Promoting Excellence in Investigative Journalism

# US OBSERVER
*Vindicating the Innocent*

www.usobserver.com

Volume 2 • Edition 19

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS SPOTLIGHT

## In the Pit of the D.C. "Justice System"

**By Lorne Dey**
**Investigative Journalist**

Charles Sisson

Once upon a time, our legal system used to be about truth and right with a goal to protect the innocent and the wrongfully accused. But those days are long gone, especially in Washington, D.C., the capitol city of corruption. And no one knows how the D.C. courts chew honest people up and spit them out like so much chaff better than Charles Sisson.

Sisson, a thirty-year veteran of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), is a person held in high esteem by his colleagues for his honesty and integrity, two things that don't matter much in the D.C. "justice" syndicate.

Besides working for the IMF for thirty years, Sisson was also a visionary venture capitalist who put his hard-earned cash on the line with the hopes of turning a profit on some of the city's less-than-desirable real estate properties. Sisson can be credited with the rejuvenation of at least a few of D.C.'s older, rundown urban neighborhoods because of his renovation of old buildings and of turning them into handsome residences that attracted many middle and upper middle class families. In fact, Sisson is exactly the type of person one would think D.C. bureaucrats would value and enable to continue his work of adding tax revenues to the city coffers through his urban revitalization projects – So much for wisdom in the government.

Along with urban real estate, Sisson also renovated homes in D.C. suburbia, turning many ordinary or unfashionable single-family homes into modern, luxury residences. It is one of these such residences that a wealthy business woman, Cynthia G. Wilcox, allegedly decided to exploit, and along with the assistance of venal D.C. courts and lawyers, allegedly defraud Charles Sisson.

**"The people involved in ... this alleged gross fraud and fleecing of an upright, law-abiding citizen did so thinking that their actions would ... have no negative consequences. They were wrong!"**
***--Lorne Dey***

**SISSON TRAPPED IN DEVIL'S TRIANGLE?**

Ostensibly, Sisson's eventual misfortune can be traced back to 1999 when the I.R.S. reportedly came after Ms. Wilcox to the tune of $1,845,000 in back taxes. Since Wilcox would eventually sue Sisson two years later for $2.5mil, it's reasonable to speculate that after doing a little

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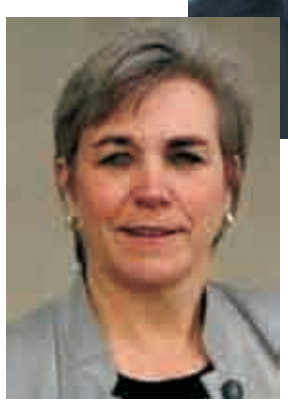
US~OBSERVER VINDICATED SPOTLIGHT

## Victim Falsely Arrested, Jailed – *Vindicated by US~Observer*

**By Edward Snook**
**Investigative Reporter**

**Clackamas County, OR** - The last thought on 17 year old Sierra Brownlow's mind while she was walking down 122nd Avenue on a sunny June afternoon to meet a friend, was that she was about to be dragged through a six-month long nightmare at the hands of the Clackamas County Juvenile Department and Circuit Court Judge Deanne Darling.

Sierra Brownlow



Judge Darling

Sierra was heading to the Safeway parking lot located at 122nd and Sunnyside Road in Clackamas, Oregon to meet a friend on June 11, 2012 when a car driven by Ashley Dalton pulled up beside her with two passengers, Skye Petrzenski and Olivia Iverson. According to witnesses, Iverson leaned out of the car and began shouting obscenities at Sierra.

Iverson was part of an alleged gang of bullies who had been reportedly harassing Sierra at school for most of the previous year. Unknown to Sierra, Iverson had called Keasha "Katy" Neil, another girl who had been allegedly bullying Sierra, to come to the Safeway and "take care of Sierra."

Sierra was in the Safeway parking lot behind her friend Chelsea Carroll's car when Ms. Neil came charging out of nowhere towards them, screaming threats as she approached.

Sierra said, "I knew Neil was hunting me down after she called and texted me. The next thing I see is Neil running towards me with a crazed look in her eyes and her fists cocked. I just knew I was in for a serious beating. I only had a few seconds to figure out what to do, but knew I didn't want to be trapped behind Chelsea's car, especially since I had no idea where the other three girls were. I took a few steps towards Neil to slow her momentum and defend myself, but it was not enough to stop her attack."

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## A Win for Mother Who Stood Firm on 4th Amendment

**By Joseph Snook**
**Investigative Reporter**

*[Certain names have been omitted for the purpose of confidentiality.]*

**DUNSMUIR, CA** - Around May, 2011, probation officers in Siskiyou County arrested and detained Sharon. Sharon was allowing her son who was on probation at the time to stay in an apartment located in the lower, separate level of her residence. According to sources, Sharon had previously met with probation officer Leigh Moore and was told that any weapons upstairs in her portion of the residence would need to be secured and she would have to "block off" access to the lower level, fully furnished living quarters from the upstairs portion of the residence. Although these demands by the probation department weren't legal or valid because Sharon wasn't on probation, and her son did not reside in the residence upstairs, she complied.

In July 2011, the probation department sought another search. After nothing was found to implicate there were any probation violations,

Lawyer Nathan Wente

probation officers turned towards Sharon. One of the probation officers knew the upstairs was Sharon's

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US~OBSERVER FLASHBACK

## How Money is Created in Our Country - Part 2

***A peek into the manipulative practices of the Federal Reserve in terms we can all understand.***

**By Colin Stuart McCoy**

***Editor's Note: Corrections or clarification to the original article published in 1995, by the Oregon Observer, will be in (parenthesis).***

**What is the Difference Between Realistic Monetarism and Illusionary Monetarism?**

In order to be able to really see how the magical, out of thin air creation of money impacts our daily lives, a person needs to know and understand a few things. (Nothing really magical about it.)

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS! *The History Behind the Spirit*

**By Ron and Alicia Lee**

Here it is, the yuletide season rearing its materialistic head. Shoppers running to and fro scrambling, fighting for the best parking spots outside the store with the day's "hottest" sale. Inside, fierce competition erupts in a mad dash to grab the latest craze off the shelf before they are all gone, which sometimes results in bitter words or a physical assault. It's unfortunate that giving has spawned such a massive corporate-driven

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## "NOT APPROVED" *Could mean the difference between life and death*

**By US~Observer Staff,**

How is it that any agency can determine the safety or medical validity of any treatment when it is so obviously manipulated by the almighty dollar? It can't, at least not with any sort of clinical honesty. If we were going to look at safety results we would have to base our conclusions off of the real-world response to treatment.

It is in this area where alternative treatments, like MMS, can show they are leaps and bounds better than any clinically approved pharmaceutical.

Scour the internet and research for yourself. The amount of negative feedback from MMS is miniscule. In fact, it is almost completely nonexistent. But, if you search any number of FDA approved drugs you will find death after death

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### Inside this edition

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portion, in fact, probation officer Leigh Moore admitted that she "knew the upstairs was Sharon's portion of the residence." Sharon had installed a plywood hatch over the stairwell, showing and insuring the separation of the residences.

Probation Officers then told Sharon they were going to search her residence. She informed them that she had secured a plywood door and the upstairs was solely her part of the residence - that they did not have her consent to search. They only had permission to search the residence of her son who was on probation.

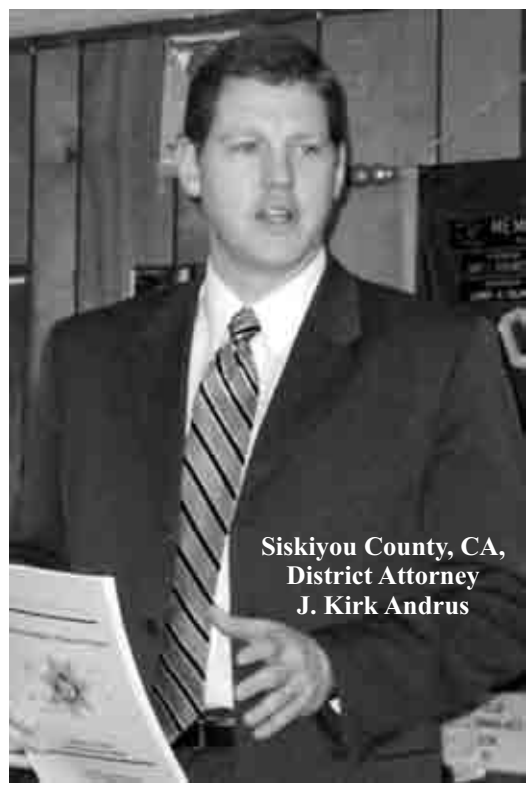
Siskiyou County probation treated Sharon like, "she was the criminal."

The officers ordered her to move aside to permit them to ascend the stairs and search but she continued to refuse. They arrested her for what is known as the California "catch-all" - Penal Code 148, delaying or obstructing an officer in the performance of their duties. They continued to search her private residence and reportedly found nothing that violated Sharon's son's probation.

Sharon refused to accept any plea bargains and went to trial about a year and a half after the incident. After a four day jury trial the jury was dead-locked 6-6. Sharon's Attorney, Nathan Wente did an exceptional job defending her. The judge declared a mistrial and a few days later the District Attorney dismissed the case.

The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution reads: The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

The problem with Siskiyou County Probation Officer Leigh Moore was she reportedly violated Sharon's Fourth Amendment Rights by unreasonably searching an already declared separate residence, which was not part of her son's



Siskiyou County, CA, District Attorney J. Kirk Andrus

residence. They had no warrant to search her residence. Fortunately for Sharon, half of the jury found this to be evident. On the downside, only half of the jury was able to comprehend this fact. To this writer, it is evident that Sharon was absolutely innocent, but in today's society people are seemingly taught to obey government, regardless of the circumstances. I commend Sharon for doing something most people would never do - stand up for their rights. If you don't know your rights you will lose them!

Siskiyou County CA District Attorney J. Kirk Andrus should take a more proactive role in oversight of cases that get prosecuted in Siskiyou County. It would have saved the tax-payers time and money by doing the right thing and NOT prosecuting this case.

*Anyone with information of abuse or false prosecutions in Siskiyou County, CA is urged to contact investigator Joseph Snook at 541-226-8235 or email Joe at joe@usobserver.com.* ★★★

Continued from page 1 • MERRY CHRISTMAS!

nightmare of frantic consumerism. Worse yet, people freakin' buy into it.

The true spirit of Christmas is now cheapened by a drive to remove its religious origins. "Politically correct" now becomes a fight against God in any form or indoctrination, and some corporate giants lead the way, wanting to keep any religious tones out of their stores as not to alienate anyone. Should we say "Merry Christmas?" Or do we say "Happy Holidays?" Who will we offend if we say the wrong one? You see, this fight is being fought in every shopping mall, in every food chain, in every small business across the United States. The posters and signs advertising good deals, as well as good wishes for the holiday, must be censored appropriately – unfortunately, it's typically on the side of political correctness.

As a culture, we are either on one side or the other of this time that is supposed to be uniting, how ironic. It's from this division that there are the debates over where Christmas trees came from, when Christ's birthday actually is and who started giving gifts in the first place. Christ? St. Nick? Some even go so far as to say that Christmas should be cancelled altogether, given a new date and name so it cannot in any way be associated with Christianity. How sad that our forefathers established freedom of religion only for it to be used as a weapon for those seeking to cut out any religious moral fundamentals from their daily existence. I wonder if people even remember or are taught that we have tried that route before.

Christmas has been cancelled more than a few times throughout history. The first large cancellation of Christmas being enforced in England in 1645, when the strictly Puritan Oliver Cromwell decided that the decadence of the Christmas festival didn't align itself well with the highly held Christian ideals. Up to

Christmas Tree in Germany in the 1700s

that point, Christmas celebration was more like the pagan festivals held in the Roman Empire in days of old. The whole town would gather in the town square or city hall to exchange generic gifts, drink wine or beer, and even dress up in Christmas spirit costumes to parade in and entertain children. When Cromwell was finally overthrown and King Charles the Second restored to the throne, Christmas was renewed as well. Christmas was also not a popular idea in the early years of the United States. As you can imagine, the revolution gave most Americans a sour taste in their mouths when it came to any deeply held English traditions, which included Christmas. The Christmas tradition was further soured by the chaos of the Christmas riots that broke out in large cities in 1828. Terrible economic conditions coupled with high unemployment turned the normally joyful Christmas festival into a fury of unhappiness that required a police force to contain it. Those riots would change the way Americans celebrated Christmas forever. In order to avoid the crazed conflict in future years, Americans families began a new tradition. They no longer traveled to town squares or city halls to honor Christmas day, but instead chose to stay home and exchange more personal gifts solely to family members or close friends. Americans also began setting up nativity scenes in their own homes, praying and reading the bible before gift giving or before Christmas dinner, or opting to simply attend Christmas church services. It is in those following years when Christmas truly became Christmas and solidified the traditions that we still celebrate today. In many ways, until just recently, we are more Christian in our celebration of Christmas than we ever had been. So why destroy that? Why tear apart and tear down what we have worked so hard to build into something amazing, something so perfectly "Christ-like" in giving and not expecting in return?

We could ask you to go out and take Christmas back by storm, by suggesting you say "Merry Christmas" instead of Happy Holidays or by not going out Black Friday shopping next year, but then you wouldn't be taking away from this piece what we had intended.

We have taken a merry making festival and have turned it into something beautiful, something precious, where we hold our family close; where we hold to the truths that we have sought to have in our homes; where we honor the birth of Christ. We fought to make Christmas what it is.

With this little history we hope you will understand the true spirit of Christmas as love. Love of family, friends and God.

Our wish is that each of you be touched by another's warmth of spirit and that you take a moment before you give your gifts to truly impress upon the recipient how much they really mean to you. Who knows, you might never get the chance again.

From us and ours, to you and yours,

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!**

**★ Dedicated to Jo Dickison ★**

Continued from page 1 • FDA Targets Family Man

Little did Sierra know that getting stalked and attacked by a gang of high school bullies was going to be the least of her problems.

Clackamas County Deputies R. Stewart and B. Jensen arrived on the scene shortly after some bystanders had broken up the fight. Neil had a visible bruise on her face and told the deputies that Sierra started the fight. According to one witness, the deputies made it immediately clear they did not like Sierra and refused to interview several key witnesses or collect any evidence other than the initial lies they received from Neil and Iverson. After a very brief and completely inadequate investigation, they arrested Sierra, charged her with Assault IV and took her to jail. Sierra was released to the custody of her mother.

David Brownlow

Nothing happened for several months until Sierra and her father David Brownlow were called in for a meeting on September 12, 2012 with Merin Paldi, who represented herself as a Clackamas County juvenile counselor.

At the start of the meeting Paldi informed Sierra that she was going to be charged with Assault IV and Harassment, which would total 18 months in jail, but that if Sierra "worked" with Paldi she would try to make Sierra's probation as short as possible – with Paldi as her probation officer. Ms. Paldi then read the police report, where Sierra learned for the first time that Neil had accused her of stopping the car driven by Dalton, where she pulled Neil from the car and started the fight.

Sierra immediately told Paldi that Ms. Neil was the aggressor and was not even in the car driven by Dalton. Paldi replied that it was too late to bring up any evidence and ordered Sierra to appear the following Monday at a hearing to discuss the charges.

That evening Sierra reached out to Skye Petrzenski, one of the girls who had been riding in Dalton's car. Petrzenski and Sierra had never met before, but Skye came forward immediately and told the truth of what happened, saying, "Sierra was totally innocent. I was in that car with Iverson and Dalton and I can assure you that Neil was not in the car with us. I heard Iverson call Neil from the car to set up the attack on Sierra. I was best friends with Neil, but I was not about to let Sierra get punished for something she didn't do."

"Skye is my hero." said Mr. Brownlow, "The state's case was obliterated the minute she came forward and told the truth. Skye's only motivation from the beginning was to do everything possible to proclaim Sierra's innocence and help get the charges dropped."

Petrzenski subsequently signed an affidavit wherein she stated that Neil and Dalton staged the whole event, and that she heard Neil bragging after the attack that the reason she only hit Sierra on the top of the head was so there would be no bruises on her, assuring that Sierra would be the only one arrested.

Mr. Brownlow called Paldi the next day and told her that Petrzenski had come forward with some very compelling testimony that Neil and Iverson had lied to the police. This was followed up with an email that included Petrzenski's affidavit attesting to Sierra's innocence. Brownlow said, "Paldi was not even slightly interested in discovering the truth of what really happened. Paldi had made up her mind that she was going to pound a guilty verdict out of Sierra and seemed majorly ticked off that I dared to stand in the way of another notch on her belt."

Sierra and her father attended the September 17, 2012 hearing and brought along Ms. Carroll and Petrzenski. While waiting for the hearing to start Paldi served Sierra and Mr. Brownlow with the charging papers for Assault and Harassment. "That woman made no attempt to hide her disdain for me behind a sarcastic smile as she tossed the indictment at me. It was definitely an, 'I'll show you!' moment." Sierra's father Dave Brownlow stated, "I knew things were going to get really ugly."

When called to the bench, Mr. Brownlow told Judge Deanne Darling that he had witnesses in the courtroom, including one of the girls from the car, who were ready to testify that the police report was a complete fiction. He then asked Deputy District Attorney Cara Graham to do an actual investigation before things went any further, because no one from the county had ever interviewed the key witnesses he brought to the hearing. Graham did not comment, but Judge Darling said it was too late for any witness interviews or evidence and that anything Sierra wanted to say would have to wait until trial. She released Sierra to her father with some very strict release conditions.

Mr. Brownlow said after the hearing, "All the DA had to support their case was the bogus police report I had already shot full of holes. The DA had failed to interview a single witness or check a single fact before filing the false charges. Unfortunately for my daughter, Judge Darling and Merin Paldi were on a total power trip and clearly did not like me challenging their reckless behavior. They had Sierra in their sights and nothing was going to stop them. It was a Kangaroo court by any definition."

**"Judge Deanne Darling is vindictive, abusive and she has no business being a judge."**

Rather than go down the lawyer path to financial ruin as demanded by the judge, Mr. Brownlow hired the US Observer to investigate Sierra's case.

**US~OBSERVER ENTERS CASE**

On October 6, 2012, Investigator Joseph Snook and this writer traveled to the scene of the incident to collect evidence and interview witnesses. After a thorough investigation I easily concluded that Sierra was innocent of all charges and that the state's witnesses had clearly lied to the police.

I then contacted Clackamas County DA John Foote, laid out the evidence and facts, stating that this was a case of clear and compelling innocence and asked Foote to drop the false charges against Sierra. On October 17, 2012, I received a call from Cara Graham, the Deputy DA who was handling the case against Sierra.

Graham assured me she would look into Sierra's case. Graham stated that she would go over the facts with Sierra's attorney as soon as one was appointed her.

Just before Sierra was to obtain an attorney, her case took a hard turn into the world of the surreal.

On October 24, 2012 Paldi came to Sierra's school and served her a summons to appear at a hearing the next day over an alleged truancy violation.

Sierra went to the hearing and again brought Petrzenski, who was ready to testify that Neil and Iverson had staged the whole attack and lied about it to the police. Judge Darling refused to let Petrzenski speak and instead scolded Sierra for hanging around Petrzenski, who has had previous appearances before the court. Rather than discuss the merits of the state's case, Judge Darling proceeded to focus on Sierra's attendance record.

