/seattle-to-host-fcc-media-ownership-hearing](http://www.reclaimthemediamedia.org/deepmedia/seattle-to-host-fcc-media-ownership-hearing))

Almost 1,000 people gathered in Los Angeles for the first hearing on Oct. 3 and expressed their opposition to any rule changes that would increase the number of newspapers, radio stations and TV stations that one company is allowed to own in a single market.

Six media ownership rules are currently under consideration, according to the FCC. To find out more — and to submit comments to the FCC now — visit ([www.stopbigmedia.org](http://www.stopbigmedia.org)).

The hearings were promised

by FCC Chairman Kevin Martin last June. This past Thursday, the Senate with the okay from Senate Commerce Committee approved Martin for a second, five-year term starting from July 1, 2006.

The National Association of Broadcasters praised Martin's renomination, and the big telecommunications companies applauded the Senate's decision since Martin has expressed his support of the deregulation of media ownership rules.

Media ownership rules liberalized significantly with the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The act erased limits on the number of radio stations a single company could own nationwide. Of radio broadcasting empires that emerged with the changes was San Antonio-based Clear Channel Communications.

Last week Clear Channel agreed to sell itself for \$18.7 billion to a private equity consortium led by Thomas H. Lee Partners and Bain Capital.

This deal, which has yet to be processed through government regulators and its own shareholders, would be bigger than the largest and most recent media buyout. Spanish-language broadcaster Univision Communications sold to a private equity consortium for \$12 billion earlier this year.

This current push for imposing stricter limits on media ownership increased in the early 2000s when former FCC chairman Michael Powell openly advocated the removal of many ownership restrictions. The

2003 Commission further catalyzed the media democracy movement through the passing of a de-regulatory decision that ignored the concerns of millions of Americans.

To get involved in organizing the Nashville hearing, contact Amanda Ballantyne, Free Press field organizer, at (413) 585-1533 ext. 23.

**INFO**  
Stop Big Media  
<http://www.stopbigmedia.com/>  
=nashville

## Use Electric Space Heaters Correctly, Safely

FORT WORTH — As temperatures drop, First Choice Power reminds its customers that electric space heaters may be a cost-effective way to keep heating bills under control — if used correctly and safely.

Although the trade-off in comfort may be undesirable to some customers, using an electric space heater in small spaces can be cost-effective if the customer turns down the furnace thermostat several degrees.

First Choice Power offers several ways to increase the efficiency and safety of space heaters:

- Other heating systems, including central heating, should be turned down to 62 degrees or lower when the space heater is being used.
- The space heater should be used for personal comfort when the room is occupied, not for

general space heating.

- Do not use a space heater when sleeping.
- Avoid running a space heater for more than four hours at a time.
- The occupied room should be closed off from the rest of the house when the space heater is in use.
- Do not use older space heaters that may not meet current safety standards.
- Give portable space heaters at least three feet of clearance from anything that can burn.
- Don't use an extension cord with electric space heaters; the high amount of current they re-

quire could melt the cord and start a fire.

In addition to using a space heater safely, First Choice Power warns customers not to use ovens, stove burners, or outdoor grills for indoor heating. Carbon monoxide produced by outdoor grills is generally not a problem in vented, outdoor areas, but it can quickly become deadly if confined to the inside of a home.

Similarly, gas stoves and ranges produce carbon monoxide that can become a problem with prolonged, improper operation — such as use to heat the inside of a home.





Hayride



Windsor Chair-Making Demonstration



Homestead Heritage Barn Raising

## Homestead Heritage To Host Craft, Children's Fair

WACO — Homestead Heritage Traditional Crafts Village's annual Craft and Children's Fair will take place Nov. 24-26, on the 510-acre working farm, Brazos de Dios. Fair hours are 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Nov. 24 and 25 and noon to 5 p.m. on Nov. 26.

The fair will feature craft demonstration and homesteading skills, including hand-tool woodworking, blacksmithing, pottery, soap making, brick oven bread baking, horse farming, sheep shearing, butter and cheese making, timber framing, and much more.

There will be over 30 different hands-on crafts, from making a jump rope to building a wooden toy boat, children and young adults can create.

Attendees can participate in a traditional barn raising on November 24 and 25. Horse-drawn hayride tours will run continuously each day, while each afternoon and evening there will be bluegrass, gospel singing, and choir and music by the Heritage Ministries children and adult choirs and orchestra.

The restored gristmill will be grinding corn, wheat and other grains throughout the fair.

The 1760s timber frame mill was moved from New Jersey and restored at Homestead Heritage.

Items ground in the mill are available for purchase along with delicious food made with all natural ingredients.

Traditional fair food including corn dogs, kettle corn and hand-cranked ice cream along with a great selection of American, Mexican, Mediterranean and Italian food will be available throughout the fair.

Admission is free. Parking is \$5 per car, which is good for all three days of the fair.

More information can be obtained by calling 754-9681 or visiting [www.homesteadcraftfair.com](http://www.homesteadcraftfair.com).



Windsor Chair Log



## Arthritis Foundation Slates Jingle Bell Run/Walk In Waco

WACO — The Arthritis Foundation is calling for people to take action against arthritis by participating in the 2006 Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis. The annual nationwide event kicks off during the holiday season, raising awareness of America's leading cause of disability, while raising desperately needed funds for research, health education and government advocacy to improve the lives of people with arthritis.

To celebrate the holiday season, participants tie jingle bells

to their shoelaces, don festive holiday costumes and join friends and neighbors in support of the Arthritis Foundation's mission to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases.

The Waco Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis will take place on Saturday, Dec. 2, at Heritage Square in downtown Waco.

Arthritis or chronic joint symptoms are more widespread than imagined, affecting 46 million Americans, or one out of five adults and approximately

300,000 children. Here in Texas, arthritis affects more than 3.7 Million people.

"The prevalence of arthritis in our nation is surging, and we cannot ignore it. Events like the Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis Help bring the community together to raise awareness and funds that are critical to the advancement of research, health education and government advocacy," said John H. Klippel,

M.D., president and CEO of the Arthritis Foundation.

As the nation's largest holiday run/walk event, the Arthritis Foundation's Jingle Bell Run/Walk for Arthritis offers a 5K run and a 1-mile fun walk with activities for the entire family. There are nearly 100 Jingle Bell Run/Walks for Arthritis nationwide with more than 50,000 participants.

The Arthritis Foundation is

the only nationwide, not-for-profit health organization helping people take greater control of arthritis by leading efforts to prevent, control and cure arthritis and related diseases — the nation's number one cause of disability. For more information on arthritis, to volunteer or to form a Jingle Bell Run/Walk team, visit [www.arthritis.org](http://www.arthritis.org) or call Rachel at 254-772-9303.

## Caroling, Live Nativity Planned In Valley Mills

VALLEY MILLS — Sunday, Dec. 10, and Monday, Dec. 11, are sure to be busy days in Valley Mills with community caroling and a live nativity, including camels. Valley Mills First United Methodist Church is sponsoring the festive events.

From 6 to 8 p.m. on Sunday, carolers will be at the church at Hwy. 6 and Ave. C.

The public is invited to join the *Dickens of a Christmas* community caroling or sit back and enjoy the traditional community event. Hot chocolate, cookies, and free

photos with Santa will be available.

On Monday night from 6 to 8 p.m., live camels will complete the nativity scene Away in a Manger, set to be held at the church.

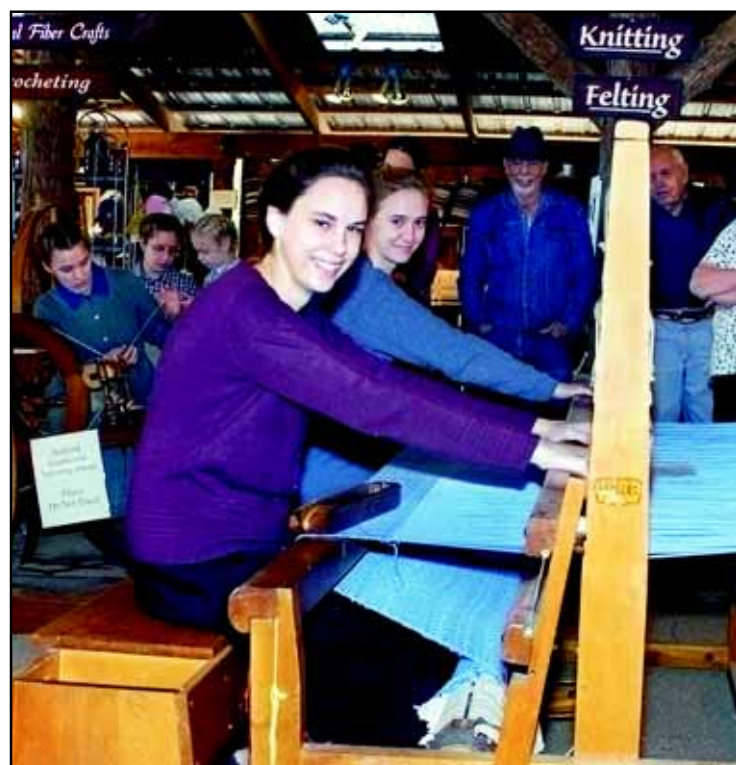
The one night only presentation includes live characters, stories, music, and an up close opportunity with animals.

