

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 7, No. 42

DEC. 6, 2006

\$2.50 Per Copy

© 2006, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

INSIDE



Protesters Convicted

Page 2

EDITORIAL The Drug War Addiction

Page 10



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

Christmas Observations

Page 12



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

Borat: Offensive, Funny, Or Both?

Page 18



Want More Attractive Coastlines?

Page 20

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

Safer Deals Communities Say Shelf 'War On Drugs'

VARIED VIEWPOINTS:

• Police • Parents • Patients • Physicians • Pastors

BEGINS ON
PAGE 3



Get Out Of The Road

Protesters Convicted

By DEBORAH MATHEWS
STAFF WRITER

WACO — Iraq War protesters Hiram Myers and Em Hardy appeared in McLennan County Judge Michael B. Gassaway's courtroom on Tuesday to stand to the charge of obstructing a street. The two were convicted following a three-day trial by a six-person jury.

The two, part of the original "Prairie Dog 12," were among the 14 arrested on Good Friday of last year at the site of Camp Casey I on Prairie Chapel Road.

Protesting the ordinance that they thought to be a violation of constitutional rights, the 75-year-old Oklahoma lawyer and the 58-year-old Austin psychologist said that they had expected to be charged with violation of the county ordinance that prohibits the erection of shelters

DATELINE:
Crawford

Hometown of the President of the United States

in the right of way of county roads and not for obstructing the road.

Cindy Sheehan was on hand and prepared to testify for the defense, accompanied by her sister Dee Dee Miller and fellow protester Major Ann Wright.

The defense's attorney, David Broiles, said that they are trying to stretch the law and stop the protesters from protesting, which is a violation of constitutional rights.

After the verdict that took the jury nearly four hours to reach, Myers said, "I think this was a waste of time. It was a waste of taxpayers' money."

The two were ordered to pay a \$150 fine, plus court costs. They both said that the conviction will not stop them from future protests.



FOLLOWING JURY INSTRUCTION, defendants Hiram Myers (left) and Em Hardy (right) left a McLennan County courtroom on Tuesday alongside fellow Iraq War protester Cindy Sheehan (center). The two are part of a group of 14 who were arrested and charged with failing to obey an order to prevent obstruction of a street in April of last year.

— Staff Photo By Deborah Mathews

Man Who Damaged Roadside Crosses Gets Deferred Probation

WACO — Disabled Vietnam veteran Larry Chad Northern who plowed through anti-war activists' memorial crosses in August 2005 pleaded no contest to destroying the markers that had been placed along Prairie Chapel Road leading to President Bush's ranch.

Northern, 60, was placed on deferred probation for six months by McLennan County Court-at-Law No. 2. He had been charged with a Class B misdemeanor for criminal mischief.

The Purple Heart recipient, who earned the medal after being wounded in Vietnam, has contended that the crudely made wooden crosses bearing the names of soldiers who died

in the Iraq war and placed in a ditch were disrespectful.

The crosses, erected by followers of Cindy Sheehan, who had staged a vigil last year in her quest to speak with the President, were placed in similar fashion to thousands of others across the nation in honor of loved ones who had died in traffic mishaps. They had been constructed utilizing donated materials and volunteer help.

The result of the incident were numerous damaged crosses that were soon replaced and concern for safety for individuals camping in that area. Northern's truck incurred about \$400 worth of damage to the front end, along with a flat tire.



Camp Casey One

Peace activists install roadside crosses during Cindy Sheehan's August 2005 vigil near Crawford.

— Iconoclast Photo

THE LONE STAR
ICONOCLAST

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

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

STAFF: Editorial — W. Leon Smith (publisher, editor-in-chief), Don M. Fisher (associate editor), Nathan Diebenow (associate editor), Deborah Mathews. Advertising — Melanie Harvey, Tammy Shelton, Tiffany Shelton. Business — Kay Ortiz (office), Allison Smith (Internet, web master). Circulation: Charlie Gandy, Pernie Stanford, Wayne Thompson, Bud Shaffer, Wanda Raines, Georgia Bell.

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

Safer Deals Communities Say Shelf 'War On Drugs'

VARIED VIEWPOINTS:

- Police • Parents • Patients
- Physicians • Pastors



By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — A growing number of police, parents, patients, physicians, and pastors across the United States are all saying the same thing about their government's so-called "War on Drugs":

"Shelf it!"

In this issue, the Lone Star Iconoclast has provided space for members of these groups to explain why they feel the way they feel about drug prohibition.

There's a perspective from a parent who started Building BLOCK (Better Lives for Our Communities) based in Denton, Texas. Christopher Largen, himself a victim of sexual abuse, argues that the American criminal justice system unfairly demands more from non-violent marijuana consumers than from child predators.

Then, giving the inside scoop on the U.S. government's non-defunct medical marijuana program is one of the handful of remaining patients. Although the U.S. Supreme Court ruled marijuana had no medical benefits, George McMahon still receives cans containing 300 marijuana cigarettes in order to relieve the pain he suffers from a rare genetic disorder called Nail Patella Syndrome.

THE ICONOCLAST's special investigative reporter Stephen Webster provided the bulk of the material in this issue, including a section on the recent medical break-throughs pertaining to marijuana.

I had the pleasure to write an account of the part the religious

community has played in recent years in fighting for the rights of individuals caught on the wrong side of the anti-drug laws.

Iconoclast readers should treat this issue as a sampler of stories of experienced professionals and concerned citizens whose opinions have been ignored, suppressed, and/or skewed in today's mainstream media. In certain cases, federal government officials ignored our calls for interviews.

Be that as it may, we lead off with an interview with Ret. Lt. Jack A. Cole, a former undercover narcotics agent from New Jersey whose frustrations with the drug war led him to form a speakers bureau of former law enforcement officers who advocate the decriminalization (not the use) of drugs.



Jack A. Cole
'Getting A Bust'

The Police

Former Undercover Narcotics Officer Speaks Out Against War On Drugs

By STEPHEN WEBSTER
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

MEDFORD, Maryland — Jack A. Cole is the Executive Director of a large-but-growing organization called L.E.A.P. - Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

Founded in March of 2002, L.E.A.P. started with just five members, but quickly swelled to over 5,000. The group now serves a mostly educational role, sending featured speakers around the country to discuss their views concerning the "War on Drugs."

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST recently had an opportunity so speak with Cole about his experiences and what led him to start this organization.

.....
ICONOCLAST: Thank you for taking the time to speak with us, Mr. Cole. Let's start with some of your background. What function did you serve in the law enforcement community?

JACK A. COLE: I spent 26 years in the New Jersey state police, 14 years undercover in narcotics. I retired a Detective Lieutenant out of there and felt



Jack Cole

so bad about my part in implementing what I now consider an unjust war on drugs that I went in with four other police officers in 2002 and started this organization, L.E.A.P. - Law Enforcement Against Prohibition.

The mission of our organization is to end the harms that are associated with drug prohibition. To lessen the rates of death, disease, crime and addiction, by ultimately ending that drug prohibition. And we're no longer just police. We're police, judges, prosecutors, prison wardens, DEA and FBI agents. Most of them help to make up our speakers bureau.

Since we've had the speakers' bureau, we've given over 2,000 presentations. We present to civic, professional, religious, and educational organizations, but mainly to civic organizations. Things like Rotaries, Kiwanis Clubs, Lions Clubs, Chambers of Commerce — these are very conservative groups, you know? We feel that overall, about 80 percent of our audience agrees with us after our talk. When we walk in the

door, I'm sure it's not even five percent that agree with us.

ICONOCLAST: What are some of the core tenants of L.E.A.P.'s argument? Why do cops say "legalize drugs"?

COLE: We've fought this war for 35 years. During that time, we've spent over a trillion dollars on this war. All we have to show for it is that every year, we arrest 1,700,000 people in this country for non-violent drug offenses, and do all we can to destroy their lives and any hope they might have for the future by arresting them and imprisoning them, taking away the driver's license of young folks with whom we catch so much as just one marijuana cigarette.

You know, most states remove their driver's license. What that means if you live in a rural area, or suburban America, if you're a young person, is that you can no longer get to school. You can no longer be gainfully employed. And if you live in the center cities of this country where we do happen to have public transportation; if you happen to live in government subsidized housing, you don't any longer. Get caught with so much as one

Continued On Next Page

The Police

From Previous Page

marijuana cigarette, you're thrown out of that house. And not only you, but your whole family has to leave. And if you happen to live with your grandparents, because maybe you've been made an orphan by the state because your parents were arrested and imprisoned for a non-violent drug offense, those grandparents have to leave also.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled four years ago that this kind of mass punishment is okay in this instance because we are fighting a war on drugs. When you fight a war, you can justify almost anything. What we understand as law enforcement is that there is a better way. For instance, when we ended alcohol prohibition in 1943, Al Capone and all of his smuggling buddies were out of business! They were off the streets. Because they were off the streets, they were no longer shooting each other to control their corner of the market. They were no longer killing cops. They were no longer killing kids caught in the crossfire. All the things that we have today, all that stopped overnight by just legalizing alcohol.

There are some other similarities. During alcohol prohibition, we had an increase in alcohol use toward the end of prohibition. We've certainly had an increase in the use of drugs in this country since we started the war on drugs. According to the DEA, in 1965 there were four million people in this country who had used an illegal drug. By the year 2001, there were 110 million people who had used an illegal drug. So, that tells you a little bit about the wrong direction we're heading with this.

Basically, what it boils down to is today, drugs are cheaper, more potent, and they're far easier to get than in 1970 when I was working under cover. That's a failed policy, any way you look at it. So, we say it's time to think of a new policy.

ICONOCLAST: Suppose that instead of ending the war on drugs, we refocus it toward fighting the supply chain, and the big volume movers. Wouldn't that be another solid strategy?

COLE: No. That's what we've been saying we are going to do for the last 36 years. For instance, in the last six years, we've spent over \$4 billion, giving it to Colombia to do just that: stop the drugs from coming out of Colombia. Now they're spraying poison on the cocaine crops and the heroin crops.

ICONOCLAST: Agent Green?

COLE: Yes. That's what it's called. But they are also spray-



Jack Cole
"Undercover"

ing this poison all over the [people who live there], but after all, they're just Third World folks, so who cares about them, right? We don't seem to worry about them at all.

that has lowered the value of these drugs is that there is so much being produced now, it is a matter of supply and demand. When supply is outstripping demand, you get a low price on it.

Fact of the matter is, today, heroin sells for 40 percent of what it did in 1970, not adjusting for inflation. Cocaine sells for 50 percent of what it did in 1970. The only drug in the United States that has gone up in price is marijuana, which is certainly the most benign of the illegal drugs. That has taken people who were using soft drugs and converted them to hard drug users. It's easier to hide the hard drugs. You make more money off them per pound. For our kids, who are being tested regularly — they face random testing at schools and at work — they're smart. They know that if you get tested

of heroin for \$12.

On this particular night, there were three young, black men who were going to sell to us, but they ended up trying to rob us of the \$12. One put a gun to my informant's head and actually pulled the trigger twice, and he got two misfires. I didn't know that because it was going on inside the car. I was outside the car, dealing with a guy that put a serrated edge butcher knife across my throat. I stuck my gun in his face and told him to get out of here; otherwise I'll kill you. We had a standoff. I was thinking he was behind me with his knife, and if I shoot him and he falls down, he's going to cut my throat. So, he decided he was going to die if he did that, and he fled. All of them fled.

During this melee, my informant had probably saved my life. Before this guy had a knife to my throat, he lunged across the car trying to stab me with it. The informant grabbed him, but as he did, that the knife slid

said, "I don't know. I don't have anything to do with drugs. I just know that he doesn't seem to rip people off."

So, I got out of the car and bought what's called a "half bundle." I come back to the car and dropped this Good Samaritan off at his house. And we knew which house was his because when he first saw my informant with his cut hand, he directed us to his house and went inside, then came back out with a bunch of medical stuff. He looked like a medic in Vietnam. He's got all these bandages, and he fixed my informant up. That's how we were talking, when he took pity on me being sick.

So I dropped him off at his place and went back to the station, and I wrote my report. I realized I had to include this Good Samaritan in the story, because if I didn't, I'd be in big trouble. So, I did. I wrote it up just as it happened. About a month later, when I had 90 or 95 people with charges for indi-

‘We've fought this war for 35 years. During that time, we've spent over a trillion dollars on this war. All we have to show for it is that every year, we arrest 1,700,000 people in this country for non-violent drug offenses, and do all we can to destroy their lives and any hope they might have for the future by arresting them and imprisoning them, taking away the driver's license of young folks with whom we catch so much as just one marijuana cigarette.'

— Jack Cole

The fact of the matter is you have to imagine this as a huge balloon. When you push in on one side, Colombia, the balloon just expands into Ecuador and Peru. So we push on Ecuador and Peru, and it expands into some other country. Colombia wasn't even producing heroin until six or seven years ago. All of our heroin came from Afghanistan before that, as a little present from a guy named Osama bin Laden. All of his money, almost every penny, came from selling heroin from Afghanistan, mainly to the United States. Now it mainly goes to Europe. He took all his profits from that and turned it into his efforts to destroy our society.

So it's not just drug lords, it's terrorists out there that make this money. Our government today, the second Bush Administration, would have you believe that if you smoke a marijuana cigarette — you're a kid, and you smoke pot — you are contributing to terrorism. Now, that's just not so. I know what contributes to terrorism: politicians that, year after year, keep making stronger and stronger laws that keep elevating the value of these drugs. It never lowers anything. The only thing

randomly, and you've smoked one marijuana cigarette, you're vulnerable for the next 28 days. You will come up with bad urine that shows you smoked that marijuana cigarette. But if you did heroin or cocaine or methamphetamine at the start of a long weekend, nobody can tell you've had that drug. So, we're converting what would have been soft drug users to hard drug users because of this.

ICONOCLAST: Was there one specific bust you participated in as an undercover cop that had the most impact as to your thinking about the war on drugs?

COLE: Yeah, there sure was. I would describe it as a story about a good Samaritan. What happened was, I had an informant that used to work for me in 1973. We were in Patterson, New Jersey in the black section of town. It was summer, about two o'clock in the morning. We did this regularly. You'd just drive down the streets real slow with the windows rolled down and somebody would shout from the side of the street, "Hey man! You looking?" And we'd cruise over to the corner, and they'd run up to the car and ask what we wanted to buy. We'd tell them to give us maybe four bags

across the informant's palm and sliced it open. The informant grabbed him by the wrist and threw him out of the car. Well, after these three guys had left, another young, black man came up to the car and asked us what happened.

We said, "Oh man, you know, we came down here to pick up some dope and your brothers here ripped us off and tried to kill us." He said that he thought it was terrible, that he hates drugs, and that he was going to college. He wants to get out of the ghetto. He said he wanted to come back and change things that were going on in the community and help get rid of the drugs. And, in the course of the talk, I knew I had to come back into town the next night, and every night thereafter still posing as a drug user, so I was acting like I was getting sick from not having my heroin.

