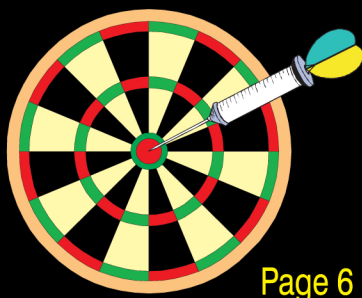


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**This May Be
The Last
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Editorial**



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**Mercury In
Retrograde**



**Toxic To Teeth,
Toxic To The
Environment,
Toxic To
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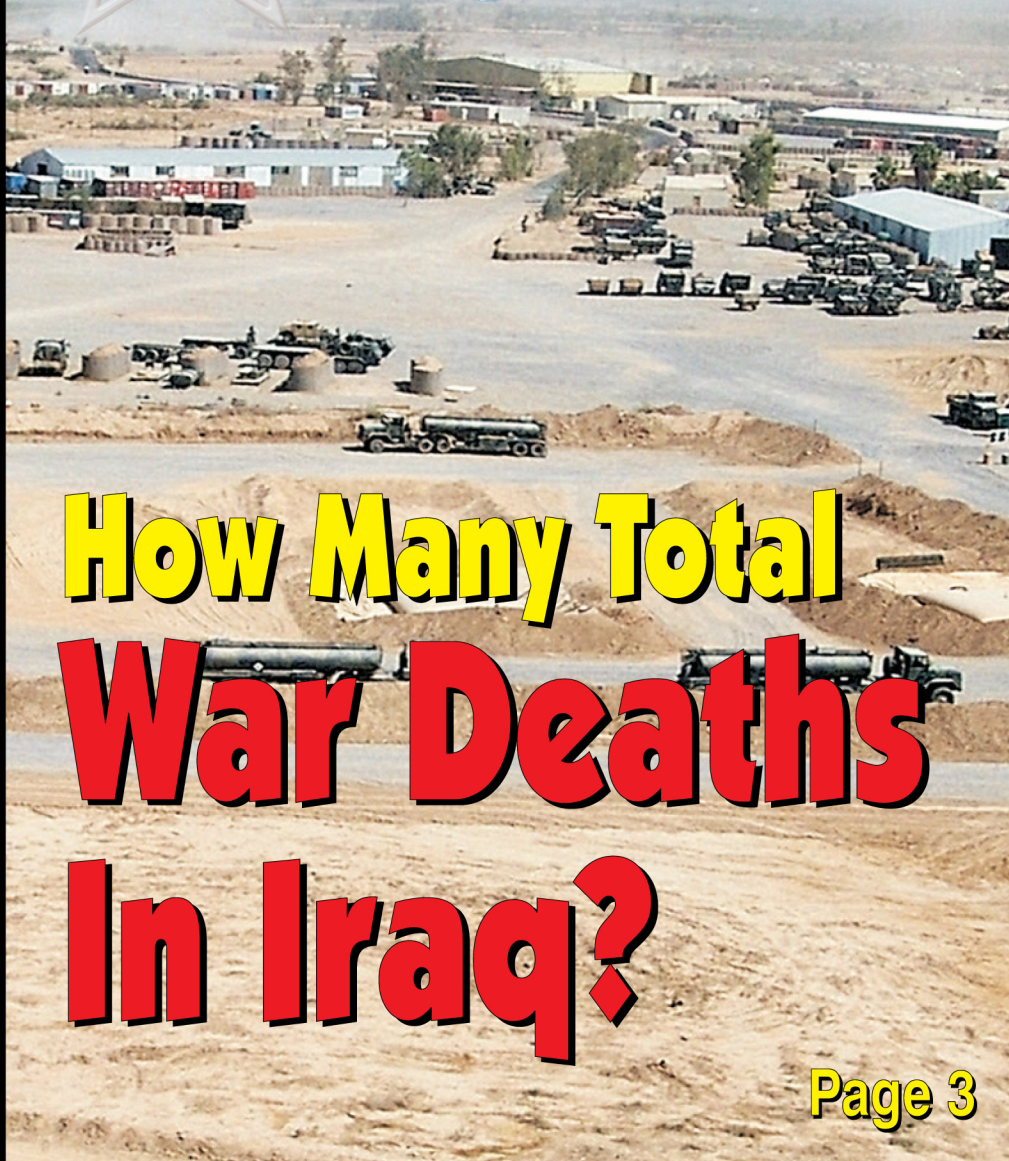
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The Revolution Has Already Been Televised

Mercury In Retrograde

Toxic To Teeth, Toxic To The Environment, Toxic To Everyone's Health

SANTA MONICA, Calif. - It's not for naught that there's a proposed resolution in a plank in the forthcoming United Nations treaty on mercury, a date certain to determine the end of the deadly dental mercury amalgam.

European nations have largely banned malicious mercury. But in the United States, our very survival now depends upon the Obama Administration leading the rest of the world in adopting this plank.

Marketed deceptively as "silver fillings," amalgam is an environmental pollutant for all of us, and a serious workplace hazard for everyone working with mercury.

Two-tiered dentistry in America, where the haves get alternatives and the have-nots get the shaft along with the totally toxic mercury fillings must be eliminated. Some consider this "choice for the rich and mercury for the poor." These clinical dental factories call amalgam "silver" even though

the fillings are composed mainly of neurotoxin mercury (43 to 54%).

Explanation

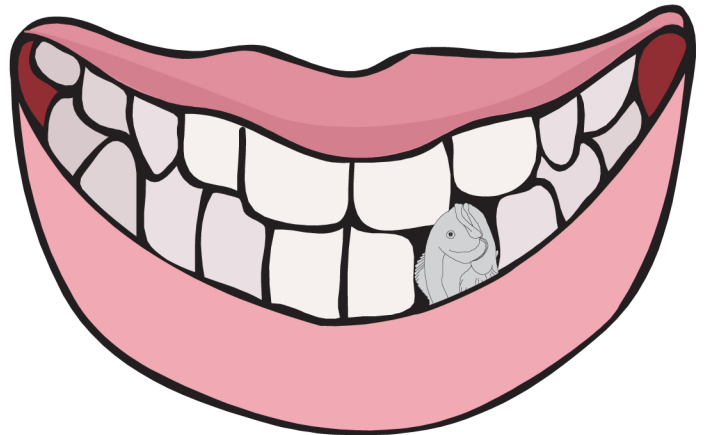
Mercury is a virulent neurotoxin and a reproductive toxin. It is already so omnipresent in our environment that the United State Environmental Protection Agency says one in seven women of childbearing age are at risk of having a brain-damaged child. Dental mercury (amalgam) is a primitive, pre-Civil War polluting product - composed mainly of mercury.

