

Rock Creek Free Press

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.

Rice Directed Torture from White House

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP
In December 2005, Condoleezza Rice testified to Congress “The United States does not permit, tolerate or condone torture under any circumstances.”
But ABC News has now revealed that during 2002 and 2003, Rice led dozens of meetings to discuss specific torture techniques with the National Security Council Principals Committee in the White House Situation Room. The committee included Vice President Dick Cheney and former Bush aides Attorney General John Ashcroft, CIA Director George Tenet, Defense Secretary

Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell. They approved using the “enhanced interrogation techniques” of sleep deprivation, waterboarding, sexual assault, pushing and slapping.
Comedian Jon Stewart has joked that waterboarding sounds fun, as in “I’m going to hop in my Chevy Tahoe, get a six pack, and head out for some waterboarding.” But until recently the United States considered waterboarding to be torture, and prosecuted Japanese officers for subjecting prisoners to

TORTURE p.8

General Odom: “The Only Sensible Strategy is to Withdraw Rapidly”



TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON IRAQ by William E. Odom, Lt. General, USA, Ret. April 2, 2008

Good morning, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee. It is an honor to appear before you again. The last occasion was in

January 2007, when the topic was the troop surge. Today, you are asking if it has worked. Last year, I rejected the claim that it was a new strategy. Rather, I said, it is a new tactic used to achieve the same old strategic aim, political stability. And I foresaw no serious prospects for success. I see no reason to change my judgment now. The surge is prolonging instability, not creating the conditions for unity as the president claims.
Last year, General Petraeus wisely declined to promise a military solution to this political problem, saying that he could lower the level of violence, allowing a limited time for the Iraqi leaders to strike a political deal. Violence has been temporarily reduced, but today there is credible evidence that the political situation is far more fragmented. And currently, we see violence surge in Baghdad and Basra. In fact, it has also remained sporadic and significant in several other parts of Iraq over the past year, notwithstanding the notable drop in Baghdad and Anbar Province. More disturbing, Prime Minister Maliki has initiated military action

GENERAL ODOM p.7

Canada First to Label Bisphenol-A Dangerous

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP
Health Canada has officially designated Bisphenol-A, the widely used plastic additive, as dangerous. The designation advances the effort to have the chemical listed as toxic under the Canadian EPA, which would lead to restrictions on its use.
Bisphenol-A (BPA) is very widely used and is the basic component of polycarbonate, a tough transparent plastic commonly used for bottles, sports helmets CDs and many other products. Polycarbonate products can sometimes be identified by the number seven inside a triangle.
Dozens of studies by independent researchers suggest that BPA is able to mimic

the hormone estrogen which leads to abnormal hormone responses. Animal studies have shown dramatic effects from even very low doses of BPA.
Studies show that over 90% of people in the US and Canada are contaminated with BPA at levels of a part per billion or higher, whereas hormones are active at levels a thousand times lower.
The American Chemistry Council has been resisting efforts to regulate BPA and has submitted its own research claiming BPA has no harmful effects at low levels. Such industry efforts may ultimately be futile because consumers are already avoiding products containing the compound in droves.

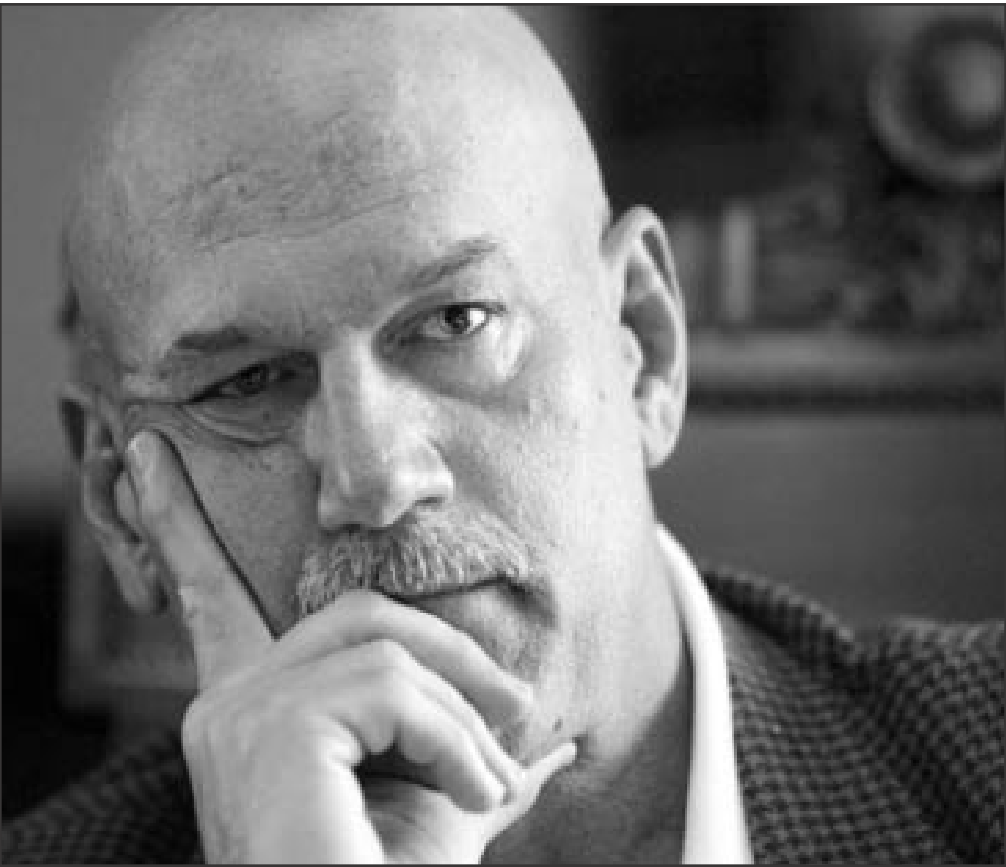
Protests Shut Mexican Congress US Media Avoids Story

An excerpt of remarks made by Rep. Cynthia McKinney, April 15, 2008

MATT SULLIVAN / RCFP
The corporate controlled media in the US refuses to cover one of the biggest ongoing stories in this hemisphere. Right now (late April) there is a major political struggle unfolding in the capitol of our neighbor to the south for control of that countries’ oil. It pits the citizens of Mexico against the American

installed puppet regime of Mexican President Calderon. As I write this story, the legislature of Mexico is completely shutdown. Opposition legislators, and thousands of people, have occupied the halls and chambers of the House and Senate in the Capitol with their sleeping bags and banners and they refuse to leave. They vow to prevent a vote on a law that would turn over Mexican oil to the control of multinational oil giants. It is political high drama of the first order with major consequences for both our countries; yet you will be hard-pressed to find even passing mention of it in our domestic “news” media.
Former congresswoman Cynthia McKinney, recently returned from Mexico City, had this to say in remarks, made April 15th at Cal. State Northridge:
“First of all, it is important to note and ask the question why is it that the corporate press are not even touching the events playing out right now in the capital city of our neighbor to the south and their importance to us? Had I not actually been there myself, I would be hard pressed to convince any audience that events of this magnitude were actually taking place anywhere in the world, let alone in a country as important and close to us as Mexico.
“A quick review of today’s press shows us that we are currently being titillated by news of sex tapes featuring Marilyn Monroe and another such tape featuring an unnamed British Royal. The top of the news hour greets us with

MEXICO p.7



Jesse Ventura: WTC Collapse a Controlled Demolition

By AARON DYKES / JONES REPORT
Former Governor Jesse Ventura broke through the media blockade recently, exposing major inconsistencies of the official 9/11 story and holding his own against some of mainstream media’s most disingenuous hosts, including Fox News’ Sean Hannity and Opie & Anthony from XM Satellite radio.

Ventura’s notoriety as a fiercely independent upstart may have kept Hannity, for one, from playing his usual dirty tricks.
As former Minnesota Governor, Ventura may be the highest level official in the United States to take 9/11 truth questions seriously, yet his enduring popularity and success as a celebrity, wrestler, Hollywood star, Navy

Coffee Consumption Reduces Alzheimer’s Risk

By RALLIE McALLISTER
For years, coffee has been at the center of a heated debate. Viewed as a benign, guilty pleasure by some, American’s favorite beverage has been branded a major health hazard by others.
In the past decade, however, a growing body of scientific evidence supports the notion that moderate coffee consumption offers a number of important perks, especially for the brain.
The results of a study published last year in the medical journal *Neurology* revealed that coffee consumption protected elderly women from memory loss. Compared to those who

did not drink coffee, female coffee drinkers were found to be 30 percent less likely to have memory decline at age 65, and 70 percent less likely to have memory decline at age 80 or older.
In an article published in the April 3, 2008 edition of the *Journal of Neuroinflammation*, researchers at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences served up more good news for coffee lovers. Their findings suggest that a daily jolt of java may do more than just boost your brain power — it might even help protect you from Alzheimer’s disease.
Alzheimer’s disease is an important public

health problem in the US, one that is expected to worsen in coming years. Currently, this devastating condition affects one in eight Americans over the age of 65 and nearly half of adults aged 85 and older.
Several previous studies established a link between coffee consumption and a lower risk for various types of dementia, including Alzheimer’s. Until now, the reasons for this association were poorly understood.
University of North Dakota researchers speculated that the caffeine in coffee could help protect the blood brain barrier from damage caused by a high-cholesterol diet. A

COFFEE p.2

Calcium, not Cholesterol, Increases Coronary Risk

By BILL SARDI
A striking report just published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* indicates the accumulation of calcium in coronary arteries, and not cholesterol, more accurately predicts a future heart attack or other heart trouble, far more than cholesterol or other standard risk factors.
This report gives evidence of a major misdirection by modern medicine – the creation of cholesterol phobia in the population at large. Prior studies show use of cholesterol-lowering drugs does not reduce mortality rates for coronary artery disease. This report follows a front cover report in *Business Week* magazine

declaring cholesterol-lowering drugs to be of marginal value.
The study involved 6722 men and women, ~age 60, who were studied for a period of 3.8 years (median). None had coronary artery disease at the beginning of the study. Subjects who experienced an adverse coronary event (heart attack, angina, placement of a stent, coronary death) were more likely to be taking cholesterol-lowering drugs (~28%) than those who did not experience such an event (~16%). Furthermore, subjects who experienced a heart attack or angina had about the same total cholesterol (~199) as subjects who did not (~194). Cholesterol barely met statistical

significance whereas calcium was a highly predictive factor.
Traditionally-used risk factors, such as C-reactive protein (a marker of inflammation), triglycerides, HDL cholesterol and greater body mass, were not predictive for a future coronary artery event.
Among subjects whose coronary artery calcium score was zero, the risk for any adverse coronary event was only about one-half of 1% (0.0044), or less than 1 in 200, whereas those with a coronary calcium score over 300, about 8.0% experienced an adverse event involving coronary arteries (0.0804), or about 8 in 100,

CHOLESTEROL p.2

Mumia Exceptions Continue in Appeals Court



Mumia Abu-Jamal has been on death row in Pennsylvania since 1981.

By DAVE LINDORFF
Largely missing from coverage of April’s Third Circuit rejection of Mumia Abu-Jamal’s murder-conviction appeal was a 41-page dissent by Judge Thomas Ambro, one of the panel’s three judges.
In a stinging dissent on the rejection of Abu-Jamal’s so-called Batson claim that his jury had been unconstitutionally purged of blacks, Ambro said his two colleagues, Chief Judge Anthony Scirica and Judge Robert Cowan, had ignored precedents from the US Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and arbitrarily set a higher bar for this particular appellant.
Ambro writes, “Our court has previously reached the merits of Batson claims . . . where the petitioner did not make a timely objection during jury selection . . . and I see no reason why we should not afford Abu-Jamal the courtesy of our precedents.”
In fact, evidence of racial bias in jury selection in this case is hard to deny. Not only did Prosecutor Joseph McGill use 10 of his peremptory challenges to remove black jurors who had said they could vote out a death

sentence (compared with only five whites), and not only did he ask specifically different race-based questions of some of those jurors, but there is also a documented history of racial jury purging by the Philadelphia District Attorney’s Office, and by prosecutor McGill, during the early 1980s. Research by academic experts and the Federal Defenders Office in Philadelphia shows that between 1977 and 1986, under then-District Attorney Ed Rendell, local prosecutors struck qualified blacks from juries in capital cases 58 percent of the time, compared with 22 percent of the time for whites. During the same period, McGill struck qualified black jurors 74 percent of the time, compared with 25 percent for whites.
What obviously upset Ambro is that Scirica and Cowan are demonstrating another disturbing example of what local journalist Linn Washington has dubbed the “Mumia Exception.”
On several occasions during the former Black Panther and local journalist’s 27-year legal odyssey, this state’s courts have altered

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“Lucky” Larry wants \$12.3 billion more for 9/11

By JERRY MAZZA

Like the proverbial bad penny, “Lucky” Larry Silverstein keeps popping up. He’s back and he’s bad again. Not content with the nearly \$4.6 billion in insurance payments he received to cover his losses at the World Trade Center, he is now seeking \$12.3 billion in damages from the airlines and airport security companies for the 9/11 attack in a suit filed in 2004.

Not tainted enough by the fact that Silverstein & Partners took out a lease for 99 years in July of 2001 on the WTC, two months before the attack, not content that Larry & Partners upped the insurance at that time to \$3.5 billion and (presciently) to cover potential hits by airliners flown by “terrorist hijackers”.

Not content that Silverstein & Partners subsequently sued the insurers for \$7 billion, considering the attack a double strike because separate airliners hit Towers One and Two. Not content that Larry spent the next six years in litigation with the insurance companies, only to have the deal fortunately settled, brokered by then Governor Eliot Spitzer in 2007, yielding \$4.55 to “Lucky” Larry and Partners.

Not content either that his personal stake in the lease was only some \$14 million, the balance supplied by his partners. Not content that he made another \$500 million on the destruction of his Tower 7, which he owned and quickly rebuilt bigger and better. Not content that no airliner hit Tower 7 and that the fires were out, he announced at 3:30 p.m. on 9/11 that there had been so much pain and suffering that he and the NYFD decided to “pull it” — Tower 7.

Not content that in fact at 5 p.m., not even two hours later — Tower 7 went down at the freefall speed of gravity in a matter of seconds neatly into its own footprint, a classic “internal demolition.” Not content that you can’t set up an internal demolition on a 47-story steel-framed building in less than two hours or two days, or even two weeks. Not content that his “smoking gun” has attracted the attention of every 9/11 critic around the world.

Not content that the BBC made an incredible gaffe as a TV journalist of theirs, supposedly in New York, reported that Tower 7 had fallen — 26 minutes before it actually fell and with a News24 “time stamp” video to prove it. Not content that even Google had to pull the video — Larry Silverstein, the Oliver Twist of 9/11 disaster, is back, asking for more, sir, more please. Incredible! What colossal chutzpah!

