

Rape or False Allegations in K-Falls?

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Klamath Falls, OR – On July 17, 2005 Norman Treddenbarger was indicted by a Klamath County Grand Jury on two felony counts and two misdemeanor sex abuse charges.

The US~Observer, after conducting an in-depth investigation, has concluded that Lisa Garrison the alleged victim has completely conned law enforcement and the District Attorney in

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Rogue River Couple Face Lawsuit

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Rogue River, OR – On December 2, 2005 a lawsuit was filed against Randy and Kimberlee Auxter seeking in excess of \$580,000 for Battery, Intentional Infliction of Emotional Distress, Nuisance and Interference with Prospective Contractual Relation.

In December of 2003,

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Sacramento Conspiracy?

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Sacramento, CA – On January 11, 2005 Arbitrator and retired Judge William M. Gallagher ruled against two men who had their boats towed from their mooring location on the Sacramento River.

According to the owners of the two boats, Robert (Butch) Rawlings and Eugene Isaacson they were in a dispute with an adjacent property owner named Shawn Berrigan, a one time code enforcement officer for the city of

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Conspiracy Against a Good Cop



Gold Hill Chief of Police Dean Muchow

By Kelly Stone
Investigative Reporter

Union County, Oregon - Sometime in 2000 or early 2001, then, Union City Police Chief, Dean Muchow was given a metal stairway by a businessman who had salvage rights to a mill site that was being demolished in Union, Oregon. Dean used the steps on his property to enter a loft in his garage.

Muchow left Union in December of 2004, to become police chief of Gold Hill, Oregon. Having arrested the parents of the city administrator in Union for two felonies and investigated the son of a councilman for drug possession had caused an untenable situation. These people retaliated by pushing false criminal charges against Muchow. It was alleged he used city property for personal use and the city's gas card. The Union Co. D.A. was Martin Birnbaum.

Dean Muchow prevailed in court and was exonerated of all wrongdoing. He then began a lawsuit against the city for breach

of contract and malicious prosecution.

An offer of settlement and amended complaint was offered to Union in Nov. of 2005. Shortly thereafter a new complaint was leveled at Chief Muchow by Union's new chief of police, Lee Bertsch (in Dec. of 2005). Muchow was never contacted or interviewed by Bertsch and it was alleged Dean stole the metal stairway from the old mill site.



D.A. Martin Birnbaum

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Unions are Dangerous to Business and Taxpayers

By John Taft &
Edward Snook
Investigative Reporters

Grants Pass, OR - Every state and community across the nation is now facing powerful public employee unions (PEU) when it's time to renegotiate public employee contracts. The unions are aggressive, self-serving, and will strike, shutting down or crippling essential public services when it's to their benefit in order to intimidate and win



Recent Josephine County, Oregon Employee Strike

larger concessions. Public employee unions have grown disproportionately in strength in recent years, compared to unions in the private sector. In the US work force about 12.5 percent of all workers are union members, as of 2005. About 9 percent of employees in the public sector are union members. All government employees are

over 4 times more likely to be union members than those in the private employment sector. Unions are quite successful in making taxpayers cash cows, especially in small communities due to elected public officials who represent the taxpayers during contract negotiations. These officials either fail to

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Medford's Problem Government

By US~Observer
Investigative Reporters
Curt Chanler and Jeanne Wollman

Medford, OR - Medford is a beautiful old town in Southern Oregon originally settled by adventurous, hard working pioneers. From the beginning the timber industry and farming community provided the economic base. Now, with the downturn in logging and the loss of the lumber mills; with farming being continually downsized due to the loss of market and a need for land to build on; a media that doesn't report the news in an unbiased manner; a city government that has become non-responsive to the public and rapacious in its need for money, changes need to be made. And worst of all—the public has for too long ignored its duty to demand the best from elected officials.

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Sacramento Conspiracy?**

Sacramento and a current building field inspector (according to the Sacramento city web site). Berrigan attempted to force Rawlings and Isaacson to move their boats claiming they were blocking ingress and egress to the Courtland Docks, which Berrigan claims ownership of. Expert witnesses have stated that the boats were not blocking the Docks.

After numerous verbal altercations Berrigan obtained the help of Deputy Don Hyatt from the Sacramento Sheriff's Office. Hyatt immediately took Berrigan's side and talks of having the boats towed ensued. At one point Hyatt arrested Rawlings for blocking access to Courtland Docks; however the charges were later dropped by the District Attorney.

Isaacson and Rawlings then went to the US Coast Guard Station and spoke with an officer Daughy. The officer informed the two that he didn't see anything wrong with where their boats were anchored especially if they were willing to give Berrigan access to tie up. When they confronted Berrigan, telling him he could have access he reportedly stated that this wasn't good enough and that he wanted the boats out of there.

Eventually Deputy Hyatt agreed to okay the towing of the boats even though he had no jurisdiction to do so after Berrigan agreed to pay for moorage at Cliffs Marina. Tom Decker agreed to tow the boats and Bob McDaris of Cliff's Marina agreed to moor them after Berrigan agreed to cover any liabilities and pay for the towing and moorage. The towing agreement fraudulently lists Cliff's Marina and the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office as the owners of the boats. The boats were then towed with authorization coming from Deputy Hyatt. All parties were informed prior to

towing that Rawlings and Isaacson would consider it theft if anyone removed their boats.

Berrigan's true intentions became clear when he offered to settle the whole issue if Rawlings would sell him his property.

According to Isaacson his boat had been anchored at the same location for more than fifteen months without complaint from the United States Coast Guard, Sacramento County Sheriff's Office or the previous owners of Courtland Docks.

On November 30, 2004 Deputy Hyatt wrote a false report showing that Isaacson's agent Robert Rawlings was cited by the United States Coast Guard. No citations had ever been issued by the Coast Guard.

Next, on November 30, 2004 Deputy Hyatt wrote a "Recovered Vessel Report" showing that Isaacson's boat was towed to Cliff's Marina when the tow did not even take place until December 14, 2004.

On February 3, 2005, Lieutenant Mike Sales of the Sacramento County Sheriff's Office stated to Isaacson's attorney and Rawlings that the Sheriff's Office had nothing to do with the towing of the boats and that the matter was a civil matter. Lt. Sales also stated the Coast Guard authorized the towing. In response to a Freedom of Information Act request the Coast Guard has no record of ever authorizing a tow or impound of the boats.

This case is literally packed with lies and dis-information, yet no one has questioned the actions of Deputy Hyatt or Shawn Berrigan.

Further Observer investigating has discovered that Shawn Berrigan and his partner Diane House were sent a letter by Michael Valentine, Chief Land Management Division of the California State Lands Commission.

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Medford's Problem ...**

In Medford it appears that this neglect has resulted in all significant power being vested in a City Administrator who has little interest in conferring with others. His method of dealing with subordinates has been explained as "My way or the highway!"

Back in 1997, 40 or more of Medford's most prominent business leaders formed a loosely-knit group known as the Action Committee. This group was not happy with the no-growth policy of then city manager, "Andy" Anderson. These city movers and shakers encouraged several of the City Council members and the mayor to remove Anderson. From local sources it was reported that his policies were not considered in the best interest of Medford businesses. Anderson was removed. His leaving created a storm of controversy and an acrimonious division within the community.

A year later, after much searching and many negotiations, Michael Dyal of Orem, Utah was hired to fill the position of City Manager. The Medford paper described him as a gregarious man. The problem that has arisen since his moving to Medford is that it is now known that he is gregarious only on his terms.

The City Administrator holds the most powerful position in city government and oversees all departments including the police. He can only be overruled by a vote of the majority of the City Council. He seems to wield that power with a heavy hand. Through his efforts changes were made to the City Charter so he can

hire and fire "at will" without explanation. The only ones beyond his control are the Mayor, City Council and those in the city judiciary.

The City Council, with a "head in the sand" approach, has taken the position of not asking questions or demanding answers from the City Manager. They have evidently abdicated their positions and power to the man from Utah.

The city council has consistently either not listened, or actively neglected to hear, complaints regarding City issues from both the public and city employees regarding problems with the police and the planning departments, as well as a recent debacle with retirees over their medical insurance. All of these strain the city finances and lower morale.

The City Planning Department has been decimated by planner after planner leaving. Some go quietly by exercising their right to early retirement and others cite the oppressive work environment as their reason for leaving. One would have to wonder how hard recruitment is going to be considering the spreading reputation of the city administrator's management style.

The serious accusations of former city attorney, Ron Doyle, and other retired city personnel, in regard to the City Manager's action making it more difficult for them to continue their city health insurance program must be considered. It appears that once again Dyal has opened the city to serious (and costly) litigation.

The deterioration of the Medford

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Conspiracy Against a Good ...**

Union Co. DA Martin Birnbaum, took the case to grand jury on Dec. 23rd, 2005. The grand jury wouldn't accept it. Undaunted, Birnbaum filed the case as an "information" with the court and two local judges wouldn't hear it. A third judge heard it and threw it out.

Muchow Was Never Charged or Indicted as falsely reported by the Medford Mail Tribune**Mail Tribune "reporter" Sanne Specht**

The filing of information was public record and used by Sanne Specht, a Mail Tribune reporter, in an offensive and libelous article stating Dean Muchow had been indicted (Jan 10th, 2006). Sanne Specht had sat next to Scott Elifson, former Gold Hill mayor, during the Jan. 9th city council meeting in Gold Hill and reportedly told Elifson, "I've got Dean Muchow again." Specht ran her article without verifying any information or talking to the Union Co. D.A. Certain council members clamored to terminate Muchow based on Specht's false statements, however some proper investigating by Edward Snook saved Gold Hill much embarrassment and liability. According to Snook, "Lap-dog reporters like

Specht give all reporters a bad name. She has openly been stalking Chief Muchow with the help of certain city council members and a city employee. Before I'm done with them their names and miserable reputations will be known in households all over this country and Specht will soon find out that the only person she 'has got' is herself."

The article hit Muchow by surprise and shock. Muchow was in the process of finishing negotiations with the Union Pacific Railroad for a detective position. Because of the new employment opportunity Muchow considered offering a civil compromise to the situation in Union over the metal stairs. The railroad police even went to Union to investigate the incident and found Muchow without fault. The Union Co. D.A. told the Railroad Lt. he was not going to charge Muchow, nevertheless the false and adverse article published in the Medford Mail Tribune ended his chances at this high paying job due to the bad publicity.

Normally, a filing of information by a DA is done to get someone arrested quickly because there is not enough time to convene a grand jury. It is virtually unheard of that a DA would attempt to file the information with the court and get a person arrested after a grand jury had kicked out a groundless charge.

Any knowledgeable DA would have looked at the case and seen its obvious flaws and statute of limitations problems. If this issue over the metal steps was not an easily provable conspiracy by corrupt people in Union, Oregon, Union City Police Chief Lee Bertsch would have at the very least questioned Muchow before pursuing the ridiculous and false charges. Additionally, Muchow has never been interviewed or contacted by anyone else, including the DA. The case reeked of back door politics, incompetence and

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Unions are Dangerous to ...**

understand that they are dealing with a many headed hydra, are intimidated by union representatives and public employees, or they sympathize with the unions and have received cash favors from them. Unions are notorious for buying influence and spending millions of dollars to influence the outcome of county, state, and national elections.

Accountant's \$38,000 Salary Costs Taxpayers over \$70,000 for the Position

Josephine County Commissioners had the opportunity to stop the American Federation of State County Municipal Employees (AFSCME) by putting an end to the vicious cycle of salary and benefit demands and starting a large scale reduction in their lavish benefits. It appears that many public employees are being paid beyond their true cash value for services rendered. Public employee salaries only hint at the true cost for any position in the courthouse. An accountant who receives \$38,000 annually has benefits costing 30-33 percent of his salary; then when he retires another accountant takes over his job. A factor of 1.5 is used to estimate the cost of the new accountant and the retirement pay of retiree. The \$38,000 accountant position is, in fact, costing taxpayers as much as \$75,000. The actual cost for all county positions is proportionately the same for all jobs in county government. The public is very much misled by just the salary numbers

used to describe what an employee is paid. The cost to maintain a public employee is excessive. Big business can't afford the union benefits and costs and are toppling like palm trees before the devastating hurricane Katrina, and the taxpayers can't afford the union demands for government employees either.

Commissioners Play Taxpayers for Patsies, Suckers, and Fools

Josephine County residents are in debt to the Public Employees Retirement System fund (PERS) for \$45-47 million. Josephine County took out a \$13 million bond in 2000. In the past five years PERS has increased by an unfunded liability of \$32-35 million. The county's sell back of personal leave is \$6 million and is an unfunded liability. These are unfunded liabilities created by egregious union contracts agreed to by past and present county commissioners with the exception of Jim Raffenburg. Employee pensions, benefits, and some salaries are excessive and outrageous, yet Commissioners Ellis and Riddle failed to seize this crucial opportunity to put AFSCME in full retreat. They claim that they were able to save the county \$500,000 this year with the new AFSCME contract. These numbers have not been qualified and are dependent upon an existing lawsuit filed by county managers. If the suit is won, the \$500,000 could dwindle considerably as AFSCME has a "Me Too" clause in their contract that entitles

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ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

If you are then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (**the innocent person**) are 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 retainer to cover the usual \$150.00 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 countless, 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.

WELCOME TO THE LARGEST RACKET IN HISTORY, THE AMERICAN JUSTICE SYSTEM.

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?

If you are innocent and there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, *The US~Observer* provides a 100% money-back guarantee on criminal cases should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication. *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.

In civil cases the scenario is the same except for the incarceration part. Don't go broke trusting someone who is only concerned with your pocket book!

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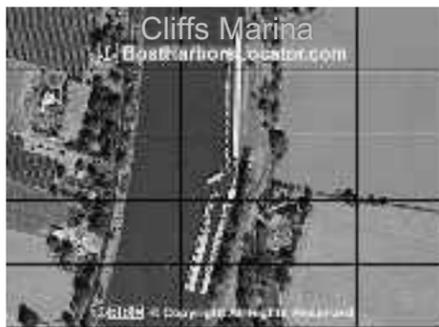
Mr. Valentine states in his letter to Berrigan and House, "In addition it appears that you are engaging in activities that have not been authorized by the State Lands Commission. First, you have occupied State sovereign lands adjacent to your property in Courtland by occupying docks previously placed there and by installing additional docks all without the authority given by or compensation to the Commission on behalf of the State. Please remove your boat from the premises until the Commission has approved a lease to you of the premises. Consequently, you are directed to stop living aboard your boat or to move it to another location where residential use is permitted or there is no State ownership interest. Lastly, it is our understanding that you are renting out some of these docks to third parties. Such businesses may only be conducted on State lands after the State has entered into a lease with the business owner. In this instance there is no lease between you and the Commission and the commission has not authorized you to conduct marina activities on its lands. In short, you are in occupancy of State property without authority and without payment of any rent to the State and you are charging third parties for the use of State property. Therefore, you are directed to stop engaging in such an activity immediately."

We are informed that Berrigan is still

living on the boat as he was in early August and that the California State Lands Commission has taken no further action. It's amazing that someone such as Berrigan can ignore the law and get away with it. It must be that he has ties with California government from when he was a code enforcement officer or he has some influential person working on his behalf or both.

Rawlings and Isaacson should have won their arbitration but the case was overseen by a biased judge. Now they are forced to spend thousands more taking their case to Superior Court.

The Observer is asking anyone with information on Deputy Don Hyatt, tow boat operator Tom Decker, Bob McDaris of Cliff's Marina or Shawn Berrigan to call 541-474-7885. We especially would like to know if any of the above knew each other prior to the boats being towed. Butch Rawlings and Eugene Isaacson both believe that their boats were stolen and all evidence points to that conclusion. Help us stop this chicanery and make things right on the Sacramento River. ■■



Continued from page 2 Conspiracy Against a Good ...

was sloppy. No wonder the grand jury or a judge would not accept it. Like any act of terrorism it cost Dean and his family a lot of money. US~Observer investigative reporter Edward Snook stated, "I'm very perplexed over this situation. I have always respected Birnbaum and in fact I spoke with him personally over this matter and was told there wouldn't be any charges." Snook continued, "There must be someone other than Birnbaum out to get Muchow. I know Muchow personally and I know how honest he is. Dean has as much integrity as any officer I have ever known and if any further attempts are made by anyone to tarnish his reputation I will move into Union County with a highly qualified team of investigative journalists and raise hell right out of the ground."

After learning of the loss of the job with the rail road Dean Muchow has chosen to keep his honor and integrity and fight this matter. D.A. Birnbaum is reportedly now deciding to run this case by the grand jury again in an attempt to prosecute Muchow. This, in spite of the fact witnesses have come forward to verify the steps were on Muchow's property in 2000 or 2001. Mr. Craig George, the scrap and salvage company owner, came forward to state the steps were his to dispose of per contract. He had given a set to someone else and no one complained about that. He had

given Muchow many items from the old mill site and in a phone interview taken on January 27, 2006 Mr. George admitted that he had the scrap rights and that he had in fact given the metal steps to Muchow. George also stated that he was shocked that no one had spoken with him about the steps even though the DA and current chief know that he owned them. Does this sound like a conspiracy or what?

Mr. Carper, the mill site owner, called a mutual friend of Dean's and asked Dean to call him. Carper reportedly stated he only wanted the steps and did not want Dean prosecuted but Martin Birnbaum reportedly insisted. Carper had gone to the police station to find out where Dean had gone but got no further, he reportedly said. Mr. Carper has absolutely no right to the metal steps simply because they were not his once he signed over salvage rights to George and he certainly has no right complaining to anyone about them.

This is outrageous. Why is this D.A. abusing his power in harassing Chief Muchow? Muchow has already lost his savings and borrowed heavily to fight the first malicious legal attack. Now he will lose his home and most likely go bankrupt if Birnbaum goes forth, omitting facts, in an attempt to prosecute him. It's all in Birnbaum's hands now and if someone else is pushing this conspiracy Birnbaum has enough information to stop the false charges

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Continued from page 1 Rogue River Couple Face ...

Randy Auxter began cutting trees on an easement belonging to his neighbors David and Ernette Dargitz. When Mrs. Dargitz approached Auxter and informed him that he was not to cut trees on her property, Auxter became violent and while screaming at Dargitz, Auxter grabbed her and shook her "violently." Dargitz has been receiving medical treatment on a continual basis ever since.

As if he hadn't done enough damage, Randy Auxter took advantage of every opportunity to confront Dave and Ernette Dargitz and in February of 2005 he began blasting music from two large speakers mounted on the exterior of his manufactured home and pointed directly at the Dargitz home. At this point the US~Observer got involved and we have documented literally months of the Auxter's continuous harassment through the use of their excessively loud music.

During the summer of 2005 Mr. and Mrs. Dargitz decided they could no longer live under the stress and placed their home on the market. Before long a

realtor contacted them informing them that she had a client who was making a special trip from California in order to view their property. When the highly potential buyers arrived at the Dargitz home they were immediately confronted with the blaring music coming from the Auxter's. The realtor soon learned of the on-going problem with the Auxter's and although her clients stated that the property was perfect for them they weren't going to purchase because they felt the Auxter's might do the same to them.

The US~Observer's investigation has shown the Auxter's to be disgusting human beings at best and we have also learned what a con-artist Randy Auxter can be. When the right people are around Auxter plays his Multiple Sclerosis (MS) condition to the hilt, however during his normal routine Auxter can be seen working, lifting and getting around like a normal person.

