

CRAWFORD, TEXAS

Vol. 8, No. 3

MARCH 28, 2007

Internet Update 13

© 2006, THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

\$1.50 Per Copy

**INSIDE**

**Camp Casey  
To Return Over  
Easter Weekend**

**Page 2**

**EDITORIAL**

**Move It  
Or Lose It**

By Nathan Diebenow

**Page 9**



**SMU Land-Grab  
Hijinks Fitting  
For Bush Legacy**

**GUEST COMMENTARY**

By Beth Freed

**Page 10**



**Out Of  
The Blue**

By Jerry Tenuto

**Have A  
Great  
Depression**

**Page 14**



**TSTC  
Preview  
Friday,  
Saturday**

By Susan Morisset **Page 16**

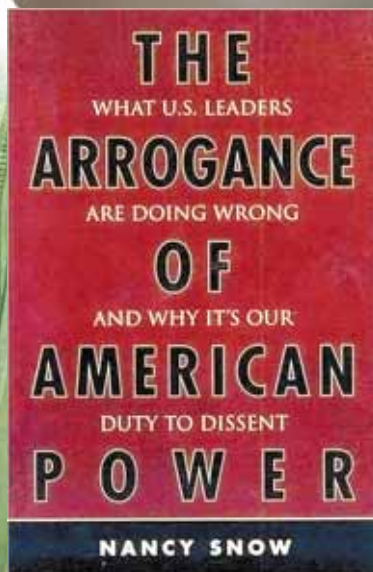
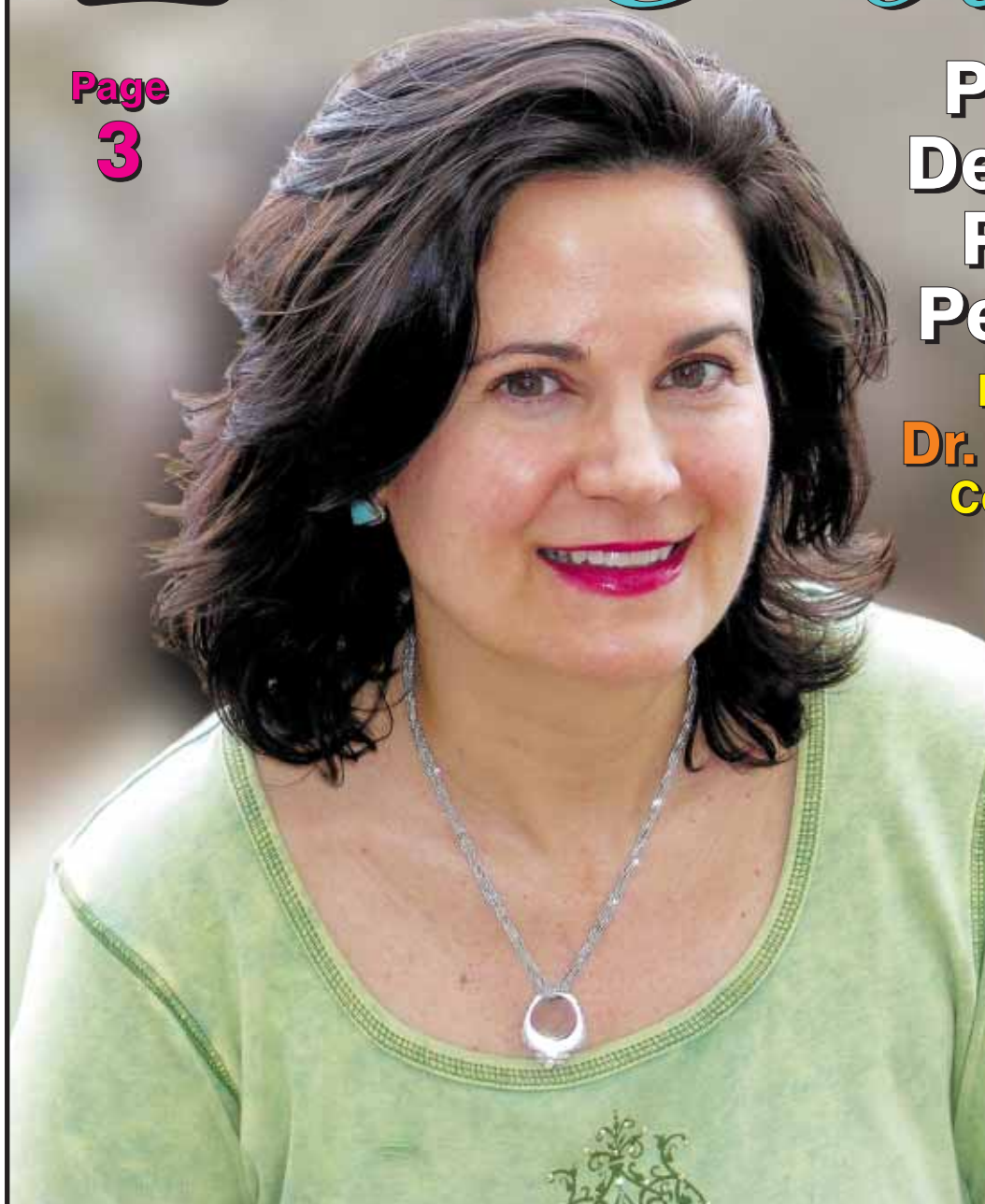
THE LONE STAR  
**ICONOCLAST**

**P**ROPAGANDA  
*For Peace*

**Page  
3**

**Professor  
Demystifies  
Power of  
Persuasion**

**Interview With  
Dr. Nancy Snow,  
Communications  
Professor**



# Camp Casey To Return Over Easter Weekend

## — Concerts, Actions, Awards Expected —

ROUND ROCK—Anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan and her followers will be returning to Texas over Easter weekend for more political hell-raising, concerts, and thank-yous.

Kicking off the festivities will be the Camp Casey Peace Awards on Thursday, April 5, 6:30 p.m. -10:30 p.m., in Round Rock.

The honorees include those who have helped organize and sustain Sheehan's campaign ever since she sought to speak with President George W. Bush outside his Prairie Chapel ranch in August 2005.

Among the honorees are musician Willie Nelson and his wife, Annie, CODEPINK organizer Jodie Evans, ret. Army Col. Ann Wright, the Crawford Peace House organizers Johnny Wolf, Hadi Jawad, and Kay Lucas, and 16-year-old website creator Ava Lowery.

The evening will feature musical entertainment by Carolyn Wonderland, Emma's Revolution, Hank Woji, and Jesse Dyen.

The awards presentation will be held at the Wingate Inn & Conference Center, 1209 North Interstate Highway 35, Round Rock, TX 78664. Tickets are \$50.00 a piece.

The rest of the weekend will include workshops, music, and actions.

The camp in Crawford officially opens on Thursday, April 5, with orientations.

The following day, workshops are planned though the details of which have not been finalized. The evening program will include a performance by Emma's Revolution.

An Impeachment Festival is scheduled on Saturday, April 7, along with a panel consisting of David Swanson of After Downing Street.org, Ann Wright, Cindy Sheehan, and Debra Sweet, National Director of World Can't Wait.

On the last day of Camp

Casey, Rev. Lennox Yearwood will preside over a nondenominational sunrise Easter service.

Later in the day, Carolyn Wonderland will performance followed by the "Make HipHop,

Not War" concert.

For more information, visit the website for Gold Star Fam-

lies for Peace (GSFP).

INFO — GSFP [www.gsfp.org/](http://www.gsfp.org/)

## Campaign To Free Cuban Spies Intensifies In U.S.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The campaign to free five Cuban spies from prison in the United States has intensified over the last month.

Making his first visit with one of the five was the Catholic Bishop of the Archdiocese of Detroit, Thomas J. Gumbleton.

Bishop Gumbleton spoke with Fernando González Llorit in his Wisconsin cell for several hours on March 9.

"Fernando and I have more things in common than I thought," said the high ranking U.S. Catholic authority and founding president of Pax Christi in the United States.

"Fernando is in the prime of his life, is a sincere and receptive person, and is very current about international affairs, including news about the Catholic Church," the bishop added.

Gumbleton with linguist Noam Chomsky, writer Alice Walker, Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta Menchu, and others signed a paid ad in the New York Times about the case of the "Cuban Five" in March 2004.

Three years prior, a Miami jury sentenced González, Gerardo Hernandez, Ramon Labanino, Rene Gonzalez, and Antonio Guerrero for being unregistered foreign agents.

Three of them were found guilty of espionage conspiracy for attempting to infiltrate a U.S. military base.

Hernandez was also convicted of murder conspiracy in the deaths of four Miami-based pilots.

A three-judge panel on the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals overturned all five of their convictions, saying that the men failed to receive a fair trial, but

a full appeals court ruled last summer that a retrial would be unjustified.

The Cuban government sent them to South Florida to spy on anti-communist exile groups based in Miami who have openly planned attacks on the tourism industry in Cuba, according to one of their defense attorneys.

They remain in U.S. custody serving terms ranging from 10 years to life and in wait for the federal appeals court to grant a new trial outside Miami

Months before their original trial, South Florida had already been political charged by the emotional custody battle over young Cuban Elian Gonzalez.

In Miami, these men are considered terrorists, but in Cuba, they are considered heroes for protecting their homeland from terrorists.

The "Cuban 5" have received international support, most recently in regard to a campaign to pressure the U.S. government to allow their spouses the freedom to visit their husbands behind bars.

"We think the U.S. will lose this battle. We are convinced the Cuban Five will return to their native country," said British Catholic priest Geoffrey Bottoms, a member of the National Executive of the Campaign of Solidarity with Cuba in the United Kingdom.

Over 130 members of the European Parliament last February signed a motion promoted by Bottoms that supported the right of prisoners to receive family visits.

Amnesty International has also supported the wives' request on grounds that the human rights of these women

have been violated.

To gain more support abroad, wives of two of the Cuban Five — Adriana Perez and Olga Salanueva — traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to attend sessions of the U.N. Human Rights Council.

## Former Mexican President To Speak At Trinity University Thursday

SAN ANTONIO — Former Mexican President Vicente Fox is to give a lecture at Trinity University in San Antonio on Thursday, March 27, at 7 p.m.

His presentation entitled "Surveying the Geo-Political Landscape" is free and open to the public in Laurie Auditorium.

Fox — who served in Mexico's executive office from 2000 to 2006 — is expected to speak about immigration issues.

Fox is known for breaking seven-decade long rule of the Institutional Revolutionary Party in Mexico.

During his time in office, inflation and interest rates were controlled, while the employment rate outpaced the rest of Latin America.

Before becoming president Fox was the youngest executive

This international campaign is scheduled to end on May 14, Mother's Day.

But the A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition and the Pro-Five Committee said last week they would redouble advocacy on behalf of the Cuban Five in U.S.

to be appointed president of Coca-Cola for Mexico and Latin America.

He studied at the Ibero-American University in Mexico City and taking courses administered by the Harvard University Business School

Toward the end of his tenure as Mexico's president, he came under fire for encouraging immigrants to cross illegally north of its borders.

Since leaving office, he has been writing a memoir "Revolution of Hope" which should be published later this year.

The Flora Cameron Lecture on Politics and Public Affairs is made possible by an endowment gift by Flora C. Crichton of San Antonio.

For more information, call the Office of University Communications at (210) 999-8406.



**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**  
CALL 254-675-3634



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

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

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.

# PROPAGANDA

## For Peace

## Professor Demystifies Power of Persuasion

### Interview With Dr. Nancy Snow, Communications Professor



DR. NANCY SNOW will be attending the 12th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books on April 27-29, to be exact. There, she will participate in a panel discussion and, afterwards, promote her most recent book, "The Arrogance of American Power: What U.S. Leaders Are Doing Wrong and Why It's Our Duty to Dissent" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

By NATHAN DIEBENOW  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

LOS ANGELES – Propaganda is a word that still gives some people the creeps.

But it's a word of great interest to Dr. Nancy Snow.

Why?

Because she has made a career out of studying above-the-board persuasion techniques in academia and applying them in real-life situations.

Dr. Snow used them on behalf of the U.S. government as an official with a U.S. Information Agency and State Department from 1992-1994.

In that capacity, propaganda is termed "public diplomacy."

Currently, she is a tenured associate professor of communications at California State University, Fullerton, and adjunct professor in the Annenberg School for Communication, University of Southern California.

Dr. Snow also serves as Senior Research Fellow in the USC Center on Public Diplomacy. There, she researches and teaches courses on anti-Americanism, American propaganda, press and public diplomacy, and global communications.

She has shared her knowledge of propaganda in various outlets across the media spectrum.

She has worked as a political consultant for The History Channel and served as an advisor to the U.S. Advisory Com-

mission on Public Diplomacy and U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee overseeing changes in U.S. public diplomacy legislation since 9/11.

As a civilian and citizen, Dr. Snow is an advocate for media accountability and independent media.

At the end of next month – April 27-29, to be exact – she will be attending the 12th Annual Los Angeles Times Festival of Books.

