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Don't Miss
Sierra Pacific Ind.
in the Next Edition
of US~Observer

EXCLUSIVE

OK Governor & Parole Board Doing What is Right!

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter



Reno Francis

Lexington, OK - Over the past two years the US Observer has run several articles about an innocent Oklahoma inmate named Reno Francis. Mr. Francis was the victim of an

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US~Observer Exclusive Commentary What Does Having the First "Black" President Mean?

Story on Page 24

Chumash Casino: Demise from Within & Security's Feeble Response

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Santa Ynez, CA - In our November publication I wrote a story titled "Wrongful Death at the Chumash Casino" which focused on Manuel Jones' death, and since that time the US~Observer has been inundated with responses. Our organization intends to help the Jones Family achieve peace,



Manuel (Manny) Jones

therefore we are proud to print the response from Mark Meske, an undercover security guard at the



PICTORIAL: Chumash Casino ripping open from the inside exposing alleged corruption.

Chumash Casino, who claims to have conducted a proper investigation concerning the alleged wrongful death of Mr. Jones. Included below is Mr. Meske's response to what he calls my "Sci-Fi" story concerning this mysterious and frightening incident, an incident that occurred right under the not so watchful eye of casino security.

It has been brought to our attention that the casino is currently working to improve their security measures - too little, too late as the saying goes. Just in case the upper management at the casino was unaware of the US~Observer, let me suggest they heed our message because it's their ilk that justifies our existence and the need for people

Continued on page 11

FAMILY COURTS - A Court Of Systems, Not Law Lake Charles Louisiana

By Joseph Snook
Investigative Reporter

Lake Charles, LA - After 2-1/2 years, 5 attorneys and over 6 figures out of pocket, Kathleen Berry was ordered to an arraignment in late January in which she must attempt to explain why she tried to feed her two children who she has joint custody of. On July 31, 2008 Kathleen Berry was issued a warrant for her arrest for allegedly violating RS 14:45.1 - **Interference with the custody of a child.** She was then arrested on August 1, 2008. All of this stemmed from Kathleen's attempt to feed her children as they were left alone at home by their father who has done everything in his power to keep them away from his ex wife Kathleen. Local family court judge Guy Bradberry and attorney Henry Liles have also



Kathleen Berry & her children.

played a major role in the reported unlawful attempts to prevent

Kathleen from seeing her children, Zachary and Ryan.

***According to Louisiana law: "A. Interference with the custody of a child is the intentional taking, enticing, or decoying away of a minor child by a parent not having a right of custody, with intent to detain or conceal such child from a parent having a right of custody pursuant to a court order or from a person entrusted with the care of the child by a parent having custody pursuant to a court order.**

It shall be an affirmative defense that the offender reasonably believed his actions were necessary to protect the welfare of the child.

B. Whoever commits the crime of interference with the custody of a child shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for not more than six months, or both.

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Public Service Warning Jeff Lowrance:



Polished Con Artist? The First Capital Savings & Loan Debacle

By Edward Snook
Investigative Reporter

USA - "Panamanian" self proclaimed multi-millionaire Jeff Lowrance, who enticed and relieved investors from around the globe of over a reported 60 million dollars over the

Continued on page 13

BAILOUTS: A Complete Fraud Against The American Worker



Frosty Wooldridge

By Frosty Wooldridge

A recent Associated Press news release exposed U.S. banks accepting billions in bailout money along with major corporations. Banks defraud American taxpayers by hiring thousands of foreign

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Resolutions for a Stronger America

The Non Energy Crisis



Whereas: During the years of the late 1960's and early 1970's, Atlantic Richfield, Oil Company, etc., received a lease from the Federal Government to drill for oil in a 100-

mile boundary area under the North Slope of Brooks Mountains in Alaska. The discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay brought about the forming of nine major oil companies of America called the "Alyeska Pipeline Service Company"

Whereas: The Federal government permitted the oil companies to drill on many sites and to cap off the producing wells and to keep them secret. There are three different known oil fields on the North Slope of Brooks Mountains. They are Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk, and Gull Island. All three of these oil fields are different pools of oil with no relation to each other, and these pools of oil have a different chemical structure and flow pressure.

Whereas: The Federal government only allowed oil to be taken from the Prudhoe oil field, which can produce two (2) million barrels of oil every 24 hours for 40 years at artesian pressure. Kuparuk oil field is twice the size of Prudhoe, and it was not until the year 1981 when the government allowed production of this oil field. Gull Island is five miles off the coast of Prudhoe, and is at least four times bigger than the Prudhoe Bay oil field. No oil has ever been taken from Gull Island oil field, and the Federal government made the oil company cap the three wells they had drilled there. There is more oil under the North Slope of Alaska than there is in all of Saudi Arabia, which produces 21% of the world's oil supply.

Whereas: The building of the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay oil field to Port Valdez projected cost was two billion dollars. The Federal government sent hordes of unconstitutional environmental and other agents to the pipeline building site as inspectors, which drove the cost of completion of said pipeline to twelve billion dollars. These inspectors appear to be trying to stop the building of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. This pipeline became the biggest and most expensive ever undertaken by private enterprise in the history of the world.

Whereas: When the oil companies were ready to ship the oil to the lower 48 United States, our Federal government said we cannot use Alaska crude oil because it has a high sulphur content, and cannot be refined by our oil refineries in the U.S.A. Our Alaska oil was shipped to foreign countries, i.e., Japan, etc. On August 11, 1980, analysis was made on the Prudhoe Bay crude oil which shows the sulphur content to be 0.9% and is lower than most U.S. and imported oils. This shows that the American people have been lied to. There is enough oil in Alaska to make the United States energy free without importing any foreign oil.

Whereas: There is enough natural gas from the Alaska oil fields to provide 200 years of usage by the lower 48 states. The oil companies were promised by the Federal government that they would be allowed to build a natural gas pipeline down the same corridor of the crude oil pipeline from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez.

At Valdez, they would liquify the natural gas, transport it by ship to the lower 48 states, reverse the liquefaction process, and then send it by pipeline all across America. This, incidentally, never happened, or we would not be hearing about natural gas shortages within the U.S.A.

Whereas: New highly suppressed scientific reports prove that oil does not come from decaying dinosaurs, but is produced deep inside the earth's mantle by geophysical forces. Oil wells don't dry up, but merely get silted up like a clogged water well and needs to be unclogged much like one would do with a water filter.

Whereas: On April 13, 2008, the U.S. Geological Survey stated that there are 3 to 4.3 billion barrels of recoverable oil from the shale formation in the Bakken Formation of the Willston Basin, Montana, North Dakota, and into Canada.

Whereas: The U.S. Government is to blame for the high cost of oil products; first through inflation of our dollar by the Federal Reserve banking system. In the year of 1964, a 42-gallons barrel of crude oil cost three silver dollars. Today that same 42-gallon barrel costs five silver dollars. In the year of 1965, the Federal government took away the silver backing of our dollars. Today it takes twenty inflated dollars to equal just one 1964 silver certificate.

Whereas: Unlike other businesses in the United States, the oil companies are not allowed to deduct expenses, interest on borrowed money, or state and Federal taxes, before they declare their yearly profit. This causes the consumer to believe they are being ripped off by the oil companies.

Whereas: As the United States Government makes its march toward a one world government, it will try to nationalize the oil companies using an artificially produced energy crisis, which is outright Socialism. Remember that when governments control energy, they can control industry, business, and all of the people.

Therefore be it resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports the passage of laws mandating the development of known petroleum resources in the territories of the United States. And,

Be it further resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports laws mandating increased petroleum exploration in territories of the United States. And,

Be it further resolved: That the Oregon State Grange supports all measures leading toward the goal of United States of America oil independence.

• This resolution was adopted by the Deer Creek Grange #371 at its regular meeting held on April 14, 2008.

• This resolution was adopted by the Oregon State Grange at its 135th Annual State Session held ad Prineville, Oregon, week of June 16-20, 2008.

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P.O. Box 871
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Madoff whistleblower blasts SEC

A fraud investigator told Congress that he'd warned the agency about Madoff's Ponzi scheme years ago. But his efforts went nowhere.

By Allan Chernoff
Sr. Correspondent

NEW YORK (CNN) -- A whistleblower who repeatedly warned the Securities and Exchange Commission that Bernard Madoff was perpetrating a massive investment fraud testified Wednesday that the regulatory agency that oversees financial markets is inept, "financially illiterate" and far too cozy with the financial titans it is supposed to be regulating.

"The SEC is also captive to the industry it regulates and it is afraid of bringing big cases against the largest most powerful firms," said Harry Markopolos, an independent financial fraud investigator. "Clearly the SEC was afraid of Mr. Madoff."

Markopolos began contacting the SEC at the beginning of the decade to warn that Madoff was a fraud. He sent detailed memos, listing dozens of red flags, laying out a road map of instructions for SEC investigators to follow, even listing contacts and phone numbers of Wall Street experts whom he said would confirm his findings. But, Markopolos' whistle-blowing effort got nowhere.

"I gift wrapped and delivered the largest Ponzi scheme in history to them and some how they couldn't be bothered to conduct a thorough and proper investigation because they were too busy on matters of higher priority," Markopolos told the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises.

Agency squabbles



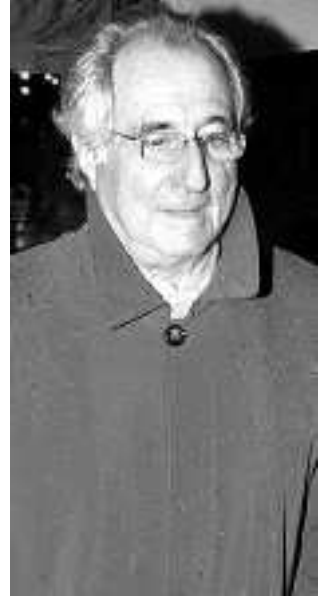
Harry Markopolos

After at first receiving an encouraging reception from the SEC's Boston Bureau Chief, Edward Manion, Markopolos said the New York SEC office, which supervised Boston, blocked a further investigation.

"In 2000 Mr. Manion warned me that relations between the New York and Boston regional offices was about as warm and friendly as the Yankees-Red Sox rivalry and that New York does not like to receive tips from Boston," Markopolos testified.

Markopolos said it took him five minutes to conclude that Madoff was a fraud after looking at his reported investment performance, and four hours of actual number-crunching analysis to confirm his suspicions.

Bernard Madoff, who is now under 24-hour house arrest at his Upper East Side luxury apartment, faces one charge of securities fraud for allegedly running a scheme that cost investors around the globe tens



Bernard Madoff

of billions of dollars. The single criminal count carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison. Madoff estimated the investment loss at \$50 billion, according to the criminal complaint.

Markopolos initiated his investigation after one of his bosses at his former employer, Rampart Investment Management, asked him to replicate Madoff's investment strategy.

As he dug deeper, Markopolos said he began to fear for his life, convinced that Russian mobsters and Latin American drug cartels were Madoff clients. When he tried to deliver an investigative file to former New York Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, Markopolos said he wore gloves to ensure his fingerprints would not be on the documents.

Markopolos said the SEC is in need of a major overhaul. Senior managers should be replaced, lawyers should be separated from financial investigators, and the agency should hire employees who have years of Wall Street experience, he said.

"You want reverse age discrimination. Hire the old foxes to police the henhouse," he said.

Senior SEC staff directors told the Committee they are dedicated to protecting investors and cracking down on fraud.

"We assure the Subcommittee that the Commission and its staff take the alleged Madoff fraud very seriously. The losses incurred by investors as the result of Mr. Madoff's alleged fraud are tragic, and we appreciate the impact of those losses on the lives of investors," SEC Director of Enforcement Linda Chatman Thomsen said in a statement.

Markopolos said he intends to turn in a "mini-Madoff" who has engaged in a \$1-billion financial fraud tomorrow when he meets with the SEC's Inspector General David Kotz.

Kotz, who is studying the SEC's failure to respond to Markopolos' warnings about Madoff, confirmed to CNN that on Thursday he is scheduled to meet with Markopolos.

■ ■ ■

ARE YOU A VICTIM OF FALSE PROSECUTION?

If you are then you are aware of how the 'justice' industry (racket) in America works. You (**the innocent person**) are falsely charged with a crime. Most of the time you receive a myriad of stacked charges intended for the sole purpose of extracting a "plea bargain" from you.

You then rush to an attorney, pay him a retainer to cover the usual \$150.00 per hour (if not higher), which he/she charges, to supposedly defend your innocence. The attorney usually files some motions, writes some worthless letters and makes many unproductive (unless they pertain to you accepting a plea bargain) phone calls until you are broke. Generally you haven't even started your trial and 99% of the time the attorney hasn't completed any investigation.

All of a sudden your attorney is telling you that you can't win your

case and you should accept the benevolent plea bargain that the almighty district attorney has offered you. "Do you want to take the chance on spending 30-40 years in prison when you can plea bargain for 18 months," your attorney tells you. What happened to: "I think we can win this case, it's a good case." Remember? Isn't that pretty close to what your attorney told you as he/she was relieving you of your money?

You then accept a plea bargain and go to jail or you have a jury trial, you're found guilty (because your attorney hasn't produced enough evidence-if any and because the judge directs the jury to find you guilty) and then you go to jail. When you finally wake up you realize that on top of now being a criminal, you are flat broke and incarcerated. You find that the very person (your attorney) you frantically rushed to retain, became your worst enemy.

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In The Nation

Mysterious Prison Buses in the Desert

By Ellen Brown
www.opednews.com

Prison buses are driving around empty in the Tucson area. Are Wackenhut and the DHS preparing for civil unrest?

On a recent visit to Tucson, where I was invited to give a presentation on monetary reform, I was disturbed by a story of strange goings on in the desert. A little over a year ago, it seems, a new industrial facility sprang up on the edge of town. It was in a remote industrial zone and appeared to be a bus depot. The new enterprise was surrounded by an imposing security fence and bore no outward signs identifying its services. However, it soon became apparent that the compound was in the business of outfitting a fleet of prison buses. Thirty or so secondhand city buses were being reconfigured with prison bars in the windows and a coat of fresh paint bearing the "Wackenhut G4S" logo on the side.

The new Wackenhut operation is shrouded in mystery. It has been running its fleet of empty prison buses night and day, apparently logging miles on a Department of Homeland Security (DHS) contract. Multiple buses can be seen driving all over town and even on remote desert back roads. Oddly, except for the driver and one escort guard seated in front, these buses are always empty. Wackenhut Services was founded by George Wackenhut in 1954 to provide prison guard services to state and federal governments. Mr. Wackenhut was reported to be something of a brawler himself, having once earned distinction beating up his business partner in a fist fight. Now owned by the Danish corporation G4S, Wackenhut Services has a sinister reputation for hiring thugs. It has been said that it's hard to tell which is more dangerous, the prisoners or the guards.

Observers originally thought that the purpose of the new Wackenhut operation was to outfit prison buses to be distributed in other parts of the country. But it soon became apparent that none of the buses was leaving the Tucson depot. Recently, a passerby observed what appeared to be a training operation there. In what seemed to be strange activity for 10:30 PM on a Saturday night, the depot yard was fully illuminated, the entire fleet of buses was up and running, and drivers and guards were scrambling around the yard. The question is, what were they training for? Wackenhut has never officially announced itself to the community, and the local news media have never mentioned its presence. Hiring has been discreetly conducted via the Internet, and an apathetic general public has taken little notice.

Among the few who have noticed, one theory is that the prison bus depot is simply infrastructure for border security. But if so, where are the illegal aliens? Why are these buses always empty? What is the alleged justification for burning thousands of gallons of diesel

fuel to run thirty decrepit, smoking buses night and day without passengers?

There is another interesting piece to this puzzle. On the desolate plain between Phoenix and Tucson is a tiny town called Florence, Arizona, which features a population consisting largely of prisoners. For decades, Florence has been the home of two of the largest county and federal prisons in the state; and in 2007, a vast new DHS prison was built there as well. Like the Wackenhut buses, this shiny new facility, which literally disappears into the horizon, has gone unannounced and unnoticed by the general public. A new facility for imprisoning illegal aliens? It is hard to imagine such expensive infrastructure being built for that purpose when U.S. policy has been to simply return illegals to their home countries.

Fraud and waste aside, this mysterious activity has sinister implications. Why the obvious secrecy?

Since the World Trade Center disaster in 2001, the Department of Homeland Security has grown to monster proportions, claiming a projected \$50 billion of the federal budget in 2009. DHS includes the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), which earned notoriety in 2005 for its gross mishandling of the Katrina disaster in New Orleans. Al Martin, a retired naval intelligence officer and former contributor to the Presidential Council of Economic Advisors, has linked the remilitarization of FEMA to the civil unrest anticipated along with economic collapse. He wrote in a November 2005 newsletter called "Behind the Scenes in the Beltway":

"FEMA is being upgraded as a federal agency, and upon passage of PATRIOT Act III, which contains the amendment to overturn posse comitatus, FEMA will be re-militarized, which will give the agency military police powers. . . . Why is all of this being done? Why is the regime moving to a militarized police state and to a dictatorship? It is because of what Comptroller General David Walker said, that after 2009, the ability of the United States to continue to service its debt becomes questionable. Although the average citizen may not understand what that means, when the United States can no longer service its debt it collapses as an economic entity. We would be an economically collapsed state. The only way government can function and can maintain control in an economically collapsed state is through a military dictatorship."¹

Of course, there may be another, more innocent explanation for all this. But anyone living near one of these facilities should be asking to hear it. In the meantime, the ominous implications would seem to warrant exploring alternative sources of funding for the federal budget and the federal debt. There are other ways to deal with the national debt than relying on the waning appetites of the Chinese and the Japanese for U.S. securities. Some innovative possibilities for funding both the federal debt and President Obama's new economic stimulus package will be the subject of

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future articles. Stay tuned.