Amalgam is the #2 source of annual mercury sales in the U.S., the largest source of mercury in wastewater, and the largest source of mercury from household waste. More mercury is in Americans' teeth than in all products combined. With cremation use increasing, amalgam is a major source of air pollution.

The wealthy have escaped to alternatives: America now has, as an NAACP witness testified before Congress noted recently,

"two-tiered dentistry ... choice for the rich and mercury for the poor." Drill, fill, and bill mercury dentistry is still practiced on soldiers and sailors, prisoners, the working poor, and by the Indian

Obama has reversed his predecessors rule and directed the U. S. to participate. As a Senator, Obama voted against mercury and could now lead the way toward a comprehensive treaty



Health Service, masses all willing to be free of mercury once the facts are out.

Over three-fourths of consumers would choose a non-mercury filling - if they knew, according to polls. The marketing term "silver fillings" misleads them.

Under UN auspices, nations are considering a treaty devoted solely to mercury. President

phasing out all man-made mercury. However the fight must be taken to amalgam manufacturers who are seeking to make amalgam the standard in developing countries as it used to be in the U.S.

More information can be obtained by contacting Consumers for Dental Choice, www.toxicteeth.org, 202-544-6333.

THE LONE STAR ICONOCLAST

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W. Leon Smith, Publisher & Editor-In-Chief

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How Many Total War Deaths In Iraq?

Iraq War Inquest Being Considered

LONDON — On June 15, 2009, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced an official Inquiry “to identify lessons that can be learned from the Iraq conflict.”

The Iraq Inquiry was created to “to establish as accurately and reliably as possible what happened” during the period from two years before the 2003 invasion to July 30, 2009, covering “the run-up to the conflict in Iraq, the military action and its aftermath.”

Describing his brief, the Inquiry’s Chair Sir John Chilcot declared his terms of reference “very broad.” Yet one subject was conspicuous by its absence from any number of promising statements about the Inquiry’s remit and aims.

In a letter to the chair, Hamit Dardagan and John Sloboda, representing Iraq Body Count, <<http://www.iraqbodycount.org/>>, wrote “We urgently request that your Inquiry take full and proper account of Iraqi casualties resulting from the conflict, and the subsequent breakdown in civil security, and that you permit us to submit evidence to the Inquiry on this most crucial question.”

They note that, in an inquiry a year ago, Iraq Body Count had urged that “new lessons” must be learned by the Inquiry, that should include ordinary Iraqis, the major casualties of the conflict. In light of the Inquiry’s failure to address this central issue, Iraq Body Count is now calling for the equivalent of an ‘Iraq War Inquest’ in the form of a full judicial inquiry into all of the

war’s casualties, combatant and civilian, dead or injured.

One of their concerns is that the Inquiry failed to even make passing reference to the matter of Iraqi casualties, whether dead or injured, let alone acknowledge its centrality to any objective assessment of the conflict.

“We hope that this does not indicate that this critical issue will continue to be relegated to a question of secondary importance. The British government’s very restricted interest in the accumulation and publishing of data on Iraqi casualties has long been a source of widespread dismay, as well as understandable anger, leading such distinguished persons as the 52 former British Diplomats, who wrote an open letter in April 2004 critical of former Prime Minister Tony Blair’s Middle East policies, to reserve their strongest language for ‘the disgrace’ of Coalition forces’ failure to track Iraqi deaths. The Iraq Inquiry offers a unique if belated opportunity to investigate Iraqi deaths comprehensively and in appropriate detail, and to critically assess the nature and extent of the damage resulting from our government’s persistent neglect of this issue.”

In their letter, Dardagan and Sloboda stated that, “In our view, the ‘very broad’ terms of reference of the Inquiry provide you with more than an opportunity to fully and properly investigate Iraqi casualties: they in effect mandate you to do so.

“In his statement to the House of Commons announcing the Iraq In-

quiry, Prime Minister Gordon Brown presented the Inquiry with both the reason and means to carry out a first thoroughgoing, official investigation of Iraqi casualties. He referred no fewer than eight times to the principle of “lesson-learning,” stating bluntly that, ‘the objective is to learn the lessons from the events surrounding the conflict,’ and that he was giving the Inquiry ‘unprecedented’ scope to include events ‘in the full period of conflict.’”

They continued, “This scope in-

cludes ‘the run-up to the conflict... the military action and its aftermath...the way...actions were taken...to establish...what happened and identify the lessons to be learned.’ One of the most important questions in situations of armed conflict and in the laws of war is whether the use of force has been a proportionate response to the threat that prompted it. It is impossible to establish the wisdom of actions taken - even in hind-

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Paradise Lost: Trainor Tarnishes Golden State Politicians; High-Speed Trains Get Waylaid, Shady Politicians Get Billions And Taxpayers Get The Shaft!

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - Investigative journalist Richard Trainor's new book, "Paradise Lost: High-Speed Trains Get Waylaid, Shady Politicians get Billions and Taxpayers Get the Shaft!" reveals the gritty underworld of political corruption in California. This extraordinary account of what inside players call 'pump and dump' schemes and how the money flows in big transit projects is reminiscent of the political film noirs, *Chinatown* and *The Two Jakes*. This political expose reveals the corruption of some of California's richest and most powerful politicians. From wily Willie Brown to Senator Diane Feinstein's

involvement with a complex \$50 billion insider trading campaign from the high-speed rail projects that were commissioned and never built to a promised Bay Bridge that isn't fully functional, to a San Francisco airport that disappeared. Here, Trainor quickly takes the sheen off the Golden State's political establishment.

Intertwined with Trainor's life story are behind-the-scenes views of money changing hands in a well-documented appendix. It shows Feinstein's developer husband Richard Blum making investments in such companies as construction giant URS (referred to as URS

Greiner) just before it wins a big state project and sells the stock afterwards.