The Auxter's have greatly damaged Dave and Ernette Dargitz and other people as well. It's time that their hatred and ability to damage others is exposed and we commend the Dargitz for attempting to hold them accountable. ■■

Continued from page 2 Unions are Dangerous to ...

them to similar benefits. I called both Commissioners Ellis and Riddle in regards to the complaints in this article. Riddle responded with helpful information, and Ellis did not return my call.

Unions Are Giving Businesses the Business

In the 1980's United Auto Workers (UAW) put International Harvester out of business. Recent headlines read, "Ford Ready to Layoff up to 30,000." In 2004 Ford Motor Company lost \$1.49 billion dollars. Ford stocks are now mingling with the infamous junk stocks. Ford is stuck with high labor costs and health care costs. It is attempting to get concessions from the UAW. General Motors lost 1.6 billion in the third-quarter of 2004. It appears the UAW would rather scuttle Ford and GM than make reasonable cost concessions. For every new car sold in the US, health care costs add between \$1,000 and \$1,500. Foreign imports don't have that added cost to pass along to the consumer. This makes American autos less competitive in the market place. Like parasites, some unions don't know when to quit.

The big airlines are in trouble trying to keep flying due to the added weight of Draconian union contracts they agreed to that are sucking the life blood out of the airline industry. Both United Airlines and US Airways are in bankruptcy. The well known airlines are unable to pay the bills due to rising jet fuel prices, competition, and escalating union pension financial obligations. United Airlines was in debt to its employees' pension plan through union contracts for the staggering sum of 9.8 billion dollars. It couldn't pay the obligation and stay flying. Good hearted Uncle Sam, who is also broke, smiled and said he would assume the debt through an entity called the Corporation (PGBC). As businesses bail out of their

pension liabilities, PBGC has been assuming responsibility. The organization is tottering and congress is looking at tapping the taxpayers for funds to cover PGBC's liabilities. Northwest Airlines has joined the club; it's the latest U.S. airline to warn it faces bankruptcy without concessions from its unions and an infusion of cash.

400 Applicants Ready to Replace Union Workers

When 200 public employees went on strike, the county commissioners received over 400 applications in response to a help wanted ad run in the local newspaper. Strikers ratified an amended agreement approved by commissioners Ellis and Riddle, receiving better terms than the commissioners originally offered them. Commissioner Raffenburg, who is representing the people of this county and not the AFSCME, has the foresight to know unions continual costly demands must be stopped now, for the good of Josephine County. This county faces the loss of 14-16 million dollars in annual federal timber revenues and this is a specter that is haunting those concerned with the future funding of essential public services. The AFSCME contract expires about the same time these iffy funds could dry up.

Public Employees Fund Socialist Agenda

The public sector is a fertile and lucrative environment for union recruiters. In the private sector union zealots have put more than one corporation into financial distress, (bankruptcy) and others out of business, as we shall discuss in this article. The public sector doesn't have to show a profit at the end of the year, and it's easier for organized labor to get outrageous salaries, benefits, and cushy

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Judicial Corruption Arrogance

The Eugene Forte Story

By R.S. Errol
US~Observer

Monterey County, California - The old saying that honesty is the best policy has been proven to be correct at every turn of history. Experts doubt that Richard M. Nixon would have been disgraced due to the Watergate scandal if his administration had come clean with federal investigators prior to the 1972 elections and beyond. Due to Nixon's miscalculations regarding the tenacity of his enemies he ended up as a tragic figure in American history. There have been countless other examples of this kind of behavior and whenever these examples are exposed, there is a collective wonderment as to why the affected parties let their personal embarrassments escalate into personal destruction. In other words, they should have cut their losses and moved on.

This article is complex due to the interbreeding of the respective lawyers, their collective attempts to run over an individual's rights to due process within their private justice system, the ensuing corruption exemplified by their legal antics against this common man, and the complicit main stream media that covers up public corruption. In my attempt to expose this corruption and assist my new friend, I will present the story in segments that takes root with an innocuous small claims case and cascades to the highest echelons of state government.

This story is about one man's desire to be treated fairly in the vaunted justice system in his local community. The protagonist's name is Eugene Forte, now living in a small farming community in Central California. The names of the antagonists will be made known as we follow the time line of Mr. Forte's trials and tribulations. Take note that these antagonists will appear repeatedly throughout this story. This tale of deception and deceit began years ago when Mr. Forte entered into an escrow to purchase, from his landlord, the home he and his family occupied. It was a simple real estate deal that millions of Americans experience on a daily basis. The actual details of the transactions are not necessary facts, but the cover-up will evolve into a classic "Watergate" scandal.

For those of you that naively think that the justice system in this country is a level playing field, pay close attention to Mr. Forte's story. If you are the sort of American that desires to live your life with the misconceptions of public integrity, fostered by government officials that profit from the rigged system, and covered up by the mainstream media close this page, go watch another thrilling "talking head" news show on television that will expose murder, rape and sexual molestation crimes that have absolutely nothing to do with how our rights are eroded while our constitutional way of life is dismantled brick by brick.

Mr. Forte describes himself as a determined individual loaded with street smarts and a high degree of integrity. Unfortunately for his adversaries, he is also fearless and unrelenting in his pursuit of the truth and the ideal most Americans believe exists in this country, "Justice".

He was first exposed to the legal system in Monterey County, California

back in the late 1990's when he purchased some expensive furnishings from Packwood Furniture, a local merchant. Upon receipt of the furniture, Forte noticed a workman's defect and immediately notified the merchant of his displeasure. Forte paid the merchant the agreed price less the itemized price for the defective piece with the caveat that he would pay the balance when that piece was replaced in kind. A few months had elapsed when Forte was served papers notifying him that the merchant was suing him in Small Claims Court. Forte appeared in court and brought the defective item with him as evidence. The commissioner hearing the case, Richard Rutledge, agreed with Forte and continued the trial for 30 days until the merchant could replace the defective item. Upon returning to court on the appointed date for final resolution, Forte was surprised to learn that the plaintiff, Packwood, was not present. In most states, if one party is not present in court, the other party is given a default judgment. Not in Forte's world would this happen. Commissioner Rutledge finds for the absent plaintiff and orders Eugene Forte to pay an additional \$1,000, more than the defective item is worth. What events could cause Forte to lose this seemingly open and shut case? Forte's conjecture is that the plaintiff, anticipating a dismissal of his suit, contacts a "friend of the court" and explains his predicament and is advised to be absent from the next hearing. Commissioner Rutledge was also coached to rule in the plaintiff's favor and that would put an end to the matter. Was Forte prejudged?

Shocked and dismayed, Forte does not go away but appeals the ruling before Judge Robert Moody in Monterey Superior Court. Upon entering the courtroom, Forte finds Mr. Packwood, his attorney and a hostile Judge Moody present and ready for action. When Forte tries to interject some facts of the case, Moody tells him to be quiet and threatens him with contempt if he makes what appear to be futile attempts to clarify his position. In the end, Forte loses his appeal but learns a valuable lesson in the justice that prevails in Monterey County, California. If you are an insider, fear not the heavy hand of justice, or conversely, if you are not connected to the "Good Ole Boy" organization, carry on with trepidation.

Eugene Forte, an entrepreneurial type person, has been successful in all sorts of adventures, from promoting rock concerts, retrieving a sunken WW II aircraft from the bottom of a Sierra Nevada lake, and providing for his family by operating a successful executive recruiting firm. His track record of success was a result of his unencumbered efforts to do what was right for all those associated with him. When he ran into the Monterey's political machinery, Forte's record of success took a turn for the worst. After his disappointing appeal, Forte filed complaints with the California Commission on Judicial Review and the Monterey Superior Court. The commission declined to investigate due to budget constraints but the Monterey Superior Court referred the complaint to Judge Wendy Duffy, now an Appellate Court Judge. She in turn assigned the investigation to Judge Terrance Duncan who after three weeks of looking into Forte's complaint recused himself

because his next-door neighbor was none other than William Packwood, proprietor of Packwood Furniture. Are we supposed to believe the Judge did not know the name of his next-door neighbor or was this ruse designed to delay Mr. Forte's quest for justice? In turn, this complaint was referred to another judge in the Monterey County Court system, Judge Kay Kingsley, but it disappeared into a black hole without a resolution.

A few years later, Gene Forte enters into the aforementioned real estate transaction. Due to confusion regarding the property lines of the parcel for sale, Mr. Forte consults, for a fee, with Monterey attorney Michael Albov. Forte sends the sellers a letter asking for a clarification of the property based upon Albov's assurances that such a letter would not cause any problems with the

escrow. This advice proves to be erroneous as Forte is notified that the escrow is cancelled. Albov, upon hearing about this development, denies all culpability and leaves his client with only one avenue of recourse, find another attorney. The bad legal advice given Forte ultimately leads to Forte vs. Albov and becomes the lawsuit de jour for Mr. Forte.

Enter attorney Roy Gunther, III who was retained to pursue the matter between Forte and William Powell the owner of the property in question. Gunther demands and receives a retainer of \$5,000.00, which quickly escalates within 60 days to \$27,000.00, to assist Forte in buying the property in question. Forte had invested \$100,000 in property improvements since he

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Continued from page 4 Unions are Dangerous to ...

retirement plans that would and do bankrupt private businesses. Some consider public employment as early retirement. Union officials keep public employees hypnotized with rhetoric that fills their heads with the dreams that only an Aladdin's lamp can provide. They do get cradle to the grave security for themselves and their families as a special group of citizens at the public's expense. Once public employees are under the spell of their union reps they also become the source of revenue to fund the multiple millions of dollars the national unions use to promote a socialist agenda. This union money enables the unions to buy and influence senators, congressman, etc., who then act as the unions' proxy in the legislative bodies of congress, the state house, and the county or parish courthouse. The tentacles of the unions reach far beyond what your local paper reports. For example: John Carlisle, in Human Events on line says, "In the 2004 election cycle, union political action committees gave more than \$58 million to political parties and candidates. Of this amount, 87 percent went to Democrats. Unions also donated about \$100 million to pro-Democratic 527 committees, which ran ads and conducted get-out-the vote efforts. The Democratic Party, in fact, has become so beholden to unions that the latter has virtual veto power over Party policy decisions."

Let's Get Together, Yea, Yea, Yea

Prior to the strike both Ellis and Riddle stood tall and resolute when AFSCME, an AFL/CIO affiliate, came charging up the courthouse steps demanding more money and benefits in their contract negotiations. At that time the commissioners were the "Magnificent Three" saying NO to AFSCME's "High Noon" threat of give us what we want or we'll tear county government apart. In the past commissioners didn't say no when the AFSCME spoke. This NO outraged union officials and some of its county employee members. About 200 of 350 AFSCME members went on strike and the other loyal public employees kept working. On Monday, Jan. 9th some strikers began picketing the big white courthouse with signs and a bullhorn blasting the commissioners for failing to tuck tail and run. In this version of "High Noon" Ellis and Riddle abandoned their previous position and didn't show up for the fight. They began singing, "Let's Get Together, Yea, Yea, Yea" leaving Raffenburg to face the AFSCME alone. Meanwhile, in the Daily Courier, activist writer Patricia Richter, like a spider, spun and twisted the truth in her coverage of the AFSCME strike from a liberal viewpoint.

First a tentative agreement by Ellis and Riddle was given to the AFSCME. Next an agreement was reached by these two commissioners with AFSCME on Thursday the 12th. The union

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LIBERTY

How Private Property is being Abolished in America

Oregon News

Gil Gilbertson for Sheriff Announcement of Candidacy



By Ron Lee
US~Observer
Investigative Reporter

Grants Pass, OR - On January 25, 2006 Gil Gilbertson, whose accolades include over 25 years of law enforcement experience as well as working with the U.S. State Department in Bosnia and Kosovo to successfully form local police agencies and more recently protecting New Orleans hospitals in the aftermath of Katrina, has announced his bid to be the next Josephine County Sheriff.

Citing a lack of overall morale in the existing sheriff's department and poor administrative procedures brought on by the "good-old-boy" mentality that currently exists, Gilbertson said that it was time for a change, one that would lend itself to a transparent sheriff's office which would be held accountable by a public commission.

Gilbertson also made it clear that he could functionally operate the department on a restrictive budget and

would do well in keeping new spending to a minimum, as his experiences abroad had given him a familiarity with such endeavors. These words seemed to go well with County Commissioner Jim Raffenburg

whose promise not to increase county spending has pitted him against his fellow commissioners in regards to the county employee raises. Raffenburg along with Commissioner Dwight Ellis were present for Gilbertson's announcement.

Gilbertson has quickly won support and his campaign manager Scott Calhoun attributes this to Gilbertson's genuine character, solid background, and inherent trait to do good.

With County residents who initially backed Dave Daniel, the current sheriff when he ran for office, and then witnessed his transformation from promising candidate to inept administrator, they are skeptical of another individual who promises changes at the sheriff's department. But they all seem to agree that there is much work to be done in that office and that "new blood" just might be what is needed.

As one Selma resident stated, "The entire department needs an overhaul ... and that has to start at the top."



Gil Gilbertson

And that is just what Gilbertson is promising. A new invigorated department that doesn't quash a new recruits verve, but embraces it and reaches out to the public with that same type of emphatic enthusiasm to gain their involvement.

Those attending the announcement cheered when Gilbertson demanded that the department be held accountable to the public and that he would open himself up to a public Q & A throughout

his term. This along with his down-to-earth good-natured approach made him a quick favorite even for those who weren't attending as supporters.

Editor's Note: The US~Observer will be following Gilbertson's candidacy with keen interest. As we have reported on more than one occasion, the current Daniel regime needs to be ended but we will remain skeptical of this newcomer. If you have any information about Gil Gilbertson please call 541-474-7885. ■

Flooded residents still waiting for help from FEMA

MEDFORD, OR (AP) — The Southern Oregonians whose homes were flooded during recent rainstorms are getting used to waiting.

They've got to wait for insurance adjusters to tell them how much they'll cover for damages, and for investigators from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to come to town.

Overall, Jackson County was among the hardest hit in the state during the rainstorms earlier this month, sustaining \$5.8 million in damages to 250 homes, businesses and utilities.

Ernie Phillips of Rogue River still has a ruined pile of furniture on his front lawn.

"We've got a long way to go here," said the 73-year-old, who is now living temporarily in his next-door neighbor's house because his own home is uninhabitable.

FEMA officials are expected in the county around the first part of February.

Shady Cove had the most damage of any city in the county, followed by Rogue River with \$346,000.

"We need some assistance," said George Bostic, Shady Cove public works director. "Small communities like Shady Cove can't do it on their own."

Because the city doesn't have an adequate storm drain system, little creeks and ditches overflowed their banks.

Mayor Dick Bailey said the city had



been planning to eventually refurbish Aunt Caroline's Park, damaged in the flood.

"This might be a blessing in disguise," he said, expressing hope that FEMA will help in the rebuilding efforts.

As for Phillips, he said the waiting has been frustrating, and he doesn't believe much has been accomplished since the flooding a month ago. Two contractors have told him it would cost about \$100,000 to fix his house.

With help, he was able to get the soggy carpeting and mud-soaked couches out of his house.

He's even managed to recover some of his belongings that were washed away.

"My garbage can was a quarter-mile down-river at my neighbor's house," he said.

■ ■ ■

Oregon town mayor arrested for DUII after accident



Mayor Lesley

MONUMENT, OR (AP) - The mayor of this small Eastern Oregon town was arrested on drunk driving and other charges following a three-vehicle car crash

that sent three people to a hospital, Oregon State Police said.

Kenneth Ormand Lesley, 53, who was sworn in as mayor on Jan. 11., was driving his pickup westbound on State Highway 402 when he tried to pass a westbound vehicle on a curve in a no passing zone, police said.

Lesley clipped the driver's side of that vehicle and then collided head-on with a car.

The mayor's pickup burst into flames in a rancher's field, but he escaped and fled the scene.

Witnesses told a state trooper that the fleeing driver was intoxicated, police said.

The three occupants in the car were

taken to Blue Mountain Hospital in John Day, where they were treated for minor injuries and released.

The driver, Almond Oliver, 21, was visiting her family in Monument on leave from the Navy, where she is stationed in Everett, Wash. Also injured were Christine Vender, 52, of Monument and her 2-year-old grandson, Tristen Littleton.

Lesley returned to the crash scene late Saturday the 28th, five hours after the crash. He was arrested on charges of driving under the influence of intoxicants, failure to perform the duties of driver involved in a crash and third-degree assault.

A preliminary investigation showed that Lesley used alcohol, marijuana and prescription medication before the crash, police said.

Lesley, who had minor injuries, was lodged in the Grant County Jail early Sunday. There was no answer at Lesley's home Sunday afternoon.

■ ■ ■

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Police Chief Targeted for Termination? Oregon News

Recall of 3 City Councilors Started in Gold Hill Over Row

By US~Observer Staff

Gold Hill, OR - On January 9th, 2006 at a regularly scheduled Gold Hill city council meeting local resident Scott Baker began the public business section of the council's agenda with an announcement that he would be seeking to recall three of the council members.

Baker, from behind the podium facing the council stated, "I'm here to inform you guys that I'd like Gus Wolf, Jan Fish and Donna Silva to resign from city council. Through your inability to keep the city first, as well as city departments, the police department, public works and city hall. You three have lied ... You have a choice to either step down or face a recall for inappropriate behavior in and out of city council."

Councilman Gus Wolf, who's known by some as an alleged ex-cocaine user, asked Baker as he was leaving the podium if he would explain how he had lied. Baker turned and asked Wolf,



Councilman Gus Wolf

Continued from page 4 Conspiracy Against a Good ...

rather than push them into a costly legal arena. We will soon find out if Birnbaum is an ethical District Attorney or part of a dark conspiracy.

In wrapping up our investigation into this matter we spoke with Chief Muchow. Muchow stated, "In my career I've had our family car blown up by crooks, my home firebombed, I've arrested people at gunpoint on my property who came to do me harm, my children attacked, and many physical attacks on my person. Becoming Chief enlarges the circle of potential enemies. Now I get attacked in an official context and through those members of the media that have no honor. Those people are the moral equivalent of those who sought to burn down my house."

The US~Observer will continue to inform our readership on this tragic story and anyone with information on Union Police Chief Lee Bertsch, Union County resident Tim Carper, District Attorney Martin Birnbaum, Medford Mail Tribune political activist and reporter Sanne Specht or anyone else involved in this case is urged to contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885. ■■

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"Gus, do you support the police department?"

Wolf immediately responded, "I do."

"You couldn't answer that in the last council meeting." Baker retorted.

"I don't know what you're talking about, Scott." Wolf replied.

Pointing a finger at Wolf, Baker said, "You lied again ... Somebody asked you four times in the last city council meeting whether you supported the police department or not. And you couldn't answer them."



Councilwoman Donna Silva

The row began several months earlier when Gold Hill's appointed Judge Don Leahan reported to the Medford Mail Tribune that the Gold Hill police department were citing people to fund another officer, and more so, increasing their ticketing to meet this end. In statements made by Judge Leahan he said that he "... wasn't elected to be a pawn for the City Council or the police department," and that if he found 55 people waiting for him with tickets he'd, "dismiss everything because I smell a rat."

The explanation for the increase in tickets was justified. According to police chief Dean Muchow they had more officers working and they were asked by the local school to patrol the school zone as the school year had just gotten underway. But council members Fish, Silva and Wolf didn't seem to accept the explanation from the chief at the December 19th, 2005 council session which was assembled to deal with the increasingly public infighting between the judge and police chief.



