



TROOPS ON BORDER?

Minuteman Project Showed How Effective Eyes Can Be

By Fred Lingel

Momentum for serious border control is growing as a congressional report recommends deploying the National Guard and another shows how to reduce the number of illegal aliens already here to virtually zero. The report by the staff of the Congressional Immigration Reform Caucus stated the obvious: As demonstrated by the Minutemen, it said, troops stationed on the border will virtually eliminate illegal entry.

See **REPORT**, Page 7

ON ALERT: Right, Minuteman Peter Lasley scours the horizon on the U.S.-Mexico border.



NICHOLAS ROBERTS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

BUSH & BLAIR TARGETED BY IRAQ TRIBUNAL

By Greg Szymanski

As President George W. Bush "jet-sets" around the world, promoting the neo-conservatives' own brand of democracy, there is one overseas meeting in June he will likely avoid like the plague.

In late May, Bush and England's Prime Minister Tony Blair received personal invitations to attend a session of the World Tribunal on Iraq (WTI) in Istanbul from June 23-27.

A White House spokesman told AFP he was



BUSH

See **WTI WILL BE**, Page 3

Virginia's Warner Quizzed on Trip to Bilderberg Confab

By James P. Tucker Jr.

Democratic Gov. Mark Warner of Virginia acknowledged to Associated Press May 17 that he had made a secret trip to the Bilderberg meeting in Rottach-Ergen, Germany. Across Virginia, several local and statewide newspapers ran the report, including *The Richmond Times Dispatch*, *The Virginian-Pilot* and *The Lynchburg News*.

"The Bilderberg meeting was not on Warner's public schedule, and reporters were not told of his trip more than a week after he returned," AP reported. "First word came in

See **MARK WARNER**, Page 11



WARNER

CONNECTICUT FIRST to ACT on DU State Senate Votes Unanimously to Study Health Hazard

By Richard Walker

The Connecticut Senate has approved legislation on a 34-0 vote to study the health effects of the toxic weapons component known as depleted uranium (DU) and establish a health registry for veterans and military personnel returning from Afghanistan, Iraq and elsewhere.

If enacted into law, Connecticut would become the first state to act on widespread complaints about DU.

Many soldiers have complained of serious illnesses after being exposed to the substance.

DU is a metal used in armor-piercing weapons which, when fired, is dispersed in the atmosphere, causing extensive harm when inhaled. It reportedly affects those contaminated by it on a genetic level, leading to birth defects among the children of soldiers.

American Free Press remains the only national newspaper to report in detail on DU and assail the military for its

continued use.

Gerard Mathew is an Army National Guard specialist and veteran of the Iraq war whose 11-month-old daughter was born with a severely deformed right hand.

Mathew suffers from constant headaches and blurred vision. He has tested positive for DU. Mathew and Sgt. Herbert Reed were part of a recent panel on DU.

Reed said military doctors told him that testing positive was no problem. "They said we had acceptable levels of depleted uranium. Acceptable to whom?" Reed said. ★

The Inside Scoop:

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AREA BELOW FOR MAILING ADDRESS

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Details Emerge
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2005 Agenda.
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TUCKER

NO AFP ISSUE NEXT WEEK!

PERSONAL

From the Editor

Our lead story this week details a recent report by Congress that proposes National Guard troops be stationed on the border to stem the tide of illegal immigration. Kudos to Congress for finally figuring this out. As readers of *American Free Press* surely know, we have been advocating this for years.

The efforts of the all-volunteer, non-governmental immigration task force, the Minutemen, have proved to our wise elected officials in Washington that the overwhelming numbers of illegals trying to sneak into the United States can be stopped in a reasonable and non-violent manner—by simply providing the resources to patrol the border. As the report notes: Operating at their own expense and risking their lives, the Minutemen managed to reduce the flow of illegals along a 23-mile stretch of the border to less than a trickle.

If an all-volunteer force could do this, then by stationing a few divisions of National Guardsmen at key points along the border we could totally stop the flow of illegal aliens. It's genius, we tell you. Now if they would only actually go through with the proposal, we might just be able to get this problem under control.

On an administrative note, the second printing of Michael Collins Piper's *New Jerusalem* has arrived at our office, and we are in the process of filling all the orders. If you ordered a copy and have not received yours by June 10, please contact AFP's Circulation Department at (202) 544-5977.

Next week AFP will not be publishing an issue. The next issue you will receive will be Issue 24/25 to be mailed June 10. It will include expanded editorial copy and an edition of *Whole Body Health*.



Christopher Petherick
Managing Editor



D.C. Residents May Finally Get Gun Ownership

The nation's capital may have the Second Amendment imposed on them. Legislation is pending in Congress to undo a 1975 city law that prohibits Washington residents from having a firearm on their person, at home or anywhere. Since then, the murder of unarmed citizens has multiplied. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-Tex.) is chief sponsor of the Senate version. She recently learned that a federal law superseding the city law permits congressmen to keep handguns in their offices. But the average citizen is defenseless.

Identifying Bullets

A proposal to put a serial number on every handgun bullet has been approved by a California State Senate Committee. Purchasers would pay one-half penny more for each bullet and vendors \$50 a year to register. Sportsmen, firearms dealers and manufacturers said the plan is impractical and would burden law-abiding citizens.

Capitol Capers

Vicki Tiaht, wife of Rep. Todd Tiaht (R-Kan.) was caught writing



Handcuffed Kids

The Sensitivity Patrolletes rustled their skirts in outrage when a 40-pound kindergartner was handcuffed and led away by police. A tape of the incident shows the girl wildly hitting the teacher and the principal with her fists, knocking things off tables and walls in a wild frenzy before police were summoned. Teachers are afraid to hit back when attacked for fear of lawsuits and discipline. But had the mother earlier applied her hand to the child's posterior, handcuffs might not have been needed.

"Please Remove!" on a sign in the Cannon House Office Building displaying the national debt which was updated daily, the periodical *Roll Call* reports. Mrs. Tiaht told the press secretary to Rep. Stephanie Herseth (D-S.D.): "You shouldn't be using your official funds for these kinds of things." *Roll Call* also reports that the son of Rep. Juanita Millender-McDonald (D-Calif.)

Pre-Packaged War

Members of British Prime Minister Tony Blair's own Labor Party continue to loudly complain about his commitment to support the Iraq war nine months before the invasion, as revealed in a "secret" memo of a meeting he had with President Bush. Blair had pretended that he chose to ally himself with Bush after the invasion, and it cost his party 100 seats in Parliament. By keeping the issue alive, his party colleagues hope to force Blair out within a year.



was to surrender to federal authorities to begin serving a 41-month prison sentence. The son, R. Keith McDonald, was convicted of 10 federal corruption charges.

School Patrols

For years, public schools in the nation's capital have hired private security to patrol their "combat zones" at a cost of \$15.1 million annually. How many teachers or books would that buy if schoolchildren had fathers with paddles? Or if teachers were not liable to be dragged into court if they were "insensitive" to young thugs?

Parents Prevail

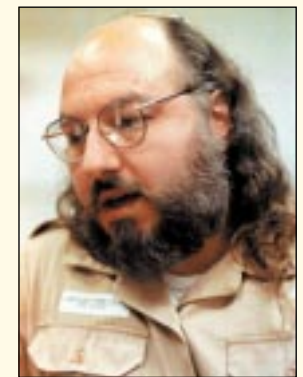
Parents in Montgomery County, Md., which borders the nation's capital, prevailed and forced the school board to abandon a "sex ed" program that would teach young children about homosexuality while graphically demonstrating birth control techniques. The board also ousted the citizens committee that came up with the plan.

Virginia Gators

Several alligators have been spotted, caught or killed in the waterways of Maryland and Virginia earlier in May. Unlike in Florida or Louisiana, alligators in these waterways are strange reptiles. "Obviously, alligators do not belong here, said Dan Perry of the Wildlife Services Program at the Agriculture Department. "It's too far north."

Military Benefits

A group of veterans living at the U.S. Armed Forces Retirement Home in Washington, D.C., have been forced to file a class-action suit on behalf of all its residents, charging that drastic budget cuts by the Defense Department have resulted in substandard medical care, reports *The Washington Post*. The suit alleges that more than 1,000



Spy to Stay

The White House rejected efforts by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to win release of Jonathan Pollard, convicted of spying for Israel in the 1980s while a U.S. Navy intelligence analyst. Pollard was sentenced to life. "No change," President Bush's spokesman, Scott McClellan, said. "He is serving his sentence for spying." First Lady Laura Bush, in the Middle East on a "goodwill" tour, faced throngs of Israelis chanting, "Free Pollard now."

veterans living at the facility can no longer get prescriptions and doctor checkups at the home because of Secretary Rumsfeld's cuts.

Slap on the Wrist

Military policeman Spc. Brian E. Cammack has been sentenced to three months in prison after pleading guilty to assault and two counts of making a false statement related to the 2002 beating death of a prisoner in Afghanistan. Cammack, a member of the Army Reserve's 377th Military Police Company in Cincinnati, said he was angry when he struck the prisoner, Mullah Habibullah, twice in the thigh with his knee. Cammack was one of multiple soldiers who beat prisoners. A coroner said a blood clot from Habibullah's leg traveled to his heart, killing him instantly. The prisoner had allegedly spat on Cammack's chest. Cammack was demoted to private, fined more than \$3,200 and given a bad-conduct discharge.

Dump Israel

Highly controversial Karl Hand of the "Racial Nationalist Party of America" is holding a "Dump Israel" rally on June 11 in Buffalo. He can be contacted at (716) 208-5073 or at P.O. Box 1281, Lockport,

NO ISSUE NEXT WEEK!

AFP will not be publishing an issue next week. We will bring you a double issue the following week and that issue will be mailed June 10. The staff will be hard at work, however, working on the content for the next issue which will include a multi-page health report in that issue. Enjoy the holiday!

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WTI Will Be Investigating 'New World Order'

Continued from Page 1

unaware of the meeting or any such group.

The WTI, made up of thousands of people worldwide including many preeminent scholars and dignitaries, seeks to reclaim justice regarding the Iraqi invasion. The group was formed two years ago with the intent to document the war crimes orchestrated by Bush and Blair and eventually bring both heads of state to justice because of what group leaders say is "an arrogant flaunting of world opinion and established law."

WTI media spokesman Hilal Kuey said many countries around the world are not as kind toward the two leaders as the West, viewing the Iraqi invasion as an overt act of aggression.

"Since the U.S. administration and the UK government have used their power to avoid being prosecuted for an illegal and illegitimate war, the citizens of the world have undertaken an initiative to reclaim justice," said Kuey from her office in Turkey. "The world is calling for Bush and Blair to be held accountable for the crimes committed in Iraq."

DESTRUCTION OF IRAQ

The Istanbul conference is a culmination of two years of investigating and documenting the occupation and destruction of Iraq, as numerous sessions have been held in many foreign capitals around the world.

The Istanbul conference marks the third anniversary of the Iraq invasion.

The formal letter sent to Bush is highly critical of the U.S.-led war in Iraq and asks Bush to defend his position to the world, something WTI leaders say he has avoided for three years.

"We, on behalf of the peoples of the world who believe in justice, start from the conviction that you have been acting in violation of common values of humanity, international treaties and international law," stated the letter sent to the White House and numerous American and British Embassies around the world, asking both Bush and Blair to defend their positions.

Since the organization claims Bush has ignored worldwide pleas to respect international law, the WTI has spread to almost every capital in the world in an attempt to fight what it calls "a war of aggression launched despite the opposition of people and governments all over the world."

"There is no court or authority that will judge the acts of the United States and its allies. If the official authorities fail, then authority derived from universal moral and human rights principles can speak for the world," said Kuey, the WTI spokesman.

"Our legitimacy derives from the failure of official international institutions to hold accountable those who committed grave international crimes

and constitute a continued menace to world peace. We have a duty to take action against wars of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity and other breaches of international law.

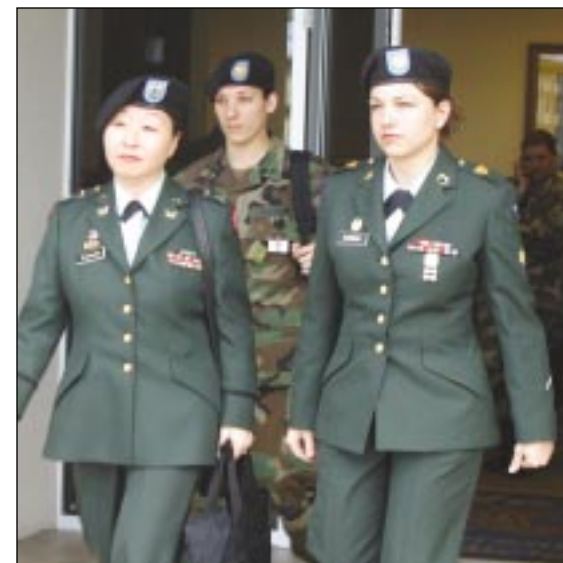
"The WTI will not end in Istanbul as it is to be considered a continuing process. The investigation of what happened in Iraq is of prime importance to restore truth and preserve collective memory against the constant rewriting of history. We are challenging the silence of international institutions and seeking to put them under pressure to fulfill their obligations under international law."

GROWING CLAMOR

Besides the Iraq war, the WTI is also investigating the growing clamor of what has been called America's effort to create a "new world order" to dominate the world.

"The WTI initiative seeks to be part of a broader movement to stop the establishment of the new imperial world order as a permanent 'state of exception' with constant wars as one of its main tools," added Kuey. "We hope to bring a moral, political and judicial judgment that contributes to building a world of peace and justice."

The WTI has been endorsed and signed by such notable worldwide figures as Richard Falk, professor of international law at the University of California at Santa Barbara; Ken Coates, chairman of the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation; Baskin Oran, former European member of parliament and professor of international relations at the University of Ankara and Denis J. Halliday, former assistant UN secretary general from 1994 to 1998. ★



HARMON SENTENCED: U.S. Army Spc. Sabrina D. Harmon (right) accompanied by her attorney Capt. Patsy Takemura leaves the courthouse after a pre-trial hearing in March. Harmon was recently sentenced to six months in jail for her involvement in the Abu Ghraib abuse scandal. Witnesses, including prisoners, said she was one of the kindest of the guards at Abu Ghraib. Top war planners and senior military officials have avoided prosecution thus far.

JANA BIRCHUM/GETTY IMAGES

AFP Editorial: America's Image in the Toilet

The controversy surrounding the retracted *Newsweek* story about an interrogator allegedly flushing a copy of the Koran down a toilet at Guantanamo, and the anti-Americanism the story purportedly fueled in Muslim countries, obscured much more serious issues related to the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The White House was quick to capitalize on the magazine's poorly sourced story and condemn it—a move that contrasted sharply with its failure to own up to much more serious charges. These included the heinous abuses at Abu Ghraib, the horrific stories of torture now emerging from the detention facility at a U.S. airbase in Afghanistan and the CIA's continued policy of kidnapping citizens of foreign countries and handing them over for interrogation to regimes that use torture.

