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• CRAWFORD, TEXAS •

Vol. 5, No. 50 — Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004

SISTER PAX:

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**Author Of
DEAD MAN
WALKING
Visits
Crawford**

"Relationships with people
are everything."
— Sister Helen Prejean



**PIRATES GOING
TO STATE!**

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Protests, Questions Loom In Ohio As Electoral College Prepares To Vote

COLUMBUS, Ohio — On Monday, presidential electors were scheduled to meet in their respective capitals to cast electoral votes for president. How this process plays out in Ohio was up in the air at presstime, as a recount of the 2004 ballots is getting under way.

According to Ray Beckerman, an attorney leading the challenge to have every vote counted prior to the electoral college votes being cast in Ohio, "a number of them, especially those from Ohio and Florida, are there as a result not of a free and fair election, but as a result of fraud."

He says that if they are permitted to select the next President of the United States, "our democracy is at an end."

Beckerman noted that the 2004 election will not be completed, however, until Jan. 6, when Congress steps in.

The attorney berated the corporate media as attempting to suppress the story "so that the majority of Americans are entirely unaware of what is happening."

Citizen protests have been under way this past weekend and volunteers are distributing flyers explaining the ur-

gency of a timely and complete recount. They are asking the public to get involved, to put pressure on all senators and congressmen to not accept another questionable election in hopes that they "will not allow their nation to descend from democracy into dictatorship," explained Beckerman.

"There has been enough talk. It is now time for action," he said.

Among those "flying" in Ohio this past weekend was Kat LeStrange, from Eugene, Ore., whom THE ICONOCLAST interviewed Saturday as she made her way from store to store, placing flyers for pickup.

She said she had been in Ohio several days and was distributing flyers in anticipation of Monday's recounts in seven of the counties.

LeStrange described the locals she had met as "real friendly, letting me place flyers on their counters in their stores." She did note that there are those, though, who "are pretty unhappy that the recount is going forward."

She said that she felt that most Ohioans see those who have trekked to Ohio from other parts of the country as "freedom-fighters," as op-

posed to being "protesters."

Another group making a mark in Ohio is Progressive Democrats of America (PDA), whose members have provided upwards of 5,000 phone calls and e-mails.

According to Tim Carpenter and Kevin Spidel, Rep. Bob Ney (R-Ohio), chairman of the Committee on House Administration, has pledged to hold bipartisan hearings on the 2004 election next year. PDA is pushing for Ney and other members of the Committee to hold the hearings now.

PDA is joining other groups in urging protests to delay the casting of Electoral College votes on Dec. 13, and urging Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell to answer recent questions raised by Rep. John Conyers and other congressmen about numerous voter irregularities in Ohio.

On Saturday, it came to the attention of the House Judiciary Committee Democratic Staff that efforts to audit poll records in Greene County, Ohio are being obstructed by County Election officials and/or

Ohio Secretary of State Ken Blackwell.

According to Joan Quinn and Eve Robertson, two election observers researching voting records, Greene County officials initially gave Quinn and Robertson access to poll records, and then abruptly withdrew such access.

Greene County Director of Elections Carole Garman claimed that she had withdrawn access to the voting records at the direction of Secretary Blackwell.

Regardless of who ordered the denial of this access, such an action appears to violate Ohio law, say observers.

Later, at the same office, election observers found the office unlocked, and what appeared to be locked ballot boxes, unattended. Prior to the withdrawal of access to the books, observers had found discrepancies in election records, and possible evidence of minority vote suppression.

House Judiciary Committee Democrats wrote a letter to Blackwell on Dec. 2 requesting answers to 34 questions about

election irregularities and fraud in Ohio. This letter included questions about major discrepancies in Perry County poll books. Since that letter, additional documentation has been provided to the Democratic staff demonstrating similar problems in other counties.

Because of the urgency of the Greene County matter, Congressman John Conyers, Jr., Ranking member of the House Judiciary Committee, has requested that Ms. Quinn testify at a hearing scheduled Monday, Dec. 13, in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Quinn has agreed to do so and was scheduled to present sworn statements from corroborating witnesses. Conyers issued the following statement:

"The Recount effort is simply a search for the truth of what happened during the 2004 Presidential election in Ohio. We have now repeatedly seen election officials obstruct and stonewall this search for the truth. I am beginning to wonder what it is they are trying to hide."

Bush Rounds Out Cabinet Table, Almost — Kerik Withdraws Over 'Nanny Problem' —

CRAWFORD — The White House is still searching for a homeland security chief last weekend after President Bush's pick withdrew due to an immigration problem with a family housekeeper.

After stepping down as the president's choice, Bernard Kerik, 49, former New York police commissioner, said he had recently found he failed to pay taxes for his family's nanny/housekeeper and that the woman might be an illegal alien.

Since immigration was an issue, and the Homeland Security Department includes the immigration agency, Kerik had no choice but to withdraw, said Rudy Giuliani, former New York City mayor and close friend and business associate.

The White House last Saturday blamed Kerik for not providing information on possible legal problems to the administration's legal team. Similar "nanny problems" derailed appointments in both the Clinton administration and the first Bush administration remain a mystery.

Created after the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, Homeland Security Department's job is to improve coor-

dination and protection against future terrorist attacks.

Since his nomination was announced earlier this month, other questions were raised that showed Kerik's Senate confirmation would be plagued with trouble.

Issues of concern included Kerik's management experience in running the department of 180,000 employees; a potential conflict of interest due to Kerik's recent \$6.2 million cash in from stock options in a stun gun company that sells to the federal department; and a civil dispute six years ago after he failed to pay maintenance fees on a New Jersey condominium he owned, according to a report in Newsweek.

Possible candidates for the HSD post are Asa Hutchinson, the department's undersecretary for border and transportation security; and Sen. Joe Lieberman, D-Conn.; Joe Allbaugh, former director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency; Mike Leavitt, former Utah governor and now head of the Environmental Protection Agency; and White House homeland security adviser Fran

Townsend.

Other Posts

President Bush's secretaries of the Transportation, Labor, Interior, and Housing departments agreed to stay last Thursday for his second term, as per his request.

Remaining are Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta, Interior Secretary Gale Norton, Housing, and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson and Labor Secretary Elaine Chao.

Replacing Veterans Secretary Anthony Principi, Bush tapped Jim Nicholson decorated Vietnam veteran, to be the next secretary of the Veterans Affairs Department. Nicholson is the former chairman of the Republican National Committee and current U.S. ambassador to the Vatican.

Principi is the ninth member of Bush's 15-person Cabinet to depart.

To fill the Treasury Secretary post, the White House said that the current secretary John Snow would stay.

The only posts Bush has yet to fill are at the Energy and Health and Human Services departments.

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Sister Pax:

Author Of 'Dead Man Walking' Speaks In Crawford

By NATHAN DIEBENOW
STAFF WRITER

CRAWFORD — It was mostly cloudy over the noon hour. The short woman wearing the cross around her neck reached for the butter to spread across her cornbread. She had just finished her stew, and listened to the small group gathered as they each defined the word "peace" per her request. She then offered her own:

"Peace is learning how to live creatively with tensions and respecting all the parts involved. There's always going to be competing interests in conflict within living bodies. Always," she said in a thick Louisiana drawl as she buttered her cornbread.

"Now what happens is, some parts don't get respected. I mean, the people of Iraq are out of balance. Look at the whole relationship between business, jobs, and the environment, for example. Look at the death penalty and safety. There are at least two issues

**"...the people of Iraq are out of balance."
— Sister Helen Prejean**

where you can say there is a legitimate thing here, and there's a legitimate thing there."

Such were the words from anti-death penalty advocate and author Sister Helen Prejean on a recent Saturday, chatting over lunch with a few members of Waco Friends of Peace at the Crawford Peace House.

In the course of an hour and a half, the New Orleans-based Roman Catholic nun and the Waco-based activist group exchanged stories and strategies with which to change the cultural structure that fuels the motives pertinent in continuing state-sponsored executions.

The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty set up their first-time meeting while the 65-year-old nun was en route to keep an appointment later that afternoon with a woman who has been sitting on death row in Gatesville since 1995. The woman, Lynn Cathy Henderson, 48, was convicted of the January 1994 abduction and murder of a three-month-old boy she had been baby-sitting in Travis County.

"She's in pain in her shoulder and her neck," Sister Prejean softly said of Henderson. "She has a disk problem, and there's a doctor there in prison who won't let her seek medical attention. She takes a plastic shampoo bottle and fills it up with hot water at night to put behind her neck."

While there, Prejean will rekindle her relationship with Henderson and the warden: "So, now, I'll talk to the warden — 'Does Cathy need to be handcuffed behind her back?'"

Prejean has been in this boat before with others waiting for their own physical destruction from the State of Texas. As a spiritual advisor to death row inmates for over 20 years, she knows the routine — the strip-searches the women inmates have to endure just to go to work or to see their families once a year at Christmas — and worse.

"You know, they are in huge sensory deprivation. Death row cells in the United States are smaller than the cells in Abu Graib," she said. "Even a touch — you work to make that happen."

Sister Prejean's first encounter with a death row inmate happened during a time of personal transition for her. She was making the switch from a "singing nun" to a pen pal of Patrick Sonnier, a con-



OVER CORNBREAD AND STEW, Jane Vardiman (left) and other members of Waco Friends of Peace (not pictured) listened to anti-death penalty advocate and author Sister Helen Prejean on a recent Saturday at the Crawford Peace House. The Friends of Peace in January will be holding its monthly discussion series on capital punishment and death penalty at the Waco Public Library.

— Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

victed killer of two teenagers who was sentenced to depart from this world via the electric chair of Louisiana's Angola State Prison in 1984.

Dead Man Walking

"The thing is to change consciousness," she said. "When I came out of that execution chamber, after watching Patrick Sonnier electrocuted to death in front of my eyes in the middle of the night with nobody around ... I threw up. And then, I said, 'I'm awake. I've got to tell somebody about this. I gotta take people there.' But I didn't know how."

The Baton Rouge-born nun took her message to whoever would listen. Nursing homes after lunch proved to be a move that fell on deaf ears. "Who wants to hear the 'death penalty nun?'" she said, mimicking the voice of a nursing home attendant. "Three people did, but two were asleep within the first 10 minutes," she joked.

After criticism from the families of victims of murder, Sister Prejean learned the hard way that the best avenue in which to talk about the death penalty to people was by first relating with all the parties in-

involved — from the wardens to the victim's families to the inmates and their guards.

"I realized early on working in prisons that the guards were not the enemy," she said. "They have their own stories. They live in an oppressive system. They never get holidays off. They work long hours. They're not paid very much."

"You do whatever you need to do for the life of the person. Sometimes, it doesn't involve

"When I came out of that execution chamber, after watching Patrick Sonnier electrocuted to death in front of my eyes in the middle of the night with nobody around...I threw up."

— Sister Helen Prejean

as much. By the time you get there, [the person on death row] might have a good attorney, but if they don't, or if he or she needs medical care. Whatever. But you start relating to the people involved. Relationships with people are everything."

Her account of working as a spiritual advisor to death row inmates was captured in her book "Dead Man Walking: An Eyewitness Account of the Death Penalty in the United States."

The book made the 1994 American Library Association's Notable Book List, was nominated for a 1993 Pulitzer Prize, and was number one on the New York Times Best Seller List for 31 weeks. It also was

an international best seller, has been translated into 10 different languages, and was developed into an Oscar-winning motion picture, an opera, and a play.

Actor and screenwriter Tim Robbins wrote and directed the motion picture version of "Dead Man Walking." It starred Sean Penn as Matthew Poncelet, a death row inmate in Louisiana, and Susan Sarandon

as Sister Prejean. In 1996, the movie received four Oscar nominations including Tim Robbins for Best Director, Sean Penn for Best Actor, Susan Sarandon for Best Actress, and Bruce Springsteen's "Dead Man Walking" for Best Song. • See SISTER HELEN, Page 4

• **SISTER HELEN**

Continued From Page 3

Song. Sarandon won the award for Best Actress.

"Susan Sarandon was the one who made the film happen, because she stayed on Tim for nine months until he finally read 'Dead Man Walking.' She read the book first," she said. "She said we've got to have a mainstream film that help the American public go beneath the surface and reflect on the death penalty."

Prejean insists that the film isn't "anti-death penalty" because it shows all the sides of the issue from the physical atrocities to the pain of the families of the murder and the victim and doesn't, most importantly, uplift the murderer as a hero, she said.

"So what did Tim Robbins do? We're with the victims. We look at their suffering. We hear their parents. Then — boom — we're with Matthew Poncelet. And we're with his family and what they're going through with their brother. Then we're — boom — back with the victims. And back and forth. There's tension in drama, but there's tension in life," Prejean said describing how the editing of Robbins' film reflected her definition of peace.

With further interest in spreading the discourse, Robbins wrote a play version of his movie last year for high school students to perform to spark discussion about death penalty-related issues, such as racism, poverty, and violence.

The Hidden Issues

"When you pick up the death penalty, you're picking up the three deepest wounds: racism, poverty, and social problems. It's all in there," said Sister Prejean.

She explained that the concept of the death penalty pervades the policy agendas of the past and current U.S. administrations: "The War on Crime. What do you do? Kill the worst criminals. War on Communism. What do you do? War on Terrorism. What do you do? Really, the death penalty is a domestic kind of war in our society."

Sister Prejean explained that anti-death penalty advocates face values that places politics over people and hide reality with patriotic symbolism and interpretations of the Bible that philosophically frames society as evil.

