



Tens of Thousands of Votes Lost, Stolen, Miscounted

Without a paper trail, we'll never really know

By Christopher Bollyn

PALM BEACH COUNTY, Florida—There were thousands of reported incidents and problems with electronic voting systems on Election Day. In Florida alone there were more than 4,369 incidents of voting problems reported to Voteprotect.org.

For example, in Carteret County, N.C., thousands of votes were lost, while in Sarpy County, Neb., a single voting machine recorded 10,000 extra votes.

In Carteret County, the Associated Press reported, "a voting machine used to store electronic ballots ran out of storage space" and 4,438 votes "disappeared."

Because the electronic voting machines used in Carteret County do not count or create a paper ballot, the disappeared votes were irretrievably lost.

While the mainstream media is certainly aware of these incidents and the flaws inherent in computerized voting systems, it has come out after the election in support of such unverifiable voting systems.

An article by Wyatt Buchanan in *The San Francisco Chronicle* of Nov. 11 provides a good example of how the corporate-controlled press supports unverifiable



Voters cast their ballots on the new touch-screen electronic voting machines in the Century Village retirement community in Palm Beach County, Fla. Florida had thousands of reported voting anomalies.

voting systems even while reporting their failures.

"Accusations of widespread organized voting fraud," Buchanan wrote, "wilt under scrutiny. Academics and independent groups watching closely for shenanigans say that, so far, no evidence has emerged that suggests a 'stolen election.'"

The *Chronicle* article, however, does mention a half-dozen incidents that indicate that thousands of votes were lost, added, or miscounted across the nation.

The Washington Post and *The New York Times* came out with similar articles on the same day. What these mainstream newspapers are trying to do is support unverifiable voting systems and centralized vote counting by discrediting various vote fraud theories that cropped up on the Internet. Rather than criticizing the

See ONE IN 250 MILLION, Page 3

HAPPY THANKSGIVING ... and an Important Note!

The employee-owners of *American Free Press* wish you a happy Thanksgiving and urge you to give thanks to all those patriots who have sacrificed life and limb to serve the call of their leaders. **NOTE: We will not be putting out a newspaper the week of Thanksgiving.** The next issue you receive will be a double issue that will also include your free bimonthly edition of *Whole Body Health*. Thanks for supporting AFP!



Landmark Lawsuit May Compel Feds To Take Notice of 'We the People'

IRS may no longer be able to ignore IRS critics' petition

By James P. Tucker Jr.

The government's arrogance in denying that it must respond when people exercise their constitutional right to petition for a redress of grievances could lead to a landmark Supreme Court case.

In a pre-trial response to a lawsuit by the We the People Foundation, a political watchdog organization, the government asserted on Nov. 12 that it had no obligation to listen or to respond to grievances under the

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The Inside Scoop:

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Feeling the Draft?

Rumors of a military draft will not die, despite the best efforts of top officials in the Pentagon and the White House.

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AREA BELOW FOR MAILING ADDRESS

PERSONAL

From the Editor

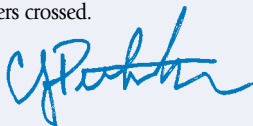
THIS ISSUE TWO SUBJECTS ARE TOPPING THE NEWS OF the week: The high number of Americans killed in Iraq this month and the declining U.S. dollar. These issues may seem unrelated, but on a broader level, they should, in fact, be considered loosely connected as it signals a tough future ahead for the United States.

The fact is, most U.S. citizens—those who don't read *American Free Press*, anyway—are woefully ignorant of the real situation on the ground in Iraq. While the mainstream media has agreed to be censored by the U.S. government, AFP's reports have reflected accounts surfacing from the Middle East and Europe that show a candid assessment.

As the editorial on page 13 of this week's issue notes, it is not that we're just being cynical and hoping that U.S. troops will fail. The reality is, the United States is facing escalating violence there. As we have said numerous times before, this is a guerrilla war, and it is impossible to win a guerrilla war. The military may be winning individual battles, but, overall, they are losing the broader war for the hearts and minds of Iraqis. As we have also said, we will be run out of Iraq as we have been run out of Vietnam—with our tail between our legs—another inglorious defeat.

To make matters worse, the U.S. economy is in serious trouble. The dollar has sunk again on the international markets. Why is this significant? Because foreign countries are floating the nation's unprecedented debt. If foreign banks decide to trade their dollars for euros, it likely will mean serious economic trouble for us.

We're hoping that, in the coming months, the Bush administration will wise up and pursue policies that are in this country's best interest. Only by bringing home our troops and our factories can we expect to save America from disaster. We've got our fingers crossed.



Christopher Petherick
Managing Editor



Law Enforcement Officials Disagree With Ashcroft Over Terrorism

If anyone should know whether the country is any safer today than before Sept. 11, 2001, it is local law enforcement officials. That is why it is big news when 20,000 chiefs of police roundly dismissed claims made by outgoing Attorney General John Ashcroft that his Justice Department has made the nation more secure from terrorist attacks and violent criminals. The International Association of Chiefs of Police issued a statement on Nov. 16 saying that cuts in federal aid to local police agencies have left the nation more vulnerable than ever. They also said that new anti-terrorism duties for local cops, which have come as state and local budgets have declined and low crime rates have crept upward, have pushed police agencies to "the breaking point."

SCOUTS SCOTED

The Pentagon has agreed to warn military bases worldwide that they cannot directly sponsor Boy Scout troops, partially resolving a dispute with the ACLU, which is suing over requirements that scouts believe in God. About 40,000 Boy Scouts will gather at Ft. A.P. Hill in Virginia for their jamboree this summer. But it could be their farewell meeting if the ACLU prevails in court.

NO CURBS ON CHINA

The Bush administration has rejected a request from 30 congressmen that it bring a World Trade Organization case accusing China of manipulating its currency to gain unfair advantages against this country, Associated Press reports. If the



United States prevailed at the WTO, penalties could be imposed against Chinese goods. Unions and industry say that China's pegging its currency to the dollar has caused the yuan to be undervalued by 40 percent. See Paul Craig Roberts's column on page 18 of this issue for more on this subject.

TUMBLEWEEDS

Tumbleweeds are good movie props for Western movies but they also do the serious work of absorbing radioactive uranium out of desert soil, according to New Mexico State University and New Mexico Tech researchers. But there is a slight problem: "After the tumbleweeds take up uranium, they do tend to tumble," said scientist Dana Ulmer-Scholle of New Mexico Tech. "We have to be concerned about remediating or collecting them from a site."

'BEARLY' ESCAPED

A report out of British Columbia, Canada, tells the tale of a young student, named "Ryan," who was home from college visiting his family when he discovered a large bear in his kitchen eating some salmon he had just cooked. Ryan told a local newspaper that he could not get to the bedroom where he knew a gun was stored so he proceeded to throw kitchen objects at it. Finally, Ryan said he picked up a cast-iron frying pan and hit the bear in the head "about 15 times," killing it.

HOODED COPS

Police, in response to six killings, covered their faces with black hoods while checking cars on a street in West Palm Beach, Fla., *The*

Target Says 'Bah Humbug' To Salvation Army Charity



Target Corp. has told the Salvation Army it can no longer set up its red collection kettles outside stores, a decision the charity said could cost as much as \$9 million in lost contributions during the holiday season. That's about 10 percent of the \$93 million in U.S. kettle collections received last Christmas, the charity said. The charity helps about 4.8 million people in the United States at Thanksgiving and Christmas. Since the work is done by volunteers, there is little overhead and more than 90 percent of contributions directly help the poor. Remember Target's policy when you do your Christmas shopping.

GWINNETT DAILY POST/NICOLE FINLEY

Palm Beach Post reports. Motorists were mystified. "If all they're doing is checking cars, why do they need to wear masks?" asked Sidney Scotlege. The officers wore their masks because they normally work undercover and didn't want their identities revealed, explained Lt. Jack Yates. They looked like terrorists, said one resident who was stopped.

TAX BREAK FOR SCHOOL?

An orthodox Jewish couple is suing on grounds the IRS is violating the First Amendment by refusing to allow tax deductions for their children's religious schooling, *The San Jose (Calif.) Mercury* reports. The IRS should allow the deductions because it permits members of the

Church of Scientology to write off the cost of religious counseling, they argued.

LEAPING LAYOFFS

Thousands more jobs, in addition to the thousands that have already been lost, will disappear in North Carolina by Jan. 1, when textile quotas are abandoned under orders of the World Trade Organization. More than 4,000 jobs were lost in the town of Kannapolis (population 36,000) in 2003 when the Cannon mills moved south of the border to enjoy paying slave wages. The town once had 20,000 textile employees.

BUSH BLUNDER

President Bush continued his ally-alienation program by recognizing "the Republic of Macedonia." To the Greeks, Macedonia is their northern province, birthplace of Alexander the Great, son of Philip II of Macedon and conqueror of much of the civilized world three centuries before Jesus Christ. Any other "Macedonia" is a fraud. But when independent countries began emerging from the shambles of Yugoslavia, one of its republics kept its name: Macedonia.

BANKROLLED

There are many billions in the future for the Buffett Foundation and they are to be spent on abortions and "population control." Warren Buffett's late wife, Susan, left the bulk of her \$6 billion in stock holdings to the foundation. When Buffett decides to die, the foundation gets \$40 billion. It will exceed the current fattest fat cat, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has \$27 billion in assets.

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One in 250 Million Chance Ballot Woes Were Mistakes

Continued from Page 1

insecure electronic voting machines that now control our elections, the controlled press attacks the skeptics.

Sharon Machlis, writing in *Computerworld* on Nov. 3, points out the most obvious problem with electronic voting machines. "Did those controversial electronic voting machines properly record Americans' votes yesterday?" she asks.

"We'll never really know," Machlis wrote. "Without a paper trail, there's simply nothing to check against in order to verify accuracy.

"For a vendor, it's great work if you can get it: Install systems where your users have no way to measure achieving the desired results," she wrote. "For our democracy, though, it's unacceptable."

SCALABILITY PROBLEMS

During the recent election, many voters had to wait for hours because of the limited number of voting machines. In Columbus and Knox County, Ohio, some voters waited until 3 a.m. to vote.

"It's inexcusable to commit to a [voting] system that can't properly function at peak times," Machlis wrote. "We're not talking about impatient online holiday shoppers here. We're talking about the foundation of our democracy.

"Mechanical voting machines with levers have the same scalability problems, of course," she added. "But paper ballots read by optical scanners do not."

If a paper-ballot polling site becomes swamped with voters, officials can set up more tables and pass out ballots down the line. "It's a lot tougher to add machines—mechanical or [electronic] voting—that don't exist," Machlis wrote. "Sometimes, simpler is better. Especially when you can prove that it works."

THE EXIT POLL BLUNDER

One of the "conspiracy theories" about the Nov. 2 election points to the exit polls conducted in the "swing states."

In Florida, New Mexico, and Ohio, exit polls showed the Democratic presidential candidate John Forbes Kerry leading, but victory went to George W. Bush after the votes were processed in the states' central counting tabulators.

American Free Press asked John Zogby of the polling firm Zogby International about his Election Day prediction that Kerry would win the election by winning Ohio, Florida and Pennsylvania.

Zogby, who based his predictions on pre-election polls, told AFP: "The polls were correct. My prediction was wrong."

Dr. Steven F. Freeman from the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Organizational Dynamics analyzed the exit polling data for his Nov. 10 paper *The Unexplained Exit Poll Discrepancy*.

"Exit polls showed [Kerry] ahead in nearly every battleground state, in many cases by sizable margins," Freeman wrote. "But then in key state after key state, counts were showing very different numbers than the polls predicted; and the differentials were all in the same direction."

The data that Freeman used "comes from exit polls conducted for the National Election Pool (NEP) [formerly Voter News Service or VNS], a consortium of the major television networks and the Associated Press, by two respected polling firms, Edison Media Research and



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES

Voters wait to cast their votes at a Miami fire department polling station during the presidential election on Nov. 2. Despite the fact that there were accounts across the country of lines so long that voters gave up and myriad technical problems with electronic voting machines, the mainstream media has tried to convince Americans that the election went smoothly. Statisticians who looked into some of the voting anomalies, however, told AFP that the odds of having significant problems in three key states was somewhere around one in 250 million.

Mitofsky International." Freeman says that the exit poll data is unofficial and "not meant to be released directly to the public."

Warren Mitofsky is the head of both exit polling firms. When AFP called Edison Media Research to ask about the discrepancies, I was told to contact Robert Zimmerman at the Fox News network. Zimmerman said that Fox is handling the calls for Edison as a member of the consortium. He was unable to answer any questions about the discrepancies but did say that Fox gets its election polling data from AP.

BEFORE THE DATA CHANGED

Freeman charts the data, taken from the CNN web site, "before the data changed," showing the predicted versus actual percentages in battleground states. "In 10 of the 11 consensus battleground states, the tallied margin differs from the predicted margin, and in every one, the shift favors Bush."

CNN, a member of the NEP, had "uncalibrated" data (not yet "corrected" to conform to announced vote tallies, Freeman notes) on its web site until about 1:30 a.m. on election night.

For example, exit polls in Ohio indicated that Kerry would win by 4.2 points with 52.1 percent. While Bush was expected to lose Ohio with only 47.9 percent, when the votes were processed he received 51 percent and won the state by 2.5 points. The tallied versus predicted differential in Ohio is then 3.1 points for Bush.