He took pity on me. He said that he hates drugs and has nothing to do with them. But he saw that I was getting sick, so he told me about a guy down the street that he had never seen anybody get ripped off by. So we hopped in the car and drove down there. He points at the guy and tells us, "That's him." I asked, "What's his name?" He

individual drug purchases for various substances, we went on a raid. The cops went to his house to serve a warrant for distribution of heroin. He couldn't believe it. He had no idea. He said, "I hate drugs! I would never distribute any drugs to anyone!" So, he had no idea what this was about.

At that time, we were arresting so many people for this stuff — almost 100 a month — we didn't have time to go to court with them. So, what we'd do is, when the uniform cops would bring in the suspects, we'd have the undercover agent stand in the hallway where they had to walk past us, and they'd see us and realize this was a one-to-one sale and probably wouldn't go to court. And, so, I was standing in this hallway and the Good Samaritan sees me standing there and immediately knew what this was about. He walked up to me, looked me right in the eye and said, "Man, I was just trying to be your friend." And that really got to me. I realized then, there really is no justice in this war on drugs. The wrong people often, often are the ones going to prison. And that was just one story out of many, many, many others.

INFO: L.E.A.P. — www.leap.cc

The Parents

Feature Continued From Previous Page

While Child Predators Walk, Marijuana Consumers Nailed

By Christopher Largen
Special to the Iconoclast

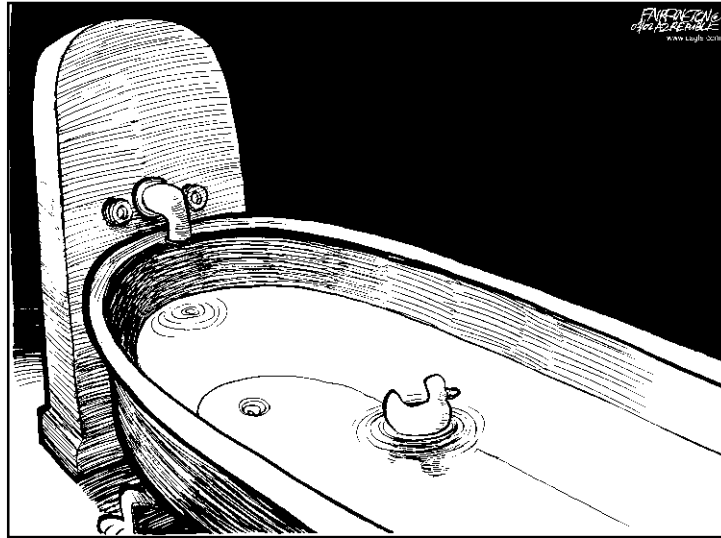
DENTON — For those of you who retain faith in our justice system, it may shock you to learn that my hometown of Denton, Texas is home to dozens of predators convicted of sex crimes against children 13 and younger, all the way down to age four, *who never served a single day in jail*. Some of these rapists have been convicted of multiple offenses against multiple children. This same dynamic is occurring across our nation.

Sit with that a moment. The system that sentences prostitutes, vandals, and marijuana consumers to jail might release a convicted child rapist right back into your neighborhood — as if personal property and morality were more important than public safety, and pilferers and potheads were more threatening than perverted predators.

This disparity is not for lack of resources. The United States leads the world in incarceration rates. Thanks to Draconian penalties for consensual crimes (implemented in the name of “protecting the children”), we lock up more of our population than Iraq, China, Iran, and North Korea. Yet many of our judges go easy on child rapists.

Complacency in the face of evil is inexcusable. Children are being abducted, raped, videotaped for the perverse pleasure of predators, tortured, and murdered. Last year in Florida, a beautiful little girl named Jessica Lunsford was attacked by a previously convicted molester who was set free by the courts to enter her bedroom, abduct her, sexually assault her repeatedly, and bury her alive in her neighbor’s yard.

While Florida law enforcement officials failed to properly monitor and control the convicted predators in their communities, they had plenty of resources to set up reverse



marijuana stings, dispatching officers to try and sell small bags of the outlawed herb to strangers on the street. It appears that inciting petty misdemeanors takes priority over preventing violent felonies. Jessica’s father Mark Lunsford, who has spent the past year traveling the country, tirelessly fighting for changes in the law, asked, “Where are our priorities as a nation? Where are our values? Sometimes it seems like we don’t value anything, least of all the children.”

As if public safety weren’t enough reason to prioritize violent crimes against children, there is also the question of justice. Our judicial system is partially based on a precept that punishment should fit the crime, so the victim’s perspective must be taken into account. Many sexual abuse survivors will contend with depression, anxiety, nightmares, insomnia, identity confusion, substance abuse, social and sexual alienation, self-mutilation, and suicidal tendencies. Child abuse is a crime against humanity, and it deserves more than a slap on the wrist.

Predators are like domestic terrorists in our own backyards, targeting the most vulnerable members of our society. The fact

that our system is failing to protect children should make us sick at heart, angry in spirit, and most importantly, *active*. A national judicial scandal of this magnitude should cause massive political reverberations as people elect to replace the legislators, district attorneys and judges who lack the insight or the concern to prioritize public safety.

Don’t hold your breath waiting for the national media to cover this issue. Pundits repeatedly reported that a Vermont judge sentenced an admitted child rapist (his victim was six years old, with assaults occurring over a four-year period) to a pathetic 60 days in jail. However, these reporters spun the story as an isolated incident involving a single renegade official who needed to be removed, and they failed to cover the broader issue.

None dare call it corruption, but information regarding probated sentences for child rapists is easily accessible online at sex offender registries. So at the very least, media moguls were negligent. But did they hope people would simply raise a highly-publicized outcry against one judge, engage in primal scream therapy, and then move on to the next flavor

of the month, without confronting the system itself?

I was determined to find out, so I contacted representatives at CNN, FOX, and MSNBC. They didn’t even want to talk about it, and neglected to return my calls or my emails. I contacted the DENTON RECORD-CHRONICLE, to no avail. Finally, while waiting for police to arrive at my home so I could report a toy bullet suspiciously left in the back of my car on Martin Luther King Day, I phoned our local child advocacy center about the possibility of joining forces. I was told they couldn’t get involved in political issues that might upset the system of cooperation between law enforcement officials, district attorneys, and therapists. The one group that remained unmentioned was the children themselves.

The truth is painful, but we have to face the fact that our society is failing our kids. From the time they are babes, we teach them to obey adults, to respect their elders, to stay quiet, to not resist, to acquiesce. Many of our school districts are less secure than our shopping malls, lacking sufficient resources to prevent students from being harmed by predators, terrorists, mentally unstable students, or even teachers who rape children (a common theme in the press these days).

Yet those same districts will often expend resources to teach our kids (many of whom have already been sexually abused) the ultimate lesson in submission and acquiescence, forcing them to drop their pants and urinate on command, sometimes in front of adult strangers who may or may not be pedophiles themselves (this is what happens when being “drug-free” takes precedence over freedom from violence). Additionally, our children are forced to grow up in a sexually schizophrenic society, where media reduces the human body to a hyper-sexual crass commodity, and religious institutions reinforce repressive Puritanism. We fail to provide them with accurate information about their bodies and their rights.

Having rendered children psychologically helpless to defend themselves, we release convicted child predators into their neighborhoods. Predators live within drug-free school zones across our nation, unmolested by police. When our kids get raped and grow up to develop drug dependencies (as many do, trying to self-medicate psychological and psychiatric symptoms) or become prostitutes (again, trying to self-medicate), we’ll throw those crime victims in jail for their involve-

ment with drugs and prostitution, while child rapists walk the street to create more victims (and therefore more consensual crimes, like drug abuse and prostitution).

Adding insult to injury, the United States Government denies drug-using rape victims financial aid for college (thanks to an anti-drug clause contained in the Higher Education Act of 1998), while convicted rapists continue to attend universities on the backs of their rape victims. Our federal legislators don’t want tax dollars purchasing illegal drugs, but they evidently have no problem with buying the knives, duct tape, pharmaceutical drugs, and video cameras that child predators will use on their next victims.

As a survivor of sexual abuse and child pornography who offered testimony to a Texas committee hearing on child advocacy, my blood is boiling. As the father of two beautiful children I delivered with my own trembling hands, I am afraid for them. Most importantly, I’m determined to do anything in my legal power to change this.

You can join me and other survivors, parents, and advocacy groups, who are creating a new organization called Building BLOCK - Better Lives for Our Communities and Kids (www.Building-Block.org), which will expose the authorities who perpetuate the perpetration, offering an interactive U.S. map to provide county-specific case profiles of officials who refuse to prioritize public safety over private morality. Membership is completely free, and we need your help.

Incompetent and corrupt officials take note. The people have grown weary of the ineptitude and apathy that allow fundamental liberties to deteriorate while violence devastates our communities. If you do not prioritize public, we’ll ensure *you* are de-prioritized at the ballet box.

And to those public servants who fight hard to protect children and strengthen our communities, I want to personally offer my thanks, as you are truly unsung heroes.

If you have kids, hug them tight when you tuck them in tonight. They deserve your protection. And if you aren’t enraged yet, you must be dead or asleep. Here’s to waking up and breaking the silence.

Christopher Largen is the founder of Building BLOCK - Better Lives for Our Communities and Kids (www.Building-Block.org), author of *Junk* (www.ENCPress.com) and *Prescription Pot* (www.PrescriptionPot.com).

Continued On Next Page

‘Adding insult to injury, the United States Government denies drug-using rape victims financial aid for college (thanks to an anti-drug clause contained in the Higher Education Act of 1998), while convicted rapists continue to attend universities on the backs of their rape victims.’
— Christopher Largen

The Patients

Feature Continued From Previous Page

Federal Medical Marijuana Patient Speaks Out

BY STEPHEN WEBSTER
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

LAKE PALESTINE, Texas — George McMahon is no pothead. However, for the last 16 years, marijuana is the only thing that has kept him alive.

While some might find this hard to believe, McMahon cannot imagine why. To him, it is just medicine. “How many people take insulin to treat the symptoms of diabetes?” he wonders. “Same thing for me. I take this medicine to treat the symptoms of my disease.”

Since he was a child, McMahon has been just a little bit different from everybody else.

“I have a slight genetic difference,” he explained during an interview on August 18, 2006. “I have what’s called Nail Patella Syndrome. It is a genetic disorder. I was born in 1950, and back then, well, we weren’t as intelligent as we are now. As a kid I would be playing baseball, and when I ran from first base to second base, my leg might fracture. Or if I caught the ball, I’d break a couple fingers. I was constantly in pain.”

McMahon recounted how he was given alcohol as a child to help him gain weight, having been born an unusually small child:

“They gave me all kinds of stuff to help treat the disorder, and a lot of times they didn’t even know all that much about the drug they were giving me. So, anything that is new or cutting edge, they’d just shove it down my throat and see what happened. Because of that, I’ve had to deal with a lot of addiction problems, especially with drugs like morphine. It has made me very, very sensitive to opiates, but they never have their intended effect on me.”

Nail Patella Syndrome (NPS) is described by WebMD.com as: “a rare genetic disorder that is usually apparent at birth or during early childhood. Although the symptoms and physical characteristics associated with NPS may vary, characteristic abnormalities tend to include improper development (dysplasia) of the fingernails and toenails; absence (aplasia) and/or underdevelopment (hypoplasia) of the knee caps (patellae); underdevelopment of certain bones and/or webbing of skin at the bend of the elbow(s); and/or abnormal projections of bone from the upper (superior) portion of both sides of the hip-



George McMahon is one of just five individuals in the United States legally permitted to smoke marijuana anywhere, at any time.

bone (bilateral iliac horns).”

In addition, some individuals within certain families (kindreds) may have abnormally increased fluid pressure of the eyes (glaucoma). The condition results due to progressive blockage of the outflow of fluid (aqueous humor) from the front chamber of the eyes (open-angle glaucoma). Without appropriate treatment, the gradual increase in fluid pressure may cause increased narrowing of visual fields and eventual blindness. Other eye (ocular) abnormalities may also be associated with NPS. For example, in some affected individuals, the inner margin (pupillary margin) of the colored portion of the eyes (irides) may appear abnormally dark (hyperpigmentation) and ‘cloverleaf shaped’ (Lester iris).

Approximately 30 to 40 percent of individuals with NPS may also develop abnormalities in kidney function (nephropathy) that may be apparent during childhood or later in life. Nail-patella Syndrome is inherited as an autosomal dominant trait.”

Because of this disease, George is given 300

marijuana cigarettes every month, courtesy of the United States Government. He is one of only five individuals on the government’s “Compassionate Investigative New Drugs Program.” At the program’s height, 17 individuals were smoking taxpayer-financed pot. That number has slowly dwindled, as no new patients are being accepted.

At its outset, the Compassionate IND program was to gather research on the potential me-



George McMahon (left) sits with Irvin Rosenfeld (middle) and Elvy Musikka (right), all of whom are on the Federal Compassionate IND program. They are given 300 marijuana cigarettes every month, grown by the taxpayer’s dollar in Ole Miss.

dicinal uses of marijuana. No research is being conducted, and none of the patients have participated in any testing to those ends. The first Bush Administration, overwhelmed with applications to the 28-year-old program, decided to shutter it for good, and thousands of terminal patients were forced to continue breaking the law in order to treat their symptoms.

In fact, *The Iconoclast* solicited statements from the Drug Enforcement Agency and the Federal Drug Administration regarding the program. Both agencies denied its existence, and declined further comment.

“But it’s interesting,” said McMahon. “They know about us, and they know about the program. They do not admit it because it would be disclosing my medical information, which is technically private.”

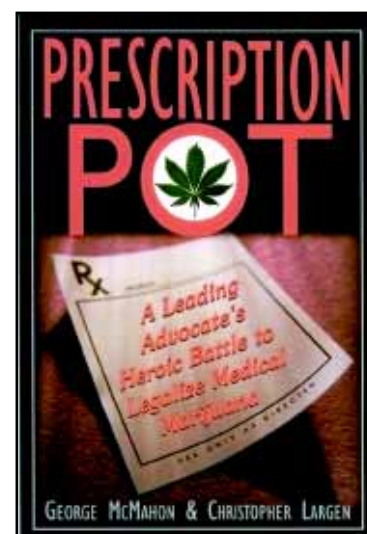
McMahon does not take marijuana to treat the disease. In fact, he insists disease is not even a consideration.

“I take marijuana for muscle spasms, pain, and appetite management,” he said. “It is the single most effective treatment we have in dealing with spasms and appetite management. When I was on dozens of mind-altering opiates, it completely killed my appetite. Now I can eat. I can sleep. I can be with my family. I can laugh, and work, and everything else a normal person can do. Because of that, I am much healthier. Because marijuana so effectively treats my symptoms, I am better.”