While that distraction may have sufficiently sated Americans in the heartland, the rest of the world is not buying it. The real danger for Americans is that the failure to hold our arrogant leaders accountable for their lawlessness and brutality will surely come back to haunt us in the future. The abuse of prisoners of war and the veil of secrecy surrounding Guantanamo are matters that taint the image of this great country and feed the anti-Americanism already

prevalent around the world. In turn, that negative image is exploited by groups seeking to wage war against the United States for its policies abroad.

American values, many of them embodied in our Constitution, and ideals that previous generations have given their lives to protect demand that we as a country face up to the truth and bring those responsible to justice, even if that means our top leaders.

The danger for Americans is that the failure to hold our arrogant leaders accountable for their brutality will come back to haunt us in the future.

The trials of Germans at Nuremberg laid the groundwork for prosecuting all those involved in crimes against humanity. So today, Bush, Rumsfeld, and other high-level neo-con policymakers and generals are not sheltered from being prosecuted for the torture techniques used at Bagram Air Force base in Afghanistan. There, young, inexperienced soldiers in their 20s brutally interrogated and murdered men they believed to be terrorists simply because they had been

arrested and taken to that facility.

Scapegoating cannon fodder may serve the short-term purpose of showing that punishment is being meted out. But, ultimately, our failure to expand the net of guilt will show that we as a nation were never serious about dealing with the real culprits—those in positions of authority.

Throughout modern history, the United States has held a special place because it has promoted openness and the rule of law. Our way of life benefits from our freedom to confront the policies made in our name, yet the mainstream media—print and television—has not sought to take advantage of that principle. Instead, it has been cowed by this White House and has been more preoccupied with banal media trials than informing the American public about policies and actions that are not only harming our image abroad but also undermining our value system.

Therefore, it seems disingenuous when the White House condemns a weekly magazine for a story that may (even though retracted) or may not be true while ignoring the fact that its policies have cost the lives of more than 1,600 American soldiers, wounded countless more and have damaged the image of America across the globe. The question is now: Can we ever rehabilitate our good name? ★

Greg Szymanski is a freelance investigative journalist and feature writer based in Ventura, California. A law school graduate from Glendale University College of Law, he also specializes in constitutional issues and judicial injustice. Visit Szymanski's news web site at arcticbeacon.city-maker.com.

Citizens Come Out to Oppose Free Trade

Opposition to CAFTA, FTAA increasing; backers of trade schemes behind schedule

By Mark Anderson

The number of states that are taking a stand against free trade is on the rise. Besieged by heavy job and revenue losses, legislatures in Indiana, New Jersey and Utah have all recently passed resolutions against trade deals with other nations. Now, lawmakers in Arizona, New Hampshire and Montana have hopped on board, too.

And even more states may be signing up as closed factories and shrinking paychecks sap the states of property and income taxes, which leads to less revenue for local governments, public school systems and other entities.

Meanwhile, Congress is under increased pressure from the Bush administration to betray the states and pass the highly controversial Central American Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA. All eyes are on Washington to see if Congress will act on CAFTA in late May or early June.

Besides state legislatures sounding the alarm, the governors of Oregon, New Hampshire and Wisconsin have drafted letters in opposition to CAFTA and against the proposed Free Trade Area of the Americas, or FTAA, for which CAFTA is a steppingstone.

New Hampshire Gov. John Lynch recently wrote to the U.S. trade representative, "reversing former Gov. Craig Benson's support for several recent or pending free trade agreements, in particular . . . CAFTA," reported the Manchester *Union Leader* newspaper on May 17.

"I am writing to let you know that New Hampshire will not be participating in the Panama and Andean Free Trade Agreements currently being negotiated," Lynch also wrote, in a May 11 letter to the trade official, the *Union Leader* added.

State officials' concerns may become even more intense since there's evidence that CAFTA is largely about outsourcing U.S. jobs to the CAFTA nations, which appear to be too poor for a real two-way exchange of products and services to take place. Many U.S. cities have greater economic output than entire CAFTA countries.

In a recent press release, the Washington, D.C.-based Public Citizen group said Lynch's withdrawal of New Hampshire from provisions of CAFTA brought the number of state governments consenting to be bound by the agree-

ment down to 19 out of 50.

According to Public Citizen spokesman Sara Johnson, "CAFTA would bar anti-offshoring legislation and require states to treat foreign suppliers equally to domestic suppliers," reported the *Union Leader*.

Other states that have expressed opposition to CAFTA's rules are Iowa, Kansas, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

THE 'CAFTA SIX'

CAFTA would extend the three-nation North American Free Trade Agreement (Canada, U.S., Mexico) to include six more countries, including El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic and Nicaragua.

See this week's "Spotlight on Congress," page 8, for more on who is opposing CAFTA

The much broader FTAA would engulf the entire 34-nation Western Hemisphere (excluding Cuba) by way of an economic-political merger that would dilute the sovereignty of member nations and fuse them into an "American Union" along the lines of the European Union.

Due to some opposition in Congress, and to opposition among the general citizenry and some agricultural interests, anti-CAFTA campaigns by private organizations, and the concerns of several state governments, the CAFTA-FTAA scheme is behind the schedule set by transnational elites and Wall Street interests. These power brokers and tycoons desperately want Congress to pass CAFTA and FTAA, the most significant trade deals since the passage of NAFTA in 1993 and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT-WTO) in 1994.

The elite Business Roundtable (www.br.org) and other blue-blood organizations among the FTAA backers are notorious for long-term planning that exceeds the attention span of most of the electorate. The ink on the NAFTA and GATT pacts was hardly dry in 1994 when plans for the FTAA were first announced, amid claims that the grandiose plan

would be signed by all 34 nations and sent to Congress for its approval by January 2005. That clearly has not happened.

Even as recently as early 2003, then-U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick was still predicting the United States would reach the goal of passing the FTAA by early 2005. But with well over 2 million U.S. manufacturing jobs lost between year 2000 and today, with General Motors planning a major manufacturing shift to Asia, and with the outsourcing trend sending droves of technical, service and manufacturing jobs out of America to foreign lands, the American people and the state governments are growing uneasy.

While the relatively smooth passage afforded NAFTA and GATT is evidently a thing of the past, newly hired U.S. Trade Representative Rob Portman, according to a May 17 press release from the White House, is trolling the halls of Congress to stump for CAFTA's passage. Bush himself in early May met with presidents of the six CAFTA nations, while calling CAFTA "our first trade priority."

But many states don't see it that way.

Both chambers of the Utah legislature passed a measure on Feb. 18 that calls on Congress not to approve the FTAA.

SCR 6, passed Feb. 22 by the Indiana Senate asking Congress for a moratorium on all new trade deals, is pending before the state House.

And in Arizona, House Concurrent Memorial 2006 calls on Congress not to approve the FTAA.

Montana's Senate Joint Resolution 23 notes that the National Conference of State Legislatures, the National Association of Counties, the National Association of Attorneys General "and various state legislatures from Idaho to California have sent letters to the U.S. trade representative . . . and have received little response." SJR 23 says that these trade pacts are really treaties, but the Senate does not handle the pacts according to the constitutional guidelines for treaties. ★

AFP Correspondent Mark Anderson of Michigan can be contacted at truthorelse@msn.com. For more information on these matters, go to stop-cafta.com, tradecrisis.org, and stoptheftaa.org, among other websites. Members of the House and Senate can be contacted at 1-800-833-6354 toll free, or call the Capitol switchboard at (202) 225-3121.



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(By Frank K. Wood)

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(By Frank K. Wood)

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(By Frank K. Wood)

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REPORT: U.S. Could Stymie Flow of Aliens

Continued from Page 1

The deployment of 36,000 National Guard or state militia troops could “dramatically reduce if not virtually eliminate” illegal border crossings, the report said. It said the Minutemen, who shut down a 23-mile stretch of the Arizona border in April, served as a model for a government effort to reclaim the southern border of the United States.

“The tide of illegal crossings on the borders of the United States is beyond unsatisfactory; it is catastrophic,” the report said. “It does not ebb and flow—it only grows. It is rising without measure and eroding the very fiber of our safety, life and culture.

“As we wage the war on terror in foreign lands, we have all our doors and windows open at home. . . . The insanity of such a policy, or silent toleration of such a policy is almost criminal in itself,” it said. “The Minuteman Project demonstrated that illegal immigration on America’s southern border can be dramatically reduced to manageable levels,” said the report, released May 24.

The Border Patrol failed “through no fault of its rank-and-file enforcement officers” to protect the United States from the flood of illegal aliens, the report said.

The agency’s uniformed leadership should be pointed in a “new direction” because it is in “total denial of the magnitude of the disaster” and—as currently organized, staffed and supported—“cannot be relied upon” to remedy the situation soon.

“The Border Patrol needs new direction from the Department of Homeland Security if it is to shake off the lethargy from years of undermanned frustration,” the report said. “The patrol needs to empower its outstanding field officers to act as necessary to accomplish the patrol’s mission . . . to energize its leadership to think outside the box.”

Congress and the states should sustain the success of the Minuteman Project—whose members were lightly armed, had no arrest powers, were not paid and traveled to Arizona at their own expense—with the deployment of National Guard or state militia troops in coordination with the Border Patrol, the report said. Sufficient reinforcements exist in current National Guard units and could be put on the border by governors and the secretary of defense within a month, if the political will exists, it said.

On the same day the congressional report was issued, the Center for Immigration Studies issued a report on how to reduce the current level of illegal aliens to virtually zero. Said Mark Krikorian, the center’s executive director:

“By deterring the settlement of new illegals, by increasing deportations to the extent possible, and, most importantly, by increasing the number of illegals already here who give up and deport themselves, the United States can bring about an annual decrease in the illegal-alien population, rather than allowing it to continually increase.”

The result, he said, would be a shrinking of the illegal population to a “manageable nuisance.”

The decrease would come in large part by sealing off the border to new illegal aliens, he said.

“From 1995 to 1999, an average of 165,000 a year went back home on their own after residing here for at least a year; the same number got some kind of legal status, about 50,000 were deported and 25,000 died, for a total of more than 400,000 people each year subtracted from the resident illegal population,” he said.

But “the average annual inflow of new illegal aliens over that same period was nearly 800,000, swamping the outflow and creating an average annual increase of close to 400,000,” he said. He called for “a strategy of attrition.” ★



RIGHT IDEA: California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger angered Hispanics with his views on illegal immigration, calling on the federal government to boost patrols along the border with Mexico. Schwarzenegger came under fire last month for praising the “Minutemen,” a group of American citizen volunteers who were patrolling the border in Arizona.

LUKE FRAZZA/GETTY IMAGES



GRUPO BETA: Migrants seeking to cross the US-Mexico border sit in a pickup truck of *Grupo Beta*—a Mexican unit that protects and assists migrants—near Sonora. The group of 18 migrants were picked up by *Grupo Beta* and warned not to cross the border near territory watched by the Minuteman Project, the volunteer group watching the southeastern Arizona border to deter illegal immigration. The migrants were then taken to Agua Prieta. The group said they intended to cross the border elsewhere.

Illegals Caught in Phony ID Scam

By Mike Blair

A new scam using stolen identity has been hatched by illegal Mexican aliens and is bilking Americans of tens of million of dollars through their banks. Its leadership, may be located in Mexico and could have links with Mexican government officials. The scam is being operated from California and has cells in several states.



A source told *American Free Press* that the illegal aliens could also be associated with Mexican drug cartels.

The organization has cells in at least seven states: Arizona, California, Colorado, Montana, Tennessee, Virginia and Washington—and is estimated to have bilked banks out of at least \$50 million.

The gangs target smaller banks, which have less sophisticated means to identify fake identity cards, which the illegals are making with camera cell phones.

GREEN CARD

Federal officials have shut down one cell in Virginia and have indicted nine illegal aliens from Mexico and two other Mexicans who either had “green card” immigrant status or were possibly in America on work visas.

Dubbed “Operation Snapshot,” an investigation by federal officials in western Virginia has resulted in the indictment in Roanoke of 11 Mexicans. Ten of the Mexicans are in custody. The leader of the cell, Julian Tovar Pina, currently in custody, is a 30-year-old Mexican illegal. His brother,

Anthony Tovar Pina, remains at large.

The Mexicans indicted in Roanoke initiated their scam by allegedly stealing payroll checks from Scott-Gallagher Inc., a construction company in Botetourt County in western Virginia.

Numerous construction companies employ Mexican laborers without much attention given to their status. One firm in central Virginia involved in highway construction employs only Mexican laborers.

The gang produced fake photo IDs for the persons to whom the checks were intended in amounts ranging from \$900 to \$1,000 and went to several branches of the Bank of Botetourt in Roanoke and Botetourt County on March 4, where the checks were then cashed.

The gang members, who had bilked the Virginia banks out of more than \$40,000, approached the financial institutions again on March 7, but 10 of the 11 were arrested by Botetourt County sheriff’s deputies.

About 30 percent of criminals incarcerated in U.S. jails and prisons are illegals. Mexican drug cartels have become a major source of crime and illegal drugs in the United States.

A total of 1.7 million cases of identity theft were reported in the United States last year. ★

Best known for his ground-breaking work exposing the U.S. government’s abandonment of American POWs and MIAs in Korea and Vietnam, Mike Blair specializes in military affairs and gunowners’ rights. Blair was cited by Project Censored for having uncovered the top “most censored” story of 1990—a scheme to scuttle the Bill of Rights in the name of “fighting crime.”

EXPANDING The Patriot Act

Privacy-grabbing powers may get stronger

The Senate Intelligence Committee is holding hearings on a bill to renew and expand the Patriot Act, parts of which expire Dec. 31, 2005. The measure, written by Chairman Pat Roberts (R-Kan.), would give the FBI new power to issue administrative subpoenas, which are not reviewed by a judge or grand jury, aides said.

With such self-administered instant subpoenas, agents could quickly obtain records, electronic data or other evidence in investigations they say are of terrorist suspects.

Victims could challenge the subpoenas in court, aides said, and the administration would have to report to Congress twice a year on how it is using the new power. The administration has sought this power for two years but so far has been rebuffed by Congress.

New provisions would also allow federal agents to monitor your mail but not read its contents. They would know if you got a letter from Aunt Bertha or had a subscription to a controversial newspaper.

It is uncertain whether Congress will give the administration everything it wants.

Eight expiring sections of the Patriot Act that deal with foreign intelligence investigations would become permanent. This includes a provision that allows wiretapping of suspected terrorists who operate without clear ties to a particular terrorist network.

These expanded powers are certain to be resisted by a broad spectrum of Americans who are concerned about the erosions of constitutional liberties under the original legislation. This includes Patriots to Restore Checks and Balances, headed by Bob Barr, known as a "right winger" while serving as a Republican congressman from Georgia, the ACLU and groups in between.