In Pennsylvania, Kerry was predicted to win by 8.7 points but won by only 2.2. The differential is then 6.5 for Bush.

In Florida, exit polls indicated a very close race with Bush edging Kerry by one-tenth of a point. After the votes were processed in Florida, however, Bush won by 5

points. The differential in Florida is then 4.9 points for Bush. This also happened in the "battleground states" of Colorado, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Mexico and Pennsylvania. Only in Wisconsin did the exit polls match the actual results.

Freeman's statistical analysis for Ohio shows that Kerry's tallied vote of 48.5 percent is an extremely unlikely result. "It turns out that the likelihood that [Kerry] received only 48.5 percent of the vote is less than one in 1,000 (.0008)," Freeman wrote.

The same analysis for Florida, where Kerry received only 47.1 percent, given that exit polls indicated 49.7 percent, is less than 3 in 1,000 (.0028), Freeman found. In Pennsylvania, the likelihood of the Kerry result having occurred is less than two in 1,000.

Freeman says that the likelihood of any two of these statistical anomalies occurring together is on the order of one-in-a-million, but the odds of all three occurring together are 250 million to one.

"As much as we can say in social science that something is impossible, it is impossible that the discrepancies between predicted and actual vote counts in the three critical battleground states of the 2004 election could have been due to chance or random error," Freeman concluded.

The unexplained discrepancy leaves two explanations, Freeman wrote. "The polls were flawed or the count is off. Given that neither the pollsters nor their media clients have provided a solid explanation to the public, suspicion of fraud, or among the less accusatory, 'mistabulation,' is running rampant and unchecked. That so many people suspect misplay undermines not only the legitimacy of the president, but faith in the foundations of this democracy." ★

THE BARBARIANS ARE

Are we on the eve of bloody revolt and martial law, or will it be WWIII?

In March 2002, a journalist in Portugal reported on a sensational, marathon meeting of a group of U.S. pilots that issued a report concluding that the story told by the U.S. government about what happened on Sept. 11, 2001 is improbable and unlikely.

The record was corrected in stunning fashion Feb. 25 on Alex Jones' "Prison Planet" radio program when former Pentagon arms salesman Donn de Grand Pré, author of three books that allege 9-11 was an inside job, set the record straight, because he was the man who organized that conference. That 72-hour, non-stop symposium by a group of military and civilian pilots concluded the flight crews of the four passenger airliners involved in the 9-11 tragedy had no control over their aircraft.

De Grand Pré, a retired Army colonel, is the author of the series "Barbarians Inside the Gates." His thesis [in the third opus] "is that the wars we have engaged in for whatever reasons since the end of World War II have not only been unconstitutionally waged, but have caused a net loss in political power. Each was waged to divert our attention away from the true enemy within, and toward a contrived enemy outside our borders.

[De Grand Pré explained that this third opus actually is a trilogy.] "I've got three books out under the title 'Barbarians Inside the Gates.' Book 1 was *The Serpent's Sting*, Book 2 is *The Viper's Venom*, Book 3 is *The Rattler's Revenge*.

"And I'd like to quote from Book 2, which came out

WHICH WAR?

"Who are the War Agitators?"

"Three groups had been 'pressing this country toward war—the Roosevelt administration, The British, and the Jews."

And so it happened!

"Their greatest danger to this country lies in their large ownership and influence in our motion pictures, our press, our radio and our Government . . . we cannot allow the natural passions and prejudices of other peoples to lead our country to destruction."

—Col. Charles Lindbergh

"America First" speech, July 4, 1941.

October of 2002. There is a very important paragraph there. It says,

The trigger for the 9-11 activity was the imminent and unstoppable worldwide financial collapse, which can only be prevented temporarily by a major war, perhaps to become known as World War III. To bring it off one more time, martial law will probably be imposed in the United States.

De Grand Pré was the top U.S. arms dealer to the Middle East under the Ford and Carter administrations. What he saw caused him to leave government service and begin investigating the forces he saw warping our nation's future.

In the interview with Jones, de Grand Pré made several stunning assertions, among them:

- There were no hijackers on the 9-11 killer jets. And he said the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff (Richard Myers) agrees with him.

- "There were no cell phone calls. Everybody aboard [those] aircraft, [including] pilots and crew, [was] unconscious within 8 to 18 minutes after takeoff. And you can take it from there. I've got it covered in books 2 and 3, what actually happened.

- "These planes were being piloted by remote control, probably an AWACS aircraft taking over that airplane or airplanes or drones. And flying them at 5 G-force that no pilot could withstand. If you read books 2 and 3, you will discover how and why this came about."

- The 9-11 planes are now at the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean. "And I'm telling you that we are knowledgeably speculating," said de Grand Pré in response to another caller. "Those aircraft went over the Atlantic and that was 'all she wrote.'"

The Coming Coup

Talk of a military coup—to reverse what he calls the administrative *coup d'etat* that happened on 9-11—is rife within the corridors of the Pentagon.

In his various interviews and publications, de Grand Pré has called 9-11 "an administrative *coup de'etat*" by the neo-conservatives. He suggests the only way the neo-cons can be stopped is by a military *coup d'etat* and estimates 70 percent of key military personnel are in favor of such a step.

De Grand Pré's answer was chilling, and revealed the possibility of a military *coup d'etat* has been simmering in the corridors of the Pentagon for some time.

"It wasn't an overnight thing. You see, as I outline in Book 1, and I carry that on in



Colonel Donn de Grand Pré

Book 2, as well as Book 3, we were on the verge of a military *coup d'etat*. And this was long in the planning and after the 78 days of bombing Kosovo, it became critical. And we were close to a coup at that time. In my survey of the reports and the pilots who worked with that, a coup was a possibility.

"The 9-11 activity and horrific destruction of U.S. property and lives was meant to trigger a psychological and patriotic reaction on the part of the U.S. citizens, to pave the way for 'combined UN activity' (using the fig leaf of NATO) for striking key targets in both the Middle East/South Asia and the Balkans. The goal continues to be ultimate destruction of all national sovereignty and establishment of a global government, the new world order which daddy Bush spoke of.

"The so-called terrorist attack was in fact a superbly executed military operation against the United States, requiring the utmost professional military skill in command, communications and control. It was flawless in timing, in the choice of selected aircraft to be used as guided missiles, and in the coordinated delivery of those missiles to their pre-selected targets."

Who is the enemy?

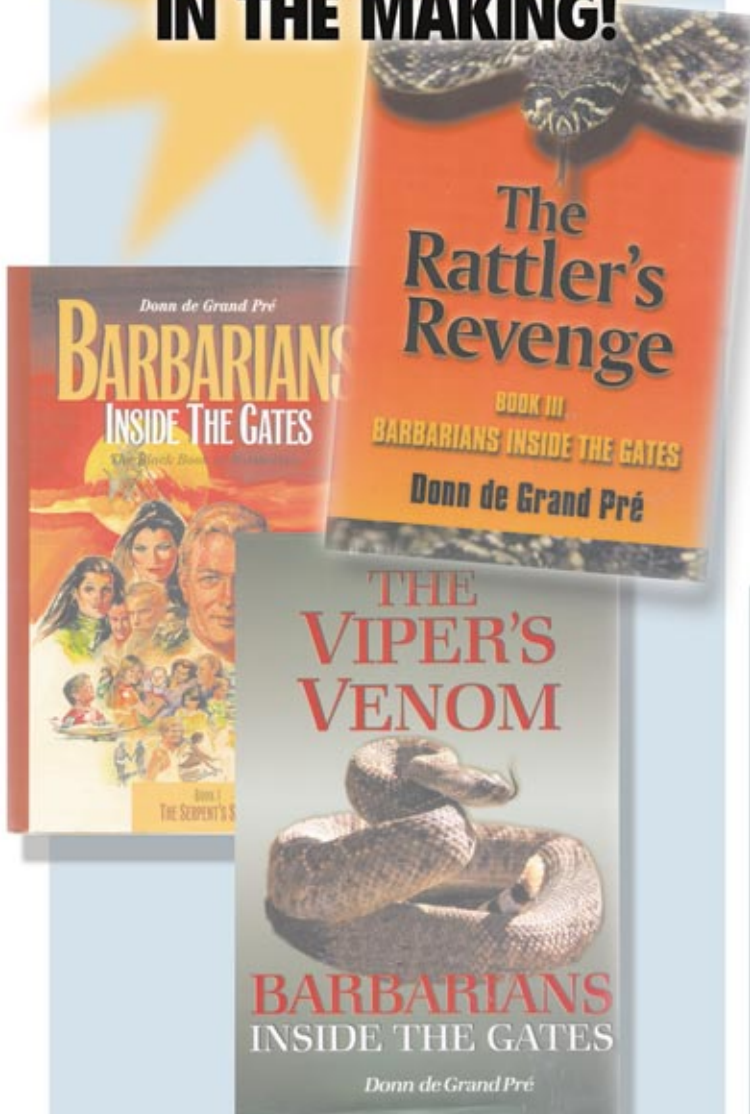
As a tactical military exercise against two significant targets (the world financial center and the citadel of world strategic military planning), the attack, from the point of view of a psychological impact on the American public, equaled the Japanese "surprise" attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

But the overriding question of that original group of pilots was: If we are at war, who is the enemy?

The group determined that the enemy is within the gates, that he has infiltrated into the highest policymaking positions at the federal level, and has absolute control, not only of the purse strings, but of the troop buildup and deployment of our military forces, including active reserve and National Guard units.

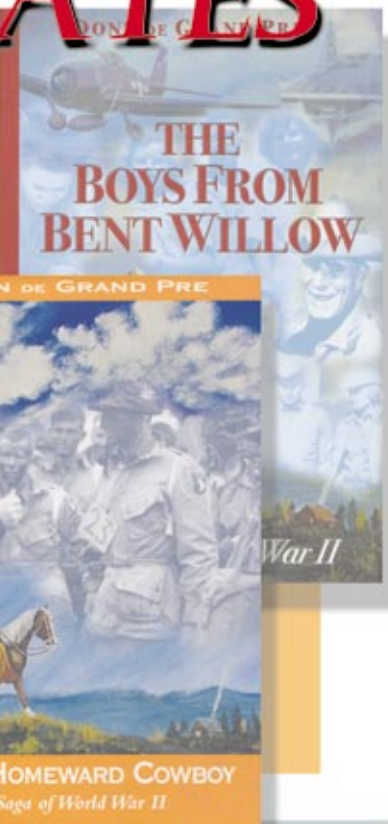
REALLY INSIDE THE GATES

**CURRENT HISTORY
IN THE MAKING!**



DAKOTAH!

“To fully understand what actually happened to us as a distinct people, you must read the DAKOTAH! series—*A Saga of WWII*—and discover for yourself just who profits by fomenting such a war. WWII was really the beginning of a “Clash of Civilizations,” slated to last by its diabolical practitioners for 100 years!



Dakota Farm Boy Exposes “War Follies”

Col. Donn de Grand Pré was reared on a farm in North Dakota, enlisted in the Army at age 18, was wounded in two wars, then wrote a series of books that enlightened Americans about the follies of war.

He was a radio operator in Burma and China during World War II and was twice wounded while commanding combat forces in Korea. During two years of recuperation, de Grand Pré obtained a BS degree.

PENTAGON OFFICER

As a former high-ranking Pentagon officer and decorated war hero, de Grand Pré is best known for his books showing how wars are generated by profit, not patriotism.

De Grand Pré is now retired on his farm outside Washington with his wife of 54 years. His seven children live in the area and help on the farm, as well as run a publishing firm and direct a housing project, called the “Village of Grand Pré”.

He wrote his first book in 1975. Since then, he has written a number of other books, including *Viper's Venom* and *Rattler's Revenge*, in which he names “seven levers of power”: finance, media, muscle, markets, mind control, medical and morals-culture. If a country gains control of all seven, he said, it will control the world.

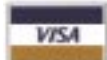
In addition to creating wars, de Grand Pré's works examine how the international elite manipulates high finance and other weapons of power while creating a world government.



**HUGE discount prices
for Col. Donn de Grand Pré's
best-selling books!**

Prices good through 31 Dec., 2004.

- YES!** Rush me _____ Individual Copy(ies) of Book I, *The Serpent's Sting* (426 pages, hardback) was \$30.00, now \$21.95 \$ _____
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Presbyterian Church Threatened by Terrorists; Criticism of Israeli Policy Prompts Arson

By Michael Collins Piper

A shocking story about a violent terrorist threat made by an apparent supporter of Israel against one of America's largest mainstream Christian churches has been largely ignored in the American press, despite the fact that the story was carried by the Associated Press (AP), which supplies news to daily and weekly papers all across the United States.

Even *The Washington Post*—the newspaper of record in the nation's capital—buried the story far back in the paper, on page A-24, on Nov. 14.

What is particularly of note is that the AP story never once uses the word "terrorism" to describe what was clearly a terrorist threat.

A handwritten letter, mailed from Queens, N.Y., was sent to the Louisville, Ky.-based national headquarters of the Presbyterian Church (USA). The letter threatened that if the Presbyterian Church did not reverse its public criticisms of Israel's mistreatment of Palestinian Christians and Muslims and retract its decision to cease church investments in companies that do business with Israel, by Nov. 15, there would be arson attacks on Presbyterian churches during religious services. The letter specifically said that the threat was being made in retribution for so-called "anti-Israel and anti-Jewish attitudes" expressed by church leaders.