It looks into investment in Catellus, a former railroad-owned land development company. Here the scandal details Feinstein's creation of a desert sanctuary for tortoises, magically transforming worthless land owned by Catellus and traded to the government for valuable urban properties they received in exchange. Her husband was an investor.

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War Deaths In Iraq

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sight and without a view to apportioning direct blame – if the full consequences in human welfare are not taken into account. Casualty data are perhaps the most glaring indication of the full costs of war.”

Members of the Inquiry committee included Sir John Chilcot (Chairman), Sir Lawrence Freedman, Sir Martin Gilbert, Sir Roderic Lyne, and Baroness Usha Prashar.

In their memo regarding the reason for the Inquiry, they published that “The Inquiry will take evidence over a number of months, with as many hearings as possible held in public. The first round of hearings began in autumn 2009 and continued into early 2010. After a break for the general election, the Inquiry resumed its public hearings in June for a period of five weeks. The Inquiry intends to deliver its report around the turn of the year. The Inquiry committee intends to include in the report all but the most sensitive information essential to our national security. The report will then be debated in Parliament.”

“The Inquiry wishes to be as open and transparent as possible about the approach and processes it will adopt,” noted its committee members. “The Protocols seek to establish a framework of mutual trust between the Inquiry and the witnesses in order to achieve the core aims of the Inquiry to establish a full and reliable account of what happened from which it will identify lessons for the future.

“The Inquiry expects that there will be interest in how it conducts its business, and in particular how it ensures fairness to witnesses whilst ensuring that it is able to elicit a full, accurate and truthful account of what happened.

“The Inquiry, itself, is not a public authority for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act, so the Act does not apply. However, in addition to its hearings being open to the public and the media wherever possible, the Inquiry's website will contain transcripts of public hearings and other key information relating to the work of the Inquiry.

Iraq Body Count has estimated the number documented civilian deaths in Iraq, 2003 to 2010, at 97,461 to 106,348.

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The Last Circle: An Inferno That Scorched America

Book To Be Released By Trineday Publishers Sept 2010

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - Because of the notoriety of the Octopus scandals, *The Last Circle* has been an Internet sensation for 14 years, since 1996. The Internet version, released by Cornell University (posted under the pseudonym of Carol Marshall in 1996) contains only 15 unedited, unpolished chapters, whereas the completed book contains 25 chapters. Readers say that the last 10 chapters are by far the most provocative.

Investigative reporter/private detective Cheri Seymour spent the last 18 years following the trail of the notorious Octopus scandals. She probed the behind-the-headlines dynamic of a maze that encompassed multiple covert operations involving NSC, CIA, and DOJ officials. Others included Wackenhut, Music Corporation of America (MCA), Iran/Contra, organized crime figures, intelligence agents, drug trafficking, arms sales, high-tech money laundering, and multiple deaths including former Cabazon Band of Mission Indians tribal leader Fred Alvarez; his friends, Patricia Castro and Ralph Boger by an accused self-confessed Mafia hit-man, as well as the death of Washington D.C. journalist Danny Casolaro, and many more.

Through law enforcement sources, Seymour learned that the official head of the Octopus "enterprise" resided in the United States DOJ, cemented together by Ronald Reagan's out-of-control presidential administration, its many tentacles supported by a cabal of "old boy" mega-wealthy cronies, literally true believers whose faith dictated that the end always justifies the means.

These under-the-radar billionaires gave corruption a new meaning as they stampeded through the Constitution, cowboied the intelligence community, blazed

Continued On Next Page

Estulin Journeys To The Epicenter Of Hell: SHADOW MASTERS

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. - How governments and their intelligence agencies are working with international drug dealers and terrorists for mutual benefit and profit, Estulin's last book, *The True Story of the Bilderberg Group* has sold over 5 million copies, has been translated in 49 different languages in 70 countries.

Estulin's book takes a contemporary turn with his account of the sensationalistic nature of the international vilification campaign against Victor Bout, reputedly the largest weaponry dealer in the world.

A former junior lieutenant in the Soviet Air Force, Bout began an aviation transport business in Africa after the fall of the USSR. As conflicts raged all over the continent and airlines pulled out, Bout gained control of almost all the air transport businesses in Africa. When his business profile heightened in two areas of great interest to the Bilderberger's Shadow Masters—arms and air transport—Bout found himself an international pariah.

An intense worldwide defamation campaign was launched, encompassing UN reports, press accounts, and a book titled *Merchant of Death*, by Douglas Farah, who admittedly never met or interviewed Bout. The book's nickname for Bout is constantly parroted in the U.S. media.



Editorial

This May Be The Last Iconoclast Editorial

As Iconoclast publisher W. Leon Smith was planning for perhaps the most intense Iconoclast editorial to ever be written, one involving false flags and the upcoming anniversary of 9/11, forces were working to see that this did not happen.

On Thursday, Aug. 26, he had just completed writing the lead story in this issue of the Iconoclast entitled "How Many Total War Deaths In Iraq?" As he was giving the story one last click with his computer mouse he suffered what has been termed by medical professionals as a stroke. He had lost functionality of his right hand, some of his speech, and part of his right leg, but he was able walk uphill half a block to get assistance.

Much of his speech and right hand movement had returned after a couple of hours. He spent the night in a Central Texas hospital undergoing CT scans, MRIs, multiple ultrasounds, and many more tests.

He was allowed to return home the next day, the thought being that he had survived virtually unscathed the stroke. His right hand had lost some of its dexterity, however. He wrote in an email to a friend that he had gone from typing 130 wpm to 5 wpm overnight.

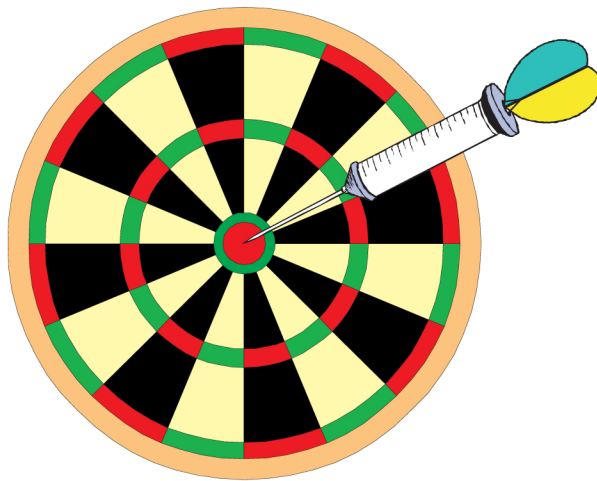
Unfortunately, the next day he began having multiple TIAs, or mini-strokes. From that moment to now he has suffered probably over 70 of these mini-strokes and is continuing to have trouble with them. Experts are thinking that the TIAs are not being caused by the stroke, but by something else, and they can't figure out what it is.

