

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.



DC Madam Palfrey: Suicide or Murder?

PAUL JOSEPH WATSON / PRISON PLANET

Evidence is stacking up to suggest that the alleged “suicide” of DC Madam Deborah Jeane Palfrey was in fact a calculated murder, as the manager of Palfrey’s Florida condo reveals that Palfrey was not suicidal when he spoke to her Monday and told him of her fears about a contract being out on her life.

The new testimony is backed up by at least

four other recorded public statements on behalf of Palfrey attesting to the fact that she would never commit suicide and if she was found dead to immediately suspect murder.

Despite these on-the-record statements, the majority of the corporate media has ignored each one and instead given credence to the unverified claim of a professional conspiracy

DC MADAM p.5

US and Iraq Regime Holding 51,000 Iraqis Behind Bars, Most Illegally

BY SHERWOOD ROSS

The US is holding more Iraqis in prison than ever before—24,700—and is expanding its facilities to accommodate another 10,000, according to a new report.

In addition to those detained by the US, its Iraqi government partner is holding 26,000 Iraqis in jail, bringing the combined number of Iraqi prisoners to almost 51,000.

Given previous reports of torture and murder

of inmates both in US and Iraqi custody, it comes as no surprise that the report describes conditions in the prisons as grim.

“US forces are holding nearly all of these persons indefinitely, without an arrest warrant, without charge, and with no opportunity for those held to defend themselves in a trial,” writes Ciara Gilmartin, the Security Council Program Coordinator at Global Policy

IRAQIS p.4

Pentagon Propaganda Program Was Illegal



BY JOHN STAUBER AND SHELDON RAMPTON

The Bush Administration has spent millions on deceptive PR to sell the war, as recently documented in *The New York Times*. Where’s the fallout?

David Barstow of *The New York Times* has written the first installment in what is already a

stunning exposé of the Bush Administration’s most powerful propaganda weapon used to sell and manage the war on Iraq: the embedding of military propagandists directly into the TV networks as on-air commentators. We and others have long criticized the widespread TV network practice of hiring former military officials to serve as analysts, but even in our most cynical moments we did not anticipate how bad it was. Barstow has painstakingly documented how these analysts, most of them military industry consultants and lobbyists, were directly chosen, managed, coordinated and given their talking points by the Pentagon’s ministers of propaganda.

Thanks to the two-year investigation by *The New York Times*, we today know that Victoria Clarke, then the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, launched the Pentagon military analyst program in early 2002. These supposedly independent military analysts were in fact a coordinated team of pro-war propagandists, personally recruited by Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld, and acting under Clarke’s tutelage and development.

One former participant, NBC military analyst Kenneth Allard, has called the effort “psyops on steroids.” As Barstow reports, “Internal Pentagon documents repeatedly refer to the military analysts as ‘message force multipliers’ or ‘surrogates’ who could be

PROPAGANDA p.5

Spanish Judge Calls for Bush to be Tried for War Crimes

BY VICKY SHORT

Baltasar Garzón, the Spanish judge who sought to prosecute Chilean dictator General Augusto Pinochet, has called for US President George W. Bush and his allies to be tried for war crimes over Iraq.

Writing in *El Pais* on the fourth anniversary of the invasion, Garzón stated, “Today, March 20, marks four years since the formal start of the war on Iraq. Instigated by the United States and Great Britain, and supported by

Spain among other countries, one of the most sordid and unjustifiable episodes in recent human history began.

“Breaking every international law, and under the pretext of the war against terror, there has taken place since 2003 a devastating attack on the rule of law and against the very essence of the international community. In its path, institutions such as the United Nations were left in tatters, from which it has not yet recovered.”

“Instead of commemorating the war,” Garzón continues, “we should be horrified, screaming and demonstrating against the present massacre created as a consequence of that war.”

He then writes that George W. Bush and his allies should eventually face war crimes charges for their actions in Iraq: “We should look more deeply into the possible criminal responsibility of the people who are, or

SPANISH JUDGE p.4

40 Years Since RFK Assassination Mounting Evidence of CIA Involvement

BY MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP

Robert F. Kennedy was assassinated 40 years ago this month at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles. Sirhan B. Sirhan, a 24 year old immigrant, is the alleged lone gunman and is presently serving a life sentence. In a new book, *An Open and Shut Case*, Dr. Robert Joling and Philip Van Praag have joined a growing list of people who don’t believe that Sirhan acted alone.

Joling and Van Praag, both forensic scientists, claim that after analyzing audio recordings of the assassination they have concluded that at least 13 shots were fired. The handgun Sirhan used only had the capacity to fire eight shots. They believe that there were two guns and that the fatal shot came from behind Robert Kennedy, while witnesses claim that Sirhan was in front of Kennedy. According to a March 27, 2008 ABC report by Pierre Thomas, Joling claims, “It can be established conclusively that Sirhan did not shoot Senator



Bobby and John F. Kennedy

Courtesy of Simon & Schuster

Kennedy. And in fact not only did he not do it, he could not have done it.”

Los Angeles Coroner Thomas Noguchi conducted the official autopsy on the body of Robert Francis Kennedy on the morning of June 6, 1968. Noguchi stated that the shot that killed RFK “had entered through the mastoid bone, an inch behind the right ear

and had traveled upward to sever the branches of the superior cerebral artery.”

At a conference in Connecticut forensic scientists met to discuss their independent findings. The conference presenters argued that Sirhan Sirhan could not have fired the fatal shot that killed Kennedy.

Dr. Robert Joling has studied the Kennedy assassination for nearly 40 years, he concluded that the fatal shot came from behind Kennedy, while Sirhan was four to six feet in front of the senator and never got close enough to shoot him from behind.

Philip Van Praag analyzed the Pruszyński recording (a Canadian journalist’s tape recording) and determined that 13 shots were fired while Kennedy was killed, although Sirhan’s gun only held eight bullets. This suggests that a second shooter was involved in the assassination.

Other questions regarding the assassination

RFK p.7

Guantanamo Prosecutions Stymied By Torture

BY RCFP STAFF

A military judge has disqualified the Pentagon’s top legal advisor in the Office of Military Commissions, the body overseeing the Guantanamo tribunals. The judge, Naval Captain Keith Allred, directed that Brigadier General Thomas Hartmann, the top Pentagon general overseeing Guantanamo war crimes tribunals, should have no further role in the case. According to *The New York Times*, which obtained Capt. Allred’s classified ruling, it states: “National attention focused on this dispute has seriously called into question the legal adviser’s ability to continue to perform his duties in a neutral and objective manner.”

While the ruling applies only to the

immediate case of Salim Ahmed Hamdan, similar findings would likely be applied in all the cases brought before the court.

The ruling stems from a dispute between Gen. Hartmann and former top Pentagon terrorism prosecutor Air Force Colonel Morris Davis.

October 2007 when General Counsel William Haynes was assigned to be his superior Colonel Davis resigned from his position as Chief Prosecutor and became the Head of the Air Force Judiciary stating that “The guy who said waterboarding is A-okay I was not going to take orders from. I quit.”

Davis is reported in the *Washington Post* saying that senior officials in President George

W. Bush’s administration urged him to move high-profile trials along quickly for political reasons. Deputy Defense Secretary Gordon England and other Pentagon officials told him that charging well-known detainees before the 2008 elections could have “strategic political value.”

Davis has accused Gen. Hartmann of pressing for the use of secret proceedings and the admission of testimony obtained through torture including waterboarding. “To allow or direct a prosecutor to come into the courtroom and offer evidence they felt was torture, it puts a prosecutor in an ethical bind,” to which, Davis told the court, Hartmann replied that

GITMO p.2

CIA Agent Gunned Down by Houston Police

BY WAYNE MADSEN/WAYNE MADSEN REPORT
The shooting death by Houston police on April 29 of retired CIA agent and CIA contractor Roland V. Carnaby is being called an “assassination” by many intelligence professionals who knew him and his past work for the CIA.

Carnaby was shot to death by Houston police in the middle of the morning near the Galleria, Carnaby’s office, and the home of former President George and First Lady Barbara Bush. There is evidence that Israeli intelligence agents inside the Houston Police Department issued the order to shoot Carnaby.

Attention is being focused on the statement made to the press by Houston Police Department Homicide Captain Steve Jett who said that the Houston police officers who stopped Carnaby were told to “find something” on which to hold Carnaby. Investigators want to know who issued that order and why. Foreign intelligence elements who wanted Carnaby silenced may have infiltrated the Houston Police Department at a high level and issued the order to “hold” Carnaby on any charge.

Carnaby’s actions were likely those of an experienced intelligence officer who understood that he was being set up, a

routine event in many hostile intelligence environments where CIA officers must be on constant guard against being detained by the police on trumped up charges.

The Houston police have not yet released their video camera footage from their patrol cars, adding to the belief that the police are engaged in a major cover-up of the circumstances of Carnaby’s shooting death.

WMR has also learned that the two pistols and a shotgun allegedly found by Houston police in Carnaby’s Jeep Commander after it was impounded were “drop guns.” Drop guns are a hallmark of the Houston police,

HOUSTON POLICE p.4

Aspartame: Sweet But Dangerous

BY ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

Aspartame is one of the most controversial food additives in history. Aspartame, a combination of two amino acids phenylalanine and aspartic acid, is sold commercially under names like Nutrasweet, Equal and Candereal, and can be found in more than 5,000 foods, including sodas, chewing gum, tabletop sweeteners, diet and diabetic foods, breakfast cereals, jams, sweets, vitamins, prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Approximately 2/3 of the adult population and 1/3 of children regularly ingest this artificial sweetener. Aspartame was approved as a food additive by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

in 1981, but the debate about its safety continues.

Aspartame was discovered by a chemist working at the pharmaceutical manufacturer GD Searle in December 1965. Searle began safety tests for FDA approval in 1967. The first study conducted by Dr. Harry Waisman, director of the University of Wisconsin’s Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Memorial Laboratory of Mental Retardation Research and a respected expert in the toxicity of phenylalanine, studied the effects of aspartame on primates. Of seven monkeys fed aspartame mixed with milk, one died and five others had grand mal epileptic seizures.

Dr. John Olney, professor of neuropathology and psychiatry at Washington University in St. Louis School of Medicine informed Searle in 1971 that his studies show that aspartic acid, one of the main components of aspartame causes holes in the brains of infant mice. This is confirmed by one of Searle’s own researchers, Ann Reynolds.

In spite of negative results, in 1973 Searle applied for FDA approval and submitted studies claiming aspartame to be safe, with no mention of the dead monkeys or the holes in the brains of the mice. From 1973 to the present

ASPARTAME p.2

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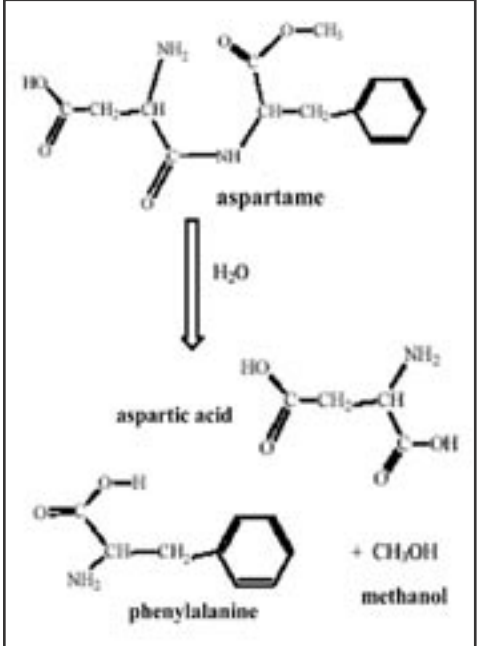
Aspartame: Sweet but Dangerous

ASPARTAME *from p.1*

numerous studies by independent researchers have found not only that aspartame is unsafe but that Searle’s research has been faulty, at best. An FDA task force concluded in a 1976 report that they found “faulty and fraudulent product testing, knowingly misrepresented product testing, knowingly misrepresented and manipulated test data and instances of irrelevant animal research in all the products reviewed.” FDA commissioner Dr. Alexander Schmidt stated “Searle’s studies were incredibly sloppy science. What we discovered was reprehensible.”

But this did not stop Searle from continuing to try to push aspartame through the FDA approval process.

In 1977, for the first time in the FDA’s history, it requested a criminal investigation of a manufacturer. The FDA chief counsel Richard Merrill formally requested the US Attorney’s office to begin grand jury proceeding against Searle. While the grand jury investigation was underway, Sidley & Austin, the law firm representing Searle, began recruitment negotiations with Samuel Skinner, the US attorney in charge of the



investigation. Skinner removed himself from the investigation, and was hired by Searle’s law firm six months later. Other conflicts of interest have followed including the hiring of Donald Rumsfeld who used political favors to help push through approval of aspartame. In 1981, as a member of the Reagan transition team Rumsfeld was instrumental in promoting Dr. Arthur Hull Hayes, Jr. to the post of FDA commissioner. Hayes then ignored the recommendations of his own internal FDA team and gave initial approval for aspartame to be used in dry products.

The FDA website gives aspartame only two short paragraphs and states: “To date, FDA has not determined any consistent pattern of symptoms that can be attributed to the use of aspartame, nor is the agency aware of any recent studies that clearly show safety problems.” Yet, an April, 1995

report by the Dept. of Health and Human Services reports that the FDA received almost 10,000 complaints attributed to aspartame, enumerating 92 different side effects. These side effects include: headache, dizziness, change in mood, vomiting, abdominal pain/cramps, change in vision, diarrhea, seizures and convulsions, memory loss, and fatigue, to name just the top ten.

A quick search on “aspartame” on the website www.pubmedcentral.nih.gov will provide a researcher with a long list of articles about the health effects of aspartame. One of these articles is “Life-Span Exposure to Low Doses of Aspartame Beginning during Prenatal Life Increases Cancer Effects in Rats”, by Morando Soffritti, Fiorella Belppoggi, et al. in *Environmental Health Perspective*, 2007 September; 115(9): 1293-1297. This article is the result of a second study to better quantify the carcinogenic risk of aspartame. The researchers concluded that the results of the study confirmed and reinforced the first experimental demonstration of aspartame’s “...multipotential carcinogenicity at a dose close to the acceptable daily intake for humans. Furthermore, the study demonstrates that when life-span exposure to aspartame begins during fetal life, its carcinogenic effects are increased.” The last paragraph of this article reads; “On the basis of the present findings, we believe that a review of the current regulations governing the use of aspartame cannot be delayed. This review is particularly urgent with regard to aspartame-containing beverages, which are heavily consumed by children.”

Aspartame proponents consistently gloss over or out right ignore any studies showing adverse health effects from aspartame. Even in the medical journals, you will find researchers defending aspartame. In a response to the Soffritti article, Eyassu Abegaz wrote in “Apartame Not Linked to Cancer”, that “The study by Soffritte et al. (2006) has major flaws that bring into question the validity of the findings.” But the beginnings of the two articles may shed some light on the disagreement. The Soffritti article states that “The authors declare they have no competing financial interests.” The Abegaz article, on the other hand, states that “The author is employed by Ajinomoto USA, which sells aspartame.”

So the fight continues. Aspartame was approved by the FDA in 1981 and is with us still today but the process has been full of fraudulent research, conflicts of interest and manipulation of the political process. The FDA has demonstrated once again that they are more interested in the financial health of the drug companies than the health and well being of the American people.



Elaine Sullivan is health editor for the Rock Creek Free Press in Washington, DC.