1. Al Martin, "FEMA, CILFs and State Security: Shocking Updates," www.almartinraw.com (November 28, 2005).

Ellen Brown developed her research skills as an attorney practicing civil litigation in Los Angeles. In Web of Debt, her latest book, she turns those skills to an analysis of the Federal Reserve and "the money trust." She shows how this private cartel has usurped the power to create money from the people themselves, and how we



Ellen Brown

the people can get it back. Her earlier books focused on the pharmaceutical cartel that gets its power from "the money trust." Her eleven books include Forbidden Medicine, Nature's Pharmacy (co-authored with Dr. Lynne Walker), and The Key to Ultimate Health (co-authored with Dr. Richard Hansen). Her websites are www.webofdebt.com and www.ellenbrown.com. ■■

Hard Times Give Government Jobs Greater Allure

By Tim Gaynor

TUCSON, Arizona (Reuters) – Thamayya Dobbs works at a call center in Arizona. But in the current economy, he says he is thinking very hard about retraining as a U.S. Border Patrol agent.

"There's more job security, stability for my family," said Dobbs, 35, as he visited a U.S. Customs and Border Protection recruitment fair in Tucson this weekend.

While the U.S. economy shed tens of thousands of jobs last week, the government agency responsible for securing the country's borders is seeking to hire 11,000 workers in a national recruitment drive this year.

In the current downturn, those jobs

have a special allure. Thousands of people turned out for the agency's 15 "National Career Day" hiring events from California to Florida on Saturday, to find out about retraining as border police officers or working in support roles such as mechanics, program analysts and information technology specialists.

In Tucson alone, 800 people flocked to the hiring event in just the first three hours.

While the jobs on offer are statistically a drop in the bucket at a time when the broader U.S. economy has lost more than 210,000 thousands jobs since the start of the year, they highlight the appeal of working for the federal government at a time of economic

uncertainty.

"At Customs and Border Protection, we offer very good career opportunities within one agency, and all under the one premise of securing America," spokeswoman Tara Dunlop told Reuters.

"As federal (government) positions, the conditions are also very good and the salaries very competitive, with very competitive benefits," she added.

JOBS THAT LAST

The recruitment events came at the end of a particularly bleak week for jobs in the United States, where companies including Sprint, Home Depot, Caterpillar, Texas Instruments and Eastman Kodak Co announced they



would slash more than 60,000 jobs.

In addition, the latest figures showed the U.S. economy shrinking at its fastest rate in 27 years, and the number of Americans seeking jobless benefits hitting a high.

Amid the carnage, government has been one of only a few sectors in the U.S. economy continuing to hire in recent months. It added 181,000 employees to the payroll during 2008.

Analysts caution that many of those jobs may also be in jeopardy in coming

Continued on page 5



In The Nation

Major Expansion Announced in Peanut Recall *Georgia Plant to Recall Every Single Peanut Product Made in Last Two Years*



By Lisa Stark, Brian Hartman
And Kate Barrett

(ABC News) - The Food and Drug Administration announced a massive expansion of the peanut butter recall linked to salmonella poisoning after shocking revelations that a Georgia plant knowingly shipped peanut products that could have been tainted.

The FDA announced that a closed Georgia peanut processing plant will recall every single peanut product it made in the past two years. The expansion means that the number of recalled food and pet treats -- already in the hundreds -- will continue to grow.

Health officials today said the recall is among the largest ever. Eight deaths and 501 illnesses in 43 states are now thought to be linked to the salmonella outbreak.

The broadened recall comes after a scathing FDA inspection report suggested the plant in Blakely, Ga., owned by Peanut Corporation of America, knowingly sent out peanut products that may have been tainted with salmonella.

"If this doesn't rise to a criminal level I don't know what does," food safety attorney Bill Marler told ABC News on Wednesday. Marler is suing the company on behalf of one consumer.

Marler's current advice? "I would think twice right now about giving a peanut butter product of any kind to someone under the age of 5 or over the age of 70."

According to the FDA inspection report, the plant found some type of salmonella in its products 12 times over the last year-and-a-half. After working with outside labs to test the products, the plant then shipped the products if follow-up tests came back negative, despite the initial findings.

"The company seemed to only believe the second tests, the one that didn't show it was there," Caroline Smith DeWaal, director of food safety at the Center for Science in the Public Interest, told ABC News. "It's critical that where you have repeated findings of salmonella you treat the product as though it could be contaminated."

The FDA inspections also documented unsanitary conditions at the plant, including cockroaches, mold and leaking roofs.

"This is one of the worst inspection reports I've seen in 15 years of practice," Marler said.

The plant will now recall every peanut product it has made since Jan. 2007 -- whether peanut paste, peanut butter, dry and roasted peanuts, granulated peanuts used in chunky peanut butter and others. The recall previously covered only peanut butter and peanut paste dating from July 1, 2008.

"Our industry again follows a strict code of practice," said Patrick Archer, president of the American Peanut Council. "We're proud of our industry and this company is not indicative of the companies within our industry."

Brand-Name Peanut Butter OK

The FDA said it still believes brand name jars of peanut butter in grocery stores are OK to eat.

"Our message is still: People should not be concerned about national name brand peanut butter in jars from super markets," said Stephen Sundlof, director of the FDA's Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition.

More than 70 companies have bought peanut butter and peanut paste from the Blakely, Ga. processing plant. Before today, the list of recalled products had already included items such as peanut butter-flavored cookies, candies, power bars, cereals, crackers, ice cream and dog biscuits.

As numbers climb higher, people like Marler are questioning the government's ability to keep food safe as products make their way through a complex supply chain from farms to grocery store shelves to kitchen pantries.

Today Marler said it's key for the government to step up its efforts and require "across-the-board bacterial and viral testing on all ready-to-eat products."

"The reality is that, frankly, U.S. companies do a marvelous job at poisoning our own citizens," Marler said. "Our focus on imported products are frankly misplaced given the fact that most food-borne illness outbreaks that occur in the United States are caused by homegrown companies."

To make sure shoppers don't get sick, health officials have posted several resources online, including updates on recalled products listed by the FDA and updates on illnesses, compiled by the Centers for Disease Control.

The American Peanut Council has also posted a list of companies that say their products are safe to eat.

"Today, FDA's food program is a shell

of what is needed," DeWaal said. "FDA has repeated incidences of national outbreaks linked to its products. And we have to believe it's because they simply don't have the staff or the resources to adequately oversee food safety."

"It is the responsibility of the industry to produce a safe product," Sundlof said. "The FDA is not in plants on a continuous basis, we do rely on inspections to find problems when they exist."

ABC News' Lauren Cox contributed to this report.



Continued from page 4 • Hard Times Give Government Jobs ...

months as state and local authorities, facing shrinking revenues, try to balance their books.

But federal jobs such as those offered by Customs and Border Protection -- paying \$35,000 to \$80,000 with health care and a full pension -- are likely to be safe, and have a growing appeal for both the unemployed and those with jobs -- like Dobbs -- who are looking for greater stability.

"If you have a choice between jobs, you will probably very much try and pick one that will have some durability, that will last," said Susan Houseman, a labor expert at the Upjohn Institute in Michigan.

"Federal government jobs would be kind of the gold standard. A federal job would be very stable."



GENERATIONAL SHIFT

President Barack Obama has set a mid-February target for Congress to pass an economic stimulus bill with more than \$800 billion in tax cuts and spending.

The Democratic president's advisers say it could create 3.7 million jobs by the close of 2010, through a mix of tax cuts and spending on infrastructure such as road building, among other areas.

In another measure aimed at boosting job security, Obama signed three executive orders on Friday to bolster unions in the workplace and increase workers' rights, reversing labor policies of his predecessor, Republican George W. Bush.

As Washington seizes the initiative on the economy, labor analysts say working for the government may also gain a certain sparkle that was missing before, when Wall Street boomed, banks readily lent money and the private sector flourished.

"Part of it is that (federal government jobs offer) a safe port in a storm ... but there's also a cultural and generational shift," said Alec Levenson, a labor economist at the Center for Effective Organizations at the University of Southern California.

"Before, in many ways working for the federal government was kind of demeaned. But the federal government is going to end up playing a much more critical role in stabilizing the economy and thinking about the changes we face as a society," he added.

"At this time, government looks like it's the only thing that's sustainable," distribution firm worker Michael Derby said as he strolled around the job fair. "It's not going anywhere any time soon."

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DEMANDING ACCOUNTABILITY

Oregon News

Oregon Governor Kulongoski & the PacifiCorp Klamath Dam Agreement in Principle

Oregon Senator Doug Whitsett
December 29, 2008 - 'On The Floor' Radio Broadcast on KFLS:

"Last week, Governor Kulongoski pre-filed thirty legislative bills.

Many of the bills are designed to further his agenda for the greening of Oregon. Senate Bill 76 is one of those green legacy bills.

The bill is written to implement the Klamath Agreement in Principle for the removal of four PacifiCorp owned hydropower dams on the Klamath River. The bill directs the Oregon Public Utility commission to establish new and increased rates and tariffs, to be paid by PacifiCorp's Oregon retail customers. Those surcharges on our power bills will be sufficient to provide the funds required for the recovery of Oregon's allocated share of PacifiCorp's un-depreciated investment in the dams. The Governor's team helped negotiate the deal that requires Oregon ratepayers to reimburse PacifiCorp for about 90% of the company's un-depreciated assets in the four dams, the related generating facilities, and the related transmission infrastructure.

Additionally, the customers will pay for all capitol improvements that the United States, California, and Oregon may require for the continued operation of the dams up until their removal scheduled to begin in 2020. The customers will repay PacifiCorp for all money already spent by PacifiCorp in their attempt to relicense the dams. The customers will pay PacifiCorp

for all amounts spent in their future attempts for settlement of relicensing issues.

The customers will pay the first \$200 million spent by PacifiCorp for removal of the dams.

The customers will pay for all amounts spent by PacifiCorp in decommissioning the dams in anticipation of their removal. The customers will be responsible for paying all future amounts spent to replace the power generated by the four dams. The customers will be responsible for paying all future costs of replacing the unique peaking function currently provided primarily by the J. C. Boyle Dam.

Surcharges will be added to all the monthly bills of PacifiCorp's more than 500,000 Oregon ratepayers. Roughly 90% of the customer base that will be required to pay to compensate PacifiCorp for their signature on the agreement to transfer ownership of their dams to the Dam Removal Entity are Oregon ratepayers.

Apparently, Governor Kulongoski and his staff are so focused on the Governor's legacy, that they have ignored the reality that Oregonians will pay for the costs of the destruction of this critical energy infrastructure. The agreement they brokered will apply 90% of the costs of dam removal directly to the monthly bills of more than half a million PacifiCorp customers in Oregon. They ignored the reality that 90% of the ongoing replacement costs of power generation and transmission, as well as the costs of replacing the dams' peaking functions, will be borne by Oregon ratepayers. They further ignored the reality that three

of the four dams, as well as the preponderance of the generating and transmission facilities, are actually located in the state of California.

It is my observation that Governor Kulongoski, and his negotiating team, simply gave away the farm in their pursuit of his legacy of dam removal.

Moreover, the Governor allegedly wants to replace the 170 megawatts of clean hydropower with other renewable sources of electricity. Under current economic conditions, the cost for that replacement power will be orders of magnitude more than the current hydropower costs for PacifiCorp's more than 500,000 Oregon ratepayers.

It is much more likely that the hydropower will be replaced with existing coal fired generation from PacifiCorp plants in Wyoming. In that event, the Governor's proposed carbon cap and trade initiative will tax every electron of that coal fire generated electricity as it enters the state of Oregon.

Governor Kulongoski's negotiation of the Agreement in Principle is his gift to Oregonians. It is a gift that will continue to cost Oregon families for generations to come. Senate Bill 76 is the vehicle to deliver that gift. "

This information and much more that you need to know about the ESA, the Klamath River Basin, and private property rights can be found at The Klamath Bucket Brigade's website - <http://klamathbucketbrigade.org/index.html> -- please visit today."

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Continued from page 1 • FAMILY COURTS - A Court Of Systems, Not Law

Costs of returning a child to the jurisdiction of the court shall be assessed against any defendant convicted of a violation of this Section, as court costs are provided by the Louisiana Code of Criminal Procedure. Added by Acts 1981, No. 725, §1."

Strangely enough, a warrant was not presented to Ms. Berry when she asked one of the deputies at the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's office for a copy. The Family Court in Lake Charles along with the help from Ms. Berry's ex-husband Michael Hebert and his attorney have reportedly denied her a trial for almost 2-1/2 years, obstructing Ms. Berry from raising her children. It is also reported that these same people were able to obtain a signed warrant for her arrest within 24 hours of her attempt to feed her two children Zachary and Ryan.

A close friend of Ms. Berry had accompanied her on the afternoon of her attempt to drop off lunch for her two boys who were left home alone. Ms. Berry's children had told her in a previous phone conversation that they had been eating toast for meals on more than one occasion, which is what caused much concern for Ms. Berry. Kathy and her friend, who accompanied her to the residence of her ex-husband, stated that neither child opened the door to the home or had any physical contact with their mother while she put their lunch on the doorstep and then walked away.

A reasonable person would agree that a biological mother should never be kept from her children unless there were certain circumstances which called for such a matter. During our investigation of Kathleen Berry's case there has been no reason to see her as an unfit

mother. The US~Observer has been provided with innumerable statements from credible sources that show the opposite without any doubt.

Ms. Berry has obtained letters from psychologists, "Fathers" from Church, doctors, friends, family and employees from an all too well known place of interest, "The Whistle Stop", stating that she is in fact a good mother who should have custody of her children. The Whistle Stop is a remedial place where parents are court ordered to see their children under supervised visitation at a cost to the parent of \$25 per hour. All of these witness statements have reportedly not been allowed into evidence supporting the fact that Ms. Berry is an exemplary parent who should be allowed to raise her children and be a part of their life. Nothing can take back the time that has been purloined from Ms. Berry as she stays optimistic in her seemingly never ending battle to reclaim her rightful custody of her children, Zachary and Ryan Hebert.

In closing, Ms. Berry asks that the Calcasieu Parish Family Courts give her what is entitled to her under Louisiana Law, a full, fair and honest trial so that she can re-claim what priceless time she has already lost and begin to build a relationship with her children



Lake Charles, LA Court House

which she rightfully deserves.

Editor's Note: If you have information about Judge Guy Bradberry or anyone who is unjust in the Lake Charles Family Courts, please contact Joseph Snook at 916-342-0132 or email - joe@usobserver.com.

*<http://law.justia.com/Louisiana/codes/146/78541.html>

■■■

Soaring Confiscation Rate of Children in Lake Charles, LA

By familyrightsassociation.com

The numbers do not lie ...

According to National Coalition for Child Protection Reform's analysis of official numbers, the national removal rate of children from the family home was 4.1 per 1,000 children.

Lake Charles City, Louisiana Statistics and Demographics (US Census 2000):

Under 5 years: 4978 or 6.94%
5 to 9 years: 5086 or 7.09%
10 to 14 years: 4932 or 6.87%
15 to 19 years: 5882 or 8.20%
TOTAL: 20,878 or 29.1%

If Lake Charles children were removed at the same rate as the national average of 4.1 per 1000 children, then only 86 children would have been

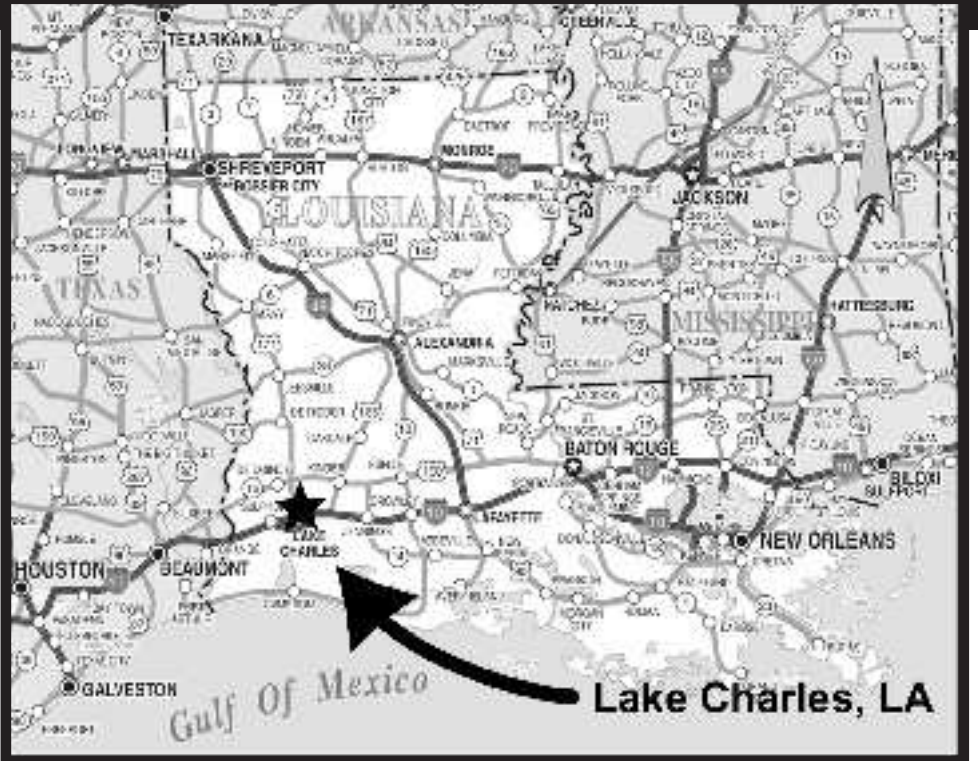
removed in 2006 $[(20878/1000) \times 4.1 = 85.5998$ (rounded to 86)].

The number of children removed in Lake Charles, LA for year 2006 was over 325. This is a removal rate of 16 per 1000 $[325 / (20878/1000) = 15.5666$ (rounded to 16)] compared to the national removal rate of 4.1.

If the family court of Judge Guy Bradberry and Judge Lylonn Cutrer and the Office of Community Services (OCS) were removing children at the national removal rate then the number of children removed would be 86. But their removal rate of 325 is almost FOUR TIMES the national removal rate of only 86.