One of the offshoots from these strokes/mini-strokes has been his inability to use a computer because when he concentrates on any screen he always has an episode. He has difficulty stringing sentences together with his hands on the keyboard. This may or may not improve over time. The Iconoclast is at stake. As family members we are wishing him very well in this regard and hope that he is able to return immaculately to embrace the passion, the intensity,

and the truth that his world embodies and always has.

His interest in the editorial to run in this issue had been to offer the world some education regarding false flags. He had accumulated perhaps hundreds of resources in the media, military, corporations, government, etc. over many years and he had been receiving email and other types of messages from these parties who are each expressing concern over the anniversary of 9/11 this year.

Some of these parties are involved in petrochemicals. Some are involved in toxic waste. Some are involved in military profiteering to the hilt. Many of the messages that he had received were from those who were worried about these particular aspects of the future. A lot of concern was expressed over BP and the oil surge, and the untruthfulness that has expounded from that site and continues to blow oil today. Some are worried that what is there could be ignited and that could cause a major catastrophe. There are other places throughout the world where there are oil spills in the like which offend humanity. Any of these could be the site of a potential false flag, as could the Gulf of Mexico.



A false flag for those who are unaware of what it is, is an attack of oneself, which is blamed on another part in order to get your own populace to be in favor of going to war with this

other party. It's like the Lusitania and World War I, Reighstag and World War II, as two examples.

What he wanted to convey in his editorial is if any major disastrous event happens within the framework of the 9/10/10 or 9/11/10, then there is a grave likelihood that a false flag is the culprit. The public should scrutinize every detail of such an event and not let politicians relegate them to hell. Truth deserves an alternate heaven.

The outcome of our publisher's health is yet unknown. He has experienced several close calls during his hospitalization, twice fighting to have meds correctly given when otherwise he would have been dead within an hour. There is some concern about this incident happening to an otherwise very healthy 57-year-old. This whole thing is just so strange, and out of the blue, and we are suspicious.

— His Daughters

The Last Circle

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new trails into drug cartels and organized crime, while simultaneously growing *new* tentacles that reached into every facet of criminal enterprise.

The theft of high-tech software (PROMIS) for use in money-laundering and espionage, illegal drug and arms trafficking in Latin America, and fierce exploitation of sovereign Indian nations, were just a few of these enterprises. Welcome to the criminal abyss.

The Last Circle, whose title refers to *Dante's Inferno*, educates and inspires because it proves that one person, dedicated and determined, can make a difference in bringing to justice high-level criminals, no matter what their supposed stature in society.

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The American Dilemma

A Pending Economic And Social Catastrophe Of Epic Proportions

The U.S. economy is riddled with wounds and blisters. Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae have plummeted in the market and it shows that housing still is in a world of hurt. It is difficult to comprehend why Obama and Congress permit the ongoing unemployment travesty, except it is clear that it is a maneuvering for the next several elections. Our economy cannot recover if millions of Americans are out of work. It's just common sense that seems to be vacant among the thoughts of our leaders.

They seem willing to play their political games rather than fix what is broken, at the expense of U.S. citizens.

The truth is that the U.S. is doomed, only the "when?" remains. No civilization can withstand time and our nation is showing the signs of sinking in its own muck.



As I have often written here and on other blogs and news media, the U.S. no longer is a representative Democracy but

is a Corporate/Military OLI-GARCHY.

The majority of its people no longer is a concern or focus of our

leadership. Short of a major revolution, which it seems no longer can occur here, the majority of us are doomed. While some may point a finger at my statements and shrug them off as some sort of "Doomsday Prophecy," the handwriting is on the wall, should we choose to see it.

Massive unemployment, estimated currently at 14 MILLION (and which I believe is a conservative estimate), is destroying our economic and social design. We all are shifting into another strata from which there is no apparent escape.

Unfortunately, there is no visible future or pending "paradigm" to hope for.

Peter Stern, a former director of information services, university professor and public school administrator, is a disabled Vietnam veteran who lives in Driftwood, Texas.

speech is won with the blood of patriots, not purchased by the

blood money of corporate criminals. There just ain't no justice

when the court is on the take.
Joe Neil, Charleston, WV

THE LONE STAR Iconoclast Letters To The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

The Court denigrates itself as it tarnishes heroes. The U. S. Supreme Court decision that free speech equals corporate cash sullies the honor of every person who ever sacrificed to ensure this sacred and unique right. Free

BEST OF PRESS

Logical

An athletic fellow is one who hires a small boy to mow his lawn so he can play golf and get a little exercise.

— Tiger, U.S.S. Barry
Words of Wisdom

It is hard to believe that America was founded to avoid taxation.

— Tribune, Chicago
Perfect

The perfect example of minority rule is a baby in the house.

— Dispatch, Covington, Ala.
On The Go

Many a man is always on his toes because his wife is always on his heels.

— Times, Davenport, Ia.

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By Lloyd Garver

An American Hero?

A year from now, most people will have no idea who Stephen Slater is. However, today he's a hero to thousands of people. He's the JetBlue flight attendant who lost his temper, quit his job while on duty, grabbed some beer, activated the emergency chute, and slid to fame. Why did a guy like this become a hero to so many people?

In these economic times, it might seem strange that someone would throw away a job. I'm sure there are unemployed people and others with backbreaking jobs who can't identify at all with what Slater did. On the other hand, many people today feel that management is taking advantage of workers. Employers know how hard it is to get a job today, so they hire people at lower wages with fewer benefits. As a result, there are considerable ill feelings towards employers today.

I'm not defending what Slater did. I'm just trying to understand it. However, there are many people who are defending him, even though he broke the law. They are thrilled by the way he quit, and see him as a hero. He did what many working people fantasize doing. He put into action the words of the old Johnny Paycheck song, "Take This Job And Shove It."

