



Stomach Virus Plagues County



Deborah Treibs demonstrates proper barfing technique in the infirmary/living room. The towel on the left is for bad shots, the cups are for Gatoraid, Sprite, Pedialyte, etc.

by Keena Jeffrey of Fredericksburg

Although it can strike the human population almost year-round, Gastroenteritis, commonly known as the "stomach flu," has spread among more people in the local community than usual this winter season. Not only has it affected the Fredericksburg area, but other surrounding counties as well, including Kerrville, Stonewall, and Johnson City. Many people were disappointed that the holiday season and New Year was interrupted by such a miserable and highly contagious outbreak, spreading through nursing homes, schools, hospitals, work places, and households. The symptoms

have included vomiting, diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps, and nausea. In most cases, the virus generally lasts anywhere from 1 to 3 days, and has infected people of all ages. Given that symptoms of the stomach flu can turn up suddenly and it is transmissible, here are some helpful facts and suggestions to better inform you of the virus and help you to fight it:

According to health professionals, people can become infected with the virus in several ways: by having direct contact with another person who is infected and is displaying symptoms, eating food or drinking liquids that are tainted with the virus, or touching objects or surfaces that are contaminated with the virus, and then placing their hand in their mouth.

Basically, "good general precautions and personal hygiene, starting at a young age" can help decrease your chances of obtaining the virus, suggested Todd Howell, M.D., of Hill Country Urgent Care. Washing your hands frequently with hot water and soap, cleaning and disinfecting surfaces, and washing fruits and vegetables are just to name a few. If you are infected, help prevent passing the virus to another person by not handling or preparing food for others, and avoid unnecessary contact until your symptoms are no longer evident.

How can symptoms of the virus be treated? For mild symptoms, an over the counter medication, such

Con't on top of next column

Roe v. Wade Anniversary

On January 22, 1973, the US Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision legalized abortion. The same day, *Doe v. Bolton*, made abortion legal throughout the entire 9 months of pregnancy for any reason at all up to the point of birth, hence the debate over partial birth abortions.

Since 1973 over 47 million abortions have been performed in the USA, which is roughly 1/3 of all our births. Do not remain silent in the face of this travesty.

If you are the victim of abor-

tion, whether the mother, the father, a relative, or friend, there are many people who can help you. Debbie Locander is a long-time friend of ours who is compassionate and caring. She lives in San Antonio 830-980-3240, or cell: 210-744-5433.

(some of this information was taken from www.nrlc.org)

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. Genesis 1:27



Holding the hand of an unborn baby during surgery. "choose life" Deuteronomy 30:19 Photo from Stanford University website.

Con't from previous column

as Immodium, has been used to help relieve diarrhea. What you eat can affect your body and its recovery. You DO want to consume only foods and liquids that your body will be able to digest without difficulty, i.e. toast, bananas, plain noodles, crackers, applesauce, rice, cooked cereal, Gatorade, or Pedialyte. You DON'T want to consume caffeine, dairy products, alcohol, and greasy, fatty, or spicy foods. If dehydration occurs, drink plenty of liquids.

You may need to seek special medical attention if you are 1.) not able to contain enough liquids lost because of vomiting of diarrhea, 2.) experiencing constant or worsening pain, 3.) passing blood, 4.) have high fevers, or 5.) the virus lasts longer than 3 days.

Ultimately, the spreading of the

stomach flu can be hard to control. But Dr. Todd Howell advises that if people take "more drastic actions by making the necessary efforts to protect against virus, there may eventually be a reduction of cases of the stomach flu in the community.

In Memoriam

Charles "Chuck" Haffa

who was killed in a vehicle accident on his way home from work.

He was a classmate with your editor at the AACOG Police Academy, having just graduated in 2005.

He was employed with the Montgomery County Sheriff's Department.

Goodbye, Haffa.
We miss you.

Remembering Kelly James; Adventurer

As you may recall, in December, Kelly James and 2 other mountain climbers were trapped on Mt. Hood by winter storms. In spite of heroic efforts to rescue the climbers, they perished near the summit. Tom Proch and his wife, residents of Fredericksburg, knew Kelly James, and talked about him.

Tom Proch first met Kelly James at his church youth group in high school. They were buddies in wrestling and other high school athletic activities. They stayed in touch through college, taking various bicycle trips, such as century rides, tours, and road races. Their last bicycle ride together was on Tom's wife's Janet's birthday in New Mexico.

Kelly was a wild man as far as adventures were concerned--he loved adventure. He was tough and strong and seemed to be invincible--and was pretty successful at being invincible.

Janet said of Kelly: you die for what you live for.

Tom said Kelly was looking to stretch to the limit. He said he believes that, as an adventurer, Kelly was trying to see how close he could approach to death and still not touch it.

Kelly was a believer in Jesus Christ. Tom says that was he is praying for now is that God has a purpose for Kelly's death; that God has something important he's working on--perhaps to draw someone to Himself. For example, the day before Kelly's body was

found on the mountain, an unbeliever asked Tom to pray due to the graveness of the situation.

Tom says he's never had anyone taken from him in a tragic, unexpected death, although he did lose his father-in-law recently to [cancer].

Reflecting on unexpected tragedy and death, Tom said, "Here I am nailing roofs, while my friend is dying on the mountain." He mentioned another friend whose wife is dying of cancer. He said, for most people, the freight train of life goes on, but it's interesting how life comes to a stop, almost like being slapped in the face, as another one of Tom's friends reflected. She said, in response to severe difficulties her family was facing: "The world is going on while my world has stopped."

Such reflecting has caused Tom to stop every once in awhile and notice things which may be mundane. When running warm water on his hands, Tom thought about Kelly, who had no warmth, and no water. When Tom's mom brought him a chicken to eat, he thought about his friend with no food up on the mountain.

Reflecting on tragedies, Tom says, whether ours or others', can help us to begin to realize how the Lord rains down blessings on us, and how we expect it. It helps him put in perspective how blessed we are for what we have, and for what

Con't on p. 5, Kelly

AFA calls off Wal-Mart Boycott

(Tupelo, MS) - At the end of last year, the American Family Association (AFA) cancelled its call for a boycott of Wal-Mart and Sam's Club stores. The action followed the announcement that Wal-Mart would no longer make corporate contributions to support or oppose controversial issues unless they directly relate to the company's ability to serve their customers.

However, Operation Save America, headed by Flip Benham, a long-time pro-life activist, says they will continue to call for a boycott.

Benham says on his website on 12-29-06:

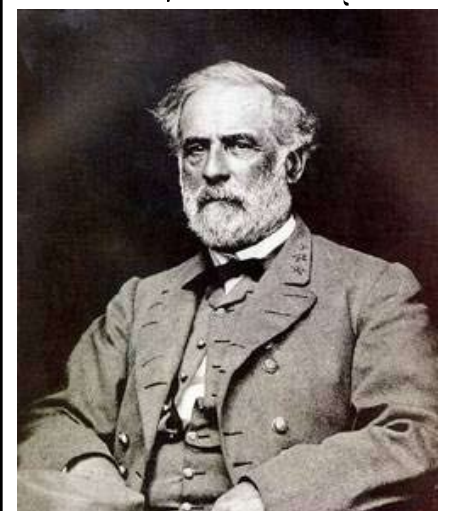
Did Wal-Mart apologize in writing for any of their actions? No.

Did they pledge in writing to stop funding all homosexual causes? No.

Did they apologize for funding Planned Parenthood, in word or writing? No.

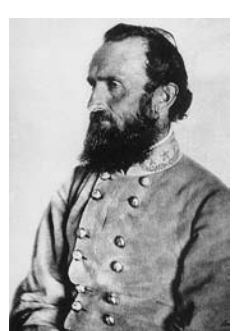
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General Robert E. Lee's 200th



General Robert E. Lee, above, born January 19, 1807

General Thomas "Stonewall" Jackson, one of the greatest military commanders of all time, born January 21, 1824



Where To Find Fredericksburg Conservative

Fredericksburg:

- HEB, the west entrance in the red, free rack by the business office, bottom shelf;
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- Super S Foods; 206 N. Milam
- Bobbi D's 701 E. Main
- Tejas Smoke Depot 1639 W. 290
- Fredericksburg Chamber of Commerce 302 E. Austin
- Town & Country gas station 2204 Hwy 16 S at Tivydale
- Gold Star Shell gas station 1001 Hwy 16S at Windcrest
- Greater Grace Christian Coffee House 311 E. San Antonio St.
- One Stop 290E at KOA Campground
- The Ink Hut 517 S. Adams
- other places that are not mentioned;

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- Longhorn Cafe 23624 US hwy 290
- Daunas 23401 US Hwy 290
- Waldo's 23682 US Hwy 290

Stonewall:

- Chevron/One Stop and Diner

Doss

- Doss Country Store

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Letters to the Editor

Your Paper is Hateful

by Alan Middleton.

Please do not place any more copies of your publication on my property again.

Hatred, exclusion and self righteousness are not welcome in my home

[Editor's reply: Alan, we will be glad to remove your name from our distribution list, as we never intentionally give the paper to anyone who doesn't want it.

However, we would take exception to your characterizations. I suspect your anger resulted from an article from the last issue referencing homosexuality as "deviant and destructive," and we commended the AFA boycott of Walmart.

To defend our previous statements, on the next page we have included a small article of research material.

Of course, your's or anybody else's further comments to the contrary will be welcomed and printed.]

Opposites

by Jim Hays

Once again George Bush's failed global warming policies have caused great problems to this country. Just as global warming caused all the hurricanes in 2005 and the lack of hurricanes in 2006, it has now caused the raging ice storms all across the U.S. and has America all on its knees. Bush should have seen this coming and stopped it in its tracks. Will he never learn?

Opposite of Bush's fumbling, is the brilliance of well known military strategist Hilary Clinton who this week called for more troops in Afghanistan. Although I do not have her long history of military accomplishments, I do question why she wants to bother the Taliban terrorists. After all, it was the Al Qaida terrorists who flew planes into our buildings on 911, not the Taliban.

Bush's "Mistake:" Misjudging Americans

by Jim Hays

President Bush did make a bad mistake in the war on terrorism. But the mistake was not his decision to go to war in Iraq. Bush's mistake came in his belief that this country is the same one his father fought for in WWII. It is not. Back then, they had just come out of a vicious depression. The country was steeled by the hardship of that depression. But they still believed fervently in this country. They knew that the people had elected their leaders, so it was the people's duty to back those leaders. Therefore, when the war broke out the people came together, rallied behind, and stuck with their leaders, whether they had voted for them or not or whether the war was going badly or not. And war was just as distasteful and the anguish just as great then as it is today. Often there were more casualties in one day in WWII than we have had in

the entire Iraq war. But that did not matter. The people stuck with the President because it was their patriotic duty.

Americans put aside their differences in WWII and worked together to win that war. Everyone from every strata of society, from young to old pitched in. Small children pulled little wagons around to gather scrap metal for the war effort. Grade school students saved their pennies to buy stamps for war bonds to help the effort. Men who were too old or medically 4F lied about their age or condition trying their best to join the military. Women doubled their work to keep things going at home. Harsh rationing of everything from gasoline to soap, to butter was imposed, yet there was very little complaining. You never heard prominent people on the radio belittling the President.

Interestingly enough in those days there were no fat cat actors and entertainers who ran off to vis-

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If at all possible, please type your letters to avoid any confusion.

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with the subject line:

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

it and fawn over dictators of hostile countries and complain to them about our President. Instead, they made upbeat films and entertained our troops to help the troops' morale. And imagine this. Teachers in schools actually started the day off with a pledge of allegiance, under God, and with prayers for our country and our troops!