The Presbyterian leadership—which has been under heavy and repeated attack by leading Jewish organizations such as the Anti-Defamation League (ADL) of B'nai B'rith—is taking the threat seriously and, according to Jerry L. Van Marter, director of the Presbyterian news service, has warned churches to be on the alert.

There are some 11,200 Presbyterian congregations in the United States, comprising some 2.4 million members.

The news about the terrorist threat against the Christian church is spreading like wildfire, via Internet chat rooms, email, web sites etc. However, it is difficult to determine how many American newspapers that subscribe to news from the Associated Press actually carried the story.

A search of on-line news directories revealed there were reports in some major newspapers, such as *The Seattle Post Intelligencer* and *The Chicago Tribune*. Neither of the two mainstream newspapers referred to the incident as a domestic terrorism threat.

According to *The Christian Post*, an independent, inter-denominational, Christian media company, the letter even acknowledged that the warning was terrorist in nature: "I promise violence against Presbyterian Churches—They will go up in flames, bet your ass that's a terrorist threat."

However, *The Post*, *The Seattle Post Intelligencer* and *The Chicago Tribune* neglected to cite that portion of the letter.

American Free Press readers are already scouring their own local newspapers for the days of Nov. 13 through Nov. 16 and determining whether or not this story was carried by those papers that subscribe to the Associated Press news service.

Many people who have heard about the threat have advised AFP that they are already writing letters to the editors of their local papers pointing out that the news reports about the threat failed to mention that the threatened action constitutes "terrorism" just as much as attacks on



GETTY IMAGES

Jewish and pro-Israel individuals and organizations are deemed to be "terrorism."

Queens, N.Y.—where the threat was mailed from—has long been a hotbed of terrorist hate activity by the Jewish Defense League (JDL), which the late Jewish-American writer Robert I. Friedman documented was directed at the highest levels by Israel's intelligence service, Mossad.

The ADL officially distances itself from the rhetoric and violence of the JDL. However, it is well known that the ADL acts as a propaganda and intelligence arm of Israeli intelligence and, at the same time, has an interlocking base of financial support with the JDL, making the ADL's denunciations of the JDL hypocritical.

On the other hand, it is also quite possible that the threat was made by a follower of a pro-Israel television evangelist such as Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jack Van Impe or Tim LaHaye, all of whom have been fiercely outspoken supporters of Israel and harshly critical of other Christian congregations, which do not share their views.

The FBI and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (BATF), along with local authorities, are said to be "investigating" the threat. However, critics in the past have pointed out that the FBI and BATF, as well as many local law enforcement agencies, have maintained close contacts with the ADL.

The ADL has a history of taking American law enforcement officials on all-expense-paid junkets to Israel and to vacation spots around the United States, where the ADL conducts seminars wherein critics of Israel are described as "hatemongers" and "potential terrorists." ★



SHAWN THOMAS/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Top, will Christians be forced out of their houses of worship by domestic terrorists? Will terrorist attacks on churches become a part of daily life in America? Some are concerned that the anti-American, anti-Christian rhetoric of ADL leader Abe Foxman may have inspired some of his more virulent followers—be they Jewish or Christian Zionists—to threaten to set Presbyterian churches ablaze while worshippers are inside. Above, Israeli prime minister and former terrorist Ariel Sharon (right) accepts the Anti-Defamation League's Distinguished Statesman Award from ADL National Director, Abraham H. Foxman, during the Annual Anti-Defamation League Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. in 2002.

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Patriot Victories?

New Congress to address Alaskan oil, deny alien amnesty

The chances are greatly improved that oil will be drilled in the Arctic and the Republican-controlled Congress will reject a Republican president's plea for amnesty for criminal aliens.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham said when the new Congress is seated in January with 55 Republican senators, President Bush has his best chance for winning a key part of his energy plan: opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) for drilling.

While both of Alaska's senators have long championed drilling there, big oil interests, exploiting the well-funded environmental lobby, have prevented exploration for decades.

"I think that the prospects [for congressional approval of ANWR oil drilling] have certainly improved and we're excited about that," Abraham told reporters Nov. 10. ANWR drilling could increase domestic oil production by up to 1.5 million barrels a day, he said.

Some of the newly elected senators have expressed support for drilling "and that's a good sign," Abraham said.

Sen. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, said he will have enough votes early next year to add language that would allow the start of ANWR exploration to the annual budget that will fund the federal government.

"With oil hovering at \$50 a barrel . . . the market mandates congressional action," Domenici said. "We can develop ANWR without harming the environment or wildlife. Now is the time to do that."

Only a simple 51-vote majority is needed to open ANWR by way of the budget bill, which cannot be filibustered. In the past, a coalition of Senate Democrats and Republicans have blocked ANWR drilling by preventing the 60 votes necessary to end a filibuster on energy legislation.

The budget measure would allow drilling in ANWR by authorizing the Interior Department to collect fees from oil companies for leasing tracts in the refuge for exploration.

Domenici plans to offer the language when the Senate Budget Committee considers the funding bill in February or March.

The government estimates ANWR could hold between 5.7 billion and 16 billion barrels of oil. The U.S. market consumes about 20.4 million barrels of oil a day.

NO TO AMNESTY

House leaders on immigration say there is insufficient support in Congress to pass a guest worker program for illegal aliens, despite President Bush's strong,

post-election call for this form of amnesty.

"As far as the House of Representatives is concerned, I don't necessarily see an environment that has changed dramatically enough that would allow for a guest-worker bill to gain majority support," said Rep. John Hostettler (R-Ind.), chairman of the immigration subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee.

"We have held hearings in the 108th Congress that indicate such a program would continue a long-range downward spiral in the wages of low-skilled and no-skill



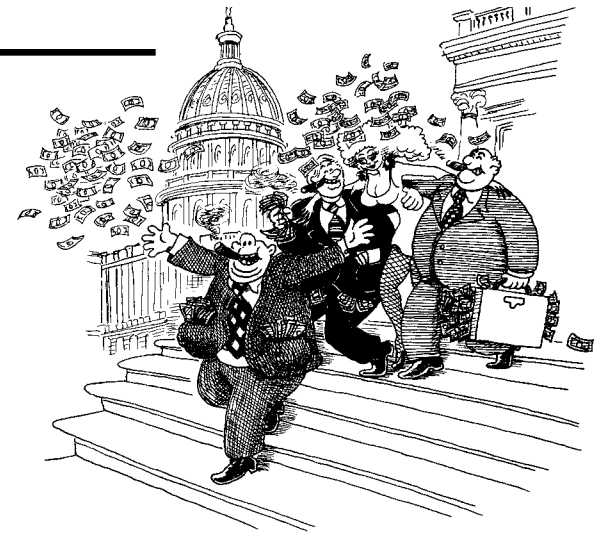
workers," Hostettler said. "The simple fact of the matter is when we bring in individuals who are willing to work at such low wages, we do nothing but displace American citizens."

White House political adviser Karl Rove said the president will renew his proposal for a guest-worker program in the new Congress. This would reward millions of aliens who entered this country illegally.

PATRIOT ACT REFORMS

Congress has been presented with a list of urgent reforms of the Patriot Act. Some provisions expire at the end of 2005 unless extended. The comprehensive study, released in Washington Nov. 16, was prepared by scholars at Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government and sponsored by the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism. It recommends:

- **Assassination:** Outside a combat zone, there must be no targeted killing unless the president finds evidence the killing is immediately necessary and provides that evidence to Congress. Assassination is never allowed against Americans, anyone in the United States or anyone in a country that is willing to extradite the suspect for trial.



- **Detention outside combat zones:** "Americans should not be detained without probable cause." If revealing evidence would endanger national security, a judge should be allowed to grant extensions of the trial date up to two years. . . . For aliens, detention must be determined by a federal judge.

- **Military trials:** Anyone in the United States has a right to trial in a federal court. Non-Americans seized abroad on charges of violating the laws of war should be tried by court martial, just as U.S. military personnel. Non-Americans seized abroad for war crimes should be tried by their local governments, if local governments are willing and no security secrets would be exposed.

- **Coercive interrogation:** The United States must comply with treaty obligations not to engage in torture or use "cruel and inhumane techniques short of torture . . . unless there is a clear immediate threat to American lives . . . [and] the president must approve this limited exception."

- **Intercepting communications:** U.S. intelligence cannot spy on Americans' communications at home or abroad without probable cause. But conversations of, or information about, Americans acquired while targeting aliens abroad can be used by U.S. agencies.

- **Data-mining:** Courts can order access to broad collections of private transaction records only if the names of individuals are withheld and only if particular patterns would likely indicate a terrorist plan. The government can obtain actual names involved only if suspect patterns are found.

- **Biometric identification:** Identifiers such as fingerprints and retinal scans should not be used unless an individual is seeking access to sensitive resources or targets or seeking to enter the country. Detailed regulations should control the use of biometric data for granting access to sensitive areas.

- **Surveillance of religious and political meetings:** Federal agents can attend religious or political meetings only if they have reason to suspect the particular meeting will involve advocating political violence against another group and only if a senior FBI official approves the investigation every 60 days.

- **Oversight:** Congress should establish a bipartisan commission to continually review the need for any extraordinary measures that impose on traditional freedoms. ★

U.S. Cannot Solve Problems in Mideast; Must Accept Neutrality as Best Policy

The death of Yasser Arafat Nov. 11 once again brings the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the international forefront. The Bush administration finds itself in an uncomfortable but familiar role as peacemaker for yet another intractable, ancient and deadly Middle East conflict. The popular press and political world both accept without question the notion that the United States is somehow responsible for resolving any and all conflicts around the globe, but especially in Palestine.

We conveniently forget, however, that American tax dollars militarized the entire region in the first place. We give Israel about \$3 billion each year, but we also give Egypt \$2 billion. Most other Middle East countries get money too, some of which ends up in the hands of Palestinian terrorists. Both sides have far more military weapons as a result. Talk about adding fuel to the fire. Our foolish and unconstitutional foreign aid has produced more violence, not less.

Congress and each successive administration pledge their political, financial and military support for Israel. Yet while we call ourselves a strong ally of the Israeli people, we send billions in foreign aid every year to some Muslim states that many Israelis regard as enemies. From the Israeli point of view, many of the same Islamic nations we fund with our tax dollars want to destroy the Jewish state. Many average Israelis and American Jews see America as hypocritically hedging its bets.

Once we give money to one country, we have to give it to all the rest or risk making enemies. This is especially true in the Middle East and other strife-torn regions, where our financial support for one side is seen as an act of aggression by the other.

This illustrates perfectly the inherent problem with foreign aid: Once we give money to one country, we have to give it to all the rest or risk making enemies. This is especially true in the Middle East and other strife-torn regions, where our financial support for one side is seen as an act of aggression by the other. Just as our money never makes Israel secure, it doesn't buy us any true friends elsewhere in the region. On the contrary, many Muslims hate the United States despite the billions we give to their governments.

It is time to challenge the notion that it is our job to broker peace in the Middle East and every other troubled region across the globe. America can and should use

every diplomatic means at our disposal to end the violence in the West Bank, but we should draw the line at any further entanglement.

Third-party outsiders cannot impose political solutions in Palestine or anywhere else. Peace can be achieved only when self-determination operates freely in all nations. "Peace plans" imposed by outsiders or the UN cause resentment and seldom produce lasting peace.

Respect for self-determination really is the cornerstone of a sensible foreign policy, yet many Americans who strongly support U.S. sovereignty advocate interventionist policies that deny other nations that same right.

The interventionist approach that has dominated American foreign policy since World War I has produced an unmitigated series of disasters. From Korea to Vietnam to Kosovo to the Middle East, American military and economic meddling has made numerous conflicts worse, not better.

Washington and Jefferson had it right when they warned against entangling alliances, and the history of the 20th century proves their point.

The simple truth is that we cannot resolve every human conflict across the globe, and there will always be violence somewhere on Earth.

The fatal conceit lies in believing America can impose geopolitical solutions wherever it chooses. ★

See more from Congressman Paul at www.ronpaul.org.

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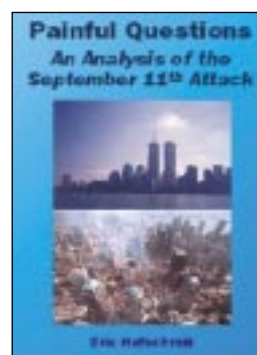


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Provocative Moves by Chinese Naval Vessels Threaten Peace & Stability in Pacific Rim

By Fred Lingel

A Chinese nuclear submarine entered Japanese territorial waters on Nov. 10 in a move that exacerbated already strained relations between Asia's two economic giants.

At 8 a.m. on Nov. 10, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was alerted to the presence of a foreign submarine in waters between Okinawa and the northeast tip of Taiwan, close to the Sakishima Islands.

Without delay, Koizumi invoked his country's maritime policing act and told his defense chief, Gen. Yoshinori Ono, to take steps to identify the submarine and order it to vacate Japanese territory. The general immediately dispatched two PC3 surveillance planes, helicopters and destroyers to find the sub.

The two PC3s were the first to locate it and immediately dropped a sonar device.

From information it sent back, it was established that the sub was a Chinese nuclear Han class. An instruction was radioed to the submarine captain to surface and display his country's flag. He refused to do so and began leaving the location. As he steered his vessel toward Chinese waters, it was tracked all the way by the Japanese planes, helicopters and destroyers.

The Japanese defense department later confirmed that the submarine was headed for a naval base on the east coast of China.