Councilwoman Jan Fish

Ignoring the public at the council session who all called for the council to back the police department, the three council members went so far as to say that they felt the judge had done nothing wrong. Fish especially attacked chief Muchow throughout the session and the final determination by the council was that the judge should receive a letter stating their displeasure with his comments to the media and that it

"This is not city government, folks. I don't know what it is, but it's not city government." – Councilman Gus Wolf

should then be business as usual, a ruling the public attending were infuriated by.

Since the December 19th session the three council members, who are all friends of Judge Leahan, have stepped up their attacks on Chief Muchow, trying to find some way to oust him, and perhaps the whole department.

Armed with information, uncovered by a US~Observer investigation in the matter, of a phone call by city recorder Mary Goddard to a police union representative investigative journalist Ron Lee took to the podium immediately following Baker.

Lee approached and said, "Good evening council ... I'm here to make public certain moves by this council in regard to the police department ... I have a couple questions for Mary Goddard, if that's appropriate." With no objections he continued, "Mary Goddard is it true you recently contacted the police union rep Wayne Botta to inquire what the



City Recorder Mary Goddard

payoff would be to fire both Sgt. Hobart and Chief Muchow and disband the police department only to reform it 30 days later with officer Hanson as head officer? What was the outcome of this conversation? Is this something the entire council agreed upon? If not who put you up to the phone call?"

Wolf jumped in stating, "What are we doing this here for? I mean why is he grilling our ... recorder?"

Raising her hand and then speaking, Kathleen Price, another Gold Hill city council member said, "Well, I'd like to know ..."

Lee went on to say, "I think this is something that should be made public."

After a tirade by Gold Hill public works director Royle Gasso, an alleged ex-heroin addict and felon, who interjected out of turn, Wolf asked Lee, "Why are we even wasting time with you?"

After much back and forth debate regarding media and feeling like the city council was being attacked Gasso, once again out of turn, gave what appeared to be approval to answer the question by saying, "Answer the question but this is



Police Chief Dean Muchow

the ... I've been here nine years and I've never seen anything like this. This is bizarre."

Wolf added, in what some considered an astonishing confession, "This is not city government, folks. I don't know what it is but it is not city government."

Wolf went on to state that he was the one who asked Goddard for "information about disbanding the police department." He went on to say that this was something he was pursuing and that he was entertaining all options.

The public heard for themselves that there are board members more involved with their own personal agendas than dealing with city business at hand. They also heard evidence blatantly presented that Wolf's reply to Scott Baker's earlier question, "do you support the police department" was in fact a lie. "Support" in an English dictionary just doesn't provide credence to any interpretation Wolf might try to say he was speaking of by saying that he did support them.

The recall paperwork was filed January 31st, 2006 and Baker needs 61 signatures for each council member. He hopes to gather quite a few more as he says he knows the good people of Gold Hill truly do support their police department, as well as the good man, Dean Muchow, who is its chief. ■■



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COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out

Betrayed by the Bench

By Larry Pratt
NewsWithViews.com

John Stormer is an amazing author. He has sold over 11 million books. One, *None Dare Call It Conspiracy*, sold 7 million. That was in 1964 when there was no internet, no faxes, no talk shows for conservatives. Stormer may have been the first to put a coupon in the back of the book for additional orders.

So, a new book by John Stormer means we can assume that he has something else to say. Indeed he does.

In *Betrayed by the Bench*, Stormer traces the lawlessness of so many of today's rulings to the revolt against the common law that is Christian through and through. The revolt was led from the Harvard Law School by professors such as its Dean, Roscoe Pound. The replacement was the tyranny of case law.

The case law preferred by Pound and his followers allowed them to slip out from under the constraints of the timeless and universal precepts foundational to the Common Law. Case law allows judges to "make law." One of Pound's followers, Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, made this amazing statement: "We are under a constitution, but the constitution is what we say it is."

Equally as amazing as Hughes' assertion was the failure to impeach him for violating his oath of office. But as Stormer points out, the idea of absolutes binding men died in the pulpits before it died in the civil realm.

Stormer calls the result of judicial lawmaking "an on-going Constitutional Convention." I would call it a coup d'etat. This coup has been hard to spot because the judges did not have a bunch of colonels circling the seat of government with tanks. We have witnessed a coup by increments something that is much harder to detect.

There has been a concerted effort to exclude the Declaration of Independence from the corpus of binding law. This is a legal impossibility in view of the nature of the Declaration it is a contract much the same as Articles of Incorporation are. No one is at liberty to unilaterally change the terms of a contract.

Our fourth president, John Quincy Adams, had this to say about the foundational role of the Declaration for the Constitution and laws made pursuant to it:

The virtue which had been infused into the Constitution of the United States...was no other than...those abstract principles which had been first proclaimed in the Declaration of Independence namely the self-evident truths of the natural and unalienable rights of man...and the sovereign'ty of the people, always subordinate to the rule of right and wrong, and always responsible to the Supreme Ruler of the universe for the rightful exercise of that power. This was the platform upon which the Constitution of the United States had been erected.

The boldness of the Court's usurpation

is somewhat like the old line of the crook who is caught in the act exclaiming, "Who do you believe, me or your lying eyes?" To give but one example, consider the 14th Amendment. The 39th Congress expressly stipulated that the Amendment was not designed to control schools, voting and elections. Indeed, that was so well understood that the 15th Amendment was enacted in order to deal with voting.

The record of the clear intent of the framers of the 14th Amendment has not stopped the Supreme Court from inventing the doctrine of incorporation out of thin air. This has allowed the Supremes to increase consolidation of power in their own hands (and in the hands of their willing accomplices in the legislative and the executive branches) in Washington. This has been done at the expense of the Constitutional reservation of most governmental powers to the states and to the people.

Incorporation might be best understood by thinking of it as incorporating stolen powers. The lack of jurisdiction for many of the Court's decisions is comparable to the city of Paris levying a tax to be paid by citizens of the United States in the U.S.

Incorporation is now being expanded by a majority (six of the nine justices) of the Supremes to allow for foreign law as a guide to their judicial lawmaking. When the Court recently overturned capital punishment for an 18-year old who had cold-bloodedly murdered a neighbor when he was just a "child" of 17, Justice Breyer claimed the support of the murder law in Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe! The country run by a thug who has proclaimed himself a black Hitler!

Gun owners should not be surprised when the gun control laws of some other thugocracy such as Cuba form the basis of a Supreme rape of the 2nd Amendment. Americans generally should not be surprised at any unconstitutional notion the Supremes may take into their heads.

One challenge we face in freeing ourselves from this judicial tyranny is that they have the benefit of a mind fake that has us believing that anything, no matter how outrageous, that comes out of the mouth of a judge is law. Hence we see other government officials who have all taken the same oath of office to uphold the Constitution violating their oaths by obeying unconstitutional edicts of the Supreme Court. This is otherwise known as "upholding the rule of law." Of course, it is anything but.

Until "We the People" remember that we only gave the crowd in Washington a very limited amount of power to do only a very few things, we will continue to be ruled by unelected and unaccountable politicians wrapped in black robes.

Larry Pratt has been Executive Director of Gun Owners of America for 27 years. GOA is a national membership organization of 300,000 Americans dedicated to promoting their second amendment freedom to keep and bear arms. ■■

"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

Will Bush Follow Tony Blair & Spy on Members of Congress?

Jim Kouri, CPP
NewsWithViews.com

With all the suspected leaking going on in the United States, much of it coming from congress, perhaps President Bush should take a cue from the British Prime Minister. Tony Blair is reportedly preparing to do away with a 40-year ban on tapping Members' of Parliament telephones, according to the British newspaper *The Independent*. Blair will probably make his announcement to the House of Commons within weeks.

The gist of his announcement will be that MPs can no longer be certain that the security services such as MI5 and others will not intercept their telephone and electronic communications.

Past prime ministers had always pledged there would be no tapping of MPs' phones, and that they would be told if it was necessary to breach the ban on surveillance of British leaders.

The ban -- known as the Wilson Doctrine, after Harold Wilson, the prime minister who introduced it -- is to be abandoned in an expansion of MI5 powers following the London bombings in July 2005.

MPs should be treated in the same way as other citizens and will be given the same safeguards against wrongful tapping, the Prime Minister will say, according to *The Independent*.

The decision provoked a furious battle in the Cabinet just before the Christmas holidays, when the Secretary of State for Defense, John Reid, strongly opposed Blair's plan.

His outburst shocked cabinet members, since Reid was always viewed as one of Blair's closest allies and someone who took a hardline approach to fighting terrorists.

"Reid demanded to know why on earth we were going down this route," *The Independent* quoted one government colleague as saying.

"It was all the more surprising since you would have thought the MoD is one of the departments most in favor of increased surveillance powers."

A Tony Blair spokesman stated, "The recommendation has been received and will be considered in due course."

Blair was put on notice that any attempt to tap MPs' phones would be bitterly opposed in the Commons. Andrew Mackinlay, a Labor Party MP, said it was a "hallmark of a civilized country" that its government not spy on elected politicians.

According to *The Independent*, there has been a marked expansion of surveillance in Britain since 1997. New technology and new laws mean that Britons are among the most spied-on citizens on earth. Sweeping new powers

to snoop on emails, texts and other communications were included in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, while satellite technology offers multiple new surveillance opportunities.

Blair has confirmed at least three times that his government observed the Wilson Doctrine, most recently in 2003 when it became clear that Mi5 had been bugging Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, who has not taken his seat and so is not formally an MP.

While many Americans fear Blair's recent actions may be repeated here in the US, it's difficult to see how President Bush would be able to bypass the congress -- who many believe, at times, works against the the administration's war on terrorism -- and the Judicial Branch of the US government.

With the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Republican Senator Arlen Specter, considered a RINO (Republican In Name Only) preparing to investigate the NSA spy program, there are many who fear leaks will turn into floods as a result of senators such as Leahy, Kennedy, Durbin and other partisans having access to top secret intelligence.

The threat of being overheard breaking national security laws might be just the thing needed to prevent further leaks by politicians to members of the liberal media in their quest to undermine the war effort. The President, of course, should have probable cause and warrants issued by the secret FISA court before taking any action against suspected leakers in congress.

Jim Kouri, CPP is currently fifth vice-president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police. He's former chief at a New York City housing project in Washington Heights nicknamed "Crack City" by reporters covering the drug war in the 1980s. He's also served on the National Drug Task Force and trained police and security officers throughout the country. ■■

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More COMMENTARY

Verbal Assassination

2006 Predictions

By Ron Lee
The Verbal Assassin

Last year, more as a joke than anything, I speculated what would come of us in 2005. I included many humorous "predictions" like Anjolina Jolie falling for me (Sorry, Anjolina, I found someone better) and I didn't think much of it until the more serious prophetic tellings started coming to pass.

While my most dire predictions did not occur, thankfully, like a dirty bomb attack on the U.S. and a slew of large earthquakes along the West Coast I did manage to foretell a discovery to drastically reduce cancer cases and that Israel wouldn't pull all the way out of its Gaza settlements. Also, there was the discovery of a planet beyond Pluto and the presidential assassination attempt. The US~Observer did "win" a big case involving Vietnam Swift Boat Vet Tedd Peck whose charges of filing false tax returns were discovered to come from none other than John Kerry who was under fire by the "Swifties" for falsely claiming his first Purple Heart. The charges were filed when Peck refused to "back off" during Kerry's bid to be our president in 2004. And then there were the things that were talked about in 2005 that backed the predictions, like Taiwan President Chen Shui-bian making statements that he would pursue Taiwan independence from China at the end of the year, as well as announcements that commercial spaceflight would soon be

off the ground.

So, this year rather than being "funny" I'm going to stay more serious and put due attention toward a year I feel is going of the most dynamic in modern times.

I've also chosen to ask random individuals for their 2006 predictions. They range from the impossibly hilarious to the sincerely optimistic and are included below.

Now to get on with it ... HmMMM ... 2006.

1. The country will be awakened to the severity of our Mexican border issue when an armed conflict will take several American lives. The public will increase its pressure on the administration to put an end to the obvious invasion.

2. Along with more pounding hurricanes, the country will face an increase in all weather related destruction. From one of the biggest tornado seasons on record that will stretch beyond "tornado alley" to bitter cold at the end of the year that will cripple most of the northern states.

3. The Bird Flu will genetically alter and begin to infect other livestock. One step closer to the pandemic many experts fear.

4. Iran will back down at the last minute and take the Russian offer of uranium enrichment. This, however, will be done to hide what the security council will find to be their fully active nuclear arms program.

Continued on page 11

The Decline and Fall of America

By Frosty Wooldridge
NewsWithViews.com

By the time the Roman Empire died in 476 AD, few noticed, few cared and few stood up to do anything about it. If you look at America today, exactly the same events that collapsed the Romans accelerate within our borders in the early part of the 21st century.

Rome was a Republic that morphed into an empire. It began in Italy and quickly conquered most of the known world. Its power spread from the Middle East, Africa and most of Europe. Its armies numbered 300,000 soldiers that attacked lesser nations at will. But soon, the most powerful civilization on earth ruptured, bled and died.

Does this sound like the nation you live in? The United States was once a Republic, but today, our military bases penetrate as an empire in dozens upon dozens of countries around the world. Our president and Congress provoke wars on sovereign nations at will: Korea, Vietnam, Bosnia, Kuwait, Iraq and potentially Iran. The United States morphs into world conquests without end. America hemorrhages with the same calamities that destroyed Rome.

In his brilliant book, "The Fall of the Roman Empire: A New History of Rome and Barbarians," Peter Heather examines the exact cause of Rome's death.

He writes, "The Romans were deeply embroiled with war in the East the Persian empire. Emperor Valens was forced to admit Gothic hordes. All went well until food supplies ran short and tempers flared. From the Gothic War until the fall of Rome, continuous pressure from the Huns forced more barbarians into the empire. Eventually, the immigrants grew more powerful than existing Roman authority."

Two major conditions caused the loss of Rome: they allowed uncontrolled hostile immigration to dissolve the fabric of their civilization. Immigrants grew more powerful while exercising their own character of their cultures. They did not adopt Roman ways. Second, vast blocks of once Roman lands became foreign held and even the Roman population, once outnumbered, was no match for hostile immigrants.

For you history buffs, our 21st century situation at the Rio Grande River mirrors the Roman Empire at the Danube River in 350 AD. The Romans failed their country by not stopping the immigrants and as can be seen nightly, tens of thousands of illegal aliens swim or wade across America's Rio Grande on

the border of Mexico

Fast forward to 2006. Today, well over 35.2 million foreign born legal 1 immigrants live in our country and this number exceeds 2 ½ times the 13.5 million that came to America in 1910. Since 1964, immigrants and their children have driven population growth in the US population from 194 million to 299 million. That's an addition of 106 million people in 40 years.

From January 2000 to March 2005, a whopping 7.9 million legal and illegal immigrants settled into the United States. Over half of those immigrants arrived as illegals in that five year period.

According to Dr. Steven Camarata, "Immigrants at Mid-Decade: December 2005," www.cis.org, 31 percent of adult immigrants lack high school diplomas. Immigrant heads of households utilize a whopping 29 percent of welfare programs. The average illegal alien household head costs US taxpayers \$2,700.00 in welfare benefits annually over and above any taxes he/she pays or does not pay. The poverty rate of immigrants and their children stands at 18.4 percent which is 57 percent higher than American citizens. Immigrants and their children account for one in four persons living in poverty. One-third of immigrants lack health insurance, which accounts for millions visiting ER wards at taxpayer expense as mandated by the Federal Government.

As the educational drop out/flunk out rate of 65 percent of illegal alien students in Denver Public Schools, May 2005 illustrates our national crisis--the low educational attainment of immigrants results in low wages that causes millions of them to tap into welfare programs, crime, drugs, anchor babies and resultant public assistance. They bring us such rituals as female genital mutilation of baby girls, horse tripping from Mexican charros, cock fighting, dog fighting and Santeria from African immigrants, which is beheading of animals for sacrifice.

From the disease free nation we once were, we can expect even more consequences. Immigrants brought us over 16,000 cases of tuberculosis in the past five years, which spreads across our country. They arrived with 7,000 cases of leprosy in the past three years. They carry thousands of cases of hepatitis 'A' and that is only the tip of the diseases imported into this country by illegal aliens.

Take a peek under the human riptide tearing at the fabric of America. You've

Continued on page 21

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**Message from Executive
Director Kevin Starrett**

OFF has one overriding principle, the belief that citizens of Oregon and the United States have the right to own and carry the firearm of their choice for any reason other than to commit a crime.

To that end we have worked to ensure that the rights of gun owners are not compromised by elected officials, anti-gun activists or those who masquerade as gun-rights supporters while they work behind the scenes to erode your liberties.

We oppose any attempt to chip away at your God-given, Constitutionally-guaranteed right to defend yourself and your family.

It is our sincere belief that **any** compromise on these rights will only lead to more attacks on liberty in the future. We believe in personal accountability and responsible gun ownership and we believe those goals are achieved by individuals, not by bureaucratic mandates.

Furthermore we believe that change is effected by grassroots activists and the pressure they can put on elected officials, not by back room deals cut by lobbyists who have no real interest in the issue, only their next paycheck.

As a result of our positions we have angered many politicians who would like people to believe that they support gun rights even when they vote against them, but we are far more concerned with votes than popularity.

As a result of the actions of OFF supporters we have demonstrated that grassroots activism works. "Willamette Week", Portland's "alternative" newspaper said "...the members of OFF are reputed to be particularly venomous and intimidating. When Starrett told his members that state Senator Veral Tarno was wavering on the original gun show bill, the senator received messages so vile and vicious that he blew up at Starrett during a committee hearing. Ultimately however Tarno voted AGAINST THE BILL....."

Vile? Vicious? I doubt it, but there is no question that OFF supporters are committed and passionate. It is that passion and commitment that we rely on to alter the course of legislation in this state.

If you would like to be a part of Oregon's only no compromise gun lobby, we welcome you.

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**Continued from page 5
Unions are Dangerous to ...**

employees went back to work or whatever they do on Friday, drawing salaries and benefits that local private businesses can't afford to pay and still make a profit at the end of the day. This happens because commissioners representing the taxpayers were unwilling to take this opportunity to put AFSCME in a full scale rout. This is going to have to be done at some time, and these commissioners have only delayed the inevitable. Even the saving of a potential \$500,000 this year won't solve the problem of excesses in government benefits and retirement. For the past twenty plus years Josephine County has had a long lineage of bad commissioners who have failed miserably to represent the best interests of the taxpayers. One would think the local unions elected the commissioners to office. Commissioner Jim Raffenburg is a rarity, and county residents should be proud of him.

Aesop and the Camel

The fable of Aesop and the Camel astutely describes why the public is now facing outlandish union retirement plans and benefits. The camel stuck his nose in the tent just a little and complained to the master how cold it was outside and couldn't he just put his head in the tent? The master allowed the camel to do so. Soon the entire camel was in the tent, and the good master was outside in the cold. That's exactly where the unions have placed the taxpayers, outside in the

cold. And it was done quite smoothly with a technique called Incrementalism. The following quote is attributed to former Senator Everett McKinley Dirksen, "A few billion dollars here, a few billion there, and pretty soon you're talking real money!" The continual rising costs of public employee salaries, benefits, and retirements occur over a period of time, and the public isn't aware of what's taking place. The taxpayers are pulling the cart while the unions and its entourage ride. The unions existing today are not what the founding fathers had in mind when they established this nation. Union officials and public employees regard the taxpayer as someone with long ears and a tail who says "Hee Haw" while pulling the carts.