Back then, no newspaper would have dared point out certain **Con't on p. 10, Letters**

Hate Crime Law Up for a Vote Soon

By Johanna Jeffery

A few months ago on C-SPAN, I heard Ted Kennedy state publicly that the, "Anti-Hate Crime Laws," need to be passed. The truth behind the wording of these anti-hate laws, reveals that these laws actually breed hatred, not eliminate it.

Many nations have passed these, anti-hate laws, as they're deceptively named. People of the world know hatred is not good, and threatens all lives. Even people who vote for these laws, will soon find that they, and their own families, are victims of deceit, and oppression.

Whether people believe in the bible, or not, they will soon discover the loss of freedoms, as stated in biblical prophecy. The hate crime law, soon to be voted on, has been

named, "The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2005, (S.1145). The name has been changed several times, attempting to get it passed, without people understanding what was included in the bills. As true history proves, this has been how authorities have taken control over multitudes of people, and lands. This same motive exists today. Most Congressional leaders don't know what is contained in the bills, before voting for, or against, them. We must be the ones to notify, and warn them of the facts.

Laws already exist regarding violent crimes, in every nation of the world. So, why suddenly is there a need for a world-wide "hate crime" police force? Why does the federal government need to take over local jurisdiction that will overpower local, and state's rights? Why are these laws being passed, without the public being told that the U.S.

Constitution is being dissolved?

Be aware that the hate-crime laws have not been passed in the U.S.A., yet, police, and military personnel are being trained as if these laws have already been passed!

The hate laws are referring to people's private thoughts, opinions, words (spoken or written), not just actions. (Read Section 7, and notice the words "perceived," and "bias"). Any person can be considered a "terrorist." Speaking belief in the Holy Word of Our Creator will, also, be considered a "Hate Crime," if referring to the sins people commit, as stated in the scriptures.

Let's reason honestly, - If Our Savior's Holy Word is for the purpose of turning people away from hatred and the committing of sins, so they (we) may become close to Our Savior, whom is the only source of true love, then how can

these words be a result of hatred? They can't be. Our Creator corrects us through His Love and Truth, as parents who correct their children they love, so their (our) children don't get hurt.

Remember, Our Savior warned us through Paul, saying, "And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed in to an angel of light (to deceive people to cause them to turn against Our Savior). Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers (and politicians) also be transformed as (if they are) the ministers (republican or democrat) of righteousness: whose end shall be according to their works." (Reference: 2 Corinthians 11:14,15; Galatians; 2 Thessalonians 2; John 3; Psalms 9; 51)

Congress will resume on January 4, 2007. We must begin praying NOW against passage of the hate-crime-laws. Please call

as many members of Congress as soon as possible, as often as possible! Your efforts and prayers will not be in vain. This may be our last chance to prevent these laws from passing. Leave messages, or speak to each leader, asking them: Please don't vote for any anti-hate bill, and to be sure to read any bill, before signing it. (call toll free at 1-877-851-6437; 1-866-340-9281; 1-202-225-3121).

Thus says Yahshuah (Our Savior): "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!" "Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!" "...which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!" (Isaiah 5:20-23)

Editorials

Habeas Corpus

by Nelwyn Thurman

A friend trained as an attorney who used to live in Texas and who still participates in a hill country discussion group wrote an article for Fredericksburg Conservative discussing her views on the status of habeas corpus.

I've spent quite a bit of time pondering the state of our government. Constitutional law was one of my favorite courses when I went to Law School at Pepperdine. Even succeeding in getting admitted to State Bar of California in 1979, but I haven't been practicing for many years - family needs were more pressing than a legal career.

Most of the way we do things in the United States, even before George Washington's time, was rooted in English tradition, including both civil and criminal justice systems for ordinary citizens. Thus, we've always had a military justice system and military courts based on the law of the seas. Trials aren't very different from their civilian counterparts, though the differences can be significant, including application of habeas corpus.

Military Tribunals operate under the military system, but arise in special situations. Think of the Neuremberg trials. Nuremberg set the precedent for trying war criminals in military tribunals, and holding them for extended periods before trial. My experience was exclusively under the civilian legal system, but I was once involved in an administration matter involving my husband's medical discharge from the Navy. In mili-

tary tribunals, what are currently being called Military Commissions, all personnel involved are in the service - those people best equipped by training and experience to judge the soldiers and sailors charged. Only exception would be some civilian serving as a witness.

The point is, by a long and healthy tradition, we've always had

a separate military legal system. Think of JAG on television. I don't know whether there has ever been military recourse to habeas corpus, but there probably has. In any event, by legislation, resort to habeas corpus has been clearly suspended for the War on Terror. The only way the military system and the civil system would ever intertwine, as we are currently

constituted in the United States, is if an "apparent" civilian were accused with some kind of terrorist crime.

It's a shame folks are just now noticing the issue of habeas corpus as a problem, because this has been a concern of some of us since the War on Terror began spawning new legislation. The Patriot Act is rife with potentially serious problems of a Bill of Rights variety. My reaction to the current concern is, "And they are just now noticing?" I yelled my head off at the time and nobody was willing to listen so I just gave up.

As long as we're dealing with a person who is clearly a civilian, not accused of any kind of terrorist act, habeas corpus is alive and well, along with the Bill of Rights and other Constitutionally guaranteed rights. As an extraordinary writ, habeas corpus is a remedy in an appropriate case. This is true at both at the federal and the state levels.

The difficulty arises when an individual (1) claims to be a civilian, of the United States or any other country, and (2) commits an act that falls into a category appears to be an act of war.

Con't on p. x, Habeas

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Deadlines, tentatively will be Saturday, so we can print Monday, but the printing day might change.

Editorials Con't

Is it hateful to say homosexuality is wrong?

A couple of our readers apparently think so, and wrote us letters to that effect.

We would like to counter to their statements with the following.

Dr. Jeffrey Satinover, is a psychiatrist, Princeton law professor, expert on homosexuality, and author of the book: *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*.

Does Sexual Orientation Exist?

In an interview with *World Magazine*, Feb 19, 2005, Dr. Satinover said: "It is patently false that homosexuality is a uniform attribute across individuals, that it is stable over time, and that it can be easily measured." *World* adds, "Studies across the globe that have now sampled over 100,000 individuals have found the same." According to Dr. Satinover, the idea of "sexual orientation" is a myth. "We now know that in the majority of both men and women, 'homosexuality,' as defined by any scientifically rigorous criteria, spontaneously tends to 'mutate' into heterosexuality over the course of a lifetime. The proportion of people who adopt a homosexual identity and the length of

time they persist in holding onto it are affected primarily by environmental factors clearly identifiable in these epidemiologic studies. These factors--deemed 'cultural' or 'demographic'--include effects such as social networks, education, early sexual experiences, childhood sexual abuse, and cultural beliefs."

Should Homosexual Behavior Earn Civil Rights Protection?

The idea that sexual orientation does not exist undercuts the notion that there should be "gay civil rights," because civil rights status "is based on the concept of 'suspect class status.' That's a technical term referring to the idea that you can define a group of people in some reasonable, meaningful way, and this definitional 'boundry' results in their being subject to invidious discrimination."

"To quote the University of Chicago study, 'it is patently false that homosexuality is a uniform attribute across individuals, that it is stable over time, and that it can be easily measured.'" Therefore, "you have absolutely no basis whatsoever for building a 'suspect class,'" nor do you have grounds to create civil rights for this behavior.

Is Homosexual Behavior Destructive?

In a paper titled "Why Isn't Homosexuality Considered a Disorder On the Basis Of Its Medical Consequences," Kathleen Melonakos says: "I worked as an RN for several years during the eighties and nineties at Stanford University Medical Center, where I saw some of the damage homosexuals do to their bodies with some of their sexual practices. As a result of that eye-opening experience, I much admire the work of NARTH in the research and treatment of homosexuality."

She says, "in light of my clinical experience, and since doing considerable amount of studying about it since that time--that homosexuality is neither normal nor benign; rather, it is a lethal behavioral addiction as Dr. Jeffrey Satinover outlines in his book, *Homosexuality and the Politics of Truth*."

Mrs. Melonakos continues, "Can anyone refute that increased morbidity and mortality is an unavoidable result of male-with-male sex--not to mention the increased rates of alcoholism, drug abuse, depression, suicide and other maladies that so often accompany a homosexual

lifestyle?... Dr. Satinover and others have made a solid case for why homosexuality parallels alcoholism as an unhealthy addiction. It should have a parallel diagnosis."

Is There a Connection Between Homosexual Behavior and Child Sexual Abuse?

In their study titled Homosexuality and Child Sexual Abuse, the Family Research Council at www.frc.org/get.cfm?i=IS02E3&v=PRINT fills in the details for the following outline:

• **Pedophiles are invariably males:** Almost all sex crimes against children are committed by men.

• **Significant numbers of victims are males:** Up to one-third of all sex crimes against children are committed against boys (as opposed to girls).

• **The 10 percent fallacy:** Studies indicate that, contrary to the inaccurate but widely accepted claims of sex researcher Alfred Kinsey, homosexuals comprise between 1 to 3 percent of the population.

• **Homosexuals are overrepresented in child sex offenses:** Individuals from the 1 to 3 percent of the population that is sexually attracted to the same sex are committing up to one-third of the sex crimes against children.

• **Some homosexual activists defend the historic connection between homosexuality and pedophilia:** Such activists consider the defense of "boy-lovers" to be a legitimate gay rights issue.

• **Pedophile themes abound in homosexual literary culture:** Gay fiction as well as serious academic treatises promote "intergenerational intimacy."

Dr. Satinover concludes his *World* interview by saying: Homosexuality has risen to the top of the social-policy agenda because of the utter wreck we all have made of family life over the past 50 years."

Helpful Resources For Those Wanting Out

www.exodus.to
www.narth.org

The above research is only a smattering of what is available, and we didn't even mention what the Bible says.

Local Flavor

Reed Comstock

Ever since the miniature wooden stringed instrument was placed into his hands at the age of 5, making music has become life's ultimate focus for Reed Comstock. As Reed grew through the years, so did the size of each cello he used along the journey of persistently learning music and his classical instrument. Not only does this 18-year old high school senior possess a talent for playing cello, but can also write, sing, play guitar, piano, banjo, organ, harmonica, and mandolin.

Born in the city of Dallas, Texas and raised mainly in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois, Reed Comstock comes from an altogether musically talented family. He shares an interest in a variety of stringed instruments with his two brothers, who play the violin, and viola. With a past of studying and performing classical piano, his parents encouraged the children's interest in music beginning at a very young age. For a year, the family was involved in mission work in Germany, then eventually decided to settle down in a more small-town peaceful atmosphere, away from the city, here in Fredericksburg.

For eight years, Reed devoted himself to taking cello lessons, and has continued to progress in his practices ever since. It didn't take long before the local public



Reed Comstock and the International League of Super Pals band.

learned of Mr. Comstock's remarkable talent. By the age of 13, Reed had begun performing cello professionally for various occasions, individually or accompanied by older brother, Austin Comstock, who is currently away attending college. From playing background instrumentals for plays enacted by the Fredericksburg Theatre

Company and hymns periodically at the Hill Country Evangelical Free Church that he attends, to performing mood-setting melodies for countless weddings, it seems Fredericksburg's community has taken great pleasure in sharing this young man's deep-seated talent.