For more information: “Aspartame – The Shocking Story of the World’s Bestselling Sweetener”, *The Ecologist*, by Pat Thomas, September 2005

Ex-Prosecutor Calls Gitmo Tribunals Tainted

GITMO *from p.1*

“everything was fair game — let the judge sort it out.”

Davis also said that Defense Department General Counsel William Haynes once took issue with the possibility that some defendants could be acquitted by the commissions, which Davis said would give the system more legitimacy.

“He (Haynes) said, ‘We can’t have acquittals,’” Davis said. “‘We’ve been holding these guys for years. How can we explain acquittals? We have to have convictions.’”

Davis was called as a defense witness by Hamdan’s lawyers. Salim Ahmed Hamdan is the 36 year old Yemeni national and alleged driver for Osama bin Laden who is charged with material support for terrorism.

One of Hamdan’s lawyers, Joe McMillan, said after the hearing that Davis’s testimony “calls into question the impartiality and independence of this court.”

The Hamdan case appears to be at an impasse. Hamdan’s lawyers argued that the prisoner’s mental state has deteriorated due to the conditions of his confinement. The Pentagon has refused to pay for the court ordered psychiatric evaluation, possibly because the psychiatrist’s initial determination was that Hamdan suffered from post traumatic stress disorder and hopelessness due to the conditions of his captivity, a contention the prosecution disputes.

Critics of the military commission system said the judge’s decision would provide new grounds to attack a system they say was established to win convictions. The Judge’s ruling demonstrates, they say, that harsh interrogation (torture) is not just illegal and an international war crime, it is counterproductive to the administration of justice.



Americans Are Living (And Dying) In A Militarized Police State



By Dave Gibson

Today, police departments across the United States more closely resemble an occupying army than they do public servants responding to calls for help. Police officers can now be seen wearing helmets and body armor and carrying AR-15’s, just to deliver simple warrants. The militarization of our police departments not only gives the appearance of a military dictatorship but places the public at great risk.

No fewer than 70 percent of US cities now have SWAT teams. In cities with a population of 50,000 or more, 90 percent have SWAT teams.

Eastern Kentucky University professor Peter Kraska told the *Washington Post* that SWAT teams are currently sent out 40,000 times a year in the US. During the 1980s, SWAT teams were only used 3,000 times a year. Most of the time, SWAT teams are being sent out simply to serve warrants on non-violent drug offenders.

Many municipalities are using Homeland Security grants to purchase large armored vehicles. The Pittsburgh Police Department now uses their 20-ton armored truck, complete with rotating turret and gun ports, to deliver many of their warrants. Pittsburgh Police Sgt. Barry Budd recently told the Associated Press: “We live on being prepared for ‘what if.’”

Our police departments now regularly receive free surplus equipment from the US military, which they readily accept. The training being given at many police academies appears to be the type of tactics one would use in Baghdad, rather than Baltimore. It would seem that our police officers are being readied for war, with the American public as the enemy. In the last several years, there has been a transformation from community policing to pre-emptive assaults.

On January 24, 2006, Dr. Salvatore Culosi was shot and killed outside his house by a Fairfax County SWAT officer. Police used the SWAT team to serve a documents search warrant after Dr. Culosi came under suspicion for taking sports bets. The investigation began after Fairfax Detective David Baucom solicited a bet with Dr. Culosi at a local sports bar.

Dr. Culosi was standing outside his home while talking with Det. Baucom, when SWAT Officer Deval Bullock quickly approached with his gun drawn and fatally shot Dr. Culosi in the chest. Court documents report that Culosi never made any threatening movements and made no attempt to run as he watched the SWAT team move in around him.

Dr. Culosi had no history of violence nor any criminal history whatsoever. He operated two successful optometry clinics at Wal-Marts in Manassas and Warrenton, Va. His parents

have filed a \$12 million lawsuit against the county of Fairfax, Va.

On the night of January 17, 2008, a police SWAT team surrounded Ryan Frederick’s home in Chesapeake, Va. The police were there to serve a drug warrant based on a tip from a criminal informant.

As usual, 28 year-old Ryan Frederick had gone to sleep early in order to leave the house before dawn for his job with a soda distributor. He awoke to a commotion of screams and the distinct sound of someone breaking down his front door.

Frederick’s house had been broken into a few days earlier. Being a slight man of only a little over 100 pounds, Frederick feared for his safety. After the break-in, he purchased a gun.

Understandably frightened, Frederick grabbed his gun. When he got to the front of his house, he saw a man trying to crawl through the bottom portion of his door. Terrified that the intruders had returned, he fired.

The man he shot was not an aggressive burglar, nor a drug-crazed murderer. He was Det. Jarrod Shivers. The police detective and military veteran died almost immediately. Frederick was charged with first-degree murder and now sits in a jail cell awaiting trial.

As for the marijuana-growing operation for which police were looking, nothing was found. Only a very small amount of marijuana was discovered on the Frederick property, enough to charge him with no more than misdemeanor possession. Frederick has admitted that he uses marijuana occasionally but has never been involved with producing nor selling the drug.

Ryan Frederick has no prior history of violence, nor any criminal history whatsoever. He took care of his grandmother until her death two years ago, had a full-time job, and recently became engaged. In his spare time, he worked in his yard and tended to his Koi pond...Not quite the drug kingpin type!

However, based solely on the word of an informant, police obtained a warrant and stormed into this man’s house in the dark of night. The information turned out to be false, a police officer and father of three is dead, and a decent young man’s life is now over.

When Ryan Frederick awoke to the sounds of his home being invaded, he did what many of us would do. He acted reasonably when he grabbed his gun to defend himself and fired at a man who he believed was breaking into his home to do him harm.

Had the police simply gone to his home during the daytime and knocked on his door, they could have questioned Frederick and found their information to be groundless. A little traditional police work could have saved the life of a police officer and the Shivers and Frederick families would

Evo’s ‘Ten Commandments’ To Save The Planet



By Federico Fuentes

The message delivered by Bolivia’s indigenous president couldn’t be clearer: “If we want to save the planet, we have to put an end to, and eradicate the capitalist model.”

Addressing the Seventh United Nations Indigenous Forum, held in New York on April 21, which this year focused on the issue of climate change, President Evo Morales stated that this environmental crisis was “not the product of human beings in general, but rather the current inhumane capitalist system, with unlimited industrial development”.

“It is important to put an end to the exploitation of human beings and to put an end to the pillaging of natural resources; to put an end to destructive wars for raw materials”, Morales said.

As an alternative system, Morales proposed “a communitarian socialism in harmony with Mother Earth”.

The forum was the UN’s first meeting since passing the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People last year. Since then Bolivia has become the first nation to adopt the declaration into its national legal framework. It continues to lead the way on indigenous rights.

During his much-applauded speech, delivered as chief guest at the forum for discussion, Morales outlined his “ten commandments” to save the planet.

Morales also raised the “very serious” issue of the plan to use food to produce fuel through the mass production of biofuels, which is threatening food access for the world’s poor. Under capitalism, Morales said, “cars come first, not human beings ... I say life first and cars second.”

“In order to avoid hunger and misery”, it is necessary to solve the energy crisis through the development of clean energy such as wind

and solar power, Morales said.

Issuing a rallying cry to the estimated 370 million indigenous people around the world, Morales proclaimed: “The indigenous people will not shut up until we achieve a real change.”

Morales told the more than 2,500 indigenous representatives: “It is not possible that some countries have all the power and others not. There exists a United Nations organization, but if this does not change and democratize itself, then the first nations and indigenous peoples could, instead of the UN, create the Unity of Indigenous Nations of the World.”

Humanity, he said, must decide whether to “follow a life of capitalism and death, or the indigenous path of harmony with Mother Earth and life”

Federico Fuentes blogs on BoliviaRising.com and AxisOfLogic.com

Rev. Acelyne Williams, 75 of Boston, died of a heart attack as a SWAT team broke into his home. Police actually had the wrong address.

92 year old Kathryn Johnston, who was so fearful that she never left her home and would only open her door after friends who placed her groceries on the front porch had left, was killed by an Atlanta SWAT team last year. An erroneous tip from an informant was enough for the Atlanta Police Department to invade her home. Police have since admitted to lying to obtain a search warrant and to planting drugs in her home after killing her.

In 2006, a 52-member SWAT team stormed into a Denver home in search of a friendly, small-stakes poker game. The same thing happened a few months later when SWAT and K-9 units barged in on a charity poker game in Baltimore.

When someone straps on body armor and large caliber weapons, their adrenal levels begin to surge. As they arrive at the scene, those levels increase. When these now militarized police officers actually break into a dark home and begin shouting at terrified citizens, severe injury and death is likely to occur. It is beyond reason to employ these tactics on anyone other than hardened, violent criminals.

SWAT teams were created in the wake of the 1966 University of Texas sniper shooting spree by ex-marine Charles Whitman. Police did not have the firepower to reach Whitman, who was perched atop the 27-story clock tower. Civilians with hunting rifles came to the scene and joined with police in the effort to stop Whitman. Eventually, police officers and a well-armed citizen climbed the stairs of the tower and killed Whitman, but not before he killed 17 people and injured another 31. As a result of the incident, police departments began to assemble small teams of highly trained officers with equipment specific to sniper shootings, hostage situations, bank robberies, etc.

SWAT teams were designed to deal with very violent individuals who represent a clear and present threat to the public. However, they are now being used to execute warrants on non-violent offenders and even those who have no prior criminal history at all. Turning our neighborhood cops into shock troops will do nothing but erode public confidence in the police and endanger the lives of innocent Americans.

Recently, Boston’s new police commissioner William Fitchet announced that the department’s Street Crimes Unit will begin wearing military-style black uniforms, to instill a sense of “fear.” At last week’s city council meeting, police Sgt. John Delaney told council members that the black uniforms would send the message that officers were serious.

Did someone declare martial law?



Dave Gibson is a freelance writer living in Norfolk, Va. His work has appeared in *AmericanChronicle.com*, *CivicsNews.com*, *PrisonPlanet.com*.

Evo’s Ten Commandments:

1. Put an end to the capitalist system
2. Renounce wars
3. A world without imperialism or colonialism
4. The right to water
5. Development of clean energies
6. Respect Mother Earth
7. Treat basic services as human rights
8. Fight inequalities
9. Promote diversity of cultures and economies
10. Live well, not live better at the expense of others

-Evo Morales, President of Bolivia

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Open Letter: Bush’s Treacherous Knesset Speech

By LARISA ALEXANDROVNA
Dear Mr. Bush,
Your May 15, 2008 speech on the Knesset floor was not only a disgrace; it was nothing short of treachery. Worse still, your exploitation of the Holocaust in a country carved out of the wounds of that very crime, in order to strike a low blow at American citizens whose politics differs from your own is unforgivable and unpardonable. Let me remind you, Mr. Bush, of your words today:
“Some seem to believe we should negotiate with terrorists and radicals, as if some ingenious argument will persuade them they have been wrong all along,” Bush said at Israel’s 60th anniversary celebration in Jerusalem.
“We have heard this foolish delusion before,” Bush said in remarks to Israel’s parliament, the Knesset. “As Nazi tanks crossed into Poland in 1939, an American senator declared: ‘Lord, if only I could have talked to Hitler, all of this might have been avoided.’ We have an obligation to call this what it is—the false comfort of appeasement, which has been repeatedly discredited by history.”

Well Mr. Bush, the only thing this comment lacked was a mirror and some historical facts. You want to discuss the crimes of Nazis against my family and millions of other families in Europe during World War II? Let me revive a favorite phrase of yours: Bring. It. On!

The All-American Nazi
Your family’s fortune is built on the bones of the very people butchered by the Nazis, my family and the families of those in the Knesset who applauded you today:
“WASHINGTON—President Bush’s grandfather was a director of a bank seized by the federal government because of its ties to a German industrialist who helped bankroll Adolf Hitler’s rise to power, government documents show.
“Prescott Bush was one of seven directors of Union Banking Corp., a New York investment bank owned by a bank controlled by the Thyssen family, according to recently declassified National Archives documents reviewed by The Associated Press.
“Fritz Thyssen was an early financial supporter of Hitler, whose Nazi party Thyssen believed was preferable to communism.
“Both Harrimans and Bush were partners in the New York investment firm of Brown Brothers, Harriman and Co., which handled the financial transactions of the bank as well as other financial dealings with several other companies linked to Bank voor Handel that were confiscated by the US government during World War II.
“Union Banking was seized by the government in October 1942 under the Trading with the Enemy Act.”
Oh, but there is much more too:
The two Holocaust survivors suing the US government and the Bush family for a total of \$40bn in compensation claim both materially benefited from Auschwitz slave labour during the second world war, Kurt Julius Goldstein, 87, and Peter Gingold, 85, began a class action in America in 2001, but the case was thrown out by Judge Rosemary Collier on the grounds that the government cannot be held liable under the principle of “state sovereignty”.

I cannot think of one Democrat who can boast this kind of lineage. Can you? No, I don’t think so. But you can lie brazenly and attack a sitting US Senator on foreign soil by comparing him to Nazi sympathizers? Let us continue down memory lane to help those who applaud you understand just what it is they are celebrating.
The All American Traitor
Your family did not stop with supporting fascists and Nazis abroad, did they Mr. Bush? Surely you must know of your grandfather’s role in the treasonous plot of 1933 to overthrow democracy in America? Let me remind you.
Grandpa Bush - that is to say, your grandfather - wanted fascism imported into the United States, or as you now call this type of transformation, “exporting democracy.” Prescott went so far as to subsidize a coup attempt in order to achieve his dream of a fascist America. The following is from the BBC:
Document uncovers details of a planned coup in the USA in 1933 by right-wing American businessmen. The coup was aimed at toppling President Franklin D Roosevelt with the help of half-a-million war veterans. The plotters, who were alleged to involve some of the most famous families in America, (owners of Heinz, Birds Eye, Goodtea, Maxwell House & George Bush’s Grandfather, Prescott) believed that their country should adopt the policies of Hitler and Mussolini to beat the great depression. Mike Thomson investigates why so little is known about this biggest ever peacetime threat to America.
In other words, not only was your grandfather a self-professed fascist, he was a Nazi sympathizer and a war profiteer who should have stood trial at the Hague instead of buying his way into the US Senate. He was also a traitor, twice over.
Now clearly the crimes of Prescott Bush are not your fault, Mr. George W. Bush. Let us therefore judge your actions and words on their own merit.

Iraq is your Poland
Your reminiscence today about the invasion of Poland by Nazi Germany should have been seen as your condemnation of your own abhorrent actions against Iraq. The morbid irony of what you said will likely never register with you or your speechwriter. To truly grasp the grotesqueness of what you said requires that you have both a conscience and some understanding of history. We know you possess neither.
I will therefore make your history lesson brief, but to the point. The unprovoked attack on Poland by Germany was a war crime just as your attack against Iraq - based on lies - is a war crime. This is not my opinion. This is not a political attack. This is a fact. Consider the words of the esteemed former chief prosecutor in the Nuremberg trials, Benjamin Ferencz, regarding your war of aggression against Iraq:
“...Prima facie case can be made that the United States is guilty of the supreme crime against humanity, that being an illegal war of aggression against a sovereign nation.”