What about the future

This Lake Charles removal rate of 16 per 1000 children, as gruesome as it may seem, is actually a bare minimum. The 325 number is the official DSS number



of children who entered foster care and not the total number of children removed from their homes. Some children were removed from their home and moved to relatives and this number is not included in the 325. The total number of children removed from their families is actually higher than 325.

From year 2005 to 2006 the number of children in FOSTER PLACEMENTS in Lake Charles almost doubled [see attachment, GRAPHS court filings and foster placements]

Lake Charles has a large number of children in FOSTER PLACEMENTS in proportion to the population and the number is increasing at an scandalous rate. Some FOSTER PLACEMENTS in Lake Charles have at least 8 to 9 children "packed in".

Observe that if current trends in the 14th District Juvenile Court continue the removal rate of Lake Charles children from their homes will be 30 per 1000 $[618 / (20878/1000) = 29.6005$ (rounded to 30)]. Mathematical and graphical projections demonstrate that this rate was probably approached in year 2007. This removal rate of 618 would be SEVEN TIMES the national removal rate of 86.

Note: As of October 2008 the 2007

DSS data had not yet been published so the projection accuracy is limited by the refusal of the Louisiana DSS to produce timely data as mandated by federal law.

Conclusion

More data should be obtained from the 14th District family court and the Louisiana DSS to facilitate further and more accurate analysis.

DSS advertises that 5000 children are in foster care and that 1000 children are available for adoption. Where are the 5000 children? They are not in the two major Louisiana cities New Orleans and Baton Rouge, so where are they? DSS tells how many children enter foster care. How many children remain in foster care?

DSS claims 1000 children are awaiting adoption yet the OCS website only listed 109 children. Note: The webpage link at the OCS web page "View Children waiting for Adoption" no longer functions.

This Lake Charles, Louisiana holocaust must be brought to an end immediately. It is imperative that family court and the OCS be audited and investigated. ■■■

Lake Charles, LA



COMMENTARY Your Right to Speak Out

Boomers: “Rich” Targets for Estate Looters



By Lou Ann Anderson
US~Observer

“Gone to Texas” was a phrase used by Americans immigrating to Texas in the 19th century and is applicable again today as the Baby Boomers (Americans born 1946-1964) begin to retire and relocate, as in times past, to Texas. Georgetown, Texas, was just named a

top retirement town by Where to Retire magazine and a recent report by the North Carolina Center for Creative Retirement lists Texas as the #2 state for retiree relocation surpassing Arizona and continuing to close the gap with Florida.

Whether in Texas or elsewhere, being a retirement “hot spot” energizes everyone from government officials and Chambers of Commerce to realtors and other business interests. The concentration of a retirement-age population, however, can bring another element into a community – predators seeking to operate within probate venues so as to divert estate assets from intended beneficiaries or heirs. In more simple terms, modern day looters and poachers intent on using the American legal system to steal property from the dead or disabled/incapacitated.

A new Horace Cooper column entitled A New Inheritance Tax for Baby Boomers discusses the upcoming transfer of wealth from Baby Boomers to their heirs and warns that “inheritance and estate planning scams are reportedly on the rise and perhaps even more pernicious is the rise in inheritance related litigation as the ever larger stockpiles of cash and real estate act as a magnet for trouble-makers.”

Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) acts that base lawsuits on probate instruments such as trusts, wills and guardianships are insightfully characterized as a litigation tax on inheritance.

That lifelong productivity and an accumulation of assets could cause a person to become a target is the reality of today’s world. The upcoming years will see a transfer of wealth prompting new IRA efforts. Legal speculation is fueling some of these cases as legitimate heirs are induced to “settle” opposed to expending resources to defend frivolous claims. People think proper estate planning will protect them or that they don’t have enough assets to be a target, but there is no inoculation from the threat of IRA. Entrusting the execution of your wishes to an individual who is respectful of your wishes is key, but thwarting of this effort occurs as IRA practitioners are often shameless masters of deception.

Law enforcement and the courts provide minimal safeguard or justice. Local authorities often refrain from criminal prosecutions and instead defer IRA adjudications to civil courts. Court battles are the traditional “remedy” for such actions. But win or lose, massive financial expense as well as a stringent emotional toll can yield the only true “winners” in these cases to be the participating lawyers. Many people cannot afford to take action as our courts are a pay-to-play venue. Others recognize that even with a meritorious case, many IRA actions involve a lawyer as a primary or secondary perpetrator and judges (usually former lawyers) are not known for taking substantive action against “their own kind.” With increased understanding, the need for criminal prosecutions will hopefully become self evident and communities will take action to ultimately protect their residents – both the living and the dead. The prospect of a few years behind bars might one day make poaching Uncle Paul’s nest egg less appealing, but we

are not there yet.

In his column, Horace Cooper encourages people to review their estate plans. IRA cases happen quietly and those involved in estate looting actions want to keep it that way. Two other areas of vigilance, however, also exist. First, take a look at your own community. Your town is likely home to “trouble-makers” as described by Cooper - those who use the legal system to subject legitimate heirs to this litigation tax on inheritance. Work to know who these people are and avoid them. Hopefully others will do the same and your area will cease to be viewed as potentially target rich. Also, make this an election issue with local officials, especially your judges. When these cases come before a judge, does the judge support individuals’ property rights or their legal industry peers’ property poaching actions?

Involuntary Redistribution of Assets (IRA) actions occur through abuse of probate venues and/or probate documents such as wills, trusts or guardianships. When taken to court, these actions truly become a de facto inheritance litigation tax. They happen daily and if many in the legal industry continue prevailing in their quest to keep this an undocumented, “overstated” non-issue, the lifelong asset accumulation of an entire generation is at risk. Areas with heavy retirement populations must be especially vigilant. The upcoming transfer of wealth will occur, but without prompt legal system reform, the property recipients may be far different from what many Baby Boomers anticipate.

Lou Ann Anderson is an advocate working to create awareness (www.EstateofDenial.com) regarding the Texas probate system and its surrounding culture. She also is producer of The Lynn Woolley Show, a Texas-based talk radio program. Lou Ann may be contacted at info@estateofdenial.com.

■ ■ ■

Intelligence Briefing for Military and Police Forces



By Greg Evensen
NewsWithViews.com

Intelligence comes in two distinct and uniquely critical components. The first is information—or intelligence—that comes from sources known to you as an investigator or intercepted sources that may not be known to you. The most critical intelligence sector is that of our own discerning creative minds. Together, these two arenas comprise the data mine that gives us a glimpse into the future. Military leaders and police

officials know that this future depends solely on how we assess that data and our near miracle ability to shape outcomes by how we have collectively interpreted all of the “leads.” If we are able to process correctly, the police agency or forward military unit can deploy its forces based on qualified assumptions that have been drawn from the available “intelligence” and thus strike or defend effectively and efficiently.

Using this descriptive breakdown of the role of intelligence, let’s project into 2009, and see what type of outcomes we might expect over the next few months concerning the economic and political events here in the United States.

Let’s begin with what we do know based on existing information and substantiated reports from across the country. The executive branch of government assuming power on 20 January 2009 is comprised of the most socialist mindset since the Roosevelt years. The cabinet and department executives reflect a bias against historical constitutional precepts, are continuing programs or are set on implementing new ones that will devastate the Bill of Rights (what is left of it). They are viciously against the

ownership of personal defense weapons and are morally degenerate in their rabid support of same-sex marriage, abortion, and homosexuality as a civil right, as well as promoters of open borders with Mexico. This hideous and brashly anti-traditional/historical America mindset in Washington has completed the destruction of the bridge between our Godly heritage and the present day four-lane interstate journey into oblivion and destruction.

Most of America has ridden this express train to hell, while listening to I-Pods, lost on the cell phone, or addicted to demonically inspired virtual games on the ever present lap-top. Family discussions around the dinner table, parent involvement with their children’s school and church, horseback camping trips and Christ honoring Christmas gatherings, have given way to illicit sex parties, including pre-teen homosexual experimentation encouraged by psychiatrists, cheating and plagiarism rings in the public schools, gang affiliation in record numbers, drug smuggling and dope dealing in every community in the country.

What then does our intelligence tell us? Based on these known facts, we can conclude that America’s days as the

“moral leader” to the world are long over. Spiritually, we are worse off than the most backward African nation that still worships rocks and trees. We have offended the true God of the universe and are next in line for utter destruction. That fate, I believe, is well underway.

Even if you dismiss the spiritual component, the results of our moral disintegration have brought about its own unavoidable chain of events. Where moral character is absent, corruption, theft, sexual immorality, lying, selfish and traitorous conduct rushes in to fill the void. This is abundantly evident on every hand in disease ridden America. The family has disintegrated, churches have fallen away from God’s truth, government has failed, banks have crumbled, credit has replaced “money,” debt replaced “money” and “money” replaced gold and silver. Cowardice has replaced confidence, incompetency has replaced competency, and mistrust has taken over trust in the law and law officers. Virtue in the mission of the military has been replaced with unending wars and police actions by a now mercenary role for our soldiers who have been prostituted to serve the whore of government.

Continued on page 9

NewsWithViews.com
WHERE REALITY SHATTERS ILLUSION

"Congress has not unlimited powers to provide for the general welfare but only those specifically enumerated. ... A wise and frugal government...shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned." --Thomas Jefferson

COMMENTARY

"It's not two parts of it (freedom), economic freedom and personal freedom. There's only one freedom."

--Ron Paul with Bill Moyers

By Eric Coltrane

This is the very core of the United States Constitution. Does the U.S. Government make you feel free these days? Or Safe? Is the USmilitary fighting for the freedom of U.S. citizens in Iraq and Afghanistan, or are they fighting a corporate war for the "Big Oil" companies (Bush?) and other U.S. corporations? Billions of U.S. tax dollars are being poured into large corporations such as Halliburton (Dick Cheney?) to rebuild Iraq, when the Iraqi people, who have a huge unemployment rate, could do it for a fraction of the cost. They want to rebuild their own country. They begged to have a hand in rebuilding and protecting their country, and they were told no. So, American citizens paid the price of rebuilding and protecting Iraq with their tax dollars, (and future generations' tax dollars) which by the way was borrowed from China, Japan, and others. Now we owe them. U.S. soldiers and innocent Iraqi citizens have also paid the price with their lives and limbs! Prolonged wars are never good for the State. General Westmoreland knew this when he quoted Master Sun Tzu's "Art of War" in his argument for withdrawal from Vietnam. He said "No nation has ever benefitted from a protracted war". This is as true today as it was 2500 years ago.

How does this affect the freedom of U.S. citizens? In my last commentary I outlined basically the way Fractional

"Financial Slavery"

Reserve Banking worked. All countries use this system, and all countries hold US dollars in reserve. There is a very important reason for this. Oil is very much tied to the USdollar. All countries have to pay for oil in USdollars, and all countries use their reserve USdollars to purchase needed oil. all very convenient for whom, the U.S. government, the citizens of the United States, the "Big Oil" companies, or the Federal Reserve Bank?

The U.S. economy is in a state of collapse. In reality the "world" economy is collapsing. Every currency of the world bases their value against the USdollar. (Incredible, I know.) President Nixon set it up that way. Actually FDR set it up that way with the Bretton/Woods Act. Nixon just removed gold from the equation. Now all money is created from debt without having an asset to back it up. The USdollar is collapsing in a major way. That results in key world economic significance. U.S. citizens can change that dynamic. Jörg Guido Hülsmann put it this way; *"In the present crisis, the citizens of the United States have to make an important choice. They can support a policy designed to perpetuate our current fiat-money system and the sorry state of banking and of financial markets that it logically entails. Or they can support a policy designed to reintroduce a free market in money and finance. This latter policy requires the government to keep its hands off. It should not produce money, nor should it appoint a special agency to produce money. It should not force the citizens to use fiat money by imposing legal-tender laws. It should not regulate banking and should not regulate the financial markets. It should not try to fix the interest rate, the prices*

of financial titles, or commodity prices" (italics added). In other words the United States should lead the way in financial reform. The freedom of U.S. citizens depends on it.

It may however be too late. The financial institutions, Mega-corporations, the IRS, and the Federal Reserve Bank have control over the U.S. government's monetary policies. Not congress, who's responsibility it is. The Founding Fathers knew that those entities should not control the monetary policy (as a matter of fact there was not and was never intended to be an IRS). That is why they handed the responsibility to Congress. Congress is supposed to create a budget and stick to it. Congress has the sole responsibility of maintaining the "Constitutional" monetary policies of the U.S. government. Not the Federal Reserve Bank, not Corporate lobbyist, and certainly not the IRS. Jörg Guido Hülsmann, in his Essay "Deflation and Liberty" writes, *"At the beginning of the 20th century, most firms and industrial corporations were financed out of their revenues, and banks and other financial intermediaries played only a subordinate role. Today, the picture has been reversed, and the most fundamental reason for this reversal is paper money. Paper money has caused an unprecedented increase of debt on all levels: government, corporate, and individual. It has financed the growth of the state on all levels, federal, state, and local"*.

Congress dropped the ball in 1913



Eric Coltrane

when they allowed the Federal Reserve Bank to take over the monetary policies of the U.S. government. The U.S. dollar has lost 96% of its purchasing power since 1913. The Fractional Reserve Banking system in conjunction with the U.S. government has created massive debt, recessions, depressions, inflation, and destructive economic bubbles. The U.S. government is anticipating a deficit of 1.2 trillion dollars for the 2009 fiscal year. 1,200,000,000,000 one trillion is a million millions. This is a phenomenal debt that can never be repaid. The interest alone is in the billions. Normally the money to fund the deficit is created by selling USTreasury Bonds to other countries, but with the USdollar on the verge of collapse will other countries be willing to buy these potentially toxic bonds? That would be like buying a hand grenade without the pin. You'd want to toss it the first chance you got.

With the unconstitutional income tax in place U.S. citizens will ultimately be responsible for repaying this debt. "Economic Slavery" is what is in store for U.S. citizens. Freedom could most certainly be out of the question.

■■■

Continued from page 8 • Intelligence Briefing for Military and Police Forces

Any intelligence operation will predict that this vast negative change in standards results in the defeat of the nation from within. It cannot be avoided and its outcomes are unavoidably predetermined. Such corruption then begins to feed on itself. In order to protect the viability of the continuing operation of such a flawed entity, a self-defense mechanism must then be established to insure that the antithesis of the corrupted state (a morally virtuous state) cannot be reinstated.

In the case of present day America, this means the establishment of a previously unheard of and unneeded police state apparatus. This internal security behemoth has been built to protect the unconstitutional and corrupted national government. This new Gestapo like state security network (homeland security) is in a continuing state of expansion and invasion of the private lives of Americans. It MUST do so, because it fears freedom, honest citizens, and clean government. Only corrupted officials need constant machine gun bearing black-clad killers in their employment. Conversely, free, honest, government works shoulder to shoulder with its citizens in an open concept where common sense and common integrity rules.

Now our intelligence gathering abilities will conclude that in order to staff such a police state army, men and

women who have themselves been corrupted will be the most likely to be recruited and serve successfully. To be successful, they must voluntarily agree to obey all rules and direct orders issued from the corrupted police or general staffs which they serve. The future can be predicted then, that at some point, those who have sworn to obey the corrupted state police apparatus will come into direct conflict with those who have maintained their personal morality, dignity, independence, and allegiance to God and the Republic. There can be NO OTHER outcome. There is no road for compromise or "sit-down" resolution. The ONLY outcome is conflict. The state will maintain its "us against them" mentality and the freedom fighters will have no choice but to survive by fighting back. This scenario has been repeated throughout all of history on every continent with the same inevitable, predictable ending.

The maverick or rogue element in all of this has begun to emerge in a way that gives us some pause for hope, however. Vast amounts of information through patriot radio, constitutionally sensitive internet news services and courageous speakers across the country are bringing true and accurate facts to millions of citizens and of course police officers and armed forces at home and in theater. Because of these collective efforts, officers at all levels are being made

aware of the real situation facing all of us and how they should respond—or not—to orders that will be coming to them.

The final segment of this article is directed to police and military officers at all levels. It is as though roll call was underway and the orders of the day issued. I ask that you read this carefully and let it become a part of your standard operating procedures manual of the heart. Your response to this will help decide the ultimate fate of our nation. As sworn officers and oath bound military men and women, you are under the lawful order domain that was codified for all time during the Nuremburg Tribunals of 1945-48. That body decreed to all men and women under arms that merely obeying orders of any kind was not an affirmative defense for actions taken in combat or against civilian populations. The benchmark that was established was, if the "order" was criminal in nature or "required" the affected forces to commit an act they knew was or suspected to be criminal in nature, they had the absolute right and duty to disobey that order and in some cases seek the immediate arrest and prosecution of the ordering authority. That operational standard still exists and will be used should the occasion arise in the near future. Let me be VERY clear. If a police officer from any jurisdiction, private contractors hired to act as agents

of the police, or a military member acting in an "official" capacity should carry out unlawful, unconstitutional, or unethical "orders" that violates the effected person's lawful rights, safety, security, or freedom, then the offending "agent" of government is liable in court both criminally and civilly. In the worse case situation, the offending agent may be at the mercy of citizens who will not tolerate such abuse.

Resistance to such government actions by the citizenry in these situations for the preservation of life and peace is therefore justified in the extreme.

We are left then with this "future" to contemplate. Either intelligence will dictate that this nation's constitutional laws will be followed under all circumstances, or there will be severe consequences both immediate and long term. Be it known that NO police or military authority is exempt from safeguarding the American people from violations of their absolute rights and that all such authority must be lawful, constitutional, humane and fair.