But hey, Larry’s got reasons; boy, does he have reasons. His lawyers aired them in the United States Southeastern District Court in

Manhattan, the same court in which the 9/11 victims’ families have been plaintiffs for cases to sue the airlines and security companies, and by the way, where 90 families have been turned down for lawsuits and only two remain who haven’t taken the money and shut up, and where Ellen Mariani has been consistently turned down and continues to be.

Yet, Larry’s lawyers have come to ask the wonderful Judge Hellerstein for more, the same Hellerstein who asked all the families to take the money and “move on” and told them that “money was the universal lubricant . . .” What goes around comes around.

By the way, the total claims involved come to about \$23 billion. Silverstein’s chunk could endanger claims from other businesses and property owners, defense lawyers say. Why, Donald Migliori himself, the lawyer for the victims’ families, said he was confident “that their claims would not be affected because they would take priority over the property claims,” as reported by the *New York Times*. So they won’t be taking food from widows’ and children’s mouths to feed Larry, not this week at least.

Nevertheless, Desmond Barry, a lawyer for the airlines, said that if “Lucky” Larry won his claims, “He could push the total claims beyond the amount of insurance that the airlines and security companies have available. ‘There ain’t that much insurance,’ Mr. Barry said.”

Silverstein’s laundry list for the \$12.3 billion goes like this, “\$8.4 billion for the replacement of destroyed buildings and \$3.9 billion in ‘other costs,’ including \$100 million a year in rent to the Port Authority and \$300 million a year in lost rental income, as well as the cost of marketing and leasing the new buildings.”

Mr. Barry, the *Times* tells us, reminded Silverstein’s folks that he “had been more than compensated by the nearly \$4.6 billion insurance settlement, reached after almost six years of litigation. He argued that Mr. S. was entitled to the market value of the property, which he said had been established by the \$3.2 billion.”

Judge Hellerstein was skeptical about Mr. Silverstein’s claim, and asked why he hadn’t sucked up his losses by just “walking away.” Hellerstein asked, “What’s the nature of your recovery,” to which Larry’s lawyer, Mr. Williamson, answered, “For damages suffered by the events of 9/11, not value. Damages.” He claimed the lease required Silverstein to rebuild and keep on paying rent.

Hellerstein retorted, “And so I’m putting to

you if you walked away from the lease, you would lose the value of the lease . . . Would you have a further obligation to pay money?” Williamson answered, “You have to examine that question . . . But to me that’s not the test of what are our damages.”

When Hellerstein pressed for a dollar figure on damages, not the “precise amount,” i.e., “some order of magnitude would be appropriate,” Williamson balked. Barry said, “I think their claim is \$12.3 billion.” Williamson added, “Plus prejudgment interest.” To which Hellerstein “tartly replied, ‘We shouldn’t forget that.’” They won’t let you, Alvin.

Plaintiffs’ lawyers added that even after many settlements, there are seven wrongful death and two injury cases remaining from the more than 90 filed. Migliori, the victims’ survivors’ lawyer, felt that the claims with property damage, including “Lucky” Larry and some insurance company looking to recoup payments, should allow the death and injury cases priority of payment of damages. Fair enough.

Judge Hellerstein passed on setting a trial date. He said that would be “fictitious,” yet set a deadline for fact-finding for Silverstein to offer more documentation of his claim — or risk losing it. Any trials, by the way, seem to be more than a year away.

The real caveat here is that to win a case of that size for damages, Silverstein would have to go to court for discovery. Meaning his lawyers could bring in every fireman who heard a blast, Silverstein himself for his “pull” remark, and even Hizzoner Rudy Giuliani for saying that morning, at 9:15 to ABC’s Peter Jennings, on the street that someone told him the towers were coming down.

Bottom line, Larry could get a billion dollar bone thrown at him, a take-the-money-and-shut-up bone. Or Larry could end up in cement shoes, for real or legally. After all, Larry knew going into the lease purchase that the Towers were asbestos-laden bombs, the first 60 floors sprayed with the building material when built from 1968 to 1972. And they were supposed to be taken down eventually, according to a 1971 New York Council ban on asbestos.

Obviously, the buildings couldn’t be legally taken down by explosion or implosion. They would have to be taken down piece by piece. The cost would be in the billions by today’s standards. But there was another way to take them down, wasn’t there?



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Top Comedian Margaret Cho Believes In 9/11 Conspiracy



Actress Cho says Americans will be angry when they realize the true agenda behind the attacks.

By PAUL JOSEPH WATSON - PRISON PLANET

Top comedian and actress Margaret Cho has joined Willie Nelson and Charlie Sheen in questioning the official 9/11 story, stating that the public were going to become very angry when they realized there was a conspiracy behind the terror attacks.

Appearing on the nationally syndicated Alex Jones Show, Cho said her doubts about 9/11 were sparked by President Bush’s non-reaction to the unfolding crisis.

“I got concerned right after 9/11 where the plane had hit the World Trade Center and he was in that classroom with all those children and they told him what was going on and he did nothing,” said Cho.

“We were attacked for the first time on American soil and he did nothing — that’s when I realized there was something very very wrong,” she added.

Cho questioned the official story of what happened at the Pentagon, asking why so much footage of the Twin Towers being

attacked was available in comparison with not even a clear picture of what occurred at the Pentagon — a far more sensitive and symbolic target.

“Why are they not focusing on that? What are they hiding?” asked Cho. “Of course it’s going to be monitored from every angle at every second and yet we have no footage of it — it’s very mysterious.”

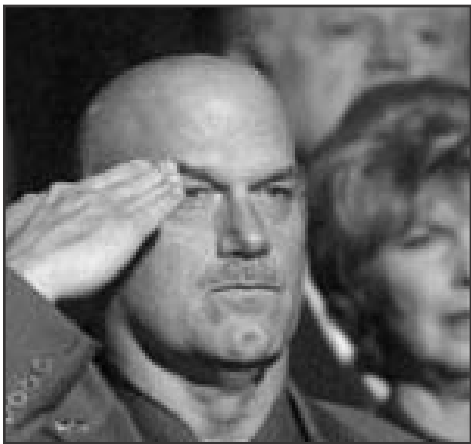
Cho said that there was usually a conspiracy behind every major event in American history and that when the conspiracy behind 9/11 was fully uncovered, people were going to be very angry.

The actress said that many of her Arab-American friends doubted the organizational skills of al-Qaeda in being able to pull off the terror attacks and questioned the plausibility of the passengers on the plane not fighting back against the hijackers.



Paul Joseph Watson is an investigative journalist at www.PrisonPlanet.com

Jesse Ventura 9/11Truther



JESSE VENTURA *from p.1*

his experience with explosives in the Navy Seals – if only to establish that the questions about the collapses of the Twin Towers and Building 7 are entirely credible and indeed deserve an explanation — rather than the usual ridicule.

Indeed, it may have been the first episode of Hannity & Colmes — or any Fox News program, for that matter — where 9/11 truth is treated with dignity and respect. Perhaps with Ventura in-studio towering over him, Hannity realized that his own persona was nothing more than playing a tough guy on TV.

You can see in the transcript how ‘The Body’ crippled the weak defenses of his challenger:

HANNITY: The one thing that I read in the book that I totally found — just alien to me is this idea that you believe in 9/11 conspiracies.

VENTURA: Well, let me tell it to you this way: Why is it that when you ask any question about 9/11, you’re immediately attacked?

HANNITY: I’m not attacking you.

VENTURA: You’re not. I’m speaking in general. I’m not saying you guys. But I’ve watched — people get attacked, people have their credibility attacked. My problem is, I look at it, and I go: how can two planes knock down three buildings?

HANNITY: Pretty easy. It’s 757s–747s.

VENTURA: But there were three buildings that went down.

HANNITY: There was a lot of fire and there was a lot of damage...

VENTURA: Well, first of all, jet fuel blew up at the start. Jet fuel is four-fifths — and I don’t want to stay on this, I’d rather talk other things — but jet fuel is four-fifths kerosene. It doesn’t burn hot. So, using the analogy that it could melt the metal, then propane burns hotter. So if you turn on your camp stove for three hours, shouldn’t it melt the grates? But it doesn’t, does it? — it doesn’t.

Hannity, unsure where to gouge at Ventura’s credibility, drew upon the perceived vulnerabilities of previous celebrities instead:

“He’s going Rosie O’Donnell here — that’s Rosie O’Donnell.”

Colmes’ brief attempt to trap Ventura into placing the blame on specific government officials resulted in a defiant explanation that the governor simply doesn’t know, but seeks to answer:

“I can’t place blame, but I have a hard time accepting the fact that never before in history has a steel structure fallen to the ground at the rate of gravity (and the core beams, how did they go down?). I’m simply questioning that it doesn’t add up to me.”

Ventura covered similar ground with Opie, Anthony and Jim, who have little to argue about, yet talk over the governor and try to confuse the issue.

“I just have questions,” Ventura blurted over their chatter amidst a detailed discussion about the many inconsistencies of the government’s official story with the truth, the laws of physics and etc.

Ventura brought up the molten steel at the bottom of the wreckage and other relevant issues while the hosts tried to explain away the situation with vague descriptions of wreckage and debris.

The governor critiqued one host when he tried to argue that fires in the basement were spread from the top floors through the elevator shaft. “The only one problem was — the elevator shafts were sealed. They always are,” Ventura corrected.

When the host theorized that burning plane parts had been the source, Ventura chastised, “You’re getting like Hollywood — you never run out of bullets.” He pointed out that, in reality, most of the fuel burned in the initial explosion, diminishing its ability to bring down the skyscrapers.

Ventura also argued that the fact that NORAD failures and other intelligence breaches did not result in the firings of ‘inept’ officials because firings would lead to unwanted investigations.

By the end, he resigned in silence — pushing his mike away, according to Opie & Anthony — unable to reach his hosts who were ready to explain away the ‘ineptitude’ and ‘futility’ of the government’s details and yet incapable of facing the big lie staring them in the face.

Reports have also come in of Jesse Ventura stumping for 9/11 truth on a number of other combative radio shows, including Bo and Jim of KZPS in Dallas.

Richard Greene of Air America — a station that normally won’t touch 9/11 truth issues — strayed from the flock and played extended clips of Jesse Ventura’s comments from the Alex Jones Show.



Aaron Dykes is a reporter and Cinematographer with the Jones Report in Austin Texas.

Calcium, not Cholesterol, Increases Coronary Risk

CHOLESTEROL *from p.1*

an 18-fold difference (1800%!), over the 3.8-year period.

This study shows the risk for a future heart attack is nil for those with a calcium arterial score of zero. This data helps to explain why hundreds of thousands of Americans experience a sudden-death heart attack with low-to-normal cholesterol. Most heart attacks emanate in the four coronary arteries that supply the heart with oxygenated blood. About 50% of arterial plaque is calcium and only 3% is cholesterol.

Arterial calcium can be measured by use of a CT scan (called an Agatston score, for Dr. Arthur Agatston, South Beach Miami, Florida cardiologist). About 70% of white males, 52% of black males, 57% of Hispanic

males and 59% of Chinese males, have coronary calcium scores greater than zero. The calcium arterial scores for women are about half that of males owing to the fact they donate calcium to their offspring during pregnancy and lactation and control calcium via estrogen throughout their fertile years.

Calcium begins to accumulate in coronary arteries in males as soon as full growth is achieved, around age 18. Women begin to accumulate calcium in their arteries with the onset of menopause or early hysterectomy. It was recently reported that postmenopausal women who take calcium supplements increase their risk for a heart attack by about 45%. [*British Medical Journal* 2008 Feb 2; 336 (7638): 262–6]

In the early 1990s, British cardiologist Stephen Seely noted that countries which

consume that highest amount of calcium (New Zealand, Ireland, North America, Scandinavian countries), mostly from dairy products, have the highest rates of cardiovascular disease. [*International Journal of Cardiology* 1991 Nov; 33(2): 191–8]

Sixty-four percent (64%) of subjects who experienced any coronary event were current or former smokers compared to about 50% of those who did not experience a heart attack or other adverse event. [Coronary Calcium as a Predictor of Coronary Events in Four Racial or Ethnic Groups, *New England Journal of Medicine* 358: 1336–45, March 27, 2008]



Bill Sardi is author of the new book: You Don’t Have To Be Afraid of Cancer Anymore. His website is: www.KnowledgeOfHealth.com

Coffee Consumption Reduces Alzheimer’s Risk

COFFEE *from p.1*

semipermeable structure, the blood brain barrier helps shield the central nervous system from potentially harmful substances in the bloodstream.

Long-term consumption of foods rich in saturated fat and cholesterol — typical of the American diet — is known to damage the blood brain barrier and compromise its ability to protect the brain. Individuals with high cholesterol levels are believed to have an elevated risk for Alzheimer’s disease.

In the current study, rabbits were given 3 milligrams of caffeine each day, the equivalent of a daily cup of coffee for an average-sized adult.

The animals were also fed a cholesterol-enriched diet.

After 12 weeks, a battery of laboratory tests revealed that caffeine consumption appeared to protect the blood brain barrier from damage associated with cholesterol-rich diets. Based on their findings, the researchers concluded that caffeine and drugs similar to caffeine might be useful in the treatment of Alzheimer’s disease.

Coffee might also help protect against Alzheimer’s disease in other ways. After an 18-year study involving more than 120,000 adults, Harvard researchers concluded that coffee drinkers were significantly less likely to develop Type 2 diabetes than those who abstained.



Sure, the coffee’s good for you, but go easy on the propaganda.

Most folks don’t consider coffee a health elixir, but there’s no doubt that it is a plant-based beverage. Like other plant-based beverages, including wine and tomato juice, coffee is rich in disease-fighting antioxidants.

While fruits, vegetables, grains and nuts are undoubtedly better sources of antioxidants, the vast majority of Americans don’t even come close to eating the recommended amounts of these wholesome, nutritious foods on a daily basis. Data from the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey reveals that only about 11 percent of Americans meet the current USDA guidelines for fruit and vegetable consumption.

Nearly 52 percent of American adults do, however, drink coffee on a daily basis and another 25 percent drink coffee on occasion, according to surveys conducted by the National Coffee Association. Given this data, it’s not surprising that coffee is the largest source of antioxidants in the typical American’s diet.

A cup of coffee offers a number of potential health benefits, but there’s really no advantage to drinking an entire pot or adding lots of sugar, cream and artificial flavorings. If you drink your coffee unadorned and in moderation, you can relax and enjoy all the perks it has to offer — guilt free.