Moreover, your reckless verbiage and partisan pandering using something as tragic and criminal as Germany’s war of aggression against Poland is an insult to all victims of those atrocities.
My grandfather’s sister and parents were having supper in their Warsaw home when a German bomb erased them from this planet. Your evoking the German atrocities against Poland in order to play dirty politics against Democrats is as offensive to me as if you had pinned a swastika onto your lapel.
Even your own words appear to be penned by Hitler’s ghost all the while you imply that Democrats are Nazis and/or terrorists - something you have done over and over. Your lies and Hitler’s lies even have the same purpose.
When you, Mr. Bush, said “see in my line of work you got to keep repeating things over and over and over again for the truth to sink in, to kind of catapult the propaganda,” were you aware of Adolph Hitler’s eerily similar statement? Hitler said “If you tell a big enough lie and tell it frequently enough, it will be believed.”
Yet if words alone were your only weapon and words strung together into lies your only crime, you might be seen as simply the loathsome, unethical dilettante and despot that you are. Unfortunately, your crimes are many and so similar to those of the Nazi regime that at times one wonders if you are not yourself reenacting that very history you used today as an insult against a political opponent.

Your very own concentration camps
You ordered the creation of secret camps all over the world and on US territory where you also authorized the torture of countless men, women and children is a violation of the Geneva Conventions, international law, and domestic law. In other words, you authorized war crimes.
We don’t know the number of people you have had disappeared, tortured, and possibly murdered. Although we have some idea of what these numbers may be, I doubt the full truth of it all will ever be known.
In 2005, I had a CENTCOM document leaked to me illustrating that since the start of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, more than 70,000 men, women, and children have been detained at one of your various camps, Mr. Bush. We don’t know what happened to them, if they were tortured, raped, or murdered. What we do know is that less than 2% of those 70,000 had any sort of charge brought against them in a court of law. None of those alleged crimes, by the way, were acts of terrorism. We don’t know if that 70,000 figure was the actual and full count of detainees in US custody around the world in 2005. But it is safe to say that in the last 3 years since this document was published, the number of detainees has likely grown.
What we also now know, in great horror, is that at least one of your camps had a crematorium in it, which some of the US soldiers stationed there suspected was used for burning bodies: , “We had some kind of incinerator at the end of our building,” Specialist Megan Ambuhl said. “It was this huge circular thing. We just didn’t know what was incinerated in there. It could have been people, for all we knew—bodies.” Sergeant Davis was not in doubt. “It had bones in it,” he said, and he called it the crematorium. “But hey, you’re at war,” he said. “Suck it up or drive on.” (*The New Yorker*, March 2008)

What we also now know is that Dick Cheney and senior members of your administration carried out a plan of torture and abuse that violated international and domestic law with regard to human rights, down to the type of torture tactics that would be used against prisoners in our custody. This plan, we now know, was approved by you.
Has the mirror cracked yet from this much fact or are you still peering into the political sphere hoping to ascribe your own crimes to others? It won’t work. It never has and it certainly won’t work now. We know far too much about you and yours.
I could continue listing the litany of your crimes, both against the United States and against foreign nations. I won’t. We know what you are and what you have done. Having roughly 1,000,000 dead Iraqis under your belt should have shamed you into the parasitic hole you came out of, attaching yourself to the blood of this nation and sucking it dry. Instead, you parade around, the globe-trotting horror show and anti-Semite that you are.
Yes, you are an anti-Semite
Would you say no, you are not an anti-Semite? Consider your own words when you thought no one was keeping score:
“You know what I’m gonna tell those Jews when I get to Israel, don’t you Herman?” a then Governor George W. Bush allegedly asked a reporter for the *Austin American-Statesman*.
When the journalist, Ken Herman, replied that he did not know, Bush reportedly delivered the punch line: “I’m telling ‘em they’re all going to hell.”
Only an anti-Semite would think this type of humor is acceptable. Did you tell the Jews of Israel they were going to hell? No, instead, you told them that American Democrats are Nazi sympathizers and, in an act of sheer indecency, the right-wing Likud party orchestrated the greatest applause you ever got. For shame!

What this blind adoration finally proves to me is that the right-wing regime that has overtaken Israel cares nothing for its people, its heritage, and the tragic history that they now honor by applauding a man whose family-fortune was built on the bodies of their loved ones. Like their Republican (and Lieberman) counterparts in the United States, Likud does not represent its people, rather, it represents its owners. Likud has traded Israel, its Jews, their heritage and history for the same golden calf purchased and sold by the far-right wing in the United States.
I am ashamed of you Mr. Bush. I am ashamed of those who applauded your political porn played out against the hallowed backdrop of the Holocaust. I am ashamed of those reporters with you, who between them could not muster the moral courage to call you out on your ugly rhetoric and ask you about your own family Nazi ties. You are, sir, the most abhorrent human being of my lifetime. I dare say, in the lifetime of this nation.

Larisa Alexandrovna is an editor at RawStory.com and a regular contributor at the HuffingtonPost.com



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President Should Be Impeached for War Crimes

By BILL WICKERSHAM
In June 2004, the Bush Administration issued a statement that detailed its rationale and legal stance for denying terror suspects the protection of international humanitarian law. The statement included hundreds of pages of White House communications intended to counter widespread criticism that George W. Bush had personally endorsed the plans used to justify the interrogation abuses of US prisoners held in Iraq, Guantanamo Bay, and other worldwide locations. At that time Bush said, “I have never ordered torture.” Ordered or not, it is now clear from recent reports that Bush was well aware of, and approved plans for, the questioning of known and alleged al Qaeda prisoners being held by the CIA.
On April 9, 2008, ABC News reported that Bush’s National Security Council Principals Committee had dozens of top-secret talks and meetings at the White House to review interrogation procedures to be used by the CIA on al Qaeda suspects. Condoleezza

Rice chaired the committee, which included Dick Cheney, Donald Rumsfeld, Colin Powell, George Tenet and John Aschroft. According to ABC, the principals discussed and approved specific details of “enhanced interrogation techniques”—“CIA-Speak” and “Pentagonese” for torture, including face slapping, pushing, sleep deprivation and the simulated drowning technique known as “waterboarding.”
According to a recent article by Dan Eggen of the *Washington Post*, Bush publicly defended the principals’ torture policies and decisions saying, “Well, we started to connect the dots in order to protect the American people. And, yes, I’m aware our national security team met on this issue, and I approved.”
As previously noted, Condoleezza Rice chaired the Principals Committee and played a key role in development of policies that cleared the way for US torture practices. In 2004, the CIA sought additional assurance by the administration for use of torture on “high value” CIA captured suspects.

In addressing this episode, ABC News reported about Rice: “Despite growing policy concerns — shared by Powell — that the program was harming the image of the United States abroad, ... (she) did not back down, telling the CIA: ‘This is your baby; Go do it.’”
When stories regarding detainees at the Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq became public, blame for the illegal crimes was placed on “a few rotten apples in the barrel,” low-ranking US soldiers, some of whom are now serving jail sentences. It is now very clear that there were also “bad apples” in barrels at the White House, the Pentagon and in Langley, Va. at CIA headquarters. Much of the torture that has occurred is the result of orders fully approved by the White House. Thus, the neo-conservative Bush administration, which purportedly invaded and occupied Iraq to free its people of Saddam’s heinous atrocities, is now guilty of its own, including the killing of innumerable Iraqi citizens via aerial bombardment and house-to-house invasions.

WAR CRIMES p.5

McCain and the Unitary Executive

By ROBERT PARRY / CONSORTIUM NEWS
If John McCain wins the presidency – and gets to appoint one or more US Supreme Court justices – America’s 232-year experiment as a democratic Republic living under the principle that “no man is above the law” may come to an end.
To put the matter differently, if a President McCain replaces one of the moderate justices with another Samuel Alito – as McCain has vowed to do – then Justice Department lawyer John Yoo’s extreme vision of an all-powerful Executive could well become the new law of the land.
On May 6 in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, during a speech aimed at appealing conservatives, McCain promised to appoint justices in the mold of George W. Bush’s selections, Justice Alito and Chief Justice John Roberts, expanding the court’s right-wing faction that also includes Justices Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.
Those four justices already have embraced the Bush administration’s radical notion that at a time of war – even one as vaguely defined as the “war on terror” – the President possesses “plenary” or unlimited powers through

his commander-in-chief authority.
As expressed in classified memos by Yoo when he was a key lawyer in the Justice Department’s Office of Legal Counsel, there should be, in essence, no limits on what a war-time President can do as long as he is asserting his duty to protect the nation.
Alito also is associated with this concept of a “unitary executive,” holding that a President should control all regulatory authority, define the limits of laws via “signing statements” and – at his own discretion – override treaties, the will of Congress and even the Bill of Rights and the Constitution.
Under this theory, a President can cite his commander-in-chief powers to spy on citizens without warrants, imprison people without charges, authorize torture, order assassinations, and invade other countries without congressional approval.
With just one more Alito, that view would claim control of the US Supreme Court and allow a new five-to-four majority to, in effect, rewrite the Constitution. The founding principle of the United States – that everyone possesses certain “unalienable” human rights – would be history. [For

details, see *Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush.*]
‘Activist’ Judges
All this would occur under the right-wing assertion that McCain was appointing justices who “strictly interpret” the Constitution. It has been a long-held tenet of the conservative movement that “activist” judges were at fault for outlawing racial segregation and other statutes that discriminated against minorities.
More recently, the Right has concentrated its wrath on Supreme Court rulings that struck down laws criminalizing abortion and homosexual acts.
But the “strict constructionist” phrase is really a euphemism for a double standard, objecting to judicial decisions that conservatives don’t like while justifying judicial activism when it serves right-wing causes, such as giving President Bush authority to brush aside the Constitution as he prosecutes the “war on terror.”
Even if the clear intent of the Founders was to avoid a tyrannical Executive by placing key war-making

McCAIN p.4

Back Up the Rabbit Hole

By JOHN MICHAEL GREER
Perhaps the worst of the difficulties involved in any attempt to glimpse the future’s patterns in the Rorschach inkblots of the present is the pervasive influence of mythic narratives so deeply ingrained in our culture that few people even notice them. In a retrospective essay on his own work, historian Arnold Toynbee offered a useful warning in this regard:
“If one cannot think without mental patterns – and, in my belief, one cannot – it is better to know what they are; for a pattern of which one is unconscious is a pattern that holds one at its mercy.”
Toynbee was critiquing historians of his own period who treated the idea of progress as a simple fact, rather than the richly imaginative secular mythology it actually is. Still, his caution can be applied far outside the limits of the academic study of history. Nearly every dimension of contemporary

culture, today just as in Toynbee’s time, embraces the unthinking assumption that the wave of history inevitably leads onward and upward through the present to a future that will look pretty much like the present, but more so.
This very widespread article of faith begs any number of questions. It seems to me, however, that one of them deserves special attention. The notion of history implicit in the modern mythology of progress is a straight line without branches or swerves, much less dead ends from which we might have to retrace our steps. That idea of history, if it’s embraced unthinkingly, leaves us with desperately few options if adaptations to some temporary set of conditions turn out to be counterproductive when those conditions go away.
This is anything but an abstract concern just now. As the world closes in on the end of the 21st century’s

first decade, its industrial societies are leaving behind a period in which just such a temporary set of conditions held sway. Until we recognize the blind alley down which those conditions led the developed world, we will be hard put to respond to a future that has begun to move in a very different direction.
A glance back three decades or so offers a necessary perspective. In the last years of the 1970s, conventional wisdom had it that the energy crises of that decade were the first waves of an “Age of Scarcity” that would demand either a massive conversion to nuclear power or an equally daunting and costly transition to a conserver economy in which relatively modest renewable energy inputs would be used with maximum efficiency. Both possibilities involved serious challenges and huge price tags, but in the face of the inevitable depletion of finite fossil

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McCain and the Unitary Executive

McCain *from p.3*

powers in the hands of the Legislature, right-wing legal scholars have favored overturning those principles in the name of an all-powerful President.

So, on one level, McCain might choose another Alito or two in order to reverse Roe v. Wade or allow states to crack down on homosexual rights. But he also would be enshrining the concept of a "unitary executive."

Thus, perhaps more than any other question, the November election will settle whether a future Supreme Court will reshape the United States into an imperial system both at home and abroad – or roll back President Bush's expansion of executive power in the direction of the Founders' original vision.

Obama-Clinton Battle

There is also a political component on the Democratic side to McCain's May 6 promise to Republicans that he will help the Right consolidate control of the federal judiciary, including the Supreme Court.

While many supporters of Hillary Clinton – especially middle-age white women – have told pollsters that they won't vote for Barack Obama if he wins the Democratic nomination, that position might ensure that a core feminist principle, "reproductive rights," will be struck down by the Supreme Court.

In other words, to show their anger over the defeat of a female presidential candidate,

Clinton supporters might end up contributing to a historic defeat for feminist rights, including the possible outlawing of abortions in many states.

However, beyond the issue of abortion and other privacy rights, Democrats and all Americans will be faced with a fundamental question when they vote in November:

Will they continue the noble experiment of a democratic Republic with "inalienable" rights for all, what the Founders envisioned with the Declaration of Independence in 1776 and the Constitution of 1787?

Or, do Americans want to go down the path marked by the likes of Yoo, Alito and Bush – ceding virtually all power to one individual who can operate beyond all laws and outside the rules of human behavior – and do so with the blessing of the US Supreme Court?

Robert Parry broke many of the Iran-Contra stories in the 1980s for the Associated Press and Newsweek, received the George Polk Award for National Reporting in 1984. His latest book, Neck Deep: The Disastrous Presidency of George W. Bush, was written with two of his sons, Sam and Nat, and can be ordered at neckdeepbook.com. His four previous books, Terror of Treason; The October Surprise Mystery, Fooling America: How Washington Insiders Twist the Truth and Manufacture Conventional Wisdom, Secrecy & Privilege: The Rise of the Bush Dynasty from Watergate to Iraq and Lost History: Contras, Cocaine, the Press & 'Project Truth' are also available there. Or go to Amazon.com.

US and Iraq Regime Holding 51,000 Iraqis Behind Bars, Most Illegally

IRAQIS *from p.1*

Forum(GPF) of New York City, which compiled the information.

"While the United States has put in place a formal review procedure that supposedly evaluates all detainees for release on a regular basis, detainees cannot attend these reviews, cannot confront evidence against them, and cannot be represented properly by an attorney," Gilmartin said.

These conditions are "in direct violation" of international human rights law, says Gilmartin. Washington, however, claims due process does not apply as it is engaged in "an international armed conflict." Human rights authorities, however, say the conflict is not international and that human rights law applies at all times.

In an effort to conceal conditions in its Iraqi compounds, the US has closed them to human rights monitors such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Federation of Human Rights, Gilmartin said.

Detainees held by the US are confined at Camp Bucca, near Umm Qasr, and at Camp Cropper, inside the US base near the Baghdad airport. Among Camp Cropper's 4,000 prisoners are "hundreds of juveniles," Gilmartin reports, and its inmates suffer "from overcrowding, poor medical attention and miserable conditions." Some inmates complain that they never see the light of day.

Camp Bucca, Gilmartin writes, with 20,000 inmates, "is perhaps the world's largest extrajudicial internment camp." Most

of its detainees live in large communal tents and are subject to scorching desert heat by day and bone-chilling cold by night. The facility is being expanded to house 10,000 more inmates. Bucca has a sordid history of riots by inmates over religious insults, maltreatment and poor conditions.

As for the prisons run by the Iraqi government, United Nations reports have described them as "severely overcrowded" and having "dire sanitation and hygiene conditions."

"Further," according to Gilmartin, in the Iraq-run prisons there are "continuing reports of widespread and routine torture and ill-treatment of detainees." Women inmates have told UN interviewers they had been raped and sexually abused. "The US command, with its enormous influence over the Iraqi detention system, has a large responsibility for these conditions," Gilmartin pointed out.