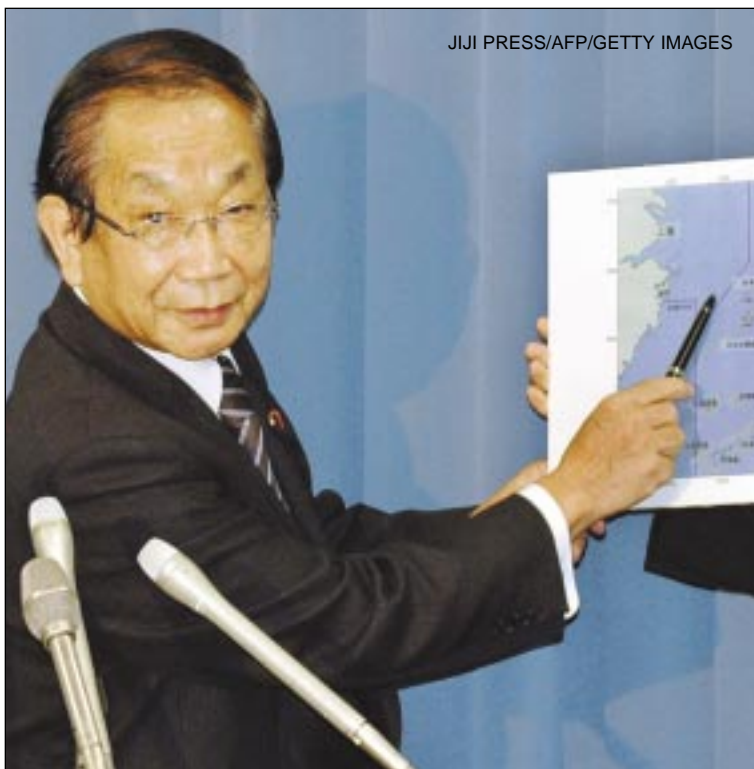
Japan immediately demanded an apology from China but did not receive one. That angered the Japanese public, as well as leading politicians.

Editorials appeared in major Tokyo newspapers demanding tougher action should there be any further intrusions by Chinese naval vessels.

The whole episode soured diplomatic relations between the two countries, yet behind the scenes it was, for the Japanese government, just another example of Chinese naval aggression.

In January, a Japanese naval intelligence report listed six Chinese submarine intrusions into Japanese territorial waters in 2003. These, it said, were designed to "survey sea routes for Chinese submarines to enter the Pacific."

So far this year, Japan's maritime self-defense force has logged 12 intrusions. One was on July 6 when anti-submarine aircraft spotted the *Nandiao 411*, a Chinese



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Above, Japanese Defense Agency Director Gen. Yoshinori Ono shows the Japan-China border on the map during a press conference at the Defense Agency in Tokyo, November 12, 2004. Japanese anti-submarine patrol aircraft chased a Red Chinese submarine that entered Japanese territorial waters near a disputed gas field creating more tension between the two Asian superpowers.

naval survey vessel, within what Japan calls its EEZ—Economic Exclusion Zone.

Seven days later, in the same area, a Chinese civilian survey vessel was detected and on July 14, a Chinese naval vessel deliberately forced a Japanese ship to change course.

The Chinese authorities denied knowledge of all the incidents and dismissed evidence that their submarines and naval vessels were entering Japanese waters.

What has most concerned the Japanese has been the increased Chinese activity in Japan's EEZ zone, an area 375 miles off Japan's coastline known as the Senkaku

Islands. The waters surrounding the islands are rich fishing grounds but more importantly are believed to hold large gas and oil deposits.

China disputes Japan's rights to the islands and surrounding territory and refers to them as the Diaoyutai. For China's burgeoning industrial economy and expanding population, the Senkakus hold not only much needed energy supplies but also a rich source of food.

Until 1885, when Japan claimed ownership of the islands, they were uninhabited and not considered by the Chinese to be part of their territory. That situation remained in force until the Japanese surrender at the end of World War II, when the islands were handed over to the control of the U.S. military.

In 1972, however, the U.S. government returned them to Japan, and the administration in Okinawa was given the task of administering them. The Chinese lodged a protest, which the U.S. government

ignored, but that was not the end of the matter.

During the Richard Nixon administration, when Washington began opening up a diplomatic dialogue with the communist government, the Chinese seized the opportunity to pressure the U.S. government into declaring its policy on the ownership of the Senkakus.

Nixon, not wishing to offend the Chinese, declared that the U.S. government hand-over of the islands to Japan in 1972 did not alter the disputed character of the Senkakus.

That statement angered the Japanese, who felt Nixon had betrayed them in the interest of political expediency.

In March 2004, the U.S. State Department restated the Nixon doctrine that China, like Japan, had a "valid claim" to the islands. But, to complicate matters further, Richard Armitage, deputy to Secretary of State Colin Powell, categorically declared that the islands, in keeping with the 1972 hand-over by the U.S. government, were to be legally administered by Japan. Armitage added that any hostile action to change their status would trigger the U.S.-Japan security pact that committed America to use

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force if necessary to defend Japan, its closest ally in Asia.

For the Chinese, while the Armitage declaration appeared to reverse U.S. policy, the only way to be sure of U.S. commitment to Japan's claims on the islands was to test it. At least that is the view of Japanese military experts in respect to the activity of Chinese survey vessels within Japan's EEX.

Those experts also point out that the submarine intrusions are an even more disturbing Chinese strategy of testing the U.S.-Japan security pact. Some have gone so far as to warn that the Pentagon should view with alarm Chinese naval aggression in the Pacific.

With regard to Japan's view that the surrounding waters of the Senkakus are its economic exclusive zone, the Chinese foreign ministry has warned that Japan should be careful not to "imperil" China's interest in that zone.

Aside from the dispute over the islands and the rich oil and gas deposits believed to lie under the seabed, there are more significant issues dividing Japan and China.

For years, China has admonished Japan for its support of Taiwan, knowing that in the event of a conflict between the United States and China in the Taiwan Straits, the Japanese navy would aid America. With that in mind, the Japanese believe the Chinese have been constantly probing Japan's naval defenses.

China is also unhappy that Japan may be included in Bush's planned missile defense shield, part of which could be located in Japan and South Korea to protect U.S. troops and their allies.

China has warned that such a move would create instability in the region and lead to an arms race.

Japanese military experts say that China does not need an excuse for an arms race and has been spending wildly in building up its conventional and nuclear capabilities.

Some Japanese politicians are concerned that the United States has not given enough support to Japan over the Senkaku Islands dispute and has allowed diplomatic ambiguity to encourage China to believe that America is not fully committed to its security alliance with Japan.

Bush in a recent White House press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair deliberately went out of his way to applaud his relationship with Koizumi.

Perhaps Bush has also been alarmed by Chinese naval intrusions into the territorial waters of America's closest ally in Asia.

The Chinese may not only be probing Japan's naval defenses, but America's naval readiness close to the Taiwan Straits. ★

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1,400 Citizens Have Signed on to Lawsuit Addressing Tax Issues

"sovereign immunity" doctrine that it must consent to being sued.

The lawsuit, *case no. 1:04-cv-01211 EGS*, was filed in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

American Free Press has been given a copy of the We the People's motion.*

Sovereign immunity does not apply when constitutional rights are at issue, the foundation responded, citing a case where former Attorney General Janet Reno withdrew that claim for that reason.

The foundation cited the last nine words of the First Amendment, which prohibits Congress from passing laws abridging the right of the people "to petition the government for a redress of grievances." As to intent, it noted that the Declaration of Independence protested Britain's failure to act on redress of grievances.

Plaintiffs include Bob Schulz, founder of We the People, and more than 1,400 other Americans. They are not seeking money damages, only that the government abide by the Constitution and respond to petitions for redress of grievances.

The government also invoked the Anti-Injunction Act, a part of the Internal Revenue code. But the foundation responded, Schulz said, that "an act of Congress cannot trump the Constitution."

Court papers in this case could become historical documents, according to Mark Lane, the famed civil rights attorney who is representing the foundation.

Several years ago, Schulz, and the organizations that

he founded, the We The People Foundation for Constitutional Education, Inc., and the We The People Congress, Inc., initiated an effort to ask responsible public officials for official answers to perplexing legal questions about the power of the government to tax, and other grievances including the abuse of the war powers clauses in violation of the Constitution.

For years, in meeting after meeting, in letter after letter, in conference after conference, Schulz and thousands of people associated with him across the nation called upon the responsible officials to answer the specific and well documented questions addressed to them.

The only response that has ever been given was a statement from a top IRS official to a reporter for *The New York Times*, who had asked him why the IRS refused to answer the relevant questions, that the IRS is "responding to the petitions with enforcement actions." In other words, the government will punish people who dare to exercise their rights protected by the First Amendment.

When it became clear that the officials would not directly respond to the people's petitions, approximately 2,000 plaintiffs, including Schulz, the organizations he had founded along with several former IRS agents, retained legal counsel and brought a lawsuit against the U.S. government in the District Court for the District of Columbia.

Whoever loses at the trial level is sure to appeal, Schulz said, and the issue of government's obligation to



Above, Bob Schulz, head of We the People Foundation for Constitutional Education, one of the more prominent organizations working today for redress of grievances related to the income tax and fighting to protect the Constitution.

respond to petitions for redress of grievances has never been definitively decided by the courts. ★

* Readers, who are interested in obtaining a copy of this 42-page landmark memorandum, can download it for free on AFP's web site or order it for \$10 (the price of postage and printing). Write 645 Pennsylvania Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. For faster service, call 1-888-699-6397 and charge to Visa or MasterCard.

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Iraqis, Americans Suffer Through War

AFP Editorial: U.S. Kids Put in Untenable Situation

BAD THINGS HAPPEN IN WAR, including undeclared war. But, in an electronic age when the execution of an unarmed Iraqi fighter or the killing of innocent women and children is captured on camera and flashed across the world, those bad things can have catastrophic consequences for America.

Coming in the wake of the Abu Ghraib prison torture scandal, videos of bombed out buildings, dead Iraqi children and the close quarters killing of an "insurgent" in a mosque, which was beamed around the world, will have caused incalculable damage to America's once proud image abroad, especially in the Islamic world.

A day spent reading foreign newspapers and watching international television coverage of events in Iraq clearly shows that what Americans read and watch in the U.S. mainstream news differs widely from what others see. *American Free Press* readers know this all too well.

Even in Britain, our closest ally, newspaper reports, televised commentaries and editorials are critical of the overwhelming use of firepower in Iraqi cities and lament the rising civilian death toll.

Here, while U.S. news outlets rightly praise the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, there is a "band of brothers" type of coverage of the conflict that often ignores the stark reality of modern warfare and does not question whether we are winning a battle or losing the one for the hearts and minds of many Iraqis and others in the Islamic world.

The leveling of Fallujah, in a bombardment reminiscent of Dresden in World War II or Vietnam, has resulted in what the Red Crescent, the Arab counterpart of the Red Cross, calls a "catastrophe" and what some others have characterized as a war crime.

CIVILIAN DEATHS

Evidence is emerging that, despite silence from the Iraqi interim government about civilian deaths, many innocent people have been killed in Fallujah. In one episode, a U.S. missile struck a health clinic in the center of the city, killing 20 doctors and other medical staff. Accounts provided by doctors who remained behind in Fallujah show that there was widespread killing of innocent civilians.

It was not made clear before the battle for Fallujah that, while 150,000 women and children vacated the city, many others remained behind. Males in the 15 to 50 age groups were not allowed to leave on the orders of U.S. commanders.

Accounts provided by doctors who remained behind in Fallujah show that there was widespread killing of innocent civilians. A BBC correspondent hiding in Fallujah said he even witnessed dogs and cats feeding on corpses that literally lined the streets.

Across the world, opinion has hardened against using such massive ground and air power when the stated objective of arresting or killing terrorist leaders was not achieved. In fact, contrary to U.S. and Iraqi government claims that Fallujah had been under the control of foreign fighters, few foreign terrorists were among the estimated 1,400 dead insurgents. And even then, how are

we to know for sure that many of the 1,400 Iraqis killed were not just civilians caught up among those guerrilla fighters who stayed behind to battle U.S. forces?

Among those who feel that America has won the battle of Fallujah but "lost the battle for hearts and minds" is Col. Tom Collins, the British officer who became famous for his address to his troops before the war. Collins had told them they were going to Iraq "to liberate, not to conquer." President Bush was so impressed

Some prominent Iraqis have decided to speak out about events in Fallujah and other cities. Among them is Haifa Zangana, a novelist imprisoned under Saddam. He has condemned what he calls the "Israeli-style collective punishment" of cities like Fallujah in which civilian carnage is matched by the utter destruction of homes and infrastructure.

Zangana claims that, at Tal Afar in the north of the country, Marines cut off water and food to 150,000



MARCO DI LAURO/GETTY IMAGES

An Iraqi fighter lies dead after being shot by Marines with the 1st U.S. Marines Expeditionary Force, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines Regiment, Bravo Company during house-to-house searches November 17, 2004, in Fallujah. Marines say the man tried to launch a grenade at them. Although Marines occupy all of Fallujah, they continue to conduct house-to-house searches, arresting males between 15 and 55 years old and destroying food and weapons caches suspected of being used by fighters. In this type of conflict, discerning resistance fighters from civilians, as in Vietnam, is next to impossible.

with Collins that he pinned his words to a wall in the Oval Office.