Canned donations will be accepted during both events for the local food pantry.

For more information contact Pastor Christie Robbins at 254/934-2842.



Pottery Making



Weaving

## The Nutcracker Coming To Waco

WACO — Ballet Austin will join the Waco Symphony Orchestra to perform Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker* on Sunday, Dec. 3, at 2 p.m., in Waco Hall, located on the Baylor University campus in Waco.

One of the most beloved ballets of all time, *The Nutcracker* celebrates the magic of Christmas through the beauty of Tchaikovsky's enduring music. This enchanting Russian fairy tale has delighted audiences for

more than a century, and returns to Waco for the first time since 2004.

The orchestra, under the direction of Maestro Stephen Heyde, and Ballet Austin, under the direction of Stephen Mills, will share the stage. Joining the professional ballet dancers onstage will be local children performing as Angels and Bon-Bons.

As part of the ballet experience, children 3-12 may join the Holiday Kid's Club, which includes a T-shirt, a party, the op-

portunity to meet the dancers after the performance, and other fun benefits.

Adults may appreciate the unique Nutcracker Store available at the concert.

Tickets to the performance at \$19, \$24, \$27, \$29, and \$34. Holiday Kid's Club memberships are \$17.

For more information and ticket availability, call the Waco Symphony office at 254/754-0851 or visit the Symphony's website at [www.wacosymphony.com](http://www.wacosymphony.com).

## TxDOT Releases Events Calendar

AUSTIN — Winter in Texas is one of the best times of the year. Landmarks throughout the state are draped with holiday decorations, creating picture-postcard scenes and offering the setting for endless festivities that take visitors from Dec. 1 through Mardi Gras and beyond.

It is not a time to hibernate but to celebrate with festivals, parades, theatrical performances, fun runs, rodeos, celebrations, market days, concerts, and much more. To find a list of more than 1,250 December, January, and February events, review the Winter 2006-07 *Texas Events Calendar*.

December is dominated by

Christmas activities, participate in an old-fashioned Christmas or enjoy Christmas activities of more than 100 years ago. Walk the re-created streets of Bethlehem, take part in the re-enactment of Mary and Joseph's search for shelter, or visit a live nativity scene. Enjoy Christmas lighting trails, lighted parades, and candlelight home tours. Listen to Christmas carols or sing-along. Have breakfast with Santa or don a Santa suit to participate in a run.

New Year's celebrations and college bowl games make the transition from the Christmas season to January's events. The month continues with 12th Night celebrations and events

honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Visitors can also enjoy a roundup of rodeo events like youth livestock shows and the Southwestern Exposition Livestock Show and Rodeo on Jan. 12 - Feb. 4, in Fort Worth.

Pick up the Winter 2006-07 *Texas Events Calendar* for more information about these and other events. To obtain a free copy, call 800/452-9292 or write to *Texas Events Calendar* at P.O. Box 149249, Austin, 78714-9249. The *Calendar* may also be picked up at any of the 12 Texas Travel Information Centers. Events are listed on the Web at [www.traveltex.com](http://www.traveltex.com).





## The True Thanksgiving Story

Almost 300 years after the first Thanksgiving, Yale University Press in 1928 published the official account of this festival in a history volume entitled, *The Pageant of America*. The story gives the religious and spiritual drama of both the founding of this nation, and of the great historic events that brought about our present celebration.

In the early 1620s England was ablaze with religious intolerance. If one did not belong to the official Church of England, he could not worship God. A group of "Separatists" separated from this government "church" and attempted to worship as they saw fit. The Separatists were rebelling from the religious intolerance but also of the terrible immorality of England at that time. William Bradford pointed out that they desired to make a covenant with the Lord "whatsoever it should cost them." They would leave family and friends forever for their religious rights.

Another group, similar to the Separatists, known as Puritans, arrived at Cape Cod aboard the *Mayflower* on Nov. 11, 1620. They did not plan to leave the Church of England but simply "separate" from its corruption. It is recorded that on their landing at Cape Cod they "gave thanks to God for His mercies" at arriving safely in this "most hopeful place," America. The new settlement was named Plymouth in remembrance of the port of their departure. The people would later be labeled Pilgrims because of their tenacity and determination to find total religious freedom.

The first Thanksgiving is said to have taken place at the first harvest in 1621. It was a one-week "joyous festivity." The Indian king Massasoit brought 90 men to celebrate with the Pilgrims. They said to him, "Although it be not always so plentiful, as it was at this time with us, yet by the goodness of God, we are so far from want, that we wish you now to be partakers of our plenty." They added, we celebrate "with all thankfulness, to our good God, which dealt so graciously with us." They had birds (fowl) to eat and five deer. One official, Edward Winslow, reported, "It would show great ingratitude if we celebrated our thanksgiving alone, because the blessings were to all of us as a group."

Later, the Council of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts on Nov. 20, 1676, proclaimed the first Thanksgiving Proclamation. And the Council of New Haven made a "Proclamation for a Fast" of thanksgiving on June 15, 1709.

Gradually, the fall became the traditional time for Thanksgiving. *The Pageant of America* volume records: The fall "especially has become firmly established in the life of the American people. Thanksgiving Day, the last Thursday in November, early became a day, not only of religious devotion, but of family reunions, with rejoicing and festivity. It is thus related to the harvest festival as well as to the thanksgiving days of the Pilgrims and Puritans." *Thanksgiving* is not a giving of thanks to ourselves but is meant as *thanks* to God for His blessings to the American people, and also as a time of remembering how this nation began.

Dr. Mal Couch  
Clifton Bible Church

# Editorial

## English... As A Second Language

If it was a fad, it lasted more than 80 years. It is the "cop code," ....10-4 and all that jazz.

The Associated Press reported last week that the Virginia State Police will be dropping the old-fashioned "10-codes" and switching to plain English upon the suggestion of Homeland Security Department personnel who want communications improved so that different agencies can work together better. Their charge is that many departments have developed their own codes, which can cause confusion among various agencies answering an emergency.

More and more local law enforcement agencies are expected to begin following suit in order to simplify the learning curve for dispatchers while giving federal officers common irrefutable terminology so that they don't get lost in the matrix.

Of course, what this means is that officers will likely be replacing "number terminology" with "word terminology," and to vere too much from

specific description or certain words could prove fatal. That's why standardized plain-English listings are likely to replace the 10-codes.

It's an anti-'cipherin' situation.

Then, too, this could lead to another realm of technology.

Remember the 1970s when CB radios became a rage and everyone had his own "handle" and learned a new language: i.e. "Thar's a smokey in the woodshed, Little Bear, come back."

When the public had had "enough" of the jibberish and trucker language that was making its way into the everyday mainstream, some brainiac came up with the idea of cell phones.

Now few people would leave home without one.

Of course, there is another international language.

Pig-latin.

But it is unlikely police officers would even consider going there.

— W. Leon Smith

## Annual Norwegian Country Christmas Tour Set Dec. 1, 2

By DEBORAH MATHEWS  
STAFF WRITER

CLIFTON — Coming to Clifton on Dec. 1 and 2 is the 14th Annual Clifton Chamber of Commerce Norwegian Country Christmas Tour. All of the favorite events are slated, as well as some new and creative stops.

Promising activities for everyone, the celebration begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, with a lighted Christmas parade themed *Cowboy Christmas*.

Throughout the day on Saturday, Dec. 2, visitors can expect the opportunity to hear tales of Norwegian heritage, watch Norwegian-style folk dancers, tour 19th Century Norwegian Texan homes and churches in Bosque County, and purchase Norwegian-style foods.

The Home Tour route will include nine stops in and between Clifton and Norse: Heritage Village in Clifton City

Park; the Bosque Memorial Museum; the Gallery of Trees; Our Savior's Lutheran Church at Norse; the Old Rock Church at Cranfills Gap; Quedsted House; Norway Mills, the Orbeck House/Summer; and the Aulie House.

Tickets for the tour are \$10 per person. Cost for children under 12 is \$5.

The Chamber Ambassadors will be serving a Norwegian Luncheon at the Clifton Civic Center from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. to purchasers of advanced tickets.

Separate from the tour, luncheon tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12.

From 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., free carriage rides will be available in the downtown area, where Santa Claus will arrive at 5:30 p.m. Norwegian-style folk dancers will perform in historical downtown Clifton as tourists return to town for various shopping opportunities.

Entertainment will also be

provided by the Jimmy Schmidt Band and various entertainers prior to and following the folk dancers. Santa will arrive by Viking Ship at 5:30 p.m..

From 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Heritage Village will be open for the public to check out demonstrations of old-time arts and crafts making.

The newly renovated Bosque Conservatory will be the site for the annual Gallery of Trees, "a wonderland of decorated trees, wreaths, centerpieces, and gift baskets for sale. Also for sale will be artist's note cards, fudge, peppermint bark, and peanut brittle.

Ticket purchases can be made through the Chamber at 115 N. Ave. D in Clifton. All sales are final.

For more information, contact the Chamber office at 254-675-3720 or toll free at 800-344-3720.