There, she will participate in a panel discussion and, afterwards, promote her most recent book, "The Arrogance of American Power: What U.S. Leaders Are Doing Wrong and Why It's Our Duty to Dissent" (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006).

The *ICONOCLAST*'s Nathan Diebenow recently spoke with Dr. Snow via telephone about demystifying her field of study and applying those skills to peace-making.

Here is that interview:

.....  
*ICONOCLAST*: So what is propaganda exactly?

DR. NANCY SNOW: That's pretty easy to answer if you understand the use of the term propaganda. Any good propaganda scholar knows that it originated with the Roman Catholic Church – with Pope Gregory 15th in the 17th Century who started a congregation for the propagation of the faith. So, as a concept, it really came out of a messianic impulse.

In other words, the Roman

Catholic Church was interested in getting its message of the pope and Catholic deity, hierarchy, and ideology out to overcome what they saw as a threat coming from the Protestant religion in Europe. The propagandists of the church were the priests who were trained to go out and spread that message.

Even up to this day, it is a method of mass persuasion that uses techniques of mass influence in order to get people to do something that advantages the sponsor of that message – as opposed to, say, straight education which doesn't have that manipulative impulse ideally. Propaganda is always going to have an element of manipulation. In other words, it will always be information that favors the sponsor.

*ICONOCLAST*: How did you first become interested in propaganda?

DR. SNOW: What got me interested is that I had an upbringing in the deep South and I went to a fundamentalist Christian school – Bob Jones Academy – which is on the campus of Bob Jones University. I went there in my formative years.

In fact, I don't really even talk about this very much in my writings, but as far as what really spawned my interest, I think it was during those formative years that I really began to ask questions about what motivates people and what gets people to take action on very strongly

held beliefs that are often leaps of faith. A lot of propaganda has that in common with religion in that it's not really the evidence of anything that spurs people to action. It's more about an emotional response.

I think [my interest in propaganda] really came out of those days when I was 14 and 15, and then when I was in college, I majored in political science at Clemson, and afterwards, I got a scholarship to Germany as a Fulbright student. I lived there for over a year, and I became interested again, obviously, in the history of living in that society where there was such a conflict between what the Germans were dealing with – this was during the 1980s – versus their history of World War II and Nazism.

When I returned to the United States, I began to think of propaganda in an American context because it seemed to me back then in my school days that whenever you heard the word "propaganda," it was always associated with what evil-doers did – you know, totalitarian governments, Stalin, Hitler, Joseph Goebbels. It was never anything that open societies engaged in.

And then I started digging a little deeper and came across work by (Alex Kerry) who was a social psychologist out of Australia. He's deceased now. Noam Chomsky often references him. Kerry wrote about the 20th Century really being the age of the expansion of de-

mocracy, the expansion of the corporation and corporate power, and the expansion of propaganda in the interest of corporate power. I've never really forgotten that. He writes about the propaganda of a democracy and did case studies of the United States and Australia.

So I earned my PhD in International Relations from American University and then I went and worked as a government propagandist at the U.S. Information Agency (USIA). I did that for a couple of years in a special program and really came up close and personal to what it is the U.S. government is doing in terms of "open source propaganda" because they're really different forms of propaganda.

The kind of propaganda that I deal with is "open-sourced;" in other words it's overt. It's out in the open. We use the euphemism "public diplomacy." Public diplomacy is a term USIA used to refer to efforts to inform, influence, and engage overseas audiences in the interests of national objectives of the U.S. government – in the interest, really, of supporting U.S. foreign policy objectives overseas. It's one thing to inform, but influence is where the propaganda comes in.

I've really had 20 active years of engaging in this term propaganda, and then when 9/11 happened, I remember getting a

Continued On Next Page

# PROPAGANDA

## For Peace

From Previous Page

call that very day from a reporter who wanted me to put the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in context with an information war and the media war and the fact that it was on live TV and that we were seeing the propaganda of the deed. I was just as shocked as everybody else. I didn't really want to be interviewed that day, but I knew that this work in propaganda was going to become something that a lot more people would be interested in.

That's been 5½ years and I've just continued to do my work in that, but you've got to understand, I'm a state university. I've got full course load. It's not like I do this full time or anything.

ICONOCLAST: So has the United States changed its view of propaganda since Sept. 11, 2001?

DR. SNOW: Since 9/11, there's been an awakening and understanding that, in fact, all governments engage in propaganda, including democratic governments like our own. It's not that we didn't know this back in World War I or World War II, but we've had a much more awakening to it and become more skeptical consumers of propaganda.

You've got to understand that in World War I and World War II, which is when modern propaganda began in the United States, people say it was for the cause for democracy. They were sort of brought into the whole fold — the old Montgomery flag painting of "Uncle Sam Wants You." It was very iconic and very visual, and it was seen in serving the interests of democracy.

Now, that hasn't changed. Politicians will still use that rhetoric, but nowadays, because of the kind of technology we have with the Internet and a much more in-your-face information exchange that we have in being much more awash in information, we have a much more skeptical audience. Propaganda is always targeting an audience, and we have a much more skeptical audience.

ICONOCLAST: In your opinion, was the attack on the Twin Towers on Sept. 11, 2001, similar to the Boston Tea Party?

DR. SNOW: I'm not sure what you mean by that. Here's the problem with the Twin Towers

because it's such a contested concept now. I mean, there's plenty on the Internet, plenty of people saying that the U.S. government set that up and created that, and I'm not in that school of thought, so if that's what you're asking me —

ICONOCLAST: No, I'm just saying that it's — well, I guess, you sort of answered it for me because I'm coming at it from a group of people who attacked a symbol of American imperial power.

DR. SNOW: Absolutely. There's no question. That was pretty obvious. And they even said they were going to do it. I mean, I worked for the U.S. government February of 1993 when the World Trade Center was bombed. I mean, that's something that it seemed to sort of been missing in the narrative that came out of 9/11. Al-Qaida had been threatening to take that down for years. It was a symbol of American economic power if nothing else — the Pentagon, naturally, a symbol of military power.

If you go international, they have an understanding of imperial power. That word "imperial" doesn't play very well here in the U.S. We get all upset about that because we don't like to be chastised for that, but when you go abroad, you hear that term used quite regularly, you know?

ICONOCLAST: It's like the tables have turned over the last few 200 years.

DR. SNOW: Yeah, I mean, it really is, and yet a lot of the rhetoric coming out of the government, you ought to take a look at it if you go to [state.gov/r](http://state.gov/r). For whatever reason, "R" refers to the public diplomacy bureau, and you read some of the speeches by Karen Hughes.

I just gave a talk to a Democratic Club here last week, and the title of my talk was "If Karen Hughes can speak for America, so can I." (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs)

DR. SNOW: And my point was that she's going around — they had a paper that the State Department had — this e-journal on issues related to foreign affairs, and her paper that she contributed and I'm assuming she wrote it or a committee wrote it, but it was a new paradigm for U.S. public diplomacy, and, no kidding, it was called "Waging

Peace."

ICONOCLAST: Wow!

DR. SNOW: Yeah, and as I said, I deal in open-sourced propaganda, so when I see the nature of studying propaganda, it's just so in your face all the time, but you can see the agenda-setting function not just of the press but of course the government, which is often in collusion with the press. The government will put this little tickler out there, and then you'll see op-eds to that effect. Don't get me started on the build up to the war in Iraq. (laughs)

But when I saw that, I thought, "Waging peace? Hmmm, I wonder how that's going to play overseas because that's not at all what people see in terms of policy projection." But what happens in our propaganda and the U.S. propaganda to the world is that we use these words that have nothing to do with deeds.

That's quite common in a propaganda context — to say that we're waging peace when we're making war. I mean, I know that's very Orwellian, but you know, this didn't just come about overnight. A lot of the tactics used have been recycled; they've been used before to great effect and so they just use them again.

Repetition in terms of a technique is also very effective — even if it's not a big lie, if you can tell of a lie of omission or you leave out information that would obviously be derogatory or sort of take away from your narrative, and you repeat over and over "weapons of mass destruction" or Condoleezza Rice's famous "mushroom cloud" over Iraq. I mean, you've got the visual, and you've got the fear rhetoric built in, so —

ICONOCLAST: You said people are getting more sophisticated to propaganda nowadays, but how can that be when you have an administration that pretty much gets away with tying Saddam to bin Ladin together?

DR. SNOW: Let me give you a caveat there. Depending on their news consumption [they will be more or less sophisticated to propaganda]. There are a lot of surveys out there by many reputable centers at universities that note this trend. I don't think that the people that are doing these surveys have an axe to grind with the administration.

PIPA at the University of Maryland is one of those centers that did a survey several years ago where they asked, "Where do you get your news?" And by far, we see this linkage between Iraq and al-Qaida was a much stronger linkage if a person were utilizing, say, FoxNews Channel.

And I don't just pick on FoxNews because I hold all the networks accountable, but it was interesting when you looked at news consumption and the NPR or the print media person who actually utilized a lot more varied sources was much more skeptical and disbelieving and more apt to actually dig a little deeper on his own.

But that's the caveat because there certainly was for a long time a very loyal percentage of the American public that despite all evidence to the contrary still had that leap of faith which, as I said, propaganda attempts to turn you into a faith-based public. And they wanted to back the president. They wanted to back the administration because in their mind, they convinced themselves that it was the right and proper thing to do — you know, my country, right or wrong.

What worries me, though, is that the rhetoric that comes out of the administration is often, sort of, again this cloak of really caring about the public or caring about democracy building, but when you look at how they package information, it's very disdainful of the public in many respects, and that's why I like to in my work give people a sense of we really know better. We just have to build up our confidence that we know better, and also that we've got the numbers on our side, you know?

When you look at the global public, the skepticism is actually quite healthy. It's good for really building sustainable democratic development, so I get a lot of my sort of confidence by not just restricting what has happened here, which can be so debilitating to people's psyches.

I'm a political independent. I'm not a Democrat. I'm not a Republican. But I do get asked to speak to some Democratic groups — no surprise! (laughs) And they are often very frustrated because these are the more activist types who are going to show at, say, to a monthly meeting of their local Democratic club, and last week they were talking about George Lakoff, and they were saying, "You know, we're just not as good as they are."

I said, "Well, one, you have to get beyond this 'they' enemy imagery. You're giving far too much credit to this amorphous 'they.'" For a while, it was "Bush's Brain" Karl Rove. (laughs) I mean, you've got to really study the opposition. I mean, if there's something out there that you don't like what groups are doing, you still have to study what they're doing and give them some credit for it.

I mean, you mentioned Frank Luntz in your email, and you know, he's no genius in what he

does. He'd probably be the first to say that all he does is listen to what people say to him, and then he pushes those buttons with them. There was a special on PBS called "the Persuaders," and it showed him. As I watched that I thought, "Look at his home. It was all pop culture. This is a guy who has just got a sense of sort of the public sentiment and how you can manipulate public sentiment."

Whereas some of my students say, "Ooo, I don't like what he's up to!" I say, "Why do you fear him? I mean, what he's doing really is just being a good marketer. And if you don't like what the outcome is, then take him on, but those tactics in and of themselves, it's not as though he were locking people in a room and denying them food and water." (laughs)

But I think what happens amongst progressives and stalwart Democrats in particular is this tendency to be awestruck by what this Republican administration has been able to get away with, and in the meantime, you lose some of your own momentum. You can build up your momentum if you look at the advantage that you have in terms of the numbers because you've got to go and pick off moderates.

You know, I identify as a moderate, not as a far-left liberal. Others might identify me differently, but I'm more of a moderate. I have some conservative attitudes. I have some liberal attitudes, but I'm not really one side left or one side right. I'm more of in the middle, which is where a lot of people are.

Political independents are a growing population, but we don't have a home, (laughs) so we're looking for some inspiration, and we're looking for inspiration that really gets us outside of this straight-jacket approach to being one or the other. I mean, look at what primetime television has become. There's nothing there for me. I can't even get into these news shows because it's a shout match between the PR spin person for the right and the PR spin person for the left, and that's how they define vigorous discourse? I mean, not in my book. But we are so stuck on these labels.

ICONOCLAST: I get caught with George Lakoff where he's complimenting the national highway system, saying that it's a great image of the common good coming together from government, but when I did some research into it, the truth is that it was put together to help the military-industrial complex.

DR. SNOW: Yeah, doesn't he acknowledge that? (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: I don't think so.

Continued On Next Page

# PROPAGANDA *For Peace*

From Previous Page

DR. SNOW: That's pretty shocking because when you live out in Los Angeles, we're not complimenting the national highways. (laughs) If anything, we're thinking, "What happened to all the street cars 40 years ago?"

You meet anybody who is a native Angelino who is of a certain age, that person is sort of mumbling under his own breath about at one time, when he was a little boy, he could get on the street car in downtown LA and go all the way out to the beach and never get into a car.

You won't find any of those places. I mean, we have public transportation, but it's almost an insult for a lot of people out here to get on public transportation. It's very class driven.

