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By Edward Snook
Chief of Investigations
US~Observer

The US~Observer is currently going after financial scammers who take advantage of people eager to invest their money when promised substantial interest returns.

Numerous investors have filed complaints with the US~Observer against two investment funds named Arcanum and Vestium. These funds, like most financial scams offered investors "above average" interest in an obvious effort to entice people to invest with them. To good to be true?

In one case the Observer has taken on related to these funds;

certain investors from CA invested money with Arcanum on a one-year contract. At the end of their one-year contract they requested their money and received the usual excuses and delays that are common with most all financial scams. At that point the US~Observer wrote a letter to the company and in short order the company coerced an agreement out of the investor and basically paid them back their entire principal investment. It is the Observer's position that the coerced agreement means absolutely nothing - Arcanum, Vestium and Robert Buckhannon still owe the interest and they will either pay it or suffer the consequences.

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On Oregon Measures 66 and 67

The Facts:

• Don't believe the lies ... 66 & 67 tax EVERYONE!

• Many at-home corporate business owners will be taxed.

• Any tax on business is always passed-down to the customer - that means YOU!

By Sharon Livingston

It must be some kind of joke. That was my first thought after reading the ballot titles for the two tax measures on the January ballot. As chief petitioner in the effort to refer the Legislature's personal income tax increase, I expected some shenanigans from Democratic legislators on the special committee writing the ballot title. Why else set up a special committee to circumvent the normal drafting process? But the ballot titles for Measures 66 and 67 read like voters' pamphlet statements from tax increase proponents. The authors had to be kidding.

They weren't. The joke is on those of us Oregonians who expect ballot titles to be even-handed, objective descriptions of the critical issues before voters.

I'm an eastern Oregon rancher. This is not how we operate where I live and do business. I don't think it's how most Oregonians believe they should be treated by their Legislature. In fact, Oregon law requires ballot titles to be impartial. These legislatively engineered ballot titles are flat prejudicial.

The obvious slant can be seen in the fact that the "Result of a 'Yes' Vote" statements for both measures are nearly twice as

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IT'S THE AMERICAN PEOPLE'S FAULT!



By Ron Lee
US~Observer

The United States is in distress and it's the people's fault. That's right, I said it; and somewhere close to your heart, even though you want to deny it, you know it is true. Everything we now face in this rising tide of socialist takeover is because we, collectively, have done nothing. Even more, in many cases we have asked

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Elderly Woman Forced Into State Custody



Trempealeau County Court House

By Joseph Snook
Investgative Reporter

Trempealeau County, WI - She's not a criminal. She's broken no laws. But, She's being held against her will by the State of Wisconsin. Why? It's a tragic story about what

can happen when you are alone in the world and lose control of your rights, your money, and your ability to complain. This is what has been reported about an elderly lady from Manitowac, Wisconsin.

Shigeko Skarvan, a widow and "forced" patient of over

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Bikers Receive Settlement US~Observer and Bikers Both Win

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

Josephine County, OR - On November 30, 2009, a settlement was reached in Lane County, Oregon between plaintiffs Stan Strange,

Glenn Seybold, Louie Pombo and the insurance companies representing defendants Eric Harris Hill, Samantha Pettigrew and Alexander Golden. The settlement concerned a civil lawsuit that the bikers filed on August 25, 2008.

The lawsuit claimed, "On or about August 27, 2006, defendant Hill was operating his vehicle close behind plaintiffs

and tried to run plaintiffs off the road on Highway 199. When plaintiffs pulled over at a diner to call the police, defendant Hill stopped his car and plaintiff Strange was speaking with defendant Hill when defendant Hill rolled up the window of his car and caught plaintiffs arm in the window and then defendant Hill drove his vehicle, dragging plaintiff Strange along the



Stan Strange (left), Louie Pombo (top right), Glenn Seybold (bottom right)

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Continued from page 1 - It's the American People's Fault

for it. You haven't asked for it, you say? Well, I would suggest that it is through our personal inaction; our abdication of our responsibilities for our American citizenship that we have indirectly requested someone to take the reins, and they have. With both hands gripping tightly they are steering us on a course to the complete loss of our way of life. But, hey, it's okay as long as you still have your HDTV, your internet connectivity, your ability to dial 911 when you are accosted, and your false sense that America can't be destroyed, right?

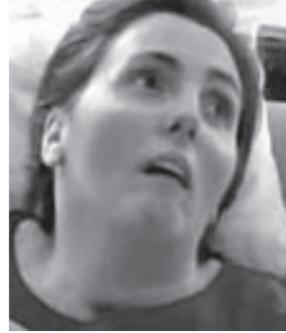
Bottom line, wrath, greed, sloth, pride, lust, envy, and gluttony are alive and well in America. Not only are these the 7 deadly sins, these detractors are what our American "Way" has become. They are now our culture. How sad that the cost of "keeping up with the Jones'" was the loss of our own cultural soul. So distracted are the masses that they can't see the writing on the wall - when government controls what you do, what you eat, what you say, what you think, there is no more freedom! People seem to forget, or maybe ignore, that we alone are responsible for our lives. In part, that is what it is to be free; no one ruling your life making decisions that direct your life in any other way than how you would choose to live it. Yet, through time, mis-education, hardship, government expansion, and our own greed, we have given that control to the government.

Shhh!!! You say. You like government hand-outs and welfare; you like that Big Brother will stick up for you when you get picked on. Well, it won't be long before your funds run dry, and your Brother tells you your stupid and kicks you to the curb. Read history; it has all happened before!

For those of you who see what it is becoming and realize that our economy is not sustainable; that our freedoms are almost completely gone; that our "representatives" are not representative of our values, views, wants, and needs, it is time to do more more than go to the local coffee shop and complain about the country's state of affairs. The time has passed when "tea parties" had any effectiveness. They are doing what they want, and they are not listening to our voices and it is time to redress our grievances. It is time to act.

I'm not talking taking up arms, nor am I suggesting any violence on the people's part, but I am suggesting we take direct action.

Several years ago there was a woman named Terri Schiavo. Some might remember her. The courts ruled to take her feeding tube out and starve her to death. They did this because her "husband" (who had run off and spawned several children with another woman) petitioned that she had no quality of life, and that he couldn't care for her any longer. The courts refused her parents request to continue caring for her, and they even refused to see the simplicity that the husband reportedly stood to earn several million dollars upon her death. So, the ruling held, and from March 18, 2005, to the time that she died at a Pinellas Park hospice on March 31, 2005, she was starved by our system. Thousands gathered outside of her hospice, protesting, chanting to put the feeding tube back in ... But, demonstration



Terri Schiavo

is not action. All it would have taken was for the multitudes to just walk in and make the change. But, they didn't. They were scared. I was scared.

Fast-forward to today. We just had thousands of people on the steps of the capitol chanting to stop the healthcare legislation. We also had hundreds of thousands call their representatives and voice their opposition to the bills. And guess what, they aren't listening people!!!

C'mon, walk in. It's time. What can they do? What would they? If all the thousands just walked in and called for an immediate public vote of no confidence on our current governing body they couldn't and wouldn't stop us. If they tried, it would ignite something much larger than they would ever imagine ... We have the power! We are the People!

But, I have heard it time and again ... "just wait for the election, things will get better then." Uh, no. They won't. Some of the biggest steps backwards from our constitutional republic came under the care of a Republican in office.

Our system has been broken for a long time; it has been controlled for a long time and if we don't do something now, it won't be long before all of our choices are made for us, and all of our freedoms are gone and, truly, it will be

all of our faults for not acting.

Write me, tell me what you think!
ron@usobserver.com

■ ■

The Truth About the Health Care Bills

By Michael Connelly
Retired attorney,
Constitutional Law Instructor
Carrollton, Texas

Well, I have done it! I have read the entire text of proposed House Bill 3200: The Affordable Health Care Choices Act of 2009. I studied it with particular emphasis from my area of expertise, constitutional law. I was frankly concerned that parts of the proposed law that were being discussed might be unconstitutional. What I found was far worse than what I had heard or expected.

To begin with, much of what has been said about the law and its implications is in fact true, despite what the Democrats and the media are saying. The law does provide for rationing of health care, particularly where senior citizens and other classes of citizens are involved, free health care for illegal immigrants, free abortion services, and probably forced participation in abortions by members of the medical profession.

The Bill will also eventually force private insurance companies out of business, and put everyone into a government run system. All decisions about personal health care will ultimately be made by federal bureaucrats, and most of them will not be health care professionals. Hospital admissions, payments to physicians, and allocations of necessary medical devices will be strictly controlled by the government.

However, as scary as all of that is, it just scratches the surface. In fact, I have concluded that this legislation really has no intention of providing affordable health care choices. Instead it is a convenient cover for the most massive transfer of power to the Executive Branch of government that has ever occurred, or even been contemplated. If this law or a similar one is adopted, major portions of the Constitution of the United States will effectively have been destroyed.

The first thing to go will be the masterfully crafted balance of power between the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of the U.S. Government. The Congress will be transferring to the Obama Administration authority in a number of different areas over the lives of the American people, and the businesses they own.

The irony is that the Congress doesn't have any authority to legislate in most of those areas to begin with! I defy anyone to read the text of the U.S. Constitution and find any authority granted to the members of Congress to regulate health care.

This legislation also provides for access, by the appointees of the Obama administration, of all of your personal healthcare direct violation of the specific

provisions of the 4th Amendment to the Constitution information, your personal financial information, and the information of your employer, physician, and hospital. All of this is a protecting against unreasonable searches and seizures. You can also forget about the right to privacy. That will have been legislated into oblivion regardless of what the 3rd and 4th Amendments may provide.

If you decide not to have healthcare insurance, or if you have private insurance that is not deemed acceptable to the Health Choices Administrator appointed by Obama, there will be a tax imposed on you. It is called a tax instead of a fine because of the intent to avoid application of the due process clause of the 5th Amendment. However, that doesn't work because since there is nothing in the law that allows you to contest or appeal the imposition of the tax, it is definitely depriving someone of property without the due process of law.

So, there are three of those pesky amendments that the far left hate so much, out the original ten in the Bill of Rights, that are effectively nullified by this law. It doesn't stop there though.

The 9th Amendment that provides: The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be

construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people;

The 10th Amendment states: The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are preserved to the States respectively, or to the people. Under the provisions of this piece of Congressional handiwork neither the people nor the states are going to have any rights or powers at all in many areas that once were theirs to control.

I could write many more pages about this legislation, but I think you get the idea. This is not about health care; it is about seizing power and limiting rights. Article 6 of the Constitution requires the members of both houses of Congress to "be bound by oath or affirmation to support the Constitution." If I was a member of Congress I would not be able to vote for this legislation or anything like it, without feeling I was violating that sacred oath or affirmation. If I voted for it anyway, I would hope the American people would hold me accountable.

For those who might doubt the nature of this threat, I suggest they consult the source, the US Constitution, and Bill of Rights. There you can see exactly what we are about to have taken from us.

■ ■

Continued from page 1 - Vote NO on 66 & 67

long as the "Result of a 'No' Vote" statements.

Oregonians have the right to know key facts about the tax increases they'll vote on in January. They have a right to know the Legislature's tax increases are permanent. Neither ballot title says so. Voters are given no clue that legislators exploited a short-term economic crisis to pass permanent tax increases.

Oregonians also have a right to know that the tax increases are retroactive. Neither ballot title clearly explains that the tax increases reach back to Jan. 1, 2009, and that no money has been withheld from Oregon taxpayers to cover these retroactive tax increases.

Oregonians have a right to know that the tax package includes a new tax of up to \$100,000 on businesses that do not make a profit. There's no mention of that.

Oregonians have a right to know that defeat of these measures will not mean automatic cuts to current budgets. The two ballot titles engage in pure speculation to suggest this will be the case.

It's sad to say, but ramming through ballot titles that are long on electioneering and short on even-handedness is part of the legislative leadership's pattern of delay, denial and deceit on these tax increases.

First, the leaders denied requests to send the measures out for a vote. Then they tried to change the law so a "yes" vote would mean no and a "no" vote would mean yes if the taxes made it to the ballot. Then they said nothing as Gov. Ted Kulongoski delayed signing the measures so citizens would have less time to gather signatures to put them on the ballot. They even spent taxpayer dollars to hire private investigators to spy on signature gatherers.

Now they have conspired to turn our ballot into campaign propaganda.

No, not funny. Shameful.

■ ■

Vote NO on 66 and 67

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- NO to Small Business Closures
- NO to Double Taxation
- NO to Higher Prices

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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 many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your case and you should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the

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

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

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In The Nation

Laws covering texting, tanning beds, trans-fat take effect in 2010

(CNN) -- Legislatures in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, the Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico met in 2009, leading to the enactment of 40,697 laws, many of which take effect January 1.

The new laws cover a variety of areas, from texting and tanning beds to human trafficking and seat-belt safety.

New Hampshire, Oregon and Illinois join 16 other states that prohibit motorists from sending text messages while driving.

Gloria Wilhelm fought for the Illinois law after her son, Matt, was struck and killed while he was riding his bike by a driver who was downloading cell phone ring tones.

"These are incredibly selfish and dangerous behaviors," she said.

A new law in Oregon requires children under the age of 16 to wear a seat belt on an all-terrain vehicle or in a car while on public property.

Same-sex couples will be able to marry in New Hampshire beginning January 1 under New Hampshire General Court HB 436, and the state joins Massachusetts, Connecticut, Vermont and Iowa in legalizing same-sex marriages. In California, SB 54 requires the state to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other states while such marriages were legal in California.

The legislation covers same-sex marriages performed between June 16, 2008, and November 5, 2008, when a ballot initiative, Proposition 8, banned same-sex marriage in the state constitution.

A California measure that limits trans fat in restaurant food also takes effect January 1. Enacted in 2008, it requires restaurants to use oils, margarines and shortenings that have less than half a gram of trans fat



per serving. A similar provision will apply to baked goods in 2011.

A statewide smoking ban in bars and restaurants that will take effect in North Carolina, the nation's biggest producer of tobacco, has drawn mixed reactions.

"I find it rather annoying that they're going to turn me into the police," tavern owner Van Allston said.

Not all laws become effective January 1. State constitutions or statutes typically establish when laws go into effect, and the date is written into the specific piece of legislation.

CNN's Kara Finnstrom and Emanuella Grinberg contributed to this report.

•••
Responses to this story:

ewq321: it's only going to get worse...more laws and less liberty...till the revolution...

barnzai: Lawyers make the rules and regulations. The more rules and regulations they make, the more opportunities they have to make money from the rest of us breaking the rules and regulations.

Pretty good gig, If you're a lawyer...

Annexian: The Fascist Insect feeds on the blood of the people in the pretense of "Protecting" them. •••

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Edward Snook, owner and publisher of the US~Observer says that the only way to effect change at the grass-roots level is through exposure

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Ritze to File ObamaCare "Opt Out"

OKLAHOMA CITY – State Rep. Mike Ritze said the voters of Oklahoma should have the opportunity to preserve their health care coverage even if Congress enacts sweeping changes at the federal level.

To provide that opportunity, he will file legislation this year allowing a vote of the people to opt out of the proposed federal system.

"Polling shows the overwhelming majority of Americans are satisfied with their health care coverage and do not want it taken away," said Ritze, a Broken Arrow Republican who is also a board-certified family practice physician and surgeon. "Many of the proposals under consideration in Congress are likely to result in reduced access to a family doctor, rationing of services, or even outright denial of care if a bureaucrat decides it is not a 'best practice.' My legislation would give the voters the ability to protect and preserve their existing health care coverage."

Modeled on an Arizona proposal, Ritze's legislation would place language on the ballot to amend the Oklahoma Constitution to declare what types of health



Oklahoma State Rep. Mike Ritze



care systems could lawfully exist in the state.

The proposed amendment would:

- Prohibit any law or rule from directly or indirectly compelling any person or employer to participate in any health care system;

- Allow any person or employer to pay directly for lawful health care services without paying any penalties or fines;

- Permit a health care provider to provide directly purchased lawful health services without paying any penalties or fines; and

- Stipulate that subject to reasonable and necessary rules that do not substantially limit a person's options, the purchase or sale of private health insurance will not be prohibited.

The amendment would not change what health care services a provider is required to perform or what health care services are permitted by law.

"This is an issue that could have serious consequences for all citizens and it is only right to allow voters a direct role in the outcome of this debate," Ritze said. •••

Health Facts

A recent "Investor's Business Daily" article provided very interesting statistics from a survey by the United Nations International Health Organization.

Percentage of men and women who survived a cancer five years after diagnosis:

U.S.	65%
England	46%
Canada	42%

Percentage of patients diagnosed with diabetes who received treatment within six months:

U.S.	93%
England	15%
Canada	43%

Percentage of seniors needing hip replacement who received it within six months:

U.S.	90%
England	15%
Canada	43%

Percentage referred to a

medical specialist who see one within one month:

U.S.	77%
England	40%
Canada	43%

Number of MRI scanners (a prime diagnostic tool) per million people:

U.S.	71
England	14
Canada	18

Percentage of seniors (65+), with low income, who say they are in "excellent health":

U.S.	12%
England	2%
Canada	6%

I don't know about you, but I don't want "Universal Healthcare" comparable to England or Canada.