Sierra had been sick the week before the hearing with a respiratory infection and had missed a few days of school. Even though Mr. Brownlow had excused Sierra for those days per school policy, and even though she had a prescription from her doctor dated at the time of her absence, Judge Darling said, she knew BS when she smelled it and refused to believe Sierra had been sick. Darling asked Paldi for a recommendation of what should be done to Sierra for missing school. Paldi replied that Sierra should be incarcerated.

Darling declared that Sierra had violated the release order and threatened to sentence her to jail for the full year if she was convicted of the assault charge. Darling then directed a Sheriff's deputy to take her off to jail.

Dave Brownlow said, "The first time I was allowed to see Sierra in jail, she came into the visiting room dressed in these way oversized prison clothes looking like a bag of bones, hunched over and sobbing uncontrollably. She was absolutely terrified and shaking as she told me they did a full strip search and cavity check and then threw her in jail with a bunch of hardened criminals. We both sat there in stunned disbelief that something so horrific could have happened to her over such a pack of lies."

At the point Sierra was arrested, I became quite upset and again spoke with Graham. She told me that she would get with Sierra's attorney and that she was not the one who pushed for Sierra's arrest.

Sierra remained in jail until the next hearing, which was scheduled for October 30, 2012. Even after five days in jail, Sierra came into the hearing with a wide smile and gave her dad the best hug she could while wearing leg irons and handcuffs. The judge said Sierra could be released on house arrest, but only if Mr. Brownlow and his fiancée agreed to supervise her and report any infractions to the court. Mr. Brownlow reluctantly agreed to be Sierra's prison warden as there was no other way she was getting out.

DDA Graham subsequently met with Sierra's newly appointed attorney Jim Bernstein and asked that he have investigators talk with the driver of the car, Ashley Dalton.

Things continued to remain stalled. With no progress made toward getting the false charges dropped, and with Sierra still under house arrest, I instructed Mr. Brownlow to hire investigator Dean Muchow, a retired police chief, to interview Dalton, the driver of the car, since nobody from the county had ever bothered to talk to her, and Graham had requested this.

During the November 9, 2012 Muchow interview, Dalton admitted that Neil was not in the car, but completely changed the rest of the story. This time accusing Sierra of stopping her car and attempting to assault Iverson, instead of Neil as claimed in the police report. After the interview, Dalton called Petrzenski and bragged that she and the other girls involved had gotten their stories perfectly straight. Obviously, their web of lies was unraveling very quickly.

Brownlow said, "The Muchow interview of Dalton was the clincher to getting the case dropped. Dean put Dalton in a corner; and she did exactly what we expected her to do – which was to lie. The DA had no way out but to drop the charges."

This interview was forwarded to the court on November 12, 2012, and no action was immediately taken by DDA Graham. Sierra remained under house arrest until the false charges were formally dropped on December 3, 2012, which made it nearly six weeks of incarceration - jail and house arrest combined.

When asked about the experience, Mr. Brownlow stated, "The County never had a case, yet they went after Sierra with a frightful vengeance; driving her to the breaking point. The time, emotion and expense these people put on my family is absolutely huge. Unfortunately, their sadistic schemes must work a lot of the time because they seemed very confident they would get Sierra to crack. The really sad part about this is there are many thousands of other kids falsely charged and jailed like Sierra. But, without professionals, like Edward and Joseph Snook with the US~Observer on their side, they have little hope of getting justice. I'll take a garden-variety mugger any day over the incompetent, mean-spirited gang of thugs who run our criminal justice system. It's a complete mess from top to bottom." Brownlow added, "They can be assured this case is far from over."

**"I'm still trying to figure out why those people were so hell bent on destroying me. Thankfully, my dad found the US~Observer. Edward Snook, head of investigations, doesn't mess around and he took care of it."**
***--Sierra Brownlow***

Sierra summed it up this way, "I still can't believe Clackamas County did this to me and my family. They arrested me, they ridiculed me in court, they strip-searched me, they threw me in jail and they threatened me with a lengthy prison term for something I didn't do. I got fired from my job, I had to move to a new town and change schools mid-way through my senior year. Talk about a bad deal. I'm still trying to figure out why those people were so hell bent on destroying me. Thankfully, my dad found the US~Observer. Edward Snook, head of investigations, doesn't mess around and he took care of it. I am living with my dad and his fiancé now, and things are going great. I am working with them and my counselors to figure out the best way to move on from here."

The US~Observer commends Cara Graham for dropping the false charges. We also want to make it very clear and public that Clackamas County Sheriff's Deputies Stewart and Jensen conducted a completely inadequate investigation – in other words they failed to conduct an investigation before arresting a then 17-year-old innocent girl.

As for Clackamas County Juvenile Counselor Merin Paldi, this abusive woman is incompetent and dangerous to innocent juveniles. She caused great harm to Sierra Brownlow and I promise all who believe in accountability that she has not heard the last from this writer.

Judge Deanne Darling is vindictive, abusive and she has no business being a judge. She is dangerous to the innocent and to justice - she needs to be removed from the bench. While I don't have the time to insure that this occurs, I do have the ability and the time to give her a life-sentence regarding her very bad, abusive and shameful actions publicly. This article is just the beginning of this process, which I will continue in the next edition of this newspaper and on the world-wide web at www.usobserver.com. Don't miss our next edition wherein we will expose others who took part in the destructive abuse of Sierra Brownlow.

***Editor's Note: The US~Observer urges anyone with information on Judge Deanne Darling, Clackamas County Juvenile Counselor Merin Paldi, Olivia Iverson, Keasha "Katy" Neil and Ashley Dalton to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885 or by email to ed@usobserver.com.*** ★★★

# In The News

## Wrongful convictions are topic of new college program

## *Group works to lessen risk that innocents go to jail*

**By Lindsay Renner**
**SoMdNews.com**

As hard as police and court workers try, sometimes innocent people go to jail.

Established in 1992, the New York-based nonprofit organization The Innocence Project seeks to foster awareness and provide assistance for those who have been wrongly imprisoned. By providing attorneys for the wrongfully imprisoned and using DNA to prove innocence, the organization has recently seen its 300th successful exoneration, College of Southern Maryland students learned at a presentation Thursday.

For the group's senior advocate Katie Monroe, the subject of wrongful conviction holds personal significance: Monroe's mother was wrongfully convicted of murder in 1992 and served 10 years in prison before being proven innocent, which Monroe assisted with.

**Katie Monroe**

However, cases like her mother's that end happily are far from the norm.

"The vast majority don't have this benefit ... most will never be able to right the wrongs," Monroe said. "When the wrong person is in jail, the right one isn't."

Rather than seeking to overturn every conviction, Monroe emphasized the need to reform the system to ensure that it occurs less often. Many of the group's cases have come about as a result of factors including mistaken witness identification, false confessions and flawed forensic evidence. Other times, it comes down to factors as simple but devastating as a mishandling of the case on the lawyer's part.

"The system doesn't seem to fix itself. ... It's difficult to reopen courtroom doors once closed," Monroe said. "It's fallible. ... There's room for mistakes at every single level."

While Monroe has handled cases of this nature firsthand, Scott Hornoff has lived through the ordeal of wrongful accusation and imprisonment.

**Scott Hornoff**

While working as a detective in his native Rhode Island, Hornoff found himself the prime suspect in the 1989 murder of a woman with whom he had at one point had an extramarital affair. Although Hornoff and the woman had parted amicably, he found himself under suspicion when she was found bludgeoned to death.

"I'd seen a lot of bad crimes ... but this was the first time I'd ever known anyone who had been murdered," Hornoff said. "I had to sit down when I found out. It hit me right in the gut."

After the woman's death, Hornoff was questioned by his department, and his captain told him he was cleared of any suspicion. That was the last Hornoff heard in depth about the murder until 1992, when two journalists came to his door to ask him his feelings on being considered the prime suspect in her death.

"It was like a second sledgehammer to the gut when I found that out," Hornoff said. "On one hand, I was fairly confident that I'd be cleared of this. ... I knew that I was innocent, and I thought they'd see that."

Hornoff was brought in for questioning once more, and by the time his case went to trial, his confidence waned.

"I braced myself ... just because I knew her, they could have targeted me," Hornoff said. "I should have looked into it as a cop and investigated it myself. The prosecutor only has to get the jury to dislike you, and because of my infidelity, that was easy enough for him."

When convicted and put in prison in 1996, Hornoff found himself among people he'd helped put away while on the police force. Almost immediately upon arrival, he began looking for ways to fight his case and prove his innocence. After an initial hearing request was denied, Hornoff contacted the New York Innocence Project, which eventually put him in touch with lawyers from the New England Innocence Project. Ultimately, the attention Hornoff gained from fighting his case led the real murderer, the woman's then-boyfriend, to confessing to the crime. In 2002, Scott Hornoff was exonerated by corroborating DNA evidence and became a free man.

"To survive in there, you adopt a philosophy of 'I'll believe it when I see it,' and I just didn't believe it," Hornoff said. "It's been kind of like surviving a war ... how did I get out when so many others didn't?"

Since being released, Hornoff has made television appearances and is among the subjects of a 2005 documentary called "After Innocence" that details the struggles of Hornoff and six other men against a system stacked against them. Despite his ordeal, Hornoff retains faith in the American legal system.

"I'm still very much pro-law enforcement," Hornoff said. "Just as I feel the innocent should be protected, I feel the guilty should be prosecuted."

CSM program coordinator for the Institutional Equity and Diversity Office Jennifer Van Cory felt that, when selecting programs to bring to campus, The Innocence Project presented unique viewpoints.

"Our goal was to educate participants about the role that a grass roots, public policy/advocacy organization has played in the lives of so many," Van Cory said in a follow-up email. "The Innocence Project is a tangible example of how individuals can advocate for change and can also receive justice. ... We were able to garner a very diverse audience."

For Maria Musgrove of Cobb Island, attending the event was something of a wake-up call.

"It's very scary that people in positions of power sometimes use that power to not do the right thing," Musgrove said. "This is something that I think is really important. ... Someone has to stand up. If this can happen to a member of law enforcement, then it can happen to anyone. What happens to someone who doesn't have the resources? It's scary."

★★★

# NY Court stumbles in malicious prosecution case

**By Daniel Leddy**

**STATEN ISLAND, NY** - New York's highest court had an opportunity last week to strike a much-needed blow for innocent individuals maliciously accused of domestic violence by their spouses.

Instead, however, the Court of Appeals decided the case of Grucci v. Grucci incorrectly and, in the process, appears to have effectively abolished the tort of malicious prosecution in this state.

Plaintiff Michael Grucci and defendant Christine Grucci were married in 1988 and had two children. A few months after filing for divorce in 1998, Christine accused Michael of harassment and received an order of protection which directed him to remain away from her.

In January 2000, she accused Michael of violating that order. The allegation followed a heated phone conversation between the two, by that time divorced, about Michael's desire to take their children on vacation during the school term.

In support of her accusation, Christine gave police a sworn, written statement asserting that Michael had threatened to "put a hit on [her]."

The district attorney presented the matter to a grand jury, which returned an indictment accusing Michael of criminal contempt for using electronic means to place Christine in fear of death or injury. He was also charged with harassment.

After Michael waived a jury trial, the charges against him were heard by a county court judge. Finding Christine's testimony to be contradictory and incredible, the court acquitted Michael on all charges. He then sued Christine for malicious prosecution, asserting that she had lied to police and therefore caused him to be wrongfully charged and prosecuted.

To succeed in a malicious prosecution action, a plaintiff must establish that the defendant commenced a criminal proceeding against him; that the prosecution was concluded in his favor; that there was no probable cause for the prosecution and that the plaintiff was motivated by actual malice. Michael's lawsuit was knocked out on the very first of those requirements, when the jury concluded that Christine had not commenced the criminal proceeding against him.

In last week's decision, the Court of Appeals agreed, stating that it was the district attorney, not Christine, who had commenced the criminal case. In reaching that conclusion, the majority cited the trial testimony of an assistant district attorney that it was prosecutors who decided to present the case to the grand jury and, after indictment, to proceed to trial.

He testified to the district attorney's standing policy to prosecute all domestic violence cases where the police conclude that a crime has been committed.

However, as Judge Eugene F. Pigott, Jr., noted in his dissenting opinion, the source of the police's information was the statement given to them by Christine. But for her assertions — later found by a court to be contradictory and incredible — Michael would not have had to endure an arrest, indictment, and criminal trial.

Seemingly incredulous at the court's willingness to let Christine escape the consequences of what she, herself, put in motion, Pigott wrote, "The majority surely does not mean to hold that one who lies to the police in order to cause a criminal prosecution is immunized from a malicious prosecution suit because a prosecutor, misled by the false information, chooses to pursue the case."

Yet, that appears to be precisely what the majority held, a proposition which, Pigott noted, "would essentially abolish the tort of malicious prosecution."

The majority also rejected Michael's effort to introduce an audiotape in which Christine admitted that, far from being afraid of him, she had filed the criminal charges to force him to get psychiatric treatment.

While the court concluded that the tape wasn't properly authenticated, Judge Pigott pointed out that Michael's brother, a participant in the taped conversation, was prepared to testify that it was a fair and accurate account of the conversation between Christine and him.

According to well-established principles of evidence cited by Judge Pigott, including the leading legal treatise on the subject, the brother's testimony was clearly sufficient to allow the jury to hear the tape and determine what weight, if any, to give it.

In reality though, the admissibility of the tape became academic in light of the majority's holding that Christine did not commence the criminal proceeding against Michael.

Whether Michael Grucci would have won his malicious prosecution lawsuit had he not been cut off at the pass will never be known. What is clear, however, is that he deserved that opportunity.

False accusations of criminal wrongdoing remain one of the most significant obstacles in the ongoing battle against domestic violence, and child abuse and neglect. The ease with which they can be made and the difficult, sometimes impossible position in which those accused are thereby placed, cry out for meaningful legal remedies.

Springing from English common law, malicious prosecution lawsuits have traditionally provided the wrongfully accused with one important avenue of recourse. Instead of bolstering the availability of that tort, however, last week's decision by the Court of Appeals appears to have foreclosed it.

Considering what's at stake in the array of Family Law proceedings, that's really a shame. ★★★

# "Fight Club" of corrupt analysts cited at insider trial

**By Basil Katz**

**NEW YORK (Reuters)** - Two former hedge fund managers reaped a total of $70.8 million in illegal profits by tapping a "corrupt network" of Wall Street analysts, a U.S. prosecutor said at the start of an insider trading trial on Tuesday.

**Prosecutor Richard Tarlowe**

Todd Newman, who was a portfolio manager at Diamondback Capital Management, and Anthony Chiasson, co-founder of Level Global Investors, were charged in January in a sweep dubbed "Operation Perfect Hedge" by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. More than 70 people have been charged in the government's broad probe of Wall Street trading.

Chiasson, 39, and Newman, 48, are accused of illegally trading ahead of computer maker Dell Inc's earnings reports for the first and second quarters of 2008, netting profits of $57 million and $3.8 million, respectively. Chiasson is also accused of netting $10 million in illegal profits ahead of the May 2009 results of chipmaker Nvidia Corp.

Prosecutor Richard Tarlowe told jurors in U.S. District Court in Manhattan that Newman and Chiasson had made huge trades based on confidential company secrets obtained by a close-knit group of research analysts.

"This is a case about how the defendants got secret, confidential information about publicly traded companies," Tarlowe said. "They chose to break the law and to use (the information) anyway. Why? To make big money for themselves and for their hedge funds."

Lawyers for Newman and Chiasson countered that their clients did not know that any of the information was secret because the analysts who provided it had made their stock recommendations appear legitimate.

Several of those analysts have previously pleaded guilty to related insider trading charges. One of them, Jesse Tortora, began testifying for the prosecution on Tuesday.

"What Mr. Newman did not know was that mixed in Mr. Tortora's information... was information that Mr. Tortora now says was obtained improperly," Newman's lawyer, Stephen Fishbein, said in his opening statement.

Tortora, who worked for Newman as an analyst, made his work appear like "legitimate, honest research," Fishbein said.

Former Level Global analyst Spyridon Adondakis, who has also pleaded guilty, is expected to testify at a later date.

Together with Sandeep "Sandy" Goyal - who is cooperating with the government - and others, the analysts formed a "corrupt network of professionals who chose to break the rules," Tarlowe said.

### THE CLIQUE

Reid Weingarten, a lawyer for Chiasson, went even further, saying the group of analysts had built a friendship around obtaining insider secrets. "They likened themselves to the 'Fight Club,'" Weingarten said, referring to the 1999 hit movie starring Brad Pitt.

"They traveled together, they partied together, they ate together, they went on vacation together and they shared information together," Weingarten said. "We call them the clique."

Weingarten also said that the Level Global fund, which Chiasson founded with his former boss David Ganek in 2003, placed a "huge emphasis on research" and every trade was backed up by a transparent investment theory. Ganek has not been accused of any wrongdoing.

The defendants face one count each of conspiracy to commit securities fraud and multiple counts of securities fraud. If convicted, they could face at least 25 years in prison.

The judge overseeing the case, Richard Sullivan, has denied repeated requests by the defendants to be tried separately.

Level Global was shut down in early 2011 following an FBI raid. Diamondback, which settled civil charges and entered into a non-prosecution agreement with the Justice Department, continues to operate.

Jon Horvath, a former analyst at a division of SAC Capital, the hedge fund founded by Steven Cohen, was arrested along with Newman and Chiasson. Horvath, a technology sector analyst, pleaded guilty in September to insider trading charges and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors.

The trial, which could last more than five weeks, follows the sentencing last month of onetime Wall Street luminary Rajat Gupta on insider trading charges.

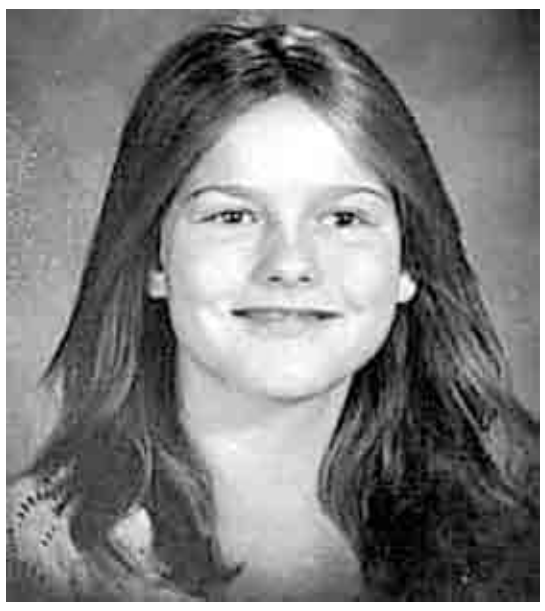
Gupta was found guilty of leaking Goldman Sachs boardroom secrets to his friend Raj Rajaratnam and sentenced to two years in prison. Rajaratnam, founder of the Galleon Group hedge fund, received an 11-year prison sentence last year, one of the longest ever for insider trading.

The case is US v. Todd Newman et al. ★★★

# Lynn DeJac Peters awarded $2.7 million for wrongful murder conviction

**By Rachel Tobin**

**(Examiner)** - A $2.7 million settlement has been reached between Lynn DeJac Peters and New York State. DeJac Peters was convicted of murdering her 13-year-old daughter Crystallyn in 1994. She spent 14 years in prison before being released after prosecutors found evidence of a man's DNA inside Crystallyn's vaginal cavity, in a blood streak on the wall in her bedroom, and on the girl's bedding. DeJac Peters found her daughter's body after an argument with her boyfriend, Dennis Donohue. DeJac Peters left the house after the arguement, and spent hours at a tavern before returning home, and found her daughter dead in her bed. Donohue was granted immunity in return for his testimony against DeJac Peters.