It was June of 2001 when the United States Supreme Court ruled that “marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception” from the Controlled Substances Act, a decision that has left people like George angry and perplexed.

“I was on my deathbed, and my doctors had just told me I was going to die in a matter of hours,” said McMahon. “Then a nurse came in and told me there was a cancer patient down the hall who wanted a cigarette. He had a joint he said he would give me. Well, I couldn’t see any reason why I wouldn’t do this, so I said okay. I had a bunch of cigarette boxes in my drawer, but I hadn’t been smoking in a long time since I was so sick.”

“A couple hours later, I was eating my first solid meal in forever,” he said. “They had been feeding me through tubes and needles for weeks. I was taking so many pharmaceuticals, I was practically comatose. But after I smoked that joint, I was asking to be checked out. I felt good for the first time in years. Just 10 days later, my wife and I



This book, “*Prescription Pot: A Leading Advocate’s Heroic Battle to Legalize Medical Marijuana*,” tells the tale of George McMahon’s life. It can be found at most major book stores and on the Internet. McMahon is also the co-founder of the activist group *Patients Out of Time*, which can be found online at (www.medicalcannabis.com).

left the hospital.”

McMahon said the doctors were so worried about him leaving the hospital, they sent him away with over 300 Valium capsules and 200 Demerol. “They practically had an ambulance follow me,” he joked. “Hard to believe it’s been 16 years...”

McMahon has had over 19 major surgeries related to problems he encountered in dealing with Nail Patella Syndrome. During one surgery, he was cut navel to spine across his right side, almost literally split in half. As the doctors dug through his abdominal muscles, the anesthesia wore off, and he woke up.

“It was the most terrifying experience of my life,” he said. “And I think it scared that anesthesiologist half to death.”

Nevertheless, his recovery was rapid and perplexing to many doctors who follow their textbooks.

“And it would have never happened without this magnificent little plant,” he said, laughing. “The problem is, there are thousands of people like me, who could benefit from using this herb, but we’re pretending they do not exist. And then when we acknowledge they are there, we arrest them for trying to stay alive.”

“I’m just a normal guy,” insisted McMahon. “And thanks to this program, I’m exempt from prosecution for taking my medicine. Why that opportunity is not available to others who so desperately need it, I just don’t know.”

George McMahon is the subject and co-author of the book “*Prescription Pot: A Leading Advocate’s Heroic Battle to Legalize Medical Marijuana*”. It can be found on the Internet and in bookstores nationwide.

Continued On Next Page

The Physicians Feature Continued From Previous Page

Is Medicine Going To Pot?

By **STEPHEN WEBSTER**
INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

CRAWFORD — On June 28, 2006, the United Nations warned Britain, the United States, and Canada that new, highly potent strains of cannabis are just as dangerous as cocaine or heroine. According to statements by the international agency, the drug is no longer “soft and relatively harmless,” as popular belief dictates.

The U.N.’s Office on Drugs and Crime claimed it was a mistake for the U.K. to reclassify cannabis from a Class B drug to a Class C, which constituted lower penalties for citizens caught in possession of the substance.

Along with Costa’s warnings, the United Nations delivered a report that claims over 160 million people worldwide use the drug. The study also claims that a “significant” number of those who use the potent strains of cannabis suffer from severe anxiety, panic attacks, extreme paranoia and “psychotic symptoms” during intoxication. They also claimed it has no medicinal value for society, and that to legalize its use for medicinal purposes would send the wrong message.

“Today the harmful characteristics of cannabis are no longer that different from those of other plant-based drugs such as cocaine and heroin,” said Costa. “Policy reversals leave young people confused as to just how dangerous cannabis is.”

However, an increasing number of scientific studies stand in stark contrast to the United Nations’ statements. Some of the most recent medicinal uses discovered include THC-based treatments for cancerous tumors and Alzheimer’s disease.

Brain Cancer & Tumors

In February of 2000, a team of scientists in Madrid, Spain, led by Dr. Manuel Guzman of Complutense University, came upon an astonishing discovery: the researchers managed to destroy brain tumors in rats previously thought incurable by injecting the animals with concentrated THC, the main psychoactive compound in the cannabis herb.

The results of the study, reported in the March 2000 issue of *Nature Magazine*, showed that three of the 45 infected rats completely recovered from their cancers, while nine more THC-treated rats lived as much as 35 days longer than rats that were not given the drug.

“All the rats left untreated



uniformly died 12-18 days after glioma (brain cancer) cell inoculation,” read the study. “Cannabinoid (THC)-treated rats survived significantly longer than control rats. THC administration was ineffective in three rats, which died by days 16-18. Nine of the THC-treated rats surpassed the time of death of untreated rats, and survived up to 19-35 days. Moreover, the tumor was completely eradicated in three of the treated rats.”

The same research team also irrigated healthy rats’ brains with THC concentrate for seven days to search for harmful neurological effects, but found none.

“Careful MRI analysis of all those tumor-free rats showed no sign of damage related to necrosis, edema, infection or trauma,” wrote Dr. Guzman. “We also examined other potential side effects of cannabinoid administration. In both tumor-free and tumor-bearing rats, cannabinoid administration induced no substantial change in behavioral parameters such as motor coordination or physical activity.”

“Food and water intake as well as body weight gain were unaffected during and after cannabinoid delivery. Likewise, the general hematological profiles of cannabinoid-treated rats were normal. Thus, neither biochemical parameters nor markers of tissue damage changed substantially during the seven day delivery period or for at least two months after cannabinoid treatment ended.”

Halting Alzheimer’s

On Aug. 9, 2006, the *Journal*

of *Molecular Pharmaceutics* published a study which claims THC, the psychoactive ingredient of marijuana, inhibits the primary marker of Alzheimer’s disease to a greater degree than currently used medicines.

The study, conducted by The Scripps Research Institute based in La Jolla, Calif., claims the compound inhibits aggregation of amyloid plaque better than the drugs donepezil and tacrine, which are currently prescribed to Alzheimer’s patients.

“Our results provide a mechanism whereby the THC molecule can directly impact Alzheimer’s disease pathology,” claims the study. “THC and its analogues may provide an improved therapeutic option for Alzheimer’s disease by simultaneously treating both the symptoms and the progression of the disease.”

Over 4.5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer’s disease. The number of those affected is expected to increase threefold in the next half-century.

“We have demonstrated that THC competitively inhibits AChE and, furthermore, binds to the AChE PAS and diminishes aggregation ... It is noteworthy that THC is a considerably more effective inhibitor of AChE-induced deposition than the approved drugs for Alzheimer’s disease treatment, donepezil and tacrine, which reduced aggregation by only 22 [percent] and [seven percent] respectively, at twice the concentration used in our

studies.”

Public Support Growing

Such breakthroughs have led to the start of a sway in public opinion.

The American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) has passed a resolution endorsing the legalization of medical cannabis. The AFSCME is the largest civic servants’ union in the nation, representing over 1.4 million individuals, including health care professionals and law enforcement officials.

The resolution acknowledges scientific evidence that marijuana use can effectively treat the symptoms of diseases such as glaucoma, HIV/AIDS, chronic pain, multiple sclerosis, cancer, Crohn’s disease and assorted side effects resulting from medical treatments. Over 6,000 delegates in Chicago overwhelmingly passed the resolution by voice vote.

“Therefore, be it further resolved that AFCME endorses and supports legalization of medical marijuana for appropriate medically indicated ailments, including but not limited to AIDS, HIV, cancer, arthritis, etc.,” reads the statement.

“Our efforts to protect medical marijuana patients from arrest are gaining new momentum every day,” said Aaron Houston, Marijuana Policy Project director of government relations. “This year alone, we’ve seen such new supporters as the Presbyterian Church, Citizens Against Government Waste, and now AFSCME. With support this

broad, and growing this fast, it’s no surprise we saw record support in the US House of Representatives this year, and we expect to keep building this large and powerful coalition.”

2006 Reforms

Perhaps a reflection of the changing tide of opinion, the 2006 mid-term elections saw a mixed bag of victories and defeats for marijuana initiatives.

In Nevada and Colorado, ballot measures to legalize possession for adults over 21 failed. In Nevada, the margin was 44 percent to 56 percent. In Colorado, with the SAFER campaign that won in Denver two years ago, the defeat was by 20 points, 40 percent to 60 percent. A medical initiative was also defeated in South Dakota, which marks the first time medicinal use has been struck down. So far, eight states have legalized marijuana for medicinal use.

In four Massachusetts Representative Districts, measures passed declaring marijuana possession the lowest law enforcement priority. Likewise, three California cities passed similar measures – Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz and Santa Monica. The same happened in Eureka Springs, Arkansas. The city of Albany, California, prompted by a group called “Citizens for Safe Access,” approved a medical marijuana dispensary.

INFO

www.medicalmarijuanaprocon.org
www.medmjscience.org
www.marijuana.org
www.mpp.org

Continued On Next Page

PROTECTING THE BRAND

BLACK GOLD...TEXAS TEEEEEEE-shirt

More than just a statement of fashion...

... a statement of

INDEPENDENCE

The Lone Star Iconoclast
“Protecting the Brand”

T-SHIRT

100% cotton, short sleeve, white t-shirt
Adult sizes: S - M - L - XL - XXL - XXXL

\$19.95 ea.

+ shipping

SEND ORDERS TO:
THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST
P.O. BOX 429
CRAWFORD, TX 76638

Indicate # of each size: **T-Shirt Order Form** # shirts: _____
S M L XL XXL XXXL X \$19.95
Name: _____ + \$5.00 (low bid)
Mailing Address: _____ = Total
City, State, Zip: _____ Cash / Check
Phone: _____ Visa / MasterCard
American Express

Shipping & Handling: 1

The Pastors

Feature Continued From Previous Page

'Good Samaritans' Fight For Human Rights In Drug War

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CRAWFORD — The Revs. Alan and Nancy Bean never dreamed of being on the front lines of the “war on drugs” — let alone actually getting involved in it in their small West Texas town.

But in 1999, these two ordained Baptist ministers were called to form “Friends of Justice Tulia” to get the word out to the national media, NAACP, the ACLU, and the Justice Department that there was something fishy about a local drug sting.

The sting itself initially received glowing yet nasty coverage in their hometown newspaper.

“When I first heard about the drug sting, actually I didn’t know that everybody was black. The race of those arrested was not given in the newspaper account, which is what I was going on,” Rev. Alan Bean told the *ICONOCLAST*. “What got me was that they were described as scumbags and known drug dealers in an editorial in the Tulia paper.”

Indeed, 39 of the 46 people arrested for allegedly dealing cocaine were African American and so poor that they had no houses or cars of their own. Moreover, the “drug kingpin,” a 57-year-old pig farmer who lived in a run-down shack, was convicted and given a 90-year sentence.

Yet as the first of the trials were happening, Rev. Bean questioned the verdicts more closely: Why should the sentences be so long? How could there be 46 drug dealers in a town of 5,000? How could any jury convict any alleged criminal on the testimony of a single narcotics agent?

To Rev. Bean, this style of due process just didn’t make sense biblically.

“The Bible says that nobody is to be convicted except on the word of at least two witnesses. That’s not just a passing reference in the Bible. Moses said it. Paul confirmed it. Jesus confirmed it. I mean, no matter who your favorite figure is in the Bible, they said it,” said Rev. Bean. “That teaching isn’t just there because it appealed to somebody. It just made sense. It’s not just to take any single person’s word for anything, particularly when a person’s free-

dom is riding on the line.”

As this lone undercover agent — Tom Coleman — was basking in the spotlight of his work, more information surfaced. Coleman made his living working low-level law enforcement jobs in country towns. His position was funded through a federal anti-drug program that reached rural areas outside of the Drug Enforcement Administration.

However, Coleman made for a lousy undercover agent, never wearing a wire, taking photo-

graphs and videotapes, nor hiring a partner to verify his work on the Tulia sting. Still, a number of predominately white juries believed him and sent the defendants to prison with terms ranging from 90 years to 400 years, the latter given for one man with a prior conviction.

With its team of racially-integrated and persistent volunteers, the Friends of Justice eventually obtained media exposure. An article in the *Texas Observer* and a documentary on the irregularities of the Tulia case convinced several civil rights organizations to take the case seriously.

Coleman — who had received a “Lawman of the Year” award for this work in Tulia, though he himself had a criminal record — was later indicted for fabricating evidence and suppling false trial testimony. Texas Gov. Rick Perry eventually pardoned the defendants, releasing them from prison. Tulia’s drug task force was also closed in a \$6 million settlement with the victims.

Friends of Justice continued fighting for reform to the criminal justice system in Texas by lobbying the state legislature in 2001 and 2003. In fact, the Legislature ended up passing a bill requiring corroboration for confidential informants in drug cases.

“We weren’t able to have it applied to police officers because of strong opposition from the police union in Texas, but I don’t think that anybody has tried to do what they did in Tulia since then — at least on such a

massive scale basing a case on one person’s testimony,” said Rev. Bean.

The group has also expanded its operations by offering counseling for at-risk youths, advocating the reform of the parole system, monitoring elections, and encouraging civic participation from Mexican-Americans.

Looking back on the case, Rev. Bean said he realized that the residents of Tulia were unfairly singled out as racists because the news media got the

‘The Bible says that nobody is to be convicted except on the word of at least two witnesses. That’s not just a passing reference in the Bible. Moses said it. Paul confirmed it. Jesus confirmed it. I mean, no matter who your favorite figure is in the Bible, they said it.’

— The Rev. Alan Bean

story wrong. Instead of sensationalizing the racial aspects of the case, though the effect of the “War on Drugs” has been catastrophic on the African American community, the media should have zeroed in on the injustice and failure of federal drug policy, he said.

“When you look at incarceration rates especially related to the ‘War on Drugs’ around the country, Tulia is hardly the only town that is locking up a bunch of black people and using the ‘War on Drugs’ as a proxy for racial profiling,” he said. “I felt the real question was, ‘Why are we locking up so many people — period?’ And only secondly, ‘Why are we locking up so many people of color?’”

“Tulia is just a window on a national problem,” he added. “Tulia tells you what the problem is because it’s such a small little town, and there are so few players in the story so you can see what’s going on.”

“I was hungry”

As people of faith like the Beans have fought for the rights of citizens affected by the drug war in their own locales, mainline denominations have sought to change drug policies on the national level.

This past June, the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) with its 2.4 million members became the largest religious group to support seriously ill patients who want legal access to medical marijuana. It voted approvingly by consensus on a resolution introduced by the Homestead

Presbytery in Nebraska.

The resolution named the various pains and illnesses patients say marijuana use helps to alleviate, mentioned professional organizations that support medical marijuana, and

support to patients seeking medical marijuana. Those religious bodies include the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, Union for Reform Judaism, Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The organization that helped the Presbyterian Church (USA) write its medical marijuana resolution was Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative. According to its website, the Initiative “was established in November 2003 to mobilize people of faith and religious groups behind more compassionate and less coercive alternatives to the war on drugs.”