Barr responded to "conservatives" who said that only the "extreme left" opposes parts of the Patriot Act by saying his group includes the American Conservative Union, Gun Owners of America "and many other leading conservative organizations."

Some of the provisions "undermine our constitutional freedoms and Fourth Amendment rights," said Barr, now a columnist for United Press International.

"Through the ongoing oversight hearings Congress is holding, we have learned more about the government's increasing use of secret search powers not only in terrorism cases but in run-of-the-mill criminal cases," Barr said.

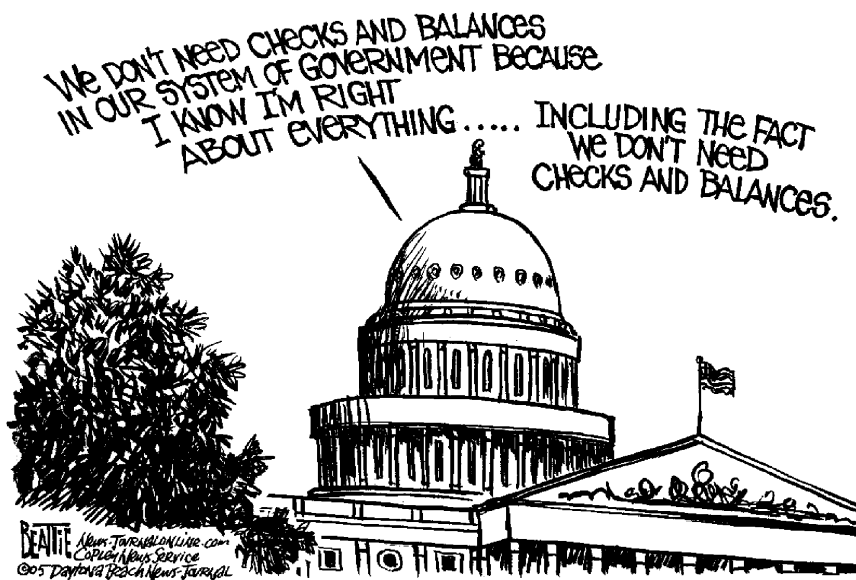
The "sneak and peek" provision "allows law enforcement agents to secretly search our homes and offices, take whatever they wish, and yet not notify us for weeks,

months or indefinitely," Barr said.

"We believe that allowing federal agents to secretly search individuals' homes and businesses without notification poses a grave threat to fundamental freedoms our Fourth Amendment was written to protect," Barr said.

The Justice Department has failed to disclose how many U.S. citizens' homes and offices have been secretly searched or how many "administrative" subpoenas have been issued. Barr said the government should be held to greater accountability by requiring the Justice Department and the FBI to tell Americans how these powers are being used.

To fix the Patriot Act, Barr supports the bipartisan SAFE Act.

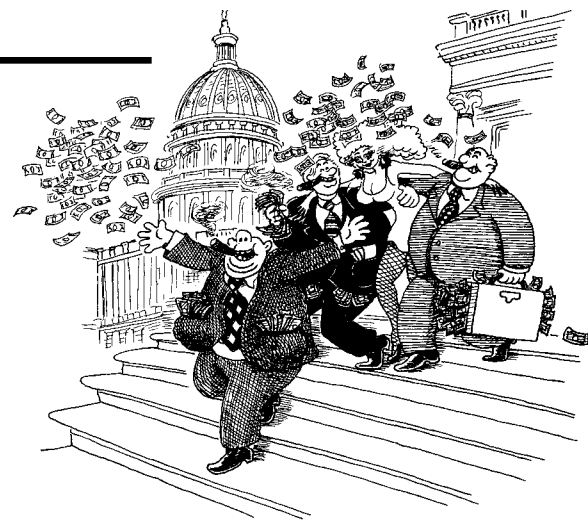


"This legislation would maintain those Patriot Act provisions that are truly necessary to keep Americans safe, while placing important checks on those expanded authorities that are out of line with the Constitution," Barr said. "Primary sponsors of the SAFE Act include Sen. Larry Craig (R-Idaho)—a solid conservative and fellow NRA board member, hardly a 'flaming liberal' and certainly as staunch an anti-terrorist as you'll find in the Congress."

James Dempsey, head of the Center for Democracy and Technology, said in a conference call with reporters that the bill would give the FBI new powers that have been "long sought, and rejected" by Congress because of civil liberties concerns.

'Free' Trade Fight

Traditionally pro-trade House Democrats have announced opposition to the Central American Free Trade



Agreement, or CAFTA, which could be a crippling blow to the dream of an "American Union" similar to the European Union. CAFTA is a crucial step toward the Free Trade Area of the Americas, which would unite the entire Western Hemisphere into a single economic union.

The four co-chairmen of the House New Democrat Coalition have announced their opposition to the proposed trade deal, which Congress can vote up or down but not change. It is a major setback for the Bush administration, which is pressing for House and Senate approval before the July Fourth congressional recess.

"There's no question it's a risky step" to oppose CAFTA, said Rep. Adam Smith (D-Wash.). But, he argued, the Bush administration, with Republican congressional backing, has undermined the worker-protection precedents for domestic and foreign workers that were added to treaties during former President Bill Clinton's tenure. The Bush administration's goal is to "take care of business, first, second and last, and not do

enough to make sure workers are getting their fair share."

"The promise of trade liberalization has not lived up to the rhetoric, certainly not for American workers," said Rep. Ellen Tauscher (D-Calif.), another co-chairman. She said the administration did not discuss the agreement with Democrats during negotiations, prompting her to tell U.S. trade officials "it's at your own risk that you leave Democrats out and you only come to us when you are 30 votes down."

But a U.S. textile industry group jumped ship, announcing it would support CAFTA.

The National Council of Textile Organizations (NCTO) supported the deal after the administration addressed its concerns, but other companies that spin yarn, weave fabric and sew clothes remain opposed.

CAFTA would lower trade barriers and assist companies that move to the Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and the United States.

"This flawed agreement, if passed, will bring yet more job losses to the American textile industry," said Karl Spilhaus, president of the National Textile Association.

Textile and apparel industries lost 16,600 jobs in the first four months of this year and now employ 666,500 nationwide.

Oink, Oink

Senate Appropriations Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) won some prize pork in the fiscal 2005 agriculture spending bill, according to the *Pig Book*, published by Citizens Against Government Waste. The \$37.4 billion Stevens brought home to Alaska includes \$1.7 million for berry research and \$1.1 million for "alternative salmon products," such as dried salmon and baby food. ★

No One to Blame But Us for Weak Dollar

Chinese accused of currency manipulation, hurting U.S. economy

Last week the Treasury department issued a warning to the Chinese government with regard to its policy of pegging the value of the Chinese yuan to the U.S. dollar. In essence, the Treasury department accuses China of artificially suppressing the value of its currency by tying it to the dollar, thus making Chinese imports very cheap and worsening our trade imbalance.



This kind of bluster may serve political interests, but in reality we have nobody to blame but ourselves for the sharp decline in the dollar. Congress and the Federal Reserve, not China, are the real culprits in the erosion of your personal savings and buying power.

Congress relentlessly spends more than the Treasury collects in taxes each year, which means the U.S. government must either borrow or print money to operate—both of which cause the value of the dollar to drop.

When we borrow a billion dollars every day simply to run the government, and when the Federal Reserve increases the money supply by trillions of dollars in just 15 years, we hardly can expect our dollars to increase in value.

If anything, the U.S. government should be embarrassed that another nation has depressed its currency by tying it to the dollar. An economically sound nation would take pride in its currency, one that maintains a stable value and provides incentive for savers. Yet here we are, mad at China for our own sin of flooding the world with cheap dollars.



FREDERIC J. BROWN

CHINESE PUZZLE: Who's to blame for the weak dollar? Is it China which artificially pegged its currency, the yuan (above), to the U.S. dollar? Or could it be more related to the fact that the U.S. government has borrowed far beyond its means and the Federal Reserve has flooded the world with dollars?

The root of the problem is the Federal Reserve and our fiat monetary system itself. Since U.S. dollars and other major currencies are not backed by gold, they have no inherent value. Their relative values are subject to political events, and fluctuate constantly in highly volatile currency markets.

A fiat system means every dollar you have can be eroded into nothing by the actions of politicians and

central bankers. In essence, paper currencies like the U.S. dollar operate as articles of faith—faith in the policies of the governments and central banks that issue them.

When it comes to a government as deeply indebted as our own, that faith is sorely lacking among investors worldwide.

Politicians often manage to fool voters and the media, but they rarely fool financial markets over time. The precipitous drop in the U.S. dollar over the past few years is proof that investors around the globe are very concerned about American deficits and debt. When investors lack faith in the U.S. dollar, they really lack faith in the economic policies of the U.S. government.

Unlike wealthy currency traders, most Americans are stuck with their U.S. dollars. Average people, particularly those who depend on savings or fixed incomes to fund their retirement years, cannot tolerate the continued devaluation of our currency.

A true strong-dollar policy would not depend on the actions of China or any other nation. It would, however, require a constriction of the money supply and higher interest rates, both of which would cause some short-term pain for the American economy. In the long run, however, such a correction is the only alternative to the continued erosion of our dollars. ★

For more on the Federal Reserve Bank and the U.S. financial system, order AFP's special informational supplements, *Why Can You Be Audited But the Fed Cannot* (one copy is \$3, six copies are \$10 and 40 or more are 50 cents each) and *Billions for the Bankers Debts for the People* (one copy is \$3, six copies are \$10 and 40 or more are 50¢ each). Contact AFP's Circulation Department at (202) 544-5977 or see the coupon on page 20 for ordering information.

Ron Paul, a medical doctor, is a Republican member of the U.S. Congress who represents the 14th District of Texas. Often called "Dr. No" because he bucks his party establishment, refusing to support policies contrary to traditional constitutional principles, Paul was the Libertarian Party presidential candidate in 1984. Call his office toll free at 1-888-322-1414 or visit his website at www.ronpaul.org.

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Promises, Pipelines & Politics

Caspian oil at heart of Central Asian strategy

By Richard Walker

On May 26, in a ceremony that received little press in the United States, the world's biggest pipeline, once hailed as the West's way of ending dependence on Arab oil, was officially turned on. At that moment, crude oil from the Caspian Basin in the Caucasus began its 1,000-mile journey through Azerbaijan and Georgia to the Mediterranean via Turkey.

In doing so, the pipeline, known as BTC for Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan, bypassed Russia. For the Russians, it was a sad day and an example of the way in which the United States, following the collapse of communism in 1989, moved into Russia's backyard and did major deals to exploit huge oil reserves in the Caspian Basin.

At the time, Dick Cheney, then CEO of Halliburton, was ecstatic about the prospect of the West moving quickly into former Soviet territory to tap oil that would make huge profits for Western oil companies.

Cheney commented, somewhat prophetically, that he could not think of a time "when we had a region emerge as suddenly to become as strategically significant as the Caspian."

Western oil companies placed the Caspian oil reserves at a staggering 250 billion barrels. But now, after billions of dollars have been spent on the pipeline by a consortium led by British Petroleum (BP), the reserves have been estimated at only 30 to 40 billion barrels, still a sizable amount of oil but not on the scale first thought.

Building Wisdom Without Pain

Most people acquire wisdom slowly, over their lifetimes. They do it by making mistakes. That is, they make wrong decisions. When results turn out badly (hopefully not fatally) they remember not to make that bad decision again. The worse the pain, the better they remember. It's a sort of conditioned reflex.

The essence of wisdom is predictability. If our ideas about the world are accurate enough we can make wise (predictable) decisions. There is a field of study that helps us know whether or not our ideas are accurate enough. It is called General Semantics. It can be taught, and has been, in high schools.

Joseph Phelps, MS, PE, has written a book that will help you develop more personal wisdom, and teach it to your maturing children. Phelps, a Caltech graduate now approaching 80, has been studying and writing about this for 60 years. The book is . . .

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Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman, who was present at the opening of the new pipeline, was thrilled, and commented that it was a major step in the "energy security" of the Caucasus.

Bodman made no mention of the fact that major beneficiaries would be big oil companies linked to Western nations and, if Cheney's prophecy were to come true, America and its consumers.

When the pipeline was being built, it was claimed it would reduce prices at the pump in the United States, but Bodman made no reference to that promise in his comments.

What is most interesting about the BTC pipeline is that it has helped change the politics of the Caucasus and Central Asia. Just weeks ago, President Bush visited Georgia, one of the nations heavily involved in the pipeline.

It was, after all, in Georgia where American money and political pressure helped created the "Rose Revolution," which put in power U.S.-educated Mikheil Saakashvilli.

And, as a result of Azerbaijan's role in allowing the BTC to snake through its territory, it has been allowed to forge close links with the United States even though it has an abominable human rights record and is one of the most corrupt countries in the region.

At the end of the pipeline is Turkey, where the oil feeds into a facility next door to the U.S. airbase at Incirlik.

Turkey receives huge funding from the United States



In a small ceremony at the Sangachal oil terminal near Baku—which received little U.S. press—Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman was thrilled over the opening of the biggest oil pipeline in the world. Just before the opening of the pipeline, Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvilli (inset) received a visit from President Bush.

LUKE FRAZZAVIKTOR DRACHEV/AP/GETTY IMAGES

and has used its role in the BTC project to encourage Washington to persuade its European allies to look favorably on Turkey's desire to join the EU.

Turkey also has assurances from the United States that the Kurds in northern Iraq will not be permitted to use profits from the huge oil plants at Kirkuk to finance a campaign for independence from Baghdad. Such a move would create instability within Turkey, where there is a large Kurdish population that might seek to join a new Kurdistan.

When it comes to oil, pipelines have a way of creating their own politics. For example, energy as much as the defeat of terrorism is at the center of the geopolitical strategy of the United States in its desire to have a presence in Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan and Afghanistan—three nations with untapped energy reserves perhaps larger than those previously thought to exist in the Caspian. ★

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Mark Warner Tight-Lipped About Meeting Topics

Continued from Page 1

an unguarded remark from an administration official."

Warner "quietly slipped away earlier this month for a secretive weekend conclave of global economic and foreign policy figures," AP said.

Warner confirmed AFP's report that German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder attended, although he was not on the Bilderberg's "confidential—not for publication"—list of participants.

WON'T DESCRIBE ADDRESS

Warner refused to describe Schroeder's address, which was a few welcoming remarks.

"My sense was that you had the opportunity to interact with the leading business leaders not only of the United States but all of Europe," Warner told AP.

"I think I should honor the ground rules," Warner replied when asked for details. Bilderberg forbids participants from revealing what transpires at its secret sessions.

Warner's communications director, Ellen Qualls, told AP that "We asked if we could get an attendees list . . . and they wouldn't give it to us."

American Free Press offered to provide the list so the governor could know who he had been with but she said she had now obtained it off the Internet.

Warner used his own funds—he's a millionaire many times over—to fly to Germany, Miss Qualls said. Bilderberg picked up the tab for food, drink and lodging at the luxury resort, Dorint, which is normal procedure.