That any officer of the law or of the military have as their first priority, the intelligent and judicious use of their power, and the full knowledge that the Republic of the United States and its people will hold them accountable and responsible for their individual and

Continued on page 10

The US~Observer*An informed electorate is the foundation of a Free Society!***Head of Operations****Ron Lee****Head of Investigations****Edward Snook****Investigative Reporters****Kelly Stone****John Taft****Curt Chanler****Jeanne Wollman****Paul Kraxberger****Tedd Peck****Joe Snook****Editor/Investigator****Ron Lee****Subscription Rate:****\$29.50 / 12 monthly issues****\$50.00 / 24 monthly issues****See Page 23 of this Issue**

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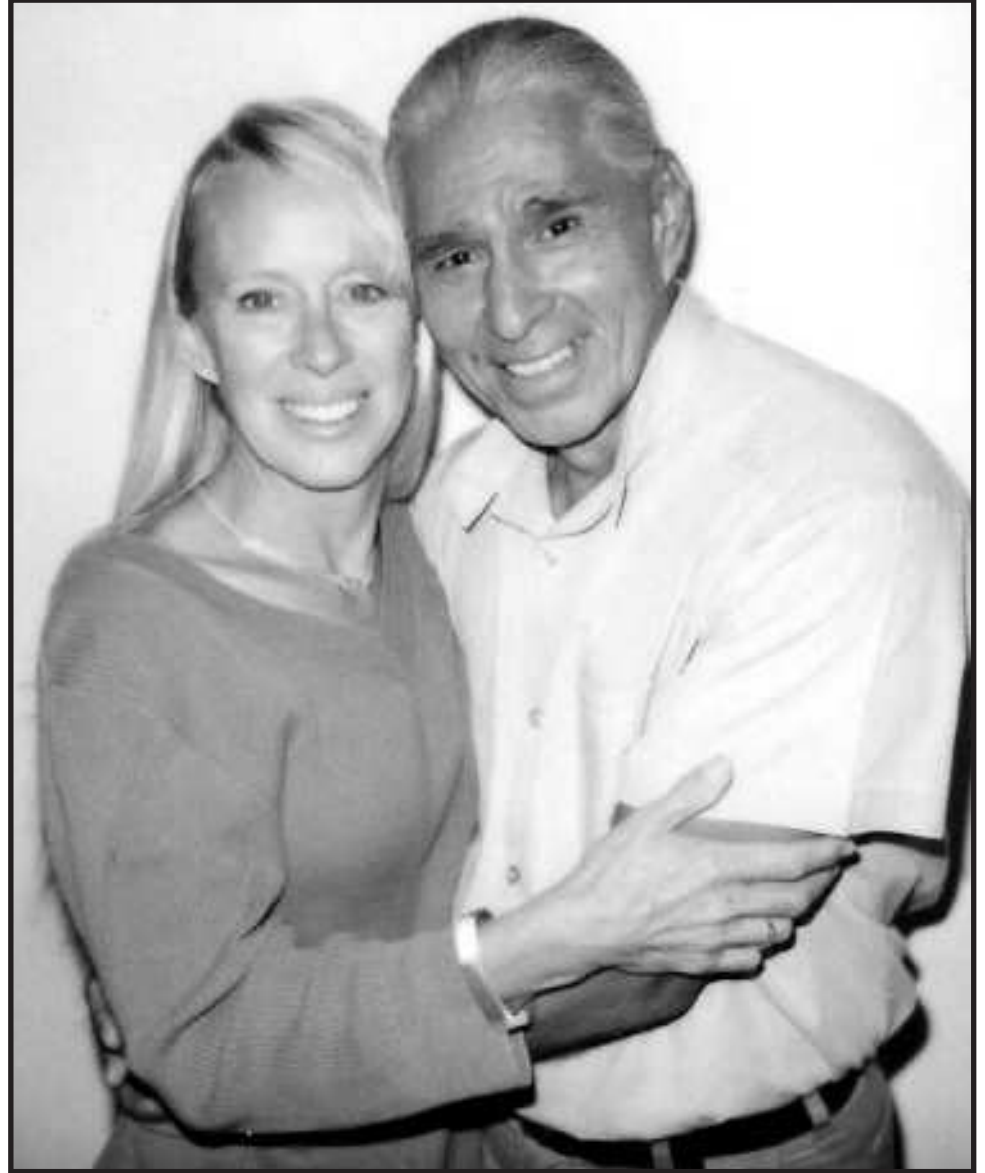
541•474•7885**Continued from page 1 • OK Governor & Parole Board**

unscrupulous district attorney, John Turner, who coerced him into signing a false confession to the murder of Cathy Scott in August of 1970. Seventeen days after Reno was arrested for "being high on an unknown substance" he arrived at Oklahoma State Penitentiary in McAlester, a 23-year old convicted murderer carrying the unbearable weight of a life sentence on his shoulders.

Although Reno has been turned down for parole over a dozen times during his 38-plus years of incarceration he received a unanimous vote of support from the parole board this past July, 2008. The board questioned Reno at length encouraging him to be truthful about what happened during the commission of the 1970 crime. Reno explained that he could not share that information as he had not been at the scene of the crime and did not know what actually occurred.

Following this discussion the 5-member parole board voted unanimously to parole Reno from his life sentence to a consecutive 5 year sentence. Besides the life sentence for murder, Reno also has a 5 year sentence for "unauthorized use of a motor vehicle" and a 10 year sentence for "burning or destruction of a public building," received when he was at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary at McAlester while attempting to create a diversion by kicking a toilet off the wall to stop the beating of another inmate by prison guards. After the parole board's approval Reno's file was sent to the office of Governor Brad Henry on August 15 for final approval.

On January 7, 2009 Reno was called into the office of the parole investigator at the prison at Lexington, Oklahoma where he is incarcerated. The investigator explained to Reno that Governor Henry is willing to sign Reno's parole, but wishes to have his life sentence commuted to a number of years. This way when the set time has been served the sentence will be fully executed and will be null and void. A regular parole, on the other hand, can be revoked under certain conditions. In order for this commutation to happen the parole board must recommend the number of years to which the sentence should be commuted. Reno's hearing before the parole board for this commutation decision has been set for

**Verna Wood and Reno Francis**

the second week in February. After the board makes their recommendation, Reno's file will once again make the trip to the governor's desk for his approval.

This reporter knows of two similar cases in which the parole board recommended a time frame for commutation of a life sentence and the governor has approved the commutation. Those inmates have served enough time already to satisfy the requirements of the commuted sentence and are now beginning to serve their respective consecutive sentences.

The US~Observer thanks the Oklahoma Pardon and Parole Board and Governor Brad Henry for their willingness to work with these inmates and for making a positive difference in

their lives. We strongly urge and encourage the parole board to commute Reno's sentence to a small number of years (preferably 1 year) so that the time he has already served will not only justify this sentence but the 5 and 10 year sentences as well, making Reno's imminent release a possibility. Surely 38 years is more than enough time for an innocent man to spend behind bars. We support the immediate release of Reno Francis.

Editor's Note: To read more about Reno Francis log onto usobserver.com. Reno's story can be found in the following issues: 2007-Edition 15, Edition 18, Edition 19 and 2008-Edition 25.

■■■

Continued from page 9 • Intelligence Briefing for Military ...

collective actions in defense of the American people during times of crises from whatever cause.

Be it further understood, that no President, General, Judge, Governor, Attorney General, law enforcement official, legislator, public official at any level or animal control officer may violate civil rights, the Bill of Rights, the law, constitutional authority, or any other covenant with the American people for any reason including open warfare. Any such violation will be considered a violation of the official's oath of office and will be subject to civil and or criminal penalties.

Good intelligence is a useful tool in keeping the peace, safeguarding the general population and using the law for the purposes it was intended. Common sense is the gatekeeper for those laws and the maintenance of civilization. Together we must insure that both intelligence and common sense survive any application or misapplication of the law in any form including that of martial law. No other course is acceptable. No other course is

lawful. No other course will insure that America survives its present economic and political calamities without resorting to all out conflict between its citizens and those in authority. Our future depends on the intelligent use of our intelligence, from whatever source we take it, and how we use it. We expect, indeed demand that those in authority begin at once to exercise intelligent strength of character and the wisdom to know from whence comes their strength.

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Greg Evensen is an award winning former Kansas State Trooper and Kansas Marshal. He speaks across the nation for Patriot groups and is available to come to your area as well. Call 906-367-0505 or e-mail him at greg@theheartlandusa.com.

Greg's weekly radio show, "Voices from the Heartland" is heard on the Republic Broadcasting Network each Saturday from 12 noon to 2:00 pm Central time.

■■■

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Continued from page 1 • Chumash Casino: Demise from Within ...

to acquire our services.

It has been my privilege to talk with many of the respondents to our previous article. Many have bizarre stories of their personal experiences with the Chumash Casino. The consensus is that it's in the best interest of the public, what has now become the obvious, to know the hidden agenda of the Chumash Casino. Meske is seemingly correct in his assessment that our previous article reads like a "Science Fiction" story - because the casino operates as if it perceives itself as above the law and not bound by any regulatory oversight or self inspection.

Now let's reflect on the Meske email as he attempts to obfuscate many facts and diminish the casino's culpability:

To editor@usobserver.com

I find no hint of journalistic responsibility to report facts in this article; only innuendo, distortions and misinformation. Mr. Snook may be many things; but judging by this article, he is not an investigator. Manny Jones was a good guy; liked and respected by his coworkers here at the Chumash Casino. What happened to Manny was truly a tragedy. His death after suffering a stroke saddened us all. I conducted a surveillance review to track Manny's earlier movements after he arrived at the casino, once his wife informed Security he hadn't returned home, and observed that Manny left the casino in the morning, walking normally and briskly eastward towards a roadway where employees are often picked up by

friends or family. Manny went far enough away from our facility that he was no longer in camera view; so once his missing status was established, a search for him was immediately conducted. When Manny was found, the local law enforcement agency and coroner were notified, and the investigation was turned over to them. There was no conspiracy, or "in-house detective conflict of interest" or mysterious source that ordered embalming before an autopsy was conducted. It was the autopsy, conducted by the county coroner that identified the cause and time of death. It is also the coroner's responsibility to release death information to law enforcement so family members may be officially notified and accurately informed of what occurred.

Alluding to Manny knowing something that was of a compromising nature is nothing more than ridiculous fantasy and gross sensationalism. Mr. Snook has misidentified himself as an Investigative Reporter. His title should be Science Fiction Writer.

Mark Meske
 Director, Regulatory Compliance & Surveillance
 Chumash Casino Resort
 Santa Ynez, CA

Meske has made some interesting points, one of which is the cause of Manny's death; reportedly a stroke? Did Mr. Meske read the autopsy carefully? I'm not a doctor, but I do have some medical background in the military and enough common sense to understand that his death was questionable and not certain as being a stroke. Our initial report was based

on sources within the casino that have produced enough information that could ultimately hold the casino responsible no matter the cause of death. The Chumash Tribe needs to seriously consider what options they still have - time permitting. Most importantly, while they still have a chance to do what is right and just.

Another excellent point that Mark Meske made was regarding the fact that it wasn't until after Manny's wife Kathy contacted the casino that a search was launched. Keep in mind that this is over eight hours since the deceased arrived for work at the casino. Those in charge of security had at least eight opportunities to do their job, but failed to ensure Manny was doing his assigned security duties. Since the existing protocol called for the security personnel to check in every hour on the hour it becomes obvious to this writer that there was negligence on the part of supervision. One of their employees went missing and the casino's security was seriously breached with total disregard by the management.

The casino in turn made hasty decisions to deny the Jones family with workers compensation coverage, ordered their employees to sign confidentiality agreements and reportedly, from reliable sources, used scare tactics to ensure closed ranks, all actions that make the Chumash Casino look guilty as hell.

Mark Meske seems to be a pawn in a much larger scheme of things and it would be poor judgment on my part to damage his character since the person who actually hired him said he was a decent man, but also probably doing what he can to protect the very people who employ him. His former boss who made this statement currently has a 5.5 million dollar lawsuit filed against the casino for retaliation after he exposed the Chumash Tribe's attempts to cheat their customers by illegally rigging their machines in the Tribes favor.

So, the US~Observer will give Meske the benefit of the doubt as we understand that he is only a robot with the inability to conduct a fair and honest investigation. This is a given since he represents people who reportedly embezzle from the tribe to gamble and lie about it, then apologize for lying and expect forgiveness. Meske represents people who reportedly get their defense lawyers appointed as judges through generous donations to politicians. He represents people who reportedly had to pay a certain female around \$30,000.00 for sexual harassment. Meske represents people who reportedly terminate good employees - wrongfully. He represents a tribal chief who just reportedly cost the Chumash Casino around \$535k for stealing from an all too well known contractor. And last but not least, Mark Meske reportedly represents people who are trying to donate 2 million dollars towards the campaign of gubernatorial candidate McConnell.

A supposed sovereign nation can only go so far before enough is enough. Please understand that we have given the Chumash Casino ample opportunities to repair the bridge they have continuously attempted to tear down.

In closing, it is imperative that I refer back to Meske's email response regarding questions raised in our November article. Overall the response was anemic in that it skirted the questions and raised serious concerns regarding the casino's sincerity, when a response is made in such a cavalier fashion, especially, when compared to the many accusations coming from numerous sources besides the Jones Family.

I can say this with confidence, if I am a science fiction writer, why is it a third grade student was able to see and address something Mr. Meske could not, the lack of accountability for Manny Jones during his shift? Amazingly, The Chumash Casino has reportedly saved one of their employees' lives on more than one occasion because the employee was accounted for in a timely manner, thus giving medical personnel the ability to prevent this employees death. Why not Manuel Jones?

Editor's Note: Please contact Joe Snook at 916-342-0132 or joe@usobserver.com with any information on the Chumash Casino. ■■

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The Ammunition Accountability Act's real story

Group tries to profit off gun control legislation

By nationalgunrights.org



A visit to the website Ammunition Accountability.Org -- they also run a mirror .com site -- would lead you to believe that they were a grassroots conglomeration of concerned citizens and civic leaders with an unimpressive, low-tech website.

That couldn't be further from the truth. The Ammunition Accountability Act and corresponding website are run by a

company that developed the technology necessary to enforce the same legislation they lobby for. In other words, the founders of the Ammunition Accountability Act are pushing legislation which will have a direct and substantial financial benefit to them.

The legislation calls for each individual piece of ammunition produced to be etched or stamped with a unique serial number. This patented technology was developed by Russ Ford and his business partners Steve Mace and John Knickerbocker of Seattle, Washington.

Ford and his associates were unable to convince any ammunition manufacturers to use their technology, so they hired a lobbyist to push for state-level ammo tagging legislation.

Ostensibly Ford and company are billing this legislation as a way to stop violent crime by tracking handgun and "assault weapon" ammunition.

However, the sample text of their legislation -- provided on their website -- would outlaw the ownership of all non-

tagged ammo of any caliber. Additionally, the legislation would require a state-run database to track each ammunition serial number and information on who purchased each round of ammo.

Not only does the legislation directly aim to financial benefit Ford and his business partners, but it will push most ammunition manufactures out of business, and make home reloading ammunition illegal.

Their legislation has been introduced in 18 states, however none of introduced pieces of legislation have gotten beyond committee hearings in any state. All the introduced bills died on their respective calendars when each state legislative session adjourned sine die.

Ammunition Accountability is little more than a couple of anti-gunners trying to cash in on hoplophobia.

NRA-ILA Statement on "Encoded Ammunition"/Bullet Serialization:

"People would be required to forfeit all personally-owned non-encoded ammunition. After a certain date, it would be illegal to possess non-encoded ammunition. Gun owners possess hundreds of millions of rounds of ammunition for target shooting, hunting and personal protection. Consider that American manufacturers produce 8 billion rounds each year.

Reloading (re-using cartridge cases multiple times) would be abolished. There would be no way to correspond serial numbers on cartridge cases, and different sets and quantities of bullets.

People would be required to separately register every box of 'encoded ammunition.' This information would be supplied to the police. Most states do not even require registration of guns. Each box of ammunition would have a unique serial number, thus a separate registration.

Private citizens would have to maintain records, if they sold ammunition to anyone, including family members or friends.

The cost of ammunition would soar, for police and private citizens alike. The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturing Institute estimates it would take three weeks to produce ammunition currently produced in a single day. For reason of cost, manufacturers would produce only ultra-expensive encoded ammunition, which police would have to buy, just like everyone else.

A tax of five cents a round would be imposed on private citizens, not only upon initial sale, but every time the ammunition changes hands thereafter.

Shotgun ammunition cannot be engraved. Shotgun pellets are too small to be individually engraved. Shotgun cartridge cases are made of plastic, which would be difficult to engrave.

Criminals could beat the system. A large percentage of criminals' ammunition (and guns) is stolen. Criminals could also collect ammunition cases from shooting ranges, and reload them with molten lead bullets made without serial numbers."

...

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Continued from page 1 • Jeff Lowrance: *Polished Con Artist?*

past four years, has recently exposed himself as a fraud. Lowrance could soon join the ranks of indicted and/or convicted scam artists Bernie Madoff, Jules Bernard Fleder, Jack Arnold Brown, Tom Miller (Gideon Group), Dennis Scholenberg (Ex President of Big Bear Bank – Big Bear Lake, CA), Frank Quattrone and Art Nadel just to mention a few.

Lowrance retained the US-Observer in September to protect him from angry investors who reportedly stated they were going to travel to Panama and “do him in.” Having done a considerable amount of business with Lowrance in 2008, I agreed to assist him, but only if he was open and honest with me about his investment program. Jeff signed a contract with me on September 18, 2008. On this date Jeff informed me that he had the complete principal of every investor who had money invested with First Capital Savings & Loan (FCSL) on deposit. Jeff agreed to provide this guarantee in writing. He also agreed to provide me with a complete list of his investors. After Lowrance’s usual procrastination, on November 10, 2008, I received his guarantee in writing regarding investor’s principal and we also received the client list around this time.

Lowrance owed me \$195,000.00 but informed me on September 18, 2008, that he was broke and only had \$185,000.00 left besides the investor’s principal, which according to Lowrance was in a fund that could not be touched until December 5, 2008, or he would lose a great deal of the money due to early withdrawal penalties. Lowrance assured me that he was re-financing some condos he owned in Panama and that he would be paying me from those funds. At this time I advised Lowrance that he should update his investors before they became any more inflamed. I also advised Lowrance that he should tell them he would have their principal returned by January 5, 2009, because it would take him some time to acquire the money and time to wire it to investors. Lowrance agreed and sent this information via email to all his investors.

As early as November the

US-Observer began investigating Lowrance and FCSL. On November 14, 2008, Jeff sent an email to an impeccable source stating that he had \$42 million dollars on deposit – we continued with our investigation. January came and went without one word from Lowrance.