While the battle of Fallujah raged, Collins, while talking to a BBC interviewer, not only lamented the U.S. failure to win over Iraqis, but also said he believed Iraq was sliding toward civil war.

In that view he is not alone because of several important factors. One danger is that the United States continues to use Kurdish militias to fight Sunnis in cities like Mosul. Many people have speculated that this could likely lead to a battle among ethnic groups in Iraq. Perhaps that is what some people want, but it would surely mean trouble for U.S. forces who will be given the impossible task of trying to quell an ethnic and religious war.

refugees for three days. In Samarra, he says, 150 civilians were killed, people cowered in their homes during a massive aerial bombardment, bodies littered the streets and the injured were denied access to hospitals.

It seems there is only one sensible solution to this Israeli-inspired mess, and that is to bring our troops home, give Iraq back to the Iraqis and pray for the best. As Rep. Ron Paul (R-Texas) writes in this week's issue on page nine: "The simple truth is that we cannot resolve every human conflict across the globe, and there will always be violence somewhere on Earth. The fatal conceit lies in believing America can impose geopolitical solutions wherever it chooses." How far we have strayed from our Founders' ideals. ★



THOMAS ZAPP



DON CLARY



BRYAN FREEMAN



NAT HAMMOND



SHANE O'DONNELL



BRANDEN RAMEY



DAVID RIES



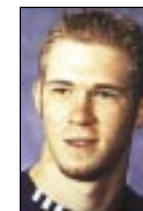
ROBERT WARNS



CLINTON WISDOM



STEVEN AUCHMAN



NICHOLAS LARSON



DAVID CARUSO

NOVEMBER 8

• Lance Cpl. Thomas J. Zapp, 20, of Houston, Texas, died Nov. 8 as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

• Spc. Don A. Clary, 21, of Troy, Ks., died in Baghdad when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy. Clary was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Army National Guard.

• Spc. Bryan L. Freeman, 31, of Lumberton, N.J., died in Baghdad from wounds sustained earlier that day when he came under small arms fire while conducting a vehicle search. Freeman was assigned to 443rd Civil Affairs Battalion.

• Cpl. Nathaniel T. Hammond, 24, of Tulsa, Okla., died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province. Hammond was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

• Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Lam, 21, of Queens, N.Y., died as a result of a non-hostile vehicle incident in Al Anbar Province. Lam was assigned to 6th Communications Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Reserve.

• Lance Cpl. Shane K. O'Donnell, 21, of DeForest, Wis., died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province. O'Donnell was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Corps Reserve.

• Cpl. Joshua D. Palmer, 24, of Blandinsville, Ill., died as a result of a non-hostile vehicle incident in Al Anbar Province. Palmer was assigned to 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, U.S. Marines.

• Lance Cpl. Branden P. Ramey, 22, of Boone, Ill., died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province. Ramey was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Corps Reserve.

• Staff Sgt. David G. Ries, 21, of Clark, Wash., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Ries was assigned to 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Marine Corps Reserve.

• Cpl. Robert P. Warns II, 23, of Waukesha, Wis., died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province. Warns was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Marine Corps Reserve.

• Staff Sgt. Clinton L. Wisdom, 21, of Atchison, Kan., died in Baghdad when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his convoy. Wisdom was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 130th Field Artillery, Army National Guard.

NOVEMBER 9

• Air Force Master Sgt. Steven E. Auchman 37, of Waterloo, N.Y., died of injuries sustained when multiple rocket-propelled grenades struck his location in Mosul, Iraq. Auchman was assigned to the 5th Air Support Operations Squadron, Fort Lewis, Wash.

• Army Staff Sgt. Todd R. Cornell, 38, of West Bend, Wis., was killed while acting in an advisory support capacity for his Iraqi unit, which was attacked in Fallujah, Iraq, by enemy forces using small-arms fire. Cornell was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 339th Infantry Regiment, Army Reserve, Fraser, Mich.

• Marine Lance Cpl. Nicholas D. Larson, 19, of Wheaton, Ill., was killed by enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Larson was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine

Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

• Maj. Horst G. Moore, 38, of San Antonio, Texas, died Nov. 9 in Mosul, Iraq, when enemy mortar rounds detonated within his unit living area. Moore was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division (Stryker Brigade Combat Team), Fort Lewis, Wash.

• Lance Cpl. Abraham Simpson, 19, Chino, Calif., died as a result of an improvised explosive device that blew up next to his convoy in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

• Sgt. David M. Caruso, 25, of Naperville, Ill., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 2nd Force Reconnaissance Company, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

• Command Sgt. Maj. Steven W. Faulkenburg, 45, of Huntingburg, Ind., died in Fallujah, Iraq, when he came under small arms fire while conducting combat operations. Faulkenburg was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Vilseck, Germany.

• Sgt. Lonny D. Wells, 29, of Vandergrift, Pa., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

• Cpl. William C. James, 24, of Huntington Beach, Calif. died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. James was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, California.

• Lance Cpl. Nathan R. Wood, 19, of Kirkland, Wash. died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Wood was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

• Spc. Travis A. Babbit, 24, of Uvalde, Tx., died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his patrol was attacked by enemy forces using a rocket-propelled grenade and small arms fire. Babbit was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, U.S. Army.

• Lance Cpl. Erick J. Hodges, Jr., 21, of Bay Point, Calif., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Hodges was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

• 1st Lt. Dan T. Malcom, Jr., 21, of Brinson, Ga., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Malcom was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

• Staff Sgt. Russell L. Slay, Jr., 21, of Humble, Texas, died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Slay was assigned to Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

• Sgt. John B. Trotter, 25, of Marble Falls, Tx., died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when he was on patrol and his unit came under attack by enemy forces using small arms fire. Trotter was assigned to 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

The Human Cost of War:

Over the course of one week of heavy fighting in the cities of Balad, Baghdad, Fallujah and Mosul, more than 45, have been killed. In many cases, it is still worth remembering the cost of war in terms of those men who made the ultimate sacrifice for their brave men as space would allow. We regret that so many vicemen and women killed fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan.

NOVEMBER 10

• Lance Cpl. Wesley J. Canning, 21, of Friendswood, Texas, died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Canning was assigned to 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

• Marine Staff Sgt. Gene Ramirez, 28, of San Antonio, Tex.; assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.; killed by enemy action in Al Anbar Province.

• Marine Lance Cpl. Justin D. Reppuhn 20, of Hemlock, Mich., was killed by enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Reppuhn was assigned to 3rd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

• Lance Cpl. Aaron C. Pickering, 20, of Marion, Ill., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

• Cpl. Romulo J. Jimenez II, 21, of Miami, Fla., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

• Navy Petty Officer Third Class Julian Woods, 22, of Jacksonville, Fla., died as a result of hostile fire in Fallujah, Iraq. He was attached to 3rd Marine Division Detachment, Marine Corps Base Hawaii, Kaheohe Bay, Hawaii.

• Staff Sgt. Michael C. Ottolini, Jr., 45, of Sebastopol, Calif., died in Balad, Iraq, when an improvised explosive device detonated near his un-armored Humvee. Ottolini was assigned to 579th Engineer Battalion, Army National Guard.

• Pfc. Dennis J. Miller, Jr. 21, of La Salle, Mich., died in Ar Ramadi, Iraq, when his unit came under enemy attack and a rocket-propelled grenade struck his M1A1 Abrams tank. Miller was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 72nd Armor Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Army.



TRAVIS BABBIT



STEVE FAULKENBERG



LONNY WELLS



RUSSELL SLAY



JOHN TROTTER



GENE RAMIREZ



JUSTIN REPPUHN



AARON PICKERING



JULIAN WOODS



DENNIS MILLER



BRIAN PRENING



TODD CORNELL

Remembering the Fallen

ing from Nov. 8 to Nov. 15 in and around the Iraqi
osul; 63 U.S. servicemen, ranging in ages from 19
t is not known exactly how the men died, only that
ties or during the assault on Fallujah. Though the
liar times, such as the Civil War and World War II,
ns of human lives lost. The following is the list of
ir country. We ran the photos of as many of these
e could not run photographs of all of the U.S. ser-
anistan.

NOVEMBER 11

- 2nd Lt. James P. Blecksmith, Jr., 24, of San Marino, Calif., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Burger was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division.

- Lance Cpl. Kyle W. Burns, 21, of Laramie, Wyo., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Burns was assigned to 1st Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Spc. Thomas K. Doerflinger, 20, of Silver Spring, Md., died in Mosul, Iraq, when his unit received small arms fire while conducting combat operations. Doerflinger was assigned to 1st Battalion, 24th Infantry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division.

- Staff Sgt. Theodore S. Holder II, 27, of Littleton, Co., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Holder was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Staff Sgt. Sean P. Huey, Jr., 28, of Fredericktown, Pa., died in Habbaniyah, Iraq, when his unit was on patrol and a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near his HMMWV. Huey was assigned to 1st Battalion, 506th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Army.

- Cpl. Theodore A. Bowling, 25, of Casselberry, Fla., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. He was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Cpl. Peter J. Giannopoulos, 22, of Inverness, Ill., died as a result of enemy action in Babil Province. He was assigned to Marine Corps Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago, Ill.

NOVEMBER 12

- Sgt. James Calvin Matteson, Jr., 23, of Celoron, N.Y., died in Fallujah, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Matteson was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd

Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Army.

- Lance Cpl. Nicholas H. Anderson, 19, of Las Vegas, Nev., died in a vehicle incident while conducting combat operations in Al Anbar Province. Anderson was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Marine Lance Cpl. David M. Branning, 21, of Cockeysville, Md. died as result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

- Marine Lance Cpl. Brian A. Medina, 20, of Woodbridge, Va. died as result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.

- Cpl. Nathan R. Anderson, 22, of Howard, Ohio, died as result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Anderson was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

- Cpl. Brian P. Prening, 24, of Sheboygan, Wis., died as result of enemy action in Babil Province. Prening was assigned to Marine Corps Reserve's 2nd Battalion, 24th Marine Regiment, 4th Marine Division, Chicago, Ill.

- Cpl. Jarrod L. Maher, 21, of Imogene, Iowa, died as result of a non-hostile gunshot wound at Abu Ghraib, Iraq. According to Camp Pendleton, it was not known exactly how Maher was killed. The incident is still under investigation. Maher was assigned to 1st Battalion, 4th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Sgt. Morgan W. Strader, 23, of Crossville, Ind., died as result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Strader was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- 1st Lt. Edward D. Iwan, 28, of Albion, Neb., died in Fallujah, Iraq, when a rocket-propelled grenade struck his Bradley Fighting Vehicle. Iwan was assigned to the Army's 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Vilseck, Germany.

- Sgt. Jonathan B. Shields, 25, of Atlanta, Ga., died in Fallujah, Iraq, when a tank accidentally struck him. Shields was assigned to the Army's 3rd Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

- Spc. Raymond L. White, 22, of Elwood, Ind., died in Baghdad, Iraq, when his patrol encountered enemy forces using small arms fire. White was assigned to the Army's 1st Battalion, 8th Cavalry Regiment (Armor), 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

NOVEMBER 13

- Sgt. Byron W. Norwood, 25, of Pflugerville, Texas, died as result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Norwood was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Lance Cpl. Justin M. Ellsworth, 20, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Ellsworth

was assigned to Combat Service Support Battalion 1, Combat Service Support Group 11, 1st Force Service Support Group, I Marine Expeditionary Force, Camp Pendleton, Calif.

- Lance Cpl. Benjamin S. Bryan, Jr., 23, of Lumberton, N.C., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Bryan was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Cpl. Kevin J. Dempsey Jr., 23, of Monroe, Ct., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Dempsey was assigned to 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Lance Cpl. Victor R. Lu, 22, of Los Angeles, Calif., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Lu was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Lance Cpl. Justin D. McLeese, 19, of Covington, La., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. McLeese was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Capt. Sean P. Sims, 32, of El Paso, Texas, died in Fallujah, Iraq, when his unit received small arms fire while clearing a building. Sims was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division.

- Spc. Jose A. Velez, 23, of Lubbock, Tx., died in Fallujah, Iraq, while clearing an enemy strongpoint when his unit came under fire. Velez was assigned to 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division, Army.

NOVEMBER 14

- Cpl. Dale A. Burger, Jr., 21, of Port Deposit, Md., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Burger was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

- Cpl. Andres H. Perez, 21, of Mount Pleasant, Mich., died as a result of enemy action in Al Anbar Province. Perez was assigned to 3rd Battalion, 1st Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force.

NOVEMBER 15

- Cpl. Nicholas L. Ziolkowski, 22, of Towson, Md., died as a result of the war in Iraq. Ziolkowski was assigned to 1st Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2d Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force.

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LIVE FROM BAGHDAD

Civilian Casualties Inevitable When War Comes to Town

By Dahr Jamail

She lies dazed in the crowded hospital room, languidly waving her bruised arm at the flies. Her shins, shattered by bullets from U.S. soldiers when they fired through the front door of her house, are both covered by casts. Small plastic drainage bags filled with red fluid sit upon her abdomen, where she took shrapnel from another bullet.

Fatima Harouz, 12 years old, lives in Latifiya, a city just south of Baghdad. In mid-November soldiers attacked her home.

Her mother, standing with us, says, "They attacked our home, and there weren't even any resistance fighters in our area."

Her brother was shot and killed, and his wife was wounded as their home was ransacked by soldiers.