**AFSCME Members Applaud Sheriff
Who Calls Commissioners Bullies
and Thugs**

On Monday, Jan. 9th during a morning rally a couple of professional motivators, Ken Allen, an executive director of AFSCME in Oregon, and Jim Alexander of the Southern Oregon Labor Council easily started copious amounts of adrenalin pumping in the hyped-up strikers. Then Josephine County Sheriff Dave Daniel, who appears to be retired while drawing full salary as sheriff and running for county commissioner, spoke at the rally egging the strikers on and inciting hate speech by calling the county commissioners derogatory names. The Daily Courier reports Daniel said, "Don't let the thugs bully you," and he continued to label the

commissioners as "bullies" and "thugs" during his time before the adrenalin pumped-up and mesmerized crowd. The Courier reports that Daniel's remarks to the county employees who are now back at work, "brought loud bursts of applause from the crowd."

While inciting this pack of commissioner haters, it sounds like the sheriff was campaigning for the office of commissioner. As a matter of fact, Daniel is hoping to replace Jim Riddle as a commissioner and is now on record as calling him and targeting the other two commissioners at the same time as "bullies" and "thugs." Daniel's union background and inflammatory speech to the strikers shows he is not qualified to become a county commissioner. Daniel has a long line of baggage following him including being a bad administrator, having deputies who at one time gave him a humiliating vote of no confidence, and sporting the famous chicken Speckles that gained national attention hanging around his neck like an albatross.

**AFSCME Members Have Contempt
for Commissioners**

Who are these public employees who have such disdain for the county commissioners who have been quite popular with the voters? A Jan. 10th news release from the commissioners says the county services hit hardest by the strike are those that provide assistance to the county's most vulnerable citizens (mental health patients, adults and children with

developmental disabilities, and public health outpatient clients). These employees appear to passionately hate the commissioners, as you don't applaud when someone calls an acquaintance, friend, or your boss a "bully" or "thug." These public employees seem to have little or no compassion for others if it interferes with their pocket books. How good these AFSCME bigots are as county employees is a legitimate question.

**Commissioners Must Vow to
Repulse and Reduce Union Costs**

Anyone running for the position of county commissioner must fully understand what AFSCME and the AFL/CIO stand for. What is their political agenda? This agenda goes far beyond representing employees in Josephine County and goes all the way to Washington DC, filtering down to all the state capitals. The dues from millions of public employees are used in an attempt to influence, shape, and control national politics. The public employees who pay these dues have no say on how their dues are spent. Many are republicans, and most of their dues money goes to fund liberal democratic objectives, such as those espoused by Senator Edward Kennedy (D-MA). Another example is Oregon Senator Ron Wyden, (D-OR). In 1994 he consistently hit 100% on support of many socialist welfare programs supported by the AFSCME

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**Continued from page 1
Rape or False Allegations ...**

Klamath Falls into believing her preposterous story regarding Treddenbarger's alleged sexual advances toward her.

All charges stem from supposed acts which took place in March of 2005, however Ms. Garrison made claims that Treddenbarger had also assaulted her in an empty house they were cleaning on May 6, 2005. She stated this on the record, numerous times, during a restraining order hearing held on November 9, 2005. She stated that Norman had thrown her to the ground in the bedroom of the house and that the house was empty, void of a bed or furniture. Treddenbarger's attorney repeated her questions about the location and date several times throughout the hearing and on each occasion Garrison was positive of where and when the sexual assault had taken place. The main problem with Garrison's story is that the house on Beaver Street in Klamath Falls was rented out on May 6, 2005 and all work on the property had ended on April 28, 2005. This assault that Garrison described so emotionally in court could never have occurred, so what is there to believe regarding her charges in March? When Garrison was asked why she continued to work with Treddenbarger from March (when 4 sexual assaults allegedly took place) to April she stated, "I was trying to build a case." This excuse is more than hard to believe, it's actually absurd. If a woman is afraid of a man because he has sexually assaulted

her she sure isn't going to hang around for more of the same. And what about not mentioning the assault to anyone? Garrison testified that she didn't tell anyone.

Another telling sign of a false allegation is that Garrison made her accusations about Treddenbarger after a dispute about wages. Apparently Ms. Garrison was overpaid by Frontier Real Estate in K-Falls and when she refused to return the money they withheld the overpayment from Norman Treddenbarger. Norm in turn held back funds from Garrison which reportedly made her furious and curiously Norm just happened to be withholding funds around the very times he was allegedly assaulting Garrison. Danny Allen who owns Frontier Real Estate confirmed Treddenbarger's story and informed the Observer that Garrison was dishonest on different occasions when she worked for him. What a witness for the prosecution... Treddenbarger is still employed by Frontier even after the serious accusations made by Garrison. This should tell any prudent person that those who employed Treddenbarger and Garrison have trust in Norm and they don't believe anything Garrison has claimed in light of their belief that she is dishonest and untrustworthy.

Going back to May 6, 2005 we find that while Treddenbarger is supposedly assaulting Garrison they were actually at a meeting at Frontier Real Estate which resulted in her termination. No wonder this day sticks out to her!

In summarizing this baseless case we

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**Continued from page 5
Judicial Corruption ...**

intended to purchase the parcel. From August 1999 through October 1999, Gunther drags his feet stating that there was an arbitration clause in the real estate contract and litigation could violate the terms of the contract. As expected, the subsequent arbitration is a disaster for Forte and when he tries to serve a lawsuit to the Powell's Carmel Valley, CA attorney Barry Harrow, who had previously agreed to accept service, this attorney declines service because he is no longer representing Powell. Thus the Forte vs. Powell case takes on a life of its own. We shall revisit this case many times over the next few installments, so take notes.

Gene Forte's suspicions that there was something rotten in Denmark at this juncture were erased when the "good old boy" organization exposed itself. While growing impatient with Gunther's plan of action, Forte seeks a more aggressive attorney. In his search, he approaches the Horan Law Firm in Monterey, California. The first person he talks to is a secretary for attorney Stephen Dyer. This secretary tells Forte that she must first check their client list in order to ensure the firm has no conflict of interest. When he is told that no conflict exists, Gene begins his litany providing the secretary specifics of the case. He then is told that Mr. Dyer will get back to him shortly. Within fifteen minutes, the secretary calls Forte to

inform him that she is really embarrassed but there is indeed a conflict and the Horan Law firm cannot represent him. A few weeks later, he is to discover that Mr. Harrow, the Powell's attorney, was associated with the attorney James Cook of Horan Law Firm who was also representing Powell. Due to this faux pas, a lot of confidential information was extracted from Forte that could prove to be damaging.

Forte explains this occurrence to Gunther and suggests that Gunther move to recuse the Horan Law Firm but Gunther declines because of a close relationship with the law firm and the well connected Alain Pinel Realty due to the nature of his law practice. Alain Pinel Realty employed Stephanie Crabb who was involved in the real estate transaction, and who would eventually become a defendant due to her alleged malpractice. Gunther, of course, keeps the excessive retainer for writing a few letters and writing a lawsuit that was only filed and not yet served. Gunter suggests to Forte that he contact another law firm that could assist him in his fight.

Enter Loretta Loop, a Monterey attorney who is very sympathetic to Gene's situation and agrees to work for him once a \$5,000 retainer is tendered. James Cook begins to send interrogatories to Forte via Loop. Loop enters into an agreement with Cook to place a stay on the interrogatives while

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2006 Predictions**

5. With this discovery, the International Atomic Energy Agency will recommend sanctions on Iran in the U.N. Security Council. Once sanctions are in place expect Iran to become hostile.

6. The quest to track down Bigfoot in Malaysia will be successful and the discovery and capture of this apelike creature will herald Bigfoot fever in the United States to catch their own.

7. Another discovery regarding cancer will begin to give scientists the tools to prevent all types. Possibly something on the genetic level. Like a retro-virus that would go in and rearrange genes to be cancer-free.

8. Are we really alone in this universe? That answer just might be made public this year. Through releases by a government agency, or through actually verifiable contact.

9. Israel will become the target of Iran's weapons program. Israel will retaliate and the entire region will be plunged into a chaotic fighting frenzy.

10. With this dynamic political atmosphere and split in the United States the largest amount of young voters will hit the voting booths this year. This will also be due in part to more political presence by campaigns on the world wide web.

11. Unfortunately, I have to restate my earthquake predictions. I can feel it coming. Don't worry, I won't keep doing this every year ...

Expect a 6.9 to hit Southern California. To the Northeast near Qualeys Camp, NV (East of Mammoth Lakes) a 7.2 tremblor is heading your way and the caldera will heat up significantly.

From San Francisco North to Eureka, CA expect moving and shaking of 6.7 to 7.

Farther to the North, Portland, OR will be hit by a 6.2 and Seattle, WA will be displaced by a 7.1.

Alaska will erupt in further volcanic activity and the Aleutian Island Chain will be the site of the largest registered quake in recent history at magnitude 10.

Please lookout for our own Tsunami along the Pacific Northwest.

12. Due in part to the financial burden of weather and natural disaster destruction and the escalated costs in our military endeavors look for a seious downturn in the U.S. economy. Also, because of Iran's issues, look for the price of gas to spike this summer over \$5.00 per gallon.

13. Lucky 13 ... Heroes will reemerge in our American culture as many will go above and beyond to help their fellow man.

14. NASA will once again suffer a mishap and unfortunately lives will be lost. This will call into question the entire space program until "contact" fervor hits and NASA will roll-out it's new spacecraft. Look for more private spaceflight companies to emerge.

15. Something will happen with Air Force One.

16. Our forces will be split by an Asian military threat.

17. The administration will push through community service legislation requiring each citizen to serve it's

country.

18. Brad and Anjolina's baby will be herald as the "perfect" baby. Imagine that. (Sorry, I had to...)

19. Osama will be found but will narrowly escape, once again calling into question the ability of our intelligence agencies to do anything other than spy on the public.

20. Taken from my favorite book, Illusions: the Adventures of a Reluctant Messiah, my final prediction is that everything written here "could be wrong".

Whatever the outcome of 2006, just remember to focus on the truly important things in life - love, family, belief, laughter, smiles, friendships, and the millions of wonderful moments that make up our lives.

As for what other "see":

Spencer, 31:

I predict Bush will remain above 40% in the polls even though the truth about the crimes he committed while in office become clear. The hurricane season this year will be the worst in recorded history and the current U.S. government will have to begin talks about the reality of global warming. Iran will maintain their nuclear program after indirectly threatening to cut off oil supply to the world. And last but not least, one more terrorist attack on U.S. soil.

Aaron, 29:

al-Qaeda will surrender.

Tom, 50(ish):

Political and social unrest due to the falling dollar (therefore higher prices), the continuing expansion of fascism and gold will hit \$5,000.00 an ounce.

Sean, 25:

There will be an attempt to overthrow the Vatican by a group of flamingo ninjas, but will be foiled by Russian Orthodox nuns on magic carpets.

Brandi, 21:

Mariah Carey will come out with, yet again, another #1 hit.

Brittany, 18:

International warfare and relations will become more intense forcing us to either take a step forward or fall apart completely. I feel that this gray area can't continue.

Byron, 21:

The release of Halo 3 for the Xbox which is to coincide with the release of the Playstation 3 gaming console will damage Playstation sales and successfully thwart Sony's bid to remain the top gaming console.

Misty, 28:

It has to be a good year! ... If I remain positive everything will be alright for me.

Perhaps Misty has something and all of this could just lead us down the path of self fulfilling our worst prophecies. So, all my best to you and yours in this new year. It will be great! ■■■

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Bush says takes threats from bin Laden seriously

By Caren Bohan

FORT MEADE, Maryland (Reuters) - President George W. Bush said on Wednesday he took Osama bin Laden's threats of another attack seriously and invoked the al Qaeda leader's recent audiotape to defend a domestic eavesdropping program.

"I understand there are some in America who say, 'Well this can't be true, there aren't still people willing to attack.' All I would ask them to do is listen to the words of Osama bin Laden and take him seriously," Bush said at the National Security Agency.

"When he says he's going to hurt the American people again or try to, he means it. I take it seriously and the people of NSA take it seriously and most of the American people take it seriously as well," Bush said.

Democrats have criticized Bush for authorizing the warrantless monitoring of international telephone calls and e-mail messages of people in the United States suspected of aiding al Qaeda.

Critics say the program, conducted by the NSA, violates the U.S. Constitution and the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, which makes it illegal to spy on U.S. citizens in the United States without the approval of a special secret court.

Bin Laden in an audiotape that aired last week warned that al Qaeda was preparing attacks in the United States

but was open to a conditional truce with Americans.

"Just last week ... we heard from Osama bin Laden," Bush said. "The terrorists will do everything they can to strike us. I am going to continue to do everything I can within my legal authority to stop them."

Top Senate Democrats sent a letter to Bush on Wednesday asking he outline, by February 1, any changes in current law he would propose to improve surveillance of suspected terrorists.

"We are ... gravely concerned that sometime in 2001, in apparent violation of federal law, you authorized the National Security Agency to eavesdrop on Americans in the United States without court approval," said the letter, signed by Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada and others.

The senators noted that in a speech in 2004, Bush said, "When we're talking about chasing down terrorists, we're talking about getting a court order before we do so." They quoted Bush saying, "A wiretap requires a court order."

Democrats have noted that in special cases the NSA is allowed to conduct domestic surveillance but has to obtain a warrant within 72 hours.

Democrats in the Senate and House of Representatives also pressured Republicans on Wednesday to submit Bush's domestic eavesdropping program to the scrutiny of Congress'

intelligence oversight committees.

'FAR-FETCHED'

Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Democrat of New York, said the administration's argument it needed to bypass the warrant process in order to go after al Qaeda was "far-fetched."

Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Arlen Specter, a Pennsylvania Republican, plans hearings on the NSA program on February 6.

Bush told reporters he would continue to authorize the eavesdropping program.

"The American people expect me to protect their lives and their civil liberties and that's exactly what we're doing with this program," he said.

Touring the NSA in Fort Meade, Bush visited a room with a large screen highlighting statistics about cyberspace, including one saying over 592 billion instant messages were sent daily. That was projected to grow to 1.38 trillion by 2007.

The NSA is one of the most secretive of the U.S. spy agencies. Founded in 1952, it uses high-tech equipment such as satellites and bugs to pick up foreign electronic signals such as telephone calls and computer messages.

(Additional reporting by Tabassum Zakaria, Richard Cowan and David Morgan)

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Dad punches out teacher's aide accused of molesting daughter

By MITCH STACY
Associated Press

TAMPA -- An angry father who marched into a classroom and punched a teacher's assistant in the face said Wednesday he was protecting his 15-year-old daughter, who had accused the man of inappropriately touching her.

Dave F. Swafford, 42, was charged with felony battery on a school employee after he hit the 35-year-old aide in front of a class full of students at Lakewood Ranch High School near Bradenton Tuesday morning, authorities said. He was also named "Father of the Year" by a local radio station for his actions.

"I'm not real proud of what I did," Swafford told The Associated Press Wednesday. "You have to protect your

children, and my daughter does not lie to me."

Because of the allegation, the school placed the assistant on paid leave Tuesday, school district spokeswoman Margi Nanney said. He has not been charged, but Manatee County Sheriff's Office spokesman Dave Bristow said deputies are investigating.

The man has been employed by the Manatee County school district since 1999 and has a clean personnel record, Nanney said. His primary job is "time-out" teacher, overseeing in-school suspension. His name is being withheld by the AP because he has not been charged.

Swafford, the part owner of an air conditioning company, said he came to the school to meet with officials about allegations made by his daughter and

other female students about the assistant's inappropriate touching and conduct. When he saw that the man was not in the meeting, he asked his daughter to take him to the classroom.

"I wanted to know why the guy was in a classroom teaching after my daughter came forward," he said.

A verbal exchange became heated, and "I lost control," he said. He spent about 10 hours in jail and got out later Tuesday after posting bond.

The Tampa radio station that named him "Father of the Year" offered him and his family tickets for the Daytona 500 race.

"If some other parents would do this, maybe some of these pedophiles would crawl back under rocks where they belong," Swafford said.

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Unions are Dangerous to ...

(www.afscme.org/action/2004senate.pdf). Their doctrine is alien to the US Constitution, and their goal is to turn this nation into a big socialist welfare state sissy. Any candidate for county commissioner needs to stop the hemorrhaging of tax dollars to pay for public employee retirements and healthcare benefits. The public must not be put into debt to pay for employee benefits. All these must be on pay-as-you-go programs with no deficit at the end of the fiscal calendar.

The Dark Side Plots Against Family Homes

The settlement of this strike is not the end of the story. Even now the dark forces in Josephine County are gathering to launch an attack against family homes with a series of levies and likely taxing districts this fall. The dark forces include County Treasurer John Harelson, Sheriff Dave Daniel, and Planning Department Director Michael Snider. All are considered to be extremely dangerous to family home ownership and property rights by the Observer. All have shown a complete disregard of Constitutional rights.

The voters must not forget the overly generous 9 week paid leave for county administrators and that was a factor in the election of two new commissioners. Also to be remembered are the hundreds of thousands of dollars that Sheriff Daniel lost in lawsuits by bad administrative policy, the deficit in give away union retirement plans, the salaries, benefits, and health care that workers outside of government are unable to match. When the dark side comes asking for your petition signature and vote, you will know they are not there to serve you but there to place a lien on your home so they can live the good life while you struggle to support your family and pay your bills. Any elected official who supports property taxes should be removed from office and replaced with a person who values the family, home, and Constitution and will work to reduce government expenses by pruning the deadwood and making the remaining system efficient. The future will be a repeat of the past in Josephine County if the voters fail to be constantly vigilant.

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Is there a new member of the Bush family?

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - President George W. Bush says Bill Clinton has become so close to his father that the Democratic former president is like a member of the family.

Former President George Bush has worked with Clinton to raise money for victims of the Asian tsunami and the hurricane disaster along the U.S. Gulf Coast.



Asked about his father and Clinton, Bush quipped, "Yes, he and my new brother."

"That's a good relationship. It's a fun relationship to watch," Bush said in an interview with CBS News broadcast on Sunday.

While attending Pope John Paul's funeral, Bush said, "It was fun to see the interplay between dad and Clinton. One of these days, I'll be a member of the ex-president's club. ... I'll be looking for something to do."

He said ex-presidents share rare experiences that others cannot understand. "And so I can understand why ex-presidents are able to put aside old differences," he said.

Bush said he checked in with Clinton occasionally.

"And you know, he says things that makes it obvious -- that makes it obvious to me that we're kind of, you know, on the same wavelength about the job of the presidency. Makes sense, after all, there's this kind of commonality," he said.

Bush jokingly referred to speculation that Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, the former president's wife, will seek the Democratic nomination for the presidency. He had earlier referred to the former first lady as "formidable."

"Bush, Clinton, Bush, Clinton," he said, referring to how Bill Clinton had followed his father, and Hillary Clinton could follow him.

Experimental Weather Modification Bill on Fast Track

By Rosalind Peterson
NewsWithViews.com

U.S. Senate Bill 517 and U.S. House Bill 2995, a bill that would allow experimental weather modification by artificial methods and implement a national weather modification policy, does not include agriculture or public oversight, is on the "fast track" to be passed early in 2006.