ADVERTISE IN THE ICONOCLAST... (254) 675-3634



# It's Not Your Granddaddy's Confederacy

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "If we had all them good ol' boys on our side, how come we didn't win."

Not to interrupt the post election love-in, but we're still sinking.

We just changed lifeboats.

The TeeVee wisdom you've heard burred for these three weeks past that "It's all about the War," and "He's not your father's Democrat," is marginally more veracious than the Huckleberry Hound reunion episode.

If you mean, Bubbles, that this is not the Democratic Party that Ignored Hitler, created the military industrial complex, initiated deficit spending and mangled Vietnam, we can only hope.

But if Neighbor Bush is the same old fascist Republican who financed Hitler, owned the military industrial complex, drew the interest on deficit spending and negotiated

## Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



Peace With Honor, then these are the same Democrats.

So don't ask me to applaud the new tax collector.

The only new issue before this Congress will be: How to manage a more humane colonialism.

*Pax Romana* really only worked out for the Romans.

If you don't believe it, visit Alvin, Texas.

Two 13-year-olds were withdrawn from public schools for displaying on their person the Confederate Battle Flag.

One on his notebook; the other on his belt buckle.

And, as one with any sense might imagine, the whole non-issue has since taken on all the nonsensibilities of a Louisiana Halloween Carnival.

First casualty of this firing on Fort Assinine: the First Amendment, a bit further bent when the school's symbolic authorities were thereafter embarrassed into removing the Daughters of the Confederacy memorabilia from a display case honoring the school's namesake.

Well, you can't go back to Constantinople.

Or even Stalingrad.

The parents were banned from campus except to pick up the boys.

Accusations by school officials that the kin were creating a disturbance has been met with denials and appeals to reason invariably familiar to those with common names denoted in quotation marks.

The students were threatened, they said, after the television crews arrived to lend their galloping rationale to the celebration, turning the whole thing into a combination tent revival and community hog-

killing.

The boys insist they celebrating their heritage, not racism.

Betcha my ancestry was more oppressed than yours.

Is not!

Is too!

School officials insist that the school is safe.

And the safest place from snakebite is in a snake's belly.

Who would allow the studio audience to believe that we should passively abide such a grievous wrong?

Jerry's next guests are a baseball bat-toting school principal from Texas and the patrons of the Hog Wild roadhouse . . .

We are none of us safe from tyranny.

And righteousness is the greatest tyranny of all.

God deliver me from having God on my side.

I'm far too likely to go to hell as it is.

If we are to be free, than we

must be free to be stupid.

There is no liberty without the right to oppose liberty itself.

And liberals have as great a capacity for despotism and any monarch, for they believe they are serving decency and that decency demands sacrifice.

Blood sacrifice.

So, what is the real issue?

Is it the right to bend to our personal will a system capable of denying the blessings of liberty to those out of favor, in sure and certain fear that favor is bound to turn on us?

Or, rather, do we want to castrate that system, rendering it too impotent to torture, to imprison, to build up or tear down institutions that serve the needs of power and the politics *du jour*?

If you prefer the latter, welcome to the Confederacy.

But I're sorry, we ain't got no flag.



Ads In  
The Iconoclast  
Pull, Too!

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The Lone Star  
**ICONOCLAST**



# Defenders of Habeas Corpus, Thank You!

BY LEE LOE  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

In a huge blow to our nation's commitment to the rule of law, Congress rushed through the dangerous Bush Military Commissions Act a few days before the Congressional Recess. On Sept. 28, 2006, the Senate passed SB 3930 by 65 to 34 with one member not voting. Twelve Democrats joined the Republicans by voting Yea. Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) was the only Republican to vote Nay. The following day, the House of Representatives passed HB 6166 by 170 to 250 with 12 members not voting. Thirty-two Democrats joined 218 Republicans in voting Yea; seven Republicans, one Independent and 162 Democrats voted Nay.

This so-called "compromise" is a capitulation to the Bush Administration which has been obsessed with the possibility that its members may be accused of war crimes and crimes against humanity. In fact, some of the Guantanamo CIA employees have refused to torture prisoners. It isn't that they have decided it is immoral, or cruel and unusual punishment; they fear they may be subject to charges of crimes against humanity. Bush got his way on many issues.

The bill fails to protect due process, eliminates *habeas corpus* (the right to challenge the evidence against you) for many detainees, undermines enforcement of the Common Article 3 of Geneva Conventions; it gives a "get out of jail free card" to senior officials who authorized or ordered illegal torture and abuse that is backdated nine years and immunizes U.S. officials from prosecution for torturing detainees who the military and the CIA captured before the end of 2005.

On the floor of the Senate, Sen. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) said of the Act: "It is designed to ensure the Bush-Cheney administration will never again be embarrassed by the United States Supreme Court decision reviewing its unlawful abuses of power. The Supreme Court said [in *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld*], 'You have abused your power.' [Bush] said, 'Ha, we'll fix that. We have a rubber stamp, a rubber stamp, Congress, that will just set that aside and give us power that nobody, no king or anybody else [who] set foot on this land, ever thought of having.'"

"Nothing could be less American than a government that can indefinitely hold people in secret torture cells, take away

their protections against horrific and cruel abuse, put them on trial based on evidence that they cannot see, sentence them to death based on testimony literally beaten out of witnesses, and then slam shut the courthouse door for any *habeas* petition," said Christopher Anders, an ACLU Legislative Counsel, of the final bill. "But that's exactly what Congress ... approved."

At one point in the process which resulted in S 3930 passing, Sens. Patrick Leahy (D-VT) and Arlen Specter (R-PA) introduced an amendment "to preserve minimal protections of the courts in their historical and constitutional role as a check on the executive branch, through *habeas corpus*." (ACLU) Michael Ratner, president of the Center for Constitutional Rights, told Amy Goodman, on Democracy Now! that he was "shocked" when the amendment failed.

"I watched that vote yesterday. I had been in Washington for two or three days trying to line up the votes for Sen. Leahy's amendment that would have restored *habeas*. We thought we had them. We lost at 51 to 48. I have to tell you, Amy, I just — I basically broke down at that point. I had been working like a dog on this thing. And there I saw the President come to Capitol Hill and persuade two or three or four of the Republicans who we thought we had to vote to strip *habeas corpus* from this legislation. It was a shock. I mean, an utter shock.

"So you have this ability to detain anyone anywhere in the world. You deny them the writ of *habeas corpus*. And when they're in detention, you have a right to do all kinds of coercive techniques on them: hooding, stripping, anything really the president says goes, short of what he defines as torture. And then, if you are lucky enough to be tried, and I say "lucky enough," because, for example, the 460 people the Center [for Constitutional Rights] represents at Guantanamo may never get trials. In fact, only 10 have even been charged [with a crime]. Those people, they've been stripped of their right to go to court and test their detention by *habeas corpus*. ...[T]hey've been there five years. Right now, under this legislation, they could be there forever."

Nat Hentoff writes: "*Habeas corpus*, eminently civilized, requires that the government demonstrate that it is holding detainees lawfully. But this radical new law goes much further than revoking *habeas* in show-

## GUEST COMMENTARY

ing the world — most importantly, our allies — the fragility of our vaunted rule of law, the bedrock of our constitutional republic....

"The legislation not only strips the *habeas* rights of any alien designated as an unlawful enemy combatant — including permanent alien residents of the United States — but it greatly expands the very definition of "enemy combatant." Current case law defines an enemy combatant as someone engaged in armed conflict with this country, but now it also includes anyone who "purposely and materially" supports hostilities against the United States. Such alleged enemies can be picked up by the Defense Department, held without charges indefinitely, and without recourse to our courts." (*Boulder Daily Camera/Colorado*, 10-10-2006). A financial contribution to a humanitarian organization which the administration decides is aiding terrorism might be considered "material support" and result in a person's being designation an enemy combatant.

Bruce Ackerman, Yale University professor of law and political science, says the legislation allows the administration to declare even a U.S. citizen an unlawful combatant subject to indefinite detention.

"If Congress can strip courts of jurisdiction over cases because it fears their outcome, judicial independence is threatened," he cautions. "Over all, the legislation reallocates power among the three branches of government, taking authority away from the judiciary and handing it to the president." ("Detainee Bill Shifts Power to President," Scott Shane and Adam Liptak, *The New York Times*, 9-30-06) The editors of *The New York Times* called the bill tyrannical."

On a positive note, after much urging by the Republican senators, the administration did agree to a ban on the harshest treatment, including water boarding. (Shane and Liptak)

Sen. Leahy ended his speech about the Military Commissions Act with the following statement:

"Six weeks after the deadliest attack on American soil in our history, the Congress that passed the PATRIOT Act rightly concluded that a suspension of the writ [of *habeas corpus*] would not be justified. Yet now,

six weeks before a mid-term election, the Bush-Cheney Administration and its supplicants here in Congress deem a complete abolition of the writ the highest priority — a priority so urgent that we are allowed no time to properly review, debate and amend a bill we first saw in its current form less than 72 hours ago.

"Notwithstanding the harm the administration has done to national security with its mismanaged misadventure in Iraq, there is no new national security crisis. There is only a Republican political crisis. And that, as we all know, is why this un-American, unconstitutional legislation is before us today.