DeJac Peters' Daughter, Crystallyn

Lynn DeJac Peters

Steven Cohen, the lead attorney for DeJac Peters, said that they "have reached what we consider to be a fair settlement for the state's role in this injustice. We still have suits against the County of Erie and the City of Buffalo for their greater and active participation in Lynn's wrongful incarceration."

Crystallyn's body was placed in the same position as two other women that Donohue has since been accused of (and convicted of in one case) killing. "Had the Buffalo police arrested Donohue in 1993 for the murder of Crystallyn, he would not have been at large to kill at least one other woman we know of, Joan Giambra," Cohen said. Donohue was convicted of the September 1993 death in 2008 and is serving a 25 year sentence.

The original suit against New York State was for $14 million, one million for every year DeJac Peters was wrongfully imprisoned.

The case has many similarities to the nationally known case of Michael Morton, who was convicited of killing his wife and spent nearly 25 years in prison before being exonerated. DNA testing in his case not only proved his innocence, but showed a connection to Mark Alan Norwood, who was arrested for the murder shortly after Morton's release. Norwood has also been indicted on murder charges of Debra Masters Baker, killed two years after Christine Morton. ★★★

**Dennis Donohue:**

# Wrongful Conviction Case Draws A Rebuke From Judge

**By Sean Gardiner**

A federal court judge took aim at Brooklyn's top prosecutor on Friday over his response to a key aide's alleged role in the wrongful conviction of a man who spent 16 years in prison for a murder he didn't commit.

Judge Frederic Block said District Attorney Charles Hynes hasn't appeared to address allegations that prosecutor Michael Vecchione employed questionable tactics during the case.

"Hynes hasn't treated it seriously, has he?" the judge asked a city lawyer in a hearing in a Brooklyn federal court. "Name one thing he's done in light of Vecchione's aberrational behavior?"

DA Charles Hynes

The city lawyer said he didn't agree that Mr. Vecchione acted improperly in the prosecution of Jabbar Collins.

Mr. Collins, who was freed in 2010, is seeking $150 million in a civil lawsuit that names the city and individual investigators and prosecutors, including Mr. Vecchione. The judge heard arguments on several issues Friday, including whether Mr. Vecchione can be held personally liable or should be granted immunity because he acted within the scope of his job.

A spokesman for Mr. Hynes declined to comment on behalf of Mr. Vecchione and the district attorney. Mr. Hynes agreed not to retry Mr. Collins, but the office has publicly maintained that he killed Rabbi Abraham Pollack, a father of nine who was murdered in 1994 as he collected rents at a Brooklyn property he owned.

In 2010 after Mr. Collins's conviction was overturned, Mr. Hynes called Mr. Vecchione a "very principled lawyer" who was "not guilty of any misconduct." At the time, Mr. Hynes said he didn't plan to investigate or discipline any lawyers or investigators involved in the case. The chief of the Rackets Bureau, Mr. Vecchione has handled or overseen most of the office's high-profile criminal cases.

Judge Block set a trial date of April 8 but recommended Friday that the city settle. "We're now going to have a civil proceeding, and all of this is going to be uncovered," he said.

The civil case grew out of years of research by Mr. Collins, who was a 10th-grade dropout with an equivalency diploma and some college before he was arrested. While in prison, Mr. Collins taught himself about state and federal records laws and filed scores of requests.

He appealed when he was denied information and eventually obtained previously undisclosed evidence that helped clear him. He and his lawyer, Joel Rudin, built a piece-by-piece case for his wrongful conviction that ultimately led to his freedom.

Three witnesses who helped convict Mr. Collins later recanted. Mr. Collins now works with Mr. Rudin.

The civil suit alleges that Mr. Vecchione and others failed to turn over documents after Mr. Collins's 1995 conviction that would have exonerated him sooner. It also outlines tactics Mr. Vecchione allegedly employed in the case: jailing a potential witness for more than two weeks and threatening to hit him with a table if he didn't cooperate; failing to disclose that another witnesses recanted before the trial; and lying about the existence of documents that Mr. Collins sought to prove his innocence.

During the hearing, the judge asserted "this was horrendous behavior on the part of Vecchione." The district attorney's office says there was no wrongdoing in the prosecution.

Arthur Larkin, who is representing the city in the civil case, argued Friday that prosecutors have full immunity in civil-rights lawsuits for even the most egregious behavior as long as their actions were connected to the case. He didn't, however, agree that Mr. Vecchione acted improperly.

Asked by the judge to concede that Mr. Vecchione didn't turn over evidence after the conviction, Mr. Larkin responded: "I'm not conceding that, absolutely not."

The suit charges that the culture of Mr. Hynes's office is one of "indifference to violations by his employees of the constitutional rights." Mr. Hynes has held office since 1990 and faces re-election next year. ★★★

## US~OBSERVER NOTE ON FALSE CHARGES:

False prosecutions are getting some well needed main-stream attention these days. Over the past 25 years, the US~Observer has been the lone voice exposing this rampant issue. Our clients, over 4,100 of them, have been vindicated of their false charges through the use of our services; an achievement no other group, lawyer or agency can claim.

In many cases, our clients haven't needed the use of expensive attorneys, as our investigations and publication are used to expose the truth to the world. It is this exposure that this otherwise beyond reproach system fears, and it works well.

We hope that every innocent victim of a false prosecution finds justice, and if you are facing false charges, please contact us.

**541-474-7885**
**editor@usobserver.com**

## MAIN-STREAMING WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS

# 60 Minutes feature story on false confessions

**By Rachel Tobin**

Sunday, December 9, 2012, 60 Minutes featured a story on wrongful convictions and false confessions. The segment, titled "The False Confession Capital," got its name based on a quote from the co-founder of the Innocence Project, Peter Neufold: "Quite simply, what Cooperstown is to baseball, Chicago is to false confessions. It is the Hall of Fame. There are more juvenile confessions in Chicago than any place else in the United States. … It's not because the kids are different. … It's because of the way the police keep pounding and pounding and pounding away in those interrogation rooms."

In the segment, one of the men featured is Terrill Swift, who confessed and was sentenced to 30 years in prison for the murder of a prostitute in 1994, tells Byron Pitts that "...everything in that confession was fed to us, and myself and my co-defendants by the police."

A former prosecutor tells Pitts that for the first time, he is convinced that some of the convictions that happened while he was prosecutor were based on false confessions. He feels remorse about sending these teenagers--now men--to prison for something they didn't do. "These young men lost a lot of good lives. I was part of it, I didn't mean it, I never would have done that intentionally, but it doesn't make it any easier," he tells Pitts.

Terrill Swift

"There's nothing worse as a prosecutor than playing a role in sending an innocent person or people to prison for many years. There's nothing worse."

It is great to see national coverage of wrongful convictions cases. The only way to change the justice system is to increase awareness about what has happened to innocent people for many years, and what is still happening. ★★★

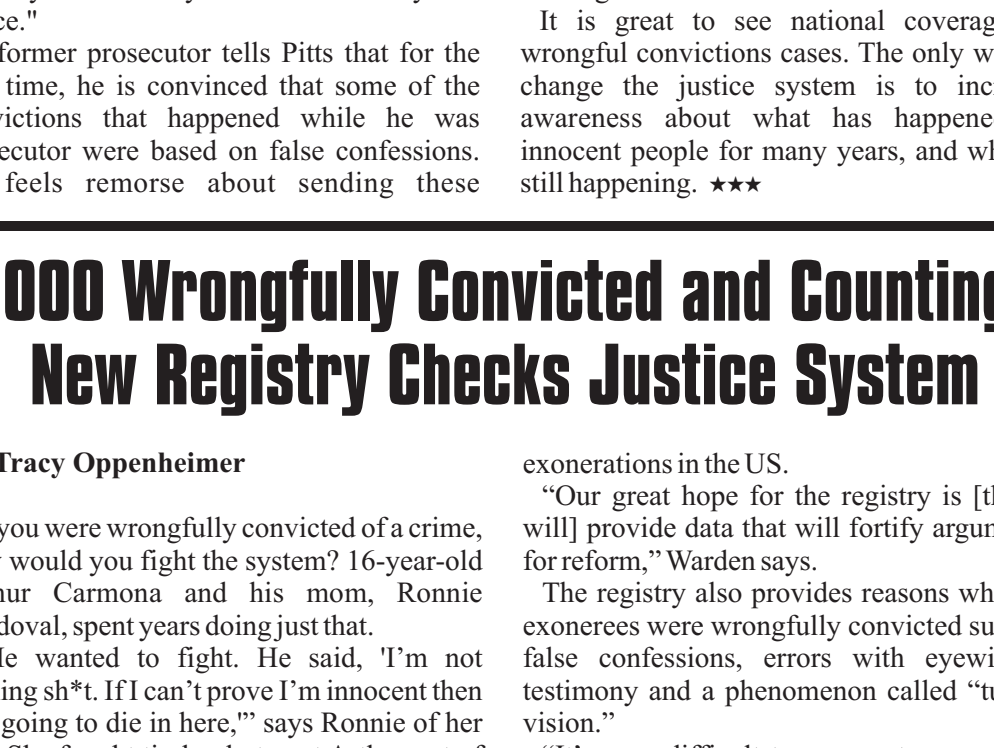
# 1000 Wrongfully Convicted and Counting: New Registry Checks Justice System

**By Tracy Oppenheimer**

If you were wrongfully convicted of a crime, how would you fight the system? 16-year-old Arthur Carmona and his mom, Ronnie Sandoval, spent years doing just that.

"He wanted to fight. He said, 'I'm not signing sh*t. If I can't prove I'm innocent then I'm going to die in here,'" says Ronnie of her son. She fought tirelessly to get Arthur out of prison after he was wrongfully convicted of 12 counts of armed robbery.

"I'm disgusted with what they did to my son," Ronnie says, "it was as simple as him walking out the door to go play video games and he stepped into the Twilight Zone, and it followed him for all the days of his life."



Rob Warden, director of Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions

How did Arthur get thrown in prison for a crime he didn't commit? Rob Warden, director of Northwestern University's Center on Wrongful Convictions, says it's not uncommon.

"Every case that we look at is different," says Warden, "but there are common elements and there are things that seem to transcend them." Warden helped develop a project to raise awareness about wrongful convictions, and bring about change. The National Registry of Exonerations was released earlier this year and documents over a thousand cases of exonerations in the US.

"Our great hope for the registry is [that it will] provide data that will fortify arguments for reform," Warden says.

The registry also provides reasons why the exonerees were wrongfully convicted such as false confessions, errors with eyewitness testimony and a phenomenon called "tunnel vision."

"It's very difficult to exonerate someone," Warden says, "you find that once you are convicted of a crime, the evidence that it takes to exonerate you just has to be far greater than the evidence that it took to convict you in the first place."

Yet Warden hopes the registry will highlight these systemic problems with the justice system and help free the wrongfully convicted still behind bars.

***Editor's Note: "1000" is also a video and is about 8 minutes long. It was written and produced by Tracy Oppenheimer. You can find the video at Reason.com.***

***Had Arthur and Ronnie found the US~Observer they would probably have been included in the some 4,100 cases of false prosecutions we have vindicated in the past 25 years.***

★★★

# Facts on Post-Conviction DNA Exonerations

**(Innocence Project)** - There have been 301 post-conviction DNA exonerations in the United States.

• The first DNA exoneration took place in 1989. Exonerations have been won in 36 states; since 2000, there have been 234 exonerations.

• 18 of the 300 people exonerated through DNA served time on death row. Another 16 were charged with capital crimes but not sentenced to death.

• The average length of time served by exonerees is 13.6 years. The total number of years served is approximately 4,036.

• The average age of exonerees at the time of their wrongful convictions was 27.

Races of the 300 exonerees:

187 African Americans
86 Caucasians
21 Latinos
2 Asian American
5 whose race is unknown

• The true suspects and/or perpetrators have been identified in 146 of the DNA exoneration cases.

• Since 1989, there have been tens of thousands of cases where prime suspects were identified and pursued—until DNA testing (prior to conviction) proved that they were wrongly accused.

• In more than 25 percent of cases in a National Institute of Justice study, suspects were excluded once DNA testing was conducted during the criminal investigation (the study, conducted in 1995, included 10,060 cases where testing was performed by FBI labs).

• 65 percent of the people exonerated through DNA testing have been financially compensated. 27 states, the federal government, and the District of Columbia have passed laws to compensate people who were wrongfully incarcerated. Awards under these statutes vary from state to state.

• An Innocence Project review of our closed cases from 2004 - 2010 revealed that 22 percent of cases were closed because of lost or destroyed evidence.

**LEADING CAUSES OF WRONGFUL CONVICTIONS**

These DNA exoneration cases have provided irrefutable proof that wrongful convictions are not isolated or rare events, but arise from systemic defects that can be precisely identified and addressed. For more than 15 years, the Innocence Project has worked to pinpoint these trends.Eyewitness Misidentification Testimony was a factor in 72 percent percent of post-conviction DNA exoneration cases in the U.S., making it the leading cause of these wrongful convictions. At least 40 percent of these eyewitness identifications involved a cross racial identification (race data is currently only available on the victim, not for non-victim eyewitnesses). Studies have shown that people are less able to recognize faces of a different race than their own. These suggested reforms are embraced by leading criminal justice organizations and have been adopted in the states of New Jersey and North Carolina, large cities like Minneapolis and Seattle, and many smaller jurisdictions.

Unvalidated or Improper Forensic Science played a role in approximately 50 percent of wrongful convictions later overturned by DNA testing. While DNA testing was developed through extensive scientific research at top academic centers, many other forensic techniques – such as hair microscopy, bite mark comparisons, firearm tool mark analysis and shoe print comparisons – have never been subjected to rigorous scientific evaluation. Meanwhile, forensics techniques that have been properly validated – such as serology, commonly known as blood typing – are sometimes improperly conducted or inaccurately conveyed in trial testimony. In other wrongful conviction cases, forensic scientists have engaged in misconduct.

False confessions and incriminating statements lead to wrongful convictions in approximately 27 percent of cases. 28 of the DNA exonerees pled guilty to crimes they did not commit. The Innocence Project encourages police departments to electronically record all custodial interrogations in their entirety in order to prevent coercion and to provide an accurate record of the proceedings.

Informants contributed to wrongful convictions in 18 percent of cases. Whenever informant testimony is used, the Innocence Project recommends that the judge instruct the jury that most informant testimony is unreliable as it may be offered in return for deals, special treatment, or the dropping of charges. Prosecutors should also reveal any incentive the informant might receive, and all communication between prosecutors and informants should be recorded.

★★★

# Legal marijuana: a $46 billion industry?

**By Jonathan Martin**
**The Seattle Times**

The voter-approved marijuana measures in Washington and Colorado are pulling marijuana out of the black market. So how big is that market?

I mentioned it was potentially a billion-dollar industry in Washington alone in a Seattle Times story this Sunday about marijuana-industry investors. That was based on a state Office of Financial Management estimate before the November election, which used federal use surveys, plus the per-gram price at local medical marijuana dispensaries, and came up with a potential $1 billion market.

That's also what Jon Gettman, a Virginia-based marijuana researcher, came up with in 2006. If so, that puts marijuana just behind apples - and just ahead of milk and wheat - as the No. 2 agricultural commodity in Washington.

The Medical Marijuana Business Daily, an industry new service, used the OFM analysis and projected it out nationwide. The result: a market potentially worth more than $46 billion. An eye-popping number.

But these projections, of course, depend on the federal government taking a laissez-faire approach to state legalization measures. The OFM analysis has a big fat caveat that legalization could be worth zero dollars, or $1 billion. No word out of Washington D.C. about the potential response to the two states' new laws.

Seattle smoke-out night of ban being lifted

★★★

# Senate Votes to Curb Indefinite Detention

**By Charlie Savage**
**New York Times**

**WASHINGTON** - The Senate voted late on Thursday to prohibit the government from imprisoning American citizens and green card holders apprehended in the United States in indefinite detention without trial.

While the move appeared to bolster protections for domestic civil liberties, it was opposed by an array of rights groups who claimed it implied that other types of people inside the United States could be placed in military detention, opening the door to using the military to perform police functions.

The measure was an amendment to this year's National Defense Authorization Act, which is now pending on the Senate floor, and was sponsored by Senators Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, and Mike Lee, Republican of Utah. The Senate approved adding it to the bill by a vote of 67 to 29.

"What if something happens and you are of the wrong race in the wrong place at the wrong time and you are picked up and held without trial or charge in detention ad infinitum?" Ms. Feinstein said during the floor debate. "We want to clarify that that isn't the case — that the law does not permit an American or a legal resident to be picked up and held without end, without charge or trial."

The power of the government to imprison, without trial, Americans accused of ties to terrorism has been in dispute for a decade.

Last year, in the previous annual version of the National Defense Authorization Act, Congress included a provision stating that the government had the authority to detain Qaeda members and their supporters as part of the war authorized shortly after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. But lawmakers could not decide whether that authority extended to people arrested on American soil, and so they left it deliberately ambiguous.

Ms. Feinstein, arguing that law enforcement officials have proved capable of handling cases that arise on domestic soil, said the amendment was intended to "clarify" that the government may not put Americans arrested domestically in military detention.

Senator Kelly Ayotte, Republican of New Hampshire, objected to the restriction on security grounds, saying that even American citizens arrested inside the United States on suspicion of planning a terrorist attack for Al Qaeda should be held under the laws of war and interrogated without receiving the protections of ordinary criminal suspects, like a Miranda warning of a right to remain silent.

From the other direction, an array of civil liberties and human rights groups — including the American Civil Liberties Union and Human Rights First — objected to the amendment because it was limited to citizens and lawful permanent residents, as opposed to all people who are apprehended on United States soil.

"Senator Dianne Feinstein has introduced an amendment that superficially looks like it could help, but in fact, would cause harm," said Chris Anders of the A.C.L.U.

But on the floor, Ms. Feinstein said that she limited the amendment to citizens and green card holders because she believed that language would "get the maximum number of votes in this body."

The Senate on Thursday also passed, 94-0, a series of additional American sanctions on Iran. The amendment would impose penalties on individuals selling commodities to Iran that might be used in ship-building or the nuclear program, including aluminum and steel. It also threatened countries, like Turkey, which are buying Iranian oil with gold, in an effort to circumvent banking sanctions.

The current language does not give the president the power to issue waivers, as he has done for countries like Japan, South Korea and India that buy Iranian oil. The White House has opposed the amendment, with officials saying they fear it could "threaten to confuse and undermine" existing effort to get allies, China and other countries to impose other sanctions already in the pipeline.

Also on Thursday, the Senate voted, 62 to 33, for a nonbinding amendment calling for an accelerated withdrawal of United States combat forces from Afghanistan. The measure was sponsored by Senator Jeff Merkley, Democrat of Oregon, and was backed by 13 Republicans.

★★★

# Eastern Oregon ranchers prepare for rapid expansion of wolf population

**BEND, OR (AP)** - Oregon's state wolf coordinator has warned Bend-area ranchers to prepare for a rapid expansion of the state's wolf population.