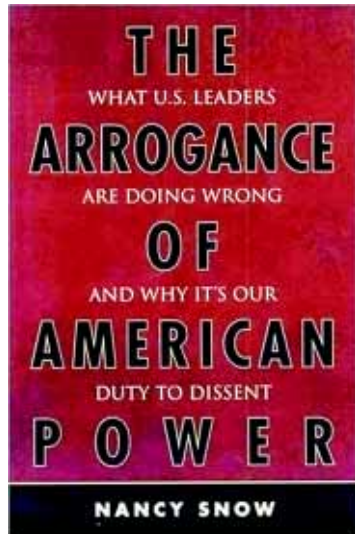
ICONOCLAST: Which leads me to think that if Lakoff is inadvertently covering up the military-industrial complex, then who is out there promoting a true propaganda for peace?

DR. SNOW: Hey, I love that terminology you're using. Bob McChesney with Free Press — I've been going to all of the national conference for media reform for many years — Bob had me on his radio show, and he was sort of coming at me a little bit about propaganda and how I view it in a much more neutral sense. I said, "Well, you can have propaganda for war or propaganda for peace."

But I first read that in my colleagues' book. Philip Taylor is my British colleague. He's a very well-known propaganda scholar. He wrote a book called "Munitions of the Mind." It's a history of propaganda. He's not an activist or anything.

He's a straight historian, and yet at the very end, he says that living in this nuclear age where what we're doing is really educating people for militarism, we've got to study these tactics, apply them to sustainable development and to sustainable peace, and make peace the preferred choice and look at war as so socially outmoded that we will live in a time when we'll think back, "Gosh, we were really barbarians, weren't we?"

He has this very eloquent ending, and he uses the terminology "propaganda for peace," so the way I understand it as a scholar is that propaganda at its



Dr. Nancy Snow's Book

most neutral is like a tool. Harold Laslo wrote about this years ago in his dissertation on propaganda of the war. He said that propaganda is a hammer which can be used either to build a house or knock somebody over the head. It all comes down to intention.

Now, there are varied forms of propaganda. Some have to do with covert propaganda, so-called "black propaganda," but as I say, that's not my specialty because I'm not a military person. I've always been rather not anti-military personnel but just anti-militarism. I do get into this in my latest book about the "Arrogance of American Power."

My purpose of that title was to take on this projection of dominion — whether you want to call it "imperial power" or what have you. Certainly, it's a play on Fulbright's book "The Arrogance of Power," but I decided to actually name names just so people knew what I was talking about.

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) Right.

DR. SNOW: They didn't put the flag on the cover. I'm so upset. (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: (laughs) Well, has Howard Zinn taken you up on your offer to be a goodwill ambassador for the United States?

DR. SNOW: You know, he said he would go along with it. Yes, he really did, and I brought it up again that last week because now wherever I go, I bring it up. I'm doing the Festival of Books in LA, and we're actually doing

a panel on the Iraq War. Katrina Vanden Heuvel is speaking (as well as) T. Christian Miller who wrote "Blood Money" about the line the administration said, "Oh, the proceeds from the oil reserves (in Iraq) are going to pay for the war." Remember that? (laughs)

ICONOCLAST: Oh, yeah. Who forgets about "free money?" (laugh)

DR. SNOW: Yeah, he's got a whole book about "Whatever happened to that promise?" So I'm really excited about that panel because we're in one of

the big ballrooms at UCLA, and I'm going to bring up the need for instead of having Karen Hughes absorb all the oxygen in the room, we need true radicals out there representing an alternative point of view.

And I don't even look at Zinn as being left or right. I mean, I learned this from Colman McCarthy, my great teacher of peace and nonviolence in Washington. He used to write for the WASHINGTON POST. He said radical is about getting at the roots of the matter. It's not really ideologically driven. It's about dig-

ging deeper and going beyond the surface.

That's something I've learned in my propaganda research — to have healthy skepticism. Never cynicism, but rather put my head back and say, "Wait. What's missing from this picture? Who is not being sourced here? In terms of the source, where is their money coming from?" Things like that. But that's what an investigative reporter would do, too.

INFO  
Dr. Snow's Website  
[www.NancySnow.com](http://www.NancySnow.com)

## Open Gov't Bills Pass House

WASHINGTON — Five measures that promote and preserve open government passed the House and one in the Senate last week during Sunshine Week.

These bills address contractor responsibility, environmental information, Freedom of Information Act reform, whistleblower protections, among others.

Rep. Henry Waxman (D-Calif.), a co-sponsor of the bills, praised Congress for taking an important step in storing transparency on the federal level.

"Over the past six years, the Bush administration has done everything it can to operate in secret, to avoid public scrutiny, and to limit congressional oversight," said the chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

Every bill passed by an overwhelming majority.

The bill to strengthen the public's access to documents in the executive branch (H.R. 1309), for example, passed the House 308-117. Other bills included:

- Forcing presidential library foundations to

release their donor lists, 390-34.

- Nullifying an executive order restricting access to presidential records, 333-93.

- Expanding protections to federal whistleblowers, 331-94.

- Requiring the publication of any contract awarded on a non-competitive basis within 14 days via a searchable website, 347-73.

More can be done to improve oversight and accountability in the federal bureaucracy, according to watchdog groups.

OMBWatch reported that information on contractors in particular should be made publicly available, such as records on contractor performance on past contracts, compliance with laws and regulations, and pending lawsuits.

For more about Sunshine Week, visit the following websites.

INFO  
Sunshine Week.  
[www.sunshineweek.org](http://www.sunshineweek.org)  
OMBWatch  
[www.ombwatch.org](http://www.ombwatch.org)

## Bank Fails To Cancel Haiti's Debt

BRENTWOOD, Md. — The Inter-American Development Bank failed to cancel the debt of the Western Hemisphere's poorest country — Haiti — at its annual meeting last weekend in

### 'Sustainability' Going To College

LEXINGTON, Ky. — Environmental sustainability efforts widened on college campuses in North America last year, according to a new report from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education.

"The incredible variety of sustainability activities underway on campuses is a sign of a healthy movement," said Tom Kimmerer, AASHE's Executive Director. "If the two months of 2007 are any indication, we are heading for another vigorous year."

The annual report — the AASHE Digest 2006 — found that the Top 10 higher education institutions tripled their green power purchases last year.

The survey showed that the number of campus sustainability stories more than doubled from 250 to 629 in a year.

A growing number — about 175 — of four-year universities and colleges are participating in sustainability programs for the first time. Community college participation in green campus projects almost tripled, and more religious and tribal schools are reportedly taking sustainability seriously, as well, the survey noted.

The report itself consists of a collection of news stories about over 600 environmental sustainability projects. The Digest merely samples the press of higher education institutions at the forefront of these measures and thereby fails to provide a comprehensive overview of an institution's sustainability efforts.

The report as a whole covers eight chapters on institutional change, education and outreach, social responsibility, green building, energy management and renewable energy, food and agriculture, transportation, and waste, water, landscaping, and procurement.

The report notes the creation of campus sustainability conferences, the formation of the Higher Education Associations Sustainability Consortium (HEASC), and the growth of AASHE and its successful inaugural conference held last fall.

For the full report, visit the AASHE website.

**INFO**  
[www.AASHE.org](http://www.AASHE.org)

Guatemala City

The IADB wrote off \$423 million of the former French colony's debt, but the island nation must still complete the Heavily Indebted Poor Country Initiative (HIPC) of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund

This requirement means that Haiti must follow through with economic reforms by 2010 before its entire debt is cancelled.

Debt relief advocates are outraged by this turn of events.

Tom Ricker, co-director of the Quixote Center's Haiti Reborn program, said that Haiti pays \$56 million a year to its debt service.

"If Haiti has to wait until the end of fiscal year 2010 for cancellation, which is another \$90-120 million just to the IDB — money that would be far better spent providing health and education services for the people of Haiti," he noted.

Nicole Lee, director of the TransAfrica Forum, concurred, saying that thousands of Haitians would suffer due to this delay in debt cancellation.

"Haiti only has 25 doctors per 100,000 people, and the public sector is currently spending \$10 per person on health services," she said. "With this level of support between now and 2010 another 100,000 children in Haiti will die before reaching 11 months of age, and another 6,000 women will die during childbirth."

Brian Concannon, director of the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti, said that half of Haiti's debt — which is almost 60 percent of IDB's debt — was accumulated by corrupt leaders.

"The IFIs knew this 'aid' was buying fur coats, financing

death squads, and propping up repressive regimes, but they kept it flowing," he maintained. "The IDB has an opportunity to make up for this unconscionable policy, and to support Haiti's democratic government, by canceling this odious debt."

Because of these tough terms, a resolution was introduced in Congress last week to promote the cancellation of Haiti's debt.

"When thousands of lives are literally at stake I don't see how the IDB Board of Governors can do anything other than heed Congress's call," added Ricker.

The IDB board cancelled some of the debts of four other Central and South American countries.

Bolivia, Nicaragua, Honduras, and Guyana received immediate cancellation of their debts — which totals some \$4.4 billion, \$1 billion of which is interest alone.

Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Paraguay, and Suriname were offered \$250 million in loans

But not all was well behind the scenes before the debt deal was approved, as nine member countries of the IADB abstained from the vote.

These countries — which include Britain, Denmark, and France — abstained out of fear the fund would dry up due to the loss of debt relief — though they still supported the debt relief.

"Debt relief without compensation from donors or without putting additional resources into the FSO (Fund for Special Operations) is almost like debt relief being paid for by the poorest countries themselves," an official with the British delegation told Reuters on a condition of anonymity.

## 'Ordinary Radical' Christian To Speak April 7th

SAN ANTONIO — Christian author Sane Claiborne will speak at the Travis Park United Methodist Church on April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The event — the first lecture in the Justice In Action Speaker Series for 2007 — is free and open to the public.

Claiborne, the author of "The Irresistible Revolution-Living as an Ordinary Radical," will speak on "What Would Jesus Really Do?"

Claiborne is one of the founding members of The Simple Way, an organization that lives among and serves the homeless in Kensington, Pa., in an effort to end pov-

erty. He has worked with Mother Teresa, spent time in Iraq, and has committed his life to working alongside the poor.

The lecture will take place at the church at 230 E. Travis St.

For more information on Claiborne and the lecture, visit the websites for The Simple Way and Travis Park or call Travis Park at (210) 226-8341.

**INFO**  
The Simple Way  
[www.thesimpleway.org](http://www.thesimpleway.org)  
Travis Park  
[www.travispark.org](http://www.travispark.org)

## Foundation Unveils Online Memorial To Iraq Veterans

LOS ANGELES — The next generation of memorials for fallen U.S. servicemen and women have arrived.

The first-ever online living memorial to fallen servicemen and women was unveiled on the eve of the fourth anniversary of the Iraq War.

This memorial consists of 60-second video testimonies sent in from around the country by family, friends, co-workers, and the military colleagues of those killed.

The Iraq Veterans Memorial can be seen online at ([iraqmemorial.org](http://iraqmemorial.org)) and at other websites that host the video memorial via YouTube.

The convener of the project — the Brave New Foundation — says that it was inspired by the AIDS Quilt, the Vietnam memorial, and The New York Times biographies of the 9/11 victims.

"No matter what you think about the war, the memorial

is a place to honor the brave men and women who have been killed in Iraq serving our nation," said filmmaker Robert Greenwald, who brainstormed the project.

The Foundation took two months in setting up the memorial with Iraq veterans groups.

West Point graduate Marc Porterfield said he participated in the memorial "because of the community that will build from it and the access people will have to see the humanity behind the numbers of those who were killed in Iraq."

"My father was killed in Vietnam. His name is on the Wall in DC. With this type of memorial I can access it from anywhere in the world," he said.

**INFO**  
Iraq Veterans Memorial  
[www.iraqmemorial.org](http://www.iraqmemorial.org)

  
**THE LONE STAR**  
**ICONOCLAST**  
**SUBSCRIBE TODAY**  
**CALL 254-675-3634**

  
**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 420  
CRAWFORD, TX 76638  
**T-Shirt Order Form** # shirts: \_\_\_\_\_  
 S \_ M \_ L \_ XL \_ XXL \_ XXXL \_ x \$19.95 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ + s/h: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ = Total: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ Cash / Check  
 Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Visa / MasterCard  
 American Express  
 Shipping & Handling: 1

# March Honoring César Chávez Set Saturday

SAN ANTONIO — The 11th Annual César Chávez March for Justice is scheduled for Saturday, March 31 in San Antonio.

The march will take place from the Westside to the Alamo in celebration of the life and legacy of the late civil rights leader, César Chávez.

Participants are expected to

assemble for a program at Plaza Avenida Guadalupe (1321 El Paso) at 11 a.m. The march to the Alamo will follow at 1 p.m.

This event is co-sponsored by the City of San Antonio and features parade grand marshal, Rita Chávez, elder sister of César Chávez; guest of honor, entertainer and television per-

sonality Johnny Canales; and youth student grand marshal, Claudia Sanchez.