"We have a profoundly important and dangerous choice to make today. The danger is not that we adopt a 'pre-9/11 mentality.' ... The danger, as Senator Feingold has stated in a different context, is that we adopt a pre-1776 mentality: one that dismisses the Constitution on which our American freedoms are founded. Actually, it is worse than that. *Habeas corpus* was the most basic protection of freedom that Englishmen secured from their King in the Magna Carta. The mentality adopted by this bill, in abolishing *habeas corpus* for a broad swath of people, is a pre-1215 mentality." He urged his peers to vote for the amendment saving *habeas corpus* and "against this flagrantly unconstitutional bill."

Michael Ratner told Amy Goodman, "this bill will be struck down and struck down badly. But meanwhile, for two more years or whatever it's going to take us to litigate it, we're going to be litigating what was a basic right since the Magna Carta of 1215, the right of any human being to test their detention in court. It's one of the saddest days I've seen.... It's Constitution-shattering. It shatters really basic rights that we've had for a very long time."

'Anonymous' of Houston, Texas wrote: "I clearly remember only one question from my fourth-grade Civics class final exam in 1961: 'Define martial law.' The only correct answer was: 'Suspension of Habeas Corpus.'"

But *habeas corpus* has not been suspended; it has been revoked.

Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-ND) argued on the Senate floor against the revocation of *habeas corpus* when he spoke of Mitsuye Endo, as reported by Nat Hentoff. When she was 22 years old, she "was herded into

a Japanese internments camp. Born and raised in this country, 'she didn't speak Japanese, had never been to Japan and had a brother in the U.S. Army. [O]n release, her plea to the courts (helped) lead to the unlocking of those camps and led to tens of thousands of Japanese Americans being let out..." (*Daily Camera*)

"With one woman's writ of *habeas corpus*, (and other such *habeas* writs) an awful chapter in our country's history soon came to an end.... Her question to the courts was a simple one: Why am I being detained?" (*Congressional Record*)

But many people suffered before the internment camps opened to release them. How many lives will be ruined, how many human beings will be torn from their families and communities, tortured, and/or locked up indefinitely before this infamous bill is revoked and the prison gates opened?

Garrison Keeler wrote an article, "Congress's Shameful Retreat from American Values" (speaking of the Senate) in *The Chicago Tribune*. "None of the men and women who voted for this bill has any right to speak in public about the rule of law anymore, or to take a high moral view of the Third Reich, or to wax poetic about the American Ideal," he said. "Mark their names. Any institute of higher learning that grants honorary degrees to these people forfeits its honor.

"Alexander, Allard, Allen, Bennett, Bond, Brownback, Bunning, Burns, Burr, Carper, Chambliss, Coburn, Cochran, Coleman, Collins, Cornyn, Craig, Crapo, DeMint, DeWine, Dole, Domenici, Ensign, Enzi, Frist, Graham, Grassley, Gregg, Hagel, Hatch, Hutchison, Inhofe, Isakson, Johnson, Kyl, Landrieu, Lautenberg, Lieberman, Lott, Lugar, Martinez, McCain, McConnell, Menendez, Murkowski, Nelson of Florida, Nelson of Nebraska, Pryor, Roberts, Rockefeller, Salazar, Santorum, Sessions, Shelby, Smith, Specter, Stabenow, Stevens, Sununu, Talent, Thomas, Thune, Vitter, Voinovich, Warner.

"To paraphrase Sir Walter Scott: Mark their names and mark them well. For them, no minstrel raptures swell. High though their titles, proud their name, boundless their wealth as wish can claim, these wretched figures shall go down to the vile dust from whence they sprung, unwept, unhonored and un-sung."

Continued On Next Page



# The Republicans Really Won

Democrats stop celebrating, and Republicans don't despair. I know the Democrats won the recent election on paper, but in the long run the Republicans just might be the big winners of Election 2006. In fact, I think the Republicans set the whole thing up so that the Democrats could fail over the next two years, which will bring about a big Republican Presidential win in 2008. What other explanation is there? I mean, do you think that Karl Rove and the rest of the Republican brain trust suddenly got stupid? I don't think so.

**IRAQ** — Iraq looks like a no-win situation. And who knows this better than the current Administration? So, they're turning over the mess to the Democrats saying, "Here. If you think you're so smart, you fix it." And when the 2008 election comes around and we haven't gotten out of Iraq as easily as everyone hoped, who's going to be blamed? The Democratic majority.

**ACCOUNTABILITY AND REVENGE** — Everyone is waiting to see how vigorously the Democrats will try to make the Republicans accountable for the mistakes that were made in dealing with Katrina and Iraq.

I guess the thinking goes like this, "If they could impeach President Clinton because he lied about his sexual exploits, shouldn't the Republicans be held accountable for lying (or at best, being mistaken or incompetent) about things that led to Americans losing their homes or their lives?"

I follow the logic, but this could be a trap set by the Republicans. If there are too many committees, too many accusations, and too many subpoenas, there is bound to be a public backlash. If Republicans are blamed for everything from the war in Iraq, to global warming, to the popularity of "Dancing With The Stars," Democrats will



## Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

look like sore winners.

If the Democrats investigate other things — corruption and general sleaziness — they risk turning up evidence about themselves as well. On the other hand, if they don't try to put a stop to all the greed and sleaze in Congress, those who voted for them will feel betrayed. Is this another no-win situation engineered by the Republicans?

**THE RUMSFELD FACTOR** — When I first heard that President Bush was firing — I mean, "accepting the resignation of" — Secretary Rumsfeld, I thought this meant that the President was resigning, too. After all, a week before the election, President Bush assured us that Secretary Rumsfeld would continue in his position for as long as Bush was President. But people were so happy to see Rumsfeld go, that nobody made that big of a deal about the President's little fib.

Bush wanted to get rid of Rumsfeld for quite a while, but he couldn't just fire him after making so many statements supporting him. But after the election, the President could say that he was responding to the electorate since "the people have spoken." Score a big one for the Republicans.

**BRINGING IN DADDY'S GUYS** — And who did the President name as Rumsfeld's replacement? Robert Gates, the guy who was the head of the CIA during the first President Bush's administration. And who was brought in to help with Iraq policy? James Baker III, a good friend of President Bush

I and his Secretary of State.

Baker last surfaced during the Florida recount in 2000, representing the Republican interests. If he could help pull off that victory, maybe some of his mojo can help end the war in Iraq. This might even be easier than 2000 — he won't have to worry about annoying things like election laws and "obstructionist" Supreme Court justices.

Other friends and associates of the elder Bush will be helping out, too. But I don't think this is just a case of a father bailing out a son. I think this is all part of a calculated grand scheme by the Grand Old Party to do whatever's necessary to keep the White House in 2008.

So, who do they plan on running for President in 2008? Let's see. Who's comfortable with all these friends and advisors of the first George Bush? Who has experience in waging war against Iraq? And who could become President without saying one negative word about the current President? There's only one man who fits this bill. That's right — George Herbert Walker Bush.

Why not? The President's dad served only one term, so Constitutionally he's still eligible. And do you honestly think this scenario is any more far-fetched than some of the things we're going to see in politics over the next two years?

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



To The Editor:

The Marine guarding a checkpoint obeys orders and shoots a vehicle because it didn't stop. Do you think your magnetic ribbon makes him feel better when he opens the door of the car to find a mother and her kids bleeding to death? Do you think he sleeps better at night knowing you supported his commanding officer that gave him those orders?

When the Ranger breaks down the door of an Iraqi family late at night searching the home for weapons, screaming at the mother and father, breaking their furniture, dragging away their oldest boy to Abu Ghraib, does that magnetic strip give you comfort that you're "supporting the troops?"

When you meet the soldier that "fought for you" and find he is so debilitated from the trauma that he can't remember anything but his buddy being blown up and three Iraqis falling to the ground from his rifle fire, the magnetic ribbon seems so trite. Do you care enough to find out what's really happening and why we are still there, or will you continue supporting the troops with your magnetic ribbon, dreaming the American dream?

Douglas Roy, Lexington, KY  
Dear Editor:

I was elated to see the WorldNetDaily news report that the Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association (OOIDA), in America, is calling for truckers to boycott and oppose foreign-owned toll roads such as The Indiana Toll Road,

which has been leased to a consortium of Spanish and Australian interests, and the Trans-Texas corridor, the four-football-field-wide NAFTA Superhighway parallel to Interstate-35 which Texas Gov. Rick Perry plans to begin next year.

Todd Spencer, executive vice-president of OOIDA (see: OOIDA website) indicates a tremendous concern for increased imported terrorism across our open borders as "worldwide trucks are the weapons of choice of terrorists," he emphasized.

I certainly agree with Mr. Spencer of the 'Owner-Operator Independent Drivers Association' that foreign-owned toll roads and The NAFTA Superhighway must be stopped, as they amount to selling America to foreign, mostly hostile, interests.

The NAFTA Super highway will be a superhighway for terrorists to stream into our country from all over the world driving semi-trucks and limousines instead of having to sneak in.

