

# Rock Creek Free Press

*Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.*

Vol. 4, No. 4 April 2010

A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Washington, D.C.



## Jesse Ventura: “Huffington Post is Censoring Me.” Here is what they didn’t want you to read:

By JESSE VENTURA

You didn't see anything about it in the mainstream media, but at a recent conference in San Francisco, more than 1,000 architects and engineers signed a petition demanding that Congress begin a new investigation into the destruction of the three World Trade Center skyscrapers on 9/11.

That's right, these people put their reputations in potential jeopardy -- because they don't buy the government's version of events. They want to know how 200,000 tons of steel disintegrated and fell to the ground in 11 seconds. They question whether the hijacked planes were responsible or whether it could have been a controlled demolition from inside that brought down the twin towers and WTC Building 7.

Richard Gage, a member of the American Institute of Architects and the founder of Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, put it like this: “The official Federal Emergency

See VENTURA p. 8

## Pentagon Hired Contract Assassins

By JASON DITZ / ANTIWAR.COM

The Pentagon has promised that it will look into allegations that Pentagon official Michael D. Furlong channeled money to a secret program to create a team of private contractor assassins in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Officials who confirmed the program to the *New York Times* say that Furlong hired former CIA and Special Forces operatives through a program meant to gather information about tribes in the region.

Officials said they couldn't confirm who, if anyone, had signed off on the program, which amounted to an off-the-books spying and assassination ring, but they said Furlong often would brag about his contacts and the attacks he had started.

One of the companies implicated in the report, *International Media Ventures*, is on the books officially as a “media analysis” group. Managed by former US army commandos, the group is said to have been part of Furlong's scheme.

Furlong was listed as the Deputy Commander of the Joint Psychological Operations Support Element for Special Operations Command (SOCOM) from August 2005-February 2008. Since then he is a Strategic Planner and Technology Integration Adviser at Lackland AFB in San Antonio, Texas.

Jason Ditz is news editor of Antiwar.com

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## Rachel Corrie

Seven Years ago Rachel Corrie was crushed by an Israeli bulldozer while peacefully protesting the demolition of Palestinian homes.

March 16th marked the anniversary of the tragic death of International Solidarity Movement (ISM) activist Rachel Corrie. On that day in 2003, Corrie was killed by an Israeli Defence Force (IDF) bulldozer while non-violently resisting the destruction of a Palestinian home. Her death came to symbolize the daily violence faced by Palestinians in the occupied territories as well as the spirit of international solidarity from which democratic socialists throughout the world draw political strength.

Rachel Corrie was so moved by the Palestinian freedom struggle that she took leave from Evergreen State College and joined the ISM in Palestine. After spending a few weeks in the Gaza Strip, Corrie described the Palestinians as “surrounded by murderous towers, tanks, armed ‘settlements’ and now a giant metal wall”.

See CORRIE p. 2



Rachel Corrie 1979 - 2003

## US Readies Cyberwar, Virtual-Flag Terrorism

By WEBSTER G. TARPLEY

Google is now preparing to leave China as a result of this company's stubborn refusal to obey Chinese laws. Google is in effect demanding extraterritoriality and immunity to the legal norms of the host nation, a claim which goes back to the unequal treaties imposed by foreign imperialists, notably the British, on China starting in the 19th century. It is not surprising that the Chinese response to this arrogant interference in the internal affairs of a sovereign state has been stern.

We must also recall that Google was founded with the help of the US intelligence

community, and is now acting as a virtual arm of the US National Security Agency, the electronic espionage department of the US government. Google-NSA's arrogance and hypocrisy are unbearable, especially when we bear in mind the countless times that Google search engines have been used to suppress exposés of the US government's false flag operations, most notably 9/11, and other sensitive topics.

There are two sides to the conflict between Google-NSA and China. One is the Great Cyberwall erected by the Chinese government against attempts by the US-UK to capitalize on ethnic and social tensions inside China to launch a

color revolution, a CIA people-power coup, or postmodern putsch. The other aspect is Google's claim that hackers working for the Chinese government raided Google's e-mail servers. The second charge has been formally denied by the Chinese.

Even as Google prepares to shut down its Chinese operations, something larger and more sinister is looming. The US Wall Street-controlled media are gearing up to educate the public about imminent cyberwarfare and cyber-conflict. We can sense that Andrew Marshall, the Pentagon's infamous octogenarian Yoda

See CYBERWAR p. 7

## Why There Will Be No Recovery

By CHRIS NELDER

When oil crossed \$120 a barrel for the first time in May 2008, oil cornucopians knew they were in trouble...

Prices had quadrupled in just five years, yet had failed to bring new production online. Regular crude had flat lined around 74 million barrels per day (mbpd). The case for peak oil was looking stronger with every new uptick in crude futures.

The following month, prominent peak oil critic and cornucopian Daniel Yergin of IHS-CERA changed his stance: The peak oil threat would be neutralized by peak demand. Gasoline consumption had

peaked in the US and Europe, he argued, due to the combined effects of increasing efficiency, bio-fuels, and the recession.

In 2009 the peak demand story seemed confirmed, as prices stabilized around \$70 in June, and US consumption remained well off its previous high. Most people thought the nearly 2 mbpd decline in US petroleum demand from 2007 through 2009 resulted from efficiency and people driving less.

In reality, only about 15% resulted from reduced gasoline demand. The other 85% was lost in the commercial and industrial sector: jet fuel, distillates

(including diesel), kerosene, petrochemical feedstocks, lubricants, waxes, petroleum coke, asphalt and road oil, and other miscellaneous products.

Very simply, when oil got to \$120 a barrel it cut into real productivity, and forced the world's most developed economies to shrink. At \$147, it wreaked serious damage.

As I explained in “Investment Themes for the Next Decade,” the new normal will be cycles of bumping our heads against the supply ceiling, falling dazed to the floor, rising back to our knees, then finally

See NO RECOVERY p. 5

## Mortgage Crisis Not Over - Second Wave of Foreclosures

How Can Anyone Claim That The Housing Crisis Is Over When The Delinquency Rate On US Mortgages Continues To Explode At An Exponential Rate?

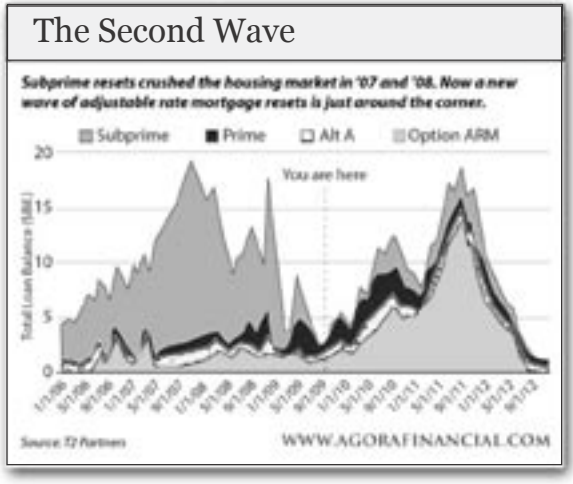
Housing prices have stabilized and are actually slightly increasing in some areas. The tax breaks passed by Congress have encouraged more first-time home buyers to get into the market. So is the US housing crisis over? Will the real estate market be back to normal in no time? If you listen to many of the talking heads on the news channels, you might be tempted to think that the worst of the housing

crisis is behind us and that we are headed towards recovery. But that is not what is happening. The truth is that we are just now getting ready for round two of the real estate nightmare.

Where is the evidence to back up that assertion? Just consider the chart below. The delinquency rate on US residential mortgages continues to explode at an exponential rate.

Note that the rate of mortgage delinquencies is now much, much higher than it was when the housing market was crashing so hard in 2007 and 2008. More people than ever

See FORECLOSURES p. 8



## The Growing Movement for Publicly Owned Banks

*We the people have given away our sovereign money-creating power to private, for-profit lending institutions, which have used it to siphon wealth from the productive economy. Some states are moving to take that power back.*

By ELLEN BROWN

"Hundreds of job-creating projects are still on hold because Michigan businesses and entrepreneurs cannot get bank financing. We can break the credit crunch and beat Wall Street at their own game by keeping our money right here in Michigan and investing it to retool our economy and create jobs."

—Lansing Mayor Virg Bernero in *The Detroit News* March 9, 2010

Michigan, which has an unemployment rate of 14 percent, has been particularly hard hit by the economic downturn. Virg Bernero, mayor of Lansing, the state's capital, and a leading Democratic candidate for governor, proposes to relieve the state's economic ills by opening a state-owned bank. He says the bank could protect consumers by making low-interest

loans to those most in need, including students and small businesses; it could also help community banks by buying mortgages off their books and working with them to fund development projects.

Bernero joins a growing list of candidates proposing this sensible solution to their states' fiscal ills. Local economies have collapsed because of the Wall Street credit freeze. To reinvigorate local business, Main Street needs a heavy infusion of credit, and publicly-owned banks could fill that need.

In a recent article for *YES! Magazine*, I tracked candidates in five states running on a state bank platform and one state (Massachusetts) with a bill pending. Just one month later, there are now three more bills on the rolls—in Washington State,

Illinois and Michigan—and two more candidates joining the list of proponents (joining Bernero is Gaelan Brown of Vermont). That brings the total to seven candidates in as many states (Florida, Oregon, Illinois, California, Washington State, Vermont, and Idaho) campaigning for state-owned banks, including three Democrats, two Greens, one Republican, and one Independent.

The Independent, Vermont's Gaelan Brown, says on his website, “Washington, DC has lost all moral authority over Vermont.” He adds, “Vermont should explore creating a State-owned bank that would work with private VT-based banks, to insulate VT from Wall Street

See BANKS p. 7

## White House Stops Congress From Investigating Anthrax Cover-up

By GEORGE WASHINGTON

In a bizarre, Soviet-style move, the White House has threatened to veto the intelligence budget unless everyone accepts the FBI frame up of Dr. Bruce Ivins.

As Bloomberg writes: "President Barack Obama probably would veto legislation authorizing the next budget for US intelligence agencies if it calls for a new investigation into the 2001 anthrax attacks, an administration official said.

A proposed probe by the intelligence agencies' inspector general "would undermine public confidence" in an FBI probe of the attacks "and unfairly cast doubt on its conclusions," Peter Orszag, director of the Office of Management and Budget, wrote in a letter to leaders of the House and Senate Intelligence committees.

Given that an FBI investigation into a specific crime has nothing to do with the budget or any of OMB's other core responsibilities, it seems that Orszag simply drew the short straw for this little assignment.

The FBI says that the anthrax case is closed, and that they have proved that Dr. Bruce Ivins did it.

See ANTHRAX p. 2

## US Military Secures Afghan Opium Harvest

By ELAINE SULLIVAN / RCFP

The biggest offensive of the Afghanistan War may be one of the biggest lies of the War on Terror. According to the Pentagon, Operation Moshtarak was to be an offensive against Marja — a city of 80,000 people; a city covering more than 80 square miles; a city, according to ABC news, “more heavily populated, urban and dense than other places the Marines have so far been able to clear and hold.” Before and during the offensive, almost every major US news outlet reported similar stories. An expected 400 to 1,000 insurgents were reportedly “holed up” in the southern Afghan town. Operation Moshtarak involved 15,000 US, Afghan and British troops and is the biggest joint operation since the 2001 US-led invasion of Afghanistan.” The only problem: There is no city of Marja.

Marja is in Helmand Province and a quick look on Google Earth will show small homes with their farms; it clearly is not a city of 80,000 people. If you look at Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand Province, on Google

See OPIUM p. 2

## 9/11 Truth Goes Primetime

By SHEILA CASEY / RCFP

In recent weeks, 9/11 truth has burst into the mainstream media in a way not seen in the nine years since the attacks. Although much of the coverage has been in the form of dismissive hit pieces, the fact that the controversy about 9/11 is being covered at all has the effect of legitimizing challenges to the official story.

In our media-saturated culture, pundits and publishers define the boundaries of many people's worlds. If it wasn't covered by their favorite news outlet, many people assume, it must not have happened — or if it did happen, it's simply not important. Then, when the average news consumers talk to their co-workers or neighbors, who also get their news from the same sources, each has their limited view of the world

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# Epidemic Of Vitamin D Deficiency

By Mike Adams/NaturalNews  
There is an epidemic of vitamin D deficiency sweeping across our modern world, and it's an epidemic of such depth and seriousness that it makes the H1N1 swine flu epidemic look like a case of the sniffles by comparison. Vitamin D deficiency is not only alarmingly widespread; it's also a root cause of many other serious diseases such as cancer, diabetes, osteoporosis and heart disease.

A new study published in the March, 2010 issue of the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism* found that a jaw-dropping 59 percent of the population is vitamin D deficient. In addition, nearly 25 percent of the study subjects were found to have extremely low levels of vitamin D.

