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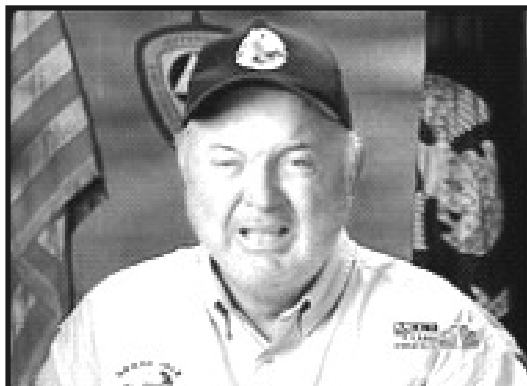
## In The Wake of The Flood

Until Katrina crashed ashore in the early morning hours of August 28th, the name New Orleans brought to mind the scent of magnolias at dusk, spanish moss swaying in musky breezes, cypress swamps, riverboat gambling, Mardi Gras, the French Quarter, zydeco, jazz, Bourbon Street, an endless jambalaya that the city's website celebrated with cocky pride. Today, it is a ruined necropolis where once a half a million residents worked day and night satisfying the appetites of an endless tourist throng, a toxic wasteland that will certainly be reclaimed for the benefit of industry, but may never be truly fit for human habitation, if it ever was. A giant question mark hangs over the people of New Orleans, who remain at the mercy of weather that continues to threaten tropical storms, government aid providers who move with serpentine slowness, and a news media that seems bent on painting them in the worst possible light.

## "The Storm We've Always Feared"

That was the first line of the first-ever Internet-only edition of the New Orleans Times-Picayune. They printed no paper copies, because the presses were underwater. For something they'd always been fearing, they had a mighty easygoing way of preparing for it. As the long-feared storm whirled through the gulf, it appeared as a spiral of dense clouds on satellite maps. On the ground, it hit New Orleans

*continued on page 3*



## **-Benefit Edition- Hurricane Katrina**

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of Hurricane Katrina  
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## Hurricane's Force Accelerates Onset of "Peak Oil"

*"Hubbard's Curve" Predicts Global  
Decline In Oil Production Starting Now*

Hurricane Katrina exposed the fragility of the global energy system. On September 12th, the German daily Die Welt reported that the head of the International Energy Agency (IEA), the body that governs our strategic oil reserves, said, "If the crisis affects oil products, then it is a world-wide crisis. No one should think this will be limited to the United States." This on the same day that 60 million barrels of oil and oil products were released by the IEA, the first time since the first Gulf War.

During the height of American oil production in 1957, M. King Hubbard, a Shell Oil geophysicist, proposed estimating production increments based on extractable quantities of oil. Hubbard's curve approximates the shape of a bell curve that peaks at the point where half of the world's oil is gone, but after it peaks, the descending slope gets steeper and steeper. During peak oil we receive the cheapest, largest returns from oil wells, but once the peak has been reached, prices start to rise as barrel production and quality of crude oil fall. Hubbard's findings were attacked and his name was slandered, but his work gained credibility over time. Quite simply, history is proving Hubbard right.

Oil exploration peaked in the United States in 1930, so Hubbard's curve

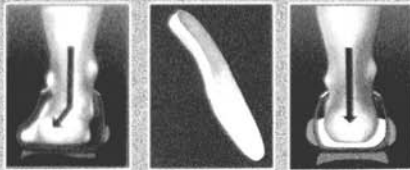
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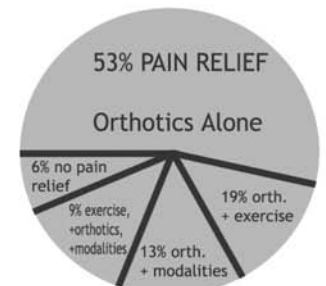
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-R. Donatelli, C. Hurlbert, D. Conaway, R. St. Pierre, "Biomechanical Foot Orthotics: A Retrospective Study," Journal of Orthopedic and Sports Therapy, 10(6):205 (1998).