Rallie McAllister is a board-certified family physician, speaker and the author of several books, including “Healthy Lunchbox: The Working Mom’s Guide to Keeping You and Your Kids Trim.” Her website is www.rallieonhealth.com.

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A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

RON PAUL

War At Any Cost?

The Total Economic Cost of the War Beyond the Federal Budget

In recent months, the undeclared war in Iraq seems not to have been on the minds of most Americans. News of the violence and deprivation which ordinary Iraqis are forced to deal with on a daily basis rarely makes it to the front pages. Instead, we read in the newspapers numerous slanted stories about the how the surge is succeeding and reducing violence. Never does anyone dare to discuss the costs of the war or its implications.

There are the direct costs of the war — the costs of maintaining bases, providing food, water, and supplies — which the administration vastly underestimated before embarking on their quest in Iraq. These costs run into the tens of billions of dollars per month, and I shudder to think what the total direct costs will add up to when we finally pull out.

Then there are the opportunity costs, those which decision makers in Washington almost never discuss. Imagine that the war in Iraq had never happened, and the hundreds of billions of dollars we have spent so far were still in the hands of taxpayers and businesses. How many jobs could have been created, how much money could have been saved, invested, and put to productive use?

Unfortunately, it appears too many policymakers in Washington still cling to the broken window fallacy, long since discredited by the 19th century French economist Frédéric Bastiat, that destruction is a good thing because jobs are created to rebuild what is destroyed. This pernicious fallacy is unfortunately widespread in our society today because those in positions of power and influence only recognize what

is seen, and ignore what is unseen. Running a deficit of hundreds of billions of dollars per year in order to fund our misadventures is unsustainable. Eventually, those debts must be repaid, but this country is in such poor financial shape that when our creditors come knocking, we will have little with which to pay them. Our imperial system of military bases set up in protectorate states around the world is completely dependent on the continuing willingness of foreigners to finance our deficits. When the credit dries up, we will find ourselves in a dire situation. Americans will suffer under a combination of confiscatory taxation, double-digit inflation, and the sale of massive amounts of land and capital goods to our foreign creditors.

The continuation of the war in Iraq will end in disaster for this country. Parallels between the Roman empire and our own are numerous, although our decline and fall will happen far quicker than that of Rome. The current financial crisis has awakened some to the perils that await us, but solutions that address the root of the problem and seek to fix it are nowhere to be found. There must be a sea change in the attitudes and thinking of Americans and their leaders. The welfare-warfare state must be abolished, respect for private property and individual liberties restored, and we must return to the limited-government ideals of our Founding Fathers. Any other course will doom our nation to the dustbin of history.

Ron Paul is a nine-term Republican member of Congress from Texas.



We Have a Constitutional Crisis!

By Larisa Alexandrovna
This is called an impeachable offense, another one - one of many ignored by Congress: “President Bush quietly has claimed sweeping new powers to open Americans’ mail without a judge’s warrant. Bush asserted the new authority Dec. 20 after signing legislation that overhauls some postal regulations. He then issued a “signing statement” that declared his right to open mail under emergency conditions, contrary to existing law and contradicting the bill he had just signed, according to experts who have reviewed it.”
I just want Congress to collectively answer two questions: Is the president above the law? Or is it that only George W. Bush and Dick Cheney are above

the law? Just think of this as a civics lesson and try to explain your reasons for violating your oath of office, turning your back on the Constitution and country alike to the future, to your grandkids, to history itself.
Congress may as well just save us the pretense. We don’t need the insult to go along with the injury — really an ocean of injuries to go along with an ocean of insults. Just save us the spin, Dearest Congress, and declare your abdication formally, because we are in a Constitutional crisis and we need to know what pieces are left on the board before we - the people - proceed. I don’t know what options are left to us as all avenues have been shut. The president is above the law and there is no justice

for all.
If I sound angry, then you have read this dead on. I left the Soviet Union only to find myself back where I came from. The label might say America, but it is clear that America is a long forgotten dream and the government now only plays the role of official embezzler as it moves public funds — our money — into the hands of private corporations. There is no system of checks and balances. There is no Constitutional democracy. There is just a void, a big, fat ground zero filled with dead bodies, greed, and treachery.
Larisa Alexandrovna has served as the Managing Editor of Investigative News for Raw Story, and she blogs at the Huffington Post and for her own journalism blog, at-Largely.

Conservative Magazine Blasts Bush Oil Policy in Iraq War

By Sherwood Ross
Just in case you think all conservatives are cheering on President Bush for persisting in his war against Iraq, I call to your attention the March 10th cover story of *The American Conservative* magazine, titled, “Oil For War.” Accompanying the drawing of a fuel hose pumping gasoline into the desert sands, which is what the Pentagon is doing at a fabulous clip, there are two telling subheads: “Fuel Imported Into Iraq — 3 million gallons/day” and “Cost to the US — \$929 million/week.”
That’s right. The article by author Robert Bryce, a.k.a managing editor of *Energy Tribune* magazine, leaves little doubt that he views the Bush regime’s oil policy as bankrupt. Just look at his conclusion: “As the US military pursues it occupation of Iraq — with the fuel costs approaching \$1 billion per week — it’s obvious that the US needs to rethink the assumption that secure energy sources depend on militarism.”
Bryce observes sagely, “The emerging theme of the 21st-century energy business is the increasing power of markets. The US can either adapt or continue hurtling down the road to bankruptcy.” (Sounds like a pro-business, anti-military posture

to me. Maybe conservatives and liberals do share common ground.)
Going back to a few months before the invasion, Bryce noted Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared the looming war had “nothing to do with oil, literally nothing to do with oil.” This assertion (okay, so it’s a lie, not an assertion) was undercut, Bryce pointed out, as “The first objectives of the invading forces included the capture of key Iraqi oil terminals and oilfields.” Sadly, Marine Lt. Therral Childers, the first American combat casualty, was killed fighting to gain control of, yup, the Rumaylah oil field.
And when US troops reached Baghdad on April 8, Bryce wrote, “the National Library of Iraq, the National Archives, and the National Museum of Antiquities were all looted and in some cases burned” while “the oil ministry building was barely damaged” as a detachment of G.I.s plus assault vehicles stood guard to preserve this vital edifice and its records.
The *American Conservative* scrolls forward to an October 2006, press conference at which Bush declared the US could not “tolerate a new terrorist state in the heart of the Middle East with

large oil reserves that could be used to fund its radical ambitions or used to inflict economic damage on the West.” (Not a war for oil?)
Today, Bryce writes, the average G.I. in Iraq consumes 20.5 gallons of fuel per day, so that in order to secure the third-richest oil country on the planet (9.5% of the world total), the Pentagon is chugalugging over 3 million gallons per day in Iraq, “and nearly every drop of that fuel is imported.” About 5,500 tanker trucks are involved in this lovely, oil-burning up exercise so that “the US is spending \$923 million per week on fuel-related logistics in order to keep 157,000 G.I.s in Iraq.” Lovely, that is, for the “defense” contractors.
Little, if any, of Iraq’s own oil is being used by the US military. Instead, it’s being trucked in from an oil complex south of Kuwait City and from Turkey, which, in turn, gets some of its oil from as far away as Greece. Those who have followed this oil importation scandal closely will recall that Halliburton, Vice President Dick Cheney’s former place of employment, got a controversial, multi-billion no-bid contract to truck in the oil. Cheney, of course, boosted the Iraq

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End Of The World As We Know It

You might feel fine, but high oil cost, and scarcity mean American Empire is about to come crashing down

By WERTHER*
It has long since come to universal notice that *Time* and *Newsweek*, the Coke and Pepsi of weekly print journalism, have slid to the level of what were once considered lowbrow publications like *People* and *Entertainment Weekly*. Needless to say, these latter two journals threaten to assume the Darwinian niche previously occupied by the lamented *Weekly World News*. So where does a reader of more elevated tastes seek enlightenment?
Many people who aspire at least to a middling rung in the American establishment would instantly reach for *The Economist*. No doubt, its editorial line would soothe the prejudices of the ruling class, both senior and apprentice, for its hectoring monomania about free trade suffuses every leader, article, and book review the magazine has ever published. It is also British, a real plus for our Anglophile proconsuls in training. Its only failing is that it lacks an insider’s knowledge of the workings of the American governmental machinery.
That deficiency is corrected by two publications that are little known outside the Capitol Beltway: the staid, magisterial *Congressional Quarterly* and its slightly breezier cousin, *National Journal*. Aficionados of how the government sausage gets made — from conference committee reports to OMB circulars to federal acquisition regulations — grit their teeth and pay the stiff subscription fee for the wisdom they impart. They give the kind of in-depth political coverage lacking in their more down-market journalistic counterparts. But they also share a characteristic with *Time*, *Newsweek*, and all the rest of the conventional-wisdom brigade: a propensity to frame issues in a manner that reinforces the status quo.
A salient example of this reflex is the 15 March, 2008 *National Journal* cover story, “Burned Out”. It posits as an emergent “crisis” something everyone with the remotest knowledge of US military programs has known for years: that the Air Force’s inventory of fighter aircraft has been falling in number and rising in age, to a current fleet average of over 20 years.
The reason is self-evident: in the 1990s, the Air Force bet the farm on the F-22 and the Joint Strike Fighter (now the F-35) and, instead of spending money on brand new F-15s or F-16s, plowed the money into the exorbitantly expensive research and development effort to obtain the next-generation stealth aircraft. The service deliberately burned its bridges behind itself in the tacit assumption that regardless of the complications inherent in the new generation of aircraft, the taxpayer would come to the rescue. In other words, the Air Force front-loaded its outyear budgets with a couple of programs whose costs were vastly understated and whose schedules were grossly optimistic.
But “optimistic” may not convey the actual motivation of Air Force budget programmers. Some officers in the World’s Most Expensive Flying Club may have genuinely deluded themselves about the technological issues inherent in developing third-generation stealth aircraft. But more likely, the cause was a pervasive cynicism that the taxpayer would always be there to bail out the program, and that by eliminating an insurance policy, the Air Force could truthfully tell Congress “there is no alternative.”
The *National Journal* glides over this history in considerably more delicate fashion: “The Air Force, by contrast [to the Navy], bet all of its chips on stealth. Disappointed by the handling and maintenance

problems of its F-117 stealth fighter and B-2 stealth bomber, the service invested heavily in a ‘third generation’ of stealth that would combine radar-evasion with high-agility aerodynamics, supersonic speed, and manageable maintenance.”
But the author never unpacks the hidden arguments and assumptions in that bland narrative. If the Air Force was “disappointed” by the handling and maintenance problems in its previous stealth aircraft, where was the analysis to show that these problems could be solved at an affordable cost in a third generation of stealth aircraft?
Second, the figures the author blithely accepts as the so-called “flyaway” (procurement) costs of the F-22 and the F-35 — \$122 million and \$51 million each, respectively — are ludicrous. According to the Government Accountability Office in a current report, the average procurement price for the F-35 is calculated at \$104 million each — more than double the unit procurement price claimed by National Journal. And the F-22’s flyaway cost is more plausibly represented by a Congressional Research Service estimate of \$185 million each. Thus, the Air Force’s cost problem is in aggregate nearly twice as bad as claimed in a magazine read and believed by Beltway insiders.
The only way one could remotely posit such low flyaway costs as posted by the *National Journal* is by assuming those would be the ideal unit costs that might be achieved at some utopian level of “efficient” production that would be impossible in practice to achieve. Or perhaps the Air Force now perversely defines flayaway cost as a euphemism meaning “without engines or cockpit instruments.”
But beyond that — and deeper than that — the *National Journal* article accepts as a given that the Air Force needs advanced fighter aircraft, and the question inevitably devolves into how many; on what schedule; at what cost; and what do the mandarins in the Air Force staff, Capitol Hill, and the think tanks opine about it?
Absent is any discussion of Fourth Generation Warfare — the kind of warfare that any plausible adversary is highly likely to engage in if faced with fighting the US military — a mode of warfare that this country faces now in two significant conflicts. In Fourth Generation Warfare, the adversary avoids the staggeringly expensive stair-step of radar/electronic countermeasures/stealth/counterstealth by simply declining to play the game, and for a convincing reason: he is usually broke and doesn’t have an air force, anyway. But a \$50 road-side bomb or a sufficiently well-motivated suicide bomber can deliver ordnance every bit as accurately as a \$380-million F-22. (\$380 million is the unit acquisition cost: a far better measure of what the taxpayer actually pays for each aircraft, since it includes a pro-rata share of sizable research and development expenses).
Another factor in the Air Force’s “crisis” that the *National Journal* neglects to mention is the fact that the service is exacerbating its aging and maintenance problem by having to fight two wars of a type in which it would prefer nto to engage. Rather than grappling in the “central blue” with a more worthy foe (one with a combat air arm, and one which would obligingly pit its weakness against our strength), the Air Force is reduced to the pedestrian, if relatively safe, business of hauling loads of ordnance to undefended Third World targets while supporting ground forces. Helicopters may face

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10 False Flag Operations That Shaped Our World

By JOE CRUBAUGH
From Nero to 9/11, via Pearl Harbor and the Gulf of Tonkin incident... Joe Crubaugh provides an “all time greatest hits” of false flag operations, whereby one scenario is repeated... as the world keeps falling for the same lie.
The most commonly known false flag operations consist of a government agency

staging a terror attack, whereby an uninvolved entity gets blamed for the carnage. As at least two millennia have proven, false flag operations, with healthy doses of propaganda and ignorance, provided a great recipe for endless war.
In “War is a Racket”, Two-time Medal of Honor recipient Major General Smedley Butler

wrote: “I spent 33 years and four months in active military service and during that period I spent most of my time as a high class muscle man for Big Business, for Wall Street and the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism. I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba

a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefit of Wall Street. I helped purify Nicaragua for the International Banking House of Brown Brothers in 1902-1912. I brought light to the Dominican Republic for the American sugar interests in 1916. I helped make Honduras

right for the American fruit companies in 1903. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that Standard Oil went on its way unmolested.”
You may not have heard of these operations, but perhaps you have heard of these?
Joe Crubaugh is a reclusive (starving) graphic artist, (weekend) travel journalist, (armchair) music critic, and (home) movie director, born in Tupelo, Mississippi



1. NERO AND THE GREAT FIRE OF ROME
Rome, the night of July 19, 64 AD. The Great Fire burst through the rooftops of shops near the mass entertainment and chariot racing venue called Circus Maximus. The flames, whipped by a strong wind, rapidly engulfed densely populated areas of the city. After burning uncontrolled for five days, four of the 14 Roman districts were burned to the ground, and seven more were severely damaged.
It was no secret that Nero wanted to build a series of palaces which he planned to name “Neropolis”. But, the planned location was in the city and in order to build Neropolis, a third of Rome would have to be torn down. The Senate rejected the idea. Then, coincidentally, the fire cleared the very real estate Neropolis required.
Despite the obvious benefit, there’s still a good

probability that Nero did not start the fire. Up to a hundred small fires regularly broke out in Rome each day. On top of that, the fire destroyed Nero’s own palace and it appears that Nero did everything he could to stop the fire. Accounts of the day say that when Nero heard about the fire, he rushed back from Antium to organize a relief effort, using his own money. He opened his palaces to let in the homeless and had food supplies delivered to the survivors.
Nero also devised a new urban development plan that would make Rome less vulnerable to fire. But, although he put in place rules to insure a safer reconstruction, he also gave himself a huge tract of city property with the intention of building his new palace there.
People knew of Nero’s plans for Neropolis, and all his efforts to help the city could not counteract

the rampant rumours that he’d help start the fire. As his poll numbers dropped, Nero’s administration realised the need to employ False Flag 101: When something - anything - bad happens to you, even if it’s accidental, point the finger at your enemy.
Luckily, there was a new cult of religious nuts at hand. The cult was unpopular because its followers refused to worship the emperor, denounced possessions, held secret meetings and they were always talking about the destruction of Rome and the end of the world. Even more luckily for Nero, two of the cult’s biggest leaders, Peter and Paul, were currently in town. Nero spread word that the Christians had started the Great Fire. The citizens of Rome bought his lie hook, line and sinker. Peter was crucified and Paul beheaded. Hundreds of others in the young cult were fed to the lions or smeared with tar and set on fire to become human street lamps.