Lead author of the study, Dr. Richard Kremer at the McGill University Health Center, said "Abnormal levels of vitamin D are associated with a whole spectrum of diseases, including cancer, osteoporosis, and diabetes, as well as cardiovascular and autoimmune disorders."

Recent research carried out at the University of Copenhagen has revealed that vitamin D activates the immune system by "arming" T cells to fight off infections. This new research, led by Professor Carsten Geisler from the Department of International Health, Immunology and Microbiology at the University of Copenhagen, found that without vitamin D, the immune system's T cells remain dormant, offering little or no protection against invading microorganisms and viruses. But with vitamin D in the bloodstream, T cells become "armed" and begin seeking out invaders that are then destroyed and carried out of the body. Your immune system won't function unless it is biochemically activated with vitamin D.

These findings about vitamin D "arming" the immune system were published in *Nature Immunology*. Commenting on the findings, the researchers said, "Scientists have known for a long time that vitamin D is important for calcium absorption and the vitamin has also been implicated in diseases such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, but what we didn't realize is how crucial vitamin D is for actually activating the immune system — which we know now." (UK Telegraph).

What's becoming increasingly clear from all the new research is that vitamin D deficiency may be the common denominator behind our most devastating modern degenerative diseases. Kidney failure patients are almost universally deficient in vitamin D and diabetes patients are usually in the same category. People suffering from cancer almost always demonstrate severe vitamin D deficiency, as do people with osteoporosis and multiple sclerosis.

Many of the businesses and non-profits that depend on cancer (and other diseases) for their authority and power are actively fighting against vitamin D awareness. The National Cancer Institute (NCI), for example, which is one of the wealthiest non-profits in the world, actively runs full-page ads that attempt to scare people away from sunlight, thereby causing them to remain in a state of vitamin D deficiency.

The FDA, similarly, doesn't want people to learn the truth about vitamin D because informed consumers would inevitably take more vitamin D supplements and thereby prevent all sorts of diseases that the pharmaceutical industry is counting on for its monopoly profits.

The NCI doesn't recommend vitamin D, nor does Komen for the Cure. The AHA, AMA, ADA and FDA all refuse to recommend vitamin D, all

while strongly promoting synthetic, patented high-profit medications that cure nothing.

Again and again, vitamin D turns out to be safer, more effective and far more affordable than expensive monopoly-priced medications. Plus, it's obviously innately compatible with the human body since the human body actually manufactures vitamin D when given the opportunity (and exposure to sunlight).

Furthermore, unlike pharmaceuticals, vitamin D is safe for the environment. Flushing excess vitamin D down the drain doesn't contaminate the fish like pharmaceuticals do (http://www.naturalnews.com/025933\_p...).

With all these things being true about vitamin D, it all makes you wonder: Why isn't health care reform even talking about this nutrient? If you really want to reform the health of a nation, you have to start by correcting the epidemic of vitamin D deficiency across the population.

When it comes to keeping people healthy, all the drugs in the world can't accomplish what vitamin D can accomplish... simply, affordably and safely.

You can get it for free. No prescription required. No visit to the doctor. You don't even need to buy supplements to get this. Just walk outside, under the sun, and initiate your own healing.

That very idea -- that patients can cure their own cancers by taking a walk in nature -- is the most fearful thing in the world to the cancer and vaccine industries. Big Pharma is horrified at the idea of people becoming nutritionally literate and realizing that vitamin D, all by itself, eliminates the need for potentially hundreds of different medications and vaccines. It activates healing, it defends the body against disease, and it's the single greatest threat to the profitability of the sick-care industry that dominates medicine today.

Mike Adams is the Health Ranger. He writes on health matters at NaturalNews.com

# White House Enforces Anthrax Cover-up

ANTHRAX from p. 1  
But Congress is not convinced. On March 3, 2010, Representative Holt called for a new investigation:

Holt succeeded in including language in the 2010 Intelligence Authorization Bill that would require the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community to examine the possibility of a foreign connection to the 2001 anthrax attacks.

"The American people need credible answers to all of these and many other questions. Only a comprehensive investigation—either by the Congress, or through the independent commission I've proposed in the Anthrax Attacks Investigation Act (H.R. 1248)—can give us those answers," Holt said in a letter to the Chairmen of the House Committees on Homeland Security, Judiciary, Intelligence, and Oversight and Government Reform.

The next day, Representative Jerrold Nadler - Chair of the

House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties - joined in Holt's call for a new investigation:

Despite the FBI's assertion that the case of the anthrax attacks is closed, there are still many troubling questions. For example, in a 2008 Judiciary Committee hearing, I asked FBI Director Robert Mueller whether Bruce Ivins was capable of producing the weaponized anthrax that was used in the attacks. To this day, it is still far from clear that Mr. Ivins had either the know-how or access to the equipment needed to produce the material. Because the FBI has not sufficiently answered such questions, I join Congressman Holt in urging an independent investigation of the case.

Maryland Republican Congressman Roscoe Bartlett and other congressmen have also joined in the call for a new investigation.

In fact, the only airtight case is against the FBI.

Glenn Greenwald of *Slate* has

# Central Figure in CDC Vaccine-Autism Cover-Up Absconds With \$2M

HUFFINGTON POST

A central figure behind the Center for Disease Control's (CDC) claims disputing the link between vaccines and autism and other neurological disorders has disappeared after officials discovered massive fraud involving the theft of millions in taxpayer dollars. Danish police are investigating Dr. Poul Thorsen, who has vanished along with almost \$2 million that he had supposedly spent on research.

Thorsen was a leading member of a Danish research group that wrote several key studies supporting CDC's claims that the MMR vaccine and mercury-laden vaccines were safe for children. Thorsen's 2003 Danish study reported a 20-fold increase in autism in Denmark after that country banned mercury-based preservatives in its vaccines. His study concluded that mercury could therefore not be the culprit behind the autism epidemic.

His study has long been criticized as fraudulent since it failed to disclose that the increase was an artifact of new mandates requiring, for the first time, that autism cases be reported on the national registry. This new law and the opening of a clinic dedicated to autism treatment in Copenhagen accounted for the sudden rise in reported cases rather than, as Thorsen seemed to suggest, the

removal of mercury from vaccines. Despite this obvious chicanery, CDC has long touted the study as the principal proof that mercury-laced vaccines are safe for infants and young children. Mainstream media, particularly the *New York Times*, has relied on this study as the basis for its public assurances that it is safe to inject young children with mercury — a potent neurotoxin — at concentrations hundreds of times over the US safety limits.

Thorsen, who was a psychiatrist and not a research scientist or toxicologist, parlayed that study into a long-term relationship with CDC. He built a research empire called the North Atlantic Epidemiology Alliances (NANEA) that advertised its close association with the CDC autism team, a relationship that had the agency paying Thorsen and his research staff millions of dollars to churn out research papers, many of them assuring the public on the issue of vaccine safety.

The discovery of Thorsen's fraud came as the result of an investigation by Aarhus University and the CDC which discovered that Thorsen had falsified documents and, in violation of university rules, was accepting salaries from both the Danish university and Emory University in Atlanta — near

provided a concise summary of the issue:

"The administration is ... threatening to veto the bill because it contains funding for a new investigation of the 2001 anthrax attacks, on the ground that such an investigation -- in the administration's words -- "would undermine public confidence" in the FBI probe of the attacks "and unfairly cast doubt on its conclusions."

As I've documented at length, not only are there enormous, unresolved holes in the FBI's case, but many of the most establishment-defending mainstream sources -- from leading newspaper editorial pages to key politicians in both parties -- have expressed extreme doubts about the FBI's case and called for an independent investigation. For the administration to actively block an independent review of one of the most consequential political crimes of this generation would probably be its worst act yet, and that's saying quite a bit."

- Glenn Greenwald



# US Military Secures Afghan Opium Harvest

OPIUM from p. 1  
Earth you can easily see it is a city with neighborhoods and surrounded by farmland. Taseo.com lists 117 Afghan cities by population, from Kabul with 2,272,000 to Jurm with 2100; Marja is not listed.

Investigative journalist, Gareth Porter, reporting for Inter Press News Service (IPS) reports that "Marja is not a city or even a real town, but either a few clusters of farmers' homes or a large agricultural area covering much of the southern Helmand River Valley." According to an official of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) "The only population numbering tens of thousands associated with Marja is spread across many villages and almost 125 square miles." (Gareth Porter, "Fiction of Marja as City Was US Information War," IPS, March 8, 2010). The only "city" within a hundred miles is the capital of the province, Lashkar Gah with a population of 36,600.

Porter interviewed Richard B. Scott, who worked in Marja as recently as 2005 as an adviser on irrigation for the US Agency for International Development; Scott claims that "Marja has nothing that could be mistaken as being urban. Marja is an 'agricultural district' with a 'scattered series of farmers' markets."

According to Porter this idea that Marja is a city began with a briefing given February 2 by officials at Camp Leatherneck, the US Marine base there. Articles began to be published and news stories aired claiming, among other things, that Marja was a city, "the biggest town under Taliban Control", and "the linchpin of the militants' logistical and opium-smuggling network." ABC news cited a population of 125,000 people living in the "town and surrounding villages." The Associated Press (AP) referred to Marja as having "three markets in town — which covers 80

square miles..." Porter points out that a city covering 80 square miles would be bigger than such cities as Washington, DC, Pittsburgh or Cleveland.

This is not a mistake in demographics or a mistake in the briefing at Camp Leatherneck. This is, as Porter contends, a "...decision to hype up Marja as the objective of Operation Mosharak by planting the false impression that it is a good-sized city."

Porter goes on to say, "A central task of 'information operations' in counterinsurgency wars is establishing the COIN[counterinsurgency] narrative', according to the *Army Counterinsurgency Field Manual* as revised under Gen. David Petraeus in 2006.

"The COIN manual asserts that news media 'directly influence the attitude of key audiences toward counterinsurgents, their operations and the opposing insurgency.' The manual refers to 'a war of perceptions...conducted continuously using the news media.'"

"Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, commander of ISAF, was clearly preparing to wage such a war in advance of the Marja operation. In remarks made just before the offensive began, McChrystal invoked the language of the counterinsurgency manual, saying, "This is all a war of perceptions.'"

"The *Washington Post* reported February 22 that the decision to launch the offensive against Marja was intended largely to impress US public opinion with the effectiveness of the US military in Afghanistan by showing that it could achieve a 'large and loud victory.'"

And large and loud it was. According to Wikipedia, "On February 13, two hours before dawn at 4 am local time the first of 90 Chinook and Cobra helicopters disgorged a force of British, Afghan and French troops."

The offensive ended 5 days later on February 18<sup>th</sup>. According to an AP report, "Marines uncovered dozens of Taliban-issued ID cards, official Taliban letterhead stationery and government stamps. They also found graduation diplomas from an insurgent training camp in Baluchistan ... along with photos of fighters posing with their AK-47 assault rifles." (Alfred de Montesquiou, "US Marines seize Taliban headquarters, IDs, photos", AP Feb. 19, 2010).

All of this seems a little much just to show the American people how well the war in Afghanistan is going. If you look a little closer at the history of Helmand Province it is interesting to note that Marja is in the area referred to as the "opium belt" and Helmand Province is the world's largest opium-producing region, responsible for 42% of the world's supply. Marja is also a part of the Helmand-Arghandab Valley (HVA) irrigation system.. The HVA has strong connections with George H. W. "Poppy" Bush going back to the 1970s when opium production reached all-time yields (see the Wayne Madsen article on page 6). Also, we are heading into poppy harvesting time. With the historical connections between the Bush family, the CIA and the poppy fields of Afghanistan, it seems that the large deployment of troops to Marja wasn't to secure the region from the Taliban, but to secure the poppy fields for the US drug trade.

US intelligence sources estimated at least 120 Taliban fighters were killed and 6 coalition troops. An assessment by the Afghan Red Cross Society claims the conflict left 35 civilians dead, 37 injured and 55 houses destroyed. Also a casualty: The Truth.

Elaine Sullivan is the health editor for the Rock Creek Free Press and a homeschooling mom.



CORRIE from p. 1

House demolitions and military incursions by the IDF intensified throughout early 2003. ISM activists and their Palestinian counterparts countered this repression with daily acts of heroic non-violent direct action by placing their bodies in front of bulldozers and heavily armed military units.

On March 16, 2003, acting under the pretense of eliminating guerilla hideouts and smuggling tunnels, the IDF attempted to destroy the house of Palestinian pharmacist Samir Nasrallah. Rachel Corrie, along

with several other ISM activists, formed a human shield in front of the house. Witnesses from the ISM, in a report compiled by the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, testified that the IDF bulldozer driver could clearly see Corrie, who was dressed in the standard ISM fluorescent vest, yet proceeded to crush her to death with the blade of the bulldozer.