The wolves make their way into the state from Idaho. They were eradicated in Oregon in the 1940s.

"I think we are on the tip of a fairly rapid population expansion," said Russ Morgan, state wolf coordinator for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

At a panel on Friday, Eastern Oregon ranchers long familiar with wolf predation on cattle complained that they are prohibited from killing wolves and say nonlethal prevention measures are ineffective, the Bend Bulletin reported.

Todd Nash, a rancher from Enterprise and vocal advocate for killing wolves said wolves likely killed two head of cattle this year. This is the third year he's dealt with wolf attacks on his cattle.

Nash has been a prominent voice among Wallowa County ranchers opposed to wolves returning to Oregon. He said he's hired a range rider to help protect his herd of 650 animals, but such nonlethal methods don't compare with killing wolves to stop predation.

"A dead wolf isn't going to kill my cattle," Nash said.

Wolves are listed as an endangered species by the state throughout Oregon and are also federally listed as endangered in the western two thirds of the state.

Nonlethal methods will be costly to ranchers, said Galen Wunsch, a rancher on the C Lazy K Ranch between Madras and Prineville, and a member of the Jefferson County wolf committee.

"As a producer I have to spend more money to protect the livestock," he said.

Two wolves have already trekked through Central Oregon. One of them, OR-7, became the state's most famous canine while his movements were tracked via a GPS-enabled collar.

OR-7 was in Northern California earlier this week [in November].

Ranchers in Central Oregon are bracing for the arrival of wolf packs. The forum was designed to give them an idea of how to protect livestock with advice from Eastern Oregon.

"This is something we have to figure out," said Seth Crawford, a Crook County commissioner, "before they get here." ★★★

# A reality in Sweden is a possibility for the U.S.

## *DNA test proves wolf behind rampant sheep attacks*

**(The Local)** - A DNA test has shown that a wolf killed the 60 sheep recently found dead on an artillery range in Skåne in the south of Sweden.

Livestock owners were shocked by the series of deadly attacks on their sheep in October and November.

"What's happening is peculiar and strange. A regular tame dog does not act this way," local sheep owner Ulf Pyk told the Ystads Allehanda newspaper at the time.

While some suspected a wolf might be behind the attack, predatory animal experts said they were "80 percent certain" that it was a dog that had been clawing and killing the sheep.

But now, a DNA test has confirmed the livestock owners' fears.

"The attacks looked like typical dog attacks, but in order to rule out the possibility of a wolf being behind them we ordered a DNA analysis," predatory animal inspector Nils Carlsson said.

The results show that it was indeed a wolf that clawed the sheep.

In one incident, 10 sheep were killed on the artillery range, which is located north of the town of Kivik. They were found in the morning, bitten to death and strewn across the field where around 1,000 sheep graze, along with horses and cows with calves. None of the other animals was injured.

After that violent night, the artillery field got increased protection, with a military hunting team as well as staff from the county administrative patrolling the area at night.

"It's a good thing our inspectors could secure DNA-traces so that we could clear this up," said Carlsson.

"In cases where we cannot, with great certainty, confirm or rule out a wolf attack, we will use DNA-tests where possible," he added. ★★★

Continued from page 1 • How Money is Created in Our Country - Part 2

1.) The Gross National Product of the United States {GNP} circa (1995), is approximately 5 trillion dollars. That's 5000 billion dollars, or 5 million-million dollars worth of sales taking place. The economy of the United States is a large "animal", you have to smack it pretty hard to get a noticeable reaction

2.) One noticeable reaction would be a noteworthy rise in the inflation rate. The Government of the United States has been spending hundreds of billions of dollars a year more than it takes in, in tax revenues, for decades. The term for that scenario is "deficit spending." The government has been fairly successful in keeping the inflation rate right around 2 percent and 4 percent while spending money it does not really have. There have been periods, however, when the inflation rates have been higher. The higher inflation rates have occurred for a few reasons. The first reason could be for political reasons. For example, if the (Federal Reserve - Board of Governors ect..), took a real dislike to a president, they could "monkey wrench" the economy to make the president look bad. There is evidence that some point to, (circumstantial ?), as an indication that this has happened more than once since the Federal Reserve was born in 1913.

The second reason for the higher interest rates was due to the Federal Reserve finding out that most of their standard formulas for manipulating the economy were obsolete. The Federal Reserve board members have learned that when working with our complex, (multi- faceted), modern economy, they can't just plug in a program and check in from time to time. They have learned that a modern economy has to be monitored at all times, (in a more comprehensive manner using all the most modern technologies at their disposal.)(A third explanation for the occurrence of inflation, as a noticeable sign of a problem was due to a de-stabilization or loss of control over the balance of supply vs demand.)

3.) The monetary system of the United States is virtually mirrored by the monetary systems of the other developed nations. (Virtually mirrored, only in so much as they are also not a gold backed currency but "fiat currency" systems as well.)

4.) The "primary" cause of inflation is the de-stabilization of the balance between supply and demand. The only limit to economic stimulation is what limits are necessary to prevent an imbalance in the supply and demand equation. The rate with which we use the resources fueling the economic stimulation must be sustainable.

5.) Communism and socialism are failed economic philosophies that, even when conducted with the good faith of the governments involved, always end up limiting the growth of the individual and therefore the economy as a whole.

(As to Communism and Socialism being failed economic philosophies, this is still true. However it must be clarified that their failure is a product of their limited singular use of either Communist, or Socialist processes. Purely Capitalistic models, while being far better in most cases also "fail" when only Capitalistic processes are used or considered. All positive aspects of the various economic models must be incorporated into a total economic model in order to serve the most the best.)

6.) Financial reward can only come to a healthy, hard working person through activities that are found to have value in a free market. Any other belief is spiritually and intellectually bankrupt.

(Altruistic efforts are not always seen to be of needed value in purely capitalistic or free market processes, and this is incorrect. Such activities are necessary to the good health of the free market system, and this must be acknowledged. These efforts as well as the people who make said efforts must be nurtured and sustained in any "free market" system that is to be able to accomplish all that is needed for society.)

7.) The economic system that provides the best opportunities and protections for the rights of the individual is a Capitalistic one; one that recognizes the right of the individual to own property, (and protects those rights against any stealthy encroachment thereon.)

(While also still true..If we are serious about trying to decrease the number of needless victims created/facilitated by our current economic systems.. We must recognize and incorporate the positive potentials, when ever needed, of both the Communist and Socialist models. As a needed part of this we must also seek out and eliminate the harmful potentials contained within purely Capitalistic, Communist, and Socialist economic models.)

With this information at a persons disposal and with acceptance of it's validity, things begin to come into greater focus.

Every time the government tells us we can't do what is needed or right because of a lack of money, even though the resources exist; we are being told a lie. This is the biggest social lie of our age. (One of the top two anyway.)

When we look at the potential for what could be under the realities of the mechanics of modern economies. (Currency attributes, and controls under Realistic Monetarism principles,)- and then you see the existence and the limits to that existence that are being forced upon us by those in (greater) control, we should all get a little angry. (Perhaps more than just a little.)

Every time our government allows people to starve because there is not enough money, (they say), this is a lie! Every time people die or suffer because of a lack of medical care and we are told that it has to be this way because there is not enough money to treat them, it's a lie! Every time environmental damage occurs or we're told it can't be fixed, (or halted,) because there is not enough money, it's a lie! Every time we're told there is a lack of funding for educational opportunities, it's a lie!

(Resource availability, as well as the ability to maintain a sustained draw upon those resources, human and natural, without causing an imbalance between needed stability in the supply vs demand equation, is the only factor that should dictate whether or not needed social/environmental programs take place.)

We live in a world where governments are trying to maintain the illusion that money is a finite resource like oil or wheat. Money is not finite; it's just a tool to be used in the creation of the most humane form of society possible. Money, as a tool, can help us to achieve a society where we can begin to live again by the values we all hold dear, rather than just paying those values lip service. (Over the past several years, money as a finite resource in and of itself, is an illusion that all have finally begin to see clearly fade)



I call the system we currently live in under "Illusionary Monetarism," because it ignores the truth/potentials of our modern (fiat) currency. I call the system that I would like to see become reality "Realistic Monetarism" because it operates based upon the true physical realities and potentials of our currency structure. Considering the needs of our modern economic system, our government only needs burden itself with the debt/government securities necessary to meeting the task of inflation control under the auspices of "Realistic Monetarism", (this in conjunction with other inflation control devices to be newly implemented or that would also remain in effect.)

Government /deficit spending need not burden any government with debt after a few physically simple, yet politically difficult, changes are made.

Why, because under Realistic Monetarism new processes controlled by a fully informed voting populace would dictate when and how much new money would be released into the private sector. (Within frameworks established through international treaty.)

As a selling of government debt is one of the main inflationary control devices currently being used and how as mistakes will no doubt occur in the beginning of the implementation of Realistic Monetarism, the government must be prepared to issue long term securities in order to pull cash out of the economy in the event that the voting populace (or those they select) release too much new money into the economy.

(Other new processes that could resemble localized sales taxes could also be used for this purpose with the collected funded being transferred to a null file and extinguished.

I like this better than the selling of "Government Securities" tool)

This is a physically simple way to keep our economy moving in a positive direction that would benefit all of the people who are participating in our economy by spending or supplying goods and/or services. It is politically difficult because it would mean scrapping the Federal Reserve as we know it. (This scrapping we speak of would represent changes more in underlying operational philosophies than major changes in how things would look physically.)

As long as money is viewed as something of value in and of itself, rather than just an effective tool for a successful nation, (world), our society will not achieve the "spiritual ", ("social value realization potentials")..growth it needs.

When we look around at all that is wrong with our world and see the meanness and decay of our values structure: the decline of morality and decency and the "wrong" kind of thinking that goes on now every where. (Wrong as in irrational or without needed reason.) Where does it all come from? What is the source of the energy that nurture the exponential growth of all things horrible, mean, rotten, nasty, evil and perverse while withering into dust things that are innocent, decent, honest, and just?

There is a well read book that offers us a clue as to what that root source may be. In it you will find an interesting quote: "For the love of money is the root of all evil".

Any guesses as to the title of the book?

When I think of a place where people, who like to stack and re-stack the little piles of money under their control, gather ... when I think about where a place must exist where people give money power it was never meant to have, place it upon a pedestal where it, (in manners, or ways) was never meant to be placed, where they worship money in ways it was never meant to be worshiped ... I see the Federal Reserve and the people who control it.

(I think this last might be a little hard on the Federal Reserve, maybe ... others might deserve this dubious consideration to a greater degree ... The U.S. Congress and the attached lobbyists or special interests? Wall Street securities brokers?? U.S. Supreme Court- I.E. Citizens United??? After these and others perhaps you would find next in line the folks at the Federal Reserve, but upon closer study perhaps they are only guilty of being too human, combined with a common trait of not seeing or looking for the forest because of all the trees around???? A lack of innovative out of the box thinking?) I do see the integrity of process that can often be seen attached to their efforts, but still?????

★★★

# COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out

## NAPOLITANO DOUBLE-DOSE
## Four More Years ...

"I believe we have a one party system in this country, called the big-government party ... There is a Republican branch that likes war and deficits and assaulting civil liberties. There is a Democratic branch that likes welfare and taxes and assaulting commercial liberties."
--Andrew Napolitano

**By Andrew P. Napolitano**

### The Unwitting Authoritarian

***"Obama is the least skilled president since Jimmy Carter, but he is far more menacing."***

Only in America can a president who inherits a deep recession and whose policies have actually made the effects of that recession worse get re-elected. Only in America can a president who wants the bureaucrats who can't run the Post Office to micromanage the administration of every American's health care get re-elected. Only in America can a president who kills Americans overseas who have never been charged or convicted of a crime get re-elected. And only in America can a president who borrowed and spent more than $5 trillion in fewer than four years, plans to repay none of it and promises to borrow another $5 trillion in his second term get re-elected.

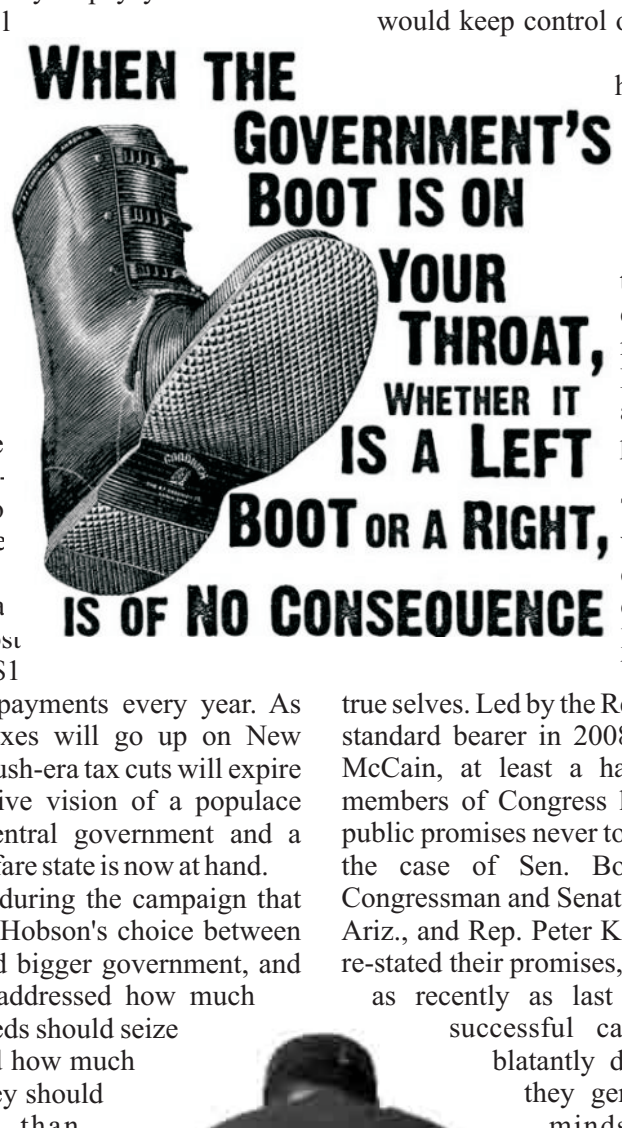
**WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?**

What is going on is the present-day proof of the truism observed by Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton, who rarely agreed on anything in public: When the voters recognize that the public treasury has become a public trough, they will send to Washington not persons who will promote self-reliance and foster an atmosphere of prosperity, but rather those who will give away the most cash and thereby create dependency. This is an attitude that, though present in some localities in the colonial era, was created at the federal level by Woodrow Wilson and Theodore Roosevelt, magnified by FDR, enhanced by LBJ, and eventually joined in by all modern-day Democrats and most contemporary Republicans.

Mitt Romney is one of those Republicans. He is no opponent of federal entitlements, and he basically promised to keep them where they are. Where they are is a cost to taxpayers of about $1.7 trillion a year. Under President Obama, however, the costs have actually increased, and so have the numbers of those who now receive them. Half of the country knows this, and so it has gleefully sent Obama back to office so he can send them more federal cash taken from the other half.

It is fair to say that Obama is the least skilled and least effective American president since Jimmy Carter, but he is far more menacing. His every instinct is toward the central planning of the economy and the federal regulation of private behavior. He has no interest in protecting American government employees in harm's way in Libya, and he never admits he has been wrong about anything. Though he took an oath to uphold the Constitution, he treats it as a mere guideline, whose grand principles intended to guarantee personal liberty and a diffusion of power can be twisted and compromised to suit his purposes. He rejects the most fundamental of American values—that our rights come from our Creator, and not from the government. His rejection of that leads him to an expansive view of the federal government, which permits it, and thus him, to right any wrong, to regulate any behavior and to tax any event, whether authorized by the Constitution or not, and to subordinate the individual to the state at every turn.

As a practical matter, we are in for very difficult times during Obama's second term. Obamacare is now here to stay; so, no matter who you are or how you pay your medical bills, federal bureaucrats will direct your physicians in their treatment of you, and they will see your medical records. As well, Obama is committed to raising the debt of the federal government to $20 trillion. So, if the Republican-controlled House o Representatives goe along with this, as did during Obama first term, the cost will be close to $1 trillion in interest payments every year. As well, everyone's taxes will go up on New Year's Day, as the Bush-era tax cuts will expire then. The progressive vision of a populace dependent on a central government and a European-style welfare state is now at hand.




Though I argued during the campaign that this election was a Hobson's choice between big government and bigger government, and that regrettably it addressed how much private wealth the feds should seize and redistribute and how much private behavior they should regulate, rather than whether the Constitution permits them to do so, and though I have argued that we have really one political party whose two branches mirror each other's wishes for war and power, it is unsettling to find Obama back in the White House for another four years. That sinking feeling comes from the knowledge that he is free from the need to keep an eye on the electorate, and from the terrible thought that he may be the authoritarian we have all known and feared would visit us one day and crush our personal freedoms.

### Is the GOP Leadership Ripping You Off Again?

When President Obama won re-election last month by a larger margin than even his most fervent supporters had expected, though with fewer popular votes than he received in 2008, most commentators initially opined that not much had changed in Washington.

The president would remain in the White House for another four years, the Democrats would keep control of the Senate, and the stay in Republican hands. Most Republicans re-elected to both houses of Congress had publicly pledged not to vote to raise taxes under any circumstances. And most of those Republicans have adhered to that promise – until now.

Over the Thanksgiving weekend, the false congressional fiscal conservatives in the Republican Party began to reveal their true selves. Led by the Republican presidential standard bearer in 2008, Arizona Sen. John McCain, at least a half-dozen Republican members of Congress have renounced their public promises never to vote to raise taxes. In the case of Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., Congressman and Senator-elect Jeff Flake, R-Ariz., and Rep. Peter King, R-N.Y., they had re-stated their promises, directly or indirectly, as recently as last month during their successful campaigns. Did they blatantly dupe the voters? Did they genuinely change their minds? Did they ever sincerely accept the pro-freedom anti-tax logic?

The Founders certainly embraced the pro-freedom anti-tax logic, as they gave us a Constitution that barred the federal government from imposing any direct tax on any persons. That was part of the genius of the document. If the feds really needed cash, they'd need to tax the states. If the states were feeling over-taxed, they could block federal taxes in the Senate, where for 135 years senators were chosen by state governments as delegates to the Senate, rather than elected by voters. This procedure, too, was part of the Founders' genius. It came about in order to assure a place at the federal table for the states, many of which were older than the federal government and all of which retained their sovereignty when they voluntarily joined the union. This procedure for choosing senators was also a check on the growth of the federal government.

Those constitutional provisions were cast aside during the progressive era about 100 years ago, when, during a period of just five years, the Constitution was amended so that the states lost their place at the federal table and Congress could tax incomes, and the feds got a new printing press for cash in the form of the Federal Reserve.

I have described this dreadful time in our history in my new book, "Theodore and Woodrow: How Two American Presidents Destroyed Constitutional Freedom." They did so by inverting the concept of limited government. With the exception of Abraham Lincoln, every president from George Washington to TR's predecessor, William McKinley, accepted the truism that the federal government is one of limited powers, and it may only in engage in behavior that is specifically authorized by the Constitution or reasonably inferable therefrom.