We should see [www.jbs.org](http://www.jbs.org) (John Birch Society-search: NAFTA Superhighway) and demand congress support H. Con. Res.-487 sponsored by Congressmen Virgil Good, Walter Jones, Ron Paul, and Tom Tancredo to stop The North American Union and NAFTA Superhighway system NOW!-thereby SECURING our BORDERS and JOBS!

Sincerely,  
Ed Nemechek, Landers,  
Calif.

## HABEAS...From Previous Page

At this dark moment in the history of these United States of America, the Representatives and Senators who understand what this nation should signify — liberty and justice for all peoples everywhere with *habeas corpus* as our undeniable right — and voted Nay to this un-American, unconstitutional legislation, give us hope for a better day and courage to take part in creating a country which upholds the rule of law and protects its citizens against the state's "awesome power to re-

strain liberty."

We, the people of the United States, thank you, Defenders of Habeas Corpus, for standing up for that most exemplary writ upon which so many of our other rights depend. With your vote against the Military Commissions Act, you also support the U.S. Constitution, our Bill of Rights and the Geneva Conventions, i.e., the Rule of Law.

*Lee Loe is the co-editor of HOUSTON PEACE NEWS, a monthly newspaper.*

# WHEN YOU PUT MONEY IN OUR KETTLE, EXPECT CHANGE.



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# Texas Revolution Had Its Tories, Too

Before the General Council adjourned on Nov. 14, 1835, the delegates voted in favor of the arrest of a repentant rebel on a charge of treason.

In April of that year, John A. Williams called upon the colonists to show proper respect for the laws of Mexico. He was living proof that the Texas Revolution, like the struggle for American independence 60 years earlier, had its Tories, too.

Williams had not always been such a law-abiding citizen. In 1826 he enthusiastically endorsed the Fredonian plot to turn eastern Texas into a separate republic. Only at the last minute did he heed the advice of Stephen F. Austin and abandon the doomed adventure.

Having learned his lesson, Williams labored long and hard to get back in the Mexicans' good graces. By the early 1830s, he had become president of the Liberty ayuntamiento, the local town council, and a staunch defender of the unpopular government.

"Resolutions urging moderation, respect for authority, obedience to law, condemning extreme views, demanding suppression of all unlawfulness" was the long-winded title of Williams' pompous proclamation of April 1835. Addressing the thorny issue of customs collections, he argued "although these laws may be unwise... to resist them by force is more unwise and ill-timed than the laws themselves."

Ten weeks later, Williams took a dim and openly hostile view of a meeting of pro-independence forces at San Felipe. "I fear the people are now ready to plunge headlong into the yawning jaws of a hopeless civil war," he observed expressing the pessimistic opinion of the so-called "peace party."

Williams, apparently immune to writer's cramp, wrote that same day a rambling condemnation of the violent eviction of the Anahuac garrison by Buck Travis and his buddies. He reacted with indignation to the "shameful attack and expulsion of the national troops" and warned ominously that "malcontents" were taking up arms to join the hot-headed Travis.

At this stage of the struggle in the summer of 1835, many if not most Texans agreed with Williams. The militant minority bent on breaking away from Mexico was regarded as reckless ruffraff with nothing but their lives to lose. Those with families to support and a stake, however modest, in the status quo were reluctant to risk every-

## This Week In Texas History

By Barte Haile



thing in a revolution.

But the fast and furious pace of political events rapidly reduced the number of peace-at-any-price proponents. By late September, only Williams and James H.C. Miller were left to plead the case for compromise and conciliation.

On Oct. 3, the day after the Battle of Gonzales, Miller belatedly sought to make amends with his neighbors. A public pledge of allegiance to the insurrection failed to wipe the slate clean, and he prudently departed the province.

Miller's defection did not de-

ter Williams, who remained stubbornly convinced the rebels were sowing the seeds of everyone's destruction. Whether he merely wanted to be on the winning side or honestly feared that the colonists were committing mass suicide will never be known for sure, but his courage in standing alone against the rising tide of revolution was clear and unquestioned.

Had Williams been content to sulk silently on the sidelines, the rebels probably would have tolerated his presence. Other critics that managed to keep their mouths shut escaped persecution during the uprising and after the victory at San Jacinto as well.

But it was not Williams' nature to go along just to get along nor was he susceptible to pressure from his peers. He was

doggedly determined to bring them to their senses regardless of the personal consequences.

As far as even the most conservative colonist was concerned, the bloodshed at Gonzales settled the debate once and for all. The first shot had been fired, and there was no turning back.

When Williams tried to talk prospective volunteers out of enlisting in the rebel army, he went too far. He crossed the line separating acceptable dissent from despicable subversion.

The General Council, the provisional regime which ruled Texas from November 1835 until the next March, recommended Williams' immediate arrest and trial for treason. Possible punishments ranged from indefinite incarceration to death by hanging or firing

squad.

In the faint hope of giving red-hot tempers the chance to cool, Williams wisely dropped out of sight. But his vanishing act only made the rebels madder and induced William H. Wharton to offer a \$500 cash reward for his capture.

Williams realized the price on his head made him a tempting target. He slipped across the Sabine into Louisiana with every intention of returning as soon as Santa Anna crushed the revolt.

The ragtag rebels' springtime triumph turned his temporary retreat into permanent exile. For the rest of his life, John A. Williams never again set foot in Texas.

*Do your Christmas shopping at [www.twith.com](http://www.twith.com) or request a gift list from P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549*

## How To End The War In Iraq

By SAM OSBORNE  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

How to end the war in Iraq—peace without need of victory:

A war with a "foreign devil" may serve the purposes of a leader that desires to control the thinking of his people, but a bogus threat to their security does not assist that people in their effort to find a better way for themselves and the neighbors with whom they must live.

"They hate us and want to destroy our way of life" is not uttered to encourage a brave consideration of the successful sharing of our planet with others. It is propaganda set to inflame the emotions and block a wider search for a better course. And the media-merchants of division, in greedy grasp for notoriety and larger fortune, will even stoop to destructively charge that an American that questions is guilty of hating his or her own land.

Regardless, with courage and in love of what America stands for and with the resolve of the founders, we can see through this dank and distorting fog of words and find our better way and joint with all people of good will in stamping out terrorism and the things that foster its birth. To this end I suggest that we turn the larger responsibility for the Iraqi problem over to the people that face it most directly, the Arab world, and Iraq's closest and most interested neighbors.

Let us request that one of the

### GUEST COMMENTARY

democracies in the region, it could even be Iran, call a summit of their neighbors and take charge of establishing a peace in Iraq that allows these beleaguered people to find enough security to pursue their own special way of life.

By turning the problem over to those most directly affected, WE-THE-PEOPLE free ourselves from this quagmire and can directly focus our intellect and energy on the unending Constitutional tasks to, "establish justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare and secure the Blessing of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity." In vigorous pursuit of these, we will be seen by the world for what we really are: a good neighbor that uses its incredible power and sense of justice to encourage and assist others in doing the same.

This problem is rooted in the old Geopolitics of exploitation within spheres of influence and a neo version of the same only makes things worse. We do not need to find a way to peace, peace is the way. And peace is not an inactive way, anymore than love is just the absence of hate—love is a powerful engulfing force that generates more of the same.

Were we to have as much courage in pursuing peace as we do in having others die for us in war, and if we committed as many material resources in its behest as we have in the destruction of differing others, we make peace quicker than it can ever be found in a war that somehow at its end must fortuitously stumble into it.

Yes, protect ourselves we must and we will, but to shoot first and ask questions later is no protection. It is the assassi-

nation of all that makes life worthwhile in the first place.

We claim that WE-THE-PEOPLE are capable of government of us, by us and for us. There has not been anything in the drinking water in North America that has made only the people of this continent special in this regard. We are special because we know that humans are special and are endowed by their Creator with an inalienable virtue that must be respected by us all.



The Lone Star  
ICONOCLAST



# The Virtues of Compromise

Okay Democrats. You won. Big time. I will admit to being somewhat pleased about this, even though I have about as much use for party politics as I do string cheese. I was in the “Anyone but the Fascists” camp, right along with the large majority of America. So clap yourselves on the back. Throw a victory party. Pop the top on an expensive beer. You deserve it.

But for the Love of Future Elections, do not make the same mistakes as your counterparts.

Let’s make no bones about it: this mid-term election was a referendum on the Republican Party. As corrupt, arrogant, and dangerous their form of governance had become, it was not a brand of evil too unfamiliar to the American public. For a moment, let us remember 1993.

Just before the GOP’s “Contract with America” (which they quickly discarded), Democratic leadership was just as bad. A long period of time in control of the Federal government lends its self to this downward spiral we witnessed within the Right. And in 1993, it was just as ugly.

Thought the perversions of Mark Foley, the GOP’s top pedophile, were pretty absurd? Don’t forget about Rep. Barney Frank from Massachusetts. He paid a male prostitute for “favors” and got so sucked into the relationship that he began using his Washington D.C. apartment for sexual misdeeds. He eventually went so far as to hire this “gentleman” as his personal assistant in Congress. Now, there is nothing wrong with that except that prostitution is against the law. Should a member of the citizenry be caught up in such a thing, the law would step in. But Congressman Frank? Efforts to expel him from Congress failed. The Democratic majority couldn’t even muster up a slap on the hand by way of a censure.