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### Editor's Note

The Ashland Free Press is a news and opinion monthly published in Ashland, Oregon. AFP seeks to provide a mirror for the community to reflect upon where we are, who we are, and why we are here. AFP will report with factual integrity on issues of local concern and issues of global concern from a local perspective. AFP is premised on the idea that people in the local and global community have the creativity, desire, and energy to make a better world, starting here, where we live. AFP actively solicits submissions from the public, and will publish works with attribution or under the author's chosen pseudonym.

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### *In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 1*

like hell's own sandblaster, hurling salt water and debris at a hundred and forty miles an hour, ripping off roofs, blowing out windows, upending vehicles, and killing unprotected people and animals. All this had been long foreseen. A flood is a special type of catastrophe that makes water, normally our best friend, into a terrible, desolating enemy. In "Life On The Mississippi," Mark Twain recounted his observations from a relief boat dispatched by The New Orleans Times-Democrat to aid victims of the 1882 flood:

*"One does not appreciate the sight of earth until he has traveled through a flood. At sea one does not expect or look for it, but here, with fluttering leaves, shadowy forest aisles, house-tops barely visible, it is expected. In fact a grave-yard, if the mounds were above water, would be appreciated."*

Scientists had long predicted a catastrophic flood in New Orleans. In October 2001, Scientific American published an article entitled "Drowning New Orleans." Computer simulations prepared by University of Louisiana scientists predicted that when a storm caused the levees to fail, it would flood 20 feet deep in downtown New Orleans, kill as many as 100,000 people, and evict half a million from their homes and businesses. The SciAm article reviewed the failed efforts to fund the necessary ecological remediation of the region, but expressed hope that Federal funding would come through to protect the city. From June 23 - 27th, 2002, the Times-Picayune published its five part series, "Washing Away," subtitled "It's Only A Matter of Time Before South Louisiana Takes A Direct Hit From A Major Hurricane." In October 2004, National Geographic published "Gone With The Water," another article on the impending reclamation of New Orleans by an unforgiving sea.

The real problem wasn't mother nature, as The Times Picayune, SciAm, and National Geographic made clear. The problem was father industry. Offshore barrier islands had nearly disappeared, allowing the Gulf Coast waves to vacuum away the mainland shores. Construction projects de-silted waterways for oil rig maintenance and fishing boats, opening fresh-water wetlands to salt water, killing soil-retaining fresh-water plants and increasing erosion. Short term solutions like building levees and pumping out occupied areas chiseled away soil in a vicious cycle that erased Louisiana shoreline at the rate of six square miles per year. Commerce brought riches and disaster to the city's door.

### Strumming As The Waters Rose

Gov. Blanco declared a state of emergency on August 26th, requesting assistance from FEMA with all appropriate legalities. On August 28th, Mayor Nagin ordered mandatory evacuation of New Orleans. On August 28th, Max Mayfield, Director of the National Hurricane Center, insisted on giving President Bush a video briefing on Katrina, because otherwise he wouldn't be able to sleep that night. Mayfield also briefed Michael Chertoff, the Director of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), informing both the President and Chertoff that Katrina would strike the coast within 48 hours with catastrophic force. The President then declared a state of emergency for the entire region, placing DHS in control of rescue and recovery.

The President was officially on vacation, but went back on the clock on August 30th to give a speech to military dignitaries in San Diego on Victory in Japan Day, remarking chummily

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***In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 3***

toward the end of the speech that both he and the Japanese Prime Minister were sons of WWII fighter pilots. That's real military camaraderie: "Your dad bombed my people, my dad bombed your people, so now we're good!" After giving his speech, the president continued vacationing as the storm struck, the city flooded, and the rescue stalled. The President was photographed playing guitar at a barbecue, but the nation was watching Katrina.

On August 29th, Katrina made landfall at Buras, Louisiana a little after six in the morning, her winds clocking in at 145 m.p.h., but big trouble had already begun in the city three hours before, where evidence indicates the 17th Street floodwall collapsed at 3:00 a.m. By mid-morning, two other floodwalls had suffered breaches at five separate points, and water began pouring into the city from the drainage canals built to protect it. As evacuees filled the Superdome, the storm ripped two holes in the roof, which fortunately did not collapse, and merely allowed filthy rain and howling winds to enter through the gaping tears. The President in Air Force One called Chertoff on the ground, but he just wanted to talk about illegal immigration. Katrina was left in the hands of Mike Brown's publicity machine. If only the hurricane could have been spun as easily as the media, all would have been well.