There is a tradition in America to turn those who break the law into heroes. Jesse James was a folk hero. Bonnie and Clyde were, too. Don't forget D.B. Cooper. He was the guy who hijacked a plane, got \$200,000 in ransom, and parachuted out of the plane with the money.

Americans don't (hero) worship just anybody who breaks the law. Those who are admired are people whose actions are audacious and aimed primarily at "the man," government, big institutions, or corporations like banks, railroads, and now airlines. If someone steals the money from the cash register of a little store, nobody is going to make that thief a hero. But if a meek doorman at Goldman Sachs ingeniously figures out a way to get into the vault and steal millions of dollars on his lunch hour, he becomes an instant hero.

I don't think it's a particularly good thing that Americans make heroes out of these people, but that's the reality. And speaking of reality, it's no surprise that there are rumors that Slater will be in a TV reality show soon. He already has a Hollywood publicist named Howard Bragman. (How perfect is "Bragman" for the name of a publicist)? According to Bragman, they're getting all kinds of show business offers, and they'll deal with them once Slater takes care of his pesky criminal charges.

I'm sure he could do commercials for all kinds of products. He could definitely help sell the kind of beer he grabbed from the plane -- Blue Moon. But if I were the head of JetBlue, I'd hire Slater and make sure that his contract was exclusive. Then I'd put him in a JetBlue flight attendant's uniform, and he'd say on camera, "Everybody makes mistakes, even JetBlue. Sometimes we're late. Sometimes we over book. Sometimes we accidentally seat you 20 rows from your three-year-old. But whenever JetBlue happens to make a mistake, I think you should forgive them -- just as JetBlue has forgiven me." Then he'd grab a couple of beers, and slide down a chute.

It's definitely the smart way to go. You see, if a big corporation like JetBlue were to forgive someone who embarrassed them like this, and if they made fun of themselves in the process, well, there's a good chance JetBlue would become a folk hero.

Lloyd Garver has written for many television shows, ranging from "Sesame Street" to "Family Ties" to "Home Improvement" to "Frasier." He has also read many books, some of them in hardcover. He can be reached at lloydgarver@gmail.com. Check out his website at lloydgarver.com and his podcasts on iTunes.

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Looking at Washington Congress & War

By EDWARD H. SIMS
SPECIAL TO THE ICONOCLAST

Perhaps the most overlooked and violated part of the United States Constitution is that part which reserves the authority to begin war to Congress.

The president doesn't have that constitutional authority.

Yet presidents have usurped it, without objection, many times, since the president is, by constitutional authority, the commander-in-chief of the armed forces.

But the framers of the Constitution were careful not to include in conferring that rank on the president that he had the authority to declare war.

The Iraq and Afghanistan wars, which some polls show were opposed by a near-majority, were perfect examples of the questionable use of assumed presidential power.

President George Bush began the Iraq war, and quickly got congressional backing, on false information and fears. To date over five thousand Americans have given their lives along with over 30,000 wounded—many with lifelong handicaps.

The Constitution makes it clear that only Congress has the power to declare war. The president is limited to being named commander-in-chief of the armed services and to receiving ambassadors—in the field of foreign and military affairs.

Congress is specifically granted the authority to provide for the "common defense" and to "declare war." (Congress also shares with the president the power to conclude treaties and appoint ambassadors.)

Over the years presidents have used their commanding officer rank to begin wars—the latest example being the war begun against Iraq, quickly confirmed, or constitutionalized, by Congress.

Had the intention of the founding fathers been policy seven years ago, Congress would have been the initiator of the war. But this is a longstanding problem. What the

Afghanistan and Iraq wars might do is focus more attention on what the framers of the Constitution intended—that only Congress initiates war.

Glance back in time and recall what President Lyndon Janson did in expanding our deployment of troops to Vietnam (which President Kennedy had begun). That cost over 50,000 American deaths and over 200,000 wounded!

Congress went along, but finally became disenchanted, as is the case today concerning Afghanistan.

Nothing was accomplished by all these tragic American deaths.



Edward H. Sims

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Texas League Slugger Breaks Home Run Record



papers – all the attention did not pay the bills.

So he got out of the car business and went into politics, another field where personal popularity was an important qualification. Elected county judge, he kept the voters happy enough to stay in office for a quite a few years.

When the Piedmont League folded

after the 1955 season, the owner of the defunct Portsmouth (Virginia) club asked his counterpart in Shreveport to give Ken Guettler a try. Even though the 28 year old veteran had never seen the inside of a major-league ballpark without a ticket, his 41 homers against Class B pitching proved he could hit with power.

With a partially crippled right arm he could not fully extend and glasses as thick as Coke bottle bottoms, Guettler did not make a good first impression. However, when opening day rolled around in April 1956, he was in right field for the Shreveport Sports.

That night against the visiting Houston Buffs, Guettler blasted a pitch over what was to be his favorite target – the left field fence at Texas League Park. He followed that impressive debut with an eye-popping, three-home run performance the following day.

The series moved to Houston, and Guettler hit his fifth homer in three games. But when he opened his locker in the visitors dressing room the next day, his glasses were gone.

Since their near-sighted slugger could not see a pitch “until it was halfway to the plate” without his “cheaters,” the Sports understandably suspected the Buffs of skullduggery. Harry Walker, the former batting champion five years into a second career as a manager, did not help Houston’s case with his quick-witted denial: “I don’t know anything about it, but it was a great idea.”

Thanks to a San Antonio optometrist who specialized in 24-hour service, the dirty trick blinded Guettler for only a single game. Armed with a new pair of glasses, he picked up right where he had left off.

After two weeks, Guettler had seven home runs to his credit. May was a memorable month, as he added 18 more with round-trippers in nearly every park in the league. On the 28th, he tagged three Tulsa pitchers for his second “hat trick.”

June was the closest Guettler

came to a slump with his home-run output dropping to six. But just when opposing clubs thought he might be cooling off, he heated up again with 17 more in July.

Guettler passed Kraft on Aug. 13 with his fifty-sixth base-clearing swing and hit Number 60 on the 26th. His sixty-second and last homer of the season came on Sep. 2.

An argument can be made that Guettler actually should be credited with 64. His home run in the all-star game did not count, and a ball he clearly hit out of LaGrave Field in Fort Worth was ruled a double.