A community health/wellness fair with information tables at Avenida Guadalupe, and a choir will be singing at both the assembly program and the ending rally.

The day before the march, a

documentary film on the life of Chávez will be held at Central Library Auditorium, 600 Soledad St., at 6:30 p.m.

A panel discussion moderated by Gabriel Quintero Velasquez will follow along with a commemorative poster signing by artist Mary A. Rodriguez.

For more information on the march, contact Jaime Martinez or visit the Chávez Foundation's website.

**INFO**  
Martinez  
(210) 842.9339  
IUEORG@aol.com  
[www.sachavezfoundation.org](http://www.sachavezfoundation.org)

# U.S. Jews Form New Anti-War Organization

## — 77 Percent Of American Jews Oppose Iraq War: Poll —

LOS ANGELES — A new Jewish group made up of scholars is taking a stand to end the U.S.-led war in Iraq, arguing that the conflict has empowered the Islamic Republic of Iran and thereby endangered its long-time foe — the Jewish state of Israel.

This organization — Jews Against the War (JAW) — was launched on the fourth anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, following a Gallup poll showing that 77 percent of Jewish Americans believe the Iraq War was a mistake.

This figure runs counter to the sentiment of a majority of pro-Israel institutions that have remained silent on officially endorsing the war while subtly expressing support for the Bush administration in a number of ways.

For example, six thousand delegates of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee cheered during a pro-war speech given by President George W. Bush at its May 2004 policy conference.

The American Jewish Committee also sent a note of congratulations to the U.S. president in December 2005 on elections in Iraq.

The emails released by Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish American Organizations provided copious links to arguments favoring the war.

The reason given for this institutional silence is out of respect for the Bush administration, which is seen as a staunch supporter of Israel and a strong force in pressuring Iran to stop building an alleged nuclear-weapons program.

Iran has denied such allegations, noting the program is for civilian energy purposes. Experts say that it would take at least a decade for Iran to produce a nuclear weapon.

Referring to President Bush, Abraham Foxman, national director of the Anti-Defamation League told the Jerusalem Post: "If we want to be tough on

Iran, we can't tie his hands on Iraq."

Some of these institutions, however, had expressed support for unseating Iraq's late president, Saddam Hussein, after his missile attacks at Israel during the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Jewish-American grassroots support for the war began to unravel when evidence of weapons of mass destruction turned out to be wrong.

Rabbi Joshua Levine Grater of the Pasadena Jewish Temple and Center in California said in JAW's press release that many pulpits rabbis — like himself — avoided publicly speaking against the war out of fear for dividing their congregations.

"But, like the prophets of Israel, I can no longer take the 'safe' road. This war is wrong, and it needs to end," Rabbi Grater said. "As a student of Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, I can no longer be silent on the war in Iraq."

"Our country's moral voice in the world has vanished under the weight of torture, secret tribunals and occupation; our beloved Israel is in greater danger now, with Iran emboldened; and our nation's budget has been sacked, in large part to fund this war," he added.

JAW is calling for Jewish rabbis and leaders to support bills that de-fund the Iraq war such as HR 508 (Lee, Woolsey, and Waters) and S 448 (Feingold, Boxer, and Leahy).

JAW's views are shared at least in part by the Reform and Reconstructionist movements of the Jewish faith.

Both the executive committee of the Union of Reform Judaism and the Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association last week backed a U.S. troop withdrawal.

A group of academics called Jewish Analysts Investigating Peace and Conflict (JAIPC) released a letter warning AIPAC and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert that an attack on Iran would endanger Israel.

"Most experts predict that an

assault on Iran will produce immediate retaliation against U.S. and British troops in the region, attacks on shipping in the Straits of Hormuz, sharp increases in the worldwide prices of oil and gas, and an explosion of violence against Israel, Jews, and United States interests around the globe," said the letter entitled "The New Pro Is-

rael: Mutually Assured Survival."

It continued, "Israel could be subject to missile attacks by Iran or Hezbollah, and the war could become regional, spiraling out of control. The continuing toll of innocent life will play into extremists' hands, creating another generation of anti-American, anti-Israel terrorists,

motivating attacks here and abroad."

For an online copy of the JAIPC letter "The New Pro Israel: Mutually Assured Survival," visit the website for Democracy Rising.

**INFO**  
JAIPC letter  
<http://democracyrising.us/content/view/797/164/>

## First Imam To Open State Senate With Prayer April 4

AUSTIN — The first Muslim Imam will open the Texas Senate with an Islamic prayer on Wednesday, April 4, at 11 a.m.

The prayer will be made by Imam Dr. Yusuf Kavakci, who has been serving Muslim community in the Dallas-Ft. Worth for nearly 20 years as the Chief Resident Scholar at the Islamic Association of North Texas.

Imam Kavakci will be welcomed by the chairman of the Texas Education Committee, Senator Florence Shapiro,

along with Lt Governor David Dewhurst.

This historic event will be broadcasted live over the State Legislature's website.

To show their support, Texas Muslims will congregate in the Senate Gallery at the State Capitol.

This congregation is being promoted in part by CAIR-Texas and the Freedom and Justice Foundation.

Other attendees will include Texas's largest faith-based or-

ganizations, such as Texas Impact, BGCT's Christian Life Commission, Texas Conference of Churches, Texas Islamic Council.

Collectively, these organizations represent almost 12 million Texans.

For more information, visit the website for the Free and Justice Foundation.

**INFO**  
FJF  
[www.freeandjust.org](http://www.freeandjust.org)

# American Red Cross Needs Platelet Donors

WACO — The American Red Cross Blood Services - Southwest Region, Texas area needs local residents to donate platelets at the Waco Red Cross Blood Center, located at 4224 Cobbs Drive, in Waco.

Weekly, the Red Cross is faced with fewer platelet products needed for local hospitals and patients. Each week, about 200 platelet donors are needed in the Red Cross Texas area.

• Platelets aid in the clotting process to prevent or stop bleeding, and are vital for heart surgeries, leukemia and cancer patients, burn victims, and many other hos-



pital patients.

• Platelets have a lifespan of only five days, compared to blood with a lifespan of 42 days.

• A platelet donation takes about two hours.

• Donors are needed throughout the week and weekends. The Red Cross is open on the weekends. A healthy platelet supply is a vital part of our community and so the Red Cross is reaching out to the entire community to make sure that platelets are available for local hospitals and patients in need.

Hours of operation are: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, from 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.; Tuesdays and Thursdays, noon to 5:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Apheresis Recruiter Shannon Story, 1-800-908-8056; or 469-341-1050.

## Texas Farm Bureau Steps Up Opposition To Trans-Texas Corridor

WACO — Texas' largest farm organization is once again describing the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC) as a disaster for farming and ranching operations that lie in the potential path of the TTC and a major mistake for Texas itself.

The Texas Farm Bureau is also discovering that there are many allies in opposing the massive highway project, some of them members of the Texas Legislature.

"Our members are overwhelmingly opposed to the Trans-Texas Corridor," says TFB President Kenneth Dierschke, a grain and cotton farmer from San Angelo. "There's never been any doubt that the impact on agriculture would be negative, but now we see a growing number of people who believe the TTC would be bad for all of Texas."

Dierschke says Texas Farm Bureau agrees with that sentiment, citing the lack of transparency in developing the TTC, non-compete clauses in the contract with the Spanish company that proposes to build the roads and potential lost revenues for the state.

Several bills in the Legislature are aimed at addressing the growing concerns of legislators concerning the TTC, which seems at least slightly less inevitable than during previous sessions.

Brenham State Representative Lois W. Kolkhorst has filed several bills, two of which are getting some attention. HB1881 is written to kill the TTC by removing it from the statutes.

The second bill, HB2772, seems to have more momentum. It would establish a two-year moratorium on the use of private equity comprehensive development agreements. This means outside entities would be prohibited from buying the rights to build and operate toll roads in Texas and keep the resulting revenues. Kolkhorst's bill currently has 105 house co-sponsors.

Jacksonville Senator Robert Nichols is carrying an identical bill in the Senate, with 27 of 31 state senators currently listed as co-sponsors.

"It's a prohibition, for a 24-month period, for any governmental entity in the state of Texas to enter into a tolling agreement with a private entity," Nichols said. "It prohibits them from selling an existing toll road to a private entity in that same period of time."

Nichols, a former member of the Texas Transportation

Commission, is also concerned that Cintra-Zachry, the Spanish company slated to build the TTC, has inserted "non-compete" clauses in the contracts, meaning that competing toll roads could not be built in Texas for decades. Kolkhorst, Nichols, and State Senator John Carona have filed bills to address that concern.

Many members of the Legislature are agreeing with farmers and rural landowners that the TTC is not in the best interests of Texas.

State Senator John Carona of Dallas, chairman of the Senate Transportation and Homeland Security Committee, sees the TTC at the center of a gathering

storm of public opposition. He believes that the Corridor as originally conceived will never be built, with the exception of major projects along and near I-35.

"Pieces of the Corridor will be built over the years ahead," Carona said. "They are the pieces that would have been built anyway, such as State Highway 130 in Austin, but not four football fields across."

Carona added that the eminent domain usage currently envisioned for the TTC cannot be justified. "This is not the solution to our mobility problems," Carona said.

Farm Bureau President Dierschke says the growing op-

## Car Keys Can Be Life-Savers

CLIFTON — Putting the extra car key remote beside the bed at night could be a life-saving habit, say area neighborhood watch coordinators. It's a security alarm system that most people probably already have and requires no installation.

With the remote beside the bed, residents can press the panic button to set off the car alarm when someone is trying to break into the home or just because they've heard a noise.

The horn will continue to sound until either it's turned off or the car battery dies.

This method of setting off the car alarm has been proven to work from most anywhere in the house, whether the car is in the driveway or garage. Testing the alarm from inside the house is a good idea.

Coordinators also encourage residents to carry the car keys while walking to a car parked in a parking lot, allowing use of the car alarm in the same way.

position to the TTC at the state capitol is encouraging.

"The Texas Farm Bureau remains strongly opposed to the

Trans Texas Corridor," Dierschke said.

It's a stance that seems to be catching on.

## Texas Votes NRA-Backed 'Castle Doctrine' Into Law

FAIRFAX, Va. — The Texas State Legislature recently



## Wildflower Hotline Available

AUSTIN — Motorists searching for the best wildflower locations along Texas highways may access the Texas Wildflower hotline 24 hours a day.

Hotline callers may request information by seven regions of the state: Big Bend, Gulf Coast, Hill Country, Panhandle, Piney-Woods (East Texas), Prairies and Lakes (North Central Texas), and Southwest Texas.

The department's wildflower effort is part of a vegetation-management program encouraging the growth of native species that require less mowing and care.

CONTACT: Hotline, 800-452-9292; and <[www.txdot.gov](http://www.txdot.gov)>.

gave final approval to the National Rifle Association (NRA)-backed "Castle Doctrine" bill (SB 378), bringing common sense self-defense protections to law-abiding Texas citizens.

Texas is the first state to pass "Castle Doctrine" legislation this year, making it the 16th state to recognize the importance of victim's rights, says Chris W. Cox,

NRA's chief lobbyist. "Law-abiding citizens now have the choice to defend themselves and their families in the face of attack knowing their decision will not be second-guessed by the State of Texas."

SB 378, sponsored by Sen. Jeff Wentworth (TX-25) with 27 co-authors and the House version of the bill, sponsored by Rep. Joe Driver (TX-113)

with 106 co-authors, states that if a criminal breaks into your occupied home, your vehicle, or your place of business, the victim may use any manner of force against that person and does not have a "duty to retreat."

The bill also provides protection for persons using force authorized by law from liability for injuring their criminal attackers.

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](http://www.lonestaricon.com)





# THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST EDITORIAL Move It Or Lose It

Too much has been made of MoveOn's decision to back the Democratic spending plan on the Iraq war.

Let us not forget that this non-profit organization began its journey on a road of political appeasement.

MoveOn proposed censure as a substitute of impeachment for President Bill Clinton in 1998.

Not a very radical position – *in the slightest*.

But so what if MoveOn is cowing to the Democratic House leadership's \$124 billion spending bill, the military readiness standards, benchmarks for the Iraqi government, and the Aug. 31, 2008, deadline for troop withdrawal from Iraq?

Is every anti-warrior so lacking in self-esteem that they must first kiss the feet of Joan Blades and Wes Boyd before fighting for their own personal beliefs?

Well, the mere fact that anti-warriors are anti-warriors should explain their enthusiasm for whining and defeatism.

Still, some would have you think MoveOn backed a practical political path – that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's bill was the best fight the congressional Democrats could muster against the Bush administration.

Wrong!

Had the House Democratic leadership true grit, it would have fought tooth and nail for the "Bring Our Troops Home and Sovereignty of Iraq Restoration Act of 2007."

This bill mandated that U.S. troops return from Iraq in six months with funds already allocated by Congress and receive full healthcare coverage. It also provided a blueprint for stability in Iraq.