In her new book published by Random House, "The Death of Innocents: An Eyewitness Account of Wrongful Executions," which will be hitting book stores in January 2005, she mentions a secret award Louisiana prosecutors display on their walls if they have successfully won a death penalty case. The Prick Award shows a Louisiana Pelican flying with a hypodermic needle



SISTER HELEN PREJEAN visited the Crawford Peace House this December on her way to visit Lynn Cathy Henderson who sits on death row in Gatesville. The meeting between the New Orleans activist/author of "Dead Man Walking" and the Waco-based activist group, Friends of Peace, was set up by the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. — Staff Photo By Nathan Diebenow

in the talon.

"When they get a death penalty, it's one of those 'atta boy' things," she said. "They don't show it to everybody, just special people — 'How many you got?' 'Well, I got three!' It's what political points do you get and how you get elected for it."

Prejean added that the judicial system doesn't really care about some people's murder. "It's almost like the qualifying, you know, starter thing. What is a white person or not? Okay if it is a white person let's see how bad it is? There's no outrage for the death penalty for poor people or people of color," she said.

Prejean mentioned that religion has played a big part in promoting the death penalty by distorting Biblical stories like the Fall of Adam and Eve in the book of Genesis from where the idea of original sin springs and dualism in the form of apocalyptic stories.

"A dualistic universe — in that all we got to do is make it through earth because one day we're all going to heaven — is very harmful because people are like, 'I don't have to take seriously the killing of the planet,'" she said. "That apocalyptic strand came into the scriptures later when people were so hopeless that they didn't know what else to do, so they said, 'God's going to come down here, and he's going to wipe us out.' So you have all those books, like Left Behind and The Rapture."

Prejean said that in the death house in Louisiana, there's a born-again Christian

warden. In the room where people visit before they are executed, there are two murals. One depicts the Biblical story of Daniel and the lion's den, and the other is of the prophet Elijah going to heaven on a fiery chariot.

"When they walk through the door to execution, what they see last is Elijah going up the chariot. They're thinking: 'I'm about to go up in the chariot.' And the warden's role in that is to hold their hand and pray with them and send him to God," she said. "Look how religion is used. Religion has got to prop it up."

One of those who walked passed the two murals was Dobie Williams, a 38-year-old black man who was executed in Louisiana in 1999 after 14 years on death row. Quoting Williams' sense of irony, Prejean said, "I ain't going to sit down and have my last meal with that warden. I ain't going to hold hands and sing hymns. When they finished, they done, they killing me. That ain't no real Christian."

Usually sitting at the table with those about to be executed is one of the legislators who drafted the death penalty statute for Louisiana. "And why is he sitting at the table?" asked Sister Prejean. "In case a legal question comes up from the court. He's eating a meal. I mean, this sounds like a Kafka story."

Just The Stories, Ma'am

Prejean admitted that it took her a while to see the bigger picture, that the death penalty touches a complex array of is-

suess. In her experience, telling stories about how the death penalty has affected people's lives seems to help others understand the elaborate dynamics.

"I learned you just can't go in there with the facts about human rights and why we are doing it, and we're one of the only nations in the western world doing it," said Prejean. "You know what you have to do? You have to help people deal with outrage, and you have to stand there with them and tell stories of victims' families approaching it and really be with them."

The high school play's original run was for this year only in Jesuit schools, but the organizers expanded the program to include all colleges, universities, and community colleges.

"I don't know if it's ever been done before where we have a playwright who instead of having his plays done on Broadway decides to spread the discourse to young people," said Prejean.

Prejean said she will be attending the production at Loyola University in Chicago where not only the play is being examined among the theatre students but also other disciplines, therefore reaching a wider audience.

She said the play frames the discussion of the death penalty in such a way that grabs the attention of students and their parents and makes them identify with the characters on a real emotional level.

"We're not a deeply reflective society. We're reading books less and less. Having conversations less and less. So the only way we do that is get out there," she said. "So what happens is that the kids in the theatre start to get involved and then some of the other classes enter the discussion, and it sparks thought and reflection and it leads people to read and come to another level."

Prejean described the creative arts as a bridge that crosses the gap between race and economic and social classes and fosters dialogue and thought that tweaks concept of the death penalty in people.

"Susan Sarandon says the vocation of acting, she has discovered, is enforced compassion because if you can get inside the skin of another person and become them, then that identification happens and actors go through that, but in art and books, too, because the reader's imagination is filling in all of that," she said.

"The truth is supposed to come out at trial in an adversarial system where the offense and the defense battle it out. But the truth doesn't come out."

— Sister Helen Prejean

"It's this thing of being able to identify. See, if you're separated from people, and you only see them on the evening news, this is the way cities

get divided. People don't want to go certain places in New Orleans, so you're separated. There's no experience in talking to people the way we are now talking to each other."

Prejean suggested that when the state hides executions from the public's physical view, as it regularly does, the horror of the death penalty goes unchallenged.

"I mean, there are only a few witnesses of executions," she said. "I said to the kids at Sam Houston the other night, I said you are like literally only a couple of blocks down where this state has killed like over 325 people ... you are removed from it. And when you get that identification, you can ask questions and see a larger reality than that myopic he did this crime and freeze-dry him because that's his essence and he deserves to die," she said.

"Think of the parties the Nazis had," she continued. "Their wives all dressed up, clinking glasses, right next door to the crematorium where literally millions and millions people were dying, and they had violins. They had music. They had the best of German culture right next door ... because all the switches had been turned and you could do anything you wanted."

Stories of Innocents

Prejean said that the stories of innocents on death row will in the end level the death penalty and transform an American culture bound by insecurity, fear, and vengeance into one nurtured by empathy, compassion, and understanding.

There has already been a considerable change seen. Prejean noted that over the last two years, the national averages of death sentences have been cut in half, and actual executions have been slowed. There were four stays of execution over the last few days in four states. However, the system isn't perfect.

"The truth is supposed to come out at trial in an adversarial system where the offense and the defense battle it out," she said. "But the truth doesn't come out. As Joseph O'Dell (a death row inmate) said, 'It was the L.A. Rams against a high school varsity football team.'"

"That's not very fair to jurors because they're told to go in there, be gods, and decide if

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Baylor To Host Texas Army National Guard Deployment

— 56th Brigade Send-off Includes 'Operation Phone Card' —

WACO — Baylor University will host the largest overseas deployment of Texas Army National Guard troops since World War II, as more than 3,000 members of the 56th Brigade Combat Team, 36th Infantry Division, assemble on New Years Day at Floyd Casey Stadium in preparation for their service in Operation

• PREJEAN

Continued From Page 4

your fellow citizen lives or dies, and they don't have the information. It's distorted, and later they find out that they get off," she said.

Sometimes, the murderer is guilty of his crime, though, but he becomes a model inmate, like Texas death-row inmate James Allridge.

In the epilogue of her new book, "The Death of Innocents," Prejean tells the story about how the State of Texas rehabilitated then put to death Allridge after 17 years of incarceration for the murder Brian Clendennen, a Fort Worth convenience store clerk, 19 years ago.

Allridge's legal team raised two constitutional questions before the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles, the appeals court, and the U.S. Supreme Court:

- How can a model, rehabilitated prisoner be executed because the criminal might commit possible crimes in the future based on an event 19 years past?

- Is the capital sentencing statute of Texas constitutional in that although it demands *proof beyond a reasonable doubt*, it reduces the standard for determining punishment to the jury's determination of the *probability* that a defendant would continue to pose a threat to society in the future?

The U.S. Supreme Court remained silent, giving no reason for not hearing the case. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals stated Allridge's claims would not be considered on the grounds that his previous lawyers had not raised them during his trial.

A procedural requirement turned the 41-year-old Allridge into the 325 person killed by the State of Texas on Aug. 26, 2004. He was the 12th Texas inmate executed in 2004.

Allridge's last words were: "I came into this world in love, and I leave it in love."

Iraqi Freedom.

The ceremony, which will be attended by approximately 18,000 family members and national, state and U.S. Army dignitaries, will begin at 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, at the stadium. Reserved seating will be available for family members. The public is invited to attend.

However, in case of severe weather, the event will be moved to the Ferrell Center on the Baylor campus. Due to space limitations, attendance will be limited to family members only.

Phone Card

Baylor also is leading "Operation Phone Card," a Central Texas-wide effort to raise funds to provide a pre-paid long-distance phone card for each member of the 56th Brigade so they will be able to call their families during their deployment to Iraq.

Online contributions can be made securely through the "Operation Phone Card"

website at (www.baylor.edu/troops). Cash contributions can be dropped off through Dec. 23 at the Baylor athletic ticket office at Floyd Casey Stadium and the Baylor cashier's office on the first floor of Robinson Tower. Contributions also can be made through Dec. 27 at American Bank branches in Waco. Additional donation locations are available on the "Operation Phone Card" web site.

Checks should be made out to "Operation Phone Card" and can be mailed to: Operation Phone Card, Floyd Casey Stadium, 150 Bear Run, Waco, TX 76711.

All contributions must be received no later than Dec. 27 to be included in the "Operation Phone Card" program. Contributions to purchase these phone cards are not tax-deductible and are not considered gifts to Baylor.

Family members needing information about hotels, restaurants and other attractions in Waco and surrounding cities, can contact the Waco Convention and Visitors Bureau at (800) 321-9226 or on the web at (www.wacocvb.com/troop-deployment.html).

For specific deployment information, family members are encouraged to go to the 56th Brigade website at (www.agd.state.tx.us/36id/56BCT).

Media inquiries should be directed to the Texas National Guard public affairs office at (512) 782-6856.

The 56th Brigade's History

The 56th was organized as the 1st Texas Cavalry Brigade in 1919. Redesignated the 56th Brigade of the 23rd Cavalry Division in 1921, the 56th was the only brigade of horse cavalry activated for World War II, serving stateside with the southern defense command. In 1944, the brigade traded in its horses and was reorganized as the 56th Cavalry Reconnaissance Troop — Mechanized. Its regiments, the 112th and 124th Cavalry, fought in the Pacific and Asia until 1945.

The 56th was redesignated as Combat Command "A" of the 49th Armored Division in 1946 and served on stateside active duty during the Berlin Crisis in 1961. During the Cold War the unit had various designations, including 2nd Brigade 49th Armored Division, 49th Armored Group, the 49th Armored Brigade, and, again, the 2nd Brigade of the 49th Armored Division. With the reflagging of the 49th Armored to the 36th Infantry Division, it regained its previous name as the 56th Brigade.

• CABINET

Continued From Page 2

In the running to replace Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham are current Louisiana Democratic Sen. John Breaux; former Louisiana Democratic Sen. Bennett Johnston; Tom Kuhn, president of Edison Electric Institute, the utility industry's trade group; William S. Martin, who served in the Energy Department under President G.H.W. Bush; Kyle McSlarrow, Abraham's deputy at Energy; and New Mexico Rep. Heather Wilson.

The top consideration for Secretary Tommy Thompson's office at Health and Human Services is Medicare chief Mark McClellan, who also has served as commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration and is the brother of White House press secretary Scott McClellan.

Of the second-term presidents, President Bush has among the highest turnover rates in his Cabinet. President Nixon held the record at nine turnovers. Seven Cabinet seats were vacated under the administrations of Presidents Clinton and Reagan, while Presidents Truman and Johnson has four each.



Keep Texas Beautiful First Edition Ornament On Sale For Holidays

AUSTIN — Want to cross names off your shopping list and help keep Texas beautiful at the same time? Keep Texas Beautiful, Inc. announced the sale of its first edition ornament, featuring the organization's official seal.

Proceeds will fund KTB's statewide network of more than 340 affiliates who focus on litter prevention, waste minimization, and community beautification programs.

This project was spearheaded by KTB Past President Donna Albus, of West Texas Rehab in Abilene. KTB enlisted the expertise of Nelda Laney, who has designed ornaments for numerous Texas organizations and causes over the years.

The ornament's design is modeled after KTB's official seal which includes images of the state of Texas and a bluebonnet. "The seal of KTB helps bring our past and present together," Albus said. "We hope the ornament will inspire Texans to take pride in our great state and appreciate its beautiful environment."

The ornament is made of 24-karat plated gold and is about three inches in diameter. Or-

ders can be made from a downloadable form on KTB's site (www.ktb.org) or over the phone at 1-800-CLEAN-TX. The ornament can be used to adorn holiday trees or displayed in shadow boxes.

"They can be great gifts anytime of the year, whether for your friends, family, colleagues, or employees," says Stacy Cantu, Executive Director of KTB. "Because our programs that improve communities and educate citizens are supported by sales of the ornament, a great gift is given to the state of Texas as well."

Keep Texas Beautiful, the statewide grassroots environmental organization and affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, strives to empower Texans through education to take responsibility for enhancing their community environment.

KTB works with volunteers, elected officials, businesses, and state and federal agencies to ensure that every Texan has the opportunity to take individual responsibility for making Texas the cleanest, most beautiful state in the nation.

INFO

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Russian Chefs Visit Texas To Get New Beef Concepts

AUSTIN — Chefs from the world's largest country — the Russian Federation — visited the United States' largest beef producing state of Texas Nov. 8-12 to observe new concepts for marketing beef. Before the Russian chefs returned home, the beef checkoff program had shown them how U.S. beef cuts can add variety and value to their operations.