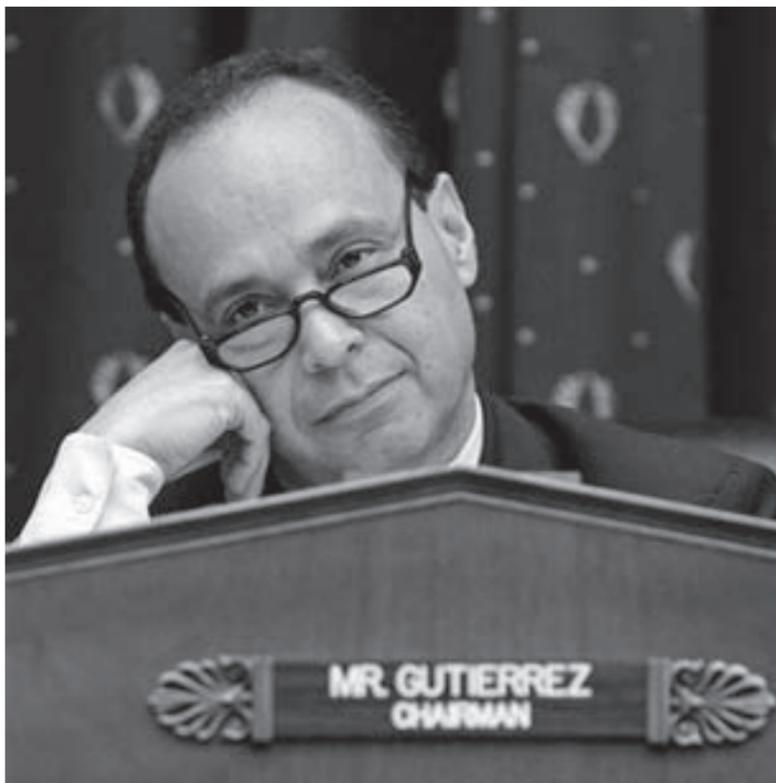
Moreover, it was Sen. Harry Reid who said "...Elderly Americans must learn to accept the inconveniences of old age."

Ship his elderly, arrogant ass to Canada or England!

Amnesty for illegal aliens revived by Democrats

By Jim Kouri
Law Enforcement Examiner

"I believe the support base for this kind of compassionate and comprehensive legislation is strong and far reaching, and I believe the votes are there to pass it. I have always said that immigration reform will not be easy; but it is time we had a workable plan working its way through Congress that recognizes the vast contributions of immigrants to this country and that honors the American Dream." - Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL)



US Lawmakers who continue to call for immigration reform claimed at a press conference and rally that the current economic debacle should not deter legislation legalizing illegal immigrants. The Congressmen have been actively talking to advocacy and civil rights groups, faith-based groups, labor groups and their colleagues on the Hill -- particularly members of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC), the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) and Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC) -- to identify the most essential components of such a comprehensive bill.

A coalition of Democrats led by Rep. Luis V. Gutierrez, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Immigration Task Force, Rep. Nydia Velázquez, Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, and Rep. Michael Honda, Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus stated that fixing the immigration system can help American workers as well, although they fell short of actually spelling out how it would help American citizens.

These leaders proposed that illegal immigrants register with the US government, pay a \$500 fine for each adult, learn English, pass background checks and meet other requirements. Then they would become eligible for a special six-year visa followed by access to a green card

"We simply cannot wait any longer for a bill that keeps our families together, protects our workers and allows a pathway to legalization for those who have earned it," said Rep. Gutierrez. "Saying immigration is a priority for this Administration or this Congress is not the same as seeing tangible action, and the longer we wait, the more every single piece of legislation we debate will be obstructed by our failure to pass

comprehensive reform."

"We need a bill that says if you come here to hurt our communities, we will not support you; but if you are here to work hard and to make a better life for your family, you will have the opportunity to earn your citizenship. We need a law that says it is un-American for a mother to be torn from her child, and it is unacceptable to undermine our workforce by driving the most vulnerable among us further into the shadows," said Gutierrez.

In the past, Rep. Gutierrez called US Border Patrol agents "the Gestapo" and likened immigration enforcement to Nazi Germany. He's been supported by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, who characterized immigration enforcement as being "un-American."

"I believe the support base for this kind of compassionate and comprehensive legislation is strong and far reaching, and I believe the votes are there to pass it. I have always said that immigration reform will not be easy; but it is time we had a workable plan working its way through Congress that recognizes the vast contributions of immigrants to this country and that honors the American Dream," he stated at the event titled "Immigration Rally & Outlining of Core Bill Principles."

But some attendees asked about the crime being committed by a large number of illegal aliens already in the US, including gang violence.

The US Justice Department estimates there are over 750,000 gang members who are illegal aliens and over 27,000 gang that are comprised of illegal aliens and visa-overstays -- people who came into the US legally,

but remained after expiration of their visas.

The escalation in alien crime has placed added demands on state and local law enforcement personnel. Effective identification of aliens involved in crime requires familiarity with fraudulent documentation. Proper arrest procedures must be carried out, and complex notification and reporting requirements must be satisfied; otherwise, dangerous aliens can escape prosecution and deportation. Handling the myriad problems associated with alien crimes is often beyond the capabilities of local police departments.

More than two-thirds of the illegal alien defendants charged with an immigration offense were identified as having been previously arrested. Thirty-six percent had been arrested on at least 5 prior occasions; 22%, 2 to 4 times; and 12%, 1 time.

Sixty-one percent of those defendants had been convicted at least once; 18%, 5 or more times; 26%, 2 to 4 times; and 17%, 1 time. Of those charged, 49% had previously been convicted of a felony: 20% of a drug offense; 18%, a violent offense; and 11%, other felony offenses. Twelve percent had previously been convicted of a misdemeanor.

Defendants charged with unlawful reentry had the most extensive criminal histories. Nine in ten had been previously arrested. Of those with a prior arrest, half had been arrested on at least 5 prior occasions.

Fifty-six percent of those charged with a reentry offense had previously been convicted of a violent or drug-related felony. By contrast, under half of those charged with alien smuggling, a third of those charged with unlawful entry, and just over a quarter those charged with misuse of visas and other charges had previously been arrested.

The criminal histories of these defendants were generally less extensive: more than 70% had been previously arrested fewer than 5 times.

Immigration fraud is another method used by criminals and terrorists to gain entry into the United States and carryout their agendas. The Identity and Benefits Fraud Unit, an investigative component of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement, is charged with detecting, deterring, and disrupting the fraudulent schemes used by terrorist and criminal organizations.

In fiscal year 2008, the IBF Unit opened almost 3,800 new cases of immigration fraud and received or developed over 7,000 leads.

Jim Kouri, CPP is currently fifth vice-president of the National Association of Chiefs of Police and he's a columnist for The Examiner (examiner.com) and New Media Alliance (thenma.org). In addition, he's a blogger for the Cheyenne, Wyoming Fox News Radio affiliate KGAB (www.kgab.com). Kouri also serves as political advisor for Emmy and Golden Globe winning actor Michael Moriarty. ■■

National security is in President Obama's court

By Kathleen Parker
Washington Post

As the new year begins, two facts emerge: George W. Bush is officially retired as the fault-guy for the nation's ills, and Barack Obama owns the game.

Whether he wants to or not.

Every president deserves a year of grace to adapt to the job and adjust to its Himalayan learning curve. As Obama's first year ends -- almost with a bang, thanks to a lonely Nigerian who found love in jihad -- his grace period is up.

Indeed, depending on how he responds to the security breach that almost brought down a Detroit-bound flight from Amsterdam, Obama's presidency is at risk of being rendered prematurely

impotent.

If Bush could be blamed for the dot-connecting inadequacies that helped enable the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, eight months into his administration, then Obama can fairly be held responsible for the incompetence that allowed a disaffected jihadist to get explosive powder onto a plane.

The banality of our most recent would-be attack is almost too on-the-nose to exploit, but really. The son of a Nigerian banker, already a punch line to all who've been spammed by e-mailers alleging to be Nigerian bankers promising riches, packs his underwear with explosive material? Was this fellow computer-generated by a cartoon character?

If it weren't all so bloody horrifying,

the incident would be ridiculous.

Which, come to think of it, is a fair appraisal of the Obama administration's initial performance when faced with a potentially catastrophic terrorist strike. The dots that needed connecting were all but performing the California Raisin dance. Were we ever justified in hoping for better?

National security was never considered Obama's strong suit. Back in September 2008, if I may be excused for quoting myself, I wrote: "I worry that Obama isn't serious enough about terrorism and free markets. . . . I worry about Obama's over-intellectualizing -- that he will get lost in a maze of deep thoughts and fail to be decisive when necessary."

Or lost on a golf course, as the case

may be.

Obama's open-collared vacation response from Hawaii was delivered on Katrina time -- about two days too late -- and fell a few links short of reassuring. Something about humans and systems failing. Yes, well, that would about cover it.

Deep breath.

The cool detachment that was so attractive when political opponents were trying to rile Obama is suddenly becoming annoying. Preternaturally unflappable, his demeanor in these circumstances borders on inappropriate.

What does it take to get a rise out of Barack Obama? Not that we need bombast and flared nostrils. Calm in the face of potential disaster is laudable,

Continued on page 10

DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Top 10 corrupt politicians list for 2009 released

The following report was submitted to the National Association of Chiefs of Police by Judicial Watch:

The Washington, DC-based Judicial Watch, a public interest group that investigates and prosecutes government corruption, released its 2009 list of Washington's "Ten Most Wanted Corrupt Politicians." The list, in alphabetical order, includes nine Democrats and one Republican:

1. Senator Christopher Dodd (D-CT, pictured right): This marks two years in a row for Senator Dodd, who made the 2008 "Ten Most Corrupt" list for his corrupt relationship with Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac and for accepting preferential treatment and loan terms from Countrywide Financial, a scandal which still dogs him. In 2009, the scandals kept coming for the Connecticut Democrat.



In 2009, Judicial Watch filed a Senate ethics complaint against Dodd for undervaluing a property he owns in Ireland on his Senate Financial Disclosure forms. Judicial Watch's complaint forced Dodd to amend the forms. However, press reports suggest the property to this day remains undervalued. Judicial Watch also alleges in the complaint that Dodd obtained a sweetheart deal for the property in exchange for his assistance in obtaining a presidential pardon (during the Clinton administration) and other favors for a long-time friend and business associate. The false financial disclosure forms were part of the cover-up. Dodd remains the head the Senate Banking Committee.



2. Senator John Ensign (R-NV): A number of scandals popped up in

2009 involving public officials who conducted illicit affairs, and then attempted to cover them up with hush payments and favors, an obvious abuse of power. The year's worst offender might just be Nevada Republican Senator John Ensign. Ensign admitted in June to an extramarital affair with the wife of one of his staff members, who then allegedly obtained special favors from the Nevada Republican in exchange for his silence.

According to The New York Times: "The Justice Department and the Senate Ethics Committee are expected to conduct preliminary inquiries into whether Senator John Ensign violated federal law or ethics rules as part of an effort to conceal an affair with the wife of an aide..." The former staffer, Douglas Hampton, began to lobby Mr. Ensign's office immediately upon leaving his congressional job, despite the fact that he was subject to a one-year lobbying ban. Ensign seems to have ignored the law and allowed Hampton lobbying access to his office as a payment for his silence about the affair. (These are potentially criminal offenses.) It looks as if Ensign misused his public office (and taxpayer resources) to cover up his sexual shenanigans.



3. Rep. Barney Frank (D-MA): Judicial Watch is investigating a \$12 million TARP cash injection provided to the Boston-based OneUnited Bank at the urging of Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank. As reported in the January 22, 2009, edition of the Wall Street Journal, the Treasury Department indicated it would only provide funds to healthy banks to jump-start lending. Not only was OneUnited Bank in massive financial turmoil, but

it was also "under attack from its regulators for allegations of poor lending practices and executive-pay abuses, including owning a Porsche for its executives' use." Rep. Frank admitted he spoke to a "federal regulator," and Treasury granted the funds. (The bank continues to flounder despite Frank's intervention for federal dollars.)

Moreover, Judicial Watch uncovered documents in 2009 that showed that members of Congress for years were aware that Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac were playing fast and loose with accounting issues, risk assessment issues and executive compensation issues, even as liberals led by Rep. Frank continued to block attempts to rein in the two Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs). For example, during a hearing on September 10, 2003, before the House Committee on Financial Services considering a Bush administration proposal to further regulate Fannie and Freddie, Rep. Frank stated: "I want to begin by saying that I am glad to consider the legislation, but I do not think we are facing any kind of a crisis. That is, in my view, the two Government Sponsored Enterprises we are talking about here, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, are not in a crisis. We have recently had an accounting problem with Freddie Mac that has led to people being dismissed, as appears to be appropriate. I do not think at this point there is a problem with a threat to the Treasury." Frank received \$42,350 in campaign contributions from Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac between 1989 and 2008. Frank also engaged in a relationship with a Fannie Mae Executive while serving on the House Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac.



4. Secretary of Treasury Timothy Geithner: In 2009, Obama Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner admitted that he failed to pay \$34,000 in Social Security and Medicare taxes from 2001-2004 on his lucrative salary at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an organization with 185 member countries that oversees the global financial system. (Did we mention Geithner now runs the IRS?) It wasn't until President Obama tapped Geithner to head the Treasury Department that he paid back most of the money, although the IRS kindly waived the hefty penalties.

In March 2009, Geithner also came under fire for his handling of the AIG bonus scandal, where the company used \$165 million of its bailout funds to pay out executive bonuses, resulting in a massive public backlash. Of course as head of the New York Federal Reserve, Geithner helped craft the AIG deal in September 2008. However, when the AIG scandal broke, Geithner claimed he knew nothing of the bonuses until March 10, 2009. The timing is

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 1 - Bikers Receive Settlement

roadway causing damages and injury to plaintiff Strange."

During the May, 2008, criminal trial all three defendants gave different stories as they testified. They were all caught in their lies when two separate and independent eye witnesses told the jury what had actually occurred. The eye witness testimony matched the testimony of Strange, Seybold and Pombo.

The lawsuit continues, "Defendants tried to run the three plaintiffs off the road on Highway 199, and then all three defendants lied to the police, the district attorney and a jury about the facts of the incident and caused the three plaintiffs to be arrested and prosecuted for reckless driving and caused plaintiff Strange to be charged with assault as well. Upon trial of the matter, the jury, after hearing the false testimony of the defendants returned a verdict of acquittal for the plaintiffs after deliberating for less than 15 minutes."

Josephine County, Oregon District Attorney Stephen Campbell was responsible for wasting thousands of tax dollars attempting to falsely prosecute the bikers back in May of 2008. The incident between the plaintiffs and defendants actually took place August 27, 2008 (see www.usobserver.com for complete coverage of the "Biker Case"). Campbell completely ignored conclusive evidence, exonerating

Strange, Seybold and Pombo as he forced the expensive and frivolous criminal case to trial.

The dollar amount of the settlement won't be disclosed due to terms of the settlement, but the US~Observer will disclose the fact that corrupted Lane County Judge Karsten Rasmussen warned the bikers not to talk about the settlement with anyone. Whatever amount the bikers received from the criminal college students who set them up on false criminal charges, it isn't enough.

It should be noted that Josephine County District Attorney Stephen Campbell and his assistant Nick Tran (Tran actually conducted the attempted false prosecution at the direction of Stephen Campbell) were not sued due to completely vile immunity statutes that have been created by and for the real criminals in our society. They should have both been sued and if Americans still possessed one shred of justice in our troubled world they would have both been sent to prison.

It has been reported that Josephine County Assistant Prosecutor Nick Tran's employment was terminated not too long after the "Biker Trial." Tran reportedly went to work for a Josephine County law firm for a short time and he is now reportedly employed as a Jackson County Assistant District Attorney. Go figure...

••

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Continued from page 6 - Top 10 corrupt politicians ...

important.

According to CNN: "Although Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner told congressional leaders on Tuesday that he learned of AIG's impending \$160 million bonus payments to members of its troubled financial-products unit on March 10, sources tell TIME that the New York Federal Reserve informed Treasury staff that the payments were imminent on Feb. 28. That is ten days before Treasury staffers say they first learned 'full details' of the bonus plan, and three days before the [Obama] Administration launched a new \$30 billion infusion of cash for AIG." Throw in another embarrassing disclosure in 2009 that Geithner employed "household help" ineligible to work in the United States, and it becomes clear why the Treasury Secretary has earned a spot on the "Ten Most Corrupt Politicians in Washington" list.