“Legislators who give lip service to moral values had better be consistent on the medical marijuana issue,” said Charles Thomas, executive director of the IDPI, after the Hinchey-Rohrabacher amendment died in the House, 259 votes to 163.

Thomas, a Unitarian, decided to organize the religious community in 2001 upon leaving the Marijuana Policy Project after co-founding it 15 years prior. He aided his denomination in its resolution calling for an end to drug prohibition.

IDPI took the torch to organize faith groups around changing drug policy from previous efforts: Religious Leaders for a Moral Drug Policy and Clergy for Enlightened Drug Policy. RLMDP’s founder Fr. Joseph Ganssle, OFM and CEDP’s founder Rev. Andrew Gunn, a United Methodist minister, are both members of IDPI’s Leadership Council.

Strange Pew-Fellows

IDPI organizers are quick to note that no religious denomination has yet to publically disapprove of medical marijuana. Seventy-eight percent of the American public is also behind doctors who prescribe marijuana for their suffering patients, according to a November 2005 Gallup poll.

Still, Congress voted 264 to 162 against legalized medical mari-



support to patients seeking medical marijuana. Those religious bodies include the United Methodist Church, Episcopal Church, United Church of Christ, Union for Reform Judaism, Progressive National Baptist Convention, and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

The organization that helped the Presbyterian Church (USA) write its medical marijuana resolution was Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative. According to its website, the Initiative “was established in November 2003 to mobilize people of faith and religious groups behind more compassionate and less coercive alternatives to the war on drugs.”

“Legislators who give lip service to moral values had better be consistent on the medical marijuana issue,” said Charles Thomas, executive director of the IDPI, after the Hinchey-Rohrabacher amendment died in the House, 259 votes to 163.

Thomas, a Unitarian, decided to organize the religious community in 2001 upon leaving the Marijuana Policy Project after co-founding it 15 years prior. He aided his denomination in its resolution calling for an end to drug prohibition.

IDPI took the torch to organize faith groups around changing drug policy from previous efforts: Religious Leaders for a Moral Drug Policy and Clergy for Enlightened Drug Policy. RLMDP’s founder Fr. Joseph Ganssle, OFM and CEDP’s founder Rev. Andrew Gunn, a United Methodist minister, are both members of IDPI’s Leadership Council.

Strange Pew-Fellows

IDPI organizers are quick to note that no religious denomination has yet to publically disapprove of medical marijuana. Seventy-eight percent of the American public is also behind doctors who prescribe marijuana for their suffering patients, according to a November 2005 Gallup poll.

Still, Congress voted 264 to 162 against legalized medical mari-

Continued On Next Page

The Pastors

From Previous Page

juana last year, and the Supreme Court has backed the federal government in its power to arrest even medical marijuana patients protected by state law.

This past April, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration again rejected the use of marijuana for medical purposes favoring "alternative FDA-approved medications in existence for treatment of many of the proposed uses of smoked marijuana."

To combat the FDA's claims that marijuana has no medical use, unusual alliances have been formed between religious groups and secular activists. In one instance, the United Methodist Church and Americans for Tax Reform, a pro-corporation group led by Grover Norquist, both have supported an activist's call to allow the U.S. government to remove its monopoly on research-grade marijuana at the University of Mississippi.

"The fact that some choose to abuse the cannabis plant illegally is immaterial," wrote Norquist in a letter to the DEA Administrator Karen Tandy last November. "The use of controlled substances for legitimate research purposes is well-established ... It's in the public interest to end the government monopoly on marijuana legal for research."

The DEA and the National Institute on Drug Abuse disagrees, though they have the authority to license marijuana growers but won't for fear doing so would increase the chances of improper use.

Nevada

Aside from the medicinal uses of marijuana, religious leaders have recently rallied behind ballot initiatives regulating the sale and use of controlled substances on grounds doing so would curb violent crime.

This past election cycle, almost three dozen clergy from 15 different denominations endorsed Question 7, a measure that favored the sale of legalized marijuana to adults aged 21 and older at stores regulated by the state of Nevada.

While voters in Nevada rejected the bill 56 percent to 44 percent, the issue is expected to return in 2008 or 2010.

During the campaign, the Rev. William C. Webb, the Senior Pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Reno, said that while drugs ruin the lives of their users, laws can ruin lives as well.

"If there has to be a market in marijuana, I'd rather it be regulated with sensible safeguards than run by violent gangs and dangerous drug deal-

ers," said Rev. Webb, an African-American civil rights leader in the Southern Baptist/Missionary Baptist denomination.

Even ministers from smaller, more conservative denominations spoke out in support of the Nevada initiative.

among us do not advocate that we return to that disastrous policy, which made violent criminal gangs rich and wreaked havoc on our streets," the Rev. Pruess stated. "It has now become obvious that it is time to abandon our experiment

'As people of faith, we are called to stand up for humans who are suffering needlessly. It is unconscionable that seriously ill patients can be arrested for making an earnest attempt at healing by using medical marijuana.'

— The Rev. Lynn Bledsoe

Rev. Jerry Pruess of Laughlin, a retired pastor from the Missouri Synod Lutheran Church, said he was thankful that the country had the courage to end alcohol prohibition when it did last century.

"Even the most conservative

with marijuana prohibition in favor of a system of strict regulation with sensible safeguards like those proposed in Question 7."

Nevada had already twice approved a state constitutional amendment allowing mari-

juana for medicinal purposes, but no state is permitted to enforce neither medical marijuana nor marijuana regulation measures because the federal government lists the drug as an illegal controlled substance.

Take The Christians Bowling

Dr. William Martin, M.Div., Ph.D., a senior fellow for Religion and Public Policy at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University, last year told members of the Drug Policy Alliance's conference that conservative Christians should not be written off as potential supporters of drug policy reform.

In an email to the ICONOCLAST, Dr. Martin said that he has thought about writing a book on "Drug Policy Reform for Religious and Social Conservatives," but he is currently unaware of any efforts by conservative Christians to stop the "War on Drugs."

While lobbying the Texas Legislature, Rev. Bean had to talk with representatives who happened to be Christian conservatives in order to convince them to send his proposed legislation to the floor for consideration. He

offered drug reformers this observation:

"I found that a lot of these guys really care about justice, and if you can frame the issue biblically, if you can say, 'Moses said it. Paul said it. Jesus said it, and I think this is why the Bible teaches it from beginning to end that this is wrong,' they will perk up and take notice because you're talking their language. You're bowling in their alley."

He added, "Frame the issue in terms they are used to and are comfortable with, which is something that liberals are very bad at often because either they aren't familiar with the biblical traditions or they tend to see religion in general as sort of a sink-hole of corruption or superstition or whatever reason. There's a lot of ignorance about religion on the Left and that has made progressive people a little bit vulnerable."

INFO

Friends of Justice Tulia
www.fojtulia.org
Interfaith Drug Policy Initiative
www.idpi.us/index.htm

C & C Collision Center, LLC



- Truck
 - Trailer
 - Auto
- Repair Specialists

"We Make Friends By Accident"

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

www.cccollision.com

254-848-7008

1-888-345-1178

5849 N. State Hwy 6
(Speegleville Area) Waco

Real Estate



We Make Farm & Ranch, Country Land & Home Loans

That's What We Do.

TexasLandBank.com
1-888-467-6411

Steve Ostrom or Justin Wiethorn
Waco Credit Office



EMPLOYMENT

NEED CAREGIVER for elderly lady who smokes. Prefer NA/CNA, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. References and work experience required. Own transportation a must. Call before 8 p.m. 254-675-6438

w44

BULLETIN BOARD

To Advertise In This Section,
Call (254) 675-3634



CC, Etc.

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

The Costs of America's Longest War

Since the start of America's War on Drugs, millions of addicts, sellers, and producers have been arrested or killed. Trillions in tax dollars have been spent. Our police have become militarized, and our politicians have become hardened to the many tragedies resulting thereof. The body count is immeasurable.

But what has this war wrought upon our society?

First, it guarantees a high crime rate. When the only people who have access to illegal substances are criminals, crime thrives. Gangs do not go to war over turf so much as they battle over drug trade profits.

Second, it allows criminal organizations a supply-side monopoly, and guarantees their exorbitant profits on substances that are otherwise inexpensive to produce. No matter the percentage of their shipments seized by authorities, they continue to live, and live well, off the suffering of others.

Third, it allows and encourages the "gateway" effect, by putting users of drugs such as marijuana in constant and frequent contact with the criminal supply chain, easing their movement from soft to hard drugs via sellers eager to hook a new steady client.

Fourth, only the sellers have control and knowledge of the purity of their substances, continuing the threat of overdose among addicts.

Fifth, as with any war, propaganda thrives. It hardens the people and their leaders against conducting any truly open and honest research into the matter. One must only watch the film *Reefer Madness* or take in today's government-sponsored "My Anti-Drug" advertisements to grasp this.



The Webster Retort

By Stephen Webster

Sixth, even responsible, private, non-addict users of who do no physical harm to others are criminalized. Their arrests stigmatize them to the point where re-entry into society is almost a lost cause.

Seventh, this prohibition has tainted many other keystone laws in American society, such as the Fourth Amendment, which protects the people from unreasonable search and seizure. Police, through nothing more than good intention, trample the edges of the Constitution to make a bust; all in the name of public safety.

Eighth, it guarantees the continued alienation of society's youth from their neighborhood protectors. Though many officers are upstanding, moral members of their communities, as long as record numbers of young individuals are wasting away behind bars for what many youths see as a non-crime, society becomes increasingly radicalized against law enforcement.

Ninth, it continues to drain the national treasury of vast sums of tax dollars in what is increasingly being seen as a losing battle. Over \$69 billion was spent on the war just last year. The federal government has spent less money revitalizing the American Gulf Coast in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. Since its outset, the War on Drugs has cost the American taxpayer more than any war ever launched.

Tenth, with such vast sums of

money changing hands, it promises the continued corruption of a small cross-section of law enforcement officials and policy makers. The private prison industry lobbies in favor of mandatory minimum sentences for every drug conviction, no matter how minor. Given the spread of lobbyist-related corruption in the current American Congress, one can only imagine how tolerant the realm of bureaucrats must be to the greasing of palms.

Truly, it is crime this society battles. It is a safer neighborhood we desire. It is the protection of our children we seek. For what, if any, is the benefit of continuing down a path that has only wrought more crime, corruption, and death than any path we have traversed before?

As Albert Einstein once said, "Insanity is doing the same thing over and over again, expecting different results."

It is time to take *control* of the War on Drugs. It is time to take *control* of the supply of drugs. It is time to *rip the legs right out from under The Mob*, wipe out their markets, decimate their profits and throw the dangerous criminals away like so much trash. In doing this, our society would be safeguarding those who would be their victims: our children. We would cease tearing apart families and destroying otherwise innocent lives. Addiction would subside, but not vanish. Savings in tax dollars aside, America would be taking a bold, needed step towards establishing a true "culture of life."

Today, it is easier for our young sons and daughters to purchase methamphetamine than tobacco. If the clerk at 7-11 says no to the sale of a case of beer, what is to stop your child from simply walking behind the store and purchasing an eight-ball of cocaine? The answer: absolutely nothing.

For the sake of our children, society must seize control of ALL drugs and treat addiction as a medical problem. Then, and only then, can we begin to address America's criminal element in a meaningful and effective manner.

This is no surrender. We will not "waive the white flag" in the War on Drugs. We will fight the black market and bandage the wounds it has inflicted. The Mob will not just relinquish its vice-grip on our streets. For that simple reason, the War on Drugs *must* continue. But to strike society's first major victory against "drug-related crime," a new strategy is needed.

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST EDITORIAL The Drug-War Addiction

As long as there are humans roaming the earth, there will be drugs and drug addiction.

But there is an addiction that eclipses those of nicotine, alcohol, caffeine, heroin, or cocaine. It is often overlooked in the "war on drugs" debate.

That addiction is economic power — and the drug war itself.

People in the countries that produce the drugs the United States government currently lists as illegal are enabling the economic behaviors of us all.

It can't be overstated that should the U.S. government take certain drugs off the black market through legalization, the economies of drug-producing countries (i.e. Latin America and Asia) and the drug-consumer countries (i.e. the U.S.A.) would likely collapse.

It would wreck high-priced cash crops for them, government work for law enforcement agencies, incarceration facilities, and the courts for us, to name only a few.

Some of the demographics in America's three-decade-old "war on drugs" are changing, however, partly due to the Bush Administration's so-called "war on terror" which has taken the focus off of keeping the "war on drugs" addiction solidly intact.

There are brief glimmers of what "could be," but they are fleeting.

Each year that U.S. military resources are spent in the Middle East is another year the free-market globalization movements in Latin America, without our interference, challenge the status quo of the criminal class running their governments.

Need an example?

Take Venezuela's flamboyant, leftist President Hugo Chavez. It's no secret that the U.S.-led war and occupation in Iraq has allowed him to remain in power this long as a thorn in President George W. Bush's side — while pumping oil out from under Venezuela for SUV-addicted American consumers.

And how long will it take for Colombian coca growers to dispute a U.S.-based corporation over trademark infringement on its product names, as is the recent case between the African nation of Ethiopia and coffee giant Starbucks?

The answer to solving the drug "problem" may lie in the past. The national prohibition of drugs that started during the Nixon administration has already lasted over twice as long as that of the "noble experiment" — alcohol prohibition (1920-33).

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST does not advocate the use of any drug. It champions truth.

The glaring truth is that the U.S. government knew from the start that the only winners in the "war on drugs" would be the surplus of defense contractors President Dwight D. Eisenhower warned us about during his terms of office.

There was so much money and power at stake after World War II that a perpetual drug war was sold to the public to sustain the American congressional-military-industrial complex.

Truly, the "war on drugs" has served as a mechanism to fuel a vibrant black drug market used to create a culture of violence and death — not unlike what the New Century neo-cons have orchestrated in Iraq with Bush's "war on terror."

As a result, there has been growth in anti-drug propaganda, purer narcotics, massive prisons holding an otherwise untapped labor force, and militarization of local law enforcement personnel.

Only when the people of this nation admit there is a problem, take responsibility of it, and then support economic alternatives for the well-being of drug farmers, runners, jailers, police officers, judges, prisoners, educators, advertisers, bureaucrats, and their families — will America's \$69 billion-a-year drug-war habit begin to crumble.

Empower the peace-industrial complex.

— Nathan Diebenow

Support the paper that stands alone...

THE LONE STAR
ICONOCLAST

THE ICONOCLAST
IS A NATIONAL
INDEPENDENT
Newspaper
Geared At: Marketing Your Products
COAST TO COAST!