Ultimately, Reed Comstock dreams of living the rest of his life

doing nothing but "making good music." He hopes to be in a band, and "hopefully just make enough money to get by," he says. Continuing the pattern of pursuing his passion at an early stage, Reed has already formed a band of his own right here in town. This collection of aspiring young artists is more than just a mere "teenage garage band." With all original compositions and an established folk-style genre, this five-member ensemble meets once a week to practice together for several hours. "We were booked a week later at Hondo's after we decided to become a band, and began practicing ever since," stated the lead singer/songwriter and guitar player Reed Comstock. Austin Talley, 17, introduced himself as the bass player and band manager, and Mark Utley, 15, performs all of the percussion. The keyboard is conducted by Alex Migeon, 16, and Riley Webb, 15, also accompanies the band with guitar.

The "International League of Super Pals," they call themselves. Why the funny name? Interestingly enough, each member of the band has either lived in a foreign country for a period of time, or their family is a native of a foreign nation, with which they are well acquainted, such as Germany, France, and Canada. They are a close group of friends and declare one another as "super," therefore clearly defining their title by who they are. The teenagers also demonstrate their desire to be musically "cultured" by striving to learn as many instruments as they possibly

can. The band recognizes former Beatles member John Lennon as their mutual icon for inspiration. "His balance of portraying intelligence and ideas through his music...and his demonstration of humility" motivates them to reach their audience the same way, they agreed. "When this band was first started, my focus was mainly becoming famous and having a big name. But as the band got better and better, I realized that making good music is what the focus is and should be about," stated lead artist Comstock.

The "International League of Super Pals" was delighted to bring live music and holiday cheer to the Knopp Nursing Home a few days before Christmas. "The residents and staff really enjoyed it, and we felt like we were doing a good deed," stated Austin Talley. The band plans to perform at the Windcrest Nursing Home next on January 22, 2007.

Unfortunately, Reed Comstock, who the band members appreciate as the "stronghold" keeping them going, will be graduating high school in May of this year, and plans to leave to attend a university. "I definitely want to keep the band together, which is going to be tough in college. What we plan to do is keep practicing along the way individually, and keep writing material while we are in college, and then come back in the summer and practice and tour," stated Comstock. I was surprised when Reed explained that music was not going to be his choice of study, but instead has chosen Psychology/Philosophy as his major. His reasoning, however, was well expressed. "I love music, and that's what I want to do with my life. But I decided early on that I don't want to study music at college, because my belief is that art is not so much about learning how to mix colors, or leaning how to make a perspective, or how to change chords. It's more about emotion, and expressing ideas, and personal. So I've thought that the greatest way I can make good music, good art, is by studying the human being; the way we think, and act, and what's on the heart."

Reed Comstock can be reached at (830) 889-0874.

Con't from p. 3, Habeas Corpus

In either system, civilian or military, an individual can be accused of a crime. In both systems, jurisdiction of the court has to be established and that is the point at which habeas corpus would arise. Either system could entertain the question under conflict of laws theories. This is no new challenge in any court in the United States. We have a nation of fifty states, a number of territories, plus a separate federal system, not to mention the military system of justice. Many times there are questions of which system of laws must be applied and how must we decide. These decisions are made by the court which receives the original charge.

Either civilian or military system could entertain original charges. My suspicion is that a civilian court would first require proof some crime had been committed, then require some degree of proof the crime was a terrorist act, or an act of war. Without a crime, there is no reason to inquire into jurisdiction of anyone. If the civilian court finds that a terrorist act or act of

war was involved, the civilian court would bind the individual over to the military tribunal and the issue of whether the individual was civilian or military would be moot.

If the original crime was brought before a military tribunal, the court would also first entertain the nature of the crime. If the court finds a terrorist act or act of war has been committed, again whether the person charged was civilian or military becomes moot and the remedy of habeas corpus would not lie. If the person charged is a civilian, that defendant would be bound over to the civil court system.

In either system, if the act is not a terrorist act or act of war, the issue of personal jurisdiction is clear. Civilian courts have a long history of distinguishing between military defendants and civilian defendants, as have military courts. Both systems can be abused. A greater issue in both systems is speedy determination of the nature of the crime.

Of far, far greater danger to our population at large is the array of Executive Orders that came out

Poetry submitted by our readers

A Sacred Road in Texas

written by Johanna Jeffrey © 2004

Alone on a Texas highway,
driving in solitude, with no distractions;
Inspiring thoughts filled my mind,
forgetting the miles I was to travel ahead.

The surface of earth around me,
was shown as a tabletop, full of blessings.
Mid-spring flowers in many colors,
spread out as a beautiful tablecloth.

Each flower stood in its own place,
as if enjoying life, swaying in the

during the Clinton administration. Again, I yelped my head off and nobody listened. This is when we slipped into a Hitlerian future. That is when we clearly ceased to have a constitutional republic, though some have argued Constitutional protections was compromised in earlier years.

gentle breeze.
It came to mind that from a distance,
the patches of flowers resembled
crowds of people.

There was room for all those existing,
none were fighting, or stealing, from another.
How could anyone prefer hatred over love?
Beauty did not evolve, it was created for us!

When we allow ourselves to feel thankful.
We realize these are servings of love set before us.
If we are content with what Our Maker provides,
then we won't lust to take from others.

I had the thought to pick a bouquet,
but, another thought replaced it;
The flowers were all where they belonged,
to cut, or pick them would harm their life.

Next, I received in my heart a desire,
to understand the real meaning of sacred.
Holiness is the attribute of

Our Creator,
this only comes from Him, untouched by man.

If He doesn't love us, why does He take His time,
to grow yellow, red, orange, white wild flowers,
and purple bluebonnets, we just pass by?
He's calling for our attention, to believe in His love!

Mission Trip to Mexico

Suzy Ivers of Fredericksburg kept a journal of her mission trip to Mexico, and was kind enough to share it with us.

1/4/07

Here I am on a journey in Mexico with Mision de Candelilla. I have decided that this is part of the uttermost parts of the earth. To be truthful, I started wondering why I came after about 10 hours in the van, especially when at that point we ran out of paved road and the van started bam bam bamm on down the road, but God has called us to go into all the world, even to the uttermost parts of the earth... so here I am.

There are 10 of us on this mission, my pastor, Michael Burdick of Victory Fellowship, and his two youngest daughters, Alex and Maddy, a homeschool friend's daughter, Hannah Treibs, Judy, who is a veteran member of this mission and usually goes as a driver and Alicia of the Methodist church, of course Curtis Allercamp, our mission leader, and my two sons, Brian, and Jonathan, and me. Mision de Candelilla is usually a special children's Christmas gift drop trip that we are on. We plan to reach 4 villages in the 3 days we are here.

We came through Eagle's Pass into Piedras Negras. Someone must've really been praying because we got through the border with no trouble at all, and we have a van full of 100 gifts and a wheelchair and a hospital bed, all to give to those in need. We stopped in Musquiz to drop of the medical equipment in a storage building and pick up a translator, who will be traveling with us into the mountains. He is a big burly guy and he has the most adorable baby girl that goes everywhere with him. I'm not sure if he is a Christian, or if there is a wife to go with the baby, but that man sure loves that little girl. The Allercamps believe in loving people closer to Jesus, no matter where they are spiritually, I guess you call that friendship evangelism. I admire Curtis and Sara for that, they are very effective in what they do. It is an inspiration to me. We drive on. Finally we arrive at La Union at 10pm. We left this morning at 8am. It took us 14 hours to get here. We unload and go to bed. We have lumpy mattresses to sleep on in a very rustic painted, adobe building. There is no electricity or running water. We have an outhouse for a potty. I fall asleep to Mexican music playing in the distance and the smell of

the candelilla fires.

1/5/07

We were awakened early, and had a good breakfast. The Allercamps believe in feeding their missionary volunteers well and they are great cooks and I am thankful for that.... tamales, egg burritos, oranges, tea and hot cocoa. The kids fed the hungry dogs that are hanging around the mission building and then explored the village

nah just keeps saying, "I wish my family was here to see this" over and over again. She was in awe of the beauty that surrounded us. We went house to house in the very small and spread out village of San Vicente, calling "Hola, tenemos regalos para los ninos" from the gates. The children were shy and would hold the gifts without unwrapping them. Maddy wanted to know how to say "open the gift" in Spanish. Our children were so

Finally everyone is here and we open the back of the van and start handing out gifts. Hannah and Alex are in the van handing us gifts and telling us what age they are for and Pastor Michael, Chris and I are handing them out. Wow, what fun! Afterwards, Maddy and Alex sit in the shade with the girls and paint their nails. It is their way of relating to the little girls, who love every minute of it.

We have lunch and pack up

children.

Finally, we arrive in San Miguel at dusk. Pastor Michael, the kids and I go to tell people again to gather at the mission house where we pass out gifts, and also stay the night. Jonathan is running ahead, kicking a ball as he goes, and runs into one yard and is rushed by barking dogs. I freeze, calling out to Jesus for help, Jonathan high-tailed it out of there and Pastor Michael and the other kids are doubled over with laughter over the whole scene. It was pretty amusing. We headed back to the mission and there is a huge crowd gathered and it is now dark. This is the biggest village and the people are pressing in on us to get their gifts. We do our best to hand out the gifts under these conditions and then everyone disperses. We go into the mission to eat. One boy just kept hanging out in the doorway. We thought maybe he wanted another gift, but Maddy remembers him getting a gift and giving it to a younger child, and anyway, we have no more gifts. We ask him and find out his name is Enrique, and our children decided to play with him. So they played tag and hide and seek with him until we called them to bed.

1/6/07

Last day in Mexico. Curtis gets us up before daylight. We eat one more really good breakfast and pack up. Maddy finds one more gift in the back of the van and wishes Enrique would come so we could give it to him and say goodbye. It doesn't look hopeful though, because we are about ready to leave and it is pretty early, but we prayed anyway and asked God to wake up Enrique and bring him to us so we could show him the love of Jesus. We go about our business and then Pastor Michael says "He's here," and we know all over again that our God hears and answers prayer. Maddy runs and gets the gift and I tell Enrique that the children enjoyed playing with him and that they like him and wanted to give him a gift that we found because he didn't get one. Then Maddy gives him the gift and Enrique starts crying as he is walking off and Maddy and Alex run and give him a hug and say "Adios." Jonathan runs after him to to give him a hug and then Brian, who doesn't do hugs, goes and says goodbye. And that made the whole trip worth it to me. All those hours going numb on the bumpy roads was suddenly worth it because of Enrique. Enrique was Mexico for me and I would go back for Enrique.



Preparing to head out to Mexico, gifts for the children are being loaded into one of the vehicles that will make the long and very rough trip.

a bit.

I saw a man and his son walking along with their donkey loaded up with harvested candelilla plants, on their way home. I guess they got up very early to already be heading home at this hour. This Mission is named Mision de Candelilla for the people of this area whose sole income comes from gathering the candelilla plants and melting the wax out of them to sell for making chapstick and other products. Candelilla grows in the desert and the people will go out with their donkeys or trucks if they have one to remote parts of the desert to gather it.

Today is going to be a big day. We will go to all 4 villages. Now we are on a very bumpy, dirt road again headed to San Vicente to pass out gifts. We arrive after about an hour of travel through spectacular desert scenery. Han-

enthusiastic about handing out the gifts and seeing the look on the kids faces, it blessed me.

Our children enjoyed running from house to house meeting and greeting the people. I loved meeting the mothers, but I quickly ran out of Spanish to carry on much more than an initial conversation. I want to improve my Spanish, so I am able to talk to them more.