Corrie's death became an international news event that helped to shed more light on the daily brutality of the Israeli occupation of Palestine. Many more Palestinians have died since 2003. Most perish in anonymity — nameless and faceless victims of a never-ending cycle of occupation and repression. They are known only to family members who are left to bury and mourn them, wondering how many

sacrifice should be commemorated. It gives testimony to the capacity of youth in the United States to take action in support of greater freedom and justice in the world. Too often, young people accept the position created for them by capitalism — to live empty lives centered on consumption with no hope for political change. Rachel Corrie became an active participant in history and her death contributed to the continuing struggle for Palestinian freedom.

She reminds us that Americans have a special responsibility to help end the conflict between Israel and Palestine. We can continue the work of Rachel Corrie by raising the demand for an immediate end to all US aid to Israel. As she said so clearly in an email to her parents: "I am in the midst of a genocide which I am also indirectly supporting, and for which my government is largely responsible." Remember Rachel Corrie by supporting the creation of a new foreign policy built upon social values of international solidarity and peace.

Many more Palestinians have died since 2003. Most perish in anonymity — nameless and faceless victims of a never-ending cycle of occupation and repression.

More victims there will be. While Corrie's death drew international outrage, the loss of life on the part of Palestinians is seldom recognized.

Still Rachel Corrie's life and



# Rock Creek Free Press

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## A FIERCELY INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

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### The Road to Armageddon

By PAUL CRAIG ROBERTS  
*The Washington Times* is a newspaper that looks with favor upon the Bush/Cheney/Obama/neocon wars of aggression in the Middle East and favors making terrorists pay for 9/11. Therefore, I was surprised to learn on February 24 that the most popular story on the paper's website for the past three days was the "Inside the Beltway" report, "Explosive News," about the 31 press conferences in cities in the US and abroad on February 19 held by Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth, an organization of professionals which now has 1,000 members.

I was even more surprised that the news report treated the press conference seriously. How did three World Trade Center skyscrapers suddenly disintegrate into fine dust? How did massive steel beams in three skyscrapers suddenly fail as a result of short-lived, isolated, and low temperature fires? "A thousand architects and engineers want to know, and are calling on Congress to order a new investigation into the destruction of the Twin Towers and Building 7," reports the *Washington Times*.

The paper reports that the architects and engineers have concluded that the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the National Institute of Standards and Technology provided "insufficient, contradictory and fraudulent accounts of the circumstances of the towers' destruction" and are "calling for a grand jury investigation of NIST officials."

The newspaper reports that Richard Gage, the spokesperson for the architects and engineers said: "Government officials will be notified that "Misprision of Treason," US Code 18 (Sec. 2382) is a serious federal offense, which requires those with evidence of treason to act. The implications are enormous and may have profound impact on the forthcoming Khalid Sheikh Mohammed trial."

There is now an organization of Firefighters for 9/11 Truth. At a press conference in San Francisco, Eric Lawyer, the head of that organization, announced the firefighters' support for the architects and engineers' demands. He reported that no forensic investigation was made of the fires that are alleged to have destroyed the three buildings and that this failure constitutes a crime.

Mandated procedures were not followed, and instead of being preserved and investigated, the crime scene was destroyed. He also reported that there are more than one hundred first responders who heard and experienced explosions and that there is radio, audio and video evidence of explosions.

Also at the press conference, physicist Steven Jones presented the evidence of nano-thermite in the residue of the WTC buildings found by University of Copenhagen nano-chemist Professor Niels Harrit. Nano-thermite is a high-tech explosive/pyrotechnic capable of instantly melting steel girders.

Before we yell "conspiracy theory," we should be aware that the architects, engineers, firefighters, and scientists offer no theory. They provide evidence that challenges the official theory. This evidence is not going to go away.

If expressing doubts or reservations about the official story in the 9/11 Commission Report makes a person a conspiracy theory kook, then we have to include both co-chairmen of the 9/11 Commission and the Commission's legal counsel, all of whom have written books in which they clearly state that they were lied to by government officials when they conducted their investigation, or, rather, when they presided over the investigation conducted by executive director Philip Zelikow, a member of President George W. Bush's transition team and Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board and a co-author of Bush Secretary of State Condi "Mushroom Cloud" Rice's book.

There will always be Americans who will believe whatever the government tells them, no matter how many times they know the government has lied to them. Despite expensive wars that threaten Social Security and Medicare (wars based on non-existent Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, non-existent Saddam Hussein connections to al Qaida, non-existent Afghan participation in the 9/11 attacks, and the non-existent Iranian nukes that are being hyped as the reason for the next American war of aggression in the Middle East) more than half of the US population still believes the fantastic story that the government has told them about 9/11, a Muslim conspiracy that outwitted the entire Western world.

Moreover, it doesn't matter to these Americans how often the government changes its story. For example, Americans first heard of Osama bin Laden because the Bush regime pinned the 9/11 attacks on him. Over the years video after video was served up to the gullible American public of bin Laden's pronouncements. Experts dismissed the videos as fakes, but Americans remained their gullible selves. Then suddenly last year, a new 9/11 "mastermind" emerged to take bin Laden's place, the captive Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the detainee waterboarded 183 times until he confessed to masterminding the 9/11 attack.

In the Middle Ages, confessions extracted by torture constituted evidence, but self-incrimination has been a no-no in the US legal system since our founding. But with the Bush regime and the Republican federal judges, who we were assured would defend the US Constitution, the self-incrimination of Sheikh Mohammed stands today as the only evidence the US government has that Muslim terrorists pulled off 9/11.

If a person considers the feats attributed to Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, they are simply

unbelievable. Sheikh Mohammed is a more brilliant, capable superhero than V in the fantasy movie, "V for Vendetta." Sheik Mohammed outwitted all 16 US intelligence agencies along with those of all US allies or puppets, including Israel's Mossad. No intelligence service on earth, or all of them combined, was a match for Sheikh Mohammed.

Sheik Mohammed outwitted the US National Security Council, Dick Cheney, the Pentagon, the State Department, NORAD, the US Air Force, and Air Traffic Control. He caused Airport Security to fail four times in one morning. He caused the state-of-the-art air defenses of the Pentagon to fail, allowing a hijacked airliner, which was off course all morning, to crash into the Pentagon while the US Air Force, for the first time in history, was unable to get aloft interceptor aircraft, .

Sheik Mohammed was able to perform these feats with unqualified pilots.

Sheik Mohammed, even as a waterboarded detainee, has managed to prevent the FBI from releasing the many confiscated videos that would show, according to the official story, the hijacked airliner hitting the Penagon.

How naive do you have to be to believe that any human, or for that matter Hollywood fantasy character, is this powerful and capable?

If Sheik Mohammed has these superhuman capabilities, how did the incompetent Americans catch him? This guy is a patsy tortured into confession in order to keep the American naifs believing the government's conspiracy theory.

What is going on here is that the US government has to bring the 9/11 mystery to an end. The government must put on trial and convict a culprit so that it can close the case before it explodes. Anyone waterboarded 183 times would confess to anything.

The US government has responded to the evidence being arrayed against its outlandish 9/11 conspiracy theory by redefining the war on terror from external to internal enemies. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said on February 21 that American extremists are now as big a concern as international terrorists. Extremists, of course, are people who get in the way of the government's agenda, such as the 1,000 Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth. The group used to be 100, now it is 1,000. What if it becomes 10,000?

Cass Sunstein, an Obama regime official, has a solution for the 9/11 skeptics: Infiltrate them and provoke them into statements and actions that can be used to discredit or to arrest them. But get rid of them at all cost.

Why employ such extreme measures against alleged kooks if they provide only entertainment and laughs? Is the government worried that they are on to something?

Instead, why doesn't the US government simply confront the evidence that is presented and answer it?

If the architects, engineers, firefighters, and scientists are merely kooks, it would be a simple matter to acknowledge their evidence and refute it. Why is it necessary to infiltrate them with police agents and to set them up?

Many Americans would reply that "their" government would never even dream of killing Americans by hijacking airliners and destroying buildings in order to advance a government agenda. But on February 3, National Intelligence Director Dennis Blair told the House Intelligence Committee that the US government can assassinate its own citizens when they are overseas. No arrest, trial, or conviction of a capital crime is necessary. Just straight out murder.

Obviously, if the US government can murder its citizens abroad it can murder them at home, and has done so. For example, 100 Branch Davidians were murdered in Waco, Texas, by the Clinton administration for no legitimate reason. The government just decided to use its power, knowing that it could get away with it, which it did.

Americans who think "their" government is some kind of morally pure operation would do well to familiarize themselves with Operation Northwoods. Operation Northwoods was a plot drawn up by the US Joint Chiefs of Staff for the CIA to commit acts of terrorism in American cities and fabricate evidence blaming Castro so that the US could gain domestic and international support for regime change in Cuba. The secret plan was nixed by President John F. Kennedy and was declassified by the John F. Kennedy Assassination Records Review Board. It is available online in the National Security Archive. There are numerous online accounts available, including Wikipedia's. James Bamford's book, *Body of Secrets*, also summarizes the plot:

"Operation Northwoods, which had the written approval of the Chairman [Gen. Lemnitzer] and every member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, called for innocent people to be shot on American streets; for boats carrying refugees fleeing Cuba to be sunk on the high seas; for a wave of violent terrorism to be launched in Washington, DC, Miami, and elsewhere. People would be framed for bombings they did not commit; planes would be hijacked. Using phony evidence, all of it would be blamed on Castro, thus giving Lemnitzer and his cabal the excuse, as well as the public and international backing, they needed to launch their war."

Prior to 9/11 the American neoconservatives were explicit that the wars of aggression that they intended to launch in the Middle East required "a new Pearl Harbor."

For their own good and that of the wider world, See ARMAGEDDON p. 8



### Disclosure Should Be Required For New Recruits

EXERPTED FROM WILLIAM BLUM'S "ANTI EMPIRE REPORT"

About half the states in the US require that a woman seeking an abortion be told certain things before she can obtain the medical procedure. In South Dakota, for example, until a few months ago, staff was required to tell women: "The abortion will terminate the life of a whole, separate, unique, living human being"; the pregnant woman has "an existing relationship with that unborn human being," a relationship protected by the US Constitution and the laws of South Dakota; and a "known medical risk" of abortion is an "increased risk of suicide ideation and suicide." A federal judge has now eliminated the second and third required assertions, calling them "untruthful and misleading."

I'd like to suggest that before a young American man or woman can enlist in the armed forces s/he must be told the following by the staff of the

military recruitment office:

"The United States is at war [this statement is always factually correct]. You will likely be sent to a battlefield where you will be expected to do your best to terminate the lives of whole, separate, unique, living human beings you know nothing about and who have never done you or your country any harm. You may, in the process, lose an arm or a leg or your life. If you come home alive and with all your body parts intact, there's a good chance you will be suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder. Do not expect the government to provide you particularly good care for that, or any care at all. In any case, you may wind up physically abusing your spouse and children and/or others, killing various individuals, abusing drugs and/or alcohol, and having an increased risk of suicide ideation and suicide. No matter how bad a condition you may be in, the Pentagon may send you back to the battlefield for another tour of

duty. They call this 'stop-loss'. Your only alternative may be to go AWOL. Do you have any friends in Canada? And don't ever ask any of your officers what we're fighting for. Even the generals don't know. In fact, the generals especially don't know. They would never have reached their high position if they had been able to go beyond the propaganda we're all fed, the same propaganda that has influenced you to come to this office."

Since for so many young people in recent years one of the determining factors in their enlistment has been the economy, this additional thought should be pointed out to them — "You are enlisting to fight, and perhaps die, for a country that can't even provide you with a decent job, or any job at all."