Call (254) 675-3634
To Place An
Advertisement
or log on to
www.lonestaricon.com

Drugs: Bureaucracy Will Maintain The Current Status Quo

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

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

Richard Nixon first declared war on drugs.

Next day, the war was over.

Drugs won.

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

We're not going to stop.

At least we never have.

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

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

Which is a real deal during an ice age.

We take drugs for only one reason.

They make us feel better.

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

As stupid as Nancy Reagan, even.

Astrology makes more sense.

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

More likely, such efforts merely reduce the number of

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



people who admit to pollsters that they take drugs.

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

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

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

It's like the gopher machine at the arcade.

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

There are just too many holes.

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

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

Money and power.

Almost every aspect of our economy depends on it.

Seventy percent or more of our law enforcement budget is

generated by drug laws.

Consider the effect of 70 per cent of police officers, judges, prosecutors, defense lawyers, public defenders, prison employees and the industries that provide them with equipment and infrastructure suddenly out of work, (Let's face it, about the only thing you can convert a prison to is . . . well, Alcatraz.)

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

And bureaucracy WILL maintain the current status quo.

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

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

The U.S. military, meanwhile,

has its fiefdom enriched by drug interdiction, just like State and Justice.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Why do we have a drug problem? We like drugs.

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

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

Our whole culture has become

based on external stimulus.

Eat me, drink me, BUY me!

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

Even when a ruthless, unseen enemy supposedly attacked us, what was the solution offered by the leader of the free world?

Go shopping!

Buy some stuff that will make us all feel better.

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

The drug problem isn't going away.

We've got too much invested in it.

And it's good for you.

So kick back!

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

Editor's Note: Because THE ICONOCLAST is featuring varying viewpoints on the drug culture in this edition, a Call To Mind column pertaining to that subject published earlier this year is being repeated.

Services

To Place Your Card Here, Call 254-675-3634

Karen's Embroidery

Karen Castillo
Owner

102 FM 708
Clifton, TX 76634

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



New Mac's Construction
Remodeling Contractor

James McDaniel
owner

Residential & Commercial Remodeling

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

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



J Bar Truck Accessories

Authorized dealer for Diamond B
Frontier and Ranch Hand

Grill Guards Tool Boxes Bumpers

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



"NEVER PAINT AGAIN"

NORANDEX/REYNOLDS

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

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

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

Bill's Body Shop

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

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

Leon's FLOOR COVERING

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

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



Christmas Observations

It's always seemed to me that the predominant message at Christmastime is "Peace on Earth, Goodwill Toward Men."

The way I was learned is that it's supposed to apply to all mankind — all genders, nations, religious or non-religious druthers, races, whatever. One might even assume that this would include extending peace and goodwill toward folks from other worlds who may stumble upon this here third stone from the Sun.

After all, Dec. 25 is the symbolic birthday of the Prince of Peace.

With that in mind, how is it insipid foolishness such as the following occurs:

The homeowners' association of Pagosa Springs, Colorado recently threatened a couple with a \$25-a-day fine for a unique Christmas decoration.

The three-member board demanded removal of their peace sign-shaped wreath.

Referring to the wreath in terms such as "divisive" and "a sign of the devil," the board members soon found they were the ones creating a divisive environment. All three resigned in short order; two disconnected their telephones to escape the onslaught of embarrassing calls.

The controversy sparked a protest of sorts — about 20 people marched through the center of town carrying peace signs, culminating in a 300-foot peace sign being stomped in the snow-covered soccer field.

The town of Pagosa Springs took the issue one step further by building an official peace sign wreath which was to be displayed on the community bell tower in town center.

And the Republicans would have you believe America is a Conservative nation...

On the East side of the Atlantic Ocean, religious leaders are striking a blow against asinine governmental policies of eliminating the word "Christmas" from the Holidays.

And it may not be exactly whom you would expect taking these governmental agencies to task.

Most certainly there are Christian leaders in the fray — that's a given. Who would have ever guessed, though, that Muslim leaders are joining them in the fight to return Christmas to its rightful place as the reason for the season?

As they point out (and I suggested here one year ago), "while Christmas causes no offense to minority faiths, banning it offends almost



Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

everybody" (DAILY MAIL, London, England, 1 Dec 2006).

Several of the more outrageous bastardizations of Christmas noted were Birmingham's "Winterval" and the Harry Pottering of Luton's celebration, "Luminos."

The admonition, irate in tone, was sent to town halls in the names of David Gillett, Anglican bishop of Bolton, and senior Islamic cleric and Government adviser Dr. Ataullah Siddiqui. As representatives of the Christian Muslim Forum, set up this year with the blessing of the Archbishop of Canterbury and PM Tony Blair, they urged cessation of suppression of Christmas and restoring its Christian meaning.

Their concern was that the secular agenda failed to consider religious communities. "The approach of some is to exclude mention of any specific religious event or celebration in order to avoid offending anyone. The usual result of such a policy ends up offending most of the population."

The coalition's contention is that it is the Muslim community that gets the blame for the secularization of Christmas, when it isn't even that group's idea.

The leaders pointed out that some 77% of British subjects claim affiliation to one faith or another, and to ignore their major holidays is more than a slight. The obvious festivals which should not be suppressed include: Christmas; Easter; Muslim Eid; Hindu Diwali; Hanukah.

One of the concerns communicated was that official restraint of such celebrations made it easier for jihadists to sway students at Muslim schools and universities.

England was into colonization long before the United States, but both countries should know by now that if you're going to insist people from other lands assimilate into your society, you'd best do whatever it takes to make them feel at home.

Here's something to bring you cheer this Christmas Season 2006...

According to new figures released by the Justice Department, one in every 32

Americans were either incarcerated, on probation or on parole by the end of 2005. That comes to a total of seven million people — 7,000,000 — give or take, a new record!

Way to go, Inquisitor General Alberto Gonzales!

How in hell I've managed to remain completely off that list for 55 years, well, must be a matter of just good fortune. My sweet smile hasn't hurt me none, either.

The major increases in prisoners are non-violent drug users. Between 1995 and 2003 the increase in Federal prison populations was a staggering 49% just for drug offenses.

It makes one wonder how many people are languishing in state pens for a gram or two of pot or coke, or a couple of Vicodin caplets.

I'm sure none of these figures include those poor schlubs who were torn away from hearth and home at the whim of Lame Dubya to be held incognito, incommunicado, and without being charged for any actual wrongdoing...

Speaking of Lame Dubya, he's started collecting donations for his presidential lie-bary and think tank to be built at Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

Do you think Lame-O even knows what a lie-bary is, other than Frost Lady Laura used to work in one, and Daddy has his own?

A George W. Bush Think Tank? If that isn't the ultimate oxymoron... look, I used the word "moron" in this sentence about Lame Dubya.

How much is the ever-sanctimonious Li'l Georgie trying to raise for his self-serving, ego-maniacal shrine to Li'l Georgie's Failures? I give you a hint — more than twice as much as either those of Daddy's or President Bill Clinton. In fact, more than both combined, far exceeding any presidential lie-bary to date.

Mr. Denial has announced a proposed figure of \$500,000,000 — one-half of a billion dollars — for his own lie-bary!

Of all the bad jokes Lame Dubya has played upon the U.S.A., this has to zip straight to the top three.

If there's anyone on the planet more full of him- or herself, please point that person out to me (Ann Coulter excepted, it's too easy).

How does Lame-O figure on funding this travesty? Well, previous presidents have gone with donations, and they generally have the good sense and

taste to wait until they're out of office to begin inviting money.

Lame Dubya, with two years minus impeachment to go, in true Neo-con fashion has begun to solicit *mega-donors*. We're not looking at six figure transactions. Seven figure gifts are only coming from the low end of his white-tie base. What Li'l Georgie is looking for are those Uber Loyalists who won't flinch at plunking down eight figures to stay in favor with the Bush family, and a shot at controlling world destiny.

Although donors are normally anonymous, it's been "leaked" that among potential mega-donors are wealthy heiresses (a little Max Bialystock action going on, perhaps?), Arab nations (surprised?) and captains of industry (surprise!).

Informed folks within Lame Dubya's ranks refer to the think tank as the "Institute for Democracy," predictably a place where Conservative scholars (another oxymoron) will be paid more than their worth to rewrite history to Lame Dubya's preference — just as this Fascist White House Regime has rewritten NASA data, weather studies, intelligence concerning Iraq and Iran, Constitutional and international laws to suit its own purposes.

So, why SMU in Dallas, and not one of the schools where Li'l Georgie so unimpressively left his academic black mark? Because it's Frost Lady Laura's Alma Mater, where she also is an esteemed member of the board of trustees. However, all is not so smooth going for the worst excuse for a president in our history — there has been a legal dispute over the land where construction of the lie-bary complex is planned.

On to regular folks...

I've never been a proponent of involuntary tubal ligation, or any kind of Government imposed birth control, but some people really do need to be stopped from procreating. Take this cheery Thanksgiving Day story from Decatur, Georgia.

A 31-year-old man was arrested for trying to stuff his 29-year-old estranged wife into an oven at her home on Thanksgiving in front of their five children.

Police found the man hiding under his bed at his mother's home, where he'd been living since the couple separated in July. He was charged with aggravated assault, aggravated battery, cruelty to children and, just to lay it on extra thick, possession of marijuana. (It's dumbasses like this who create the hostile social environment and misunderstanding that keep the noble weed illegal.)

Their five offspring ranged in age from 13 down to one year — you do the math.

Apparently, the oven door was open in an effort to heat the home. It seems the children were as much in danger of mom's stupidity as dad's anger.

A sad note as we come to the end of the year — on Nov. 30 the Civil Defense emblem, its familiar blue circle, white triangle, and red CD, died at the age of 67.

Coming to us in 1939 as a precursor to World War II, Civil Defense was the symbol we knew to look for were there ever a situation requiring a fallout shelter (not that it would have done any of us one iota of good).

CD was the embodiment of local safety in time of national need. Basically, the organization ran air-raid drills, coordinated medical and evacuation help, and handed out dry, tasteless crackers packed with protein.

Since détente, the roll of CD has been diminished and transposed to FEMA's state stepchild, the National Emergency Management Association.

Forget CD, signs for which shall now become decorative memorabilia in your rec room; when al Qaeda attacks, be sure you know where to find the nearest EM facility.

One more Christmas note (for now): While you're watching "A Christmas Story," Jean Shepherd's saga of a boy and his Red Ryder BB gun, know that Ralphie's house has been bought, restored, and is there for you and yours to visit.

Former Navy Lieutenant Brian Jones made some 500 replica "leg lamps" which he sold on his own. He then purchased the 111-year-old house through an e-Bay auction, and refurbished it inside and out to look precisely as it did when the movie was filmed there. It's now open for tours.

The 30-year-old father of a toddler also bought a house across the street, seen in the film, to serve as a gift shop.

The movie's a hoot, but as every mother knows you can't have a BB gun because, "You'll shoot your eye out!"

Happy Holidays!

Shalom

(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)

VA Secretary Decides To Keep Waco VA Hospital Open

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Central Texans have been on pins and needles for years, awaiting a decision by the Department of Veterans Affairs on whether to close the Waco VA Hospital during a time of military unrest.

The decision came Friday when U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Secretary Jim Nicholson said that he had decided to retain all services at the Waco VA Hospital, a decision that marked the conclusion of the Capital Asset Realignment for

Enhanced Services (CARES) process.

U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, in whose district lies the hospital and who fought tirelessly for keeping the hospital open, was elated at the decision.

"The wait is over and our prayers have been answered," he said. "After three long years of hard teamwork and dedicated efforts, the Department of Veterans Affairs has decided that it will keep open the Waco VA hospital and maintain cur-

rent services. This is a great victory for veterans in Central Texas and vet of the United States who know the Waco VA Hospital provides first class care with nationally recognized programs in mental health care and blind rehab.

"I want to salute Sen. (Kay Bailey) Hutchison for being involved in this project from day one and using her position to play a key role in this fight. I also want to thank Sen. (John) Cornyn for his constant efforts

in support of the hospital. While I have consider it a privilege to have been part of this fight, the ultimate credit goes to our dedicated Waco VA employees, the Central Texas vets community, and the city of Waco for its tireless commitment to winning this fight."

Sen. Hutchison said, "Secretary Nicholson has made the right decision. Keeping the Waco VA open is great news for Central Texas veterans. It has been an honor to work with the Waco community leadership, Senator Cornyn and Congressman Edwards over the past three years in support of the Waco VA, which has received recognition as a leading institution in its field. Support for the Waco VA is important as we

work to fulfill our promise to America's veterans and ensure we have quality facilities to provide care for all who have served."

Following the conclusion of the CARES process, the VA will be developing plans for the implementation of the Waco VA Mental Health Center of Excellence, a designation achieved through legislation authored by Sen. Hutchison.

In 2003, the VA Capital Asset Realignment for Enhanced Services (CARES) Commission released a draft plan that called for the closure of the Waco facility. What followed was a hearing, a visit by Anthony Principi, who was VA Secretary at the time, and a campaign by Central Texans to keep the hospital open.

Pastors for Peace/Chiapas Meeting Set Dec. 29 - Jan. 5

NEW YORK — The Pastors for Peace ministry of the Inter-religious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) will be sending a delegation to an international meeting in Chiapas, Mexico, from Dec. 29 to Jan. 5.

The meeting was called by the communities in Chiapas to report about their work and the social, political, and economic situation there.

Space for the trip is limited, and interested parties are encouraged to sign up soon.

Pastors for Peace was founded in 1988 to deliver of humanitarian aid to Latin America and the Carribean. Over 40 caravans and thousands of people have been sent to Mexico and Central America. Sixteen caravans have gone to Cuba

Since 1967, the IFCO has maintained its project to assist

the poor and disenfranchised in developing and sustaining community organizations to fight human and civil rights injustices. T

For more information, contact the IFCO/Pastors for Peace office.

INFO
Office
(212)926-5757
p4p@igc.org
www.ifconews.org/

91 Die In Saturday Car Bombings In Iraq

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Violence continues in Iraq, as on Saturday at least 91 people died and 40 were wounded after three parked car bombs exploded in Central Baghdad in an area packed with vendors who sell household items.

In other areas of Baghdad, attacks also resulted in deaths on Saturday, including at Yarmouk Hospital where the bodies of 12 people who had been handcuffed and shot to death were found.



Ads In
The Iconoclast
Pull, Too!

GIVE US A TRY!
(254) 675-3634

THE LONE STAR
ICONOCLAST

Your Car Could Save A Life

Donate Your Unwanted Vehicle To The American Cancer Society

AUSTIN — The end of the year is right around the corner. And for many people, part of wrapping up 2006 means looking for last-minute tax deductions.

The American Cancer Society would like to remind Texans of an opportunity that may not only be of help to taxpayers and their 2006 tax deductions, but will also raise critical funds needed to help the American Cancer Society achieve its mission.