**"Let Them Eat Sound Bites"**

The "National Response Plan" is 426 pages long, the bible for disaster professionals, but it is a safe bet that Mike Brown never read it. Mike resigned under pressure as the Director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He was also fired from his previous job as the head of a horse-breeding association, but spruced up his resume with lies that weren't discovered by the resume-readers at DHS. Then again, maybe they were looking for a loser. Mike may have been hired because he was willing to take the job of compliantly allowing FEMA to be defunded without raising a fuss. Certainly that's what happened. FEMA's budget was cut and cut, although that didn't impede its performance when Hurricane Ivan hit Florida in September 2004. But Ivan didn't hit as hard as Katrina, the money was available to fix Jeb Bush's state in time for elections, and the publicity machine worked so well that some credited FEMA's good performance with giving the president's reelection campaign in Florida an extra bump.

As Brown swung into action on Katrina, he dusted off his Ivan file and shot off this press release, trumpeting the happy news that FEMA had once again saved the day: "As the Category 4 storm surged ashore just east of New Orleans on Monday, FEMA had medical teams, rescue squads and groups prepared to supply food and water poised in a semicircle around the city."

**The Cavalry Isn't Coming**

The supplies began accumulating in a semicircle around the city as FEMA waited for the evacuees to emerge from the flooded pit. But by August 30th, it was obvious to Chertoff and Brown, and maybe even to the President, that the damn flood story was just going to go on and on until they did something about it. So on August 30th, Chertoff declared Katrina an "incident of national significance." He wrote a letter declaring that the president was creating a task force, and officially gave responsibility to Mike Brown, the man with the phony resume working for the nation's largest security agency. Three days

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## *The Onset of "Peak Oil", continued from page 1*

predicted peak oil production would occur forty years later. We enjoyed cheap, abundant energy until US oil production peaked in 1970 and '71, and at that point, a crisis ensued. Global oil exploration peaked in 1962, which would place us on track for global peak oil production during the beginning of this century. Peak oil production is not necessarily the world running out of oil. There will always be some oil. Rather, peak oil presents us with a world running out of *easily extractable* oil. Stable energy prices are needed to maintain our current reality, so we will inevitably face severe adjustments in our lifestyles.

The CEO of Texaco stated last spring, "World oil supply cannot meet demand." Statements such as these are not all bad for the oil corporations. Huge profits can be made when demand exceeds supply. Last summer Matthew Simmons, the head of the world's largest energy investment company, told news sources "The reason that no one will build more energy infrastructure is because the return is uncertain." The House of Saud has told OPEC and the world that it has enough oil to supply the world for the next hundred years. However, in the same breath they requested over a hundred billion dollars in foreign investment to recover the oil. The House of Saud does not need foreign investment; they are one of the richest families in the world. Perhaps they do not need it so much as they are scared to invest their own capital into an uncertain market. If there is so much oil in Saudi Arabia, then why has the recently-increased Saudi oil production yielded mostly "heavy-sour" grade oil?

The world's oil producing governments are making it very clear that peak oil is coming, if not here. Indonesia and Iran are both pushing for nuclear power. China is buying oil extracted from Canadian tar fields, and hoarding steel, coal, iron, and oil at alarming rates. China consumed one third of the world's coal last year, and still experienced energy shortages. South Africa has predicted permanent black outs by 2010. There are no other energy sources to supplement our oil dependency, and even if there were, the IEA says it will take thirty years to build a new energy infrastructure. We haven't even started yet.