The seven Russian chefs represented high quality restaurants in Moscow and St. Petersburg, the two largest Russian cities. The U.S. Meat Export Federation and the Texas Beef Council hosted the visitors through the beef checkoff program.

"Russia is a very important market for the U.S. beef industry," says Paul Clayton,



USMEF vice president for export services. "In the past, Russia has taken a lot of our byproducts—particularly the liver — which has added a lot of value on a per-head basis to U.S. cattle. But the Russian foodservice sector is growing rapidly and Russians are interested in new cuts for that

sector."

Clayton said Western influences are strong in Russia, and introduction of barbecue and other Texas cuisine cuts can help the chefs differentiate their operations.

"Typically Russia has been a 'chunk-and-hunk' market," Clayton said. "They take a

piece of meat and boil it. Now, their preparation methods are becoming much more refined and they are looking at specific utilization of various quality beef cuts. Introducing underutilized cuts (like brisket) will be real valuable in that market."

On the recent trip, the Russian chefs focused on Texas cuisine through visits to restaurant operators from Amarillo to Austin. At each stop, they learned how foodservice gets high value from cuts like the shoulder clod, brisket, and top sirloin. They also focused on new, highly consistent cuts generated through beef checkoff research including the Flat Iron and Shoulder Tender.

A visit to Perini Ranch

Steakhouse at Buffalo Gap was among the highlights of the Russian chefs' visit. Owner Tom Perini had done a series of foodservice seminars in Russia for USMEF and TBC in 2002. He also had cooked for Russian President Vladimir Putin during his visit to President Bush's ranch at Crawford, Texas, in 2001.

Besides the restaurant visits, the Russian chefs learned about quality production of U.S. beef in visits to Dudley Hereford Ranch, a commercial and seedstock operation at Comanche, as well as a Friona Industries feedyard and a major packing plant, both in the Texas Panhandle between Amarillo and Lubbock.

BCM, UH Law Center Combine To Create First Doctor/Lawyer Degree In Southwest

HOUSTON — Advanced degree seekers deciding between medicine and law can now experience the best of both worlds for the first time in the Southwest. Baylor College of Medicine and the University of Houston Law Center will offer an MD/JD dual degree in the fall of 2005.

"Medicine and law have been connected ever since human societies have originated as hunters and gatherers, so there is a natural affiliation between the two," said Dr. Victor R. Scarano, associate professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at BCM. "Both BCM and the University of Houston are responding to today's increasingly complex health care environment and societal need for interdisciplinary physicians who can navigate the relationship between medicine and law."

BCM and UHLC are the first institutions west of the Mississippi River to provide such a joint degree program.

"The JD/MD concurrent program shows that the UH Law Center is indisputably committed to maintaining the best and most innovative health law program in the country," said Seth J. Chandler, vice dean and co-director of the Health Law & Policy Institute at the University of Houston's Law Center.

In the six-year program, students would spend the first two years at Baylor, the next two at UH and the final two at both schools. Applicants must take both the MCAT and LSAT exams and be accepted to both schools for admission into the joint program. Dr. Wayne J. Riley, vice president and vice dean of health affairs and governmental relations at BCM, estimates that between two and six students will be admitted in the first year.

"We are not going for large numbers of students but rather very select individuals who are committed to a long-term degree program," said Riley, who will serve as an ex-officio member of the MD/JD advisory committee. "This will be a natural affiliation in Houston, where two outstanding institutions engaged in medicine and law have come together to offer a unique educational experience."

BCM ranked No. 13 overall among medical schools in 2004 by U.S. News & World Report, which has consistently listed UHLC's Health Law & Public Policy Institute as No. 1 among health law programs in the country. Only 17 other institutions in the United States offer the joint program, according to the Association of American Medical Colleges.

Scarano and Riley cite the growing, critical nexus between the medical and legal professions, especially in healthcare policy, risk management and malpractice issues, intellectual property rights and biotechnology.

Graduates with both MD and JD degrees can choose between any number of career paths.

"We are intending that from the outset these students are going to be integrated into both the medical and the legal communities so that they can feel that they are truly integral members of both professions," said Scarano, who will serve as co-chair of the MD/JD advisory committee, as well as instructor of the introductory health law course. "There are numerous areas in the social structure that involve interactions between law and medicine, especially with all of our newer discoveries and the advancement of medicine into genetics."



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Soldiers Fight For Rights As Rumsfeld Misleads

CRAWFORD — Two separate groups of U.S. soldiers early last week filed lawsuits challenging different Army enlistment policies prior to President George W. Bush suggesting ways Americans can actively support the troops.

President Bush's suggestions were made on the 63rd anniversary of Pearl Harbor. He discussed an assortment of options, one of which included "America Supports You" created by the Defense Department.

Bush later appeared in front of cheering troops at Camp Pendleton, a base in southern California whose servicemen have experienced one of the largest casualty rates in Iraq. More than 1,200 members of the U.S. military have died since the Iraq war started in March 2003. Of that total, more than 200 U.S. troops from units based at Camp Pendleton have perished, according to a Defense Department casualty count. The 1,000th soldier died as a result of hostile action last week.

A group of 12 gays removed from the military because of their sexual orientation filed a federal suit in Boston to fight the Pentagon's decade-old "don't ask, don't tell" policy. The lawsuit mentioned a U.S. Supreme Court decision made last year removing gay sex from state law.

Put into practice by the Clinton administration, the current policy allows homosexuals to serve in the armed forces so far as they don't show their sexual preference and abstain from having homosexual activity. The previous policy banned homosexuals from serving the military.

Another group comprised of eight soldiers filed last Monday against the Army's "stop-loss" policy. The lawsuit states that the contracts do not explicitly reference the policy. The plaintiffs said they should be discharged at once.

David Qualls, the only plaintiff who chose to be named in the suit, said he served his one-year obligation to the Army plus five more months and felt he should be allowed to return home. The personnel fighting the policy are believed to be the first active-duty soldiers to file such a suit.

About 7,000 active-duty soldiers have had their contracts extended under the policy, and it could affect up to 40,000 reserve soldiers depending on how long the war in Iraq lasts.

The Pentagon's policy states soldiers can be forced to stay in the Army during wars or national emergencies to ensure continuity and cohesiveness. President Bush signed an emergency executive order authorizing the policy three days after the Sept. 11, 2001, attack. The same policy was enacted during the 1991 Gulf War.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and other Army officials are named in the lawsuit as defendants.

When asked about how long the Army will continue to implement the stop-loss policy, Rumsfeld last Wednesday said to a group of National Guard and Reservists at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, that soldiers at war must bear with military rules as they are understood.

"It's basically a sound principle, it's nothing new, it's been well understood" by soldiers, he said. "My guess is it will continue to be used as little as possible, but that it will continue to be used."

Rumsfeld Misleads

Defense Secretary Rumsfeld reportedly misled the same group of National Guard and Reserve soldiers in a statement he made about the haste in which the military is taking to acquire more armor for the troops' Humvees. According to THE BOSTON GLOBE, the company providing the vehicles said it has been waiting since September for approval from the Pentagon to purchase orders.

In an answer spawned from a question by Army Spc. Thomas Wilson of the 278th Regimental Combat Team as to why vehicle armor is in short supply after three years since the war in Iraq started, Rumsfeld said it is "a matter of physics, not a matter of money." He said that the Army was doing everything in its power to make the armor available to the troops, adding that "all the armor in the world" can't save soldiers from the tactics of enemy insurgents.

President Bush last Friday echoed that "the concerns expressed are being addressed."

However, executives at Armor Holdings in Jacksonville, Fla., Army officials, and members of Congress said Rumsfeld's assertion was false. "We're prepared to build 50 to 100 vehicles more per month," said Robert Mecredy, head of Armor Holdings' aerospace and defense unit, in a statement.

Wilson, 31, of Nashville, Tenn., said soldiers were combing landfills for scrap metal and used bulletproof glass to protect against the insurgents' weapon of choice — the roadside bomb — which has killed and maimed hundreds of American troops since the summer of 2003.

"You go to war with the Army you have," Rumsfeld replied, "not the Army you might want or wish to have."

CHATTANOOGA TIMES FREE PRESS reporter Edward Lee Pitts bragged to colleagues in an email circulated Friday that he had conspired with troops from the 278th to probe the Pentagon chief with hard-nosed questions.

"I just had one of my best days as a journalist today," Pitts wrote.

Tom Griscom, the Chattanooga newspaper's publisher and executive editor, commended the reporter's work but said that in hindsight his readers should have been told of his reporter's role in the question-answer session in Thursday's edition. A note to readers would be in Friday editions, Griscom, White House communications director under President Reagan, added.

Desertion Mounts

More than 5,000 troops have deserted since the Iraqi war began in March 2003, according to CBS's 60 Minutes last Wednesday.

Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Pablo Paredes, 23, on Monday refused to board his ship in San Diego as sailors and Marines deployed for the Persian Gulf.

"I don't want to be a part of a ship that's taking 3,000 Marines over there, knowing a hundred or more of them won't come back," he said. "I can't sleep at night knowing that's what I do for a living."

A soldier is more likely to draw a sentence of five years or less for deserting in wartime than receiving the maximum penalty for deserting in wartime — death.

Texas Land Bank Reports Solid 3rd Quarter Results

WACO — The Texas Land Bank, a locally owned rural financial cooperative, recently announced solid third-quarter financial results, highlighted by significantly strong net income.

The Waco-based rural mortgage lender reported net income of \$4.451 million for the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2004, a 19.6 percent increase over the \$3.798 million reported for the same nine-month period the previous year.

Net interest income of \$6.337 million for the nine months ended Sept. 30, 2004, reflected a 9.3 percent increase over net interest income for the same period ended Sept. 30, 2003. The increase in interest income is attributed to loan volume growth and higher yields on earnings assets.



ROB CARR from the Heart of Texas Fair and Rodeo receives a check for \$1000 from Ron Poston, Member Service Manager of McLennan County Electric Cooperative.

McLennan County Electric Members Contribute \$7,369 To Area Organizations

McGREGOR — In its first Quarterly meeting, the Operation Round Up® Board voted to distribute funds in the amount of \$7369.85 to local organizations in the McLennan County Electric Cooperative service area. M.C.E.C. members are giving back to the local economy by helping community organizations help others.

Operation Round Up® is a voluntary program in which electric bills are rounded upward. Every month the additional pennies, nickels, and dimes are added to a special fund. The Operation Round

Up® Trust Board, comprised of five representatives from M.C.E.C.'s service area, meet once a quarter to review applications and to decide how the funds are to be allocated.

The application deadline for the Feb. 10 meeting is Jan. 30. Organizations interested in applying for funds may contact the McLennan County Electric office for information, (254) 840-2871 or (800) 840-2957. Applications are also available online at www.mclennanelectric.coop, or at the M.C.E.C. office at 1111 South Johnson Drive in McGregor.

Film On Crawford Captures Top Honor In U.K. Modern Art

CRAWFORD — An unnarrated film about Crawford was awarded last week the Turner Prize, Britain's top honor for modern art. The work entitled "Memory Bucket" by Jeremy Deller is a multimedia installation that features, among other Texas locales, President Bush's favorite buger joint near his ranch.

The former resident of San Antonio's ArtPace, Deller, 38, won \$49,000 for his piece and was the youngest of the shortlisted artists who were nominated on the prize's 20th anniversary.

It was reported that Deller's work was "comparatively tame" for the prize, which generally is given to pieces that rely heavily on shock value.

Other encounters with locals includes a survivor of the 1993 siege near Waco that ended with Branch Davidian leader David Koresh and nearly 80 of his followers dying in their burning Mount Carmel complex. At the end, the film shows the image of millions of bats leaving a cave at sunset.

The two other artists up for the 2004 award — Ben Landlands, 49, and Nikki Bell, 45 — recreated an interactive digital model of Osama bin Laden's former house in Afghanistan.

Pirates Going To State!

One Win
Away From
State Title

**Pirates Down
Canadian, 24-13
In Semifinals**

By DAVIS GONZALEZ
STAFF WRITER

SWEETWATER — Despite a slow start by the Crawford offense, the Pirates were able to hold off a determined Canadian team to move on to the state final after a 24-13 victory at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater last Saturday.

The victory brings the Crawford Pirates' record to 15-0, and the chance to face the Troup Tigers (14-1) in the the 2A Division II state championship game this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills.

If it weren't for the uniforms, however, the Pirates could have been mistaken for two different teams with each playing their own half. The first half team scoring three points, with the second half team scoring three touchdowns.

Crawford started the game in Canadian Wildcats territory after a 30-yard kick-off return by Jad Tawater brought the ball out to the 49-yard line, but after gaining only one first down the Pirates were forced to punt on their opening series.

"I started off midfield, so I didn't want to kick it too far. I played the wind. The wind was a big factor," B. J. Christian said.

Special team play became the bigger factor, pinning the Wildcats inside their own 10-yard line and holding them to an average starting position inside the 18, while Crawford en-

DATELINE: Crawford Hometown of the President of the United States



ANDREW JUDY (37) cuts the Wildcat rusher off from behind during last Saturday at Mustang Stadium during the Class 2-A District semifinal in Sweetwater. — Photo By Lee Kuhl

Pirates Face Troup Tigers In 2A Division II State Championship This Saturday, 6 p.m., at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills

joyed the luxury of beginning its average possession on its own 47-yard line.

"B.J. did a great job punting the ball, and for the most part we did a real good job covering the punt, so field position, especially early on, played a

real big deal," said head coach Robert Murphy.