*William Blum is an historian, and critic of United States foreign policy. He is author of Rogue State, Killing Hope and other books. He blogs at KillingHope.org.*

### Iceland, Greece, US Campuses: The World Fights Back Against Wall Street's Depression

By WEBSTER TARPLEY

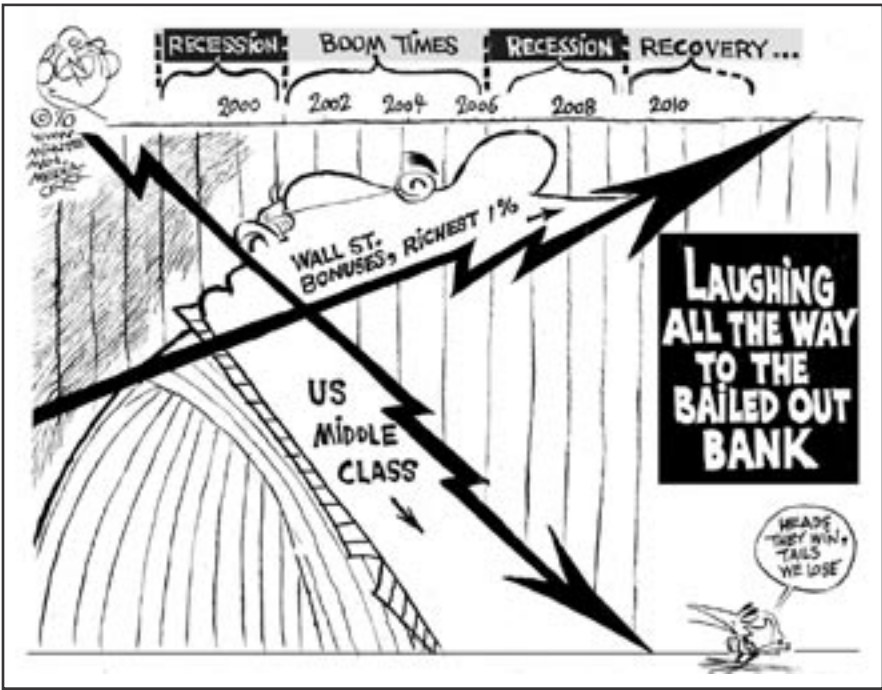
In this second spring of the world economic depression, mass actions against Wall Street and the international banking cartel are sweeping the world. In Iceland, 92% of voters have rejected an attempt by Great Britain and the Netherlands to extort by means of sheer blackmail some \$6 billion in private debts from the Icelandic people with the help of the International Monetary

Fund. In Greece, the labor movement and its allies have mounted two general strikes against the brutal austerity measures decreed by the Papandreou regime. The measures are a response to attacks by hedge fund hyena George Soros and the jackals at Goldman Sachs against Greek government bonds in the framework of a "bear raid" against the euro. Here in the US, more than 100 campuses in 33 states have seen

large-scale demonstrations against tuition increases imposed as part of the nightmare of cuts and austerity demanded by Wall Street through its Democratic and Republican politician puppets. This is the most significant US student mobilization in years.

Mass struggles are indispensable, but without a planned program they cannot be decisive. An important programmatic initiative comes from Europe, where the European Parliament in Brussels has voted by 536 to 80 to demand a Tobin tax on speculative transactions in derivatives, stocks, bonds, and currencies. In Great Britain, many MPs of the Labour Party are trying to save themselves from certain doom in the upcoming general election by campaigning on the Robin Hood tax, a version of the Tobin tax or Wall Street sales tax. Details of this campaign are at robinhoodtax.org.uk. This is the retaliation the banks fear most, and it is needed here.

Left-wing Democrats including Kucinich and Lynn Wolsey have now capitulated to Obama's health care plan, which they know is a bailout for insurance companies and a looting of Medicare for this purpose. With this, the Democratic Party joins the GOP in absolute moral and political bankruptcy. We must build an alternative political force that will be anti-war, anti-dictatorship, anti-Wall Street, and anti-Federal Reserve.



### Schools Should Pledge To Follow The First Amendment

By DAVID L. HUDSON JR.

It has happened again. Another public school student has been punished for refusing to stand and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. Once again a public school official apparently needs a history lesson on the First Amendment and freedom.

Nearly 70 years ago, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette (1943) that public school officials could not force students to salute the flag and recite the "Pledge of Allegiance". Writing for the Court, Justice Robert Jackson opined that "if there is any fixed star in our constitutional constellation, it is that no official, high or petty, shall prescribe what shall be orthodox in matters of politics, nationalism, religion, or force citizens to confess by word or act their faith therein."

This lofty language means that the government cannot compel public school students to agree with the messages of

the "Pledge of Allegiance"; they can't force patriotism down the throats of students who wish to abstain from the recitation.

That's what makes the news out of Maryland's Montgomery County disturbing. According to news reports, in late January a middle school teacher at Roberto Clemente Middle School in Germantown had a school security officer escort a 13-year-old girl from his classroom for refusing to stand and recite the Pledge.

The ACLU of Maryland wrote a Feb. 5 letter to school officials, stating: "The law is crystal clear that a public school cannot embarrass or harass a student for maintaining a respectful silence during the Pledge." As my colleague Gene Policinski, executive director of the First Amendment Center, wrote about a Pledge flap in Arkansas, students have "the right to stand up for their rights by sitting down."

A Feb. 24 *Washington Post* article

reported that school officials had agreed to apologize to the student. A spokesperson for the school stated that the teacher acted contrary to school policy: "Our teachers are expected to know the students' rights and responsibilities. ... A mistake has been made, and it will be rectified."

This kind of controversy pops up from time to time — a confusion over student rights that collides with a school official's personal sense of patriotism, order or authority.

What should come to mind is a sense that — as noted by the Supreme Court in its landmark 1969 decision Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist. — students do not leave their rights at the schoolhouse gate.

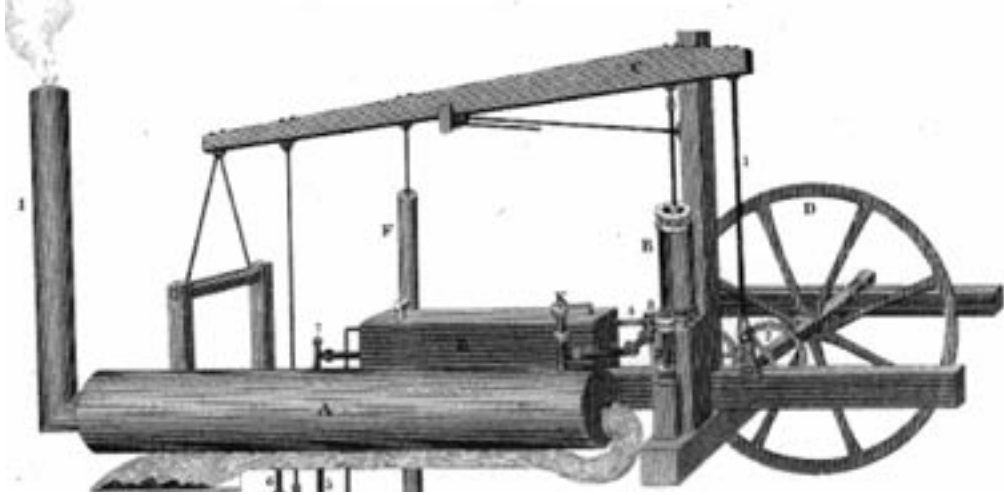
And that's a principle we all can stand up for.

*By David L. Hudson Jr., First Amendment scholar with First Amendment Watch.*









# Energy Follows Its Bliss

By John Michael Greer

Industrial civilization is a complicated thing, and its decline and fall bids fair to be more complicated still, but both rest on the refreshingly simple foundations of physical law. That's crucial to keep in mind, because the raw emotional impact of the unwelcome future breathing down our necks just now can make it far too easy to retreat into one form or another of self-deception.

Plenty of the new energy technologies discussed so enthusiastically on the internet these days might as well be poster children for this effect. I think most people in the peak oil community are aware by now, for example, that the sweeping plans made for ethanol production from American corn as a solution to petroleum depletion neglected one minor but important detail: all things considered, growing corn and turning it into ethanol uses more energy than you get back from burning the ethanol. It's not at all surprising that this was missed, for the same variety of bad logic underlies an astonishing amount of our collective conversation about energy these days.

The fundamental mistake that drove the ethanol boom and bust seems to be hardwired into our culture. Here's an example. Most bright American ten-year-olds, about the time they learn about electric motors and generators, come up with the scheme of hooking up a motor and a generator to the same axle, running the electricity from the generator back to the motor, and using the result to power a vehicle. It seems perfectly logical; the motor drives the generator, the generator powers the motor, perpetual motion results, you hook it up to wheels or the like, and away you drive on free energy. Yes, I was one of those ten-year-olds, and somewhere around here I may still have one of the drawings I made of the car I planned to build when I turned sixteen, using that technology for the engine.

Of course it didn't work. Not only couldn't I get the device to power my bicycle – that was how I planned on testing the technology out – I couldn't even make the thing run without a load connected to it at all. No matter how carefully I hooked up a toy motor to a generator salvaged from an old bicycle light, fitted a flywheel to one end of the shaft, and gave it a spin, the thing turned over a few times and then slowed to a halt. What interests me most about all this in retrospect, though, is that the adults with whom I discussed my project knew that it wouldn't work, and told me so, but had the dickens of a time explaining why it didn't work in terms that a bright ten year old could grasp.

This isn't because the subject is overly complicated. The reason why perpetual motion won't work is breathtakingly simple; the problem is that the way most people nowadays think about energy makes it almost impossible to grasp the logic involved. Most people think that since energy can be defined as the capacity to do work, if you have a certain amount of energy, you can do a certain amount of work with it. That seems very logical; the problem is that the real world doesn't work that way.

In the real world, you have to take at least two other things into account. The first of them, of course, has seen a fair amount of discussion in peak oil circles: to figure out the effective energy yield of any energy source, you have to subtract the amount of energy needed to extract that energy source and put the energy in it to work. That's the problem of net energy, and it's the trap that's clamped tightly onto the tender portions of the American ethanol industry; ethanol from corn only makes sense as an energy source if you ignore how much energy has to go into producing it.

The second issue, though, is the one I want to stress here. It's seen a lot less discussion, but it's even more important than the issue of net energy, and it unfolds from the most ironclad of all the laws of physics, the second law of thermodynamics. The point that needs to be understood is that how much energy you happen to have on hand, even after subtracting the energy cost, doesn't actually matter a bit when it comes to doing work. The amount of work you get out of a given energy source depends, not on the amount of energy, but on the difference in energy concentration between the energy source and the environment.

Please read that again: The amount of work you get out of a given energy source depends, not on the amount of energy it contains, but on the difference in energy concentration between the energy source and the environment.

Got that? Now let's take a closer look at it. Left to itself, energy always moves from more concentrated states to less concentrated states; this is why the coffee in your morning

cuppa gets cold if you leave it on the table too long. The heat that was in the coffee still exists, because energy is neither created nor destroyed; it's simply become useless to you because most of it's dispersed into the environment, raising the air temperature in your dining room by a fraction of a degree. There's still heat in the coffee as well, since it stops losing heat when it reaches room temperature and doesn't continue down to absolute zero, but room temperature coffee is not going to do the work of warming your insides on a cold winter morning.

In a very small way, as you sit there considering your cold coffee, you're facing an energy crisis; the energy resources you have on hand (the remaining heat in the coffee) will not do the work you want them to do (warming your insides). Notice, though, that you're not suffering from an energy shortage – there's exactly the same amount of energy in the dining room as there was when the coffee was fresh from the coffeepot. No, what you have is a shortage of the difference between energy concentrations that will allow the energy to do useful work. (The technical term for this is exergy). How do you solve your energy crisis? One way or another, you have to increase the energy concentration in your energy source relative to the room temperature environment. You might do that by dumping your cold coffee down the drain and pouring yourself a fresh cup, say, or by putting your existing cup on a cup warmer. Either way, though, you have to get some energy to do the work, and that means letting it go from higher to lower concentrations.

Any time you make energy do anything, you have to let some of it follow its bliss, so to speak, and pass from a higher concentration to a lower one. The more work you want done, the more exergy you use up; you can do it by allowing a smaller amount of highly concentrated energy to disperse, or by allowing a much larger amount of modestly concentrated energy to do so, or anything in between. One way or another, though, the total difference in energy concentration between source and environment – the total exergy – decreases when work is done. Mind you, you can make energy do plenty of tricks if you're willing to pay its price; you can change it from one form to another, and you can even concentrate one amount of energy by sacrificing a much larger amount to waste heat; but one way or another, the total exergy in the system goes down.

This is why my great discovery at age ten didn't revolutionize the world and make me rich and famous, as I briefly hoped it would. Electric motors and generators are ways of turning energy from one form into another – from electricity into rotary motion, on the one hand, and from rotary motion into electricity on the other. Each of them necessarily disperses some energy, and thus loses some exergy, in the process. Thus the amount of electricity that you get out of the generator when the shaft is turning at any given speed will always be less than the amount of electricity the motor needs to get the shaft up to that speed.

This gets missed whenever people assume that the amount of energy, rather than its concentration, is the thing that matters. Post something on the internet about energy as a limiting factor for civilization and dollars will get you doughnuts that somebody will respond by insisting that the amount of energy in the universe is infinite. Now of course Garrett Hardin was quite right to point out in *Filters Against Folly* that when somebody says "X is infinite," what's actually being said is "I refuse to think about X;" the word "infinite" functions as a thoughtstopper, a way to avoid paying attention to something that's too uncomfortable to consider closely.

Still, there's another dimension to the problem, and it follows from the points already raised here. Whether or not there's an infinite amount of energy in the universe – and we simply don't know one way or the other – we can be absolutely sure that the amount of highly concentrated energy in the small corner of the universe we can easily access is sharply and distressingly finite. Since energy always tries to follow its bliss, highly concentrated energy sources are very rare, and only occur when very particular conditions happen to be met.