Global Policy Forum called for opening the Iraqi detention facilities "to national and international observers" and for establishing clear accountability for US officers and contractors in charge of the prisons.

"The whole abusive system must be thoroughly overhauled or closed down," Gilmartin said. "US military and civilian leaders are not the only ones complicit in the abuse and lack of due process of Iraqi detainees. All who stay silent in the face of the Iraq gulag allow it to continue."

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SPANISH JUDGE *from p.1*

were, responsible for this war and see whether there is sufficient evidence to make them answer for it."

"For many it would be merely a question of political responsibility, but judicial actions in the US are beginning to emerge, as is the case of the verdict passed on one of vice-president Cheney's collaborators, [J. Lewis Libby] which point in a different direction."

"There is enough of an argument in 650,000 deaths for this investigation and inquiry to start without more delay," he added.

Garzón then turns his scathing criticisms towards the former Spanish Prime Minister, José María Aznar, who followed British Prime Minister Tony Blair in supporting Bush's war of aggression against Iraq.

"Those who joined the US president in the war against Iraq have as much or more responsibility than him because, despite having doubts and biased information, they put themselves in the hands of the aggressor to carry out an ignoble act of death and destruction that continues to this day."

Aznar still defends the invasion of Iraq. He reluctantly admitted last month that he now knows Saddam Hussein had no weapons of mass destruction, but added that "the problem was not having been clever enough to know it earlier."

Garzón answers this in his article: "If he didn't know enough, he should be asked why he didn't act prudently, giving United Nations inspectors more leeway instead of doing the opposite in total submission and fidelity to President Bush."

Fearful of the extension of the insurgency in Iraq throughout the Middle East and internationally, Garzón declares that "the North American bellicose action, and that of those who supported it, has determined or at least has contributed to the creation, development and consolidation of the biggest terrorist training camp in the world.... In some way, with a terrible lack of awareness, we have been and are helping this monster grow more and more and strengthened by the minute, so that it is probably invincible."

Garzón has investigated everything from Basque terrorism to the March 11, 2004 Madrid train bombings, whose alleged perpetrators are



Judge Baltasar Garzón, sometimes called "Super Judge" sits on Spain's second highest criminal court.

currently on trial. He led the investigation into the rightist terror group Grupos Antiterroristas de Liberación (GAL), whose creation was attributed to the Socialist Party (PSOE) government of the day. He also banned Herri Batasuna, the political arm of ETA—the first political party to be outlawed since the death of Franco in 1975.

Back in 1996, the Progressive Union of Prosecutors filed criminal complaints against the Argentine and Chilean military for the disappearance of Spanish citizens under the dictatorships that ruled them in the 1970s and 1980s. One year later, Garzón issued an arrest order that included Argentine Navy Captain Adolfo Scilingo, who made a televised confession in 1995 of "death flights" in which hundreds of detainees were thrown from airplanes to their deaths in the Atlantic Ocean. Scilingo was detained after travelling to Spain voluntarily.

Former Chilean President Pinochet was arrested during a medical check-up in London in 1998 based on a warrant issued by Garzón. For months the judge attempted to have the dictator extradited to Spain to be tried for heading the military coup in 1973 that overthrew the elected president Salvador Allende and the subsequent murder of thousands of students and workers. He has also signalled his intention to question Richard Nixon's national security adviser Henry Kissinger about events in Chile, after declassified documents released

by the US State Department and the CIA suggested that Kissinger was well aware of what was happening.

The fact that such a prominent international judicial figure openly speaks of bringing war crimes judgement against the leaders of the US, UK and Spain is an indication that the entire Iraq campaign is heading towards a disaster and a response to the mounting opposition around the world.

Yet his statement was given only the most cursory coverage by the media in the United States and internationally. No publication chose to make an editorial comment and most simply reproduced or slightly amended a Reuters report.

Such is the level of hostility to the Iraq war and occupation in Spain, however, that even sections of ex-Prime Minister Aznar's Popular Party (PP) are publicly declaring that his attendance at the meeting in March 2003, in the Azores that supported Bush in his decision to invade Iraq was an error.

Reporting on their criticism, the right-wing newspaper *El Mundo* commented on March 20, "The PP should not continue avoiding an auto-criticism on Iraq."

It continues that, although the present critics were in the main opposed to sending troops to Iraq at the time, today "even if only a few dare to say it aloud ... the vast majority in the PP accept in private that Aznar made a mistake. In his zeal to make Spain more of an Atlantic country, trusting Bush blindly, he only succeeded in fertilising the rank anti-Americanism of a sector of Spanish society, as well as neglecting the repercussions this would have on domestic affairs, which, as the new (PSOE) government is demonstrating, demanded more attention than our projection abroad."

A few hours after the *El Pais* article by Garzón had reached the shops, the secretary of organisation for the PSOE, José Blanco, declared in an interview in *Telecinco* that someone had to pay the consequences for the decision to invade Iraq. And if Bush, Blair and Aznar were to be made legally accountable, then he would support this.

Vicky Short is a journalist; her articles have appeared on www.globalresearch.ca and World Socialist Web Site, wsws.org.

CIA Agent Gunned Down by Houston Police

HOUSTON POLICE *from p.1*

which often plants hard-to-trace weapons on the victims of police shootings.

Why Carnaby Was Killed

The Bush-Cheney administration has allowed to flourish in the United States a ruthless and brutal organized crime syndicate that has its roots in Russia and Israel and festers in its criminal dens in Brighton Beach, NY; Miami, FL; Houston, TX; London, England and other cities.

The shooting death of Carnaby was the result of a high-stakes turf war between Israeli intelligence agents livid over the CIA's and FBI's renewed takedown of an old Israeli intelligence network operating deep within the bowels of the US government and the CIA and FBI, which have joined forces to rout out Israeli intelligence moles.

Two weeks ago, 84-year old Ben-Ami Kadish, an accused longtime spy for the Israelis at the US Army Picatinny Arsenal in New Jersey, was arrested. FBI agents are trying to get Kadish to spill the beans on high-level Israeli spies inside the government. Israel's Mossad and its allied assets inside the Russian-Israeli Mafia, have retaliated with a vengeance, according to WMR's US intelligence sources.

On April 15, as FBI agents surveilled Kadish at his New Jersey home and the National Security Agency (NSA) had a full digital intercept on Kadish's email and phone communications with his intelligence controller in Israel, another group had its eye on an Austin, Texas school teacher named Riad Hamad. Hamad was a significant donor to the Palestine Children's Welfare Fund. The FBI had Hamad under investigation for "supporting terrorism," a favorite canard used against Americans who support the Palestinian cause. Hamad had been a target of the necons for years but they could never pin anything on him.

On April 16, Hamad's body was found in Lady Bird Lake in Austin. His eyes had duct tape over them and his hands and feet were bound. The police ruled it a suicide. However, Hamad would be the first victim in an Israeli hit on individuals who helped US back channels to the Palestinians and other groups targeted by Israel and the neo-con cell operating deep within the Bush administration, the Israeli-influenced cell that the FBI, in its arrest of Kadish, wanted to flush out.

Hamad once had a significant colleague in Austin, a University of Texas PhD student named Salam Fayyad. Fayyad is now the Prime Minister of Palestine and governs with the support of both Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah and Hamas. Recently, the US Consul

General in Jerusalem handed over \$150 million to Fayyad's Palestinian government. Fayyad and Hamad represent a threat to the Israeli hardliners and their allies in the Bush administration who do not want a real peace agreement with the Palestinians and, above all, do not want to see any dialogue with Hamas.

Enter Roland Vincent Carnaby, known as "Tony" to his Houston and Langley colleagues, a retired CIA counter-terrorism and financial intelligence expert, who was operating a CIA private intelligence contractor in Houston, was involved in homeland security measures for the port of Houston and the Houston airports, was the head of the Houston chapter of the Association for Intelligence Officers (AFIO), but above all, was contracted by the CIA for operating a financial intelligence group consisting of some 40 people in Rome that was tracking Russian-Israeli Mafia money flows, particularly with regard to off-shore Panamanian corporations.

WMR has been told by a knowledgeable source that Carnaby had successfully penetrated a major Israeli financial ring that was tied to various Israeli intelligence operations in the United States. Carnaby, a Lebanese-American, also had extensive contacts in the Middle East, including Lebanon and its major political force that is anathema to the Bush neo-cons and their Israeli puppet masters, Hezbollah.

But it was Carnaby's role in identifying Israeli intelligence financing that apparently made him public enemy number one for the Israelis. WMR has been told by a knowledgeable source that Carnaby possessed detailed information about former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay's relationship with convicted GOP lobbyist Jack Abramoff, information that connected DeLay and other top Republicans to pay-offs from organizations and individuals linked to the Russian-Israeli Mafia and Israeli intelligence. Specifically, the pay-offs came to the US Family Network, set up by DeLay's former Chief of Staff Ed Buckham, from Russian oil and gas interests connected to top Russian-Israeli Mafia tycoons living under the protection of the British and Israeli governments.

Buckham headed the Alexander Strategy Group, a GOP lobbying firm that represented Group W Advisors, Inc., a defense contractor owned by Brent Wilkes. Alexander also represented Eli Lilly and Company, once headed by former Assistant Secretary of State Randall Tobias, named as one of the clients of the Pamela Martin & Associates escort firm of the late Deborah Jeane Palfrey.

Wilkes was convicted on November 5, 2007, on 13 counts of conspiracy, bribery, money laundering, and wire fraud in the

Randy "Duke" Cunningham scandal. It was Wilkes who helped arrange with former CIA Executive Director Kyle "Dusty" Foggo "poker parties" at the Watergate and Westin Grand Hotels attended by then CIA director Porter Goss. WMR has previously reported that Washington area escorts were transported to these parties by Shirlington Limousine. WMR also learned from the late Deborah Jeane Palfrey that Wilkes phoned her from his Poway, San Diego headquarters on a number of occasions to organize escorts for these parties. Palfrey said he only used the name "Brent" when he called.

Abramoff had also been under an investigation by the US Attorney for Maryland is using Palfrey's escorts. On October 27, 2007, WMR reported: "Shirlington Limousine and Abramoff have been linked to the investigation by fired US Attorney for Maryland Thomas DiBiagio of the use of prostitutes by the office of then-Maryland Republican Governor Bob Ehrlich, Jr. DiBiagio, based in Baltimore, was fired after his investigation leap-frogged well beyond the business of the Pamela Martin & Associates escort service and into the activities of Ehrlich and his staff."

Carnaby, Abramoff and 9/11

WMR has learned from knowledgeable sources that Carnaby also had information on Abramoff's Sun Cruz casino boat operation in Florida, a case that involved a mob hit on Sun Cruz's former owner Gus Boulis, and the events of 9/11. Abramoff reportedly entertained at least two of the 9/11 hijackers, including Mohammed Atta, on a Madeira Beach, Florida casino boat days before the 9/11 attack. This editor recalls Palfrey stating over dinner that she had information from some of her escorts that involved pre-intelligence on the 9/11 attack. The intersection of Abramoff and his Russian-Israeli mob gang to knowledge possessed by Carnaby and Palfrey suggest that their deaths may have been as brazen as hits as the gunning down of Boulis on a Fort Lauderdale street by hit men. That assassination was blamed on Abramoff and his associates.

Carnaby's widow has filed a lawsuit in Houston in the US District Court for Southern Texas against the City of Houston and Houston police officers Cecil Foster and Andrew J. Washington for the shooting death of Carnaby. The complaint states that Carnaby "died of a gunshot wound to the back which caused fatal loss of blood."

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC based investigative journalist, and author. His website is: www.WayneMadsenReport.com

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12. The Great Illusion - DVD

13. 9/11 Mysteries (Only available on a multi-pack DVD)

14. 9/11: The Road To Tyranny

15. 9/11 and the Neo-Con Agenda

16. David Ray Griffin's '9-11 and the American Empire'

17. Combo DVD: TerrorStorm & 911: the Road to Tyranny (edited)

18. Combo DVD: TerrorStorm & 911 Mysteries

19. 9/11: Painful Deceptions (NOW available)

Pentagon Propaganda Program Was Illegal

PROPAGANDA *from p.1*

counted on to deliver administration ‘themes and messages’ to millions of Americans ‘in the form of their own opinions.’ ... Don Meyer, an aide to Ms. Clarke, said a strategic decision was made in 2002 to make the analysts the main focus of the public relations push to construct a case for war.”

Clarke and her senior aide, Brent T. Krueger, eventually signed up more than 75 retired military officers who penned newspaper op/ed columns and appeared on television and radio news shows as military analysts. The Pentagon held weekly meetings with the military analysts, which continued as of April 20, 2008, when the *New York Times* ran Barstow’s story. The program proved so successful that it was expanded to issues besides the Iraq War. “Other branches of the administration also began to make use of the analysts. Mr. Gonzales, then the attorney general, met with them soon after news leaked that the government was wiretapping terrorism suspects in the United States without warrants, Pentagon records show. When David H. Petraeus was appointed the commanding general in Iraq in January 2007, one of his early acts was to meet with the analysts.”

Barstow spent two years digging, using the Freedom of Information Act and attorneys to force the Bush Administration to release some 8,000 pages of documents now under lock and key at the *New York Times*. This treasure trove should result in additional stories, giving them a sort of “Pentagon Papers” of Iraq war propaganda.

In 1971, when the *Times* printed excerpts of the Pentagon Papers on its front page, it precipitated a constitutional showdown with the Nixon Administration over the deception and lies that sold the war in Vietnam. The Pentagon Papers issue dominated the news media back then. Today, however, Barstow’s stunning report is being ignored by the most important news media in America—TV news—the source where most Americans, unfortunately, get most of their information.

Joseph Goebbels, eat your heart out.

Goebbels is history’s most notorious war propagandist, but even he could not have invented a smoother PR vehicle for selling and maintaining media and public support for a war: embed trusted “independent” military experts into the TV newsroom. As with most propaganda, the key to the success of this effort was the element of concealment, as these analysts and the Bush administration hid the fact that their talking points and marching orders were coming directly from the Pentagon.

The use of these analysts was a glaring violation of journalistic standards. As the code of ethics of the Society of Professional Journalists explains, journalists are supposed to:

- * Avoid conflicts of interest, real or perceived.
- * Remain free of associations and activities that may compromise integrity or damage credibility.
- * Refuse gifts, favors, fees, free travel and special treatment, and shun secondary employment, political involvement, public office and service in community organizations if they compromise journalistic integrity.
- * Disclose unavoidable conflicts.
- * Be vigilant and courageous about holding those with power accountable.
- * Deny favored treatment to advertisers and special interests and resist their pressure to influence news coverage.
- * Be wary of sources offering information for favors or money.

The networks using these analysts as journalists shamelessly failed to vet their experts and ignored the obvious conflicts of hiring a person with financial relationships to companies profiting from war to be an on-air analyst of war. They acted as if war was a football game and their military commentators were former coaches and players familiar with the rules and strategies. The TV networks even paid these “analysts” for their propaganda, enabling them to present themselves as “third party experts” while parroting White House talking points to sell the war.

Now that Barstow has blown their cover, the TV networks have generally refused to comment about this matter. Further compounding their violations of the public trust, they are blacking out coverage of the *New York Times* exposé, no doubt on advice of their own PR and crisis management advisors.