This bill is designed to implement experimental weather modification. The appointed Board of Directors established by this bill does not include any agricultural, water, EPA, or public representatives, and has no provisions for Congressional, State, County, or public oversight of their actions or expenditures.

Weather Modification may adversely impact agricultural crops and water supplies. If the weather is changed in one state, region or county it may have severe consequences in another region, state or county. And who is going to decide the type of weather modification experimentation and who it will benefit or adversely impact?

This experimental weather modification bill will impact residents across the United States, not just in California. Many current and ongoing weather modification programs (47 listed by NOAA in 2005), including the one in Wyoming that is designed to increase the snowpack, may be diverting rainwater away from Oklahoma and Texas, two states that are currently fighting fires caused by a lack of rainfall. We have no idea what the unintended consequences of the Wyoming action or other experimental weather modification programs might be now or in the future.

In addition to the experimental weather modification programs listed by NOAA, there are both private and ongoing government sponsored atmospheric testing and heating programs underway in Alaska and across the United States. Alaska Senator Stevens recently received \$50 million in funding for Alaska's atmospheric heating program.

All of these unregulated, private, government, and public weather modification programs, may also have unintended synergistic effects. Senate Bill 517 does not address these issues but intends to implement more

experimental weather modification programs without a national debate or public oversight.

Artificial weather modification can impact all of us by reducing water supplies, changing agricultural crop production cycles, reducing crop production, and water availability. Since most experimental weather modification programs use chemicals released into the atmosphere the public could be subjected increasingly toxic or unknown substances that could adversely impact agricultural crops and trees.

Trimethyl Aluminum (TMA) and barium are just two of the toxic chemicals used in recent atmospheric heating and testing programs according to NASA. The Alaska H.A.A.R.P. atmospheric heating program may have the capability of changing the Jet Stream which could also change our weather.

Many private weather modification companies admit that precipitation effects may be positive or negative. Fog dispersal programs, using dry ice, liquid nitrogen, liquid propane or silver iodide may improve visibility while adversely impacting Redwood Trees along the California coast by depriving them of needed water they derive from the fog.

The increasing use of varied chemicals like aluminum (coupled with increasing air pollution), can severely impact tree health by depriving trees of water and nutrients normally absorbed through their root systems.

The December 2005 Popular Science Magazine discussed a plan to use an oil slick to stop hurricanes without noting the adverse environmental impacts of the oil used to cover the ocean.

Popular Science also noted that a private company, Dyn-O-Mat, plans to purchase jets to drop thousands of pounds of a water absorbing chemical powder (unknown substance), into hurricanes to absorb moisture that may dissipate hurricanes. There is no agriculture oversight or public hearings to determine the consequences of this and other actions or to monitor or prevent adverse impacts of this chemical once it falls on the surface of the ocean or on land.

Alaska and other areas across the United States are beginning to feel the impacts of climate change. Enormous changes are being seen in the declining health of native plant and tree

communities in many areas across the United States.

NASA noted in an October 2005 newsletter that increasingly persistent contrails are "...trapping warmth in the atmosphere and exacerbating global warming..." NASA goes on to note that: "...Any increase in global cloud cover will contribute to long-term changes in Earth's climate. Likewise, any change in Earth's climate may have effects on natural resources..."

Global dimming and persistent contrails that produce man-made clouds may have serious impacts on crop production. A recent corn crop study in Illinois shows that cloud cover reduces corn crop production while direct sunlight increases production. In addition, increasing man-made clouds may reduce the effectiveness of solar panels.

Gil Smolin, an Avian Bird Flu expert, noted on the Ron Owens Show on KGO Radio (January 5, 2006), that the flu was spread more quickly in the winter when there was a "lack of sunlight". Would man-made clouds be contributing to the lack of sunlight which might cause the Avian Bird flu to spread more quickly at other times of the year? Experimental weather modification programs could also exacerbate this problem by changing climate patterns and our weather.

Senate Bill 517 does not address any of these important issues. Its sole purpose is to establish an experimental weather modification policy without any agriculture or public oversight of private, military, and government programs. Without oversight or public hearings agriculture, our natural resources, and watersheds may be negatively impacted. And who will be responsible to determine the synergistic effects of these programs or pay for unintended disasters created by this experimentation. If these programs change growing seasons and interrupt the pollination process crop losses could be substantial.

Please contact all of your elected local, state and federal officials to stop this bill in its present form. This bill needs to have appropriate agriculture and public oversight, with public hearings included, prior to any more experimental projects. We need a national dialogue on this subject before more experimentation takes place. ■■

Augustine Volcano Continues to Erupt



By Jeannette J. Lee
Associated Press Writer

ANCHORAGE, Alaska - Augustine Volcano continued to erupt Tuesday, with the volcano producing a continuous crescent-shaped plume of steam, and ash and gas speeding down the flanks of the island mount and into the sea.

The Alaska Volcano Observatory made hourly updates early Tuesday on its Web site with each one beginning the same way — "Eruption is in progress."

The volcano on an uninhabited island has been erupting since Saturday, with explosions thrusting particles almost five miles into the skies around south-central Alaska.

With winds shifting the ash away from major air routes, airlines cautiously resumed dozens of flights that had been canceled as a precaution. Ash particles can damage engines.

Alaska Airlines on Tuesday resumed all flights to and from Kodiak Island and Anchorage, the state's largest air hub, said spokeswoman Amanda Tobin. The airline had canceled all of its 36 Anchorage flights Monday night as a precaution. Flights to and from Kodiak had been canceled Sunday and Monday.

Era Aviation also was back to a normal schedule after canceling five flights to Kodiak Monday, according to President Paul Landis.

"This is a nonstory as long as public health is concerned, but it's a different thing for the aviation community," said Joel Curtis, lead forecaster at the National Weather Service.

The volcano's constant release of gas, rock and ash — rather than a quiet buildup beneath the mountain — may be averting a more powerful eruption, said scientists at the Alaska Volcano Observatory.

"This current material shows the vent is staying open and letting off pressure continuously," said Michelle Coombs, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Wind currents were moving the ash in a northerly direction early Tuesday. A very light ash fall was expected over Kamishak Bay and northward to the western Cook Inlet. An ash fall advisory also was issued for the Alaska Range near the Big River Lakes area.

After a 10-day lull, Augustine resumed erupting Friday. The continuous ash plume began issuing from a newly cleared vent on Saturday afternoon, Coombs said. ■■

Natural disasters killed 91,900 in 2005: UN

International Strategy

ISDR
for Disaster Reduction

GENEVA (AFP) - Natural disasters were on the rise last year, leaving tens of millions

of people destitute and in need of aid, but they claimed fewer lives, a United Nations monitoring body said.

The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) said it counted 360 natural disasters in 2005, including Hurricane Katrina in the United States and the South Asian earthquake, compared to 305 a year earlier.

The overall death toll dropped to 91,900, with 73,338 of the dead in Pakistan's quake zone alone.

In 2004 the total was 244,500, of which 226,408 victims were from the Indian Ocean tsunami.

The number of people caught up in disasters climbed to 157 million, or seven million more than in 2004, said the ISDR.

Total economic damage reached 159 billion dollars, compared to 92.9 billion dollars a year earlier.

The economic data covers insured losses, and so mostly relates to losses in richer countries, the ISDR noted. Hurricane Katrina inflicted 125 billion dollars of damage in the southern United States.

The ISDR count covers any disaster which kills more than 10 people and affects at least 100, and leads to a state of emergency being declared or an appeal for international aid. ■■



Katrina

PRESS RELEASE

Recall Judge James PAC

This stack of petitions represents the people of Marion County who want a chance to vote on whether or not they will fire the judge who said, 'it is illegal for the people to limit the powers of their government.' Since launching our signature drive in October, our committee has become convinced that we can put this question on a ballot, and that the people of Marion County will recall Judge James.

This past week, as planned, our volunteers began verifying the signatures on these petitions. We wanted to submit a pure list, full of valid signatures.



In the process of checking these against a list of registered voters provided by Marion County Elections, one volunteer discovered an error. This little filing number in the upper right corner is missing from some of the

petitions.

Clearly this is a technicality. The people who signed these petitions knew what they were signing. There are no competing petitions in circulation to confuse the issue. I personally think we ought to be able to simply complete the form and have the signatures counted. After all, these signatures represent real people! I do not think their voice should be ignored because of the color of the paper, the thickness of the paper or a clerical oversight.

We learned of this problem last Thursday, our team immediately began checking to see how many signatures



were affected. It was a lot. On Friday, I called the Secretary of State's office to review my options. They confirmed to me that they will not count the signatures on these incomplete forms. If we complete the forms ourselves, our

opponents will cry foul and the recall will be stuck in limbo while lawyers argue over technicalities.

Our PAC officers called an extra meeting Saturday morning. With more signatures coming in every day, we still had several questions: How big was the problem? Did we have enough signatures on the good forms to move ahead? Did we have enough time to mail good forms back to Recall supporters who, through no fault of their own, had signed a bad form? Could we get those signatures back before the deadline? We decided to keep counting and see where we stood on Tuesday night.

But we're recalling a judge here. A sober event. Covered by media outlets from San Diego to Boston. Local reporters caught wind of a scoop.

We already have over 10,000 valid signatures on the incomplete form.

We think that sending out new petitions, while the first batch are still coming in will cause confusion. We do not think we can complete the process before our ninety days expire.

We need these signatures to put the recall on the ballot.

This week the Oregon Supreme Court is hearing the appeal of Judge James' arbitrary ruling. We are glad the Court decided to expedite this case. Obviously they understand the importance of this situation. If judges can overturn the will

of the people and redefine the constitution without an immediate an effective response, then we are no longer the "land of the free and the home of the brave."

The Recall Judge James Political Action Committee believes the best way to steward the time, money and signatures of our supporters, at this time, is to wait. We will not be submitting our signatures before the January 24th deadline.

A grassroots campaign is what it is: normal people. Our team has put in a yeoman's effort, working through Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years in all kinds of weather. It is frustrating when the referees call back a touchdown. It is frustrating to have a game decided by a ref's bad call. But great teams can overcome bad calls; and one game is not a season.

Our PAC will now wait until the Supreme Court issues its ruling before we decide how to proceed. With the expedited briefings and the abbreviated schedule we won't have to wait long.

In the meantime, we urge everyone who still has their petitions at home to go ahead and send them in. We will post this press release on our website later this morning.

Contact: Tom Steffen - Tom@RecallJudgeJames.com

■■■

CCRKBA NEWS RELEASE

'Wisconsin voters will remember Doyle CCW vetoes,' says CCRKBA

BELLEVUE, WA – "Twice in his current term as governor, Jim Doyle has arrogantly vetoed legislation that would have fulfilled the Wisconsin State Constitution's guarantee that citizens could bear arms for their personal defense, and gun owners may square accounts with Doyle in November," the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms (CCRKBA) said today.

"Jim Doyle's approval ratings have been slipping," noted CCRKBA Chairman Alan Gottlieb, "and part of that might be due to his anti-self-defense extremism. It is a pity that he cannot control himself when it comes to making his anti-gun philosophy a matter of public policy.

"Wisconsin is a great state, with great citizens, and a very well-thought-out constitutional amendment that guarantees 'the people have the right to keep and bear arms for security, defense, hunting, recreation or any other lawful purpose,'" Gottlieb quoted. "Once again, Jim Doyle has allowed his personal prejudice against gun owners

to override his responsibility to uphold all tenets of the state constitution.

"Governors in 38 other states have stepped up to their responsibility to protect the rights of citizens to protect themselves," he observed. "In Wisconsin, however, Jim Doyle is kowtowing to the anti-gun lobby, which is never happier than it is when innocent people are being robbed, raped or murdered, just so they can dance in the blood of the victims while adding to their statistical body count as a means to press their bankrupt social agenda.

"Last time this happened," Gottlieb recalled, "one state representative lost both his nerve and his sense of duty to his constituents, ignored his own promises and instead played partisan politics with the public's right to personal protection. This year, state lawmakers have a chance to right that horrible wrong, show some backbone and earn the gratitude of every law-abiding citizen in the state.

"We know Wisconsin voters will be watching, and they will remember in November," Gottlieb said. ■■■



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US remembers fallen astronauts 20 years after Challenger disaster

CAPE CANAVERAL (AFP) - Americans paid tribute to the seven astronauts killed in the Challenger disaster in an emotional ceremony 20 years after the space shuttle blew up over Cape Canaveral, Florida.

NASA officials and the astronauts' families were joined at the Kennedy Space Center here by dozens of visitors to remember the crew members whose fiery deaths on January 28, 1986 shocked the country.

"It is a beautiful day here," June Scobee Rodgers, the widow of Challenger pilot Francis "Dick" Scobee, said on a sunny yet windy Saturday, in front of a black granite monument bearing the names of the 24 astronauts who have died since 1964.

Scobee Rodgers, who delivered the main speech, said her late husband was aware of the potential danger he faced as a shuttle pilot.

"He knew about the risks and accepted them as a test pilot," she said. "Without risk, there is no knowledge. ... The greatest risk is to take no risks."

She said the space program should continue, adding that "(God) gives us curiosity and challenges us to discover."

The family of Challenger's most famous crew member, high school teacher Christa McAuliffe, declined to attend the ceremony.

McAuliffe's participation in the launch as a civilian had made her a national star, but her family has largely remained out of the public eye since the national tragedy.

The disaster turned into a national trauma much like president John F. Kennedy's assassination 23 years earlier and the September 11 attacks 15 years

later.

Scobee Rodgers read a letter written by her daughter Kathy years after her father's death. The explosion "was a national tragedy, everyone saw it," her daughter wrote. "My dad died a 100 times a day on TV."

Twelve children saw their parents die in the 1986 accident, Scobee Rodgers said.

Saturday's ceremony was also attended by relatives of victims of the shuttle Columbia tragedy, which also killed seven astronauts in February 2003, and the Apollo I accident, in which three astronauts were killed in 1967.

Relatives placed flowers in front of the granite monument to the US space program's fallen astronauts.

Visitors at the ceremony recalled where they were and what they were doing the day of the Challenger explosion.

William Potter, chairman of the Astronauts Memorial Foundation, vividly remembers the accident. "I watched it unfold from my office window 20 years ago," he said.

Richard Norman, a 57-year-old retiree who came from Michigan for the ceremony, was at work when Challenger exploded.

"I can't remember what I ate yesterday, but I can remember that," Norman said. "It's so traumatic ... it touches you deeply."

The Challenger launch, originally scheduled for January 22, 1986, came on January 28 at 11:38 am under a brilliant blue sky and near-freezing temperatures.

All appeared normal in the first



The Challenger Seven

moments after liftoff, the 25th since the shuttle program began in April 1981.

But after 73 seconds, at an altitude of 14,000 meters (46,200 feet), Challenger exploded in an enormous fireball of hydrogen and liquid oxygen.

Its two booster rockets took off in different directions leaving a trail of flame and smoke, forming an immense "V" in the sky.

In addition to McAuliffe, 37, and Scobee, 46, the Challenger disaster killed co-pilot Michael Smith, 40; physicist Ronald McNair, 38, only the second black astronaut; Gregory Jarvis, 42, a mission specialist; Ellison Onizuka, 40, a Haitian-born astronaut of Japanese descent; and mission specialist Judith Resnik, 37.

Twenty years later, the US space shuttle program has still not overcome doubts about its safety and value.

A presidential commission concluded the accident was caused by a defective seal on a solid rocket booster. NASA carried out an elaborate review of its rocket design and spent more than two billion dollars on modifications.

But the credibility of the US space agency was again called into question after the space shuttle Columbia disintegrated during re-entry into the atmosphere in February 2003, due to a loose piece of insulating foam that punctured its wing on take off.

Despite yet more modifications at a cost of 1.5 billion dollars, space shuttle Discovery lost a large piece of insulation during launch in July 2005.

It caused no accident but forced NASA to ground its three shuttles at least until May 2006, amid growing criticism that the program has become a dead end for space flight. ■■■

Perjury in a Josephine County Courtroom

By US~Observer Staff

Grants Pass, Oregon – On January 31, 2006 a hearing was held in front of Josephine County Presiding Circuit Court Judge Lindi Baker to determine whether or not Paul Magee needed a conservator.

Paul Magee's daughter Susan Magee Sherwin of Encinitas, California filed a "Notice of Petition To Appoint Guardian And Conservator" on December 2, 2006 through Grants Pass Attorney Rebecca Peterson.

Peterson called a court visitor to the stand who had spent approximately 1 hour with Paul Magee and Phil Newton with Adult Services to testify about Magee's short term memory problems. Newton who is not an authority on anything, much less mental conditions did his best to bolster Sherwin's claims after spending only 45 minutes with Magee.

Sherwin and her attorney did their level best to deceive the court into believing that Paul Magee's money was nearly depleted, that he was on his last leg and that he only had a couple months left before he would be under a bridge. Nothing could be further from the truth. Nothing was said by the duo about Magee's \$1000.00 monthly SS income or that he is soon to receive veteran's benefits that could possibly increase his monthly income to over \$2,000.00. The fact that Magee is currently going through a divorce which could net him a substantial amount of money was

professionally side-stepped by Sherwin and her attorney.

Sherwin, who is a very cunning and persuasive woman almost tearfully, told Judge Baker how she wanted to move her father to California where he could be around his loving family and even told the court of both her qualifications and wishes to take care of her father. Fortunately, Sherwin has already disclosed the fact that she intends to place her father in a vet's home...somewhere the elderly Magee adamantly opposes to being. The fact is that Sherwin won't be caring for her father at all; she will simply be caring for his assets.

Sherwin committed perjury as she told the court how upset Edward Snook was when she told him she was going to involve the State of Oregon due to the fact that she knew that Paul's care giver had been stealing from him. The fact is Mr. Snook had to work hard at convincing Magee to sign a power of attorney over to the state so they could have an expert go over all his financial records. The only time that Mr. Snook got upset with Sherwin was when she announced she was going to seek a conservatorship over her father.

The two attempted to persuade Judge Baker that Magee wasn't competent enough to enter into contract which he did with Snook when he hired the Observer to investigate allegations that Magee's soon to be ex-wife had stolen many of his assets. They again side-stepped the fact that Magee is currently

in a contractual relationship with local attorney Chris Cauble, that Cauble communicates in writing and verbally with Magee, that Magee recently successfully went through a legal deposition regarding his divorce case and that Magee has paid Cauble a significant amount of money to represent him. Cauble, who is a highly respected and ethical attorney, would never take advantage of an elderly person and if there was any question about Paul Magee's mental state Cauble would certainly know it. If Magee is capable of having a contractual relationship with Cauble he is certainly capable of having one with Snook. The fact is that Paul Magee is smart, he knows what he wants and he is more than capable of making his own decisions. The only time in Magee's life that he wasn't competent was a period in the 1990's when he suffered from alcoholism, a condition which was supported by his supposed friends and wife.

Back to the State of Oregon's involvement – Phil Newton actually gave false testimony when he testified about Magee's mental ability as his only reason for speaking with Magee for 45 minutes was to get Paul's consent to sign a power of attorney so he could attempt to get a care giver in trouble. Well, that didn't pan out as the expert who went over Magee's finances with a magnifying glass found nothing whatsoever wrong. This completely cleared Paul's caregiver of any

wrongdoing just as it foiled Newton's intentions. We should note that while Newton testified that Magee wasn't capable of entering into a contract, he himself had Magee sign a power of attorney which in all actuality is a contract itself.