5. Attorney General Eric Holder:

Tim Geithner can be sure he won't be hounded about his tax-dodging by his colleague Eric Holder, US Attorney General. Judicial Watch strongly opposed Holder because of his terrible ethics record, which includes: obstructing an FBI investigation of the theft of nuclear secrets from Los Alamos Nuclear Laboratory; rejecting multiple requests for an independent counsel to investigate alleged fundraising abuses by then-Vice President Al Gore in the

Clinton White House; undermining the criminal investigation of President Clinton by Kenneth Starr in the midst of the Lewinsky investigation; and planning the violent raid to seize then-six-year-old Elian Gonzalez at gunpoint in order to return him to Castro's Cuba. Moreover, there is his soft record on terrorism.

Holder bypassed Justice Department procedures to push through Bill Clinton's scandalous presidential pardons and commutations, including for 16 members of FALN, a violent Puerto Rican terrorist group that orchestrated approximately 120 bombings in the United States, killing at least six people and permanently maiming dozens of others, including law enforcement officers. His record in the current administration is no better. As he did during the Clinton administration, Holder continues to ignore serious incidents of corruption that could impact his political bosses at the White House. For example, Holder has refused to investigate charges that the Obama political machine traded VIP access to the White House in exchange for campaign contributions – a scheme eerily similar to one hatched by Holder's former boss, Bill Clinton in the 1990s. The Holder Justice Department also came under fire for dropping a voter intimidation case against the New Black Panther Party. On Election Day 2008, Black Panthers dressed in paramilitary garb threatened voters as they approached polling stations.

Holder has also failed to initiate a comprehensive Justice investigation of the notorious organization ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now), which is closely tied to President Obama. There were allegedly more than 400,000 fraudulent ACORN voter registrations in the 2008 campaign. And then there were the journalist videos catching ACORN Housing workers advising undercover reporters on how to evade tax, immigration, and child prostitution laws. Holder's controversial decisions on new rights for terrorists and his attacks on previous efforts to combat terrorism remind many of the fact that his former law firm has provided and continues to provide pro bono representation to terrorists at Guantanamo Bay. Holder's

Continued on page 13

Grange Resolutions For a stronger America

Subject: Oppose the National I.D. Act (REAL ID)

Whereas: The National I.D. Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Bush on May 11, 2005. Without this I.D. card, you won't be allowed to drive your car, board an airplane, train, or bus, nor enter any federal buildings, open a bank account, or hold a job. How much buying or selling of things will you be allowed to do and will a person's social security checks be cut-off if they don't get this card?

Whereas: This I.D. act tells the state governments that their issuance of state driver's licenses will now become the National I.D. cards. The National I.D. Act infringes on one's personal liberty.

Whereas: American citizens who have committed no crime will be subject to fingerprinting, or retinal scan, or both, and all other means of I.D. will be required to carry a card with an embedded computer chip containing reams of personal information.

Whereas: Eric Skrum of the National Motorists Association put it this way, "Ultimately, anybody in any state with a card reader would be able to look up your personal driving record, credit rating, social security number, health information, personal address, and anything else the government would force you to divulge in order to 'voluntarily' obtain a driver's license."

Whereas: The power to determine what will be stored on these I.D. cards was given to an un-elected bureaucrat, Michael Chertoff (now Janet Napolitano), who was appointed to a cabinet position as head of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Whereas: The scary thing about this I.D. Act is the fact that approximately 2000 years ago, written in the King James Bible, in the Book of Revelation, Chapter 13, St. John the Devine tells how in the end times an Anti-Christ beast would appear and cause all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive the mark of the beast in their right hand and on their forehead. Those who do not take this mark are scheduled to be killed. In reviewing all of this information, are we to understand that we will, some day in the near future, be forced by our government to receive a satellite surveillance radio frequency transponder I.D. chip in our bodies like the one our U.S. Department of Agriculture is trying to force the farmers and ranchers to implant in their animals?

Whereas: Our Federal Government is trying to sell us on this National I.D. System as a tool for fighting the "War on Terror" while at the same time leaving our borders open and overrun since the year of 1986.

Whereas: Over 28 plus states are opposed to the I.D. Act and Couth Carolina government's Mark Sanford says he wants no part of it. Why? For one reason -- the law was crammed into a South Asian Tsunami relief bill, with no debate in Congress. It is an unfunded mandate that will cost the states 25+ Billion dollars. Because there is so much opposition by the state governments, Michael Chertoff extended the compliance time to January 1, 2010.

Whereas: The U.S. Constitution's 9th Bill of Rights tells about the enumeration of Congressional powers which are listed in Article 1, Section 8. There are a total of 18 listed powers and none of these cover the subject of a Driver's License National I.D. Act. Therefore, Congress has no authority to pass said law.

Whereas: The right to issue Driver's Licenses by State Governments has been given this exclusive authority per Amendment 10 of the U.S. Constitution, without any interference from the Federal Government.

Whereas: Per United States Supremem Court ruling Marbury vs. Madison, 1803, "Law repugnant to the Constitution is void ... for I can not call it law contrary to the first great principle of the social impact ... (IT) cannot be considered a rightful exercise of legislative authority" (Reference, Untied States Supremem Court, Marbury vs. Madison, 1803, 2 L Ed. 60; 1 (ra. 137; Ref. 6 Whea; 246 & Wal 601)

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange is opposed to the National I.D. Act, and requests the U.S. Congress to rescind this law; and, if they refuse, we request the Supremem Court do it for the citizens of the United States of America.

This resolution was adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at it's regular meeting held on April 4, 2008.

This resolution was adopted by the Oregon State Grange at it's 135th Annual State Session held at Prineville, Oregon, week of June 16-20, 2008.

William D. Waggoner,
Master
1920 Thompson Creek Rd.
Selma, OR 97538

Delaine Sherman,
Secretary
PO Box 871
Selma, OR 97538



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COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out



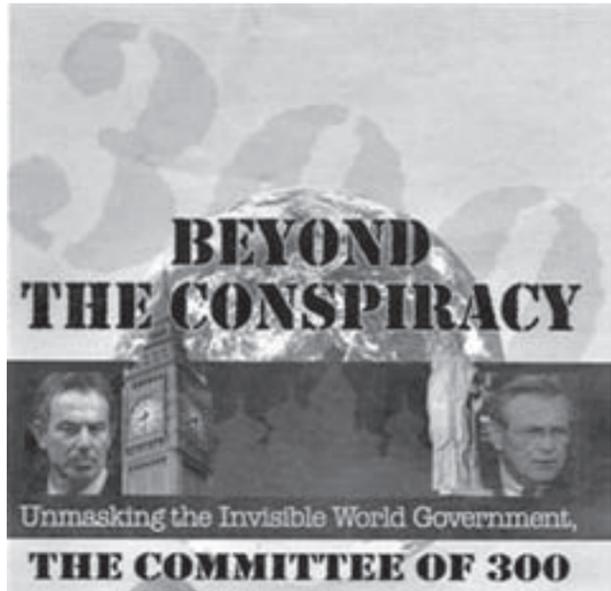
Philosophy vs. Conspiracy

By Jerry Salcido

Anyone who has worked in support of the liberty movement knows an unfortunate truth: it is all too

often associated, rightly or wrongly, with "conspiracy theories" -- those all too often unsubstantiated, speculative viewpoints on various topics such as the assassination of JFK, the attempted assassination of Reagan, 9/11, the role of the Rockefellers and Rothschilds in modern world history, and the current doings of the Bilderbergers, Trilateral Commission, and the Council on Foreign Relations. The problem is that liberty's enemies are very aware of this association as well and they use it to their advantage. Too often freedom's detractors slander the liberty movement as being filled with conspiracy nuts and other wackos.

But you know what? In this regard, the dissidents have a point.



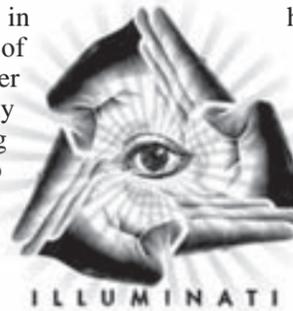
Now before any of you David-Icke-website-readers throw your latest edition of The Committee of 300 at your computer screen out of frustration, please know that I could care less if you believe that the Queen of England is the head of a vast secret organization hell-bent on making the United States English colonies again; or, that the Illuminati has been working for 300 years to reduce all mankind to slavery; or, that



the Rothschilds have surreptitiously started every war since 1850 through their financing of national governments. Obviously, what you choose to believe is your prerogative and your right.

I can even admire many of the conspiracy theorists for their zeal in trying to bring to light corruption and some of the important questions they have raised (Why did Tower 7 fall anyway?) which poke holes in the "official" story. But at the end of the day, those same issues, no matter how entertaining or interesting, only become road blocks in furthering liberty, because no one wants to discuss universal healthcare, TARP, the deficit, or the War on Terror with someone who leads the discussion with "9/11 was an inside job" or "JFK was assassinated because he was going to get rid of the Federal Reserve."

More pragmatically, with regards to the furtherance of liberty, conspiracy theories, more often than not, are irrelevant. Most people are not concerned with whether there is a secret organization or two or three, etc. that controls the world's leaders and aims to bring every nation under a one world government. Most people are, however, concerned with their



individual liberties and the governmental measures that result in their loss.

Why then worry yourselves about Freemasonry, the Bohemian Grove, or some meeting of the super-rich once a year on some resort inaccessible to the public? Your worrying may be justified, but your focus on conspiracy rather than the competing philosophies of freedom on the one hand and coercion on the other may actually hurt rather than help the liberty movement.

The liberty movement seeks to fight force and coercion no matter who seeks to do the forcing and coercing; and, the liberty movement fights bad ideas, no matter who holds or promotes them. Whether those who work to deprive us of our liberty are doing so in furtherance of a grand plan to become masters of the universe or are simply ignorant of the consequences of their actions is not the pinnacle of the liberty debate. Liberty lovers will fight for truth regardless.

That is not to say that some conspiracy theories do not warrant attention, or even, that there are not some that are true. And, if such a theory is actually true, it would naturally follow that others should be made aware of such a diabolical scheme. I do not mean to discount every theory out there and I do not wish to convey that anyone who believes in such theories is automatically a nut.

I do wish to convey, however, that conspiracy theories, and those who are fixated with such, tend to do more harm than good to the liberty movement, because they focus on conspiracy rather than philosophy.

The liberty movement needs converts... many many converts, but disseminating information about conspiracy theories is not a very effective way to obtain converts.

The only way that someone becomes a true convert is through having a change of heart and mind by accepting the philosophy of freedom. Convincing someone that the government is building FEMA camps all over the country to be used as concentration camps is really not going to convince the typical taxpaying, reality-TV-watching, one-beer-a-day-drinking American that Obama's policies are the same/just as bad as Bush's.

The liberty movement must become a movement based on rationality, common sense, objectivity, and



Continued on page 11

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

COMMENTARY

Gandhi and The Dalai Lama Are Not Opposed to Guns ... Liberals, Why Are You?

(From Robert T Fanning Jr.) - I was raised to be against guns. My parents hated guns, and believed that they only lead to crime and to accidental shootings.

Sure, I knew that the Constitution includes a right to bear arms, but I believed that it was no longer relevant and only applied to a previous era when there were "well-regulated militias". I was also taught that the government would protect us, and that private gun ownership was the danger.

And I have long been deeply influenced by leading voices for non-violence, such as Gandhi and King. And I still hope that their non-violent methods prevail.

What the Founding Fathers Said About Guns

A little research showed me that the Second Amendment had more to do with freedom than historical militias. Here's what the Founding Fathers actually said about arms:

"Laws that forbid the carrying of arms, disarm only those who are neither inclined, nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants. They serve rather to encourage than to prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed man." -- Thomas Jefferson, 1764

"What country can preserve its liberties if their rulers are not warned from time to time that their people preserve the spirit of resistance. Let them take arms." -- Thomas Jefferson

"Those who beat their swords into plowshares usually end up plowing for those who didn't." -- Ben Franklin

"Arms discourage and keep the invader and plunderer in awe, and

preserve order in the world as well as property... Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them." --Thomas Paine

"A free people ought not only to be armed and disciplined, but they should have sufficient arms and ammunition to maintain a status of independence from any who might attempt to abuse them, which would include their own government." -- George Washington

"Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect everyone who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are ruined... The great object is that every man be armed. Everyone who is able might have a gun." --Patrick Henry

"Are we at last brought to such an humiliating and debasing degradation that we cannot be trusted with arms for our own defense? Where is the difference between having our arms under our own possession and under our own direction, and having them under the management of Congress? If our defense be the real object of having those arms, in whose hands can they be trusted with more propriety, or equal safety to us, as in our own hands?" -- Patrick Henry, 3 Elliot, Debates at 386

"The Constitution shall never be construed to authorize Congress to prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms." --Samuel Adams, debates & Proceedings in the Convention of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 86-87

"The right of the people to keep and bear...arms shall not be infringed. A well regulated militia, composed of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country..." --James Madison, 1 Annals of Congress 434 (June 8, 1789)

"(The Constitution preserves) the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation...(where) the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." --James Madison

"If the representatives of the people betray their constituents, there is then no recourse left but in the exertion of that original right of self defense which is paramount to all positive forms of government..." -- Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist (#28)

"The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed." --Alexander Hamilton, The Federalist Papers at 184-B

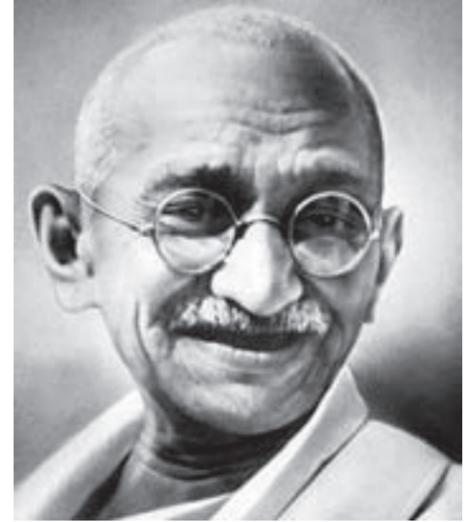
"To disarm the people is the best and most effective way to enslave them." -- George Mason

"The supreme power in America cannot enforce unjust laws by the sword; because the whole body of the people are armed, and constitute a force superior to any bands of regular troops that can be, on any pretense, raised in the United States." --Noah Webster, An Examination into the Leading Principles of the Federal Constitution (1787) in Pamphlets on the Constitution of the United States (P.Ford, 1888)

"[T]he unlimited power of the sword is not in the hands of either the federal or the state governments, but where I trust in God it will ever remain, in the hands of the People." -- Tench Coxe, Pennsylvania Gazette, Feb. 20, 1788

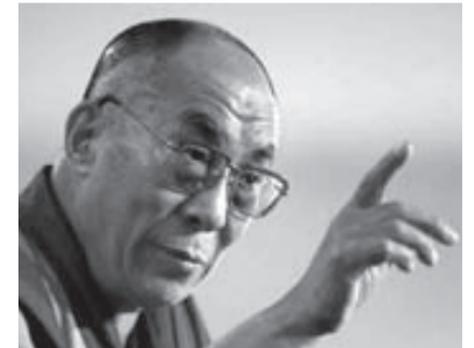
What Gandhi and the Dalai Lama Say

Digging a little deeper, I was surprised to learn that two of the best-known promoters of nonviolence in history were not opposed to guns. Specifically, Mahatma Gandhi wrote in his book, An Autobiography (page 446):



"Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the Act depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest ... if we want to learn the use of arms, here is a golden opportunity."

And as quoted in the Seattle Times, May 15, 2001, the Dalai Lama said:



"If someone has a gun and is trying to kill you, it would be reasonable to shoot back with your own gun. Not at the head, where a fatal wound might result. But at some other body part, such as a leg."

Of course, the usefulness of a gun as a defense against tyranny depends partly on the types of arms possessed by the government. Indeed, as I think through it, I now realize that this is why the statements of the Founding Fathers about guns did not resonate with me

Continued on page 10



By Ben Stein

Why is President Barack Obama in such a hurry to get his socialized medicine bill passed?

Because he and his cunning circle realize some basic truths:

The American people in their unimaginable kindness and trust voted for a pig in a poke in 2008. They wanted so much to believe Barack Obama was somehow better and different from other ultra-leftists that they simply took him on faith.

They ignored his anti-white writings in his books.

They ignored his quiet acceptance of hysterical anti-American diatribes by his minister, Jeremiah Wright.

They ignored his refusal to explain years at a time of his life as a student.

They ignored his ultra-left record as a "community organizer," Illinois state legislator, and Senator.

The American people ignored his total zero of an academic record as a student and teacher, his complete lack of scholarship when he was being touted as a

We Figured Him Out!

scholar.

Now, the American people are starting to wake up to the truth. Barack Obama is a super likeable super leftist, not a fan of this country, way, way too cozy with the terrorist leaders in the Middle East, way beyond naïveté, all the way into active destruction of our interests and our allies and our future.

The American people have already awakened to the truth that the stimulus bill -- a great idea in theory -- was really an immense bribe to Democrat interest groups, and in no way an effort to help all Americans.

Now, Americans are waking up to the truth that ObamaCare basically means that every time you are sick or injured, you will have a clerk from the Department of Motor Vehicles telling your doctor what he can and cannot do.