Thought the corruption of Republicans Bob Ney or Duke Cunningham was bad? You’re right. And they are just as guilty as Democrats Robert Torricelli or Daniel Rostenkowski. Torricelli resigned less than a month before the election because of controversy over gifts he accepted. Rostenkowski, a Democrat from Illinois, was indicted on 17 felony charges. He served 17 months in federal prison for misuse of public funds.

How about Albert Bustamante? The Good’ole Boy Democrat from Texas was convicted in 1993 for racketeering and bribery. Mobster charges. Sounding familiar? There’s a thousand others on both sides of The Great Divide.

The point is, no matter which major party you chose to stick with, any time we give absolute control to one “allied” group of



## The Webster Retort

By Stephen Webster

individuals, it will be abused. This is why we have a system of checks and balances. True, Bush and his cronies and all their merry men made a hard push to completely topple those checks, using a state of war to justify their attempts at tyranny at home. And given, the American political system only has two major parties, thereby giving many voters only two viable choices. So, the outcome of the elections should not have been unexpected.

Let’s be real for a moment.

If you think the Democratic majority will do anything to help Middle America, you might be right, for a little while anyway. They will throw out a token minimum wage increase, offer a little Federal help for college tuition, and maybe even succeed in shifting the tax burden back upon those who can afford it. That would be nice. That would be a good start. But there is so much more.

Here’s my ten cents on what else needs to happen.

Everyone: Let’s make future Federal elections public property. Yes, you read right. Let’s smash the power of money. With a public elections system, a guy with some good ideas who makes \$30 thousand a year can compete on even footing with a guy with equally good ideas who makes \$500 million a year. There is a large-and-growing group of politically minded individuals who are running a campaign called “Just Six Dollars”. They estimate that \$6 would be the cost per-person if America were to do this. You can check them out online at [www.just6dollars.com](http://www.just6dollars.com). I think it would be the first truly significant step we can take as a nation to take power from the rich and return the power to the people.

Oh, and another thing: let’s put term limits on the House and Senate. Curmudgeons are curmudgeons. If we get stuck with a few, at least we only have to tolerate them for a short while.

Dissidents: Let’s work on boosting up our third parties. Face it: we’ve been stuck with the Republicans and Democrats for a while. They’re not going anywhere for a while longer. But if you are like many Americans, you feel as though partisan politics has become a major impediment to actually getting anything positive accomplished. It destroys attempts at cooperation. It hinders open debate. It is a disease, and the Greens, the Libertarians, the Independents and the Centrists

are the cure.

If you’re on the fringes of either party, recognize: they do not support you. Go further out. Be a free thinker. Stop following a party line. See the big, undreamed-of things that author Kurt Vonnegut saw from the fringe. You will be on the leading edge of progress, and others will join you. Instead of being an unrepresented angry sect, you could claim your own and work toward shared ideals.

If you are a moderate like most of us, check out the American Centrist Party. It was started just recently by a very smart guy named John P. Reisman. You can read more about them at [www.uscentrist.org](http://www.uscentrist.org). Imagine it: as both major parties bicker over their positions, the Centrists come together and put forward a compromise. Six dollars (nudge-nudge) says most people will appreciate the middle ground.

Liberals: STOP BEING SO REACTIONARY! I know, there’s just so much to react to, and yes, America would be a better place if men like George Bush and Tom DeLay were regularly frog-marched into the streets of Capitol Hill and publicly humiliated. Perhaps even pelted with various foods and/or hair products. But until the people reclaim their government, that will not happen. Work on positive communication, otherwise you will succeed in turning more people off to what is a genuinely good-natured political philosophy with more room than even the Biggest of Tents.

Conservatives: Keep it close to the pocketbook. This is your strong suite. I am a fiscal conservative. Most people are. We spend what we have and avoid debt where possible. Unfortunately, this has not been the ideals of recently elected leaders. Be on guard for RINO’s, and make a stink about borrow and spend types. They are no better than those who would frivolously raise taxes. And keep an eye out for the American Pharcies who pray on the street corner for all to see. Their words are as empty as their souls, and their politics are those of maintaining power, not reflecting your morals. The outgoing Congress used you and disregarded their promises. It was a farce and an insult. Don’t feel bad, though. Your friends on the other side of the line have been duped before as well. It is the nature of power, and we have all been deceived.

The new guard may be a little bit of a fresh start, but if we as a public are to keep this beast we know as Congress in check, our work begins today. There is a way to break the partisan fever, and we must work together if that is to be accomplished. We’ll call it the New American Revolution, where ultimately Republicans and Democrats are no more, and people

# Don’t Panic, It’s Just Your Toilet Paper Getting Smaller

I have a friend in Atlanta who I consider an astute observer. The kind of person who is aware of even the most subtle changes in routine or appearance. Which is why it came as no surprise when I received the following e-mail from him:

I think they shrunk my toilet paper.

According to “Derf” (Note: Out of respect for his privacy I have created a fictitious name that should not be held up to a mirror), his recent purchase of Scott toilet paper seemed “more narrow than normal.” Because many of you are probably reading this over breakfast, I will not explain how he reached this conclusion, nor will I ever be caught without two-ply toilet paper should he come to visit.

What I will tell you is that, after reading about his deductive process, I felt a need to go clean my hands, which I did, by dipping them in kerosene and lighting them on fire.

However, once the flames were out, my newspaper instincts took over and began pursuing the truth, in the tradition of other great investigative journalists (from the NEW YORK TIMES), by rolling up my sleeves and doggedly typing the words smaller toilet paper on Google. Before I get to the results of my exhaustive investigation, I just have to say I am continually amazed by the Internet, and how a search for even the most obscure subject — like, say... flaming grapefruit jugglers — will somehow yield hundreds of results, most of which are pornographic.

As I expected, “Derf” was right. According to a recent public announcement from Scott, the company has narrowed its sheets by nearly an inch. In my opinion, this decision seems to fly in the face of our nation’s widening bottoms.

(If that last sentence makes it in, you’ll know my editor was asleep.)

Scott says the reason it can make its sheets smaller is be-



## Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson

Siuslaw News

cause its new version has a “longer-lasting, softer and more absorbent texture” that was “extensively tested by consumers before being introduced to the market.”

OK, first things first. I think we can all agree on one thing: Ewwwwwwww.

Secondly, I admit I have no experience in the area of product testing, except for trying to avoid those freakishly enthusiastic people handing out free samples at Costco, some of whom — and I’m not proud of this — I’ve gotten past by performing a ninja roll.

Following that train of thought, I have to wonder what qualifies as “extensively tested” when it comes to toilet paper, and whether there’s a connection between the free food samples I’m constantly being offered while shopping, and the questionnaire I found hanging in the bathroom stall during my last visit. I suppose I should be thankful there wasn’t someone in THERE handing out free samples.

Because, to be quite honest, performing a ninja roll at that particular time would’ve been out of the question.

Right now, you’re probably asking yourself: What point is he trying to make?

I know I am.

Just kidding! Hahahahaha! Of course I have a point! I’m a journalist! It’s my job to have a point; something thought provoking and informative that ties everything together with clarity and insight.

In this case, however, I think it might be too much to absorb.

(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/](http://www.nedhickson.net/blog/))

come together for civil debate over issues, not ideology.

After all, if Mark Twain ever dispensed wisdom, and most would agree that he did, one of his most poignant and ever-true phrases is inexorably tied to those we choose to represent us.

“There is no native criminal class except Congress,” he said.

If you’re laughing, then you’re with me. Let’s roll up our sleeves,

suck up our pride, and get to the compromising. Your kids will thank you for it.

And, I should add, all of the above having been read and understood by my friends and readers, I still think we should impeach George W. Bush for his assault on our Constitution. But that is another day and another column.

Mahalo.



# Please Be Kind — Always Rewind

*"You've gotta have heart;  
All you really need is heart.  
When the odds are sayin'  
you'll never win,  
That's when the grin should  
start."*

"Heart" Richard Adler &  
Jerry Ross (from *Damn  
Yankees*)



## Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

Sometimes the underdog comes out on top. Take this little Italian kid from a small town near Peoria, Ill. for instance.

He had the smarts to attend Northwestern University. NU is a most prestigious institution of higher education located in the once-ony community of Evanston, which borders Chicago along its northern Lake Michigan shoreline.

The Paisano was good enough to catch for the Cubs after college, and eventually the vaunted Yankees of Bronx, New York.

Yankees manager Joe Torre saw more than just another player in this guy who sat next to him on the bench whenever not in the game. This was a young man who at the earliest stages of his career had expressed a desire to manage; he made a point of absorbing everything possible from the successful Mr. Torre.

When it was time for the kid from Peoria to hang up his mitt and put the bat into the rack for the last time, Torre brought him on board as a bench coach. After all, who better to discuss strategy with than a Northwestern grad.

The next season the young catcher-turned-coach was ready to be pushed from the nest. With a minimum of coaching experience, and no time at all as a minor league manager, the Central Illinois native got the call to manage the Florida Marlins.

Joe Girardi had, at the tender age of 41, when some guys are still playing the ultimate kids' game, been put at the helm of a major league baseball team.

Now within an elite group of men, this was the goal to which he had aspired for years. Little did Joe realize just what level of "elite" status he was about to enter.