Okay, now we bump back to La Union. When we arrive, Curtis sent me and the kids and Pastor Michael to go door to door to tell people to come to the mission house to get gifts for their children. I enlisted a boy on a bicycle to go tell everyone. His name is Daniel, and he did a good job. By the time we go to a few houses, everyone already knows and are headed to the mission. Maddy, Jonathan, Alex, and Brian played games with the children while we are waiting for everyone to gather

and head towards Piedritas. It took several hours to arrive again over a very bumpy, dirt road. I am so jarred by the bumping, I can hardly think straight.

We arrive in Piedritas and Curtis sends us out again to tell the people to come to the school yard where we will be passing out gifts. I found a couple kids riding horses and asked them to go tell everyone, then to come back and give me a ride. They did so and our children went to climb some big boulders on the edge of town. One boy on a horse came back and gave me a ride on his horse and then Maddy also got to ride and then it was time to pass out gifts. This was a bigger town and there were a lot of kids. We passed out the gifts and jumped back into the van to try to make it to our last destination before dark. It would be nice to come back and spend more time in each village with the

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Con't from p. 1, Kelly James

many of us don't have--severe illness and problems, etc. Tom says the Lord probably says, I give and give and give, and they take and take and take. But, tragedy makes you stop and think.

In discussing Kelly's last days on the mountain, and the particulars of the items that were found in the nearby snow cave, Tom says he believes that Kelly decided that he was going to have to climb down the mountain instead of staying there and freezing to death.

One of Tom's children wanted to know what it was like in a snow cave, and he thought they envisioned a big cavern with stalagmites. But, Tom suggested to them that it was more like being in a freezer with the door shut, with the wind howling loud enough to sound like 18 wheelers roaring by at full speed, completely dark, wet, and cold with no food or water.

Knowing Kelly, Tom said he fought death to the end. He also said that Kelly would prefer this type of death over dying of old age. He added, at least they could find a body, unlike many walking around with POW/MIA bracelets whose fathers and brothers and sons never returned from Viet Nam.

Tom talked about Kelly's faith, saying that in high school Kelly surpassed him in understanding, that Kelly was vocal about his faith, and that one of the big influences on Kelly's life was Josh McDowell's book Evidence that Demands a Verdict, which defends the Bible and Christ.

Tom said Kelly was tough. He has climbed Mt. McKinley in Alaska, most European mountains, Akakaqua in South America. Asked if he had survived Mt. Hood, would his adventurism have stopped, Tom said no way--he would have gone to even bigger challenges, and was even planning to climb Mt. Everest.

Tom said Mt. Hood has killed 130 people in the 100 years that the National Forest Service has been keeping records. He said that 7-8 years ago 6 or 7 or 8 people died at one time during a spring break climb, but they were

much less experienced climbers. Tom said Mt. McKinley is also treacherous, in that the weather changes dramatically and quickly. When asked why would someone want to climb Mt. Hood in the winter, Tom explained that Mt. Everest is all the time what Mt. Hood is in the winter, making Mt. Hood an excellent training ground for Mt. Everest. Tom said he has never been on a mountain under those conditions.

Tom said that Kelly's death makes for a time to reflect on what the Lord has given all of us. Tom talked about a youngster he knows who has cancer, and another who has diabetes. He recalled a trip to North Carolina where they were



A view of the beautiful but deadly summit of Mt. Hood in winter.
Photo USDA Forest Service.

traveling with some other cars behind an 18-wheeler. In Vicksburg, Mississippi one of his sons had to use the restroom, so they made a one minute stop on the side of the road. A few miles later they caught up with the truck, which was turned over on its side, and all the cars that had been following behind were crashed into the truck. Tom wondered, why did God spare us? In another instance, Tom recounted how his wife had encountered a driver coming head-on in her lane on I-10, and she was so tired, she did not react, but they somehow missed each other.

Tom said, sometimes we grow accustomed to death from television, the culture, and so on. He said, the world has gotten smaller,

but not that small. The oceans are still deep, the mountains are still tall, and the Lord is still big.

Tom said it is sometimes a curse on our society that we know so much. He said sometimes it is better that we never knew that cousins and brothers fought each other in the civil war, and other such gruesome and grisly details.

For him, watching the drama unfold on television made him more aware that death and destruction are so close, and that we are so fragile. While he was sawing lumber, he thought how easily the saw was cutting the boards, and yet how much softer, and more vulnerable to the blade he was than those boards. Death is so close to us,



A view of the beautiful but deadly summit of Mt. Hood in winter.
Photo USDA Forest Service.

and we don't even acknowledge it. We drive past oncoming vehicles going 70 miles per hour, separated from death only by a few feet and a 1/32" thick stripe of yellow paint on the highway. Of course, Tom adds, you can't hole up.

When Tom first met his wife to be, Janet, he was with Kelly on a "wild-haired" bicycle trip that was originally planned to be from Dallas to Mexico and back. Kelly was then doing architectural landscaping, and Tom was building furniture for the Boltons' Homestead store that is located in Fredericksburg. Both were living in Dallas at the time, and neither had ever been to Fredericksburg, but Tom decided they could shave some miles off the trip by parking their

truck in front of the home of one of the employees in Fredericksburg, and from there commence their bicycle trip. Unfortunately, someone messed up on their driving directions, and they never found the house in Fredericksburg, so they ended up sleeping in their sleeping bags in another part of town.

For the trip, Tom had brought his sleeping bag, a jacket, a rain coat, some extra money, water, and some banana nut bread. Kelly wanted to bring only what was absolutely essential, so he had no jacket.

In the morning, the duo was off and pedaling when a young lady pulled up behind them, wondering if they were Tom and Kelly. It was Janet, who had been expecting them the previous evening. They ate breakfast together, and right there Tom fell in love with Janet, his future wife. He wanted to stay in Fredericksburg, but Kelly said absolutely not, so they headed out again on their bikes.

The next morning the temperature was 25 degrees, and Kelly was freezing, having no jacket, so Tom shared one of his. The next evening they made it to Del Rio, crossed the border, and ate some Mexican food. For the return trip, they had only one day left, but the ride back required two full days, so in true Kelly fashion--plunging ahead in spite of all obstacles--instead of catching a ride, they hit the road on their bikes.

They rode until 2 a.m., 40 miles from Rock Springs, where they slept briefly. They awakened to rain and a miserable 30 degree temperature. Continuing their ride into Rock Springs, they rode hard for another 7-8 hours, arriving in Ingram. The entire way, they had been fighting a south wind, and Tom was hoping that they could make it to Kerrville, where their change in direction would take advantage of the wind. Unfortunately, a big storm, complete with thunder, lightning, and rain, was blowing in from the north, which hit them in Kerrville. They called Janet to let her know they were coming. She asked if they wanted a ride, but they told her no thanks.

Tom and Kelly continued on their ride out of Kerrville, and as they were the cresting the big hill, Janet pulled up in her little yellow truck, and offered them a ride. Tom was really glad to see Janet, and wanted a ride to end the misery, and to see her. Kelly, on the other hand, in what Tom said was a defining characteristic of Kelly, adamantly refused the ride, stating that they had come 447 miles, and were not going to fail to complete their intended trip by only a few miles when they were so close. So Tom declined the ride, and Janet's company, and hit the road in the storm, to complete their mission.

Less than a year later, Tom and Janet married, and Tom's focus began to change.

The last time Tom and Kelly rode together was the Enchanted Circle Century (100 miles) ride, from Red River New Mexico, to Angel Fire, back to Red River.

This ride was a fork in the road for Tom, both in the direction of his life, and in the time he spent with Kelly. Tom felt he had to choose his family over his extracurricular activities, and after his second year of marriage, Tom didn't see Kelly much. Tom said he even had a hard time playing golf, because he felt he couldn't say, honey, I'm going off to play golf.

Now that his children are growing older, and are becoming interested in golfing and riding, Tom feels that he can again begin to participate in these activities, because he can take along some or all of his family.

Tom says that now may be the time to bring up these issues, because people are more sensitive and willing to listen. Now is the time to reflect on what's important, which Tom boils down to two issues: faith in God through Jesus Christ, and putting your family first.

Tom concludes by saying that we have to face death to prioritize what we do with our lives, and how we spend our time while we are down here. And we need Christ to help us along the way here, and to give us success on that last, highest mountain at the end of our lives.

Local Press Releases and Announcements

Youth Art Contest

Again this year, the Kerr Arts & Cultural Center (KACC) and the Hill Country Arts Foundation (HCAF) will sponsor the Hill Country Youth Art Exhibit in April. KACC will coordinate and display the artwork of grades kinder thru eighth (ages 5-14), while HCAF will do the same for ninth thru twelfth grades.

Eligibility: Any ORIGINAL work done by students during the past year, either at school or independently.

Media: All art and craft media such as painting, photography, drawing, ceramics, sculpture, weaving, collage, stitchery, etc.

Awards: Blue merit ribbons will be awarded to approximately 15% of the best works in each grade level. All other entries will receive a red participation ribbon.

If you are interested in your child participating, please let me know. I will mail you the full information sheet.

The deadline is Tuesday, March 27th for getting your child's artwork to me.

I will then deliver all of our projects to the center at one time. This helps the center workers keep things organized, as many area schools participate.

Contact me if necessary.

- Michael and Heather Mitchell
mca332@ktc.com

Child Needs Adoption

Hope for Orphans remind us that behind every abortion is a very real struggle between life and death. They have again asked for our help in finding a forever home for a baby in need.

A crisis pregnancy center in Toronto has been assisting a

mom who is expecting twins next month. Recently she found out, that one of the babies (a boy) has Spina Bifida. This is a birth defect in which the spinal cord has not developed properly. According to the doctors this little unborn child's condition is severe. He is probably paralyzed from the waist down and will need a shunt because of hydrocephali (water on the brain).

The Mother cannot face this challenge and is booked to have a selective abortion of the spina bifida child in a few weeks.

The pregnancy center feels that if they can offer this mom a promise that a family will adopt the handicapped child she will carry him to term.

If you or someone you know would be willing and able to provide a home to this baby in need, please reply ASAP for more information.

Thank you and God bless you,

Kyleen Wright, president
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Pastor Willfred Bigott Retires by Amber Stivers

The pastor of St. James Lutheran Church in Harper, Rev. Willfred Bigott, has retired at the age of 77. His last sermon was Dec. 31, 2006. During this service he installed the new minister, Scott Hofmann. Mr. Hofmann is a lay minister who is currently attending Theological Seminary School through the TEEM program.

TEEM stands for Theological Education in Emerging Ministries. This program allows exceptional individuals to participate in an alternative program for preparation

for ordination (with the Evangelical Lutheran Church). The ELCA chooses individuals who possess leadership abilities that are needed in specific communities such as African American, Asian, Hispanic, Alaskan native, inner city, deaf or remote rural.

While Minister Hofmann is attending seminary school Pastor Bigott will be mentoring him and filling in whenever necessary. (This is great for our congregation, we get two terrific pastors!) Minister Hofmann and his wife Sandy are both gifted singers/musicians and have greatly enhanced our choir. It is an exciting time at St. James. We encourage everyone to come out and see us.

Macias Names Staff

On January 9, the day he was sworn in, Representative Nathan Macias named his staff for this Legislative session. R. Travis Sabine is Chief of Staff, Dina L. Meyer is Legislative Director, Adam M. Bell is Administrative Director, and Patti H. Johnson is District Director.