Advised that Warner's presence indicates Bilderberg con-



OUTED: Above, the clipping "outing" Mark Warner's Bilderberg foray.

siders him a potential president, citing such previous one-timers as John Edwards, who became John Kerry's Democratic running mate in 2004, and former Vice President Dan Quayle, Miss Qualls demurred.

"It sounds as if you know more about Bilderberg than I do," she said—with sincerity, not sarcasm.

Meanwhile, more information on Bilderberg's efforts to

keeps its meetings secret through deception and lies has emerged.

In some cases, bureaucrats who said they had no information about their boss's travel plans in May were telling the truth, because of Bilderberg policy in recent years of telling participants to "hold dates" but delaying until shortly before the meeting to advise of the location, as a means of preventing "leaks."

But some flagrantly defied laws making the travels of federal officials public information.

"I'm not allowed to tell you anything," Jane Holden said, when asked April 26 if World Bank President James Wolfensohn would attend.

Bilderberg met nine days later on May 5.

Similarly, a Pentagon bureaucrat who refused to identify himself said William Luti, deputy under secretary of defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, was "not traveling to Europe."

However, Luti did attend the meeting near Munich, Germany.

A "Capt. Romley" at the Pentagon was asked if Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, who has attended several Bilderberg meetings when Republicans control the White House, would participate this year.

Romley was told that such information is public and that no security threat is involved because no one was asking what flight, airport or time of departure—only if he would appear at Bilderberg.

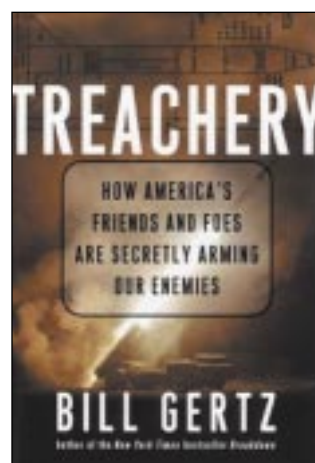
Romley responded: "As I mentioned, as a matter of our own policy, we do not provide information pertaining to the secretary's future meetings or schedules." ★

How America's Friends and Foes Are Secretly Arming Our Enemies

TREACHERY

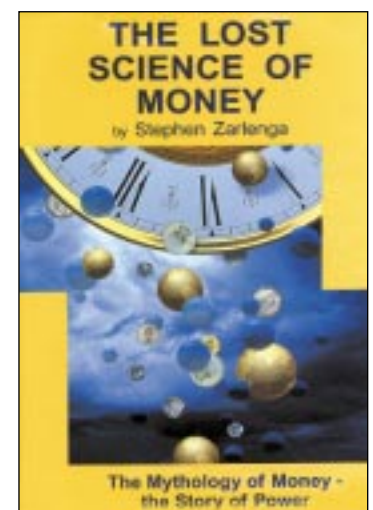
BY BILL GERTZ, AUTHOR OF "BREAKDOWN"

ISRAEL AND OTHER "ALLIES" of the United States are using their military and commercial links with America, along with outright clandestine spy operations, to obtain valuable data on America's sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. And this is resulting in the proliferation of arms around the world to nations bent on countering America's global hegemony. In addition, the author reveals information the U.S. government fails to publicly acknowledge. He presents to the American public the little-known—and disturbing—truth about the threats from both our enemies and our so-called "allies." Hardcover, 280 pages, #1170, \$25.95. Available from FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100 Washington D.C. 20003. Order with coupon on page 20 or call toll free at 1-888-699-NEWS (6397) and charge to Visa or MasterCard.



The Lost Science of Money: The Mythology of Money—the Story of Power

Steve Zarlenga's comprehensive book, *The Lost Science of Money*, traces the money power through three-and-a-half millennia from barter to the euro. This book draws fascinating, previously lost monetary principles from ancient Greece and Rome, from the experience of the Moslems, Venice, the Templars, the Jews, the Bank of Amsterdam and the Bank of England, plus the Federal Reserve System. The book also shows that the question of usury is far from settled, and that monetary reform is more a matter of morality and law than of economics. Zarlenga's book also demonstrates that a good money system must be based in law, not in commodities. The book also defines the essential elements needed to remove structural injustice from our money system. *The Lost Science of Money* (hardcover, 724 pages, #1070, \$60—AFPRC members pay \$55) is available from FIRST AMENDMENT BOOKS, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call FAB toll free at 1-888-699-6397 toll free to order by Visa or MasterCard or send payment to above address using ordering form found on page 20 of this issue.



New Details Come Out on Bilderberg's 2005 Agenda

One can't help but wonder, when Bilderbergers David Rockefeller, Henry Kissinger, Queen Beatrix and the rest have completed their project of enclosing all global goods and services into their own hands—what will happen then? Francisco Goya's Plate 79 of Disasters shows the fair maid of Liberty dead and flat on her back, bosom exposed. Ghostly figures play about the corpse while monks dig her grave. Is this what the world should expect in the days to come? We will never find the right answers if we can't ask the proper questions.

By Daniel Estulin

After three years of open hostility and tension among European, British and American Bilderbergers due mainly to the war in Iraq, an air of congeniality has returned. Bilderbergers have reaffirmed and remain united in their long-term goal to strengthen the role the UN plays in regulating global conflicts and relations.

One day after it was discussed at Rottach-Egern—the site of this year's Bilderberg meeting—the rise of non-governmental organizations, or NGOs, is now a development former President Bill Clinton calls one of “the most remarkable things that has happened since the fall of the Berlin Wall.”



BUSH CONNECTION: Ken Mehlman is currently the chairman of the Republican National Committee, but has been active in Washington and the Bush-Cheney campaign since 2000, where he served as an advisor and a campaign director.

Ironically, Clinton's statement was picked up by *The Wall Street Journal*, a paper always represented at the Bilderberg meetings by Robert L. Bartley, its vice president, and Paul Gigot, editorial page editor.

For the first time the Bilderbergers vigorously debated giving unelected, self-appointed, environmental activists a position of governmental authority on the governing board of the agency that monitors biodiversity—for all intents and purposes, the atmosphere, outer space and the oceans.

This invitation for “civil society” to participate in global governance is described by Bilderbergers as expanding democracy.

According to sources within Bilderberg, the status of NGOs would be elevated even further in the future. The NGO activity would include agitation at the local level, lobbying at the national level and producing studies to justify global taxation through UN organizations such as Global Plan, one of Bilderberg's pet projects for more than a decade.

The strategy to advance the global governance agenda specifically includes programs to discredit individuals and organizations that generate “internal political pressure” or “populist action” that fails to support the new global ethic. The ultimate objective, according to the source, is to suppress democracy.

The United Nations Environment Program, along with all the environmental treaties under its jurisdiction, would be governed by a special body of environmental activists, chosen only from accredited NGOs. These individuals would be appointed by delegates to the General Assembly. The delegates who choose the NGO activists are themselves selected by the president of the United States, who is controlled by the Rockefeller-CFR-Bilderberg interlocking leadership.

This new mechanism would provide a direct route from local, “on-the-ground” affiliates of national and international NGOs to the highest levels of global governance.

For example: the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, a group of affiliated NGOs, recently petitioned the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO asking for intervention in the plans of a private company to mine gold on private land near Yellowstone Park. The UNESCO Committee did intervene, and immediately listed Yellowstone as a “World Heritage Site in Danger.” Under the terms of the World Heritage Convention, the United States is required to protect lands associated with the park, even beyond the borders of the park proper, and onto private lands if necessary.

The ideas being discussed, if implemented, would bring all the people of the world into one global neighborhood managed by a worldwide bureaucracy, under the direct



ROCK BOTTOM: Bilderberg's godfather, David Rockefeller, is seen here looking very much his age (89). Rockefeller is active in numerous internationalist groups including the Council of the Americas, one of the leading organizations behind the push for the Free Trade Area of the Americas.

authority of a minute handful of appointed individuals. They would be policed by thousands of individuals, who are paid by accredited NGOs and certified to support a belief system that, to many people, is unacceptable.

Realizing the urgent need to expand investments in developing countries in order to help sustain the illusion of endless growth, European and American Bilderbergers discussed naming Pascal Lamy, a French socialist and a fanatical supporter of a European super state, as the next president of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

Washington had given conditional support to Lamy's nomination in exchange for European support of Paul Wolfowitz as head of the World Bank.

According to sources inside Bilderberg, Lamy was chosen to help steer the global trading system through a time of rising protectionist sentiment in rich countries such as France and Germany. The French and the Germans have been reeling from high unemployment and have been resistant to increasingly muscular demands for market access from emerging economies.

Third World states are insisting, for example, on cuts in EU and U.S. farm subsidies. The WTO's trade liberalization drive collapsed in acrimony in Seattle in 1999 and again in Cancun in 2003.

Meanwhile, Bilderbergers have secretly agreed on the need to force the poor countries into a globalized market for cheap goods while simultaneously forcing the poor into becoming consumers.

The current rift with China is a good example, as the Chinese have flooded western countries with cheap goods, including textiles, driving down prices. As a tradeoff, the Bilderbergers have entered into an emerging market ripe for and vulnerable to superior Western know-how.

Meanwhile, developing countries are slowly acquiring more purchasing power, and the industrialized world is gaining a foothold in their domestic economies by targeting them for cheap exports.

OIL PRICES

The world's growing demand for oil was a topic that received much discussion over the course of the weekend.

An American Bilderberger expressed concern over the

skyrocketing price of oil.

One oil industry insider at the meeting remarked that growth is not possible without energy, and that, according to all indicators, the world's petroleum supply is being maxed out faster than leaders had anticipated.

According to sources, Bilderbergers estimate that in 35 years, the world's extractable oil supply would be exceeded under current economic development and population.

However, one of the representatives of an oil cartel remarked that we must factor into the equation the population explosion, economic growth and rising demand for oil in China and India.

Under the revised conditions, there is apparently only enough oil to last 20 years. No oil spells the end of the world's financial system. So much has already been acknowledged by *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Financial Times*. Both are regularly present at the annual Bilderberg conference.

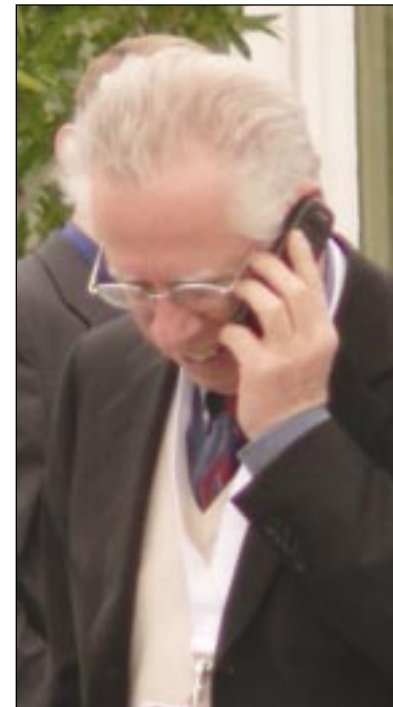
Expect a severe downturn in the world's economy over the next two years as Bilderbergers try to safeguard the remaining oil supply by taking money out of people's hands. In a recession or, at worst, a depression, the population will be forced to dramatically cut down their spending habits, thus ensuring a longer supply of oil to the world's rich as they try to figure out what to do.

Over an afternoon cocktail, a European Bilderberger noted that there is no plausible alternative to hydrocarbon energy. One American insider stated that currently the world uses between four and six barrels of oil for every new barrel it finds and that the prospects for a short-term breakthrough are slim.

Someone asked for an estimate of the world's accessible conventional oil supply. The amount was quoted at approximately 1 trillion barrels. (As a side note of interest, the planet consumes 1 billion barrels of oil every 11.5 days.)



QUEEN BEE: Queen of the Netherlands, Beatrix van Oranje, is petroleum giant Royal Dutch Shell's principal shareholder. Her father, Prince Bernhard, was one of the founders of Bilderberg in 1954.



POWERBROKERS: Seen left to right are: Allan B. Hubbard, Indiana businessman and longtime friend of Bush. Hubbard is the director of the National Economic Council. As director, Hubbard is expected to be involved in advancing the overhaul of Social Security. Dermot Gleeson is the chairman of Allied Irish Bank Group (AIB), which had been embroiled in a crisis over tax evasion last year. AIB is currently considering merging with U.S. banking giant M&T. Tommaso Padoa-Schioppa is the director of the European Central Bank.

Another Bilderberger asked about a hydrogen alternative to the oil supply. The U.S. government official agreed gloomily that hydrogen salvation to the world's imminent energy crisis is a fantasy.

This confirms a public statement made in 2003 by HIS, the world's most respected consulting firm, cataloguing oil reserves and discoveries. For the first time since the 1920s, it said, there was not a single discovery of an oil field in excess of 500 million barrels.

At the 2005 Bilderberg gathering, the oil industry conference was represented by John Browne, British Petroleum's (BP) chief executive officer; Peter D. Sutherland, BP chairman; John Kerr, director of Royal Dutch Shell; and Jeroen van der Veer, chairman of the Committee of Managing Directors Royal Dutch Shell.

Queen Beatrix of Holland, Royal Dutch Shell's principal shareholder, is also a longtime Bilderberger. Her father, Prince Bernhard, was one of the founders of the Bilderberg group in 1954.

It should be remembered that in late 2003, oil giant Royal Dutch Shell announced that it had overstated its reserves by as much as 20 percent. In fact, Shell cut its reserve estimates not once, but three times, prompting the resignation of its co-chairman.

At Rottach-Egern, industry's top executives tried to figure out how to keep the truth about diminishing oil supplies from reaching the public. Public knowledge of the diminishing reserves directly translates into lower share prices, which could destroy financial markets, leading to a collapse of the world economy.

The topic of oil was carried into other discussions at Bilderberg. A political and military confrontation between Indonesia and Malaysia in the petroleum-rich Sulawesi Sea was the topic of a much animated discussion among several American and European Bilderbergers during an afternoon cocktail. Both countries claim the oil-rich "block" of Ambalat as their territorial rights.

An American Bilderberger, waving his cigar, suggested using the UN to "further a peace policy in the region." In fact, Bilderbergers at the lounge table all agreed that such a conflict might well give them an excuse to garrison the dis-

puted area with UN "peacekeepers" and thus ensure their ultimate control over the exploitation of this treasure—meaning untapped oil reserves.

SHAPING COVERAGE

At a Saturday night cocktail on May 7, several Bilderbergers, sharing the standing bar with Queen Beatrix and *Washington Post* publisher Donald Graham, were discussing the upcoming sale of Spanish telecommunications and cable giant Auna. Auna operates fixed line telephone services, a mobile-phone network and a cable television system and is also an Internet provider.

One of the Bilderbergers familiar with the matter—believed to be Henry Kravis, based on the physical description of the source at the meeting—stated that Auna's mobile operations could bring in some 10 billion euros including debt, while another Bilderberger, a tall man with a receding hairline, added that its fixed-line assets could fetch some 2.6 billion euros.