Ken Guettler was not the only ballplayer on a Texas team to hit 60 or more home runs in 1956. Frosty Kennedy reached that magical milestone with the Plainview Ponies of the Southwestern League. But like Guettler he too never wore a major-league uniform.

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Two weeks after breaking the Texas League home run record that had stood for 32 years, Ken Guettler hit his sixtieth round-tripper of the season on Aug. 26, 1956.

Still alive and kicking in Fort Worth, Clarence “Big Boy” Kraft had no comment on the day his best known achievement was erased from the record book. Like his legion of fans, the legendary slugger of the 1920’s may have believed it would last forever.

Kraft got his start in professional baseball on his hometown team in Indiana. After knocking around in the lower levels of the minor leagues with clubs named the River Rats, Merchants, Vehicles and Swamp Angels, he received a call from the Boston Braves in May 1914.

Kraft appeared in three games for Beantown’s National League franchise going to plate three times and getting one hit, a single. Two weeks later, he was sent back down to the minors never to return to the big leagues.

The six-foot, 190-pound first baseman everyone called “Big Boy” found a permanent home in 1918 with the Fort Worth Panthers of the Texas League. With the introduction of the “livelier” baseball in 1921, his home-run production increased by leaps and bounds.

In the 1924 season, Kraft was a power-hitting machine. Besides his 55 homers, he finished with 196 runs batted in, 96 extra base hits and 414 total bases, all Texas League bests that have not been unequalled in 86 years.

And then at age 36 “Big Boy” decided to rest on his laurels. He turned down a contract from the Panthers that would have paid him more than most major-leaguers and bought a Ford dealership in downtown Fort Worth hoping to cash in on his celebrity status.

Kraft’s many admirers did indeed pack the place, but they came to talk baseball not to buy cars. As much as “Big Boy” loved the limelight – he once considered punching somebody in the nose just to keep his name in the

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Bugs 2010

Zack and my kids will claim I have a terrible memory about some things. (They'd be right. It's akin to Zack's --- and my --- selective hearing. Yes I admit it. But I learned it from HIM). They will also tell you that bugs LOVE me. Unfortunately, I seem to have a minor allergic reaction to every bug I've ever encountered (thankfully nothing requiring an Epi Pen or dash to the clinic. This is fortunate, considering that we keep bees, and I'm not a big fan of anaphylactic shock). The bites or stings simply itch uncontrollably for days or weeks (depending on the variety), and leave me with ugly marks.

It's that time of the year now when I'm pathologically preoccupied with insects. . By the end of each summer, I look as if I've lost yet another bout to chicken pox. The scars just about heal up and fade on my fairish skin in time for spring and MORE BUGS. The only time I remember NOT being bitten up was when I lived in New York City.

I associate some of my earliest memories with insects and bug bites. Some of these memories are pleasant, having to do with wonderful, almost mystical creatures like fireflies, butterflies, dragon flies, stick bugs, and praying mantises --- what I consider rather benign bugs. I can even appreciate the occasional huge, interesting beetle or awesome spider web.

I began to accompany my parents, aunts, uncles, and cousins to the ranch here on Sunday afternoons as a tiny baby. I probably rode the Shetland ponies before I could walk (with an overprotective parent or relative hanging onto me). One of my earliest memories of the ranch involves being sprinkled with sulphur dust --- in my socks and shoes, around my waistband. It was the best insecticide we had at the time to ward off the evil chigger. Moderately effective, I still use it here like a talisman --- from early spring to late summer when the chiggers burn up. (That annual event can't ever happen soon enough for me. This simple correlation makes 100+ degree days so more bearable). As an adult, I discovered a product called Permanon, right here at the hardware store. It was used in huge quantities by the military and also favored by hunters. It was so potent an insecticide/repellant that the can instructed to spray only on clothing, never on skin. Worked GREAT. Naturally it was banned several years ago, sort of like the clouds of DDT sprayed from trucks that periodically traveled our neighborhoods during the '50's. Kids used to run through those clouds gleefully. (There wasn't a lot to do back then. No computers, no Nintendo, no I-Phones, etc. And little A/C. So summertime found us outside.

DragonflyOnce when I was VERY small, I accompanied my parents to Galveston. Little known factoid; SOME Shriners actually took their families along to those supposedly notorious conventions. That was my first experience with the Gulf of Mexico, waves, seashells --- and sand fleas. Some things one never forgets.



A year or so after that, I introduced my little finger quite intimately and unintentionally to a scorpion. (I was reaching into a tin can for a horned toad. I didn't realize a scorpion had called on the horned toad while awaiting my return from pre-school. I lost a fingernail over that encounter.

In my childhood summers, we all went barefoot, at least in our own yards. This wasn't considered particularly trashy or anything. Our parents saw it as a chance to air those little tootsies out --- give them some breathing room. (Probably saved a bit on the casual shoe budget as well. Later we advanced to flip-flops, a fabulous invention introduced during my early childhood. They were, at that time, called "thongs," but thong means something entirely different these days). It took about a week for our tender little feet to toughen up after a long school year trapped in shoes. By September, the soles of our feet were like shoe leather (and no one cared). Going barefoot was liberating. We couldn't wait to shed our shoes when the weather warmed.

Continued On Next Page

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Bugs 2010

From Previous Page

Running over to visit Jimmy, the little kid next door, I stepped on a wasp --- HARD. Surprised us both. But that wasn't nearly as bad as the time we played hide-and-seek a couple of years later. Jimmy hid in a bush with a humongous wasp nest. That kid visited the ER more than anyone I knew.

During college in New Orleans, I had my first real exposure to swarms of mosquitoes, hoards of hungry, carnivorous blood-suckers. Sure, we had some in Texas, but nothing like the sneaky, little monsters that bred in the languid, humid late New Orleans summer. Even in September, there was a brief rain shower almost every afternoon. At least in Texas, skeeters were often so big we could see them coming. My legs looked like chicken pox for my first couple of months in New Orleans. And this was during the initial inception of the mini skirt. So there

was a lot of leg going on there. (This was OK at age 17). I'd walk outside with my friends, and the black cloud of bugs followed only me. It was like Pigpen in the Peanuts cartoon strip, except he was followed by a cloud of dust. At least his dust didn't leave welts.

