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Probate and Switch

By Lou Ann Anderson
*Producer of The Lynn
Woolley Show*

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Why a Newspaper? *The Real Story of the US~Observer*

Ever wondered how it
all began?

Have you ever wanted
to get involved?

Have you ever thought
about starting your own
paper and making a
difference?

This is the real story
behind how this 16 year
old publication came into
being and found its
success vindicating
innocents who are
wrongly accused, and
how you can be involved.

Story on Page 24

Innocent Defendants Pay Heavy Costs

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

USA 2008 – Estimates on citizens falsely prosecuted for criminal offenses each year range from 12% to 35% according to qualified statisticians. This is an alarming, factual occurrence – one which should be dealt with sooner than later, but will probably be much later. To ignore or postpone an appropriate response to this travesty of justice allows the criminal justice system to nibble away at our rights as citizens living in a free society. Eventually, the apathy will lead to a pandemic of innocent victims suffering under the boot of despots, because no one will be left to give a damn.

Knowledgeable researchers from the Michigan University Law School, studying false convictions found 545

individuals were exonerated, for crimes they did not commit, between 1989 and 2003. Their claim is, “Judging from our data, any plausible guess at the total number of miscarriages of justice



in America in the last fifteen years could run into the thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, in felony cases alone.”

Investigators with the US~Observer, who have a combined ninety years of experience vindicating the falsely accused, believe the number of false prosecutions to be much higher. The cause of this surge in

false prosecutions is twofold. Unethical, immoral and overly ambitious prosecutors across this nation stack charges against individuals with the idea that if enough of them are thrown against an individual, something might stick. One conviction is often their intended goal. The defendant, who is faced with overwhelming odds against an acquittal, most often will accept an offer for a plea bargain. Regardless of their guilt or innocence, the defendant facing a long prison sentence if convicted by an uninformed jury will often times accept a legal plea agreement, hoping to extract themselves from the criminal system. Going into any court is a literal crapshoot because of the manipulations of the prosecutors and the pro-prosecution behavior of many judges, therefore, taking a plea even though innocent is a

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Texas Senator John Carona *My Way “and” the Highway* Texas Politician’s Hidden Agenda

By Tedd Peck &
Edward Snook
Investigative Reporters

Dallas, Texas - Poll after poll shows that a majority of Texans are dead set against the Texas Department of Transportation’s (TDOT) agenda to build toll roads that are tied into the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) highway. According to Lou Dobbs of CNN there is a plan, Security and Prosperity Partnership, to connect Mexico with Canada via the Trans Texas Corridor (TTC). This corridor is planned to start at Laredo and head toward Dallas and Houston then north parallel with Interstate 35 and on into Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri and all points north. It has been reported that the Bush



John Carona

Administration is deeply involved with this master agenda but he scoffs at the mention of a

superhighway. Go to <http://www.nauwarroom.org> and do your own research regarding the prime movers of a North American Union.

The incongruities of the majority of Texans not wanting new highways and TDOT pushing this concept through are abundant. Cash strapped Texans say they want their gas tax dollars used to repair old roads, not in building new toll roads run by foreign entities. However, the politicians controlling this nefarious agenda are spending money to plan and design this unwanted superhighway. If the citizens of a democracy are against this plan why is it going forward and who is moving the agenda? What about public opinion?

**The Hidden Agenda
of Senator John Carona**
One person, who has the

Royal Gasso ▲

Continued on page 10

US~Observer Exclusive Oklahoma: Truth, Justice, and Parole



By US~Observer Staff

Lexington, Oklahoma – On July 16, 2008 the thick silence was punctuated only by the scraping of the metal chairs on the tile floor as Oklahoma inmate Reno Francis, his attorney Debra Hampton and his fiancée Verna Wood slid their chairs up to the table and prepared to face the parole board.

Introductions were made, the particulars of the 1970 crime were read, and the questioning began.

Continued on page 13

The 545 Who Control America

By Charlie Reese

Politicians are the only people in the world who create problems and then campaign against them.

Have you ever wondered why, if both the Democrats and the Republicans are against deficits, we have deficits?

Have you ever wondered why, if all the politicians are against inflation and high taxes, we have inflation and high taxes?

You and I don't propose a federal budget. The president does.

You and I don't have the Constitutional authority to vote on appropriations. The House of Representatives does.

You and I don't write the tax code, Congress does.

You and I don't set fiscal

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The Grange

Resolutions for a Stronger America

The National Grange is the nation's oldest national agricultural organization, with grassroots units established in 3,600 local communities in 37 states. Its 300,000 members provide service to agriculture and rural areas on a wide variety of issues, including economic development, education, family endeavors, and legislation designed to assure a strong and viable Rural America. It was formed in the years following the American

Civil War to unite private citizens in improving the economic and social position of the nation's farm population. Over the past 137 years, it has evolved to include non-farm rural families and communities.

The Grange is also a fraternal order known as the Order of Patrons of Husbandry, hence the "P of H" on the organization's logo. Founding members determined that a fraternal organization would be best able to combine loyalty and democratic ideals to provide service to others. The National Grange was one of the first formal groups to admit women to membership on the basis of equality with men. It remains so today.

Each year, a listing of more than 1,400 issues of concern is published and distributed by the National Grange.

Resolution The Perils of Electronic Voting

Whereas: There are several companies in the United States of America who have invented and are marketing electronic voting machines to be used for public elections throughout



Grange Headquarters,
Washington, D.C.

the fifty different states.

Whereas: These businesses are trying to sell these electronic voting machines to be used by county clerks to replace the paper ballot system.

Whereas: electronic voting machines are subject to fraud, voting errors and computer hacking, and provide no paper ballots available for recount, thus making it impossible to verify the accuracy of the vote tally.

Whereas: On December 29, 2003, a computer hacker succeeded in breaching the security of Vote Here, Inc. of Bellevue, Washington, broke into the companies internal computer network and accessed internal documents. This is one of the major companies developing security for electronic voting technology.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange opposes the individual use of electronic voting machines for public elections because these computers are subject to fraud, error, and computer hackers. We believe the only safe voting system is the paper ballot system.

This resolution adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at its regular meeting held on May 10, 2004.

This resolution was also adopted by the Oregon State Grange at its 131st Annual Session held at Joseph, Oregon, week of June 21-25, 2004.

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

Delaine Sherman, Secretary
P.O. Box 871
Selma, OR 97538

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Jurors' True Duties

Take back control before it's too late

By US~Observer Staff

Editor's Note: The information in this article can and will make a difference. It is imperative that this knowledge finds its way into the hands of all potential jurors. We will be reprinting this article in upcoming editions.

America - During the early years of the United States, up to the mid 1800s, you could get tossed in prison for failing to pay back your debts. Not only were you expected to come up with the money to pay back what you owed, but you also had to pay for your imprisonment!

Today, it is still possible to be thrown or remain in jail for debt. Debts of fraud, child-support, alimony, or release fines can land you in jail or prevent you from being set free. This is the government's goal when prosecuting income tax cases. Apparently we have become desensitized to incarcerating men and women in what should rightfully be called "debtor's prison."

Anybody who is called to be on jury duty for any court should know their responsibilities, rights and power. The jury has the absolute moral and legal power to judge all cases on the basis of the fairness and reasonableness of the law. Corrupt judges have suppressed this information so most of us are not aware of the jury's power. At the time of our nation's founding, when many judges were honest, this power was not hidden as it is today. The jury has the undisputed power to acquit, even if its verdict is contrary to the law as given by the judge and contrary to the evidence. The judges want to keep this power secret so they can continue to force all of us to obey unfair and unreasonable laws. The judge will instruct the jury that they must make their decision based on the facts as presented during the trial and in strict accord with the law as stated by the judge. The jury does not legally have to adhere to the judge's instructions. This is because in a jury trial, the real "judge" is the jury itself, and the judge in the black robe only has the power to oversee the orderly presentation of the case to the jury, while it is the jury that is the proper "judge" of both the facts and the law involved in the particular case at hand.

Every prospective juror has not only the right but the obligation to himself and his fellow Americans to see that justice is done and to remember that ignoring an unjust law or considering if the law is being applied for political reasons is sometimes the juror's only recourse to achieve a just verdict, which would be NOT GUILTY. Is the defendant being singled out as "an example" in order to demonstrate government muscle?

Much of today's "crime wave" consists of victimless crimes--crimes against the state, United States or political crimes. So, if you think that a guilty verdict would give the government too much power, or help keep a bad law alive, just do the right thing – vote NOT GUILTY and stick to your guns. Remember that you can refuse to apply any law that violates your conscience.

Example: The year was 1670, and William Penn was on trial for violation of the "Conventicle Act." This Act made the Church of England the only legal church. The Act was struck down by a not guilty vote. Freedom of Religion was established and became part of the English Bill of Rights and

later it became the First Amendment to the Constitution. William Penn most likely would have been executed if the jurors would have yielded to the guilty verdict sought by the judge and prosecutor.

It is an irrefutable fact that our system of justice has been stolen or better yet swindled from us by attorneys over past decades. Judges are part of this swindle in that they are also attorneys. The legal profession in America has denigrated itself from one of ethics to one of "legalized" theft.

Prosecutors often charge people with "multiple charges" so the jury will assume that the defendant must be guilty of something – watch multiple charges very carefully and if you smell a rat – do what – vote Not Guilty. One of the great mistakes a jury can make is to betray both truth and conscience by compromising. If you are of the persuasion that the defendant is not guilty of anything, then vote NOT GUILTY on all counts.

The vast majorities of people in this country are petrified of attorneys, judges, prosecutors, the IRS and in many cases corrupt "law enforcement officers." In a free and just nation this would not be the case.

The answer to the problems with our "legal system" appears to be complex, when they actually aren't. Americans must bridle our out of control "legal system" or we are all in for a world of hurt.

We live in a land where hundreds of thousands of illegal aliens can march in our streets, right in front of law enforcement and where border patrol agents are imprisoned for doing their job in attempting to stop an illegal alien drug smuggler from bringing drugs across our border. U.S. District Court Judge Kathleen Cardone in El Paso, Texas, sentenced Jose Alonso Compean to 12 years in prison and Ignacio Ramos to 11 years and one day despite a plea by their attorney for a new trial after three jurors said they were coerced into voting guilty in the case, the Washington Times reported. Judge Cardone is corrupt and the jurors in this case were anything but "fully informed" regarding their true duties. As happens in court rooms across this nation every day, the judge actually instructed the jury to find these agents guilty.

Realizing that our justice system closely resembles a slaughter house where cattle are herded through chutes to their execution, something has to be done and the obvious place to start is with our juries. If a person is called to jury duty they need to realize that they are the real "judge" of the case. When the court excuses the jury to make private decisions that the court doesn't want the jury to hear (exclude evidence from them) then all responsible jurors should simply come back with a Not Guilty verdict. If the judge in any given case even hints at instructing the jury to find a defendant guilty, responsible jurors must deliver a Not Guilty verdict. And above all else, if the law purportedly broken by a defendant is presented to the jury and that law is vague, ambiguous, or appears to be a bad law, the jury must deliver a Not Guilty verdict. This won't be hard for jurors in income tax cases because they won't be shown any law since it doesn't exist. And above all, do not let any judge

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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.

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

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

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

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

If you are innocent and there is conclusive evidence of your innocence, *The US~Observer* provides a 100% money-back guarantee on criminal cases should we fail to prove your innocence and achieve your total vindication. *The US~Observer* investigates cases for news and therefore we don’t print that which can’t be resolved. We want to win, just as you want to prove your innocence.

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

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

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In The Nation

I-TEAM: SWAT Team Honored For Raid On Wrong House

MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) - Minneapolis Police Chief Tim Dolan has handed out honors to a team of officers involved in a botched raid at an innocent family's home more than seven months ago. The family is upset and their attorney criticizes the awards and questions the timing.

Just days before Christmas, the sound of intruders breaking into their home in North Minneapolis prompted Vang Khang to grab his shotgun to protect his six children. His terrified wife called 911.

Khang fired several shots at the "intruders" who turned out to be members of the Minneapolis Police Department's SWAT team. The officers returned fire. Their protective gear prevented them from being harmed by the bullets.

No one was hurt in the shootout last Dec. 16 and the Minneapolis Police Chief ordered an internal investigation. The house was left riddled with bullet holes and broken glass. Two days later, Dolan apologized to the family and launched an internal investigation to find out how the SWAT team wound up in an innocent family's house in the middle of the night.

The investigation determined that the team had gone there looking for a gang member's guns after an informant gave investigators in the department's Violent Offenders Task Force bad information. The investigation is ongoing.

Dolan recognized members of the SWAT team for their bravery and how they handled the raid. With Mayor R.T. Rybak and other city officials looking on, the chief

handed out medals and commendations.

Dolan told the crowd, "This is a perfect example of a situation that could have gone horribly wrong, but did not because of the professionalism with which it was handled."

The Khang family was upset when they learned of the awards given to the SWAT team.

"They were outraged and they were hurt. They were hurt. To this day this family continues to suffer," said their attorney, former U.S. Attorney Tom Heffelfinger.

Heffelfinger said the family has notified the city that they plan to file a lawsuit over the botched raid. He questions the timing and motives for the award.

"Why now are we seeing the police department honoring these men? In this context, I'm convinced this is an effort on the part of the police leadership to sanitize the conduct of their officers on December 16," he said.

"The officers put themselves in harm's way ... and deserved to be recognized," said Dolan in a statement defending the awards to the SWAT team.

Dolan said an internal investigation conducted by his staff cleared the conduct of the SWAT officers who raided the Khang home.

More than seven months later, the internal review has not finished looking into how the officers and supervisors in the Violent Offenders' Task Force handled the investigative piece of the case which preceded the raid at the Khang home. So far, no one has been disciplined in connection with the mistaken raid.

Is America headed in the wrong direction? *Build a Dream and help our nation!*

A core group of individuals, America's Founding Fathers, birthed this magnificent constitutional republic with the understanding that bringing change had to come at the grassroots level. They reached out with the message of freedom using newspapers. They changed the hearts and minds of men and women and the course of history.

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 – **Start Your own US~Observer newspaper and be a part of real change.** Become part of taking the truth into America's homes - into their hands.

Our dedicated professionals will guide you to success and get you publishing practically overnight, while we save you from the costly mistakes that can be made in the publishing business.

Many have tried to start a newspaper and many have failed. We have a 16-year track record of great success. Join our professional Network today and become part of the machine that will change our troubled nation.

Read our story on page 24!

Call 541-474-7885

By Ed Felien

The RNC in St. Paul: *The Shredding of The Bill of Rights*



Our constitutional rights to freedom of speech, freedom to peacefully assemble and petition the government (or the governing political party) for redress of grievances and the freedom of the press were seriously damaged by the police in St. Paul at the Republican National Convention last week.

There were at least a dozen attacks on members of the press and independent media. Perhaps the most notorious of these abuses came with the arrest of media icon Amy Goodman. She describes her arrest and the violent arrest of two of her producers:

"Nicole was videotaping. Her tape of her own violent arrest is chilling. Police in riot gear charged her, yelling, "Get down on your face." You hear her voice, clearly and repeatedly announcing "Press! Press! Where are we supposed to go?" She was trapped between parked cars. The camera drops to the pavement amidst Nicole's screams of pain. Her face was smashed into the pavement, and she was bleeding from the nose, with the heavy officer with a boot or knee on her back. Another officer was pulling on her leg. Sharif was thrown up against the wall and kicked in the chest, and he was bleeding from his arm.

"I was at the Xcel Center on the convention floor, interviewing delegates. I had just made it to the Minnesota delegation when I got a call on my cell phone with news that Sharif and Nicole were being bloody arrested, in every sense. Filmmaker Rick Rowley of Big Noise Films and I raced on foot to the scene. Out of breath, we arrived at the parking lot. I went up to the line of riot police and asked to speak to a commanding officer, saying that they had arrested accredited journalists.

"Within seconds, they grabbed me,

pulled me behind the police line and forcibly twisted my arms behind my back and handcuffed me, the rigid plastic cuffs digging into my wrists. I saw Sharif, his arm bloody, his credentials hanging from his neck. I repeated we were accredited journalists, whereupon a Secret Service agent came over and ripped my convention credential from my neck. I was taken to the St. Paul police garage where cages were set up for protesters. I was charged with obstruction of a peace officer. Nicole and Sharif were taken to jail, facing riot charges.

"The attack on and arrest of me and the "Democracy Now!" producers was not an isolated event. A video group called I-Witness Video was raided two days earlier. Another video documentary group, the Glass Bead Collective, was detained, with its computers and video cameras confiscated. On Wednesday, I-Witness Video was again raided, forced out of its office location. How did things get so far out of hand? Who was in charge?"

The Minneapolis Police that arrested Amy Goodman were under the direction of the St. Paul Police Department that seemed to be taking orders from the Ramsey County Sheriff's office that was obviously getting its orders from the Secret Service. When Tony Bouza was Chief of Police for Minneapolis, President Ronald Reagan was coming to town for a fundraiser. Some people

wanted to protest his illegal war against the legitimate government of Nicaragua. The Secret Service came to town and met with Bouza. Reagan had never seen a demonstration in his years as President, and the Secret Service was determined to keep the demonstrators blocks away and out of sight.