Sources close to the Bilderbergers have stated off the record that Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co., a private-equity firm, is interested in buying all of Auna. An abundance of cheap credit and low interest rates have made Auna an appetizing target for private-equity buyers.

Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. is represented at Bilderberg meetings by its luminary billionaire Henry Kravis and his small-town Quebec-born wife Marie José Kravis, a senior fellow at the neo-conservative Hudson Institute.

The public should be prepared to expect favorable coverage and support for Kohlberg Kravis Roberts & Co. In case Kravis fails to put together a competitive bid, then expect the same favorable coverage for Goldman Sachs Group. Goldman Sachs had two of its representatives at Bilderberg this year, namely Martin Taylor, Bilderberg's honorary secretary general, and Peter Sutherland, who is the billion-dollar investment firm's chairman as well as the Trilateral Commission's European chairman. ★

Daniel Estulin is a freelance photographer and reporter who lives in Barcelona, Spain. Daniel's help in exposing Bilderberg this year was invaluable to AFP. He snapped all the photos in this spread except the one of Queen Beatrix.

September 11 Survivors & Researchers Continue Speaking Tour Across Europe

By Christopher Bollyn

LONDON, England—After Amsterdam, Berlin and Paris, the 9-11 European Truth Tour sponsored by Jimmy Walter has traveled to London and Madrid. Despite a media black out from the controlled press, in the first three cities of the tour hundreds of citizens attended each event.

The two teams presented back-to-back shows in Paris on May 24 and 25. Thierry Meyssan, the French author of two books on the 9-11 attacks hosted the Paris event and will participate in the London and Madrid shows.

After Madrid, the tour will visit Vienna, Manchester, and Rome.

The tour's most compelling testimony comes from William Rodriguez, the 44-year-old former porter who

AFP's Christopher Bollyn has been travelling with a group of Sept. 11 survivors, investigators and reporters that is holding panel discussions across Europe. This week, Bollyn files his report from England.

worked in the twin towers of the World Trade Center for 19 years before 9-11. Most importantly, his testimony contradicts the official version and provides supporting evidence that the towers were destroyed by explosives.

The testimony of Rodriguez, who had one of the five master keys for the towers, was taken during several hours of closed session in May 2004, but did not appear in the official 9-11 Commission Report.

The five investigators who questioned Rodriguez became "very angry," he said. "Not at me, but at what I was saying."

Rodriguez, who single-handedly cleaned the three stairwells of the North Tower for 10 years, was interviewed by *American Free Press* at the Louvre museum in Paris on May 25.

On Sept. 11, 2001, Rodriguez, who worked for American Building Maintenance, was 30 minutes late for work arriving at 8:30 a.m. After leaving his backpack in his closet on the 33rd floor he went to his company office in the tower's basement.

At 8:45, he was talking with his supervisor in the first basement level, B1, when he heard and felt a tremen-

dous explosion. Rodriguez told AFP that he felt the first explosion come from a lower basement level. The towers had six basement levels.

The building shook, the ceiling fell, and some of the sprinklers began spraying.

"Oh my God, what happened?" Rodriguez, who survived the first bombing of the WTC in 1993, told AFP he recalled saying to his boss. "I think it was the electrical generators."

SECOND EXPLOSION

No sooner had he spoken these words than a second explosion shook the building, this time coming from the upper part of the tower. This second shock, Rodriguez said, shook the building and cracked the walls. "The building moved," he said.

At this point, Felipe David, a Honduran who worked for Aramark and maintained the tower's vending machines, appeared before Rodriguez with his arms outstretched. "It looked like clothing was hanging from his fingers," Rodriguez said, "but it was the skin from his arms."

"Explosion, explosion," David said. "The elevator, the elevator."

Rodriguez then felt a third explosion coming from above. "The ground was shaking," he said. "I thought it was an earthquake."

"We've got to get out of here," Rodriguez told the others as he assisted David and 14 others out of the building through the loading dock on Vesey St., across from World Trade Center building 7.

David also had facial injuries that looked to Rodriguez as if he had been "burned and cauterized."

Sam Houston: Drunken Coward or Cunning Trap Setter?

According to those who served with the "father of Texas," Sam Houston, he was always itching to run from a fight. And as for his brilliant victory at San Jacinto that helped secure independence for Texas, eyewitnesses say he was more of a hindrance than a help. But was his seeming cowardice part of a plan to entice Mexico into a war with Andy Jackson's



United States? Find out in *THE BARNES REVIEW's* May/June 2005 issue. Other Revisionist history articles in this 80-page issue include: an analysis of the career of Francis Parker Yockey; how Louis Brandeis got his seat on the Supreme Court; Harry Elmer Barnes on America's entry into WWI; an exclusive letter from Ernst Zundel from his German prison; the Biblical aspect of the 2004 Tsunami; the battle that saved the West—Thermopylae; and many more. 80 pages. **One copy is \$10.**



ALSO: The March/April 2005 issue! Includes a lead article in which the great Thomas Jefferson blasts the concept of a "Federal Reserve-style" central bank. Other articles include: New Zealand's hidden past; Italy's secret A-Bomb program and plans for use against the U.S.; the Prague Treason Trial, Knights Templar; truth about Burma; Islam & Judaism—their surprising links and more. 80 pages. **One copy is \$10.**

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ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE: This photograph, courtesy of the independent World Trade Center Environmental Organization, shows the extent of the environmental disaster that was Sept. 11. On that day, hundreds of tons of asbestos and other toxic particulates were carried to heavily populated areas nearby—and miles away—as the buildings collapsed.

"It did not make sense," Rodriguez said about the official version that says these explosions in the basement occurred from jet fuel falling down the elevator shafts. The fact that he felt the explosion in the basement first indicates that it was not caused by falling jet fuel.

Rodriguez noticed that elevator doors in the lobby and basement levels appeared to have been blown open from below.

After taking David to an ambulance, Rodriguez looked up and saw smoke coming from the top of the tower. Unable to see the tower's communication mast, Rodriguez became concerned for the safety of his friends who worked at the Windows of the World restaurant at the top of the tower.

"We've got to go back," Rodriguez said.

"Stay here," his supervisor said, "don't go in there."

Taking a radio from a security guard, Rodriguez went back into the building via the loading ramp. Thinking that a bomb had exploded in the building, Rodriguez checked the trucks he passed. They were all open and he

continued on into the South Tower to check the Operation Control Center.

Not finding anyone in the control center, he returned with another maintenance worker to the North Tower.

At the B1 level he heard the shouts of people coming from a freight elevator. After forcing the elevator door open with a pipe he saw two people trapped in rising water in the elevator car stuck between the B2 and B3 levels. The rising water, he said, came from the sprinklers or broken pipes.

Using a ladder, Rodriguez climbed down to the top of the car and pulled the two workers to safety.

After taking them to an ambulance, Rodriguez returned to the tower and began up the stairs with David Lim, a Port Authority police officer, and fire fighters.

At the lobby level, he noticed that all the glass win-

dows were broken on tower's west side and the marble had been knocked off of the walls.

With his master key he opened the door to each level as they ascended and called out to the people on the floor. "Some had light and some did not," he said.

At the 27th level he came across Ed Beyea, a quadriplegic, who was being evacuated.

As he continued up the stairs, his supervisors called him on the radio: "What are you doing there?" they asked. "Abandon the building now."

"I can't," Rodriguez replied. "I have the key to the stairwell. I'm helping the fire department."

"I heard many, many explosions," Rodriguez said.

"We lost 65," he heard on the radio. Understanding that the 65th floor had collapsed down to the 44th floor sky lobby, Rodriguez and the others decided to descend and get out of the building.

At the 27th floor they took Beyea on a gurney and carried him down the stairs. At the lobby level fire fighters and friends tended to Beyea. Rodriguez went out the west side entrance to check for an ambulance.

As he came out of the building he heard the police say, "Don't look back. Don't look back," which caused Rodriguez to look back.

What he saw was the remains of many people who had jumped from the towers and the body of a woman he had rescued from the 33rd floor. Falling glass had nearly cut her body in half, he said.

Hearing the sound of the tower beginning to fall, Rodriguez dove under a fire truck that was in front of the tower. Under the truck with two fire fighters, Rodriguez said, he prayed to God for his body to remain intact so that his mother could recognize him.

The tower collapsed around him and hot dust burned his skin. The truck however was not crushed and within a few hours Rodriguez was pulled out from under the truck.

"I got out at the right moment," he said. "I was the last one out."

Since 9-11, Rodriguez has chaired the Hispanic Victims' Group and the Victims' Support Group. While his story has been published in Colombia in the Spanish language book entitled *Martes de Horror*, it has not been available in English.

AFP and Rodriguez are working together to bring out the many important facts from his testimony, which has been kept out of the official report and the mainstream media. ★

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Bush Administration's War on Terror Resembles Latest *Star Wars* Movie

Unfortunately, fiction mirrors fact in recent science fiction thriller

The current episode of *Star Wars* is dynamite for the duplicitous Bush administration. Palpatine, a Sith lord masquerading as a galactic republican, becomes chancellor of the Galactic Republic through deception. Palpatine uses wars that he instigates to elevate security over the power of the Senate and to become dictator.



ROBERTS

In a moment of triumph, Palpatine tells the Senate: "In order to ensure our security and continuing stability, the Republic will be reorganized into the first Galactic Empire, for a safe and secure society." The senators respond with sustained cheering and applause. The heroine, Queen Amidala (born Padme Naberrie), says, "So this is how liberty dies—with thunderous applause."

Sith lords [evil warriors] use the powers of the dark side of the force. Jedi knights use the power of the good side. The Jedi are selfless and use their incredible powers to protect the Republic. Sith are evil and crave absolute power.

Palpatine, who is really Darth Sidious, manipulates the Senate and enlists the Jedi Council's patriotism to "defend" the Republic against a "separatist" army that he secretly directs. The purpose of the orchestrated war is to erode liberty in the name of security. The naïve Jedi catch on too late and are destroyed. The Republic falls.

Bush's "war against terrorism" is no less orchestrated than Palpatine's war and has led to the same result: a society dominated by security concerns.

The top secret British government memo that was leaked to *The London Times* proves beyond all doubt that Bush invaded Iraq for none of the changing reasons that he has given a too-trusting public. Bush did not invade because of weapons of mass destruction or because he wanted to bring democracy to Iraq.

Why did Bush invade Iraq? No one, least of all the Bush administration, has come up with a believable reason. Yet there is no shortage of patriotic Republicans who sincerely believe that Bush has made America safer by turning the Muslim world against us and stirring up a hornet's nest of terrorists united by their hatred of America.

Moreover, like Palpatine's war, Bush's war in Iraq appears to be interminable. U.S. military commanders say we will be fighting in Iraq for years to come. Forecasts are that the war will have cost taxpayers \$600 billion by 2010.

Meanwhile, Bush, like Palpatine, has brought civil liberties to a crisis. In the United States, civil liberties are everywhere biting the dust. Not content with the Orwellian Patriot Act, the Bush administration is pushing for expanded secret police powers. Even conservative Republican Bob Barr writes that provisions of the Patriot Act go far beyond fighting terrorism "and undermine our constitutional freedoms and Fourth Amendment rights."

In other words, the checks and balances are gone. Bush has enabled the police to bypass the courts. Executive power rules, and there are no Jedi knights.



The Sith, however, are everywhere. In our day, the Sith masquerade as neo-conservatives. Neo-cons deal in absolutes. They believe the end justifies the means.

As the Jedi master Obi-Wan tells Anakin, who is turning to the dark side and emerging as Darth Vader, "only a Sith lord deals in absolutes." Anakin to Obi-Wan: "If you're not with me, you're my enemy."

Palpatine is able to manipulate the Galactic Senate with the clever use of words that play upon emotions. People want to feel secure. They want their side to prevail and will do whatever it takes to win, including trading their Republic for an Empire. Palpatine prevails because people deceive themselves.

Republicans have become adept at self-deception. They will believe any argument that justifies Bush and no news report that casts doubt on Bush's war. When he tells them he needs a police state to save them from terrorists, they believe him.

Who will save us from Bush's police state?

Just as Child Protective Services has had to frame innocent parents and child care providers as child abusers in order to justify its budgets and a massive bureaucracy, the vast Homeland Security apparatus will have to "find" terrorists. Otherwise, there is no point to all the expanded police powers and the huge budget.

Just as the indignities of airport security and its assorted searches fall on loyal American citizens, the police-state measures will also fall on loyal American citizens.

With the courts bypassed, a terrorist is whoever the secret police say is a terrorist. The U.S. government is already committing the crime of kidnapping people mistakenly identified as terrorist suspects and flying them to brutal regimes to be tortured.

Police states have an insatiable need for enemies. In Stalin's time, the secret police conducted "street sweeps." People waiting for buses and shopping for food were cart-

ed off to prison, where they were tortured until they implicated others. Thus was the gulag filled with innocents.

"It can't happen here," but the beginnings of it already have. The U.S. prison at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba is full of mistaken identities and people who just happened to be in the wrong place at the wrong time—including, according to the Associated Press, a chicken farmer and an invalid. Bush's brand of democracy—a regime that holds people in prison for three years without charges—does not have civil liberties at heart.

Republicans are cheering. According to news reports Congress has passed—and Bush is about to sign—a law requiring a national identity card (Real ID) containing invasive digital information about the person.

How long will it be before the card specifies whether the person is a gun owner? If it is dangerous for air travel to permit a passenger to have a toothpick or nail clippers, how can a terrorist-threatened society permit mass gun ownership?

If the constitutional protections of civil liberties can be suspended in order to better fight terrorism, the Second Amendment doesn't have a chance. A government that spies on its citizens will not trust them with guns. When gun control becomes an essential feature of Homeland Security, the National Rifle Association and talk radio conservatives will be as astounded as Bail Organa and Padme when they hear Palpatine declare "an empire . . . and a sovereign ruler chosen for life." ★

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Nationally syndicated columnist, Paul Craig Roberts, Ph.D., a former editor at *The Wall Street Journal*, is the author of several books. He has been associated with the Hoover Institution, and the Institute for Political Economy and from 1981 to 1982 served as assistant secretary of the treasury for economic policy.

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Lou Gehrig's Disease: They say it's incurable and yet here's a typical letter on file: "I was told I was incurable. When I received your machine they were spoon feeding me because my fingers were frozen solid and I certainly couldn't write anything! Now, I am writing you this letter to show you I can move my fingers!"

Diabetes: A man in Texas said: "They were going to chop off my foot!" He put his foot in a garbage bag filled with our water, tied it around his leg and the skin turned rosy pink! We have reports on practically any subject with no downside . . . it's only water!

Municipal Waste Lagoon: The municipality told the neighbors that it was "untreatable." They would have to live with the horrible smell. A water treatment company: "After adding 1,000 gallons of energized tap water from your machine, the smell was virtually gone in 24 hours! That's amazing!" also, it kills bad bacteria but not good bacteria . . . great for septic systems, no chemicals or bad disease markers from human waste that find their way into the ground water every time a toilet is flushed! They end up at your faucet or in "pure" bottled water (expiration date)! Purification doesn't remove them (like the CEA or PSA in your blood)!!