When I lived on an island in Florida, the torturous insects I knew in Galveston as sand fleas were called "No-See-Ums." Even several blocks from the ocean (and several in the other direction from the Bay), we had them in our yard most of the year. I was often in agony. Chicken pox again. When the no-see-ums let up, the mosquitoes arrived. I couldn't win. Either way, it meant I'd have to spray myself with Off just to go to the clothes line. At least by this time, I had discovered Off.

So here I am back in Texas, bothered mostly by chiggers, skeeters and the occasional spider, wasp or yellow jacket. Some-

times we have a spate of (sometimes biting) flies or cicadas (benign, just noisy. We called them katydids). But after a while, they finally go away. Sometimes there are swarms of gnats, crickets, grasshoppers, and so forth. I don't remember ants being this bad when I was a kid. We didn't have fire ants back then. I DO remember the huge ant hills (that we still have here today) and the good-sized ants, always hurrying purposefully here or there, making trails through the grass and gravel. (This was the main diet of the horned toad, I believe). My uncle would warn me not to EVER stop in an ant trail or --- heaven forbid --- stand on the huge hill. (This warning had almost the same import as "Watch out for snakes!") Dire consequences would surely follow ---

like in Africa where an unfortunate traveler might be eaten alive if he rested for a moment in the wrong place. I've never to my knowledge been bitten by one of those big boys. But almost every time I step into the yard or pasture, at LEAST one fire ant gets me, for no good reason at all. Nasty creatures, those.

Like almost anything in nature, insects fascinate me. I only wish they'd stop thinking I'm food.

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's an artist who holds a doctoral degree from New York University and is writing a book about the minor catastrophes of life. Check out Genie's blog at <http://rusticramblings.wordpress.com/>


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Corporatist America: The Revolution Has Already Been Televised



<<http://jpstillwater.blogspot.com/2010/08/corporatist-america-revolution-has.html>>

“It’s the government that’s to blame for everything!” right-wingers cry. “We need to have less government!” But exactly which government are these people talking about? Is it the government that Americans used to have back when George Washington was president? Or has a new form of government stealthily replaced that old-school government we used to know and love — sort of like a take-over by body-snatchers, happening while our backs were turned and we were happily off watching TV.

Let’s face it, guys. The U.S. government IS to blame for everything nowadays. But it is not the same government that we used to have — as recently as 60 years ago. It’s our former government’s evil twin that is screwing everything up!

Just exactly which government is getting blamed by the right-wingers these days? Are they blaming a government that is run according to the Constitution, was elected by people who knew that their votes were being counted honestly and which is designed to work for the benefit of us American voters? Yep, that’s the very one that the wingers are blaming — even though that fantasy government has been moribund for decades.

And are the wingers blaming this new doppelganger government too — the one that was bought and paid for by lobbyists, that is owned lock, stock and barrel by corporatists and corporations, and that is turning Americans into just another source of cheap labor for the new oligarchs? Nope. THAT government is escaping Scot-free from the right wing’s wrath. That government is not being blamed for anything.

America’s current “government” right now appears to resemble one of the multiple personalities from that old movie, “The Three Faces of Eve” — in the scene where Eve Black jokes about how she used to do bad things when she was a kid and then escape her body and let poor sweet Eve White take their irate mother’s punishments.

What wingers think of as government these days — and most other Americans do the same thing too — isn’t really America’s real government at all. Our real government is more like a monster growing out of some poor schmuck’s stomach in “Alien.”

Wingers seem to be all about blaming “Government” for all of our woes — and yet they sing the praises and kiss the [bottoms] of large global corporations. But guess what guys. Global corporations and America’s government are now almost exactly the same thing.

Right now, there is almost nothing on this planet more “priva-

tized” than the American government. All the fruits of our labor, and perhaps even our very souls, are government property now — a government taken over by oligarchs. And the government of George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and the Boston Tea Party — the one that right wingers seem to hate so much — no longer exists.

And this oligarchs’ revolution has already been televised.

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The author and his traveling puppy Raisin step into the ocean off of South Padre Island.

The Texas Perimeter Hike — Padre Island

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“I’ve crossed the deserts bare, man. I’ve breathed the mountain air, man. Of travel, I’ve had my share, man. I’ve been everywhere.”

— Johnny Cash,
“I’ve Been Everywhere”

When we got on Padre Island, my dog Raisin must have smelled the difference in the air. The heat was less intense, but there was something else, something with which she had no familiarity.

Since casting her lot with me, Raisin and I had traveled close to 1,000 miles. We’d passed mountains and deserts and canyons and rivers. Sometimes I carried her, but most of the time, she walked. We’d seen it all, but still, this was something different, this change in the air.

After stocking up on water, we crossed a great sand dune over plants twice Raisin’s height. I coaxed her forward, and we made it to the crest of the last dune. Before us, lapping back and forth, lay the ocean as far as

we could see.

A few days later, Raisin and I completed the circuit around the outline of Texas on Saturday, Aug. 21, 2010, nearly a year after I’d started. In the first week since finishing the trek, I have divided my time between yard work, baking, reading, playing games, and sleeping. Mainly sleeping.

Perhaps not surprisingly, the trip has taken on a dreamlike quality. Had I really been in the panhandle? Did my dog and I really walk through the Chihuahuan Desert? Like remembering high school from the vantage point of graduation day, it’s hard to believe it even happened, so impossible is it to consider the vastness of the experience in a single moment.

Walking around Texas was a project I’d dreamed about since 2003, though I couldn’t tell you exactly why. Given a person’s disposition to weather and strangers, one could have argued that the cons outnumbered the pros. Many people in fact did try to dissuade me, but I didn’t let it bother

me. Crazy ideas rarely have a fan club right from the start.

Oddly enough, I couldn’t rightly recommend hiking around the state to another person. The hike was a personal decision which I conceived of naturally and warmed up to over time. What I do endorse, though, is a sight better.

Dust off your dreams. They may be packed away deep in the closet of your mind, but they’re still yours. Speak them, write them down, do a first step. Make them real.

I’ve met people across the state who’ve inspired me with their dreams, both accomplished and ongoing. From the fellow in Texarkana who planted 20 species of bamboo just because he likes it to the music professor who had once been a high school band teacher with an itching to get a doctorate. From the small town

newspapers showing an increase in circulation to a man bicycling across the country in search of a new life. Dreams are not only possible; they are happening all around you.