Some months ago when Snook formed the belief that Sherwin was only interested in her Dad's assets he had Sherwin write him a letter which was presented in court as evidence. The letter clearly stated that her father was competent and how capable he was of handling his affairs. Her testimony in court was actually just the opposite.

Magee, who is not a confrontational person clearly told Judge Baker of his wishes to remain where he is and that he did not want his children making any decisions for him.

Judge Baker has taken the case under advisement and we believe that she will see through the hypocrisy and lies that were told in her courtroom on January 31, 2006. We also believe Judge Baker will see from the testimony that Phil Newton's claims that the state is there to investigate for the elderly is nothing more than a farce as the state did no investigation into Paul Magee's affairs other than having a person go over his financial records. Don't miss our next edition where we will publish many more facts about Magee's assets, those who now control them and those who want control of this man simply because of the assets. ■■■

Articles and Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged – they must be typed, a maximum of 1,000 words or less in length. Please submit photographs or artwork. Contact Editor for permission to submit in-depth articles up to 1,750 words, plus graphics. Opposition opinions are welcome.

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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.”

On the Internet:

www.usobserver.com



Letters to the Editor

Cougar Population Explosion

Dear Editor:

I think I may have something for you. The NRA just sent out an update bulletin dated 1/20/06. Go to their website, www.nra.org and go to the Oregon section. It appears that another western state now has problems with mountain lions. If you go to our website www.huntersalert.org, you will find out who crammed this mountain lion stuff down the western states' throats. None other than the good old feds! If you would like to reprint any of this information, feel free to use it. It is all documented.

Sincerely,
Cecil Fredi

"Getting Screwed" by River City RV

Editor,

We spoke briefly last Friday on the phone regarding River City RV in Medford, OR, the terrible loss we experienced dealing with them, and what we learned about them after the fact.

If anyone is in the market for an RV and are going to River City, before they buy, be SURE they ask around among friends and acquaintances who have bought from River City RV.

We didn't.... not until after it was too late. If we had asked around, we might have avoided a serious loss.

This information is presented for the benefit of prospective RV buyers to help others avoid painful experiences we and all we have talked to have had dealing with River City RV.

To break this down into bullet points:

We are new to RVs and relied upon the dealer and the professional image presented. (ala Century 21??)

We paid \$27,500 for an rv that wholesales for \$18-19K. An identical unit sold near us for \$22K.

River City includes in their prices an \$800 (at one point they said \$600, which amount it is is not the point) "Predelivery Inspection" whereby they said they would go through it, clean it up, make sure everything was working, and make repairs.

Everything, including new units, requires you to sign an "As-Is" waiver.

When we got around to cleaning the carpet, which was still filthy after their cleanup, and pulled out the couch, there was apparently an 8 year accumulation of filth behind it and holes rotted through the floor at both corners of one slider. (We later found rot in another slider.)

Their professional "Predelivery Inspection" failed to reveal this serious

defect, and they would not fix it unless we paid for it.

The above is the heart of the matter, a quick overview. Details follow below.

This is an example of a ruthless, predatory, company doing shoddy work, making statements the customer relies on, fails to deliver, then sliding just far enough inside the letter of the law to get away with it.

Based on just the handful of references we got after the fact, it is my hope and intention to get the word out about these people and hopefully get enough people to come forward as in the case of Century 21 to somehow make a difference and save others the kinds of losses we and others we talked to have experienced.

We ourselves work in an industry where a big company hides behind a cloak of respectability while bilking people right and left by their indifference and inept workmanship. We work hard to help others and are making a difference.

This time, we are the victims and want to help others in this particular arena.

The Blacksmith family, Don in particular, has quite a reputation for ruthless, questionable business practices, and we feel something must be done.

Please let me know if you would like to pursue this issue. I will help in any way I can to bring others forward so that perhaps collectively we can make a difference.

(I understand that at one point River City had people picketing their dealership when they were in Grants Pass, but have not been able to verify it.)

Thanks for considering this issue and keep up the good work at the Observer.

God Bless.

Mike Bellm

Hunting the Corrupt

Dear Editor;

I am writing to thank whomever is responsible for publishing and to have you mail me your last copy of the US~Observer.

A most intriguing and revealing publication representing the public's interest, and thanks to all of you.

I was especially taken in by reading your comment column, submitted by the "Verbal Assassin", Ron Lee.

Mr. Lee's views and your entire publication support and add credence to my own sentiments and experience of corruption and mismanagement of Nevada's disappearing wildlife, game birds / animals (which) I direct at the ineffective, out-of-control Department of Fish and Game that has already experienced 3 grand jury investigations, eventually leading to the loss of their autonomy (via legislation, not grand

jury recommendations as expected). After all what does an average law abiding innocent person (picked off the street so to speak) know about wildlife science to dutifully evaluate, question, and stand up to a staff of well educated indoctrinated wildlife experts (game) that are well prepared with their indoctrinated answers to defend themselves?

This statement also applies to all unaware elected officials, legislators, and the politically appointed commission members, of all people! ... (Earlier) I made mention of your "Verbal Assassin's" column, and would give anything to meet and have a discussion with Mr. Lee about Nevada's wildlife mismanagement dilemma from another source and point of view, actually a "victim of the system." After my first announcement back in 1948 that I was planning to become a future lion hunter in the interest of Nevada's deer herds and the depredation losses that were being suffered by our ranching and livestock industries. Two past senior U.S. Senators approached Washington for federal aid and "predator control" assistance due to these serious depredations. And that is when my problems started of being unwelcomed (a long story).

I have since become another of Nevada's severe wildlife management critics, the likes of Bud Sonnentag and Nevada's watch-dog "Hunters Alert" out of Las Vegas, published by my good friend Cecil Fredi, who are not afraid to stand up against the Department of Fish and Game.

You ask for interesting (genuine) cases to investigate for public interest. I have three incidents that have taken place that I hope will qualify for your interest and services, (is there a charge?) ...

I can furnish you or Mr. Lee with many articles and information to substantiate these three issues I am seeking assistance with from you good people ...

Sincerely,

Nevada Jim Ornellas

Editor's Note: The US~Observer has been made well-aware of NDOW's wrongdoings and is taking a keen interest in bringing this information to light. We are currently seeking NDOW employees, past or present, who have a conscience and are willing to expose this corrupt organization for what it is ... a cash cow more interested in how it is going to fund its management than manage the declining wildlife. As for your question regarding charges, yes. We, however, are currently seeking donations to take on serious cases where the victim can not pay for their own investigation. For many victims, their victimization by the system and the attorney's who are supposed to represent them against it have left them penniless. While we would like to rally behind all of the legitimate cases that

Continued on page 17

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Letters to the Editor



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cross our desks, we unfortunately can't take them all on.

If you or anyone you know would like to donate to this victim's assistance fund, please send your donations to 233 Rogue River Hwy PMB 387, Grants Pass, OR 97527. Make payable to US~Observer Victim's Assistance.

Lariat Group Demand For Retraction Denied

By US~Observer Editorial Staff

Southern Oregon - In our last edition we published an article titled, "The Lariat Group Another Debt Elimination Group" (see article on the web at usobserver.com). Shortly after having read our factual article, con-artist "Directors" of the Lariat Group, Robert Chamberlain, Gary Douglas Holmes and Butch McIntyre sent us the demand letter below. Our readership should realize that this bogus and disgusting group of individuals deceive people into believing they can legally get rid of debt through magical methods. We spoke with numerous victims, not the few that is stated in the letter below. We would welcome a lawsuit from the corrupt Lariat Group in order to get their victims into court and expose their deceit. Through our continuing investigation into the Lariat Group we find they are involved in much more than debt elimination scams. They are heavily involved in the "trust business" and other obviously dubious investment programs. Anyone who has been scammed by the Lariat Group needs to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885. The IRS, FBI and Oregon's Attorney General have been contacted long ago about this dangerous group and their obviously illegal scams and they

have chosen to remain silent allowing the number of victims to mount. We would suggest to law enforcement that they get off their duff and stop the victimization. That is what we pay them to do.

Mr. Snook

Regarding your writings about Lariat Group in US~Observer the issue labeled Volume #1, Number 8:

Lariat Group objects to the article. Specious allegations and self-serving statements, which you attempt to support with half-truths and innuendo do an effective spin job, but bear little resemblance to the actual facts. Some of this no doubt is the result of ignorance. Much of it smacks of a retaliatory action driven by an effort on the part of the party who was never a member of Lariat Group and therefore demonstrated they never took responsibility for their own finances. Really this was nothing more than a blatant attempt at unjust enrichment.

Your article for example, leads one to believe that there were several people like this i.e.; according to some parker(s)...etc..Really? Are not your implied multitude of "...highly credible sources..." in all reality a husband and wife, misguided souls that they are, who have a personal feud with one of the directors? And, who also happen to be the parents of Mrs. Shopping-spreenow-I-want-somebody-else-to-pay-for-all-my-new-stuff? Is it not obvious they have enlisted you as a cats'-paw in their efforts to obtain revenge in pursuit of their vindictive efforts to continue their family feud? We checked back with our members after our conversation with you. Your "interview" (so called) with one of our members whom you included in your original demand for money, lasted all of about 5 or 6 sentences and this then gets exaggerated in your article as "numerous clients". Misreporting facts? You had all the information in the world to understand that we do not have

any "clients". Then you go on from this exaggeration/misstatement and characterize things for what...sensationalized effect? How can you consider this on par with professional even handed reporting? The characterization based on such flawed premises by you was "(actually victims)". And this somehow equates to your libelous conclusion that we are involved in "...defrauding little old ladies..."? Also, if your "investigation" had been done in good faith, perhaps you may have mentioned that many of those whose personal financial situations were perilous when they first began with one or more of the various service providers, were refunded their application fees by the Lariat Group members even when they were informed up front that the members did not guarantee any program.

In plain English this means simply that; there were no contractual obligations on the part of any one member to guarantee any other member's successful completion of any of the alternatives out there. But...our members refunded these people money anyway. Not out of contractual obligation, but from a spirit of Christian charity.

Besides misreporting and ignoring the facts you did have, your article was libelous. This is our formal request for you to take the responsible and appropriate steps to retract them.

The Directors Lariat Group

Editors Note: Sorry Lariat Group, your demand is denied.

Wishing Police
Chief Muchow,
"All the Luck in

the World"

Hello Observer;

As a subscriber of newswithviews I received an email about Chief Muchow, a fine officer from what I can tell, they are hard to come by and should be fully supported by the city council, obviously that is not the case. My son in law is an officer in NYC and I know its not an easy job no matter where you live but in a place like Gold Hill it should be a lot easier since everyone probably knows this officer in town, its amazing to me that this Judge and this reporter, Sanne Specht, and the city council have the time to spend harassing an office in their own town who seems to have the support of most of the folks there. Just using the towns resources to go through this inquisition is something I don't understand. The money and time would be better spent on their Police dept. Have they no shame, sending them out in dilapidated squad cars like vagabonds? Why should this officer and his squad have to raise money to support their police dept. Doesn't this town receive tax money? This is a disgrace, Chief Muchow should put in a complaint against the city council and ask where the towns taxes are being spent, not on the safety of the town or the Police, that's for sure. I wish the Police dept. and Chief Muchow all the luck in the world, he deserves it just for paying out of his own pocket and raising donations to pay for things the city should be paying for, this is how they show their appreciation. What a shame.

**M. Tector
Illinois**

Editors Note: There is much more to this saga than before. Chief Muchow is now being illegitimately targeted in Union County, OR. Please read the page 1 story of this edition "Conspiracy Against a Good Cop."

•••

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WHERE REALITY SHATTERS ILLUSION

An open letter to Terry Crawford, Director Nevada Department of Wildlife

From:
Nevada Jim Ornellas
Gardnerville, NV

Being 80 years old now, with time slipping by me so fast, I am compelled to sit down and write you this overdue letter to refresh your memory of my history that led to my becoming a victim of the system that you are a part of. My problem started with fish and game and other agencies, Nevada U.S. Fish and Wildlife "Predator Control" Department back in 1948, when at the age of 23 I attended my first Rod and Gun meeting in Hawthorne, NV. I introduced myself and announced my intentions of becoming a lion hunter, being predator oriented in my attempt to help control some of the livestock depredations. The farmers and livestockmen were suffering up into the hundreds of thousands of dollars that were being quoted in several news media articles by our two senior U.S. Senators, Allan Bible and Howard Cannon, that eventually were incited to go to Washington D.C. to seek federal aid for Nevada's serious predator problem. The government obliged and set up an agency office in the mid forties. At the time of this first meeting and my announcement of my plans, I was rejected, instead of welcomed. I was at a loss by the rejection and stubbornly questioned and pursued this unreceptiveness for years, trying to figure out what it was that I said that was so wrong in trying to help by becoming an independent professional lion hunter! It was after all these years that we eventually met, after my living in Hawthorne, Fallon, Yerington and then at Lake Tahoe for 16 years. I never did have one problem with any of the local game wardens as it was always my policy to go out of my way to introduce myself and meet our wardens, all of whom became good friends and were my good customers in my barber shops.

While still on good terms with you when I was living on Main Street in Gardnerville, you came knocking on my door and you were so mad (you admitted you could hardly talk) over the fact of the lion study you were told you could conduct here in Douglas County with the assistance of Claude Cooper and myself with our lion hounds. Following our meeting at your home, that study was taken away from you and given to biologist Jim Jeffers who was anti-houndsman and licensed guide lion hunters. Being as mad as you were, you told me, "Yes, Jim, you are right. There are certain people within this department that are trying to put you out of business." As director, you never did offer to pursue or seek to make any favorable changes. In the worst wildlife decision ever made in reclassifying the mule deer's worst enemy, the lion, whose main diet consists of 85 to 90 percent red deer meat.

I always thanked you for revealing this to me and somehow hope I was able to make some of it up to you, at the time, I invited you to go with me on a lion call and let you tag the female lion we caught with the injured shoulder that Fred Smith of Yerington tanned and made into a rug for you.

I want to now inform you that as good friends, as I thought we were, I always sensed your dire ambition to eventually catch and cite me for some NRS hunting violation, not only from some of your

remarks off and on to me, and here are a few instigated incidents that have taken place that I always felt you were behind.

I refer to these as attempts to set me up by use and employment of strangers or undercover (department) friends willing to assist the Department's law enforcement. Years ago I received a phone call from some individual with a very false accent that persistently asked me what I would charge him to get a large trophy lion and not just any adult mature lion and that money was no object. I asked this person for his address and he gave me a fictitious name and address as my letter was returned, stamped no such address.

I always suspected Fred Smith and who ever was with him, at the time. Nothing sounded right about this guy (including the accent). I told him that I didn't do business over the phone, asking him how he came about my name and phone number. He stated that Fred Smith had recommended me to him, (a Nevada biologist that disliked me very much for standing up to him at a meeting in Gardnerville opposing the Department's recommendations and remarked, "how little these people know about mountain lions"). He became so irate that he finally let the cat out of the bag by verifying what you told me at my home. In his anger, he stood up and stated, "Actually what we are trying to do is to put a stop to these out of state hunters that are willing to come from hundreds or thousand of miles to Nevada to pay huge sums of money to guys like Jim here (as he pointed his thumb over his shoulder to me as I was sitting two rows behind him) to get them a lion." How much clearer could that have been made. You were all in it together.

I received another call from some young man from Dayton, Nevada, for two years in a row persistently asking me how much I would charge him to take him lion hunting. I informed him that I did not have a valid guide license and wouldn't be able to take him out. He never would stand for that and became somewhat exasperated with me when I'd state, "I told you the same thing last year" and again he asked how much I would charge him, that is all he wanted to know. I finally said "sorry" and hung up. A good looking lady from Washoe Valley called me one day and said she saw an interesting article and picture of me in the Nevada Appeal where I stated "I no longer guide hunts but only with friends." She wanted me to take her lion hunting because she always wanted to go lion hunting. I told her the same thing, that I do not have a current license. Therefore, I could not take her out. She came to my home twice, the first time to meet me (and to see her begging) and the second time she went as far as to grab my lapels and shook me and said, "Take me lion hunting, I'll pay you." I ended up giving her a two year old registered female blue tick hound as a pet.

This last episode you yourself volunteered to tell me that while you were out with the new warden from Yerington you came to Desert Creek and saw my truck parked there and then



you decided to walk in our tracks to catch up with us as there was a good snowfall and you could see we were following a fresh lion track with the hounds on it. You said that you never did catch up with us or hear the hounds. Therefore you headed back and left. That day we caught a four year old healthy 140 pound male lion for Zubilaga's son where you and the other biologists always stayed when you conducted your winter deer surveys with the California biologists for years. Had you not told me, I would have had no idea that you had been there since my young son came out a mile ahead of where I was parked and drove to where we all came out exhausted with the lion around 4 p.m. This admission really got me thinking of your possible hidden motive for wanting to walk up on us on a hunch as long as you had someone accompany you. A couple more incidents you carried out and aimed at me personally mentioning my name to prove to whomever was concerned that you were not the exact friend of mine that you have been thought to be by your superiors. During a meeting in Elko called by the newly formed guides association to discuss the Department's strict policies that controlled and interfered with the guides profession, you were sitting directly across the aisle from my chair with Willie Molini next to you. You then got up to represent the Department's views, remarking that, "the last Guide's Association organized by Jim Ornellas failed." When it was over, the president and chairman of the organization assured you that this organization was not going to fail. I could see your intentions then, of the

opportunity to convince Molini of where I stood with you. Before this last episode, there was a half page news release from the Reno Gazette-Journal that came out about my resistance and stance over the subjective mountain lion quota on May 22, 1975. You and Clayton Johnson were quoted throughout this press release of favoring the Department's actions and policies by contradicting me personally and both of you kept referring to me by name throughout the interview by repeating, "Jim Ornellas says this and Jim Ornellas says that, so Jim Ornellas may be right." You always knew I was right in my stand defending myself, my sport and profession, along with my views and assessment of the deliberate restrictive lion management policies aimed at the experienced houndsmen and licensed lion guides. You completely ignored me and my lifetime of dedicated experience as a lion hunter once you became head of the department.

The straw that broke the camel's back was your cold shoulder and body language toward me at the first and only Wildlife Commission meeting I attended after my appointment to the commission with Brad Quilici. You of all people and Greg Tanner also made it known by not being there to greet and welcome the newly appointed commissioners. The governor could have reappointed me with your support to any of the forthcoming seats that were available. Instead all of you managed to dodge the bullet by assuring the governor that the last person any of you ever wanted to see was Jim Ornellas on the commission (out of sheer fear) knowing what I stood for in all of my valid criticism of the department's deliberate failures in the mismanagement of Nevada's disappearing wildlife and once plentiful, manageable, uncountable mule deer and popular sage grouse species.

Over the years, I have become a firm believer in one of our famous adages that, "What goes around, comes around." It is now payback time and I wish you well.

Editor's Note: Please read Mr. Ornellas' Letter to the Editor titled "Hunting the Corrupt" on page 16 of this edition. Mr. Ornellas isn't alone in his feelings toward the state of mismanagement of Nevada's majestic wildlife. If you, too, find issue with NDOW please call 541-474-7885.

**Continued from page 2
Medford's Problem ...**

Police Department is notable. The incidents of clashes between citizens and police, has risen sharply. It would seem that some of the police deliberately foster a "them against us" mentality. They insert themselves into situations where other local law enforcement has vigorously requested that they not interfere. They promote officers that have been caught by their own cameras behaving in an unprofessional manner. The appearance of creating revenue enhancement over good police practice is unfortunate but often true. Officers like Tim George who have stood silent regarding corruption and even covered-up the same get promoted. George has even elevated himself to a position where he will run for Sheriff in the next election.