In the part of the cosmos that affects us directly, one set of those conditions exist in the heart of the sun, where gravitational pressure squeezes hydrogen nuclei so hard that they fuse into helium. Another set exists here on the Earth's surface, where plants concentrate energy in their tissues by tapping into the flow of energy dispersing from the sun, and other living things do the same thing by tapping into the energy supplies created by plants. Now and again in the history of life on Earth, a special set of

conditions has allowed energy stockpiled by plants to be buried and concentrated further by slow geological processes, yielding the fossil fuels that we now burn so recklessly. There are a few other contexts in which energy can be had in concentrated forms – kinetic energy from water and wind, both of them ultimately driven by sunlight; heat from within the Earth, caught and harnessed as it slowly disperses toward space; a handful of scarce and unstable radioactive elements that can be coaxed into nuclear misbehavior under exacting conditions – but the vast majority of the energy we have on hand here on Earth comes directly or indirectly from the sun.

That in itself defines our problem neatly, because by the time it gets through 93 million miles of deep space, and then filters its way down through the Earth's relatively murky atmosphere, the energy in sunlight is pretty thoroughly dispersed. That's why green plants stockpile only about 1% of the energy in the light striking their leaves; the rest either bounces off the leaves or gets dispersed into waste heat in the process of keeping the plant alive and enabling it to manufacture the sugars that store the 1%. Sunlight just isn't that concentrated, and you have to disperse one heck of a lot of it to get a very modest amount of energy concentrated enough to do much of anything with it.

All this explains as well why the "zero point energy" people are basically smoking their shorts. The premise of zero point energy is that there's a vast amount of energy woven into the fabric of space-time; if we can tap into it, we solve all our energy problems and go zooming off to the stars. They do seem to be right that there's a huge amount of energy in empty space, but once again, the amount of energy does not tell you how much work you can do with it, and zero point energy is by definition at the lowest possible level of concentration. By definition, therefore, it can't be made to do anything at all, and any attempt to make use of it belongs right up there on the shelf with my motor-generator gimmick.

The same logic also explains why projects for coming up with a replacement for fossil fuels using sunlight, or any other readily available renewable energy source, are doomed to fail. What makes fossil fuels so valuable is the fact that the energy they contain was gathered over countless centuries and then concentrated by geological processes involving fantastic amounts of heat and pressure over millions of years. They define the far end of the curve of energy concentration, at least on this planet, which is why they are as scarce as they are, and why no other energy resource can compete with them – as long as they still exist, that is.

As concentrated fossil fuel supplies deplete, in turn, a civilization that depends on them for its survival will find itself in a very nasty bind. If ours is anything to go by, it will proceed to make that bind even worse by trying to make up the difference by manufacturing new energy sources at roughly the same level of concentration. That's a losing bargain, because it maximizes the amount of exergy that gets lost: you have to disperse a lot of energy to make the concentrated energy source, remember, before you can get around to using the concentrated energy source to do anything useful. Thus trying to fill our gas tanks with some manufactured substitute for gasoline, say, drains our remaining supplies of concentrated energy at a much faster pace than the other option – that of doing as much as possible with relatively low concentrations of energy, and husbanding the highly concentrated energy sources for those necessary tasks that can't be done without them.

This is where E.F. Schumacher's concept of "intermediate technology," can be fitted into its broader context. Schumacher's idea was that state-of-the-art factories and an economy dependent on exports to the rest of the world are not actually that useful to a relatively poor nation trying to build an economy from the ground up. He was right, of course – those Third World nations that have prospered are precisely the ones that used trade barriers to shelter low-tech domestic industries and entered the export market only after building a domestic industrial base one step at a time – but in a future in which all of us will be a good deal poorer than we are today, his insights have a wider value. A state-of-the-art factory, after all, is more expensive in terms much more concrete than paper money; it takes a great deal more exergy to build and maintain one than it does to build and maintain a workshop using hand tools and human muscles to produce the same goods.

My readers will doubtless be aware that such considerations have about as much chance of being taken seriously in the governing circles of American politics and business as a snowball has for a long and comfortable stay in Beelzebub's back yard. Fortunately, the cooperation of the current American political and executive classes is entirely unnecessary. The fact that most of the energy in our highly concentrated energy sources has already followed its bliss into entropic ecstasy puts hard limits on what can be achieved, but there's still plenty of room to make a bad situation somewhat better.

*John Michael Greer has been a student of magic and the unexplained since 1975. The author of several books, including Natural Magic: Potions and Powers from the Magical Garden, Circles of Power: Ritual Magic in the Western Tradition, and Inside a Magical Lodge. He has written articles for Renaissance Magazine, the Golden Dawn Journal, the Journal of Asian Martial Arts, Mezlim, New Moon Rising, Gnosis, and Alexandria.*

## Why There Will Be No Recovery

*It is, and has been for quite some time, all about the oil.*

NO RECOVERY from p. 1

standing... only to bump our heads against the ceiling once more.

### Scooters Will Kill SUVs

Two interesting news stories crossed the wire this week, which portend badly for the world's #1 net importer, the US

The first was a Reuters report that the last quarter of 2009 had "wiped out" the equity of Mexican state oil monopoly Pemex, leaving it \$1.4 billion in the negative. Falling crude output, falling refining margins and a burgeoning dependency of the state on its revenues had squeezed it to death.

Not only did the report offer further confirmation that the oil export crisis has arrived, but it also confirmed my growing suspicion that the oil production everyone has assumed will come online in five to ten years might, in fact, fail to materialize. Negative equity companies have a hard time raising capital for new exploration.

The second was a Bloomberg report that Saudi Arabia had agreed to double its oil exports to India, to some 866,000 barrels per day. India indicated separately that its onshore production of oil may peak this year.

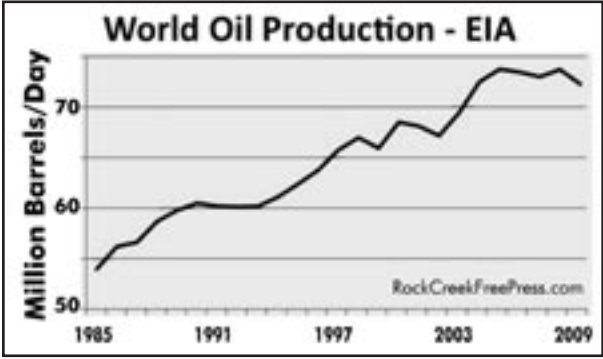
This adds to the pressure on exports from Saudi Arabia's, whose oil shipments to China have been growing at a rate of 11%-12% per year and now stand at roughly 1 million barrels per day (mbpd). China has eclipsed the US as the primary bidder for Saudi oil, while US imports from the Persian nation have fallen to a 22-year low.

The last two years have seen the marginal buyers of oil shift decisively to the non-OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) countries. A gallon of fuel delivers so much value in China and India (think peasants on scooters), that

shrinkage. Demand will be destroyed long before oil gets to \$200 a barrel, but it will not be destroyed by improved efficiency.

From where we stand today, it's hard to make an argument for economic recovery. Persistently high unemployment rates, broken state and federal balance sheets, and an inflationary depression will continue to cut into petroleum demand.

We spent the last several decades offshoring the fundamental value-adding



sectors like energy production and manufacturing, and now our FIRE economy — finance, insurance, and real estate — rests entirely on real value created elsewhere.

### The reason is simple: Energy is the only real currency.

Every dollar of fiat currency or GDP was ultimately derived from cheap energy. Trying to print your way out of energy decline is like prescribing ever-higher doses of aspirin for a headache caused by a brain tumor. Yet those at the levers of monetary policy are, by all appearances, completely ignorant (or in willful denial) of this fundamental fact.

The vogue prescription for the sovereign debtors at greatest risk of default (see a Top 10 list) is "austerity measures." The theory is that a period of belt-tightening will stanch the fiscal bleeding until economic recovery puts everyone into the black again.

Yet, if primary energy supply is declining, and the rising star of developing economies is inexorably cutting into the supply available to developed and indebted economies, then there can be no recovery.

I have joked on Twitter that I'm expecting an "M-shaped recovery," where we're now on the second hump. A more accurate image is slow strangulation.

### Two Questions for Recoveryistas

Those who would argue for economic recovery must answer two intractable questions.

The first is: Where will the energy come from, as more of the world's net exporters become net importers?

Britain, Argentina, Indonesia, and others have become net importers in recent years. Mexico and Columbia are expected to follow suit within a decade. Clearly, we can't all be net energy importers.

There is also the obstinate fact that aggregate net energy — the energy you get in return for investing energy in its production — has been dropping steadily. Oil net energy dropped from 100 in the early 1930s to 11 or less today. Net energy for natural gas is now in decline. We don't have adequate data to know yet, but coal's net energy is probably in decline, too. Meanwhile, the net energy of all substitutes is low: wind, 18; solar, 6.8; nuclear, 5-15; all bio-fuels, under 2.

It is not surprising that a study of the Herold database (Gagnon, Hall, and Brinker, 2009) showed the amount of oil and gas produced per dollar spent declined between 1999 and 2006.

The second question is: If the creeping infection of sovereign default continues to spread to more countries, where will the money come from to bail them out?

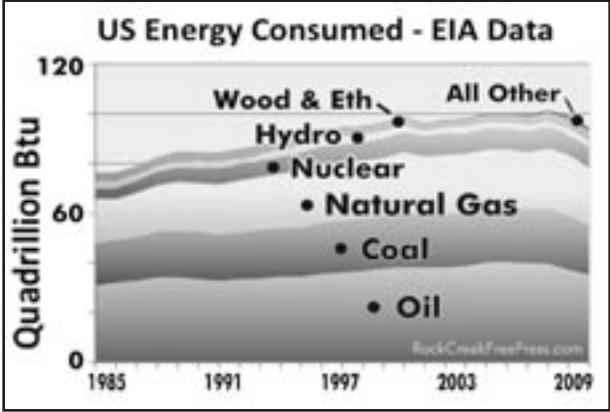
The answer has been, and continues to be, more aspirin. Without more cheap energy, monetary tactics to play the game into overtime will not only be futile, they will only draw us closer to the edge of the net energy cliff.

All of which begs a final question: If the answers are transition to renewables, and rebuilding our infrastructure for high efficiency, then where will the money and energy to do it all come from? And lastly, how long will it hold out?

Without cheap energy to fuel the growth that is hoped to pay off the accumulated debt, austerity will become an everyday reality — not a short-term fix. A reality that slowly sinks in for the rest of our lives, as net importers become progressively poorer.

The peak demand argument is a good one... but not for the nice reasons.

*TheEconomicCollapseBlog.com*



even at \$120 a barrel, remarkable economic growth rates are possible.

In major oil exporting countries like Saudi Arabia and Venezuela — where subsidized gasoline still sells for under 25 cents a gallon — the appetite for fuel grows steadily every year with little thought given to efficiency.

It's a different story in the US For debt-laden consumers, an extra \$50 or \$75 to fill up the tank on an SUV every week sharply reduced discretionary income and starved the economy of its most fundamental driver: consumer demand.

### The Real Meaning of Peak Demand

The most promising effort I've seen to quantify the role of efficiency in peak demand was a report in October of last year by Paul Sankey of Deutsche Bank entitled, "The Peak Oil Market." My initial excitement quickly gave way to disappointment as dug into it, however, as I realized that its confident assertions were unsupported by the data.

I applauded the effort enthusiastically — and I hope to see more serious work along the same lines — but it fell far short of proving that energy transition can be accomplished under the status quo of economic growth, let alone its optimistic twist on "The end is nigh for the age of oil."

The fact is that peak demand in the OECD is not merely a function of efficiency gains and biofuels substitution, aided by a temporary recession.

Instead, peak demand will be the result of a permanent state of increasing depression in which non-OECD countries not only more than make up for the loss of OECD demand, but outbid them for the marginal barrel.

As we enter the post-peak phase of global oil supply sometime around 2012-2014, the price that heavily import-dependent countries like the US would have to pay for that marginal barrel will become increasingly intolerable. In a weakened economy, \$100 a barrel (or less) could be the new \$120.

The true import of peak oil, therefore, may not be sustained high prices, but economic

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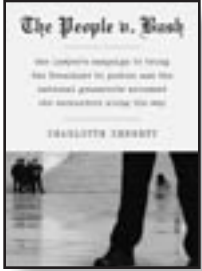


Book Review

The People v. Bush

By Charlotte Dennett

One lawyer’s campaign to bring the President to justice and the national grassroots movement she encounters along the way



REVIEW BY SUE WHEATON  
Charlotte Dennett’s book *The People v. Bush* (Chelsea Green Publishing, 2010) is a vitally current, beautifully written, colorfully detailed, and highly informative account of her 2009 run for Vermont Attorney General on a platform of indicting George Bush for the murder of American soldiers and Iraqis who died in a war launched under false pretenses. It should be on the table of every bookstore, right beside the new book by “Bush’s brain” Karl Rove to tell the real story of the dark policies crafted and crimes committed by the Bush administration.