The American Cancer Society's Vehicle Donation Program, a year-round fundraiser for the Society, allows the public to donate a used car, truck, van, motorcycle, recreational vehicle or boat to the American Cancer Society. In turn, the vehicle is auctioned and the proceeds help fund cancer-fighting programs and lifesaving research. By donating unwanted vehicles to the American Cancer Society by Dec. 31, 2006, individuals can take the allowed

deduction on this year's taxes. Donors are encouraged to consult their tax advisor for details.

There is no "catch" to this program. The vehicle does not have to run. The Society only requires that the vehicle have inflated tires and all vital parts in place. To add to the simplicity of the program, the American Cancer Society arranges for the vehicle to be picked up at no charge to the donor.

To donate, call the American Cancer Society at 1-877-999-CARS (2277) and request the donation of one's vehicle. Or visit cancer.org/donatemycar for more information.

The American Cancer Society is the nationwide, community-based, voluntary health organization dedicated to eliminating cancer as a major health problem by preventing cancer, saving lives, and diminishing suffering from cancer through research, education, advocacy and service.

Iraq In 'Civil War,' Says NBC

NEW YORK — The National Broadcasting Corporation (NBC) is now referring to the violence between the people of Iraq as a "civil war."

The announcement of the network's terminology change made by Matt Lauer — host of NBC's "Today Show" — on last Monday's morning broadcast is expected to spark a sea change among other broadcasters.

Media experts are beginning to treat NBC's announcement like CBS's declaration that the United States had begun to lose its military advantage in the Vietnam conflict almost 40 years ago.

Political analysts noted that NBC's change may also sway public perceptions of the conflict inside Iraq, a phenomenon that coincided after CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite's 1968 remarks.

After Cronkite's broadcast, President Lyndon B. Johnson is said to have said, referring to public opinion of the Vietnam conflict, "If I've lost Cronkite, I've lost Middle America."

While industry magazine *EDITOR & PUBLISHER* called NBC's announcement "a bombshell," the White House rebuked the change in description, saying that Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki has doubted the nature of violence deserved such a term.

In a statement, the Bush administration also said "the violence is largely centered around Baghdad, and Baghdad security."

NBC's announcement was made after a weekend of deadly revenge killings between Iraq's Shi'ite majority and Sunni minority.

Since last Monday, numerous media outlets have started referring to the conflict as a civil war, including *THE LOS ANGELES TIMES*, *THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*, and *THE NEW YORK TIMES*. A spokesman for the McClatchy newspapers said that his organization had already been using the term.

President Bush's former Secretary of State Colin Powell told a business forum in the United Arab Emirates last week that world leaders should refer to the Iraq conflict as a civil war.

"I would call it a civil war," he said, adding, "I have been using it (civil war) because I like to face the reality."

"We are almost there," said U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan, about the stage in violence in which Iraq was involved.

Last week, President Bush lost support from former House Speaker Newt Gingrich who in a speech to a New Hampshire group said that the administration must call its Iraq policy a "failure" or it will be unable to formulate an exit strategy which he calls the "third stage."

Gingrich, who reportedly appeared to be gearing up to run for president in 2008, served on an advisory board for Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld before the Iraq war began.

9/11 Truth Movie Night: Dec. 9

'Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometime'

AUSTIN — The Austin Citizens for 9/11 Truth group will be sponsoring a free event: a showing of the acclaimed 9/11 film "Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometime," with a question and answer discussion to follow.

The wide-ranging 9/11 Truth film addresses and exposes many aspects of 9/11 not addressed in other films concerning the events of that pivotal and momentous day.

With the 9/11 Truth Movement gaining momentum in America and around the world, the goal of this evening is to explore the unanswered questions concerning 9/11 and the implications for today's world.

This event will be held at the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin in Howson Hall at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 9. Donations to the organization will be gratefully accepted.

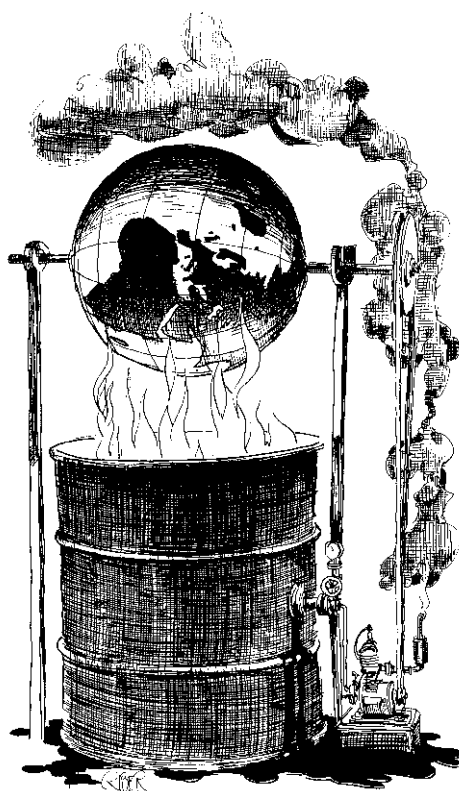
'An Inconvenient Truth' Coming To Waco

WACO — The Waco Friends of Peace will screen Al Gore's 2006 documentary "An Inconvenient Truth", Wednesday, Dec. 13, at Poppa Rollo's Pizza Meeting Room, 703 N. Valley Mills Dr.

Food service begins at 6 p.m., followed by the film and discussion at 6:30.

The film is a scientifically accurate discussion of the danger of global warming and an inspiration for the public to live in a way to help save the planet.

Everyone is welcome. The film and pizza are free. For more information, log on to www.friendsofpeace.org.



'Iraq Study Group' To File Report This Week

WASHINGTON — The bipartisan commission into the U.S. government's policy on Iraq is expected to be submitted to President George W. Bush by Wednesday of this week.

The administration has said that it will not be bound by the suggestions in the report, though it has been increasingly pressured to develop a strategy to remove U.S. troops from the Middle Eastern nation and give more power to its fledgling government.

Pentagon officials said last week that four more battalions totaling 3,500 troops could be quickly deployed to Iraq to increase security in Iraq's capital, Baghdad. The final decision to send these soldiers had yet to be made.

The Iraq Study Group is led by former Secretary of State James A. Baker III, a Bush-family loyalist, and former Rep. Lee Hamilton (D-Ind.).

Analysts speculate that the

commission will recommend that the administration hold dialogues with the Syrian and Iranian governments. The White House has refused to involve either countries citing them as co-conspirators into the conflicts in both Iraq and Lebanon.

Reports indicate that the 10-member commission would recommend the withdrawal of 15 combat brigades from the region under no definable timetable other than to start sometime next year.

The administration has said that troops would remain in the region, though Iraqi officials have called for a timetable for withdrawal.

It remains unclear as to the scale of the proposed pullback, whether the 15 brigades would return to U.S. bases in Iraq or redeployed elsewhere nearby. A brigade equals between 3,000 to 5,000 troops.

Currently, 140,000 U.S. troops are stationed in Iraq.



Democrats To Seek Classified Info From Bush

WASHINGTON — Democrats have said that they intend to seek classified information from the Bush administration come the next session of Congress.

Sen. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vermont) told *The New York Times* that he expected “real answers” from the “obsessively secretive” regime when he takes the helm of the Senate Judiciary Committee in January.

“We’re entitled to know these answers, and in many instances we don’t get them because people are hiding their mistakes. And that’s no excuse,” he said.

Specifically, the Democrats want documents related to the detention of terrorism suspects, the abuse of these detainees, voter fraud, immigration, the inquiries into Supreme Court picks.

Over the last five years, the Justice Department and other agencies have shrugged off demands for these classified documents, 65 of which have been requested and remained unanswered,

Judge Says Insurance Covers Water Damaged Homes In New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — The insurance industry lost a key judgement last week when a federal judge ruled that insurance policies cover homeowners in New Orleans whose homes were damaged by water caused by Hurricane Katrina.

The ruling hinged on the definition of the word “flood.” U.S. District Court Judge Stanwood Duval found that the insurers’ meaning was too ambiguous that it could only refer to natural, not man-made, disasters.

State Farm Fire & Casualty Co. was the lone exception to the ruling since the cause of flooding was absent the language of its flood coverage.

The other defendant insurance companies, however, are expected to appeal. One industry insider has said he believed they would later win the ruling because the industry has used standardized guidelines imposed by federal regulators.

Regardless of whether the ruling stands and the water damage claims are paid, the industry has already raised their rates along the Gulf Coast since hurricanes Katrina and Rita inflicted damage there in late 2005.

Insurers lost roughly \$41 billion to pay out claims, nearly half of which were to damaged homes caused by the hurricanes.

according to Leahy’s aides.

Leahy has asked for two documents related to a ACLU lawsuit over the administration’s alleged ordering of the CIA to detain and interrogate top terror-

ism suspects.

The Central Intelligence Agency has acknowledged that the memos exist but refuses to release them using the national security excuse.

Rural Areas Take Heaviest War Casualties

CRAWFORD — Rural America is taking the brunt of U.S. casualties from the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, so says a New Hampshire think tank.

A representative of the Carsey Institute told OneWorld.net that soldiers from rural areas are dying 60 percent faster than soldiers from urban locales.

The Institute’s study found that 825 of the 3,095 deceased U.S. soldiers once resided in rural areas.

Nineteen percent of the U.S. population consists of Americans living in the country.

Of the states with the highest casualties from rural areas are Vermont, Delaware, South Dakota, and Arizona.

As a result of the deployment of National Guard units to Iraq and Af-

ghanistan, rural areas have lost a significant amount of their police and firefighters since a number of people

in these professions are also members of the Guard.

In addition to patriotism, the biggest reason rural Americans enter the military is the lack of non-military jobs in their areas, said Dee Davis, president of the Kentucky-based Center for Rural Strategies.

William O’Hare of the Carsey Institute echoed this observation to OneWorld.net:

“A lot of people don’t know that a higher percentage of the rural workforce is in manufacturing than the urban workforce. So a lot of good manufacturing jobs have left over the last five or six years, and that means there are fewer jobs for young people in rural America.”

Did Baby Boomers Learn A Priceless Savings Lesson? Advice For Generation X

MINNEAPOLIS, Minn. — In a classic case of “Do as I say, not as I do,” a new nationwide survey of pre-retirees offers younger generations a glimpse of what baby boomers might do differently if they could turn back the clock and start their retirement planning over.

According to the survey of 2,500 adults, ages 45-64, conducted by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, 71 percent of respondents wished they had started saving for retirement when they had their first full-time job, and a whopping 86 percent would advise younger generations to start saving as soon as possible.

In addition, 61 percent would invest \$1 million unexpected income into retirement savings rather than start a business, buy a luxury home

or go on a shopping spree.

The Thrivent Financial survey took a unique look at pre-retirees’ visions of retirement. It revealed a startling disparity between pre-retirees’ ideal plans and their actual retirement readiness, with a hint of regret.

“This survey confirms what we’ve been hearing for the past couple of years, that we baby boomers are very optimistic about retirement,” said Pam Moret, Thrivent Financial executive vice president of marketing and products. “Unlike the frugal mentality of my parents’ generation, our carefree approach to life may have kept us from saving for retirement. However, that carefree attitude about retirement planning could carry a price — a price we might pay in our golden years.”

The Democrats could issue subpoenas in order to pressure agency heads to testify or release the information.

The administration has said it is willing to work with the Democrats, but has yet to make any moves to comply with the documents’ release.

Chicago Musician Commits Suicide At Anti-war Protest

CHICAGO, Ill. — Four days before the November mid-term elections, a 52-year-old experimental musician killed himself in protest of the U.S. war and subsequent occupation in Iraq.

Malachi Ritscher chose to set himself on fire with gasoline by an off-ramp in downtown Chicago earlier in the morning.

While Ritscher video-taped himself in the act, news of his demise remained nil until a local reporter with the alternative weekly, the *Chicago Reader*, pieced the story together.

In his suicide note, the man whom some war protestors call a martyr and mental health experts say probably had a mental illness wrote he was ashamed he had not murdered Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld when he had the chance in 2002.

“I was acutely aware that slashing [Rumsfeld’s] throat would spare the lives of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of innocent people. I had a knife clenched in my hand, and there were no bodyguards visible; to my deep shame I hesitated, and the moment was past,” Ritscher wrote.

Ritscher’s family said in a statement that they doubt he had been diagnosed with a mental condition, though they admit he suffered from depression. An Associated Press article referred to Ritscher an alcoholic and a self-described “renaissance man” who operated a few anti-war web sites.

Ritscher was born in Dickinson, N.D. by the name of Mark David. He later adopted his son’s name which by coincidence was also that of a prophet. Before his death, Ritscher was a building maintenance worker and a experimental musician in Chicago.

Self-immolation has been enacted by individuals with grievances against their governmental institutions in the past.

In 1963, Buddhist monk Thich Quang Duc burned himself to death as a protest against the south Vietnamese regime. The world-famous picture of him on fire is the cover photo of the first full-length album of politically charged rock band Rage Against The Machine.

In 1996, Kathy Change performed a similar act on herself at the University of Pennsylvania in protest of the nation’s economic system. Friends and supporters of Change met to remember her on the 10th anniversary of her death on Oct. 22.

INFO
Kathy Change
www.kathychange.com/

DAR To Host Best-Selling Author Lisa Wingate

GATESVILLE — The best-selling author of *Tending Roses* Lisa Wingate will be the guest speaker at the Sterling C. Roberts Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas meeting on Dec. 7, discussing the topic of “Inspirations from Ordinary Life.”

Author Jane Knappe reviewed her book, *Sara’s Flag for Texas* at the

November meeting, a book that discusses the story of the first battle flag designed during the fight for independence against Mexico.

She reminded the group about books for children’s gifts, especially around the Christmas season.

There are also several books relating to Texas History are a good selection.

Plans are advancing for the big March 2 Celebration of Texas Independence Day.

For those wishing to attend any of the DAR meetings, they are held the first Thursday of each month at the First United Methodist Church, 4901 Cobbs, Waco.

For more information, contact Ronita Miller at 254/848-4713.

From Astrology to Astronomy

Just as chemistry evolved from the quasi-magical practice of alchemy, astronomy grew out of prescientific astrology. And for a time the distinction between astronomy and astrology was blurred.

In the early 1600s, when modern science was in its infancy, our world view was turned upside-down by the Copernicus revolution which removed Earth from the center of the cosmos. The two best known revolutionaries were Nicolas Copernicus who proposed the new view, and Galileo Galilei who used the newly-invented telescope to obtain supporting observational evidence.

But no less important was the contribution of Johannes Kepler whose discovery of elliptical orbits was the key that made the Copernican system work. So Kepler was a major player in one of history's most profound scientific revolutions.