The team Girardi was given was not expected, or intended, to succeed. For 2006 the Marlins had a payroll that would have stymied a team back in 1986 — at a mere \$15 million it was ridiculously paltry by any sports standards.

Marlins owner Jeffrey Loria had no desire to field a winning team. Anyone who's seen the

original "Major League" movie knows the story: The team sucks, so there's no fan support. Put the worst possible players on the field, the team loses even more games, fewer fans show up, somebody buys the team and moves it out of town.

To both the movie's fictional owner and Loria's dismay, the end result was not as hoped. Pre- and early season estimates were that the mostly inexperienced Marlins, rookie manager and all, would finish with a 47-115 record (optimists were calling it at best 62-100).

However, nobody figured in the "Girardi Factor." For openers, the guy's gotta be smarter than your average, run-of-the-mill ballplayer (remember, Northwestern graduate). He knows how to reason through a situation, and despite his Italian heritage doesn't lose his cool or blow up on the field.

Joe's always been respected by management both on and off the field for maturity and leadership; in 2002 when St. Louis Cardinal pitcher Darryl Kile was found dead in his Chicago hotel room, it was Girardi Cubs' management hand-picked to go onto the field and make the game cancellation announcement.

Anyone who has seen Girardi play knows he was one of the sharpest game-callers that ever squatted behind the plate. Granted, over 15 seasons he didn't have a huge lifetime batting average or hit for power (a respectable .267 with 36 homers), yet he knew his pitchers and the opposing batters.

I clearly remember Joe being "introduced" as a 24-year-old rookie to the WGN-TV viewing audience by Harry Caray back in 1989. Thus, it was sheer joy watching as he tended to his young whelps this past summer. Would that I could've seen more, but there were a mere six games between the Cubs and the "Fish." Still, what was available spoke volumes.

There was no doubt, for even one second, during the course of any of those games that on the field Joe Girardi was master and commander of that ship. It was evident as summer rain every day in Miami that the kids in ocean blue obeyed the words

of the Skipper. Joe knew he was saddled with a gaggle of players who really should have either still been in the minors, or spread around as pinch-whatevers around the rest of the majors — not comprising a team all in one place together.

Still, this was not a guy who was going to lie down and give up. Neither was he about to let his young players flake out, as youth is prone to do.

I remember one game where one of Joe's Kids made a boneheaded play against the Cubs. Whether it was offense or defense escapes me now, but the mental mistake was potentially costly. When the 20-or-so-year-old walked into the dugout, Girardi, probably unaware that a Chicago camera operator was fixed upon him, grabbed the player by the top buttons and pulled him into the runway. Away from the rest of the players, with hands flying every direction in typical Italiano animated fashion, Joe apparently explained the game of baseball and why there were nine men on the field who functioned as a team (my assumption).

The scene kind of reminded me of my dad scolding me for some screw up when I was a youth, or me chewing out my son, Pete, for some dumbass thing one's offspring will do.

If memory serves, the Marlins went on to win that game.

In his inaugural managerial year he was given a team without a realistic payroll. He had no fan support, even less from the front office. He was in a tough division that included the once-mighty Atlanta Braves and the league's winningest team, the New York Mets.

He was baptized by fire, fielding the "Not Ready For The Big Leagues Players."

Joe Girardi took this herd of 25 ballplayers and turned them into a *team*. A viable, fightin', spirited, baseball-playin' team!

The Florida Marlins were never the joke everyone predicted they would be; their young rookie Skipper saw to that.

Joe Girardi kept his kids in the hunt for the wild card berth right up until the last week of the season. That feat is difficult enough for a seasoned manager with veteran players that include a handful of "stars" available to trot out every game.

Girardi did it with heart. And determination. And a brain.

*"You gotta have heart,  
Miles and miles and miles of  
heart."*

*Oh, it's fine to be a genius of  
course*

*But keep that old horse before  
the cart,*

*First you gotta have heart."*

Within Joe there was also an obviously innate and unflinching love of the game in play.

When the dust settled after the third out of the ninth inning of the 162nd game of the Marlins' 2006 campaign, the final count was 78 victories and 84 losses.

In simple math terms a losing season; to anyone who knows anything at all about baseball — and truly loves the game — this was a winning season.

For a rookie manager who was expected to run his rag-tag flock out onto the diamond every day or night just to lose 68% of the time, but instead damn near won 50% of those games, *of course that's a winning season!*

So, why was Joe Girardi fired two days after the season ended?

My initial guess might have been that he hadn't lost, as expected. Then again, had he not lit a spark under the Marlins as a team there would have been nobody attending their games, Loria could have sold the franchise, and chances are Girardi would've been seeking employment elsewhere, anyway.

Win or lose on the field, he was in a lose-lose situation off the field. Joe did the best thing he could for his own future and the young players — win as many games as possible and let the record speak for itself.

There came a game, however, when Loria's constant public interference with his field manager not only became too much to ignore, but crossed the line of baseball protocol (to put it nicely).

With about two months left in the season, and animosities toward Girardi made public by Loria almost since the first pitch of 2006, the owner created a scene at a game in Miami.

Sitting in his private box seat behind home plate, Loria started ripping on the umpire.

This is not acceptable behavior from anyone associated with team administration during the course of a ballgame. Quite frankly, it's unheard of.

I have no firsthand knowledge of the precise verbiage, but as it was reported at the time the children and elderly grandmothers within hearing range should not have been subjected to certain bits of colorful language.

The incident came to a peak when manager Girardi walked over to Loria's seat and vocifer-

ously (with color, it was reported) told his boss to shut up and stay out of the game.

Finally, someone in a position of authority taking a public stance against one of those spoiled clowns who buy baseball teams not because they love the game, but for the Viagra effect that accompanies ownership.

Just a couple of Paisani shooting off a little steam, one might think.

"Vengeance is a dish best served cold." — This concept can be attributed to Confucius, Sun Tzu, the Siciliano Mob, the Romulans, or any one of myriad cultures.

Every sports commentator, reporter and pundit; every baseball announcer and color man; every talkshow host; every person who knows and loves the game knew what Joe had done that day.

Yes, he had stood up to a self-absorbed rich brat team owner, yet another egomaniac who put himself and his own popularity before the game and the fans.

Yes, he had told a guy who had no business being in the ballpark in the first place that he should never have purchased a baseball team, and he was embarrassing America's pastime.

Yes, he showed that honor and dignity could still be found between the lines.

We all knew quite well that Joe Girardi had certainly cost himself a job. Despite the excellent work he had done of shaping a herd into a functioning team, Joe had now given Loria a public picture — and on all the sports networks' highlight reels to boot — to use whenever he wished to can a fine up-and-coming manager.

Because it's really hard to justify firing a guy for winning more games than expected.

On Tuesday, November 14 the real truth was unveiled: Joe Girardi was awarded the 2006 National League Manager of the Year Award.

The rookie from Peoria received an overwhelming number of first place votes, 18 of 32 — next closest was the Mets' Willie Randolph who garnered eight.

A column in the New York Daily News carped that Willie was the rightful NLMY, as if coming in first after three years running a team in the largest market with a huge payroll gives someone an entitlement.

The whole idea of Manager of the Year is someone who does a remarkable job; the recipient doesn't have to be the division champ.

Continued On Next Page



## CIA Admits To Two Interrogation Memos

WASHINGTON — The Central Intelligence Agency, so says the American Civil Liberties Union, finally admitted last week to the existence of two classified documents that call for extreme methods of ques-

tioning and detention for terrorism suspects.

While the denials of the memo's existence are over, the public are still not allowed to see the contents of the memos from President George W. Bush

and the Justice Department, according to the CIA lawyers who say that the information in them is too sensitive.

Over 100,000 pages of documents on U.S. interrogation policies, however, were released as a result of the Freedom of Information Act lawsuit filed by the ACLU two years ago. Among the documents include written correspondence debating policy over the U.S. detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

The CIA acknowledged the existence of yet refused to release two specific documents requested by the ACLU. One of the two documents was described as a "directive" from President Bush allowed the CIA to install detention camps around the world. The second document pertains to the interrogation methods used to extract information from U.S. prisoners who are members of al-Qaeda.

An ACLU lawyer said that the group will sue for the release of the remaining documents held from the original October 2003 request since this new batch of documents has been disclosed.



## TENUTO

From Previous Page

As far as the Florida Marlins team goes, Joe Girardi performed some amazing feats. His field performance alone should have been enough to earn the award.

However, when Joe took his love of the game and its integrity one step beyond by standing up to bully owner Jeffrey Loria, during an ongoing game, in front of what few fans were willing to line the schmuck's pockets and television cameras broadcasting to anywhere, he sealed his place among the very, very short roster of Major League Managers of the Year.

*Le congratulazioni, Paisano! Multo buono!*

Before I close, one note of memoriam...

As you celebrate Thanksgiving with family and friends this week, please remember a dear, departed companion we've all known and loved quite well.

On Tuesday, Nov. 14 at 8 p.m., PST, Dianne Garrett of VARIETY reported that VHS, 30, had died of loneliness. Although it once lived a fruitful life, the end came for the groundbreaking home-entertainment format of natural causes after a long illness.