The book connects the dots between those murderous policies, the empire the United States has become, and the quest for oil and natural gas (and the pipelines to convey both). Dennett is uniquely qualified to tell this story. The daughter of an Office of Special Services (OSS) agent involved in — and probably killed because of — “The Great Game for Oil,” she was born and educated in the Middle East and knows well its history and vital role in oil production. In recent years “she read for the law” the way Abraham Lincoln did and was admitted to the Vermont bar.

She also knows the powerful interests involved in “The Great Game for Oil” and how they operate: she and her husband Gerald Colby researched and wrote a 900 page book about the Rockefellers – *Thy Will Be Done, The Conquest of the Amazon: Nelson Rockefeller and Evangelism in the Age of Oil* (HarperCollins, 1995). Colby, an investigative reporter of 30 years, also wrote a massive unauthorized biography on the richest family in American – the duPonts.

While full of discouraging facts, this is a hopeful book. Focusing on the emerging accountability movement, Dennett writes, “My goal in writing this book is to help those craving justice to choose action over cynicism. If you feel powerless to make that choice, then consider these...things we already have going for us: 1. A growing human rights movement. 2. Evolving international law. 3. Time. She cites Attorney General Holder’s appointment of a special prosecutor to look into alleged crimes committed by the CIA, the Chilcot inquiry in Britain on alleged government fraud and illegal collusion with the United States leading up the Iraq War and two Spanish judges who are conducting criminal investigations into alleged war crimes by Bush et al against Spanish detainees in Guantanamo. She says, “As time goes on, more action will unfold. But it will take steady prodding from citizens willing to make accountability a priority.”

She covers a lot of ground in 237 fast-turning pages; ground that will provide a quick but deep education for many readers. Guided by famed Los Angeles prosecutor Vincent Bugliosi’s book *The Prosecution of George W. Bush for Murder* – and by Bugliosi himself, who served as her legal counsel during the campaign for Attorney General, she saw that prosecuting the President would serve “not just to bring about justice but also as an act of deterrence, so that future presidents would think twice about committing heinous crimes while in office.”

She adds, “Never before in American history had such blatant illegality occurred and been documented. This was uncharted territory.”

Historian Howard Zinn, in one of his last pieces before his death, wrote, “Charlotte Dennett, in this book, is trying to awaken the conscience of the nation. She wants us to recognize not just that our government at the highest level -- the president and the people around him -- has committed war crimes, but that they should be prosecuted as we prosecute ordinary criminals. She has been carrying this campaign forward with extraordinary persistence and courage, organizing people in her state of Vermont, demonstrating that grass roots action can be powerful. Her book is a clarion call for the people to confront the crimes of government, for democracy to come alive.”

The colorful chapter titles chart the territory she covers: “Everyone Cheered, Then What?” “Invincible Vince,” “The Brave Little State of Vermont,” “The Little Campaign That Could,” “What Does It Take to Prosecute the Powerful?” “Leahy’s Truth Commission and the Jersey Girls,” “Lawyer Hoax: The Stealing of America and the People Who Fought Back,” “Sovereign Impunity,” “Making Sense of It All: What’s Really Going on?” and “More Tales from the Front Lines and Lessons for the Future.”

Throughout the book, Dennett gives detailed credit to the work of the organizations, lawyers and many foot soldiers in the accountability movement. In addition to Bugliosi, she gives particular attention to these individuals and organizations: Glenn Greenwald, who writes for Salon.com and to whose writing she says the White House pays attention; Lawrence Velvel, dean of the Massachusetts School of Law; Mt. Holyoke College constitutional law professor Christopher Pyle; the Center for Constitutional Rights, and the American Civil Liberties Union. Describing the lawyers who uphold and those who undermine the rule of law, she cites Pyle’s conclusion: Bush’s lawyers left out “huge chunks” of the law in their justifications of the administration’s policies and actions and thereby “single-handedly redefined the law.”

Dennett’s detailed summaries and time lines on release of the Bush administration’s torture memos, other secret “war on terror” and war power manipulations and oil pipeline strategy put current news snippets into comprehensible and highly educational lessons, about what has occurred at the highest levels of US government. Her discussion of sovereign immunity (which flows from the British monarchs and which she calls “sovereign impunity”) is especially helpful.

Two overriding, inescapable and horrendous conclusions emerge from these lessons in our current history: in its pursuit of oil and oil and gas pipelines, the Bush administration 1) knowingly fabricated pretences to launch an aggressive war on Iraq and 2) tortured prisoners to exact false confessions to justify the pretences they had fabricated.

On torture, Dennett quotes *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman: “Let’s say this slowly: the Bush administration wanted to use 9/11 as a pretext to invade Iraq, even though Iraq had nothing to do with 9/11. So it tortured people to make them confess to the non-existent link. There’s a word for this: it’s evil. (Krugman blog, 4/23/2009)

In my opinion, the most important contribution of this book is the clear-eyed recognition that we Americans are living in an empire. Recounting President Obama’s May 21, 2010 speech on national security, in which he announced that he would keep the Bush era military commissions, and later citing his national security and foreign policy appointments, Dennett asks, “Put this team together and what does it tell us? We are all living inside an empire, an empire that now sees the need to fight endless wars on endless terrains. All in the name of the war on terror. All, in reality, as part of the great game for oil.”

Another very important contribution is awareness of the accountability movement she describes. DC-based Louis Wolf, former editor of *Covert Action Information Bulletin*, writes “This work chronicles the grassroots fight-back of citizens across this country against a frontal assault on democracy.” Put the accountability movement together with the anti-war movement, the growing truth movement (especially for 9/11 truth), and the various streams of today’s civil rights and privacy movements and we have a formidable citizens’ defense against the assault on democracy. Perhaps, by pulling in the same direction for honesty, transparency and accountability, we can change the disastrous course our country is now on.

History’s Lessons

Bush-connected Firm Involved In Opium Production In Marja Afghanistan In 1970s

By WAYNE MADSEN / WMR

A one-time Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) source revealed to WMR that a Bush family-connected firm, the St. Joe Company, was heavily involved in an irrigation project that provided water to opium-producing fields in southern Afghanistan in the 1970s.

The project, the Helmand-Arghandab Valley Authority (HAVA) irrigation system and the US Agency for International Development (USAID)-constructed Kajaki Dam, saw Afghanistan’s opium production reach all-time yields in the 1970s, before the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

St. Joe Company, based in Jacksonville, is one of the largest private property owners in Florida, having increased its ownership of land when former Florida Governor Jeb Bush arranged for the “sweetheart” sale of public state-owned land to the firm during his governorship.

St. Joe has long been connected to US government operations around the world. It was founded in 1936 by the Alfred I. du Pont Testamentary Trust. St. Joe also owned the Talisman Sugar Company, which was heavily involved in Florida sugar cane production and partly responsible for the imposition of disastrous restrictions on the import of sugar from countries in the Caribbean, a policy that ensured economic instability in the nations of the West Indies.

St. Joe was also a part owner of Jeb Bush’s firm, the Codina Group, run by Bush’s close friend Armando Codina, a Cuban exile who fled the island as a teen.

On August 2, 2006, WMR reported: “President George W. and Florida Governor Jeb Bush, two brothers who owe their offices to the power of the right-wing Cuban-American community in south Florida, engaged in a macabre and sinister death watch for Cuban President Fidel Castro while being hosted by wealthy Cuban-American supporters. As Castro was rushed to the hospital suffering from internal bleeding, the Bush brothers began planning action against the Cuban government and the two Castro brothers – Fidel and Raul.

... The Bush brothers huddled at a Republican National Committee fundraiser with Jeb Bush’s business mentor and partner, wealthy Cuban-American real estate developer Armando Codina, head of the Codina Group and close friend of George H. W. Bush. Codina sponsored the fundraiser at his Coral Gables home. Until 1994, the firm was known as the Codina-Bush Group. Codina and Jeb Bush made a fortune in developing southern Florida real estate properties. Codina invested \$1000 in 1984 in a Miami office tower project and cashed out his shares in 1990 for a hefty \$346,000. Before he left Codina in 1993, Jeb earned huge commissions for the sale of real estate to Japanese investors. Jeb also sold water pumps [for irrigation projects as in Afghanistan] to Nigeria in a questionable deal involving Nigeria’s military junta, M&W Pump, and another Bush company, Bush-El. These deals occurred at the same time that Jeb Bush was enmeshed in the savings and loan scandal involving Florida-based financial institutions. As reported by WMR last November, the politically-powerful St. Joe Company has a significant investment in the Codina Group. After Jeb Bush became governor, he took care of his real estate business friends, selling them state-owned land at cut rate prices.

Joining the Bush brothers in Coral Gables were the Florida Cuban-American GOP congressional team of Representative Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, who best represents the fact

that America’s foreign policies on the Middle East and Latin America have been outsourced to two vocal and politically powerful special interests – the Israeli and Cuban exile lobbies. Ros Lehtinen’s mother was a Jewish-Cuban refugee from Cuba. Joining the Bush brothers in the Florida death watch huddle was another GOP brother team, Representatives Lincoln and Mario-Diaz Balart. The brothers Bush and Balart and Ros-Lehtinen and Codina have their eyes set on lucrative real estate development schemes for post-Castro Cuba. The fact that oil has been discovered in Cuban waters has also earned the interest of the Bush-Cheney petroleum cartel.”

On September 4, 2009, WMR reported



on a more-than-coincidental link between St. Joe and the collapsed financial empire of now-jailed Sir Allen Stanford. WMR reported on Stanford’s attorney: “[Carlos] Loumiet is listed as the registered agent for the Stanford home [in Coral Gables] in a contrivance called Casuarina 20 LLC. Located nearby at 50 Casuarina is the home of Cuban-American businessman Armando Codina, Jeb Bush’s longtime friend and business partner who has sat on the boards of American Airlines and Merrill Lynch. In the weeks prior to Jeb Bush taking over as Governor of Florida, Stanford Trust, in December 1998, inked the sweetheart deal with Arthur M. Simon, the director of the Florida Division of Baking within the Department of Banking and Finance to allow the Antigua-based entity to begin issuing CDs in Florida. The deal was signed by Stanford Trust on December 10 and by Simon on December 14. In the interim, Florida’s outgoing Democratic Governor Lawton Chiles died of a heart attack on December 12 in the Governor’s Mansion.”

Stanford was under investigation for laundering drug money for the CIA through his banks in Antigua, Panama, Colombia, and other countries.

With opium production again at an all-time high in US-occupied Afghanistan, it would appear that the Bush family is, once again, reaping the benefits of the opium trade it once enjoyed in Afghanistan in the 1970s under King Mohammad Zahir Shah and Prince Mohammad Daoud until the pro-Soviet coup in April 1978.

In November 1974, Secretary of State Henry Kissinger visited Kabul and agreed to increase funding for USAID projects in Afghanistan, including the irrigation programs benefiting Afghanistan’s opium output.

After a few years, Daoud, who succeeded the King and proclaimed a republic, grew tired of his Soviet military advisers and Communist Cabinet ministers and began to dismiss them. A CIA report states that on April 13, 1977, “Soviet party leader

Leonid Brezhnev launched into a tirade about the large number of ‘experts’ from ‘NATO countries’ involved in various projects in Afghanistan. He asserted that they were ‘spies’ and demanded they be sent out of the country.” Brezhnev and his KGB were undoubtedly aware that the CIA, who was under the directorship of George H. W. “Poppy” Bush in 1976, and his connected firms like St. Joe were cashing in on the increase in Afghanistan opium yields.

Mocow Radio’s home service reported on November 24, 1985, “As far back as 1979, a secret deal was concluded between the CIA and the ringleaders of the Dushman groups of smugglers. The deal made provision, in particular, for the supply from the USA, in the guise of medical instruments, of equipment for converting raw opium into heroin and morphine. At present in the Peshawar region, about 20 such clandestine laboratories are operating. Moreover, the CIA stipulated only one condition: part of the cash gained from the sale of drugs must be donated to purchase weapons for the Dushman bands.” The Soviets referred to the Afghan Mujaheddin groups in Pakistan aided by the CIA as the “Dushman” groups — Dushman being an Afghan word for “enemies of the revolution.”

On March 19, 1989, *The Sunday Times of London* reported, “Four years ago the United States Drug Enforcement Agency recognized that 50% of the heroin getting to America came from the country receiving the most aid from the CIA [Afghanistan]. Even so, nothing was done.”