The American people already know that Mr. Obama's plan to lower health costs while expanding coverage and bureaucracy is a myth, a promise of something that never was and never will be -- a bureaucracy lowering costs in a free society. Either the costs go up or the free society goes away.

These are perilous times. Mrs. Hillary Clinton, our Secretary of State, has given Iran the go-ahead to have

nuclear weapons, an unqualified betrayal of the nation. Now, we face a devastating loss of freedom at home in health care. It will be joined by controls on our lives to "protect us" from global warming, itself largely a fraud if believed to be caused by man.

Mr. Obama knows Americans are getting wise and will stop him if he delays at all in taking away our freedoms. There is his urgency and our opportunity. Once freedom is lost, America is lost. Wake up, beloved America.

Ben Stein is a writer, actor, economist, and lawyer living in Beverly Hills and Malibu. He writes "Ben Stein's Diary" for every issue of The American Spectator.



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Spy chiefs turn on President Obama

By David Gardner
Daily Mail

Barack Obama was accused of double standards yesterday in his treatment of the CIA.

The President paid tribute to secret agents after seven of them were killed by a suicide bomber in Afghanistan.

In a statement, he said the CIA had been 'tested as never before' and that agents had 'served on the front lines in directly confronting the dangers of the 21st century'.

He lauded the victims as 'part of a long line of patriots who have made great sacrifices for their fellow citizens and for our way of life'.

Yet the previous day he had blasted 'systemic failures' in the CIA and other U.S. intelligence agencies for failing to prevent the Christmas Day syringe bomb attack.

Backlash: Agency officials are angry at the president's about face

'One day the President is pointing the finger and blaming the intelligence services, saying there is a systemic failure,' said one agency official. 'Now we are heroes. The fact is that we are doing everything humanly possible to stay on top of the security situation. The deaths of our operatives shows just how involved we are on the ground.'

But CIA bosses claim they were unfairly blamed at a time the covert government agency has been stretched further than ever before in Afghanistan and Pakistan.

They point to the murder of seven operatives at a remote mountain base in Afghanistan's Khost Province as an example of how agents are putting their lives on the line at the vanguard of America's far-flung wars.

The agents – including the chief of the base, a mother-of-three – were collecting information about militants when the suicide bomber struck on Wednesday.

The attack was the deadliest single day for the agency since eight CIA officers were killed in the 1983 bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut.



Deadliest: In April 1983 terrorists targeted the US Embassy in Beirut with the loss of eight CIA officers

The base targetted by Wednesday's

suicide bomber was a control centre for a covert programme

overseeing strikes by remote-controlled aircraft along Afghanistan's border with Pakistan.

'Those who fell were far from home and close to the enemy, doing the hard work that must be done to protect our country from terrorism. We owe them our deepest gratitude,' CIA Director Leon Panetta said.

Some CIA officials are angry at being criticised by the White House after Abdulmutallab, 23, was allowed to slip through the security net and board a US-bound flight in Amsterdam despite evidence he was a terror threat.

The president complained that a warning from the former London engineering student's father and information about an al Qaeda bomb plot involving a Nigerian were not handled properly by the intelligence networks.

But CIA officials say the data was sent to the US National Counterterrorism Centre in Washington, which was set up after the 9/11 attacks as a clearing house where raw data should be analysed.

Agents claim that is where the dots should have been connected to help identify Abdulmutallab as a threat. ■■



Continued from page 5 - National security is in President Obama's court

but it's a fine line between executive tranquillity and passive nonchalance. Like a tone-deaf disc jockey, Obama plays elevator music when the crowd wants John Philip Sousa.

But action is being taken, we're told. Investigations are underway and reports are being tabulated. Soon decisions will be forthcoming as to whether we bomb al-Qaeda outposts in Yemen or insist that travelers liberate their inner Britneys and go panty-free through security

checkpoints.

Full-cavity searches can't be far from the minds of bureaucrats looking for ways to create a faux sense of security rather than figuring out how to draw simple inferences from red flags, recently in numbers sufficient to spell out "Allahu Akbar" on a halftime football field.

The brightest among many was the perpetrator's own father's reports -- both in person (twice) and by phone to U.S. officials --that his son had become

radicalized and might be dangerous. A CIA report describing those concerns apparently never made it through the Byzantine intelligence channels until after the foiled attack on Christmas Day.

Why? It was for just such coordination that the Bush administration four years ago created the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI), which in April came under fire by its then-inspector general, Edward Maguire, days before he was replaced. Maguire's report may provide the simplest answer to what went wrong.

In addition to criticizing the amount of time intelligence chiefs spend briefing the White House and Congress instead of managing the intelligence apparatus, Maguire blasted the ODNI for bureaucratic fat and financial mismanagement.

In fairness to Obama, Maguire's findings were completed before the president assumed office, but they were not released publicly until April. Even so, Obama has had plenty of time to tweak the system he now blames for the underwear bomber.

It's his ball now; time to stop dribbling. ■■

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Continued from page 9 - Gandhi and The Dalai Lama Are Not Opposed to Guns ...

when I was younger.

How Useful is a Gun Against Tyranny When the Government Has Bigger Weapons?

As **George Orwell** - author of 1984 - pointed out in the Tribune (October 19, 1945) the effectiveness of arms in preventing tyranny partly depends on whether the average citizen can afford the current weapon of choice possessed by the government:

"The connection between the discovery

of gunpowder and the overthrow of feudalism by the bourgeoisie has been pointed out over and over again. And though I have no doubt exceptions can be brought forward, I think the following rule would be found generally true: that ages in which the dominant weapon is expensive or difficult to make will tend to be ages of despotism, whereas when the dominant weapon is cheap and simple, the common people have a chance. Thus, for example, tanks, battleships and bombing planes are inherently tyrannical weapons, while rifles, muskets, long-bows and hand-grenades are inherently democratic weapons. A complex weapon makes the strong stronger, while a simple weapon--so long as there is no answer to it--gives claws to the weak.

The great age of democracy and of national self-determination was the age of the musket and the rifle. After the invention of the flintlock, and before the invention of the percussion cap, the musket was a fairly efficient weapon, and at the same time so simple that it could be produced almost anywhere. Its combination of qualities made possible the success of the American and French revolutions, and made a popular insurrection a

more serious business than it could be in our own day. After the musket came the breech-loading rifle. This was a comparatively complex thing, but it could still be produced in scores of countries, and it was cheap, easily smuggled and economical of ammunition. Even the most backward nation could always get hold of rifles from one source or another, so that Boers, Bulgars, Abyssinians, Moroccans--even Tibetans--could put up a fight for their independence, sometimes with success. But thereafter every development in military technique has favoured the State as against the individual, and the industrialised country as against the backward one ... The one thing that might reverse it is the discovery of a weapon--or, to put it more broadly, of a method of fighting--not dependent on huge concentrations of industrial plant. "

Some argue that violence simply won't work in this era

"Violence will achieve nothing, but will provide

Continued on page 12

Continued from page 8 - Philosophy vs. Conspiracy

deductive argumentation; and, unfortunately, conspiracy theories, whether true or not, are all too often based on unfounded inferences.

Our focus as liberty lovers, therefore, should be on: (1) educating ourselves in the philosophy of freedom; and, (2) educating others.

Educating Ourselves

John Adams once said that he had to study war and politics so that his sons would have the liberty to study philosophy and



mathematics. Mr. Adams certainly contributed to our liberty to study philosophy, but how many of us have studied the philosophy of liberty?

The "philosophy of liberty" (or the "philosophy of freedom") is not a term heard much in the halls of academia. It is rarely discussed or compared with other more popular philosophies such as nihilism, humanism, communism, fascism, socialism, statism, totalitarianism, etc. But rest assured, there is a thriving sector of academia led by the likes of the Ludwig von Mises Institute ("LvMI"), the Foundation for Economic Education, and others, that is dedicated to the philosophy of freedom.

Thanks to the internet and groups like LvMI, the great works that embody the philosophy of freedom are at our fingertips. Now anyone can educate himself with the best thinkers of all time. LvMI is an excellent place to start. LvMI provides thousands of pieces of literature, including entire books by some of the world's most thought provoking philosophers and economists, for free. It also has loads of audio and video files so you can watch and listen to lectures on free market economics, foreign policy, and constitutional and legal issues. (Disclaimer -- I have no affiliation with LvMI... I just really like what it does.)

A study of the classics, specifically the Greek and Roman classics, is also necessary to a well- rounded and thorough education in the philosophy of freedom.



Studying the ancient historians such as Herodotus, Thucydides, Livy, Tacitus, and **Plutarch** will give the reader an understanding of the consequences of abandoning principles of liberty for those of force and statism.

Likewise, a study of the more "recent" philosophers

such as **Thomas Aquinas**, Spinoza, Adam Smith, Cervantes, Locke, etc. will present age-old ideas to the reader in ways that will encourage the reader to conclude for himself that the philosophy of freedom is the only philosophy that can have lasting beneficial consequences.

Liberty lovers may also want to consider investing in Encyclopedia Britannica's Great Books of the Western World or the Harvard Classics to get a bookshelf full of some of the greatest

works of all time which promote or otherwise enlighten the reader of the necessity of the philosophy of freedom.

The liberty lover should also familiarize himself with liberty's competing philosophies so as to better understand their weaknesses. In doing so it will become apparent that all other philosophies shrink when matched against the philosophy of freedom. That is because freedom is truth... and the truth will set you free.

When one is armed with knowledge of the principles of liberty people are more inclined to listen, and even if they don't agree at first, the message of liberty will at least spark an interest in their minds that may eventually grow into a fire.

Educating Others

Perhaps the best way to describe how to go about educating others in the philosophy of freedom is that American adage spoken by Teddy Roosevelt: "Speak softly and carry a big stick." The philosophy of freedom is our "big stick" -- it speaks for itself. In wielding that stick we must do so with care and let it do the talking.

Liberty lovers need not be disrespectful, pushy, or demonstrate an in-your-face mentality with our brethren who may not yet realize that the philosophy of freedom is the only sure way to prosperity and peace.



I recently read a blog post by **Paul Krugman** (above) wherein he alleged that certain **Ron Paul** (right) supporters/adherents of Austrian economics rudely interrupted a presentation he was giving at



Baruch College. I was not there, so I do not know the specifics, but to the extent these individuals -- whom I am sure were frustrated with Krugman's continued support of failed Keynesian policies -- acted inappropriately, I hope that in looking back they will realize that their actions did not likely result in convincing anyone that free market economics is superior to central planning.

Similarly, liberty lovers should avoid veering from the actual issues being discussed. This is where conspiracy theorists can cause so much harm. For example, if governmental / bureaucratized "free trade" is the issue (i.e., NAFTA, GATT, etc.) discuss the economic benefits/detriments of



such treaties. Shy away from implications that such measures are advocated by the global elite in an attempt to undermine the national sovereignty and economy of the United States. Again, even if true, it does not matter, if your goal is to capture the hearts and minds of men.

Those liberty lovers who are not versed in the philosophy of freedom tend to argue tangential issues which have little positive effect on the listener. Just look at some of the anti-Paul/Austrian comments left by the pro-Krugmanites on the blog post referenced above. I can only presume that those who left such comments have had more experience with liberty lovers who fall under the category of "conspiracy theorists" than those who have a solid foundation in Austrian economics and the classics.

The liberty movement needs to work toward focusing itself on philosophy rather than conspiracy, and that can only happen if liberty lovers themselves become acquainted with the philosophy of liberty, and then learn to communicate that philosophy effectively. In doing so, the liberty movement will gain converts in droves, which just may lead to the liberty movement finally reaching its destination.

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Jerry Salcido is a trial and appellate lawyer in Salt Lake City, a former Republican Party county chairman, and the former legal chair of Homeschool Association of California.

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Continued from page 10 - Gandhi and The Dalai Lama Are Not Opposed to Guns ...

them with an excuse to crack down. The violent overthrow of government by the masses simply isn't possible in this day and age, nor is it desirable. Our strength lies in our solidarity and our ability to bring the machine to a screeching halt. When we resort to violence, we have compromised our strength and made ourselves weak."

On the other hand, one anonymous writer argues:

"[Violence is not required. But] if armed revolution were required, I have no doubts that it would be successful. The reason: everyone knows the primary targets of the corrupt class. No amount of sophisticated weaponry will defend them."

Still others argue that resistance cannot work unless and until someone, (1) invents a powerful weapon which people can buy cheaply or build themselves or (2) organizes millions of people to act at the same time.

Will It Turn Into A Revolution?

President **John F. Kennedy** said:



"Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable."

I am convinced that it is morally wrong to offensively use violence so long as there are any means whatsoever of preventing fascism through nonviolent means.

Many experts say that the economic meltdown could create unrest. But are

there currently peaceful means available to prevent tyranny and lawlessness?

Some - including an essay in the progressive/liberal magazine Utne Reader - argue that non-violence by itself and without the threat of violence has never worked, and claimed that those who think that the non-violent resistance of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr. or Nelson Mandela are ignorant. Others argue that this is a complete misreading of history.

Some argue that violence is wholly unnecessary because fascists in a technological society are highly vulnerable to non-violent acts.

Some people - including me - believe that the only way to get the government to start serving the needs of the people is massive protests, strikes and boycotts.



But others believe that it is impossible to organize large protests, strikes or boycotts because the American people are in some combination of apathy, fear, laziness, greed or ignorance.

I hope and pray that we can have change - with government serving the people instead of just the giant banks, insurance companies and defense contractors - by nonviolent means.

Note 1: I strongly believe that safety training is essential. Keep weapons away from kids, and lock up the bullets SEPARATELY so children can't find them. It is also easy to hang weapons above arm-reach of youngsters. Please be safe.

Note 2: Before assuming that I am a right-wing racist, please note that I voted for Obama and was very happy that an African-American was elected president. ■■

Foreign police given U.S. jurisdiction

By Jim Kouri
Law Enforcement Examiner

An amendment to an executive order secretly signed by President Barack Obama on December 16, 2009 gives police officers from foreign governments police powers in the United States.

What is most disturbing to police chiefs and officers in the US is that the President has provided foreign officers and international agencies exemptions from laws and regulations to which US cops must comply.

For example, foreign cops operating in the US will not be forced to comply with the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act. The government has already given the International Criminal Police Organization, or INTERPOL, most of privileges enjoyed by foreign diplomats in the US.

"This Obama executive order is a slap in the face of US cops -- who must adhere to laws and regulations including FOIA -- but also a slap in the face of American citizens who may be abused by these non-citizen cops from countries that don't recognize our constitutional protections," warns former New York City detective and Marine intelligence officer Sidney Franes.

He also pointed out that INTERPOL member countries include Venezuela, Syria, Yemen, Bolivia, Cuba, Iran and Somalia -- all countries unfriendly to the U.S.

When President Ronald Reagan's passed an executive order addressing INTERPOL, it clearly spelled out limitations such as requiring that INTERPOL operations be subject to several U.S. laws such as the Freedom of Information Act. While many opposed Reagan's executive order, it was unchallenged due to the Cold War.

"Under the Obama administration such limitations have been kicked to the wayside by a globalist White House," said Franes.

Obama's executive order reads as follows:

Amending Executive Order 12425 designating INTERPOL as a public international organization entitled to enjoy certain privileges, exemptions and immunities

"By the authority vested in me as President by the Constitution and the laws of the United States of America, including section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288), and in order to extend the appropriate privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), it is hereby ordered that Executive Order 12425 of June 16, 1983, as amended, is further amended by deleting from the first sentence the words "except those provided by Section 2(c), Section 3, Section 4, Section 5, and Section 6 of that Act" and the semicolon that immediately precedes them," Obama wrote.

"What Obama has done is he's given foreign police agencies more power than our own police have or should have. What's next? INTERPOL cops raiding American homes based on unlawfully obtained information?" asks political strategist Mike Baker.

"This executive order signing received almost no media coverage and follows the recent creation of an International Intelligence Agency," he said.

In December 2009, officials unveiled a United Kingdom government security plan examined by reporters from the London-based Daily Telegraph, that suggested several countries -- U.S., U.K., France, Germany, etc. -- will

submit classified information into a central intelligence unit so that any member nation will have access to it.

But the proposals risk hard won intelligence gathered by U.S. agents being leaked by less scrupulous security services, particularly in the former Communist states of Eastern Europe. Although the Government has contributed to the proposals being drawn up as part of unifying European countries and their resources, Britain's security services -- MI5, its internal agency, and MI6, its foreign intelligence agency -- will likely put up stiff opposition to these plans, claim Waterfield and Gardham.

"This is serious business even for the United States," said former NYPD detective Franes.

"The United States shares top secret intelligence with the British intelligence and law enforcement agencies. That means that very soon, U.S. secrets will be distributed to nations that should not have access to our military and law enforcement secrets," claims the decorated Marine and cop.

"What worries me is that the people who these Internationalists will spy on, just may be you and me," he added.

Historically British intelligence officers have enjoyed a good relationship with their U.S. counterparts, regularly exchanging information particularly in the fight against terrorism.