Can these situations be explained by a process that filters all problems through a city manager focused on his own

agenda? And what is City Manager Dyal's agenda? Could it be a vision of ever expanding power and an ever pressing need for ready cash to fund that expansion? Does he use the power and influence of the local "good old boy" system in controlling public affairs? Is the government being run for the enrichment of a few over the rights and desires of the public?

The next question to arise is—where are the citizens that voted these people into office? What is wrong is that there is no outcry over an avaricious, out of control government run by back room deals orchestrated by those with their own agenda?

No matter how great the scenery and how varied the local attractions, city government under the direction of Michael Dyal can currently only be seen as a negative for the community. It would appear that if he had a shelf life it has expired.

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**Continued from page 11
Rape or False Allegations ...**

see that only Lisa Garrison and deputy Monty Holloway appeared before the Grand Jury. The Jury didn't hear from Treddenbarger and they certainly didn't hear any of the convincing evidence contained in this article. They didn't receive the accusations that we have such as Lisa Garrison is dishonest or a methamphetamine user. All jury's however, should be more questioning before they return an indictment against anyone. They should be extremely inquisitive in sex abuse cases like this where there is no physical evidence or any corroborating testimony. Norm Treddenbarger's life has been nearly destroyed, years of work and accumulation of assets has been flushed, the pressure on this man has been almost unbearable, his reputation in the community has been damaged and he hasn't even had his trial yet. This is wrong and it is wrong for the Klamath

County District Attorney to continue this case in light of the evidence and lack of evidence. If the District Attorney is honest and ethical he will take a strong second look at this case...

Editor's Note: Anyone with information on Lisa Garrison, Norm's wife Delores Hanna or Lisa's brother Bill Beaumont should contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885.

All too often law enforcement and District Attornies rush to conclusions and fail to realize just how damaging a criminal charge is to someone who is innocent. The drug of the day for vindictive women is the knowledge that they can make an allegation against a man and have the justice system literally destroy the individual. Although we have had few complaints over the years regarding the Klamath County District Attorney's Office, one false charge is just as bad as a dozen. This case is that one...

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Immigration

All in a day's (illegal) work

The CS Monitor's View

Herndon, Va. could be Anytown, USA. Day laborers, many of them illegal immigrants, often clogged a 7-Eleven parking lot, creating unsanitary conditions and disorder. After heated debate, the town last month opened a work center for the jobbers. Order now reigns, but the debate rages on as illegal-immigration opponents seek to shut the center.

Herndon's actions reflect a national phenomenon about day laborers: Every day, workers gather in about 500 US parking lots and main streets (and increasingly, work centers), hoping they'll be picked for construction or other jobs by drive-up employers, according to a study released this week by the University of California in Los Angeles.

Here's the crunch, though: Three-quarters of these workers are illegal immigrants, the study finds. As a result, they're often stiffed of pay or otherwise abused. These open markets for illegal workers are a visible reason why illegal immigration is such a widespread concern and such a polarizing one - though it need not be.

First, illegal immigration is so talked about that members of the US House of Representatives dared not recess last month until they'd passed a strict border-enforcement bill.

With day laborers, Americans see with their own eyes that illegal immigration is no longer limited to the border states or select big cities. It's out in the open, in the exurbs, North and South. Now at an all-time high of 11 million, illegal migrants have been allowed to flourish, undercutting minimum-wage laws and straining public services. The obvious

deluge explains why citizen groups in places such as Herndon are reporting contractors who hire suspected illegals to authorities - and wrongly, why they sometimes harass day laborers.

Now, for the polarization. As the UCLA study shows, these people may be illegal, but they're also a grossly disadvantaged underclass, calling out for a humanitarian response. They're defended by a Latino political constituency increasingly sought after by both parties. In response to this political pressure, some cities have developed hands-off "sanctuary" policies concerning the arrest of illegals. The feds, too, are more focused on stopping crime committed by illegals than enforcing the law banning known hiring of them. In 1992, 1,063 businesses were fined for such hiring. In 2004, three were.

In the immigration debate, and

specifically on the hot-button issue of day laborers, compassion and law enforcement can work together.

A country that has become addicted to the cheap labor of illegals has an obligation to respond in a kind way to a problem it tolerates and encourages. Work centers are an appropriate temporary solution that can turn chaos to order. And minimum-wage laws should apply to all.

But the bottom line is that the US is a country of laws. Illegal immigration is a large-scale abuse of the law, with social and economic costs. The fact that states considered more than 300 immigration bills last year shows the absolute failure of the federal government to enforce immigration laws.

America is built on the contribution of foreigners who settle here. But that contribution must be legal.

■ ■ ■

Reported border forays raise hackles Mexican soldiers allegedly involved

By Hugh Dellios and Michael Martinez, Tribune correspondents. Hugh Dellios reported from Mexico City, and Michael Martinez from Los Angeles

MEXICO CITY -- A confrontation between sheriff's deputies and uniformed drug traffickers along the Texas border has intensified concerns about forays into the U.S. by Mexican soldiers while heightening bilateral tensions over border violence.

U.S. officials are demanding that Mexico fully investigate an incident Monday in which several men wearing military-style uniforms and carrying military-style weapons helped suspected marijuana traffickers escape into Mexico.

Mexican officials deny that real Mexican soldiers were involved. But the incident has refocused attention on reports that Mexican military and police personnel have crossed onto U.S. territory at least 216 times in the past 10 years, along with concerns about how drug dealers may be obtaining Mexican army uniforms.

"It was no doubt that it was Mexican military, because I've seen them and I've dealt with them all my life down here," said Arvin West, sheriff of Hudspeth County, Texas, whose officers filmed Monday's incident using cameras he bought to back up his allegations.

Photo released by the Hudspeth County, Texas Sheriff's office of suspected drug dealers unloading what appears to be drugs from a stuck SUV along the Mexican border.



West said his deputies have caught Mexican soldiers crossing the border "to buy Snickers." But he said Monday's clash was among the more serious incidents, in which soldiers helping drug smugglers "are sitting there waiting with their machine guns to make sure [the drugs] get back OK."

The U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Tony Garza, sent a diplomatic protest to the Mexican government Wednesday, demanding an explanation and questioning Mexico's commitment to combating violence along the border.

Local authorities in Texas and U.S. Border Patrol officials have been even more strident in their criticism, saying the incursions by Mexican soldiers are common and worrisome. They also have condemned federal officials for not taking the matter seriously enough.

In turn, Mexican officials have questioned the motives and timing behind the U.S. complaints. Some believe the incursion reports are being overblown by proponents of a bill in the U.S. Congress to build more border fences to keep out Mexican laborers. The U.S. Senate is scheduled to debate the measure next month.

Michael Chertoff, U.S. homeland security secretary, also characterized the reports as "overblown" and "scare tactics" last week. He said a number of incursions were "innocent" mistakes by Mexican soldiers who did not know they

crossed the border, which is barely marked in more remote places.

While Mexico's Defense Ministry is investigating Monday's incident, a spokesman for President Vicente Fox asserted that the suspected soldiers were actually traffickers wearing fake uniforms. Foreign Ministry officials said the traffickers' equipment did not match that of local army units.

Mexico's complaint

Mexican Foreign Minister Luis Ernesto Derbez sent his own diplomatic complaint to Washington on Thursday, rejecting the U.S. ambassador's questioning of Mexico's anti-drug efforts. At a news conference, he suggested that the uniformed smugglers could have been Americans.

Yet for some Mexican analysts, the fact that drug traffickers can operate along the border in Mexican army uniforms, even if fake, raises questions.

"This is very serious, whether they were military or not, because someone should have detected them," said Jorge Chabat, an expert in border security and U.S.-Mexico relations.

Chabat and others noted that the military has been Mexico's primary instrument in combating drug trafficking.

The army is seen as less corrupt and less corruptible than Mexico's civilian law-enforcement agencies. But the army's role in the drug war inevitably has made it more vulnerable to being corrupted, and there have been several cases of soldiers being arrested for colluding with drug runners.

Monday's border incident began when Texas authorities tried to stop three SUVs on an interstate highway near El Paso. The vehicles fled toward the border, where people in Mexican army-style uniforms with army-style weapons in an army-style Humvee appeared to be waiting for them on the other side of the Rio Grande.

Guns drawn

The state officers and sheriff's deputies

■ ■ ■



Border guard on patrol

had their guns drawn, as did the smugglers, but no shots were fired. More than 1,400 pounds of marijuana was found in one vehicle, which blew a tire and was abandoned on the Texas side, while the armed, uniformed men flanked a second vehicle stuck in the river while it was unloaded.

West, the county sheriff, said such incursions occur several times a month.

"I'm sick and tired of the federal government calling us liars," West said. "Just about every time we catch a big load [of marijuana], every time we chase them back, [Mexican soldiers] are there.

"They're sitting there with Humvees and state-of-the-art military equipment. We're sitting there with [patrol cars]. We're sitting there with limited high-powered rifles and sidearms versus machine guns."

Proponents of tighter border measures in the U.S. have complained for several years about Mexican army and police incursions. The number of incursions peaked at 40 in 2002, according to a U.S. Homeland Security report distributed by Rep. Tom Tancredo (R-Colo.), who is lobbying for more controls on illegal immigration. Since then the number has dropped sharply; nine incidents were reported last year.

Five more incursions took place in the first quarter of this fiscal year, the Los Angeles Times reported Thursday. Citing confidential Homeland Security records, the newspaper said the incidents have included five Tijuana police officers pursuing and shooting at two suspects over the border in 2004 and two men in Mexican army uniforms and carrying rifles in a creek bed north of the border near San Diego in October.

Continued from page 9 The Decline and Fall ...

read the costs and consequences in my previous columns. If it appears I'm earmarking legal and illegal immigrants negatively, I AM in the regard that they no longer benefit our country. Why accept immigrants unless they help us instead of overrun and financially destroy our own citizens? Ignoring the impact to this society's likely collapse does not sit well with me. Each of you reading this column experiences these consequences in your town or state every day.

As stated, the two factors that destroyed Rome now manifest in accelerating numbers in America. Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Detroit, Atlanta, New York City, San Francisco, Raleigh and all large cities suffer millions of immigrants. Uncounted millions of them cannot and do not speak English. Millions work under the table without paying taxes. Millions use our hospitals without paying. They immigrate but do not assimilate. They colonize in ethnic enclaves separated from Americans. They fracture our country.

A glance back at 10,000 fire bombed cars and riots of Paris, France in October and race fights in Sydney, Australia last month should have awakened Americans. However, much like the Roman citizens that laughed and cheered at the weekly games of slaughter in the Coliseum—modern day Americans swill beer while madly pushing their remotes and fill our football stadiums for the weekly mayhem on the gridiron. "It's happening in Paris, but that's not America," one guy told me.

Listen buddy, football is great but if you don't have a viable society, what do you have? Ask Nero and all who partied while he fiddled and Rome burned.

All the while, 7,000 to 10,000 illegal aliens according to Time Magazine, pour across our borders every night of the year equaling 3,000,000 annually. They number over 15 to 20 million and there is no end to the line that grows by 85 million desperately poor added to the world yearly. Add another one million slipping into our nation legally each

year and that equals a whopping 4,000,000 bodies. Remember: when the rate of immigration exceeds the rate of assimilation, it is a recipe for the destruction for ANY civilization.

If you do the math, at the current rate of legal immigration, in 44 years by 2050, we'll see another 44 million legal immigrants added to our country at the minimum. We'll add another 125 million illegal alien immigrants at three million sliding across our borders annually. Added to that, our own population momentum of one million added to whatever numbers of millions of immigrant births yields a horrific, and I do mean—a nasty future.

To bring it into sobering if not terrifying focus: Texas adds 12 million by 2025; California adds 20 million by 2035; Arizona adds four million by 2050; Colorado adds four to six million by 2050. What is the one thing those states lack? WATER! Resource depletion eventually forces any citizen to conscious focus! Why wait until the crisis manifests itself? The USA adds another 300 million just past mid century. Did our immigrating all these people help the world? Not a chance! The world expands from 6.4 billion to a predicted low of 7.9 billion or a high of 9.8 billion by 2050.

Who then is in charge of the decline and fall of America? George Bush today and for another three years. He is worse than Emperor Valens. Congress is Bush's main accomplice. Together, they make Nero look brilliant. For the past 40 years, Teddy Kennedy's 1965 Immigration Reform Act 'Katrina-ized' our demise by opening the flood gates. Bush aims to deluge Mexico into America by destroying our border sovereignty. Much like the Roman games that killed over one million men at the Coliseum for sport, Bush distracts us with war games in Iraq and Afghanistan. He rules by fear instead of reason, i.e., mass distraction. He's broken our financial system with outrageous debt. He's exported our jobs to China and India. He's broken most of the U.S. Constitution into pieces worse than Humpty Dumpty.

Much like Rome, the great Middle Class of America suffers the invasion

first hand, but much like Emperor Valens or Nero, along with the Roman senate, they ignored it until too late. All suffered the loss of their civilization at the end as the hostile immigrant invaders burned Rome.

If you can't see this thing coming, and most Americans don't, you will at some point. If you don't step up and speak out and take action, your children will pay for your lack of courage. If you think the legal immigrants in Paris, France were nasty, just wait until our illegal immigrants spring into action at some point in the future. It's only going to take a spark to set them off. The ensuing conflagration will place our civilization in the history books right along side Rome's.

Frosty Wooldridge possesses a unique view of the world, cultures and families in that he has bicycled around the globe 100,000 miles, on six continents in the past 26 years.

He has written hundreds of articles (regularly) for 17 national and 2 international magazines. He has had hundreds of editorials published in top national newspapers including the Rocky Mountain News, Denver Post, Albany Herald and Christian Science Monitor.

His first book, "HANDBOOK FOR TOURING BICYCLISTS" by Falcon Press is available nationwide.

His latest book is 'IMMIGRATION'S UNARMED INVASION—DEADLY CONSEQUENCES.'

Frosty Wooldridge has guest lectured at Cornell University, teaching creative writing workshops, magazine writing at Michigan State University, and has presented environmental science lectures at the University of Colorado, University of Denver and Regis University. He also lectures on "Religion and Ethics" at Front Range College in Colorado.

Become a part of the "21st Century Paul Revere" bicycle ride across America coast to coast next summer with Frosty as he and his band of riders carry a message from the Golden Gate Bridge to the steps of the nation's capitol in Washington, DC. For more details write: frostyw@juno.com

■■■

"In the first place, we should insist that if the immigrant who comes here in good faith becomes American and assimilates himself to us, he shall be treated on an exact equality with everyone else, for it is an outrage to discriminate against any man because of creed, or birthplace, or origin. But this is predicated upon the person's becoming in every facet an American, and nothing but an American ... There can be no divided allegiance here. Any man who says he is an American, but something else also, isn't an American at all. We have room for but one flag, the American flag... We have room for but one language here, and that is the English ... and we have room for but one sole loyalty and that is a loyalty to the American people."

--Theodore Roosevelt, 1907

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Continued from page 11 Judicial Corruption ...

she files a motion for the Horan Law firm to recuse themselves. Her reasoning was once they are recused without obtaining answers to the interrogatories, they could not argue to the court that they should not be recused because of all of the work they have done. Gene, in the meantime, prepares answers to the interrogatories and presents them to Loop for presentation to Cook once the recusal is in place. This strategy is wasted due to Loop's alleged nonfeasance. The motion is never filed and Cook's correspondence to Loop is not related to Forte. When she is pressed for answers as to why she has not adequately represented Forte, in Forte's words, she tells him "Well you know, this thing is really getting caught up like you know, bad here. There's a good old boys club here in Monterey, the Cook Law Firm is part of that good old boys club, I don't mind fighting them, but it can be an uphill battle, and maybe you should get another attorney." Exit Loop just prior to Forte discovering that Loretta Loop used to work for James Cook prior to passing the state bar exam and setting up her own practice, a fact that she omitted to tell Gene when he retained her. Good old boy network

indeed. The fall out from her nonfeasance is that Cook files a motion for sanctions against Forte because the interrogatories were not answered by Loop as per Forte's instructions. In addition, Cook files the sanctions knowing full well he agreed with Loop to stay the interrogatories until a later date.

Gene Forte is passed to another attorney in San Jose, Ca by the name of Wayne Thomas who is paid a \$5,000 retainer to contact Cook and request an extension so Thomas can get up to speed with the case, and perfect the interrogatories to give to Cook. Two days later Thomas contacts Forte and says that Cook won't play ball because Gene Forte can't find a lawyer to represent him due to the fact that he has gone through so many since the case began. Thomas tops off his revelation to Forte by saying he cannot represent him and to find another lawyer. For two days work, Thomas figured he was due \$3,600 for his phone call and returned \$1,400 to Forte. Great job if you can get one.

Forte finds another attorney in San Jose by the name of Jeff Widman who agrees to represent Forte and Gene retains him for \$5,000. Widman appears in court where Judge Richard Silver

finds that Forte is not cooperating with discovery (due to Loop's alleged nonfeasance) and sanctions him \$700. Then Widman suggests that Forte seek an attorney in Monterey and he retains Larry Lichtenegger of Lichtenegger & Lee. Lichtenegger becomes co-counsel with Widman in Forte vs. Powell so let the games begin.

What you have just read is only the tip of the iceberg in regards to this story. Next month, you will learn how the Monterey County Superior Court

wheels and deals the disbursement of their brand of justice, and how a common citizen stands up for his inalienable rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. Over the next few installments, you will learn how the corruption permeates every level of California politics. Most importantly you will come to understand how the media fails the citizenry by not reporting corruption, injustice and the lack of accountability. Stay tuned!

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Health

Tests Miss Heart Disease in Women

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON - Conventional tests won't uncover heart disease in as many as 3 million U.S. women — because instead of the usual bulky clogs in main arteries, these women have a hard-to-spot buildup in smaller blood vessels, researchers said Tuesday.

These are the women who come to the doctor complaining of chest pain or shortness of breath but sometimes are sent away undiagnosed, not knowing they're actually at high risk for a heart attack in the next few years.

"The No. 1 message for women is, 'Pay attention to your symptoms,'" said Dr. George Sopko, a heart specialist at the National Institutes of Health, which sponsored the research. "If you don't have visible blockages, that doesn't mean you're not at risk."

Heart disease is the nation's leading killer, of both men and women. In fact, slightly more women than men die from cardiovascular diseases each year — more than 480,000 of them, according to the American Heart Association.

Scientists are struggling to understand some disturbing gender disparities: Women are less likely to receive

aggressive treatment for heart disease than men, are less likely to survive heart surgery, and respond differently than men to different risk factors and therapies. They frequently have different symptoms of a heart attack than men do, such as fatigue instead of the classic chest pain radiating down the arm.

Even the test considered best at diagnosing heart disease — angiography, which lets doctors watch as blood flows through key arteries — is less accurate for women than for men.

Tuesday, reviewing clues from some recent research, the NIH's National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute highlighted why — and how many women are at risk after a misleadingly "clear" angiogram.

In an ongoing study called WISE, the Women's Ischemia Syndrome Evaluation, researchers have found that about two-thirds of women with chest pain pass an angiogram. But about half of them turn out to have a condition named "coronary microvascular syndrome," where plaque evenly coats very small arteries instead of forming

more obvious obstructions in larger ones.