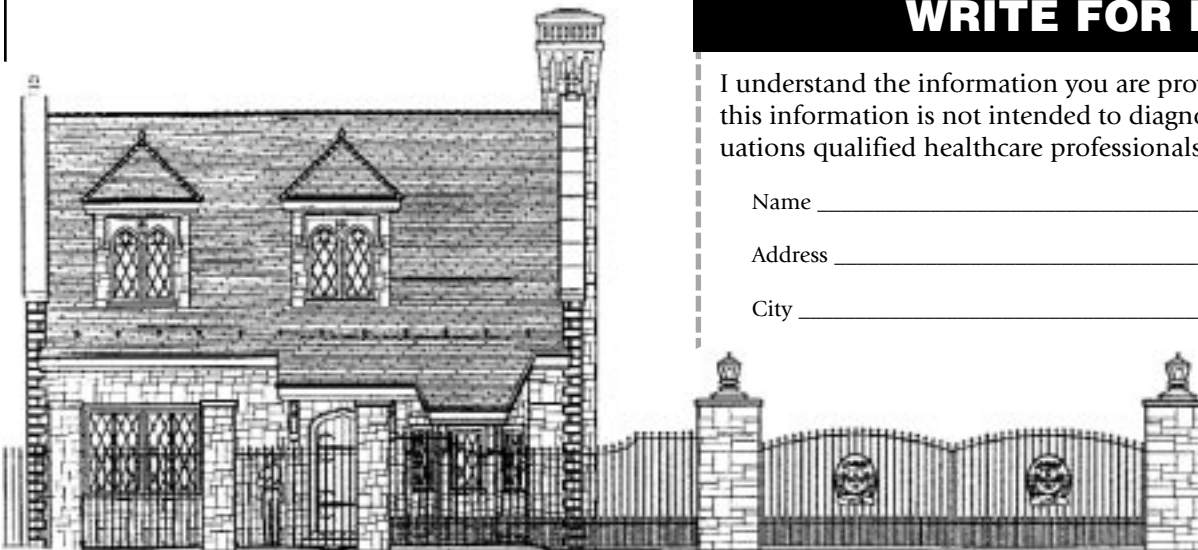
You are drinking somebody else's waste right now! Wells eventually go bad and people wonder where their problems come from because they believe water purifier and bottled water dealers! Regardless of what they tell you, ask for the medical reports we send out . . . they can't give them to you! Below is the gatehouse to the \$20-million-dollar Crystal Mountain Research Center, a 365-acre estate high atop Crystal Mountain overlooking the Delaware River. With over 100,000 users, scientists are conducting further research into the amazing properties of this water!

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'Eminent Domain' or Plain Thievery?

By Mark Anderson

NEW LONDON, Conn.—The Supreme Court will decide in late June whether to overturn the Connecticut Supreme Court's decision to allow city officials to "revitalize" the 90-acre Fort Trumbull peninsula in New London, Conn. It involves the city invoking the often heavy-handed power of eminent domain, whereby land is seized by government for a new use.

This decision by the Supreme Court, many predict, will set a strong legal precedent that could affect numerous eminent domain cases across the country.

There have been more than 10,000 such cases in recent years—and those are just the reported ones—involving private property being threatened with condemnation or actually condemned by government for private use, according to the Institute for Justice, an organization backing Fort Trumbull homeowners.

JUSTLY COMPENSATED

The Constitution holds that Americans who own land, which has been taken by government for a clearly defined public use (highways, other infrastructure etc), should be justly compensated. However, a trend in government these days is to take land from one private owner and convey it to another via the power of eminent domain.

On Feb. 22, 2005, the Supreme Court first heard the New London case. It was the first one in more than 50 years dealing with the crucial issue of whether eminent domain powers, used by government at all levels to condemn and seize property, can be meaningfully limited.

That hearing saw a spirited, even-handed exchange among the justices and among those on both sides of the Fort Trumbull revitalization plan.

The Supreme Court in 1954 had ruled that eminent

domain is an acceptable tool for cleaning up "urban blight." Blight typically is defined as a slum-like condition that shows little chance for recovery.

But Suzette Kelo, one of the affected Fort Trumbull homeowners whose house could fall prey to a wrecking ball if the courts do not intervene, does not consider her modest, comfortable home as "blight." Thus, Kelo's home, along with the properties and houses of six other New London residents in the Fort Trumbull waterfront area, someday will either symbolize a further decline of already-eroded property rights in America, or the triumph of average Americans using their tattered constitutional system to put a serious check on the ever-tightening and ever-reaching grasp of the modern state.

New London's plans to "revitalize" the Fort Trumbull peninsula include constructing "a gleaming office and hotel complex that would help to galvanize the local economy," reported *The Day*, a local newspaper. A health club also may be included.

When the affected Fort Trumbull residents refused to give up their houses to the city's "vision" of a renewed waterfront, the New London Development Corp., or NLDC—a nebulous public-private agency accused by some of engaging in graft—"voted in October 2000 to seize the property by eminent domain," *The Day* reported. This move catapulted the issue into the court system.

"City officials envision a commercial development that would attract tourists to the Thames riverfront, complementing an adjoining Pfizer Corp. [drug company] research center and a proposed Coast Guard museum," *The Day* also noted. ★

Watch AFP for updates on this and many other property rights issues across the nation. AFP correspondent Mark Anderson can be contacted at truthorelse@msn.com.

'Wolfs' Run Wild at World Bank

By John Henry

President George Bush has appointed Paul Wolfowitz to succeed James Wolfensohn as head of the World Bank on June 1. The boss is traditionally an American—as the names imply.

Wolfowitz was previously the assistant U.S. secretary of defense. He is among the inventors of "rogue states" and the "Axis of Evil." As an eager proponent of war this neo-con has attracted, according to the British *Economist*, the decorative nickname "velociraptor" (fast plunderer). Interestingly, velociraptors were a tribe of small-sized dinosaurs with long claws 85-80 million years ago that hunted in packs.

The World Bank—or "International Bank for Reconstruction and Development," to use its official name—has its headquarters in Washington. It was created by the International Currency and Finance Conference at Bretton Woods, N.H., in July 1944 and began functioning in 1945. Its father was President Franklin D. Roosevelt and its midwife President Harry S Truman. Its purpose was to globalize the reach of the White House and Wall Street. Roosevelt's "think tanks" even came up with a name for a new world currency, the "unitas."

The Cold War and the appearance of a host of new sovereign countries through decolonization blocked that. Today there are four times as many countries as in 1945.

The World Bank leadership boasts that it has prevented a global meltdown such as "Black Friday" in 1929. Beyond that, it sees itself as giving away billions in cash and loans to reduce hunger and suffering around the world.


Critics counter that the World Bank bosses are the Rambos of international high finance, have forced many countries into debt slavery and were co-responsible for severe financial crises in East Asia, Argentina and Russia in recent years.

Critics add that the countries with the most rapid growth, India and China, are the same ones that resist the siren call of the World Bank for opening national economies up to international capital.

The globalization critics of the left-wing organization "ATTAC" believe that what they see is no more and no less than a "world dictatorship of high finance with the World Bank as its lackey." On the populist right, the sentiment is identical. ★


John Henry is a translator, researcher and former Marine based in Washington, D.C.

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New Bankruptcy Law Closes 'Bad Boy' Loophole

Plan Will Change Little-Known Escape Route from IRS Debt on Oct. 17

By Donald N. MacPherson

After six years of being hounded by credit card and bank lobbyists, and demonstrating no concern for, among others, members of the Reserve and National Guard who took a big pay cut to serve one or more tours in Bush's Iraq War II, Congress finally did it. They overhauled the bankruptcy law in a big way concerning discharge of tax debts. This leaves little time left for those who need to take advantage of the old law.

Congress eliminated a loophole, perhaps never intended, known as the "bad boy loophole" because it permits discharge of income tax debts even for those who (a) failed to file a return, (b) filed the return late but did not meet a specific two-year rule, or (c) committed tax fraud or evasion.

For example, assume a citizen lives in Arizona, has equity in his house of \$150,000 (the state homestead exemption), and owes taxes of \$300,000, \$36,000 of which are for the last three years. Assume further that his monthly disposable income is \$1,000 per month. Result: he can file a Chapter 13, discharge \$264,000 in tax debt (300 minus 36 equals 264), and pay the \$36,000 over a plan of three years, at \$1,000 per month.

Moreover, because the citizen did not file a return (and assuming no substitute for return filed prior to bankruptcy), no lien has been filed; because there is no lien, IRS has not captured the equity in the real estate. Thus, the homestead exemption of \$150,000 remains protected; the citizen has won "the race to the courthouse" against IRS.

The rules for discharge of income tax debts through bankruptcy are complex, and it was the now defunct *Spotlight* that was the first to the punch to inform the public of their rights. The late Martin Larson wrote on the subject in *The Spotlight* years ago.

Do not count on Big Brother IRS to inform you of the truth. In fact, if you check the IRS's party line by way of their publication 908 you will find that the information is grossly misleading. For example, the publication fails to hit the nail on the head with respect to the "bad boy loophole."

The new law also drastically changes the Chapter 7 rules for discharge of income tax debts for the reason that it

plainly forces most people to file a Chapter 13, by which they have to pay a percentage of their debt to all creditors, on a pro rata basis. Thus, there will be a pre-Oct. 17 "race to the courthouse" with respect to those who qualify to discharge tax debts under Chapter 7, where the rules are very complicated:

(1) three-year rule—the liability must be for a tax year for which the return was due, including extensions, at least three years prior to the petition date (assuming no extension, currently that means 2001 and prior years: 2001 due in 2002 plus three years is Jan. 16, 2005);

(2) two-year rule—if returns were filed late, you must wait two years prior to filing the bankruptcy petition;

(3) 240-day rule—you must wait 240 days after the assessment of the tax;

(4) no post-petition assessment rule, meaning the tax cannot be assessed or assessable after you file bankruptcy;

(5) no fraud or evasion.

Thus, for example, if you owe \$1 million in tax debt and meet all of these rules, and have no assets and little "disposable income" (gross income less current taxes and "reasonable living expenses"), you can file a Chapter 7 and discharge the entire debt. IRS might suggest an "offer in compromise," which might resolve the tax debt, but if you have credit card bills, medical expenses, or other "consumer debt," then perhaps Chapter 7 provides the panacea.

Under Chapter 13, you face the three-year and 240-day

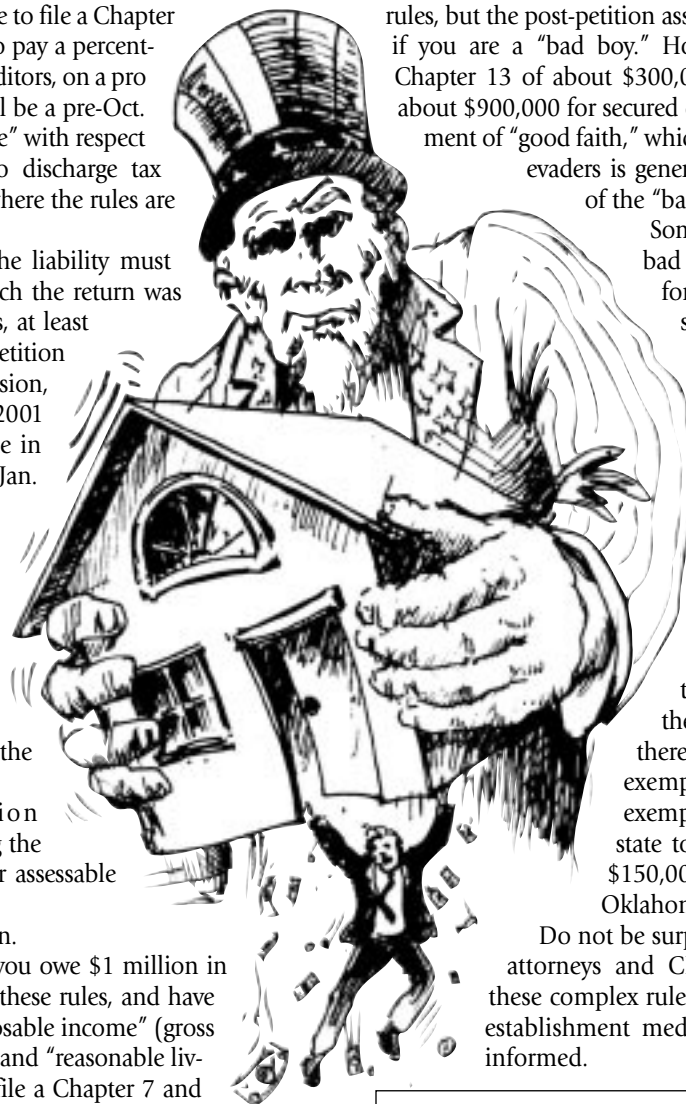
rules, but the post-petition assessment rule does not apply if you are a "bad boy." However, there are limits for Chapter 13 of about \$300,000 for unsecured debt and about \$900,000 for secured debt. Plus, there is a requirement of "good faith," which for non-filers and even tax evaders is generally not a problem because of the "bad boy loophole."

Sometimes it is "better to be a bad boy than a good boy" in that for Chapter 13, assuming no substitute for return was

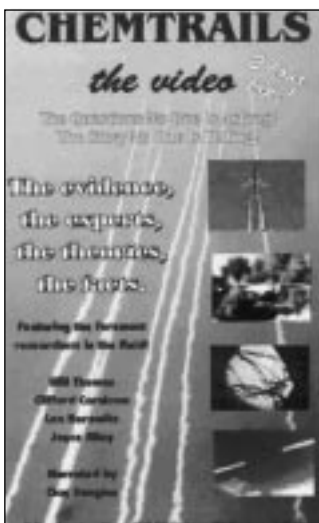
filed, meaning a return filed for you by IRS, there is no assessment. And because no assessment: (a) no application of the 240-day rule, and (b) no lien.

For a non-filer who files Chapter 13, the tax is not assessed until after he files the bankruptcy petition because he does not file the returns until then. Because there is no lien, the homestead exemption is protected, which exemption amount varies from state to state; e.g., in Arizona it is \$150,000, and in Florida, Texas, and Oklahoma it is unlimited.

Do not be surprised if you find that many attorneys and CPA's are not familiar with these complex rules. And do not count on the establishment media or the IRS to keep you informed. ★



Donald N. MacPherson is the head of the MacPherson Group, attorneys at law, in Glendale, Ariz. He is the author of *Tax Fraud & Evasion: The War Stories*. (\$19.95 postpaid from First Amendment Books, 645 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Ste. 100, Washington, D.C. 20003.) Readers can order Mac's free brochures by calling toll-free 1-800-BEAT-IRS, or visit his website: Beat-IRS.com.