Weary of the overall failure of the U.S. media to accurately report on the realities of the war in Iraq for the Iraqi people and U.S. soldiers, Dahr Jamail went to Iraq to report on the war himself. His entries have been published in independent magazines around the world. AFP now is bringing some of his photography and his writings to our readers. For more, visit Jamail's web site at dahrjamailliraq.com.



"Before they left, they killed all of our chickens," added Fatima's mother, her eyes a mixture of fear, shock and rage.

A doctor standing with us, after listening to Fatima's mother tell their story, looks at me and sternly asks, "This is the freedom . . . in their Disney Land, are there kids just like this?" ★

Above, Rana Obeidy was walking home with her brother when she and her brother (who died) were shot by U.S. soldiers. Amin, above right, a Fallujah refugee, was wounded when shrapnel from a grenade thrown into their home by a soldier lodged near his kidney. Right, U.S. soldiers attacked the home of Fatima Harouz. Her uncle was killed while the family claims there was no resistance in the area. Will these victims want revenge on America?



Draft Issue Not Dead Yet

By Mike Blair

The issue of a military draft looming on the horizon became an issue raised late in the presidential campaign by Democratic candidate Sen. John Kerry (D-Mass.), but it was flatly denied by the Bush administration, and it was dropped. However, the issue has not died yet, despite the best efforts on the part of top officials in the military and the White House to kill it.

Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld and others at the Pentagon denied charges that the Bush administration was secretly calling for a draft of young Americans next year.

Rumsfeld insisted there were no plans for a draft, insisting that the U.S. military was having no problems filling its ranks.

However, Rumsfeld was not exactly telling the truth when it came to the armed forces meeting their quota of new enlistees.

Also unexplained is why the Bush administration earlier announced it is seeking thousands of volunteers across the country to fill spots on local draft boards, as well as earmarking millions of dollars to make that possible.

If the military is having no trouble in filling its ranks consider this simple fact, which cannot be refuted: During Iraq War II, the Pentagon has called up reserve troops in larger numbers than at any time since World War II. That includes Korea and Vietnam, wherein hundreds of thousands of young Americans were sent off to fight no-win wars.

This illustrates the scope of the current call-up of reserves and demonstrates the difficulties the military is having raising the required manpower to station troops and fight undeclared wars around the world.

Pentagon officials are fighting a war of their own on the home front with thousands of men who are part of what is referred to as the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR). The IRR is a corps of ex-soldiers who no longer are on active duty but still are, according to the military, subject to call-up.

Thousands of these former soldiers are battling the Pentagon after receiving notices that they are being called to active duty for service in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The situation has become troubling for the Pentagon because out of some 2,500 of these inactive reservists—many of whom say they will no longer be eligible for call-up—733 failed to turn up by Nov. 7 at assigned bases for "refresher training."

The Pentagon is calling reservists to duty for a year, which has resulted in thousands asking for exemptions or just refusing to show up.

The Army has considered declaring these men absent without leave and may pursue charges against them. Some of the soldiers are seeking relief in federal courts across the country, charging that their call-up is unlawful. Others even suggested that, years ago, the Pentagon tricked them into becoming members and officers of the IRR. Their claim that they gave up their commissions when they left active duty is being ignored by the service.

One former helicopter test pilot, who was called up for duty, summed it up:

"These guys like me are basically untrained. I don't even have a uniform anymore. But [the Pentagon] doesn't have more reserves left, so we're it. All they want are some bodies to go to Iraq—just someone to be there, to sit on the ground," he said.

"I have to wonder how many men are already in Iraq who shouldn't be there, who just didn't think to question it," he added.

With the Pentagon going to such lengths to fill ranks, many are asking, how far away can a draft really be?

• In Louisiana, under new guidelines passed in 2003, young men and women who go to get a drivers license must pre-register for the draft. According to Associated Press, boys and girls as young 15 years old who want a learner's permit must provide information which will be forwarded to the Selective Service System. Louisiana sends the information to a federal center which hangs onto it until the boy or girl turns 18. It is used to automatically register them with Selective Service.

• According to *The Raw Story*, an on-line news site, the Selective Service filed a notice in the *Federal Register*, a magazine which publishes information about new business conducted by the federal government, three days before the Nov. 2 election saying it was planning a program to check Department of Education records to make sure all students who receive federal financial aid are registered for the draft.

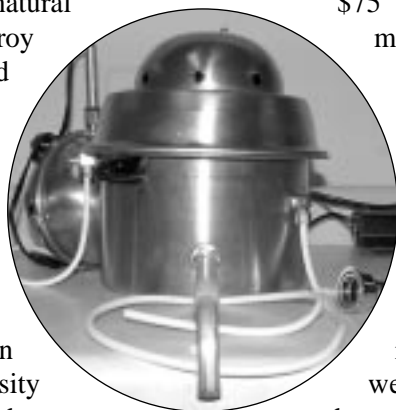
• Cox New Service reports that "the Selective Service has been updating its contingency plans for a draft of doctors, nurses and other health care workers in case of a national emergency that overwhelmed the military's medical corps." ★

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U.S. Economic Strength Banks on Dollar as Reserve Currency



China's currency peg to the U.S. dollar prevents correction of the U.S. trade imbalance and imperils the U.S. dollar's role as the international reserve currency. In the post World War II period, the dollar took over the reserve currency role from the British pound, because the supremacy of U.S. manufacturing guaranteed U.S. trade surpluses. The British pound lost its role due to debts from two world wars, loss of empire, a run-down industrial base and socialist attack on UK business.

The reserve currency status conveys unique advantages on the favored country. As the reserve currency, the U.S. dollar is guaranteed a high level of demand. Foreign central banks hold their reserves in dollars, and countries are billed in dollars for their oil imports, which requires other countries to buy dollars with their currencies.

As a reserve currency fulfills world needs in addition to the functions of a domestic currency, the favored country can hemorrhage debt for a protracted period on a scale that would promptly wreck any other country's currency.

This advantage is a two-edged sword, however, because it permits the reserve country to behave irresponsibly by running large trade and budget deficits. When the tide turns against the reserve currency, its exchange value collapses.

The reason for the collapse is the huge stock of reserve currency held by foreigners. When other countries conclude that their hoards of dollars represent claims that

the United States cannot meet, dollar dumping begins. Financing for U.S. debt dries up; interest rates rise; imported goods become unaffordable and living standards fall.

Flight from the dollar is already underway. During the past two years, the U.S. dollar has declined 52 percent against the new European currency, the euro. This decline is striking in view of the sluggish European economy and the fact that many analysts regard the euro as merely a political currency.

Indeed, the dollar is declining against all currencies that have any international standing: the British pound, the Canadian dollar, the Australian dollar and even against the Japanese yen, despite Tokyo's intervention to support the dollar.

Overcome by hubris and superpower delusion, U.S. policymakers are unaware of America's peril. Economists and pundits are equally in the dark.

Economists believe that decline in the dollar's exchange value will correct the U.S. trade deficit by reducing imports and increasing exports. Once upon a time, a case could be argued for this logic. But that was a time before U.S. corporations took to outsourcing jobs and locating production for U.S. markets offshore.

U.S. imports of goods and services rise each time a U.S. factory moves offshore or a U.S. job is outsourced. Goods and services produced offshore by U.S. corporations for U.S. customers count as imports and worsen the trade deficit. The United States cannot reduce its trade deficit by increasing sales to China of goods made by U.S. firms in China. As Charles McMillion, president of MBG Information Services, concisely summarizes, "Outsourcing is export substitution."

It is amazing that U.S. policymakers and economists do not understand that dollar devaluation is meaningless as long as China keeps its currency pegged to the dollar.

America's greatest trade imbalance is with China. In 2000, the U.S. merchandise trade deficit with China became larger than the chronic U.S. trade deficit with Japan. By 2003, the U.S. trade deficit with China was almost twice as

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large as the U.S. deficit with Japan: \$124 billion versus \$66 billion. This year, the U.S. trade deficit with China is expected to be \$160 billion, a 29 percent increase from last year.

This imbalance cannot be corrected as long as China maintains the peg. As the dollar falls against the euro and other currencies, the Chinese currency falls with it, thus maintaining China's advantage over U.S. goods in world markets.

Both the Clinton and Bush administrations are guilty of permitting China to maintain a grossly undervalued currency that sucks productive capacity out of the United States. The combination of cheap Chinese labor and an undervalued currency are destroying U.S. middle class living standards.

As America's industrial base erodes, so does its competitiveness and ability to close its trade deficit through exports.

Currency markets cannot correct the undervalued Chinese currency, because China does not permit its currency to be traded and there are insufficient stocks of Chinese currency in foreign hands with which to form a currency market.

Sooner or later, the peg will come to an end—perhaps when China fulfills its WTO obligation to let its currency float. When the peg ends, it will deliver a severe shock to U.S. living standards. Suddenly, Chinese manufactured goods—including advanced technology products—on which the United States is now dependent will cost much

more. Overnight, shopping at Wal-Mart will be like shopping in high-end department stores.

China accounts for a quarter of the U.S. trade deficit and for one-third of the U.S. deficit in manufactured goods, is the second largest source of U.S. imports after Canada and is America's third largest trading partner as conventionally measured. Despite these facts, the U.S. government does not publish full current account data for China, instead lumping China in with "Other Countries in Asia and Africa." This keeps the magnitude of the problem out of sight.

Canada and Mexico rank as the United States' two largest "trading partners," because of double counting in the measure of imports and exports. For example, the full value of auto bodies shipped across the borders to Canada and Mexico for assembly operations are counted as "exports" when they leave the United States and as "imports" when they return.

In contrast, U.S. "trade" with China involves almost no double counting of component parts.

Recently, Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. declared its intention to close all U.S. plants and to manufacture offshore for U.S. markets. Each time the United States loses an industry, America's export potential declines and America's imports rise. This scenario guarantees a rising trade deficit and the end of the dollar's reserve currency role. ★



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Senate Raises Debt Ceiling to Unprecedented Level

By John Tiffany

The Senate approved an increase of \$800 billion, or nearly \$1 trillion, in the federal debt limit on Nov. 17, a testament to the massive federal deficits that have marked the Bush administration. The 52 to 44 vote was mostly divided along party lines, with Republicans for it and Democrats against. Enactment would raise the government's borrowing limit to \$8.18 trillion. That is \$2.23 trillion higher than when Bush became president in 2001 and more than eight times the debt President Reagan faced when he took office in 1981. Democrats noted that those bills will have to be paid by future generations.

One Washington pol noted the irony of Republicans, who at one time stood for reduced government spending, now supporting the increase in debt, while Democrats opposed it.

"The United States is operating a borrow-and-spend government, continuously stretched by demands for more tax cuts and more spending," said Sen. John Kerry. "And when they don't have the money to pay for their choices, they just put the tab on the national credit card and send the bill to our kids."

Not a single Republican spoke during debate on the debt limit bill, reflecting how politically uncomfortable the measure is for them. That discomfort was highlighted when they refused to bring the bill to a vote before the elections. Administration bureaucrats had successfully sought to panic lawmakers by pointing out that failure to raise the debt ceiling could force a federal default and leave the government unable to pay Social Security recipients (since there is no Social Security trust fund), federal workers and other obligations.

The bill would increase the debt ceiling from its current \$7.38 trillion, marking the third massive increase since Bush took office in 2001. The government reached the cap last month, paying its bills since with cash from a civil service retirement account.

Democrats opposed the measure, saying it should have been accompanied by a requirement that tax cuts or new spending be paid for with budget savings. They blamed Bush's tax cuts for the increases in government debt, a trend analysts expect to continue indefinitely.

"We can demagogue it. We can keep putting on all sorts of messages to feel good or draw political lines. . . . But the reality is, we keep screwing around with this thing, we're going to shut the government down," said Rep. Thomas Reynolds (R-N.Y.). Would that be a bad thing? ★

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1999\$5,656,270,901,615
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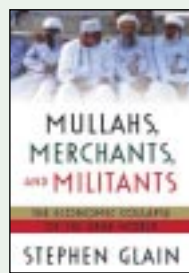
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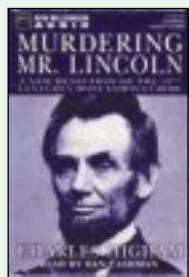
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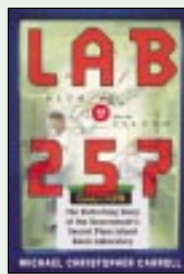
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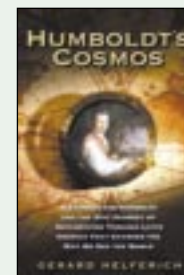


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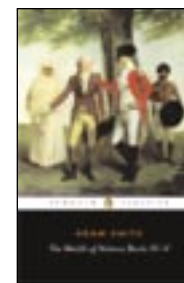
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Market Volatility Great News for Gold Bugs

By Paul van Eeden

Now that the U.S. election is over, the market can get on with business as usual, and that means it will shift its focus back to the economy. During an election year, the incumbent administration presents the economy in its best possible light, to show how beneficial its policies have been to the economy and the country as a whole. This election year, the administration was unable to portray the U.S. economy as healthy.

Weakness in the economy weighed down the stock market and could have cost George W. Bush the election, since the incumbent president rarely gets re-elected if the stock market declines during an election year. But then, the incumbent is also rarely defeated if the country is at war. This year, the latter outweighed the former.

President Bush has a problem: The "war on terrorism" is draining an already weak economy.