Sabine, from Boerne, is a trust manager, a retired Army officer, and served as a member of the New Mexico House of Representatives. Meyer is an experienced legislative staff member, coming to the Macias staff from Representative Charlie Howard's office. Bell joins the legislative staff after serving as Macias' Campaign Manager. Johnson, from Canyon Lake, is a longtime active Republican leader, along with her husband, Don. She will be the liaison to constituents in District 73 while the legislature is in session and during the interim.

Representative Macias' office in Austin may be reached at: (512) 463-0325. It is office E2.704 (Lower level, Capitol Extension).

Last month Macias visited with

numerous officials and community leaders here in Fredericksburg. He met with Judge Stroehrer and Commissioner Cameron, Mayor Hoover, Joe Kammlah and other leaders with the Chamber of Commerce, School Superintendent Marc Williamson and several School Board members, the Republican Women's club leaders, Jeff Bourgeois, CEO of the Hill Country Memorial Health System, and several Hospital Board members, and also visited with Texas Cooperative Extension agents.

Macias stated, "Clearly, there are many complex issues facing our district, but I am confident and determined to seek out solutions, and support legislation that will truly provide the best long-term results for all."

Taxation, water, transportation, education, healthcare, and immigration topped the discussions. "Part of finding good solutions involves talking to the people responsible for making them work to ensure they have the resources needed to do the job. That is why I'm here today, and why I'll continue meeting with as many of our leaders, officials, and citizens as possible," Macias concluded.

Since winning the general election on November 7th, Macias has been actively meeting with individuals and groups throughout his district, which includes Bandera, Comal, Gillespie, and Kendall counties, to get their feel for the key issues facing the area.

Ron Paul for President

On January 11, incorporation papers were filed in Texas for a Ron Paul 2008 presidential exploratory committee.

Congressman Ron Paul of Texas enjoys a national reputation as the premier advocate for liberty in politics today. Dr. Paul is the

leading spokesman in Washington for limited constitutional government, low taxes, free markets, and a return to sound monetary policies based on commodity-backed currency. He is known among both his colleagues in Congress and his constituents for his consistent voting record in the House of Representatives: Dr. Paul never votes for legislation unless the proposed measure is expressly authorized by the Constitution. In the words of former Treasury Secretary William Simon, Dr. Paul is the "one exception to the Gang of 535" on Capitol Hill. Posted www.lewrockwell.com

Tom Tancredo for President

<http://teamtancredo.org/>
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On January 16, Republican Rep. Tom Tancredo of Colorado announced he's taking a step toward a presidential run with the launch of an exploratory campaign committee.

The previous night on the Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes" show, Tancredo spelled out his view of the border issue: "Mexico is aiding and abetting an invasion of this country. They are part of the problem. In fact, they are creating situations along that border, using their own military, to protect drug trafficking into the United States, pushing their own people into the United States for a variety of reasons. It is an invasion."

In his book, Tancredo says America is following in the tragic footsteps of Rome, and without strong, moral leadership; a renewed sense of purpose; a rededication to family and community; protecting borders, language and culture; the nation that once was "the land of the free and home of the brave" and the "one last best hope of mankind" will repeat the catastrophic mistakes of the past.

FOCUS Homeschool Co-op Class Presents...

FOCUS stands for Focus on Christian Unity and Support for Homeschoolers. Starting October 3, students and teachers met at New Wine church for 6 weeks of classes in subjects such as Journalism, Cooking, Crocheting, Weaving, Creation Discussion, and acting.

Our class was Journalism, and the 8 students studied writing a news story, advertising, interviewing, photography, and layout and design of a newspaper.



Class members are: (L to R) Brian Ivers, Jael Treibs, Josiah Treibs, Howard Brown, Hannah Lacy, Hannah Treibs, Jonathan Ivers, Clint Hendricks; teacher is David Treibs

The second exodus

Howard Brown interviews a neighbor.



A map of Inga's escape route

At the end of World War II there was an evacuation of the Germans from Germany. During this time an estimated 1 to 2 million people died from chaos, famine, disease, cold winter, crime, violent gangs, and senseless killings.

When Inga Bell was seventeen, her mom, little brother, and sister left their house in Germany to go west into the Sudetenland "because the Russian army was moving closer and closer from the east" she said. But she stayed behind with her dad; he had to stay behind because he was a home guard. When the Russians got too close she decided to leave, but all the trains had already stopped. She went to this soldiers hospital, where she had been showing movies at for the entertainment of the soldiers, that had a train that was going west. When the train stopped she knew some friends who lived in that town which had told her if she ever got into trouble to come and see them. Things finally worked out at home so her dad could come to the town on horse and wagon.

They started moving more to the west; the quickest way was through Czechoslovakia where the Germans had the upper hand. Their horse gave out and an army truck took them on to the west. When stuck in a traffic jam her father "decided to go back to the horse and wagon and get some more suitcases and just as he came towards the truck again, the traffic-jam cleared out and our truck took off with the rest of them, and all we could do is wave to our dad." Then their driver knew a short cut so they left the traffic on the roads and went across some fields close to Prague. "And all the sudden Bang!!! Bang!!! Bang!!! Three shot in the air, stop and your all prisoners."

Her first night as a P.O.W. was in a school. Usually they only got

one slice of bread a day. One day the train was stopped at a railroad station and she was told to sweep the station. There was an old Czech couple that told one of the bilingual guards to ask Inga "What crime did you commit" and she said, "That I was born in Germany." They left for twenty minutes or so and when they came back they kept pointing to the ground. When they left Inga went over and found some boiled potatoes on the ground.

Then another time the train stopped in the middle of the tracks and about a mile down the tracks there was a restaurant that was selling watery soup. In the middle of the night she went to the restaurant and got some watery soup but just before she was about to give it to her family a guard came and took it and dropped it on the ground. She told me "Too many good people and too many bad people." Then finally they got sent back to the German border, they escaped from the train, and were free.

Her dad started looking for Inga's older brother. There were two friend's houses where he might be, one in the south and one in the north. Her dad went to the one in the south where he thought he could find him. When he got there the friends weren't there. He ask the neighbors if they had seen a young airman. They said "He was going back home to find his family because he thought something was wrong because they hadn't come for him." So his father went to go find him. When he did they went to the rest of the family. They found them right before their family was going to look for them.

In conclusion Inga said "Although we had a very hard and extremely frightening time in our prison camps, we considered ourselves very lucky that we survived this chaotic time at all."

A visit to the SPCA

by Jael Treibs

On October 6, a group of homeschoolers took a tour of the Hill country SPCA animal shelter.

The group consisted of twelve children and three adults. Altogether there were three families, the Ivers, Treibs, and the Brown family.

The tour was given by employee, Kristie Jacoby, a lady who is very good with animals.

First, they went to see the cats. There were 5 cats in three glass rooms. One kitten named Kelly,

was by herself in a room. A lady wishes to adopt her.

The SPCA doesn't euthanize healthy, friendly, adoptable animals. The shelter also doesn't release, dump, etc. They keep animals until they are adopted. The SPCA only take friendly animals.

Next, they went to see the small dogs. It was very noisy in there! The dogs barked very loudly! Two dogs, who had lived with an older lady, barked the most.

Then the group went outside where several dogs were romping

in the play yards. All but one of the dogs wanted to be petted. She was shy because she had been mistreated and was afraid of people.

Lastly, they went to see the large and medium dogs. It wasn't so noisy as it was in the other dog room.

One of the home schoolers, Jonathan Ivers, wishes to become a volunteer. Another one of the home schoolers, Rebekah Treibs, paid attention to a boxer at the far end of the room. "I like him the best!" she exclaimed.



A youngster with "Smiles," one of the larger dogs at the SPCA shelter. Photo by Josiah Treibs

Parents Night Out

by Hannah Lacy

The first Friday of every month, Victory Fellowship Church has a Parents Night Out. Parents drop off their kids at 6:00 p.m. and have about 3 1/2 hours to themselves. Good news to parents and kids

both.

Every month is a new theme. One theme was castles and knights. There was a jumping castle for the kids. Woo hoo parents night out!

After awhile, the kids are put into groups and activities. The activities are outdoor games, themed arts and crafts, a snack, and a movie to go with the theme. Hope to see you there.

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Ad by Brian and Johathan Ivers. Their commission is 10%.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. Luke 2:9-14

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Ad by Clint Hendricks. His commission is 10%.

...Some of The Work from their Journalism Class

Mt Suribachi

by Josiah Treibs

On September 25, 2006, Focus Homeschool Group went to "Mount Suribachi." Not the real thing, of course, but to a reenacted site on the Welge ranch in Doss, Texas.

Mr. Welge led them up the hill single file, because the last week several rattlesnakes had been seen and killed but Mr. Welge didn't want anyone hurt. Several people wanted to pick flowers of which there were many kinds, but Mr. Welge said no hands in the bushes because there might be rattlesnakes.

It was a steep climb, and one lady had to turn back, but found a nice mother and chatted with her.

Climbing almost on hands and knees was hard, but everyone

made it without any casualties. Once at the top, Mr. Welge said it was okay to pick flowers and rocks, but not to go too close to the edge.

At first, in memory of fallen heroes, kids randomly posed together in groups at the top. But in an orderly attempt, families posed with a flag. Several people found some really nice rocks and everyone talked. Having taken pictures and posed, the group set out to climb down. Some said it was harder to climb down than to climb up. It wasn't too hard, but it was still a pretty hard climb.

After a quick chat at the bottom of the site, everyone climbed into their vehicles and left.

Returning home hot and sticky and having some more water, everyone thought it was a blast.

The Funniest Lemonade Stand Ever

by Hannah Lacy

One day me and my brother Jacob decided to make a lemonade stand. First we had to make the lemonade, of course. Then we named our company. We named it H&J Lemona. Mom and Dad liked the name. Then we made the stand.

After the lemonade was cold, we got everything ready, and waited. It had been a few minutes and it

got hot hot hot. Soon it got so hot we poured ourselves some lemonade. It was nice.

Soon lots of people came. We earned \$12.19. Finally, we got so hot we decided to quit. While we were putting everything up, a teeny tiny bee landed on Jacob. He freaked out. We got it off, looked at each other, and started cracking up laughing. What a fun day!



Clint's dog, Midnight. Photo by Clint Hendricks.

SPURS Go International

by Clint Hendricks

The N.B.A. San Antonio Spurs went to Europe to play in the Europe Live tournament. The San Antonio Spurs played two international teams while in France.

In the first game, on October 5th, the Spurs met up with Adecco Asvel from France. The Spurs ended up winning by a score of 115-90 with Tony Parker leading the way with 26 points.

On October 8th, the Spurs played their second game against Maccabi Elite from Israel. The Spurs won 97-84 with Tony Parker again leading the way with 27 points.

The San Antonio Spurs returned home on October 9th after going 2-0 in European play. Next up for the Spurs are the Orlando Magic in San Antonio on October 14th.

One Mother Answers Why She Home Schools

Hannah Treibs: Mrs. Treibs, just how many of your children are being home schooled and what are their grades?

Mrs. Treibs: Six of my children are being home schooled and their grades are Hannah 9, Josiah 8, Jael 6, Rebekah 4, and Nehemiah and Jonathan are in 1.

Hannah: Mrs. Treibs, what curriculum do you use?

Mrs. Treibs: Well, I use a variety and it changes from year to year, but mostly I use Abeka, and Saxon for math.

Hannah: Mrs Treibs, have you used a method other than home schooling?

Mrs. Treibs: One year I sent my eldest daughter to a private Christian school.

Hannah: Why did you do it ?

Mrs. Treibs: I thought it would take some of the burden of teaching off me.

Hannah: Did it?