Since the 1920s there have been laws passed to stop the government from doing what Barstow has exposed. It is actually illegal in the United States for the government to propagandize its own citizens. As Barstow’s report demonstrates, these laws have been repeatedly violated, are not enforced and are clearly inadequate. The US Congress therefore needs to investigate this and the rest of the Bush propaganda campaign that sold the war in Iraq.

The attack and occupation of Iraq continues, with no end in sight. Estimates of the number of Iraqi dead range from the hundreds of thousands to more than a million. The cost to American taxpayers will eventually be in the trillions of dollars. More than 4,000 US soldiers have lost their lives, and this is just a part of the horrific toll of mental and physical disability that the war is taking on hundreds of thousands of troops and their families.

This war would never have been possible had the mainstream news media done its job. Instead, it has repeated the Big Lies that sold the war. This war would never have been possible without the millions of taxpayers’ dollars spent by the Bush Administration on sophisticated and deceptive public relations techniques such as the Pentagon military analyst program that David Barstow has exposed. It should come as no surprise to anyone that Victoria Clarke, who designed and oversaw this Pentagon propaganda machine, now works as a commentator for TV network news. She may have changed jobs and employers since leaving the Pentagon, but her work remains the same.

John Stauber is the Executive Director of the Center for Media and Democracy.

Back Up the Rabbit Hole

RABBIT HOLE *from p.3*

fuel resources, those were the only rational options.

Unfortunately, human affairs are not always governed by rational options. At the beginning of the 1980s, the political leadership of most Western countries – with the United States well in the lead under Ronald Reagan’s myopic guidance – rejected both these possibilities in favor of short-term gimmicks that papered over the symptoms of the energy crisis while doing nothing to address its causes. The improved energy efficiencies bought so dearly during the Seventies made it possible for reckless overproduction in the North Slope and North Sea oil fields to send the price of oil plunging lower, in constant dollars, than ever before in human history. All through the Eighties and Nineties, political manipulation of the oil markets kept petroleum not too far from \$10 a barrel: around 24 cents a gallon, in other words, for the industrial world’s most precious natural resource.

The results of this disastrous collective choice have not, I think, been adequately measured even by most thinkers in the peak oil community. For a quarter of a century, from 1980 to 2005, petroleum could be had throughout the industrial world at prices so low it might as well have been free. Other energy costs dropped accordingly, as cheap oil competed with other resources for market share while simultaneously cutting the production and distribution costs of its competitors. The economic, infrastructural, and cultural initiatives that emerged during those years all embodied the assumption that “can we afford the energy cost?” was not a question anybody in the industrial world ever needed to ask.

One result was the movement toward economic globalization that spawned so much media chatter and devastated so many communities during those years. Propagandists for the private-sector socialism that passes for capitalism these days have insisted that this reflects the natural emergence of a global free market from which everybody would allegedly prosper someday, while their opponents have argued that it reflects a deliberate plot to force down wages and working conditions worldwide for the benefit of the rich. What has rarely been recognized is that perhaps the most important of all the forces driving globalization in those years was artificially low energy prices.

During the quarter century of ultracheap energy, transportation costs were so low that they became a negligible fraction of the cost of goods. This allowed manufacturers to arbitrage the difference in labor costs between industrial and nonindustrial countries without having to take shipping costs into account. The sort of predatory trade relationships pursued by European colonial empires in the 19th century could be replicated without the ferocious trade barriers and imperial

misadventures of that earlier time; local industries could be flattened by overseas production without any need for naval bombardments or colonial administrations because distance had no economic meaning.

Another result, at least as dramatic as globalization though less ballyhooed then or now, was the rise of a throwaway economy all through the industrial world. Not all that long ago, one business you could readily find in most American towns and urban neighborhoods was the small appliance repair shop, where toasters, clocks, radios, hair dryers, and a hundred other consumer goods could be taken for repair when they stopped working. An entire industry of small-scale entrepreneurs, and the support businesses that kept them stocked with spare parts, tools, and materials, survived on the economic realities that made it worthwhile to pay a repairman to fix small appliances instead of throwing them out and buying new ones.

That industry was already faltering by 1980 as the economic consequences of American empire distorted currency exchange rates and allowed other countries to export goods to the United States at a fraction of the cost of domestic production. The plunge in energy costs after 1980, though, finished the job. Once the cost of energy no longer mattered, consumer goods could be manufactured and shipped for a fraction of what they had previously cost, and repairing them made no economic sense when the repair might cost twice as much as a new model.

The explosive spread of the internet, finally, was also a product of the era of ultracheap energy. The hardware of the internet, with its worldwide connections, its vast server farms, and its billions of interlinked home and business computers, probably counts as the largest infrastructure project ever created and deployed in a two-decade period in human history. The sheer amount of energy that has had to be invested to create and sustain today’s internet, along with its economic and cultural support systems, beggars the imagination.

Could it have been done at all if energy stayed as expensive as it was in the 1970s? It’s hard to see how such a question could be answered, but the growth of the internet certainly would have been a much slower process; it might have moved in directions involving much less energy use; and some of the more energy-intensive aspects of the internet might never have emerged at all. It remains to be seen whether a system adapted to a hothouse climate of nearly free energy can cope with the harsher weather of rising energy costs in a postpeak world.

These examples could be multiplied almost endlessly, from our extravagant and dysfunctional health care system right up to the delusional economics that helped millions of Americans convince themselves that it made sense to buy poorly insulated, shoddily built new houses a three-hour drive from jobs and shopping. For a quarter century, people

throughout the industrial world have become accustomed to economic, social, and personal arrangements that only work if energy is basically free. Just as with every previous economic shift in modern history, too, proponents of these arrangements wrapped them in the rhetoric of progress. Globalization was progress, we were told, and therefore as inevitable as it was irreversible; so was the internet; so, when it was noticed at all, was the throwaway economy.

Yet describing these changes as progress, in the sense given that word by our contemporary mythic narratives, dramatically misstates the situation. For a 25-year interval, by reckless overproduction of rapidly depleting resources and purblind manipulations pursued for short term political gain, the cost of energy was driven down to artificially low levels that had never been seen before – and, barring a whole concatenation of miracles, will never be seen again. The resulting glut of energy fostered ways of doing things that make no sense at all under any other conditions.

In hindsight, I suspect, the entire period from 1980 to 2005 will be seen as one of history’s supreme blind alleys. A great many of the economic arrangements, infrastructure, and personal and collective habits that grew up in response to that age of distorted priorities will have to be reworked in a hurry, no matter what the cost, as energy prices rise to more realistic levels. At the same time, the grip of the myth of progress on the industrial world’s imagination remains unshaken.

The possibility that the only way forward out of the present blind alley may require going back to less convenient and more costly ways of doing things is nowhere on our collective radar screens just now. It’s easy to understand why. After all, most people living in the industrial world today have spent a majority of their lives in settings in which cheap abundant energy was the unquestioned birthright of anyone outside the poverty class, and those less than thirty years old never had the chance to experience anything else.

Those who borrow Lewis Carroll’s metaphor and talk about the need to go down the rabbit hole have thus, I think, missed an important point. For the last quarter century, that’s exactly where we’ve been. The challenge before us now is to climb back out of the rabbit hole and deal with the world we will have to face when the extravagant Wonderland of the brief era of ultracheap energy dissolves into windblown leaves and the shreds of a departed dream.

John Michael Greer the author of several books, including Natural Magic: Potions and Powers from the Magical Garden, Circles of Power: Ritual Magic in the Western Tradition, and Inside a Magical Lodge. He has written articles for Renaissance Magazine, Golden Dawn Journal, Mezlim, New Moon Rising, Gnosis, and Alexandria.

Deborah Jeane Palfrey

March 18, 1956 to May 1, 2008



DC MADAM *from p.1*

debunker who has been caught fabricating statements in the past.

The building manager of Park Lake Towers in Orlando, where Palfrey owned a condo, told WESH 2 news channel that he spoke to Palfrey on Monday as she was packing to leave for her mother’s house and she did not seem upset or suicidal.

“Jean Palfrey was a class act. She wore very good clothes. She was well educated. Her way out of this world certainly would not have been in an aluminum shed attached to a mobile home in Tarpon Springs, Florida,” said the manager, who did not want to be named.

The manager said that Palfrey had told him of her fears that a contract hit was out on her life.

“She insinuated that there is a contract out for her and I fully believe they succeeded,” he stated.

According to the manger, Palfrey left for her mother’s house with some suitcases and a box.

“She had one white paper file box that she told me had some important paper with her and then she just kind of raised her eyebrows like you’re supposed to think oh yeah, that’s all the information that she had on her business in Washington,” her building manager said.

If Palfrey was planning to commit suicide just three days later then why did she leave with several suitcases and a box of files?

According to an AP report, “Blanche Palfrey (her mother) had no sign that her daughter was suicidal, and there was no immediate indication that alcohol or drugs were involved, police Capt. Jeffrey Young said, ” .

On at least four previous occasions, both in the past and more recently, Palfrey publicly stated that she would never commit suicide.

Twice on The Alex Jones Show, the most recent example being less than two months ago, Palfrey made clear her intention never to kill herself.

“No I’m not planning to commit suicide,” Palfrey told The Alex Jones Show on her last appearance in March. “I’m planning on going into court and defending myself vigorously and exposing the government,” she said.

“Not to be concerned, I have no intention of letting anyone buy me off or make any kind of a deal with me....and I’m not planning to

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commit suicide either,” said Palfrey on a separate occasion.

Alex Jones also talked directly to Palfrey during show breaks and she re-stated her intention never to commit suicide and made it clear that if she were found dead to consider it murder. GCN Live radio board operators are also witnesses to these statements.

Though never confirmed directly, Palfrey strongly insinuated that both Dick Cheney and John McCain were possibly involved in the DC Madam scandal, and this could have been one of the primary reasons why she was murdered.

During a May, 2007 interview with Carol Joynt, host of the Q&A Cafe interview series, during a discussion about the alleged suicide of Palfrey’s former call girl, Brandy Britton, Palfrey stated, “I don’t want to be like her. I don’t want to end up like her.”

During another appearance on The Alex Jones Show, Palfrey said she thought it was possible that Britton’s “suicide” was actually murder because none of Britton’s loved ones considered her to be suicidal.

Palfrey is on record as warning that any “suicide” would just be a cover-story for murder as far back as 1991.

“If taken into custody, my physical safety and, most probably, my very life would be jeopardized,” she wrote in August, 1991, following an attempt to bring her to trial, “Rape, beating, maiming, disfigurement, and more than likely murder, disguised in the form of just another jailhouse accident or suicide, would await me,” said Palfrey in a handwritten letter to the judge accusing the San Diego police vice squad of having a vendetta against her.

Despite these four separate examples of Palfrey stating - on the record - that she would not commit suicide, the corporate media, within hours of the announcement of her death, immediately afforded credence to the claim of a “friend,” investigative journalist Dan Moldea, who said Palfrey had told him of her intention to commit suicide.

Moldea has no tape, he has no other eyewitnesses, and he has been caught fabricating statements in the past, and yet the media took his words as gospel. In addition, if Moldea was aware of Palfrey’s intention to kill herself then why, if he was her “friend” as he claims, didn’t he try to stop her from doing so?

The numerous examples of Palfrey stating that she would never commit suicide in addition to her condo manager and her own mother stating that she was not suicidal clearly provide justification for an exhaustive police and FBI investigation to be undertaken. Despite these glaring factors, the police who discovered Palfrey’s body immediately ruled that no foul play was involved and closed the book.

The knowledge that Palfrey had about members of Washington’s elite being involved in and using her escort service for the purposes of hiring prostitutes would have been enough to end scores of careers and wreck the lives of countless influential power brokers. This alone, allied with Palfrey’s on the record statements, demands an immediate and thorough investigation in an attempt to bring to justice the murderers of Deborah Jeane Palfrey.

Bill Wickersham is an Adjunct Professor of Peace Studies at MU, a member of Veterans for Peace and a member of the national steering committee of Global Action to Prevent War. This editorial appeared in the Columbia Missourian, MO

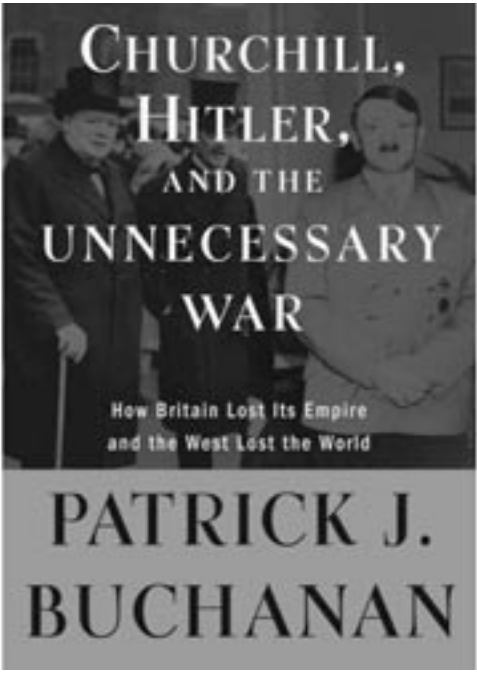
The President Should Be Impeached for War Crimes

WAR CRIMES *from p.3*

In addressing the torture policies of the National Security Council Principals Committee, University of Illinois Professor Francis A. Boyle, one of the world’s foremost authorities on international humanitarian law, said, “Clearly, this was criminal activity at the time they committed it. At the very least, it violated the Geneva Conventions, the Convention Against Torture, The War Crimes Act, and the federal anti-torture statutes. Clearly, these are impeachable offenses.”

Given the “high crimes” committed by top administration officials in violation of the US Constitution, what is to be done? From the first revelations of the Bush/Cheney war crimes, many writers, including Professor Boyle and I, have strongly called for impeachment of the president. Thus far, Nancy Pelosi and other key members of Congress have failed to live up to their oath of office by failing to defend the Supreme Law of the Land. On June 10, 2008, Missourian writer David Rosman wrote a very informative piece citing many reasons to avoid the impeachment process. However, I continue to disagree with Rosman’s position that somehow health care, deficit spending, education, trade, the war and so

Book Review



Patrick J. Buchanan

Anglo-American Ascendancy
Lost In Unnecessary Wars

BY PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS

In a new book that will infuriate the fake conservatives who inhabit the Republican Party, Patrick J. Buchanan documents how British self-righteousness, delusion, and hubris destroyed both the British Empire and Western ascendancy in two unnecessary wars launched by a small cabal of morons that ruled Britain.

Churchill, Hitler, and the Unnecessary War: How Britain Lost Its Empire and the West Lost the World shows that the two world wars that destroyed European civilization began when England declared war on Germany, dragging in the Empire, Commonwealth, and United States. This was a strategic blunder unparalleled in history. Mighty Britain emerged from World War II as an American dependency.

Buchanan cites such British notables as F.J.P. Veale, B.H. Liddell Hart, and C.P. Snow to document that it was Winston Churchill who committed, in Veale’s words, “the first deliberate breach of the fundamental rule of civilized warfare that hostilities must only be waged against the enemy combatant forces.” It was Churchill, not Hitler, who first targeted civilian populations in World War II and caused the structure of civilized warfare to collapse in ruins.

The Americans quickly adopted Churchill’s criminal policy of attacking civilians, culminating in the outrageous use of nuclear weapons against two Japanese cities, the slaughter of Vietnamese civilians, and the ongoing slaughter of Afghan and Iraqi civilians.