On January 6, 2009, I was contacted by Carlos Olmos, one of Jeff’s employees in Panama. Carlos stated that he had confronted Jeff about returning the investor’s money. He told Jeff that he couldn’t handle all the calls from angry investors. According to Olmos, Lowrance informed him that he wasn’t about to return all the investor’s money and walk away without any money after 4 years of hard work. This coincides with the Observer’s firm opinion that Lowrance has millions tucked away that he doesn’t want to part with. Carlos Olmos has since parted ways with Lowrance and he has informed the “King of Forex” not to contact him anymore.

Just days after January 6, 2009, the US-Observer sent a letter to all investors, giving them the opportunity to retain the Observer to go after the principal they had handed over to Lowrance. We gave this opportunity due to the fact that we had interacted with and became very much associated with approximately a dozen investors during the months of Sept., Oct., Nov. and December. In fact three investors had already hired us before we sent the letter out. A total of 64 investors have hired us out of a total of over 440 clients of FCSL.

A Ponzi Scheme?

A Ponzi Scheme is a fraudulent investment operation that pays returns to investors out of the money paid by subsequent investors rather than from profit. The term, “Ponzi scheme,” is used primarily in the United States, while other English-speaking countries do not distinguish colloquially between this scheme and other pyramid schemes.

The US-Observer set the date of January 28, 2009, as the final date we would accept contracts from investors

and on the 29th this writer had a phone conversation with Lowrance. I confronted Lowrance with the fact that I had received calls from two new investors of his – one investor told me that he invested \$200,000.00 with Jeff in October under his new program and that this investor had just learned of Jeff’s severe problems with FCSL clients. At this juncture Jeff had been trying to tell me he was broke, while mentioning not one word about the funds he supposedly had on deposit, so I asked him, “What about all the money from your new investors?” Jeff stated that this money was all gone and he offered to show me spread sheets. I told him I wasn’t interested and I wasn’t interested in listening to any more of his lies.

This fact alerted me to the possibility that Lowrance had used “new investor’s money” to pay bills related to clients of FCSL, which would constitute a Ponzi scheme. Later in the day I received a call from Carlos Olmos and I inquired about the new investor’s money. Carlos told me that he knew for sure that this money had been spent, but that he also knew that Jeff had a “lot of money somewhere.” I agreed with him and we ended our conversation, however I was left with one more piece of evidence pointing to a Ponzi scheme.

Facts About Jeff Lowrance

Everyone associated with Lowrance knows or should know that he is a pathological liar. According to numerous witnesses providing trading data, Jeff is currently trading large amounts of money successfully. Lowrance must have plenty of funds or he wouldn’t be able to trade...period. Jeff is no longer able to travel to Panama without being arrested for financial dishonesty. The FBI and other agencies have been repeatedly contacted and informed about Lowrance and they have done nothing to date about this mess to our knowledge. This could mean that they didn’t find evidence of a crime or they are simply showing incompetence as they have in other investigations the US-Observer has conducted, or Jeff is working with them.

Jeff has raised approximately \$60 million dollars over the past 4 yrs. Lowrance has a total of 440-plus people who have invested with him, some investing their entire life savings, many of whom have been totally destroyed. Lowrance committed fraud against me on January 5, 2009, as he was supposed to pay me the approximate \$150,000.00 that he owed me. He also committed fraud against 440 investors with FCSL by lying to them. It was my belief, and hope, as well as those working on this case with me that Jeff was simply trying to keep investor’s capital as long as possible to trade with and that he would return it when confronted on the 29th – This didn’t happen. Jeff’s brother Greg has stated, “Jeff will do nothing, will not pay out a penny, unless absolutely forced to, unless it is beaten out of him.” Get ready Jeff Lowrance!

Lowrance has committed fraud by selling “distributorships” to well over 100 people around the country. The distributorships were for people who wanted to make a “great supplemental living” from distributing Jeff’s, now defunct, newspaper USA TOMORROW. Jeff owes many employees their wages and some employee’s money they invested with

him. Lowrance owes print and storage bills to businesses that extended him credit. Last but not least, Jeff Lowrance owes his lovely wife and son a huge debt for deserting them in Panama.

It was recently alleged that Lowrance made a “deal” with authorities to give them information on other investment programs and “off shore” investors (possibly his own investors) who are evading taxes. This is a possibility since Lowrance has been living in a motel room in Houston, Texas right under the watchful or maybe not so watchful eye of the FBI, who just happen to have a regional office there. If this is the case, those making such a deal with Lowrance can consider that their reputations will suffer irreparable damage once we find out who they are.

We could go on and on, however I think this article is a sufficient warning to anyone who is even remotely thinking about handing any money to Jeff Lowrance. The US-Observer has an ongoing obligation to expose corruption. We have kept this commitment for over 17 years and we have absolutely no intention of breaking it now – no matter who is hurt... People who Lowrance might target in the future have every right to know what type of person he is and the probability that they will never see their investment again.

Conclusion

Jeff Lowrance should immediately begin paying his investors what legally belongs to them. Until such time, the US-Observer remains committed to recovering the principal and interest owed to investors by Jeff Lowrance. If Jeff wants to reclaim his good name and reputation as a “Christian” man, he must make more than empty words as a good faith gesture. He must begin the transfer of funds to his investors who trusted and believed in him.

The Internet doesn’t allow anyone to hide from their dishonest business dealings. While it is regrettable, the US-Observer will ensure the world wide web is kept updated with his actions, honorable or dishonorable.

Editor’s Note: The Observer will have much more on Jeff Lowrance and FCSL in the near future. Anyone with information about Jeff or any aspect of his activities, etc. is urged to send such information via email to crimestop@usobserver.com.

A WORD OF WARNING TO ALL PEOPLE WHO ARE INVOLVED WITH JEFF LOWRANCE:

Do not attempt to keep this issue away from government. While it is true that if the Feds get involved, investors will most likely never see a dime of their money, it is also true that to discourage anyone from going to the authorities when they believe a crime has been committed against them can be considered “Obstruction of Justice.”

JOKE OF THE DAY

A Lawyers Kindness

One afternoon a lawyer was riding in his limousine when he saw two men along the roadside eating grass.

Disturbed, he ordered his driver to stop and he got out to investigate.

He asked one man, “Why are you eating grass?”

“We don’t have any money for food,” the poor man replied. “We have to eat grass.”

“Well, then, you can come with me to my house and I’ll feed you,” the lawyer said.

“But sir, I have a wife and two children with me. They are over there, under that tree.”

“Bring them along,” the lawyer replied.

Turning to the other poor man he stated, “You come with us,

also.”

The second man, in a pitiful voice, then said, “But sir, I also have a wife and SIX children with me!”

“Bring them all, as well,” the lawyer answered.

They all entered the car, which was no easy task, even for a car as large as the limousine was.

Once underway, one of the poor fellows turned to the lawyer and said, “Sir, you are too kind.”

“Thank you for taking all of us with you.”

The lawyer replied, “Glad to do it.”

“You’ll really love my place.”

“The grass is almost a foot high”

■ ■ ■

NAIS: Bad for America, Opt Out

By Devvy Kidd
NewsWithViews.com

The NAIS or National Animal Identification System is evil. Another putrid government program that must be halted. It is nothing more than another out of control government agency run by foolish Americans who will do anything they're told to keep their paychecks: the USDA.

What is this cancer?

"On April 25, 2005, the USDA released "Draft Program Standards" ("Standards") and a "Draft Strategic Plan" ("Plan") for the NAIS. The Standards and Plan have no authority in law. The USDA has stated that the Animal Health Protection Act of 2002 is the source of its authority. (Plan at 9.) But that statute addresses only the import and export of animals, interstate travel, quarantines areas, and related programs. Two Congresses have tried, but failed to pass legislation that would amend the Act to provide for a mandatory electronic tracking system for individual head of livestock. USDA is operating without authority from Congress. Currently, there are three bills in Congress, trying to give postdated authority to this assault on our freedom. The existence of these bills proves that there is no Congressional authority for USDA to establish a mandatory animal identification system."

I know time is a precious commodity as everyone is trying to keep their heads above water. PLEASE take eight minutes of your time to watch this superb flash presentation about the NAIS. It will give you a precise over view. I sincerely hope you will understand just what Congress has turned a blind eye to and how destructive this Nazi-style numbering system will be if not eliminated. This isn't a political issue, it's an American issue.

The pimps for special interest groups that have allowed the NAIS to continue are all back in Congress. The American people reelected the same Democrats last November who didn't stop this nonsense when they took power in January 2007. Prior to that, the smaller, less intrusive government under control of the Republicans and Bush also did nothing to stop the USDA.

This has nothing to do with mad cow disease or ensuring the safety of our food. The only mad cows are those implementing such lunacy and causing so much pain, misery and financial hardship to Americans. Numbering animals. Chips in animals. Massive data bases being kept on you and me. Next, mandatory bio chips into our bodies. Those who think I drink Kool Aid are the useful idiots populating this country. What's in your child's food at school?

Congress takes a shot at family farmers

"Many parents were appalled when we saw on our television screens a video of workers abusing a downer cow with electric shocks because the cow was too sick to stand up. We were even more horrified to learn that meat from that cow had gone into lunches served by the federal School Lunch Program. The scandal at the Hallmark/Westland plant in Chino, Calif., has sparked interest in the current trend of securing local meat from sources that are grass-fed, organic and come from animals raised humanely. Our kids deserve the safest meat in their food. Sadly, Congress is now considering squashing such efforts to get local foods into the School Lunch Program.

"In June, the House Appropriations Agriculture Subcommittee, at the behest of Representatives Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) and David Obey (D-Wisc.), said it was considering a provision that would force schools to buy meat for the School Lunch program from sources enrolled in the federal government's National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The NAIS is hugely controversial among family farmers like me. The U.S. government wants us to inventory, identify and track the movement of all agriculture related animals. Step one is a premise registration where a federal ID number is assigned to our farm. The second step involves tagging each of our animals with Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags. And finally, we must report to the government any planned movement of our animals.

"These onerous and far-reaching conditions have spawned a revolt among many of us seeking to provide high quality, safe food for consumers and our communities. Most animal disease occurs in factory farm operations where thousands of animals are confined in filthy conditions. Yet perversely, factory

farms are allowed to have one group ID number, while my 60 cow grass-based dairy must have individual RFID tags that cost \$3 each in Wisconsin, even with government subsidies. Then I will be forced to purchase a \$1,000 electric wand in order to be able to read the tags and report animal movements to the government."

Can you opt out of NAIS?

Yes, but Americans should NOT have to fight their own government to stop these endless tyrannical programs. Just like parents should not have to fight to keep their children from being shot up with these dangerous vaccines. Think this doesn't or won't affect you just because you're not a rancher or farmer?

"Premises registration: Every person who owns even one horse, cow, pig, chicken, sheep, goat, deer, elk, bison, or virtually any livestock animal, will be forced to register their home, including owner's name, address, and telephone number, and keyed to Global Positioning System coordinates, in a government database under a 7-digit "premises ID number." (Standards, pp. 3-4, 10-12; Plan, p. 5.) Additionally, pet owners who own one parakeet, canary, cockatiel, etc. as owners of "exotic fowl" have been targeted for mandatory inclusion in this system.

"If you buy a pet bird after this system is put into effect, it probably will already have an Animal Identification Number. It will be registered to you, and you must register your premises (wherever you keep the bird). If you move the bird off your "premises" for any reason, or it dies, or it produces more birds, you must report such activity to the federal government within 24 hours. In Texas, there was a staff recommendation to hold off on mandatory registration of exotic fowl kept as pets, until a disease was suspected, then they will implement mandatory registration. However, that recommendation is on hold until TAHC decides what path it will take."

This is pure bull droppings. We are not free in this land any longer. Every move we make, and now livestock and even little birds we keep in our homes, are to be under the thumb of oppressive government. For what? To fleece what's left in our wallets or face huge fines and to keep bureau-rats employed doing destructive work instead of productive endeavor? The penalties for non-compliance range from \$50,000 to \$500,000 in fines. Up to 10 years in prison. Next will be the federal dragoons at your door with some bogus "law" demanding you show papers that your dog or kitty has been numbered. No? Please. The only part not in the tent at this point is the camel's backside.

This is also a state's rights issue: "It is critical that everyone learn what is happening in their state. NAIS is not a federal mandate. The USDA has no statutory authority to implement NAIS. Each state is free to decide for itself whether or not to implement an animal identification system."

Our farmers and ranchers have been pounding on Congress for years to stop this unnecessary program. Republicans, Democrats and Bush have turned a blind ear to their misery. The impostor elect doesn't give a tinker's damn, either. His top priority is to make sure sodomy is out in the open and in your face for the military. I don't believe most Americans have a clue about how precious and important our farmers and ranchers are in this country. They are the stewards of our land. They feed us and preserve a spectacular freedom given with so much blood on the battlefield.

Americans are in deep battle in some of the states who want to adopt this lunacy. Just like the voluntary National ID (except for federal employees who are being forced by blackmail, their jobs), you don't have to participate. Because this phony "health issue" program has been met with such opposition (just like the Nazi National ID), the USDA was finally forced to offer an opt-out provision. Of course, they're making it the usual endless paper war to discourage you, but you

Devy Kidd

"That liberty [is pure] which is to go to all, and not to the few or the rich alone."

Thomas Jefferson



Knowledge is Power

can opt out; click here. Then you have to fight your state legislature because one state will say you must while others say it's voluntary.

The NAIS will come to your life, even if you don't own a ranch or farm. The destroyers never give up and those USDA employees only care about their paychecks or they would quit before being part of this nonsense. I did it as a federal whistle blower. It's not easy, but when I look in the mirror every morning, I know I did the right thing even though it cost me my job. That's why you need to call your congress critter's office and tell them to stop all funding for the NAIS program and that you will never participate.

Devy Kidd authored, *Why A Bankrupt America and Blind Loyalty*. Devvy appears on radio shows all over the country, ran for Congress and is a highly sought after public speaker. Devvy belongs to no organization.

She left the Republican Party in 1996 and has been an independent voter ever since. Devvy isn't left, right or in the middle; she is a constitutionalist who believes in the supreme law of the land, not some political party. Her web site is www.devy.com. ■■■



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Continued from page 1 • BAILOUTS: A Complete Fraud

workers in place of our citizens.

The report said, "The figures are significant because they show that the bailed-out banks, being kept afloat with U.S. taxpayer money, actively sought to hire foreign workers instead of American workers. As the economic collapse worsened last year with huge numbers of bank employees laid off—the numbers of visas sought by the dozen banks in AP's analysis increased by nearly one-third, from 3,258 in fiscal 2007 to 4,163 in fiscal 2008. The AP reviewed visa applications the banks filed with the Labor Department under the H-1B visa program, which allows temporary employment of foreign workers in specialized-skill and advanced-degree positions. Over 100,000 U.S. citizens suffered layoffs from the banks that enjoyed \$150 billion during 2008."

Put that in your pipe and smoke it!

With full complicity of our U.S. Congress and former President Bush, "The dozen banks receiving the biggest rescue packages, totaling more than \$150 billion, requested visas for more than 21,800 foreign workers over the past six years for positions that included senior vice presidents, corporate lawyers, junior investment analysts and human resources specialists. The average annual salary for those jobs was \$90,721.00, nearly twice the median income for all American households."

Thomas Jefferson said, "I believe that banking institutions are more dangerous to our liberties than standing armies. If the American people ever allow private banks to control the issue of their currency, first by inflation, then by deflation, the banks and corporations that will grow up around the banks will deprive the people of all property until their children wake-up homeless on the continent their fathers conquered."

In the past decade, IT workers suffered displacements from their jobs because billionaire Bill Gates wielded obscene amounts of financial power to push H-1B visa entries to over 1.0 million foreign workers. That's how many U.S. IT workers watched their jobs vanish in the past 10 years. Additionally, those foreign IT workers send their money home to their countries. Instead of our money circulating throughout the U.S. financial system, it bleeds out of our country.

Overall, cash transfers exceed \$80 billion annually to foreign countries. To give you an idea of how much money we lose, Mexico's reception of U.S. dollars runs \$24 billion every year for over 10 years. Other than oil income, Mexico's second biggest income flows from the cash transfer pipeline.

The Bear-Stearns Report showed that the Mexican and immigrant impact in America makes those workers the second largest underground economy in the world. They bleed the U.S. treasury, and presently, we suffer a \$10.3 trillion deficit.

"It is unclear how many foreign workers the banks actually hired; the government does not release those details," the AP reported. "The actual number is likely a fraction of the 21,800 foreign workers the banks sought to hire because the government limits the number of visas it grants to 85,000 each year among all U.S. employers. During the last three months of 2008, the largest banks that received taxpayer loans announced more than 100,000 layoffs. The number of foreign workers included among those laid off is unknown. Foreigners are attractive hires

because companies have found ways to pay them less than American workers."

By digging further, financial institutions like Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac received \$85 billion in bailout money, but gave away billions in fraudulent loans to illegal aliens and poor people unable to bring a dime to the home-ownership signing table.

In other words, we endure gross if not obscene corruption at the highest levels in Congress! Yet, we re-elected those scoundrels such as Senator Harry Reid and Nancy Pelosi for starters!

When you look at the thousands of employers who hire illegal criminal aliens, you see a pattern of corruption that defies imagination. Not only do the employers undercut and displace American workers, they fail to pay taxes on an estimated 50 percent of the money because they pay under the table.

Every illegal alien employer undermines the U.S. Constitution which provides him/her with a free society, a magnificent life as well as freedom from terror. But when they commit their corruption, they undermine the standard of living and quality of life for our citizens. Every CEO, company president or construction company that hires illegal aliens in place of Americans—or, average citizens that hire illegal criminal aliens—you fuel massive corruption.

For guys like Bill Gates, you cheat your fellow Americans. For the head of McDonald's, Wendy's and other fast food giants, your hiring illegal aliens steals jobs from our working poor. You CEO's at Tyson, Hormel, Swift, and Amour make me sick with your corruption. You head-honchos at Target, Wal-Mart, Lowe's and Home Depot create 15 million unemployed American workers by selling \$700 billion a year in products made from India, China, Mexico—seldom do we see anything "Made in America" today.