Bouza was even more determined to allow the demonstrators to express their constitutional right to peacefully confront the President. The Secret Service tried to bribe

Bouza with the privilege of



© Jon Behm Photography

associating with the President. It didn't work. They threatened to federalize the hotel. Bouza said he'd see them in court. In the end, the demonstrators stood across the street, and the President's limo pulled up in front of the hotel.

What happened in St. Paul?

The Secret Service came to town with, according to some reports, \$50 million in goodies and toys: the fancy Batman costumes with shiny knee pads and chest protectors; the new Taser

Continued on page 5

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



In The Nation

US Marks Seventh 9/11 Anniversary

By BBC News

US President George W Bush has led commemorations of the seventh anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, which left nearly 3,000 people dead.



Moments of silence were held at the times four hijacked passenger planes hit the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field.

In Washington, Mr Bush dedicated a new memorial at the Department of Defense to 184 people killed there.

"The worst day in America's history saw some of the bravest acts," he said.

"Since 9/11 our troops have taken the fight to the terrorists abroad so we do not have to face them here at home," he added.

"Thanks to the brave men and women and all those who work to keep us safe there has not been another attack on our soil in 2,557 days."

The attacks, which triggered the US-led invasions of

Afghanistan and Iraq, and the Bush administration's "war on terror", are regarded as the defining moment of the president's time in office.

In downtown Manhattan, thousands of people gathered as relatives of victims from more than 90 countries read out a roll call of the 2,751 people killed in New York.

City Mayor Michael Bloomberg opened the memorial event, describing 9/11 as a day that "lives forever in our hearts and our history".

Silences were observed at the moments each of the Twin Towers was struck and fell.

Barack Obama and John McCain, the Democratic and Republican nominees in November's presidential election, are due to attend a ceremony at Ground Zero in New York to lay wreathes in honour of the victims.

In a joint statement, the two men vowed to come together "as Americans" and suspend their political campaigns for 24 hours.

Mr McCain earlier attended a ceremony at Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where he paid tribute to the bravery of the United Flight 93 passengers who took on the hijackers.

He said: "The only means we possess to thank them is to try to be as good an American as they were. We might fall well short of their standard, but there is honour in the effort."

The presidential rivals' joint appearance is to be followed by another in the evening at a Columbia University forum to discuss their views on public service.

For Mr Bush, however, it is the last time he marks the anniversary as president.

"The president thinks about 9/11 every single day when he wakes up and before he goes to bed," White House press secretary Dana Perino said on the eve of the anniversary.

Seven years after the attacks which shocked the world, Ground Zero is a construction site.

After years of delays and disagreements over how to commemorate the dead, work has finally begun on a memorial and a new skyscraper - the Freedom Tower -

which is due to be completed by 2012.

On the eve of the anniversary, a top US military commander warned new tactics were needed to win the conflict in Afghanistan, which the US and its allies invaded three months after 9/11.

They aimed to topple the Taleban and hunt down Osama Bin Laden, who the US believes masterminded the attacks.

Admiral Mike Mullen believes insurgents are launching attacks from neighbouring Pakistan, and US-led forces must target their "safe havens" in that country.

Firemen raised a flag where WTC was.
Photo: Thomas E. Franklin
for The Record - (Bergen County NJ)



Continued from page 4 • The RNC in St. Paul ...

guns; new pepper spray and tear gas guns, etc. The demonstrators insisted on being visible to the Xcel Convention Center front door, so the Secret Service built them a cage they could walk through—an ingeniously intimidating structure that was meant to dampen free expression of dissent. Hopefully, the City of St. Paul will keep it as a monument to the 2008 repression of free speech.

In their City Service Agreement with St. Paul, Ramsey County and the Secret Service, the Minneapolis City Council and the Mayor piously hoped: "The model the group develops will include strategies to help ensure that law enforcement will not engage in 'infiltration' of lawful and protected associations, not use any information gained through such 'infiltration,' and treat those exercising constitutional rights of association, speech and petition respectfully." Only Council Members Cam Gordon and Gary Schiff saw through this giveaway of our constitutional rights and voted against the Agreement.

And what did the Minneapolis Police do after being given the green light to use all means to protect the Republican Convention?

With the cooperation and under the orders of the

Ramsey County Sheriff's office under the direction of the Secret Service and the FBI, the MPD raided the homes of two anarchist groups in the Powderhorn neighborhood. They didn't find guns. They didn't find anything that could threaten the life of another human being, but they locked up anyone they thought might be dangerous until after the Convention. They bragged that they were able to identify the people in the house because some of their agents had infiltrated the group.

So much for the pious pipe dreams of the City Council.

The use of police agents to infiltrate political protest raises serious questions about the police response to the demonstrations. Some have suggested that the more violent and extreme actions might have been taken by police agent provocateurs.

A group of anarchist photographers and reporters that followed most of the break away action on Monday said: "One kid who looked under 20 years-old jumped on top of a cop car that broke through the pedestrian barrier. Another two smashed windows of a Macy's, First National Bank and an unoccupied cop car. However, this was the work of maybe five or so people in the breakaway protest group." And, "When

windows started to get smashed by a lone few, yells came out from the group such as, 'What are you doing!?' You idiot! How is that going to send a message?'"

Sue Kolstad (the brains behind local folk icon Papa John and the soul behind Andrew "Cadillac"), on seeing footage of the more extreme actions, said, "Why do those kids have on such nicely shined shoes and such neatly pressed jeans?" And, "Why weren't any of them arrested?"

The effect of the extreme protest actions did increase the intensity of the police response and make the protesters more fearful and defensive. The over-reaction of the police during the week of protests had a chilling effect on free speech and a free press.

Council Member Gary Schiff is calling for hearings on the behavior of the MPD. He is especially concerned about the attacks on journalists, the seizures of video tapes and the targeting of photographers. He would appreciate people with firsthand accounts contacting his office at 612-673-2209.

Ed Felien is the editor and publisher of Southside Pride, a newspaper in Minneapolis. He can be reached at edfelien@pulsnet.com



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Sheriff Gil Gilbertson

We have all been waiting with anticipation for someone from the State level to provide us with an opinion or some clarification of what to expect with our foreseeable future. Reportedly, nine of our thirty-six Counties are in serious trouble.

The loss of the federal subsidy (frequently referred to as the O&C) is having a devastating impact on the many of us that have become dependant upon those resources. Our federal government has now terminated their commitment in continued funding; causing a sincere hardship on many aspects of our lives, including public safety.

Josephine County is at the very top of that list. It should not come as a surprise to anyone however. Although we enjoy the lowest tax rates in the State, there is a downside; and we are now facing that reality. Albeit there are many other dimensions to this dilemma, we are concerned with our public safety and the quality of life we all deserve.

This administration is committed to cutting as close-to-the-bone as possible to stretch out our funding to provide you the best service possible. We recently turned in eleven vehicles, some Deputies are now sharing a vehicle to save on gas; our volunteers on patrol have been put on hold; we are looking into different uniforms for jail personnel which could save us over \$100.00 per uniform; we've recently relocated our sub-station in Cave Junction to save over \$7,300.00 per year; we continue to aggressively seek out grants and other funding sources – we have even approached private industry to seek

funds; we have relocated our jail personnel to a more confined area to enhance their productivity, without loss of safety – evidenced by our ability to book more inmates last year; we assumed our own dispatch center at a savings of approximately \$130,000.00; to control our overtime and provide some level of safety to our Deputies we operate one shift per day.

We cannot answer for what other administrators may or may not have done. Finger pointing does little to solve any problem. We believe in dealing with what we have in front of us, plan for the future....and move forward! Today, we have become a very transparent organization, embracing public scrutiny (i.e., the establishment of the Citizens Sheriff Advisory Committee). We are dedicated to our goals, ideals, objectives, and performance – which revolve around you and our community. We are asking that you also look to our future.

“Earning” your trust was one of the compelling forces driving the changes in this administration. We will continue to strive towards that goal.

The following information comes from the Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services–titled “Initial Report”. In part, the reason for sharing this report with you is so that you understand we have not been crying “wolf”. The problem is real and affects more than just this County. It is time to stop lamenting about the past and work together for our future.

Respectfully,
Gil Gilbertson

The Governor's Task Force on Federal Forest Payments and County Services - Initial Report:

- The imminent loss of federal forest payments...will create a fiscal crisis for the majority of Oregon's counties far worse and longer lasting than the crisis experienced by state government during the recession of 2001-03.
- Even with the best efforts of county governments and the state, there is no single solution that will allow the crisis to be successfully managed or resolved in the short term.
- The crisis confronting the hard-hit counties and the erosion of funding for schools will trigger

new demands for shared resources from state government and state taxpayers. *Competition for shares of the state budget will intensify.*

- We found that many counties have already cut services to bare-bones levels.
- We advise the affected counties and the state to prepare for the worst.
- Oregon should respond...with an “all hands on deck” effort by all levels of government, including state supervision and management of insolvent counties.
- Even if all our recommendations were accepted and implemented, we find that they would make up less than half of the revenues lost from the expiration of (federal timber) payments.
- There is no immediate solution to the problems created by the loss of (federal timber) payments. Multiple responses will be needed from all levels of government—county, state, and federal.
- Nine counties will face revenue losses of 20% or more of their discretionary funds. A tenth county, Polk, is right at the edge of this cutoff. The “hard hit” counties, in order of greatest initial General Fund revenue impact, are:

- **Josephine**
-67% -\$12.4 Million
- **Douglas**
-65% -\$23.3 Million
- **Curry**
-60% -\$ 3.7 Million
- **Lane**
-50% -\$17.6 Million
- **Jackson**
-32% -\$14.9 Million
- **Grant**
-27% -\$ 0.6 Million
- **Klamath**
-25% -\$ 3.1 Million
- **Columbia**
-23% -\$ 1.9 Million
- **Polk**
-19% -\$ 2.1 Million

- Standing pat and waiting for economic recovery to provide additional revenues is not an option.
- The financial ability of the state to respond (to the recommendations contained in this initial report) is of great concern.
- In addition to the less quantifiable risk to community safety and beyond,

courts, public defenders, district attorneys, and community corrections will experience the systemic impacts of budget reductions.

• Decreased assets by county sheriffs will translate into fewer cases ready for prosecution. Also, staff limitations at district attorney offices may cause fewer cases to be prosecuted. These impacts will reduce the flow of cases to circuit courts and could lower state funding for county jails and community corrections services under current state funding formulas.

• Further, because funding is often based on the volume of cases moving through the system, courts, public defenders, district attorneys, and community corrections may experience additional funding cuts from other sources.

• Additionally, district attorneys with limited funds will likely target their scarce resources on high-priority crimes and may decline to prosecute nonviolent property crimes, minor drug crimes, and misdemeanors. Counties with severely compromised budgets may discontinue their drug courts because of personnel shortages, and as a result may forego state funding earmarked for drug courts.

• Finally, courthouses in counties unable to make capital investments in circuit court facilities will fall into further disrepair.

• Counties are obligated to provide incarceration, sanctions, and services for felony offenders on probation, parole, or post-prison supervision and those sentenced to prison for 12 months or less; however, the levels and types of these activities is a local decision. Counties have the authority to design and deliver a continuum of sanctions and services to meet offender needs and provide community safety.

• For most counties, the impacts on community corrections will come from reductions in the local criminal justice system and in treatment programs provided directly or indirectly through county mental health programs. These impacts include:

- Reduced number of deputy district attorneys
- Reduced number of jail beds available for pre-trial detention and to respond to violations of supervision.
- Reduced number of law enforcement on patrol in the county.
- Reduced county treatment services available.

The full report is available at:
http://governor.oregon.gov/Gov/docs/federal_forest_payments_062008.pdf

■■■

Did You Know?



The state seal consists of an escutcheon, or shield, supported by 33 stars and divided by an ordinary, or ribbon, with the inscription “The Union.” Above the ordinary are the mountains and forests of Oregon, an elk with branching antlers, a covered wagon and ox team, the Pacific Ocean with setting sun, a departing British man-of-war signifying the departure of British influence in the region and an arriving American merchant ship signifying the rise of American power. Below the ordinary is a quartering with a sheaf of wheat, plow and pickax, which represent Oregon’s mining and agricultural resources. The crest is the American Eagle. Around the perimeter of the seal is the legend “State of Oregon 1859.” A resolution adopted by the Constitutional Convention in session on September 17, 1857, authorized the president to appoint a committee of three—Benjamin F. Burch, L.F. Grover and James K. Kelly—to report on a proper device for the seal of the state of Oregon. Harvey Gordon created a draft, to which the committee recommended certain additions that are all incorporated in the state seal. - Oregon.gov

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COMMENTARY

Your Right to Speak Out

Republican National Convention

Minneapolis Police Riot: *First Person*



By Colleen Mihal

Saturday,
September 06, 2008

Dear Friends; when you wake up this morning and read the headlines about McCain's speech, the latest horse-race tally, and political predictions, I want you to be aware of events you may not read about, events that illuminate the real state of our democracy, events that brought me to tears (and it wasn't just from the gas).

I want to tell you about battle that raged on the streets of St. Paul - A battle waged by the police, backed, funded, and organized by the Department of Homeland Security, a battle against peaceful protesters, war veterans, concerned citizens, and journalists.

I thought you would be interested in reading this first-person account of the heavy-handed response to activism at the RNC this week. This is from Colleen Mihal, currently a Ph.D. student in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Colorado-Boulder - Matt, Union of Democratic Communication

I have been working with a documentary film team in St. Paul led by Joan Sekler and based out of The Uptake, a film collective with an office right outside the exclusion zone by the Excel Center. Around 4:00pm I left the office with two other filmmakers to film a permitted peace rally and march at the state capitol. The speakers began and everyone was just lounging in the park. An undercover cop was identified by protesters wearing all black and a yellow keffiyeh over his face. He was heard by one of my fellow filmmakers saying, "busted" into his scarf. He walked out of the park as protesters marched around him chanting, "This is what an undercover looks like." He fell behind police lines and disappeared. After a few speakers went on, it became obvious that police in riot gear were surrounding us. Unfortunately, this was not unusual for our week in St. Paul.

I ran over to film a golf cart full of police rushing onto the grass. The cop in the cart yelled into a megaphone, "YOUR PERMIT TO BE IN THE PARK ENDS AT 5:00PM! YOU HAVE NINE MINUTES TO DISPERSE! YOU MUST VACATE THE PARK!"

Almost instantaneously people started to run out of the park in fear and police in gas masks started to move in. The protesters caught the police off guard as they headed towards the bridge into St. Paul, not the direction for the permitted march, but the path for previous marches. None of the protesters I spoke with were aware of the terms of the permit before the police disrupted the rally. The protesters did not make it to the bridge at Cedar and 12th St, as they were cut-off by hundreds of police in full riot gear. This was the site of a standoff that lasted for hours. Many protesters were arrested for sitting peacefully in the street. During this confrontation a journalist from *The Uptake* was detained.

The police were ordering us to travel West. The North (State Capitol building) and East routes were totally blockaded. Protesters and the media started moving

West and almost made it over the second bridge at John Ireland Blvd., but failed. Not only independent media, but also mainstream media were trapped outside of the city. This time, the mainstream media found themselves in the shoes of independent media. There was a long confrontation again on the John Ireland bridge as protesters sat peacefully in the street and sang. One protester knelt in front of the police line with a flower in his hands. The police eventually issued dispersal orders, and as we dispersed, a few more people were arrested. We went back to the bridge at Cedar St. More arrests. Police broke the line and dipped out into the crowd to grab and arrest the protest leadership. The leaders had been simply standing around talking. As the cops dipped in, I was on a fence over I-94. Before I knew what was happening, a cop drew a grenade gun and ordered me to move. My backpack got stuck on the fence. Luckily, he waited for me. Everything happened so fast, no one caught it on film.

It started to get dark and we headed back to the John Ireland bridge. By the time I got there the police were in full force, as before. The streets were barricaded with snowplows. The police attempted to tell us that no one, including media, were allowed on the bridge. They claimed there was a bomb on the bridge. No bomb squad ever arrived. No suspicious package was ever identified. All the pathways and bridges into the city were blocked. No one could get in, even those with official RNC press credentials or those trying to get to work.

Further West I saw police vans flying and people

her. She tried to run, now blinded. Once again they pushed her to the ground. She was crying and had lost her shoe. They pepper sprayed her again. She got up and ran. At this point, they just let her go. I helped her wash her face and find a medic.

Next I filmed the back of a row of police shooting what sounded like rubber bullets. The police quickly turned and screamed, "GET THE MEDIA OUT OF HERE! GET THE MEDIA OUT OF HERE!" I turned

and ran. Some of the cavalier corporate journalists shouted back, "We are media! Who are you targeting? We pose no threat to you!" I decided it was time to leave the situation. As I was leaving I saw a woman who looked like she was in her 70s. She had been shot by a concussion grenade. She wasn't part of the march; she had been shopping at Sears.