However, dreams rarely turn out how you imagine them. I didn’t know I’d rack up over 400 rejections from Texas newspapers before starting my trip. I didn’t know I’d fracture my toe or find a little puppy in West Texas. After months in the boiling sun, I didn’t know that said puppy would actually run away from the waves for the better part of an hour. I also didn’t know that standing at the ocean’s edge would bring a smile to my face, nor that this smile would last till sunset.

What I did know of my dream was its basic premise: that I would walk every foot around the outline of Texas. The rest I just had to wake up to.

Smatt is the penname of S.Matt Read. A writer, inventor, baker, and hiker, he has finally finished hiking the entire outline of the state. Read the chronicles of his adventures at <www.texasperimeterhike.blogspot.com> and <www.twitter.com/perimeterhiker>.



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If You Want To Golf With Me, Wear A Hard Hat



Life Is A Funny Place

By Ned Hickson



Although I've only been golfing a few times in my life, it was clear that my reputation had preceded me at the course last weekend. I know this because golfers immediately traded ball caps for hard hats, then scurried down into the sand bunkers like allied forces preparing for heavy fire.

As I took a practice swing, the surrounding trees emptied of all bird species — not in a smooth, organized pattern, but in a frenzied explosion of flapping and panicked birdsong that left three Canada geese lying unconscious in the rough.

(Speaking of which, I'd like to take this opportunity to apologize once again for the tragic death of that swan near the putting green. Had I known the difference between a putter and a pitching wedge, things might've turned out differently for that majestic creature.)

Because of my past experiences, I was determined to make things different this time.

How?

By becoming more comfortable with the game. Like a lot of people, I've always been intimidated by golf. This stems from my fear of unintentionally doing something which, as a result of NOT knowing the proper etiquette, gets me clubbed to death by someone with a 9-iron.

What's confusing is that actions which would justify a good clubbing under normal circumstances are actually no big deal in golf.

You want to swing your club and take a six-inch gouge out of an otherwise perfect lawn?

Fine.

Want to drink a beer AND drive an electric go-cart through the woods?

Perfectly acceptable.

However, walk between someone's ball and a small hole in the ground, and there's a good chance you'll be found floating in a water hazard.

Once I felt comfortable with the basic etiquette of golf, I then focused on the fundamentals. This starts with finding your "natural swing." Ask any golfer the secret to finding this, and they'll tell you its all about having the proper grip. To achieve this, make sure the back of your left hand and the palm of your right hand are both facing your target. Then, in a smooth arc, bring them up to your mouth while making sure not to spill your beer. After several practice swigs, you'll be ready to leave the cart and try teeing off. This may not improve your swing much, but it will provide you with a legitimate excuse as to why you shot a 168 on a par 72 course.

All in all, the thing to remember is that you will undoubtedly make some mistakes your first time on the course.

That's to be expected.

What won't be expected, however, is a hollowed-out golf club that can be loaded with tees and used as a blow gun should you need to defend yourself.

(You can write to Ned Hickson at nhickson@thesiuslawnews.com, or at the Siuslaw News at P.O. Box 10, Florence, Ore. 97439)

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Which Way?

Some people are like blotters--soak it all in, but get it all backwards!

-Shipyards, Philadelphia.

Likely

Some statesmen are like buttons, popping off at the wrong time.

-Dealer, Cleveland.

Always Behind

Don't worry if a rival imitates you. While he follows in your tracks he cannot pass you.

-Grit.

Definition

Wizzard: A man who can describe--without gestures--an accordion, a spiral staircase, or a girl.

-Tribune, Chicago.



General David Petraeus, C.O. Afghanistan:

"I have not come to Afghanistan to preside over a graceful exit," saying his goal is to win the war against terrorists there.

Sharon Otterman, reporter:

"Reducing racial gaps in educational performance has been a national preoccupation for decades," reporting blacks, Hispanics continue to trail Caucasian and Asian students in grades, in *New York Times*.

Richard Goldstein, reporter:

"Mr. Kilpatrick popularized interposition according to which states had the constitutional duty to interpose their separate sovereignties against federal court rulings," in obituary of James Kilpatrick, in *New York Times*.



Know The Weather

Why do hurricanes contain winds that circle counter clockwise?

There is a reason. Hurricane winds don't always circle counter clockwise--they circle clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere and counter clockwise in our (Northern) hemisphere.

That's because--in our hemisphere--the turning of the earth tends to make all airborne things veer to the right. The objects, such as

shells from a gun, don't actually veer to the right.

It is the earth that's moving under them, which creates the illusion of veer.

As we know, hurricanes are huge low-pressure areas, and when the air rushes down into these very low valleys, it veers to the right in its rush downward. That creates the counter clockwise winds that make up a hurricane.

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8. Uncanny emanations
13. Skin
14. Frank
15. Striking effect
16. And
17. Rescuer
18. River in France
19. Help mother
22. Snake's warning
23. Jester
24. Kernels
26. Remainder
29. Negative atoms
32. Carousels
36. Sausage, perhaps
38. Neglect
39. In one's twilight years
40. Poisonous lizards
41. Lunch shop
42. Fashion
43. Sign
44. Holy meal
45. Preliminary coat
47. Grating sound
49. Ancient homes
51. Insect stages
56. Poor ___ church mouse
58. Changes
61. Destined
63. Recipe direction
64. ___ Cong
65. Rugged mountain ridge
66. Stethoscope detection
67. Unwanted spots
68. Stairway piece
69. Horizontal additions
70. Permit

DOWN

1. Confused conflict
2. Seed covering
3. Las Vegas machines
4. Stick
5. In ___; sore
6. Poison remedies
7. Haughty people
8. Singer/actor Ben
9. German pronoun
10. Flowered
11. Lambs
12. Heavenly mles.
13. Over
20. Towel word
21. Plumbing problems
25. Semiconductor device
27. Opposite of chubby
28. Floor installer
30. World's longest river
31. Mix
32. Incline
33. Mr. Stravinsky
34. Sets apart for a special purpose
35. Water-retention problem
37. Dog in "Peter Pan"
40. Punctured
44. Quarrel
46. Weasel
48. Bluish-gray colors
50. ___ saw; electric tool
52. Competitor
53. Utter
54. About
55. This: Sp.
56. O'er yon
57. Calcutta wear
59. Sound
60. Lofty
62. Summer at the Sorbonne

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