After coming to power in the 1990s, the Taliban drastically curtailed opium production, totally banning its production in July 2000. Under President Hamid Karzai, Karzai’s family, most notably his younger half brother, Ahmed Wali Karzai, who is paid by the CIA, is financially benefiting from the current windfall profits from opium exports. Opium production is at an all-time high, with an estimated street value now pegged at \$3 billion per year.

Wayne Madsen is a Washington, DC-based investigative journalist, author and syndicated columnist. He is a frequent political and national security commentator on *Television News* and is a regular contributor to *Russia Today*. Madsen is the author of *Jaded Tasks: Big Oil, Black Ops & Brass Plates and Overthrow a Fascist Regime* on \$15 a Day.

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# The Growing Movement for Publicly Owned Banks

BANKS from p. 1

corruption, and to increase investment capital for VT businesses, modeled after the very successful state-owned Bank of North Dakota.”

The Bank of North Dakota, currently the nation’s only state-owned bank, is the model (with variations) for all the other proposals on the table. The Bank of North Dakota acts as a “bankers’ bank,” partnering with other banks in “participation loans,” which allow them to compete with larger banks. In a participation loan, the community bank originates the loan and takes responsibility for it, while the participating bank contributes funds and shares in the risk and profits. The Bank of North Dakota also makes low-interest loans to students, farmers and businesses; underwrites municipal bonds; and provides liquidity for more than 100 banks around the state.

## Three New Bills Pending for Publicly Owned Banks

Proposals for publicly owned banks in other states have now progressed beyond the campaign talk of political hopefuls to be drafted into several bills.

### The Michigan Development Bank

The Michigan bill has gotten the most press. Introduced into the legislature earlier this month, it mirrors Bernero’s state bank idea. According to a press release issued by Michigan Senate Democrats on March 9, the bill’s aim is to “keep Michigan’s money in Michigan” by putting tax dollars into a proposed “Michigan Development Bank.” The bank would function like a traditional bank, but would focus on economic development rather than profit. The press release quoted Senator Gretchen Whitmer (D-East Lansing):

“Investing in the state’s economy is the greatest way to create jobs, and this proposal will provide small businesses and entrepreneurs the funding they need to invest and grow. Our economy has stagnated due in part to stale thinking in Lansing, and this is just the type of innovative idea we need to create real economic change, using our own money to rebuild the state.”

Senate Democratic Leader Mike Prusi (D-Ishpeming) stated:

“Michigan’s economy has been suffering, and working families in the state have had difficulty keeping up with credit card bills, college tuition prices and mortgage payments. Establishing the Michigan Development Bank will keep our hard-earned dollars right here in the state to invest in small business, create good-paying jobs to get people back to work, and help protect the middle class.”

Also quoted was Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit):

“With the current state of our economy, every dollar counts, yet we’re depositing our money in other people’s pockets by investing in big corporate banks without seeing much lending in return. It’s time for the Mitten State to lend itself a helping hand and establish a bank that is willing to invest in our small businesses and offer the financial support necessary to see job growth.”

For start-up capital, the Senate Democrats suggested that Michigan could sell voter-approved bonds. With an initial capitalization of \$150 million, they estimated the bank could lend up to \$1 billion to small businesses, students and farmers, and offer low-interest credit cards to consumers. For deposits, the bank could follow the model of the Bank of North Dakota and use state revenues. So says Gene Taliercio, a Republican candidate for the state Senate, who has also put his weight behind the Michigan Development Bank. In a video clip on the website of the local Oakland Press, he says, “We’re talking

about restructuring the whole tax system, in the sense that the way it’s set up is that all taxes are going to go into this central bank ... Every dollar that the state of Michigan makes goes into this bank.”

### The State Bank of Washington

A similar bill, HB 3162, was introduced to the Washington State Legislature on February 1. The bill has generated so much interest that Steve Kirby, chair of the Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee, has scheduled a special work session on it. According to John Nichols in The Nation, the State Bank of Washington was formally proposed by House finance committee vice chair Bob Hasegawa, a Seattle Democrat. Nichols quotes Hasegawa:

“Imagine financing student aid, infrastructure, industry and community development. Imagine providing access to capital for small businesses, or otherwise leveraging our resources instead of having to do it with tax incentives. Imagine keeping our resources local instead of exporting them as profits, never to be seen again — that’s what this bank could do.”

Leveraging, rather than taxing, is how private banks have been creating “credit” for centuries. States could do the same thing, cutting the middlemen out of the equation, saving significant sums in interest and fees and generating revenue for the state.

A nonpartisan analysis of the Washington bill prepared for the state legislature noted that the bank would be the depository for all state funds and the funds of state institutions, and that these deposits would be guaranteed by the state. The bank would be run by a board of 11 members and would be chaired by the State Treasurer. It would have the same rules and privileges as a private bank chartered in the state. Since current law prohibits the state from lending credit and investing in private firms, voters would have to amend the state Constitution to get the bank off the ground.

### The Community Bank of Illinois

A third bill, introduced by Illinois Representative Mary Flowers, is on its way through the legislative process in Illinois. According to the Illinois General Assembly website, the Community Bank of Illinois Act would establish a state bank with the express purpose of boosting agriculture, commerce, and industry. State funds and money held by penal, educational, and industrial institutions owned by the state would be deposited in the bank and would serve as reserves for making loans. The bank could also serve as a clearing house for other banks, including handling domestic and foreign exchange; and it could buy property under eminent domain. All deposits would be guaranteed with the assets of the state. The Bank would be managed and controlled by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation, with input from an advisory board representing private banking and public interests.

An amendment to the initial bill would enable the Community Bank of Illinois to make loans directly to the state’s General Revenue Fund, helping the state cope with its current budget challenges.

### A Massachusetts-owned Bank

On March 12, the Associated Press reported that a jobs bill sponsored by Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray also includes a call to study a Massachusetts-owned bank. She told a business group that a state-owned bank has worked in North Dakota, helping to insulate that state from the worst of the recession while also keeping its foreclosure rate down; similarly, a state-owned bank could spur job creation and free up lending to Massachusetts businesses.

## Grandfather of the Concept: The Bank of North Dakota

All of these proposals take their inspiration from the Bank of North Dakota, which was founded in 1919 to resolve a credit crisis like that facing other states today. Last year, North Dakota had the largest budget surplus it had ever had. It was the only state that was actually adding jobs when others were losing them. In March 2009, when 46 of 50 states were in fiscal crisis, the Council of State Governments noted that North Dakota was in the enviable position of discussing tax cuts and looking for ways to spend its surplus.

With the deepening crisis, according to National Public Radio, by January 2010 only two states could still meet their budgets—North Dakota and Montana. On February 8, however, the Montana paper *The Missoulian* reported that the Montana State Legislature’s chief revenue forecaster foresees a budget deficit by mid-2011, leaving North Dakota the only state still boasting a surplus.

North Dakota’s riches have been attributed to oil, but many states with oil are floundering. The sole truly distinguishing feature of North Dakota seems to be that it has managed to avoid the Wall Street credit freeze by owning and operating its own bank. According to the North Dakota Department of Commerce, the BND turned a profit in 2009 of \$58.1 million; this money goes into the state’s General Fund. North Dakota’s economy is ten times smaller than Michigan’s, suggesting that Michigan could generate \$500 million per year in this way; Washington State and Illinois present similarly inviting possibilities.

That defuses the objection raised in a March 15 editorial in *The Detroit News*, arguing that Michigan can ill afford the \$150 million capital investment to start a bank. If operated like the BND, the Michigan Development Bank could soon be a net generator of state revenues. There are other possibilities, besides a bond issue, for providing the capital to start a bank, but that subject will be reserved for another article.

The BND’s 90-year track record of prudent and profitable lending defuses another objection to state-owned banks: that a public agency cannot be trusted to act responsibly in managing public funds. *The Detroit News’* editorial concluded that Michigan should “leave banking to the bankers,” but it is precisely because the bankers have destroyed the economy with their reckless lending practices that the public needs to step in. We need a “public option” in banking to set standards and keep private banks honest.

## The True Potential of Publicly-owned Banks

North Dakota broke new ground nearly a century ago, but the true potential of publicly owned banks remains to be explored. Nearly all of our money today is created by banks when they extend loans. (See the Chicago Federal Reserve’s “Modern Money Mechanics,” which begins, “The actual process of money creation takes place primarily in banks.”) We the people have given away our sovereign money-creating power to private, for-profit lending institutions, which have used it to siphon wealth from the productive economy. If we were to take that power back, we could generate the credit we need to underwrite a whole cornucopia of projects that we don’t even consider because we think we lack the “money.” We have the labor and we have the materials; we just lack the “liquidity” necessary to put them together to create products and services.

Money today is just a ticket, a receipt for work performed and goods delivered. We can fund the work we need done by creating our own credit. The real promise of publicly-owned banks is not that they can bail out subprime borrowers but that they can jumpstart the economy by creating real wealth. They can provide the liquidity to put labor and materials together, allowing the economy to build and grow. Our private, profit-driven banking sector has been bleeding wealth from the rest of the economy. Public-interest banks can transmute the economy with the credit it needs to flourish and be productive once again.

*Ellen Brown wrote this article for YES! Magazine, a national, nonprofit media organization that fuses powerful ideas with practical actions. Ellen developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In Web of Debt, her latest of eleven books, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and “the money trust.” Her websites are webofdebt.com, ellenbrown.com, and public-banking.com.*

CYBERWAR from p. 1

of the Office of Net Assessment, is playing a key role behind the scenes. This effort was formally launched in May 2009 by none other than Obama, who announced a buildup of US cyberwar assets, illustrating his project with the claim that his own campaign websites had been hacked during the 2008 campaign, prompting him to seek the assistance of FBI, CIA, NSA and the rest.

One highlight of this US propaganda campaign has been a two-hour docudrama special recently repeated several times on CNN on Feb. 20-21, simulating a massive cyber attack on the United States, starting with cell phones and then taking over computers. The impact of this attack is to shut down telephone communications, followed by airports and rail services, and finally to knock out most of the US electrical power grid, causing panic and chaos. The simulation is presented in the form of a meeting of the National Security Council while the US is under attack. Several protagonists of the 9/11 cover-up were among the starring players, including Jamie Gorelick (playing the US Attorney General), John Negroponte (playing the Secretary of State), and Michael Chertoff (in the role of the National Security Council Director).

Another important sign of the times is a Feb. 28 op-ed in *The Washington Post* by Admiral Mike McConnell, who headed up the NSA under Clinton, and is now a top executive for Booz Allen Hamilton, one of the military consulting firms which claims to have the greatest expertise in matters of cyber warfare.[2] Admiral McConnell’s basic idea is that cyber war is now upon us, and that the US must respond using the experience of the Cold War as the relevant model.

The results of this campaign of preparatory propaganda can be summed up under four basic points.

One is the relentless exaggeration of what cyber warfare can actually do in its present state. The public is now expected to believe that computer viruses and denial of service attacks can be used to shut down phone service, cripple airports, prevent trains from running, sabotage nuclear reactors, and paralyze power grids over the quasi-totality of the United States. Many of these claims were launched in relatively obscure articles by CIA officials or *Wall Street Journal* writers. It is not at all clear that cyber warfare can do what these interested parties are alleging. Rather, the best intelligence estimate right now is that we are in the presence of a new wave of cynical and demagogic fear mongering, similar to the weapons of mass distraction charges made by the neocons against Iraq during the buildup of war hysteria in 2002-2003. The idea that cyber warfare can shut down electrical grids very likely belongs in the same category with Tony Blair’s ludicrous charge that Saddam Hussein had the ability to strike London in 45 minutes. It was a fantastic lie.

A second Leitmotiv is the transposition of the terminology and mindset of the Cold War and nuclear confrontation into the modern cyber arena. The CNN simulation works towards refurbishing notions of deterrence, retaliation, and first strike, dressing them up in the trendy jargon of the computer age. Notions of preventive attack and preemptive attack are also being revamped.

One big difference which the propagandists do not point out is that, while nuclear war was considered an unthinkable last resort by most government officials, the new propaganda portrays cyberwarfare as not unthinkable at all, but something that can be indulged in with relative impunity.

Very important legal questions arise in this context. Does a cyber attack constitute an armed attack? Can a cyber attack be casus belli, grounds for issuing a declaration of war? Is escalation from computers to bombs legal? Can a cyber attack represent a threat to international peace and security for the purposes of the United Nations charter? Can a cyber attack be used to invoke article V of the NATO treaty, which calls for common defense?