Before I left, I saw police had some people surrounded who were sitting on the ground with peace signs raised. By this time it was really dark and we couldn't film. Some media tried to turn on lights and the police wouldn't let them. Anytime someone turned on a light the police pointed the pepper spray at them.

I left with the film crew because our batteries were out and it was dark. We ate at a Vietnamese restaurant and ended up getting a ride back into the city from the owner. She dropped us off on the other side of the city: the contrast was surreal. On the other side of the city Republicans partied with American flags, high heels, and festive music. We had entered another world. The police were not wearing gas masks or riot gear! They were wearing polo shirts!

We passed a man complete with buttons, credentials, and a white, plastic hat who was lighting a cigar with his wife next to him in a red sequin blazer happily buying a McCain-Palin shirt. Here you would be hard pressed to find someone that was not white or wealthy.

Is this what the Republicans mean by "Country First?" I ask then, what country? Whose country? Nationalism is undemocratic and terroristic at home, as it is abroad. Let this serve as a warning, a warning of the fascist state they are building on our soil, not to mention what they hope to do throughout the world. I truly believe that the police never intended to let the protesters march to their Freedom Cage inside the city. I believe their intention was to

completely lock dissent (what McCain referred to in his nomination speech as "static") out of the city- at all costs. And to that I say, Mission Accomplished. The north side of the city was a total war zone. And, as is characteristic of some wars, one side was not armed.

Editor's Note: The US~Observer had a reporter on the ground in Minneapolis as events unfolded. Sent there to cover Ron Paul's Rally for the Republic, he bore witness to several obstructions of our freedom of speech by the local police and federal officers.

What the mainstream media won't, or is too afraid to report, is that Minneapolis was a locked down police state where officers who are supposed to protect and serve bragged about pepper-spraying peaceful protesters.

Look for his exposé to be published in the upcoming edition of USA Tomorrow. USA Tomorrow was also there as proud sponsors of Dr. Paul's Rally and had their own run-ins with the local gestapo.

■ ■ ■



Image by Matthew Rourke, Sept. 1, 2008, Minneapolis.

running. The next bridge was also barricaded, the Marion St. Bridge. The only way to go was Northwest into a neighborhood. Sounds of explosions rocked the night air. I headed in that direction as I received a twitter (text message), "THE PRESS ARE NO LONGER SAFE!" Other texts rolled in reading, "Fox News gassed" and "KARE 11 reporter arrested." As the explosions grew louder, I saw bluish-purple gas rising from behind a building. I ran into the Sears parking lot where the action was. Police were everywhere. It was impossible to know where to go. There were small packs of police and National Guardsmen everywhere I turned.

Somehow I fell in with a pack of riot police on a mission. I filmed as few of them grabbed a young girl by her shirt as she tried to run away from the violent scene. She kept running as they chased her in a circle around me. One cop threw her on the ground and with his club, struck her. Next, he pepper sprayed her point blank in the face. She got up and they started pushing

"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

Mother's Milk of Politics Turns Sour

By Bill Moyers
and Michael Winship

Once again we're closing the barn door after the horse is out and gone. In Washington the Federal Reserve has finally acted to stop some of the predatory lending that exploited people's need for money. And like Rip Van Winkle, Congress is finally waking up from a long doze under the warm sun of laissez faire economics. That's French for turning off the alarm until the burglars have made their getaway.

Philosophy is one reason we do this to ourselves; when you worship market forces as if they were the gods of Olympus, then the gods can do no wrong -- until, of course, they prove to be human. Then we realize we should have listened to our inner agnostic and not been so reverent in the first place.

But we also get into these terrible dilemmas - where the big guys step all over everyone else and the victims are required to pay the hospital bills - because we refuse to recognize the connection between money and politics. This is the great denial in democracy that may ultimately mean our ruin. We just don't seem able to see or accept the fact that money drives policy. It's no wonder that Congress and the White House have been looking the other way as the predators picked the pockets of unsuspecting debtors. Mega banking and investment firms have been some of the biggest providers of the cash vital to keeping incumbents in office. There isn't much appetite for biting - or regulating - the manicured hand that feeds them.

Guess who gave the most money to candidates in this 2007-08 federal election cycle? That's right, the financial services and real estate industries. They stuffed nearly \$250 million dollars into the candidate coffers. The about-to-be-bailed-out Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac together are responsible for about half the country's \$12 trillion mortgage debt. Lisa Lerer of Politico.com reports that over the past decade, the two financial giants with the down home names have spent nearly \$200 million on campaign contributions and lobbying. According to Lerer, "They've stacked their payrolls with top Washington power brokers of all political stripes, including Republican John McCain's presidential campaign manager, Rick Davis; Democrat Barack Obama's original vice presidential vetter, Jim Johnson; and scores of others now working for the two rivals for the White House."

Last Sunday's New York Times put it as bluntly as anyone ever has: "In Washington, Fannie and Freddie's sprawling lobbying machine hired family and friends of politicians in their efforts to quickly sideline any regulations that might slow their growth or invite greater oversight of their business practices. Indeed, their rapid expansion was, at least in part, the result of such artful lobbying over the years."

What a beautiful term: "artful lobbying." It means honest graft. Look at any of the important issues bogged down in the

swampland along the Potomac and you don't have to scrape away the muck too deeply to find that campaign cash is at the core of virtually every impasse. We're spending more than six percent of our salaries on gasoline, and global warming keeps temperatures rising but the climate bill was killed last month and President Bush just got rid of his daddy's longtime ban on offshore drilling. Only in a fairy tale would anyone believe it's just coincidence that the oil and gas industries have donated more than \$18 million to federal candidates this year, three-quarters of it going to Republicans. They've spent more than \$26 million lobbying this year - that's seven times more than environmental groups have spent.

Follow the money - it goes from your gas tank to the wine bars and steak houses of DC, where the payoffs happen. Or ponder that FISA surveillance legislation that just passed the Senate. It let the big telecommunications companies off the hook for helping the government wiretap our phones and laptops without warrants. Over the years those telecom companies have given Republicans in the House and Senate \$63 million dollars and Democrats \$49 million. No wonder that when their lobbyists reach out and place a call to Congress, they never get a busy signal. Do the same without making a big contribution, and you'll be put on "hold" until the embalmer shows up to claim your cold corpse.

The late journalist Meg Greenfield once wrote that trying to get money out of politics is akin to the quest for a squirrel-proof birdfeeder. No matter how clever and ingenious the design, the squirrels are always one mouthful ahead of you. Here's an example. Corporations are limited in how much they can contribute to candidate's campaigns, right? But someone's always figuring out how to open another back door. So Democrats have turned to Steve Farber. He's using the resources of his big K Street law and lobbying factory to help raise \$40 million for the Democratic National Convention. Half a dozen of his clients have signed up, including

AT&T, Comcast, Western Union and Google. Their presence at the convention will offer lots of opportunities to curry favors at private parties while ordinary delegates wander Denver looking for the nearest Wendy's. By the way, just as you pay at the gas pump for those energy lobbyists to wine and dine your representatives in Washington, you'll pay on April 15 for Denver -corporations can deduct their contributions.

Another back door - one quite familiar to Steve Farber and his ilk - leads to presidential libraries. Bill Clinton's in Arkansas required serious political bucks, and we're not talking penny ante fines for overdue books. Again, there's no limit to the amount a donor can give and no obligation to reveal their names. Clinton's cost \$165 million and we still don't know the identities of everyone who put up the dough, even though four years ago a reporter stumbled on a list that included Arab businessmen, Saudi royals, Hollywood celebs and the governments of Dubai, Kuwait, Qatar, Brunei and Taiwan. Hmmm...

Once George W. is out of the White House, he, too, plans what one newspaper described as a "legacy polishing" institute - a presidential library and think tank at Southern Methodist University in Dallas costing half a billion dollars. Last Sunday, The Times of London released a remarkable video of one of the president's buddies and fund raisers -Stephen Payne, a political appointee appointed to the Homeland Security Advisory Council.

The Times set him up in a video sting, and taped a conversation in which Payne offers an exiled leader of Kyrgyzstan meetings with such White House

luminaries as Vice President Cheney and Condoleezza Rice - provided he makes a whopping contribution to the Bush Library, and an even bigger payment to Payne's lobbying firm. Payne tells him, "It will be somewhere between \$600,000 and \$750,000, with about a third of it going directly to the Bush Library... That's gonna be a show of 'we're interested, we're your friends, we're still your friends.'"

The White House denies any connection between library contributions and access to officials and harrumphed at the preposterous idea that Payne had a close relationship with the President. Unfortunately, there's at least one photo of Payne with the President cutting brush at his Crawford ranch. There's also one of Payne demonstrating more guts than common sense, on a rifle range with Deadeye Dick Cheney.

Payne, who now is supporting John McCain, says he's done nothing wrong, but a congressional investigation intends to find out. So from the financial meltdown brought on by predatory lending to global warming to tax breaks and other favors, the late California politician Jesse "Big Daddy" Unruh got it right: Money is the mother's milk of politics. He knew what he was talking about, because Big Daddy swigged it by the gallon. Now it has curdled into a witch's brew.

Bill Moyers is managing editor and Michael Winship is senior writer of the weekly public affairs program Bill Moyers Journal, which airs Friday night on PBS. Check local airtimes or comment at The Moyers Blog at www.pbs.org/moyers.

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Continued from page 1 • Texas Senator John Carona

power to control the unfolding of the NAFTA highway, letting public opinion be damned, is Texas State Senator (District 16) John Carona. As chairman of the Transportation Committee, in close company with TDOT, it has been reported that he is a strong supporter of TTC-69 and 35. Those in opposition to his stance for a master highway plan, avers it will allow eminent domain to run-amuck in rural Texas in pursuit of tax revenue. Most of the proposed route, to be managed by Cintra Group of Spain and the Macquarie Group from Australia, would be toll roads, adding costs to already high gas prices for Texans.

Carona makes it sound like a progressive idea to eliminate future gridlock for Texans. To the undiscerning eye it might be, but to those property owners facing eminent domain proceedings resulting from these toll road projects, it is a plan from hell. The corridors to be built are 1200 feet wide containing twelve lanes of traffic, right-of-ways for railroads, pipelines and power lines. Contrary to interstate highways being required to provide overpasses over existing county roads and include ingress and egress ramps every few miles for local traffic, corridors are only required to provide overpasses for U.S., state, interstate highways and they ignore local access to the superhighway, thereby literally cutting communities in half. A rancher living a few miles from a school, hospital or public safety provider would be cut off due to the impassability of the

corridor. Fire fighters would be forced to drive thirty miles to cross the highway in order to fight a fire one mile away as the crow flies. Carona has written articles appearing in the Dallas Morning News presenting his concern regarding wasted man hours and wasted fuel caused by gridlock on freeways without addressing the dark side of their vision.

Carona’s handling of two legislative bills aptly demonstrates his true agenda. HB 1892 would have mandated a solid two year moratorium on all facets of the TTC, providing needed time to carefully study the impact of such a plan and to give both sides time to state their respective cases. After all, public opinion is at stake here but unwanted if it flies in the face of the power elite like Carona and friends. Although Carona praised HB1892 in public he was one of the few that voted against it in the Senate. Having passed both houses with overwhelming majorities it was reported that Governor Perry held the bill until the last possible moment before its death by veto.

Transportation Commissioner Ric Williamson said this: “Once the Governor decided that this is where we needed to head, he wanted to remove it from the political flow of the state, he wanted it to become policy as opposed to politics, and that was one of the reasons he asked us to move so fast, and we’ve done an admirable job. . . .” Is it any wonder why Perry presented his bill SB792 to his chief sycophant Carona, chairman of the Transportation Committee, with the threat of calling the

legislature back into special session again and again until they capitulated to his will? Carona dutifully passed SB792 through his committee with three readings in the same day in order to comply with legislative rules and ensured the bills passage, thereby gaining favor with campaign donors in his upcoming reelection bid. Always follow the money and forget about your constituency when expedient.

Hank Gilbert from Texans Uniting for Reform & Freedom (TURF) described this bill as, “A junk bill since the only moratorium in that bill was for certain sections of TCC-69 and stopped nothing on TCC-35 and lower TCC-69.” All projects connected to these two routes in the metroplex counties surrounding DFW were exempted in both bills by Carona and his hometown delegation. Not only doing away with the moratorium language, the bill presented a new way to determine toll rates by a process called “market valuation.” This is a euphemism for what ever the market will bear, instead of paying off the cost of the indebtedness of the toll road. State Highway 130 circling Austin, TX is a foreign run toll road that charges \$.25 per mile in some locations and \$2.50 per mile in other segments.



Carona’s main financial supporters are people connected to the North American SuperCorridor Coalition (NASCO). Some of these people, not unlike Fort Worth Mayor Mike Moncrief and NASCO board member Judge Glen Whitely, were reported by Mr. Gilbert to be strong promoters of the NAFTA Superhighway. The same highway Carona now says he is against. NASCO, “is a non-profit, trade and transportation coalition working to make international and domestic trade

Freedom Candidate Seeks Congressional Seat In Louisiana

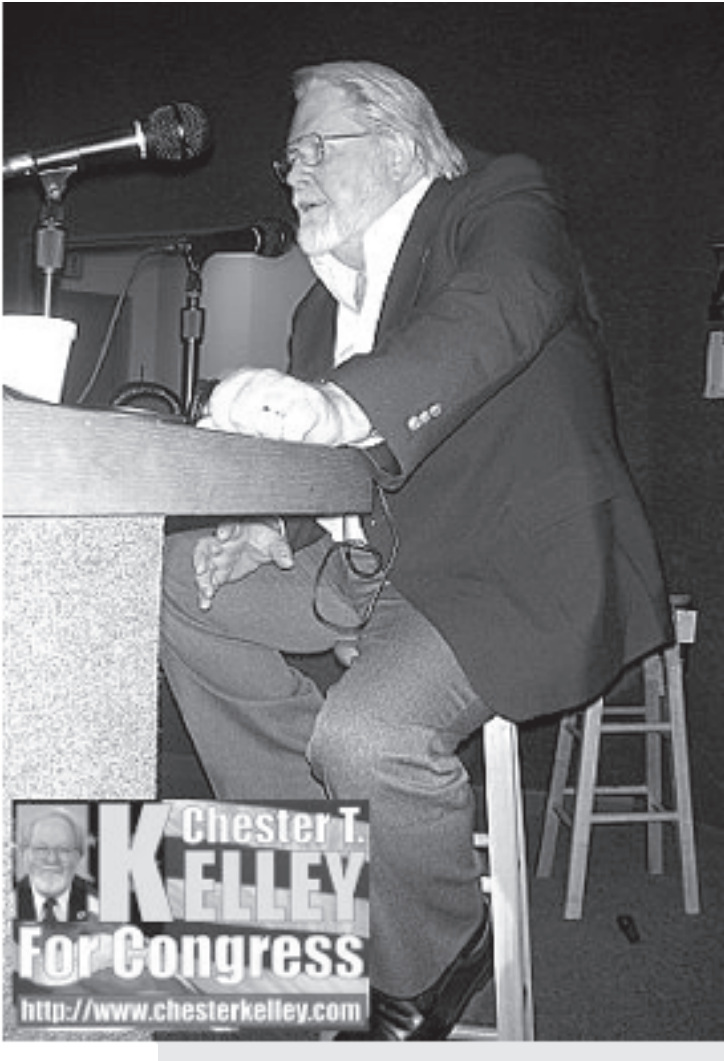
DEMANDS IRS 'SHOW THE LAW' MAKING WORKING AMERICANS LIABLE FOR THE INCOME TAX

SHREVEPORT, LA - Louisiana's 4th Congressional District is up for grabs, the incumbent, Jim McCrery, retiring after this term, and a freedom fighter who is savvy about the IRS's illegal application of the income tax to working Americans and determined to put a stop to it is in the thick of the race. Independent candidate Chester T. Kelley is making his second bid for the office and is running on almost every freedom movement issue. Kelley, a Shreveport restaurateur and a veteran, is well known for his long-standing practice of treating any veteran to a free meal at his catfish restaurant every Veteran's Day.

Kelley ran against the incumbent as a republican candidate in 2006 and although unsuccessful in that bid he captured 40% of the republican vote against a republican incumbent, an impressive accomplishment. This time, however, Kelley has dropped his party designation and is running as an independent. "I didn't leave the Republican Party, it left me" Kelley said, "My values and positions are the same, but the party has betrayed all of us and is no more intent on restoring our republic than the Democrat Party".

Kelley is running strong and standing on high ground. Among his issues are securing the borders against the flood of illegal immigration, enforcement of immigration laws against those already illegally here, elimination of the Federal Reserve, restoration of real money and opposing the North American Corridor and the NAFTA it rode in on. The theme of his campaign is "Both parties are screwing you." What makes his campaign even more unique, however, is that he is raising the issue of the IRS's illegal application of the income tax to working America.