Hurricane Katrina could be the tipping point for an unprepared global oil economy. The gulf coast housed the only port in the country able to dock supertankers, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, and it is now destroyed. The gulf coast energy infrastructure played four key parts in the nation's energy system: drilling production (twenty oil platforms missing and many others are drifting), pipeline delivery to shore (reports of severe damage to underwater pipelines), refineries (with no workers to run them), and delivery to the rest of the nation (railheads destroyed). All of this loss added up, equals a net loss of twenty to thirty percent of our oil products. Our economy will obtain the needed oil and cause others to go without. Katrina has started us down Hubbard's curve into the reality of peak oil.

What does peak oil mean to an average person in a small town like Ashland? In the immediate future we see higher gas prices. In the not-so-distant future we see less and less on the shelves at the grocery store. Items that come from far away or take excessive packaging are the first to diminish. Without oil we don't eat. Consider this -- ten hydrocarbon calories are expended to generate every calorie of food we eat, excluding cooking. Even those of us who eat organic are receiving our food from Mexico, New Zealand, Argentina, and Japan. Inventory in retail stores will start to decline and will not be replenished. Wal-Mart won't be shipping its goods to us from China. It will be making them

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**Steve Traisman Wants to Know:  
"What the Bleep Is Happening  
To Ashland?"**

This event is the brainchild of Steve Traisman, frontman for Walk In Peace, a non-profit that floats the cost of the event entirely through donations. Steve is the most pleasant really serious guy I can think of, which is why I took him seriously when he proposed doing the First Annual Free Speech In The Park Day at the Lithia Park Bandshell last year. As a result of which I got to stand around dressed like Thomas Jefferson and passing the mike from one speaker to the next, and providing transitional patter. This year, State Representative Peter Buckley will be the keynote speaker for the Second Annual FSIP event, and it is a sign of Ashland's political clout (we're here, and we vote) that he is in Salem making good laws and blocking bad ones. When I asked Peter for his take on the theme of the event, "What the BLEEP Is Happening To Ashland?" he answered: *"I view it the same as I do statewide. If we don't create our future, it will be created for us. We have tremendous potential in the state that is being blocked by a few powerful interests. If we can break through, we will experience a*

*burst of creativity and progress."*

Who else is coming? Steve's lined up Chief Bianca, at his first public engagement in quite some time, and who was out of town during the First Annual FSIP. Jeff Golden is now an alumnus of the event, and has consented to moderate the discussion, and to share his own perspectives. So what do you think? What the BLEEP is happening in Ashland? Or do you even agree with the question? Whatever! If you want to sound off on the topic, be there at the Bandshell in Lithia Park on Saturday for the Town Meeting between two and four in the afternoon, and ask me to hand you the mike. I'll be the guy dressed like Thomas Jefferson.

C. Carreon

**Letters to the Editor**

**A Sisterly Proposal**

I would like to suggest to the City Council and the citizens of Ashland that we ease the burden on the victims of Hurricane Katrina by dedicating an economic incentive zone in Ashland where creative people fleeing New Orleans and elsewhere can relocate in the northwest. We could

call it the New French Quarter, and it could exhibit all of the charm and artistic flair that has been the hallmark of the original French Quarter. It would also provide a counterbalance to the one-track Anglophile obsession that has swamped our town with images of the Bard. While the immortal poet of the English language makes a wonderful mascot for a town devoted to arts and letters, I would suggest that a little Voltaire and Rousseau might be helpful to get us back to our roots. I also would like to suggest that as citizens, we direct our City Council to: (1) extend the hand of sisterly care to the stricken citizens of New Orleans, (2) request assistance for the project from France and French-based NGOs like Doctors Without Borders, and (3) inform the French people that the New French Quarter project will accept contributions in any form – works of art, visits from French artists, cheese and wine, or any kind of aid that our federal government has rejected. Remember, these are the people who gave us the Statue of Liberty! We could really put this town on the map.

Tara Carreon



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### *In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 4*

later, Brown wrote Chertoff a letter asking him to lend FEMA a thousand DHS employees who had sunscreen and walking shorts, to volunteer to rescue the drowned southland and put a good public face on the operation. Four days later, after 700 employees from the Customs arm of DHS volunteered to help with disaster relief, Customs sent a memo to all of its employees, telling them to stop volunteering, withdraw past offers to volunteer, and just settle down to patrolling the nation's southern border.