However, there has been a degree of mistrust between the British authorities and European security agencies. In the 1990s the French intelligence service was blamed for leaking information shared by MI6 to the Serbian military,

The intelligence-sharing plan from the European Union Future Group is expected to form the basis of legislation next year and calls on countries to abandon the "principle of confidentiality" which has governed the sharing of intelligence for decades.

The proposals stop short of calling for a European spy agency but say there is a need for "increased synergies between police and security intelligence services."

It suggests a network of "antiterrorist centers" in each country coordinated by SitCen, the European Union's intelligence assessment center in Brussels.

"While the U.S. won't directly be involved in consolidating intelligence, any secrets we share with Britain, France, Germany or other countries will be open to espionage by enemy nations or terrorist groups," warns Det. Franes.

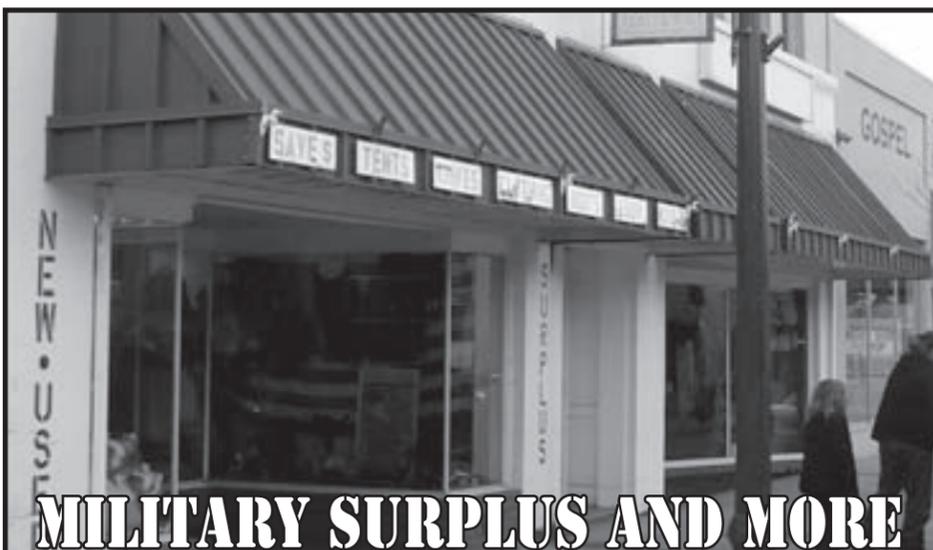
"Once we submit classified information to foreign entities, we no longer have control over what groups have access to our secrets," he added.

Other proposals suggest standardizing police surveillance techniques and extending the sharing of DNA and fingerprint databases to include CCTV video footage and material gathered by "spy drones."

The plans are based on the idea that the EU can do better than national governments with the report adding: "It appears that this sector cannot be managed politically by individual member states."

Other proposals include the formation of a paramilitary police force which can be deployed by a Brussels "mission command" in international hotspots outside the EU's borders.

The latest Obama executive order has alarmed conservatives and civil libertarians, who view it as both an erosion of national sovereignty and a threat to freedom. ■■



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Continued from page 7 - Top 10 corrupt politicians

politicization of the Justice Department makes one long for the days of Alberto Gonzales.



6. Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. (D-IL, pictured above)/ Senator Roland Burris (D-IL, pictured below): One of the most serious scandals of 2009 involved a scheme by former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich to sell President Obama's then-vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder. Two men



caught smack dab in the middle of the scandal: Senator Roland Burris, who ultimately got the job, and Rep. Jesse Jackson, Jr. According to the Chicago Sun-Times, emissaries for Jesse Jackson Jr., named "Senate Candidate A" in the Blagojevich indictment, reportedly offered \$1.5 million to Blagojevich during a fundraiser if he named Jackson Jr. to Obama's seat. Three days later federal authorities arrested Blagojevich. Burris, for his part, apparently lied about his contacts with Blagojevich, who was arrested in December 2008 for trying to sell Obama's Senate seat. According to Reuters: "Roland Burris came under fresh scrutiny...after disclosing he tried to raise money for the disgraced former Illinois governor who named him to the U.S. Senate seat once held by President Barack Obama...In the latest of those admissions, Burris said he looked into mounting a fundraiser for Rod Blagojevich -- later charged with trying to sell Obama's Senate seat -- at the same time he was expressing interest to the then-governor's aides about his desire to be appointed." Burris changed his story five times regarding his

contacts with Blagojevich prior to the Illinois governor appointing him to the U.S. Senate. Three of those changing explanations came under oath.

7. President Barack Obama: During his presidential campaign, President Obama promised to run an ethical and transparent administration. However, in his first year in office, the President has delivered corruption and secrecy, bringing Chicago-style political corruption to the White House. Consider just a few year one: Even before President Obama was sworn into office, he was interviewed by the FBI for a criminal investigation of former Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich's scheme to sell the President's former Senate seat to the highest bidder. (Obama's Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel and slumlord Valerie Jarrett, both from Chicago, are also tangled up in the Blagojevich scandal.)



Moreover, the Obama administration made the startling claim that the Privacy Act does not apply to the White House. The Obama White House believes it can violate the privacy rights of American citizens without any legal consequences or accountability. President Obama boldly proclaimed that "transparency and the rule of law will be the touchstones of this presidency," but his administration is addicted to secrecy, stonewalling far too many of Judicial Watch's Freedom of Information Act requests and is refusing to make public White House visitor logs as federal law requires.

The Obama administration turned the National Endowment of the Arts (as well as the agency that runs the AmeriCorps program) into propaganda machines, using tax dollars to persuade "artists" to promote the Obama agenda. According to documents uncovered by Judicial Watch, the idea emerged as a

direct result of the Obama campaign and enjoyed White House approval and participation. President Obama has installed a record number of "czars" in positions of power. Too many of these individuals are leftist radicals who answer to no one but the president. And too many of the czars are not subject to Senate confirmation (which raises serious constitutional questions). Under the President's bailout schemes, the federal government continues to appropriate or control -- through fiat and threats -- large sectors of the private economy, prompting conservative columnist George Will to write: "The administration's central activity -- the political allocation of wealth and opportunity -- is not merely susceptible

to corruption, it is corruption." Government-run healthcare and car companies, White House coercion, uninvestigated ACORN corruption, debasing his office to help Chicago cronies, attacks on conservative media and the private sector, unprecedented and dangerous new rights for terrorists, perks for campaign donors -- this is Obama's "ethics"

record -- and we haven't even gotten through the first year of his presidency.



8. Rep. Nancy Pelosi (D-CA): At the heart of the corruption problem in Washington is a sense of entitlement. Politicians believe laws and rules (even the U.S. Constitution) apply to the rest of us but not to them. Case in point: House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and her excessive and boorish demands for military travel.

Judicial Watch obtained documents from the Pentagon in 2008 that suggest

Pelosi has been treating the Air Force like her own personal airline. These documents, obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, include internal Pentagon email correspondence detailing attempts by Pentagon staff to accommodate Pelosi's numerous requests for military escorts and military aircraft as well as the speaker's 11th hour cancellations and changes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi also came under fire in April 2009, when she claimed she was never briefed about the CIA's use of the waterboarding technique during terrorism investigations.

The CIA produced a report documenting a briefing with Pelosi on September 4, 2002, that suggests otherwise. Judicial Watch also obtained documents, including a CIA Inspector General report, which further confirmed that Congress was fully briefed on the enhanced interrogation techniques. Aside from her own personal transgressions, Nancy Pelosi has ignored serious incidents of corruption within her own party, including many of the individuals on this list. (See Rangel, Murtha, Jesse Jackson, Jr., etc.)



9. Rep. John Murtha (D-PA) and the rest of the PMA Seven: Rep. John Murtha made headlines in 2009 for all the wrong reasons. The Pennsylvania congressman is under federal investigation for his corrupt relationship with the now-defunct defense lobbyist PMA Group. PMA, founded by a former Murtha associate, has been the congressman's largest campaign contributor. Since 2002, Murtha has raised \$1.7 million from PMA and its clients. And what did PMA and its clients receive from Murtha in return for their generosity? Earmarks -- tens of millions of dollars in earmarks. In fact, even with all of the attention surrounding his alleged influence peddling, Murtha kept at it. Following an FBI raid of PMA's offices earlier in 2009, Murtha continued to seek congressional earmarks for PMA clients, while also hitting them up for campaign contributions.

According to The Hill, in April, "Murthareportedreceivingcontributions

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Demand Congress stop withholding taxes now

By Devvy Kidd
US-Observer Exclusive

**"Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss."
- Patrick Henry, March 23, 1775**

In mid-November last year, new unemployment numbers came out: 502,000 new unemployment claims. The usurper camped out in the White House gave a short speech on how to address the continuing hemorrhaging of jobs in this country. Marxist Obama touted he was going to hold a job "summit" in December. Isn't that clever? Naturally, at the conclusion of that drippy gab fest which produced nothing, he hops on his favorite toy, Air Force One, and jets out of town, again, to go genuflect to foreign governments who have the ability to collapse our economy in five minutes.

What the heck good was a "summit" going to do "next month" for millions of families suffering right now? There's talk of more stimulus packages to do what? Saddle us with more debt? All of these stimulus packages have done NOTHING for long term job growth in the private sector. How much more of doing the same thing that keeps failing are the American people going to sit back and swallow?

Let's list just a few of the totally absurd expenditures that have been made with our hard-earned tax dollars, while keeping in mind that the US Treasury is now more than 12 Trillion dollars OVERDRAWN:

\$300,000 for a GPS-equipped helicopter to hunt for radioactive rabbit droppings at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington State.

\$30 million for a spring training baseball complex for the Arizona Diamondbacks and Colorado Rockies.

\$11 million for Microsoft to build a bridge connecting its two headquarter campuses in Redmond, Wash., which are separated by a highway.

\$430,000 to repair a bridge in Iowa County, Wis., that carries 10 or fewer cars per day.

\$800,000 for the John Murtha Airport in Johnstown, Pa., serving about 20 passengers per day, to build a backup runway.

\$219,000 for Syracuse University to study the sex lives of freshmen women. \$2.3 million for the U.S. Forest Service to rear large numbers of arthropods, including the Asian longhorned beetle, the nun moth and the woolly adelgid.

\$3.4 million for a 13-foot tunnel for turtles and other wildlife attempting to cross U.S. 27 in Lake Jackson, Fla.

\$1.15 million to install a guardrail for a persistently dry lake bed in Guymon, Okla.

\$9.38 million to renovate a century-old train depot in Lancaster County, Pa., that has not been used for three decades.

\$2.5 million in stimulus checks sent to the deceased.

\$6 million for a snow-making facility in Duluth, Minn.

\$173,834 to weatherize eight pickup trucks in Madison County, Ill.

\$20,000 for a fish sperm freezer at the Gavins Point National Fish Hatchery in South Dakota.

\$380,000 to spay and neuter pets in Wichita, Kan.

\$1.8 million to conduct research in Iowa on "swine odor and manure management."

\$173,000 for research on asparagus production in Washington State.

\$206,000 for wool research in Montana, Texas and Wyoming.

\$209,000 for efforts to improve blueberry production in Georgia.

\$208,000 to control a weed known as cogongrass in Mississippi.

\$1.2 million to control cormorants in Michigan, Mississippi, New York and Vermont.

\$1 million to control Mormon crickets in Utah.

\$162,000 to control rodents in Hawaii.

\$300 apiece for thousands of signs at road construction sites across the country announcing that the projects are funded by stimulus money.

\$1.5 million for a fence to block would-be jumpers from leaping off the All-American Bridge in Akron, Ohio.

\$1 million to study the health effects of environmentally friendly public housing on 300 people in Chicago.

\$356,000 for Indiana University to study childhood comprehension of foreign accents compared with native speech.

\$983,952 for street beautification in Ann Arbor, Mich., including decorative lighting, trees, benches and bike paths.

\$148,438 for Washington State University to analyze the use of marijuana in conjunction with medications like morphine.

\$462,000 to purchase 22 concrete toilets for use in the Mark Twain National Forest in Missouri.

\$3.1 million to transform a canal barge into a floating museum that will travel the Erie Canal in New York state.

\$1.3 million on government arts jobs in Maine, including \$30,000 for basket makers, \$20,000 for storytelling and \$12,500 for a music festival.

\$71,000 for a hybrid car to be used by student drivers in Colchester, Vt., as well as a plug-in hybrid for town workers decked out with a sign touting the vehicle's energy efficiency.

"The New Deal will bring the Communist Party within striking distance of overthrow of the American form of government..."

Arthur Henning, Chicago Tribune.

"This may be the last presidential election America will have. The New Deal is to America what the early phase of Nazism was to Germany..." Mark Sullivan, Buffalo Evening News.

The programs implemented by Marxist Obama are of the same



rotten flavor as the failed ones put into play under FDR. Instead of going after the unconstitutional privately owned Federal Reserve Banking System [1], FDR prolonged the "Great" Depression by at least a decade:

"Roosevelt secured passage of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), which levied a new tax on agricultural processors and used the revenue to supervise the wholesale destruction of valuable crops and cattle. Federal agents oversaw the ugly spectacle of perfectly good fields of cotton, wheat, and corn being plowed under (the mules had to be convinced to trample the crops; they had been trained, of course, to walk between the rows).

"Healthy cattle, sheep, and pigs were slaughtered and buried in mass graves. Secretary of Agriculture Henry Wallace personally gave the order to slaughter six million baby pigs before they grew to full size. The administration also paid farmers for the first time for not working at all. Even if the AAA had helped farmers by curtailing supplies and raising prices, it could have done so only by pay those prices or make do with less to eat.

"Perhaps the most radical aspect of the New Deal was the



Franklin D. Roosevelt

Continued on page 15

Devvy Kidd

"That liberty [is pure] which is to go to all, and not to the few or the rich alone."
- Thomas Jefferson

Investigative journalist Devvy Kidd is well known for her comprehensive columns on today's most pressing issues.

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Knowledge is Power

Continued from page 1 - Financial Scams?

The managers involved with these companies are:

1. **Robert Buckhannon**, Managing Member – reported to be residing at 192 Sandy Bunker Lane in Las Vegas, Nevada.

2. **Dean Homayouni Esq.** (Registered Agent) – reported to be residing at 7764 Painted Sunset Drive in Las Vegas, Nevada.

3. **Terry Rawstern** – reported to be residing at 13116 Harriers Place in Bradenton, Florida.

4. **Greg Tindall**, Manager – reported to be at 10 Discover Ridge Health SW in Alberta, Canada.

5. **Dale St. Jean**, Manager – reported to be at 10 Discover Ridge Health SW in Alberta, Canada.

6. **Don Sowers**, Controller –

Arcanum Equity Fund LLC – reported to be at 13116 Harriers Place in Bradenton, Florida.

At this point, Robert Buckhannon, who appears to be controlling these funds, must take care of his responsibilities. If he fails to act accordingly, the US-Observer will simply turn up the heat. It really doesn't matter to us what happens with these funds; the individuals listed above are going to be held responsible...permanently.

If you have information about Vestium, Arcanum, or any of the management listed above, please contact Edward Snook at 541-474-7885.

■ ■

Continued from page 14 - Devvy on Taxes

National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), passed in June 1933, which created a massive new bureaucracy called the National Recovery Administration. Under the NRA, most manufacturing industries were suddenly forced into government-mandated cartels. Codes that regulated prices and terms of sale briefly transformed much of the American economy into a fascist style arrangement, while the NRA was financed by new taxes on the very industries it controlled. National Recovery Administration's bureaucracy and mind numbing regulations became known as the 'National Run Around.'

"Some economists have estimated that the NRA boosted the cost of doing business by an average of 40 percent—not something a depressed economy needed for recovery. The economic impact of the NRA was immediate and powerful."

I highly encourage you to read Reed's full document on the Great Myths of the Great Depression [2] because the same destructive policies are now being shoved down our throats.

Comrade Obama's 'American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009' is redistribution of wealth and a major platform of communism. That \$787 billion dollars doesn't exist and had to be borrowed from the "FED." The never ending interest slapped on our backs. Allegedly, 640,329 jobs have been created at a cost of \$323,739.83 per job. Does anyone see the lunacy of this path to "recovery"? Right now, the real unemployment rate is 22% when discouraged and part-time workers are added. Some 17 million, which is close to the highest levels in American history. How many millions of jobs are now being held by illegal aliens while Americans wait for food stamps?

There can be no recovery without jobs and what has been done in the name of "stimulus"

over the past 12 months is nothing short of insanity that will fix nothing because the real solutions continue to be ignored by Congress. Millions of us have hammered on getting rid of the unnecessary federal income tax for decades. Congressman Ron Paul, has introduced bills in the past to get rid of the withholding taxing scheme. Always ignored by your member of Congress (and the idiot who represents me here in Texas) as they just spend, spend and spend more debt year after year after decade they're in office.

Everything that has been done since Congress passed the illegal bank bail outs (signed off by Bush) - right up through the massive stealing for quick fix programs like Cash for Clunkers - are all failures, as predicted, with the end result being more debt.