Recently, both General Motors and Ford announced declines in their October sales; 4.7 percent and 5 percent respectively. Regardless of the cost, Bush is unlikely to end the war anytime soon. At least the defense sector has reason for joy.

Defense stocks rallied the day after the election: Northrop Grumman shares rose 4.1 percent, General Dynamics increased by 4.3 percent and Lockheed Martin registered a 3.2 percent gain. It seems a sure bet that Bush will increase defense spending, and that means the federal budget deficit is going to grow.

In the budget year that ended Sept. 30, 2004, the budget deficit came in at \$413 billion. Next year's bud-

get deficit is projected to approach \$600 billion, and has to be financed by issuing new Treasury bonds. This added supply of bonds is sure to put downward pressure on bond prices, which means that medium to long-term interest rates are going to rise.

To quote *The Wall Street Journal*, on the day after the election, "Bonds were thumped" and the thumping continued into Thursday. According to the WSJ, "Bond investors worry that government spending will remain high. That, analysts said, raises the specter that at some point

If the dollar keeps falling while interest rates rise, the next major advance in the gold price has begun.

holders of Treasuries might—as they did in the early 1990s—convey displeasure by pushing up yields."

None of this is unexpected; it's what I've been writing about for almost a year now. The reason I'm still writing the same story is because, for gold investors, this is the story. The price of gold in U.S. dollars depends on the dollar exchange rate.

Dollar volatility the week of the election caused gold price volatility, with the dollar first declining as speculators went short, and then rising as some of those short positions were covered on Nov. 2. In response, the gold price, which has been rising since mid-October, fell when the dollar rallied in response to short covering.

The dollar caught many market players off-guard the day after the election, when it declined instead of rally-

ing, and after Sen. John Kerry delivered his concession speech the currency's decline accelerated.

The decline continued on Nov. 4 as, to quote the *Journal* again, "... the currency market turned its attention back to the longer-term pressure that the large U.S. current-account deficit (trade deficit) is placing on the dollar. Additional pressure is coming from uncertainty about the sustainability of the economic recovery and the sense that there are few real dollar defenders among the ranks of U.S. and foreign monetary officials these days."

I know this is only two days' trading, but this is what I have been waiting for, and saying will happen: The dollar declined because the currency market is now starting to focus on fundamental issues affecting the greenback, and the greenback's prospects are bleak. At the same time, bond prices are falling (i.e. interest rates are rising) because the bond market is now also looking at fundamentals, and it doesn't like the prospects for U.S. bonds either. So here we have the dollar falling at the same time as interest rates are rising.

Again, I know it's only been a couple of weeks so far, and so I absolutely would not call it a trend, but if the dollar keeps falling while interest rates rise, the next major advance in the gold price has begun.

At least, that's my story and I'm sticking with it. ★

Paul van Eeden is one of the world's leading gold market analysts. He writes on stocks and the precious metals markets in an electronic investment publication available on the Internet at paulvaneeden.com.

Economists Warn of Dollar Crisis if Deficit Isn't Cut

By Fred Lingel

Financial experts are warning that if the Bush administration does not act quickly to reduce its massive deficit, the already weak U.S. dollar could go into free-fall, leading to a dollar collapse which would have a devastating impact on the U.S. economy as well as the world.

Just as worrying, say economists, is the overall U.S. government debt, which now stands at \$7.5 trillion, representing 67 percent of gross domestic product. That figure is well above the danger limit set by international economists.

Ironically, America's huge debt has, in part, been created by massive imports, which have benefited economies of countries like China, providing them with large surpluses and even larger manufacturing bases.

In simple terms, the dollar's weakness against other currencies worldwide can be attributed to the fact that America imports more goods and services than it exports and the gap between the two amounts to \$600 billion. As the dollar gets even weaker, many U.S. manufacturers who have been forced to buy raw materials on the international markets are finding it tough going when they have to purchase them from countries with stronger currencies.

Another worry for economic observers is that the Bush administration has relied on countries like China to keep down U.S. interest rates as a means of increasing

American consumer spending.

The way it works is that China, a massive exporter to America, uses its dollar profits from those exports to purchase Treasury bonds. But, that flow of cash, while it keeps U.S. interest rates low, furthers America's massive debt—a debt that is now three times the difference between money coming into this country and money going out.

The Bush administration has also favored a weak dollar as a strategy to make American goods more competitive overseas. They will not publicly acknowledge that strategy as government policy because of the risk that Asian countries holding massive amounts of U.S. Treasury bonds might panic, convinced that America is not committed to defending the dollar. There will be no panic, reckons the White House, as long as the dollar weakness is slow and measured.

What the U.S. economy really needs is a large and constant flow of direct foreign investment and that has not been happening because investors see an America with a deteriorating current account, a massive deficit and a president who appears impervious to a gradually weakening dollar.

As the dollar falls by 40 percent against currencies like the euro, the value of the euro and the Japanese yen increase.

However, the Japanese and Europeans are not prepared to buy dollars to lower the value of their currencies. Some of the oil-exporting Arab states, unhappy with

U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East, are even turning to the euro as their preferred currency.

Besides the United States, the country with probably the most to lose in a global dollar crisis is China, which has two thirds of its foreign exchange reserve in dollars, amounting to almost \$600 billion. Some Chinese economists have suggested that, like Russia, China should look to the euro and yen as stable currencies and should cease buying U.S. Treasury Bonds, which have low yields of 2 percent.

Recently, some economists have speculated that, irrespective of the potential long-term effects of a weak dollar on the Chinese economy, China for all its trumpeted economic success may never reach the superpower status it longs for.

A major problem facing China is that its sudden wealth has not found its way into the countryside to the 900 million peasants who represent the economy's engine room. They are uneducated and are living under a corrupt communist system with low wages, few social benefits and no chance of upward mobility.

Being the world's biggest manufacturing base will not be enough to make China the economic superpower it hopes to be. As a nation, it will increasingly need more oil and gas and will have to compete for it with countries like India and the United States.

If it fails to politically reform, say economists, it will not achieve greater growth than the Japanese economy of the 1950s and 1960s. ★

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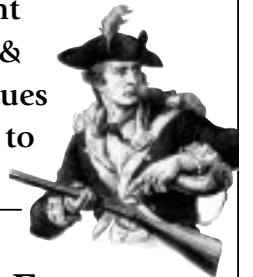
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Get Ready for Real Financial Trouble

Years ago I read a significant book—*The Rich and the Super-Rich*, by Ferdinand Lundberg. What he had to say is very pertinent to our present economic situation. The first point he made is that wealth is not money. Wealth consists of assets—land, tools, factories and skills. Money is merely a medium of exchange.

The difference is important. A truly rich man owns stuff—land, houses, factories, means of transportation. He does not depend on a salary for cash flow. Nelson Rockefeller, for example, once testified before Congress that for many years he had no taxable income. He, of course, didn't need it. He owned stuff, and he owed nothing.

The easiest way to understand this difference is to imagine that you are about to be marooned on a deserted island. You are given a choice of one of three cases: one case contains \$1 million in gold; another contains \$1 million in Federal Reserve notes; and the third case contains tools. Which would you choose?

Well, unless you are hopelessly stupid, you'd choose the tools. With the tools, you could create the wealth necessary for survival—shelter and food. Gold and dollars are useless unless there is someone willing to exchange real wealth for them.

Let's look at a guy who has the appearance of being rich. He drives a fancy car, but it is leased; he lives in a big mansion, but he pays a monthly mortgage; he belongs to several private clubs, but he pays dues; he buys pretty much what he wants to buy, but he uses credit cards; and he has a gold-standard health-insurance policy, for which he pays a high monthly premium.

What is clear is that this guy is not really rich; he is living off his cash flow. Cut that cash flow and all his

appearances of wealth will vanish. Layoffs and bankruptcies cut cash flow.

Another point to keep in mind is that owning stocks is owning paper. Go back to the deserted island. The only use \$1 million worth of blue-chip stocks

their jobs. They lost their homes. They lost their investments. They lost most of their possessions. The Great Depression wasn't the first depression to hit the United States, and despite the bunk you hear, it won't be the last.

I would not in a million years pretend to be a financial guru or even an adviser, but believe the ancient wisdom: Get out of debt and stay out. Live within your means. Strive for ownership of tangible assets free of any debt.

I cringe every time I see one of these incessant television ads urging people to put a second mortgage on their home. Another bit of ancient wisdom is never borrow money to purchase a depreciating asset.

And remember, even homes and land can become a depreciated asset. In Florida in the late 1920s, land that was selling for \$6,000 an acre, a few months later, couldn't attract a buyer at \$2 an acre. The value of land, other than as a place to live and to grow food, depends entirely on someone else's willingness and ability to buy it.

We as a nation are living beyond our means. The federal government is in debt. Most state and local governments are in debt—their form of deficit spending is to issue bonds. Most assuredly the American consumer is dangerously in debt. And, finally, the American dollar is losing its purchasing power steadily and daily.

Remember, debt is the promise of future income to pay for today's consumption. Nobody is guaranteed a future, much less future income.

Get out of debt, slam the door in the faces of all salespeople and turn off the TV. I believe a storm is just over the horizon.



would be is as a fire starter. If you own stocks, you own pieces of paper, and unless you can sell them, they are, in fact, worthless. Remember Enron?

While it's out of the experience of most living Americans, what made the Great Depression so devastating was that it cut cash flows and rendered paper wealth worthless. Many people who thought of themselves as well-off were suddenly impoverished. They lost

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Letters

AFP Urged to Smash, Coddle Newly Re-Elected President

FOR MORE WARS

This letter is to commend AFP for publishing Mike Lukovich's cartoons.

In AFP's Oct. 11 issue, Lukovich depicted Karl Rove correcting President George W. Bush who mistakenly uttered, "Four More Wars!" It could have very easily been Bush yelling, "For More Wars!" which may, in fact, be the credo of this imperialistic White House.

Now that the elections are over, Lukovich has a lampooning mandate of Dubya for four more years, that is, if impeachment does not catch up with Bush and his administration for their obvious complicity and foreknowledge of 9-11.

ERIC CHOLERTON
Santa Paula, California

SOFTEN UP

Now that the election is over, and the American people have decided, it behooves AFP to temper its tough coverage of President George W. Bush, while his cabinet is assembled and his course is plotted.

Just as AFP wrote in its editorial in the Nov. 22 issue, now is the perfect opportunity for Bush to purge the White House of any neo-conservative influence and return the country back to its republican roots by rejecting internationalism, foreign meddling and nation building.

It will not hurt to take a wait-and-see

approach to things. Let's keep our fingers crossed and our reports upbeat. Like my mother always said, "You get more flies with honey than you do with vinegar."

JOHN SMILEY
Via email

KARMA

I sincerely hope that those individuals who were so critical of AFP are happy now that King George has gotten four more years to wreck this country.

Bush is not a conservative, but a Zionist and a globalist. He is a continuation of the same policies that are turning America into a Third World nation with weapons of mass destruction. We are becoming Iraq, or at least what they accused Iraq of being.

It's kind of like karma. The fools who allowed themselves to be taken in by Bush have only themselves to blame now.

KARL HAND
Lockport, New York

CUTTING THROUGH

Every week, I read *American Free Press* cover to cover, despite the bad news, which is sometimes too worrisome to take.

However, AFP's feature story, "Cutting Through the Propaganda," in the Sept. 9 issue was excellent. It cut to the chase and stressed

Did They Really Say That?

STRAW MAN. "One story the press doesn't touch is this criminal—this straw man that's been put in—[Iraq's Prime Minister Iyad] Allawi (right), this ridiculous figure that we've installed as the prime minister," said Seymour Hersh at a speech he gave recently at New York University. "To keep him in power, we've exponentially increased the bombing. . . . The bombing of Iraq has gone up extraordinarily, by huge numbers. It's now a daily occurrence, around the clock on some occasions. [But] we don't know how much ordnance is being dropped on a country we're trying to save."



★ ★ ★
WHACK-A-MOLE. "Even as Fallujah was being reduced to ruins, rebels were seizing the center of Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, and a third of the U.S. blocking force around Fallujah had to be sent north to deal with it," writes Gwynne Dyer, a London-based independent journalist "It's like the fairground game of Whack-a-Mole: Bash down one mole and up pops another elsewhere. And the United States has just not got enough troops in Iraq to whack all the centers of the resistance at once."

★ ★ ★
VETS NEED HELP. "There is plenty of evidence to show that one-third of [homeless males] are veterans," John Baskerville told ABC News. Baskerville is with Swords to Plowshares, a non-profit veterans support group in the San Francisco Bay area. Take Brian Roth, a Marine veteran, who says he has been hopelessly addicted to drugs since he came back from Vietnam in 1969, and has never had a home of his own. "I know I smell like a skunk and look like one," said Roth. "But for a year I've been trying to get into a program, and I will stay there if they just make it available. . . . Just get me off the street. . . . I'm tired. . . . I'm 55 years old."



each topic. There was no doubt in one's mind when seeing the differing subjects so plainly written and laid out so clearly.

These are times of great concern for us all. Thank you, AFP, for your reporting efforts.

WANDA HEUSER
Bay Shore, New York

FOCUS HERE AT HOME

It just makes no sense. The United States is always sticking its nose into other countries' problems. But don't we have enough of our own problems here to last us for years?

You have to really wonder who is actually running this country and what their intent is. Some people were waiting in line for more than eight hours just to vote. Who knows how many never even bothered?

I believe this was done to discourage people from casting their vote in this important election. It does not reflect well on our future.