Yet the astronomer-mathematician Kepler supplemented his income as an astrologer casting horoscopes. It's not clear whether he really believed in astrology or just cashed in on his knowledge of the heavens. Had he applied his meticulous and analytical mind to a critical study of astrology, he surely would have discovered some fundamental problems with the ancient system.

Traditional astrology identifies 12 constellations (the zodiac) through which the Sun passes, as it did long ago when astrology was born. It is the constellation the Sun was "in" at one's birth that determines one's astrological sign. For example, someone born when the Sun was in Taurus presumably received certain traits which would be different had he or she been born a Gemini or Aries.

But Earth's long-term wobble (called precession) has changed things. The Sun now passes through 13 constellations, the new one being Ophiuchus, and the dates for determining one's sign have shifted considerably.

Although the traditional dates are used in modern horoscopes, here are the actual dates for each sign for our era: Oct.30-Nov.22: Libra; Nov.23-Nov.28: Scorpius; Nov.29-Dec.17: Ophiuchus; Dec.18-Jan.18: Sagittarius; Jan.19-Feb.15: Capricornus; Feb.16-Mar.10: Aquarius; Mar.11-Apr.17: Pisces; Apr.18-May 13: Aries; May 14-Jun.20: Taurus; Jun.21-Jul.19: Gemini; Jul.20-Aug. 9: Cancer; Aug.10-Sep.15: Leo; Sep.16-Oct.29: Virgo.

So, if you believe in astrology, you've got to reconsider your

sign. I was born Aug. 27, thus horoscopes tell me I'm a Virgo when really I'm a Leo. Although I'm not into astrology, I'd certainly rather think of myself as a lion than a virgin. So what's your sign?

December Sky Calendar:

- Monday, Dec. 4: December's full Moon is called the Long Night Moon and the Moon Before Yule.

- Wednesday morning, Dec. 6: Saturn approaches Leo's brightest star Regulus before retreating westward in retrograde motion.

- Sunday morning, Dec. 10: Before dawn the Moon is less than two moonwidths from Saturn, and Mercury is just above Jupiter with Mars to their right, all near the east southeastern horizon.

- Monday morning, Dec. 11: Jupiter and Mars are now closer with Mercury just below them.

- Tuesday, Dec. 12: The Moon is at 3rd quarter Dec. 12.

- Wednesday evening/Thursday morning, Dec. 13, 14: The Geminid meteor shower peaks tonight with the best viewing from dark until the Moon rises at 2 a.m.

- Friday morning, Dec. 15: The crescent Moon is just to the right of Spica after they rise at 3 a.m.

- Monday morning, Dec. 18: The thin crescent Moon is to the right of Jupiter which is above Mars low in the east southeast at dawn.

- Tuesday, Dec. 19: Saturnalia, ancient Roman festival honoring the Roman god Saturn, father of Jupiter.

- Wednesday, Dec. 20: The Moon is new.

- Thursday evening, Dec. 21: A thin crescent Moon is to the left of Venus low in the southwest at dusk.



By Paul Derrick

- Thursday Winter solstice, Dec. 21 — the Northern Hemisphere's shortest day and longest night of the year, and the first day of winter.

- Friday evening/Saturday morning, Dec. 23, 24: The Ursid meteor shower, with meteors seeming to radiate from near the North Star, peaks with no Moon interference this year.

- Wednesday, Dec. 27: The Moon is at 1st quarter.

- Naked-eye Planets. (The Sun, Moon and planets rise in the east and set in the west due to Earth's west-to-east rotation.) Mercury starts December well displayed in the morning sky, but by mid-month begins sinking into the glare of the Sun. Venus, after starting the month near the setting Sun, begins emerging as the "evening star" by month's end. Mars, now rising more than an hour before the Sun, is low in the southeast at dawn. Jupiter is emerging in the morning sky, rising more than 2 hours before the Sun by month's end. Saturn rises in the late evening and is high in the south by morning.

- Stargazer Book: A Beginner's Guide to Learning the Night Sky by Paul Derrick would make a great gift for that stargazer in your life—available at Hasting's in Waco or see his Web site.

Stargazer appears monthly. Paul Derrick is an amateur astronomer who lives in Waco. Contact him at 918 N. 30th, Waco, 76707, (254) 753-6920 or paulderrickwaco@aol.com. See the Stargazer Web site at <www.stargazerpaul.com>.

One's Not Enough: Second Chickenpox Shot Now Recommended

AUSTIN — The physicians of the Texas Medical Association (TMA) want parents to know that one chickenpox vaccination may not be enough to protect their child.

Physicians from TMA's "Be Wise - ImmunizeSM" advisory panel join other national health experts in recommending a second shot of vaccine to prevent the potentially deadly disease.

"A two-dose series will be more effective than one and will reduce the number of breakthrough infections," said Ari Brown, MD, a leading member of TMA's Be Wise - Immunize program. Breakthrough infections occur when the patient is partially protected but not enough to prevent a mild case of the disease from occurring.

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are now recommending a second chickenpox, or varicella, vaccination, primarily for children four to six years old. However, they also suggest adolescents, adults, and HIV-infected children receive a second shot. For the past 11 years, one chickenpox vaccination was the recommendation.

Physicians suggest children between the ages of four and six receive the second shot at least three months after receiving the first. People over the age of six can catch up by receiving the second shot anytime.

"I have always viewed the vaccine as a win-win: Either you are completely protected or you get a milder case than you

would if you were not vaccinated," says Dr. Brown, an Austin pediatrician. She urges every person over the age of four to get the second shot of chickenpox vaccine.

As recently as a decade ago, many children suffered from lesions, itchiness, missed school days, and in some cases even death, from chickenpox. According to the CDC, more than 1,000 Texans endured serious cases each year prior to the introduction of the vaccine.

"People have the perception that chickenpox is not a serious disease because most adults remember having it as a kid," adds Dr. Brown. "But I had the unfortunate experience of caring for an unvaccinated child in the early 1990s, who died from it. It's a disease I don't want any of my own children or patients to ever get."

Patients should double check their child immunization record and talk to their physician if they have any questions.

In 2004, TMA launched the Be Wise — Immunize public health program in an effort to increase Texas' childhood immunization rates and to educate parents and guardians that immunizations are important, effective, and safe.

TMA is the largest state medical society in the nation, representing more than 41,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 120 component county medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since 1853 is to improve the health of all Texans.

African Children's Choir To Perform At Area Churches

LAGUNA PARK — The internationally acclaimed African Children's Choir™ will be performing at First Baptist Church in Laguna Park on Sunday, Dec. 31, and again that evening at 6 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Valley Mills.

The African Children's Choir is comprised of 24 African children, ages seven to eleven. Each child in the Choir has lost one or both parents to poverty or AIDS. This year's Choir members come from Uganda.

The concert includes well-loved children's songs, popular gospel tunes, and lively spirituals. Through their songs and dances, the Choir brings Africa alive, in all its colour and splendor creating a truly unforget-

table musical experience.

There is no admission charge for the concert. A free-will offering will be taken at the performance to support the African Children's Choir care and emergency relief programs.

"The children in the Choir represent millions of children in Africa. These children are bright, articulate, and motivated to realize their potential. We believe they can make a difference and we believe that when audiences see Africa through their eyes they will want to partner with us to give these children every opportunity to succeed and impact their countries," says Ray Barnett, founder of the Choir.

The first Choir was formed in 1984. Each year a new Choir is



African Children's Choir

formed and the children from the previous Choir return to their homelands to attend school. Their education is completely funded by the African Children's Choir. Since its inception, the Choir has established schools and provided educational scholarships in Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Sudan, Nigeria, Ghana, and South Africa.

In addition to education efforts, the Choir, through ongoing support from donors, finances numerous relief and development projects throughout Africa. The current Choir tour is appealing for donations for the nKomazi region in South Africa. An area that is being devastated by the AIDS pandemic, many households in nKomazi are now being led by children who face the daunting task of caring for themselves and their siblings without income or an education.

The African Children's Choir remains committed to helping Africa's most vulnerable children so they can help Africa tomorrow.

For more information about the local performances, call 254/622-3226.

Americans Vote NO On Bush And Take Impeachment Off The Table

By MELINDA PILLSBURY-FOSTER
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Mark your calendar. On December 10th, Human Rights Day, Americans from across the country will meet to discuss the Impeachment of George W. Bush and Richard Cheney, President and Vice-President of the United States. The congruence of Human Rights Day and consideration of Impeachment is curiously appropriate. What better day to begin the process that is so needed to mend the lives of Americans?

While Nancy Pelosi considers the color of her drapes and tables discussion of an impeachment sentiment that propelled her and other Democrats into office Congresspersons ready themselves for oncoming rounds of business as usual. They expect the voters who put them in office to wait. They will be surprised. Americans are tired of waiting and have grown increasingly cynical about the character of those elected. It is all, too true, that the accumulation of power that now exists in Washington is a powerful incentive to forget that the election was not a popularity contest or a mandate. November 7th was a loud NO to Bush and his NeoConservative administration, nothing else.

On December 10th the people are setting about taking action themselves where normally they simply write letters to their representatives. Trusting those in government has come to be recognized as a chancy policy. David Swanson, an organizer for the December 10th event, said, "the blockages to impeachment we are seeing are from Congress; Republicans who are scared, and from newly elected Democrats who have other priorities." When those elected fail to carry out the will of the people it is the right of the people to take action directly, according to Thomas Jefferson.

Last November 7th Americans made it clear that they are fed up with the present administration. That did not mean that they were enchanted by the alternative, just that their options were necessarily limited by the nature of the political process. Reports of malfunctioning voting machines that moved votes to Republicans and away from the determined efforts of voters to vote otherwise were legion. Lawsuits and investigations are now ongoing but even voter theft estimated by experts, such as David Griscom, of around 3.5 million, was not enough to keep a Republican majority in either House of Senate; a miscalculation on the part of Karl Rove, most probably.

GUEST COMMENTARY

The massive turn-out of voters from the left was balanced on the right by voters who stayed home, unable to vote for anyone acceptable. As of today, 51% of Americans want to see articles of impeachment delivered to the White House and they want answers from George Bush and Dick Cheney. That is, perhaps, the largest percentage to ever express the wish to see the President of the United States answer questions that include whether or not he should continue in office.

Americans have their reasons, and they are powerful and compelling.

Every day now American families learn that loved ones have been injured or killed in a war that is now admitted by nearly everyone to have been sought not to ensure the security of Americans but to burnish the bottom line of Bush's core constituents, the oil companies and military contractors who have been intimates of the Bush - Walker family for generations. For at least three generations the Bush family has made its money not from honest commerce but from special favors obtained through the offices of government influence. Former First Lady Barbara Bush unwittingly exposed the attitude of the Bush family when in the wake of Hurricane Katrina she said, "This is working very well for them." Mrs. Bush saw the loss of family and friends, long time homes, neighborhoods, and family possessions are less valuable than the charity on which they were then dependent. No decent person would agree. It is ugly, but when you strip away the pretensions that is who they are.

In the wake of 9/11 George W. Bush enjoyed unprecedented popularity. His administration used that trust, extended from Americans of all political parties, to procure a war that has lasted longer than World War II, and cost the lives of nearly 3,000 dead American military, if we are to believe the State Department, which is now also questionable. Stories of dying military shipped out to bases away from the hostilities in Iraq have left open the question of how many have actually died and been wounded. In this war, families faced the need to send essential equipment to those they loved who stood in the line of fire, another first for America. Veterans of Iraq come home to neglect and dismissal by those

entrusted to care for them.

It is the sense that nothing this administration says can be trusted that has led slowly to the conclusion that it is time for Bush to vacate the Oval Office and Washington D.C. "Stay the Course" has morphed into, "What? I never said that!" so rapidly that it leaves listeners gasping. It is as if they believe they can reinvent reality as needed.

Recently, Bush has found time to buy a new home off shore. Perhaps he plans to take up residence on the massive spread purchased in Paraguay. As we have learned, Paraguay does not honor extradition, so that also might not have been an accident. While there is no exit strategy from Iraq Bush might have had one handed him by Rove for his exit from the White House.

At the same time, in parallel, Americans are contending with assaults on their rights, their pocketbooks, and their persons in ways that would have been unimaginable just a generation ago.

From the takings of the Trans-Texas Corridor to the sell off of assets held by the Federal government for the people of America, to the rescinding of the 4th Amendment and the rampant corruption of our nation's courts, the issues abound. Americans are drowning in issues as the economy goes South and the popping of the real estate bubble threatens to leave Americans tied to homes that are worth far less than they cost. It is as if there was an unannounced going-out-of-business sale and up for purchase is all property held or controlled by the government paid for through the taxes of ordinary Americans.

George W. Bush will doubtless go down in history. It is shaping to be a legacy of greed, avarice, indulgence, and deceit that would make Nero blanch; the actions of George W. Bush follows a logic that is consistent to his family's heritage and to his own well documented, personal values. It is not that the Bush - Walker family does not have values, it is the content of those ideas about themselves, government, and other people's money than has proven to be so toxic to the well being of America.

In the first and last instance, the question always returns to our beliefs and values. Values are the foundations on which America was built.

Our nation was founded by a people who gathered in homes to discuss the issues. The Committees of Correspondence dis-

cussed the theory and grounding for government as a tool of human organizing. They discussed the individual, God-given rights, and their freedoms. America was a do-it-yourself enterprise then. Evidently, it must return to its roots.

On December 10th remember the values than brought America into existence. Remember the many, many individuals who risked everything to make a vision real. Remember the people who will gather

across the country to consider the issue of impeachment. From these beginnings much will spring. America renews itself on the courage of its true patriots.

Melinda Pillsbury-Foster is a prominent activist, author, poet, commentator, and critic of Neoconservative theory and policy. She is founder and president of the Arthur C. Pillsbury Foundation and hosts a radio talk-show program, The Spiritual Politician, at <BBSRadio.com>.



Supreme Justices Clash On Global Warming

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court last week was divided in preliminary comments on a case involving the U.S. government's regulation of greenhouse gases.

In one corner, the sarcastic Justice Antonin Scalia in reference to global warming asked, "When is the predicted cataclysm?"

In the other, Justice Stephen Breyer in reference to a positive governmental response to climate change asked, "Now, why is it unreasonable?"

The comments were made ahead of a July 2007 ruling on *Massachusetts vs. Environmental Protection Agency* case.

The ruling would settle a question with regard to the EPA's responsibility in regulating vehicle emissions of greenhouse gases using the Clean Air Act.

The agency has argued that it wouldn't comply with the Act even if Congress had provided it with the necessary power to manage the emissions because the sci-

ence connecting climate change to carbon emissions is inconclusive.

Sen. Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) said that the Environment and Public Works Committee would hold hearings in January to investigate measurements of greenhouse gases in industry. The results of the hearings could call for Congress to empower the EPA to regulate heat-trapping gases.

Still, should the high court rule against *Massachusetts*, California's new law limiting tailpipe emissions of greenhouse gases starting in 2009 would be jeopardized.