Kelley is courageously demanding that the IRS show the law that makes the typical American liable for the income tax and insisting that Americans have a fundamental, **Constitutionally** protected right to keep the fruits of their labor. He is also demanding that the IRS show any lawful authority for treating only a fraction of Walmart's gross receipts as profit ("income") but treating the gross receipts of



Walmart's hardworking check out clerk as 100% profit as though the clerk gave up nothing in exchange for those wages.

As a Congressman he pledges to continue to demand that the IRS either put up or shut up and will be introducing legislation to require the IRS to stop withholding from American workers personal earnings. Kelley cites the personal income tax as an illegal millstone around the family and local, state and national economies, pointing out that our standard of living, our economy and revenues from other taxes would soar if that burden were lifted from working families across the country.

Truth Attack, the organization originated by Tom Cryer, the Shreveport attorney who defeated the IRS last year, has endorsed Kelley's candidacy wholeheartedly and has pledged to support Kelley's campaign with ads of its own. Tom Cryer said "Every journey begins with one step and this is an opportunity for the freedom movement to take a great step forward by putting one of us on the inside, in Congress. All freedom lovers across the country must support this bid because all of us will benefit from its success."

Contributions to the campaign can be sent to Chester T. Kelley for Congress, 401 Sandefur Dr., Shreveport, LA 71105, or online at www.bothpartiesarescrewingyou.com. Contributions of \$200 or more (maximum allowed is \$2,300) must be by check or credit card and must identify the contributor, his address and occupation. Contributions less than that amount are not under that restriction and can be anonymous and in any form.

However, anyone wishing to remain anonymous and contribute \$200 or more to this cause can do so by supporting Truth Attack's efforts in the campaign, since Truth Attack's First Amendment activities are not regulated by election laws. Contributions to Truth Attack in any amount and in any form can be sent to Truth Attack, 4348 Youree Dr., Shreveport, LA 71105, or online (www.truthattack.org).

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THESE DOGS DON'T HUNT

THE DEMOCRATS' WAR ON GUNS

Alan Gottlieb & Dave Workman



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Continued from page 1 • Innocent Defendants Pay Heavy Costs

safer thing to do in most cases when facing the possibility of serving decades in prison. The real shame in our system is that countless criminal charges occur without any real investigation whatsoever on the part of the criminal justice system. False accusations and law enforcement personnel trained in the art of providing perjured testimony is all that is needed more times than not. In short, get the case resolved quickly and then stick to your initial “conclusion” and to hell with keeping an open mind regarding questionable evidence or other possible scenarios in any given case.

The actions of these rogue prosecutors and conscienceless judges are rooted in money and power. By the mere fact that an individual is indicted could mean bankruptcy and marital stress. Although an indictment is not a conviction the public announcement of the charges often times is so devastating that a wrongfully accused victim can never fully recover. When first indicted and or arrested the defendant rushes to an attorney, the official gatekeeper of our justice system. The attorney will provide a lackluster defense at a very high cost. Due to the defendants fear of the unknown he will gladly pay any sum the attorney demands after being told he has a good case. Over an extended period of time and without the benefit of a thorough investigation the attorney milks the defendant’s assets before recommending a plea agreement. The defendant goes to prison broke.

The operative question that must be asked is; who is responsible for this perversion? The answer is, the people. We live in a republic, therefore, we elect representatives to make our laws and mold our criminal justice system. In short, the people have in large part lost

their way on the road of self governance. This is more by design than by accident. Once a proud nation, we have become a conglomerate of brain-dead, self-indulgent nincompoops more interested in entertainment, sports and junk food than about our civic duties, constitutionally protected rights and the value of true justice.

While our current generations were on watch, our state and federal legislatures have hijacked our Constitution and left us with a democracy where a majority are winners and a minority are losers. Attorneys, lobbyists, and professional government workers are busy making countless laws to isolate themselves from the people’s wrath. Within a few short weeks of taking an oath of office elected officials succumb to the potential of going along to get along. The ideals outlined in the Constitution are relegated to a category of “nice but not necessary.” The sole aim for our entrusted leaders is to make hay while the sun is shining, during their term in office.

These same individuals abrogated their duty and facilitated in the creation of a debtor nation. Debtor prisons filled to overflowing with despondent, ruined, destitute individuals turned into collateral for the powers that be. Unless the falsely accused are capable of hiring stout hearted men such as Michael Minns, Jerry Spence, the US~Observer or their equivalent, which is usually an unlikely occurrence, they should get prepared for a jail cell, furnished with steel bars, a bunk bed, and plenty of degraded individuals to spend their time with.

When a person falsely charged is fortunate enough to find adequate help, the false prosecution is still costly and it shouldn’t be. The falsely charged upon

vindication should receive each and every dime they were forced to spend in order to prove their innocence returned to them. This is not the case in America’s perverse legal system. No money is returned and our system has become so degraded that even when a person is found not guilty they must forfeit 15% of their bail money for court costs. Along with our corrupted criminal justice system, let’s never forget our elected representatives who make all this depravity possible.

It is impossible to recall how many times, during the last score of years, that I rang the alarm for people to wake up only to be ignored and relegated to insignificance. The one reason I persist, in my warnings, is my deep sense of civic responsibility. It rained for forty days and forty nights but only one person prepared for the inevitable. Maybe, I am that man in modern day. This nation has been engaged in folly for over a century and the time is at hand when the “Nation of Sheep” will begin to notice the water rising.

Despite my sense of vigilance there must be more of us standing ready and willing to sacrifice our own comforts in the protection of our heritage. Who will join me?

Editor’s Note: The US~Observer deals mainly with corruption. Whenever we find a law enforcement officer, attorney or judge who chooses to promote justice as opposed to frequent swims in the cesspool we are thrilled to report on them. There aren’t many, but there are some in our criminal justice system who possess ethics, who know the difference between right and wrong and who practice that which is right.

As Mr. Snook has stated, the bottom line is this: When any American is falsely charged with a crime or is subjected to the wrongful actions of an administrative agency, that person must be restored to the financial condition that they were in before they experienced the unwarranted attack on themselves and subsequently their family members. ■■■

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Continued from page 1 • Oklahoma: Truth, Justice, and Parole

“Mr. Francis, did you commit this crime?” asked James Brown Sr., a member of the parole board.

“Yes, I did.”

“Can you tell us why you did that?”

“No, I can’t.”

“Well, can you explain what happened?”

Reno hesitated, “No, sir, I can’t.”

“I would like to hear what you have to say before I vote so I can make an informed decision. Why can’t you tell me what happened?”

Reno took a deep breath, shook his head, and responded, “Because I wasn’t there.”

“You weren’t there at the scene of the crime?”

“No sir, I wasn’t.”

After encouragement from Mr. Brown, and parole board members Ms. Susan Loving and Ms. Lynnell Harkins, Reno explained about the events of the evening of August 1970. He had gone to a party in Holdenville, Oklahoma with a friend. After about an hour and a half Reno’s friend disappeared. Since Reno was not from Holdenville and didn’t know anyone else at the party he decided to leave. He was not familiar with the town and started walking, looking for a phone so that he could call someone to come get him and take him home. He walked until he came to a hospital where he went inside. As he was coming out, he noticed a police car in the parking lot. The officer in the car called to him, asking him to approach the police car. When Reno did so, the officer accused him of having been in a wreck involving several young Indians (Reno is Native American). Reno told the officer he did not know what he was talking about. The officer made Reno get into the car then took him to jail and charged him with being “high on an unknown substance.” Four days later Reno was told that there had been a murder at the party of a 13-year old girl and he was being charged with her murder.

The parole board questioned Reno as to why he confessed to the crime if he was not guilty. Reno, with help from his attorney, Ms. Hampton, explained that the assistant district attorney, John

Turner, who prosecuted him, had threatened him with the death penalty if he did not confess. He told Reno he was going to die if he pled innocent but would only receive life in prison if he would plead guilty. Reno told the board that he did not write the confession and did not know who the person was who had written it.

Clearly uncomfortable with declaring his innocence before the parole board, Reno explained to them that he had always been told that an inmate should never claim to be innocent of the crime for which he is imprisoned when speaking to the parole board. He had been told that the board would not parole any person who did not take responsibility for their crime. At this the board indicated that they did not want anyone to claim guilt for something they did not do.

During the 2 minutes allowed Ms. Hampton to speak on Reno’s behalf she explained that she had gone to Holdenville and mapped out the location of the murder and also the path Reno had taken to the hospital that fateful night. When she had requested to see the evidence file in Reno’s case she had been told the file had been destroyed in a flood. She explained that Reno had used his time in prison in a good way by taking the programs offered to him and by becoming the spiritual leader in the Native American sweat lodge. She also stated that he had not received a “misconduct” in many years and that he has a family and home waiting for him upon his release.

The parole board members listened carefully and respectfully during the entire interview. They did not appear to rush or hurry Reno or his attorney in any way but seemed genuinely interested in hearing the truth. This reporter has sat through many parole hearings and would like to extend heartfelt appreciation to the board for the way they handled this case.

Attorney Hampton pointed out, it is somewhat difficult to understand how an innocent man could be sent to prison and still be there 38 years later! But as can be seen from the large number of innocent people who have been cleared and released in recent years, Reno is not

alone. Sadly, the most common wrongful convictions involve murders and long sentences, possibly even death penalties for the convicted. Death row inmates represent a quarter of 1 percent of the prison population, however, 22 percent of those exonerated. In the event of such violent crimes prosecutors receive a great deal of pressure to “solve” the case. Therefore, many cases are resolved by placing innocent people in prison – thus quickly ending public scrutiny. All the while the guilty parties are free to kill again. There are even cases in which prosecutors have used the situation to further their own political ambitions. This has been done in cases where the prosecutor is fully aware that the guilt of the person they are sending to prison is questionable

In Reno’s case, assistant district attorney John Turner, who prosecuted him, is deceased. The head district attorney at the time of the murder, Mr. Gordon Melson, has written to the parole board three times asking them to grant Reno parole. How often does the prosecuting district attorney actually request release of an inmate? The U.S. Observer thanks Mr. Melson for his honesty and integrity and for his willingness to speak up for an innocent man.

Ms. Harkins, the president of the parole board asked if there were any more questions for Reno. When she received no response she informed him that he was dismissed to leave the room but his attorney and fiancée could stay behind to witness the vote of the board. Reno thanked the board and made his way to the door.

Besides the life sentence for murder Reno also has a 5 year sentence for “unauthorized use of a motor vehicle” and a 10 year sentence for “burning or destruction of a public building” (received when he was at Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester while attempting to create a diversion by kicking a toilet off the wall to stop the beating of another inmate by prison guards). Both of these sentences are running consecutively to the life sentence meaning that if he is paroled off the life sentence he will only be paroled to the consecutive 5 year sentence (CS), not to the street. Many inmates have several sentences running concurrently, so that when the longest sentence has been served the others have been satisfied as well. Sadly that is not the case for Reno. Although he desperately wants to be home with his family, especially his children and grandchildren, he considers himself greatly blessed to have the possibility of having the life sentence off his shoulders.

After Reno left the room the board proceeded to vote on his parole from the

life sentence to the “CS” sentence - the 5 year sentence. The vote began - “CS,” “CS,” “CS,” “CS,” “CS.” - It was unanimous! Every member of the board had voted for Reno to be paroled to the next sentence!

In any other state, except Oklahoma, Reno would now have been paroled. Oklahoma is the only state in the union in which the governor must approve all paroles. In the past several years thousands of paroles have been denied by the governor, which have been recommended by the parole board. This serves to keep many deserving inmates behind bars and digs deeply into the pockets of Oklahoma taxpayers. At an approximate annual cost of \$17,688 per inmate, the cost of keeping those denied by the governor in prison is in the millions.

Reno Francis, an innocent man, has already spent 38 years of his life in prison for a crime he did not commit (read “From Arrest to Prison in 17 Days” on our website – usobserver.com). The U.S. Observer calls for the Oklahoma State Governor Brad Henry to approve Reno’s parole. We strongly encourage him to not only parole Reno to the next sentence whereby he must still spend more years in prison but to commute Reno’s sentence to “time served” and let him go home! What more does the State of Oklahoma want from an innocent man? Surely 38 years is more than enough for Reno to serve - especially when the person who committed this crime is still out there somewhere enjoying life as a free man.

After the hearing Reno made the statement that he felt as if a huge weight had been lifted off him. For the first time in 38 years he had been allowed by someone in authority to tell his story. He had been treated with respect and allowed to speak the truth. This newspaper commends the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board for their respectful treatment of Mr. Francis and for permitting him to tell the truth. After all, is that not what our justice system is supposed to be about - discovering truth? It was not designed to be governed by politics or to further careers, but to protect the falsely accused while also protecting the public.

Truth and justice? The Oklahoma parole board obviously values these precepts. We pray they are equally important to Governor Brad Henry.

Editor’s Note: There are many men and women who are factually innocent and sitting behind bars.

To read more about Reno Francis and his quest for freedom, log onto usobserver.com. Reno’s story can be found in the following issues: 2007-Edition 15, Edition 18, Edition 19.

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Continued from page 2
Jurors’ True Duties ...

dictate anything you, period.

You can't be punished for voting according to your conscience. Jurors (and judges) often pressure hold-out jurors into abandoning their true feelings and voting with the majority to avoid the expense of a hung jury and mistrial, or because they are tired of deliberating and want to go home. You do not have to give in. Why? Because hung juries are okay!

Voting your conscience may lead to a hung jury. Don’t worry, you are doing the responsible thing. There is no requirement that you must reach a unanimous verdict. The jury you hang may be significant as it may be one in a series of hung juries which send messages to the legislators that the laws concerned have problems and it's time for a change.

It is a fact that we have some down right dangerous criminals living among us and when bad people commit crimes they need to be properly punished, however, far too many innocent citizens are falsely prosecuted in our courts and it is up to all of us to make sure we are fully informed regarding the rights and duties of being a juror. It is the juror's

duty to protect the rest of their fellow Americans from dangerous criminals, unjust laws and power hungry lawyers and judges.

Credit or blame for the verdict will go to you. Be sure to ask the judge how you can pose questions to witnesses so that you can learn the complete context should the lawyers fail to bring it out. If the judge doesn't allow the jury to ask questions then a NOT GUILTY verdict should result.

The government is working hard to "dumb down" the American public. They want all people reliant on it for everything including the ability to think. The government controls the people by controlling their thought processes. This welfare society it's creating is a far cry from the God fearing, independent, hard working, productive, family oriented people God created us to be. Who says we should stop thinking for ourselves and use common sense in making decisions? In reality and if we don't change the course we are on, it won't be too far down the road that we won't be allowed to think or make decisions, because government is rapidly taking these rights from us. Jurors had better wake up before the jury itself is gone...

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Wag the Dog:

How to Conceal Massive Economic Collapse



By Ellen Brown, J.D.

"I'm in show business, why come to me?"

"War is show business, that's why we're here."
– 'Wag the Dog' (1997 film)

When Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac had just announced record losses, and so had

most reporting corporations, unemployment was mounting, the foreclosure crisis was deepening, state budgets were in shambles, massive bailouts were everywhere. Investors had every reason to expect the dollar and the stock market to plummet, and gold and oil to shoot up. Strangely, the Dow Jones Industrial Average gained 300 points, the dollar strengthened, and gold and oil were crushed. What happened?

It hardly took psychic powers to see that the Plunge Protection Team had come to the rescue. Formally known as the President's Working Group on Financial Markets, the PPT was once concealed and its very existence denied as if it were a matter of strict national security. But the PPT has now come out of the closet. What was once a legally questionable "manipulator" of markets has become a sanctioned stabilizer and protector of markets. The new tone was set in January 2008, when global markets took their worst tumble since September 11, 2001. Senator Hillary Clinton said in a statement reported by the State News Service:

"I think it's imperative that the following step be taken. The President should have already and should do so very quickly, convene the President's Working Group on Financial Markets. That's something that he can ask the Secretary of the Treasury to do. . . . This has to be coordinated across markets with the regulators here and obviously with regulators and central banks around the world."¹

The mystery over what was going on with the dollar the first week in August was solved by James Turk, founder of GoldMoney, who wrote on August 7:

"[T]he banking problems in the United States continue to mount, while the federal government's deficit continues to soar out of control. . . . So what happened to cause the dollar to rally over the past three weeks? In a word, intervention. Central banks have propped up the dollar, and here's the proof.

"When central banks intervene in the currency markets, they exchange their currency for dollars. Central banks then use the dollars they acquire to buy US government debt instruments so that they can earn interest on their money. The debt instruments central banks acquire are held in custody for them at the Federal Reserve, which reports this amount weekly.

"On July 16, 2008 . . . , the Federal Reserve reported holding \$2,349 billion of US government paper in custody for central banks. In its report released today, this amount had grown over the past three weeks to \$2,401 billion, a 38.4% annual rate of growth. . . . So central banks were accumulating dollars over the past three weeks at a rate far above what one would expect as a result of the US trade deficit. The logical conclusion is that they were intervening in currency markets. They were buying dollars for the purpose of propping it up, to keep the dollar from falling off the edge of the cliff and doing so ignited a short covering rally, which is not too difficult to do given the leverage employed in the markets these days by hedge funds and others."²

Just as central banks manipulate currencies in concert, so gold can be manipulated by massive selling of central bank reserves. Oil and any other market can be manipulated as well. But markets can be manipulated by only so much and for only so long without fixing the underlying problem. There is more bad news coming down the pike, news of such magnitude that no amount of ordinary manipulation is liable to conceal it.