Canadian began its series by testing the Pirate run defense and found that any holes that opened up were closed quickly, and they were forced to punt without a first down.

Crawford fared little better on their next possession, using three running backs in the T-formation, the offensive gained six rushing yards and had to kick again.

"That was something new that we did this week that we thought might pay dividends for us, and it didn't," said Murphy. "Sometimes you do things and they work and sometimes they don't."

The Wildcats perfectly mirrored Crawford's last series, gaining six yards with two different rushers and throwing an incomplete pass before punting the ball away.

The Pirates did have something Canadian couldn't imitate, a group of talented kick

returners.

After mishandling the first punt, Christian returned the next one 17 yards to start the Pirates off on the 35-yard line and three plays later Lee Murphy threw an 18-yard pass to Adam Murphy for his first completion in five attempts.

The drive ended after a two-yard run by Sam Moody and two more incomplete passes due to the tight coverage of the Canadian secondary.

"They're a great defense and their DB's can cover our receivers one-on-one. They were doing a great job," said Lee Murphy.

Christian's punt again left the Wildcats within their own 10-yard line and motivated the Pirate defenders.

"Intensity always picks up when you're in our red zone," said Christian, "We know we have to keep it up, keep them down there, so we can get better field position."

The Wildcats first play of the

drive ended in a Derek Dumas tackle for a one-yard loss, but the next play resulted in a gain of six by a scrambling quarterback. Seeing a little success, Canadian went to a designed quarterback draw play that was met by Jason Velasquez for no gain, and the Wildcat's had to punt.

Crawford took over on their own 42-yard line, but failed to cross midfield with the ball. Tawater and Christian each gained three yards on rushes, and another pass failed incomplete after being tipped by a Canadian defensive lineman.

While the Pirate offense struggled to find their rhythm, the special team game kept Canadian on their heels, downing the next punt on the Wildcat's two-yard line.

Deep in their own territory, Canadian went to their star running back Auston English to give them some breathing room, handing off to him on two consecutive plays for a total of four yards.

Facing third-and-six from the six yard line, the Wildcats completed a pass for no gain when Dumas brought down receiver Patrick Vasquez.

Christian returned a short

• See PIRATES, Page 10



A SOAKED COACH MURPHY smiles after Crawford beat Canadian, 29-13, last Saturday, at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater. — Photo By Lee Kuhl

• PIRATES

Continued From Page 9

punt nine yards to the 30, giving Crawford their best field position of the afternoon.

Dumas and Christian combined for three rushes and 20 yards before Canadian's defense tightened up and held Crawford to a fourth-and-five situation.

Shawn Fulwider got the nod and scored the first points of the game on a field goal attempt with 7:45 remaining in the half to make the game 3-0.

Christian's kick-off bounced out of the end zone to give Canadian the ball at their 20-yard line, where they soon got three-and-out after gaining only five yards.

"We did a great job of controlling the line of scrimmage and never let him get anything big off," coach Murphy said.

The Wildcats' punt went out of bounds to leave Crawford starting at their own 46-yard line and once again give the Pirates good field position. On the first play of the drive Christian broke three tackles and gain five hard fought yards, but it wasn't enough to help open up the passing game.

Lee Murphy's pass to Adam Murphy got intercepted on the following play at the 15-yard line by Wildcat safety David Young.

The takeaway did little to change Canadian's position. They were once again starting a drive inside their own 20.

A mishandled ball by the Wildcat's QB cost them five yards when Andrew Judy



JAD TAWATER (7) reels in a 33-yard Lee Murphy to move the Pirates within a couple of yards of the end zone against the Canadian Wildcats last Saturday at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl

downed him at the 10, and a play later running back Tony Livingston was brought down for a loss of another four to bring up a third-and-19 situation.

Canadian managed to com-

plete a pass, but Adam Murphy was there to bring down the receiver after gaining only one yard.

A penalty flag was called against Crawford for running

• See BIG GAME, Page 11



FORCING THE FUMBLE are two Crawford Pirate defensemen last Saturday during the Crawford Pirates/Canadian Wildcats semifinal match.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl



SAM MOODY (25) finds space with B.J. Christian (20) after intercepting a Wildcat pass, which was forced under pressure by Andrew Judy (37), and returned over 35 yards for a touchdown last Saturday at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl

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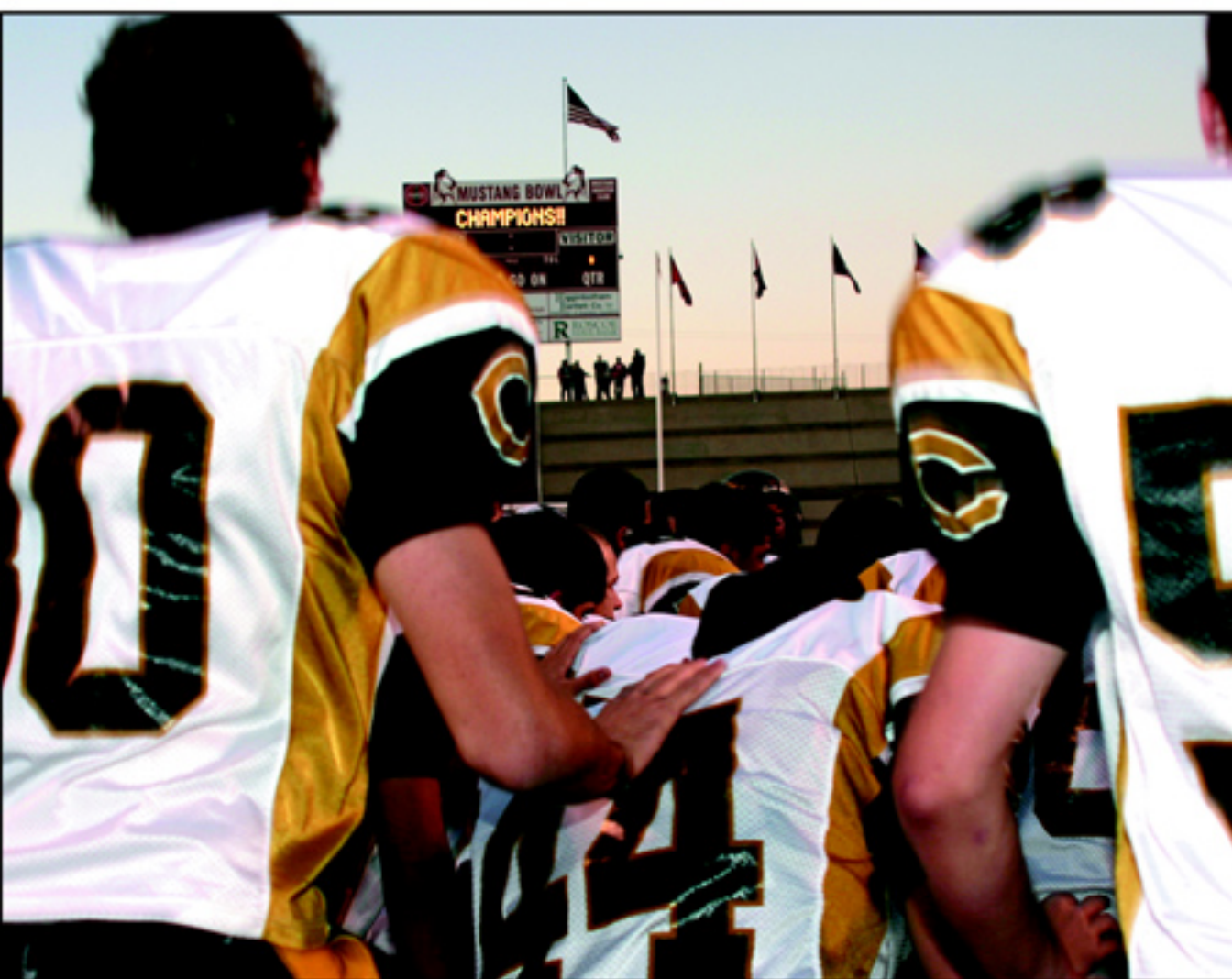
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THE SCOREBOARD at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater said it all last Saturday after the Crawford Pirates defeated the Canadian Wildcats, 29-13. The Pirates will face the Troup Tigers (14-1) in the 2A Division II state championship game this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl



THE WIND, as seen waving the Crawford flags, kept the action in Mustang Stadium dramatic last Saturday during the Crawford Pirates/Canadian Wildcats semifinal match.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl



LITTLE-BIGGEST FAN, Lane Gilley of San Angelo has Pirate QB Lee Murphy (19) sign his football after Crawford beat Canadian, 29-13, last Saturday, at Mustang Stadium in Sweetwater.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl



TODD WESTERFELD (34) takes down the Wildcat runner last Saturday at Mustang Stadium during the Class 2-A District semifinal in Sweetwater.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl



FIGHTING FOR THE INTERCEPTION was Jad Tawater (7) against the Canadian Wildcat last Saturday during the Crawford Pirates/Canadian Wildcats semifinal match.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl

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• BIG GAME

Continued From Page 10

into the punter, but the extra five yards wasn't enough to give Canadian a first down, and the Pirates lined up on the Wildcat's 37 after an eight-yard return by Tawater.

Dumas followed that up with a 17-yard run, and Moody added another nine before Canadian could stop the Pirates on a fourth-and-one play from the 11 that came up inches short.

"We had some things we thought would work and they made plays on them," coach Murphy said.

• See PIRATES WIN, Page 12

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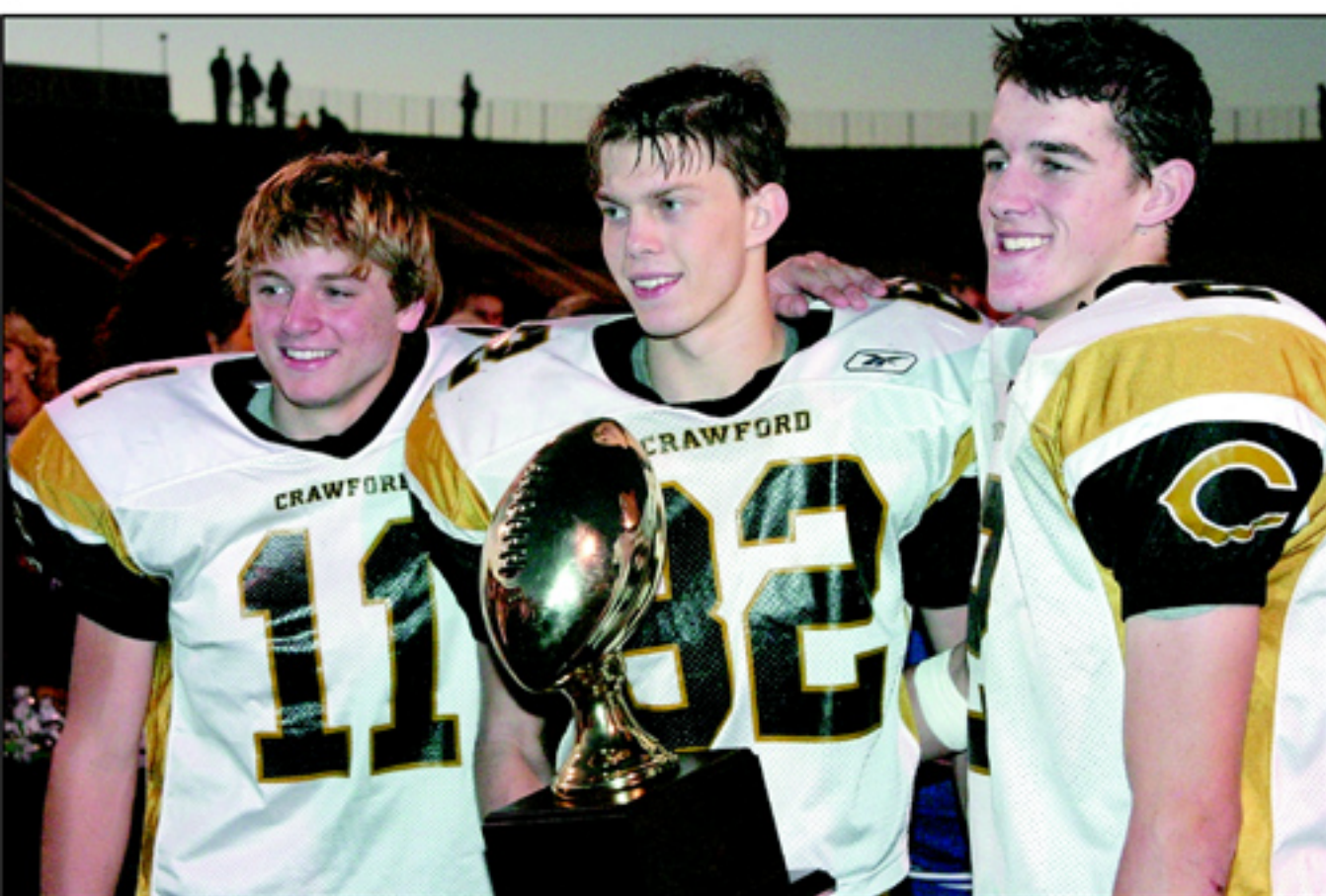
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VICTORY OVER CANADIAN last Saturday brought the Crawford Pirates' record to 15-0. They will face the Troup Tigers (14-1) in the the 2A Division II state championship game this Saturday at 6 p.m. at Birdville ISD Stadium in North Richland Hills. Pictured are some smiling Pirates with the trophy.