And you, U.S. House reps and Senators, you make me sick most of all because you instigate such monumental fraud against U.S. workers.

As a final note, let it be known that corruption becomes a 'mechanism' or paradigm that operates in third world countries stemming from a well-entrenched power elite. Once in power, they crush the middle and lower classes into perpetual poverty.

While we immigrate 2.4 million third world migrants into our country annually to take our citizens' jobs and we create more unemployed by allowing 20 to 30 million illegal criminal aliens—our middle class falters into a new poverty.

Today, we face devolution of America's middle class at the hands of our own leaders, corporations and new ruling elite.

"You cannot legislate the poor into freedom by legislating the wealthy out of freedom. What one person receives without working for, another person must work for without receiving. The government cannot give to anybody anything that the government does not first take from somebody else. When half of the people get the idea that they do not have to work because the other half is going to take care of them, and when the other half gets the idea that it does no good to work because somebody else is going to get what they work for, that my dear friend, is about the end of any nation. You cannot multiply wealth by dividing it."

--Dr. Adrian Rogers, 1931 - 2005 ■■

Barrick chairman speculates China will dump dollars for gold Gold likely to hit new highs

By Barbara Lewis
Reuters

DAVOS, Switzerland -- Gold is likely to hit new record highs, spurred by serious concern about the U.S. currency and doubt about the state of the world economy, the chairman of Barrick Gold Corp. said Thursday.

There was even a possibility, although not a probability, central banks, including China's, might start to switch from dollar holdings to gold, which could cause the metal's price to treble or more.

From a gold producers' perspective,



Gold Bars with the serial numbers removed.

one negative is that the cost of bringing on production has remained high, even as other raw materials, including base metals and energy, have slumped.

"Gold is at record levels in every currency except dollars. Even within dollar terms it is within a few percentage points of an all-time high at a time when all the other major commodities are falling," Peter Munk told Reuters at the World Economic Forum meeting in Davos.

"Whether it's the currency effect or a reaction to a feeling of uncertainty, gold in my opinion is more likely to go up than down," the chairman and founder of the world's largest gold mining company said.

Spot gold was at \$902.80/904.80 at 1817 GMT. It hit a record high of \$1,030.80 an ounce in March last year.

Munk stressed he was merely weighing the odds.

"It would be stupid to assume commodities prices can only go one way," he said, adding physical demand for gold jewellery was not high during the economic downturn.

Gold has been one of the best-performing assets of late, rising in value by nearly 17 percent since late October.

Investors have bought heavily into physical bullion in the form of coins and bars and physically-backed assets such as exchange-traded funds as a safe store of value at a time of increased volatility in other asset prices.

Munk said downward pressure on the dollar, partly because of massive U.S.

spending to stimulate the economy, would increase gold's attractions as an investment further.

Gold usually moves in the opposite direction to the dollar, as it is often bought as a hedge against weakness in the U.S. currency.

"My personal feeling is that with the rescue packages calling for trillions, not billions ... the value of the (U.S.) currency has to go down," said Munk.

His company did not hedge its output for now -- meaning it does not use derivatives to insure against a fall in price -- and relied instead on the price climbing. In the past its successful

hedging allowed it to make the acquisitions that helped to make it the world's biggest gold miner.

"It would be dumb to hedge," Munk said of the current climate.

His bullishness was underscored by the possibility central banks, including that of major dollar asset-holder China, might start buying gold.

"If they decide to diversify, we assume into gold, then we start to talk about a trebling or quadrupling of the gold price. It could be followed by Russia or Kuwait.

"I don't think it's likely, but it's more likely. I would not have said it two years ago ... I'm not a gold bug ... but it's more likely than it was two years ago."

A strong price climate has meant ongoing investment in bringing on new gold, Munk said.

"In every other mining area, people are cancelling mines."

But declines in other commodities have yet to have a major impact on cost.

"Marginally yes, but substantially no. For some reason cash costs are tending to continue to increase," he said, when asked whether investment costs were falling.

"Energy costs have gone down. It does help, but labour costs are consistently increasing."

The one way to reduce production costs is to invest in efficient new mines, Munk said, citing two major new projects in Nevada and the Dominican Republic and a smaller one in Tanzania.

■■■

"Oppressors can tyrannize only when they achieve a standing army, an enslaved press, and a disarmed populace." -- James Madison

Continued from page 16 • Gun Sales Soar ...

whether the Obama administration will be able to reinstate the assault weapons ban."

The ban identifies 14 features that qualify a gun as an assault weapon. Some simply make it easier to use. For example, a barrel shroud makes a gun cool down faster after firing; a pistol grip makes it easier to hold; and a threaded barrel helps make it quieter. Like most gun control advocates, Feeble argues that assault features are neither necessary, nor purely cosmetic.

"Those features aren't just bells and whistles. Each of those features - a pistol grip, a threaded barrel, a barrel shroud - has a purpose for actually helping shoot a human being," Feeble says.

Ban supporters, critics debate necessity of assault weapons



John Hartman, of Denny's Guns in Kansas City, says asking whether gun owners "need" weapons is the wrong approach

The Brady Campaign is dedicated to keeping dangerous guns out the hands of dangerous people. Despite laws put in place to keep guns out of the hands of criminals, Feeble says if the guns are out there, criminals will find them.

"We have no problem with law-abiding citizens selling and buying guns for hunting or self-defense. But law-

abiding citizens don't need assault features. No one needs a weapon with assault features to hunt or to protect one's home."

That argument rankles gun advocates such as John Hartman, of Denny's Guns in Kansas City.

"I don't understand why someone else gets to determine what I do or do not need," Hartman says. "I don't need a car that goes 150 miles an hour, but I've got one. You don't need high heels, but if you like them, you can have them. Where did 'need' become part of the equation?"

Feeble says need has always been part of the equation.

"You know, law-abiding citizens aren't always allowed to have everything they want. You may be able to have a Lamborghini [a very fast and expensive Italian sports car], but you certainly can't drive it 100 miles per hour on a city street," he says. "We should learn from that and realize that gun laws work and save lives and can be totally reconciled with gun ownership and legitimate use of firearms."

Gun control a divisive issue

Gun control advocates see the assault weapon ban as a reasonable compromise, a gray area in a pretty black-and-white issue. But speaking for pro-gun Americans, Hartman disagrees.

"People on either side don't have any gray areas. You're either for or against, and it's pretty strongly held opinions. And I don't think either side is going to change the other's mind very readily."

While the Second Amendment to the Constitution guarantees Americans the right to bear arms, the fundamental disagreement remains what kind of arms Americans may bear and what the government's role should be in maintaining public safety in a country that's very fond of its guns.

■ ■ ■

Gun-control Efforts on Horizon

By Alan Scholl
TheNewAmerican.com

No sane person wants innocent people victimized, maimed, or murdered, nor to see the perpetrators escape justice. This is true, whether the perpetrators use their hands or objects — like baseball bats, rocks, knives, vehicles, or a host of other readily available inanimate objects of endless variety — or a firearm. It is the intent and the will of the criminals, and not the inanimate objects they use, that are responsible for the criminal acts and the harm done to victims.

From the dawn of man, violent acts have been a sad aspect of life in nearly every civilization and culture. The violence in prisons shows how ineffective even close confinement, total control, and total surveillance can be in preventing this.

Many heavily restrictive governments have failed to prevent violence. In fact, history has shown that powerful, unrestrained governments commit murder and other acts of violence against their own citizens. According to careful statistical analysis by Professor R. J. Rummel of the University of Hawaii, in his detailed work *Death By Government*, "The more power a government has, the more it can act arbitrarily according to the whims and desires of the elite, and the more it will make war on others and murder its foreign and domestic subjects." On the other hand, "The more constrained the power of governments, the more power is diffused, checked, and balanced, the less it will aggress on others."

Regardless of who commits the crimes, brutality and murder are moral issues, and the means or equipment used is really immaterial to the root problem, which is the condition of the human heart and mind. In our system of government, an important check against immoral acts of violence — whether committed by individuals acting alone, gangs, or unrestrained government — is the Second Amendment, which guarantees "the right of the people to keep and bear arms."

Yet today in America, the proponents of civilian disarmament often insist that inflicting a grievous wrong on all citizens — removing their most effective means of defense against the violence, in contradiction of the Second Amendment — will somehow correct the underlying moral problem.

Many Americans fear that despite the evidence, we are about to witness a broad array of gun-control efforts to limit or completely disenfranchise Americans' right to keep and bear arms.

After last November's elections changed the political climate at the national level and in a number of states, a huge surge in gun sales has been reported among retailers and dealers. FOX News' Catherine Herridge reported that the month Barack Obama was elected, the number of background checks was 42 percent greater than in November 2007. "It's not a hard tea leaf to read," said Jim Shepherd, publisher of the news service *Outdoor Wire*, which claims Obama's election has "frightened consumers into action."

Obama has repeatedly stated that he supports Second Amendment rights and will not crack down on gun owners, and in June he said he agreed with the Supreme Court when it overturned the District of Columbia handgun ban. But gun owners are not convinced. Obama's

legislative record in support of gun control, and his offhand remark during the primaries that small-town Americans are "bitter" and "cling to their guns," suggest a very different approach to firearms regulation during his presidency. A December poll from Southwick Associates found that 80 percent of hunters and shooters expect the new administration and a Democratic Congress will make purchasing firearms more difficult.

An electronic news service that covers outdoor news has even named Obama its "Gun Salesman of the Year." "It's clear that gun owners and prospective gun owners are concerned about the incoming Obama administration and Congress," said Ted Novin, spokesman for the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

As a senator, incoming Vice President Joe Biden was a strong supporter of the assault-weapons ban, which was signed into law by President Clinton in 1994. As a state legislator in Illinois, Barack Obama backed a ban on semiautomatic weapons.

Obama will likely use the heavily liberal legislative bodies in Washington and in statehouses across the nation to help them accomplish this disenfranchisement of Americans piecemeal over the next few years. Unwittingly, or intentionally, many of our elected leaders are working hard to remove the ability of Americans to effectively defend themselves corporately — as our forefathers did — or individually against crime.

Touted as measures to prevent crime or capture criminals, they completely ignore the concept of individual rights on several levels. Nearly all will insert state or federal government very powerfully and dangerously deep into the personal and property rights and daily activities of law-abiding American people.

Nearly every one of these efforts will instead either disarm or make criminals of a wide spectrum of law-abiding citizens by means of a dizzying array of new regulations, laws, taxes, and rules.



Illinois congressman Bobby Rush (D) introduced H.R. 45 on the first day of the 111th Congress.

The Obama administration will almost certainly lead the charge. A federal bill, H.R. 45, also known as "Blair Holt's Firearm Licensing and Record of Sale Act of 2009," is a good example of an Obama-endorsed bill that threatens all of the ill effects mentioned above.

This bill was named after teenaged Blair Holt, a Julian High School student killed on a city bus in Chicago.

The bill requires a "Blair Holt" license, involving a detailed application

Consider This ...

"Among the many misdeeds of the British rule in India, history will look upon the act of depriving a whole nation of arms, as the blackest."

— Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi



Continued on page 19

Articles and Opinions

To the Editor letters for publication are encouraged – they must be typed, a maximum of 1,000 words or less in length. Please submit photographs or artwork. Contact Editor for permission to submit in-depth articles up to 1,750 words, plus graphics. Opposition opinions are welcome.

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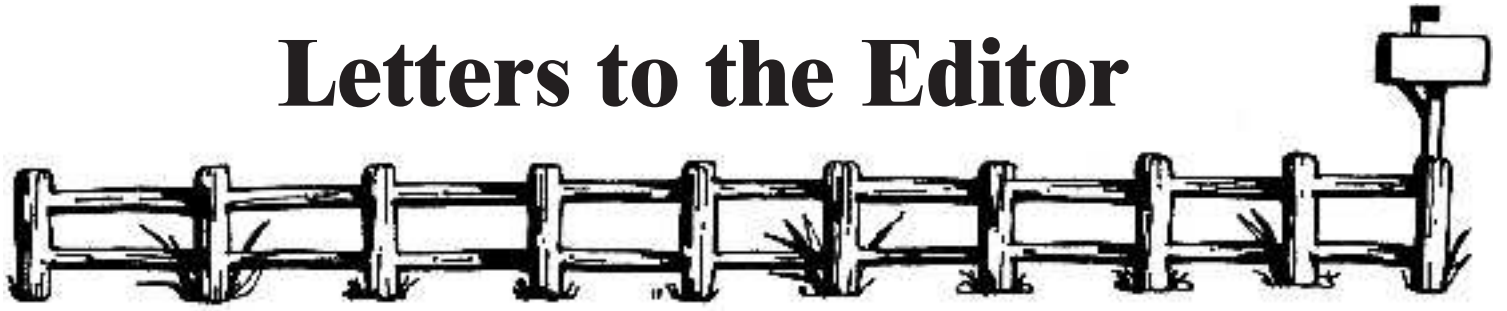
Citizens who have founded and support it believe in the Bill of Rights and Article 1, Section 1, of the Oregon Constitution which states:

“We declare that all men, when they form a social compact are equal in right; that all power is inherent in the people, and all free governments are founded on their authority and instituted for their peace, safety, and happiness and they have at all times a right to alter, reform, or abolish the government in such a manner they think proper. This enumeration of rights and privileges shall not be construed to impair or deny others retained by the people.”

Get involved & send YOUR comments or concerns to the Editor

editor@usobserver.com

Letters to the Editor



DAY ONE

Editor;

One busy day for this new President.

I like this but it seems like a "here's a bone" (the freezing of Whitehouse pay). I mean... Boo Hoo, anybody making more than 100k a year in his admin will not get a raise.

Then we have the idiot who owes back taxes getting ready to step in to help us bail out. Huh?

Not too sure about the Gitmo shut down or the quick Iraq pull out. It may lead to more issues down the way, but we'll be old and hey, I am already beginning NOT to care ;)

I am already sick of the "ObamaRama" going on. All I see is a bunch of Racists pointing out his skin color and are in awe over it. I hope this will wear off. My pal, seems to have an orgasmic man-crush on him and I am seeing a lot of that in the news.

D

Grants Pass, OR

Uniting America?

Dear Editor:

How about uniting all Americans with English as our language? Spanish is now the language being forced on Insurance companies in California. It feels like California is simply giving in to the Latino population, many of which are illegals. They no longer have to ever learn English, much less become a citizen. They come across the border, break laws and are not held accountable, on so many different levels. They are given free education and medical care, all at the expense of the over taxed legal residents. It's awful and b.s. that the government is allowing it to happen. The situation is breeding racism here.

SL

Burbank, CA

Ammunition Accountability Act

Editor;

Remember how Barack Hussein Obama said that he wasn't going to take your guns? Well, it seems that his minions and allies in the anti-gun world have no problem with taking your ammo!

The bill that is being pushed in 18 states (including TN, Illinois and Indiana) requires all ammunition to be encoded by the manufacture, a data base of all ammunition sales. So they will know how much you buy and what calibers. Nobody can sell any ammunition after June 30, 2009 unless the ammunition is coded.

Any privately held uncoded ammunition must be destroyed by July 1, 2011. (Including handloaded ammo.) They will also charge a .05 cent tax on every round so every box of ammo you buy will go up at least \$2.50 or more! If they can deprive you of ammo they do

not need to take your gun!

Please give this the widest distribution possible and contact your Reps!

It's the ammo, not the guns. I've said for a long time that they wouldn't go for your guns, they'd go for your ammo... guns have a Constitutional protection. Ammo does not. A list of states where this legislation is pending is in the final paragraph.

Heads up to all of you who swore to defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign AND domestic. Let your state Legislatures know that we do not want this bill passed, and petition them to vote no on this bill. We should keep after them until the bill is closed by bombarding them with e-mails, phone calls, and letters.

Get to all your politicians to get to work and NOT LET THIS HAPPEN!!! The 2008 Legislative session has begun, and the Ammunition Accountability Act is being introduced across the country.

A Concerned American

Chumash From the Inside

Dear Editor:

I have been following your recent articles in regards to the Chumash Casino and have been in contact with one of your reporters who has definitely caused an uproar down here with his expository stories. I just want to say that what the Chumash Casino is doing is wrong and myself along with others are willing to do whatever it takes to help you and the US~Observer. I work at the Casino and witness many things that I have already shared with your reporter and just want to let everyone know that many of the employees here in the Casino are fed up with the way things are going. I know that in time more will come forward and I continue to speak behind the scenes to others who can help bring these vigilantes to justice. If it weren't for papers like yours, I don't know what would be done. It seems these days that anyone with money can just buy their way and that makes me sick to my stomach. Your paper has helped many in more ways than you will ever imagine and I just wanted to say keep up the good work and that I am here to help, always!

Sincerely,

**Employee of Chumash Casino
Santa Ynez, CA**

Militia Misused

I think the word recruiting is misused where the Militia is concerned.

As an American, you become part of the Militia when you reach 17 years of age, it's automatic. You also have a choice at 17, you can join the standing Army.

Americans suffer from a lack of knowledge, and have no real concept of what the founding documents are and what they mean, or should mean.

For instance, you don't join a Militia, you *are* the Militia. Look up the word "Militia" in an old dictionary.

We, as a people, did not change the meaning of that word, it was drug through the mud by the men you elected as your presidents, as well as a few other politicians. Then reporters got on the band wagon to hype up their news stories.

No other nation has a Militia, only the American people. It is the safe guard for Freedom and Liberty. No other reason.

Most choose to believe the lies, and now let their own fear rule them. For many years now, tyranny has been used to Govern the people, and the people let that happen simply because they were too busy or lazy to hold any one accountable.

The real reason is because Americans have forgotten their Heritage and their founding documents. Freedom and Liberty has been put on the back burner.

You give a new born baby a pacifier to keep them quiet. The President and Congress do the same things to us while they dismantle our founding documents. Most people don't even see what is happening.

This brings us to today. ... America is about to be transformed into something our founding Fathers would puke over, and God will turn his back on. Thousands of so called Christians had a hand in it.