2. REMEMBER THE MAINE, TO HELL WITH SPAIN
The Spanish Empire was the first truly global empire, reaching its territorial height in the late 1700s. By 1898, Spain was losing territories regularly. Cuba too was becoming increasingly hard to control and a minor revolution had broken out. This wasn’t welcome news to people in the United States who owned Cuban sugar, tobacco and iron industry properties valued at over \$50 million (worth ca. \$1.2 billion today).
The main stream media, then dominated by newspaper magnates Joseph Pulitzer and William Randolph Hearst, exaggerated - and outright fabricated - stories of horrible conditions under Spanish rule. Following the age-old maxim, “If it bleeds, it leads”, the newspapers published stories about Spanish death camps, Spanish cannibalism and inhumane torture. The newspapers sent reporters to Cuba. However, when they got there, they found a different story. Artist and correspondent Frederick Remington wrote back to

Hearst: “There is no war. Request to be recalled.” Hearst’s famous reply: “Please remain. You furnish the pictures, I’ll furnish the war.” And he did. His newspaper, continually screaming how Spanish Cuba was going to hell in a hand basket, convinced big business interests in the US to put pressure on anti-war President William McKinley to protect their Cuban investments. McKinley, in response, sent the USS *Maine* battleship to Havana Harbor as a calming show of force.
Three weeks after arriving, on the night of February 15, 1898, the USS *Maine* exploded, killing 266 men. There are two theories for the explosion: some believe the explosion was caused by an external mine that detonated the ship’s ammunition magazines. Others say it was caused by a spontaneous coal bunker fire that reached the ammunition magazines. Currently, the evidence seems to favour the external mine theory.
Without waiting on an investigation, America’s mainstream media blamed the tragedy on

Spain and beat the drums for war. By April, McKinley yielded to public pressure and signed a congressional resolution declaring war on Spain. To help pay for the Spanish-American War, congress enacted a “temporary” tax of 3 percent on long-distance telephone bills. This was essentially a tax on the rich, as only about 1,300 Americans owned phones in 1898. Although the Spanish-American War ended in 1898, the temporary tax was only abolished in... 2005. Over its lifetime, the 107-year-old tax generated almost \$94 billion - more than 230 times the cost of the Spanish-American War.
The Spanish-American War put a large nail in the coffin of Spain’s global empire. And by the end of 1898, the United States, which was founded in opposition to imperialism, found itself in control not only of Cuba, but of the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the Hawaiian Islands as well.



3. THE MANCHURIAN INCIDENT
The economic slump following 1929’s thorough and convincing near-obliteration of Wall Street hit Japan especially hard: exports fell, unemployment rose. Japan, not being rich in natural resources, needed oil and coal to make power, to run machines to produce goods to sell to other countries to make money to buy food to have enough energy. Manchuria, a province of China, had its fair share of oil and coal.
After Japan decided it needed to invade Manchuria, they needed a pretext to justify the invasion. They chose to create a false flag attack on a railway close to Liutiao Lake. The Japanese press labelled the no-name site of

the blast Liutiaogou, which was Japanese for “Liutiao Bridge.” There was no bridge there, but the name helped convince some that the sabotage was a strategic Chinese attack.
Liutiao Lake was a big flat area that had no military value to either the Japanese or the Chinese. The main reason the spot was chosen was for its proximity (about 800 meters distant) to Chinese troops stationed at Beidaying. Colonel Itagaki Seishiro and Lieutenant Colonel Kanji Ishiwara ordered officers of the Shimamoto Regiment to place a bomb beneath the tracks. The original bomb failed to detonate and a replacement had to be found. Then, at 10:20pm, September 18, 1931, the tracks were blown. Surprisingly,

the explosion was minor. Only one side of the rail was damaged, and the damage was so light that a train headed for Shenyang passed by only a few minutes later. But it was a good enough excuse to invade.
The Japanese immediately charged the Chinese soldiers with the destruction, then invaded Manchuria. A puppet government known as Manchukuo was installed. The League of Nations investigated and in a 1932 report denied that the invasion was an act of defense, as Japan had advertised. But rather than vacate Manchuria, Japan decided to vacate the League of Nations, the precursor to the United Nations.

4. SECRETS OF THE REICHSTAG FIRE
In 1933, just a week before general elections that might place enough Nazis in office to make Hitler defacto dictator, the Reichstag, which housed the parliament of the German Empire, was set on fire. Adolf Hitler assured everyone that communist terrorists started the fire. Hitler’s party member Hermann Göring stated that he had secret evidence that would soon be made public; evidence that proved communists did it. These proclamations came on top of weeks of Nazi-organized street violence designed to whip the public into a pathological fear of communists.
The next day, the Nazis convinced a senile President von Hindenburg to sign the Reichstag Decree. The decree, using defense against terrorism as an excuse, suspended just about every major civil liberty set forth in the Weimar Constitution: habeus corpus (the right

to know why you’re being put in jail)? Gone. Freedom of opinion? Gone. Freedom of the press? Not any more. Freedom to organize and assemble? Deported. The Reichstag decree even allowed the government to spy on its own citizens’ personal mail and telephone conversations without a warrant—something most Americans today could hardly begin to fathom—a precursor to President George W. Bush secret order in 2002 ordering the National Security Agency to do just exactly the same thing.
So what about the fire? The only thing historians seem to agree on is that Marinus van der Lubbe, a former Dutch Communist and mentally disturbed arsonist hungry for fame, was found inside the building. Despite the Nazi attempt to blame the fire on a group of communists, the communists were later acquitted by the Nazi government itself.

After years of extensive investigation, most historians believe the Hitlerites themselves set fire to the Reichstag using van der Lubbe as their patsy: they knew a nut was going to try to burn down the building and not only did they let him do it, but they may have befriended him, encouraged him and even helped the blaze spread by scattering gasoline and incendiaries.
Most Germans, feeling safe from terrorism again, didn’t mind that their freedom and liberty had been stolen, or that so much of their life and work had become so strictly controlled. On the contrary, they felt very enthusiastic and patriotic about the new government because they ignorantly believed the new government cared about them. And as long as the average citizen worked hard, kept his mouth shut and let his kids take part in the Hitler Youth organization, he stayed out of the detention camps.



Alfred Helmut Naujocks

5. THE FAKE INVASION AT GLEIWITZ
In the late evening of Thursday, August 31, 1939, German covert operatives pretending to be Polish terrorists seized the Gleiwitz radio station in the German/Poland border region of Silesia. The station’s music program came to an abrupt halt, followed by frantic German voices announcing that Polish formations were marching toward town. Germany was being invaded by Poland! Then, like a bad imitation of the previous year’s infamous War of the Worlds broadcast, the transmission went dead for a moment of dramatic silence. Soon, the airwaves popped and crackled to life again, and this time Polish voices called for all Poles in the broadcast area to take up arms and attack Germany.
In no time, radio stations across greater Europe picked up the story. The BBC broadcast this statement: “There have been reports of an attack on a radio station in Gleiwitz, which is just across the Polish border in Silesia. The

German News Agency reports that the attack came at about 8.00pm this evening when the Poles forced their way into the studio and began broadcasting a statement in Polish. Within quarter of an hour, says reports, the Poles were overpowered by German police, who opened fire on them. Several of the Poles were reported killed, but the numbers are not yet known.” And thus, Hitler invented an excuse to invade Poland, which he did the next day: September 1, 1939. World War II began.
What really happened? Alfred Helmut Naujocks received the orders from Heinrich Müller, chief of the Gestapo, to put the staged terrorist attack together at the Gleiwitz station. At Naujock’s disposal were what the Germans had codenamed “canned goods,” which were dissenters and criminals kept alive in detention camps until the Gestapo needed a warm dead body. To add cogency to the Gleiwitz attack, Naujocks brought along one such canned good: Franciszek Honiok. Honiok, a German

from the Silesian region, was a known Polish sympathizer. Before arriving at the station, the Gestapo gave him a lethal injection. Then, they dressed him up like a Polish terrorist and brought him to the front of the radio station. Naujocks later testified that the man was unconscious, but not dead yet, when he was shot full of pistol rounds. When the police and press found Honiok’s body, they assumed he’d been one of the fictional Polish terrorists that attacked the station.
In all, there were 21 fake terror actions along the border that same night, many of them using “canned goods” from German prisons so there would be plenty of bodies in the morning: evidence of Polish attackers that had been shot in self defense. The next day, after a long night filled with fake terror, Hitler gave a speech to the German Army, complete with synthetic anger: “The Polish State has refused the peaceful settlement of relations which I desired, and has appealed to

arms. Germans in Poland are persecuted with bloody terror and driven from their houses. A series of violations of the frontier, intolerable to a great Power, prove that Poland is no longer willing to respect the frontier of the Reich. In order to put an end to this lunacy, I have no other choice than to meet force with force from now on. The German Army will fight the battle for the honour and the vital rights of reborn Germany with hard determination. I expect that every soldier, mindful of the great traditions of eternal German soldiery, will ever remain conscious that he is a representative of the National-Socialist Greater Germany. Long live our people and our Reich!”
Had it not been for the Nuremberg trials in 1945, the real story behind the Gleiwitz attack might never have been uncovered. It was there that the operation’s leader, Alfred Naujocks, spilled the beans in a written affidavit.

6. THE MYTH OF PEARL HARBOR

On Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Japanese launched a sneak attack at Pearl Harbor that decimated the US Pacific Fleet and forced the United States to enter WWII. That’s what most of us were taught as school children. But, except for the date, everything you just read is a myth. In reality, there was

no sneak attack. The Pacific Fleet was far from destroyed. And, furthermore, the United States took great pains to bring about the assault. On January 27, 1941, Joseph C. Grew, the US ambassador to Japan, wired Washington that he’d learned of the surprise attack Japan was preparing for Pearl Harbor. On September 24, a dispatch from Japanese naval intelligence

to Japan’s Consul General in Honolulu was deciphered. The transmission was a request for a grid of exact locations of ships in Pearl Harbor. Surprisingly, Washington chose not to share this information with the officers at Pearl Harbor. Then, on November 26, the main body of the Japanese strike force (consisting of six aircraft carriers, two battleships, three cruisers, nine destroyers, eight tankers, 23 fleet submarines, and five midget submarines) departed Japan for Hawaii.

Despite the myth that the strike force maintained strict radio silence, US Naval intelligence intercepted and translated many dispatches. And, there was no shortage of dispatches: Tokyo sent over 1000 transmissions to the attack fleet before it reached Hawaii. Some of these dispatches, in particular this message from Admiral Yamamoto, left no doubt that Pearl Harbor was the target of a Japanese attack: “The task force, keeping its movement strictly secret and maintaining close guard against submarines and aircraft, shall advance into Hawaiian waters, and upon the very opening of hostilities shall attack the main force of the United States fleet and deal it a mortal blow. The first air raid is planned for

the dawn of x-day. Exact date to be given by later order.”

Even on the night before the attack, US intelligence decoded a message pointing to Sunday morning as a deadline for some kind of Japanese action. The message was delivered to the Washington high command more than four hours before the attack on Pearl Harbor. But, as many messages before, it was withheld from the Pearl Harbor commanders.Although many ships were damaged at Pearl Harbor, they were all old and slow. The main targets of the Japanese attack fleet were the Pacific Fleet’s aircraft carriers, but Roosevelt made sure these were safe from the attack: in November, at about the same time as the Japanese attack fleet left Japan, Roosevelt sent the Lexington and Enterprise out to sea. Meanwhile, the Saratoga was in San Diego.

Why did Pearl Harbor happen? Roosevelt wanted a piece of the war pie. Having failed to bait Hitler by giving \$50.1 billion in war supplies to Britain, the Soviet Union, France and China as part of the Lend Lease program, Roosevelt switched focus to Japan. Because Japan had signed a mutual defense pact with Germany and Italy, Roosevelt knew war with

Japan was a legitimate back door to joining the war in Europe. On October 7, 1940, one of Roosevelt’s military advisors, Lieutenant Commander Arthur McCollum, wrote a memo detailing an 8-step plan that would provoke Japan into attacking the United States. Over the next year, Roosevelt implemented all eight of the recommended actions. In the summer of 1941, the US joined England in an oil embargo against Japan. Japan needed oil for its war with China, and had no remaining option but to invade the East Indies and Southeast Asia to get new resources. And that required getting rid of the US Pacific Fleet first.

Although Roosevelt may have got more than he bargained for, he clearly let the attack on Pearl Harbor happen, and even helped Japan by making sure their attack was a surprise. He did this by withholding information from Pearl Harbor’s commanders and even by ensuring the attack force wasn’t accidentally discovered by commercial shipping traffic. As Rear Admiral Richmond K. Turner stated in 1941: “We were prepared to divert traffic when we believed war was imminent. We sent the traffic down via the Torres Strait, so that the track of the Japanese task force would be clear of any traffic.”

7. ISRAELI TERROR - THE LAVON AFFAIR

In July, 1954, an Israeli terrorist cell was activated inside Egypt. The ensuing attacks, cleverly designed to look like the work of Arabs, blasted and torched American and British targets. First, the Israeli terrorists firebombed the Alexandria Post Office. Then, they firebombed the US Information Agency libraries: one in Alexandria, and one in Cairo. Then, they firebombed a British-owned Metro-Goldwyn Mayer theatre, a railway terminal, the central post office, and a couple more theatres.