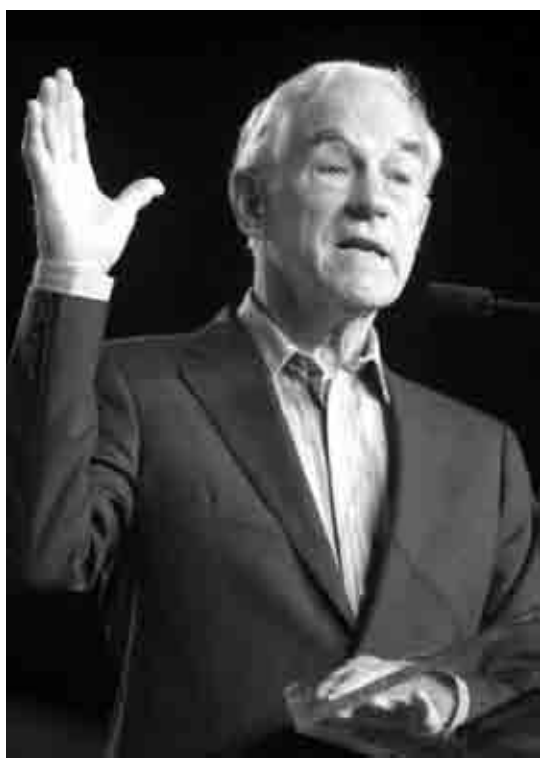
Theodore Roosevelt and Woodrow Wilson, who ran against each other and who hated each other, turned this value on its head. They jointly argued that the Constitution does not mean what it says and is not the Supreme Law of the Land as it states. They held that the federal government can do whatever it wishes unless those wishes are expressly prohibited by the Constitution.

For 100 years, the Republican Party resisted the progressive onslaught. As recently as this past election just a few weeks ago, Republicans argued that increased tax revenue, whether from increased tax rates or from decreased tax deductions, effectively moves wealth from the productive sector and delivers it to the consuming sector – which would be the government.

This argument is really one of the basic laws of economics, so why are Republicans now rejecting it? I suspect that they are drunk with power and have concluded that they – just like Obama did – can assure their re-elections, their continued possession of governmental power, if they deliver bigger pieces of the federal pie to the folks back home. Stated differently, they are unwilling to address a system that soon will deliver more in entitlement payments and interest payments on government debt than it collects in revenue by reducing the entitlements, shrinking the government, cutting the debt, returning to the confines of the Constitution and letting hardworking Americans retain what is theirs. Instead, they now want to raise federal taxes.

They would be unwise to try to pull this off – and would be wise to recall recent history. The last Republican president to pledge "Read my lips. NO NEW TAXES" and then violate that promise was dispatched by the voters to a hotel suite in Houston, rather than to four more years in the White House. I bet George Herbert Walker Bush today would stick to his pledge.

★★★



## Gov't Spending Will Push Us Over the Fiscal Cliff

**By Ron Paul**

As the year draws to an end, America faces yet another Congressionally-manufactured crisis which will likely end in yet another 11th hour compromise, resulting in more government growth touted as "saving" the economy. While cutting taxes is always a good idea, setting up a ticking time bomb with a sunset provision, as the Bush tax cuts did, is terrible policy. Congress should have just cut taxes. But instead, we have a crisis that is sure not to go to waste.

The hysteria surrounding the January 1 deadline for the Budget Control Act's spending cuts and expiration of the Bush tax cuts seems all too familiar. Even the language is predictably hysterical: if government reduces planned spending increases by even a tiny amount, the economy will go over a "fiscal cliff." This is nonsense.

This rhetoric is based on the belief that government spending sustains the economy, when in fact the opposite is true. Every dollar the government spends is a dollar taken from consumers, businessmen, or investors. Reducing spending can only help the economy by putting money back in the hands of ordinary Americans. Politicians who claim to support the free market and the lower and middle-class should take this to heart.

The reality is, however, that neither Republicans nor Democrats are serious about cutting spending. Even though U.S. military spending is exponentially larger than any other country and is notorious for its inefficiency and cost overruns, Republicans cannot seem to stomach even one penny of cuts to the Pentagon's budget. This is unfortunate because this is the easiest, most obvious place to start getting spending under control. The military-industrial complex and unconstitutional overseas military interventions should be the first place we look for budget cuts.

Similarly, Democrats are digging in their heels on not cutting any welfare or entitlement spending and instead propose to fix the deficit by raising taxes on the rich, even though the U.S. Government already has a progressive tax code and the rich already pay more than their fair share. Furthermore, these higher taxes would fall on small business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs—in other words, the source of economic growth and new jobs!

The truth is that there is no excuse for government spending being as high as it is, nor for taxes being as high as they are. Even the God of the Old Testament only asked for 10% as a tithe and offering, and Americans revolted against the King of England for taxes that amounted to less than five percent. Yet so many people today complain about "loopholes" for the rich that lower their actual tax rate to "only" 13% in some instances. Even that is a criminal amount to pay for a wasteful, abusive, unconstitutional government.

We are indeed headed to a fiscal cliff and have been long before this latest hysteria cropped up. But it is not cuts to spending or reduced government "revenue" that will send us over the cliff, it is continued government spending that will. Until the federal government limits itself to its Constitutionally-mandated role, spending and taxation will remain out of control.

Look for a "bipartisan" compromise in late December, with Republicans giving in to tax increases and settling for phony spending cuts that actually grow government, and Democrats caving on defense cuts in exchange for tax increases. This is how the government has always grown: both sides will sacrifice their pro-liberty, small government stances in certain areas in order to grow the government where they prefer.

Liberty always loses in the 11th hour. ★★★

"Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare but only those specifically enumerated. ... A wise and frugal government...shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned."
--Thomas Jefferson

# COMMENTARY

## Calif. Leads the Nation in Wrongful Convictions

**By Franky Carrillo**

**(Frank Carrillo was exonerated of murder after 20 years in prison.)**

**(Huffington Post)** - A new project at UC Berkeley Law School, the California Wrongful Convictions Project, has been studying the problem of innocent people in California convicted of crimes they did not commit, and they've just released their findings [view this article on-line to read the document]. I wish I could say I was shocked by what they found.

California currently leads the nation in wrongful convictions. With more than 200 innocent people locked up for crimes they did not commit since 1989, and 123 exonerations, California exceeds every other state in the U.S. when it comes to this dubious distinction.

This came as no surprise to me. I was one of those 200 innocent people.

I was locked up more than 20 years ago for a murder I did not commit and last year, I was finally able to prove my innocence and was released. Including my 20 years, the total amount of time spent in prison by innocent people in California is 1,311 years.

Ever since I was released, I've been traveling around the state urging voters to ... replace the death penalty with life in prison because of the risk of executing an innocent person. I know first-hand that innocent men and women can be convicted of terrible things they had nothing to do with, and that the death penalty always will run the awful risk of executing one of those people. It could have been me.

In all my speaking around the state, I often encounter the attitude that wrongful executions and wrongful convictions are not a California problem. After all, the most publicized cases of possible wrongful executions -- like Cameron Todd Willingham, Carlos DeLuna or Troy Davis -- all take place in states like Texas and Georgia.

But this new report confirms what I always knew: that wrongful convictions can and do happen in California. In fact, they happen more often here than anywhere else.

That's why it's so important ... to replace the death penalty with life in prison with no chance of parole. The death penalty will always risk executing an innocent person, there's simply no way we can have a perfect system that never makes mistakes. And this report reveals we're doing even worse than we thought -- worse than every other state -- when it comes to ensuring we only convict the guilty. How can we risk executions after seeing this staggering error rate?

Replacing the death penalty is the only way we can guarantee that we will never make this fatal mistake in California. Life in prison with no chance of parole means convicted killers stay behind bars forever where they can no longer threaten our communities -- but if someone is innocent, they will have the opportunity to prove it.

With the death penalty, mistakes are irreversible. ★★★

## Failed Evidence: *Why Law Enforcement Resists Science*

**By David Harris**

In the US today, consumers of news and popular culture cannot avoid noticing a new era in police work: science seems to be the handmaiden of law enforcement at almost every level. One need not work very hard to find news stories centering on the wonders of DNA. This incredible identification tool solves cases, both current and cold, by identifying perpetrators with a degree of accuracy undreamed of in years past. And the world of entertainment is alive with television programs and movies about police work based on high-tech science and gadgetry. Take a look at any television show about police these days in the US, and you'll see far more images of detectives and technicians handling test tubes and sample swabs than guns and handcuffs.

But this image of a deep alliance between police work and modern science is misleading at best. With the exception of DNA work and certain kinds of classic chemical analysis, law enforcement generally does not embrace existing scientific work. In fact, police and prosecutors in the US resist science. The scientific work I am referring to involves the testing of the more traditional techniques of law enforcement investigation and prosecution: not the high-tech sheen of the DNA lab, but scientific testing of eyewitness identification, the interrogation of suspects and the more traditional forensic methods such as fingerprint identification. This is the daily bread and butter of law enforcement, and scientists have found it wanting. The science on these basic police investigation methods has existed for years — some of it for decades. It is rigorous, and has undergone peer review, publication and replication. It tells us what the problems with traditional police work are, and also gives us some straightforward ways of solving these problems. Yet, most — not all, to be sure, but most — of American law enforcement continues to resist this science and refuses to change its basic tactics to reflect the best of what science has to offer.

The question at the heart of my book, Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science, is why this resistance takes place. And, if we understand the reasons for this resistance, are there ways to overcome it in order to have better police work and surer prosecution of crimes?

Let's take a step back. It has now been more than 22 years since the advent of DNA as a crime-fighting tool. It gave police and prosecutors an incredibly powerful method for identifying traces of biological matter left at crime scenes. Properly used, DNA allowed scientists to calculate the probability that anyone other than the accused was the source of the evidence, with the odds of an error in the tens of millions or even billions to one. There had never been anything like DNA for proving guilt. But quickly, the other edge of the sword came into view: DNA's precision not only proved some accused people guilty; it also proved convicted people not guilty. And many of those debunked convictions rested on the more traditional police methods like eyewitness identification, confessions from suspects and non-DNA forensic work.

To date, there have been 300 DNA-based, post-conviction exonerations in the US, These cases have exposed just how much we thought we knew about police investigation and methods turns out to be wrong. There is testable DNA in roughly five percent of all cases, so we know we're looking at the tip of the iceberg. Thus, the 300 DNA-based exonerations reveal startling patterns while hinting at much bigger problems. Among those 300 cases, 72 percent contain an incorrect eyewitness identification. Half of the cases contain faulty (non-DNA) forensic work. And 27 percent feature a false confession or statement of guilt at some stage. (These numbers add up to more than 100 percent because many cases have more than one cause of error.)

All of this has pushed us to examine the science that we now have — in some cases, for decades — on these problems. Here are some of the things we know now:

Eyewitness identification is among the least accurate types of evidence. When we use simultaneous lineups — the traditional group of individuals or a group of pictures displayed together for the witness — we introduce an increased risk of error into the process. When we show the individuals or photos to the witness one at a time, this error virtually disappears.

Despite what almost everyone believes, innocent people do sometimes confess to crimes — even serious crimes — that they did not commit, and they do this in the absence of physical abuse, mental illness or intoxication. This is largely because of the enormous psychological pressure brought to bear on people who are interrogated. We can counter these pressures by requiring video and audio recording of full interrogations, prohibiting police lies to suspects about scientific testing and forbidding threats of harsh punishment.

Certain types of forensic methods, such as fingerprint or tool mark identification, work reasonably well but are not data-based. Rather, they are based on human interpretation and experience, making them fallible and subject to cognitive biases. Other types of forensic methods — so-called bite mark analysis, for one — are little more than junk science and should be eliminated. The National Academy of Sciences' 2009 report, Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States, makes all of this clear and points the way to better police laboratory work.

If we know the problems, and we can also see the answers, why the resistance? Two sets of reasons emerge. First, there are cognitive barriers: aspects of human thinking that make change difficult or impossible. For example, cognitive dissonance makes it hard for people to acknowledge fundamentally conflicting information; instead, they rationalize one part of it away. For law enforcement, this is a powerful force. Police and prosecutors believe that they are the "good guys" — protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty. Thus, how do they deal with the opposing fact that traditional methods sometimes result in disastrous miscarriages of justice? They rationalize the second idea away. Three hundred exonerations? That's not many in the grand scheme of things. Or: the fact that these convicted people were exonerated proves the system works. This and other cognitive barriers make change very tough. Second, there are institutional barriers. Police and prosecutors all work within an institutional framework. For police, that framework demands arrests; for prosecutors, it demands convictions. Anything that might threaten the achievement of those goals will be scorned.

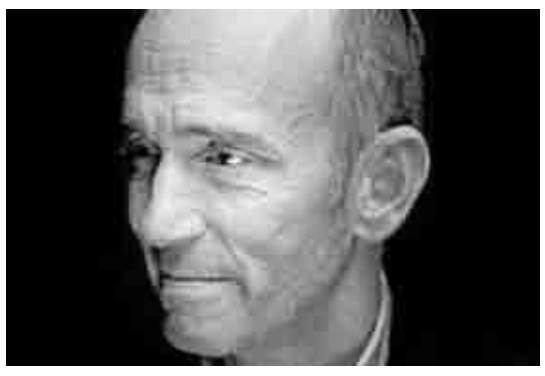
But there is a way around these obstacles, and toward better practices based on the science we have. First, every prosecutor's office should have a dedicated conviction integrity unit: a lawyer or group of lawyers whose job is to investigate legitimate claims of wrongful conviction in past cases. (Small prosecutor's offices might join others to form one unit for a group of counties.) This would create a regular mechanism to investigate real claims of innocence into routine practice. This was pioneered by Craig Watkins in the Dallas, Texas prosecutor's office, and has since been instituted in prosecutor's offices in Houston, New York City and Baltimore, among others. Second, with conviction integrity units in place to address the mistakes of the past, reform efforts should focus on the future: how can we change today's practices so as to avoid further mistakes? This will avoid cognitive dissonance by focusing attention on improvement and away from errors already made, which challenge the good guy image of law enforcement. Third, the small but growing number of police and prosecutors who have experience with some of these better practices — police and prosecutors in Minnesota, for example, who have been recording interrogations for almost two decades with great success — should become the spokespersons for these reforms. They are the ones who can change the minds of their brothers and sisters in law enforcement.

This type of reform will not be easy, and it will not be quick. But it is absolutely necessary. The object is not to have a perfect justice system. In a system run and created by human beings, we should not expect perfection. But we owe it to our fellow citizens, and to ourselves, to do the best that our brains can come up with to make sure that we come as close to justice as we can in every case.

***David A. Harris is Distinguished Faculty Scholar and Associate Dean for Research at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law. His new book, Failed Evidence: Why Law Enforcement Resists Science, has just been published by New York University Press.*** ★★★

# David vs. Monsanto

## The Story of How a Lone Farmer Prevailed Against One of the Most Powerful Companies on the Planet



**By Dr. Mercola**

Monsanto has long been trying to establish control over the seeds of the plants that produce food for the world. They have patented a number of genetically altered food crops, which can only be grown with proper license, and the seeds for which must be purchased anew each year.

Alas, genetically engineered (GE) crops cannot be contained. And rather than being found guilty of contaminating farmers' property, Monsanto has successfully sued hundreds of unsuspecting farmers for patent infringement when unlicensed GE crops were found growing in their fields. Many farmers have subsequently, quite literally, lost their farms.

Percy Schmeiser of Saskatchewan, Canada, is but one of Monsanto's victims, but contrary to so many others, he refused to quietly tolerate the injustice. In a classic case of David versus Goliath, Schmeiser fought back against one of the most powerful businesses in the world.

### DAVID VERSUS GOLIATH

It all began in 1998, at which time Schmeiser had grown canola on his farm for 40 years. Like any other traditional farmer, he used his own seeds, saved from the previous harvest.

But, like hundreds of other North American farmers, Schmeiser ended up being sued by Monsanto for 'patent infringement' when more than 320 hectares were found to be contaminated with Roundup Ready canola—the biotech giant's patented canola, genetically engineered to tolerate otherwise lethal doses of glyphosate.

The company sought damages totaling $400,000. Most farmers end up settling, but Schmeiser was angry enough to fight back, and countersued Monsanto for:

- Libel, by publicly accusing him of committing illegal acts
- Trespassing
- Improperly obtaining samples of his seed from a local seed plant
- Callous disregard for the environment by introducing genetically modified crops without proper controls and containment
- Contamination of his crops with unwanted GE plants

The case eventually went before the Federal Court of Canada, and after a decade-long battle, Schmeiser won when, in March 2008, Monsanto settled out of court, agreeing to pay for all cleanup costs. The agreement also specified that Schmeiser would not be under gag-order, and that Monsanto can be sued for recontamination. This landmark case is now featured in the documentary film "David versus Monsanto," which you can view in its entirety above.

### THE DANGEROUS CONTAMINATION PROPAGATING ALL AROUND AMERICANS

Sadly, Schmeiser's victory is a rare case. While Monsanto and the rest of the opposition of California's Proposition 37 try to instill fear of lawsuits, which they claim could result if genetically engineered foods were to require labeling, they themselves have no problems suing farmers for patent infringement when their seeds migrate and contaminate neighboring fields.

This despite the scientific evidence (in addition to the common knowledge of every traditional farmer out there) that GE contamination is an absolute given. You simply cannot contain it within a given area. What's worse, we now have proof that GE crops not only spread outside the boundaries of any given field, they're also combining into brand new, completely unintended forms in the wild! According to a study published in the journal PLoS ONE1 last year:

"[W]e conducted a systematic roadside survey of canola (Brassica napus) populations growing outside of cultivation in North Dakota, USA, the dominant canola growing region in the U.S. We document the presence of two escaped, transgenic genotypes, as well as non-GE canola, and provide evidence of novel combinations of transgenic forms in the wild. Our results demonstrate that feral populations are large and widespread. Moreover, flowering times of escaped populations, as well as the fertile condition of the majority of collections suggest that these populations are established and persistent outside of cultivation." [Emphasis mine]

Still, Monsanto gets away with these ridiculous lawsuits, when in fact they are the ones who really should be held responsible for cleaning up the mess when its seeds spread beyond intended perimeters. But contamination isn't the only issue showing up in court. Farmers also sign an "iron-clad" agreement to not save or use the seed for the next planting season. They must repurchase the seed for each planting. This has turned ancient agricultural practices into an outright crime...

### PATENTED SEEDS TURN ANCIENT AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES INTO A CRIME

Most recently, the US Supreme Court agreed to hear the appeal by Indiana soybean farmer Vernon Hugh Bowman—one of seven current appeals before the court—who disputes Monsanto's claim that his farm used the patented seeds without authorization.

As reported by Bloomberg2:

"Bowman used the patented seeds, but also bought cheaper soybeans from a grain elevator and used those to plant a second crop. Most of the new soybeans also were resistant to weed killers, as they initially came from herbicide-resistant seeds, too. Bowman repeated the practice over eight years. Monsanto sued when it learned what he was doing. The company has filed lawsuits around the country to enforce its policy against saving the seeds for the future."

Last year, CBS News Chief Investigative Correspondent Armen Keteyian investigated the problems facing farmers as a result of patented biotech crops3. David Runyon and his wife almost lost their 900-acre farm over a seed they claim they never planted. Mrs. Runyon told CBS:

"I don't believe any company has the right to come into someone's home and threaten their livelihood [and] to bring them into such physical turmoil as this company did to us."... "Pollination occurs, wind drift occurs. There's just no way to keep their products from landing in our fields," David [Runyon] said.