For one thing, roughly \$400 billion in ARMs (adjustable rate mortgages) have or will reset between March and October of this year. Assuming 3 to 6 months for strapped debtors to actually hit the wall

with their payments, a huge wave of defaults is about to strike, continuing through March 2009 – just in time for the next huge wave of resets, in option ARMs.³ Option ARMs are loans with the option to pay even less than just the interest on the loan monthly, increasing the loan balance until the loan reaches a certain amount (typically 110% to 125% of the original loan balance), when it resets. The \$800 billion credit line recently opened to Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac may be not only tapped but tapped out, at taxpayer expense. The underlying problem is little discussed but impossible to repair – a one quadrillion dollar derivatives scheme that is now imploding. Banks everywhere are facing massive writeoffs, putting the whole banking system on the brink of collapse. Only public bailouts will save it, but they could bankrupt the nation.

What to do? War and threats of war have been used historically to distract the population and deflect public scrutiny from economic calamity. As the scheme was summed up in the trailer to the 1997 movie "Wag the Dog" --

"There's a crisis in the White House, and to save the election, they'd have to fake a war."

Perhaps that explains the sudden breakout of war in the Eurasian country of Georgia on August 8, just 3 months before the November elections. August 8 was the day the Olympic Games began in Beijing, a distraction that may have been timed to keep China from intervening on Russia's behalf. The mainstream media version of events is that Russia, the bully on the block, invaded its tiny neighbor Georgia; but not all commentators agree. Mikhail Gorbachev, writing in The Washington Post on August 12, observed:

"What happened on the night of Aug. 7 is beyond comprehension. The Georgian military attacked the South Ossetian capital of Tskhinvali with multiple rocket launchers designed to devastate large areas. Russia had to respond. To accuse it of aggression against "small, defenseless Georgia" is not just hypocritical but shows a lack of humanity. . . . The Georgian leadership could do this only with the perceived support and encouragement of a much more powerful force."⁴

Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear Power, commented in OpEdNews on August 11:

"The U.S. has long been involved in supporting 'freedom movements' throughout this region that have been attempting to replace Russian influence with U.S. corporate control. The CIA, National Endowment for Democracy . . . , and Freedom House (includes Zbigniew Brzezinski, former CIA director James Woolsey, and Obama foreign policy adviser Anthony Lake) have been key funders and supporters of placing politicians in power throughout Central Asia that would play ball with 'our side' None of this is about the good guys versus the bad guys. It is power bloc politics Big money is at stake [B]oth parties (Republican and Democrat) share a bi-partisan history and agenda of advancing corporate interests in this part of the world. Obama's advisers, just like McCain's (one of his top advisers was recently a lobbyist for the current government in Georgia) are thick in this stew."⁵

Brzezinski, who is now Obama's adviser, was Jimmy Carter's foreign policy adviser in the 1970s. He also served in the 1970s as director of the Trilateral Commission, which he co-founded with David Rockefeller Sr., considered by some to be the "master spider" of the Wall Street banking network.⁶ Brzezinski later boasted of drawing Russia into war with Afghanistan in 1979, "giving to the Soviet Union its Vietnam War."⁷ Is the Georgia affair an attempted repeat of that coup? Mike Whitney, a popular Internet commentator, observed on August 11:

"Washington's bloody fingerprints are all over the invasion of South Ossetia. Georgia President Mikhail Saakashvili would never dream of launching a massive military attack unless he got explicit orders from his bosses at 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. After all, Saakashvili owes his entire political career to American power-brokers and US intelligence agencies. If he disobeyed them, he'd be gone in a fortnight. Besides an operation like this takes months of planning and logistical support; especially if it's perfectly timed to coincide with the beginning of the Olympic games. (another petty neocon touch) That means Pentagon planners must have been working hand in hand with Georgian

generals for months in advance. Nothing was left to chance."⁸

Part of that careful planning may have been the unprecedented propping up of the dollar and bombing of gold and oil the week before the curtain opened on the scene. Gold and oil had to be pushed down hard to give them room to rise before anyone shouted "hyperinflation!" As we watch the curtain rise on war in Eurasia, it is well to remember that things are not always as they seem. Markets are manipulated and wars are staged by Grand Chessmen behind the scenes.

NOTES

[1] Remarks from Hillary Clinton on the Global Economic Crisis," CNN (January 22, 2008) (video preserved on allamericanpatriots.com).

[2] James Turk, "Mystery Solved," GoldMoney.com (August 7, 2008).

[3] Bill Murphy, "Wipeout Nightmare," LeMetropoleCafe.com (August 11, 2008); Ruth Simon, "FirstFed Grapples With Payment-Option Mortgages," Wall Street Journal (August 6, 2008); Ruth Simon, "Mortgages Made in 2007 Go Bad at Rapid Clip," ibid. (August 7, 2008).

[4] Mikhail Gorbachev, "A Path to Peace in the Caucasus," Washington Post (August 12, 2008).

[5] Bruce Gagnon, "What Do We Know About Georgia-Russia Conflict?," OpEdNews (August 11, 2008).

[6] Hans Schicht, "Financial Spider Webbing," Gold-eagle.com (February 27, 2004).

[7] "Soviet War in Afghanistan," Wikipedia

[8] Mike Whitney, "Bush's War in Georgia," Global Research (August 11, 2008).

Ellen Brown, J.D., developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In Web of Debt, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling Nature's Pharmacy, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, and Forbidden Medicine.

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Probate and Switch

By Lou Ann Anderson

Bait-and-switch tactics have long been part of America's commercial landscape. While routinely associated with retail categories ranging from electronics to cars, other industries including travel, real estate and even financial institutions (subprime lenders) have earned well-documented reputations for engaging in these actions. One having escaped the bait-and-switch tag yet increasingly deserving of the designation is the legal industry – especially with regard to probate or estate issues.

Probate instruments such as wills, trusts, guardianships and powers of attorney are being used to redistribute property in a manner contrary to the intended wishes of hard-working Americans. These are folks who mistakenly take the “bait” put forth regarding estate planning documents. Lawyers are the first to extol the need to avoid “the high cost of probate” or “government intrusion” as well as to protect one's estate from “greedy heirs and lawyers.” During this process, however, the real “switch” potential is rarely discussed. That is, members of this same industry (maybe your lawyer) turning the tables and using your estate documents to deny assets to rightful beneficiaries/heirs and instead perpetrating an Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA). Disgruntled family members excluded from the plan or else wanting more than their specified share easily connect with attorneys willing to assist. It's an unflattering reflection on the legal industry but with this backdrop, IRA actions are quietly happening everyday.

Having said this, estate planning that includes applicable legal instruments (will, trust, powers of attorney - medical and otherwise, etc.) continues to be a critical component of any financially responsible person's life. People must, however, become aware of estate management's dark side. The dangers posed by unscrupulous attorneys, a pay-to-play legal system and would-be looters with an inflated sense of entitlement are increasingly visible. IRA actions are affecting Americans from a variety of socioeconomic backgrounds. With the large transfer of wealth coming in the next 20 or so years, these cases will likely skyrocket. People think proper estate planning will protect them – wrong! People think they don't have enough assets to be a target – wrong!! There is no inoculation from the threat of IRA. Forewarned, however, is forearmed.

Estate bait-and-switch actions are downplayed as finding information about the theory of probate abuse and dispute resolution is easy. The practical realities of being drawn into an IRA situation, however, are not so candidly addressed by legal and other professionals and therefore left to the blogosphere and web sites such as EstateofDenial.com.

The September 2008 edition of O, The Oprah Magazine, provides a great example as financial guru Suze Orman fields the question “is my brother stealing our inheritance?” The writer says her brother is in charge of their mother's banking and that the mother has dementia. The sister says she believes her brother is living off their mother's money and asks how she can stop him from “stealing” what should be their inheritance upon their mother's death. Suze called on an estate planning attorney who provides a thorough procedural rundown of potential action steps based upon the limited knowledge available. It is reasonable and very civilized. Unfortunately, the “bait” aspect of this sanitized response likely left the questioner with a sense of having a manageable situation. Many IRA targets have far different experiences.

As a longtime Suze fan, it was more expected for her to have replied “Girlfriend – you just might have a big problem.” If Suze and Oprah want to empower their audiences through providing a broad base of knowledge, an opportunity existed here yet was missed. From the EstateofDenial.com perspective, we would first point out that depending upon the brother's legal status, it is likely that he can use the mother's money to fight off any legal action while the sister's efforts will have to be self-funded. People who dishonestly take money from the dead or disabled/incapacitated aren't currently adhering to any ethical code and this will doubtfully change with a legal proceeding. Attorney misconduct is rarely punished so our country is full of attorneys who will bend or break rules. These “bottom feeders” are the vanguard flag carriers emblematic of why the general public has such disdain for the legal profession. Be prepared for the brother to ally with one of these and for consequences to the sister to be unpleasant and expensive. The court system is pay-to-play so come prepared with an open checkbook and a willingness to put your life on hold as these things additionally consume years of a person's life and damage if not destroy family relationships. Don't get too caught up in the truth and justice aspects of your case. With enough time and money, you may eventually get there, but months, even years, will first be spent on legal posturing and procedures that will forever change your view of the judicial system. The brother's attorney will want to wear down the sister (financially and emotionally). As billable hours mount, what does he/she care? By now, most readers will have read enough, but even so, we could go on and on. People don't understand the endless ugliness that emanates from IRA cases.

Reasonable folks don't take advantage of sick, old people. Nice people don't steal from the dead. Why then would anyone expect fighting an estate or probate action like this to be reasoned, expeditious and civilized? The “painting with a broad brush” response

usually comes about now so let us acknowledge that not every lawyer and judge is corrupt – but too many are or appear to be motivated by self-interest instead of justice or even fairness.

Property rights have long been an important part of American life. Those rights are being violated due to greedy individuals partnering with unscrupulous legal professionals in using the legal instruments sold as estate safeguards (the bait) to now redistribute property (the switch) in a manner contrary to the estate owner's wishes.

At EstateofDenial.com, we are not lawyers or other associates of the legal community. While this causes some to discount our opinions and perspectives, our credibility comes from personal experience and knowledge that the average person in no way understands the growing threat facing their lifelong accumulation of assets. Public policies regarding our probate systems must be reviewed. The culture surrounding probate and other applicable venues must also be changed. Attorneys and judges must face real accountability and consequences for misconduct. Estate disputes should be moved from civil to the criminal venues in which they belong and where appropriate punishment can be applied. Legal professionals, their associates as well as government officials (often with a background in the legal profession) know the realities, but the lucrative status quo provides no incentive for change. Government will take the side of the people only when the people demand it and re-election may seem in peril.

EstateofDenial.com will continue to “shine light on the dark side of estate management” in hopes of educating more people regarding the dangers ahead. Our exposure of greedy wannabe beneficiaries/heirs allied with legal charlatans masquerading as estate planning professionals only to perpetrate “probate and switch” actions will continue. It's not sanitized, civilized, reasonable or rational, but it's a story that needs to be told.

Lou Ann Anderson is producer of The Lynn Woolley Show, a Texas-based talk radio program. She also is an advocate working to create awareness regarding the Texas probate system and its surrounding culture. Lou Ann may be contacted at info@estateofdenial.com.

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Continued from page 1 The 545 Who Control America

policy, Congress does.

You and I don't control monetary policy, the Federal Reserve Bank does.

One hundred senators, 435 congressmen, one president, and nine Supreme Court justices - 545 human beings out of 300 million Americans - are directly, legally, morally, and individually responsible for the domestic problems that plague this country.

I excluded the members of the Federal Reserve Board because that problem was created by the Congress. In 1913, Congress delegated its Constitutional duty to provide a sound currency to a federally chartered, but private, central bank, called the Federal Reserve System.

I excluded all the special interests and lobbyists for a sound reason. They have no legal authority. They have no ability to coerce a senator, a congressman, or a president to do one cotton-picking thing. I don't care if they offer a politician \$1 million dollars in cash. The politician has the power to accept or reject it. No matter what the lobbyist promises, it is

the legislator's responsibility to determine how he votes.

Those 545 human beings spend much of their energy convincing you that what they did is not their fault. They cooperate in this common "con" regardless of party.

What separates a politician from a normal human being is an excessive amount of gall. No normal human being would have the gall of a Speaker, who stood up and criticized the President for creating deficits. The president can only propose a budget. He cannot force the Congress to accept it.

The Constitution, which is the supreme law of the land, gives sole responsibility to the House of Representatives for originating and approving appropriations and taxes. Who is the speaker of the House? She is the leader of the majority party. She and fellow House members, not the president, can approve any budget they want. If the president vetoes it, they can pass it, over his veto, if they agree to.

It seems inconceivable to me that a nation of 300 million people cannot replace 545 people who stand convicted -- by present facts -- of incompetence and irresponsibility. I can't think of a

single domestic problem that is not traceable directly to those 545 people. When you fully grasp the plain truth that just 545 people exercise the power of the federal government, then it must follow that what exists is what they want to exist.

If the tax code is unfair, it's because they want it unfair.

If the budget is in the red, it's because they want it in the red.

If the Marines are in IRAQ, it's because they want them in IRAQ.

If they do not receive social security, but are on an elite retirement plan not available to the people, it's because they want it that way. There are no unsolvable government problems.

DO NOT let these 545 people:

- Shift the blame to bureaucrats, whom they hire and whose jobs they can abolish.
- Shift the blame to lobbyists, whose gifts and advice they can reject.
- Shift the blame to regulators, to whom they give the power to regulate and from whom they can take this power away.

Above all, do not let them con you into the belief that there exists disembodied

mystical forces like "the economy," "inflation," or "politics" that prevent them from doing what they take an oath to do.

Those 545 people, and they alone, are responsible.

They and they alone, have the power.

They and they alone, should be held accountable by the people who are their bosses - provided the voters have the gumption to manage their own employees (elected officials).

We should vote all of them out of office and clean up their mess!

What you do with this article, now that you have read it, is up to you, though you appear to have several choices.

1. You can tell everyone about this article, and hope "they" do something about it.
2. You can agree to "vote against" everyone that is currently in office, knowing that the process will take several years.
3. You can decide to "run for office" yourself and agree to do the job properly.
4. Lastly, you can sit back and do nothing, or re-elect the current bunch.

Charlie Reese is a former columnist of the Orlando Sentinel Newspaper.

■ ■

“North American Union”

Does SPP and NASCO support the “NAU”?



By Eric Coltrane

For the past few years, the subject of a North American Union (NAU) has come up in various conversations I’ve had. In those conversations, not once have I heard that anyone has wanted it, or

think this country should be involved in the NAU. So, who are these individuals/organizations that feel this country should be part of the NAU? Two well-known groups are the “Security and Prosperity Partnership” (SPP) and “North America’s SuperCorridor Coalition” (NASCO). To be fair, these organizations claim no attempt to create the NAU, but their efforts would lay the framework for such a “Union” to be organized in the future.

Contrary to popular belief, the SPP does update and consult regularly with members of Congress on efforts and plans. My question to them would be, “who are these congressmen and who do they represent, the citizens of the United States or Corporate America”? The SPP was formed by the Bush administration. The stated purpose of the SPP is to create security and prosperity for Mexico, Canada, and the United States.

The agencies involved from these three countries are the Department of Commerce and the Department of Homeland Security for the United States. The Department of Economy, and the Department of Interior in Mexico. In Canada, it’s the Ministry of Industry and the Ministry of Public Safety. In my opinion, President Bush (or Congress for that matter) does not represent the citizens of the United States, but large self-serving corporations. It would stand to reason that the SPP would also represent these same self-serving corporations.

Launched in 2005 as a White House-driven initiative, the SPP claims that their efforts will improve the quality of life for American citizens. Have Americans seen an improvement in the quality of their life since 2005? In fact the United States is undergoing one of the worst financial crises in its history! More financial regulation or artificial security has not improved life or prosperity for most citizens in the United States.

NASCO is not a government agency, but a non-profit organization formed by public and private sectors in 1994. The stated intent of NASCO is to improve existing infrastructure along the I-35, I-29, and I-94 highways. A map that they have since taken off their website shows the main ports to be in Mexico. All goods would then be routed from there north into the United States and all goods south into Mexico.