In the early 1950s, the United States was making fast friends with Egypt, taking advantage of the new pan-Arab Egyptian government of Gamal Abdel Nasser. The warming relationship between the US and Egypt caused a very insecure Israel to feel threatened. Nasser also had plans to nationalize the Suez Canal, which had been controlled by the British for decades. Egypt had been known to blockade Israeli shipping through the

canal and Israel feared Nasser would make a blockade permanent.

After US President Eisenhower began encouraging the British to leave the Suez Canal Zone, Israel started looking for a way to make the British stay, and a way to remain best buddies with America.

David Ben Gurion, Israel’s founding prime minister, thought that Egyptian terrorist attacks against Americans would be a perfect way to cool the growing US/Egypt relationship. Since there were no Egyptians planning attacks against Americans, Ben Gurion’s protégés did the next best thing: they recruited Israeli agents to pretend to be Egyptian terrorists.

The top-secret Israeli terrorist cell, Unit 131, had existed since 1948. In 1950, Israel’s Directorate of Military Intelligence Aman was created and Israel sent an undercover agent, Colonel Avraham Dar (alias: John Darling, British citizen of the island of Gibraltar), to recruit more members to Unit 131. He also trained them in how to build bombs and terrify Americans and British civilians working and

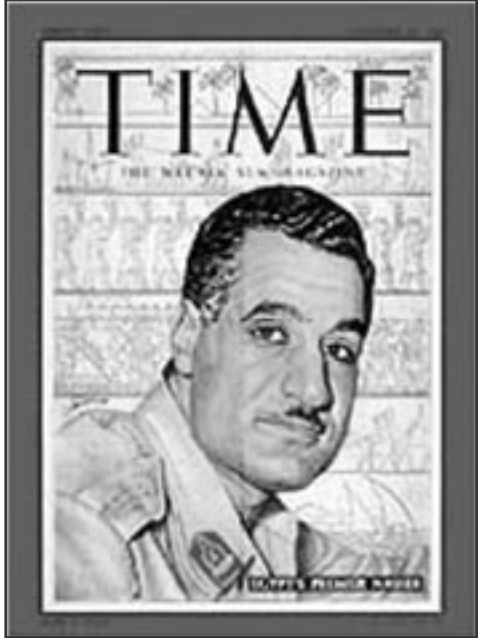
living in Egypt.

Before the terrorist cell was activated, another Israeli agent named Avraham (Avraham Seidenberg) was sent to take control from Avraham Dar. . Everything was going well for the Israeli terrorists it seemed. But, there was one thing the members of Unit 131 didn’t know: their terrorist sleeper cell had itself been infiltrated by the Egyptian intelligence service. The new Unit 131 leader, Seidenberg, had betrayed them to the Egyptians. So, when Unit 131 member Philip Nathanson made his way to bomb the British-owned Rio theatre in Alexandria, not only was he being followed, the Egyptian intelligence service had a fire engine waiting to put out the flames. As Nathanson stood in the ticket line, his bad luck turned worse when one of the bombs in his pocket ignited and then exploded. Nathanson was burned but not killed. As nearby pedestrians shouted warnings and wondered if he was a suicide bomber, Egyptian policemen stepped in, calmed the crowd, and identified Nathanson as one of the terrorists who had been blowing

up American and British buildings.

Nathanson was interrogated by Egypt’s military intelligence and confessed the whole plot, which led to more arrests. When the Israeli spies were given a public trail, all the details of their terrorist training in Israel came to light.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Ben Gurion and Israel’s Aman chief, Binyamin Gibli, tried to frame their own Defense Minister Pinhas Lavon. They even offered forged documents as proof. The frame-up worked for a while, so much so that the entire incident is still popularly known as the Lavon Affair. Lavon resigned and Ben Gurion came out of political retirement to replace him as Israel’s Defense Minister. However, the truth did finally emerge. In 1960, a review of the inquiry discovered the fake documents, as well as perjury by Seidenberg. A committee of seven Cabinet members cleared Lavon. Although Ben Gurion never admitted fault, he did resign his post as Defense Minister.



Popular Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser



8. OPERATION NORTHWOODS

In 1962, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff unanimously proposed state-sponsored acts of terrorism on American soil, against American citizens. The head of every branch of the US

armed forces gave written approval to sink US ships, shoot down hijacked American planes, and gun down and bomb civilians on the streets of Washington, D.C., and Miami. The idea was to blame the self-inflicted terrorism on Cuba’s

leader, Fidel Castro, so the American public would beg and scream for the Marines to storm Havana.

The public learned about Operation Northwoods 35 years later, when the Top Secret document was declassified by the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board. Among other things, Operation Northwoods proposed:

- Faking the crash of an American passenger plane. The disaster was to be accomplished by faking a commercial flight from the US to Jamaica, and having the plane boarded at a public airport by CIA agents disguised as college students going on vacation. An empty remote-controlled plane would follow the commercial flight as it left Florida. The commercial flight’s pilots would radio for help, mention that they had been attacked by a Cuban fighter, then land in secret at Eglin AFB. The empty remote-controlled plane would then

be blown out of the sky and the public would be told all the poor college students aboard were killed.

- Using a possible NASA disaster (astronaut John Glenn’s death) as a pretext to launch the war. The plan called for “manufacturing various pieces of evidence which would prove electronic interference on the part of the Cubans” if something went wrong with NASA’s third manned space launch.

- Blowing up buildings in Washington and Miami. Cuban agents (undercover CIA agents) would be arrested, and they would confess to the bombings. In addition, false documents proving Castro’s involvement in the attacks would be “found” and given to the press.

- Attacking an American military base in Guantanamo with CIA recruits posing as Cuban mercenaries. This involved blowing up the ammunition depot and would obviously result in material damages and many dead

American troops. As a last resort, the plan even mentioned bribing one of Castro’s commanders to initiate the Guantanamo attack. That deserves repeating: the Pentagon considered using our tax dollars to bribe another country’s military to attack our own troops in order to instigate a full-scale war.

Operation Northwoods was only one of several plans under the umbrella of Operation Mongoose. Shortly after the Joint Chiefs signed and presented the plan in March, 1962, President Kennedy, still smarting from the Bay of Pigs fiasco, declared that he would never authorize a military invasion of Cuba. In September, Kennedy denied the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Lyman Lemnitzer, a second term as the nation’s highest ranking military officer. And by the winter of 1963, Kennedy was dead—killed, apparently, by a Cuban sympathiser in the streets of an American city.

9. PHANTOMS IN THE GULF OF TONKIN

On August 2, 1964, three North Vietnamese torpedo boats attacked a US destroyer, the USS *Maddox*. The boats reportedly fired torpedoes at the US ship in international waters in the Gulf of Tonkin, about thirty miles off the Vietnam coast. On August 4, the US Navy reported another unprovoked attack on the USS *Maddox* and the USS *Turner Joy*.

Within hours, President Lyndon B. Johnson ordered a retaliatory strike. As the bases for North Vietnamese torpedo boats were bombed, Johnson went on TV and told America: “Repeated acts of violence against the armed forces of the United States must be met not only with alert defense, but with a positive

reply. That reply is being given as I speak tonight.” The next day, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara assured Capital Hill that the *Maddox* had only been “carrying out a routine mission of the type we carry out all over the world at all times.” McNamara said the two boats were in no way involved with recent South Vietnamese boat raids against North Vietnamese targets.

At Johnson’s request, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. The resolution pre-approved any military actions Johnson would take. It gave Johnson a free ticket to wage war in Vietnam as large as the President wanted. And, true to his large Texas roots, Johnson got a big war: by 1969, over half a

million US troops were fighting in Indochina. Despite McNamara’s testimony to the contrary, the USS *Maddox* had been providing intelligence support to South Vietnamese boats carrying out raids against North Vietnam. McNamara had also testified that there was “unequivocal proof” of an “unprovoked” second attack against the USS *Maddox*. In fact, the second attack never occurred at all.

At the time of the second incident, the two US destroyers misinterpreted radar and radio signals as attacks by the North Vietnamese navy. It’s now known that no North Vietnamese boats were in the area. So, for two hours, the two US destroyers blasted away at nonexistent radar targets and vigorously manoeuvred to avoid phantom North

Vietnamese ships. Even though the second “attack” only involved two US ships defending themselves against a nonexistent enemy, the President and Secretary of Defense used it to coerce Congress and the American people to start a war they neither wanted nor needed.

After the Vietnam War turned into a quagmire, Congress decided to put limits on the President’s authority to unilaterally wage war. Thus, on November 7, 1973, Congress overturned President Nixon’s veto and passed the War Powers Resolution. The resolution requires the President to consult with Congress before making any decisions that engage the US military in hostilities. It is still in effect to this day.



10. THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 ATTACKS

Like many buildings built in the 1970s, the twin towers were constructed with vast quantities of cancer-causing asbestos. The cost of removing the Twin Tower asbestos? A year’s worth of

revenues at a minimum; possibly as much as the value of the buildings themselves. The cost to disassemble the Twin Towers floor by floor would have run into the double-digit billions. In addition, the Port Authority was prohibited from demolishing the towers because the resulting asbestos dust would cover the entire city, which it did when they collapsed, resulting in many cancers with a confirmed link to the WTC dust.

Despite its questionable status, in January of 2001, Larry Silverstein made a \$3.2 billion bid for the World Trade Center. On July 24, the Port Authority accepted the offer. Silverstein then took out an insurance policy that, understandably, covered terrorist attacks, which happened seven weeks later. To date, Silverstein has been awarded almost \$5 billion from nine different insurance companies. What was an asbestos nightmare turned into a \$1.8 billion profit within seven weeks.

Donald Rumsfeld said about the Pentagon on the morning of September 10, 2001: “According to some estimates we cannot track \$2.3 trillion in transactions.” That bombshell was pretty much forgotten by the next morning. So, as a reward for losing \$8,000 for every man,

woman, and child in America, taxpayers patriotically forked over another \$700 billion and counting to invade Iraq. True to form, the Pentagon promptly lost \$9 billion of that money, too.

Eight days after the attacks, the 342-page Patriot Act was given to Congress. That same week, letters armed with anthrax from a US military lab entered the mail. Subsequently, while Congressional offices were evacuated, examined, cleaned and nasal cavities swabbed, the Patriot Act remained largely unread. Then, with little debate, the Patriot Act became law, giving the Bush administration unprecedented power to access people’s medical records, tax records, information about the books they bought or borrowed and the power to conduct secret residential searches without notifying owners that their homes had been searched.

In early 2001, executives from Shell, BP, and Exxon met with Dick Cheney’s Energy Task Force while it was developing its new national energy policy. Later, the companies freely admitted interest in profiting from Iraq’s oil fields, even before the US invaded Iraq.

According to statements by Lt. Col. Anthony Shaffer, a Bronze Star recipient with 22 years of experience in intelligence operations, a classified intelligence program codenamed Able Danger had uncovered two of the three 9/11 terrorist cells a year before the attacks and had identified four of the hijackers. Shaffer alerted the FBI in September of 2000,

but the meetings he tried to set up with bureau officials were repeatedly blocked by military lawyers. Four credible witnesses have come forward to verify Shaffer’s claims.

In August 2001, a Pan Am International Flight Academy instructor warned the FBI that a student (Zacarias Moussaoui) might use a commercial plane loaded with fuel as a weapon. The instructor asked “Do you realize that a 747 loaded with fuel can be used as a bomb?” Moussaoui was then arrested on immigration charges, but despite the repeated urging of the school and local agents, FBI headquarters refused a deeper investigation. The US also received dozens of detailed warnings (names, locations, dates) from the intelligence agencies of Indonesia, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Egypt, Jordan, India, Argentina, Morocco, Russia, Israel, France and even the Taliban. It would seem that the entire world was onto the bungling Saudi hijackers and somewhat perplexed that the US wasn’t taking preventative actions. But in each case the US, as if by design, chose not to investigate. Instead, Condoleezza Rice, on May 16, 2002, stated: “I don’t think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon.”

We also know that on the morning of 9/11, multiple Air Force war games and drills were in progress. The hijackers would have never

made it to their targets without these war games: Operation Northern Vigilance ensured that many jet fighters that would have normally been patrolling the east coast were flying over Alaska and northern Canada in a drill that simulated a Russian air attack, complete with false radar blips.

Remarkably, operation Vigilant Guardian simulated hijacked planes in the north eastern sector, while real hijackers were in the same airspace. This drill had NORAD and the Air Force reacting to false blips on FAA radar screens. Some of these blips corresponded to real military aircraft in the air posing as hijacked aircraft. That’s why when NORAD’s airborne control officer, Lt. Col. Dawne Deskins, heard Boston claim it had a hijacked airliner, her first words were, “It must be part of the exercise.”

Changing colors

If you follow the money, you can see that the people with the most to gain occupied the key military and civilian positions to help 9/11 happen, as well as to cover up the crime. Such is the hallmark of false flag operations throughout history. But the incredible scale of the 9/11 sham, and the sheer number of people who still refuse to see the mountain of truth in front of their eyes...that’s what makes the September 11, 2001 attacks the greatest false flag operation of all time.



Book Review

Was Polonium-210 Being Smuggled for a Dirty Bomb?

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS
In the recently published thriller, *The Shell Game*, Steve Alten weaves a tale of a neoconservative plot to attack Iran. To overcome resistance, a black op group associated with a Republican administration arranges for nuclear devices to be exploded in two American cities, with planted evidence pointing to Iran. Recent developments make one wonder if fact is following fantasy.

The Bush regime’s propaganda against Iran is going full blast and obviously has a purpose. The foreign press reports that the reason for Cheney’s latest trip abroad is to cajole, threaten, and purchase support for a US attack on Iran.

The Israeli government continues to see an Iranian nuclear weapon on the horizon and to agitate for US action against Iran.

According to John McGlynn in *Japan Focus* (March 22, 2008), the Bush regime is already attacking Iran with Treasury Department actions to cut off Iran’s banking system from all international banking relationships, thereby preventing Iran from importing and exporting. McGlynn calls the US Treasury’s action a “US declaration of war on Iran.”

Cheney’s trip shows that the Bush regime is undeterred by the National Intelligence Estimate’s conclusion that Iran abandoned several years ago any nuclear weapons program that it might have had. The International Atomic Energy Agency has never found evidence of an Iranian nuclear weapons program. Despite all the facts and without evidence, the Bush Regime continues to assert that Iran has a nuclear weapons program that warrants an American attack on Iran.