During the opening days of the tragedy, President Broussard of Jefferson Parish wept openly on television that he had been promised endlessly that "the cavalry are coming," but the cavalry never came. FEMA issued press releases trumpeting the delivery of millions of packets of food, millions of gallons of water, hundreds of vehicles, and thousands of soldiers to help Katrina victims. However, in New Orleans, FEMA workers are still about as scarce as a dry place to stand, and when Brown claimed that FEMA had delivered "at least one, if not two, meals every single day" to the people at the Convention Center, the Times-Picayune didn't mince words in its response: "Lies don't get more bald-faced than that."

As the rescue finally found first gear, Gen. Honore explained that the huge military trucks we saw plowing through filthy waters on Monday, September 2nd had been unable to penetrate the city until then. The Times-Picayune had this to say about that: "There were journalists ... going in and out of the city by the Crescent City connection. On Thursday morning, that crew saw a caravan of thirteen Wal-Mart tractor-trailers headed into town to bring food, water and supplies to a dying city. The people trained to protect our nation, the people whose job it is to quickly bring in aid were absent. Those who should have been deploying troops were singing a sad song about how our city was impossible to reach."

### **For This I Went To Harvard?**

The first DHS Director was Tom Ridge, who resigned in February 2005. The president thought to replace Ridge with Bernard Kerik, the former top cop at NYPD, but his resume was a little flaky. Kerik turned out to be: (a) connected to the Gambino crime family, (b) a philanderer who trysted with employees in a taxpayer-financed love nest overlooking the WTC crater, and (c) a millionaire only because of a stash of inflated Taser stock he paid for by urging police agencies to buy the often-lethal stun-guns. Kerik would have made a great political cretin, and might even have handled New Orleans better, but there's no point crying over spilled milk.

Chertoff clearly wanted to direct DHS, which was created to centralize our nation's response to terrorist events and national disasters, because he walked away from lifetime tenure as a federal judge, generally known as the ultimate plum for lawyers, who thereby get to while away their declining years getting, as they surmise, wiser and wiser. Chertoff is a Harvard Law graduate, Supreme Court Clerk to the liberal William Brennan, and a former Assistant Attorney General who convicted whole crime families. During mid-2003, the President appointed Chertoff to a lifetime job as a Third Circuit federal appellate judge. Perhaps Chertoff would have been wise to remain on the bench. He'll never get back there now, that's for sure. Internal memos indicate Chertoff committed the unforgivable lawyer-sin. He was caught off-guard, apparently not realizing that disaster relief was actually his job, and when he caught the ball, he didn't know

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*In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 7*  
what to do with it.

### **Don't Believe Everything You See On TV**

Chertoff sounded out-of-the-loop when he told the press on Tuesday August 30th that he stopped worrying about New Orleans when he read in that morning's paper that "New Orleans dodged a bullet." Actually, this wasn't printed in any newspaper, and the New Orleans Times-Picayune had a one-word headline that day – CATASTROPHIC! Chertoff's statement didn't sound that unreasonable at first, though, because during the first days of September, many news agencies, including MSNBC, kept saying that the flooding had been prevented by the levee system. We can only presume that this story came from Karl Rove, who was finally let off his leash after a suitable time in the doghouse for outing CIA-agent Valerie Plame. It had to be Rove, because only he would try to contradict the local officials desperately broadcasting from ham radios that the water was rising, that the floodwalls were failing, that the floodwalls had failed, and finally, that the drainage canals were emptying into the City. This had been the great feared event that would doom all inhabitants unable to reach higher ground, but even as the catastrophe struck, only a handful of news outlets got the story about the floodwall breaches fairly straight -- The Wall Street Journal, CBS, The Times-Picayune, and National Public Radio. And aside from David Muir's interview of salty local Joe Edwards on ABC World News Tonight, none of the major outlets leaked the news that many New Orleans inhabitants heard loud explosions and believed the floodwalls had been blown. Before you disregard this as absurd, remember that using explosives to alter the course of a flood is as common in the south as "backfiring" to prevent the spread of wildfire here in the northwest. For his part, Joe Edwards had no doubts: "I knows it happened. They blew it."