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Neo-Con Motto: Hide, Lie & Deny

Newsweek story now blamed for U.S. image problems across globe

I will give the Bush administration credit: it has more brass and more chutzpa than a pawnbroker in Bombay. It has now proclaimed that America's miserably bad image in the Muslim world is entirely the fault of one or two lines that appeared in a *Newsweek* magazine story. The administration has even more or less demanded that *Newsweek* fix it.



Now, you gotta admit, that takes brass. No, it's not years of one-sided support of Israel; it's not the invasion of Afghanistan and Iraq; and it's not all of the prison scandals, all of the bombing, all of the occupation, all of the administration's lies and threats and bombast. No, we would be widely loved in the Muslim world if only *Newsweek* had not printed that one story.

I'm referring, of course, to a story reporting that a military-investigation report would include the fact that a Koran, a very holy book for Muslims, was tossed into a toilet during an interrogation at Guantanamo, where people are being held indefinitely without charges.

That's not a new story. Several of the former detainees have said the Koran was desecrated as part of the interrogation techniques.

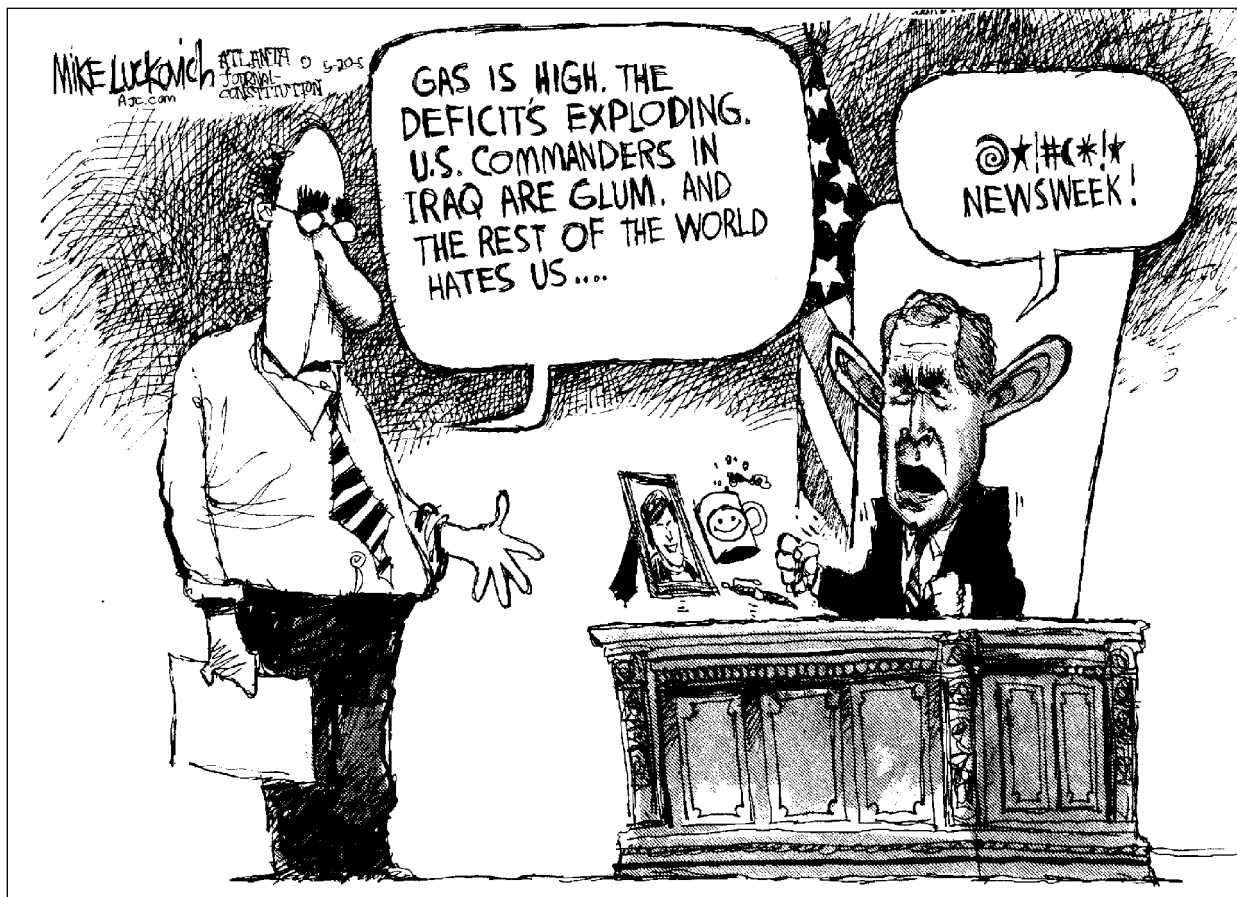
The Bush administration, of course, piously proclaims that is false and that it has issued pages of regulations governing how the Koran is to be treated.

Well gosh, fellows, you're kind of short on credibility. You've denied or asserted everything until it was proven to be the opposite of your position. Now, if I don't believe you, why would you expect some guy in Kabul or Gaza or Pakistan to believe you? And exactly how many subscriptions to *Newsweek* do you think the desperately poor people in Afghanistan have?

The Bush administration reminds me of a client a lawyer-friend of mine represented. I asked my friend if he had put his client on the stand. "Hell, no," he said, "he would lie even if it was in his own best interest to tell the truth."

The Bush administration motto ought to be, "We hide, lie and deny."

Another example of how it shades the truth is provided in a story by *Newsweek* about some accidentally declassified report. You've all heard these rosy scenarios in Iraq reported by the TV talking heads standing on their hotel balconies,



safe and sound. Here's what the official Defense Department report said:

"The U.S. considers all of Iraq a combat zone."

You know what that means, don't you? It means the only part of Iraq we control is the part our soldiers are standing on. The report goes on: "From July 2004 to late March 2005, there were 15,527 attacks against coalition forces throughout Iraq. From Nov. 1 2004, to March 12, 2005, there were 3,306 attacks in the Baghdad area."

Friends, that's far worse than Valdosta, Ga., on a Saturday night. It's even worse than Los Angeles on the weekend.

But, gee whiz, we've already toppled the dictator, turned over sovereignty, held elections, and installed a new government. I distinctly recall the neo-cons saying the Iraqis would throw flowers at us, and there would be dancing in the streets. I remember old Paul Wolfowitz, the old deputy secretary of defense, saying we didn't need all those troops the Army chief of staff said we needed, and not to worry, folks, Iraqi oil revenues will pay for the occupation and the rebuilding.

One thing about the Vietnam War was that there was always a light at the end of the tunnel. Of course, the light

turned out to be from a Viet Cong explosion. The facts on the ground never matched the words coming out of the mouths of the brass in Saigon and the politicians in Washington.

Of course, the loss of that war was all Walter Cronkite's fault. If only the CBS news anchor hadn't been so shaken up by the Tet Offensive, we'd have found the light at the end of that tunnel.

Now, it's those scoundrels at *Newsweek* who are causing all of our troubles. *Newsweek* is denying you the kisses and hugs of 1 billion Muslims by reporting that one of our guys—some of whom don't hesitate to kill, maim, and humiliate prisoners—dropped a Koran in a toilet.

How can anyone believe an American prison guard would do such a thing?

Shame on the press.

★
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Charley Reese is a nationally syndicated columnist whose no-holds-barred style has won him a host of devoted followers who relish his free-wheeling, unabashed love of the truth, no matter whose ox is gored. Long associated with *The Orlando Sentinel*, Reese was formerly active in a variety of state, local and national political endeavors.

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AFP will not be publishing an issue next week. We will bring you a double issue the following week (number 24/25) and that issue will be mailed June 10. The staff will be hard at work, however, working on the content for the next issue which will include a FREE edition of *Whole Body Health*. Expect your next issue around June 14-18 by mail. Enjoy the holiday!

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Letters

Reader Contradicts AFP 9-11 Story; Supports Info in Chertoff Article

The May 2 issue of AFP had an article by Greg Szymanski which claims that the plane that hit the south tower of the World Trade Center was a Boeing 737 and not a 767. All the videos I've seen on the subject show it not to be a 737. The vertical fin of the 737 has a kink in it while the fin on the 767 is straight. The videos show a straight fin.

The most important visual difference between the two plane types is the 737 has a 25 degree swept-back wing while the 767 has a 37-and-one-half degree sweep-back with the angle measured along one-quarter of the wing.

On page 72 of the March 2005 *Popular Mechanics* propaganda article by Benjamin Chertoff is a pretty good picture of the bottom of the plane. I plotted the sweep angle off that picture and I proved to myself that the sweep back is 37.5 degrees and the plane is not a 737. The 737 cannot be flown by remote control. The 767 and 757 can.

EDWIN L. SHERMAN
Spring Hill, Florida

SOWING SEEDS OF DISORDER

I have always had my suspicions about the Birchers and *The New American* magazine. Could it be one of those groups created by the U.S. government to skim the cream off the patriotic, nationalist movement in order to sow division and disorder?

AFP has received some criticism for focusing on a recent issue of *The New American* magazine which lambasted independent 9-11 investigators. But I believe you were right to look closely at these articles. It obviously fooled some people out there and had the effect of pulling them back into the government's camp.

Hopefully, your report shook them up and forced them to look closely at what was being said. Investigating all angles of the Sept. 11 attacks is healthy and should be supported, not attacked.

ROBERT ANDERSON
Via email

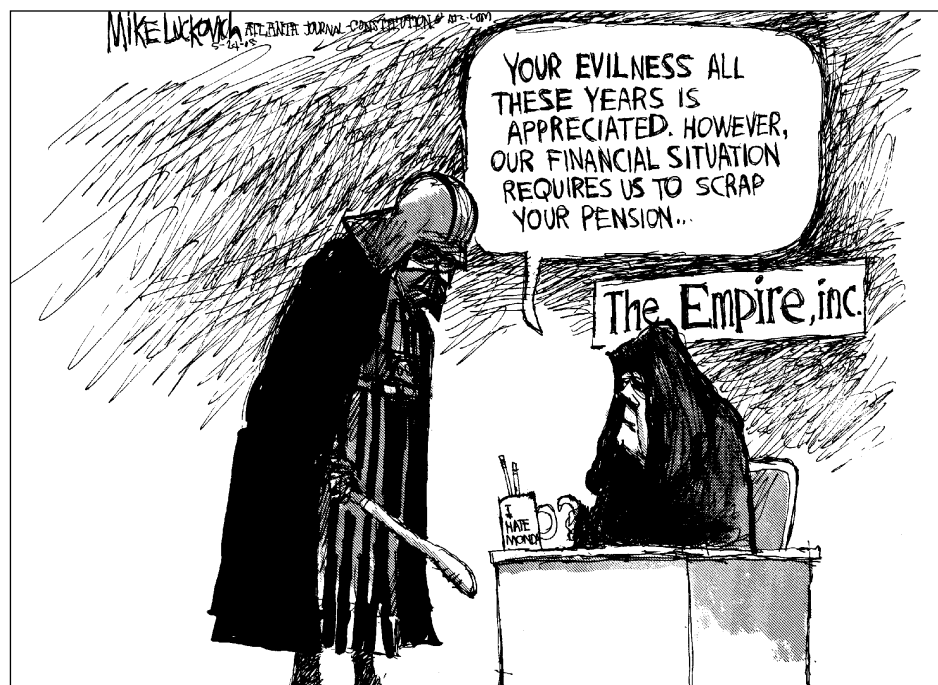
MEDIA IS THE ENEMY

In AFP's May 16 issue there was a story about me [Bill Gibbons] exposing the media barons and the plutocracy.

Some readers might be interested in the list of media moguls who, as AFP writes, "actively control both foreign and domestic policy tilted at representing the interests of Israel not America." You can find that information on my web site, which is located at gnreival.com.

I have been a supporter of populist groups, such as the now defunct Liberty Lobby, and a member of AFP's READERSHIP COUNCIL since 1975.

BILL GIBBONS
Arizona City, Arizona



KING JAMES

AFP's Jim Tucker continues to amaze me by exposing the Bilderbergers. Every year, he puts on another suit of armor and engages in a war for truth, bringing it to the world.

Jim, you deserve a crown—bigger than the one that sits on Queen Elizabeth's head or the head of any other monarch.

You truly are a very brave soldier, and we thank you for your work.

EVA COPPOLILLO
Vallejo, California

COURAGE TO SPEAK OUT

Recently I was given a copy of Michael Collins Piper's *The High Priests of War* and *The New Jerusalem*, which I read with great interest. Mr. Piper's courage in speaking out publicly about Zionism and naming names is admirable. I am well acquainted with the negative bias, and even danger, he will experience in doing so.

When President Bush remarked that Ariel

Sharon was a "man of peace," I wrote Bush a three-page letter refuting that assertion as my research in Middle East history told me Sharon was once a terrorist as a member of the Haganah and the Stern Gang prior to 1948. No reply to my letter was ever received, but I believe I am now in someone's computer. So be it.

Zionism is aided and abetted by misled Christians who believe they are helping to fulfill prophecy when they side blindly with whatever Israel does.

Keep up your good work. I shall look forward to whatever you write next.

BEVERLY B. TURLEY
Ogden, Utah

DESPERATE CHANGES

Desperate changes are needed in our political and economic system to stop wasting our nation's resources, labor and capital. In the name of "defense," these have been redirected to killing people all over the world. The United

June 6: Anniversary of D-Day



The medals of World War II veteran Nicholas Zillas are displayed on his uniform during a vet's parade in New York City. There are approximately 25 million living U.S. veterans with about 142,000 U.S. troops currently serving in Iraq.

Did They Really Say That?



PROPAGANDA SCAM. The parents of Pat Tillman, the former football star who was killed in Afghanistan by his own fellow U.S. Army Rangers (friendly fire) in a chaotic firefight, said the Pentagon is propagating a false account of his death to stir up patriotism at home. "All the people in positions of authority went out of their way to script this," his father, Patrick Tillman, a lawyer from San Jose, told *The Washington Post*. They "interfered with the investigation, they covered it up. I think they thought they could control it, and they realized that their recruiting efforts were going to hell in a hand basket if the truth about his death got out."