Gen. David Petraeus, commander of US forces in Iraq and a member of the Cheney/neocon team, blamed Easter Sunday’s bombardment of the “secure” Green Zone in Baghdad on Iran. Petraeus says the attack is “in complete violation of promises made by President Ahmadinejad and the other most senior Iranian leaders.” Petraeus’s claims are part of the neocon propaganda campaign to build support for an attack on Iran.

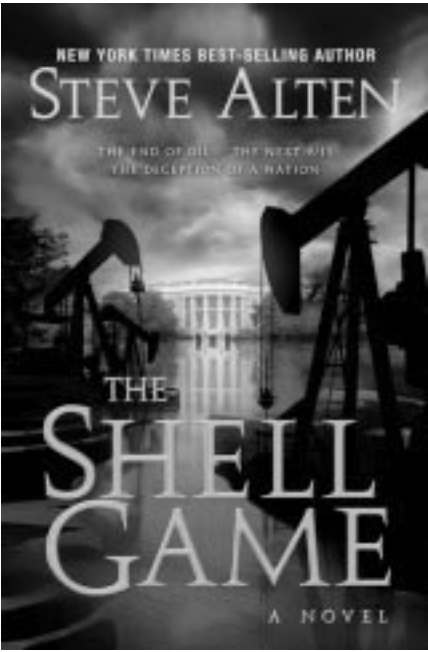
Central Command chief Admiral William Fallon is reported to have declared that there would be no attack on Iran on his watch. With his recent resignation effective the end of March, Fallon has been moved out of the picture. According to news reports, Fallon derided Petraeus as a “sycophant” and told him to his face that he considered him to be “an ass-kissing little chickenshit.”

That it is Fallon who is gone and the ass-kissing little chickenshit who remains tells you all you need to know about the US military under the Cheney/Bush/neocon regime. It is an ass-kissing, yes boss, military.

On his Web site, University of Michigan professor and Middle East expert Juan Cole has an article by *Vanity Fair* contributing editor Craig Unger, author of *The Fall of the House of Bush*. Unger makes the point that the US attack on Iraq was not the result of “mistaken intelligence.” It was a direct result of a plot by neoconservative conspirators, who fabricated “evidence” and spread propaganda that deceived Congress, the media, and the American people.

A conspiracy that would launch a war on the basis of forged “intelligence” and false allegations is a conspiracy that believes strongly in its agenda. Such a conspiracy would not be content with only partial achievement of its agenda. As we should all know by now, the neoconservative agenda is for the US to overthrow Iraq, Iran, and Syria at a minimum. As neoconservative Norman Podhoretz has formulated the agenda, the goal is to overthrow the regimes in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan in addition, and to clear Hezbollah out of Lebanon.

The difficulties of securing Iraq and Afghanistan have not dented the neocons’ faith in their agenda, but time might be running



out for the neocons if we assume that Bush will step down and not utter the two words – catastrophic emergency – that transform him into a dictator, and that a war weary voting public will not elect “Bomb bomb bomb Iran” McCain.

A McCain presidency would give the neocons four more years to orchestrate an attack on Iran. Jeffery St. Clair in CounterPunch, March 24, notes that Hillary’s vaulting ambition could cause her to split and defeat the Democrats by playing the race card against Obama so that she can run against McCain in four years before she is too old for the game.

A conspiracy willing to launch an invasion of a country on false pretenses would not hesitate to pull off a false flag event if it would further their agenda. The massive human, financial and diplomatic cost of the Iraq invasion is a good indication that neoconservatives are willing for America to pay any price for establishing their agenda of achieving American/Israeli hegemony over the Middle East.

We will likely never know, but a neoconservative false flag operation might lie behind what appears to have been the accidental poisoning of Alexander Litvinenko by a rare and tightly controlled radioactive isotope, Polonium-210. Litvinenko, a former member of KGB counterintelligence, operated in the shadowy world of “security consultants” on a fake passport given to him by the British government. Litvinenko left Russia when his patron, oligarch Boris Berezovsky fled to escape fraud charges.

The British government and websites financed by Berezovsky blamed Litvinenko’s mysterious death on the Russian Federal Security Service, which allegedly sent an agent to put Polonium-210 in Litvinenko’s tea. On its face, the tale is far-fetched, but it served to divert attention from the fact that Polonium-210 had somehow got into private hands.

Where had the Polonium come from? No one knows, but nuclear physicist Gordon Prather noted at the time that Litvinenko had recently been to Israel and that Israel’s nuclear reactors are not subject to international safeguards.

For what purpose was Polonium being smuggled? No one knows, but Prather notes that Polonium-210 has a short shelf-life that would turn any stored weapon into a dud within months.

According to knowledgeable people, Polonium-210 would be useful for a dirty bomb that would do little real damage but would create enough fear and hysteria for the neocons to start another war.

Steve Alten was more alert than the media. He saw what might be the real story behind Litvinenko’s death by Polonium-210. Realizing that fantasy is one route by which Americans can be brought to the facts, and hoping to preclude any such real world event, Alten wrote a thriller predictive of our future between now and 2012.

Paul Craig Roberts a former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury and former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal, has been reporting shocking cases of prosecutorial abuse for two decades. A new edition of his book, The Tyranny of Good Intentions, co-authored with Lawrence Stratton, a documented account of how Americans lost the protection of law, is available now from Random House.



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History’s Lessons
Creeping Fascism: Lessons From the Past

BY RAY MCGOVERN

“There are few things as odd as the calm, superior indifference with which I and those like me watched the beginnings of the Nazi revolution in Germany, as if from a box at the theater. Perhaps the only comparably odd thing is the way that now, years later...”

These are the words of Sebastian Haffner (pen name for Raimund Pretzel), who as a young lawyer in Berlin during the 1930s experienced the Nazi takeover and wrote a first-hand account. His children found the manuscript when he died in 1999 and published it the following year as *Geschichte eines Deutschen* (The Story of a German). The book became an immediate bestseller and has been translated into 20 languages-in English as *Defying Hitler*.

I recently learned from his daughter Sarah, an artist in Berlin, that today is the 100th anniversary of Haffner’s birth. She had seen an earlier article in which I quoted her father and emailed to ask me to “write some more about the book and the comparison to Bush’s America, this is almost unbelievable.”

More about Haffner below. Let’s set the stage first by recapping some of what has been going on that may have resonance for readers familiar with the Nazi ascendancy, noting how “odd” it is that the frontal attack on our Constitutional rights is met with such “calm, superior indifference.”

GOEBBELS WOULD BE PROUD

It has been two years since top *New York Times* officials decided to let the rest of us in on the fact that the George W. Bush administration had been eavesdropping on American citizens without the court warrants required by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) of 1978. The *Times* had learned of this well before the election in 2004 and acquiesced to White House entreaties to suppress the damaging information.

In late fall 2005 when *Times* correspondent James Risen’s book, *State of War: the Secret History of the CIA and the Bush Administration*, revealing the warrantless eavesdropping was being printed, *Times* publisher, Arthur Sulzberger, Jr., recognized that he could procrastinate no longer. It would simply be too embarrassing to have Risen’s book on the street, with Sulzberger and his associates pretending that this explosive eavesdropping story did not fit Adolph Ochs’ trademark criterion: All The News That’s Fit To Print. (The *Times*’ own ombudsman, Public Editor Byron Calame, branded the newspaper’s explanation for the long delay in publishing this story “woefully inadequate.”)

When Sulzberger told his friends in the White House that he could no longer hold off on publishing in the newspaper, he was summoned to the Oval Office for a counseling session with the president on Dec. 5, 2005. Bush tried in vain to talk him out of putting the story in the *Times*. The truth would out; part of it, at least.

GLITCHES

There were some embarrassing glitches. For example, unfortunately for National Security Agency Director Lt. Gen. Keith Alexander, the White House neglected to tell him that the cat would soon be out of the bag. So on Dec. 6, Alexander spoke from the old talking points in assuring visiting House intelligence committee member Rush Holt (D-NJ) that the NSA did not eavesdrop on Americans without a court order.

Still possessed of the quaint notion that generals and other senior officials are not supposed to lie to congressional oversight committees, Holt wrote a blistering letter to Gen. Alexander after the *Times*, on Dec. 16, front-paged a feature by Risen and Eric Lichtblau, “Bush Lets US Spy on Callers Without Courts.” But House Intelligence Committee chair Pete Hoekstra (R-MI) apparently found Holt’s scruples benighted; Hoekstra did nothing to hold Alexander accountable for misleading Holt, his most experienced committee member, who had served as an intelligence analyst at the State Department.

What followed struck me as bizarre. The day after the Dec. 16 *Times* feature article, the president of the United States publicly admitted to a demonstrably impeachable offense. Authorizing illegal electronic surveillance was a key provision of the second article of impeachment against President Richard Nixon. On July 27, 1974, this and two other articles of impeachment were approved by bipartisan votes in the House Committee on the Judiciary.

BUSH TAKES FRONTAL APPROACH

Far from expressing regret, the president bragged about having authorized the surveillance “more than 30 times since the September the 11th attacks,” and said he would continue to do so. The president also said: “Leaders in Congress have been briefed more than a dozen times on this authorization and the activities conducted under it.”

On Dec. 19, 2005 then-Attorney General Alberto Gonzales and then-NSA Director Michael Hayden held a press conference to answer questions about the as yet unnamed surveillance program. Gonzales was asked why the White House decided to flout FISA rather than attempt to amend it, choosing instead a “backdoor approach.” He answered:

“We have had discussions with Congress as to whether or not FISA could be amended to allow us to adequately deal with this kind of threat, and we were advised that that would be difficult, if not impossible.”

Hmm. Impossible? It strains credulity that a program of the limited scope described would be unable to win ready approval from a Congress that had just passed the Patriot Act in record time. James Risen has made the following quip about the prevailing mood: “In October 2001 you could have set up guillotines on the public streets of America.” It was not difficult to infer that the surveillance program must have been of such scope and intrusiveness that, even amid highly stoked fear, it didn’t have a prayer for passage.

It turns out we didn’t know the half of it.

WHAT TO CALL THESE ACTIVITIES

“Illegal Surveillance Program” didn’t seem quite right for White House purposes, and the PR machine was unusually slow off the blocks. It took six weeks to settle on “Terrorist Surveillance Program,” with FOX News leading the way followed by the president himself. This labeling would dovetail nicely with the president’s rhetoric on Dec. 17:

“In the weeks following the terrorist attacks on our nation, I authorized the National Security Agency, consistent with US law and the Constitution, to intercept the international communications of people with known links to al-Qaeda and related terrorist organizations. The authorization I gave the National Security Agency after September 11 helped address that problem.”

And Gen. Michael Hayden, who headed NSA from 1999 to 2005, was of course on the same page, dissembling as convincingly as the president. At his May 2006 confirmation hearings to become CIA director, he told of his soul-searching when, as director of NSA, he was asked to eavesdrop on Americans without a court warrant. “I had to make this personal decision in early Oct. 2001,” said Hayden, “it was a personal decision. I could not not do this.”

Like so much else, it was all because of 9/11. But we now know:

IT STARTED SEVEN MONTHS BEFORE 9/11

How many times have you heard it? The mantra “after 9/11 everything changed” has given absolutism to all manner of sin.

We are understandably reluctant to believe the worst of our leaders, and this tends to make us negligent. After all, we learned from former Treasury Secretary Paul O’Neill that drastic changes were made in US foreign policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian issue and toward Iraq at the first National Security Council meeting on Jan. 30, 2001. Should we not have anticipated far-reaching changes at home, as well?

Reporting by the *Rocky Mountain News* and court documents and testimony in a case involving Qwest Communications strongly suggest that in February 2001 Hayden saluted smartly when the Bush administration instructed NSA to suborn AT&T, Verizon, and Qwest to spy illegally on you, me, and other Americans. Bear in mind that this would have had nothing to do with terrorism, which did not really appear on the new administration’s radar screen until a week before 9/11, despite the pleading of Clinton aides that the issue deserved extremely high priority.

So this until-recently-unknown pre-9/11 facet of the “Terrorist Surveillance Program” was not related to Osama bin Laden or to whomever he and his associates might be speaking. It had to do with us. We know that the Democrats who were briefed on the “Terrorist Surveillance Program” include House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) (the one with the longest tenure on the House Intelligence Committee), Congresswoman Jane Harman (D-CA) and former and current chairmen of the Senate

Intelligence Committee, Bob Graham (D-FL) and Jay Rockefeller (D-WV). Might one interpret their lack of public comment on the news that the snooping began well before 9/11 as a sign they were co-opted and then sworn to secrecy?

It is an important question. Were the appropriate leaders in Congress informed that within days of George W. Bush’s first inauguration the NSA electronic vacuum cleaner began to suck up information on you and me, despite the FISA law and the Fourth Amendment?

ARE THEY ALL COMPLICIT?

Will Democratic leaders eventually cave in and grant retroactive immunity to those telecommunications corporations-AT&T and Verizon-who made millions by winking at the law and the Constitution? (Qwest, to its credit, heeded the advice of its general counsel who said that what NSA wanted was clearly illegal.)

What’s going on here? Have congressional leaders no sense for what is at stake? Lately the adjective “spineless” has come into vogue in describing congressional Democrats-no offense to invertebrates.

NAZIS AND THOSE WHO ENABLE THEM

You don’t have to be a Nazi. You can just be, well, a sheep.

In his journal Sebastian Haffner decries what he calls the “sheepish submissiveness” with which the German people reacted to a 9/11-like event, the burning of the German Parliament (Reichstag) on Feb. 27, 1933. Haffner finds it quite telling that none of his acquaintances “saw anything out of the ordinary in the fact that, from then on, one’s telephone would be tapped, one’s letters opened, and one’s desk might be broken into.”

But it is for the cowardly politicians that Haffner reserves his most vehement condemnation. Do you see any contemporary parallels here?

In the elections of March 4, 1933, shortly after the Reichstag fire, the Nazi party garnered only 44 percent of the vote. Only the “cowardly treachery” of the Social Democrats and other parties to whom 56 percent of the German people had entrusted their votes made it possible for the Nazis to seize full power. Haffner adds:

“It is in the final analysis only that betrayal that explains the almost inexplicable fact that a great nation, which cannot have consisted entirely of cowards, fell into ignominy without a fight.”

The Social Democratic leaders betrayed their followers-“for the most part decent, unimportant individuals.” In May they sang the Nazi anthem; in June the Social Democratic party was dissolved.

The middle-class Catholic party Zentrum folded in less than a month, and in the end supplied the votes necessary for the two-thirds majority that “legalized” Hitler’s dictatorship.