— Photo By Lee Kuhl

• PIRATES WIN ... Continued From Page One

The Wildcats again went to RB English, but Judy and Garrett Gonzalez refused him the 10 yards needed for a first down. Canadian eventually moved the chains on an off-sides penalty on Crawford and designed themselves to run out the remaining time on the clock.

The second half gave the Wildcats the ball to start and a chance to negotiate better field position. On their first play of the half Canadian moved the chains for the first time in the game without the aid of a Crawford penalty when QB Bryant Brock scrambled out of the backfield for 18 yards.

RB English added another eight of the 65 yards he gained during the game before Crawford defensive back Pedro Rodriguez ended the drive with an interception at the Pirate 41-yard line.

Crawford was forced into going three-and-out, giving the ball back to the Wildcats at their 36-yard line.

Canadian fumbled and recovered their own ball to lose nothing more than a down, before completing a 64-yard pass and run down the right sideline to pull ahead with 8:40 left in the third.

"One of the things we had talked about at halftime is when they come out in that spread offense make sure we show them something different every time," said coach Murphy. "We showed them something different alright and they took advantage of it."

Pirate defenders were able to block the extra point to keep the score 6-3.

Trailing for the first time in the game, Crawford responded by stringing together

a nine play scoring drive that was highlighted by a 33-yard Lee Murphy to Tawater pass to move the Pirates within a couple of yards of the end zone.

"The first half they were jamming us up on the line, and when we went for halftime our coaches told us, 'You got to step up. We got to have players making plays.' So we did. We came out the second half hard," said Tawater. "We just had to get more receivers out and open up their defense."

Three plays later Dumas punched in the go-ahead score to lead 10-6 after a successful Fulwider extra point kick with 4:44 remaining in the third.

Another touchback on the kick-off put Canadian on their 20 to start a scoring drive of their own. Judy and Hunter Brown keyed in on the Wildcat's lead rusher and made them rely on the pass.

"He's good, and I'm sure he'll do good at Oklahoma. It was a pleasure to play against him, someone that good, and it makes us that much better," said Judy of Canadian's running back Auston English.

Wildcat receivers were able to keep their drive alive, twice converting on third down plays, and when they did come up short two Crawford penalties pushed them forward.

Canadian grabbed the lead again on a second-and-goal nine-yard pass with 10:32 left in the game. Kicker Dominick Vasquez's extra point cleared the uprights to make the game 13-10.

From the seven-yard line, Christian returned the kick-off to the 45 before getting tripped up.

Lee Murphy relied heavily on the pass, throwing on seven

of eight plays gaining 28-yards on two completions to Tanner Jacobs before turning the ball over on downs at the Wildcat 25.

With the clock running down and the ball in Canadian's possession, LB Brown intercepted a pass intended for Wildcat receiver Casey Carr to give the Pirates new life at the 31-yard line.

"Normally Hunter (Brown) comes out on passing situations and I had gut feeling, I'm leaving him in there cause he does such a good job of recognizing stuff, and getting us lined up," said coach Murphy. "It kind of takes some of the burden off of Derek (Dumas) for having to do it all the time."

One play later, with Sammy Fisher blocking in the backfield long enough for Lee Murphy to connected with Tawater, Crawford regained the lead with 7:54 still to play.

Fulwider's extra point attempt gave the Pirates a 17-13 advantage.

Wildcat kick returner Logan Baker slipped on the three-yard line after fielding the kick to set Canadian up for a 97-yard drive if they were to entertain any hope of still winning.

It took seven plays for the Pirates to have Canadian looking at a desperate fourth-and-six play from their 31-yard line with less than five minutes in the game. Under pressure by Judy, the Wildcat quarterback threw a pass that was intercepted by Moody and returned over 35 yards for a touchdown.

"That's what it's about, it's about making plays," said Lee Murphy. "We came up with big plays when we needed them, and scoring on defense was

State's Forest Resources In Good Shape, For Now

COLLEGE STATION — Results of the state's recent forest survey were announced recently by State Forester and Texas Forest Service Director James Hull at the annual meeting of the Texas Forestry Association in Conroe. The survey, conducted approximately every 10 years since 1932, is the most accurate source of scientific information used to address issues such as land use changes, reforestation, and availability of the timber supply to meet economic and community development needs. Local tax appraisers also depend on the survey data for property owners claiming forest productivity tax benefits.

East Texas commercial timberland now totals 11.9 million acres, which shows a slight gain of about 105,000 acres since 1992 when the last survey was conducted.

While the survey shows a cur-

rent surplus of timber, particularly hardwood, Hull voiced concern about the long-term future of the timber supply, as it relates to missed economic opportunity, if the state does not intensify tree-planting efforts soon.

Approximately 300,000 individual and family forest owners, now comprising 63 percent of the forestland ownership, will greatly influence the sustainability and growth of the state's forests in the future because of the forest industry's divestiture of more than 1.5 million acres over the past several years, Hull noted.

\$21.5 Billion Okayed For Transportation

AUSTIN — The Texas Transportation Commission recently approved a \$21.5 billion plan that will help reduce urban congestion and provide statewide highway, aviation, and public transportation funding through 2015.

The commission's green light on the Metropolitan Mobility Plan, which incorporates the use of new finance options — including \$3 billion in bond proceeds — allows TxDOT to fund \$15.4 billion in projects in the state's eight largest metropolitan areas. Through traditional funding only \$6.8 billion would have been available.

Approval of this mobility program is the result of several years of work toward simplifying the project selection process to make it easier for local officials and citizens to be involved in planning for the future of transportation in Texas.

This program is part of TxDOT's twofold plan to improve mobility and maintain the state's existing transportation system. The other half of the plan, approved in May, is the Statewide Preservation Program, a \$9 billion blueprint for maintaining the state's existing transportation system.

In other action, the commission authorized the Central Texas Regional Mobility Authority to construct the state's first RMA project, U.S. 183-A.

The commission gave approval for TxDOT to begin negotiations with the Grayson County Regional Mobility Authority to develop a pass-through toll agreement that will accelerate the construction of an extension of State Highway 289 in Pottsboro.

big, too."

After Fulwider's kick the Pirates extended their lead to 24-13 with 4:27 left in the game.

The Wildcat's next possession last less than a minute, resulting in a turnover on downs and few incomplete passes in an effort to generate a quick score.

"We had them where they had to pass the ball every down, so we started double covering 21," coach Murphy said.

Taking over from inside Canadian territory, Crawford kept the ball on the ground and the clock running until their drive stalled out at the Wildcat 25-yard line with less than two minutes in remaining.

Canadian never again saw midfield in the game and came up short on a fourth-and-23 pass attempt on their final offensive play of the game.

Crawford has won playoff games behind running, passing, a stingy defense, and special teams, but Pirate QB Lee Murphy believed there's more to the success that what can be seen on the field.

"There's the coaching staff. There's nobody that watches more video than our coaching staff. I don't think any coaching staff out works our coaching staff. They do a great job of game planning and getting us ready for the game," said Lee Murphy.

Curl up with a good book.
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I'd Like To See 'Em Do It The Way Babe Done It

As Uncle Hugh used to say, "If this county ever votes wet, we'll have to put about a hundred whiskey cooks and four deputy sheriffs on relief."

Sitting here eating the last Klondike bar in the freezer to protect my wife and children from the dangers of too much fat and carbohydrate, I began thinking about the war on drugs.

In 1975 Richard Nixon declared war on drugs.

This year Neighbor Bush landed a flat black Cessna on the Brownsville bridge in the dead of night and declared that the war was over.

Drugs won.

Now the shame and degradation of substance abuse has invaded our national pastime: Beer Drinking.

Yes, friends, while you were flagging down the beer guy at the Merck Vioxx Dome this season, our innocent young batboys were eating No-Doz like Cracker Jacks just to keep track of which lumber was corked.

Barry Bonds, Sammy Sosa, Mark McGwire, and Balco might make it into the hall of fame, but at least we're safe from Pete Rose!

Aw, shut up and deal!

So these guys broke the Babe's home run record, huh?

I'd like to see 'em do it the way the Babe done it.

Drunk!

Let's see how well they hit after 25 beers, two cigars, and three hookers!

OK, so far as I can tell, if you use a performance enhancing drug and it doesn't work, that's fine.

Use one that improves your play, you get hauled in front of the grand jury.

Never mind that both of them cause you to grow a new liver. Under your tongue.

God help us if the fans ever

Call To Mind

By Don M. Fisher



sober up long enough to become outraged.

They might start throwing beer cups at basketball players or something.

Of course our impressionable young children, who are learning good sportsmanship from end zone dancing, sack celebrations, and post-play temper fits, are being corrupted and distracted from the true purpose of the sport: selling Nikes, John Madden video games, Viagra, and Desperate Janet Jacksons.

Thank God we are protected by league I.Q. tests.

No, pro sports drug testing is NOT designed to entrap drug abusing athletes.

If a jock actually gets caught, he's probably too stupid to play in the bigs.

And now the Supremes are going to consider medical marijuana.

Well, Uncle Hugh used to give me whiskey for colds.

It worked.

I'd go right to sleep, and my coughing wouldn't keep everybody up all night.

When I woke up a day and a half later, I'd either be over the cold, or it would turn into pneumonia, which Doc Van Dyke could cure.

Unlike the common cold.

So recreational drugs are illegal because they harm your health, but birth control drugs used for recreational sex are okay because... well, because!

Maybe abstinence works before marriage, but after birthing the first half-dozen children and picking up your third job to pay the Huggies bill, Planned Parenthood doesn't seem like such a bad idea.

Sure, drug abuse is harmful,

personally and socially.

It's even more harmful politically.

We're spending so much money on illegal drugs in law enforcement, prisons, psychiatric care and rehabilitation centers, lawyers, judges and court costs, it's unlikely anything will change or get better.

Seventy percent of Afghanistan's economy depends of the opium trade.

Think we're going to kick that out from under them right now?

We have spent enough trying to get rid of cocaine in Colum-

bia to run every school in America for 10 years, and we haven't made a dent.

We just moved it to another mountain.

Americans are wrecking the economies and cultures of a couple of dozen countries right now because we won't stop getting high.

Want to know the answer?

There isn't one.

Legalization will stop the bleeding, but we can't afford to admit as a people that we're so self-indulgent.

People are willing, even eager, to shoot a commodity into

their veins that was purchased from a guy who offices in a dumpster, and we think we can scare them with prison.

Now we somehow think we can do something about guys who will trade years of their lives for years of five million dollars per?

What do you think that \$50 a ticket buys you?

We're paying to watch them bleed.

And that tragic, lingering death after their bats and balls are sealed in lighted glass cases somewhere?

It's all part of the show.



Editorial

OP/ED

Opinion - Columns - Letters

— Editorial —

The Halliburton 'Haves' vs. The Troop 'Have-Nots'

Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's sickening remarks to National Guard and Reserve soldiers at Camp Buehring, Kuwait, last week illustrates that our troops are merely grist for the profiteering mill.

This was a premeditated occupation, and Rumsfeld's cynical dismissal that, "You go to war with the Army you have," was a callous, not to mention rude, dismissal of a legitimate question.

Are our troops going in harm's way getting the best tools, or are war profiteers like Halliburton just getting the gravy?

Specialist Thomas Wilson's question about scrounging scrap to protect soldiers illustrates a firm discrepancy in how money is being prioritized in the Middle East.

"Why do we soldiers have to dig through local landfills for pieces of scrap metal and compromised ballistic glass to uparmor our vehicles?" asked Wilson, of the 278th Regimental Combat Team.

After a resounding cheer from many of the approximately 2,300 soldiers gathered at the hangar, Rumsfeld asked Wilson to repeat the question.

"We do not have proper armored vehicles to carry with us north," he reiterated.

That's when Rumsfeld explained that the military has been pushing manufacturers of vehicle armor to produce it as fast as humanly possible.

That was a lie.

O'Gara-Hess & Eisenhardt, the Ohio Company that armors Humvees at a cost of \$70,000 each, told Cox News Service they haven't been operating anywhere near capacity, but they have been armoring all that the defense department ordered. AM General, once American Motors, that makes the Humvee, echoed the assessment.

Of course that doesn't count the heavy and medium transports, the big trucks that run a daily gauntlet of mines and ambushes to keep the occupation forces in business throughout Iraq. Only a tenth of the medium and 15 percent of the heavies are armored.

Most of those brave men and women go about their duties exposed behind a sea of glass no thicker than your car's windshield.

Rumsfeld's "roll the dice and take your

chances" response that armor doesn't protect against every type of attack reeks of callous cynicism.

Properly arming our troops should be the priority. Spending billions to rebuild Iraq is perhaps a nice thing to do, but taking care of our military should be overriding concern.

Think of the money lost to Halliburton employee kickbacks, overcharges, obscenely high pay scales and perks in relation to soldier pay in Iraq, the company's environmentally unsound practice of hydraulic fracturing, and its insensitivity to adequate food service provisions for the troops.

It becomes clear that there indeed is a discrepancy and that priorities are misplaced.

Nowhere was that more evident than when the Bush Propaganda Ministry threw out the red herring that Chattanooga (Tenn.) Times Free Press reporter Edward Lee Pitts had helped Thomas phrase his question, as though a legitimate complaint was somehow tainted by the reporter.

The Big Lie Machine did not, however, explain the ovation Thomas' question received from other soldiers, veterans of the scrap heap.