A popular American myth is that “the greatest generation” saved the world from Nazi tyranny. As Buchanan points out, the fact of the matter is that the Normandy invasion in June, 1944 played little, if any, role in Germany’s defeat. By the end of 1942, Hitler had lost World War II at Stalingrad, long before any American troops appeared on the scene. What the Normandy invasion achieved 18 months later was to keep the Red Army from overrunning all of Europe.

Although Buchanan’s book is about how the British destroyed themselves, Buchanan is clearly thinking about America. In the closing pages, Buchanan shows how the Bush Regime has broken from the policy of President Reagan and is replicating the British folly of self-destruction. “There is hardly a blunder of the British Empire we have not replicated,” laments Buchanan.

The distinct American hubris that we are “the indispensable nation” and the braggadocio that we are an “omnipower” has us overcommitted in alliances that we cannot fulfill. Despite 25 percent of the Iraqi population killed, injured or displaced, the “world’s only superpower” cannot even control Baghdad. To deal with the pointless war we started in Afghanistan, we have had to sucker our NATO allies into a conflict that is no concern of theirs. Militarily overextended and with a faltering economy and collapsing currency, the cabal of morons that rules America still hopes to attack Iran and Syria, and to drive Hezbollah from Lebanon. American idiots in think tanks are busy at work drawing up plans about how the US is going to check China and prevent her emergence as a power beyond US control. The Republican presidential candidate has boasted that he will challenge Russia and bring Putin to heel.

Amazing. The world’s greatest debtor is going to take on the two powerful countries with the largest trade surpluses. According to the *World Factbook*, an annual publication of the CIA, Russia’s 2007 current account surplus is \$465 billion and China’s is \$363 billion. In contrast, the US current account deficit is \$987 billion — an amount larger than the total deficits of all other countries in the world combined. The out-of-pocket and already incurred future cost of Bush’s wars of aggression is between \$3 and \$5 trillion, every dollar of which must be borrowed. That comes on top of the unfunded liabilities of the US government totaling \$53 trillion. By any account the US is the world’s worst credit risk. The “mighty” US relies on foreigners to finance its consumption, its wars, and the daily operations of its government.

When Buchanan looks at the collection of idiots that comprise America’s ruling class, he despairs.

In truth, American power is already broken, and the country is already lost.

The country is lost, because the brownshirt Bush Regime has destroyed the US Constitution with the complicity of the opposition party and the federal courts. There is no organized power that can restore the Constitution or even much concern that it has been overthrown.

The country is broken, because American capitalists have moved offshore so many US manufacturing, engineering, and research jobs that US imports now exceed US industrial production. American dependency on imported manufactured goods, advanced technology goods, and energy is astounding.

Moreover, the dependency is escalating dramatically. In March 2002, prior to Bush’s decision to impose Israel’s will on the Middle East, oil was \$25 a barrel. Today oil is \$125-plus a barrel, a more than five-fold increase that has seen our oil import bill rise from \$145 billion in 2006 to \$456 billion presently, a \$300 billion addition to a trade deficit that was already running \$700-\$800 billion annually.

There is no possibility of the US closing its trade deficit. The US is able to survive such enormous deficits only because the US dollar is the world reserve currency. This role for the dollar is nearing an end as the world looks for more stable stores of value. Although oil is still nominally priced in dollars, in reality it is being priced in euros as oil producers raise the dollar price with a view to keeping their oil revenues at a constant purchasing power in euros.

When the dollar loses its reserve currency role, foreign financing for US trade and budget deficits will evaporate. US living standards will collapse, and the indispensable omnipower will be just another washed up country.

For a world weary of “American exceptionalism,” this can’t happen too soon.



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History’s Lessons
Truth And War

“Naturally the common people don’t want war: Neither in Russia, nor in England, nor for that matter in Germany. That is understood. But, after all, it is the leaders of the country who determine the policy and it is always a simple matter to drag the people along, whether it is a democracy, or a fascist dictatorship, or a parliament, or a communist dictatorship. Voice or no voice, the people can always be brought to the bidding of the leaders. That is easy. All you have to do is tell them they are being attacked, and denounce the peacemakers for lack of patriotism and exposing the country to danger. It works the same in any country.”

~ Nazi Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering

BY STEVEN LATULIPPE

It has often been said that “truth is the first casualty of war.”

While this cliché is undeniably true, it reveals, like most clichés, a certain world-weary cynicism that is unflattering and downright dangerous, for it betrays the blithe acceptance of something that, in my opinion, should never ever be tolerated: Leaders who lie about wars.

The American people are not, contrary to the assertions of our postmodern professoriate, an innately warlike people. For the most part, they prefer to be left alone to raise their children, toil at their work, and worship their God in relative peace.

Unfortunately, almost from our nation’s founding, Americans have been plagued by a political elite harboring globalist and utopian pretensions, a dark coterie of decision-makers who believe that no skirmish anywhere in the world should occur without American soldiers partaking in the bloodshed. Time and again, the American people have been manipulated and cajoled — sometimes kicking and screaming — into wars that were ultimately irrelevant to our national security.

Historically, this bloody trail began with phony stories about the sinking of the USS Maine, the casus belli of our involvement in the Spanish American War. The scam was perfected by Woodrow Wilson and FDR, who campaigned on platforms opposing our entry into European wars, even while they simultaneously plotted the opposite.

Having learned nothing, the American people fell for the same trick when LBJ staged the Gulf of Tonkin incident to precipitate our involvement in Vietnam, and yet again when George W. Bush fabricated WMD intelligence to justify our invasion of Iraq.

Through the years, at cocktail parties and the like, I’ve had many occasions to recite this litany of lies and infamy to members of the “establishment” (journalists, foreign policy intellectuals, or sometimes just particularly well-informed friends). They listen, respectfully and patiently — but unmoved — until my outrage is exhausted.

And then IT happens. Sometimes IT is blunt and without shame, while at other times IT is carefully veiled with innuendos and code words. But the essence is always the same.

Inevitably, the “sophisticated insider” will hunch his shoulders ever-so-slightly and glance shiftily around the room, as if to ensure that no one else is listening. And then he’ll say something like: “Steve, what you’re saying is quaint, but it’s also unreasonable and more than a little naive. Of course people don’t want to fight wars, but what are our

leaders supposed to do? We all know that some wars need to be fought. Unfortunately, the American people are selfish. They’re provincial. They are too wrapped up in their own little lives to care about what is happening in the outside world.”

Then, he’ll lean forward and put a soothing hand on my shoulder. “I know it’s an ugly business, Steve, but sometimes our leaders have to tell noble lies. They do it for the greater good.”

For a pregnant moment, this drivel sits there, simmering and smoking like a lump of molten sulfur from Hell.

Even now, safely removed from one of these exchanges, I can barely express my disagreement in a manner that won’t surge through the internet lines and detonate everyone’s motherboards.

Obviously, politicians tell lies, early and often. Such behavior seems to be an unfortunate but eternal vice plaguing our fallen race.

But that’s where the comparison ends.

If some small-town mayor claims that a new sewage project is vital to his community — although his real motive is to dole out contracts to campaign contributors — he is without doubt acting immorally. When a congressman swears he’ll never vote for a tax increase, and then does, he is committing a grave offense.

But the leader who uses fear-mongering and deliberate falsehoods to start a war resides on an entirely different plane of evil.

War is an utterly profound and tragic event, far different from sewage pipes and tax-hikes. When the dogs of war are unleashed, men and women are sent to fight, kill, and die. Children lose their fathers and mothers, parents bury their sons and daughters, and survivors return crippled, both physically and emotionally. As the “collateral damage” mounts, hospitals are flattened, schools are destroyed, and cities are burned to the ground.

How dare anyone defend lies of this magnitude with such casual and patronizing indifference?

Yet this morally bankrupt argument is accepted, verbatim, by the vast majority of our political and intellectual leadership.

Contrary to such elitist assertions, the American people are not ignorant cannon fodder, to be marched off at the whim of their liege-lords, nor are they calves to be fattened for the slaughter. Although our leaders often seem to forget, Americans are free citizens of a free republic.

Admittedly, the world is a dangerous place, and sometimes it is better to fight than not. But if a president becomes aware of a situation that he honestly believes might

endanger our nation he is obligated to address the people, and to describe the nature and origins of the conflict. When he does so, it is his sacred duty to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

With so much at stake, there can be no room for lies, no place for exaggeration or manipulation.

Once the president makes his case, it is up to the American people to weigh the arguments and make a decision (which they can express through freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, and through their elected representatives).

Without doubt, this republican system exposes us to a certain peril, for it is entirely possible that, having heard the truth from the president about a gathering threat, the American people might decline to fight. Though I consider this to be extremely unlikely. Americans have never walked away from any danger that truly threatened our nation and our constitutional form of government. Nevertheless, through some combination of cowardice, indifference, and slothfulness, the American people might someday decline to fight just such a war. As a worst-case scenario, our nation could even be overrun and our people reduced to languishing under the boot of foreign domination.

In that case, the American people will have reaped the consequences of their decision. They will have purchased their enslavement with the coin of their cowardice. (One could only hope that someday a better generation would arise, one more willing to make the sacrifices that freedom sometimes requires.)

But the avoidance of such a tragic outcome does not legitimize the use of lies, fear-mongering, and deception on the part of our leaders. There is no philosophical justification, no twisted concoction of logic, which can claim otherwise.

When men march to war, they have an absolute, sacred right to understand the exact nature of the conflict and the precise reasons for their involvement. Any leader behaving differently, any official who tells “noble lies” or, even worse, incites wars at the behest of powerful special interest groups harboring ulterior motives, is not really a member of the human family at all. He is, rather, a being of abject evil.

Such practices may have been acceptable in Hermann Goering’s Germany, but they have no place in a land that claims to be free.

May 15, 2008



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Navy Releases McCain’s Military Record



USS Forrestal, July 29, 1967 - The worst accident aboard a US Navy surface vessel since WWII

BY WAYNE MADSEN/WAYNE MADSEN REPORT
The Navy released John McCain’s military record after a Freedom of Information Act request from the Associated Press. The record is packed with information on McCain’s medals and commendations but little else.

The one thing that the McCain campaign does not want to see released is the record of McCain’s antics on board the USS *Forrestal* in 1967. McCain was personally responsible for the deadliest fire in the history of the US Navy. That catastrophe, with 27 dead and over 100 wounded trumps McCain’s record as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam.

WMR has learned additional details regarding the deadly fire aboard the Navy aircraft carrier, the USS *Forrestal*, on July 19, 1967 in the Gulf of Tonkin. The additional details point to then-Lt. Commander John McCain playing more of a role in triggering the fire and explosions than previously reported.

On January 16, 2006, WMR reported that according to a US Navy sailor who was aboard the *Forrestal* on the fateful day of the fire, “McCain and the *Forrestal*’s skipper, Capt. John K. Beling, were warned about the danger of using M-65 1000-lb. bombs

manufactured in 1935, which were deemed too dangerous to use during World War II and, later, on B-52 bombers. The fire from the Zuni missile misfire resulted in the heavy 1000 pound bombs being knocked loose from the pylons of McCain’s A-4 aircraft, which were only designed to hold 500-pound bombs.” WMR further reported, “The unstable bombs had a 60-second cook-off threshold in a fire situation and this warning was known to both Beling and McCain prior to the disaster.”

WMR also cited the potential that McCain’s Navy records were used against him by the neo-cons in control of the Pentagon, “The neo-cons, who have had five years to examine every file within the Department of Defense, have likely accessed documents that could prove embarrassing to McCain, who was on board the USS *Forrestal* on July 29, 1967, and whose A-4 Skyhawk was struck by an air-to-ground Zuni missile that had misfired from an F-4 Phantom.”

WMR has been informed that crewmen aboard the *Forrestal* have provided additional information about the *Forrestal* incident. It is believed by many crewmen and those who have investigated the case that McCain deliberately “wet-started” his A-4E to shake up the guy in the plane behind his A-4. “Wet-starts”, done either deliberately or accidentally, shoot a large flame from the tail of the aircraft.

In McCain’s case, the “wet-start”



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Robert F. Kennedy
Assassinated 40 Years
Ago This Month



Nov. 20, 1925 - June 6, 1968

RFK *from p.1*

of Robert Kennedy have recently been voiced in a new BBC documentary by Shane O’Sullivan, which supports the conclusion that the CIA planned and executed the killing of Robert Kennedy. The result of a three year long investigation includes photographic evidence that puts three senior CIA operatives at the scene of the murder. These three operatives have been positively identified as David Morales, Gordon Campbell and George Joannides. All three men worked together in 1963 at JMWAVE, the CIA’s Miami base for its secret war on Castro.

Again the question of the murder weapon is raised. The LAPD claimed no bullets were found lodged in the “bullet holes”, and yet the doorframes in which some of the bullets had lodged were burned and two expended bullets, dug out of the wood, were found in the front seat of Sirhan’s car. Then inexplicably, the LAPD destroyed their records of the tests that had been done on the “bullet holes” in the doorframe.

Michael Ruppert, former Los Angeles Police detective, author, journalist and editor of *From the Wilderness*, has conducted his own investigation of the RFK assassination, using inside contacts deep within the LAPD. His investigation definitively proves that the assassination was a CIA operation, and he names Thane Eugene Cesar, a private security guard just hired out of Lockheed, as the triggerman.

As in other high profile crimes, JFK, MLK and 9/11, the investigation was bungled and evidence was destroyed. Van Praag and Joling are talking to other forensic experts around the country and lobbying for the case to be reopened. “What we would basically like to see at this point, is a new investigation certainly based on new facts that we have come up with, take a fresh look at this case and to bring the authorities in,” said Van Praag. (ABC News March 27, 2008, Pierre Thomas). Thomas ends with “The question is whether, after nearly 40 years, authorities will have any interest in reopening a painful chapter in American history.” There is no statue of limitations on murder – no matter how painful.



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MILITARY RECORDS *from p.6*

apparently “cooked off” and launched the Zuni rocket from the rear F-4 that touched off the explosions and massive fire. The F-4 pilot was reportedly killed in the conflagration.

“Wet starting” was apparently a common practice among young “hot-dog” pilots. McCain was quickly transferred to the USS *Oriskany* (the only *Forrestal* crewman to be immediately transferred). Three months later, McCain was shot down over North Vietnam on October 26, 1967.

As WMR previously reported, at the time of the *Forrestal* disaster, McCain’s father, Admiral John McCain, Jr., was Commander-in-Chief of US Naval Forces Europe (CINCUSNAVEUR) and was busy covering up the details of the deadly and pre-meditated June 8, 1967, Israeli attack on the NSA spy ship, the USS *Liberty*. The fact that both McCains were involved in two incidents just weeks apart that resulted in a total death count of 168 on the *Forrestal* and the *Liberty*, with an additional injury count of 234 on both ships (with a number of them later dying from their wounds) with an accompanying classified paper trail inside the Pentagon, may be all that was needed to hold a Sword of Damocles over the head of the “family honor”-oriented McCain by the neo-cons.

WMR has also been informed by knowledgeable sources, including an ex-Navy A-4 pilot, the “wet-start game” was a common occurrence. However, it is between “very unlikely” and “impossible” for the *Forrestal* “wet start” to have been accidental. “Wet starts” were later rendered impossible by automated engine controls.