Twelve states, a U.S. territory, three cities, and 13 environmental groups have brought the case to court urging the government to regulate pollutants that might "endanger public health or welfare."

Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and John Paul Stevens seem to back these groups, though Justice Anthony Kennedy is seen as the key swing vote.

Borat: Offensive, Funny, Or Both?

There is a movie out now called "Borat," whose lead character is anti-Semitic, racist, and misogynistic. Oh, one more thing: I liked it.

Obviously, I'm not alone. So far, the movie has taken in over \$100 million in America and another \$50 million in foreign box office. What does this say about us? Are our countries filled with bigots who enjoy cheering on another bigot? Or are people watching the movie because it exposes bigotry and ignorance? Or should it be viewed as "just a movie?"

The full name of the movie is, "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan." It's the brainchild of British performer Sasha Baron Cohen. The movie is a fake documentary in which the character of Borat poses as a Kazakh journalist who is making a film about America. He involves real, non-acting, non-suspecting Americans in his supposed quest for understanding the culture of our country. Borat portrays his own country as ridiculously backward and immoral, and Cohen portrays Borat as ridiculously backward and immoral.

At first blush, it seems like "Borat" is making fun of Kazakhstan and foreigners, but as you sit there watching the absurd depiction of this country and its residents, you realize that the movie is making fun of people who are ignorant about foreign places and people. And to one degree or another, most of us fall into that category. Admit it. Do you know exactly where Kazakhstan is?

As Cohen put it, "... the joke is on people who can believe that the Kazakhstan that I describe can exist — who believe that there's a country where homosexuals wear blue hats ... and the age of consent has been raised to nine years old."

But there is still a legitimate question of whether portraying a bigot as lovable and comical is ever okay. The same question arose when "All in The Family" first came on the air in the Seventies. Was lovable, bumbling Archie Bunker promoting bigotry, or was he exposing it and its ignorance? It's a tough question and one that has no easy answer. So, if you're someone who believes that certain subjects should never be joked about, I can respect that. Of course, you'll be missing out on some big laughs.

Some people are suing the moviemakers, claiming they



Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

were tricked into participating in the film — even though they signed releases. I can sympathize with some of them. They opened their homes to someone they thought wanted to learn about America, and he turned around and made fun of them. On the other hand, for those who rail against gays or women in the movie, it's hard for me to feel sorry for the fact that they may have been tricked. The Mel Gibson defense of "I was drunk," and the Michael

Richards' defense of "that wasn't the real me" don't work here either.

But once one lawsuit was filed, others quickly followed. Don't be surprised if we soon see lawsuits from people who claim things like, "I have an uncle named Borat, and he'd never bring a live chicken on the subway."

Here's what I thought about the movie: It's offensive, it's silly, it's juvenile, and it's really, really funny.

So, I don't think it's such a big hit because millions of people share a fictional Borat's offensive view of the world. And it's not because millions of people who hate bigotry are thrilled to see it exposed in such an exaggerated manner on the screen. I think it's a hit because, to mil-

lions of people, it's simply funny.

I'm sure part of its success has to do with its making fun of political correctness. We are so serious about everything these days that people seem to enjoy laughing about things that aren't supposed to be funny.

All of this reminds me of the advertising slogan for the old movie, "That's Entertainment!" The movie came out in 1974, and it was a compilation of clips from MGM musicals. 1974 was not a particularly happy time. Tensions between blacks and whites, and rich and poor seemed to be mounting each day. The number of countries with the nuclear bomb had increased. And that was the year that Nixon resigned. It

was the perfect time for a movie that could make people smile and laugh.

These are pretty serious times, too. So to me, it's not surprising that a big, broad, laughing-out-loud comedy would be a hit today. Oh, that old advertising slogan I referred to? It was, "Boy, do we need it now."

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

Apes With Pepper Spray — Just One Sign That Holiday Shopping Season Is Upon Us

When it comes to buying a gift for that special someone this holiday season, nothing says I love you like pepper spray.

At least, that's according to the Bureau of Shopping Statistics, which says that personal protection devices are big sellers during the holiday season. This is further supported by ex-NRA spokesman Charleton Heston, who once said, and I quote:

"Get your paws off me you dirty, stinking ape!"

What this means, of course, is that I've had too much coffee, and therefore should be the last person in possession of any type of weapon. It also means that the threat of apes uniting to take over the world using pepper spray is very real — which makes Christmas the perfect time to arm your loved ones with a personal protection device capable of stopping your average primate.

(If there are any English students reading this, that last paragraph was called a "segue," which is a tool that writers often use when they:

- a) Lose their point
- b) Lose their mind
- c) Stay up late watching Planet of the Apes.)

Like most people, you're probably asking yourself why you're sitting here reading this when you should be out there SHOPPING.

The reason is simple: I'm go-



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson
Siuslaw News

ing to tell you about what is arguably the most exciting personal protection device since the pocket-sized poodle.

I'm talking, of course, about the ultimate personal protection device — The SpudChunker.

Let me tantalize you with a testimonial from a man who readily admits that his wife was once very intimidated by his SpudChunker.

But not anymore. "Now, not only is she comfortable handling my SpudChunker, she even has her own!"

— Bill Spencer, Sidney, Neb.

What is this amazing device, you ask?

(Or, more importantly, will I stop with the sexual innuendo before I lose my job?)

Take a moment to visit www.spudchucker.com, and you will discover the newest addition to the world's personal protection arsenal: a high-velocity potato gun capable of sending a 2 inch "spud plug" 300 yards or better (depending on wind, trajectory, and whether you prefer curly or regular fries.)

You'll be glad to know that these guns are available in 3-foot, 4-foot, double-barrel and even "tennis-ball-barrel" models—which could come in handy should you ever be attacked by Andre Agassi.

When scanning the website, you'll notice the phrase for serious spudders only repeated many times, often followed by an exclamation point.

There is a very good reason for this:

[Editor: Please insert reason here!]

With the holiday shopping season officially starting, I hope this information will be helpful to you.

And in the spirit of the holidays, remember that love sometimes means having to say you're sorry — especially if you happen to get pepper spray on your loved one's SpudChunker.

(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/)

READERS:

Place Your
ADVERTISING
Message In A Newspaper
That Is.....

...Fiercely Independent!

**THE LONE STAR
ICONOCLAST**

www.lonestaricon.com

Woodrow Wilson Meets His Texas Maker

On Nov. 24, 1911, Woodrow Wilson met his maker, the obscure Texas colonel who would make him the 28th president of the United States.

Over dinner that historic evening at his New York penthouse, Edward Mandell House decided the scholarly governor of New Jersey was the ideal Democrat to break the Republicans' 16-year lease on the Oval Office.

A Lone Star quartet exercised unprecedented power in national politics during the first seven decades of the twentieth century: John Nance Garner, Sam Rayburn, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and E.M. House. Of the four, only House never held public office preferring instead to work his magic behind the scenes.

As the son of a wealthy Houston banker, House was educated in elite eastern prep schools. After his father's death in 1880, the youth dropped out of college and collected a handsome inheritance. He soon married and moved to Austin to be at the nerve center of state politics.

Gov. James S. Hogg faced an

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



uphill struggle for reelection in 1892, until the diminutive 33-year-old took charge of his sputtering campaign. With House at the helm, Hogg won a dramatic come-from-behind victory as the tiny tutor polished his abrasive brand of populism. For the next 14 years, House reigned supreme in the Texas wing of the Democratic Party.

The three governors that succeeded Hogg were all groomed and guided by the master strategist. After serving the customary two terms, C.A. Culbertson advanced to the U.S. Senate, where he was a permanent though not necessarily sober fixture for a quarter century. J.D. Sayers and S.W.T. Lanham were lackluster leaders, whose mutual claim to fame was that they were the last Confederates chosen chief executive.

At the end of Lanham's sec-

ond term in 1907, House withdrew from state affairs to ponder the prospects on the Potomac. Bored by gubernatorial games, he set his sights on the biggest prize of all — the presidency.

In Woodrow Wilson he found his dream candidate. The Ivy League reformer and the taciturn Texan turned out to be philosophical soul mates with virtually identical visions for restructuring American society.

Despite his privileged background, House was a closet radical. In private he not only defended the rights of labor unions but advocated compulsory retirement for Supreme Court justices, a federal income tax and a guaranteed stipend for the aged. Tame proposals by today's standards, but a century ago such suggestions smacked of subversion.

Benefiting from the colonel's expert advice and extensive contacts, Wilson arrived at the 1912 Democratic national convention with a fighting chance for the nomination. From the opening gavel, the Texas delegation stood firm in support of the dark horse, who finally captured the top spot on the ticket on the 46th ballot.

Wilson carried Democratic Texas with 73 percent of the popular vote — nearly three times the combined total of Teddy Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and socialist Eugene Debs — on his way to an Electoral College avalanche. House and his cronies were generously rewarded for a job well done with three cabinet posts and dozens of key appointments.

The most important Texan declined any formal role and simply kept what he already had — the ear and absolute trust of the new president. Wilson never made a major move without first checking with the colonel.

Five months after reelection as the anti-war candidate in 1916, Wilson sent the doughboys off to the European bloodbath. It was House, who convinced the cynical Allies to accept the idealistic American's Fourteen Points as the basis for the peace parley.

During the protracted post-war negotiations in Paris, domestic matters demanded the president's personal attention. A month later, he was appalled by the compromises House had accepted in his absence.

Wilson said little to his mentor upon sailing for home on Jun. 28, 1919, the day the controversial Treaty of Versailles was signed. Staying behind to wrap up the tedious details, House would never see his protégé again.

By the time the colonel returned to Washington, Wilson was a bedridden invalid, the victim of a debilitating stroke. For the last year and a half of her

paralyzed husband's term, Edith Wilson functioned as the unelected president of the United States.

House's repeated efforts to contact his stricken friend were foiled by the vindictive First Lady, who did not forget his fruitless attempt to sabotage her 1915 marriage to the White House widower. His letters went unanswered, and most were not even opened until the Wilson papers were transferred to the Library of Congress in 1952.

As funeral services were held for Woodrow Wilson in February 1924, a solitary figure stood outside the church in a cold drizzle. Unforgiving to the bitter end, Edith Wilson denied E.M. House the opportunity to pay his last respects.

Do your Christmas shopping at www.twith.com or request a gift list from P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549.

Be Discovered



Call (254) 675-3634 Today

Family Is Most Important. Be Home For Them Daily.

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

\$1,000 Sign On Bonus

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

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

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

www.coastaltransport.net



LEAKY POND??

SODIUM BENTONITE is a swelling clay.

★ 100% NATURAL ★ NON-TOXIC

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

TEXAS SODIUM BENTONITE POND SEALANT IS AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA

FOR PRICING AND INFORMATION ON THIS PRODUCT CONTACT:

GEORGE BURTON

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

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

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

(1-800-433-5495)

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

Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometime



9/11 TRUTH

Austin Citizens for 9/11 Truth is proud to be sponsoring a free event: a showing of the acclaimed 9/11 film "Everybody's Gotta Learn Sometime", with a question & answer discussion to follow.

This important, wide-ranging 9/11 Truth film must be seen by all patriotic Americans who want to see the real criminals behind 9/11 exposed and brought to justice.

Saturday, December 9th 7PM

@ First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin
4700 Grover 78756
Howson Hall

For more info go to AC911T.com



Researchers Develop Model For More Attractive Coastlines

Model Coastal Zoning Ordinance To Aid Texas Seaside Community Growth

LUBBOCK — Researchers at Texas Tech University report that they have identified a missing element in most of the state's current coastal zoning laws. While filled to the brim with the nuts and bolts of cumbersome construction regulation, there's apparently little to see in terms of scenic quality.

So small, in fact, that the researchers are now writing a model coastal zoning ordinance to aid these fast-growing Texas seaside communities.

How good an area looks, or what's technically called aesthetic quality, is part of a nationwide effort aimed at improving coastal zone resources. That effort gained traction 10 years ago here in Texas with the approval of the massive NOAA Coastal Zone Management Plan.

"In that plan there is absolutely no mention of scenic quality," said Louis Mills, an assistant professor in Texas Tech's Department of Landscape Architecture. "The problem was there weren't any benchmarks at the time. They had no priorities or comparisons between scenic resources and wildlife values."

The first task for Mills and his research team was to determine just what the people of Texas preferred in terms of scenic landscape quality. Using photographs and sketches of coastal scenes showing landscapes with varying rate of development from none to highly cluttered, some 500 survey respondents were asked to rates their preferences.

"As you would expect, the most natural scenes with sand beaches were preferred," he said. "And that was true across all age, gender, education and income groups."

Next Mills reviewed coastal land and building statutes, looking at zoning and construction codes to determine if aesthetics and scenic quality were mentioned. In most cases there was little or nothing on the books.

"In some instances, the codes called for a landscape plan, but didn't say what needed to be in the plan," he said. "There weren't any specifics such as percentage of tree coverage or what types of trees are acceptable."

As a result, the Texas Tech researchers are writing a model coastal zoning ordinance that will provide coastal communities with a more consistent set of land use controls that include protection of scenic resources. The model ordinance defines traditional types of land use, density, minimum lot requirements and zoning controls.

In addition, it will have protections for scenic quality, such as regulations for landscape planting and screening requirements and protection of existing vegetation, as well as architectural control, protection of historical structures and height and density limitations. Other considerations include building setbacks, dune restoration and litter removal.

"Right now the statutes to protect scenic quality have no teeth in them," Mills said. One of the rare exceptions is the state's real property tax assessment for scenic easements, he said.

Today, the Texas Gulf coast is a mixed bag of rules and regulations. The 370-mile shoreline covers 18 counties, numerous municipalities, as well as state and federal lands.

There are laws on the books to protect the state's scenic resources, such as the Texas Coastal Dune Protection Program, which provides a 1,000-foot protection line. On the other hand, laws such as the Texas Open Beaches Act of 1959 have resulted in poor scenic quality, as well as environmen-



Iconoclast Photo By W. Leon Smith

Port Aransas, Texas — Girl With Dinosaurs

tal, litter and erosion problems, Mills said.

In the future, Mills said, there will be a growing need for public acquisition or regulation of

high quality coastal areas that protect scenic quality. "Based on our evaluation of scenic ratings, these areas will be habitats that are undeveloped and in a natu-

ral protected state," he said. "It's also important to remember that high scenic values are directly and positively related to tourism demand."

MUELLER, INC.
STEEL BUILDING SYSTEMS & COMPONENTS

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

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

Style Station

Vintage Clothing

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

PERSONAL INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH

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

SERVING CENTRAL TEXAS
WITH OFFICES IN WACO,
TEMPLE AND AUSTIN

THE LAW OFFICES

Vic Feazell P.C.

TRIAL ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS OF LAW

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

MEMBER
BETTER
BUSINESS
BUREAU