Nor did the rightist spin doctors respond to comments Tom Griscom, editor and publisher of the Chattanooga Times Free Press, who once handled public information for the Reagan White House:

"While Mr. Pitts states that he discussed the armor question with the soldiers, Spc. Wilson chose to ask the question."

Apparently a war of words was as important to the Bush Administration as the real war compared to profits for political cronies.

Money gone to waste (or toward Halliburton profit, if you are stockholder), could have assured the degree of readiness and the troop safety promised by the Bush Administration.

Instead, the rush was for Halliburton and its subsidiaries to reap huge profits. The occupation itself, as forced upon our troops, was the means.

Rumsfeld's empty replies to the troops is but one of many reasons why Bush's reappointment of Rumsfeld to this post is so unbelievable. What is the virtue of sending our men to battle without the protection they need and want? There is none.

But Rumsfeld is determined to do it anyway.

— Written By Don M. Fisher and W. Leon Smith



Slip-Sliding Away

The Trenchwalker was among about 30 students in Mrs. Rutherford's sixth-grade class at Hamilton Elementary School in Hamilton, Texas. This was in 1964.

Every day, students pledged allegiance to the flag and our teacher led in the singing of "God Bless America." She was Kate Smith, reincarnate.

It was a patriotic time, and Mrs. Rutherford was among those who touted the importance of voting, even though none of the students were yet of age to cast a ballot.

Years passed, but Mrs. Rutherford's resolve about

the importance of voting and that every vote counts was like a brand. It was an indelible part of Americana. It was something that my newspapers, for many years, often preached on its editorial pages just prior to an election.

A long procession of Congressmen, Senators, and even Presidents have stressed the importance of every vote. Political parties have echoed the same message.

"It is your responsibility..."

"It is your privilege..."

"It is your right..."

"It is the foundation of democracy..."

"It is your voice..."

The Trenchwalker

By W. Leon Smith



"It is your decision..."
...and the list goes on.

These were arguments in favor of voting, in favor of fighting apathy, and in favor of keeping our democracy alive. And the topper was usually "Every vote counts!"

You've probably heard them all, and with perhaps some degree of assurance thought that at least one of the proclamations held some water.

Although the masses are slow to admit it, the vote in Ohio and the recount aftermath are important in that they represent a crossroads, a

redefinition of democracy. From the standpoint of process and the ideal of fair elections, the situation in Ohio is a disgrace to the type of America that our forefathers designed, for this new definition means that every vote does not count. What does count is fraud, if you can get away with it.

Americans in Ohio were, by action, being fed a strong dose of exclusion — a cocktail of dirty tricks and obstacles, only to learn that the crime had been compounded by flagrant inconsistencies in the balloting process. Now, under the cadence set by Ohio Secretary of State Kenneth Blackwell, democracy has been found guilty and the gallows awaits on Jan. 6.

Only Congress and the Senate can stay the noose. Each

and every Congressman and each and every Senator should be held accountable. Those who pander to the notion that every vote does not count have no business in American government, for they do not represent the people.

It is one thing to push the limit of truth in a political campaign; it is quite another to destroy the sanctity of an election.

THE ICONOCLAST is watching and will expose these elected officials for what they are, for theirs is a question of morality and principle — whether they believe in democracy or whether they seek a different, less free form of government for the United States. Unfortunately, this is more than a mere question. It is an answer.

U.S. Directs Last Act Of Mexican Revolution

Confident of American support for his coup, the latest leader caught in the revolving door of the Mexican Revolution called on the U.S. consul at Veracruz on Dec. 20, 1923.

To the relief of the Mexican people, 13 years of chaos and carnage appeared to be behind them. The faction-ridden struggle with its cast of self-centered characters had cost them dearly — two million dead and at least 750,000 emigrants, a quarter of a million to Texas alone.

Alvaro Obregon had ruled the ruined country for three relatively peaceful years since the "suicide" of the previous president, Venustiano Carranza. Exhausted Mexicans welcomed the calm after the never-ending storm and prayed Obregon would keep his promise to transfer power to his anointed successor, Plutarco Elias Calles, without the usual bloodshed.

That sentiment was shared by Washington policy makers, who recently had reached an understanding with Mexico City on the sanctity of American petroleum properties. As a reward for key concessions, the Coolidge administration extended full diplomatic recognition to the Obregon regime.

The brand-new resident of the White House had not, of course, done anything more than simply sign off on the agreement crafted by Charles Evans Hughes. A babe in the bewildering woods of foreign affairs, Calvin Coolidge left the details to the secretary of state he inherited from President Harding, who died unexpectedly in August 1923.

That was fine by Hughes, who felt infinitely superior in every respect to Silent Cal.

This Week In Texas History

By Bartee Haile



The ex-governor of New York had resigned from the Supreme Court in 1916 in a doomed attempt to deny Woodrow Wilson a second term. He would soon wear the black robe again and serve as chief justice for 11 years.

Meanwhile, trouble was brewing south of the border. Obregon's compromise on the oil issue made a mockery of his pledge to protect the nation's natural resources. Seizing the opportunity to topple his rival, Adolfo de la Huerta took up arms on Dec. 6.

As the conservative alternative to Bolshevism, the rebel presumed American support would be automatic. In his conference with the Veracruz consul two weeks after throwing down the gauntlet, De la Huerta did not request U.S. aid. He asked only that the colossus to the north stay out of it.

Had the revolt preceded the petroleum pact, Secretary Hughes would have backed De la Huerta in a New York minute. With his radical rhetoric about land reform and labor unions, the prospect of a Calles presidency gave Wall Street the willies. But Hughes refused to throw away a pat hand in favor of a wild card.

At his insistence, Coolidge issued an executive order on Christmas Eve 1923 for the emergency shipment of 900 rifles and a half million rounds of ammunition to the Obregon forces. Four days later, fifteen thousand Enfield rifles were also en route.

Coolidge and Hughes came under sharp criticism for picking sides in the Mexican quarrel. Speaking for the Democratic opposition, Sen. Reed Smoot castigated the Republican administration for "denying recognition to Russia while at the same time giving support to Calles, who is a much redder Bolshevik than Lenin ever was."

In retaliation for the intervention, De la Huerta occupied oilfields outside Tampico and threatened to blockade the port. The U.S. responded by dispatching eight warships and placing on stand-by the Pacific and Atlantic fleets, which just happened to be on maneuvers near the Panama Canal.

Meanwhile, Hughes dragged Arizona, New Mexico and Texas into the international incident. After unprecedented arm-twisting by the secretary of state, three governors grudgingly gave permission for 2,000 Mexican troops to move through their states for the purpose of attacking a rebel stronghold south of Matamoros.

By late February 1924, De la Huerta was on the ropes and in full retreat. Within six weeks, the last chapter of the Mexican Revolution was being written in the blood of the routed rebels by government firing squads.

To avoid making a martyr of his defeated challenger, Obregon allowed De la Huerta to leave the country. The exiled general eventually wound up a singing instructor in southern California.

Alvaro Obregon stepped aside on schedule in 1924 for his understudy but managed to keep his finger in the political pie. The lasting legacy of Plutarco Elias Calles is the In-

stitutional Revolutionary Party, which he organized in 1929.

The PRI ruled Mexico with an iron, corrupt and occasionally bloody hand for more than 70 years, until the surprise election in 2000 of Vicente Fox of the National Action Party. But the long awaited messiah has failed to deliver

on his promise of a truly democratic Mexico and the PRI is waiting in the wings to retake the control.

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Thoughts Count

The Rubber Cement Index

By Nathan Diebenow



— just so I could reenergize myself in the warm glow of discount merchandise.

I needed to feel like I could buy — I don't know — a microwave, a T-shirt, a tent, slippers, a case of motor oil, safety pins, groceries, a few dozen DVDs, a hockey stick, headache medicine, music magazines, or an elephant — WHENEVER I WANTED TO!!!

It's sad, I know.

I don't find all of rural life disagreeable, though.

One belief shared among the heartland and the bleeding hearts is how American values have been eroded by secular materialism as advertising firms and big businesses seduce people into thinking they're self-worth is relative to the worth of their stuff.

Preachers tend to preach against secular materialism during Advent. Well, they should before corporate sponsors tag billboards to their churches and insert coupons into church newsletters.

"Good morning and peace be with you. The sermon for this Sunday is brought to you by Viagra. Viagra: Keep up with the Good Word, guys!"

Yeah, so, instead of buying a bunch of dust-collecting junk for my family this Christmas, I'm cutting myself a deal to show my love for them in more creative, less expensive ways.

For example, I'll be sending my older brother — the guy who has everything — a case of white bread to go with the year's supply of peanut butter and jelly my parents recently sent him for his birthday. We like to tease my brother because he's been a picky eater ever since he was a kid 30-some-odd years ago.

Promise me you won't tell him about the bread, okay?

Okay.

There are many other ways to curb your spending but not your affection for your loved ones this holiday season.

Here's a short list off the top of my head: Hold a family or community gathering and collect one another's memories for a historical record. Make stuff using stuff you already have, like calendars from old photos. Cook foods and share them with your friends and neighbors or those less fortunate than yourself. Trade mix tapes and CDs of your favorite songs. "Alls I needs is a hug and a kiss," as one of my uncles says.

And if you're a barber, give your friendly-neighborhood columnist a free haircut...

Huh? Any takers?

C'mon! The least you can do is purchase your very own LONE STAR ICONOCLAST "Protecting The Brand" T-shirt.

Well, it was worth a try.

Bottom line: It's the thought that counts.

Helping Central Texas Dairies Benefits Whole Industry

By JOHN COWAN

Is a partial glass of milk half empty or half full? It depends on your perspective, of course. The same can be said of the response by the Texas Association of Dairymen to the City of Waco's lawsuit against 13 Central Texas dairy producers over alleged water quality issues in Lake Waco.

Some would say TAD has not done enough; others would say that TAD is concentrating too much on a small group of dairymen in one area of the state.

As executive director of the Texas Association of Dairymen, I want to explain what TAD is doing in regard to this lawsuit. More importantly, I want to clarify why our organization's actions should be supported by all dairy producers in Texas, regardless of their location, as well as residents of counties whose economies depend on the dairy industry.

First, it's important to under-

GUEST COMMENTARY

stand that TAD itself is not a party to the lawsuit. In spite of our very strong support for and desire to assist these dairy producers, TAD is being extremely cautious not to say or do anything that could detrimentally impact the legal defenses they are developing.

We can say, however, that our organization believes the lawsuit is the wrong approach to protecting water quality in Lake Waco watershed. Scientific studies have found that a number of sources, including the City of Waco itself, may be contributing to the growth of aquatic vegetation in Lake Waco.

TAD and its members are committed to water quality in Texas and strive to be good environmental stewards. Water quality has improved substantially in the Bosque watershed

the last decade, thanks in part to the dairy industry's willingness to embrace new technologies and practices that make less of an impact on the environment.

The City of Waco, however, points, the finger of blame solely at the dairy industry. TAD believes it must be actively involved in this attack not just against specific Central Texas dairy farmers, but against the industry as a whole.

Therefore, TAD is providing some financial assistance to the 13 defendant dairies. So are producers across the southwest, through the Greater Southwest Milk Marketing Agency. The financial aid helps defray some — but certainly not all — of the expenses incurred by the individual dairy producers in preparing their defense.

The TAD board of directors sees this financial assistance as investment in the future of the state's dairy industry. The lawsuit raises legal issues that represent a substantial threat to all our dairies, whether they are located in Central Texas, East Texas, the Panhandle, or elsewhere. Decisions in these cases could set precedents for harmful policies or requirements that have statewide, and perhaps national, ramifications on how we operate our dairy businesses.

The fallout from this lawsuit could curtail a producer's livelihood or even force them out of business. If that happens, local economies could be devastated.

The loss of one 1,000-cow dairy farm from Texas would imply a loss of \$1.35 million in total personal income, 61 dairy and dairy-related jobs and \$113,238 in potential county

taxes, according to a study by Tarleton State University.

The Texas Association of Dairymen's mission is to represent all our state's dairy cooperatives and to work for the interest and benefit of all Texas dairy farmers. The TAD board of directors believes that providing financial help and any other assistance we can to these dairymen in Central Texas falls under TAD's mission.

These 13 dairy farmers are shouldering legal bills, coping with stress, and facing an uncertain future. They're doing it not only for themselves, but on behalf of all dairy producers in Texas.

They deserve the support and thanks of the entire dairy industry.

John Cowan is executive director of the Texas Association of Dairymen.
www.milk4texas.org.

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Washington Report

By Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison



Saving for Your Health

It comes as no surprise that health care costs are on the rise. If you've been to the doctor recently, you know that simple procedures and regular check-ups can cost hundreds of dollars, making healthy living more expensive than ever. In fact, over the last decade, health care costs have risen at a faster rate than inflation.

In addition to our work to lower the number of uninsured Americans, we also are looking for creative ways for Americans to cover their health expenditures. Under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, a limited number of small businesses and self-employed individuals who had health insurance with a high deductible were permitted to make financial contributions to tax-free medical savings accounts to pay for non-reimbursable health care services.