A third aspect of the current media blitz is that a new cast of enemies is being groomed

# US Readies Cyberwar, Virtual-Flag Terrorism

and brought onstage, even as the shadowy adversaries of yesterday are relegated to a less prominent position – at least as far as cyber-aggression is concerned. In the CNN simulation, there is some discussion of a possible role of “Al Qaeda” and “bin Laden” in the ongoing attack. But this idea is brusquely and almost scornfully dismissed with the reply that those guys are known to live in caves, and therefore could hardly have the equipment necessary to carry on cyber warfare, even though they might desire to do so. For the CNN producers and their intelligence community consultants, the targets are clear: Russia (specifically the city of Irkutsk), China, and Sudan are the three countries mentioned as sources of the cyber attacks shutting down the US economy. With this, we have gone far beyond the narrow confines of the Middle East to target the largest country in the world, the largest country in Asia, and the largest country in Africa. The new target list involves two great powers, and not simply Iraq or Iran. We can see bigger and more lunatic adventures being prepared by the US scenario writers.

The fourth unmistakable overtone of the current propaganda barrage is the danger we can sum up under the heading of virtual flag terrorism. The world of cyber warfare is so opaque and recondite for the average person, and solid confirmation of claims so hard to come by, that rogue bureaucrats in the US and British governments will be able to a surge virtually anything with little fear of being refuted. Google accuses China of hacking without offering any convincing proof, and China denies the charge. What is the average person to believe? What prevents hackers in league with invisible government rogue moles at the NSA from deliberately attacking US facilities, and then blaming it on China, thus ginning up a major international provocation with little risk of being caught?

If millions of people are plunged into the dark, if trains and airliners crash, if other disasters occur, it is child’s play to issue a communiqué blaming hackers in the service of the Russian, Chinese, Sudanese, the Iranians, or other governments. The governments accused can certainly issue denials, but it is not clear how such a charge could be convincingly refuted.

The CNN simulation includes a discussion of the difference between location and attribution, meaning that the mere fact that an attack is launched from the country’s territory does not mean that the government is responsible. “Location is not attribution,” intones Secretary of State Negroponte at one point. But we can already hear the voice of the inevitable neoncon warmonger asserting à la Bush that no distinction must be made between the servers spreading a destructive virus and the government whose territory harbors those servers. For the neocon, location and attribution are sure to be the same. This opens the possibility of starting a conflict by infiltrating physical provocateurs onto the territory of the targeted nation and letting them launch a cyber attack from there. Even easier, so-called botnets of captive computers commandeered by trojans and related viruses can be used to launch the attack.

It goes without saying that the beltway bandits and Pentagon contractors are eager to cash in on the lucrative contracts that are now in the offing. More broadly, cyber warfare can be used as a great alibi for purposes of avoiding civil liability in the age of underfunding and asset stripping. When we have the next crash in the Washington DC metro, the management and the National Transportation Safety Board can ignore decades of underfunding and simply blame everything on Russia, China, and the Sudan, and tell the families of the victims to go and sue those governments.

It is therefore time to begin a campaign of counter-inoculation of international public opinion against this new set of ominous lies which is being foisted off on the world.

*Webster G. Tarpley is an economic historian, radio host and author of 9/11 Synthetic Terror: Made in USA, Obama, The Postmodern Coup and Surviving The Cataclysm and other books. Dr. Tarpley is a regular guest analyst for RT television.*



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# The Road to Armageddon

ARMAGEDDON from p. 3

Americans need to pay attention to the growing body of experts who are telling them that the government’s account of 9/11 fails their investigation.

9/11 launched the neocons’ plan for US world hegemony.

As I write, the US government is purchasing the agreement of foreign governments that border Russia to accept US missile interceptor bases. The US intends to ring Russia with US missile bases from Poland through central Europe and Kosovo to Georgia, Azerbaijan and central Asia. US envoy Richard Holbrooke declared on February 20 that al Qaida is moving into former central Asian constituent parts of the Soviet Union, such as Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Kazakhstan. Holbrooke is soliciting US bases in these former Soviet republics under the guise of the ever-expanding “war on terror.”

The US has already encircled Iran with military bases. The US government intends to neutralize China by seizing control over the Middle East and cutting China off from oil.

This plan assumes that Russia and China, nuclear armed states, will be intimidated by US anti-missile defenses and acquiesce to US hegemony and that China

will lack oil for its industries and military.

The US government is delusional. Russian military and political leaders have responded to the obvious threat by declaring NATO a direct threat to the security of Russia and by announcing a change in Russian war doctrine to the pre-emptive launch of nuclear weapons. The Chinese are too confident to be bullied by a washed-up American “superpower.”

The morons in Washington are pushing the envelope of nuclear war. The insane drive for American hegemony threatens life on earth. The American people, by accepting the lies and deceptions of “their” government, are facilitating this outcome.

*Paul Craig Roberts, a former Assistant Secretary of the US Treasury and former associate editor of the Wall Street Journal, has held numerous academic appointments. He 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, was published by Random House in March, 2008. His latest book, How The Economy Was Lost, has just been published by CounterPunch/AK Press.*

# Jesse Ventura

VENTURA from p. 1

Management [Agency] and National Institute of Standards and Technology [NIST] reports provide insufficient, contradictory and fraudulent accounts of the circumstances of the towers' destruction.”

He’s especially disturbed by Building 7, whose 47 stories came down in “pure free-fall acceleration” that afternoon, even though it was never hit by an aircraft. This is a subject I take up in my new book, *American Conspiracies*, published by Skyhorse. An excerpt follows: Some people have argued that the twin towers went down, within a half hour of one another, because of the way they were constructed. Well, those 425,000 cubic yards of concrete and 200,000 tons of steel were designed to hold up against a Boeing 707, the largest plane built at the time the towers were completed in 1973. Analysis had shown that a 707 traveling at 600 miles an hour (and those had four engines) would not cause major damage. The twin-engine Boeing 757s that hit on 9/11 were going 440 and 550 mph.

Still, we are told that a molten, highly intense fuel mixture from the planes brought down these two steel-framed skyscrapers. Keep in mind that no other such skyscraper in history had ever been known to collapse completely due to fire damage. So, could it actually have been the result of a controlled demolition from inside the buildings?

I don’t claim expertise about this, but I did work four years as part of the Navy’s underwater demolition teams, where we were trained to blow things to hell and high water. And my staff talked at some length with a prominent physicist, Steven E. Jones, who says that a “gravity driven collapse” without demolition charges defies the laws of physics.

These buildings fell, at nearly the rate of free-fall, straight down into their own footprint, in approximately 10 seconds. An object dropped from the roof of the 110-story-tall towers would reach the ground in about 9.2 seconds. Then there’s the fact that steel beams that weighed as much as 200,000 pounds got tossed laterally as far as 500 feet.

NIST started its investigation on Aug. 21, 2002. When their 10,000-page-long report came out three years later, the spokesman said there was no evidence to suggest a controlled demolition. But Jones also says that molten metal found underground weeks later is proof



that jet fuel couldn’t have been all that was responsible. I visited the site about three weeks after 9/11 with Gov. Pataki and my wife Terry. It didn’t mean anything to me at the time, but they had to suspend digging that day because they were running into heat pockets of huge temperatures. These fires kept burning for more than three months, the longest-burning structure blaze ever.

And this was all due to jet fuel? We’re talking molten metal smoldering at more than 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Probably the most conclusive evidence about a controlled demolition is a research paper (two years, nine authors) published in the peer-reviewed *Open Chemical Physics Journal* in April 2009. In studying dust samples from the site, these scientists found chips of nano-thermite, which is a high-tech incendiary/explosive. Here’s what the paper’s lead author, Dr. Niels Harrit of the University of Copenhagen’s chemistry department, had to say about the explosive that he’s convinced brought down the twin towers and the nearby Building 7:

“Thermite itself dates back to 1893. It is a mixture of aluminum and rust powder, which react to create intense heat. The reaction produces iron, heated to 2,500 degrees Centigrade [4,532 degrees Fahrenheit]. This can be used to do welding. It can also be used to melt other iron. So in nano-thermite, this powder from 1893 is reduced to tiny particles, perfectly mixed. When these react, the intense heat develops much more quickly. Nano-thermite can be mixed with additives to give off intense heat or serve as a very effective explosive. It contains more energy than dynamite and can be used as rocket fuel.”

Gage is one of hundreds of credentialed architects and structural engineers who have put their careers on the line to point out the detailed anomalies and many implications of controlled demolition in the building collapses. As he puts it bluntly: “Once you get to the science, it’s indisputable.”

*A former Navy Seal, professional wrestler and actor Jesse Ventura was elected governor of Minnesota on the Reform Party ticket in 1998 where he served until 2002. Today, Ventura is best known for hosting the popular television show “Conspiracy Theory,” which airs on cable television. He is also the author of five books, his latest book is “American Conspiracies.”*

## News Bites

**FBI Forensic Analysts Under Investigation for Falsifying Tests**

*(allgov.com)* Faulty, and in some cases falsified, forensic work by FBI experts has raised questions about the validity of 100 criminal cases in the District of Columbia since the mid-1970s.

A legal review of 78 cases was launched earlier this year after a DC court overturned the conviction of Donald E. Gates, who served 28 years in prison for a rape and murder he did not commit. FBI analyst Michael Malone, who testified at Gates’ 1981 trial, is one of a half dozen forensic specialists whose testimony and work have come under scrutiny.

Overturning Gates’ conviction as a result of DNA evidence marked the first time the US Attorney’s office in DC had done such a thing.

**Bruce Ivins’ Attorney Calls For Case To Be Re-opened**

*(BioPrepWatch.com)* An attorney for Bruce Ivins, the alleged anthrax killer, says that he does not believe that the case against Ivins should be closed. “There’s not one shred of evidence to show he did it,” Paul F. Kemp, Ivins’ attorney told AOLNews.com.

Kemp says he does not believe the 92-page summary released February 19 by the Justice Department that officially closed the case against Ivins. Joining Kemp in questioning Ivins’ guilt is Rep. Rush Holt (D-NJ), who called last week for a congressional investigation into the anthrax probe.

**Pentagon and Courthouse Shooter’s Guns from Tenn. Police**

The AP reported that the guns used in the January 4 shooting at a Las Vegas Courtroom and the Pentagon shooting on March 4 both originated with Tennessee Police. According to law enforcement officials the weapons made their separate ways from an evidence vault to gun dealers and then to the shooters. A little known divide in police gun policy in the United States is that many cities and states destroy guns gathered in criminal probes; others sell or trade the weapons in order to get other guns or to buy equipment.

These two events have been exploited to push for more stringent gun control and a more robust stance against so-called homegrown terrorism – another attack on the Second Amendment. Perhaps it would be more prudent to have more stringent gun control and a more robust stance of our police forces policies on weapon disposal.

**Us Military To Detain Us Citizens**

The “Enemy Belligerent, Interrogation, Detention, and Prosecution Act of 2010”, introduced by Sens. John McCain and Joseph Lieberman on March 4, could allow the US military to detain US citizens without trial indefinitely in the US based on suspected activity.

These “belligerents” would be coded as “high-value detainees[s]” to be held in military custody and interrogated for their intelligence value by a High-Value Detainee Interrogation Team established by the president.

**Virginia Hands Out 6996 Traffic Tickets in One Weekend**

A federally funded ticketing blitz in the state of Virginia resulted in a total of 6996 traffic tickets being handed out over the weekend of March 6-7. In order to raise revenue, state troopers were ordered to saturate Interstate 95 and Interstate 81 and to issue as many traffic tickets as possible during those two days.

Virginia is not alone. California is using “sobriety” checkpoints, “red-light cameras” and toll roads to help increase revenues for that cash strapped state.

**State prison numbers drop of 1<sup>st</sup> time since 1972**

AP reports that California and Michigan together reduced their prison populations by more than 7,500 last year, contributing to what a new report says is the first nationwide decline in the number of state inmates since 1972.

The overall drop was slight, according to the Pew Center on the States — just 0.4 percent — but there could be a sustained downward trend because of keen interest by state policymakers in reducing costs.

Despite the slight decrease in state prisoners, the nation’s total prison population increased in 2009 because the number of inmates in federal prisons rose by 6,838 to an all-time high of 208,118.

The report did not tally prisoners held in municipal and county jails.

**IPCC Rainforest Eco-tastrophe Claim Confirmed As Bunk**

*(The Register, UK)* Another apocalyptic prediction by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been confirmed as bunk by NASA scientists.

The UN body came under attack earlier this year for suggesting that 40 per cent of the Amazonian rainforests might disappear imminently. This disaster would be triggered, according to the IPCC’s assessment, by a relatively slight drop in rainfall of the sort to be expected in a warming world but it now appears that just such conditions have already occurred, and in fact the Amazonian jungles were unaffected.

The IPCC projection originated in a study produced in 2000 by the ecological campaigning group World Wildlife Foundation (WWF), which was also implicated in the IPCC’s equally invalid prediction that the glaciers of the Himalayas will all have melted within a generation from now.

NASA-funded scientists analyzing the past decades of satellite imagery of the Amazon basin say that in fact the rainforests are remarkably resilient to droughts.

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