Farmers are not the only ones getting sued. Mo Parr, a 74-year old seed cleaner was also sued by Monsanto for "aiding and abetting" farmers in violating the company's patent. Seed cleaners are hired by farmers to separate debris from the seed to be replanted. "There's no way that I could be held responsible. There's no way that I could look at a soy bean and tell you if it's Round-up Ready," Parr told CBS4. Amazingly, Monsanto won its case against Parr.

### SHOULD GENETICALLY ENGINEERED FOODS BE LABELED?

A recent article in the Pittsburg Post-Gazette5 highlights the issues at hand when it comes to labeling of these patented crops. The article quotes farmer Jim Bridge, who does not use GE seeds on his farm:

"Here is my argument on the whole deal. When you read the seed catalogs, the licensing agreements for genetically engineered corn say you can't feed animals any of the corn husks, corn stock or any byproduct off those seeds. "So what the hell am I eating the corn for?

This is the issue facing California voters on November 6. Proposition 37, a state ballot initiative that would require genetically engineered foods to be labeled, has become a hotbed of controversy as the biotech industry, led by Monsanto, has pulled out all the stops to mislead the public into voting against it.

Their entire premise is flawed. Just consider how many other ingredients must by law be included on the label, yet somehow something as critical as whether the food has been genetically altered or not is supposed to be of no consequence to buyers! Nothing could be further from the truth—especially in light of mounting evidence demonstrating that GE foods can cause severe health problems over the long term.

### SHOCKING REPORT: AMERICANS EAT THEIR WEIGHT AND MORE IN GE FOODS EACH YEAR

All the safety studies submitted to approve GMO seeds were only short term. The world's first lifetime feeding study discovered that rats fed a diet containing 11 percent GE corn developed massive breast tumors, kidney and liver damage and other serious health problems in the 13th month of life. The average life span of a rat is about two years. Again, this was the FIRST study to evaluate the health effects of a GE-containing diet over the course of a lifetime. This despite the fact that the first GE crops were introduced into the US food supply in the mid-90's!

The fact of the matter is that the long-term health effects and safety of these crops have never actually been properly evaluated or affirmed prior to being approved for widespread planting. This information is absolutely critical for American families raising young children. Yet at present, they have no way of avoiding foods that contain GE ingredients, should they wish to do so.

To put the findings of this animal feeding study into human perspective, if the average lifespan of a person is 80 years, these health problems would start rearing their ugly head somewhere during the 43rd year of life, provided your diet contained just over 10 percent GE foods and you began eating them in early childhood.

Well, guess what?

Any child in the US who eats processed foods on a regular basis consumes at least 10 percent GE ingredients. The actual percentage is in fact likely to be FAR higher than that. According to a shocking report released by the Environmental Working Group6 on October 15, Americans are eating their weight and more in genetically engineered food every year—an average of 193 pounds of GE foods annually!

"'What's shocking is that Americans are eating so much genetically engineered food, yet there have been zero long-term studies done by the federal government or industry to determine if its consumption could pose a risk health,' said Renee Sharp, lead author of the report and the director of EWG's California office. 'If you were planning on eating your body weight of anything in a year or feeding that much food to your family, wouldn't you first want to know if long-term government studies and monitoring have shown it is safe?'"

★★★

# Are you being fooled by your labels? 50 percent of people falsely believe 'all natural' means no GMOs

**By Jonathan Benson**

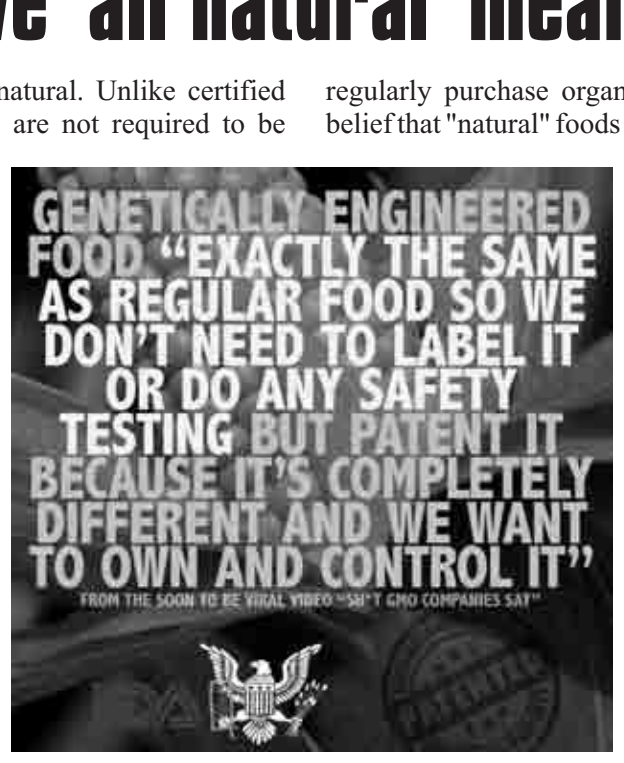
**(NaturalNews)** - Navigating the grocery store aisles in search of truly healthy food can be a daunting task, especially if you do not know exactly what to look for. And according to a new survey put out by ViJuvenate.com, as many as half of all shoppers are still confused by the terms "natural" and "all natural," falsely believing them to imply that a food item is free of genetically-modified organisms (GMOs).

Based on a survey that included 206 respondents from across the U.S., it was determined that 50 percent of shoppers from varying backgrounds and income levels falsely believe that "natural" foods automatically contain no GMOs. As can be expected, this assumption lies in the obvious fact that GMOs are not natural, and thus would not feasibly be found in foods bearing such a label.


But as we have pointed out in the past, terms like "natural" and "all natural" are very loosely regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), which means food producers are free to use them interchangeably on all sorts of food items that are not technically natural. Unlike certified organic products, "natural" products are not required to be GMO-free, nor are they necessarily required to be grown without the use of synthetic pesticides and fertilizers.

According to the Rodale Institute, the USDA's guidelines for "natural" foods are ambiguous at best, and the term can be used voluntarily by food companies at their own discretion, with no anchoring to any set of standardized guidelines. And while the USDA website states that all natural claims "should be accompanied by a brief statement which explains what is meant by the term natural," this requirement is hardly enforced.

At the same time, 43 percent of survey respondents indicated their belief that the word "natural" is highly regulated by the USDA, while 33 percent said they believe "natural" products are grown without synthetic chemicals. Even among those who said they regularly purchase organic food, 41 percent indicated their belief that "natural" foods are GMO-free.



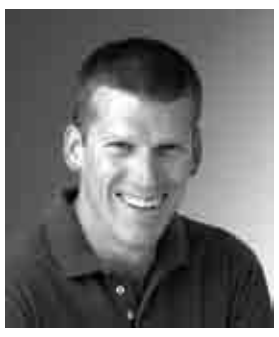

NaturalNews has been trying to get the word out for years about widespread deception in the "natural" foods industry. Not all food products labeled "natural" are bad, of course, but there are a number of popular "natural" brands such as Barbara's Bakery and Kashi that are deliberately betraying their customers with deceptive advertising, and the public needs to know about it.

Unless a food product specifically states that it does not contain GMOs; has been officially certified by the Non-GMO Project as being GMO-free; or bears an official USDA certified organic seal, you can be sure that it most likely contains GMOs if it was produced in the U.S., even if it also bears a "natural" label.

★★★

# What's really in vaccines?

## Proof of MSG, formaldehyde, aluminum and mercury



**By Mike Adams**
**The Health Ranger**

**(NaturalNews)** - Have you ever wondered what's really in vaccines? According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control's vaccine additives page, all the following ingredients are routinely used as vaccine additives:

• Aluminum - A light metal that causes dementia and Alzheimer's disease. You should never inject yourself with aluminum.

• Antibiotics - Chemicals that promote superbugs, which are deadly antibiotic-resistant strains of bacteria that are killing tens of thousands of Americans every year.

• Formaldehyde - A "pickling" chemical used to preserve cadavers. It's highly toxic to the nervous system, causing blindness, brain damage and seizures. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services openly admits that formaldehyde causes cancer. You can see this yourself on the National Toxicology Program website, featuring its 12th Report on Carcinogens. There, the formaldehyde Fact Sheet completely neglects to mention formaldehyde in vaccines. This is the "dirty little secret" of government and the vaccine industry. It does state, however, that "...formaldehyde causes myeloid leukemia, and rare cancers including sinonasal and nasopharyngeal cancer."

• Monosodium Glutamate (MSG) - A neurotoxic chemical called an "excitotoxin." It causes brain neurons to be overexcited to the point of death. MSG is toxic even when consumed in foods, where it causes migraine headaches and endocrine system damage. You should NEVER inject MSG into your body. But that's what health workers do when they inject you with vaccines.

• Thimerosal - A methyl mercury compound that causes severe, permanent nervous system damage. Mercury is highly toxic to the brain. You should never touch, swallow or inject mercury at any dose. There is no safe dose of mercury! Doctors and vaccine pushers LIE to you and say there is no mercury in vaccines. Even the CDC readily admits vaccine still contain mercury (thimerosal).

In addition, National Toxicology Programs admits in its own documents that:

• Vaccinations "...may produce small but measurable increases in blood levels of mercury."

• "Thimerosal was found to cross the blood-brain and placenta barriers."

• The "...hazards of thimerosal include neurotoxicity and nephrotoxicity." (This means brain and kidney toxicity.)

• "...similar toxicological profiles between ethylmercury and methylmercury raise the possibility that neurotoxicity may also occur at low doses of thimerosal."

• "... there are no existing guidelines for safe exposure to ethylmercury, the metabolite of thimerosal."

• "...the assessment determined that the use of thimerosal as a preservative in vaccines might result in the intake of mercury during the first six months of life that exceeded recommended guidelines from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)..."

• ..."In the U.S., thimerosal is still present as preservative in some vaccines given to young children, as well as certain biological products recommended during pregnancy. Thimerosal remains a preservative in some vaccines administered to adolescents and adults. In addition, thimerosal continues to be used internationally as a vaccine preservative."

The report then goes on to say that the FDA studies thimerosal and somehow found it to be perfectly safe. It also states that vaccine manufactures are "working" to remove

thimerosal from vaccines, but in reality it's still being manufactured right into the vaccines.

By the way, this report also reveals that the FDA requires preservatives like thimerosal only in so-called "multi-dose" vaccines -- vials that contain more than one dose of the vaccine. Drug companies could, if they wanted to, produce "clean" single-dose vaccines without any mercury / thimerosal. But they choose not to because it's more profitable to product mercury-containing multi-dose vaccines. As the report admits, "Preservatives are not required for products formulated in singledose vials. Multidose vials are preferred by some physicians and health clinics because they are often less expensive per vaccine dose and require less storage space."

So the reason why your child is being injected with vaccine boils down to health care offices making more money and saving shelf space!

I've been told by numerous "skeptics" and doctors that there's no such thing as mercury in vaccines, and that any such suggestion is nothing more than a "wild conspiracy theory." That just goes to show you how ignorant all the skeptics, doctors and health professionals really are: They have NO CLUE what's in the vaccines they're dishing out to people!

All they have to do is visit this CDC vaccine additives web page, which openly admits to these chemicals being used in vaccines right now. It's not a conspiracy theory, it turns out. It's the status quo of modern-day vaccine manufacturing!

*(Just in case the CDC removes that page, the US~Observer has downloaded an in-depth pdf from the CDC site. Please go to www.usobserver.com and click on the title of this article.)*

Feel that headache after a vaccine? That's the feeling of chemicals eating your brain

Now, consider this: The most common side effect of a vaccine injection is a headache. The CDC admits that over 30 percent of those receiving vaccines experience headaches or migraines. Gee, think about it: What could possibly be in vaccines that would cause headaches, migraines and brain damage?

Ummm, how about the mercury, the formaldehyde, the aluminum and the MSG!

Even if you believe in the theory of vaccines as a helpful way to train the immune system to recognize pathogens, why would anyone -- especially a doctor -- think it's okay to inject human beings with mercury, MSG, formaldehyde and aluminum?

The argument of the vaccine pushers is that each vaccine only contains a tiny dose of these highly toxic substances, and therefore it's okay to be injected with them. But this argument makes a fatal error: U.S. children are now receiving over twenty vaccines by the time they're six years old! What's the cumulative effect of all these vaccines, plus the mercury from dental fillings and dietary sources? What's the effect of injected mercury on an immune-suppressed child living in a state of chronic nutritional deficiency?

Scientists don't know that answer because such studies have never been conducted. So they pretend that nothing bad will happen and keep pushing more and more vaccines on infants, children and even expectant mothers. They're playing Russian roulette with our children, in other words, where every injection could cause a seizure, coma, autism or death.

Why doesn't the vaccine industry offer "clean" vaccines free from all toxic additives?

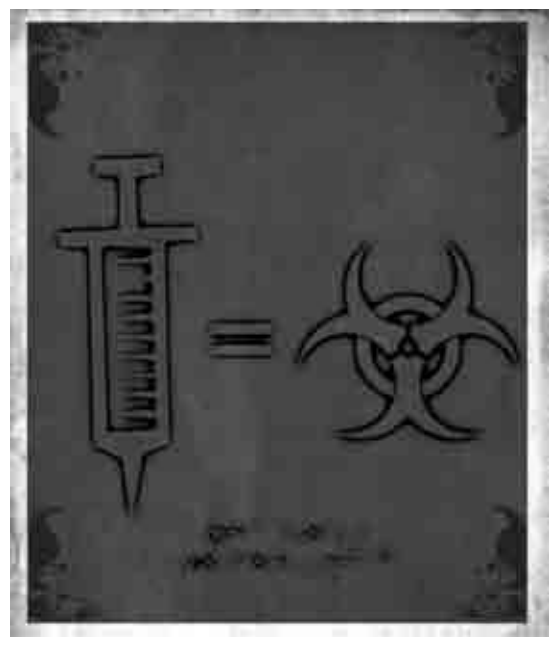
If vaccines are supposed to be good for you, why do they contain so many additives that are BAD for you? You wouldn't want to eat mercury in your tuna fish. You wouldn't want

MSG in your sandwich, and you certainly wouldn't want formaldehyde in your soda. So why would you allow yourself to be injected with these deadly substances?

And just as importantly, why wouldn't the vaccine industry offer CLEAN vaccines? Without any brain-damaging additives?

Think about it: When you buy health food, you want that health food to have NO mercury, NO MSG, NO aluminum and certainly no formaldehyde. No sane person would knowingly eat those neurotoxic poisons. And yet, astonishingly, those same people literally line up to be INJECTED with those exact same brain-damaging poisons, with the justification that, somehow, "This injection is good for me!"

Absurdly, the vaccine industry says these toxic ingredients are intentionally added to



vaccines to make them work better! Yes, that's the reason: Mercury makes vaccines work better, they insist. Click here to see a video news report actually claiming mercury makes vaccines work better, granting children "improved behavior and mental performance."

No, I'm not making this up. The mainstream media literally claims that mercury is GOOD for babies. Vitamins might kill you, they say, but mercury is good for you!

But hold on a second: I thought the theory behind vaccines was that weakened viruses would give the immune system a rehearsal so that it would build up antibodies to the real thing. Where does mercury, MSG or formaldehyde fit anywhere in that theory? Does your body benefit in any way from exposure to formaldehyde? Of course not. The very idea is ludicrous.

So are there such things are clean vaccines? I challenge you to try to find one. They simply don't exist for the population at large. Nearly all vaccines for the masses are deliberately formulated with neurotoxic chemicals that have absolutely nothing to do with the science of vaccinations, but everything to do with autism, Alzheimer's disease, early-onset dementia, immune suppression, and the mass dumbing down of brain function.

Vaccines are designed with chemical additives to poison the population, not to protect the population

That's the real purpose of vaccines: Not to "protect children" with any sort of immunity, but to inject the masses with a toxic cocktail of chemicals that cause brain damage and infertility: Mercury, MSG, formaldehyde and aluminum. The whole point of this is to dumb the population down so that nobody has the presence of mind to wake up and start thinking for themselves.

This is precisely why the smartest, most "awake" people still remaining in society today are the very same ones who say NO to vaccines. Only their brains are still intact and operating with some level of awareness.

The system wants you to stay dumbed down, of course. It makes you easier to control.

★★★

**A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.**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# New NFL Death Shows Media's Dual Standard About Guns

**BELLEVUE, WA (CCRKBA ALERT)** – After yet another tragic death involving an NFL player over the weekend, there is the appearance of a double standard in media handling of the case, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms said.

"A week ago," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "NBC's Bob Costas was having fits about a so-called 'gun culture,' but what about the culture of big money, flashy cars and alcohol that permeates the NFL? Dallas player Jerry Brown is dead from what appears to be a drunken driving crash involving teammate Josh Brent. Brown is no less dead than Javon Belcher or his girlfriend and Brent faces criminal charges. Costas was alarmed at the number of NFL players with guns, but he's said virtually nothing about the ones who drink and drive."


Bob Costas

Costas ignited a firestorm last week, showing a lack of knowledge about firearms, current laws and the so-called "gun culture" when he editorialized about the Belcher case and then had to do damage control for several days.

"What Bob Costas doesn't know about guns," Gottlieb said, "would probably fill a library. His remarks about violent crime, gun owners and semiautomatic firearms demonstrated why the firearms community distrusts mainstream press because many, if not most, of the talking heads don't know what they're talking about.


"According to FBI crime data," he continued, "the number of homicides involving firearms has declined over the past several years. Last year, out of 12,664 homicides, firearms were used in about 8,500 of those crimes, and handguns were used in less than half.

"Compare that to more than 10,000 deaths attributed annually to drunk driving," Gottlieb said, "yet where is the great discussion about that after Brown's death?

"Last week, Costas asked who 'needs' a semiautomatic firearm," he added. "Well, who needs to drive drunk? NFL players certainly have enough money to pay for a cab ride, don't they?

"How many drunks are on the road every weekend following tailgate parties at NFL games," Gottlieb questioned. "What's more dangerous, a citizen with a firearm or an NFL player with a bar tab?"

***With more than 650,000 members and supporters nationwide, the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms is one of the nation's premier gun rights organizations. As a non-profit organization, the Citizens Committee is dedicated to preserving firearms freedoms through active lobbying of elected officials and facilitating grass-roots organization of gun rights activists in local communities throughout the United States. The Citizens Committee can be reached by phone at (425) 454-4911, on the Internet at www.ccrkba.org or by email to InformationRequest@ccrkba.org.*** ★★★

# Where We Stand - Oregon Firearms Federation Alert -

In the wake of the election many gun owners are wondering what to expect in the coming legislative session.

On the national front we have re-elected a person who has used executive power to cover up gun running to Mexican drug gangs and thinks that anyone who has ever started a successful business "didn't build that." He has already stated his desire to reintroduce a ban on most rifles and shotguns and has also commented on more restrictions on handguns.

You may have seen internet postings about the new "banned gun lists," although we cannot confirm that these are accurate. What we do know is that almost immediately after winning a second term, Obama renewed efforts to get a gun control bill via United Nations treaty. It may be impossible to overestimate that particular threat. A gun ban by international treaty would be unlike any threat to our gun rights we've seen before.

Obama has shown no reluctance to bypass Congress to enact his agenda and Congress has shown precious little backbone to stop him. As a result there is a very real possibility that we may face some kind of new restrictions that Congress does not even weigh in on.