Angiograms simply can't see these tiny arteries, Sopko explained. It's like seeing a pine tree's branches but not its needles.

The narrowed small arteries mean less oxygen flow to the heart, explaining the women's chest pain.

But this microvascular syndrome also seems to signal a dysfunction of the lining of the artery's inner wall, making the blood vessels not dilate the way they're supposed to in response to stress, said Dr. C. Noel Bairey Merz of Cedars-Sinai Medical in Los Angeles, who oversees the WISE study.

"It appears to be primarily a woman's problem, which is probably why we've missed it all these years (that) we didn't bother to study women," Bairey Merz said, noting that men make up just 20 percent of microvascular syndrome patients, for unknown reasons.

So what should doctors do for chest-pain sufferers whose angiograms are clear?

"It is no longer adequate to simply demonstrate open arteries," Bairey

Merz said.

Other, more complicated tests can detect microvascular syndrome: measuring whether patients' arteries dilate properly when they're injected with certain medications, or performing an MRI scan of the heart.

"There are women who have chest pain and we do all this testing and there's nothing wrong — and that's good," Bairey Merz said. But, "we need to stop falsely reassuring women unless we're willing to do this additional work."

For patients with little access to such sophisticated testing, she noted a possible low-tech option: A questionnaire, widely known to cardiologists, that measures how easily people perform various everyday activities. Tuesday in an online supplement to the Journal of the American College of Cardiology, WISE researchers reported that women who pass an angiogram but score low on this questionnaire — they report difficulty doing much more than light housework, for example — are at increased risk of a heart attack.

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Primary care about to collapse, physicians warn

By Maggie Fox
Health and Science Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Primary care -- the basic medical care that people get when they visit their doctors for routine physicals and minor problems -- could fall apart in the United States without immediate reforms, the American College of Physicians said on Monday.

"Primary care is on the verge of collapse," said the organization, a professional group which certifies internists, in a statement. "Very few young physicians are going into primary care and those already in practice are under such stress that they are looking for an exit strategy."

Dropping incomes coupled with difficulties in juggling patients, soaring bills and policies from insurers that encourage rushed office visits all mean that more primary care doctors are retiring than are graduating from medical school, the ACP said in its

report.

The group has proposed a solution -- calling on federal policymakers to approve new ways of paying doctors that would put primary care doctors in charge of organizing a patient's care and giving patients more responsibility for monitoring their own health and scheduling regular visits.

U.S. doctors have long complained that reimbursement policies of both Medicare and private insurers reward a "just-in-time" approach, instead of preventive care that would save money and keep patients healthier.

"Medicare will pay tens of thousands of dollars ... for a limb amputation on a diabetic patient, but virtually nothing to the primary care physician for keeping the patient's diabetes under control," said Bob Doherty, senior vice president for the ACP.

The ACP plan called for innovations such as using e-mail to consult on minor and routine matters, freeing up expensive office visit time for when it is

needed. Doctors would be compensated for an e-mail consultation.

The proposals include incentives for doctors to work more efficiently and to provide better care, ACP President Dr. C. Anderson Hedberg told a news conference. "ACP proposals would provide patients with access to care that is coordinated by their own personal physician," Hedberg said.

YOUNG DOCTORS AVOIDING PRIMARYCARE

The ACP cited an American Medical Association survey that found 35 percent of all physicians nationwide are over the age of 55 and will soon retire.

In 2003, only 27 percent of third year internal medicine residents actually planned to practice internal medicine, the group said, with others planning to go into more lucrative specialty jobs.

"Primary care physicians -- the bedrock of medical care for today and the future -- are at the bottom of the list

of all medical specialties in median income compensation," the ACP said.

The group, which represents 119,000 doctors and medical students in general internal medicine and subspecialties, joins others that warn the U.S. health care system is untenable.

"If these reforms do not take place, within a few years there will not be enough primary care physicians to take care of an aging population with increasing incidences of chronic diseases," said Dr. Vineet Arora, chair of the College's Council of Associates.

Dr. Sara Walker, a Missouri physician, said she believed doctors were leaving general practice because of drops in Medicare reimbursement to doctors.

"A drop in Medicare payments will not only force me to stop taking Medicare patients but could force me out of business," agreed Dr. Kevin Lutz, a solo practitioner in Denver.

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Anger Can Harm Your Health

(HealthDay News) -- Anger has been blamed for everything from high blood pressure to road rage. Now, a new study links it to something else -- injuries in men.

Researchers who interviewed emergency-room patients found that men were more likely to report being mad or furious at the time of their injuries than during an ordinary day.

The findings may seem obvious: Why wouldn't angry people be more likely to get hurt? But previous research into the anger effect has been contradictory, and doctors have had a hard time figuring out how to find the truth, said study co-author Dr. Daniel C. Vinson, a professor of family medicine at the University of Missouri-Columbia.

"You're not going to take a bunch of young adults, make half of them really mad, and put them on the interstate to see who has a wreck," Vinson said.

So Vinson and a colleague surveyed 2,517 emergency-room patients in Missouri about their state of mind before they were injured; 2,446 responded with thoughts about their anger level just before their injury, and 2,117 told how they felt 24 hours before being injured.

The researchers also randomly surveyed 1,856 uninjured Missouri residents about their anger levels during a regular day and got full answers from 1,533 of them.

The findings appear in the January/February issue of the Annals of Family Medicine.

Nearly one-third of the injured people surveyed said they were irritable just before their injuries. Eighteen percent said they were angry, and 13.2 percent described themselves as hostile.

Some of these numbers were similar to those who weren't injured. But the injured people were more likely to express higher levels of anger, especially men and those who were injured by another person, the study found.

"The association between anger and injury was much stronger in men than women," Vinson said. "Men may get more angry, may act on their anger, or they may get distracted by their anger."

Surprisingly, the researchers didn't find a link between anger and car

accidents.

Vinson cautioned that, due to the design of the study, it's impossible to know how many injuries were directly caused by anger.

Still, one anger specialist said the findings are important. "They add significantly to our growing body of work that emotional stress, whether it be anger or grief or fear, has a profound effect on the body," said Dr. Hunter Champion, an assistant professor of medicine at Johns Hopkins University and its Heart Institute.

Last year, he co-authored a study about how stressful events can cause a heart-attack-like condition that doesn't cause permanent damage.

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Bird flu viruses carry unique genes, study finds

By Maggie Fox
Health and Science Correspondent

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Scientists may have found out what makes the H5N1 influenza virus so deadly -- bird flu viruses have a gene that may make them especially destructive to cells, U.S. researchers reported on Thursday.

All the bird flu viruses studied by the team at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis had the gene and none of the human influenza viruses did, they said.

People infected with the H5N1 bird flu virus in Vietnam and Thailand had the "avian" version of the flu virus, as did the victims of the 1918 influenza pandemic, which killed tens of millions of people globally, the researchers said.

But the influenza viruses that cause the normal seasonal human misery, and those that caused the less deadly 1957 and 1968 human flu pandemics, do not carry the avian genes.

The finding, published in the journal *Science*, may provide a way to identify the more dangerous viruses and may also help companies trying to make better flu drugs, said St. Jude's Clayton Naeve.

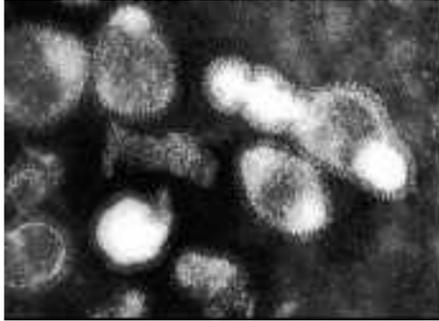
"We documented a clear difference between bird viruses and human viruses. You need much more work to demonstrate this actually contributes to virulence in nature," Naeve said in an interview.

Naeve and his colleagues have been working to sequence the genomes of all known influenza viruses. No one has done this, even though flu viruses have just eight genes and are relatively simple organisms, the researchers said.

"This is information we expect will be very important in understanding the attributes of this virus -- how it will cross from birds to humans. We are releasing this data so that other investigators worldwide can mine it for information," he said.

The researchers used a collection of samples of 11,000 influenza viruses, including 7,000 avian influenza viruses, assembled by St. Jude's Dr. Robert Webster over 30 years.

"We have sequenced a diverse sampling of 336 avian influenza viruses



from this collection including isolates from ducks, gulls, shorebirds and poultry collected in North American, Eurasian, and Australasian countries, primarily during the years 1976 to 2004," the researchers said.

The H5N1 virus has been found in birds for decades but it first was seen to infect people in 1997, in Hong Kong. Since it resurfaced in 2003, it has infected at least 152 people and killed 83 of them, according to the World Health Organization.

It has killed or forced the culling of hundreds of millions of birds.

H5N1 does not yet pass easily from person to person but experts fear it will mutate into a form that does so, sparking a pandemic that could kill millions or tens of millions.

One factor will be just what genetic changes the virus makes, and no one can predict what they will be.

But Naeve's team may have identified a protein to watch. It is called NS, for non-structural protein, and is only made once the virus has infected a cell.

The avian versions seem to allow the virus to do much more damage to a cell than the human versions of NS, Naeve said.

"We were surprised to see a lot of variation in this NS protein. That was the clue. We felt it must be playing an important biological role," he said.

It is possible that a mutation that would allow a flu virus to more easily infect people will weaken the NS protein, Naeve said. But no one knows.

"As time progresses one might expect that signature to change into a less-virulent form," he said, or it may not, as was apparently the case in 1918.

"I don't think anybody can predict at this time what the future holds for the H5 outbreaks. It's pretty scary," Naeve said.

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George Carlin's Views on Aging:

Do you realize that the only time in our lives when we like to get old is when we're kids? If you're less than 10 years old, you're so excited about aging that you think in fractions.

"How old are you?" "I'm four and a half!" You're never thirty-six and a half. You're four and a half, going on five! That's the key.

You get into your teens, now they can't hold you back. You jump to the next number, or even a few ahead.

"How old are you?" "I'm gonna be 16!" You could be 13, but hey, you're gonna be 16! And then the greatest day of your life . . . you become 21. Even the words sound like a ceremony . . . YOU BECOME 21. YESSSS!!!

But then you turn 30. Oooohh, what happened there? Makes you sound like bad milk! He TURNED; we had to throw him out. There's no fun now, you're just a sour-dumpling. What's wrong?

What's changed?

You BECOME 21, you TURN 30, then you're PUSHING 40. Whoa! Put on the brakes, it's all slipping away. Before you know it, you REACH 50 and your dreams are gone.

But wait!!! You MAKE it to 60. You didn't think you would!

So you BECOME 21, TURN 30, PUSH 40, REACH 50 and MAKE it to 60.

You've built up so much speed that you HIT 70! After that it's a day-by-day thing; you HIT Wednesday!

You get into your 80s and every day is a complete cycle; you HIT lunch; you TURN 4:30; you REACH bedtime. And it doesn't end there. Into the 90s, you start going backwards; "I Was JUST 92."

Then a strange thing happens. If you make it over 100, you become a little kid again. "I'm 100 and a half!" May you all make it to a healthy 100 and a half! ■ ■ ■

Make the Most of Your Next Doctor Visit

By Kathleen Doheny
HealthDay Reporter

SUNDAY, (HealthDay News) -- A visit to the doctor's office sometimes seems like it's over in a flash, and by the time you get to your car you've thought of six things you forgot to ask.

But if you follow some simple suggestions before your next visit, you'll become a more educated health-care consumer -- and quite possibly improve your medical care and your relationship with your doctor.

For starters, "make a list of what you want to discuss," said Dr. Jim King, a family physician in Selmer, Tenn., and a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians' board of directors. Also, be clear on the purpose of the appointment -- for instance, is it to check on your recovery from a sprained ankle, or is it to review treatments for high blood pressure.

Dr. Virgilio Licona, a family physician in Brighton, Colo., and also a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians' board of directors, suggests you jot down any symptoms you might be experiencing. "Write down any questions you have, no matter how silly they may sound to you," he said.

Before the appointment, be sure to check if you need to fast for certain lab tests, King said, or whether you need to skip regular medication. He said he's had patients skip medications before a visit, thinking that was what they were supposed to do, only to learn he wanted to check the patient's blood level of a medication to see if it was working properly.

Also, bring along any medicines you may be taking -- and be sure they're in their original bottles. "You can go over them with your doctor," Licona said, to be certain you're taking the proper dose at the right time. This is also a good time to tell your doctor what herbs or other supplements you might be taking, as well as over-the-counter medications.

During the visit, King suggests that you "write down what your doctor says about your problem or condition. Ask



for handouts on the condition," he said, adding they are readily available in most offices.

Another suggestion: Take along a spouse, a family member or a friend to help you understand what the doctor has to say, especially if you're newly diagnosed with a condition. The family member or friend may think of questions that don't occur to you. But if you are alone, and have trouble remembering things, you might ask the doctor if you can tape-record the conversation.

Also, turn off your cell phone. "When you are in the middle of an exam, having that go off can be counterproductive," said Licona. "Turning it off is not only a courtesy but makes sure you maximize your time with your doctor."

Ask when the next visit should be, and, if you have lab work ordered, when you need to have it done.

And be sure to follow up with the doctor if you need to. It's always OK to call back your doctor if you don't understand the instructions, or if new questions pop up. If you've had tests done, such as lab blood work, don't assume "no news is good news" unless your doctor has told you that. Be sure to call for results if you don't receive them after the visit. ■ ■ ■

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US~Observer *Demanding Accountability*

Deschutes County Takes Property for Code Violations

On January 15, 2006 Deschutes County Sheriff Deputies forcibly removed Native American Delilah Starr from the residential property she has occupied for the past 20 years. In our last edition we told the story of how Deschutes County started issuing commercial code violations to Starr, without ever going in her house, for installing plumbing and wiring without a permit when the home had neither wiring or plumbing. The county also issued citations because Starr used a porta potty. In all, Deschutes County ran the fines up to over \$110,000.00 and then bought the property at a Sheriff's sale for the amount of the fines.

Deschutes County Sheriff Les Stiles was notified that Starr, a Native American, was in the process of having the land declared a Native American Allotment, immune from the commercial claims of the corporate STATE OF OREGON or its sub division DESCHUTES COUNTY. Sheriff Stiles chose to ignore the ancestral claim of Star and sent his armed deputies to remove and make homeless this innocent, Indian woman because the unsightly appearance of her property offended the sensibilities of cold hearted Deschutes County officials

The US~Observer has been following closely the culture of corruption in the Deschutes County legal system and the protection of that culture of corruption

by the Deschutes County Sheriff's office. We have reported how Deschutes County Sheriff Captain Tim Edwards has been seen giving the corrupt attorney Claud Ingram escort service in and out of the courtroom to protect him from the angry friends of Patricia Wishon. Wishon's friends have appeared with her in court to help block the attempts by Ingram, Wishon's ex-husband Santiago Torres, and attorneys Linda Hasse and Anthony Albertazzi to allegedly steal property left Wishon by her late husband.

The US~Observer has also covered the outrageous treatment of former attorney, public prosecutor and 1998 Oregon Reform Party candidate for Governor Roger Weidner by the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office for exposing the corruption in the Deschutes County legal system. Weidner has been repeatedly, verbally and physically assaulted, and violently arrested and jailed by Deschutes County Deputies on the orders of Judge Thompson and Captain Edwards for attempting to expose the fraud and corruption of the attorneys, judges and Deschutes County Sheriff's Deputies involved in attempting to allegedly steal the Wishon property.

Not content with helping the corrupt attorneys allegedly try to steal the Wishon property the Deschutes County Sheriff's Office is now engaged in the



Delilah Starr after being removed from her property

equally odious behavior of forcibly removing Native American Delilah Starr from her property in violation of Treaty rights protecting her property rights as a Native American.

The US~Observer will continue to expose and cover the allegations of the corrupt and shameless behavior of attorneys, judges and those in the Sheriff's Office in Deschutes County who are protecting this alleged corruption and abuse until those public

officials involved are shamed into ceasing such behavior and once again observe their oath of office to uphold and respect the rights of the citizens of Oregon regarding "equal protection" and "due process" of law.

A hearing has been scheduled for March 28, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Deschutes County Courthouse on all motions relating to the Patricia Wishon case.

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False & Malicious Prosecution in Shady Cove

Shady, Cove, Oregon – In November of 2003, Rick Mori purchased a parcel of land in an un-recorded subdivision in the old "Cove" section of town.

The subdivision is governed by an entity referred to as the Shady Cove Property Owners Association (SCPOA). Rick Mori had no idea that this group had a set of highly questionable bylaws at the time he purchased his lot. Past president of the SCPOA Jean Lund reportedly created the faulty bylaws and according to some, "she and other officers feathered their own nests" by creating them. In all actuality anyone entering the subdivision from Riverside Drive is trespassing according to the flawed bylaws. Legally speaking, the bylaws should have virtually no authority on the basis that they haven't been voted on by members, nor have members agreed to the terms contained in them. 15 out of 27 property owners in the subdivision have refused to pay dues or participate in the bylaws, which should be unenforceable, but apparently are enforceable when it comes down to the filing of a false criminal charge.

When Rick Mori began questioning the bylaws in that they state, no property owner can appropriate any of the roads, common area or river frontage for private use as that constitutes a trespass, the "_____ hit the fan." All of a sudden the Shady Cove Police arrived, issuing Mori a ticket for criminal trespass. Mori

appeared in Shady Cove Municipal Court expecting to defend a certain accusation only to find that the accusation had changed. He was readily found guilty in the small kangaroo court and has appealed his case into Jackson County Circuit Court. After Mori filed his appeal the City of Shady Cove conveniently dropped the criminal charge down to a mere violation. This move eliminated Mori's right to a jury trial and it clearly exposed the fact that the original charge was bogus from its conception.

The US~Observer's investigation has clearly shown this case to be false and malicious. Mori's neighbor Jody Saling was the person who signed the ticket to have Mori sighted for criminal trespass. Saling was apparently upset with the fact that Mori had purchased his lot and was building a home directly across from Saling's living room. Saling has since joined the Shady Cove Police force and moved from his residence in the subdivision...And Mori's expense of fighting the false and ridiculous charge against him continues. Don't miss our next edition wherein we will detail this false and malicious prosecution and all the players involved.

Anyone with information on Jody Saling, Jean Lund or anyone else involved in this obviously false prosecution is urged to contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885.

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Remove Savage Rapids Dam and Waste Millions



Oregon's congressional delegation needs to get with the program in these financially trying times. With funding in short supply across the board why spend millions removing a dam that could make millions?

US Army Corps of Engineers – Lost Creek Operation Manager Jim Buck releases water through the power house at Lost Creek as needed for flood control, agriculture, fish, municipal cities and industries. The power house produces 500 c.f.s. to a maximum 2400 c.f.s. The powerhouse has (2) 25 mega watt generators for a total of 50 mega watts which produce from 5-9 million annually.

Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) handles marketing sales and

gives back enough dollars for operation of Lost Creek Dam, plus upkeep of the dam. Lost Creek Dam stores water in the rainy season and flood times to be released later for all users of the river.

Savage Rapids Dam has an 800 c.f.s. hydro permit and if ran continuously it could possibly out-produce Lost Creek Dam. Maybe 10 million or more. All citizens should help the Grants Pass Irrigation District to help carry our tax loads like Douglas County does from the Galesville Dam located on Cow Creek.

Do you want to fight for that kind of money or just let it go to waste, unused down the Rogue River like the Biscuit Fire's rotting timber. Is there any American team left? Please let us know.

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