Health Savings Accounts

Last year's bipartisan Medicare Modernization Act included a provision to bring this benefit to even more Americans, establishing health savings accounts (HSAs) to help individuals and families prepare for and pay their health care costs. Think of it as an Individual Retirement Account, or IRA, earmarked for medical expenses with tax-free earnings on the money. Deposits can be easily withdrawn by check or debit card to pay routine medical bills with tax-free dollars. The accounts are designed to help pay for health expenses until insurance benefits kick in and are linked to a high deductible health plan (HDHP). For example, if you are hit with a medical emergency and have to come up with a \$1,000 deductible, you can withdraw the money from your HSA to cover the cost until your insurance takes over.

These savings accounts have several advantages for qualified individuals and families. Foremost, it allows you to save money for future medical expenses, whether you become unemployed, retired or incur long-term care expenses. Because the accounts are personally owned, you control how much money to put into the account and how to use it, as well as whether to invest any of the money in the account and which investments to make. In addition, the account is transferable if you change jobs or residency and the money can be rolled-over from year-to-year to be used for future health care expenses. You can even take a tax deduction for contributions made to your HSA.

Who Can Open a HSA?

Any American can open a HSA if they meet the following conditions:

- You must also have coverage under a HDHP.
- You cannot have any other health insurance coverage except the HDHP, but you can have other types of insurance like specific injury insurance, accident, disability, dental and vision care, or long-term care insurance without being disqualified.
- You cannot be eligible for Medicare.
- You cannot be claimed as a dependent on someone else's tax return.

How Much Can I Contribute?

Just as with an IRA, there are limits to how much you can contribute to a HSA. Contributions of \$2,600 can be made annually by individuals who have health plans with a minimum deductible of \$1,000 and out-of-pocket expenses not exceeding \$5,000. Families may invest \$5,150 each year if they have catastrophic health insurance that has a minimum deductible of \$2,000 with out-of-pocket expenses not exceeding \$10,000. Individuals between the ages of 55 and 65 can make annual "catch-up" contributions of up to \$500 in 2004, with annual increases of \$100 until the limit reaches \$1,000 in 2009.

Health Savings Accounts can be set up with any financial institution such as a bank, credit union, or insurance company. If you're looking to start a HDHP, contact your current health insurance carrier, licensed insurance agent, or the Texas Department of Insurance to find out which insurance companies offer HDHPs in your area.

For more information on HSAs, visit the Department of Treasury website at (www.treas.gov/offices/public-affairs/hsa). For answers to additional questions, contact the Treasury via email at (hsainfo@do.treas.gov) or call (202) 622-4HSA.

MAILBAG
ICONOCLASTLETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

To The Editor:

The editorial "Ohio Ground Zero" by W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher is excellent. Thank you for sticking your neck out in Texas to give voice to this subject that has been blacked out by most in the media. We need more people like you. Who would think that a great country such as ours would be outdone by the Ukraine. Those people are willing to stand up for democracy and their right to a fair election, while we wallow in ignorance and go willingly along in lock step with what is fed to us. Thank you for being there.

C.M., New Jersey

Dear Mr. W. Leon Smith and Mr. Don M. Fisher:

THANK YOU for writing and publishing your editorial thoughts. I am an Ohio voter (Cincinnati) age 66; great numbers of us are SEETHING at the dereliction of duty and conflict-of-interest activity by our Sec. of State and all the republican operatives associated with him. I expect what's going to happen in this state in the next several days will gain national attention.

Thank you again, from the bottom of our hearts, for your work in helping to salvage our form of government!

Best regards and continue the Fight!

B.O. — Cincinnati, Ohio
Dear Editor,

I am a new subscriber to LSI (Lone Star Iconoclast), because I believe that the freedom of the world's press requires the practical support of people like me. I am an Australian citizen, (and a former journalist) teaching English language at Ocean University of China, Qingdao, Shandong Province.

I regard myself as a citizen of the world.

I treasure your newspaper as a beacon of light and hope in a world darkened in recent days by the Calamitous Re-election Engineered by the Emperor's Publicists (CREEP).

Whilst the Emperor's Empire may exercise global military control for the next four years, I pin my hopes on sceptical people in other countries of the world. Especially in this country, China, Dubya is regarded as a danger to the future of humanity, and to the earth's environment in which we try to live and breathe.

I hope that citizens of the world will organize to question and protest the dangerous adventurism of Bush's neo-conservative buddies in Washington DC and Tel Aviv.

I will gladly wave a placard,

write a letter, and pray for political sanity...

Congratulations to you and your staff,

N.T. — Qingdao, Peoples Republic of China.

To The Editor:

I am so proud of you...
...and have spread the word of your brave editorial to many folk, already.

Unsigned

To The Editor:

Thank-you. This kind of article is easier to write in Oregon (where I'm from), than where you are, and they aren't even doing it here! You are brave people!

G.Z.

Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher,

Thank you for your wonderfully written and breathtakingly heartfelt Editorial "Ohio - Ground Zero." Your deft comparison of the current state of Ohio and Secretary Blackwell's partisanship with the wreckage and ruin of Ground Zero resonated with me as I live only a mile or so in New York City where the Towers fell and remember to this day the sense of powerlessness I felt.

Oddly enough, I feel the same sense of powerlessness while searching in vain for any coverage in the Mainstream Media of the overwhelmingly plentiful computer "errors" in Ohio and the possibility that this Election just may have been stolen.

Your courage, your bravery and your continuing fight to present the news as it is and not as any Corporate Entity or this frighteningly Conservative Administration would like you to spin it is an inspiration to me. Please continue your fine reporting and, despite the troubles you might occasionally find yourself in for speaking your mind, please continue to Editorialize your thoughts, your beliefs and what you see around you. It's greatly appreciated by this New Yorker.

J.W. — New York, NY

To The Editor:

Thank you!
Keep up the great work. Your publication is admired worldwide.

M.R.

Texas Lonestar Iconoclast:

I really, really admire the brave stand you are taking in regards to calling for a recount of votes. I believe that we must do this, though it will cause tremendous controversy - the democratic process is at stake.

You have, by the way, a lot of fans from
<democraticunderground.com>

— some have ordered subscriptions and others have been checking your site regularly. If you could set up a way to donate money without having to order a subscription, I bet you would get some contributions from people who want to support independent, principled journalism.

Best wishes!

C.H. — Indiana

To W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher,

I just want to commend you on writing this fabulous article. Once again, you shine like a beacon of light on our fragile and perhaps disintegrating democracy.

We, and the millions of Americans who KNOW, without a shadow of a doubt, that this election was STOLEN, once again applaud your courage and conviction to come forward and speak the truth. For the truth shall always prevail over lies and deception.

"A little patience, and we shall see the reign of witches pass over, their spells dissolve, and the people, recovering their true sight, restore their government to its true principles. It is true that in the meantime we are suffering deeply in spirit, and incurring the horrors of a war and long oppressions of enormous public debt. If the game runs sometimes against us at home we must have patience till luck turns, and then we shall have an opportunity of winning back the principles we have lost, for this is a game where principles are at stake." -Thomas Jefferson, 1798

Kudos to you,

S.H.D. — Bend, Oregon

To The Editor:

I applaud the article "Ohio - Ground Zero" by W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher. I appreciate and admire their thoughtfulness and courage in reporting the inconsistencies of this election. You are only one of a handful to do so. Please continue and stay "on top of this".

A sincere thank you again,

J.A.

To The Editor:

I applaud you for your editorial Ohio - Ground Zero. Thank you so much for standing up for honest, open and verifiable elections.

With your permission I would like to post your editorial in it's entirety on my political message board.

Thanks again. Please let me know if I may post this.

Sincerely,

R.W. — Thaxton, VA

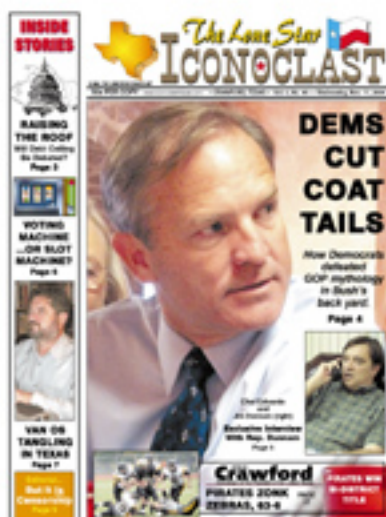
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Continued From Page 16

To the publishers of the Iconoclast:

Of the thousands of pages of comment and analysis I have read in the past month regarding the election, yours has blown me away the most. Well written, clear, concise, and extremely powerful.

I commend you for being among the first media organizations to address this issue, and the stand you have taken is hard to beat.

I look forward to reading more of your comment on this, and other, issues.

K.G. — Winnipeg, Manitoba

To The Editor:

From vote fraud ground zero...

Thank you.

E.F.

To The Editor:

Wow!

I'm in Ohio and feel like another election has been stolen. Given Shrub's record for honesty and all the dirty tricks I saw as an Ohio Kerry volunteer, this seems a logical conclusion.

You guys are courageous—just like investigative journalists should be.

K.W. — Dublin, Ohio

To The Editor:

God bless you folks. One really needs to be brave to speak the Truth in W's back yard. I really wanted to subscribe to show my support. However, I haven't been able to find a job and my unemployment runs out the week of Christmas.

D.G.

To The Editor:

Thanks for your thoughtful and insightful editorial re: Ohio "irregularities". That is a joke, of course, because Mr. Katherine Blackwell could not have been clearer about his intentions.

Whatever you can do, please continue to help us.

Thanks again.

S.S.

Dear Iconoclast:

Thank you for your courage and wisdom in speaking out against the election irregularities in Ohio. You are right that this is ground zero. So much is at stake. It is not just about the result of one state election and it is not about whether you are a Republican or a Democrat. It is about the survival of our democracy. The integrity of our elections must be defended.

Sincerely,

C.A. — St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear Sir:

Thank you for printing this editorial. Very few media outlets are covering the voting fraud and voting disenfranchisement at all. There are tens of millions of us, if not more, who agree with you, but we are ignored.

Sincerely,

L.S. — Winchester, MA
Iconoclast:

I am writing to you to let you know how moved I was (and remain) by your Opinion of the Publishers' piece "Ohio - Ground Zero". I have read much material concerning the outcome of this election, but no one has done a better job of presenting the enormity of the situation that is before us than you have done in your opinion piece.

I am going to get back into your website and see how to subscribe to your publication, and find out if I can send a check to you.

Thank you so very much for being there.

Sincerely,

D.L. — Jonesboro, AR
Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher,

Thank goodness there are a few journalists with a conscience willing to put the truth out there to the public. However, there seems to be many papers willing to tout the stolen election in the Ukraine, but not here in this country (again). I hope that the fight to obtain the truthful outcome (which of course is that Kerry won the election) will be proven in time to get rid of the slime inhabiting the White House. It was a crime this was not done in 2000, but if we fail to do it this time, this country is headed for the toilet, making this a superpower no more...more like an international disgrace. Shame on us. Keep up the great work, especially since I'm sure you are getting heat in Crawford. The reptile needs to be sent slithering home to crawl back under the rock from whence he came. A really pissed off Florida voter. (Hopefully Bev Harris gets this state in order and shames brother jebbie).

R.S.

To The Editor:

To say thank you is not nearly enough to account for my gratitude to you when I read "Ohio—Ground Zero."

Everyone knows who really won the presidential election in 2000.

Anyone who saw the last-

minute flips benefitting Republicans—defying logic as well as the polls—in the 2002 midterm elections should have grave doubts about the voting process in the US.

And now this—the fraudulent 2004 election. I've lost faith in America under bush.

If you ever decide to open up shop in Pittsburgh, PA, I promise to subscribe.

Cordially,

G.G. — Glenshaw, PA
To The Editor:

Thanks, once again....

I applaud your editorial regarding the Ohio recount. Once again: Congratulations for your thoughtful and determined stand. Your bravery in the face of threats and intimidation are an inspiration to intelligent people everywhere.

Thank you for being an upstanding and moral example to the so-called "free press" of the United States of America...

Yours in truth,

J.C.

To: W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher:

In your Editorial "Ohio - Ground Zero" I applaud this extremely well written article!! You slightly restore my faith in Texas men! Being a native of Texas but transferred my "citizenship" to CA where I worked in the film industry for many years, I repeatedly saw the tactics of wealthy Texas men playing the "good ole boy" while stabbing other business men in the back and bragging about it. THAT led to my disrespect for many Texas men.

The irony of this election is the people who "claim" to be "Christians" are the ones who act most UN-Christian like while the so called "Liberals" act and react far more "Christian" than those wearing the banner! I like your ad "Jesus was a Liberal" - that has been my "cry" all during this election.

No doubt with brother Jeb at the helm, our Florida election was just as rigged as Ohio and other states. I can't understand why more isn't being done about serious investigations. I read in one Email that the manufacturer of the touch screen election machines promised Bush the election — and they followed through as promised! It IS now a very scary state of affairs we find this country in right now. One by one our liberties are fast disappearing. This is a case of "the blind leading the blind"

with the extreme conservatives forcing their limited religious beliefs on those who have delved far, far more seriously into spirituality, all religions, et al.

As a Texas VOICE I applaud you and pray for your safety!

A.P. — Brandon, Fla.

For W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher:

Concerning your editorial,

I was reading along in agreement about the election process in Ohio, until you had to mention Jesse Jackson.

I know how you'd probably feel about somebody referencing Fox News, Newsmax, or Worldnet news as an unbiased source. Well, now I cannot even think of linking this editorial in an email to all my mostly conservative 'Bush Backing' family and friends. As soon as they read 'Jackson', the credibility goes, even for me.