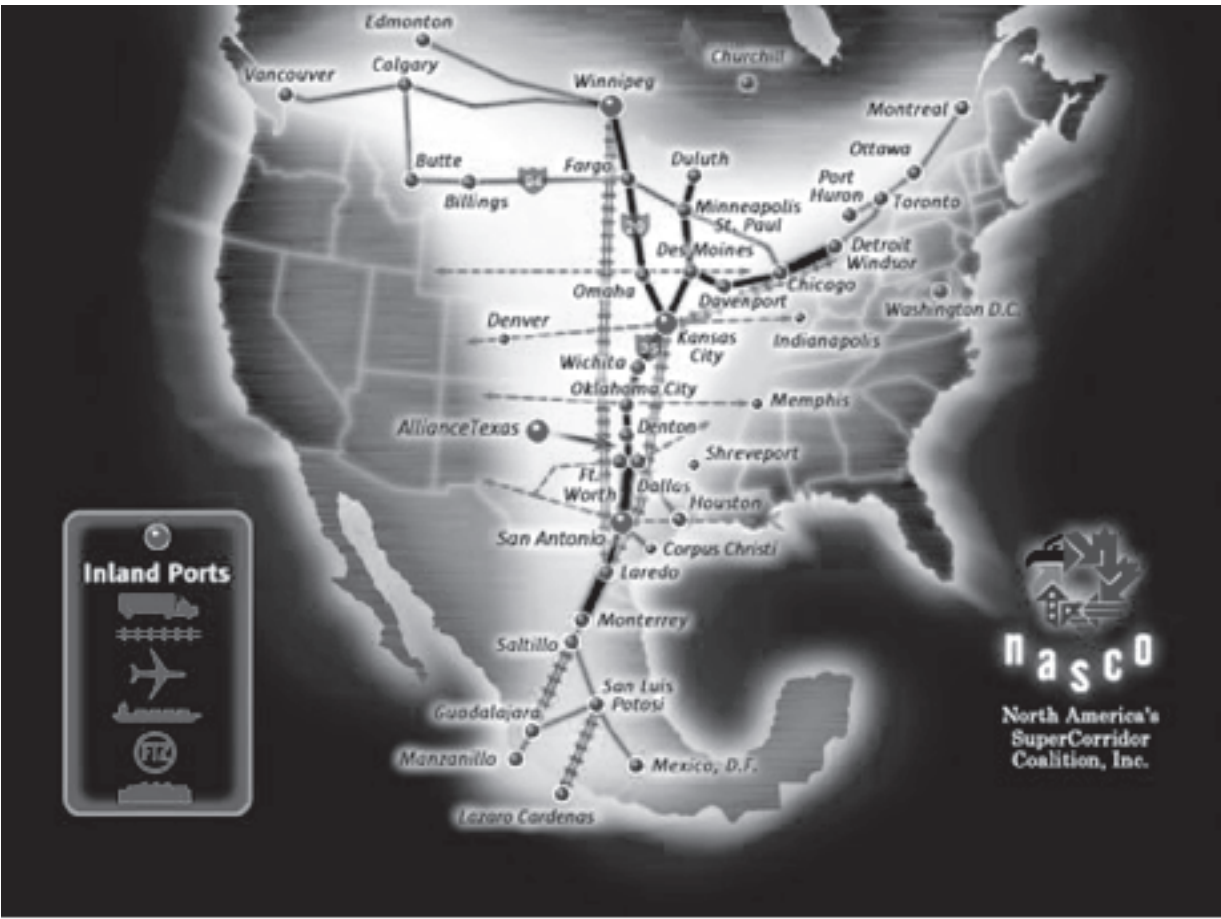
Many believe that this would dramatically damage the West Coast ports of entry and the economies created by those ports. NASCO claims that the intent is to control security and transportation of all goods and legitimate persons entering and leaving the United States. NASCO claims to have no control over ports on the West Coast and the shipping of goods to those ports. If their intent is to control the security and transportation of all goods entering the U.S., wouldn’t it stand to reason that the preferred ports would be the Mexican ports created under NASCO’s plan? If NASCO truly wants to improve existing infrastructure, why create new ports in Mexico? The infrastructure that exists has worked for many years. Yes, it is deteriorating, but why not make improvements to it?

Do these two organizations intend to create a North American Union? I, for one, could not say. Are their efforts improving the lives of most Americans? Ask around

and see what the response is. Would American citizens support a North American Union? Here, too, ask your neighbors. Who exactly would benefit from the efforts of these two organizations? Most likely, those same self-serving corporations that have always benefitted.

The United States is in dire straits and very few in public office are considering the correct strategies to liberate the citizens from the grip of disaster. A North American Union is not the answer. Not now, not in the future - no matter what kind of prosperity picture they paint.

...



Continued from page 10 • Texas Senator John Carona

more efficient and secure...running north and south through the central U.S., Canada and Mexico” according to its website. Similar to the NAFTA Highway and North American Union (NAU) these organizations are strongly endorsed by George W. Bush and his close friend Governor Perry and are incrementally being set into stone through contracts, thereby avoiding the U.S. Senate oversight necessitated by formal treaties. International contracts are placing American soil into the hands of international interests for the sake of private profit at our citizens’ public expense, aided and abetted by men like Carona and Perry.

Recently, during a meeting regarding TTC-35 in Fort Worth all of the people present spoke out against the proposed project except Moncrief and Whitely. It was reported that these two men were booed out of the coliseum. They were definitely in the minority but yet their master plan prevails. The problem, therefore, must be with politicians who say one thing but take countermanding action.

Where there is a will, there is usually a way and in this situation Carona’s opponents found a glitch in the state law in the form of State Statute 391, which allows for the formation of governmental entities called sub regional planning commissions. Gilbert reports that two of these commissions have been formed on the TTC-35 corridor and five commissions on the TCC-69 corridor, basically shutting them down. Proponents of the corridors, including Carona are throwing fits because they did not know this statute existed. “More of them are springing up like flies,” states Gilbert and he reported that Perry wants to do away with this legal impediment when the state legislature comes to order. With this possibility looming on the horizon the citizens against toll roads are organizing commissions as fast as they can so they will be grandfathered, in defiance to the Governor’s master plan that involves policy at the expense of public opinion. In addition, the commissions are enlisting the Environmental Protection Agency in demanding revised impact studies.

When asked what Carona will do to assist Perry, Gilbert states emphatically,

“No matter what kind of legislation is necessary to do away with the 391 committees, Perry will have to introduce it through Carona’s Senate transportation committee and Carona will fast track it through the Senate. Carona is completely sold out; he’s nothing but a mouth piece for the transportation lobby.” He went on to add, “It has also been written that Carona is against the TTC, which goes to the heart of the matter by illustrating his duplicity by working diligently to promote the highway at the bidding of the transportation lobbyists.” Is he now publicly against it because the issue has become a hot potato which columnist and commentator Alan Stang wrote in a February 17, 2008, article about Governor Perry and his Republican friends’ intentions to steal property via eminent domain to build this ill thought out super highway?

So in the latest tally the majority has won or at least slowed down the assault of the minority. Can their majority be maintained - only time will tell? Policy vs. Politics!

Why Would Texas Trial Lawyers Support Carona

In the up-coming race for Texas State Senate, District 16, the trial lawyers have backed their pal John Carona, with time and money. So this reporter asks, why a Republican and not one of their own? A logical explanation would be he is more like them than the Democratic candidate. What we do know is that Carona is clever almost to a fault. As mentioned above Carona has sold out to the highest bidder and used his office to enhance his property management company, pillaging Homeowner Associations (HOA) - another story waiting to be told.

If the majority of Texans against toll roads, corridors and international corporate interests don’t win this battle it may be the impetuous for a forced retreat back to the Alamo and doing battle against the armies of special interest led by John Carona. On the other hand maybe ousting a few entrenched politicians is a more practical solution. Since Carona is facing reelection it may be to the betterment of Texans and lovers of property rights to see him exorcized from office. Politics would then trump policy!

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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.

A Message From Oregon Firearms Federation Political Action Committee



Jim Leuenberger

OFFPAC endorses Jim Leuenberger for Attorney General

Dear supporter of gun rights,

There is little doubt that the 2009 Legislature will be under the control of anti-gun forces. While this does not mean we will lose ground, it does mean we must prepare

for the worst while hoping for the best.

It is impossible to predict how any legislature will behave. We have moved ahead, thanks to your activism, even when anti-gun politicians were in charge. But, of course, we can never rest.

I want to tell you about a race for an office that is outside the legislature, but still critically important. That race is for Attorney General.

You may recall that the Republican Party did not field a candidate for the office. The race was between two Democrats, Greg MacPherson and John Kroger.

MacPherson was as vocal an enemy of freedom and gun rights as any politician in office. As Chair of the House Judiciary Committee, he tried every trick he could think of to ram through anti-gun legislation. Your activism defeated him every time. He also (thankfully) lost his bid to be AG.

The winner of the Democratic Primary was John Kroger. You can read more about him here.

There is little reason to believe Kroger bodes well for gun owners. His list of supporters is a "who's who" of militant anti-gun liberals, including Senator Vicki Walker and Portland City Commissioner Randy Leonard.

That's why I want to tell you that there is a candidate for this important office who is not in the pocket of gun hating organizations like The Sierra Club and the Oregon Education Association.

That candidate is Jim Leuenberger. Many of you know Jim as an attorney who has worked hard for gun rights representing gun owners all over the state. Jim is the lawyer who has taken on the power brokers to fight for the right of Shirley Katz, "the Medford teacher" to carry her handgun while at work. Jim represented David Bacon in his battle with the ATF.

Jim has made fighting for gun rights the cornerstone of, not only his practice, but his run for Attorney General. He is a passionate defender of freedom and the constitution and makes no apologies for his commitment to the Second Amendment. Consider this quote from Jim's webpage: "When more Oregonians defend themselves by keeping and bearing arms, there will be less crime. With less crime, we will need fewer police officers and fewer prisons.

I hope I can count on you not only to vote for Jim in November, but to do all you can to help his candidacy with your financial support. Kroger has huge money from labor unions behind him. Jim is relying on the donations of gun owners like you.

Please visit Jim's website (<http://jimleuenberger.us/>) and make a donation to help a true champion of gun rights get elected.



I don't carry a gun ...

By Syd

... to kill people. I carry a gun to keep from being killed.

I don't carry a gun to scare people. I carry a gun because sometimes this world can be a scary place.

I don't carry a gun because I'm paranoid. I carry a gun because there are real threats in the world.

I don't carry a gun because I'm evil. I carry a gun because I have lived long enough to see the evil in the world.

I don't carry a gun because I hate the government. I carry a gun because I understand the limitations of government.

I don't carry a gun because I'm angry. I carry a gun so that I don't have to spend the rest of my life hating myself for failing to be prepared.

I don't carry a gun because my sex organs are too small. I carry a gun because I want to continue to use those sex organs for the purpose for which they were intended for a good long time to come.

I don't carry a gun because I want to shoot someone. I carry a gun because I want to die at a ripe old age in my bed, and not on a sidewalk somewhere tomorrow afternoon.

I don't carry a gun because I'm a cowboy. I carry a gun because, when I die and go to heaven, I want to be a cowboy.

I don't carry a gun to make me feel like a man. I carry a gun because men know how to take care of themselves and the ones they love.

I don't carry a gun because I feel inadequate. I carry a gun because unarmed and facing three armed thugs, I am inadequate.

I don't carry a gun because I love it. I carry a gun because I love life and the people who make it meaningful to me.



Syd is a web wonk (wonk: a person preoccupied with arcane details or procedures in a specialized field: nerd. --www.merriam-webster.com), a gun rights activist, 1911 pistol fanatic, life-long gun nut, writer, artist, woodworker, guitar player, and devoted caretaker for two German Shepherd Dogs. Syd's been married to the same woman for 27 years and is still in love. They have two sons who make him crazy sometimes, but of whom he is very proud.



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Get involved & send **YOUR** comments or concerns to the **Editor**
editor@usobserver.com

Illegal alien murderers-for-hire shock, suffocate, slit throats in U.S.

By WorldNetDaily
www.worldnetdaily.com



Alejandro Castaneda

A showdown over drug money between suspected Mexican illegal aliens in Alabama ended with four men in prison and four shipped back to Mexico in body bags.

Three suspected illegal aliens from Mexico and another man have been arrested and charged with capital murder for electrocuting, stabbing, suffocating and beating five men to death in a murder-for-hire.

The four suspects were paid between \$400,000 and \$450,000 to torture the victims with electric shock and slit their throats in an Alabama apartment, police said Tuesday. The murders have been tied to a drug cartel that transports cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana, the Birmingham News reported.

Shelby County Sheriff Chris Curry said he believed the murders could have been revenge slayings after the victims embezzled money from a drug cartel.

"It revolves around money, and that money revolves around drugs," he said.

Curry said there might have been other targets on the hit list who escaped before police arrived.



Juan Francisco Castaneda

Authorities found the bodies of Angel Horacio Vega-Gonzalez, 23, and his brother Gustavo Vega-Gonzalez, also known as Armando Lopez, 24; Ezequiel Rebollar-Terevan, 23; Jaime

Echeverria, 30; and a fifth unknown victim Wednesday.

The coroner's office is waiting for dental records before the fifth victim can be identified. The other four victims' bodies have been shipped back to their families in Mexico.

Suspects Alejandro Castaneda, 31, and Juan Francisco Castaneda, 25, brothers; Rodriguez Jaime Duenas, 22; and Christopher Scott Jones, 40 are being held in the Shelby County Jail without bond.



Christopher Jones

A clean crime scene

District Attorney Robby Owens said the apartment crime scene was "well-manicured" by suspects and didn't appear to be a location where brutal slayings had taken place.

"This was the cleanest crime scene I've ever walked on," he said.

Owens said the murderers used electrical wall sockets to shock the victims three days before the bodies were discovered. Finding the men was not an easy task, he said. They had multiple addresses and used several names. But citizens helped by calling police and providing tips about their whereabouts.

"We had five people, we didn't know who they were, why they were there," Curry said. "It took a significant amount of time to get past that hurdle."



Jaime Rodriguez

The suspects participated in a video teleconference hearing before Shelby

County Circuit Judge J. Michael Joiner Tuesday. Three of the men could not speak English and required an interpreter to help them communicate, turning a 15-minute hearing into a two-hour ordeal, the Birmingham News reported.

Duenas and Alejandro Castaneda told the judge they were innocent.

"I don't know why two charges when I didn't do anything," Duenas said.

Alejandro Castaneda added: "I was out of town when this happened, so how can I be charged?"

Crime creeping across U.S. border

The drug-related murders came on the heels of recent reports of tightened U.S. security along the Southern border as cartels send murderers-for-hire into the U.S. Last week, Texas and New Mexico authorities reported a hit list identifying 15 to 20 targets in the two states alone.

Illegal immigrant violence has claimed the lives of many Americans. As WND reported earlier, MS-13, also known as Mara Salvatrucha, a highly organized and well-funded Central American gang, has infiltrated at least 33 states across the U.S., according to law-enforcement authorities. The gang is well-known in Los Angeles, Houston, New York and Washington, D.C., for excessive brutality. Any person suspected of cooperating with authorities is hunted down, tortured and killed. Initiation rites include kickings, beatings and gang rapes.

Deborah Schurman-Kauflin of the Violent Crimes Institute in Atlanta analyzed 1,500 cases from January 1999 through April 2006 that included rapes, murders and child molestation crimes committed by illegal aliens. Approximately 41 percent of the crimes were sexual homicides and serial murders.

Though no federal statistics are kept on murders or any other crimes committed by illegal aliens, a number of groups have produced estimates based on data collected from prisons, news reports and independent research.

Twelve Americans are murdered every day by illegal aliens, according to 2006 statistics released by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa. If those numbers are correct, it translates to 4,380 Americans murdered annually by illegal aliens – more than the U.S. death toll of soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan combined. That's more than 30,000 Americans killed by illegal aliens since Sept. 11, 2001.

■ ■ ■

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The International Noose is Tightening

By Larry Pratt
NewsWithViews.com

A Panamanian attorney and gun owner rights activist recently told me that George Soros was pushing gun confiscation in Panama, and that every time he adds another country to the gun control list, the position of the U.S. at the U.N. becomes more precarious.

In other words, thanks to George Soros in some considerable measure, the UN noose is tightening around the neck of gun owners in the U.S.

George Soros is a Hungarian born socialist billionaire who now resides in the U.S. Soros, who wants everybody (but himself) to be equally poor, was convicted in France of insider trading.

There is the story of the fellow who murdered his parents and then pled to the court for mercy because he was an orphan. Similarly, George Soros, having lost on appeal to France's highest court then appealed to the European Court of Human Rights (which is still pending) on the grounds that the French process took too long.

What an irony that Mr. Insider Trading, aka George Soros, funnels a lot of his left-wing political financing through the Open Society Institute.

I have seen the footprints of George Soros' financing of gun-grabbing legislation throughout the world. When I was in South Africa a few years ago, the law that the communist African National Congress party had put on the books there had been promoted by George Soros.

Earlier this year when I addressed a conference of the Panamanian Association of Gun Owners (APPA), I heard a Panamanian speaker detail the bill that APPA is fighting in the Panamanian National Assembly. Not surprisingly, it has the same provisions as the South African law. Then a Costa Rican member of that country's National Assembly described the gun control bill in their legislature. Care to guess what is in the Costa Rican bill? The same provisions.