But Pelosi killed it in committee, leaving its framers – Californian Congresswomen Barbara Lee, Maxine Waters, and Lynn Woolsey – out to dry.

Pelosi's alternative bill, which passed the House by six votes last Friday, shows that Congress (especially the Democratic Party) is more concerned with saving its own neck.

They forget about the lives of our troops, the two million Iraqi refugees, the families of the 300,000-plus Iraqi casualties, and American taxpayers and their already financially-burdened grandchildren.

This bill also continues a failed foreign policy that threatens nuclear war with Iran over the Islamic Republic's supposed atomic bomb ambitions.

And so-called progressive activist organizations like MoveOn know this as they distract citizens from persuading their representatives to end the war post haste.

For instance, not enough pressure was placed on President Bush's Congressman Chet Edwards; otherwise the nine-term Democrat would have voted against the continuation of the war.

Now, Iraq has been reduced to an issue of the 2008 U.S. presidential race.

And the U.S. occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan carries on along with the 737 American military bases in over 130 countries around the world.

Unless anti-war activists leave their elitist, clubhouse mindsets behind, forget about peace.

The forces behind the Bush administration are no less worried in their winner's box.

This means: move it or lose it, people.

— Nathan Diebenow

## April Fools' - A Day for Pranks

Sunday, April 1, 2007

**APRIL FOOLS DAY**, a time for pulling harmless pranks on gullible victims, is universally popular. These hoaxes range from subtle stunts pulled on unknowing victims by family and friends to false stories being spread by media organizations in print, on the air, and on the Internet. On this one day of the year, everyone and anyone is considered fair game.

According to *The Old Farmer's Almanac*, the history behind April Fools' Day is a little gray, although many people agree that the tradition began in 1582 when France switched to the Gregorian calendar and moved New Year's Day from March 25 back to January 1. Prior to this change, the New Year's celebration had lasted a full week, from March 25 to April 1. Those who were unaware of the change were called April fools.

In France, the tradition is for children to secretly stick paper fishes on the backs of victims and shout "Poisson d'Avril!" ("April Fish!"). Scots call the holiday "Huntigowk Day" and send people to "hunt the gowk another mile" — a wild goose chase. Worldwide, people seem to dream up mischief on April 1.

In New York City, there has been an April Fools' Day Parade on Fifth Avenue every year since 1986. Media hoaxer Joey Skaggs sends out press



releases detailing each year's theme, and a bevy of camera crews and spectators arrive on the scene to secure a spot. Of course, there's no parade.

In celebration of the jests and jesters everywhere, *The 2007 Old Farmer's Almanac* reports on some of the most famous pranks played over the years. Here are a few:

### Cave of the Treasures

In the mid-1800s, an April Fools' Day article in the Boston Post reported that workmen removing trees from the Boston Common had uncovered a hidden trapdoor leading to a cave filled with treasure. Treasure seekers flocked to the Common, but, alas, no door was found.

### See the Spaghetti Grow

In 1957, the BCC aired a newsreel explaining how the mild winter had produced a higher-than-normal harvest for Swiss spaghetti farmers. Swiss women were shown plucking stands of pasta from trees, while a well-known broadcaster noted that the

disappearance of the "spaghetti weevil" had also boosted growth. The broadcaster noted that years of careful cultivation had allowed the spaghetti to grow to a uniform length. Viewers were so intrigued that they called the BBC and asked where they might buy their own spaghetti bushes.

### Internet Spring Cleaning

A flurry of e-mails warned that the Internet would be out of service for cleaning for 24 hours between March 31 and April 2, 1997. Users were advised to disconnect all devices. This was an updated version of an old phone joke, in which customers were instructed to place bags over phone receivers to catch dust blown out during phone line cleaning.

*The Old Farmer's Almanac* is one of several publications published by Yankee Publishing of Dublin, New Hampshire.

The Almanac family of products also includes several themed calendars for 2007.

Folks who can't find *The 2007 Old Farmer's Almanac* where books and magazines are sold can order individual copies or subscriptions at [Almanac.com](http://Almanac.com) (where you can also find articles on a variety of Almanac topics, recipes, trivia, and a unique home-page personalization option) or by calling 800-223-3166.

# SMU Land-Grab Hijinks Fitting For Bush Legacy

BY BETH FREED

SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

DALLAS — If SMU lands the Bush Presidential Package (library, partisan policy institute and “historical” museum included), it will be nothing but appropriate.

So far, the private, faith-based university is the most prominent and openly acknowledged final contestant in a race to win the \$200-500 million-dollar Package. The privately built but publicly funded project would go down as the priciest presidential library ever built.

However, the biggest challenge that SMU has faced to winning the Package has been its lack of property. Other earlier contestants University of Dallas, Baylor, and Texas Tech all had substantial acreage to offer. Since the early 2000s, SMU has snatched up surrounding land, including the Mrs. Baird’s Bread Factory and Park Cities Plaza, which houses the neighborhood Le Madeleine and Barnes & Noble.

Their acquisition of the University Terrace condominiums, perceived as back-handed and coercive by many former residents, seemed to be the final straw, though. Former property owner Gary Vodicka is suing SMU and Peruna Properties, a realty offshoot company formed by the university, for improperly seizing the property in order to secure land for the proposed Package site.

However, with the latest decision by Magistrate Judge Paul Stickney to suspend the hearing, originally scheduled for Thursday, March 22, so he can review materials, Vodicka will have to sit tight and hope the judge will hear both sides of the case.

Filled with elderly folks and students, the condominiums had long been a safe haven to the less than economically blessed in upscale Highland Park. SMU began strategically purchasing units in 1998, when Bush was still the governor of this proud state.

Vodicka also alleged that the school filled the condos with students who were particularly reckless and disruptive, while neglecting routine maintenance to force residents out. When SMU employees stacked the homeowner’s association, they ruled that the complex was “uninhabitable,” forcing residents out.

Apparently, \$12 to 18 million was more than SMU was willing to invest to make the apartments inhabitable. The school offered property owners below-market value prices for their

## GUEST COMMENTARY

homes, according to Vodicka. Many elderly residents, who had no family or resources to defend themselves, meekly accepted the sums and moved into nursing homes, said Vodicka.

“To acquire the land to build the Bush Library, they have breached numerous legal obligations, they’ve intimidated, misrepresented things, kicked old people out of their homes,” said Vodicka, according to a *NEW YORK SUN* story. “It’s amazing to see how ruthless a Christian university can be.”

At first, SMU officials claimed that the land grab had nothing to do with the half-billion dollar proposed Bush Package. They suggested that the site might be used for intramural fields. However, they have since admitted that the land would likely be used in the complex. The questions posed by locals — What about traffic and parking? — have apparently fallen by the wayside.

According to a *DALLAS OBSERVER* column by Jim Schutze, the SMU board discussed the strategy of buying 75 percent of the condos at University Terrace in order to gain a majority of seats on the homeowners association at a 1998 board meeting (when Cheney was still on the board of trustees, incidentally). (Turner had denied the knowledge earlier.) Turner was asked under oath if anyone at that meeting had remembered the Biblical verse: “Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor’s house.”

His response? “It was never discussed in that, because as we have discussed before, there is always an argument on decisions that have ethical implications to them. And the question is, is it ethical for the institution, for SMU not to try to look for the betterment of its future? Is it ethical to not be responsible toward opportunities that the university will need in the future? *And so the ethics of how one proceeds in a situation is always within the boundaries and the end points of view in terms of what is ethical.*” (emphasis added)

Katherine Griffin, the daughter of the owners of Park Cities Plaza, said that her family finally sold in 2005 after battling four years of litigation from SMU, including an allegation that they posed an environmental hazard to the community. Griffin said that the risk actually came from the abandoned bread factory, which SMU knew was contaminated when they purchased it.



“SMU has unlimited resources in terms of money, lawyers and time; they have weight to throw around,” she said. “Bush fancies himself an entrepreneur and business man, and then threatens to sue people who won’t sell below market price. They tried to shake us out so they could build their half-billion-dollar pyramid.”

Griffin stressed that these moves have seriously disrupted people’s lives. She hopes that other elderly former condo owners will sign onto Vodicka’s suit as a class action, but suspects that their memories of historical state intimidation (by the IRS, for example) might prevent them from doing so. Griffin said that she believes SMU is trying to prevent the issue from going to trial, because if a jury voted on it, they would vote in favor of the residents.

“What are they thinking? ‘Oh

yeah, we screwed the old ladies out of their homes?’” she wondered out loud. “They’re bullies. I’m conservative, and I’m appalled at their shabby behavior. It makes me wonder how they’re running other parts of this administration.”

Yves Gerem, a resident with a small family that emigrated from Eastern Europe, reported that the years SMU spent forcing everyone out were the most stressful years of his life.

“I did not expect from any institution of higher learning to get this kind of treatment,” he said, according to his written deposition for the lawsuit. “I escaped from communist country, literally escaped, to come to this kind of treatment? I don’t think so. And I was absolutely determined that, you know, I will not accept the original SMU price, even if I had to die.”

Much of the Bush Package

will be located on those sacrificial grounds, and the bloody legacy of the Bush presidency couldn’t be more complete.

The Package itself has also embroiled the university in controversy.

According to a report by the *NEW YORK DAILY NEWS*, “Bush loyalists have already identified wealthy heiresses, Arab nations, and captains of industry as potential ‘mega’ donors and are pressing for a formal site announcement — now expected early in the new year.. The rest of the cash will come from donors willing to pony up \$25,000 to \$5 million.”

A group of Methodist ministers began an online petition against the library, which has amassed more than 10,000 signatures. Visit [ProtectSMU.org](http://ProtectSMU.org) to sign the petition. Susanne Johnson, a full-time faculty

Continued On Next Page

Ads In The Iconoclast Pull, Too!

**GIVE US A TRY!**  
**(254) 675-3634**

THE LONE STAR  
**ICONOCLAST**

# SMU Land-Grab Hijinks Fitting For Bush Legacy

From Previous Page

member, helped circulate a petition on campus to hold a referendum on the policy institute.

The faculty senate voted against allowing a non-binding, faculty-wide vote on the Package. A resolution to separate the university from the conservative think tank proposed by the library selection committee failed with a tie vote. The senate did pass a resolution to make sure that faculty members with dual appointments to the institute and the university would be paid separately for their work by each institution.

The South Central Jurisdiction of the United Methodist Church recently voted to approve the leasing of SMU's newly acquired land (and some old property to) for the Bush Package.

When the Package goes to SMU instead of Baylor, University of Dallas, or Texas Tech, it won't be any huge surprise. For one thing, the Bushes have purportedly scoped out some property in the exclusive Park Cities for their post-White House years.

And First Lady Bush received her education degree there in 1968, and currently sits on the board. Vice President Dick Cheney served as a trustee from 1996 until 2000. Former White House talking head Karen Hughes received her bachelor's from SMU (pronounce: *smew*), as did White House counsel Harriet Miers, who is also aiding the library selection committee in its process.

Who composes this selection committee, you want to know? Well, the three co-chairs may (or may not) ring a bell: Don Evans, former secretary of commerce for Bush, Craig Stapleton, a cousin of Dubya's, and Marvin Bush, formerly on the board of directors of Securacom/Stratasec — the company that handled security for both the World Trade Center complex and Dulles airport, where two of the hijacked planes left from on 9/11. He was an advisor to the chairman and a major stockholder on public record there until FY 2000, which ends in September, 2001.

As it happens, White House Chief of Staff Andrew Card, deputy chief of staff and general ne'er-do-well Karl Rove, along with the aforementioned Ms. Miers, are helping the library selection committee push its agenda on the different candidates for the Package.

And we mustn't forget that

SMU's home ZIP, 75205, bordered by Lovers Lane, the Dallas North Tollway, Central Expwy/US-75 and Fitzgugh on

the South, gave the most money to Bush's 2000 presidential campaign. (They came in second in 2004, with a mere \$847,000, roughly.)

Southern Methodist University and University Park better get geared up. It seems almost inevitable that the Package will call the illustrious Dallas, Texas home. (Hardly a safe haven for presidents, but I guess Bush

wanted to test his luck.)

This administration has become infamous for its use of insider information and the good ol' boy network, both here at home and abroad. It seems Dallas would be the perfect home base for that kind of network. So let Bush's Institute for Democracy come to SMU, even if the faculty of the academic institution was denied a vote.

## The Game of Chance

BY ELBERT N. DOSSEY  
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

There's much to be gained from reruns of common sense Western movies, such as "Bonanza" and "Gunsmoke."

A rancher who has a nice spread falls into gambling at the local casino. He doesn't fare too well. He begins to lose consistently and gradually moves into the loss of some valuable possessions. This affects the administration of his entire cattle operation. He sells off some of the herd, increases the mortgage on other assets. Failing to listen to any of his friends, they begin, one by one, to drift away from him. He no longer has any allies. His fences fall down; renegade stock invade the place, degenerating the grassland and water holes, as if they owned the place. Finally, he can't identify his won herd nor see the destruction of many years labor expended in establishing it.