As I write this, 124 banks have been seized by the FDIC, another agency facing empty coffers. Another bailout coming? California, a state that continues on the brink of utter and complete financial collapse, has seen small business bankruptcies shoot up 81% for the 12 months ending Sept. 30, from the previous year. Nationwide, bankruptcy filings are up a chilling 44%. Credit card debt is now running 15% of household budgets with the average being \$7,800. This equates to about \$900 BILLION in outstanding debt to American families and growing.

Housing is a prime indicator of recovery and it just isn't happening fast enough nor will it. Many economists not on the government or "mainstream" media payroll are trying to warn people that numbers don't lie - third quarter 2009 numbers: a staggering 18.8 MILLION homes (defaults) stood empty. If you go to this web site: <http://hotpads.com> - you can see foreclosures in real time. It is shocking and will get worse as all these government programs do nothing but create more debt, while stealing the American people blind in taxes to pay for this lunacy.

The solution according to Congress (BOTH parties) is continued massive spending for the immoral, unconstitutional invasions of Iraq and Afghanistan. Continued massive spending for unconstitutional cabinets like the Federal Department of Education and the Environmental Protection Agency. Heck, let's pass a \$2.1 TRILLION dollar unconstitutional disaster called health care reform. More debt funded by more borrowing from the communist Chinese, Saudi's, Japanese and anyone else who will throw a few billion in our beggar's cup.

The Democrats, along with a number of Republicans, want to further bankrupt the American people with the bogus 'global warming' scam and tax us into rags via

another unconstitutional bill called cap and trade.

37.2 MILLION AMERICANS ARE ON FOOD STAMPS

In a nation rich in natural and human resources. Look what Congress has done to our country over the past six decades. The states have gone along with the plundering and now we have mothers so desperate to feed their children and keep a roof over their head, they're robbing banks, for God's sake. Fathers so distraught, a half dozen have killed themselves and their entire families over financial hardship.

Millions of Americans are going hungry the last 3-4 days of the month because no matter how frugal they are, there isn't enough left from their paychecks to even buy food. I'm talking about husbands and wives or single people with two jobs. Mothers and Fathers



going with one meal a day at the end of the month so their children can eat two. Here in America while these lying jackals in Washington, DC do nothing but spend and tax us to death. These elites do not care about we the people. They don't care because we are nothing more than the peasant class to them.

Unemployment checks are replacing paychecks. The situation will not get any better unless jobs are created and that will not happen because Americans are saving what little they have left out of fear for the future. They aren't spending because there's nothing left to spend after their paychecks are raided to pay -- not essential and limited functions of a republican form of government - - but hundreds of billions to the "FED" for interest on the national debt and massive payments to the communist UN, the World Bank, BIS (Bank of International Settlements) and foreign welfare.

Since 1994, the illegal USAID (United States Aid for International Development) program has thrown \$2.4 billion into the Palestinian Authority. Billions stolen from we the people for what? "Reduce poverty, improve health and education, create jobs and advance democracy." USAID is set to steal another \$153 million from the American people in 2010 for the development of the Palestinian Authority's infrastructure in foreign countries.

Every time I do this kind of research, I want to literally vomit. No where in the U.S. Constitution does it authorize Congress to steal from the American people to build schools or even a fence in any foreign country. No legal authority to steal from us and our children's future to give "aid" to foreign governments to load up on military hardware - that includes Israel. To further slap we the people in the face because there is NO money in the people's purse. The Treasury is over drawn \$12 TRILLION dollars. Every penny of that \$153 million dollars to advance the putrid stench of democracy and create jobs in Judea and Samaria has to be borrowed from the privately owned Federal Reserve. The interest is more debt on our backs, our children and grand children.

This is change? This is just more grand larceny that both parties have been cramming down our throats for decades. Is this what you work so hard each day for - or did if you're one of the whopping 22% unemployed:

US to Give \$125 Million to Upgrade Pakistan's Power Sector. [3] October 29, 2009. "Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, seeking to bolster Islamabad's fight against Islamic extremists US corporaterrorists' profits, initiated a crash U.S. assistance program for Pakistan's power sector aimed at rolling back

electricity shortages that threaten to cripple the South Asian nation's economy. Mrs. Clinton, on the first of a three-day diplomatic mission to Pakistan, said that Washington will disburse \$125 million to Islamabad for the upgrading of key power stations and transmission lines. U.S. experts are also beginning to work with Pakistani utility companies to reduce power outages and lost revenue caused by outmoded technologies and systemic non-payment by customers, which costs Pakistan hundreds of millions of dollars each year."

THAT is where your withholding income tax is going - to pay just the interest on the national debt created by the outlaw Congress to throw your money at foreign governments. Trillions of dollars - ALL borrowed and you, me, our children and grand children are on the hook to see that a power plant in Pakistan gets funding for geopolitical games. How do you like the fruits of your labor stolen from your paycheck to make sure Pakistani utility companies don't lose money because of non-paying customers? Where is your outrage America?

If you are new to understanding the money trail, please take the time to log on the internet and read the two pieces below, which I authored. You can download them (free) to a CD from my web site (www.devvy.com) and listen while you're in commute traffic or on a plane.

• Why an income tax is not necessary to fund the federal government

• The Right Argument on Taxation

Every week, Congress must beg around the world to borrow \$30 BILLION dollars to dole out; \$800 MILLION each week to the communist Chinese for the toxic paper they hold courtesy of the U.S. Congress.

This is the debt both parties have run up over the past six decades. They've hocked our children and grand children's future and the piper wants to get paid -- every week. [4]

It's bad enough Republicans and Democrats and every president since and including Reagan, have allowed our nation to be invaded by tens of millions of criminals (illegal aliens) stealing jobs and resources. In this time of desperation for millions of Americans, the political whores in Congress continue to allow 125,000 foreign workers into this country every month to satisfy their corporate donors while Americans are standing in unemployment lines. As I write this, a new full amnesty bill has been introduced by Sen. Harry Reid to reward the 15-20 MILLION illegal aliens who smuggled themselves into our country like thieves, stealing jobs and resources like hospitals and law enforcement. [5]

It is not the job of the federal government to create jobs. That is what the private sector does, but you can't create jobs unless people spend. Stopping the withholding taxing scheme will not bring the government to a halt. The other taxing scams (social security and Medicare) will still be withheld. Look at what stopping the income tax would do for someone who makes \$52,000 per year. They would take home an extra \$600 per month in cold, hard cash. Multiply that by tens and tens of millions of paychecks.

Of course, the shadow government run by the banking cartels does not want you to have that extra money. They want you to continue running debt as your way of life; drowning in it no matter how hard you try. Because that's how they have enriched their coffers: by keeping all of us slaves to fiat currency. Just think what it would mean to families and single people to have that extra \$200 or \$600 or \$1,000 each month in take home pay? It could mean the difference between foreclosure, keeping their health care coverage and staying warm this winter.

Instead, Congress - both parties and the hustler in the White House, want to continue stealing from all of us to send to foreign governments. They (WE) provide free dental care for villages in Guiana - tens of billions for criminals (illegal aliens) in food stamps, education and medical care. All this, while you and your family go hungry or your children go to bed cold because you can't afford to heat your home during the night.

On December 12, 2000, Congressman Ron Paul introduced a bill to end withholding taxes. No sponsors. On April 4, 2001, he again introduced a bill to abolish withholding taxes so Americans could take home the fruits of their labor. No sponsors. On January 29, 2009,

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.



FBI: Gun sales up Murders down

By Jim Kouri
The Examiner

The Federal Bureau of Investigation reports a ten percent drop in murders during the first six months of 2009, while at a time US gun sales are going through the roof, according to reports obtained by the National Association of Chiefs of Police. Meanwhile, gun sales to private citizens soared almost 30 percent during that same period.

Gun rights advocates claim that these numbers are further proof that there is no correlation between gun ownership and violent crime, state officials from the Second Amendment Foundation, a civil rights group. Further, the SAF contends that the increase in private citizen gun-ownership may have had an impact on reducing violent crime.

In a survey conducted by the National Association of Chiefs of Police of the nation's police executives, with regard to private citizens owning firearms for sport or self-defense, 93.6 percent of the respondents supported civilian gun-ownership rights. Ninety-six percent of the police chiefs and sheriffs believe criminals obtain firearms from illegal sources and 92.2 percent revealed they hadn't arrested anyone for violation of the so-called "waiting period" laws. When asked if citizens' concealed-weapons permits would reduce violent crime, 63.1 percent said yes.

The latest FBI data show that homicides declined by 10 percent from the same period in 2008. Meanwhile, data released by the FBI's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) shows that during the first six months of this year, gun sales were up.

January 2009 background checks rose 28.8 percent over the same month in 2008, February's NICS checks were up 23.3 percent and in March they were up 29.9 percent over March 2008. The trend continued in April, with NICS checks up 30.3 percent, while May showed a slowdown, up only 15.5 percent, and in June they were up 18.1 percent.

"What this shows," said SAF Executive Vice President Alan Gottlieb, "is that gun prohibitionists are all wrong when they argue that more guns result in more crime. Firearms in the hands of law-abiding citizens are no threat to anyone. Perhaps violent criminals were

actually discouraged by all of those gun sales earlier this year, because the media made a point of reporting the booming gun market.

"Anti-gunners," he continued, "have lost another one of their baseless arguments. Millions of Americans bought guns during the first six months of this year, many of them for the first time. Yet with all of those new guns in circulation, coupled with an increased demand for concealed carry licenses around the country, the streets have not been awash in blood, as gun banners repeatedly predict.

"Hard facts trump hot air," Gottlieb concluded. "These people are consistently wrong about our rights. Millions of people bought guns, especially semiautomatic sport-utility rifles that gun grabbers want to ban because they say people aren't safe with all of those guns in private hands. Well, the people disagree, and so does the data."

In fact, while gun-control enthusiasts point to accidental shootings or misuse of firearms cases to bolster their claims, numerous studies have shown there are between 600,000 and one million protective uses of firearms by citizens (Northwestern University School of Law, Gary Kleck & Marc Gertz).

"Studies have shown that the incidents of proper use of guns by US citizens far outweigh any abuses or misuses. In my own law enforcement career, most guns used in a crime are illegally obtained. If a suspect is willing to walk into a bank full of people to rob it, I doubt he'd be worried about violating some gun law," said former NYPD detective Mike Snipes, now the owner of a private security firm.

"This obsession with gun control by politicians and activists has more to do with disarming law-abiding citizens and less to do with fighting crime," he added.

The Second Amendment Foundation is the nation's oldest and largest tax-exempt education, research, publishing and legal action group focusing on the Constitutional right and heritage to privately own and possess firearms. Founded in 1974, The Foundation has grown to more than 650,000 members and supporters and conducts many programs designed to better inform the public about the consequences of gun control. ■■

2nd Amendment Alert Sacramento Supports 2nd Amendment Suit City Council Votes To Join Lawsuit Against Right to Bear Arms



SACRAMENTO, CA (KCRA News - kcra.com) - The Sacramento City Council passed a resolution Tuesday night supporting a lawsuit that could change the way the U.S. Supreme Court defines Second Amendment rights.

Several cities have voted to join the lawsuit brought against the city of Chicago by a resident there. The cities have joined the suit as 'Amicus Curiae,' basically supporting the city's position that the Second Amendment, the right to bear arms, should not apply to local governments.

Sacramento City Councilman Kevin McCarty, D-District 6, told KCRA 3 that if the lawsuit fails, it could impact several local laws that regulate gun and ammunition sales. He pointed to a recent double homicide, calling it a good example of why the Second Amendment should not apply locally.

"We're afraid that if that court case goes the wrong direction, that could terminate what we are doing locally," McCarty said. "By stepping up and supporting this court case, we think it will continue these laws here that are working."

Gun advocates said they believe the lawsuit erodes citizens' rights.

"The City Council of Sacramento is

misdirected," said Sam Paredes, director of Gun Owners of California.

Paredes said the City Council should be targeted criminals not guns.

"The City Council is trying to go after the wrong thing when trying to control crime," Paredes said.

He said the lawsuit has already sparked a firestorm of controversy.

"Phones are starting to ring off the hook," Paredes said. "People are absolutely amazed the City Council is going to take a position like this."

By teaming up with Chicago and other cities, the Sacramento City Council hopes to stop gun violence.

"We've been able to take off the streets 200 guns, arrest a couple hundred felons," McCarty said.

The sole City Council member to oppose the resolution was former Sheriff Robbie Waters, who said the lawsuit could damage a fundamental right of citizens. The lawsuit is scheduled to go before the U.S. Supreme Court next year. ■■



Continued from page 15- Devvy on Taxes



Congressman Paul introduced the Tax Free Tips Act to eliminate federal taxes on tips for service workers. All the unions remained quiet and the bill went no where. Who is looking out for who?

No more. Get on the phone today and everyday. Call your member of Congress, Republican or Democrat, and tell them: Stop the federal income tax withholding from my paycheck! Congress has the power to tax and stop taxing. Only a massive campaign of bombarding these poltroons every day with a unified voice will force them to do the will of we the people. They are supposed to work for us -- not the special interests who buy their favors.

Oh, make no mistake. There will be the usual ignorant responses from both parties that it isn't practical, can't be done, how will the government pay its bills and so on. These are excuses and we are sick of excuses based on ignorance and/or scare tactics. Yes, it can be done by an act of Congress and it can be done quickly. We cannot stop all the massive financial wrecks coming,

but we can help hold some of it back by getting Americans back to work. Jobs can only be created by spending and that can't happen if the people's pockets are empty.

Call your friends, relatives, pass this column around. Melt those phones - Everyday. We must make a thousand times more noise than the tea parties with our demand to stop the withholding tax. Allow Americans to take home what is rightfully theirs -- not some foreign banking cartel or

government.

This is our country and we say enough!

References:

[1] Congressman McFadden on the Federal Reserve Corporation Remarks in Congress, 1934. On May 23, 1933, Congressman, Louis T. McFadden, brought formal charges against the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve Bank system, The Comptroller of the Currency and the Secretary of United States Treasury for numerous criminal acts, including but not limited to, conspiracy, fraud, unlawful conversion and treason. The petition for Articles of Impeachment was thereafter referred to the Judiciary Committee.

[2] Great Myths of the Great Depression, by Lawrence Reed

[3] US to Give \$125 Million to Upgrade Pakistan's Power Sector

[4] Dead Government Walking

[5] Why Haven't These State Legislators Been Indicted?



DEVVY

Devvy Kidd authored the booklets, *Why A Bankrupt America and Blind Loyalty*; 2 million copies sold. Devvy appears on radio shows all over the country. She left the Republican Party in 1996 and has been an independent voter ever since. Devvy isn't left, right or in the middle; she is a constitutionalist who believes in the supreme law of the land,

not some political party.

Devvy's columns are on her site at www.deevy.com. You can also sign up for her free email alerts. ■■

Continued from page 13 - Top 10 corrupt politicians

from three former PMA clients for whom he requested earmarks in the pending appropriations bills." When it comes to the PMA scandal, Murtha is not alone. As many as six other Members of Congress are currently under scrutiny according to The Washington Post. They include: Peter J. Visclosky (D-IN.), James P. Moran Jr. (D-VA), Norm Dicks (D-WA.), Marcy Kaptur (D-OH), C.W. Bill Young (R-FL.) and Todd Tiahrt (R-KS.). Of course rather than investigate this serious scandal, according to Roll Call House Democrats circled the wagons, "cobbling together a defense to offer political cover to their rank and file." The Washington Post also reported in 2009 that Murtha's nephew received \$4 million in Defense Department no-bid contracts: "Newly obtained documents...show Robert Murtha mentioning his influential family connection as leverage in his business dealings and holding unusual power with the military."

10. Rep. Charles Rangel (D-NY):

Rangel, the man in charge of writing tax policy for the entire country, has yet to adequately explain how he could possibly "forget" to pay taxes on \$75,000 in rental income he earned from his off-shore rental property. He also faces allegations that he improperly used his influence to maintain ownership of highly coveted rent-controlled



apartments in Harlem, and misused his congressional office to fundraise for his private Rangel Center by preserving a tax loophole for an oil drilling company in exchange for funding. On top of all that, Rangel recently amended his financial disclosure reports, which doubled his reported wealth. (He somehow "forgot" about \$1 million in assets.) And what did he do when the House Ethics Committee started looking into all of this? He apparently resorted to making "campaign contributions" to dig his way out of trouble.

According to WCBS TV, a New York CBS affiliate: "The reigning member of Congress' top tax committee is apparently 'wrangling' other politicians to get him out of his own financial and tax troubles...Since ethics probes began last year the 79-year-old congressman

has given campaign donations to 119 members of Congress, including three of the five Democrats on the House Ethics Committee who are charged with investigating him." Charlie Rangel should not be allowed to remain in Congress, let alone serve

as Chairman of the powerful House Ways and Means Committee, and he knows it. That's why he felt the need to disburse campaign contributions to Ethics Committee members and other congressional colleagues. ■■

If you, or anyone you know, are falsely accused of a crime contact us IMMEDIATELY!