Expectations were that VHS might hold on till January, but its decline was sped up by HD and next-gen videogame consoles.

According to VARIETY, "VHS is survived by a child, DVD, and by TiVo, VOD and DirecTV. It was preceded in death by Betamax, Divx, mini-discs and laserdiscs.

"...the format's death became official in this... fourth quarter. Retailers decided to

pull the plug, saying there was no longer shelf space.

"VHS hit its peak with 'The Lion King'... a title that sold 30 million copies. VHS "flourished until DVDs launched in 1997..."

Since then tapes have become increasingly scarce, snowballing from 2003 on when DVDs became more popular for the first time.

"Alas, poor magnetic particles, I knew ye well..."

Well, be sure to enjoy your Thanksgiving Day, and subsequent days off, with as much good ol' Yankee enervation as you can muster.

Remember to look at the turkey and know your day's a whole hell of a lot better than the one that tom's having.

Beware the mixture of triptopan, in-laws, hard likker and carving knives, 'cause they makes for some serious stains in the good linen tablecloth.

Oh, hell, it's Thanksgiving — hang in there, you only have to see your family once more this year...

Good grief! *The season 'tis upon us already!*

Shalom, Friends and Neighbors.

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

## DPS Says Hire State-Licensed Locksmiths

AUSTIN — Since January 2004, the Private Security Act has required that individuals and companies performing locksmith services in the state of Texas be licensed by the Department of Public Safety.

As part of the licensing process, fingerprint criminal history checks are performed on applicants to ensure they do not have criminal convictions that would prohibit them from receiving a license.

However, many individuals and companies are still performing services without the required license — and the required criminal history check.

The DPS website <[www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb](http://www.txdps.state.tx.us/psb)> features a search feature that can verify an individual or company's licensed status.

Performing locksmith services without a license, which is a class A misdemeanor, is punishable by a jail term up to one year and/or a fine of up to \$4,000.

To report unlicensed persons offering to perform locksmith services, contact the Department's Private Security Bureau by fax at (512) 424-7729 or by e-mail <[psb@txdps.state.tx.us](mailto:psb@txdps.state.tx.us)>.



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# Home Cooking Fires Peak Thanksgiving Day

QUINCY, Mass. — As Americans prepare Thanksgiving meals, it is imperative that they keep safety in mind since cooking fires are more likely to occur on Thanksgiving than on any other day of the year. The incidence of home cooking fires is roughly three times the daily average on Thanksgiving.

In 2004, cooking equipment was involved in 1,040 reported home structure fires on Thanksgiving, three times the daily average that year.

National Fire Protection Association studies show cooking fires are the number-one cause of home fires and home fire injuries. Hundreds of Americans are killed each year due to home cooking fires and thousands more are injured. Cooking fires also cause roughly half a billion dollars in direct property damage to the homes and the belongings inside.

People may look to vary the traditional turkey entrée by using a turkey fryer, but due to the unique fire and injury hazards associated with this specific piece of equipment, NFPA recommends against their use.

The deep-frying cooking process requires that up to five gallons of oil be heated before placing the turkey into the device. Tests have shown that a number of available turkey fryer devices are not sturdy and can easily tip over, allowing hot oil to spill, creating a serious risk of fire or scald burn from contact.

There also have been reports of turkey fryers overheating, which can also lead to hot oil spilling or splattering outside the fryer, which is again a recipe for dangerous fires, serious injuries, and property loss.

If having fried turkey is a must this Thanksgiving, NFPA recommends that consumers turn to commercial sources where professionals will prepare their entrée with a safety and skill unlikely to be matched at home. Some supermarkets and restaurants accept orders for fried turkeys during the holiday season.

NFPA offers these tips for safer cooking:

### “Stand By Your Pan”

Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.

If you must leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.

If you are simmering, baking, boiling, or roasting food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that the stove or oven is on.

Keep in mind that you should avoid wearing loose clothing or dangling sleeves while cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire if it comes in contact with a gas flame or electric burner.

### “No Kids Allowed”

Keep kids away from cooking areas by enforcing a “kid-free zone” of three feet around the stove.

If you have young children, use the stove’s back burners whenever possible, and turn pot handles inward to reduce the risk that pots with hot contents will be knocked over.

Never hold a small child while cooking.

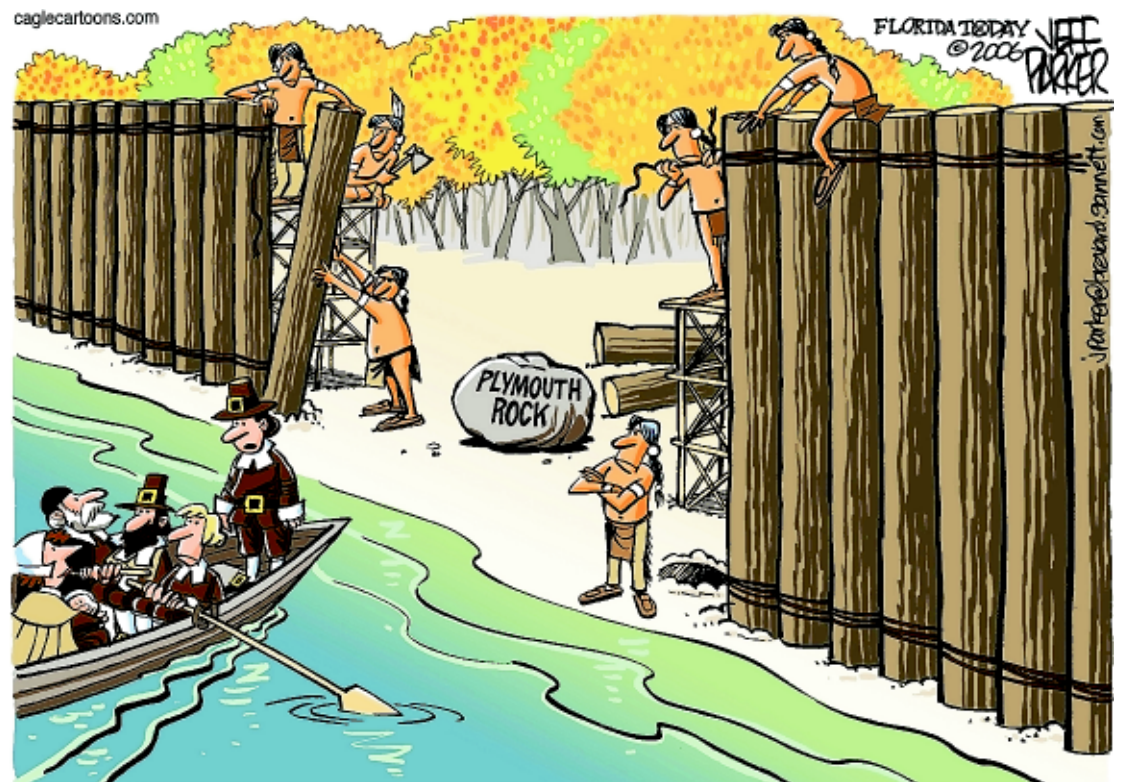
### “Keep It Clean”

Keep anything that can catch

fire — pot holders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains — away from the stove top.

Clean up food and grease from burners and the stovetop.

NFPA offers detailed information about home cooking fires, including advice for cooking safety, educational resources, and the report entitled Home Cooking Fire Patterns and Trends, on-line <[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)>.



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## Don’t Get Benched With Injuries During Holiday Pick-up Games

HOUSTON — ‘Tis the season to dust off the pigskin and join in the fun of pick-up games with family and friends. Remembering a few safety tips can prevent fumbling any holiday cheer.

Dr. Patrick McCulloch, assistant professor of orthopedic surgery at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, expects to be busy with many sprains, strains and tears this season.

“This time of year, people who aren’t normally physically active join in some holiday pick-up games like a game of touch football,” he said, “but these games are only fun until someone gets hurt.”

The most common injuries are muscle strains or joint sprains.

Ankle sprains are the single most common injury, said McCulloch, who specializes in sports medicine. “However, it’s not uncommon to see finger fractures, ankle fractures, and knee and shoulder ligament tears,” he said.

“If you have suffered a knee injury and you felt a ‘pop,’ that usually indicates a torn ligament,” said McCulloch. “If the knee buckles on you or develops significant swelling, you should see a sports medicine physician.”

In order to escape injury, McCulloch offers the following tips:

- Always stretch and warm up tight muscles before a game.

- Wear appropriate footwear. If you don’t have cleats, wear sneakers that have lower heel support than running shoes and can help you avoid ankle sprains.

- Try not to play with anyone half your age or twice your size.

If you get injured, remember RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression and Elevation) which is the preferred treatment for a sprained ankle, for example. “The sooner you start, the faster you will get back on your feet,” McCulloch said.

Even more common than an acute injury is next-day soreness. “A lot of people will make it through the game and the rest of the day without any particular injuries,” said McCulloch, “but they’ll wake up the next day incredibly sore.”

He recommends stretching after the game and again the next day as well as taking an anti-inflammatory such as ibuprofen.

Hike the ball, score a touchdown, and do a victory dance, but remember to stretch and warm-up beforehand to avoid being tackled by injury.

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