As for the right-wing conservatives and German nationalists: “Oh God,” writes Haffner, “what an infinitely dishonorable and cowardly spectacle their leaders made in 1933 and continued to make afterward. They went along with everything: the terror, the persecution of Jews. They were not even bothered when their own party was banned and their own members arrested.” In sum:

“There was not a single example of energetic defense, of courage or principle. There was only panic, flight, and desertion. In March 1933 millions were ready to fight the Nazis. Overnight they found themselves without leaders. At the moment of truth, when other nations rise spontaneously to the occasion, the Germans collectively and limply collapsed. They yielded and capitulated, and suffered a nervous breakdown. The result is today the nightmare of the rest of the world.”

This is what can happen when virtually all are intimidated.

Our Founding Fathers were not oblivious to this; thus, James Madison:

“I believe there are more instances of the abridgement of freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments by those in power than by violent and sudden usurpations. The means of defense against foreign danger historically have become the instruments of tyranny at home.”

We cannot say we weren’t warned.

Ray McGovern works with Tell the Word, the publishing arm of the ecumenical Church of the Saviour in Washington, DC. A former Army officer and CIA analyst, he worked in Germany for five years; he is co-founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. This article appeared first on Consortiumnews.com.



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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE ON IRAQ

By William E. Odom, Lt. General, USA, Ret. 2 April 2008

GENERAL ODOM from p.1

and then dragged in US forces to help his own troops destroy his Shiite competitors. This is a political setback, not a political solution. Such is the result of the surge tactic. No less disturbing has been the steady violence in the Mosul area, and the tensions in Kirkuk between Kurds, Arabs, and Turkomen. A showdown over control of the oil fields there surely awaits us. And the idea that some kind of a federal solution can cut this Gordian knot strikes me as a wild fantasy, wholly out of touch with Kurdish realities. Also disturbing is Turkey’s military incursion to destroy Kurdish PKK groups in the border region. That confronted the US government with a choice: either to support its NATO ally, or to make good on its commitment to Kurdish leaders to insure their security. It chose the former, and that makes it clear to the Kurds that the United States will sacrifice their security to its larger interests in Turkey.

Turning to the apparent success in Anbar province and a few other Sunni areas, this is not the positive situation it is purported to be. Certainly, violence has declined as local Sunni sheiks have begun to cooperate with US forces. But the surge tactic cannot be given full credit. The decline started earlier on Sunni initiative. What are their motives? First, anger at al Qaeda operatives and, second, their financial plight. Their break with al Qaeda should give us little comfort. The Sunnis welcomed anyone who would help them kill Americans, including al Qaeda. The concern we hear the president and his aides express about a residual base left for al Qaeda if we withdraw is utter nonsense. The Sunnis will soon destroy al Qaeda if we leave Iraq. The Kurds do not allow them in their region, and the Shiites, like the Iranians, detest al Qaeda. To understand why, one need only take note of the al Qaeda public diplomacy campaign over the past year or so on internet blogs. They implore the United States to bomb and invade Iran and destroy this apostate Shiite regime. As an aside, it gives me pause to learn that our vice president and some members of the Senate are aligned with al Qaeda on spreading the war to Iran.

Let me emphasize that our new Sunni friends insist on being paid for their loyalty. I have heard, for example, a rough estimate that the cost in one area of about 100 square kilometers is \$250,000 per day. And periodically they threaten to defect unless their fees are increased. You might want to find out the total costs for these deals forecasted for the next several years, because they are not small and they do not promise to end. Remember, we do not own these people. We merely rent them. And they can break the lease at any moment. At the same time, this deal protects them to some degree from the government’s troops and police, hardly a sign of political reconciliation. Now let us consider the implications of the proliferating deals with the Sunni strongmen. They are far from unified among themselves. Some remain with al Qaeda. Many who break and join our forces are beholden to no one. Thus, the decline in violence reflects a dispersion of power to dozens of local strong men who distrust the government and occasionally fight among themselves. Thus, the basic military situation is far worse because of the proliferation of armed groups under local military chiefs who follow a proliferating number of political bosses.

This can hardly be called greater military stability, much less progress toward political consolidation, and to call it fragility that needs more time to become success is to ignore its implications. At the same time, Prime Minister Maliki’s military actions in Basra and Baghdad, indicate even wider political and military fragmentation. What we are witnessing is more accurately described as the road to the Balkanization of Iraq, that is, political fragmentation. We are being asked by the president to believe that this shift of so much power and finance to so many local chieftains is the road to political centralization. He describes the process as building the state from the bottom up.

I challenge you to press the administration’s witnesses this week to explain this absurdity. Ask them to name a single historical case where power has been aggregated successfully

from local strong men to a central government except through bloody violence leading to a single winner, most often a dictator. That is the history of feudal Europe’s transformation to the age of absolute monarchy. It is the story of the American colonization of the west and our Civil War. It took England 800 years to subdue clan rule on what is now the English-Scottish border. And it is the source of violence in Bosnia and Kosovo. How can our leaders celebrate this diffusion of power as effective state building? More accurately described, it has placed the United States astride several civil wars. And it allows all sides to consolidate, rearm, and refill their financial coffers at the US expense. To sum up, we face a deteriorating political situation with an over-extended army. When the administration’s witnesses appear before you, you should make them clarify how long the army and marines can sustain this band-aid strategy.

The only sensible strategy is to withdraw rapidly but in good order. Only that step can break the paralysis now gripping US strategy in the region. The next step is to choose a new aim, regional stability, not a meaningless victory in Iraq. And progress toward that goal requires revising our policy toward Iran. If the president merely renounced his threat of regime change by force, that could prompt Iran to lessen its support to Taliban groups in Afghanistan. Iran detests the Taliban and supports them only because they will kill more Americans in Afghanistan as retaliation in event of a US attack on Iran. Iran’s policy toward Iraq would also have to change radically as we withdraw. It cannot want instability there. Iraqi Shiites are Arabs, and they know that Persians look down on them. Cooperation between them has its limits. No quick reconciliation between the US and Iran is likely, but US steps to make Iran feel more secure make it far more conceivable than a policy calculated to increase its insecurity. The president’s policy has reinforced Iran’s determination to acquire nuclear weapons, the very thing he purports to be trying to prevent. Withdrawal from Iraq does not mean withdrawal from the region. It must include a realignment and reassertion of US forces and diplomacy that give us a better chance to achieve our aim. A number of reasons are given for not withdrawing soon and completely. I have refuted them repeatedly before but they have more lives than a cat. Let me try again to explain why they don’t make sense.

First, it is insisted that we must leave behind military training element with no combat forces to secure them. This makes no sense at all. The idea that US military trainers left alone in Iraq can be safe and effective is flatly rejected by several NCOs and junior officers I have heard describe their personal experiences. Moreover, training foreign forces before they have a consolidated political authority to command their loyalty is a windmill tilt. Finally, Iraq is not short on military skills.

Second, it is insisted that chaos will follow our withdrawal. We heard that argument as the “domino theory” in Vietnam. Even so, the path to political stability will be bloody regardless of whether we withdraw or not. The idea that the United States has a moral responsibility to prevent this ignores that reality. We are certainly to blame for it, but we do not have the physical means to prevent it. American leaders who insist that it is in our power to do so are misleading both the public and themselves if they believe it. The real moral question is whether to risk the lives of more Americans. Unlike preventing chaos, we have the physical means to stop sending more troops where many will be killed or wounded. That is the moral responsibility to our country which no American leaders seem willing to assume.

Third, nay sayers insist that our withdrawal will create regional instability. This confuses cause with effect. Our forces in Iraq and our threat to change Iran’s regime are making the region unstable. Those who link instability with a US withdrawal have it exactly backwards. Our ostrich strategy of keeping our heads buried in the sands of Iraq has done nothing but advance our enemies’ interest. I implore you to reject these fallacious excuses for prolonging the commitment of US forces to war in Iraq. Thanks for this opportunity to testify today.

WERTHER from p.3

measurable risks from ground fire in Iraq and Afghanistan, but that risk is close to negligible for any tactical combat aircraft, be it a paid-for F-16 or an F-22 that costs more than what J.P. Morgan paid for Bear Sterns.

By not purchasing good-enough aircraft, and instead mortgaging the country to the mirage of affordable stealth, the Air Force set the pattern for a procurement train wreck. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have merely accelerated the arrival of that problem by requiring intensified flight time (in more rugged in-theater conditions) on a declining inventory of aircraft.

One would think that the dubious suitability of pie-in-the-sky stealth aircraft for the real-world wars the US government actually chooses to indulge in, and the accelerated depreciation of Air Force assets as a result of those wars, would be key topics in any discussion about future fighter procurement. Yet the article in the

authoritative *National Journal* does not mention the words “Iraq” or “Afghanistan” once.

It is almost as if the media gatekeepers took the advice of John Cleese’s comic character, Basil Fawlty: “for God’s sake, don’t mention the war!” The service procurement staffs certainly would rather not mention it. The Army would rather get on undisturbed with its \$160-billion Future Combat Systems — although one is constrained to ask, what does FCS prime contractor Boeing know about building tanks? The Navy would prefer to get away from this silly brown-water nonsense in the Shatt-al-Arab and get back to re-fighting the Battle of the Philippine Sea with its \$5 billion-a-piece DD-1000 destroyer (does anyone remember when destroyers were called tin cans?). And, as we have seen, the Air Force is still planning to sweep the skies of MiGs above the Fulda Gap.

And so it goes with the rest of the establishment. At the good, gray Brookings

Institution, the great budgetary minds of Washington are assembling at the end of this month for a conference about the federal government’s long-term deficit problem. The notice for this event, titled “Taking Back our Fiscal Future,” warns about the fiscal time bomb of “Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid—the major drivers of escalating deficits . . .”

Do any of the “eminents” at this conference — who include three former directors of the Congressional Budget Office — know or care that military spending has grown at a higher rate than Social Security since 2001, and is now at a higher absolute level than that social insurance program? Ah, but only if you count the war. And for God’s sake, you must not mention the war.

** Werther is the pen name of a Northern Virginia-based defense analyst.*

Mexican Congress Shutdown, US Media Avoids Story

MEXICO from p.1

information of an intertemperate statement made by a former television executive about a current Presidential candidate; video is plentiful of the contorted Presidential theatrics around the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony in Beijing. We were treated today to the visual of the Pope descending from the Alitalia jet. But, while we have more television stations that feed us 24-hour news, we are less informed. We have more and more political pundits feeding us, what Fred Hampton described as ‘explanations that don’t explain, answers that don’t answer, and conclusions that don’t conclude.’

“CNN even tells us in a feature story who suffers as a result of a choice made by our policy makers to emphasize ethanol as a preferred method of weaning a hulking, overfed economy off its petroleum-based consumption habit. But they forgot the other half of that equation: who’s winning? And it’s the ‘who’s winning’ part that is just about always the key piece of information, that could guide us, especially when the choices of our elected leadership diverge from the core values of the voters who elected them.

“And yet, as we speak, the Mexican Senate Chamber has been occupied. The massive rally held today has probably just ended, and some of the opposition Members of the Mexican Congress are inside the building on the dais and have announced a hunger strike. Days ago, one of the leading papers in Mexico City had a photo of the Chamber of Deputies of the Mexican Congress with an unfurled banner covering the Speaker’s Rostrum, proclaiming the Chamber ‘Closed.’ The banner was hung by elected Members of the Mexican Congress who constitute the



Lawmakers and their supporters shutdown Mexican Congress and cover the podium with a banner that reads: “CLOSED in defense of the oil and fatherland.”

also require that the US corporate press expose why this citizen outrage exists in the first place. And to tell that story, they would have to expose the fact of a stolen Presidential election, where a private US, Georgia, corporation, possibly played a role in stripping citizens of their right to vote and have their votes counted. Well, while that might sound like what happened in the United States, centering in Florida, in the US 2000 Presidential election, I’m really talking about the 2006 Mexican Presidential election in which the popular candidate didn’t win because all the votes weren’t counted.

“According to Greg Palast, the US corporation involved in the Mexican move was none other than that now infamous Georgia-based company: Choicepoint. We know that in Florida, Choicepoint, then doing business as DataBase Technologies, constructed an illegal convicted felons list of some 94,000 names, many of whom were neither convicted nor felons. But if your name appeared on that list, you were stopped from voting. Greg Palast tells us that for most of the names on that list, their only crime was ‘Voting While Black.’

“Under a special ‘counter-terrorism’ contract, the US FBI obtained Mexican and Venezuelan voter files. Palast learned later in his investigation that the US government had obtained, through Choicepoint, voter files of all the countries that have progressive Presidents. Many Mexicans went to the polls to vote for their President, only to find that their names had been scrubbed from the voter list, and they were not allowed to vote. So now, not only in the United States, but in

Mexico, too, one can show up to vote and not be sure that that vote was counted, or worse, one can show up duly registered to vote, and not even be allowed to vote.

“I guess this is the way we allow our country to now export democracy.

“Unlike in the United States in 2000, Mexico City was shut down for 5 months when Lopez Obrador, Mexico’s Al Gore, refused to concede and instead, formed a shadow government.

“The issue in the 2006 Mexican election was privatization of Mexico’s oil; it is the riveting issue taking place in Mexican politics today. Teachers on strike at the same time as the Presidential elections in Oaxaca, one of the poorest states in Mexico, began their political movement as a call for increased



Cynthia McKinney

Frente Amplio Progresista that has dared to draw a line in the sand against US-inspired legislation just introduced to allow foreign corporate ownership of PEMEX, Mexico’s state-owned oil company.

“Mexican women are energized around the idea of nation. The idea of patria. I wrote my Master’s Thesis on the ‘Idea of Nation.’ And to see the women, in their t-shirts and kerchiefs, so committed to their country, their nation, their identity. To them, that’s Mexico’s oil, natural gas, electricity, land, and water and it ought to be used by the Mexican people first and foremost for their own national development. But sadly, it’s the public policy emanating from Washington, D.C. that threatens that.

“But to tell that story accurately, would

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Conservative Magazine Blasts Bush Oil Policy in Iraq War

OIL FOR WAR *from p.3*

invasion from the get-go. As Paul Buchheit, founder of Global Initiative Chicago, writes in *American Wars: Illusions and Realities* (Clarity), Halliburton “is the most notorious war profiteer, with over half the Pentagon contracts for war services. Halliburton’s revenue in 2006 was \$22.5 billion, three times its revenue from 2004.”

Recall it was Cheney’s good buddy, war architect Paul Wolfowitz, who told a Congressional panel in March, 2003, Iraq’s oil revenues would fetch up to \$100 billion over the next several years and predicted “we are dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon.” As historian James Carroll noted in *House of War* (Houghton-Mifflin), Wolfowitz as far back as 1992 wrote a “Defense Planning Guidance” document that “imagined war against, yes, Iraq. And the justification for such a war was blatantly identified: the protection of US access to ‘the region’s oil.’”