Mrs. Treibs: Not really.

Hannah: Why did you stop?

Mrs. Treibs: Because it was the best thing for the family.

Hannah: Why do you home school?

Mrs. Treibs: To raise my children in the admonition of the Lord and to teach them about the Constitution.

Hannah: Do you feel the result justifies the cost?

Mrs. Treibs: Absolutely.

Hannah: Why?

Mrs. Treibs: Because you can't put a price tag on the hearts of my children.

Hannah: Do you have any regrets or things you would change in hindsight?

Mrs. Treibs: I probably would not have spent so much on some of the curriculum, and

would not have sent Hannah to a private school.

Hannah: In conclusion, do you still think home schooling is still the best method around?

Mrs. Treibs: Yes.

Victory Fellowship Youthgroup

by Brian Ivers

Victory Fellowship has recently started a youth group on Sunday nights from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. The leaders of the youth group are Michael and Chistine Burdick, and they are also the pastors of the church.

It is a small youth group with about 10 teenagers. It is for ages 11 to 18. They have youth group every Sunday except for holidays.

They play games like frisbee, football, and the craziest hair contest. They have a drawing at the end of each month for a prize.

We go on a lot of youth events like a Lock In at Fiesta Texas in San Antonio and to Shout Fest.

They preach on things like peer pressure, wining the lost, and faith in Jesus Christ. I go to this youth group and I really enjoy it.

First Baptist Church Youth Group

by Howard Brown

Come to the first Baptist church youth group.

Grades 7-12 are able to go too three main events. The first is Cornerstone on Sunday mornings from 9:15-1:15. The second is Collision on Wednesday nights from 6:30-8:00. The last main event is Discipleship on Sunday night from 6:15-7:15. There are also other event planed though the whole year. You can call Eric our youth minister. The number is 997-9511. So come join us for some fun and fellowship.

BROKEN ARM

On Friday, October 19, Nehemiah Treibs broke his arm. He was interviewed by Jael Treibs.

Jael: How did you break your arm?

Nehemiah: I was jumping off a tree, and I fell on a tree root that was sticking out of the ground.

Jael: How bad was the break?

Nehemiah: Two bones were broken. One was broken all the way, the other was cracked.

Jael: How much did it cost altogether?

Nehemiah: About \$1,000. [Editor's/ Dad's note: the total cost was about \$3,000-\$4,000. Our budget was broken worse than the arm.]

Jael: Who put your cast on?

Nehemiah: A very nice man named Dr. Cohn.

Jael: What color is your cast?

Nehemiah: Camouflage.

Jael: did you get to pick the color of your cast?

Nehemiah: Yes, I did.

Jael: Why did you pick camouflage?

Nehemiah: Because it's my favorite color.

Jael: Were there any other colors of casts?

Nehemiah: Yes, blue, white, purple, and pink.

Jael: When will your cast be taken off?

Nehemiah: In three weeks. Then I'll get another one for three more weeks.

The Monarch Butterfly Release

by Jonathan Ivers

On Sunday, October 8, 2006 two hundred butterflies were released in four releases at the Wild Seed Farms.

Everybody got to tag a butterfly including me. A tag is a small lightweight sticker stuck to one wing to identify it.



Jacob Lacy, interviewee. Photo by Hannah Lacy.

A Boy's Thought of Life

by Hannah Lacy

Hannah Lacy has interviewed her brother Jacob Lacy. Here's how it went.

Hannah: What is your happiest memory?

Jacob: Meeting my best friend Tucker.

Hannah: Is there any other?

Jacob: No.

Hannah: What is your most exiting memory?

Jacob: Well, Oh when I got lost at Disney World. It was pretty exiting but mostly scary. Does that still count?

Hannah: Yes.

Hannah: Are you happy with your life?

Jacob: Yes.

Hannah: What is your funniest memory?

Jacob: My first lemonade stand. While I was picking up, a tiny bee landed on me and I freaked out. It

wasn't funny at first but now it is.

Hannah: What is your favorite thing to do?

Jacob: Play x-box.

Hannah: Do you wish you could be a girl?

Jacob: No no no no.

Hannah: Do you ever think of how it's like to be a girl?

Jacob: No not really.

Hannah: What is your favorite thing about being a boy?

Jacob: You can join Cub Scouts.

Hannah: Do you have any tips for boys on fun things to do?

Jacob: Send letters or E-cards.

Hannah: What do you think about this interview?

Jacob: What interview?

Hannah: (he didn't know so I told him.)

Jacob: Oooh nice.



Grant Reynolds, left, answers questions fielded by basketball enthusiast Clint Hendricks, right. Photo by Clint Hendricks.

An Interview with Grant Reynolds

by Clint Hendricks

Q: Who do you think will win each N.B.A. conference?

A: Well, in the Eastern Conference, I think the Cleveland Cavaliers, and in the Western Conference, I think the San Antonio Spurs.

Q: How will the Rockets and the Spurs do record wise?

A: I think the Spurs will have another 60 win season, and the Rockets will be extremely lucky to win 50 games.

Q: How will the Pistons do without Ben Wallace?

A: Well, they won't have as good of a defense, so they probably won't do as well.

Q: Will the Heat repeat?

A: Definitely not.

My tag number is 961 and my butterfly is a male. You can tell your butterfly is a male if it has a bulge on the second line from the bottom on both wings.

All the butterflies go down to Mexico to stay for the winter. In the spring they will come back to the United States.

Q: Who's the best player in the N.B.A.?

A: I think the Finals M.V.P., Dwyane Wade.

Q: Who will win Rookie of the Year?

A: I think either Rudy Gay or Adam Morrison.

Q: Who will win each Conference Finals?

A: I think the Cavaliers and maybe the Wizards in the East. In the Western Conference, I think the Spurs and possibly the Mavericks.

Q: How many games will win the Finals?

A: I say 5 games.

On the following website - www.monarchwatch.org you can see where your butterfly ended up.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

Liberty or Security; Are you Willing to Surrender... Point and Counter-point...

Newt Gingrich Urges: Ditch First Amendment to Fight Terrorism

from <http://newtingrich.net/>
[editor's note: underlines were added]

NEWT GINGRICH: ...The third thing I want to talk about very briefly is the genuine danger of terrorism in particular terrorists using weapons of mass destruction and weapons of mass murder, nuclear and biological weapons. And I want to suggest to you that right now we should be impaneling people to look seriously at a level of supervision that we would never dream of if it weren't for the scale of threat.

“People don't seem to appreciate that you really can't save a Constitution by destroying it.”

George Washington University law professor Jonathan Turley

Let me give you two examples. When the British this summer arrested people who were planning to blow up ten airliners in one day, they arrested a couple who were going to use their six month old baby in order to hide the bomb as baby milk.

Now, if I come to you tonight and say that there are people on the planet who hate you, and they are 15-25 year old males who are willing to die as long as they get to kill you, I've simply described the warrior culture which has been

true historically for 6 or 7 thousand years.

But, if I come to you and say that there is a couple that hates you so much that they will kill their six month old baby in order to kill you, I am describing a level of ferocity, and a level of savagery beyond anything we have tried to deal with.

And, what is truly frightening about the British experience is they are arresting British citizens, born in Britain, speaking English, who went to British schools, live in British housing, and have good jobs.

This is a serious long term war, and it will inevitably lead us to want to know what is said in every suspect place in the country, that will lead us to learn how to close down every website that is dangerous, and it will lead us to a very severe approach to people who advocate the killing of Americans and advocate the use of nuclear or biological weapons.

And, my prediction to you is that either before we lose a city, or if we are truly stupid, after we lose a city, we will adopt rules of engagement that use every technology we can find to break up their capacity to use the internet, to break up their capacity to use free speech, and to go after people who want to kill us to stop them from recruiting people before they get to reach out and convince young people to destroy their lives while destroying us.

This is a serious problem that will lead to a serious debate about the first amendment, but I think that the national security threat of losing an American city to a

nuclear weapon, or losing several million Americans to a biological attack is so real that we need to proactively, now, develop the appropriate rules of engagement.

“If you're going to destroy freedom of speech, bub, you've already lost all the cities.”

Keith Olbermann MS-NBC Anchor, 'Count-down'

And, I further think that we should propose a Geneva convention for fighting terrorism which makes very clear that those who would fight outside the rules of law, those who would use weapons of mass destruction, and those who would target civilians are in fact subject to a totally different set of rules that allow us to protect civilization by defeating barbarism before it gains so much strength that it is truly horrendous.

This is a sober topic, but I think it is a topic we need a national dialogue about, and we need to get ahead of the curve rather than wait until actually we literally lose a city which could literally happen within the next decade if we are unfortunate. So...

(APPLAUSE)

In the Fight Against Terrorism, Some Rights [Second Amendment] Must Be Repealed

By Junaid Afeef ISPU Research Associate junaid.afeef@gmail.com
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<http://www.ispu.us/pages/articles/2914/articleDetailPB.html>

The idea of terrorist cells operating clandestinely in the United States, quietly amassing handguns and assault rifles, and planning suicide shooting rampages in our malls, is right out of Tom Clancy's most recent novel. If not for the fact that the 9/11 attacks were also foreshadowed in a Clancy novel, I would have given the idea no further thought.

However, rather than facing this potential threat publicly, the Bush administration is only focused on terrorist attacks involving missiles, nuclear devices and biological weapons. Stopping terrorists with WMDs is a good thing, but what about the more immediate threat posed by terrorists with guns? The potential threat of terrorist attacks using guns is far more likely than any of these other scenarios.

This leads to a bigger policy issue. In the post 9/11 world where supposedly "everything has changed," perhaps it is time for Americans to reconsider the value of public gun ownership.

The idea of public gun ownership simply does not make sense anymore. The right to bear arms, as enumerated in the Second Amendment, was meant for the maintenance of a "well-regulated militia." At the time the amendment was adopted, standing armies were viewed with a great deal of suspicion, and therefore, gun-owning individuals were seen as a protection mechanism for the public. These gun owners were also seen as guardians of the republic against the tyranny of the rulers. The framers of the Constitution saw the right to bear and use arms as a check against an unruly government. That state of affairs no longer exists.

Today, only a handful of citizens outside of neo-nazi and white supremacist groups view gun ownership as a means of keeping the

government in check. Even those citizens who continue to maintain such antiquated views must face the reality that the United States' armed forces are too large and too powerful for the citizenry to make much difference. Quite frankly, the idea of the citizenry rising up against the U.S. government with their handguns and assault rifles, and facing the military with these personal arms is absurd. The Branch Davidian tragedy at Waco, Texas, was one such futile attempt.

The more important consideration is public safety. It is no longer safe for the public to carry guns. Gun violence is increasingly widespread in the United States. According to the DOJ/FBI's Crime In The United States: 2003 report, 45,197 people in the United States were murdered with guns between 1999 and 2003. That averages out to more than 9,000 people murdered per year. Nearly three times the number of lives lost in the tragic 9/11 attacks are murdered annually as a direct result of guns.

... Just recently, in Ulster, NY, a 24 year old man carrying a Hesse Arms Model 47, an AK-47 clone assault rifle, randomly shot people in a local mall. While the Justice Department did not label this murder a terrorist attack, all the signs were there. The Ulster, New York shooting is an ominous warning of what lies ahead. Terrorism can be a homegrown act committed by anyone with a gun and is not unique to a "Middle Eastern-looking man with a bomb." As long as the public is allowed to own guns, the threat of similar terrorist attacks remains real.