How can a man or woman lead America when he or she supports killing new born babies, and says same sex marriages is ok? How can so called Christians support such a person. Thousands did.

When you have a nation of people that won't be faithful to their Savior, how can you possibly think Freedom will survive?

Will 3% of Americans stay faithful to God and Country; will our Police and Military be part of that 3%; are you included in that 3%?

There are some of us that cling to the word Militia, because without it the 2nd Amendment will be gone, and so will Freedom and Liberty.

It is already too late for some of you to wake up, fear controls your minds.

Why do you think people in this Government hate the Militia? It is simple. That little word causes them the most fear, themselves.

An ARMED people can, and some will, stand up for God and Country.

Somewhere in the near future there has to be a unified front of Freedom Fighters.

Jim Strode

Newsworthy

To whom it concerns;

I am a very concerned American that has watched so much corruption go by daily in our lives and I just wanted to say I used to enjoy reading our news, but as it is, with that being hand picked to dole out only what they feel we need to know, has disgusted me. So, I am here to say that I am very pleased to have found your news and I will pass this on, 'cause we as Americans need to be waken up now, before its too late !! So, thank you for all your hard, time consuming, work. It's all worth it!!

Shara C.

■ ■ ■

Cloned Pets: Looks Can Be Deceiving

Cloned Cows, Double Dogs and Copy Cats Look Like the Originals but Act Differently

By Russell Goldman
ABC News

For the first time on Tuesday -- \$155,000 and a disgraced Korean scientist later -- the Ottos of Boca Raton, Fla., met what they hope is the yellow Labrador retriever they had lived with for 11 years.

The couple this week welcomed into their home a 10-week-old puppy aptly named Sir Lancelot Encore, a genetic clone created in South Korea by a California biotech company from the DNA of the couple's beloved dog Sir Lancelot, who died last year.

"He was a wonderful dog," said Nina Otto, 66. "Money wasn't an object. We just wanted our wonderful, loving dog back."

The first successful mammal cloned from adult cells was Dolly the sheep in 1996. Since then, scientists have cloned a growing number of animals, from cats to cows, opening doors that have allowed for the production of life-saving human pharmaceuticals and the creation of dependably hearty livestock.

But cloning pets is a relatively new and expensive procedure that not only raises questions about spending thousands of dollars to recreate a cat or dog when thousands of others languish in pounds, but about the psychic toll pet owners face when the clone of their favorite cat or dog looks -- but doesn't act -- like the original.

Nina and her husband Ed Otto bid \$155,000 in an auction held last July by the California-based firm BioArts. Using genetic material, the couple took from the first "Lancy" and had frozen six years ago, the Korean company Sooam Biotech Research Foundation made an exact genetic replica of the dog -- making Encore the first commercially cloned puppy in the United States.

Sooam Biotech Research Foundation is led by the controversial scientist Hwang Woo-suk, who lost his job at Seoul National University, as well as his prominence in Korean society, in 2004 when it was discovered that he had lied about creating the first clones of human embryos and stem cells.

This week, just days after the Ottos picked up Encore from the airport, another South Korean firm, RNL Bio, announced it would provide dog cloning services at \$55,000, half the average cost for the procedure.

Lancelot Encore is settling into his new home, Nina Otto said.

In just two days, the puppy has taken over his donor's old role as "alpha dog, leading the pack around already," she said. The Ottos own nine other dogs, 10 cats, sheep and parrots.

Otto said she wanted her old dog back but is prepared for the possibility that Encore might look like his donor, but not act like him.

"Nobody is exactly like anybody else," she said.

"There was a 99 percent chance that he would look like Lancy and he does. He's got the same eyes and coat. There is a 50-50 chance that he will act like him. We're still the same people, a lot of the other dogs are the same, so there is a real chance he will have a similar personality."

According to Otto, the original Lancelot was "very human" and "understood our emotions and could read our body language."

The Ottos can do little but wait for Encore to grow up in order to find out if he will have the same winning personality as his namesake.

But the owners of another cloned animal have a cautionary tale.

"I'd suggest to anyone cloning an animal not to expect too much," said Sandra Reddell, who had her famous Brahmin bull, Chance, cloned.

The clone's name: Second Chance.



"It doesn't matter what species or what breed," Reddell said. "There is no guarantee it will look or act the same."

Reddell and her husband Ralph Fisher run a company from their South Texas ranch called Ralph Fisher's Photo Animals that provides live animals to events like state fairs that people can be photographed with.

For years, thousands of people lined up and stood in front of a Texas state flag to take pictures with Chance, a Brahmin bull with meter-long horns.

Soon before Chance died in 1998 at age 21, scientists at Texas A & M University offered to clone the rare breed of bull.

Reddell and Fisher jumped at the opportunity, and a year later Second Chance was born.

He looked like Chance, he ate like Chance, he even slept in the same spot under Chance's favorite tree -- but something was different.

"He looked exactly the same," Reddell said. "Chance did things very uniquely. When you feed most cattle, they'll bury their faces in the feed bucket or trough and just keep it there. Chance always put his head in the bucket, got a big mouthful and the raised his head up in the air and closed his eyes, and would just savor the sweetfeed. Second Chance ate exactly the same way."

"It really raised the hair on the back of your head, how much they looked and sometimes acted alike," she said.

The couple hoped to Second Chance would take his namesake's place on the photo line, posing for pictures, but the young bull was not nearly as docile as his Chance, twice putting Fisher in the hospital.

On its first birthday, Chance threw Fisher up in the air and few years later gored him with his horns.

"We did everything we could to make Second Chance as similar as possible to Chance," Reddell said. "We wanted him to be the same, but there are no guarantees."

Second Chance died last year at age 8 of a stomach malady that vets do not believe was related to his being a clone. Fisher did not get Chance until he was 7 and has maintained that the even the docile steer may have been just as dangerous a youngster as his clone.

"We felt so blessed when Second Chance dropped in our laps," she said. "Even though he put Ralph in the hospital twice, he always came out OK. We never thought Second Chance would die."

"When he died the second time, it was just as bad as when he died the first time," she added. "It never occurred to us that we'd lose him again."

■ ■ ■

Continued from page 17 • Gun Control Efforts ...

including photo, thumb print, written test, release of mental health records, and new fees. Firearms owners would also be required to report all gun transfers (even those to other family members) to the attorney general's database. It would also be illegal for a licensed gun owner to fail to record a gun loss or theft within 72 hours or fail to report a change of address within 60 days. H.R. 45 is a relaunch of H.R. 2666 in 2007, co-sponsored by 15 other representatives including Barack Obama's new chief of staff, Rahm Emmanuel.

The Northeast, a major battleground in this fight over the right to keep and bear arms, is home to monuments dedicated to men who two centuries ago fought and died to keep British

soldiers from removing cannon, powder, and shot from storehouses in Lexington and Concord. They knew tyranny would follow disarmament.

As a nation our elected leaders and many in law enforcement have lost sight of the significance of that series of events and their purpose and the importance of arms to preserving liberty. In efforts supposedly intended to stem the moral problems that spawn the violence, they have turned to restricting liberty and denying law-abiding Americans a means of self-defense.

For full text of H.R. 45 go to: www.opencongress.org/bill/111-h45/text.

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Cheney warns of new attacks

By Jim VandeHei, John F. Harris, Mike Allen

(POLITICO) - Former Vice President Dick Cheney warned that there is a "high probability" that terrorists will attempt a catastrophic nuclear or biological attack in coming years, and said he fears the Obama administration's policies will make it more likely the attempt will succeed.

In an interview Tuesday with Politico, Cheney unyieldingly defended the Bush administration's support for the Guantanamo Bay prison and coercive interrogation of terrorism suspects.

And he asserted that President Obama will either backtrack on his stated intentions to end those policies or put the country at risk in ways more severe than most Americans — and, he charged, many members of Obama's own team — understand.

"When we get people who are more concerned about reading the rights to an Al Qaeda terrorist than they are with protecting the United States against people who are absolutely committed to do anything they can to kill Americans, then I worry," Cheney said.

Protecting the country's security is "a tough, mean, dirty, nasty business," he said. "These are evil people. And we're not going to win this fight by turning the other cheek."

Citing intelligence reports, Cheney said at least 61 of

the inmates who were released from Guantanamo during the Bush administration — "that's about 11 or 12 percent" — have "gone back into the business of being terrorists."

The 200 or so inmates still there, he claimed, are "the hard core" whose "recidivism rate would be much higher." (Lawyers for Guantanamo detainees have strongly disputed the recidivism figures, asserting that the Pentagon data have inconsistencies and omissions.) Cheney called Guantanamo a "first-class program," and "a necessary facility" that is operated legally and with better food and treatment than the jails in inmates' native countries.

But he said he worried that "instead of sitting down and carefully evaluating the policies," Obama officials are unwisely following "campaign rhetoric" and preparing to release terrorism suspects or afford them legal protections granted to more conventional defendants in crime cases.

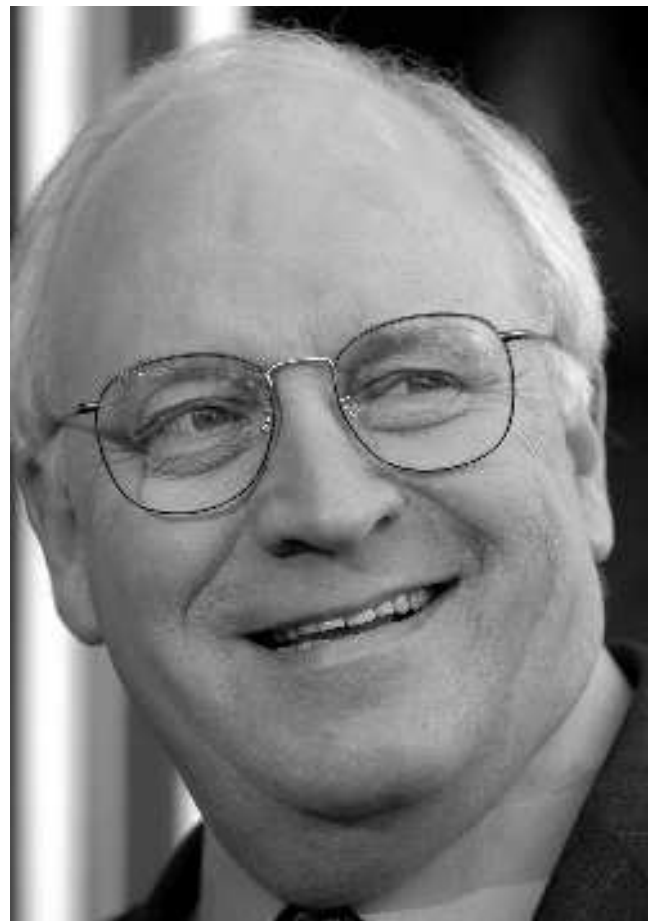
The choice, he alleged, reflects a naive mindset among the new team in Washington: "The United States needs to be not so much loved as it needs to be respected. Sometimes, that requires us to take actions that generate controversy. I'm not at all sure that that's what the Obama administration believes."

The dire portrait Cheney painted of the country's security situation was made even grimmer by his comments agreeing with analysts who believe this recession may be a once-in-a-century disaster.

"It's unlike anything I've ever seen," Cheney said. "The combination of the financial crisis that started last year, coupled now with, obviously, a major recession, I think we're a long way from having solved these problems."

The interview, less than two weeks after the Bush administration ceded power to Obama, found the man who is arguably the most controversial — and almost surely the most influential — vice president in U.S. history in a self-vindicating mood.

He expressed confidence that files will some day be publicly accessible offering specific evidence that waterboarding and other policies he promoted — over sharp internal dissent from colleagues and harsh



public criticism — were directly responsible for averting new Sept. 11-style attacks.

Not content to wait for a historical verdict, Cheney said he is set to plunge into his own memoirs, feeling liberated to describe behind-the-scenes roles over several decades in government now that the "statute of limitations has expired" on many of the most sensitive episodes.

His comments made unmistakable that Cheney — likely more than former President Bush, who has not yet given post-White House interviews — is willing and even eager to spar with the new administration and its supporters over the issues he cares most about.

His standing in this public debate is beset by contradictions. Cheney for years has had intimate access to the sort of highly classified national security intelligence that Obama and his teams are only recently seeing.

But many of the top Democratic legal and national security players have long viewed Cheney as a man

Continued on page 21

WWII
Photo # NH 104317-KN Amphibious tractors approaching Iwo Jima, February 1945

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Continued from page 20 • Cheney warns of new attacks

who became unhinged by his fears, responsible for major misjudgments in Iraq and Afghanistan, willing to bend or break legal precedents and constitutional principles to advance his aims. Polls show he is one of the most unpopular people in national life.

In the interview, Cheney revealed no doubts about his own course — and many about the new administration's.

"If it hadn't been for what we did — with respect to the terrorist surveillance program, or enhanced interrogation techniques for high-value detainees, the Patriot Act, and so forth — then we would have been attacked again," he said. "Those policies we put in place, in my opinion, were absolutely crucial to getting us through the last seven-plus years without a major-casualty attack on the U.S."

Cheney said "the ultimate threat to the country" is "a 9/11-type event where the terrorists are armed with something much more dangerous than an airline ticket and a box cutter — a nuclear weapon or a biological agent of some kind" that is deployed in the middle of an American city.

"That's the one that would involve the deaths of perhaps hundreds of thousands of people, and the one you have to spend a hell of a lot of time guarding against," he said.

"I think there's a high probability of such an attempt. Whether or not they can pull it off depends whether or not we keep in place policies that have allowed us to defeat all further attempts, since 9/11, to launch mass-casualty attacks against the United States."

If Cheney's language was dramatic, the setting for the comments was almost bizarrely pedestrian. His office is in a non-descript suburban office building in McLean, Va., in a suite that could just as easily house a dental clinic. The office is across the hall from a quick-copy store. The door is marked by nothing except a paper sign, held up by tape, saying the unit is occupied by the General Services Administration.

At several points, Cheney resisted singling out Obama personally for criticism, at one point saying he wants to give him a break after just two weeks in office. He said he admires Obama's choice to keep Defense Secretary Robert Gates on the job.

But if he treated Obama gingerly, Cheney was eager to engage in the broader philosophical debate he was accustomed to with Democrats and even many in his own party about the right way to navigate a dangerous planet. He said he fears the people populating Obama's ranks put too much faith in negotiation, persuasion, and good intentions.

"I think there are some who probably actually believe that if we just go talk nice to these folks, everything's going to be okay," he said.

He said his own experience tempers his belief in diplomacy.

"I think they're optimistic. All new administrations are optimistic. We were," he said.

"They may be able, in some cases, to make progress diplomatically that we weren't," Cheney said. "But, on the other hand, I think they're likely to find — just as we did — that lots of times the diplomacy doesn't work. Or diplomacy doesn't work without there being an implied threat of something more serious if it fails."

As examples of the dangerous world he sees — and one he predicted Obama and aides would find "sobering" — were Russia's backsliding into authoritarianism and away from democracy, and the ongoing showdowns over the nuclear intentions of Iran and North Korea.

But it was the choice over Guantanamo that most dominated Cheney's comments.

"If you release the hard-core Al Qaeda terrorists that are held at Guantanamo, I think they go back into the business of trying to kill more Americans and mount further mass-casualty attacks," he said. "If you turn 'em loose and they go kill more Americans, who's responsible for that?"

Of one alternative — moving prisoners to the U.S. prisons — Cheney said he has heard from few members of Congress eager for Guantanamo transfers to their home-state prisons, and asked: "Is that really a good idea to take hardened Al Qaeda terrorists who've already killed thousands of Americans and put 'em in San Quentin or some other prison facility where they can spread their venom even more widely than it already is?"

While Cheney's words were dire, his own mood was relaxed, even loquacious. He was not on crutches — much less the wheelchair he rode to Obama's Inauguration — from an injury while moving a box of books into his new home.

Suddenly a man of leisure, Cheney has a Kindle, Amazon's wireless reading device, and said he used it recently to read James M. McPherson's new "Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief."

About a week ago, he had a phone conversation with former President George W. Bush, the first time the two had talked since they appeared together at a rally at Andrews Air Force Base just after Obama's swearing-in.



"He's fine," Cheney said. "We had a pleasant chat on the phone. It was a private, personal conversation — not about policy. We're both citizens — civilians."

Other highlights of the 90-minute interview:

* What Cheney called "the trillion-dollar so-called stimulus bill": "It looks to me like there's a lot of stuff in there that has nothing to do with stimulus — it's a sort of a wish list of a lot of my congressional Democratic friends," he said.

* The potential consequences of \$1 trillion in deficit stimulus spending: "It's huge, obviously — potentially huge. You worry about what ultimately happens to inflation. You worry about what's going to happen to the ability of the government to borrow money. ... I'm nervous."

* Whether the Bush administration should have done more about the economy: "We did worry about it, to some extent. ... I don't think anybody actually foresaw something of this size and dimension occurring. It's also global. We only control part of the world economy — a very important part."

* On the chance of progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process in the foreseeable future: "I think it's unlikely."

After leaving office, Cheney and his wife, Lynne, went first to his home in Wyoming, then returned to Washington to enjoy their grandchildren. He's working on a book about his career, which has included stints as a House member, White House chief of staff and secretary of Defense.

His daughter, Liz Cheney, the former principal deputy assistant secretary of state for near eastern affairs, supervised the interview and at one point was looking for a tape recorder.

"I'm not a very good press aide," she joshed.

Cheney found one on his own. "See, you don't need staff," she said.



Guantanamo

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Health

5 Ways to Beef Up Your Brain

By **Andrea Thompson**
LiveScience Senior Writer

Forget where you left your keys this morning? Or maybe you left your umbrella in the office before a rainy evening.

Don't worry, it's probably not a sign of Alzheimer's — everyone is a little forgetful now and then.

But the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other types of dementia, which slowly deteriorate the brain's capacity to make new memories, retrieve older ones and perform other mental and physical tasks, is on the rise as the baby boomer generation hits retirement age. A 2007 Alzheimer's Association report estimated that more than 5 million Americans were currently living with the disease and that that total could reach 16 million by 2050.