In final desperation - all fluid assets are gone. Without evident rational thought he responds to a self-constructed intuition. In one grand display he takes another gamble by laying all that is left on the entire ranch on the table as a last stake. He looses the game! All hope is gone. Then he comes to the realization that he has been engaged in a game of

### GUEST COMMENTARY

chance all along - competing with the age-old and familiar stacked deck.

By comparison to mastery in a notional endeavor against odds in the Persian Gulf/Middle Eastern region calling for continued American security, involvement is likely to remain for yet an unspecified length of time. Coming from a single political center the subjective level of personal beliefs will continue to lack any political and economic cohesion by any suggested form of domestic policy.

Selvesameness comprising the world of Islam has been despotically set in ageless stone for more than fifteen hundred years. The people themselves are indifferent to a philosophy that fails to demonstrate its principle as a general rule of action. A billion Muslims will not be impressed by a few more troops from a self-assertive nation who lacks authority and respect or global dominance while failing to execute official function of Constitutional law relating to its own political disarray.

The game of chance will run its course — history will record the destiny.



Elbert N. Dossey

## Be Discovered



## USDA Funding Available For Renewable Energy Systems, Improvements

TEMPLE — USDA Rural Development State Director Bryan Daniel says that \$176.5 million in loan guarantees and \$11.4 million in support investments in renewable energy and energy efficiency improvements by agricultural producers and small rural businesses is available.

Renewable energy systems utilizing wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, or hydrogen sources may be purchased. Energy efficiency improvements may include retrofitting lighting or insulation, irrigation, grain dryers, or purchasing or replacing equipment with more efficient units in existing or new replacement facilities.

Loan guarantees cover up to 50 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed \$10 million. Grants are available for up to 25 percent of a project's cost, not to exceed

\$250,000 for energy efficiency improvements and \$500,000 for renewable energy systems.

These loan guarantees and grants are expected to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 0.97 metric tons, replace 821 million barrels of foreign oil and generate almost 2 million kilowatt hours of electricity annually. USDA has funded more than 400 loans and grants since the renewable energy program began in FY 2003.

Applications for grants must be completed and submitted to the Texas USDA Rural Development, Attention Business Programs, 101 S. Main, Suite 102, Temple, TX 76501, postmarked no later than May 18. Deadline for submitting loan applications, as well as for loan and grant combinations, is July 2.

CONTACT: USDA, (254) 742-9780; or [rurdev.usda.gov/tx/](http://rurdev.usda.gov/tx/).

Call (254) 675-3634 Today

[www.lonestaricon.com](http://www.lonestaricon.com)

The Lone Star  
**ICONOCLAST**

# THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

In 1946, I took a trip by ship to Shanghai, China at the pleasure of the U.S. Navy. We sailed out of the Pacific into the East China Sea, then into the mouth of the Yangtze River, past hundreds of sunken ships. Shortly, we turned left to proceed up the Haungpu River towards the city of Shanghai. You could not miss the feeling that you were on the other side of the world.

Anchoring midstream, we were ready for shore leave to see this strange and ancient country. Pulling on our clean and pressed uniforms, we clamored down into liberty boats to motor over to the wharf. Our officers had given us orders on where to and not to go, plus a city map of town.

The first place we headed for was the bank where we could change our U.S. dollars into Chinese yuan. With one U.S. dollar, we could receive bills from one up to 1000 yuan and still have bills left over. We actually had to wait a few minutes for the 500 yuan note as they had run out but were printing new ones. Each bank had their own printing press and those 500 yuan notes were wet with ink when we got them. The exchange rate when we arrived was 2,000 yuan to one U.S. dollar. When we headed back to the states 7-10 days later, it was 3,000 to one.

Back to the states in August, discharged and ready to try college. One evening at the movies, when the news reel came on, they showed a Chinese laborer taking his weekly pay home in a wheelbarrow, stacked high above the top rim with bundles of tied yuan. So inflation was rampant in China with their money almost worthless.

In the early 1900s, the U.S. dollar was worth one dollar against all the other nations monies. Today because of our continual printing of bills, they are worth less than five cents of the 1900 dollar. Does it shock you that we have allowed our money to follow the fate of 1940s China? Where did it all go? How about all the social programs, and the wars in Korea, Vietnam, Afghanistan, plus Iraq 1 and 2. Then don't forget all the foreign aid we've passed out to other nations. All these debts have piled up on us as well as sloppy government spending.

Back in 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt had put a fixed ceiling price on gold at \$35 per ounce. He also closed all U.S. Banks, ordered all citizens to turn in their gold coins or be punished. The average citizen did but many of the rich did not. President Nixon in the 1970s cancelled the exchange of silver certificate dollars for hard silver. Later, the U.S. Mint removed silver in all or most of the coins and replaced it with cheaper metals. No longer is our money backed by gold or silver. It's just paper.

In the 1950s, some U.S. companies were moving their manufacturing to Caribbean and Asian islands such as Puerto Rico and the Philippines for lower labor costs. The next big move was to Mexico and other Latin American countries. Nowadays, most of our manufacturing is done in China, India, and other Asian countries.

Just think of all the U.S. jobs that have been lost to overseas workers. How many people here have lost jobs and cannot find equal paying jobs — except minimum wage work. Where are the leaders of our state and country taking us, and what jobs will our grandchildren have when they grow up to provide for their families?

The countries that now have our manufactur-

ing plants are paid with our dollars which many use to buy our bonds and reap the interest payment. However, due to the declining value of our dollar, many are now exchanging our dollars for Euros which are worth more market-wise than our money. Some are buying other country bonds which pay a higher interest rate. Also, many countries are using our dollars to buy tons of gold to strengthen their treasury.

Back in 1940, the U.S. owned 1/4 of the world's gold. In 1980, we only owned 1/8 of it. All the gold mined in the world amounts to around 138,000 tons. Gold price last week was \$650. A ton would be worth \$20,897,500. So multiply this by the 138,000 tons and you have \$2,925,650,000,000, or \$2.9 trillion dollars. The budget for this year that the President sent to Congress is \$2.9 trillion. So get your checkbook out. We've got a long climb to get out of this hole.

*Fye Dell, Clifton, Texas*

To the Editor:

### "Political Theater"

In reference to your story relating to the passage of the supplementary funding bill requested by the President:

President Bush in a live statement on March 23rd, described the passage of the funding bill by the House as "political theater" within one hour, surrounded by military personnel, veterans and military family members. This spectacle was truly "political theater" obviously having been pre-staged.

The past six years of this administration have been marked by "political theater" perpetrated by a series of untruths to justify the war. The House approved the funding requested and met "its responsibility to support the troops." The President will veto. This is his right but he must accept the sole responsibility for denying the troops support.

He has used the excuses: the need for body armor, repair and replacement of equipment and more troops including support personnel to insure victory. We've been waiting for the children and grand children of Republicans in Congress to volunteer and alleviate the troop shortage. You would think the President who professes so vehemently the absolute need for victory would have his daughters volunteer. Prince Harry will be going to Iraq.

President Bush does not have the commitment he claims. His children will never serve. The acorns don't fall far from the tree!

*Dr. Saul B. Wilen, San Antonio*

## Selective Amnesia

Sometimes I forget where I put my glasses. Sometimes I forget to phone someone I said I'd call. But if I had leaked the identity of a CIA agent or if I had decided to fire some United States attorneys because their politics were different from mine, I wouldn't forget about those things. And I don't think most people would, either. So when public figures keep claiming selective amnesia, we tend not to believe them. This is a serious situation. I'm not just talking about truth becoming more and more rare. I also feel these "forgetful" people are messing things up for the rest of us. If we're going to give less and less credibility to politicians who say "I forgot," pretty soon people will stop believing those of us who sometimes really forget things. It's not fair that a few rotten apples are giving forgetfulness a bad name.

In the Scooter Libby case, Libby's defense team wanted to have a "memory expert" testify in front of the jury. They asserted that she would demonstrate that Libby's flip-flopping on the facts was not a result of his lying, but was because of a faulty memory. However, when the expert, Elizabeth F. Loftus, testified in a pre-trial hearing, she admitted that her studies were not scientific. And at one point, referring to her own writings, she said, "I don't know how I let that line slip by." I guess the memory expert forgot to proof-read her work.

The judge ruled that the jurors were capable of distinguishing between lying and forgetfulness without hearing from a memory expert. Obviously, because of their eventual verdict, the jury thought the claims of faulty memory were bunk.

In the recent firing of the eight United States attorneys, the "I don't remember" monster raised its ugly head again. According to White House Press Secretary Tony Snow, "At this juncture, people have hazy memories." This is from the guy who's supposed to spin things to make his bosses look as good as possible, and the best he could come up with was "hazy memories?"

Snow went on to say, "We know that Karl [Rove] recollects Harriet [Miers] having raised it [firing U.S. Attorneys], and his recollection is that he dismissed it as not a good idea." Snow added that as far as ordering the firings him-



### Modern Times

By Lloyd Garver

self, President Bush "certainly has no recollection" of doing so.

Notice he didn't say that anybody denies anything. They just don't remember. I'm not saying I know that these people did something wrong. But I know that with all these claims of cloudy memories, they are definitely losing credibility about what they did and why.

And there is another "red flag" about their claims. It's the word, "recollect." When I hear that word, I get suspicious. Who uses "recollect" today besides people who have just talked to their lawyers? We don't hear things like, "You'll have to drive today. I didn't recollect to bring my car keys."

Like I said before, politicians overusing the "I can't remember" excuse are blowing it for the rest of us. Pretty soon, if we say things like, "I completely forgot that we were having an eight o'clock meeting this morning," what boss is going to believe that? Now if we say, "Sorry, I forgot to pick up the milk on my way home," we may get a rolling of the eyes from our spouse. But soon, we'll be called a liar for making a claim like that. And I wouldn't advise anyone to say something like, "I forgot that tonight was supposed to be a special night just for the two of us."

Let me make it clear that I don't think claiming bad memory is strictly a Republican maneuver. If the Democrats had been in power for the last several years and been involved in some shady things, they probably would be using the "I can't remember" excuse today. At least I think they would. It's been so long since they were running the country that I really can't recollect what they were like.

*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 can be reached at [lloydgarver@yahoo.com](mailto:lloydgarver@yahoo.com)*

**READERS:**  
Place Your  
**ADVERTISING**  
Message In A Newspaper  
That Is.....

**...Fiercely Independent!**

**ICONOCLAST**

[www.lonestaricon.com](http://www.lonestaricon.com)

# Texas Reb Goes On Daredevil Mission

With 11 days left in the Civil War, the manacled Confederates filed into a Canadian courtroom on March 29, 1865, to find out

whether they would be set free or tried by the Yankees as common criminals.

Desperate times demanded

desperate deeds, and by October 1864 southerners were willing to take any risk that might turn the tide. Since the fall of Vicksburg

and Lee's loss at Gettysburg in the summer of 1863, the war had become one long retreat.

Several secret plots were hatched only to be abandoned at the last minute. The most ambitious by far was the Northwest Conspiracy, a scheme to liberate thousands of prisoners-of-war from a camp outside Chicago and then to seize the city. But Union spies uncovered the plan, and the sudden appearance of enemy reinforcements caused the conspirators to call the whole thing off.

The hundreds of volunteers that waited in Canada for the signal to attack Chicago returned to their units. However, a handful of plainclothes Confederates stayed behind to execute an alternate plan.

Like their leader, Lt. Bennett Young, every member of the 20-man contingent save one was under the age of 24 and hailed from Kentucky. The sole exception was a 38 year old cowboy from the Lone Star State named Joe McGrorty. For daredevil missions behind enemy lines, there was always room for a crazy Texan.

Posing as genteel tourists on a hunting vacation, the Rebel agents quietly surfaced in St. Albans, Vermont 20 miles from the Canadian border. Though the strangers' quaint accents attracted considerable attention, the townspeople paid them little mind.

The afternoon of Oct. 19, 1864, the underground group gathered in a hotel room for a final briefing. Small squads would simultaneously loot St. Albans' three fat banks, while their comrades kept the curious at bay.

Armed with 44 caliber pistols and bottles of "Greek fire," a primitive version of the Molotov cocktail, the raiders emerged from the hotel at precisely three o'clock. Lt. Young shouted from the village green, "I take possession of this town in the name of the Confederate States of America!"

Two of the withdrawals went smoothly, but the third encountered foolish resistance. A burly customer tackled a robber but quickly turned loose, when Joe McGrorty stuck his huge revolver in the man's ear.

After stuffing \$208,000 into satchels, the guerrillas ran to their waiting horses. On the way out of town, they traded shots with irate locals.

A stray bullet struck an innocent bystander, who later died from the wound. Ironically the lone fatality was also the only known southern sympathizer in St. Albans.

The Rebs reached the border well ahead of a hurriedly organized posse and split into three

This Week  
In Texas  
History

By Barte Haile



groups. Canadian lawmen soon captured eight riders, but the rest made a clean getaway with most of the loot.