JOHN BERGEL
Pittsburg, Illinois

NO WRITE-INS

There was much discussion about write-in votes in AFP just before the election. I would have liked to have voted for Stanley Rittenhouse, but in New Mexico, as in a number of other states, there was no area to write in names on the ballot.

Once again, the shadow government has forced us to vote for one of their own men. What a shame.

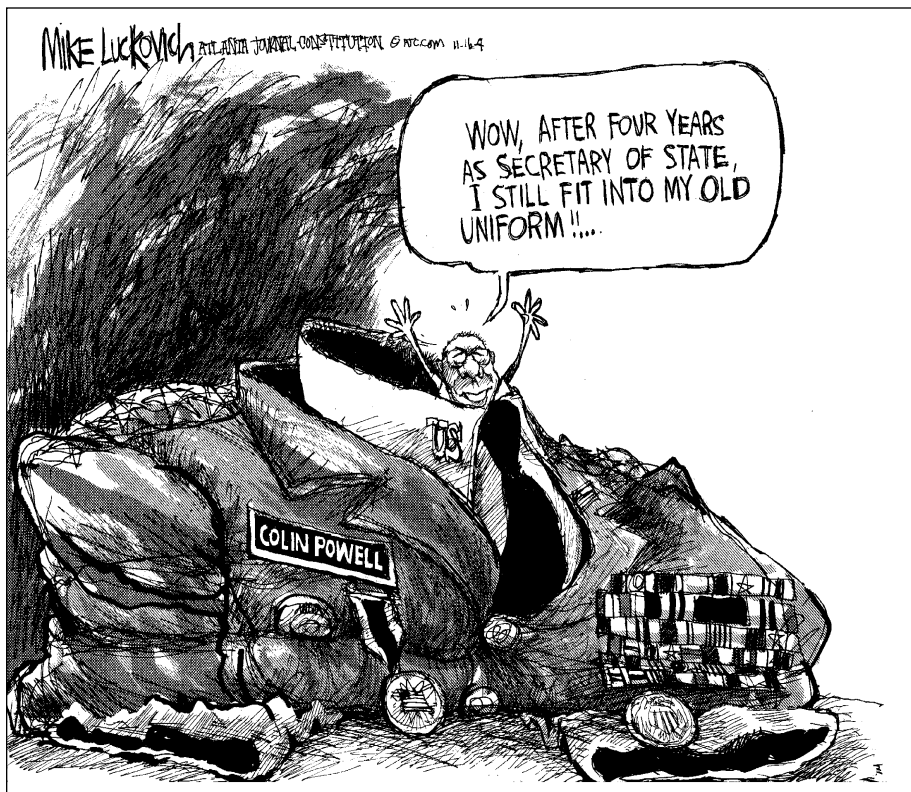
C. SINCLAIR
Deming, New Mexico

NO DIFFERENCE

While not all AFP writers are primarily guided by the Christian faith, the newspaper still generally adheres more closely to it than many zealous "Christians."

However, in two recent articles, AFP made a slight slip. In one report, AFP referred to Christian Zionists and "fundamentalists." In the second commentary, AFP said evangelicals for





Bush don't know the difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament in the Bible. A true debate would quickly reveal that neither applies, as Christian Zionists are not fundamentalists and, in reality, evangelicals today don't seem to know the difference between the Talmud and the New Testament. That is both pathetic and frightening.

C.W. FIELDS
Mims, Florida

WAL-MART DRAFT

I enjoyed the letter which ran in AFP by the Wal-Mart employee who brought issues of *American Free Press* to the store where he worked. I have been doing this for several years now, also, and the managers have told me they don't approve of it.

Wal-Mart provides Sunday newspapers to its employees in the breakrooms. I told them I don't approve of that, and they seemed to back off.

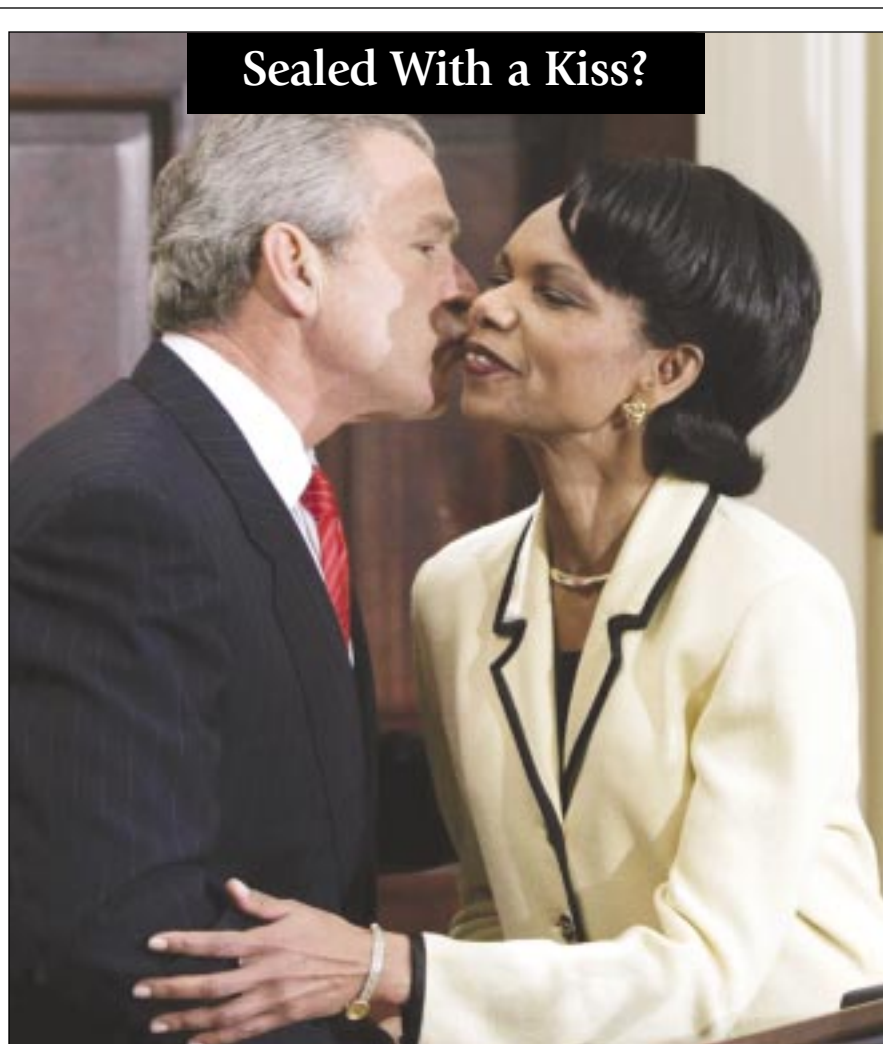
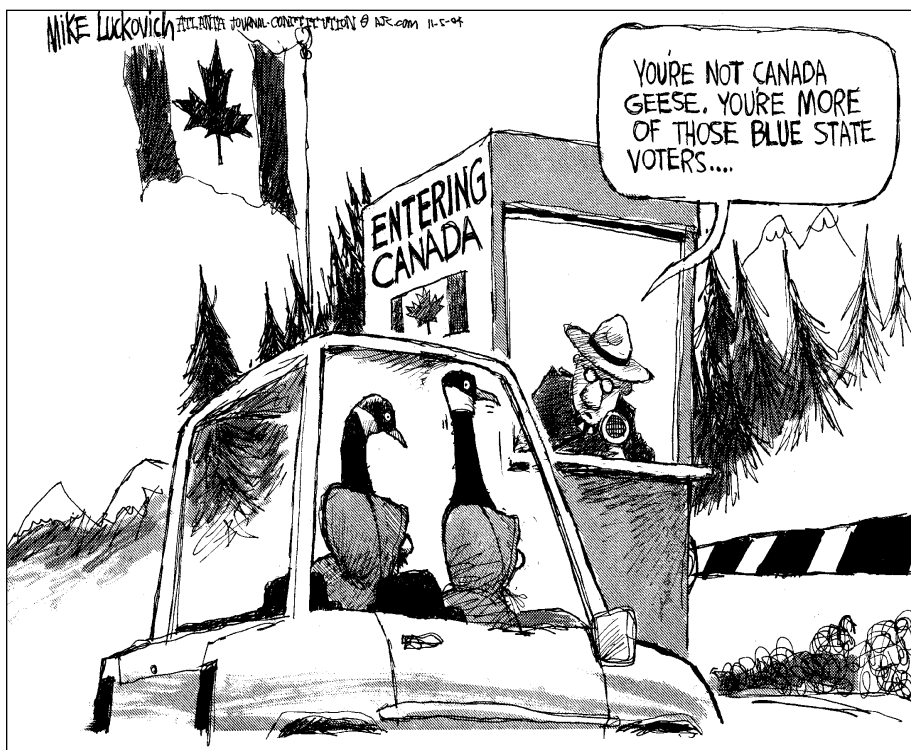
To all those people who work there and

read AFP: If you really want Wal-Mart corporate folks to go crazy, just bring up the prospects for a military draft. They go crazy. That would end much of the labor force at Wal-Mart's Super Centers, especially the third shift which is mostly made up of young, conscription-aged men and women who work to make a little extra money. The managers get upset because they know that the older people who have lost their jobs as a result of Wal-Mart driving local businesses out of business can't be brainwashed and abused like so many young people today.

NAME WITHHELD
UPON REQUEST

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.



Sealed With a Kiss?

BRENDAN SMALOWSKI/AP/GETTY IMAGES

Get ready to pucker up, America. For the next four years, here's the face of American diplomacy. Above, President George W. Bush embraced and kissed National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice on Nov. 16 after nominating her for secretary of state following Colin Powell's resignation. One commentator, after witnessing the president's unfitting display of affection, remarked: "Rice makes even Madeleine Albright look good."

AFP's Letter of the Week

Inform the Public About Depleted Uranium

I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING AFP's articles on depleted uranium (DU) since they first appeared in 2003. AFP is to be praised for its straightforward reporting. The report in the Nov. 8 issue is especially revealing.

It concerns me that the use of these weapons goes back to the first Gulf War and has set the situation where future generations in countries around the world will suffer greatly.

Worse still, international outrage seems to be out of reach for most people. When I brought the issue of DU up with acquaintances, I have found they know little to nothing about it.

AFP should consider printing a pull-out section or a supplement similar to your *50 Unanswered Questions about 9-11* and your *Choice 2004 Election Primer* that would include all of the articles published by AFP on DU.

I would particularly like to pass this out to folks I think might be interested, such as military personnel who have returned from Gulf War I and Operation Iraqi Freedom but do not know the risks of exposure. I'm sure there are many returnees who have suffered Gulf War Syndrome, but have been unable to get the treatment they need because they don't know why they are having chronic health problems.

I don't want to cause our guys any more problems than they already have, but there should be widespread concern for the health of soldiers and those unfortunate civilians around battlefields.

The world will be better off when more people know where the United States has used DU. Then, the U.S. military will be more likely to clean up its act.

HENRY WILLIAMS
Washington, D.C.

Stop Using Their Money!

Protect Your Money From The Continued Collapse Of The U.S. Dollar

The U.S. Dollar has lost 25% in the past year alone. That means YOUR purchasing power is less. Are you still using Federal Reserve notes? Concerned about your money? Over 100,000 Americans, just like you, have found the solution: The Liberty Dollar, American's inflation-proof currency, owned by the people, not the Federal Reserve. Discover the value of the 100% Gold and Silver backed currency for yourself and start protecting your money from continued devaluation.

G. Edward Griffin:

On page 573 of *The Creature from Jekyll Island – A Second Look at the Federal Reserve*, I wrote that, before we could abandon Federal Reserve Notes, we must be able to convert them into real money. I said: "That means we must create an entirely new money supply which is 100% backed by precious metal, and we must do so in a reasonably short period of time." Bernard von NotHaus, the Monetary Architect for the Liberty Dollar, did exactly that. I urge you to get involved and join this growing group of concerned Americans as a Liberty Associate NOW!



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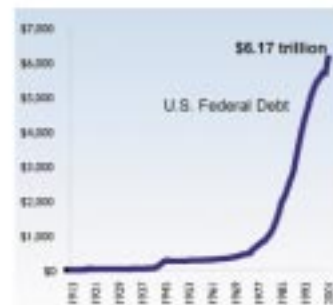
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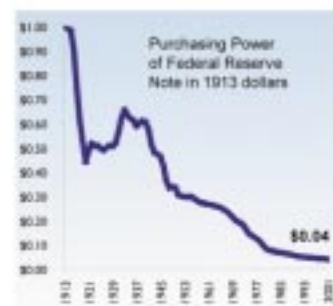
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Federal Reserve Note

- America's money is created by the Federal Reserve and backed by government indebting the people.
- By 2001 the national debt was over \$6 trillion, almost 100% of our annual GDP.
- By 2001 the dollar had lost 96% of its purchasing value. Worth: four cents.
- 2001 to 2004: national debt increased a trillion dollars, the dollar lost 50% and was worth only two cents!
- During 2004: another half a trillion was added to our national debt, dooming the dollar, stealing your money, and destroying the US economy.



Source: U.S. Treasury Bureau of the Public Debt
The U.S. debt level has climbed sharply since the Federal Reserve was created in 1913, to over \$6 trillion, almost 100% of our annual GDP!



Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, CPI
As a result, our competition, the U.S. Federal Reserve Note (the "dollar") has lost 96% of its purchasing power since 1913!

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