Wayne Madsen reports on military and political affairs in Washington at his website, WayneMadsenReport.com

Did Bear Stearns Fall Or Was It Pushed?
How Insider Trading Saved J.P. Morgan And Looted Taxpayers

By ELLEN BROWN

The mother of all insider trades was pulled off in 1815, when London financier Nathan Rothschild led British investors to believe that the Duke of Wellington had lost to Napoleon at the Battle of Waterloo. In a matter of hours, British government bond prices plummeted. Rothschild, who had advance information, then swiftly bought up the entire market in government bonds, acquiring a dominant holding in England’s debt for pennies on the pound. Over the course of the nineteenth century, N. M. Rothschild would become the biggest bank in the world, and the five brothers would come to control most of the foreign-loan business of Europe. “Let me issue and control a nation’s money,” Rothschild boasted in 1838, “and I care not who writes its laws.”

In the United States a century later, John Pierpont Morgan again used rumor and innuendo to create a panic that would change the course of history. The panic of 1907 was triggered by rumors that two major banks were about to become insolvent. Later evidence pointed to the House of Morgan as the source of the rumors. The public, believing the rumors, proceeded to make them come true by staging a run on the banks. Morgan then nobly stepped in to avert the panic by importing \$100 million in gold from his European sources. The public thus became convinced that the country needed a central banking system to stop future panics, overcoming strong congressional opposition to any bill allowing the nation’s money to be issued by a private central bank controlled by Wall Street; and the Federal Reserve Act was passed in 1913. Morgan created the conditions for the Act’s passage, but it was Paul Warburg who pulled it off. An immigrant from Germany, Warburg was a partner of Kuhn, Loeb, the Rothschilds’ main American banking operation since the Civil War. Elisha Garrison, an agent of Brown Brothers bankers, wrote in his 1931 book *Roosevelt, Wilson and the Federal Reserve Law* that “Paul Warburg is the man who got the Federal Reserve Act together after the Aldrich Plan aroused such nationwide resentment and opposition. The mastermind of both plans was Baron Alfred Rothschild of London.” Morgan, too, is now widely believed to have been Rothschild’s agent in the United States.

Robert Owens, a co-author of the Federal Reserve Act, later testified before Congress that the banking industry had conspired to create a series of financial panics in order to rouse the people to demand “reforms” that served the interests of the financiers. A century later, J.P.Morgan Chase & Co. (now one of the two largest banks in the United States) may have pulled this ruse off again, again changing the course of history. “Remember Friday March 14, 2008,” wrote Martin Wolf in *The Financial Times*; “it was the day the dream of global free-market capitalism died.”

The Rumors that Sank Bear Stearns

Mergers, buyouts and leveraged acquisitions have been the modus operandi of the Morgan empire ever since John Pierpont Morgan took over Carnegie’s steel mills to form US Steel in 1901. The elder Morgan is said to have hated competition, the hallmark of “free-market capitalism.” He did not compete, he bought. And he bought with money created by his own bank, using the leveraged system perfected by the Rothschild bankers known as “fractional reserve” lending. On March 16, 2008, this long tradition of takeovers and acquisitions culminated in J.P.Morgan’s buyout of rival investment bank Bear Stearns with a \$55 billion loan from the Federal Reserve. Although called “federal,” the US central bank is privately owned by a consortium of banks, and it was set up to protect their interests. The secret weekend purchase of Bear Stearns with a Federal Reserve loan was precipitated by a run on Bear’s stock allegedly triggered by rumors of its insolvency. An article in *The Wall Street Journal* on March 15, 2008 cast J.P.Morgan as Bear’s “rescuer”:

“The role of rescuer has long been part of J.P. Morgan’s history. In what’s known as the Panic of 1907, a semi-retired J. Pierpont Morgan helped stave off a national financial crisis when he helped to shore up a number of banks that had seen a run on their deposits.”

That was one interpretation of events, but a later paragraph was probably closer to the facts:

“J.P. Morgan has been on the prowl for acquisitions... . Bear’s assets could be too good, and too cheap, to turn down.”

The “rescuer” was not actually J.P.Morgan but was the Federal Reserve, the “bankers’ bank” set up by J. Pierpont Morgan to backstop bank runs; and the party “rescued” was not Bear Stearns, which wound up being eaten alive. The Federal Reserve (or “Fed”) lent \$25 billion to Bear Stearns and another \$30 billion to J.P.Morgan, a total of \$55 billion that all found its way into J.P.Morgan’s coffers. It was a very good deal for J.P.Morgan and a very bad deal for Bear’s shareholders, who saw their stock drop from a high of \$156 to a low of \$2 a share. Thirty percent of the company’s stock was held by the employees, and another big chunk was held by the pension funds of teachers and other public servants.

The share price was later raised to \$10 a share in response to shareholder outrage and threats of lawsuits, but it was still a very “hostile” takeover, one in which the shareholders had no vote.

The deal was also a very bad one for US taxpayers, who are on the hook for the loan. Although the Fed is privately owned, the money it lends is taxpayer money, and it is the taxpayers who are taking the risk that the loan won’t be repaid. The loan for the buyout was backed by Bear Stearns assets valued at \$55 billion; and of this sum, \$29 billion was non-recourse to J.P.Morgan, meaning that if the assets weren’t worth their stated valuation, the Fed could not go after J.P.Morgan for the balance. The Fed could at best get its money back with interest; and at worst, it could lose between \$25 billion and \$40 billion. In other words, J.P.Morgan got the money (\$55 billion) and the taxpayers got the risk (up to \$40 billion), a ruse called the privatization of

Evidently “promoting market stability” means that whistle-blowers and the SEC must be silenced so that a grossly illegal situation can continue, since the crime is so pervasive that to expose it and prosecute the criminals would unravel the whole financial system.

- Jim Puplava - Financial Sense Newshour

profit and socialization of risk. Why did the Fed not just make the \$55 billion loan to Bear Stearns directly? The bank would have been saved, and the Fed and the taxpayers would have gotten a much better deal, since Bear Stearns could have been required to guaranty the full loan.

The Highly Suspicious Out-of-the-Money Puts

That was one of many questions raised by John Olagues, an authority on stock options, in a March 23 article boldly titled “Bear Stearns Buy-out ... 100% Fraud.” Olagues maintains that the Bear Stearns collapse was artificially created to allow J.P.Morgan to be paid \$55 billion of taxpayer money to cover its own insolvency and acquire its rival Bear Stearns, while at the same time allowing insiders to take large “short” positions in Bear Stearns stock and collect massive profits. For evidence, Olagues points to a very suspicious series of events, which will be detailed here after some definitions for anyone not familiar with stock options:

A put is an option to sell a stock at an agreed-upon price, called the strike price or exercise price, at any time up to an agreed-upon date. The option is priced and bought that day based upon the current stock price, on the presumption that the stock will decline in value. If the stock’s price falls below the strike price, the option is “in the money” and the trader has made a profit. Now here’s the evidence:

On March 10, 2008, Bear Stearns stock dropped to \$70 a share—a recent low, but not the first time the stock had reached that level in 2008, having also traded there eight weeks earlier. On or before March 10, 2008, requests were made to the Options Exchanges to open a new April series of puts with exercise prices of 20 and 22.5 and a new March series with an exercise price of 25. The March series had only eight days left to expiration, meaning the stock would have to drop by an unlikely \$45 a share in eight days for the put-buyers to score. It was a very risky bet, unless the traders knew something the market didn’t; and they evidently thought they did, because after the series opened on March 11, 2008, purchases were made of massive volumes of puts controlling millions of shares.

On or before March 13, 2008, another request was made of the Options Exchanges to open additional March and April put series with very low exercise prices, although the March put options would have just five days of trading to expiration. Again the exchanges accommodated the requests and massive amounts of puts were bought. Olagues contends that there is only one plausible explanation for “anyone in his right mind to buy puts with five days of life remaining with strike prices far below the market price”: the deal must have already been arranged by March 10 or before.

These facts were in sharp contrast to the story told by officials who testified at congressional hearings on April 4. All witnesses agreed that false rumors had undermined confidence in Bear Stearns, making the company crash despite adequate liquidity just days before. On March 10, 2008, Reuters was citing Bear Stearns sources saying there was no liquidity crisis and no truth to the speculation of liquidity problems. On March 11, the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission himself expressed confidence in its “capital cushion.” Even “mad” TV investment guru Jim Cramer was proclaiming that all was well and the viewers should hold on. On March 12, official assurances continued. Olagues writes:

“The fact that the requests were made on March 10 or earlier that those new series be opened and those requests were accommodated together with the subsequent massive open positions in those newly opened series is conclusive proof that there were

some who knew about the collapse in advance ... This was no case of a sudden development on the 13 or 14th, where things changed dramatically, making it such that they needed a bail-out immediately. The collapse was anticipated and prepared for...

“Apparently it is claimed that some people have the ability to start false rumors about Bear Stearns’ and other banks’ liquidity, which then starts a ‘run on the bank.’ These rumor mongers allegedly were able to influence companies like Goldman Sachs to terminate doing business with Bear Stearns, notwithstanding that Goldman et al. believed that Bear Stearns balance sheet was in good shape.... The idea that rumors caused a ‘run on the bank’ at Bear Stearns is 100% ridiculous. Perhaps that’s the reason why every witness was so guarded and hesitant and looked so mighty strained in answering questions

“To prove the case of illegal insider trading, all the Feds have to do is ask a few

questions of the persons who bought puts on Bear Stearns or shorted stock during the week before March 17, 2008 and before. All the records are easily available. If they bought puts or shorted stock, just ask them why.”

Suspicious Mount

Other commentators point to other issues that might be probed by investigators. Chris Cook, a British consultant and the former Compliance Director for the International Petroleum Exchange, wrote in an April 24 blog:

“As a former regulator myself, I would be crawling all over these trades.... One question that occurs to me is who actually sold these Put Options? And why aren’t they creating merry hell about the losses? Where is Spitzer when we need him?”

In an April 23 article in LeMetropoleCafe.com, Rob Kirby agreed with Olagues that it was not Bear Stearns but J.P.Morgan that was bankrupt and needed to be “recapitalized” with massive loans from the Federal Reserve. Kirby pointed to the huge losses from derivatives (bets on the future price of assets) carried on J.P.Morgan’s books:

“... J.P. Morgan’s derivatives book is 2-3 times bigger than Citibank’s – and it was derivatives that caused losses of more than \$30 billion at Citibank So, it only made common sense that J.P. Morgan had to be a little more than ‘knee deep’ in the same stuff that Citibank was – but how do you tell the market that a bank – any bank – needs to be recapitalized to the tune of 50 - 80 billion?”

Kirby wrote in an April 30 article:

“According to the NYSE there are only 240 million shares of Bear outstanding ... [Yet] 188 million traded on Mar. 14 alone? Doesn’t this strike you as being odd? ... What percentage of the firm was owned by insiders that categorically did not sell their shares? ... Bear Stearns employees held 30 % of the company’s stock ... 30 % of 240 million is 72 million. If you subtract 72 from 240 you end up with approximately 170 million. Don’t you think it’s a stretch to believe that 186+ million real shares traded on Friday Mar. 14? Or do you believe that rank-and-file Bear employees, worried about their jobs, were pitching their stocks on the Friday before the company collapsed knowing their company was toast? But that would be insider trading – wouldn’t it? No bloody wonder the SEC does not want to probe J.P. Morgan’s ‘rescue’ of Bear Stearns ...”

If real shares weren’t trading, someone must have been engaging in “naked” short selling – selling stock short without first borrowing the shares or ensuring that the shares could be borrowed. Short selling, a technique used by investors to try to profit from the falling price of a stock, involves borrowing a stock from a broker and selling it, with the understanding that the stock must later be bought back and returned to the broker. Naked short selling is normally illegal; but in the interest of “liquid markets,” a truck-sized loophole exists for “market makers” (those people who match buyers with sellers, set the price, and follow through with the trade). Even market makers, however, are supposed to cover within three days by actually coming up with the stock; and where would they have gotten enough Bear Stearns stock to cover 75% of the company’s outstanding shares? In any case, naked short selling is illegal if the intent is to drive down a stock’s share price; and that was certainly the result here.

On May 10, 2008, in weekly market commentary on FinancialSense.com, Jim Puplava observed that naked short selling has become so pervasive that the number of shares sold “short” far exceeds the shares actually issued by the underlying companies. Yet regulators are turning a blind eye, perhaps because the situation has now gotten so far

out of hand that it can’t be corrected without major stock upheaval. He noted that naked short selling is basically the counterfeiting of stock, and that it has reached epidemic proportions since the “uptick” rule was revoked last summer to help the floundering hedge funds. The uptick rule allowed short selling only if the stock price were going up, preventing a cascade of short sales that would take the stock price much lower. But that brake on manipulation has been eliminated by the Securities Exchange Commission (SEC), leaving the market in unregulated chaos.

Eliot Spitzer has also been eliminated from the scene, and it may be for similar reasons. Greg Palast suggested in a March 14 article that the “sin” of the former New York governor may have been something more serious than prostitution. Spitzer made the mistake of getting in the way of a \$200 billion windfall from the Federal Reserve to the banks, guaranteeing the mortgage-backed junk bonds of the same banking predators responsible for the subprime debacle. While the Federal Reserve was trying to bail the banks out, Spitzer was trying to regulate them, bringing suit on behalf of consumers. But he was swiftly exposed and deposed; and the Treasury has now broached a new plan that would prevent such disruptions in the future. Like the Panic of 1907 that justified a “bankers’ bank” to prevent future runs, the collapse of Bear Stearns has been used to justify a proposal giving vast new powers to the Federal Reserve to promote “financial market stability.” The plan was unveiled by Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson, former head of Goldman Sachs, two weeks after Bear Stearns fell. It would “consolidate” the state regulators (who work for the fifty states) and the SEC (which works for the US government) under the Federal Reserve (which works for the banks). Paulson conceded that the result would not be to increase regulation but to actually take away authority from state regulators and the SEC. All regulation would be subsumed under the Federal Reserve, the bank-owned entity set up by J. Pierpont Morgan in 1913 specifically to preserve the banks’ own interests.

On April 29, a former top Federal Reserve official told *The Wall Street Journal* that by offering \$30 billion in financing to J.P.Morgan for Bear’s assets, the Fed had “eliminated forever the possibility [that it] could serve as an honest broker.” Vincent Reinhart, formerly the Fed’s director of monetary affairs and the secretary of its policy-making panel, said the Fed’s bailout of Bear Stearns would come to be viewed as the “worst policy mistake in a generation.” He noted that there were other viable options, such as looking for other suitors or removing some assets from Bear’s portfolio, which had not been pursued by the Federal Reserve.

Jim Puplava maintains that naked short selling has now become so pervasive that if the hedge funds were pressed to come in and cover their naked short positions, “they would actually trigger another financial crisis.” The Fed and the SEC may be looking the other way on this widespread stock counterfeiting scheme because “if they did unravel it, everything really would unravel.” Evidently “promoting market stability” means that whistle-blowers and the SEC must be silenced so that a grossly illegal situation can continue, since the crime is so pervasive that to expose it and prosecute the criminals would unravel the whole financial system. As Nathan Rothschild observed in 1838, when the issuance and control of a nation’s money are in private hands, the laws and the people who make them become irrelevant.



Ellen Brown developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In *Web of Debt*, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and “the money trust.” She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we the people can get it back. Her eleven books include the bestselling *Nature’s Pharmacy*, co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker, which has sold 285,000 copies. Her websites are www.webofdebt.com and www.ellenbrown.com.



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Media Echo White House 9/11 Talking Points

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

When BuzzFlash editor and publisher Mark Karlin dipped his toe into 9/11 waters, he got an earful from his readers. In a May 12 blog post, Karlin states unequivocally that “9/11 was not an inside job,” (although he does concede an 80% probability that Flight 93 was shot down over Pennsylvania).