The Costa Rican added that the bill was being pushed by President Oscar Arias, aided by his Arias Foundation which is funded by none other than George Soros.

The warning of the Panamanian attorney that the UN noose is tightening around the necks of American gun owners sounded all the more credible when the bigger picture of Soros-sponsored international gun control emerged.

But, as the salesman says, there is more.

Soros is not ignoring direct involvement in the U.S. He pumped big bucks into the anti-gun show referendum campaign of Americans for Gun Safety in 2000. Presidential candidate, Sen. John McCain was the pitchman for this attack on the Second Amendment in the Colorado and Oregon referenda of that year.

With this kind of position on guns, it is not surprising that McCain's 2000 presidential bid fizzled. Because he planned to run again, McCain wanted to park his key campaign staff where they would be available the next time they heard his siren call. That place ended up being the Reform Institute which received major funding from George Soros.

McCain's Reform Institute was the tip of the spear in the campaign to gag political speech, aka, the McCain-Feingold campaign act of 2002. Among other things, McCain was insulating himself from pesky criticisms by gun owners of his anti-gun record which puts the lie to his claims of support for the Second Amendment.

How interesting. A trip to Panama helped me understand better than before how sinister George Soros is, and the threat he represents to freedom, not only in the U.S., but in many other countries as well.

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■ ■ ■

Digging our financial grave? House to vote on \$50 billion econ stimulus plan

By Richard Cowan
and Kevin Drawbaugh

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - With financial markets reeling from a weekend of stunning changes on Wall Street, Democrats in the House of Representatives pushed on Monday to aid the faltering economy with a new stimulus package.

Legislation to inject another \$50 billion into the economy, mostly by helping finance local construction projects that would create new jobs, was likely to come to a vote this month, a senior House Democratic aide said.

"Jobs, jobs, jobs. That's what it's about," said the aide, adding the bulk of the stimulus would focus on job creation.

But White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said she knew of no shift in President George W. Bush's opposition to a second stimulus bill. "No, I don't know of any change," she told reporters, while also questioning whether construction spending would actually create jobs over the short-term.

If it were to advance, the \$50 billion would add to a \$168-billion economic stimulus enacted earlier this year, mostly in the form of tax rebate checks already issued.

The second stimulus program would also supplement other steps expected from the federal government in days ahead to boost the flagging economy and calm financial markets.

With unemployment rising to a five-year high of 6.1 percent, and with the bankruptcy filing of Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Democrats in Congress want another election-year stimulus --

with or without the support of Bush, who gave his blessing to the first measure.

That first stimulus jolt contributed to preliminary estimates of solid second-quarter economic growth of 3.3 percent.

Shaken by Lehman's downfall and the planned acquisition of rival Merrill Lynch by Bank of America, markets on Monday were jittery over fears of possible related losses at global insurer American International Group.

WALL STREET DECLINE

Stocks fell sharply on Monday, with the Dow Jones industrial average down some 3.6 percent in late afternoon trading, while short-term interest rates soared worldwide, reflecting anxiety among banks about lending to each other.

While details were still in the works, a second stimulus bill also would help low-income families pay winter heating bills and extend unemployment benefits for those exhausting existing aid. States, which face higher costs of providing health care for the poor, also would get more help from Washington, according to several congressional aides.

Without a further extension of aid, nearly 800,000 workers will exhaust their unemployment benefits by early October, according to the National Employment Law Project.

Democratic Sen. Carl Levin, whose home state of Michigan suffers the highest joblessness in the United States, told reporters that an economic stimulus plan he wants the Senate to pass is "in the ballpark" of \$50 billion.

Michigan is a key state for Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama and Republican opponent John McCain.

While Democrats and Republicans in Congress blamed each other for the economy's problems, Obama and McCain appeared to agree that the Bush administration had fallen down on the job.

McCain, at a campaign stop in Orlando, Florida, said, "The American economy is in a crisis." He added, "Those regulators have been asleep at the switch, and we've got to fix it."

At a rally in Grand Junction, Colorado, Obama said, "This is a serious, serious situation ... Too many folks in Washington and on Wall Street weren't minding the store."

With the November elections drawing

near, the White House is leaning heavily on the financial services industry to end the slow-motion crisis that has gripped the markets for months now, said Jaret Seiberg, policy analyst at Stanford Group Co.

"At this point, one should expect the Bush administration to push the financial industry to finish off its sick and wounded as quickly as possible," Seiberg said.

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission plans to take action before the end of the week on abusive short selling, where investors try to profit from declines in a stock's price, a source briefed on the matter said on Monday.

On October 1, legislation to address the steepest housing slump since the Great Depression is set to take effect, including a Federal Housing Administration program to get thousands of distressed borrowers into cheaper mortgages.

The \$50 billion stimulus, if enacted, would add to huge federal budget deficits that the Congressional Budget Office last week predicted would hit \$407 billion this year and rise to \$438 billion next year.

(Editing by Philip Barbara)

■ ■ ■

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Muslims in fed terror probe making donations to Obama

Will candidate follow other Dems who gave back jihad-tied funds?

By WorldNetDaily
www.worldnetdaily.com



Jamal M. Barzinji

Islamic leaders tied by federal investigators to the radical Muslim Brotherhood in America – including one under active investigation for alleged terror-financing – have recently donated to Sen. Barack Obama's campaign for president, according to Federal Election Commission records reviewed by WND.

Jamal M. Barzinji earlier this year gave Obama \$1,000, a gift that records show has not been returned. Other Democratic candidates, including Rep. Jim Moran, have refunded donations from Barzinji since federal agents raided his Virginia home and offices in the wake of the 9/11 attacks.

Obama's top Muslim adviser resigned earlier this month over controversy surrounding his ties to an alleged Muslim Brotherhood front connected to Barzinji, who heads a network of Islamic charities and businesses.

Barzinji remains at the center of an active federal investigation into terrorist financing that involves recently convicted terrorist supporter Sami al-Arian. A grand jury is still hearing the widening case in Northern Virginia.

A federal court affidavit alleges "Barzinji is not only closely associated with PIJ (as evidenced by ties to al-

Arian, including documents seized in Tampa), but also with Hamas." The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, or PIJ, and Hamas are two known terrorist groups outlawed by the U.S.

Barzinji in November 2000 was arrested and charged with domestic abuse and resisting arrest, according to Fairfax County Police Department criminal records.

Nancy Luque, a Washington-based lawyer for Barzinji, says her client does not support terrorism and that the government is conducting a witch hunt. Barzinji has not been charged with a crime in the years-long probe.

According to recently declassified FBI documents posted by the Investigative Project on Terrorism, Barzinji and another board member of an Islamist think tank in Herndon, Va., were listed among "members and leaders of the IKHWAN."

The Ikhwan is an Arabic reference to the Muslim Brotherhood, which follows the credo: "The Quran is our constitution, the prophet is our guide; Death for the glory of Allah is our greatest ambition."

Osama bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri, 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and "blind sheik" Omar Abdel-Rahman all belong to the Muslim Brotherhood.

U.S. prosecutors recently declassified an internal Ikhwan document outlining a long-term plan to infiltrate U.S. institutions and Islamize America.

Barzinji has met in the U.S. with key leaders of the Egyptian-based Brotherhood, but he told the Washington Post in 2004 that he and his colleagues abandoned links to them years ago. He said he helped persuade the Brothers to participate in elections as an alternative to armed struggle.

Barzinji noted, "It was one of our main contributions to the Ikhwan movement worldwide."

Democratic Rep. Jim Moran of Virginia was forced to return \$3,750 in donations from Barzinji in 2002 after the donations were revealed in the press.

Barzinji donated \$1,000 to Obama on

Feb. 6 of this year – one day after his colleague Omer Totonji also donated \$1,000 to his campaign. Totonji's father, Ahmad Totonji, also is a subject of the federal investigation. His Herndon, Va., home and offices were raided by agents after 9/11.

That same month, Omar Barzinji of Sterling, Va., contributed \$500 to Obama's campaign. He works for Islamist publisher Amana Limited, whose offices also were searched after 9/11.

The Obama campaign, which did not return calls, was rocked earlier this month when its top Muslim adviser, Mazen Asbahi, had to step down over a firestorm surrounding his ties to an alleged Muslim Brotherhood front connected to Jamal Barzinji.

Asbahi, a Chicago lawyer, served on the board of an Illinois-based subsidiary to the North American Islamic Trust, or NAIT, recently named by federal prosecutors as an unindicted co-conspirator in a major Hamas terror-financing case.

Barzinji was the former secretary of Saudi-funded NAIT, which controls hundreds of radical mosques in the U.S., including the Washington-area mosque connected to at least two of the 9/11 hijackers.

In fact, Barzinji's signature appears on the property deed to that mosque, the Dar al-Hijrah Islamic Center, according to Paul Sperry, author of "Infiltration: How Muslim Spies and Subversives Have Penetrated Washington." Dar al-Hijrah is run by leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood.

Barzinji is listed in FEC records as a "board member" of the Islamic Society of North America, a sister organization to NAIT and also an unindicted terror co-conspirator.

Also, Dar al-Hijrah trustee Esam Omeish gave \$250 to Obama the same month as Barzinji.

Omeish was forced to resign his government-appointed position to the Virginia Commssion of Immigration after a video surfaced showing him

advocating violent jihad. Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine, a Democrat on Obama's short list for running mate, had named Omeish to the panel.

Omeish is president of the Alexandria, Va.-based Muslim American Society, which was founded by members of the radical Muslim Brotherhood and is the representative of the Muslim Brotherhood in the U.S., according to recent testimony and evidence provided by FBI agent Lara Burns in the terror trial of the Holy Land Foundation.

According to Sperry in the book "Infiltration," Omeish in 2004 used his home to bond out a terrorist suspect jailed for allegedly casing the Chesapeake Bay Bridge. ■■

Esam Omeish



Photo by Melissa Golden

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YOU BE THE JUDGE

Obama: "My Muslim Faith" - "My Christian Faith"

Democratic Presidential Nominee Barack Obama was interviewed on ABC's "This Week with George Stephanopoulos" Sept. 7, 2008

Excerpt from Interview

STEPHANOPOULOS: You mention your Christian faith. Yesterday you took off after the Republicans for suggesting you have Muslim connections.

Just a few minutes ago, Rick Davis, John McCain's campaign manager, said they've never done that. This is a false and cynical attempt to play victim.

OBAMA: You know what? I mean, these guys love to throw a rock and hide their hand. The...

STEPHANOPOULOS: The McCain campaign has never suggested you have Muslim connections.

OBAMA: No, no, no. But the -- I don't think that when you look at what is being promulgated on Fox News, let's say, and Republican commentators who are closely allied to these folks...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But John McCain said that's wrong.

OBAMA: Now, well, look. Listen. You and I both know that the minute that Governor Palin was forced to talk about her daughter, I immediately said that's off limits. And...

STEPHANOPOULOS: But John McCain said the same thing about questioning your faith.

OBAMA: And what was the first thing the McCain's campaign went out and did? They said, look, these liberal blogs that support Obama are out there attacking Governor Palin.

Let's not play games. What I was suggesting -- you're absolutely right that John McCain has not talked about my Muslim faith. And you're absolutely right that that has not come...



STEPHANOPOULOS: Christian faith.

OBAMA: ... my Christian faith. Well, what I'm saying is that he hasn't suggested...

STEPHANOPOULOS: Has connections, right.

OBAMA: ... that I'm a Muslim. And I think that his campaign's upper echelons have not, either.

What I think is fair to say is that, coming out of the Republican camp, there have been efforts to suggest that perhaps I'm not who I say I am when it comes to my faith -- something which I find deeply offensive, and that has been going on for a pretty long time.

For the full interview go to: <http://www.cqpolitics.com>

Editor's Note: What do you think? Was it just a slip of the tongue, or is there something more to it? Send us your feedback!
editor@usobserver.com ■■

DOOM & GLOOM - Could it be true?

The Iran War - How It Will Begin

By The Earl of Stirling

I have served as a consultant to three very high tech aerospace firms. My specialty is conceptualizing advanced warfare especially as it relates to new cutting edge advanced weapon systems. What I see unfolding with a war on Iran is the most frightening set of circumstances I have ever seen; and I have been involved in advanced theoretical weaponry strategy and design for over 20 years.

Sometime in the weeks to months ahead, there will be a war launched against Iran. The war may be started by Israel, or by the United States, or by a NATO/EU/US embargo, or by some 'false flag' attack. What matters is that it will begin; and where it will take the world.

Regardless if the war begins with a limited number of air strikes against Iranian military and nuclear targets, or if an all-out several thousand target attack begins from day one the probabilities of the war becoming a major regional war within 48 hours are 90% or higher.

The Iranians will simply not allow Israeli and/or American military forces to attack its territory without a major response. Any significant counter-attack on Israel and/or American regional bases will trigger a much greater counter-response.

The Iranians have equipped and paid for, and trained, a massive unguided rocket and guided missile force in Lebanon (the largest such force in human history). These missiles are in-place as a MAD force (a MAD ~ mutually assured destruction ~ force is one that is a doomsday force; established to prevent the use of overwhelming military force by allowing a return "punch" of overwhelming military destructive force upon one's enemy). The total number of missiles and rockets in Lebanon are variously estimated at between 40,000 and 110,000. While many are unguided Katyusha rockets, many are longer ranged guided missiles. All are operated by Hezbollah Special Forces launch teams.

The Hezbollah Special Forces are in-effect a highly trained and well-equipped Iranian commando force of at least a Brigade in size. They man and protect a large number of mostly unguided and rather crude rockets, generally Katyusha 122mm artillery rockets with a 19 mile/30km range and capable of delivering approximately 66 pounds/30kg of warheads. Additionally, Hezbollah are known to possess a considerable number of more advanced and longer range missiles. During the 2006 war Hezbollah fired approximately 4,000 rockets (95% of which were Katyushas) all utilizing only "dumb" high explosive warheads. Some Iranian build and supplied Fajr-3 and Ra'ad 1 liquid-fueled missiles were also fired. It is believed that the larger and longer range missiles are directly under the control of Syrian and Iranian officers.

The combination of short to medium range rockets and guided missiles in Lebanon, and the longer range guided missiles in Syria, the smaller number of rockets and missiles in the West Bank and Gaza, and the longer range guided missiles in Iran present a massive throw weight of warheads aimed at Israel.

The 2006 Israeli-Hezbollah War (called the Second Lebanon War in Israel) was an attempt by Israel at eliminating the MAD counter-force in Lebanon. It was an attempt that failed. The Syrians had purchased (and supplied to Hezbollah) a large number of very nasty, relatively low cost Russian AT-14 Kornet solid fuel anti-tank guided missiles (ATGM) and the Iranian trained Hezbollah commandos dug in massive numbers of concrete bunkers and firing positions. After over 50 Merkava main battle tanks were hit, and the high tech American made warplanes and pinpoint weapons proved ineffective, the handwriting was on the wall. Either use neutron bombs or lose a large number of Israeli soldiers to remove the Hezbollah

threat; or declare peace and walk away for the time being ~ the Israelis chose the latter.

It now appears that Israel has given up on the idea of a ground assault to remove the many rocket and missile launchers in Lebanon. A senior Israeli general has resigned with the complaint that the Army is not training sufficiently to fight in Lebanon. The alternative is the use of FAE (fuel air explosive) technology weapons and neutron bombs (a type of nuclear weapon that produces a higher short term radiological output and less blast output than normal nuclear weapons).

Any use of such WMD by the Israeli Army on the Hezbollah forces in Lebanon will likely automatically trigger the use of WMD warheads on whatever rockets/missiles remain operational (if their use has not already been authorized due to the nature and scope of Israeli and/or American attacks on Iran).

The bottom line of this is that Israel will face a truly

millions killed. Expect to see every city of any size destroyed. There will be insufficient people left in Syria, Iran, and large parts of Lebanon to even bury the dead. Radiation will spread around the world from the nuclear bombs.

Iranian sleeper teams in North America and western Europe will begin to "seed" the populations of these areas with a number (perhaps in the several dozens) of different man made killer viruses. People in movie theaters, churches, synagogues, shopping malls, subway stations, airports, etc., will be exposed without anyone knowing it at the time, to these advanced biowar viruses. About nine to ten days later the computer reporting systems in the western countries will begin to report back strange illnesses. That will trigger a host of measures to contain the advanced biowar viruses but it will simply be too late to prevent a massive outbreak of horrific illnesses. International travel and trade will effectively stop. People will be ordered to stay home from work and school with only critical job holders being allowed on the streets. Hospitals will be overcome with sick and dying people of all ages. The medical community will be among the first to die off. Where temporary hospitals are established in school gyms and other areas, the cross infection of several different genetically engineered viruses will ensure 100% mortality of everyone in the temporary hospitals.

In the event that the neo-con nations have sought to expand the Georgia war by new attacks on Russian forces or by creating some naval incident in the Black Sea the probabilities of an quick expansion into a all-out Third World War involving Russian and NATO nuclear weapons will be at approximately 50%. Even without a global total war being initiated, Russia is apt to "sweep" the Black Sea of NATO ships with considerable loss of life on both sides.