Scientists are still trying to unravel the many mysteries of the brain — how our brain processes information, how memory works, how the brain ages and how diseases like Alzheimer's develop — so that we better understand our own minds and how to keep them healthy.

But while there is still a lot to learn about our noggin, several studies have worked out a few ways to help keep your thinking organ in shape, now and as you age.

1. Eat Your Brain Food

You are what you eat, or at least your brain is. A diet of junk food can junk up your brain, as things like trans fats and saturated fats, common in heavily processed foods, can negatively affect the brain's synapses. Synapses connect the brain's neurons and are important to learning and memory. On the other hand, a balanced diet rich in omega-3 fatty acids — found in salmon, walnuts and kiwi fruit — can give the synapses a boost and help fight against mental disorders from depression to dementia.

2. Hit the Gym

Giving the rest of your body a workout can also improve your memory, make you think more clearly and decrease the risk of developing cognitive diseases, several studies have suggested. Because exercise is a mild stressor to

your body, eating up the precious energy needed by the brain, it triggers the release of chemicals called growth factors that make the brain's neurons stronger and healthier. Half an hour every other day will do it, experts say. And don't forget to stretch: Stretching can help reduce stress, which can impact the memory centers of your brain.

3. Mind Benders

Give your brain a workout, too, with brainteasers, crossword puzzles and memory games — studies have shown that using these tools to stay mentally active can reduce the risks of developing dementia by building and maintaining a reserve of your brain. Even following

political campaign can provide a boost to the systems that control attention and learning that are hard-wired into the brain.

4. Memory tricks

Keeping information stored in your memory banks and retaining that memory with age may also be a simple matter of mind control. For example, confidence in your cognitive abilities could actually affect how well your memory functions, particularly for the elderly. Because some older adults tend to blame memory lapses on age, regardless of whether or not that is the cause, they can keep themselves from even really trying to remember. Prediction can also enhance memory: If you have a good idea of the information you'll need to recall later, you're more likely to remember it.

5. Give it a Rest

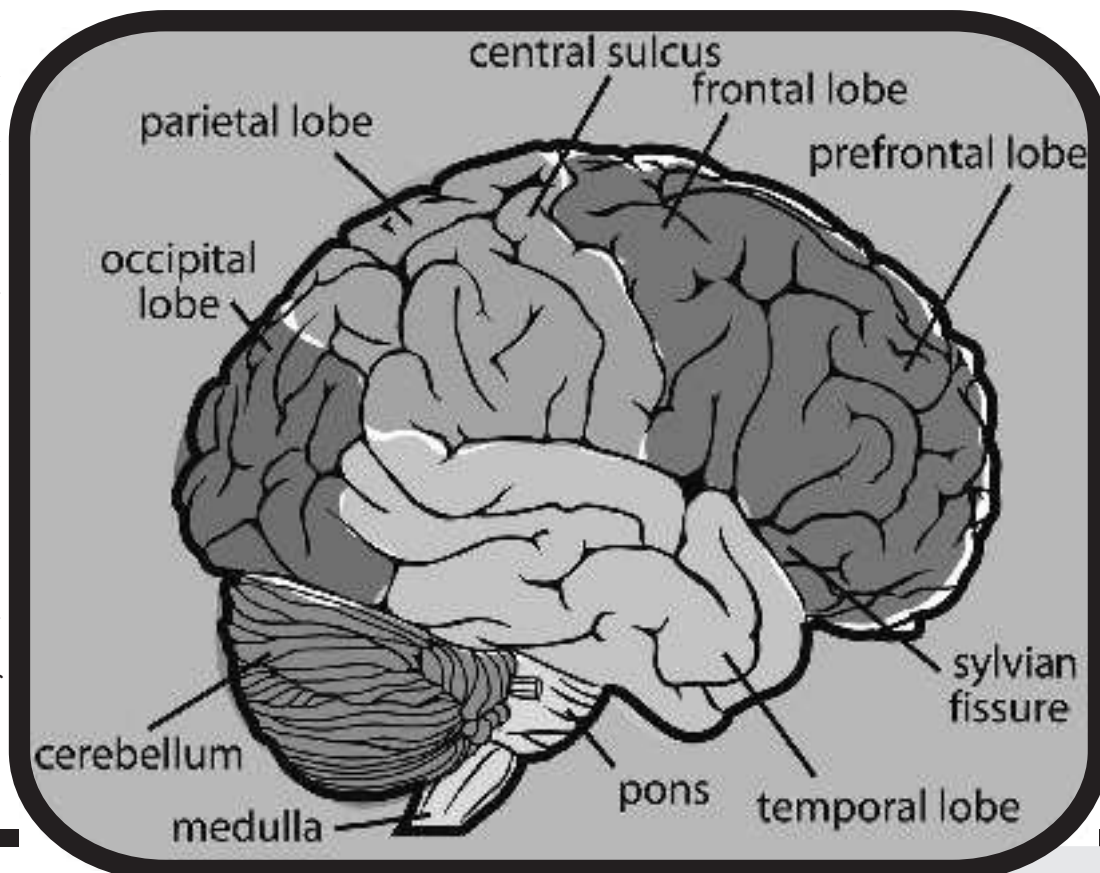
Sleep gives your brain a chance to replay the memories of the day and consolidate them for long-term storage. One study suggested that the brain can do its reviewing much faster when you're asleep than when you're wide awake — so no more all-nighters, students. A 90-minute mid-afternoon nap can even help solidify long-term memories, such as events or skills you are trying to master. Siesta anyone?

Of course, none of these mind-enhancing tips is fool-proof. Some studies have suggested that developing Alzheimer's and other types of dementia is partly a matter of genetics.

One such study, presented in July at the Alzheimer's Association's International Conference on Alzheimer's Disease, hinted at a connection between mothers who develop Alzheimer's and the chances their children will become afflicted in old age. Another suggests that having a specific pattern of proteins is a risk factor for the debilitating disease.

But for now, no one can predict exactly who will or won't develop dementia. While scientists work on better indicators and cures, doing your own part to keep your body and brain healthy is probably the best you can do.

THE BRAIN



Eat less to remember more, study suggests

NEW YORK (Reuters Health) — Cutting calories may improve memory among healthy elderly men and women, a new study from Germany hints. In the study, researchers found that people who cut their calorie intake by approximately 30 percent performed better on standard memory tests after just three months.

"Our study may help to generate novel prevention strategies to maintain cognitive functions into old age," Dr. A. Veronica Witte and colleagues from University of Munster wrote in the latest issue of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Animal studies have shown that diets low in calories and rich in unsaturated fatty acids - the kind found in olive oil and fish - are beneficial for brain function, helping to improve memory in aging rats.

To see whether the same effects can be induced in humans, Witte's team divided 50 normal- to overweight individuals whose average age was 60 years into three groups. One group restricted by up to 30 percent the amount of calories they consumed; a second group increased their consumption of unsaturated fatty acids by up to

20 percent; and a third group, serving as the control group, made no changes.

According to the investigators, the calorie-restricted group saw a significant 20 percent average increase in verbal memory scores after 3 months. In contrast, no significant changes in memory performance emerged in the two other groups.

The investigators also noticed that memory improvements in the calorie-restricted group correlated with decreases in insulin levels and "biomarkers" of inflammation in the body, and that these changes were most pronounced in those individuals who stuck closest to the prescribed calorie-restricted diet.

"To our knowledge, the current results provide the first experimental evidence in humans that caloric restriction improves memory in the elderly," Witte and colleagues note.

The results of this study, they add, "may help to develop new prevention and treatment strategies for maintaining cognitive health into old age."

SOURCE: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, January 27, 2009.

Fun Brain Facts!

- Your brain uses 20% of your body's energy, but it makes up only 2% of your body's weight.
- Your cerebral cortex is about as thick as a tongue depressor. It grows thicker as you learn and use it.
- Your brain is about 1300-1400 cubic centimeters in volume, about the size of a cantaloupe and wrinkled like a walnut.
- The brain feels like a ripe avocado and looks pink because of the blood flowing through it.
- Your brain generates 25 watts of power while you're awake—enough to illuminate a light bulb.
- A newborn baby's brain grows almost 3 times in course of first year.
- Humans have the most complex brain of any animal on earth.
- Your brain is divided into two sides. The left side of your brain controls the right side of your body; and, the right side of your brain controls the left side of your body.
- Toxins in commonplace items such as carpeting and shower curtains may be contributing to memory loss over time?
- Overexposure to aluminum compounds—in foil, cookware, deodorants, antacids, toothpaste—can affect brain function.
- Lavender can help you sleep.
- A cooked potato can jump-start your brain when you're feeling foggy.
- The essential oil of jasmine can quickly restore mental alertness.
- Eating foods rich in vitamin E, beta-carotene, and vitamin C may help lower your risk of Alzheimer's disease.
- Certain prescription and nonprescription drugs may dramatically affect your ability to concentrate.
- More electrical impulses are generated in one day by a single human brain than by all the telephones in the world.
- How much does human brain think? 70,000 is the number of thoughts that it is estimated the human brain produces on an average day.

Source: MamasHealth.com & brainhealthandpuzzles.com

Jeanna Bryner
LiveScience Senior Writer

Mellow Demeanor May Stave Off Dementia

LiveScience.com – People who are socially active and mellow may be less likely to develop dementia, a new study finds.

Dementia is a loss of mental function, such as memory and reasoning, that is severe enough to interfere with everyday life. Several diseases can cause dementia, including Alzheimer's (the most common cause of dementia in the United States) and Parkinson's disease as well as nutritional deficiencies, stroke and infections that affect the brain.

About one in seven Americans aged 71 and older has some form of dementia, the study researchers say.

However, scientists have yet to pinpoint a single cause of dementia beyond the general associations with disease. While genes play a role in some kinds of dementia, dementia caused by Alzheimer's disease and some other disorders results from a combination of genes, lifestyle and other environmental factors, according to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. For instance, recently a team of scientists found that in mice the gene *Bmi1* controls the normal and pathological aging of brain cells - a process that could lead to dementia.

The new study, which is detailed in the Jan. 20 issue of the journal *Neurology*, reveals personality traits and lifestyle could be major factors.

"The good news is, lifestyle factors can be modified as opposed to genetic factors which cannot be controlled," said study researcher Hui-Xin Wang of the Karolinska Institute in Stockholm, Sweden. "But these are early results, so how exactly mental attitude influences risk for dementia is not clear."

Personality and lifestyle

Wang and her colleagues followed more than 500 elderly people for six years. None of the individuals, with an average age of about 83, had dementia at the study's start. Over the study period, 144 developed



dementia.

The participants completed questionnaires about their personality traits and lifestyle, including degree of neuroticism (how easily the person gets distressed), level of extroversion, amount of leisurely activities and the richness of their social networks.

A person scoring low on neuroticism was characterized as calm and self-satisfied, whereas those

who were easily distressed (high neuroticism) tended to be emotionally unstable, negative and nervous.

Regarding personalities, outgoing individuals scored high on the extroversion scale and were more socially active and optimistic compared with individuals scoring low on extroversion.

Stop the stress

Results showed that among people who were socially isolated, those who were calm and relaxed were 50 percent less likely to develop dementia compared with individuals who were prone to distress. Also, among the outgoing extroverts, the dementia risk was also 50 percent lower for people who were calm compared with those who were prone to distress.

The researchers say the ability to handle stress without anxiety could help to explain the findings.

"In the past, studies have shown that chronic distress can affect parts of the brain, such as the hippocampus, possibly leading to dementia," Wang said, "but our findings suggest that having a calm and outgoing personality in combination with a socially active lifestyle may decrease the risk of developing dementia even further."

The study was supported by the Swedish Council for Working Life and Social Research, Alzheimer Foundation Sweden, Swedish Brain Power, Swedish Research Council, Gamla Tjänarinnor Foundation, Fredrik and Ingrid Thuring's Foundation, Foundation for Geriatric Diseases and Loo and Hans Osterman Foundation for Geriatric Research at Karolinska Institute, and the Center for Health Care Science at Karolinska Institute.

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A New "Racist" America or a Step Toward Humanity?

Advice for President Barack Obama



President Barack Obama

By Ron Lee

As the 44th President was sworn into office, headlines rang out in the mainstream media of a black man becoming President of the United States; headlines that, by their mere nature and tone, are, in fact, racist. Barack Obama is not first and foremost a black man, nor is he an African man. He is an American. And, I fear that through this great struggle of equality for all God's children, that has come so far in the 46 years since Martin Luther King Jr.'s, "I have a Dream", speech, there is still much work left to be accomplished and it should start at the top with this new man that we now call President.

Gone should be the days of the segregating use of African-American, Mexican-American or any other form of American hyphenation. If we are to truly be united and equal then we, the people, of this great nation, should embrace the simple fact that we are all plain Americans - brought together by our humanity as one race; a brotherly bond that transcends skin color, gender and religion. Anything other is promulgating an agenda of separation and discontent; special rights, not equal rights.

Also, gone should be the days of affirmative action. Not because anyone should be kept down, but that the best should be lifted up, rewarded for achieving the highest score or work related qualifications, not punished because of the color of their skin or that they were born a different gender.

These ideologies have lived-out their usefulness and now breed nothing but that which they were designed to fight - racism.

In Martin Luther King Jr.'s own words, "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." His dream was not to raise the "black" man to equality with

the "white" man, but, rather, to strip the need for a segregation of skin color at all, thereby creating a place where people are just that ... people; human beings sharing in their existence.

With an invocation, given by Pastor Rick Warren, that began, "Today we celebrate the hinge point of history with the inauguration of our first African-American president of the United States. We are so grateful to live in this land, a land of unequalled possibility where the son of an African immigrant can rise to highest level of our leadership," it is clear that equality has no place in this new world; that the focus is still on a separation of skin color and lineage. It focuses on what should be a mute point. Again, I say, President Obama is not first and foremost a black man, nor is he an African man. He is an American, whom the majority chose to lead us; whom the majority felt was the best qualified.

If you voted for President Obama because of the color of his skin, then you are, in fact, "racist".

Dare I float the question, because President Obama chose to accept this invocation and separate himself by the color of his skin and lineage, is President Obama "racist"? Let's be real. Anything other than accepting Human as the only race creates a separation, and is, in fact, "racist" by its mere definition.

While I did not vote for President Obama, it was not due to his skin color - I like to say that I am colorblind to the different hues of humanity. I voted for who I thought would lead us by the letter of Constitutional law. (Remember that perfect document that is the cornerstone of our nation?) And, it wasn't McSame, I mean McCain, either! As for President Obama, I was truly pleased to hear his inaugural address. I think it was well written, to the point, and as always, very well delivered. I'll admit a spark of excitement as he said, "Forty-four Americans have now taken the presidential oath. The words have been spoken during rising tides of prosperity and the still waters of peace. Yet, every so often the oath is taken amidst gathering clouds and raging storms. At these moments, America has carried on not simply because of the skill or vision of those in high office, but because we the people have remained faithful to the ideals of our forebears, and true to our founding documents. So it has been. So it



must be with this generation of Americans." I might even say I became "hopeful"; that was until I heard the benediction given by Reverend Joseph Lowery:

"Lord ... we ask you to help us work for that day when black will not be asked to get in back, when brown can stick around ... when yellow will be mellow ... when the red man can get ahead, man; and when white will embrace what is right..."

In that moment, I felt that all potential good for humanity was undone by pointing at a color and saying that it has embraced wrong, when, in fact, it is just a shade of skin that holds together people's innards. In that summation, it showed to me that America still breeds racism at its highest levels, and that Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream of a "colorblind" world is still a long, long way off, because we have the first "black" President.

If I could speak directly to President Obama ... **"My recommendations to you, Mr. President, if you truly believe what you said, that, 'On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn out dogmas, that for far too long have strangled our politics,' and that, 'We are shaped by every language and culture ...' then remove yourself from the language of separation and hyphenation of our true nature. Be the only real hyphen that matters: Human-American. And, do what you say you will by, 'remain[ing] faithful to the ideals of our forebears, and true to our founding documents,' and you will become the President that destroyed racism and united all Americans behind a government that is truly for, by, and of the People - anything else will, by its nature, just be 'racist'."** ■■■

Obama's Victory - An editorial from the London Daily Mail

A victory for the hysterical Oprah Winfrey, the mad racist preacher Jeremiah Wright, the mainstream media who abandoned any sense of objectivity long ago, Europeans who despise America largely because they depend on her, comics who claim to be dangerous and fearless but would not dare attack genuinely powerful special interest groups. A victory for Obama-worshippers every where. A victory for the cult of the cult. A man who has done little with his life but has written about his achievements as if he had found the cure for cancer in between winning a marathon and building a nuclear reactor with his teeth. Victory for style over substance, hyperbole over history, rabble-raising over reality.

A victory for Hollywood, the most dysfunctional community in the world. Victory for Streisand, Spielberg, Soros and Sarandon. Victory for those who prefer welfare to will and interference to independence. For those who settle for group think and herd mentality rather than those who fight for individual initiative and the right to be out of step with meager political fashion.

Victory for a man who is no friend of freedom. He and his people have already stated that media has to be controlled so as to be balanced, without realizing the

extraordinary irony within that statement. Like most liberal zealots, the Obama worshippers constantly speak of Fox and Limbaugh, when the vast bulk of television stations and newspapers are drastically liberal and anti-conservative. Senior Democrat Chuck Schumer said that just as pornography should be censored, so should talk radio. In other words, one of the few free and open means of popular expression may well be cornered and beaten by bullies who even in triumph cannot tolerate any criticism and opposition.

A victory for those who believe the state is better qualified to raise children than the family, for those who prefer teachers' unions to teaching and for those who are naively convinced that if the West is sufficiently weak towards its enemies, war and terror will dissolve as quickly as the tears on the face of a leftist celebrity.

A victory for social democracy even after most of Europe has come to the painful conclusion that social democracy leads to mediocrity, failure, unemployment, inflation, higher taxes and economic stagnation. A victory for intrusive lawyers, banal sentimentalists, social extremists and urban snobs.

Congratulations America. ■