The idea of curtailing rights in the name of homeland security does not seem implausible given the current state of civil liberties in the United States. The war on terror has already taken an enormous

toll on the First, Fourth, Fifth and Sixth Amendments, and thus far, very few Americans have objected. In light of this precedence, it seems reasonable that scaling back or even repealing the right to bear arms would be an easy task.

... Instead of laying waste to the civil rights and civil liberties that are at the core of free society, and rather than squandering precious time and money on amending the U.S. Constitution for such things as "preserving marriage between a man and woman," the nation ought to focus its attention on the havoc guns cause in society and debate the merits of gun ownership in this era of terrorism.

So long as guns remain available to the general public, there will always be the threat of terrorists walking into a crowded restaurant, a busy coffee shop or a packed movie theater and opening fire upon unsuspecting civilians.

The Second Amendment is not worth such risks.

Junaid M. Afeef is a Research Associate at the Institute for Social Policy & Understanding. His articles are available at www.ispu.us. He can be reached at.

Violating the Fourth Amendment to fight terrorism.

Attorney Gerry Spence: \$2M settlement underscores loss of freedom; Jackson attorney battles FBI, big government, Patriot Act.

By Angus M. Thuermer Jr.

December 6, 2006 © 2000-2007 Copyright Jackson Hole News & Guide

Fresh from winning a \$2 million settlement in a suit against the FBI for wrongly tying an Oregon lawyer to the Madrid bombing case, Jackson Hole attorney Gerry Spence warned America.

Spence said the Mayfield story begins when the FBI received a copy of [a finger] print through Interpol, the international police agency, and used a computer to compare it to those it had on file. Among the prints in its database were Mayfield's, on file since his service in the military.

"Out popped 20 potential matches that now need to be viewed individually by the expert," Spence said of the computer's work. Mayfield's was the fourth-best match, but he shot to the top of the list, Spence said.

[Mayfield was arrested, but] before [Mayfield's] arrest, however, the FBI investigated the lawyer secretly.

"They got a secret warrant and secretly came to Mayfield's house and broke in like common burglars," Spence said.

Those famous FBI shoes were the giveaway.

"In this case they didn't realize in the Mayfield family - they take their shoes off before they go into the house," Spence said. "There were shoe prints in the carpet. Locks were locked that weren't usually.

"They knew they were invaded but they didn't know by whom," Spence said of the Mayfield family, which includes three children.

"Under the Patriot Act they have the power to install secret microphones and to bug the telephones and to put microphones under the kitchen table and under the bed," Spence said. "One is never given the opportunity to determine what they have done, what they have taken and where they have disseminated this information.

"They went into his papers, copied his computers, took his DNA," Spence said. On one occasion, Mayfield's son was terrified when he saw a stranger trying to break into his home, Spence said.

The FBI also suspected Mayfield because he went to a mosque and advertised in a Muslim Yellow Pages directory. Ford and GM use the same advertising venue, Spence said.

"And they claimed he must have had false papers because they couldn't find any evidence he had left the U.S.," to take part in the bombings, Spence said. "If you have stayed at home and minded your own business, you're also a criminal because you have fooled

the FBI."

Spence said it also was upsetting that the investigation violated attorney-client privilege.

"They looked at his client's papers," Spence said. "This is a horrible thing.

"If we give the attorney information, it is secret," he said. "It can't be obtained by the court or anybody else. It's as sacred as the parishioner-priest privilege."

The incident is troubling because the charge Mayfield potentially faced carried the death penalty, Spence said. "Consider what would have happened if...you then go into court with the average jury who has been told by the FBI it doesn't make mistakes and that fingerprints are an absolute science."

He criticized the FBI culture, and prosecutors in general. "You have people in the organization, like in any government prosecutor's office, who want to be able to put the big trophy on the wall and to be able to say, 'I solved the train in Spain case,'" Spence said.

Spence said the issue goes beyond a botched investigation or the misidentification of fingerprints. He said those in power are abusing events to gain more authority.

"Fear is a powerful motivation," Spence said. "Nobody has been better of making us afraid, of terrorizing us, than the power structure. By terrorizing us they can pass such acts as the Patriot Act."

The FBI said the act was not misused.

"The OIG report concludes that there was no evidence of misuse of the Patriot Act," the FBI said in a statement. "The report finds, 'contrary to public speculation,' the FBI did not use certain provisions of the Patriot Act and that the Act did not affect the scope of the FBI's use of FISA surveillance or searches. Instead, the OIG report found that the effect of the Patriot Act on this investigation was to enable the FBI to share lawful information with other members of the law enforcement and intelligence communities."

Spence said the act is undemocratic and that he was stifled when asked to testify to Congress about it.

"The sad part of it is the American citizen doesn't know, has no idea, what this Patriot Act permits the government to do," Spence said.

"Freedom," Spence said, "requires a little bit of danger. You have to agree to a little bit of danger to be free."

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This information can be found at:

http://www.jacksonholenews.com/article.php?art_id=1205

"Governor, if I had foreseen the use those people designed to make of their victory, there would have been no surrender at Appomattox Courthouse; no sir, not by me. Had I foreseen these results of subjugation, I would have preferred to die at Appomattox with my brave men, my sword in this right hand." General. Robert E Lee, 1870.

Violating Secret Government Regulations

The United States Supreme Court has just refused to hear a case upholding that government agencies may adopt regulations that you are obligated to follow, that government agencies may keep those regulations secret and not allow you to see them, and that you may be penalized for failure to comply with secret regulations you are not allowed to see.

This is pretty stunning.
See www.papersplease.org/gilmore/

It has always been so in America that when Bubba Goon told you to get in line, you could demand Bubba show the law that required your compliance. No longer. Now Bubba can say, "The law is secret. You will not be allowed to know what it is, but you can be forced to comply with it."

It used to be that if you disagreed with a law, you could challenge that law in court or in the political process. No more.

The courts have now said that you cannot challenge what you cannot introduce into evidence, and that government agencies may deny you access to their regulations so you cannot challenge them.

Gary Marbut, president, Montana Shooting Sports Association. www.mtssa.org

author, Gun Laws of Montana www.mtpublish.com

...your Constitutional Rights for the Promise of Security? ...Which Side are you on?

Spy Cameras See Britons' Every Move--(USA Following Suite?)

George Orwell Was Right:

By Nick Allen

Dec. 22 (Bloomberg) -- It's Saturday night in Middlesbrough, England, and drunken university students are celebrating the start of the school year, known as Freshers' Week.

One picks up a traffic cone and runs down the street. Suddenly, a disembodied voice booms out from above:

"You in the black jacket! Yes, you! Put it back!" The confused student obeys as his friends look bewildered.

"People are shocked when they hear the cameras talk, but when they see everyone else looking at them, they feel a twinge of conscience and comply," said Mike Clark, a spokesman for Middlesbrough Council who recounted the incident. The city has placed speakers in its cameras, allowing operators to chastise miscreants who drop coffee cups, ride bicycles too fast or fight outside bars.

Almost 70 years after George Orwell created the all-seeing dictator Big Brother in the novel "1984," Britons are being watched as never before. About 4.2 million spy cameras film each citizen 300 times a day, and police have built the world's largest DNA database. Prime Minister Tony Blair said all Britons should carry biometric identification cards to help fight the war on terror.

Blair said citizens have to sacrifice some freedoms to fight terrorism, illegal immigration and identity fraud.

"We have a modern world that we are living in, with new and different types of crime," Blair said Nov. 6 at a press conference in London. "If we don't use technology in order to combat it, then we won't be fighting crime effectively."

Constant Monitoring

In the bowels of New Scotland Yard, the headquarters of the London police force, a windowless room contains a giant bank of TV screens where the city is monitored around the clock. At the touch of a button, officers can focus on any

neighborhood and zoom in on people's faces.

By 2016, there will be cameras using facial recognition technology embedded in lampposts, according to the Surveillance Studies report. Unmanned spy planes will monitor the movements of citizens, while criminals and the elderly will be implanted with microchips to track their movements, the report says.

"The level of surveillance in this country should shock people," said David Murakami Wood, a lecturer at the University of Newcastle who headed the study. "It is infiltrating everything we do."

Wood is also concerned about the U.K.'s growing DNA database. The files contain the genetic codes of more than 3.8 million people, or 5.2 percent of the population.

"Britain's DNA database is spiraling out of control," said Helen Wallace, deputy director of Genewatch U.K., which campaigns for responsible use of genetic science. "It could allow an unprecedented level of government surveillance."

Other government plans include loading the confidential medical records of 50 million patients in the state-run health system onto a central database without their consent.

Most controversial of all are Blair's biometric ID cards linked to a national register holding every citizen's fingerprints, iris or face scan. Starting in 2010, anyone renewing or applying for a passport will have to get one.

"Desperate for some sort of legacy, the prime minister has nothing to offer but Blair's Big Brother Britain," said Phil Booth, national coordinator of the anti-ID card group NO2ID.

To contact the reporter on this story: Nick Allen in London at nallen14@bloomberg.net .

Last Updated: December 21, 2006 19:00 EST

<http://www.bloomberg.com/apps/news?pid=20601102&sid=avL4PSqZrcj4&refer=uk>

**The below quote is somewhat under dispute. www.ushistory.com says this was written by Benjamin Franklin in 1755 (Pennsylvania Assembly: Reply to the Governor, Tue, Nov 11, 1755). However, David Hume, quoted in wikiquote.org says the phrase originated in a book published by Franklin but not written by him.*

ushistory.org adds: It's important to note that this sentiment, with many variations, was much used in the Revolutionary period by Franklin and others.

Those who would give up ESSENTIAL LIBERTY to purchase a little TEMPORARY SAFETY, deserve neither LIBERTY nor SAFETY.--Benjamin Franklin*



Fincher Guilty; Second Amendment Case Begins Court Trek

"On Wednesday, November 8, 2006, local and federal law enforcement agents raided the home of and arrested 60-year-old Hollis Wayne Fincher, who resides near Fayetteville, Arkansas, in Washington County for allegedly possessing illegal firearms. According to the ATF press release, Fincher was arrested as part of the federal gun violence prevention program, Project Safe Neighborhoods, which locals claim has ignored the growing gangs in the area," reported Loretta Weston of the American Family Voice, an independent newspaper from Russellville, Arkansas.

Fincher was indicted on federal charges related to owning illegal firearms.

BATF agent Wade Vittitow claims Fincher's arrest was the result of an 8-month investigation brought about by an article about Fincher and the Arkansas Constitutional Militia published in The Morning News of Northwest Arkansas March 18, 2006, wherein Fincher was photographed hold-

ing an unregistered automatic weapon.

The article said, in part: (From the original March 6, 2006 article in *The Morning News* that allegedly brought on the investigation.) "Wayne Fincher, lieutenant commander of the Militia of Washington County, believes more middle-class Americans will more ardently support traditional [conservative] issues, such as gun rights and immigration reform, as the influence of the federal government grows."

"What we've got to do today is hold our ground," Fincher said.

"That means proudly upholding the right to bear arms, standing up for land rights and not always accepting the federal government as the supreme law of the land, he said."¹

About Fincher himself, even the judge in the case had only good things to say. Friends and others in the community also stated that Fincher was a peaceful man who only wanted to educate the citizens as to their rights.

But it was another story when it came to the arguments Mr. Fincher planned to use in the courtroom; U.S. District Judge Jimm Larry Hendren ruled Fincher's proposed testimony inadmissible.

Fincher testified for more than an hour with the jury out of the courtroom so Judge Hendren could decide if his testimony was admissible.