Secretary of state William Seward demanded the immediate extradition of the fugitives to the United States for prosecution on bank robbery charges. Sensitive to the tremendous popularity of the secessionists in Canada, the central government at Ottawa refused the request citing British recognition of the Confederacy as a nation in good standing.

Cheering crowds greeted the Rebs in Montreal, site of the extradition hearings. The prisoners enjoyed scrumptious cuisine and expensive wines supplied by their French-speaking fans.

With their very lives at stake, the Confederates spoke in their own defense. When his turn came to address the court, McGrorty said simply but from the heart, "I am a soldier. I fight for my people wherever they send me."

Ruling in favor of the eight heroes, the judge denied the request for extradition and ordered their release. However, political pressure from Washington proved too much for the prime minister, who nullified the ruling and told the courts to take another look at the controversial case.

During the tense proceedings, the prosecutor condemned the St. Albans raid as a vicious attack against "an unarmed town far from hostilities." Leaping to his feet, the defense counsel argued that the United States not the Confederacy was guilty of aggression against helpless women and children. Had not his learned adversary heard of Sherman's march through Georgia?

Thunderous applause drowned out gavelled pleas for order as spectators gave the attorney and his popular clients a standing ovation. It was, as they still say in Texas, all over but the shouting.

That happened in the last days of March 1865, which coincided with the last days of the Confederacy. A second Canadian judge as courageous as the first decreed, "The prisoners cannot be extradited," and Joe McGrorty came home to Texas.

"Outlaws & Lawmen" - "Best of This Week in Texas History" Vol. VI is \$10.95 plus \$3.25 postage and handling from Barte Haile, P.O. Box 152, Friendswood, TX 77549 or buy online at [www.twith.com](http://www.twith.com).

## Boomer Battles, Part III

In the last two columns, I was writing about fighting the good fight, staying fit and healthy throughout our lifetimes. Unfortunately, this includes giving up or limiting things we previously enjoyed (like anything we like to eat). The last column became too long, so I divided it. Here is the second half.

Most carbs are now a thing of my past. It's been easy to give up almost entirely foods like potatoes (even French fries, of which I was never a big fan. I know, I know: It's almost un-American). I can also easily turn my back on pizza, pasta, white rice, and processed foods like sweet rolls and donuts. Potato chips are a sometimes treat. Fried foods barely pass my lips. The only bread I eat (sparingly, usually once a week — or even less) is my own homemade Challah — or the occasional hamburger bun. And with the latter, I try to throw half away with the bag in which it arrived. Yes, I admit I'll do an occasional fast food burger. It's part of my childhood! I try to limit visits to all-you-can-eat buffets.

A friend shared his weight control secret when visiting restaurants. Order a to-go box right to be delivered with the meal. Place half the food in the box. Enjoy the half that's left. Take the to-go box home for another meal.

And this business about good carbs and bad carbs; I'm not sure I buy it. If I have the choice of eating a piece of fruit I'm not crazy about and a piece of chocolate I love, I'll go for the chocolate every time. Calories are calories, if you ask me. But I'm no expert.

I drain the fat off our soups and stews (much to Zack's chagrin). I use less butter (much to Zack's chagrin). We use low sodium, lite salt. But we probably use twice as much. We use light mayo.

I usually eat a cup of yogurt a day, but I haven't noticed any terribly beneficial results to my gastrointestinal tract. The yogurt contains about as many calories as the same amount of lowfat ice cream. Frankly, I don't see why I can't substitute the ice cream. It would be a lot more fun. Again, 100 calories is 100 calories. Isn't it? And I have to swallow a Lactaid pill before either one.

I should probably cut both ice

### Rustic Ramblings

By Dr. Gene Ellis



Gene Ellis, Ed.D. is a Bosque County resident who returned to the family farm after years of living in New Orleans, New York and Florida. She is an artist who holds a doctoral degree from New York University and is writing a book about the minor catastrophes of life.

cream and yogurt from my diet even though we heard a few decades ago about those yogurt eating folks in or near Russian Georgia living into their hundreds. I don't think their yogurt contained all this sugar. It was the sour kind I used to make from scratch for my father. If you're strong enough to eat that stuff on a regular basis, you're definitely tough enough to live into your hundreds.

I've broken down and will occasionally use Splenda artificial sweetener. Normally I don't like anything artificial. The experts will probably decide somewhere down the road, as they have in the past with other sweeteners, that this one, too, might cause cancer in lab rats. (But let's face it, if you inject enough of any substance into a lab rat, it would probably cause cancer).

I still refuse to drink diet sodas. Frankly, I'd rather have water. I've even given up my beloved caffeine free Dr Pepper, except on special occasions. FYI: Jelly Bellies come in a Dr Pepper flavor. Smaller package, less calories and sugar. If you can limit yourself to just a few. If Dr Pepper starts producing a diet drink with Splenda, I just might try it.

And speaking of caffeine, I gave that up long ago and never missed it.

Vitamins and supplements aren't the only things people my age try to add to or subtract from their diets. Now we're told we should include more fiber, less sugar, and no trans fats.

There was a fake fat product engineered a year or so ago that appeared in chips and other foods. The idea of eating all those forbidden foods and having the harmful fat calories go right through us without adding an ounce was so very tempting. Fake fat was sure to be a hit but for one minor detail; the possibility of "anal leakage" — printed prominently on the package — kept most of us from giving it a shot. Fake fat got my

vote that year for the food industry's biggest joke).

Egg yolks are now mostly taboo, as are cream, butter, and fatty meats. I still can't get Zack to eat much chicken (unless it's fried, which negates the benefit of chicken over red meat). A beef man is a beef man.

Oatmeal each morning may lower cholesterol. Bran cereal may do the same. Lately I've been having oatmeal a lot, and I've got to say, it's getting pretty dang boring, even with the Splenda and fat-free, lactose-free milk. If my cholesterol doesn't go down soon, the oatmeal's out the window.

Recently, I heard a news item claiming that a daily intake of two ounces of alcohol is recommended for women, slightly more for men. (But go over the limit and instead of benefiting one's health, alcohol has the opposite effect. There's always a catch).

In my continuing pursuit of good health in middle age, I've tried my best to find an alcoholic beverage I enjoy well enough to include in my daily routine, to give me that magic two ounces. I never was a big drinker. My vice was always chocolate. With my penchant for sweets, I thought perhaps a cordial or liquor would be just the ticket. But like Goldilocks tasting Little Bear's porridge, these were tooooooo sweet.

Beer and wine put me to sleep. Anything stronger knocks me out as well or renders me silly and stupid. (A friend pointed out to me that this was the whole point). And I haven't found anything that really tastes as good as, say, a piece of dark chocolate, calorie for calorie. I tried the Bailey's product that's reminiscent of chocolate with a hint of caramel, but it contains the very cream I choke down oatmeal to counteract. And the alcohol content is so low in such beverages that I'd need to drink a ton of the stuff to get enough for the claimed benefit. The sugar and calories would be enormous.

I'm thinking of just throwing a couple of shots of single malt scotch every morning into some high fiber, bran cereal or oatmeal, laced with niacin, calcium, two baby aspirin, fish oil, and other beneficial vitamins and minerals. That should cover all my bases.

## What's The Problem With Politicians?

The problem with politicians is that too often you have to fight them to get them to do the job the voters hired them to do in the first place — **to protect and to serve in the best interests of the community at-large.**

Think about it! That's how it should be.

Now for how it is...

Taxpayers seem to have to fight for everything. We often are manipulated, abused and overcharged. We are told what to do when we should be able to choose for ourselves and NOT told what to do what we need intelligent and reality-based guidance.

Here are some of the Texas issues that highlight the tragic scenario of most political events:

- Texans pay the highest home insurance premiums in the nation

- Texas Public School are at the bottom of the list of worse state schools

- Texas teachers are near the bottom of least pay in the nation

- Home property taxes are astronomically high — the highest proportionately in the nation

- Texas leadership has been seriously neo-fascist in its role of managing the state — we are being led by the leash

- Gov. Perry, TxDOT and many legislators have been pushing for toll taxes throughout the state when they are NOT needed

- Health care is unaffordable

- Higher education degrees are unaffordable

- Millions of us are without jobs when we want to work

- Government agencies, e.g., TxDOT are sitting on tax dollars they already collected

- The state wants to de-regulate their special interest industries while regulating taxpayers/voters

- Legislators have determined social policies that they should not be involved with, e.g., gay marriages, relationships and adoptions

- Gov. Perry decides to use his Executive Authority to tell Texans what to do



### Texas Commentary

By Peter Stern

even when the Constitution does NOT provide him with that authority, e.g. demanding that girl children get vaccinations, etc.

- Why is the state sitting on our over-collected \$14 million in taxes and NOT refunded that money?

- Rights of property owners are NOT protected under Texas law, which give oil companies and others priority over ownership rights.

- These are but a few of political transgressions against the People of Texas by many legislators and/or state officials.

- Until Texans demand more accountability and legal protection by the state, we all continue to be harvested like the crops we are while our children's children continue to pay for our folly of inertia. We must stop being the placid sheep that enables the growing audacity of our leaders and helps to fill their bank accounts.

- Start by contacting your legislators, Office of the Attorney General and County District Attorneys. It is the first step to correcting this ongoing vile display of special interest leadership.

- Take the first step. I already have. I've been writing about these issues for the past 7 years, sending them to officials and sharing them with the community. Thankfully, more of you are listening and thinking about the issues. Now we need to do something to initiate positive change.

- Pick up a phone, write a letter, send an email. Let's work together. Let's create positive change.

*Peter Stern of Driftwood, Texas, <pstern@austin.rr.com>, a former Director of Information Services, university professor and public school administrator, is a political writer well-known and published frequently throughout the Texas community and nationwide. He is a Disabled Vietnam Veteran and holds three post-graduate degrees.*

# Have A Great Depression

The Stock Market Crash of Oct. 29, 1929 is known in history as "Black Tuesday," the day that set the Great Depression into high gear.

In the not-too-distant future historical references to those occurrences will require revision, to be known henceforth as "Black Tuesday '29" and the "Great 20th Century Depression."

Because we are running headlong into another Great Depression — only this one isn't a result of national financial collapse.

Not coincidentally, a huge part of the problem just happens to be widespread vexation over job security and dwindling effective income among the middle class.

Renaming is necessary to distinguish the former event from "Black Tuesday 2000." We all remember what transpired on Nov. 7 that year, when our Government was hijacked, then plundered and raped by some of the most odious, greedy cowards this Planet has ever held in its gravitation pull.

Likewise, that the "Great Depression of the 21st Century" is a horse of a wholly unique color from that other depression must be fully realized.

As a Nation, as a People, we have been under attack from the Neo-con elite for six years, four months, and four weeks.

Throughout the past five years, six months these Fascists have been belching up the mantra of fear in order to hold the reins of control firmly over their submissive herd.

Depending upon which psychiatric/psychological journal or website you consult, there are between 17 million and 34 million Americans who currently suffer from clinical depression. Since 2000 the numbers have seen, the great majority of professionals agree, a significant upward surge.

Mind you, these statistics are based only on those individuals who've been treated for depression; it's impossible to know how many more people are afflicted.

Even counting just the diagnosed, depression stands today as the number one psychological disorder. Despite the general lack of obvious incapacitations, such as flu-like symptoms or inability to walk, it has its own disabling effects.

The depressed person might withdraw from friends and family, losing previous gregarious qualities. There could be an unwillingness to get out of bed until late in the day for no rea-



### Out Of The Blue

By Jerry Tenuto

son, perhaps a tendency to not leave the house.

Depression will quite often have an adverse reaction in the workplace, especially when the sufferer is unhappy about his job. This latter fact alone would be enough to create a downward spiral, as if one felt trapped in a vortex of despair and self-loathing. Such negativity is amplified when there's nobody at work to commune with on a similarly eclectic level.

Someone who is depressed might go through each day lost and alone, feeling pangs of paranoia that all of life's peaks are flukes, while every valley was fate (or some other person) out to get him.

Often times those who are thought of as lazy may not be that way at all. These folks simply cannot get started because they are depressed. So it goes with certain seemingly "mean-spirited" individuals, also.

Depression hurts. It hurts the afflicted. It hurts the family. It hurts friends. It hurts physically as well as emotionally. Its affects are slow, silent and stealth, and they do incalculable damage.

Even with medication the pain doesn't quite subside — only moderates.

Researchers estimate that by 2020 depression will become the second most common disabling condition, right behind coronary diseases.

Who wouldn't be feeling a certain amount of depression with all the West Wing Fascisti have put us through since Black Tuesday 2000?

Two honestly-elected presidents were denied their rightful places.

American voters have been disenfranchised across the board.

We've been lied to, cheated, and stolen from.

Our tax dollars fly out of the Country faster than a cruise missile over Baghdad.

Not one substantial improvement or change to the Nation's infrastructure has been accomplished since 2001 — but Fearless Leader shall have his \$500 million lie-bary and ideological think tank.