We Can Help.

541-474-7885 or editor@usobserver.com

Continued from page 1 - Elderly Woman Forced Into State Custody

seven years finally has hope. Through a close friend, Robert Neuser, Shigeko's unfortunate circumstances are being voiced. Robert contacted the US~Observer to tell a horrifying story of abuse. Shigeko was admitted to Manitowac County Health Center almost eight years ago when she suffered a stroke according to court records and has since been sent to a lock down facility (Trempealeau County HCC) and treated for numerous health problems which have been reported as completely false. Robert has been trying to get Shigeko removed from Trempealeau County Health Care Center with no such luck as of yet.

According to court documents, the state now controls Shigeko's monthly income, real estate and all personal assets. It has been reported that Shigeko has been wrongfully diagnosed with Bipolar Disorder by Dr. Ruben Adams in order to keep her medicated against her will. Robert Neuser stated, "Shigeko is not allowed to talk to me on the phone because she refuses to take the medication." What was simply reported a stroke has turned into a loss of every

freedom Shigeko once had. While attempting to contact the Omsbudsman of Wisconsin, this reporter was given numerous contact names and numbers which have led nowhere. I have contacted Trempealeau County HCC in an attempt to talk to Shigeko, but wasn't allowed. I contacted her previous attorney and was told that he wasn't allowed to give client information without consent. I have left numerous messages for Shigeko's former legal guardian, Rhonda Trader with no return phone calls. I have contacted Phillip Borreson with the Trempealeau HCC and was told that he won't be returning calls until after Jan. 1st, 2010. Why all the secrecy and what could make all of these people unwilling to speak with a journalist if they have nothing to hide?

Shigeko reportedly has family in Japan who will be contacted next. With help from the US~Observer, Robert Neuser looks forward to getting Shigeko's life back for her soon.

If you have any information about Shigeko or someone else being held against their will, please contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885. ■■



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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.”

Get Involved Send Your Comments or Concerns to the Editor

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Letters to the Editor



Driscoll Rape Case

Dear Editor:

I have been following the Driscoll rape case in Redmond Oregon for the past year and have noticed that what your paper has printed is day and night with what the Bend Bulletin has been writing. I have been looking into Kevin's background and I have found that he has had two prior restraining orders against him by two separate ladies. Doesn't this seem odd to you? “If it walks like a duck, quacks like a duck, looks like a duck, it must be a duck”, right? Obviously, I have read your paper and watched the You-tube video as well and must say that Melissa is quite the socialite and definitely in question herself. There is a past for her as well, and not something to write home about. My question that remained was what about the two previous ladies against Kevin? This seems to be the only thing the defense has against him minus Melissa's word? Then I read your most recent article and if Kevin's Ex-wife got a restraining order against him years ago due to property issues when they separated and the most recent was an old neighbor that had a willful relationship with him and got the restraining order at her husband's request to save her marriage, then I find it hard to find a pattern with Kevin. Also, neither one of those girls testified in court to my knowledge, so how can the Bulletin bring this up when they didn't even touch the issue about Melissa falsely accusing another man of rape in Washington State? Then... I referred back to your paper and remember reading that Cindy Powers, the writer for the bulletin is a former prosecutor herself which I did confirm, and everything started making sense. I've lost much respect for the Bend Bulletin. Now, Jody Vaughan is going to prosecute Kevin again. Wow. I hope you cover this... We need more papers like yours! Keep up the good work.

Sincerely,

**A Concerned Citizen
Dechutes County**

Editors Note: We don't print daily which gives us adequate time to look into claims that ruin lives. We couldn't have written this better ourselves. Thanks for the support. We know Mr. Driscoll appreciates it as well.



"Parliament of Whores?"

Editor;

From the "cussin' outs" I have been receiving from the man on the street in Lakeview for my previous letters on the subject, I am beginning to understand what really came down with the Lake County Commissioners and their sudden declaration that their jobs are "full time" and gave themselves a pay raise that reflects it. What happened is this issue was far too important to be referred to the voters. When you have an issue that important ... like Machiavelli, you only invite people of like persuasion to the debate, then make

the decision. Of course the Legislature has enacted a law against conspiracy. Having apparently gotten away with it, what the voters of Lake County need to be aware of is; when will they do it again?

The next most important thing is "home rule". If they want to maintain their positions they must have home rule so the people in their home districts can keep them in office. That is very important to at least one of them ... for just like "papa Doc" of Haiti who declared himself dictator for life, at least one wants to be commissioner for life. When will we voters of Lake County wake up to discover we slept through yet another decision making process and have been divided into 5 parts (districts) and are only allowed to vote for 1 commissioner out of 5? Thank you PJ O'Rourke for giving them a name! For albeit a penny farthing in size, it is none the less a "Parliament of Whores".

**Ray Bledsaw
Lakeview,OR**



Palin, You Go Girl!

(From the non-Obama owned Canadian press and as posted in comments on an article referencing the MOVEON ad about Sarah Palin.)

The last 45 of my 66 years I've spent in a commercial fishing town in Alaska . I understand Alaska politics but never understood national politics well until this last year. Here's the breaking point: Neither side of the Palin controversy gets it. It's not about persona, style, rhetoric, it's about doing things. Even Palin supporters never mention the things that I'm about to mention here.

1- Democrats forget when Palin was the Darling of the Democrats, because as soon as Palin took the Governor's office away from a fellow Republican and tough SOB, Frank Murkowski, she tore into the Republican's "Corrupt Bastards Club" (CBC) and sent them packing. Many of them are now residing in State housing and wearing orange jump suits The Democrats reacted by skipping around the yard, throwing confetti and singing, "la la la la" (well, you know how they are). Name another governor in this country that has ever done anything similar.

2- Now with the CBC gone, there were fewer Alaskan politicians to protect the huge, giant oil companies here. So she constructed and enacted a new system of splitting the oil profits called "ACES." Exxon (the biggest corporation in the world) protested and Sarah told them, "don't let the door hit you in the stern on your way out." They stayed, and Alaska residents went from being merely wealthy to being filthy rich Of course, the other huge international oil companies meekly fell in line. Again, give me the name of any other governor in the country that has done anything similar.

3- The other thing she did when she walked into the governor's office is she got the list of State requests for federal funding for projects, known as "pork." She went through the list, took 85% of

them and placed them in the "when-hell-freezes-over" stack. She let locals know that if we need something built, we'll pay for it ourselves. Maybe she figured she could use the money she got from selling the previous governor's jet because it was extravagant Maybe she could use the money she saved by dismissing the governor's cook (remarking that she could cook for her own family), giving back the State vehicle issued to her, maintaining that she already had a car, and dismissing her State provided security force (never mentioning - I imagine - that she's packing heat herself). I'm still waiting to hear the names of those other governors.

4- Now, even with her much-ridiculed "gosh and golly" mannerism, she also managed to put together a totally new approach to getting a natural gas pipeline built which will be the biggest private construction project in the history of North America . No one else could do it although they tried. If that doesn't impress you, then you're trying too hard to be unimpressed while watching her do things like this while baking up a batch of brownies with her other hand..

5- For 30 years, Exxon held a lease to do exploratory drilling at a place called Point Thompson. They made excuses the entire time why they couldn't start drilling. In truth they were holding it like an investment. No governor for 30 years could make them get started... This summer, she told them she was revoking their lease and kicking them out. They protested and threatened court action. She shrugged and reminded them that she knew the way to the court house. Alaska won again.

6- President Obama wants the nation to be on 25% renewable resources for electricity by 2025. Sarah went to the legislature and submitted her plan for Alaska to be at 50% renewables by 2025. We are already at 25%. I can give you more specifics about things done, as opposed to style and persona Everybody wants to be cool, sound cool, look cool. But that's just a cover-up. I'm still waiting to hear from liberals the names of other governors who can match what mine has done in two and a half years. I won't be holding my breath.

By the way, she was content to return to AK after the national election and go to work, but the haters wouldn't let her. Now these adolescent screechers are obviously not scuba divers. And no one ever told them what happens when you continually jab and pester a barracuda. Without warning, it will spin around and tear your face off. Shoulda known better.

You have just read the truth about Sarah Palin that sends the media, along with the democrat party, into a wild uncontrolled frenzy to discredit her. I guess they are only interested in skirt chasers, dishonesty, immoral people, liars, womanizers, murderers, and bitter ex-presidents' wives.

So "You go, Girl." I only wish the men in Washington had your guts, determination, honesty, and morals.

I rest my case. Only FOOLS listen to the biased media.

**Dewie Whetsell
Alaskan Fisherman**

Continued from Page 19 - Letters to the Editor

Illegal Aliens

To the Editor

Let me see if I understand all this: If you cross the North Korean border illegally, you get 12 years hard labor. Cross the Afghan border illegally, you get shot. Cross the Saudi border illegally, you will be jailed. Cross the Chinese border illegally and you may never be heard from again. Cross the Venezuelan border illegally, you will be branded a spy and your fate will be sealed. Cross the Cuban border illegally, you will be thrown into political prison to rot. Cross the US border illegally, you get a job, a drivers license, Social Security card, welfare, food stamps, credit cards, subsidized rent or a loan to buy a house, free education, free health care, a Lobbyist in Washington, and in many instances you can vote, all paid for by you and me, the AMERICAN TAXPAYER.

Thank You,

Glen L. Murray
Grants Pass, Oregon



Health Care

Dear Editor:

So you're a senior citizen and the government says no health care for you, what do you do?
Our plan gives anyone 65 years or older a gun and four bullets. You are allowed to shoot two senators and two representatives. Of course, this means you will be sent to prison. There you will get three meals a day, a roof over your head, and all the health care you need! New teeth, no problem. Need glasses, great. New hip, knees, kidney, lungs, heart? All covered.
And who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you that you are too old for health care. Plus, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any income taxes anymore.
IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

Al Litostansky
(Letter from Clearwater Tribune)



Toxic Health Care

Dear Senator Reid,

While it is tempting, I will refrain from being as rude and vulgar to you as you are to me. The attempted stealth used in your "health care bill" of cronyism and Liberty suppression is obvious to a solid majority of Americans, yet you continue to insult our intelligence. I will rabidly continue our (American citizens)

endeavors to expose the questionable voting machines and controlled media that put you in office. When you feel the anguish in the unemployment lines, please do not speak to me as I do not respect you, or your unwarranted stature granted (not earned) by posing as a real United states senator.

Sincerely,

Dennis Grover
American



From the City of Angels

Dear Editor,

I need to publicly thank Mr. Edward Snook and the staff of the US~Observer.
In June, I called Edward about a serious criminal problem my son was having here in LA. Alan was facing over 20 years in prison and both attorneys I hired did nothing for him or his case, other than attempt to get him to take a plea bargain. Edward was extremely helpful in getting me to see the truth about our corrupted criminal justice system, but I did not take his advice until I had spent another \$9,000 with our incompetent attorney.
I hired the Observer in late September and the false charges against my son were dropped on December 16th. Mr. Snook investigated Alan's case very professionally. He got to the truth and he had the charges dismissed - doing exactly what he said he would do. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you. I have no doubt that Alan would have been convicted and sent to prison had it not been for Mr. Snook.
I also want to thank Ron Lee for all his patience, understanding and hard work. Ron Lee was a real God-send.
Thank You Sooooo Very Much!

Betty Herron
Los Angeles, California



No Justice in Yakima WA?

Editor,

In a resent family court ruling, the commissioner disregarded the court investigators report that she had ordered months before.
In fact when calling for the case to be heard the commissioner verbally said she could not find the case file. Then in her own words said, "I don't have the file but I'm not sure I need it".
There were 2 Motions filed by the petitioner (myself) and then one motion filed from the respondent. The

Motion from the respondent was not filed with the proper notification time and yet it was permitted to be heard.

One of the 2 Motions from the petitioner was to act upon the court investigators report, to have the mother (respondent) submit to a mental evaluation as a condition of retaining custody and to allow the child psychologist involved in the case to file a full report, because the recommendation stated that withholding such information could be harmful to the children.

The commissioner suppressed this information by denying the Motion! Even as a trial was to conducted on this case on the 1st of the next month.

The 2nd Motion was to continue the trail date until the required information had been gathered. The commissioner denied this Motion also!

Why would any sensible and responsible person (family court commissioner) deny such information after it was found to be of such importance by the court investigator?

Why would the commissioner, knowing that a trial on this case was forthcoming, suppress this information?

Is it Justice in Yakima for our courts to ignore and even stop legal information from being submitted before a trial?

Is it Justice to deny fair and reasonable Motions? Investigate the Yakima county family court system before it destroys more families with these types of biased rulings!

Bruce Clark
Tieton, WA

Editor's Note: We are investigating this case, Mr. Clark, and rest assured that Yakima County Commissioner Lani-Kai Swanhart and Judge Blaine G. Gibson will be on the burner for their corrupt findings and ludicrous orders in the above mentioned case. They might just find out what it is like to find themselves #1 on Google as many others who have been the focus of US~Observer investigative news articles ...



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PET LOVERS, WHAT DO YOU THINK? Polluting pets: the carbon impact of man's best friend is devastating



By Sarah Netter

PARIS (AFP) – Man's best friend could be one of the environment's worst enemies, according to a new study which says the carbon pawprint of a pet dog is more than double that of a gas-guzzling sports utility vehicle.

But the revelation in the book "Time to Eat the Dog: The Real Guide to Sustainable Living" by New Zealanders Robert and Brenda Vale has angered pet owners who feel they are being singled out as troublemakers.

The Vales, specialists in sustainable living at Victoria University of Wellington, analysed popular brands of pet food and calculated that a medium-sized dog eats around 164 kilos (360 pounds) of meat and 95 kilos of cereal a year.

Combine the land required to generate its food and a "medium" sized dog has an annual footprint of 0.84 hectares (2.07 acres) -- around twice the 0.41 hectares required by a 4x4 driving 10,000 kilometres (6,200 miles) a year, including energy to build the car.

To confirm the results, the New Scientist magazine asked John Barrett at the Stockholm Environment Institute in York, Britain, to calculate eco-pawprints based on his own data. The results were essentially the same.

"Owning a dog really is quite an extravagance, mainly because of the carbon footprint of meat," Barrett said.

Other animals aren't much better for the environment, the Vales say.

Cats have an eco-footprint of about 0.15 hectares, slightly less than driving a Volkswagen Golf for a year, while two hamsters equates to a plasma television and even the humble goldfish burns energy equivalent to two mobile telephones.

But Reha Huttin, president of France's 30 Million Friends animal rights foundation says the human impact of eliminating pets would be equally devastating.

"Pets are anti-depressants, they help us cope with stress, they are good for the elderly," Huttin told AFP.

"Everyone should work out their own environmental impact. I should be allowed to say that I walk instead of using my car and that I don't eat meat, so why shouldn't I be allowed to have a little cat to alleviate my loneliness?"

Sylvie Comont, proud owner of seven cats and two dogs -- the environmental equivalent of a small fleet of cars -- says defiantly, "Our animals give us so much that I don't feel like a polluter at all."

"I think the love we have for our animals and what they contribute to our lives outweighs the environmental considerations."

"I don't want a life without animals," she told AFP.

And pets' environmental impact is not limited to their carbon footprint, as cats and dogs devastate wildlife, spread disease and pollute waterways, the Vales say.

With a total 7.7 million cats in Britain, more than 188 million wild animals are hunted, killed and eaten by feline predators per year, or an average 25 birds, mammals and frogs per cat, according to figures in the New Scientist.

Likewise, dogs decrease biodiversity in areas they are walked, while their faeces cause high bacterial levels in rivers and streams, making the water unsafe to drink, starving waterways of oxygen and killing aquatic life.

And cat poo can be even more toxic than doggy doo -- owners who flush their litter down the toilet ultimately infect sea otters and other animals with toxoplasma gondii, which causes a killer brain disease.

But despite the apocalyptic visions of domesticated animals' environmental impact, solutions exist, including reducing pets' protein-rich meat intake.

"If your cat is scoffing 'Fancy Feast' -- or some other food made from choice cuts of meat -- then the relative impact is likely to be high," said Robert Vale.

"If, on the other hand, the cat is fed on fish heads and other leftovers from the fishmonger, the impact will be lower."

Other potential positive steps include avoiding walking your dog in wildlife-rich areas and keeping your cat indoors at night when it has a particular thirst for other, smaller animals' blood.

As with buying a car, humans are also encouraged to take the environmental impact of their future possession/companion into account.

But the best way of compensating for that paw or clawprint is to make sure your animal is dual purpose, the Vales urge. Get a hen, which offsets its impact by laying edible eggs, or a rabbit, prepared to make the ultimate environmental sacrifice by ending up on the dinner table.

"Rabbits are good, provided you eat them," said Robert Vale.

■ ■



Going Green



Destroying the environment one cat-box at a time.