Hendren has repeatedly ruled the defense can attack the government's evidence but not the law that applies to the case. He also ruled, based on U.S. Supreme Court precedents, laws passed by Congress to regulate firearms do not violate the Second Amendment.

After hearing Fincher out, Hendren decided the testimony was aimed at challenging the legality of federal gun laws, not if Fincher had illegal, unregistered firearms in his possession. As such, the case went to the jury without the defense being able to present any evidence or witnesses.

Fincher maintains possession of the guns, which he does not deny, should not be criminalized because their possession was "reasonably

related to a well regulated militia," based on the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Fincher said the group would have been "derelict" not to use inexpensive, available and effective military weaponry to protect their homes and state.²

The arguments of the case revolve around 3 major topics: the Second Amendment, the *US v. Miller* case, and the commerce clause of the Constitution. Some questions related to the major topics are:

Second Amendment issues:

does an individual have the right to keep and bear arms

Miller issues:

Is there evidence that the weapons Fincher possessed have any bearing on a well-regulated militia;

Did Fincher have any relation to a well-regulated militia

Interstate commerce clause issues

Does the federal government have constitutional authority to regulate matters not having effect on interstate commerce

And then there's an unstated issue

Ditching the Constitution to Fight Terrorism is Wrong

President Bush Continues To Push America Toward A Police State

By Chuck Baldwin January 9, 2007

President George W. Bush's brand of conservatism is something completely foreign to traditional norms. He has outspent even the most liberal administrations. He has led the nation into undeclared foreign wars under false pretenses. He has bloated the size and scope of the federal government like no president since Franklin D. Roosevelt. He has consistently promoted "civil unions" for homosexuals. He has increased federal funding for abortion providers at home and abroad. In addition, over the objections of a Republican-controlled Congress, Bush even supported the Clinton gun ban.

However, it is President Bush's preoccupation with turning America into a total surveillance society that separates his administration from any and all others. Before this administration, no conservative president had endorsed the concept of turning the United States into the fulfillment of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, but that is exactly what G.W. Bush is attempting to do.

Under the rubric of fighting terrorism, President Bush has done more to strip the American people of constitutionally-protected freedoms than any administration since Abraham Lincoln. The latest example of Bush's tyrannical tendencies comes in the form of his most recent "signing statement." And please understand that President Bush has issued more "signing statements" than any president in history. In fact, before President Reagan, there was a total of only 75 "signing statements" by all previous administrations. Then, Presidents Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton issued 247 "signing statements" combined. So far, President George W. Bush has issued 147 "signing statements" that have challenged constitutional restrictions (upon him) to more than 750 statutes. (Source: The Boston Globe)

After signing a postal reform bill called H.R. 6407, the "Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act," President Bush issued a "signing statement" that declared his (Bush's) right to open the private mail of American citizens

without a judge's warrant.

According to the New York Daily News, "That claim is contrary to existing law and contradicted the bill he had just signed, say experts who have reviewed it."

The News continues by saying, "Experts said the new powers could be easily abused and used to vacuum up large amounts of mail.

"The [Bush] signing statement claims authority to open domestic mail without a warrant, and that would be new and quite alarming," said Kate Martin, director of the Center for National Security Studies in Washington."

Furthermore, a career senior U.S. official who reviewed the legal underpinnings of Bush's claim said, "You have to be concerned. It takes Executive Branch authority beyond anything we've ever known."

President Bush's decision to grant himself the power to open private mail without a warrant is similar to what he has done in the recent past.

Remember that Bush recently said he had the authority to perform warrantless eavesdropping on the American people.

A total surveillance society is something that Americans heretofore understood to be completely contrary to the principles of liberty. Such a society was reserved for Marxist or Nazi regimes, and was repugnant to all true Americans. No More. President Bush has taken the concept of a surveillance society into the mainstream of America's public life and culture. Sadder still is the fact that there is only a handful of people that seem worried about it, and none of these are conservative Christian leaders.

Since G.W. Bush became president, the American people have lost their Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Amendment protections. Their phone calls, emails, and even private discussions can be (and are) monitored by federal police agencies without court order. Beyond that, virtually all of their major banking transactions are constantly monitored, as well as their travel and shopping activities.

The Republican Party has demonstrated that it has no inclination to oppose Bush's New World Order, that is for sure. For one thing,

the GOP always was, and still is, the party of Big Business. And just who do you think is getting all the high-dollar federal contracts to do all this national snooping? You bet. The GOP's Big Business buddies.

The national conservative Christian leaders have likewise demonstrated a total disregard for Bush's push for an Orwellian society. After all, they have been too busy enjoying the perks and benefits of sitting at the king's table. Plus, they don't have to worry about being the target of Bush's secret police stings. They are part of the "inner circle," don't you know?

That brings it down to the Democrats. What will Nancy Pelosi and company do to slow down this emerging police state juggernaut? Probably not much. She has made reference to the need to restore constitutional safeguards to Washington politics. But we have heard that kind of talk before, haven't we?

The track record of the Democratic Party is hardly reassuring. After all, this is the same bunch that took delight in trashing the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

In the end, it always comes down to "we the people." Until America's local pastors, local sheriffs, local and state elected officers, and local and state judges begin standing up to this out-of-control federal monstrosity, the slippery slide into fascism will continue. Aw, shucks! I just remembered that most of those people are also on the federal take. Therefore, a return to traditional conservatism is just about out of the question.

Then again, we could do something revolutionary, such as casting aside both major political parties, and start supporting true constitutionalists for a real change in America. The skeleton for such a movement already exists in the form of the Constitution Party. Here is their web site: www.constitutionparty.com

One thing is for sure and for certain: we don't need any more "conservatives" like George W. Bush.

(c) Chuck Baldwin
www.chuckbaldwinlive.com

Lullabye for the Unborn

Gary Johnson, 1981

Tiny hands with fingers small,
Will they someday catch a ball?
Will he take his daddy's hand,
Walk beside him in the sand?
Life began twelve weeks ago,
Planted there in love to grow,
Yes, he'll take his daddy's hand,
If he fits his mother's plan.

Tiny eyes, yes they'll be blue,
Can't see now, but when they do,
Animals will make her laugh,
Silly monkey, tall giraffe;
She'll see dolls and flowers bright,
Watch the moon drift thru the night;
But not for her this joy to be,
Daddy wants a boy, you see.

Tiny ears, what will they hear?
Mother's voice in times of fear,
Sounds of raindrops on the roof,
Rhythm of the horses' hoof;
Daddy whispering "I love you,"
Hear the Christmas carols, too;
But Mother's voice he'll never hear,
Having him would interfere.

Weep for the man, a father was he,
But never a daddy will be.
Weep for the mother whose freedom
of choice,
Stilled the sound of an innocent voice.

God never dreamed that He did not
give
The safest of places for the unborn
to live.



Sammy Stivers with the little snowman shown below. Photo Amber Stivers.

But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me:
for of such is the kingdom of heaven.
Matthew 19:14



Brilliant green with a snowy white background. Photo Amber Stivers.



Sammy's snowman. Photo Amber Stivers.

If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.
If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death,
and those that are ready to be slain;
If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not;
doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it?
and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it?
and shall not he render to every man according to his works?
Proverbs 24:10-12

Con't from p. 1, Wal-Mart

Did they stop selling the abortion pill? No.
Did they withdraw from the National Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce? No.
Did they repent? No.

Did they remove all books from their store's [web site] promoting homosexuality? No.

Benham offers a newspaper article from DallasVoice.com which suggests that Wal-Mart has not really backed down from supporting the homosexual agenda:

"Wal-Mart spokeswoman Mona Williams said the company would continue working with the National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce and other gay rights groups on specific issues such as workplace equality. She indicated, however, that the company would henceforth avoid unrestricted donations that might be used for causes Wal-Mart did not endorse.

"Going forward, we would partner with them on specific initiatives. ... as opposed to just giving blanket support to their general operating budget," she said." (©Dallas Voice print edition, December 1, 2006.)



Harper. Photo Amber Stivers.

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isaiah 1:15-18



Snowy scenery. Photo Amber Stivers.



These youngsters are putting the ice on the road to good use.



A BBQ grill with snow becomes a novelty for the eyes. Photo Amber Stivers.

A few Writings That Would Not fit On the Children's Pages

Prayer for An Automobiler

Lord of asphalt and earth and air
Listen to the automobiler's prayer
Send him light traffic for the road
Grant that his carburetor flows
By which he knows
It shall not fail him wherever he goes
Going, stopping, and speeding o my
Grant him full control,
That he may know the joy they feel
Who ride Thy realms on cars of steel

HOWARD, BROWN

Snapdragon Vine

Some plants have a delicate beauty that can only be observed closely. Among these is Maurandya antirrhiniflora or Snapdragon Vine.

Snapdragon Vine is a tender perennial vine that blooms from March to September. It has unusual thumb sized leaves that are bright green and triangular

Hannah's Top Three Restaurants

Do you know what my favorite restaurant is? Mammacitas. Mm I drool just thinking of it. They have the best chicken or cheese enchiladas. Their tortillas are the best.. Oh, don't forget the chips and salsa. That place is wonderful. So if you ever want Mexican food, go to Mammacitas.

There is also Double Jade. It's right beside Mammacitas. I don't really vote on their cheese sticks, but when my family wants sweet and sour chicken, or maybe lo-mane, that's the place we go.

Last but not least is Pizza Hut. They have tons of delicious pizzas. My favorites are sausage, and cheese, and maybe a bite or two of Mom's veggie pizza. You have got to agree, after a long day of work, a pizza really hits the spot.

Hannah Lacy

in shape. The name Snapdragon Vine is a good description because the flowers are snapdragon like in shape, and violet/purple with white/yellow throats. The blossoms are 1/2" to 3/4" large.

The vine has wide soil adaptability but grows naturally in the rocky calcerous soil of the South Texas Plains and the Edward's Plateau. Snapdragon Vine can be propagated from seeds and can grow six to eight feet in full to part sun. It grows as a perennial in zones 8-10, but will act as an annual elsewhere. Snapdragon Vine can be hard to grow, but its unusual leaves and flowers make it worth the effort. This is one great Texas native.

Hannah Treibs

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- German songs
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Con't from p. 2, Letters

weak spots in our cities where bombs could be set off to cause the maximum damage. No newspaper would have dared complain about what we were doing to catch spies. A newspaper would have been laughed out of existence if it had complained that German or Japanese soldiers were being "tortured" by being forced to wear women's underwear, or subjected to interrogation by a woman, or being scared by a dog or did not have air conditioning.

There were a lot of things different back then. We were not subjected to a constant bombardment of pornography, perversion and promiscuity in movies or on radio. We did not have legions of crack-heads, dope pushers and armed gangs roaming our streets. (We also did not have television then. Maybe that was a blessing.)

No, President Bush did not make a mistake in his handling of terrorism. He made the mistake of believing that we still had the courage and fortitude of our fathers. He believed that this was still the country that our fathers fought so dearly to preserve. It is not the same country. It is now a cross between Sodom and Gomorra and the land of Oz. We even have the wicked witch of the west as the new Speaker of the House of Representatives.

We did unite for a short while after 911, but our attitude changed when we found out that defending our country would require some sacrifices.

NOW HEAR THIS! We are in great danger. The terrorists are fanatical Muslims. They believe that it is okay, even their duty, to kill anyone who will not convert to Islam. It has been estimated that about one third or over three hundred million Muslims are sympathetic to the terrorists' cause. Hitler and Tojo combined did not have nearly that many potential recruits. If you won't fight, at least shut the hell up, get out of the way and let the rest of us fight this menace!