Having been a conservative Republican all my life (voted for Reagan, Daddy Bush, Dole, and GW the first time), I voted for Kerry (a useless gesture in Texas other than it gives me b—ching rights), because one, we were lied to about Iraq, and also I do not like Rice and Rumsfeld and the neo-con ilk.

L.G. — Gardendale, Texas
(Midland/Odessa area)

To The Editor:

Bravo...And much gratitude from this citizen of the unUnited States for your willingness to speak up for truth and democracy. Read a piece about you on www.dailykos. Long live liberty and justice for all. Peace.

J.G.

Dear Mr. Smith,

I read with eager and appreciation your endorsement of Kerry. It was thoughtful and sincere.

I just read your follow-up and it scares me to read that a sort of Fascism is becoming acceptable. You're right: democrats have never reacted the way people are reacting today.

I hope you can continue to do honest journalism, even under the veil of threats.

I live in England now and I received a similar, violent reaction to a good, honest article ("the life of joe-republican") from my Cuban-born neighbor in Sugar Land. It is unnerving and scary...

I hope one issue will be a focus of your paper occasionally—intolerance and close-mindedness to the truth when one might not agree with another's point of view.

I know other's have told you otherwise, but your editorial was correct and Abraham Lincoln would have been proud. He, like you, had courage to stand alone.

Bon Courage!!!!

A.W.D. — Rodborough, Gloucestershire, England

Re: Ohio-Ground Zero Editorial...

Bravo!

Sincerely,

N.C. — Yonkers, NY

To The Editor:

Issue arrived today. Read D. Fisher's "The New Confederacy".

Jaayassus H. Keyrist! Be Careful Down There.

Smashing icons can give me the dicey to say the least when it involves the other guys beliefs/myths.

B.F., Psy.D.

PS. — Retired from former political interests, since the other side, mostly big business interests who want the maximum wage set at \$5/hr. have won big time.

To The Editor:

Hello!

I just wanted to offer my heartfelt congratulations on doubling your circulation! I am a Texas native who very sadly watched Bush defeat Ann Richards for governor - so sad, in fact, that I moved away. I think it's wonderful that you did not allow your independent spirit to be quashed by Bush's residency in your town. Hopefully, the outpouring of support and encouragement has made up for the pettiness and harassment you experienced as a result of your rightful endorsement of John Kerry for president.

I understand that all of this has engendered a shift in The Iconoclast's focus and format. If you find yourselves in need of a copy editor extraordinaire, please keep this misplaced Texan in mind. The internet affords tremendous opportunities for telecommuting; I could edit stories and have them back to your email inbox before you could say "bluebonnets, brisket and big red."

Sincerely,

T.T.

Dear Iconoclast staff:

First I would like to thank you and everyone there for being a "beacon of light" in a very strange time indeed in American history.

Brushing aside the insanity of it all, it is quite clear to the likes of folks like you, that first and foremost in our country's obligations is to "do good in the name of the Sovereign", plain and simple.

When I looked at your page recently I had noticed you have taken on a new look — but then, on second glance, I thought, no, not really, you guys have always (so long as I have known you) been truthful and straightforward the whole distance.

That is the recipe for ultimate success — to be on the right path and stay there. As soon as I am able, I will become a lifelong subscriber of your paper.

Also know that the editori-

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LETTERS...Continued From Previous Page

als, such as your recent one entitled Ohio - Ground Zero (written By W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher) and several others I have read are, bar none, some of the best (academic, well thought out) editorials that I have ever read on the net (and not to polish my brass, but I post graduate person, and a very critical reader).

At any rate, your editorials are excellent and beyond reproach.

You guys made history. And what a proud history it was.

L.D. — *Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin*

Dear Mr. W. Leon Smith and Mr. Don M. Fisher:

I very much appreciate your excellent editorial about the Ohio recount ("Ohio — Ground Zero"). This issue is crucial to our democracy, and I just can't thank you enough for your words of wisdom.

Sincerely,

S.Z. — *San Francisco, CA*
To The Editor:

Thank you for the opinion titled Ohio-ground zero. Unless there is a full investigation and recount I will never believe the results of the 2004 election. There are too many "irregularities" that favored Bush, in too many different places. What's wrong with looking into it and making sure? If it is about the cost, I'm sure we can suspend some costs of Star Wars to generate enough money to investigate.

P.S.

To the Editor:

Thank you, thank you for your editorial calling for a fair recount in Ohio. If only more newspapers were willing to speak the truth. I applaud you!

W.M.

Hello,

I have been meaning to subscribe to your paper ever since I read on www.buzzflash.com that after you had NOT endorsed George Bush for re-election you lost advertisers and patrons. This is the United States and we are supposed to be able to speak our minds and disagree if we want. Of course it helps that I happen to agree with your assessment of George Bush and the current political situation, so I put my money where my mouth is- I just subscribed. A friend of mine in Colorado subscribed earlier and she says she enjoys your paper very much. I am looking forward to receiving it. Please keep up the good work and speak up!

D.M. — *El Segundo, CA*
To The Editor:

I just had to drop a note to thank you for acknowledging

the voting problems in Ohio. Today is the first day I have been reference to the Ohio recount in my hometown newspaper, The Eugene Register Guard, in the form of an AP story.

I find it so painfully ironic that these past two weeks the media has spent an inordinate amount of time on the Ukrainian election and has entirely discounted what is absolutely an attack on democracy in this country. People in America just don't seem to realize that democracy must be practiced and used, it's like working to maintain a healthy marital relationship. We can't just hope that democracy survives. If the 59,000,000 of us who voted for John Kerry were to take to the streets for 1/2 hour at a certain time on a certain day, it would be noticed. I am utterly frustrated by American complacency, the attitude that someone else will do the work. We've become a lazy bunch, but thank God for those of you who have the courage to do the hard work. We appreciate you —

C.W. — *Eugene, OR*

To The Editor:

Proud of you...

Please allow me to join my wee little voice with all the others who are speaking out about what is going on in my country. It is appalling to me that no one seems to notice these things, except for people like you, who raise their voices. My hope is that we won't ALL be standing here silently while they carve numbers on our forearms and make us salute a graven image called the "W God." The sad thing is this is the first time in my life when I have been terrified of my government.

Going to go subscribe to your paper. It's the least I can do.

Thank you!

M.P. — *Austin, Texas*

To The Editor:

God bless you brave souls for trying to keep honesty and democracy alive! I admire your courage and hope the (sorry, folks) bastards don't try to shut you down. PLEASE keep up the fight that almost every other "journalist" has given up.

A school teacher from
California

To The Editor:

Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher, just a love note from over here in the heart of the Red Belt. Apparently much of the media considers us folks "in the red" as one vast army out gunning for detractors of your neighbor Mr. Bush. Let me tell you, that ain't even half so.

There is flat out no telling how many voting machines in

how many states were rigged, or how many computers that counted the votes were "adjusted" in Bush's favor at the last minute. We know for a fact that goon squads from other states invaded our polling places where young and minority voters were concentrated, and without any penalty whatsoever intimidated people and ran them off before they got a chance to vote.

One more thing we know for sure: the Bush machine did not intend to lose, anymore than it intended to lose in 1992, or 2000. As Bill Clinton learned, and alas aided and abetted, that steamroller gets mighty rough when somebody gets in its way. And it does not intend to relinquish its power, ever, henceforth. We have got one colossal mess on our hands, and I am personally thankful to people (like you) with the courage to speak out, and keep speaking. It may take a lot to wake up the walking brain-dead so don't grow weary.

May the God of the Scriptures (as opposed to the horned red god of Mr. Bush) hover over you and sustain you, however long it takes.

Most gratefully,

D.J. — *Six Mile, S.C.*

To The Editor:

Great!

You people are so damn smart. Great job supporting the effort to expose the vote fraud. I don't want to live in a phony democracy. We need you to continue to speak up to push the rich-guy media to report on this issue and expose the fake president. Thank You.

S.W. — *Las Vegas, NV*

To The Editor:

Just to say I support your clear, direct, open, honest brand of no-frills, (the highest form) DEMOCRACY.

How reassuring to find in print, those I agree with totally.

Keep up the great work (and writing).

B.F.

To The Editor:

Thank you Iconoclast and W. Leon Smith and Don M. Fisher for lifting the shroud of silence that is hanging over the recount efforts in Ohio.

B.B.

To The Editor:

Your editorial, "Ohio-Ground Zero" was a stunning piece of writing. I am a writing teacher and I am going to use it as a powerful example of persuasive writing tomorrow with my students.

I have been working very hard on bringing the truth to light about this election, along with many others. I have been extremely concerned about the electronic voting machines since I started reading the

work of Ronnie Dugger (see <http://www.vote-fraud.org/ronie-dugger-dugger-computer-voting> and <http://www.thenation.com/docprint.html?i=20040616&s=dugger>). I was quite sure this one would be rigged, as was nearly everyone who knew how insecure the voting machines and tabulators used to count the vote truly are, and certainly all that is coming to light is bearing that out. The silence of the media on all this has been most disturbing. I applaud your courage in telling it like it is. Please keep up this very important work of informing people that what was allowed to happen is indeed treasonous, and if allowed to go unchallenged, will mark the end of our democracy.

B.H.

To The Editor:

Just want to let you know that your message is being heard loud and clear here in Portland, Oregon! Thanks you for being one of the courageous, uncensored news sources! Go forward and inform!

Many Blessings,

M.B.

Dear Sirs,

I subscribe completely with the sentiment of your recent editorial though when push comes to shove the right has the police and the military are their side. Don't you agree and how would you suggest overcoming those obstacles to rescuing our liberty?

Sincerely,

R.R.

To The Editor:

Your article, "Ohio-ground zero" was excellent...it got beyond politics...beyond Republican vs Democrat and pointed out the much more important issue, ..that if we don't exercise our rights, we lose them...very pleased with your article and wish more people would understand that our way of life, our democracy, our personal freedom is what's at stake, not just the election. I for one, have no problem with *real* Republicans, even though I am a life-long Democrat...I do not see Mr. Bush and his friends as Republicans, they do not believe in traditional party values...such as, fiscal responsibility, balanced budget, less government, etc. I wish more people would examine both parties true platforms, maybe it would dawn on more people that Mr. Bush is a "third party" candidate, *not* a Republican candidate (I also refuse to call him President, until he proves he won fair and square, *both* times. I do not think the burden of proof is on American citizens, I believe the burden of proof rests with the Bush administration, *they* should prove to us that they won fair and square, or get out of the White House!)

Spokane

Dear Editor:

Your little paper has the voice of a hundred lions!

Thanks for telling it like it is. Though I have little hope of the Ohio courts (dominated as they are by Republicans) will overturn the tainted (the nicest euphemism I could think of) election results in that State it is incumbent on us all to raise our voices loudly in protest.

Let Freedom Ring!

M.S. — *Washington, D.C.*
Hello Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher.

Thank you for your article. I'm happy some reporters are getting the news out. I've emailed a few papers, fwd'ing articles....no response.

Some don't want the American people to know what's going on.

Yes, after the election I thought, voting is a waste of time and money, we're in a dictatorship, fascist, imperialist, headed by arrogance, irresponsibility, incapability.

But with your help, and Rev. Jackson, Green Party, BlackBoxVoting.org, John Conyers and other Challengers, we MAY make a difference.

Wouldn't it be fantastic if Kerry got sworn in on Jan 20th?? Yea!

Thanks again,

KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

M.S. — *Lantana, Fla.*

To The Editor:

I read your article "Ohio at Ground Zero" and I must commend you on your covering this issue. It has received far too little attention. I find it absolutely disgusting that Bush can make the statements he did about the Ukraine election based on their exit polls when we here in the U.S. had much more fraudulent things going on here. So thanks and keep up the good work!

Ray, Los Angeles, Calif.

Dear Mr. Smith and Mr. Fisher:

Thank you so much for your brilliant editorial concerning the 2004 election. As a Floridian, I know what it feels like to watch an election get stolen right in front of your eyes. I don't understand why the Democrats didn't fight back in 2000 but I applaud you and others who are fighting in 2004 - for our freedom, democracy and integrity.

Consider me one of the team and I will never surrender!

Respectfully,

D.G. — *Highland Beach, Fla.*

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Smith,

Thank you for continuing to write these much needed articles they are great!

C.A. — *Uxbridge, Mass.*

To The Editor:

Just started receiving your newspaper. My original intention was to just support your

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views for CHANGE for this country in your support for John Kerry and the Democrats. I thought I would never be able to relate to the folks and the happenings in Crawford, TX. After reading your newspaper and enjoying it, I've come to realize the concerns are the same wherever we live in our country! Those of us who wanted change for the better, or at least willing to take that risk, have to remember we are not alone and we must continue believing in what we believe in. Perhaps the majority of the citizens of this country want conservatism but I do not think that is what they are getting! Be careful what you ask for! Thank you for being brave in voicing your

opposition for what I consider an anti-democratic administration.

Please feel free to publish this in your Letters to the Editor.

With Hope

Transplant from NJ now in Miami

To The Editor:

I am a seventy-eight year old veteran of the second world war. I can remember presidential elections back to Roosevelt. And I remember, as a young teenage boy, sitting with my grandparents and listening to their Philco radio as president Roosevelt declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941.

Presidents come and go. This one should go.

I want to compliment you for

having the personal integrity

(or "guts") to have supported Senator John Kerry in the recent election when you are right in the middle of Mr.

Bush's home town.

Good luck.

Sincerely,

FV. — San Antonio, Texas



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