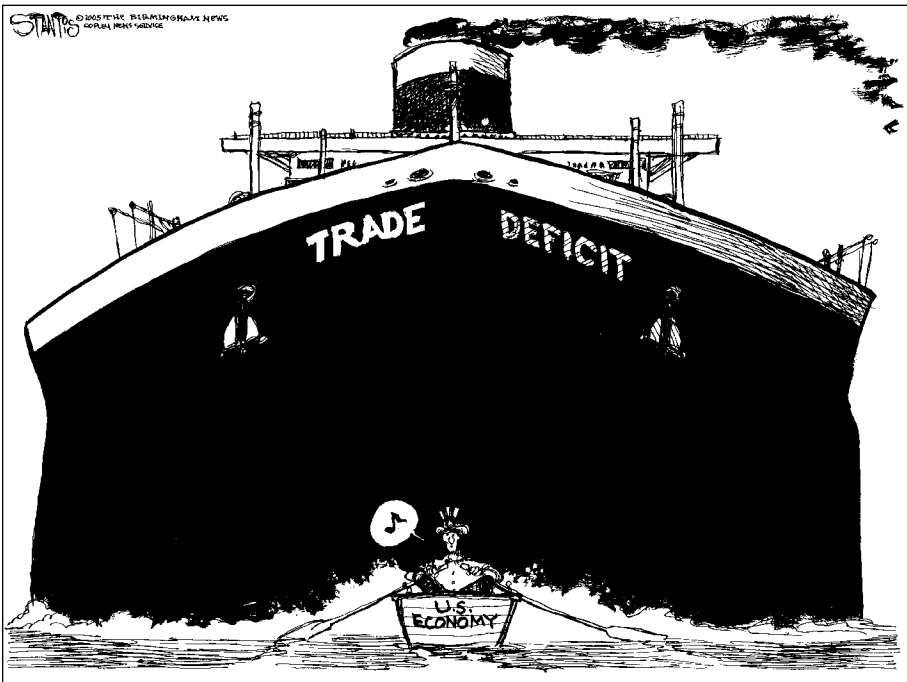
★ ★ ★

MORE PRISON ABUSE. In an interview on CNN's *Late Edition*, the CIA's puppet leader in Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai (right), assailed rampant prison abuses at U.S.-controlled prisons there and said he wants those responsible to be held accountable in a public trial: "I will do this again. This is simply, simply not acceptable. We are angry about this. We want justice. We want the people responsible for this sort of brutal behavior punished and tried and made public."

★ ★ ★

REAL REASON FOR PROTESTS. In another interview, Karzai denied that the riots were related to the now retracted article in the magazine *Newsweek*, in which U.S. interrogators reportedly flushed a Koran down a toilet. "These demonstrations were in reality not related to the *Newsweek* story," Karzai said following a meeting with President Bush. "They were more against progress in Afghanistan and our strategic partnership with America."





States has spent hundreds of billions of taxpayer dollars building a nuclear arsenal that could wipe out any nation on Earth—small or large.

In actuality, our representative government does not really represent the people anymore. It simply maintains the status quo for the benefit of a small minority of the money powers who control the Democrats and the Republicans.

If only that minority would look to the possibility of redirecting production for moral purposes, the nation's security would be insured for years to come.

Our country needs a functional government which is not run for profit, but which raises the standard of living for every citizen on the North American continent.

EDMOND D. VONGEHR
Brookings, Washington

Saudi Arabia and Iran. His job was to implement policies that promoted the interests of the U.S. "corporatocracy"—a coalition of government, banks, and corporations—while professing to alleviate poverty policies that led to growing anti-Americanism. I believe this book is on a par with *Into the Buzz Saw* and others like it that bring the truth to the American people of how corrupt and despotic we can be when motivated by greed and power.

WARREN J. C. KRIES SR.
Grant, Florida

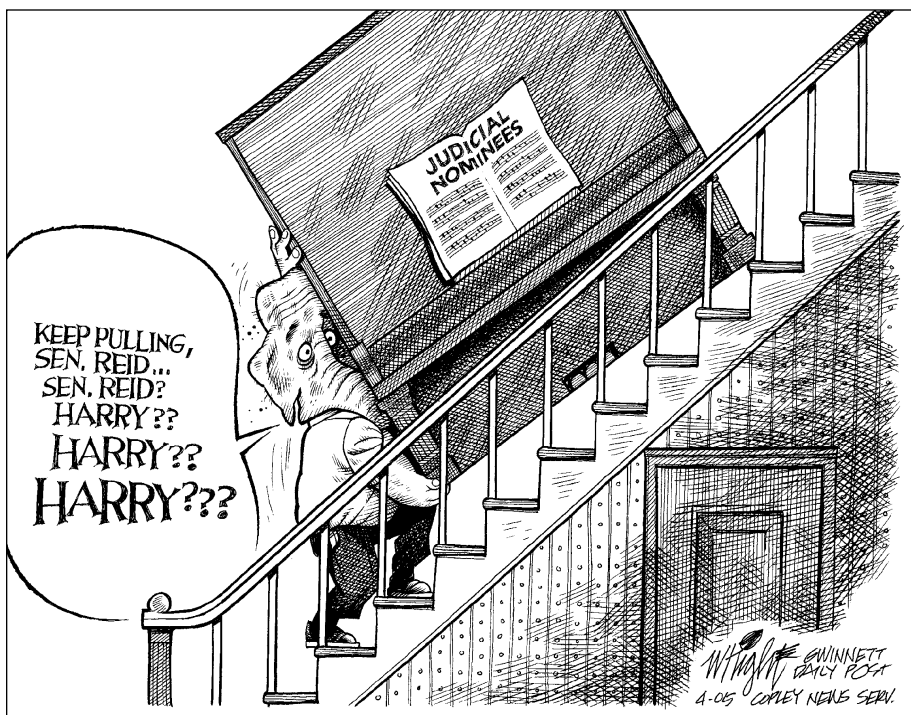
(Confessions of an Economic Hit Man—264 pages, hardcover, #1185, \$27.95—is available from FAB, 645 Pennsylvania Ave. SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. Call FAB toll free at 1-888-699-6397 to order by Visa or MC.—Ed.)

TRUE CONFESSIONS

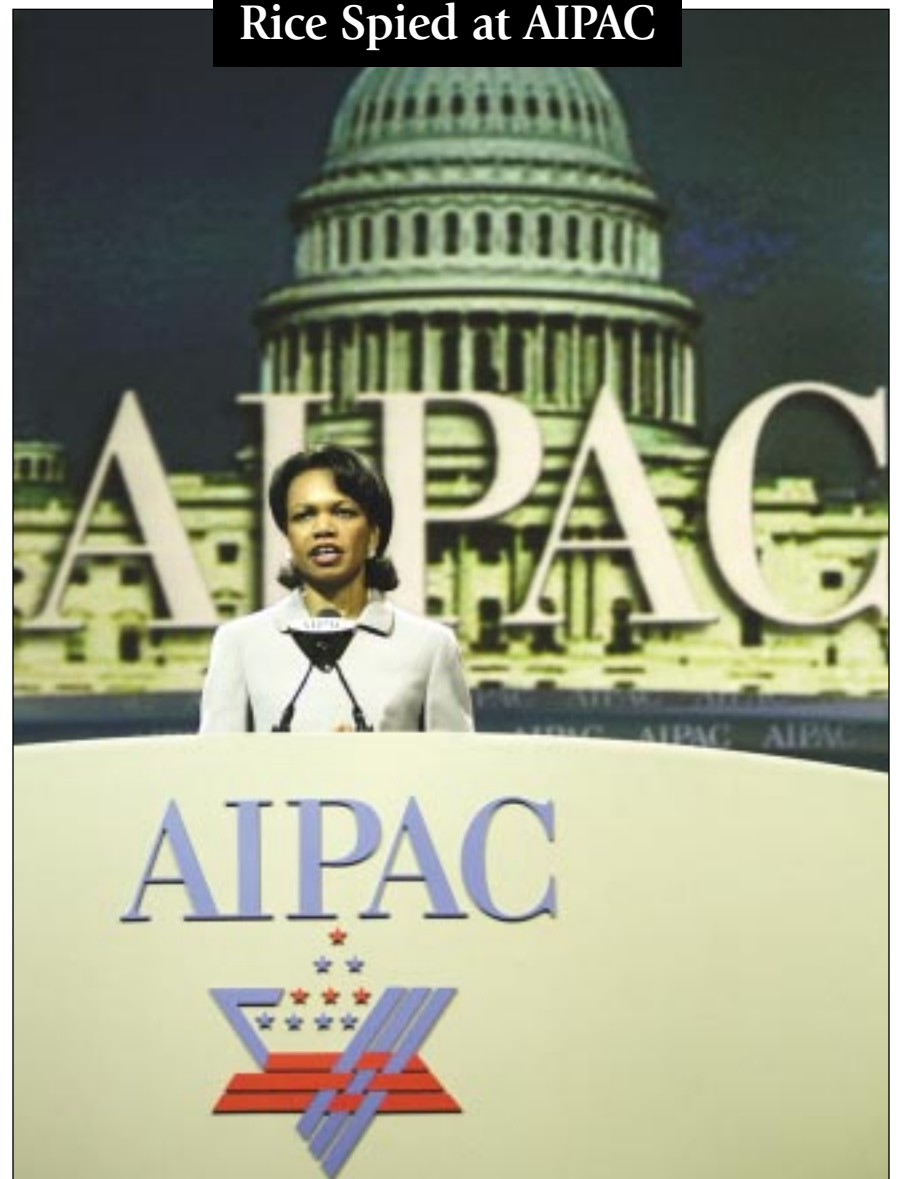
I have just obtained a copy of John Perkins's book *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*, and it outlines all of the issues *American Free Press* has been saying about the dangers of the New World Order. Perkins was recruited in 1971 by the National Security Agency and, while on the payroll of an international consulting firm, traveled to Indonesia, Panama, Ecuador, Colombia,

WRITE US A LETTER

Your letters and comments are welcome. Because of space limitations we reserve the right to edit them. Letters must be signed and have an address. Write: Letters Editor, *American Free Press*, 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Suite 100, Washington, D.C. 20003. You may also email your letters and comments directly to afpeditor@americanfreepress.net.



Rice Spied at AIPAC



CHUTZPA: Despite the ongoing FBI probe into charges of spying involving officials from the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) and the Defense Department, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice spoke at the powerful lobbying firm's annual conference in Washington on May 23. The gathering is considered to be the most important event of the year for the United States' pro-Israel community. More than 5,000 people attended including Democratic National Committee Chairman Howard Dean and former White House spokesman Ari Fleischer.

ALEX WONG/GETTY IMAGES

AFP's Letter of the Week

What Will Our Government Think of Next?

Over the years, our esteemed representatives in government have been siphoning off the contributions our workers have been sending to Social Security to be used for other expenses of running the government, while leaving only "IOUs" as "collateral."

More recently, however, they've come up with yet another egregious scam, which makes even less common sense. According to the Liberty Committee, whose honorary chairman is Rep. Ron Paul, a deal has been in the works with Vicente Fox of Mexico to commence paying foreign workers—including illegal aliens—money from the Social Security fund, which is expected to total around \$350 billion over the next 20 years.

I am hopeful that all Americans who feel as I do may wish to consider getting in touch with either Ron Paul or else the executive director of the Liberty Committee, Kent Snyder, and let them know your thoughts regarding this proposition.

The Liberty Committee's address is PO Box 98121, Washington, D.C. 20090. If enough concerned citizens are willing to take part accordingly, there may still be a chance that they won't be able to put such a plan in action.

GEORGE REITH, JR.
Carmel, California



Can drinking root beer improve your sex life?
The surprising answer...



Want to reduce prostate inflammation?
Take a bath in *chamomile tea!*



Why Atkins may be bad for your prostate:
The hidden cancer risks of low-carb diets.

Herbal tonic once banned by the Canadian government helps cure hundreds of prostate cancer cases; now available in the U.S.A.

By A. Wessendorf

An herbal remedy known to help cure hundreds of prostate cancer cases, and once banned by the Canadian government, is now available once again – and without a doctor's prescription.

Not only does this natural herbal tonic help cure prostate cancer without painful surgery, chemo, or radiation – it also reduces inflammation or enlargement of urinary organs in both men and women.

The facts behind this incredible tonic – and dozens of other preventative measures and cures for prostate illness, many of them blocked by the medical mainstream – are revealed in *How to Fight Prostate Cancer & Win*:

- Little-known prostate cancer treatment helps up to 85% of men receiving it live at least 10 years longer.
- Bark of this African plum tree proven in clinical tests to reduce swelling of the prostate.
- Why Asian men rarely get prostate cancer ...and how to enjoy the same level of immunity they do.
- Breakthrough mineral supplement sold over-the-counter in drugstores can reduce your risk of prostate cancer by 45%.
- Why Atkins may be bad for your prostate: the hidden cancer risks of low-carb diets.
- Underground prostate cancer treatment successful in 7 out of 10 patients.
- Don't eat these 4 meats that can irritate an enlarged prostate gland.
- Can drinking *root beer* improve your sex life? The surprising answer.
- Saffron found in yellow rice is a proven aphrodisiac...but here's why you should take riboflavin instead.
- Powerful antioxidant found in tomatoes

reduces the spread of prostate cancer by 42%.

- More than two-dozen prescription drugs can make you impotent. Can you name them all? The FDA hopes you can't.
- 5 great-tasting foods that can help you enjoy great sex after age 40.
- Get rid of chronic prostate inflammation by drinking this soothing herbal blend you prepare in your kitchen.
- Want to reduce prostate inflammation? Take a bath in *chamomile tea!*
- Special "processed" flower pollen relieves urinary problems in 9 out of 10 men with no side effects.
- Stimulate your waning male libido ... by eating gourmet caviar on crackers.
- Doctor prescribing alpha-blockers or other drugs to treat your prostate symptoms? Don't go to the drugstore until you read these shocking facts first.
- "Elemental" metal found in rock and soil can cut cancer risk by 50% when taken in small doses.
- Get rid of BPH (benign prostate hypertrophy) with this gentle, soothing, warm-water treatment.
- Touch your wrists at these "pressure points" and you won't have to get up at night to urinate any more.
- Secret tonic that Russian peasants drink retards male aging and maintains love-making prowess well into their 90s.
- 9 breakthrough treatments for "BPH" (enlarged prostate)...and the pros and cons of each.
- Herb taken to relieve depression can also get rid of urinary incontinence.
- How to inhibit human prostate cancer cell growth—even kill cancerous cells—by drinking green tea.

- Got milk? Vitamin D can kill prostate cancer cells...but here's why it's safer to get your daily dosage of D from supplements rather than dairy products.

How to order

To get your copy of *How to Fight Prostate Cancer & Win* call **1-888-821-3609** and ask for code **P6F5X** or order on our website at www.agorahealthbooks.com/afp33 to order by credit card. Or write "Fight Prostate Cancer – Dept. P6F5X" on a plain piece of paper with your name, address, phone number (in case we have a question about your order) and mail it with a check for \$19.95 plus \$5.00 shipping to: Agora Health Books, Dept. P6F5X-680SBPRB, P.O. Box 925, Frederick, MD 21705-9838

Please Note: There are only a limited number of copies in stock and unless order volume is extremely high, we may not reprint this book. Claim your book now to ensure you get a copy. Order today and receive a FREE GIFT—"10 Minutes to Total Prostate Cancer Prevention." Be one of the few who no longer have to wait for cures that get pushed "underground" by big business and money hungry giants.

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FREE GIFT OFFER!

Order today to get your FREE copy of "10 Minutes to Total Prostate Cancer Prevention." Orders must be placed by July 15, 2005 to receive this FREE gift. Don't delay!

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