American motorists are painfully aware the price of a gallon of gas since Bush took office has doubled and that the oil majors are reaping record profits, in Exxon’s case the largest profits of any corporation in history. What many do not know, as Greg Palast pointed out in *Armed Madhouse* (Plume), is the oil firms hold title to vast underground

deposits that are super gushers as prices rise at the pump. The value of Exxon’s reserves, Palast says, have increased by \$666-billion since the war began, and other oil outfits have enjoyed similar windfalls. During World War II, a conflict that began when America was attacked and not the other way around, defense contractors were thrilled to get an eight percent profit. Today, Big Oil is reaping record billions while motorists and home owners struggle to find a way to pay for groceries and heating fuel. And, of course, every time President Bush threatens Iran, he further destabilizes the oil market, pushing prices up higher, *The New Yorker* magazine has reported.

Getting back to *The American Conservative* article, Bryce writes, “In today’s multi-polar world, economic interests, not military force, predominate.” He quotes G.I. Wilson, a recently retired Marine Corps colonel back from Iraq and terrorism authority as stating: “It used to be that the side with the most guns would win.” Today, the side “with the most guns goes bankrupt.”

Hey, isn’t that us? Quick, somebody, warn that man in the White House!

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The Mumia Exception

MUMIA *from p.1*

the rules just to keep Abu-Jamal on course for death. In 1986, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court overturned a death sentence where the same Joseph McGill had made an improper closing statement to jurors in a murder trial. Declaring that McGill’s advice to the jury that their verdict would not be final because of appeals had “minimize[ed] the jury’s sense of responsibility,” the court ordered a new trial. Three years later in 1989, despite this precedent and presented with an identical statement by McGill to Abu-Jamal’s jury, the same court inexplicably reversed itself, leaving Abu-Jamal’s conviction standing. One year later, the court reversed itself again, barring such language by prosecutors “in all future trials,” but not making the decision retroactive for Abu-Jamal.

“Allocation” — the right of a defendant to make a statement to jurors at sentencing without challenge - offers another example of the special handling accorded Abu-Jamal’s case. Just a month before considering Abu-Jamal’s appeal in March 1989, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court

ruled the right of allocation to be of “ancient origin.” The court said failure to permit a defendant to plead for mercy demanded reversal of sentence. But when Abu-Jamal came before the court, saying that the judge had allowed McGill to question Abu-Jamal after his allocation statement, the same court ruled that the “right of allocation does not exist in the penalty phase of capital-murder prosecution.”

This judicial flip-flopping led Amnesty International in its 2001 report on Abu-Jamal’s case to conclude that Pennsylvania’s highest court simply rewrites its rules “to apply to one case only: that of Mumia Abu-Jamal.”

A “Mumia Exception” has been established.

And now this stain on Pennsylvania jurisprudence has migrated to the federal court system at the Third Circuit.

Dave Lindorff, based in Philadelphia, is author of "Killing Time: An Investigation into the Death Penalty Case of Mumia Abu-Jamal." (Common Cause Press, 2003). His work is available at www.thiscantbehappening.net. E-mail him at dlindorff@yahoo.com.

COINTELPRO: Infiltrating the Anti-War Movement

COINTELPRO *from p.1*

Committee on Homeland Defense. Alexander stated, “Oversight of these homeland security missions should be provided by the National Guard Bureau based on the long-standing Garden Plot model in which National Guard units are trained and equipped to support civil authorities in crowd control and civil disturbance missions.”

The use of “plants” and infiltrators, in all their various forms, was commonplace with Garden Plot and COINTELPRO in the 1960s and 70s. The practice has been renewed by the Bush administration, and with the state of current technology, in ways that could only have dreamed about by the original Garden Plot/COINTELPRO planners.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington based investigative journalist. His website is: www.WayneMadsenReport.com

End of the World as We Knew It

PEAK OIL *from p.3*

cultures. In addition, the abrupt halt of fossil-fuel consumption may slow the warming of our planetary home, thereby preventing our extinction at our own hand.

Our individual survival, and our common future, depends on our ability to quickly make other arrangements. We can view this as a personal challenge, or we can take the Hemingway out. The choice is ours.

For individuals interested in making other arrangements, it’s time to start acquiring myriad requisite skills. It is far too late to save civilization for 300 million Americans, much less the rest of the planet’s citizens, but we can take joy in a purpose-filled, intimate life.

It’s time to push away from the shore, to let the winds of change catch the sails of our leaky boat.

It’s time to trust in ourselves, our neighbours and the Earth that sustains us all.

Painful though it might be, it’s time to abandon the cruise ship of empire in exchange for a lifeboat.

Guy R. McPherson is a professor of conservation biology at the University of Arizona.

White House Directed Torture

TORTURE *from p.1*

waterboarding in World War II.

In waterboarding, a prisoner is strapped to a board with his head lower than his feet, while water is poured steadily over his nose and mouth, until his lungs fill with water. Prior to death, the process is stopped and the victim revived, often to endure it yet again. It can leave victims with lung damage, brain damage and death, if they cannot be revived.

Waterboarding was designated as illegal by US generals in the Vietnam War. On January 21, 1968, *The Washington Post* published a controversial photograph of two US soldiers and one South Vietnamese soldier waterboarding a North Vietnamese POW near Da Nang. The photograph led to the soldier being court-martialled by a U.S. military court within one month of its publication, and he was discharged from the army.

Former Navy instructor Malcolm Nance testified before Congress that “Waterboarding is misnamed. That’s just the device that we use. It should be called the drowning torture, and has been called the drowning torture in the past.”

“The person believes they are being killed, and as such, it really amounts to a mock execution, which is illegal under international law,” says John Sifton of Human Rights Watch.

Rice has made many public statements disavowing any use of torture by the United States. In January 2005, she said “[the president] has made very clear to American personnel that we will not condone torture,” and “let me be very clear. The United States doesn’t and can’t condone torture.”

In December 2005, Rice testified that “Torture and conspiracy to commit torture are crimes under US law.”

According to ABC News, in the summer of 2004, Rice told the CIA, regarding the “enhanced interrogation techniques,” “This is your baby; go do it.”

According to ABC, one top official said that John Ashcroft asked out loud after one of the Situation Room meetings, “Why are we talking about this in the White House? History will not judge this kindly.”

Prior to airing the story, ABC reporter Jan Crawford Greenburg contacted all of the committee members. She couldn’t reach John Ashcroft, and all others replied with “no comment” through their spokespersons.

George Tenet sought to receive approval for the techniques from the highest levels so that the CIA agents conducting the interrogations would be protected. He has stated that the interrogation techniques were legal because they were approved by the Attorney General.

At some meetings with Cheney, Rice, Tenet, Rumsfeld and Ashcroft, CIA officers physically acted out the tactics to make sure the group fully understood what the al-Qaida suspects would undergo. “Discussions were so detailed that the interrogations were almost choreographed,” said one source.

Tenet asked the group for permission to combine several interrogation methods at a time, (such as waterboarding an already severely sleep deprived prisoner). Several in the group, including Dick Cheney, gave the okay.

The group then asked the Justice

Department to examine whether using these methods would break domestic or international laws.

“No one at the agency wanted to operate under a notion of winks and nods and assumptions that everyone understood what was being talked about,” said a former senior intelligence official. “People wanted to be assured that everything that was conducted was understood and approved by the folks in the chain of command.”

The Office of Legal Counsel issued at least two opinions on interrogation methods.

In one, dated August 1, 2002, then-Assistant Attorney General Jay Bybee defined torture as covering “only extreme acts” causing pain similar in intensity to that caused by death or organ failure. A second, dated March 14, 2003, justified using harsh tactics on detainees held overseas so long as military interrogators did not specifically intend to torture their captives.

Both legal opinions since have been withdrawn.

In his book the *The Terror Presidency*, Bybee’s successor, Jack Goldsmith, writes that the torture memos had “no foundation” in any “source of law.” Yet they were prized by the administration as offering a “golden shield” against prosecution of CIA agents who used torture.

A senior intelligence official said rescinding the memos caused the CIA to seek even more detailed approvals for the interrogations.

The department issued a memo in October, 2001 that sought to outline novel ways the military could be used domestically to defend the country in the face of an impending attack. The Justice Department has so far refused to release it, citing attorney-client privilege, and Attorney General Michael Mukasey declined to describe it at a Senate panel where Democrats characterized it as a “torture memo.”

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., lambasted what he described as “yet another astonishing disclosure about the Bush administration and its use of torture.”

“Who would have thought that in the United States of America in the 21st century, the top officials of the executive branch would routinely gather in the White House to approve torture?” Kennedy said in a statement. “Long after President Bush has left office, our country will continue to pay the price for his administration’s renegade repudiation of the rule of law and fundamental human rights.”

The American Civil Liberties Union called on Congress to investigate.

“With each new revelation, it is beginning to look like the torture operation was managed and directed out of the White House,” ACLU legislative director Caroline Fredrickson said. “This is what we suspected all along.”

As of this writing, the most watched video in the News and Politics section of YouTube is a two minute film by Robert Greenwald called *Condi Must Go* that contrasts clips of Rice making repeated statements to Congress that “we do not torture,” with the recent expose of her role by ABC News. It was viewed almost 300,000 times in the first 24 hours.

Sheila Casey is a DC area journalist. Her work has appeared in The Progressive Populist, Common Dreams and The Denver Post. She blogs at sheilacasey.com.

News Bites

THE NAKBA: 60 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF “CATASTROPHE”

PALESTINE - On April 9, 1948, Zionist militias invaded the Palestinian village of Deir Yassin, located near Jerusalem, and massacred more than 100 of its inhabitants.

The brutality of the massacre spread fear and panic among Palestinian communities, inducing people to flee their homes and facilitating the ethnic cleansing of Palestine before, during, and after the establishment of the State of Israel in May 1948. Throughout this year, the US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation will be commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Nakba (“catastrophe” in Arabic): the expulsion and dispossession of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and lands in 1948.

NETANYAHU SAYS 9/11 TERROR ATTACKS GOOD FOR ISRAEL

TEL AVIV - The Israeli newspaper *Ma'ariv* reported in April that Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu told an audience at Bar Ilan University that the September 11, 2001 terror attacks had been beneficial for Israel. “We are benefiting from one thing, and that is the attack on the Twin Towers and Pentagon, and the American struggle in Iraq,” *Ma'ariv* quoted the former prime minister as saying. He reportedly added that these events “swung American public opinion in our favor.” Netanyahu made the comments during a conference at Bar-Ilan University on the division of Jerusalem as part of a peace deal with the Palestinians.

FLIGHT 93 SHOT DOWN BY AIR FORCE JETS

WASHINGTON - *Wayne Madsen Report* has received another confirmation that United Flight 93, hijacked on the morning of September 11, 2001, was shot down over rural Pennsylvania by US Air Force jets scrambled from Langley Air Force Base in Virginia. The third confirmation, as were the first two, is from a National Security Agency (NSA) source.

In fact, a number of personnel who were on watch at the Meade Operations Center (MOC), which is a floor below the NSA’s National Security Operations Center (NSOC), were aware that United 93 was brought down by an Air Force air-to-air missile. Personnel within both the MOC and NSOC have reported the doomed aircraft was shot down.

The 9/11 Commission, never interviewed the on-duty signals intelligence personnel who were aware that United 93 was brought down by Air Force jets. The cover-story is that passengers on board the plane struggled with hijackers and flew the plane directly into the ground near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. Investigators have stressed that the 8-mile debris field left by the doomed aircraft proves the government’s story is a hoax.

FBI DOCUMENTS CONTRADICT 9/11 COMMISSION REPORT

WASHINGTON - RawStory reports that newly-released records obtained through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request contradict the 9/11 Commission’s report on the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks and raise fresh questions about the role of Saudi government officials in connection to the hijackers.

The FBI timeline reveals that alleged hijacker Hamza Al-Ghamdi, who the Commission claims was aboard the United Airlines flight which crashed into the South Tower of the World Trade Center, was booked onto several flights scheduled for after the 9/11 attacks, a piece of information not documented in the Commission’s final report. According to the FBI timeline, not only was Al-Ghamdi booked on another United Airlines flight on the very day of the attack; he also had bookings for several other post 9/11 flights, including one on Sept. 20, 2001 from Casablanca, Morocco to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia and another on Sept. 29, 2001 from Riyadh to Damman, Saudi Arabia.

SONNY BONO ‘ASSASSINATED’ BY HIT MEN

ADELAIDE - Sonny Bono, former husband and singing partner of superstar Cher, was clubbed to death by hit men on the orders of drug and weapons dealers who feared he was going to expose them, a former FBI agent claims.

Ted Gunderson, now a private investigator, has told the *US Globe* tabloid that Bono, who served as mayor of Palm Springs, CA for four years, did not die after hitting a tree on a Nevada ski slope in January 1998 as everyone believed.

“It’s nonsense for anyone to now try to suggest that Bono died after crashing into a tree. There’s zero evidence in this autopsy report... to show such an accident happened. Instead, there’s powerful proof he was assassinated.”

The former agent, who has been researching Bono’s accident for the past decade, said top officials linked to an international drug and weapons ring feared the singer-turned-politician was about to expose their crimes - so they had him killed on the slopes.

SCHERING, MERCK HIT BY CHOLESTEROL DRUG FALLOUT

NEW YORK - Schering-Plough shares have dropped 40 percent from their December highs, while Merck shares have fallen by 35 percent, as analysts cut their sales forecasts for the companies shared drugs, Vytorin and Zetia. which generate about \$5 billion in combined annual sales. The drugs’ safety and effectiveness have been questioned since the results of a study were released in January.

The American Stock Exchange Pharmaceutical index .DRG, a barometer of mostly large drug stocks, is off 18 percent over that same period.

DIANA INQUEST REPORTEDLY A SMOKESCREEN

WASHINGTON - *Wayne Madsen Report* has learned from informed sources in Britain that the current inquest into the 1997 death of Princess Diana, her friend Dodi al Fayed, and driver Henri Paul in a Paris auto accident is an attempt to obfuscate the actual details of Diana’s death, reportedly an assassination carried out not by British intelligence agents from MI-6, but, an American hit squad.

Diana made banning land mines her personal cause and as a result of her work she obtained detailed information concerning the legal and illegal proliferation of land mines in all their forms, including chemical and nuclear mines. The knowledge of whom and what were behind this proliferation may have earned Diana a death sentence.

The long involvement of British and American firms, businessmen, and politicians with weapons smuggling, including nuclear weapons smuggling, has left a long paper trail. WMR has learned from a former British Defense Ministry source that the assassination team that dispatched Diana were not MI-6 but a US Navy SEAL team that operates abroad to target individuals who have been sanctioned for assassination.

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