The world will be in the worst economic depression in history as global trade will be halted for at least several months due to fears of the spread of the various advanced biowar viruses. If Israel releases the Arab specific designer advanced biowar viruses, that many claim she has, the Saudis are apt to fire their Chinese IRBMs (intermediate range ballistic missiles) and send their very well equipped air force against Israel with the small number of nuclear weapons that they possess (they have funded the Pakistani nuclear weapon program and have several Pakistani made nuclear devices). Of course, what

is left of the Israeli forces will respond with additional nuclear attacks, this time on Saudi Arabia and other Arab nations for good measure.

In North America and western Europe the total number of civilians, after two months of advanced biowar illnesses, is apt to be at least a third of the population ~ a total death count of well over 200 million persons. Despite the best efforts of all nations, the man engineered super killer mutant viruses will spread throughout the world causing total numbers of perhaps a billion or more to die.

The after effect of all of this may well lead to even more war as the non-neo-con nations will be so incensed at the massive lost of life of their citizens that total global war may be unstoppable. ■■



massive number of rockets and missiles from Lebanon with radiological, chemical, biological and FAE weapons of mass destruction warheads. Additionally, a sizable number of such weapons/warheads will be fired from Gaza and the West Bank. The Syrians will be using larger more accurate guided missiles to shower WMD upon Israel as will the Iranians. To counter this, the Israelis will be using their Green Pine Radar system and a combination of Israeli and American anti-missile missiles. They will have good success in knocking down many incoming missiles but the sheer number of incoming weapons will totally overload all defensive measures.

Large parts of Israel will be contaminated with radiation with extremely long half-lives (many tens of thousands of years in some cases), with a mix of chemical, FAE, and biological nightmares thrown in for good measure. Total deaths will amount to one-third to one-half of the Israeli population with a large additional number being injured.

The Israeli response will be the nuclear annihilation of Syria, Iran, and parts of Lebanon with many tens of

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Health

How to avoid heart disease: Brush your teeth, say scientists



By Marlowe Hood

PARIS (AFP) - Here's another reason to brush your teeth: poor dental hygiene boosts the risk of heart attacks and strokes, a pair of studies reported this week.

Heart disease is the number one killer worldwide, claiming upward of 17

million lives every year, according to the World Health Organization.

Smoking, obesity and high cholesterol are the most common culprits, but the new research shows that neglected gums can be added to the list.

"We now recognize that bacterial infections are an independent risk factor for heart diseases," said Howard Jenkins of the University of Bristol in Britain, at a meeting of the Society for General Microbiology in Dublin.

"In other words, it doesn't matter how fit, slim or healthy you are, you're adding to your chances of getting heart disease by having bad teeth," the professor said.

There are up to 700 different bacteria in the human mouth, and failing to scrub one's pearly whites helps those germs to flourish.

Most are benign, and some are essential to good health. But a few can trigger a biological cascade leading to diseases of the arteries linked to heart attacks and stroke, according to the new research.

"The mouth is probably the dirtiest place in the human body," Steve

Kerrigan of the Royal College of Surgeons in Dublin said.

"If you have an open blood vessel from bleeding gums, bacteria will gain entry to your bloodstream."

Once inside the blood, certain bacteria stick onto cells called platelets, causing them to clot inside the vessel and thus decreasing blood flow to the heart.

"We mimicked the pressure inside the blood vessels and in the heart, and demonstrated that bacteria use different mechanisms to cause platelets to clump together, allowing them to completely encase the bacteria," he said.

This not only created conditions that can provoke heart attacks and strokes, it also shielded the bacteria from both, immune system cells and antibiotics.

"These findings suggest why antibiotics do not always work in the treatment of infectious heart disease," Jenkins said.

In separate research, a team led by Greg Seymour of the University of Otago Dunedin in New Zealand showed how other bacteria from the mouth can provoke atherosclerosis, a disease that causes hardening of the arteries.

All organisms -- including humans and bacteria -- produce "stress proteins,"



molecules produced by conditions such as inflammation, toxins, starvation, or oxygen deprivation.

One function of stress proteins is to guide other proteins across cell membranes.

But they can also can latch onto foreign objects, called antigens, and deliver then to immune cells, provoking an immune reactions in the body.

Normally, the body does not attack its own stress proteins.

But bacterial stress proteins -- which are similar -- do trigger a response, and once that has happened the immune system can no longer differentiate between the two, said Seymour.

"White blood cells can build up in the tissue of arteries, causing atherosclerosis," he explained in a phone interview.

Too Few People Know Symptoms of Heart Trouble



By Serena Gordon
HealthDay Reporter

(HealthDay News) -- If that nagging pain in your chest just won't go away, and suddenly you feel like you're having trouble catching your breath, it's time to call 9-1-1.

Those symptoms could indicate either a heart attack or impending cardiac arrest. And waiting to see if the symptoms subside could cost you your life.

"The unfortunate fact is that we have become very good at treating heart disease once you have reached medical care. But, the majority of people who die, die before they reach medical care," said Dr. Joon Sup Lee, clinical director of the Cardiovascular Institute at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

In fact, about 330,000 Americans die each year from heart problems and heart disease before they get to the hospital, according to the American Heart Association.

In cardiac arrest, the heart actually stops beating, usually after a period of fast or irregular heartbeats. In a heart attack, blood flow is blocked to part of the heart, damaging heart muscle, but the heart usually continues to beat.

Cardiac arrest is usually caused by existing heart disease or a heart attack, but can also be caused by electrocution, drowning, respiratory failure and choking. Sometimes, no known cause for cardiac arrest is found, according to the heart association.

Symptoms that precede both conditions are similar and include:

- Chest pain or pressure or a feeling of tightness in the chest.
- Shortness of breath.
- Extreme fatigue.
- Pain that radiates down the left arm.
- Jaw pain or neck pain.
- Upper abdominal pain or a feeling of indigestion.
- Nausea or vomiting.
- Breaking out in a sweat.
- Dizziness or lightheadedness, possibly fainting.

"If any of these symptoms are new to you, you should go get it checked out," advised Dr. Nieca Goldberg, director of the New York University Langone Medical Center's Women's Heart Program in New York City. She said that many people, especially women, wait to get medical help, because they don't want to look silly or waste doctors' time.

"Don't worry about what others will think -- just go," she said.

Lee agreed. "If you're having symptoms, and they persist for more than a few minutes, seek medical care. If you wait, you may never make it to the hospital," he said, adding, "If you look at people who died suddenly, they often had symptoms but ignored them."

A recent study in the journal Circulation looked at the events leading up 406 cardiac arrests and found that many of these people had symptoms prior to the cardiac arrest, sometimes for as long as two hours beforehand.

Two-thirds of these cardiac arrests were witnessed by someone. And 25 percent of those people whose cardiac arrest was witnessed by someone else experienced chest pain, and 17 percent had

breathlessness.

The survival rate for people in the study who received CPR was around 23 percent, compared to just 4 percent for those who didn't receive CPR. People who went into cardiac arrest in a public place were more likely to get CPR than people whose hearts stopped at home.

"What this study suggests is that most people do have a warning, many of them had more than one hour, which is more than enough time for EMS to get there. Most people who die suddenly, die of an irregular rhythm," said Lee, and that's the type of problem that defibrillators were designed to correct.

The bottom line, said Lee, is don't wait. "There's a fear that you'll feel stupid if you go to the hospital, and you're OK. But, if you want to be 100 percent sure, you're risking your life."

Do you know the signs and symptoms of a stroke?

Stroke warning signs

- Sudden numbness or weakness of face, arm, or leg, especially on one side of the body
- Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding
- Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes
- Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance, or coordination
- Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Call 911 immediately when you suspect someone is having a stroke. The sooner you get the patient to the hospital, the greater the chances of recovery are. In many cases, a complete stroke can be avoided if treatment is quick.

At least 10% of stroke patients have had a Transient Ischemic Attack (TIA) previously. A TIA occurs when a blood clot temporarily partially clogs an artery and prevents the brain from getting the oxygen it needs. A TIA can last a matter of seconds to a few minutes. If you would like more information on a TIA, this link will take you there. -By Tooele County Health Department

Cannabis linked to earlier psychosis onset



NEW YORK (Reuters Health) - Researchers from Spain have found a strong and independent link between cannabis use and the onset of psychosis at a younger age. The association, they say, cannot be explained by chance, and is not related to gender or the use of other drugs. It is, however, related to the amount of cannabis used.

"The clinical importance of this finding is potentially high," Dr. Ana Gonzalez-Pinto from Santiago Apostol Hospital in Vitoria, and colleagues write in the Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, given that cannabis use is extremely prevalent among young people."

The researchers also report that "estimates of the attributable risk suggest that the use of cannabis accounts for about 10 percent of cases of psychosis."

The findings are based on 131 patients ages 15 to 65 years who needed inpatient care for a first psychotic episode during a 2-year period. The subjects were evaluated using the Structured Clinical Interview for DSM-IV Axis I Disorders, and clinical and demographic data were also collected.

The results showed a significant gradual reduction in the age at which psychosis began that correlated with an increased dependence on cannabis. Compared with nonusers, age at onset was reduced by 7, 8.5, and 12 years among users, abusers and dependents, respectively, the researchers report.

In further analysis, the effect of cannabis on age at onset "was not explained by the use of other drugs or by gender," they also note. The finding was similar in the youngest patients, suggesting that this effect was not due to chance.

These results "point to cannabis as a dangerous drug in young people at risk of developing psychosis," Gonzalez-Pinto and colleagues conclude.

SOURCE: Journal of Clinical Psychiatry, August 2008.

■ ■ ■



Dr. D will return in the next edition of US~Observer!

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US~Observer *Demanding Accountability*

Why a Newspaper? - *The Real Story of the US~Observer*

Approximately 24 years ago I got royally ticked off at the legal and political system in America as many of you have. I clearly observed that government was stealing people's property, freedoms and most importantly, that government had stripped us of our constitution. I saw that most acts of my government, whether political or within our justice systems were clearly unconstitutional and therefore illegal.

My primary business was private investigations. I would take cases on, solve them and attempt to make sure that my clients were protected and insulated from whatever harmful entity or person that were attacking them. I started a group named Liberty Network, which eventually had a membership in excess of 400 people. In the beginning of my journey to seek accountability my job seemed easy and extremely rewarding. Looking back I see that I was "preaching to the choir." It worked great at first but became routine and eventually boring and at times unrewarding.

I utilized Public Access Television and radio talk shows in an attempt to increase people's awareness to the bad government that I witnessed on a daily basis, in addition to influencing the cases that I worked on. This avenue of media participation boosted my enthusiasm giving me new hope that these venues would create the success that I needed and expected. My efforts affected a great many cases during those formative years; however, there seemed to be a point of diminishing returns. I was spending my money to help others and the contributions that once flowed, at the onset, were drying up.

Fortunately, at this same time in my life I had a very successful dog training business. I specialized in training personal protection and attack dogs for private citizens, celebrities and others. Dog World Magazine published articles I wrote on genetics, problems with lineage in dog lines, etc. I soon was accepted by the legal system as an "expert" on dog related cases and while most of our cases were solved outside of the court room, I eventually found myself faced with a dog-bite case mandating a trial.

The case involved a lady who owned two Rottweiler's that were accused of nearly biting a young girl's leg off. As a result of my experience with Rottweiler's I was hired to handle the case. My procedural act was to go to Animal Control where the dogs were quarantined and conduct a temperament test on the animals. My team made arrangements with authorities to video the test. Although forewarned, I encountered the unexpected when I entered the animal control center. I found, just as the lady who hired me said I would, that the two dogs were incapable of biting anyone, even out of self-protection. I pushed these two beautiful dogs further than a reasonable person would think of doing and they just wouldn't bite or even fight back out of self-protection. After sharing the tape with the attorney of record we were anxious to play the evidence in court – we had a slam dunk!

On the day of trial, I was readily accepted as an expert and I played my video for the court. Although most everyone in the room visibly showed their acknowledgement that the two dogs hadn't bitten anyone, Judge Alan Jack found them guilty and sentenced them to death. He stated in open court that he wouldn't own a German Shepard, a Rottweiler or a Doberman Pincher and that he wouldn't even let these breeds near his property. I had finally been pushed over the edge by this evil and prejudiced "judge."

I sent my investigators into the records department at the courthouse with the instructions to conduct a full blown investigation into the judges past, while I wrote this corrupted individual a scathing letter. The records indicated that Judge Jack had a track record of prejudicial decisions. I knew we had many problems with government before but I was now

more than ever, aware as to the depths our criminal justice system had fallen. I set out to spread the word about Jack and his corruption only to find myself "preaching to the choir" once again. The judge's reputation was greatly damaged locally but at this point in time I was lacking the proper weapon to expose, destroy and impeach Judge Jack.

Facing financial straits from doing pro-bono cases I set up a meeting with my closest friends and advisors to update them on my plan to go back into the business world full time. When informed of my decision to abandon my work one of my closest mentors stated, "Ed you need to do more and the only way I see this happening is to start a newspaper." This epiphany recaptured glimpses of my original excitement in the area of exposing corruption and the Oregon Observer was born.

We eventually started charging clients to create a much needed revenue flow. Once stabilized it became abundantly clear that the only thing corrupted individuals fear, whether they work in the public or private sectors, is exposure. Corrupted individuals love to spend time in court rooms or behind closed doors but they hate it when their depravity is publicly exposed to their friends and family. For the sake of brevity the Oregon Observer now known as the US~Observer has won over 2,500 cases using the power of the press these past 16 years. Without the threat of exposure created by our newspaper many of these individuals would have been destroyed emotionally, mentally and financially. In the realm of politics many honest, hard working individuals would never have been elected to office had they been without our support during their campaigns.

Having watched the recent primaries and the extraordinary success that Dr. Ron Paul experienced at the grass roots level, isn't it a wonder why the Ron Paul Revolution ended up at my same old crossroad; "Preaching to the Choir?" Paul ended up with 7% of the vote and while he drastically energized his ranks, the "sleeping giant" remains asleep.

Today, I have brought my associates together to finish the job I started some 24 years ago, free from the financial burdens that impeded my early success. Dr. Paul's vision can become a reality by reaching a majority of the population with the right message (news). This will only be accomplished when able bodied Americans join in our effort to start hard-copy newspapers in every region in this nation. Newspapers that are self directed, while tied at the hip, profitable and hard hitting will do exactly what the internet can't accomplish – Accountability! Eventually, drastic change will occur within a system of government that no longer represents the interests of hard working Americans. Einstein once said that insanity is doing the same thing over and over, expecting different results. Are we to remain insane or should we take bold action to change the status quo?

Now armed with the US~Observer I am not lacking the weapon to completely right such wrongs. From getting individuals elected on a state and local level to saving innocent people from sure destruction is now a matter of record with the US~Observer. Verifications of our claims are

available upon request as such claims are now a matter of public record.

I certainly don't want to leave anyone with the idea that the US~Observer does not place value in the internet. At the US~Observer we use the internet on a daily basis to insure our success. It is simply a matter of fact that the internet won't get us over the barriers that stand between the current condition of America and the total reformation of our country – Hard

copy newspapers, working in conjunction with the internet can and will accomplish this. The US~Observer, as well as our present

and former clients and the corrupted system we routinely prey upon consider the US~Observer newspaper a weapon – it works and will work to a far greater degree when those within "the choir" avail their senses to what will and what will not gain the required exposure to stop this out of control government dead in its tracks.

In closing, I want to stress that, simply starting a newspaper is not the sole answer. Starting a great chain of connected yet independent newspapers is very much the solution to our greatest problems since we declared our independence. This imperative venture is only for stout hearted, patriotic entrepreneurs who are smart enough to look closely at recent history and conclude from their observations that conferences, meetings, focus groups, and internet activism haven't worked and will never work on their own. This venture is only for those who are intelligent enough to realize that any venture must be profitable or it will fail. It is for those who realize the power of the press and also that every group or movement in this nation requires media.

The US~Observer has spent many years proving what will work – If you are an individual or group of people who have the backbone and enough smarts to look at proof and then act on that proof – if you have enough common sense to realize America is going to hell in a hand-basket, then you must get involved with the US~Observer now.

The recent Ron Paul convention held in Minnesota garnered an approximate 15,000 people. This is quite a feat and commendable for the organizers and participants, however, we should never forget that we have over 300 million people in America and failing to reach the majority preempts a person like Ron Paul from reaching the White House.

Now, more than any other point in America's history, is the time to act; to reign in this wayward government and our out of control justice system. It's time to put the people back in power and return control to the rightful heirs of this great republic. So, it's time to put up, or quite frankly, shut up. Action is the only method that will truly work and the tool is the US~Observer hard copy newspaper.

In the end...we will remember not the words of our enemies...but the silence of our friends!

Are you a person or group with a backbone? Do you see the vision? Are you both smart and principle driven? If you are, and your life has been a success to date – contact the US~Observer at 541-474-7885 today and take part in reforming America.

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