Judging from the comments at <http://www.buzzflash.com/articles/editorblog/089>, his audience was not impressed. Reader after reader tries to set Karlin straight by presenting pieces from the overwhelming mountain of evidence indicating that we were sold a bill of goods about 9/11. So far Karlin has been silent. If he’s reading the reactions to his post, he gives no sign of it.

Buzzflash is a liberal news site that accepts no advertising and prides itself on being an unadulterated alternative to the whorish mainstream media. It pulls no punches in exposing the mind-boggling awfulness of the current administration—with one major exception. Like almost every other liberal outlet, it gives the Bush administration a free pass on 9/11.

The position of BuzzFlash, AlterNet, The Huffington Post, Daily Kos, *The Nation*, *The Progressive* and many other liberal outlets seems to be:

“Bush and Cheney stole the 2000 and 2004 elections and are in office illegitimately. They lied shamelessly to get us into illegal wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, resulting in the death and injury of millions of innocents. They are torturing prisoners at Gitmo in violation of the Geneva Conventions. They have decimated the Constitution, abolished habeas corpus, and are in the process of instituting a police state. They directed the Justice Dept. to fire US attorneys who were not considered “good Bushies,” and then covered it up by flatly refusing to submit to Congressional oversight. They have spied on Americans illegally, reading our emails and listening to our phone calls without a court warrant. They let Americans die like rats in the streets of New Orleans and then lied about rebuilding the Gulf coast after Katrina.

“They’re evil. They are devils straight from the bowels of hell. But would they kill US citizens and blame it on Osama bin Laden to create a pretext for war to steal oil in the Middle East? Don’t be ridiculous. They may demonstrate all the wisdom and compassion of Attila the Hun, but surely they wouldn’t murder their ‘own people’ in cold blood. Only wacky conspiracy theorists think that. Certainly not solid, well-established liberal publications like *us*. Don’t lump us with *them*.”

Speaking of 9/11 truthers, Manuel Garcia of Counterpunch (Sep. 9, 2006) makes accusations of “wild theories fueled by paranoia,” and states that “conspiracists” “cannot accept” the real reasons for the attack, and instead must “find comfort” in an irrational hypothesis.

Sure, Manuel. It’s much too scary to believe that we were attacked by bearded men hiding in caves nine time zones away. It’s so much more soothing to believe it was our own government, the nexus of which is located just down the road, and which, at its discretion, can label me a terrorist and lock me up indefinitely. It makes me feel so warm and cozy that I tell it to my kids as their bedtime story.

Media Matters for America, a nonprofit devoted to correcting conservative disinformation in the media, saw the results of a May 2007 Rasmussen poll, which found that 35% of Democrats believe that Bush knew about the 9/11 attacks in advance, and had only one thought: this makes the Dems look bad.

In an article from May 15, 2007, titled

“Conservative media tout flawed poll to call Dems 9/11 conspiracy theorists,” Media Matters bends over backwards to excuse the poll results, protesting that the question was ambiguous. They bemoan the opportunity the results gave to right wing commentators to label Dems as “deranged and dangerously uninformed,” and “out of their gourds.” Media Matters faults the pundits for overstating the poll results, but never considers that Dems have nothing to fear from this. Is it so unthinkable that Media Matters might have actually investigated the evidence for themselves and reported that those 35% were so far ahead that they appear to be behind?

Even those who themselves doubt the official 9/11 story take pains to stress that they are not “conspiracy theorists.” In an August 2007 column for *The Independent* titled “Even I Question the Truth About 9/11,” Middle East correspondent Robert Fisk presents several aspects of the official story that bother him, such as:

“What about the weird letter allegedly written by Mohamed Atta, the Egyptian hijacker-murderer with the spooky face, whose “Islamic” advice to his gruesome comrades – released by the CIA – mystified every Muslim friend I know in the Middle East? Atta mentioned his family – which no Muslim, however ill-taught, would be likely to include in such a prayer. He reminds his comrades-in-murder to say the first Muslim prayer of the day and then goes on to quote from it. But no Muslim would need such a reminder – let alone expect the text of the “Fajr” prayer to be included in Atta’s letter.

Fisk wonders about the long awaited (and still pending) report from NIST about the free fall collapse of WTC 7, and the three al Qaeda “hijackers” who are still alive.

But before going into his doubts, Fisk feels compelled to first differentiate himself from the others who have such doubts. He refers to people who ask him questions about 9/11 at lectures as “ravers.” And he closes with “Let me repeat. I am not a conspiracy theorist.”

In an article for the *Guardian*, Peter Tatchell puts forth the case for a new investigation in “9/11 The Big Coverup”, (2007) but then distances himself from 9/11 truth groups. He writes that some groups “promote speculative hypotheses, ignore innocent explanations, cite non-expert sources and jump to conclusions that are not proven by the known facts. They convert mere coincidence and circumstantial evidence into cast-iron proof.” He states “I do not believe in conspiracy theories.”

David Corn, Washington editor of *The Nation*, did his level best to squash any questions about the official account in a piece for Alternet in 2002. He adopts the now predictable tone of condescension and disdain for 9/11 activists, starting his piece with: “Please stop sending me those emails. You know who you are. And you know what emails I mean...”

Corn asks: “Would George W. Bush take the chance of being branded the most evil president of all time by countenancing such wrongdoing?” From the vantage point of 2008, I can only answer: Yup.

Why have the liberal media so fallen down on the job regarding 9/11? Why do they ridicule and belittle the citizen journalists who have taken on the task that they refuse to do?

There is a peculiar disconnect between the views liberal journalists purport to hold of our current leaders, and their unshakable faith that we were told the truth about 9/11. Oh, they may admit that there was a little fudging around the edges, but basically they buy the official story, hook, line and sinker. Not

only do they buy it, they exhibit a nearly pathological rage at those who don’t buy it. Theoretically, journalists believe in the value of digging for truth, so there is something very odd about this situation.

What accounts for this strange state of affairs? I have a couple of ideas.

There has been an enormously successful propaganda campaign to paint conspiracy theorists in the worst possible light. According to Wikipedia, the term “conspiracy theorist” was first used in 1909, but not until the 1960s did it acquire its “current derogatory sense.”

According to Wikipedia, “The term is used pejoratively to dismiss claims that are alleged by critics to be misconceived, paranoid, unfounded, outlandish, irrational, or otherwise unworthy of serious consideration. For example ‘conspiracy nut’ and ‘conspiracy theorist’ are used as pejorative terms.”

If conspiracy theorists are such wacky moon bats, then surely no conspiracies exist?

Not at all. To quote Wikipedia:

History contains numerous proven conspiracies, some of which were not the subject of any widespread speculation until they were exposed. Historical conspiracies include:

- * The Pazzi conspiracy, which included the Pope, of the late 1400s.
- * The Main Plot of 1603
- * The Bye Plot of 1603
- * The Gunpowder Plot of 1605
- * The conspiracy of 1865 to assassinate U.S. President Abraham Lincoln and members of his cabinet
- * The 1894 (and ongoing) French government’s attempted cover-up following Emile Zola’s accusations in the Dreyfus Affair
- * The 1903 efforts by the Tsar’s secret police to foment anti-Semitism by presenting The Protocols of the Elders of Zion as an authentic text.
- * The 1939 Operation Himmler and its Gleiwitz incident
- * The 1948 (and ongoing) Operation Mockingbird
- * The 1953 (and ongoing) MKULTRA mind control program
- * The 1954 Lavon affair
- * The 1962 Operation Northwoods
- * The 1969 Manson Family murders
- * The 1972 Watergate burglary and cover-up
- * The 1984 Rajneeshee bioterror attack
- * The 1987 Iran-Contra Affair
- * The 1995 Sarin gas attack on the Tokyo subway

Some theorists, like Charles Pigden, argue that the reality of such conspiracies should caution against any casual dismissal of conspiracy theory. Pigden, in his article “Conspiracy Theories and the Conventional Wisdom,” argues that not only do conspiracies occur but that any educated member of society will believe in at least one of them; we are all, in fact, conspiracy theorists.

Authors and publishers, such as Robert Anton Wilson and Disinfo, use proven conspiracies as evidence of what a secret plot can accomplish. In doing so, they demonstrate that the label “conspiracy theory” does not necessarily indicate that a theory is false. Theories cited in making this case include those listed above as well as:

- * the Mafia
- * the Business Plot to overthrow Franklin Delano Roosevelt in 1933
- * various CIA involvements in overseas coups d’état
- * the 1991 Testimony of Nayirah before the US Congress to rally the support of the US public to launch

the Gulf War

- * the Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male
- * the General Motors streetcar conspiracy
- * the plot by the British Secret Service to destabilize Prime Minister Harold Wilson, among others.
- * the plot by some Gaullists of the French Secret Service to destabilize future president Georges Pompidou, known as the Markovic affair
- * the series of incidents in Italy connected to the so called “strategy of tension”
- * Operation Gladio

Despite the existence of these well documented conspiracies that were kept secret for many years, to believe in a conspiracy *before* it has been exposed apparently marks one as cuckoo.

When I studied the evidence about 9/11 and voiced my doubts to a friend, she immediately shot back that she wasn’t interested in “conspiracy theories.” I hadn’t advanced any theory at all, I had only said that I had questions, that things didn’t add up. But this liberal friend with a Ph.D had drunk the Kool Aid, she knew that people who said the things I was saying, were “conspiracy theorists.”

The PR efforts of the CIA and Pentagon have been enormously successful. They have convinced most Americans, and even many journalists, that only lunatic fringe nutcases doubt the official story about 9/11. The PR campaign around 9/11 has been so vast and so complete that even those who have doubts are reluctant to voice them, for fear of losing their credibility and being branded a <voice lowered to a whisper> “conspiracy theorist.”

That is my safe explanation. Here’s the unsafe one: some of these journalists may be on the CIA’s payroll. The ongoing conspiracy listed above, Operation Mockingbird, involves the CIA infiltrating the media to influence the news. *Rolling Stone* reported in 1977 that journalists from *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *Time* and *The Miami News* were doing the CIA’s bidding. Thirty years have passed since the *Rolling Stone* report, who is doing the CIA’s bidding now?

To be sure, there *are* a few wild theories in the 9/11 camp. Nature abhors a vacuum, and when there is a dearth of credible information about a major event, speculation is inevitable.

But any harm done by spurious speculation is trivial compared to the enormous force for good that serious 9/11 researchers, writers and film makers have been. If there had never been a David Ray Griffin, a Dr. Stephen Jones or a Dylan Avery, the facts about that ghastly event might never have been exposed, and our nation would be more lost, more confused and have less chance of righting itself than it has now. Those who so cavalierly dismiss their thousands of hours of research with snide and contemptuous remarks are blind to the enormous debt of gratitude owed to the 9/11 truthers, who labor tirelessly to expose this horrible wrong to the world.

Something is deeply rotten in the state of Denmark, like a metastasizing cancer on the soul of our society. Until it is diagnosed and cut out, we cannot progress and indeed will regress to an ever more animalistic state. It is sad and frightening that those who aspire to be a voice of progress and compassion—our liberal media—have failed so utterly to assist with the surgery.

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Sheila Casey is a DC area journalist. Her opinion pieces have appeared in The Denver Post, Common Dreams, and BuzzFlash. She blogs at <http://www.sheilacasey.com>

NEWS BITES

FINGERPRINTS, PLEASE

WASHINGTON - The US government has ordered commercial airlines and cruise lines to prepare to collect digital fingerprints of all foreigners before they depart the country as part of the Department of Homeland Security’s US-VISIT program. The overall economic impact on companies, passengers and the government is expected to exceed \$3.5 billion, industry lobbyists said. The formal announcement of the plan to track the departure of foreign visitors comes after an extended battle between DHS and airlines.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff linked the effort to enforcing the nation’s immigration laws recently; saying airlines were obstructing the measure for commercial reasons. Launched after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, US-VISIT is intended to automate the processing of visitors entering and exiting the country, using fingerprints and digital photographs to help find criminals, potential terrorists and people who overstay visas.

The proposal will be open for a 60-day comment period. DHS could decide after that time where fingerprinting must be conducted, or it could leave the decision up to airlines, a US official said.

EVIDENCE AGAINST IRAN VANISHES UPON INSPECTION

BAGHDAD - Administration and military officials have claimed for months that Iran has been supplying weapons to the Iraqi insurgency. Recently generals announced that they would show the proof of these claims in the form of captured Iranian weapons. But *LA Times* correspondent Tina Susman reported from Baghdad that “A plan to show some alleged Iranian-supplied explosives to journalists last week in Karbala and then destroy them was cancelled after the United States realized none of them was from Iran.”

The Bush administration has never needed evidence before, why start now.

SAUDIS ADMIT THEY CAN’T PUMP ANY FASTER

RIYADH - President Bush’s recent trip to Saudia Arabia his pleas for more oil production were rebuffed, reports the *Washington Post*. Saudis admit they are doing all they can to increase production, but are unable to muster more than a 300,000 barrel increase.

Oil field data is a closely held state secret in Saudia Arabia, but many oil industry analysts have reached the conclusion that Ghawar, the mega-giant Saudi oil field, has passed peak production and has begun its inevitable decline. Once a field has passed peak production increasing effort is required even to achieve diminishing production rates.

CONYERS TO GO AFTER ROVE

WASHINGTON - Ryan Grim of the *Politico* reports House Judiciary Committee Chairman John Conyers told two other people: “We’re closing in on Rove. Someone’s got to kick his ass.”

Asked a few minutes later for a more official explanation, Conyers said that Rove has a week to appear before his committee. If he doesn’t, “We’ll do what any self-respecting committee would do. We’d hold him in contempt. Either that or go and have him arrested.”

NOT SO SPLENDID SPLEND

CHICAGO - Splenda would like you to believe that their product is natural because it is “made from sugar”. This is a “half truth” meant to convince you of a falsehood, and the Sugar Association has sued them for this marketing strategy.

Although the process for developing Splenda starts with a sugar molecule, chlorine molecules are added to it. According to Dr. Joseph Mercola, Splenda shares many similar characteristics to pesticides like DDT that can accumulate in your body fat and tissues. It is impossible to predict the long-term consequences of ingesting this substance over many years.

Splenda is in fact not natural at all, and it has been linked to a number of toxic side effects including shrunken thymus glands (up to 40 percent shrinkage), enlarged liver and kidneys, reduced growth rate, aborted pregnancy and diarrhea.

WHICH COMES FIRST, THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

BALTIMORE - Tyson Foods was ordered to withdraw advertising claiming its chickens are “raised without antibiotics that impact antibiotic resistance in humans.” Richard D. Bennett, a federal judge in the US District Court in Baltimore issued the preliminary injunction in April, ruling that the ad campaign is misleading for two reasons: Tyson feeds its chickens ionophores — antibiotics used exclusively in animals raised for food — and injects its eggs with human antibiotics two or three days before they hatch.” Dave Hogberg, senior vice president for consumer products at Tyson, responded: “The claim we’re making is ‘raised without.’ And our consumer research would say that ‘raised without’ in the consumer’s mind, is from hatchery to when they buy the chicken in the store.” It is unclear what Tyson Foods thinks “raised with” actually means – the embryos are injected with antibiotics and the resulting chickens are given feed with antibiotics. Tyson Foods appealed the decision but the appeals court declined to stay the injunction by Judge Bennett. Tyson Foods was instructed to remove all trace of the ads by May 16th.

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9-11

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