You may recall that when Bill Clinton was President, a whole family of shotguns was made illegal overnight by Clinton's administration simply reclassifying them as "destructive devices." Countless people who owned these guns were made felons overnight and many never knew it. There is little reason to think this could not happen with virtually any gun you own, whether it's that black "assault weapon" in your gun safe or the "sniper rifle" you've hunted with for 20 years.

On a statewide level, both Houses of the Oregon Legislature are once again under the control of anti-gunners. While the numbers in the Senate have not changed, some of the players have.

There are now two Democratic Senators who have a history of being pro-gun most of the time. This was the case last session, but now one, Joanne Verger, has been replaced by Arnie Roblan, who was co-speaker of the House last session. Roblan often supported gun rights in the House, and we can hope that he will continue to in the Senate, but with the exception of Senator Betsy Johnson, every other Democratic Senator is anti-gun. That means that if anti-gun legislation moves in the Senate (which it certainly will) we need to get Roblan or Johnson to buck their caucus AND we need every single Republican to take a stand or the bill passes. That's going to be a tough hill to climb.


Openly gay & anti-gun, Tina Kotek

In the House, the numbers are even worse. What had been an evenly split House is now controlled by anti-gunners 36-24. The even split forced both sides to work together but you can bet that the Obama victory and the takeover by Democrats will be seen as a "mandate" for more gun control.

While we have a handful of fairly pro-gun Democrats in the House, there is simply no telling how much pressure will be put on them by the Democratic Caucus, and it gets worse.

The new Speaker of the House is Tina Kotek. Kotek is anti-gun, as are most House Democrats, and she will have the power to decide who sits on which committees and to appoint committee chairs. Committee Chairs have virtual life-and-death power over bills that come before them.

For some time, Democrat Jeff Barker has been chair or co-chair of House Judiciary, which hears gun bills. Barker has been solid on gun rights all this time, but there is no guarantee that he will get this chairmanship again. If he does not, the most likely candidates for the job are all anti-gun.

This is probably the most dangerous situation for gun owners. If Kotek appoints a chair of House Judiciary who is anywhere near as militant and irrational as the likely chair of Senate Judiciary, Floyd Prozanski, gun owners in Oregon are in for the fight of their lives.

We believe multiple anti-gun bills have been "pre-session" filed and will be ready for introduction on the first day of the new session. It's safe to say they will include a ban on modern rifles, shotguns and ammunition feeding devices, a reversal of Oregon's "preemption" law and a ban on concealed carry anywhere school children congregate.

One more factor will be important in 2013. Long time NRA lobbyist Rod Harder is retiring. At this time we do not expect him to be replaced, so barring something really unexpected we believe there will be no regular NRA representation in Oregon. As you know, we have had many differences with NRA over the years, but Rod has been a close friend and trusted colleague for a long time and he will be missed.

There is no question that gun owners will have their work cut out for them. There will be an awful lot to do in 2013. It's not going to be easy. But we'll be there, and with your help, we'll win.

We wish you a very happy Christmas season and suggest you rest up. We're all going to be busy.

★★★

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The goal of *US~Observer* is to ensure "due process" and "equal protection under the law."

Citizens who have founded and support it believe in the Bill of Rights and Article 1, Section 1, of the Oregon Constitution which states:

*"We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such a manner they think proper. This enumeration of rights and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people."*

**Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor**
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# The Real Second Amendment

**By Bart Wilburn**

**"A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed"** *--Amendment II, U.S. Constitution*

**(American Thinker)** - As simple as these words are, we have been arguing about what they mean for a long time. Part of the problem is that many people engaged in the argument do not interpret the 2nd Amendment with respect for its historical context, but rather in light of what they want it to mean in support of their purposes. If we want to be honest about it, we must look to the origins of the amendment to understand it in the context of the framing of the U.S. Constitution, and only then can we consider it in our present context. The issue is further complicated by the fact that an increasingly large proportion of the U.S. population has no experience in the use of arms; they see arms as irrelevant to their lives at best or a threat at worst. This is important because the 2nd Amendment is always susceptible and becomes vulnerable when too many think it is an archaic artifact.

**Longbowmen**

We must first understand that we did not invent the 2nd Amendment; we inherited it. The justification of the 2nd Amendment is rooted in late 12th and early 13th century England with the innovation of the Welsh; later called English, longbow. The longbow was a formidable weapon that made the English army the most feared army in Europe and determined the course of European history. It links to the 2nd Amendment because standing armies are expensive and the King of England did not want to bear the cost; he relied on the barons of the shires to provide an army on demand. But the barons were not willing to bear the cost of a standing army either; they preferred to rely on the villagers of the shires for a militia of longbow artillery to support the king's demands. (See G.M. Trevelyan, The History of England, Longman Group, 1973, p. 268)

This arrangement was complex in an economic as well as political context. In the 12th century, England was well on the way to shaking off feudalism and developing a corporate civil structure of local governance. William the Conqueror restructured England and introduced the manorial structure; Henry I introduced the legal notion of a jury with his Charter of Liberties, and Henry II introduced the peculiarly British notion of Common Law. The barons of the shires were tasked to raise the taxes demanded by the king under the manorial structure. This put the barons in the predicament of taxing the villagers while at the same time having to manage the productivity of the shires to provide the revenue demanded by the king. They were caught between 'keeping the king's pleas,' and 'keeping the king's peace.' The barons understood that a willing farmer was more productive at less cost to them than an unwilling farmer, and soon realized they had a vested interest in having a voice in the king's demands, governance, and his expensive adventures. The barons also realized that, in principle, they had the power of arms effectively under their control. Their problem was maintaining unity in the face of royal power, but more than that, the challenge of sustaining the basic resource -- the artillery of longbow archers.

The longbow was not a simple weapon either to use or to make. It took four years to make a longbow, and generations of experience to properly use it. The longbow was simply not something a local, ad hoc militia could train inexperienced conscripts to use. To solve this dilemma, the barons directed that villagers should keep a longbow in their homes and maintain their skill in the art of making and using it. Further, they established regular tournaments to achieve this goal. The barons were wildly successful in their efforts. They entered London on June 15, 1215 with their militias and forced King John to submit to the rule of law prescribed by the Magna Carta. The Magna Carta subordinated the king to the rule of law based on Henry I's Charter and the notion of common law throughout the realm, and it set England on the path to developing representative parliamentary democracy.

The 2nd Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was derived from our understanding of the British experience that militias were necessary to curb the tyrannical powers of the king. In our case, 'well regulated militias' were necessary as a condition of the colonies to agree to subordinate their sovereignty to a federal government. They wanted a guarantee of power to insure that some future federal government could not egregiously exceed its powers prescribed in the body of the constitution they agreed to. Furthermore, like the militias of the English barons, these state militias were formed ad hoc from the populace as needed on short notice and therefore depended on the populace being already proficient in the art of arms. The only way the Founders of America could guarantee this capability was to encourage civil proficiency in arms and make private ownership and use of arms a tenet of the constitution establishing the government. For these reasons, it should come as no surprise that the rights of freedom of speech and to 'keep and bear arms comprise the first and second amendments to the constitution establishing them as rights of citizenship. We should not consider this rationale archaic. Democracy is fragile and always susceptible to despotism, and we should not be so arrogant as to suppose we are not equally susceptible.

Limiting the power of the federal government to subjugate the populace is the primary purpose of the 2nd Amendment, and nothing in it restricts the use of arms consistent with maintaining proficiency consistent with life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. What we do with guns is the subject of existing criminal law, but having them is not. Arguments against the 2nd Amendment based on recreational use of arms and the futility of home defense are deflections. Under the 2nd Amendment, owning and using guns is not simply permitted, but is presumed; local, even federal, laws and regulations cannot lawfully infringe on it. The 2nd Amendment is always susceptible to tyrants, but is vulnerable if too many of us are ignorant of its purpose. ★★★

**Continued from page 1 • "NOT APPROVED"**

associated with their approval. How comforting is that?!

The positive stories on MMS, however, continue to roll in. Like this story submitted to the US~Observer:

**My name is Steve Daugherty and I am a single Dad.**

My youngest son was diagnosed with melanoma at the age of 8 years old - which was heart breaking, as you can imagine. The dermatologist cut out a huge 2 inch chunk of flesh from his little arm, and it left a scar that is easily visible today... My ex-wife was devastated.

I was prone to getting atinic karatosis, and basel cell carcinoma - i have scars on my face and neck to prove it.

After my son was diagnosed with melanoma, I vowed to myself that I'd find a cure. After a lot of searching, I found MMS. I started using MMS on my face for the pre-skin cancer, and it worked like a charm. The reason why I know it works is that instantly I could feel it burning the cancer cells, and not the good cells. If you get it on your healthy skin, you feel nothing. It burns and kills the cancer cells for about half an hour after application, and then in a few days, it peels off - leaving healthy pink skin underneath!

So, you can imagine how relieved I was. But the problem was that I didn't know how it would work for melanoma. My son was doing fine for a while. We didn't have the heart to tell him he had melanoma and we told him that he had to watch these "moles" that might appear on his body. We had him checked out about every 6 months.

Anyway, when he was 12 years old, his mom, who doesn't believe in MMS called me on the phone and said, "Steve, Daniel has a weird looking spot on the back of his foot - and it's been there for about 3 weeks - can you look at it? I think I should take him to the dermatologist."

I was surprised that my son didn't tell me about it, but that's how kids are sometimes. I told my ex-wife, "sure, I'll take a look."

I looked at it and immediately recognized it as melanoma - you have to understand that I have studied skin cancer for years, looked at thousands of pictures of melanoma because I was so worried that we would miss it, etc, and that an oversight on my part might cost my son's life. You cannot underestimate the power of a determined-to-save-his-son's-life parent! When you have skin cancer, you know what to look for, and you know what it is.

Unfortunately, his spot was on the lower part of his Akiles tendon. The thought occurred to me - if he went to the doctor / dermatologist for this, they would have to cut out his Akiles tendon to make sure that they got all of the cancer, and he may never be able to walk again. I did my best to not panic, and not to let my son know what I was thinking.

His spot was strangely discolored, and asymmetrical, and was growing - it was not an injury - it was oddly embedded into the skin. .

So, I emailed Jim Humble right away and asked him what to do for melanoma. He kindly responded very quickly and gave me the protocol for it internally. I already knew how to treat it topically.

I put MMS on the spot before my son went to bed that night. He didn't feel anything, which worried me a bit because for my atinic keratosis, I could feel it burn. But melanoma is different - it kills off the nerves or something. After applying the MMS, by the next morning, it had already started to raise and the coloring changed to nearly clear! I thought, I better take a picture of this because no one is going to believe me....

I took the picture of it. Two days later, the melanoma fell off and only healthy pink skin was left! I will attach the pictures. Please understand that the before picture was after one night of MMS being on the spot which changed the coloring to that of normal skin - I wish I had taken a picture of it before I started to treat it. But at least you can see that it was there...

Now, you can argue that this is not scientific. But you have to understand something about melanoma or any cancer - in my research what I found out was that when doctors biopsy cancer, they risk spreading the cancer through the blood stream if they cut into the cancer - so a biopsy should be avoided at all cost.

I was not about to allow my son to be biopsied - even if it was to prove a point. All I know is that MMS works, and thank God for Jim Humble and his work. He saved my son's life, and he saved mine too.

I would testify before Congress that these words are true!

Feel free to use this information if you so choose.

The pics (above) are 4 days apart - first one (left) was taken on 12-31-09 - and after applying MMS, look at how good it looks just 4 days later, on 01-04-10 (right)... I know the exact dates because my camera time-stamped it.

I hope this helps.

★★★



**The US~Observer is taking on the FDA in defense of our personal right to seek our own wellness. As such, we have set up the MMS Defense Fund.**

**Donate today and help keep your health choices in your control.**

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# 'Political Sensitivities' Before Life and Liberty?

**By Pamela Geller**

... According to Arizona's Casa Grande Dispatch, "an explosive device was detonated … by the back door of the U.S. Social Security Administration office, shaking downtown Casa Grande, but no one was injured." The perpetrator was a Muslim, Abdullatif Aldosary. You would think that a Muslim detonating an IED in a government building in Arizona would be front-page stuff, or that national security agencies would be at heightened alert, but you would be wrong. The FBI is not treating it as a terrorism case because of "the political sensitivities involved."

Translation? They fear insulting Muslims. They're not properly prosecuting the sworn enemies of the U.S. for fear of giving offense to Muslims who are supposedly on our side.

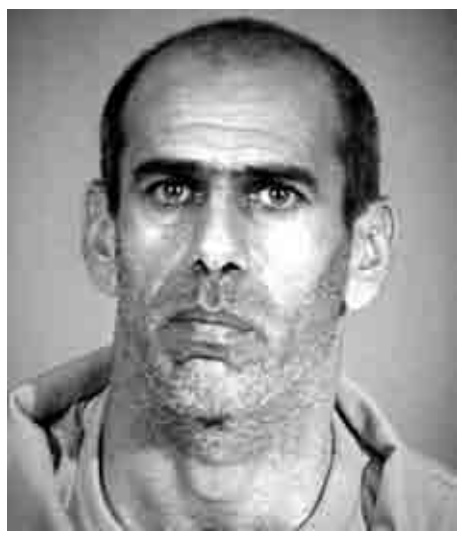
And the media? What media? Where was CNN? When a bacon sandwich is 100 yards from a mosque, they issue a special report, and it would be on the front page of the New York Times. Perhaps they would dedicate a Sunday special section to "Islamophobia," and President Obama might take to the airwaves to shake his boneless finger at us. But this, a Muslim using an IED to bomb a government building in Arizona, garners little to no media.

It's astounding how in the tank the Shariah-complaint media have become, and how far they have gone down the rabbit hole of whitewashing Islam and downplaying jihad. But even worse is the fact that Obama's FBI will not prosecute Aldosary on terror charges, so as not to hurt the feelings of jihadists. The Shariah-compliant FBI, too, is now enforcing the blasphemy laws.

We have lost our minds and our souls to this vicious enemy – have we no stomach in the defense of humanity and freedom?

And those of us who still have the testicular fortitude to cover jihad-related news are marginalized, demonized and accused of inciting "Islamophobia" and/or "anti-Muslim backlash."

Contrary to the "Islamophobia" claims, I think the American people have been enormously tolerant and kind to Muslims in America. Considering what this nation has been through at the hands of the global jihad, it is amazing how generous America has been. Despite 9/11; the thwarted Times Square bombing; the Portland Christmas tree bombing; the Christmas underwear bomber; the massive plot to bomb New York City subways on the anniversary of 9/11; last week's arrest of Muslim brothers in Florida who were plotting to use a weapon of mass destruction within the United States; last week's arrest of an Islamic cell in California that was plotting to kill Americans overseas and in the United States; the plot by a Massachusetts Muslim to fly remote-controlled model planes packed with explosives into the Pentagon and U.S. Capitol; and so many other jihad plots in America over the last few years, there has been no backlash. None.



Abdullatif Aldosary

Think about it. Jihad attacks thwarted on an almost weekly basis, and the American people have not responded. What a testament to how civilized and tolerant we are as a culture and a society. All the blood, toil, treasure and human life fighting an enemy both here and in the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and, to a much lesser extent, Iraq, and still we welcome Muslims to our shores, in our communities and cities. ??But what do we get in return for our kindness and tolerance? False accusations of "backlash," "intolerance," "bigotry" and retribution against innocent people from Muslim Brotherhood/Hamas groups in the U.S. Why aren't Muslim groups in the U.S. directing their barbs and arrows at the jihadists and not at their victims? It's telling.?? And it's not just the media, law enforcement and national security agencies – it's our courts as well. There have been over 20,000 deadly jihadi attacks worldwide since 9/11, with thousands dead, displaced and mutilated, but as far as many judges and local governments, the real crime is … telling the truth about this and using the word the killers themselves use to describe their actions. The attempts by local governments to ban our anti-jihad ads were bad enough, but this is a crime: Prosecutors in the trial of the Muslim jihad terrorist Mohamed Mohamud, the Portland Christmas tree bomber, are asking the court that they be allowed to use the words "jihad" and "martyrdom" to characterize Mohamud's jihad.

Mind you, the jihadi, who is on trial for plotting to detonate a car bomb near a 2010 Portland Christmas tree-lighting ceremony at which 25,000 people (mostly families – women and children) had gathered, used the terms "terrorism" and "jihad" himself when speaking with undercover agents. So Muslims slaughter in the cause of jihad, but the kaffir is not allowed to speak of it. Mohamed Mohamud refers to himself as a jihadi and to his holy war as jihad, but using such terms are "controversial" or "inflammatory" (exactly the same words these quislings used to describe my "savage" ads).

It's as if the prosecutors have to ask permission of the court so as not to … blaspheme under the Shariah. Seriously, this is Shariah adherence in an American court.

It's a recipe for civilizational suicide. Madness. The more right I have been (as well as my colleagues, like Robert Spencer), the bigger the campaign to destroy us and shut us down. If you had told me that this is where we would be 11 years after 9/11, that the bad guys would be those of us who are fighting for freedom while stealth jihadists are calling the shots in positions of enormous power, I would have had you Baker Acted. Yet that is exactly what has happened. But fear not: We are not cowed or diminished. We are outraged and angry. We're as mad as hell, and we will fight to the last man. ★★★

# Restore America 101

**By Lloyd Marcus**

What patriots find most alarming about the re-election of Obama is the feeling that we have lost America.

Recently, a pro football player committed suicide after murdering his girlfriend. The media blames guns and football for the shooting. They act as if the football player bore no responsibility, which is in keeping with Obama's new America.

This is why we who cherish morals, decency, hard work, and personal responsibility are so upset that Obama has four more years to further his decline of America.

Admittedly, the decline of America began long before Barack Obama. However, under Obama, America's decline has been on steroids. He won re-election promising to punish the rich and encouraging Americans to indulge in an orgy of mediocrity featuring endless unemployment benefits, an unprecedented number of Americans on food stamps, half the country on welfare, and free Obamaphones.

Such is the new normal in Obama's new America.

So yes, we patriots are heartbroken.

After serving in the Merchant Marines, my black dad (pictured right) earned a humble living as a day laborer. In 1956, he broke the color barrier into the Baltimore City Fire Department. The white firefighters hated my dad and did not want him at Engine 6. And yet, despite horrific conditions, Dad won Firefighter of the Year two times.

Dad won not because of lowered standards, affirmative action, or someone deciding it's the black guy's turn. Dad won because he was the best! Such was a time when America celebrated excellence.

Have we totally lost that America?

What offends me most about the Obama administration is that Obama continues to lower the bar of what it means to be an American. Given his re-election, one can only assume that a large percentage of Americans are OK with Obama's ask-what-your-country-can-do-for-you-rather-than-what-you-can-do for-your-country new vision for America. Screw work! Just gimme, gimme, gimme!

Dad did not believe that government owed him or his five kids the American Dream. With me at his side, Dad marched with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to assure that his kids would have an opportunity to pursue the American Dream. Today, far too many Americans believe that the job of government is to confiscate wealth to divvy out the American Dream equally to every American.

When did we lose Dad's America?

When did we become a country in which government and media celebrate immorality, laziness, and covetousness? Occupy Wall Street thugs are declared heroes representing a majority of Americans for demanding that government confiscate the earnings of achievers for redistribution. When did it become morally correct in America for government to confiscate and give away the harvest reaped by hardworking citizens?

Were we asleep when America launched its War on Achievers?