There's a "greased pig" who can't get caught at any of his nefarious, un-American activities, running our Nation under

the guise of White House advisor, getting paid a salary from us taxpayers for being a Republican Party political boss. Yet, Herr Oberst Karl Rove never ran for nor ever was elected to any public office.

We're saddled with Dark Lord the Dick Cheney, infamous teller of tall tales. For over five years he's been spinning stories of how Osama bin Laden and his humongous al Qaeda terrorist group are going to invade our shores and take us all out. Week in, week out he regales dunderheaded suckers who buy his dog-and-pony shows that always include some obscure statements Osama made (or most likely didn't make, as if someone's going to fact-check) in 1997 about how he intends to wipe America off the face of the Earth.

This pompous blowhard has made prediction after prediction over the past five-and-a-half years, never coming even close to anything resembling reality. His favorite phrase, "leaving now would show the enemy Americans don't have the stomach for the fight," turns my stomach, considering his five deceptions because Dick *didn't* have the stomach to go to VietNam.

Time and again the Dick has publicly stated he doesn't even consider what the people want, he's going to do as he damn well pleases.

Then there's Condoliar Rice, the most ineffective secretary of state this Nation has ever had, forced upon us when we truly needed someone with know-how, savvy, humility, and, above all, common sense. As Donald Trump said recently to Wolf Blitzer on CNN: "She doesn't know how to make the deal. She gets off the plane, smiles, waves, shakes hands, waves, and gets back on the plane. She isn't a deal-maker."

The Inquisitor General is the biggest single threat to the Constitution the United States has ever faced. Alberto Gonzales hasn't got a clue as to the very basic meaning behind that sacred document or the Bill of Rights. Neither does he comprehend that his function is to protect the citizens of the U.S. from any power mad tyrant who would stand our laws and freedoms on their heads to satisfy his own megalomania.

One of Gonzo's major problems is he couldn't find the truth with both hands if it was nailed to his rump and he was locked in a mirrored circular room with a skylight at noon.

Continued On Next Page

# TENUTO

From Previous Page

Speaking of searching for the truth, let's consider the ever-popular George W. Bush. This guy lied like a rug throughout both his presidential campaigns. He's the most insincere, evasive occupant of the White House since it was erected.

For five years the guy ran roughshod over Congress and the Nation, pushing through bills he wanted passed when he insisted; adding signing statements to bills he had no intention of upholding; slipping clauses into laws at the printshop when nobody was looking, just prior to Congressional votes.

Now, despite the voters having spoken loud and clear, with a 70% popular cry for change, he still makes demands for Congress to do things his way.

He listens to our telephone calls, reads our e-mail and our snail mail. When the more skeptical among us raised red warning flags the West Wing Fascist thugs assured the Nation there would be no abuse of this un-Constitutional, illegal plot. Not only has proof arisen that happened, but it's also gone on for years — unchecked.

We're stuck in a war of Li'l Georgie's personal choice for ego-building (plus his and Cheney's profiteering pals), with hundreds of thousands dying in Iraq over and above the 3,100 and more Americans. This total screw up has cost our children's children's futures — and probably the following generation's as well.

As a result of the Iraq fiasco, we're losing ground in Afghanistan where we should have concentrated our effort.

Still, every Neo-con continues to recite the mantra that Saddam Hussein was a genuine threat to the U.S. Right! Just as pigs have now morphed into wing-bearing, flying creatures.

Fearless Leader and his Lemmings, spurred on by war profiteers — none of whom have a loved one or any other personal interest connected by blood involved in combat operations — repeatedly come up with the same asinine rationalization to endlessly continue the insanity in Iraq.

Rationalization is not justification.

Those who take the Rove/Bush Republican stance, and make at least \$250,000 per annum, will give you the line about how good the economy is doing. We in median income land know this is folly, nothing more than myth perpetuated by the haves and have-mores (or what

Georgie calls his "base").

Got a factory job? Forget about it, because those hulking buildings are shutting down all over the place.

Cars sales are in the dumper. Even if you could afford the payments, there's no guarantee you'll have a job halfway through the 60- to 72-month loan plan.

The Big Three auto manufacturers are responsible for somewhere in the neighborhood of 100,000 layoffs all by themselves!

When was the last time you actually went for a nice meal out — not KFC or pizza?

Your child isn't really learning anything in school because the local district is compelled to ignore a proper curriculum in lieu of standardized tests, lest there be *no child left behind*.

Don't worry about the young'n being functionally ignorant, however, because this Regime has made certain Mr. and Mrs. Joe Middleclass won't be able to afford sending their offspring to even a state university.

When Americans travel outside the U.S., it's become a virtual necessity to pretend we're Canadians because this Fascist Regime has everyone else in the world hating us so much.

Federal prosecutors can't go about their jobs doing the people's work because they're too busy covering themselves from the *Wrath of Rove*, making sure the right politicians (Democrats) get persecuted while shady or downright guilty Republicans are to be given free passes.

When subpoenaed before the Senate, upper echelon Fascisti, such as Herr Rove, are only expected by Executive order to testify *in camera* and sans oath. You and I know that translates into no answers, the people get nothing, and the "greased pig" slips out of everyone's hands once more.

In a pact between Gonzo's DOJ and the Mexican government, U.S. Border Agents were wrongly indicted, convicted and given excessively harsh prison sentences while the drug smuggler accuser, an illegal in our country, was granted total immunity.

Every time gas prices begin to drop a little, the greedy oil companies — friends of the Regime all (except Hugo Chavez' Venezuelan-owned Citgo) — come up with some lame excuse to arbitrarily jack the retail pump costs higher still. They're allowed to get away with screwing us despite public admissions of large reserves.

Regular, everyday life is comprised of enough stressors that can result in clinical depression, be they family, job, finances, or whatever.

Who could avoid being de-

pressed with an Executive Branch that's as *FUBAR* as the RoveBushCheney Fascisti Regime?

We deserve more as human beings than a careless, callous Government that creates, then maintains a state of depression throughout the entire Nation. Such a hubristic attitude of superiority is what makes dictators powerful, while tyranny suppresses human spirit.

It has no place in a Republic.

Nor do the Fascisti occupation force in our White House.

As for my knowledge about depression, well, let's just say I know a guy.

Thus, this week I'm giving myself a break from the daily bombardment of sorties launched upon us, the citizens

of the United States of America. The combination of images of what look more like *stormtroopers* than U.S. soldiers conducting never-ending combat in Iraq plus a Fascist Regime that continually defies the will of the people has worked my nerves to a frazzle.

I'm going to New York City in a private honorarium to my mother's WWII Naval service. While there I shall finally be able to pay my respects, and recharge my staggering vitality, at Ground Zero.

Fear not, this writer's not giving up or in, just refreshing his view.

There are also a couple of brothers, twins, friends from my earliest days in the Army I haven't seen since 1973 with

whom a reunion is way past overdue.

Should you happen to spot me in Manhattan this week, gimme what Rodney Dangerfield used to call "one of these."

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](http://illinoiscentral.blogspot.com)*)

## Surgeon General's Warning: Lose Weight Or Fight A Mountain Lion

Like many of you, I'll never forget where I was when I heard the shocking news that obesity had officially become the No. 1 preventable health crisis in the nation. In fact, I can even tell you which super-sized meal I was eating. The truth is, it's time for us Americans to make some drastic changes in our eating habits before the unthinkable happens, and we're forced to apologize to the French for throwing the earth off its axis.

With that in mind, we scheduled a Q&A session with the Surgeon General to explain how we got so fat, and what we can do to reverse this trend so that Americans can get back to living a normal, healthy lifestyle cut short by smoking and drinking.

**Q:** How did we get so fat?

**SG:** Thousands of years ago, man scavenged for food and lived in dirty enclosures littered with bones and debris — a way of life that can still be observed in many college dorms. The difference was, in prehistoric times, "fast food" was something hairy traveling on all fours. While there are plenty of campus refrigerators filled with hairy food items, in most cases it has



Life Is A  
Funny Place

By Ned Hickson  
*Siuslaw News*

stopped moving by the time it's eaten. Because of this, early man had the distinct health advantage of burning fat in order to obtain food, compared to what many college students burn, which is generally a large Papa Murphy's pizza.

**Q:** Then why do so many college students look so trim?

**SG:** Because their metabolism is still very high. This allows them to continue their bad eating habits without consequence until around age 30, when their metabolism suddenly kicks into reverse and, without warning, starts sucking up fat like an industrial shop-vac.

**Q:** What can we do to break this unhealthy cycle?

**SG:** The problem is that food has become too convenient. It wasn't long ago that Americans were a trim people undaunted by the idea of actually walking into a fast food restaurant and standing in line before being fed. Now,

drive-up windows hand us food sack roughly the size of a Navy sea bag, which we plant between the seats of our oversized SUVs. To break the cycle we must return to our hunter-gatherer roots. How?

**Q:** Hey, that's my line.

**SG:** Sorry.

**Q:** How do we return to our hunter-gatherer roots?

**SG:** We must make our fast food purchases a life-or-death situation by forcing consumers to fight a mountain lion...

**Q:** A mountain lion?!

**SG:** Just a small one.

**Q:** I'm not sure about that idea.

**SG:** Please keep your comments in the form of a question.

**Q:** Fine: Are you nuts?!

**SG:** Hey, each year more Americans are injured by Stairmasters than by mountain lions.

**Q:** (pause) Do you happen to be dieting right now?

**SG:** Sorry... I was hoping it wouldn't be that obvious.

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

Want To See A Past Issue?  
PDF ARCHIVES OF THE ICONOCLAST  
ARE AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT  
[www.lonestaricon.com](http://www.lonestaricon.com)



Susan Morisset and "Snakecharmer"

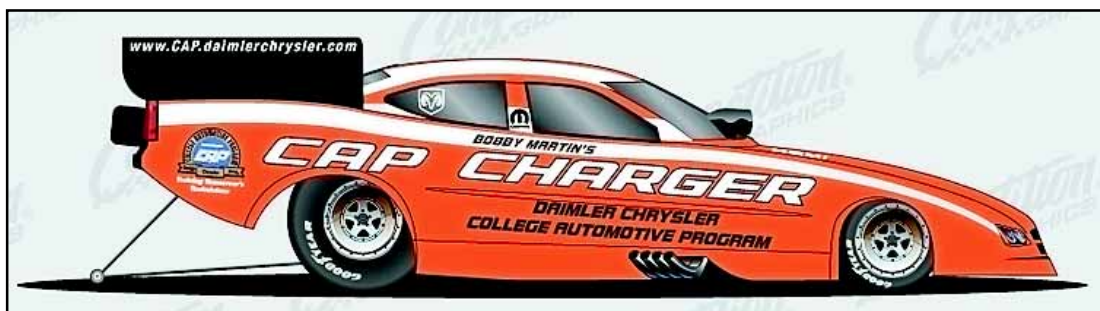
## Area Students To Attend College Preview, Open House

WACO — Crawford students will be among the more than 800 young people attending Texas State Technical College Waco's annual College Preview and Open House, to be held Friday and Saturday, March 30-31, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both days.

College Preview and Open House is an annual event that draws more than 1,000 people from throughout Texas. Busloads of students from local, area, and regional school districts, including Crawford, will attend on Friday from as close as Waco Independent School District to as far away as Victoria and all points in between.

Students, parents, families, and the general public are invited to attend the free event.

Highlights include campus



tours of industry-standard labs and facilities; a free lunch on both days; a free financial aid fair with \$500 in scholarship giveaways, door prizes and nearly two dozen financial lenders; and a free Senior/Parent/Alumni breakfast on Saturday morning.

In addition, National Hot Rod Association driver Bobby Martin

will show off his new 2007 Hemi-orange CAP Dodge Charger Funny Alcohol racecar — it can go from zero to 250 mph in 5.6 seconds flat — on Saturday in the parking lot of the Student Services Center.

He will be joined by former car show and bathing suit model Susan Morisset and her winning custom chopper,

"Snakecharmer," from the Discovery Channel's American Chopper "FANTasy Bike."

Also on Saturday is the SkillsUSA Automotive Club's Car Show, "Biker Blessings" by members of the Waco chapter of the Christian Motorcyclists Association and classic car displays from a number of area car clubs.

No registration is required, but to attend the Senior/Parent breakfast, one must RSVP by Thursday, March 29, by calling 800-792-8784, ext. 2001 or e-mailing <[joann.gray@tstc.edu](mailto:joann.gray@tstc.edu)>.

Texas State Technical College Waco, part of the only state-assisted technical college system in Texas, offers specialized, hands-on instructional courses in over 100 different programs leading to Associate of Applied Science degrees and Certificates of Completion. TSTC Waco also offers classes at the WCJC Fort Bend Technical Center in Richmond and the Texas State Marine Education Center at Palacios.

Visit <[www.waco.tstc.edu](http://www.waco.tstc.edu)> or call (800) 792-8784 or (254) 867-3371 for more information.