POLITICAL HUMOR

Stimulus

Sometime this year, we taxpayers will again receive an Economic Stimulus payment. This is a very exciting program. I'll explain it using the Q and A format:

- Q. What is an Economic Stimulus payment?
A. It is money that the federal government will send to taxpayers.
- Q. Where will the government get this money?
A. From taxpayers.
- Q. So the government is giving me back my own money?
A. Only a smidgen.
- Q. What is the purpose of this payment?
A. The plan is for you to use the money to purchase a high-definition TV set, thus stimulating the economy.
- Q. But isn't that stimulating the economy of China?
A. Shut up or you don't get your check.

Below is some helpful advice on how to best help the US economy by spending your stimulus check wisely:

- If you spend the stimulus money at Wal-Mart, the money will go to China.
- If you spend it on gasoline, your money will go to Saudi Arabia.
- If you purchase a computer, it will go to India.
- If you purchase fruit and vegetables, it will go to Mexico, Honduras and Guatemala.
- If you buy a car, it will go to Japan or Korea.
- If you purchase useless plastic stuff, it will go to Taiwan.
- If you pay your credit cards off, or buy stock, it will go to pay management bonuses and be hidden in offshore accounts. Instead, you can keep the money in America by:
 1. Spending it at yard sales or flea markets, or
 2. Going to baseball or football games, or
 3. Hiring an American prostitute, or
 4. Buying cheap beer, or
 5. Getting tattoos.

These are the only wholly-American businesses still operating in the US.

Conclusion:

The best way to stimulate the economy is to go to a ball game with a prostitute that you met at a yard sale and drink beer all day until you're drunk enough to get tattooed.



Joke is on you!

Guy goes into a bar, there's a robot bartender.

The robot says, "What will you have?" The guy says, "Martini." The robot brings back the best martini ever and says to the man, "What's your IQ?" The guy says, "168". The robot then proceeds to talk about physics, space exploration and medical technology.

The guy leaves, but he's curious, so he goes back into the bar. The robot bartender says, "What will you have?" The guy says, "Martini". Again, the robot makes a great martini, gives it to the man and says, "What's your IQ?" The guy says, "100." The robot then starts to talk about NASCAR, Budweiser and John Deere tractors.

The guy leaves, but finds it very interesting, so he thinks he will try it one more time. He goes back into the bar. The robot says, "What will you have?" The guy says, "Martini", and the robot brings him another great martini. The robot then says, "What's your IQ?" The guy says, "Uh, about 50." The robot leans in real close and says, "So, you people still happy you voted for Obama?"

Health



The Top 10 Health Scares Of The Decade

By Amanda Gardner
HealthDay Reporter

While the past decade has seen great strides in medical technology, it hasn't seen solutions to all of our health problems.

There were novel viruses that threatened to kill us all. There were toxins in our children's toys, and we were told to worry about the junk they were eating.

Some of these threats turned out to be almost nonexistent. Others were arguably overblown. Some caused widespread harm.

So what new threats have been robbing you of sleep since the annual odometer rolled over from 1999 to 2000? Join us as we take a look at the top ten new threats of the last ten years.

Swine Flu (H1N1)

Since it came to public attention in the United States in April, the largest health scare of 2009 has been swine flu.

While other forms of the virus typically peak in February and largely affect the elderly, this strain of the H1N1 flu virus came out of season and mostly affected younger people.

In June, the World Health Organization declared the virus a pandemic, meaning that it was widespread on multiple continents.

Manufacturers began producing vaccine at the end of the spring, but there were shortages nationwide, even late into the fall.

While the majority of cases of the flu have been mild, thousands of American deaths have been attributed to the virus.

But no matter the severity, many health experts agree there are lessons to be learned.

"We just have to note, and this was a bit scary, that when H1N1 came along in communities... our capacity to take care of [patients] was stretched," said Dr. William Schaffner, Chair of the Department of Preventive Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. "We don't have a lot of reserve in the health care system anymore."



Chemical In Plastics

Bisphenol A (BPA)

While much of the alarm over the chemical bisphenol A, or BPA for short, has come lately, scientists have been looking at it for years.

In January of 2000, an article in the Journal of the American Dental Association discussed how BPA -- which is used in some dental sealants

-- was not found at detectable levels in the body more than a few hours after the treatments.

Since then, studies have shown the chemical to cause birth defects in lab animals, and even create some problems in humans in high doses. The chemical, used in household plastics, has also been found in babies, leading to increased scrutiny from regulatory bodies.

But while we know it is present in humans and can create problems at high levels, it remains unclear what the effect of BPA is in humans at lower doses.

"I would say that there's growing evidence that it is a significant concern, but it's not clear yet how much of a concern," said Joel Schwartz, a professor of epidemiology at the Harvard School of Public Health and



Swine Flu Causes Global Panic

director of the Harvard Center for Risk Analysis. "There's a lot of things that still need to be understood, but there's certainly enough things to say, 'Yes, this is something that needs to be on our radar screen.'"



Imported Goods Carry Lead Base Paint

Lead Paint On Toys From China

In 2007, a number of products made in China were recalled -- but perhaps the recall that drew the most attention was of children's toys containing lead paint, including some from the popular Thomas the Tank Engine line.

The problem wasn't so much one of scientific analysis as it was of enforcement.

"We do know that lead is bad for you," said Schwartz. "Kids and toys are a bad place

to put that exposure together. That's a case where that's just outrageous."

The exact effects of the oversight are unknown, but it did shine a spotlight on imported goods.

"It's doing a little more to make sure this stuff doesn't keep slipping in," said Schwartz.



Trans-Fats

Concern over trans-fats -- found in such crowd-pleasing but doctor-disapproved foods as doughnuts and French fries -- came to a head in 2006, when New York City became the first city to ban trans-fats from restaurants.

"The issue became viral, and a lot of it was related to population studies that came out of Harvard University," said Keith-Thomas Ayoob, director of the nutrition clinic at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. "The problem with them is they tend to raise bad cholesterol and lower good cholesterol."

In response to doctors' concerns, most trans-fats have been removed from food products -- but in many cases they may have been replaced by saturated fat, which can also be harmful in excess.

Ayoob said trans-fats were "an easy whipping post."

Trans-fats may have disappeared because they were easy to replace with other ingredients. And ultimately, the virtual disappearance of trans-fats may be a better testament to the power of economics in responding to consumer demand than that of regulation responding to public complaints.

"It's box office poison now, is what it is. No one really wants to list that on an ingredient list," said Ayoob. "That's one where the food industry responded much more quickly than government ever would have. It just didn't pay to keep it in there."

Bird Flu (H5N1)

This year's swine flu pandemic wasn't the first time Americans were concerned with a strain of flu named for an animal.

At the beginning of the decade, avian influenza was a concern in Southeast Asia because of the devastation it was causing in chicken populations. But concerns soon arose about its spread to humans and the possibility it would mutate into a form that could spread from person to person.

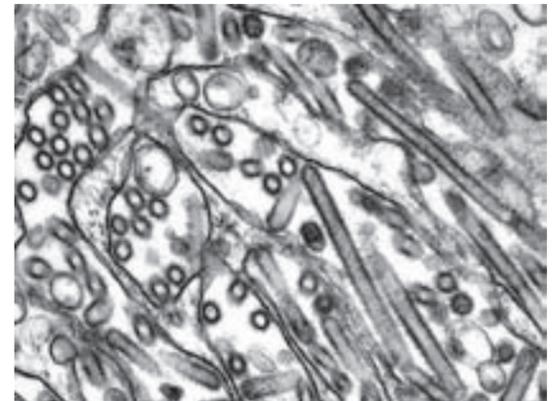
"These new influenza viruses usually are modified viruses that come from birds, and now, we know, swine," said Schaffner. "We know that influenza viruses change on an annual basis... The

world's population will be or will virtually be completely susceptible."

But concerns over avian flu did have one positive effect for the flu vaccine industry, which has been maligned for its reliance on old technologies to create the vaccine each year. Because antigens for flu vaccines are grown in chicken eggs, it was hard to develop a vaccine for a virus that was deadly to birds, and so work had to be done to begin

developing a means of creating antigen without using eggs.

Although the new manufacturing processes are not available yet, "It was exactly H5N1 bird flu that stimulated a number of new ways to create new vaccine," said Schaffner. "What we see now actually came forward as a consequence of all that concern with H5N1."



Sars Virus

Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS)

SARS was the first novel virus to captivate the world's attention this decade after it was identified by the World Health Organization in February 2003.

The respiratory infection was first reported in Asia and then spread to North America, South America and Europe before being contained.

Like influenza, the virus could spread through airborne particles, but it was far more deadly when it infected someone. According to the WHO, 8,096 people were infected worldwide. 774 people died. The virus receded by the end of 2003.

"SARS-like infections, I think, epitomize the emerging infectious diseases," said Schaffner. As for whether the strain could re-emerge, he said, "My crystal ball is pretty cloudy about that... Trying to anticipate whether it would come back or not would be very, very difficult."



Bird Flu Prevention



Continued from page 22 - Top 10 Health Scares



MRSA Virus

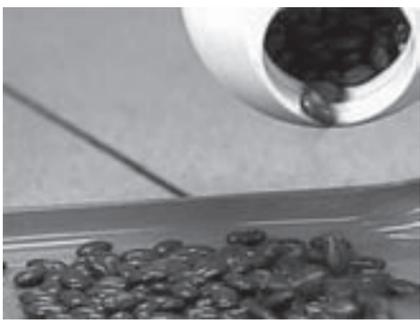
Methicillin-Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA)

MRSA is the best-known of a number of bacteria that resist many of the antibiotics used to treat them. The emergence of MRSA and other bacteria has been blamed on a combination of heavy use of antibiotics and a lack of incentives for drug companies, leaving these bacteria, as Schaffner calls it, "a real, very vital threat"

Schaffner said the existence of these bacteria puts responsibility on both food producers and people who would use antibiotics to be more prudent. But he also said the problem could be compounded by the fact that there is currently little financial incentive for drug companies to devise new antibiotics that could fight the threat.

"Clearly, pharmaceutical development of new antibiotics to help us treat these drug-resistant infections as high-risk and low-profit," said Schaffner. "I can think of no new product in any line of industry that, once it's released, the experts in that area say, 'Don't use it,' and that's the circumstance when any new antibiotic is created."

MRSA is not untreatable, but when using the stronger antibiotics for it, "You get yourself into a very restricted corner," Schaffner said. "You get patients to whom these drugs are incredibly toxic or you may need to keep patients in the hospital rather than send them home."



Hormones

Hormone Replacement Therapy

At the start of the decade, millions of women were using hormone replacement therapy to relieve unpleasant symptoms of menopause. It was also used to prevent osteoporosis and bone fractures, and heart disease as well.

But as early as 2000, some doctors were recommending against the treatment because of a study in the Journal of the American Medical Association suggesting that it increased the risk of breast cancer.

That alarm greatly increased in 2002 when researchers cut short the Women's Health Initiative study of the treatment, citing concerns over heart problems and strokes in women in the study who received HRT.

Some researchers supported the

decision to stop the study, leading many women to stop their HRT, but others felt that it discouraged women who should continue the treatments. Meanwhile, studies have come out with contradictory findings, further confusing women who were unsure what to do. Controversy over HRT continued in 2008, when the International Menopause Society released new guidelines saying that HRT was effective for post-menopausal symptoms and should be considered by women and their physicians.

Following the release of the new guidelines, ABC News contributor Dr. Marie Savard wrote a column for this site in which she tried to clear up some of the confusion.

"There is no question that for a woman with severe hot flashes, sleep disturbance and an annoyingly dry vagina, nothing else works as well as estrogen," Savard wrote. "But the risks of breast cancer, stroke and blood clots from estrogen are hard to ignore... So once again, women are asked to balance the benefits of hormones with the risks and make the best decision for them."



some people."

Senators Tom Daschle of South Dakota and Patrick Leahy of Vermont, among other public figures, had letters mailed to their offices containing anthrax.

No one was ever convicted of sending the letters, but the Federal Bureau of Investigation reportedly planned to charge government researcher Bruce Ivins in the case before he committed suicide in the summer of 2008.

Cell Phones

As cell phones became more popular this past decade, concerns over the

radiation they emit -- and what effect they might have on human health -- have proliferated. Some have worried that their use may be linked to the development of brain tumors.

Thus far, however, most research suggests there is little to worry about.

Animal studies have shown that magnetic fields can affect melatonin levels, so while radiation only shows up in low levels, it's unclear what effect it has on humans. And a Scandinavian study released last week in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute confirmed



Cell Phone & Side Effects

what many have been saying about cell phone safety, showing no increase in brain cancer among cell phone users.

"Whether they do something worth worrying about, that's another question," said Schwartz. Similar questions are raised about high-voltage power lines, but Schwartz urged calm. "It seems to be an issue where it hasn't completely resolved, but I would say the evidence is that if something is going on it's not that big."

Of course, cell phones present an unquestioned safety hazard to Americans, but not for reasons related to radiation. Studies have shown that their use while driving poses a very real hazard.

"That's pretty clear -- talking on a cell phone and driving is like driving drunk," said Schwartz. "The radiation effects -- that doesn't look like that's a major public health issue. That doesn't look very compelling."

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Scientists Study Anthrax Prevention

Anthrax

After the collapse of the World Trade Center in 2001, five people died after inhaling anthrax bacteria sent through the mail.

But the public at large had little to fear from a tainted envelope.

"That was obviously not a major health problem but a significant problem for a small number of people who have been getting exposed," said Schwartz. "I think the primary concern was this might be being used to kill



US~Observer *Demanding Accountability*

Obamacare: Stimulus for Estate Abuse?

Involuntary
Redistribution
of Assets

IRA



By Lou Ann Anderson

As the U.S. Senate leaders wrapped up the debate over government control of health care, some dangerous characters

are lurking in the wings. Grave robbers, property poachers, walker stalkers and other opportunists seeking to loot estates are likely

applauding this move. Disgruntled family members, wannabe heirs or unscrupulous members of the legal industry will find Obamacare helpful with Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) actions in which probate venues or instruments like wills, trusts, guardianships and powers of attorney are used to divert assets from intended heirs or beneficiaries.

The House of Representatives bill introduced end-of-life counseling. When "reform" cost explanations failed to reconcile with fiscal responsibility principles and political realities, the public viewed such provisions as precursors to health care rationing and logically began questioning administration of such a process. While the exact language of the final law is yet to be determined, concern legitimately exists that similar end-of-life provisions or measures that open the door to such provisions will be inserted prior to any upcoming final vote.

Palliative care, a common end-of-

life care component, is defined as any form of medical care or treatment that concentrates on reducing disease symptom severity rather than striving to halt, delay, or reverse progression of the disease itself or provide a cure. The goal is to prevent and relieve suffering and to improve quality of life for people facing serious, complex illness. While used with aggressive treatment, it is also a common alternative for patients who decline prolonged, expensive efforts. Performed under the guise of government-run health care, it's likely to become a mandated, state-sponsored doping of sick Americans deemed unsuitable for proactive medical treatment.

Elder financial abuse is frequently termed the crime of the 21st century. Estate looting and other probate abuse often fall into this category. Estate disputes frequently include allegations of undue influence with the role of medication being a common point of contention. If palliative care becomes a major tool in the government's arsenal of health care cost-cutting measures, predators will seize this opportunity.

"Isolate, medicate, steal the estate" is a phrase commonly associated with IRA acts. The medicate phase offers great opportunity for the use of undue influence that can lead to late-in-life and uncharacteristic estate plan changes. Abandoning proactive medical treatments to artificially incapacitate our seniors in the name of "palliative care" will aid unscrupulous individuals in estate hijacking pursuits. Similar concerns can be raised for the disabled

or younger people with terminal illness or life-threatening injuries – especially individuals attached to a significant estate as legal settlements can provide.

People seem increasingly concerned as they learn more about the proposed reforms. The administration and Congressional leaders claim their reform will be better for all Americans. The federal government wants us to trust them with a plan that will ultimately position a majority of Americans to forfeit a flawed, but functioning health care system to provide coverage for up to 40+ million previously uninsured "Americans" whose true numbers are unknown. The pressure to quickly approve this legislation

rightfully a major cause for concern.

Estate abuse and probate corruption already threaten the property rights of Americans and their heirs' or beneficiaries' inheritance rights. Provisions of this legislation – specifically doping rather than treating certain population segments – will add to the problem. An unsuspecting public must become aware of IRA threats and the accompanying consequences likely to flow from the current health care proposal.

The treatment of estate thefts as civil rather than criminal matters has already provided growth opportunities for the legal industry in addition to generating incentives for others desiring to divert

assets from intended beneficiaries. Increased numbers of heavily-medicated, especially elderly, Americans will likely fuel this expansion of activity.

Lou Ann Anderson is an advocate working to create awareness regarding the Texas probate system and its surrounding culture. She is the Online Producer at www.EstateofDenial.com and a Policy Advisor with Americans for Prosperity – Texas Foundation.

Lou Ann Anderson may be contacted via e-mail at info@EstateofDenial.com.



Health-Care Reform legislation leaving rightful heirs empty-handed

despite its illogical economic premise and language clearly questionable to the longevity and welfare of many Americans – especially the elderly – is

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