Athletes who perform at the highest levels are inducted into the Hall of Fame. And yet, extraordinary success in the arena of finances is frowned upon and deemed evil. Remarkably, Mitt Romney's extraordinary financial success was effectively marketed as a negative against him in the presidential campaign.

When did being exceptional in business become demonic in America?

Well, here is a dirty little universal truth that the gimme crowd may not be aware of. The word is reciprocity. Reciprocity means we mutuality give to/help each other. But when that relationship becomes one-sided, the giver stops giving. How long will Obama get away with seducing new voters by taking from achievers to redistribute to non-achievers before the givers say, "Screw it" and stop working?

How do we restore America? The answer: we continue to Tea Party.

The Tea Party began when patriots looked behind the curtain of white guilt and media hype to see Obama's overreaching, his trashing the Constitution, and his socialistic/progressive agenda. Over the last four years, the Tea Party has evolved into countless organizations and a growing army of sophisticated political activists.

Obama winning re-election was the loss of a major battle. However, beware, Obama and company -- we have no intentions of surrendering our country or losing this war.

Future battles will include taking back our culture and educating dumbed-down, clueless Americans on the superior virtues/benefits of conservatism over liberalism.

And another thing -- we must stop being passive when Democrats throw absurd character-assassination-grenades such as Republicans/conservatives want blacks in slavery and women barefoot and pregnant. We must boldly get in their faces and rebuke their vile, hate-inspiring, divisive lies.

I have also had it with black Americans being allowed and even encouraged to be racist. Black racists believe that Authentic Blackness or "Racial Pride" means maintaining at least a minimal resentment against whites and our country. Racism is evil wherever it flexes its venomous tongue -- time to call such people out!

So, I am ready. I am prayed up, and my powder is dry. Let's roll!

★★★

Continued from page 1 • In the Pit of the D.C. "Justice System"

investigation into Sisson, his finances, and the way he did business, she decided to purchase one of his suburban homes for $2.05 mil. Coincidence? To Sisson, it was more like "getting trapped in the devil's triangle".

The house Wilcox reportedly targeted had been the aging home of a retired couple. Sisson purchased the home for $900,000, then spent months having it renovated to eventually list for the $2.05mil. It is important to note that before renovating this home, Sisson had been responsible for remodeling well over 100 such residences in the D.C. area with little more than minor issues or complaints from his buyers if there were any issues at all and typically, there weren't. So when Wilcox asked Sisson for a warranty against defects on the house, Sisson readily agreed.

It is also crucial to note that while the home was on the market, and prior to Wilcox purchasing it, it was occupied for six months by a family of professional house sitters who live in luxury homes to help them "show" better to potential buyers. The house-sitting family made a point of telling Sisson that his re-modeled house was "the finest they had ever stayed in" and they had no problems or complaints about anything in the home.

But Wilcox did. After only a few weeks of moving in, she informed Sisson that there were additional defects in the house besides the "19 minor and routine" ones that were discovered by a home warranty inspector just before the actual sale of the house and were summarily fixed by Sisson's contractors. Wilcox then made the ridiculous claim that the newly discovered defects were so extensive that the house was in "imminent danger of collapse". According to Sisson, "when I asked to come in and inspect the new defects for repair, she denied me entry". Then, several days later after Wilcox had been in the home four weeks, Sisson received a letter from her lawyer instructing Sisson that he never step foot on the property again.

Wilcox then embarked on a renovation of her own, a reported two million dollar one, by having the house almost completely gutted, destroying all the alleged defects which she later declared so extensive that she feared for her family's safety. Wilcox, in fact, listed 103 defects in the discovery phase of the trial, some of which were major structural issues even though the home warranty inspector had found only the relative few minor issues that had already been addressed by Sisson in a "punch list" prior to the sale of the property. In spite of this, Wilcox still insisted there were extensive defects. But then she could say anything she liked since she had allegedly "made sure all the evidence to the contrary was destroyed during her remodeling job". Had Wilcox never heard of 'Spoliation of Evidence'? Perhaps she had because there is reasonable cause to suggest that her judge had been "hand-picked" before any evidence was actually destroyed. According to one D.C. lawyer who was familiar with Sisson's case, "fraud and perjury pay well in the District of Columbia court system."

Six months later, and after Wilcox's contractor had obliterated the alleged new defects in the house, it bore little resemblance to the home Sisson had sold her causing one subcontractor to exclaim, "It was just a different house!" It was Wilcox's "dream" house, in fact, rebuilt ultimately at Sisson's expense because, when the reconstruction was nearly complete, Wilcox brought civil suit against Sisson for selling her a defective house.

### COURT GUILTY OF GROSS MALFEASANCE!

Wilcox's choice of legal representation for her lawsuit is intriguing as well. D.C.-based, Williams & Connelly is one of the most powerful law firms money can buy and "renowned for taking no prisoners". It is interesting to note that the firm was reportedly retained by Wilcox even before she signed the final purchasing papers on the property. It is this reporter's opinion that the firm was probably responsible for securing Wilcox the 'right' judge early on to enable her to foist her agenda upon the hapless Sisson with little opposition from the court and for a guaranteed outcome favorable to her. The fact that the case wasn't thrown out due to Spoliation of Evidence alone, which the judge refused to even consider during the trial, smacks of gross malfeasance.

But it gets worse. Unknown to Sisson in the weeks and months preceding the trial, Wilcox allegedly had another accomplice to ensure that her chicanery would pay off in court. Richard William Frank, owner of Archway Builders – a D.C. area construction company, was a reported business partner of Wilcox's and the contractor she used in the reconstruction of the house she bought from Sisson. There are several signed affidavits that testify of a deal between Frank and Wilcox that show Wilcox promised Frank 25% of the court award from her case against Sisson if he would testify in court on her behalf. According to Sisson, there are also two signed affidavits that reveal that Wilcox's own Williams & Connelly attorney, Gerson Zweifach, knew of the bribe as well, but allegedly did nothing about it.

However, Frank's fiduciary relationship with Wilcox was not discovered by Sisson or his attorney until after the pre-trial, discovery hearings. During that time the judge had already deemed Frank to be an "uncompensated fact witness" and went on to make him the foundation witness in the case.

The "right" judge turned out to be, Rosemary Collyer, and when she was informed that Frank was anything but an "uncompensated fact witness", she patently refused to look at the evidence for the charge. As Sisson recalls, "The judge repeatedly acted to ensure that it never entered the trial record". Collyer essentially incorporated legal doublespeak to get around the ramifications of the alleged business arrangement and ultimately dismissed the charge as irrelevant – to her anyway. In actuality, Collyer's courtroom was any innocent person's worst nightmare and during the trial it became obvious to Sisson "that her indifference toward all evidence presented on my behalf could only be because her decision favoring Wilcox was already a foregone conclusion".

It also didn't matter to Collyer that it was Frank who was solely responsible for taking the numerous photographs of the alleged defects inside the Sisson-built home, before it was essentially demolished, that were used as both "evidence" in the trial and also upon which Wilcox's expert witnesses based both their findings and testimonies upon. Frank allegedly had six months and total freedom, during Wilcox's reconstruction project of the house, to work at getting the right photograph's to use in the trial. It should be noted here that it was also in Frank's best interest to find every system in the house defective since he was allegedly promised 25% of Wilcox's settlement from Sisson. And shockingly, that is exactly what happened, and in a home where no more than a few minor issues had originally been found. I approached Frank at his business in D.C. this past month and he was unwilling to sign an affidavit admitting his involvement.

### NUMEROUS ABUSES OF DISCRETION

Besides the Spoliation of evidence issue, there are many other "abuses of discretion" on the court's part, so many as to be prohibitive to list in this article. The following are just a few additional examples: According to one witness, at least one ex parte discussion took place between Wilcox's lawyer and Judge Collyer where Wilcox's lawyer, Zweifach, approached Collyer, covered her microphone with his hand and whispered to her in private and out of earshot of no fewer than three other witnesses. Sisson stated, "It is interesting that the available court record is conveniently missing the pages that could potentially reveal this travesty of justice". Also, Collyer refused to hear testimony from workmen that were willing to testify on Sisson's behalf, then, later based her spurious decision favoring Wilcox in part because no workmen testified on Sisson's behalf. Because all evidence had been destroyed, "her honor" also rejected the industry standard pertaining to house warranties and "uncritically accepted Wilcox's 'Theoretical model of damages'" that was based upon absolute thin air because the preparer of the "model" allegedly never actually saw the house before it was demolished. As if to rub salt in the wound, according to Sisson, Collyer even ordered him to replace, at a cost of $15,000, landscaping that had been non-existent when Wilcox purchased the house from him. When a genuine, unbiased and uncompensated fact witness did actually testify that he never found any evidence that the house was in any danger of collapse, and in blatant contrast to Wilcox's "paid" expert, his testimony was summarily ignored by the judge. Perhaps Collyer's most egregious offence is how she initially stated that Richard Frank was a "crucial witness and provided critical testimony" to the case, then, during the appeal process and when confronted with the evidence that Frank was obviously not the uncompensated fact witness she had tried to make him out to be, she reversed her position and stated that even if Frank wasn't an uncompensated fact witness, his testimony was essentially irrelevant because it had been "painstakingly and independently corroborated" by other expert witnesses. This was indeed a stretch in credulity since, as already stated, all of Wilcox's expert witnesses had based their testimonies on the "evidence" they had been provided by Frank. According to Sisson, "There were other highly suspect occurrences during the court proceedings as well such as Wilcox's lawyer, Zweifach, routinely accusing me of completely baseless or irrelevant improprieties in order to run up his firm's bill in a way that causes one to think that he knew his client would never have to pay for the completely unnecessary expenses".

Judge Rosemary Collyer

According to one witness, "the list goes on, but suffice to say that after the dust settled, Judge Collyer ordered Sisson to pay Wilcox, $847,224.46, when the actual cost to repair the alleged defects could not have exceeded more than $70,000 even by Wilcox's own bogus, Theoretical model of damages". But it didn't end there, Collyer, in her unfathomable wisdom, then ordered Sisson to pay all of Wilcox's attorney fees and architectural fees accumulated during her reconstruction job, the total of which amounted to well over a million dollars. Plus, Wilcox got to keep the re-remodeled house – all at Sisson's expense. The malfeasance committed by Judge Collyer in this case is enough to cause one to believe that the term, Kangaroo Court, was coined specifically for her.

In conclusion, the court presided over by Judge Rosemary Collyer made findings of fact that were unsupported by, and contrary to, the trial record. And, as if to seal Sisson's fate at the callous hands of the court, Judge Collyer denied ahead of time any future motions Sisson might file on the case, no matter how compelling the evidence.

The final nail-in-the-coffin came when other crony judges, Sentelle, Henderson, and Tatel, in the D.C. appeals court upheld Collyer's decision by siting case law that actually stated the opposite of what they claimed it did and instead, supported Sisson and was an indictment against Collyer.

The people involved in the D.C. courts that committed this alleged gross fraud and fleecing of an upright, law-abiding citizen did so thinking that their actions would be done in relative secret and have no negative consequences to themselves. They were wrong! And this reporter is pleased to expose their pit of corruption to the light of day.

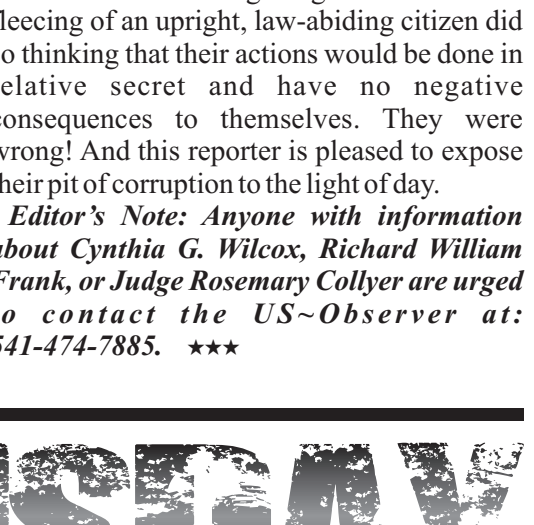
***Editor's Note: Anyone with information about Cynthia G. Wilcox, Richard William Frank, or Judge Rosemary Collyer are urged to contact the US~Observer at: 541-474-7885.*** ★★★



# DOOMSDAY

12-21-12

## Panic spreads as "the date" approaches



**By Tom Rose**

**(Examiner)** - The "Doomsday" date of December 21, 2012, is fast approaching and people all over the world are hedging their bets against the possibility the Earth will suffer an apocalypse on that fateful day.

According to an article published by *Moriches Daily* on Saturday, December 8, citizens of China, Europe, Russia and the US are "prepping" for the outside chance there could be something to the hysteria generated by a belief that the Mayan long count calendar signifies the end of the world.

In America, a manufacturer of hi-tech underground survival shelters has seen an explosion of sales as the date looms closer.

"We've gone from one a month to one a day," says owner Ron Hubbard. "I don't have an opinion on the Mayan calendar but, when astrophysicists come to me, buy my shelters and tell me to be prepared for solar flares, radiation, EMPs, I'm going underground on the 19th and coming out on the 23rd. It's just in case anybody's right."

In Russia, people are hoarding essential supplies, even more so than usual. The panic is so bad, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev went on record, saying "I don't believe in the end of the world. At least, not this year." That's not very reassuring.

The question is, what are the Mayans doing about Doomsday 2012?

Descendants of the original civilization still thrive in South America and are looked to for advice. It seems to be business as usual. Modern Mayans are busy engaging in ancient rituals and seem unperturbed by the rest of the world's interpretation of their ancestor's predictions.

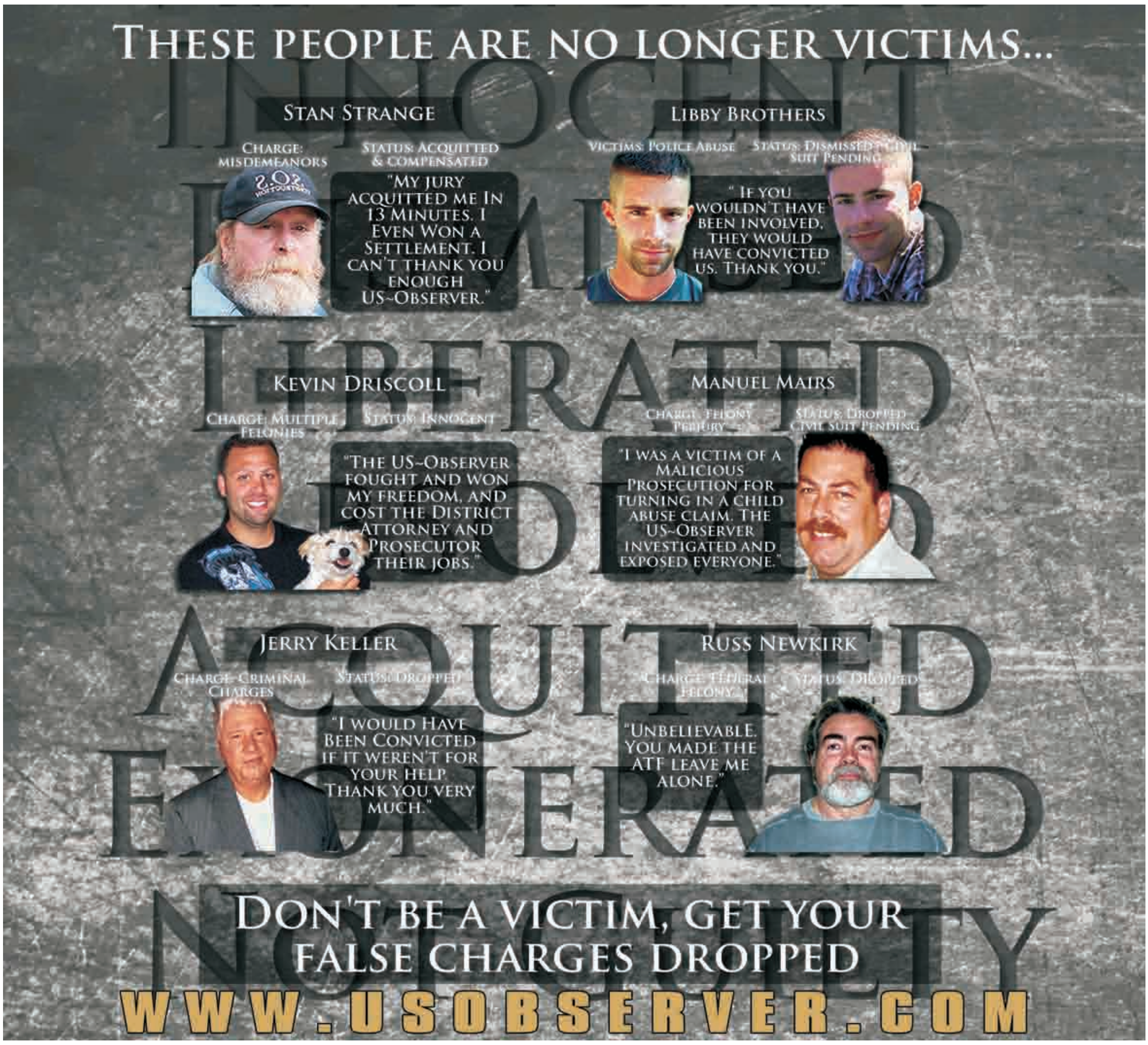
As the article points out, "Mayans themselves reject any notion that the world will actually end, instead explaining the end of the Long Count calendar as simply the end of one cycle, and the start of a new one."

So, it seems there should be a December 22, 2012. But plenty of folks are taking precautions and stockpiling food and supplies.

Just in case.

What do you think? Is Doomsday real? Will the world end on December 21, 2012?

***Editor's Note: We'll let you know on the 22nd... ;)*** ★★★




# Are You Facing False Criminal Charges? Are you a Victim of a False Prosecution?

If you are facing false charges and a prosecution then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (the innocent person) have been falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a "plea bargain" from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a huge retainer to cover the usual $175.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your case and you should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the almighty district attorney has offered you. "Do you want to take the chance on spending 30-40 years in prison when you can plea bargain for 18 months," your attorney tells you. What happened to: "I think we can win this case, it's a good case." Remember? Isn't that pretty close to what your attorney told you as he/she was relieving you of your money?

You then accept a plea bargain and go to jail or you have a jury trial, you're found guilty (because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence-if any and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty) and then you go to jail. When you finally wake up you realize that on top of now being a criminal, you are flat broke and incarcerated. You find that the very person (your attorney) you frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

There is only one way to remedy a false prosecution: Investigate the accusers, the prosecutors, the detectives and then watch the judge very carefully. In other words, complete an in-depth investigation before you are prosecuted and then take the facts into the public arena.

The US~Observer newspaper will not waste your time or your money. This is not a game, it's your life and your freedom. We do not make deals. If you are innocent, then nobody has the right to steal what belongs to you, most of all, your liberty. Nobody! That includes your attorney - as well as your supposed public servants.

Why have a bad day when it's still possible to force justice ... right down their throats?

The US~Observer investigates cases for news and therefore we don't print that which can't be resolved. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

**Do not contact us if you are in any way guilty and for justice sake, don't wait until they slam the door behind you before contacting us if you are innocent.**

***"One false prosecution is one too many and any act of immunity is simply a government condoned crime."***
**-- Edward Snook, US~Observer**

## Welcome to the largest racket in history: The American Justice System

## Contact US~Observer at: (541) 474-7885