The vast majority of news outlets engaged in a government-approved blackout on news of the swift, alarming flooding of central New Orleans, thus underplaying the story at the beginning, and providing Chertoff, Brown and FEMA with a convenient smoke screen behind which to hide – they were as ignorant as the rest of the nation! But if news was bad, Chertoff wouldn't hear it. When NPR anchor Robert Siegel confronted him, saying that tens of thousands of people were starving in New Orleans, Chertoff rebuffed the suggestion, cautioning Siegel that it was "dangerous to extrapolate" from "someone's anecdotal version of something." And when Chertoff says it's dangerous to say something, maybe you want to shut up, unless you want a free trip to Guantanamo and lifetime room and board.

### **Nearer My God To Thee**

The evacuation of the city could not have been less successful. The City of New Orleans seemed to have given up any effort to implement an active evacuation plan. The only real plan was to issue timely evacuation orders, but when the time came, wish-bone replaced backbone, officials waited too long hoping the storm would blow itself out, and the evacuation orders were belatedly given. The people trapped in the city, surrounded by and sometimes drowning in corpse-filled waters, reacted in panic, attempting to save themselves by all means. As one would expect, these were mostly poor people who don't own cars, and depend on public transport, and public transport was missing in action. Buses weren't deployed to ferry evacuees, and instead were destroyed in the flood. An Amtrak train that could have

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### **The Onset of "Peak Oil", continued from page 5**

all and selling them all right there -- it will be too expensive not to. Because of the high petroleum content in government-issued food, we will likely see a shortage of it as well. We will need to build parallel systems that are locally based if we wish to survive the brunt of this impending peak in oil production.

Food, water, clothing, shelter, and energy is all we need. However, since most of us have not had to be responsible for producing these necessities of life for the past century, it will undoubtedly be a daunting task. We will eventually turn to those in our community with experience in gardening (perhaps closed system green houses that produce immense amounts of produce in very little space). We will turn to those with weaving skills for our clothing, the fibers coming from our own production. We will need to create intermediary fuel products such as bio-fuel from our farms, solar from our sun. We will need to come together as a community to survive. It will take a lot of effort to start producing for ourselves but it must happen. Soon the day will come when figuring out the proper way to make bio-fuel, or when to harvest the carrots, surpasses in importance whether or not to expand Mount Ashland's ski area.

*Moksha Mokma*

### **The New Israelites**

Merriam-Webster defines a diaspora as "the breaking up and scattering of a people." Before our eyes, in living color, a people have been broken up and scattered. The Israelites of biblical legend walked through the parted waters of the Red Sea. Today's New Israelites have been driven forth from their land by the sea, deprived of everything, of homes, of work and school and relatives. There is no sound bite big enough to contain it, but the word diaspora comes close. African-Americans suffered the first diaspora when they were enslaved by the Northern European colonizing nations. They were stripped of all tribal customs, separated and sold without regard to blood or family ties, and taught to worship a white god.

Since Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the former slaves have battled their way toward equality in the distribution of social resources. During the twentieth century, in New Orleans and Atlanta and many other cities racial "minorities" became the majority. After Lyndon Johnson pushed through the Voting Rights Act in 1965, these "minorities" began to elect mayors and congress-people of their own race. Thus, one-hundred and forty-two years after black men and women were bought and sold in the New Orleans slave markets, Ray Nagin, a black man, is the mayor of New Orleans. But what can he call a city, and from what shall he create a habitation for his people?

The second diaspora has thus begun, a great cultural migration outward from the warm waters of the Gulf Coast, where yet another, still mightier storm is menacing the coast, causing people to flee before the winds. Where shall they go, these uprooted children, cast about the surface of the earth? Who will let them share their lands, their fields, their open sky? A New Israelite shepherd wonders aloud and lifts his eyes up high to the mountain where long ago Noah's ark came to rest after the long, long flood that drowned the whole world. This flood here's only a baby flood and we've come to rest on a dry place at last. Now, just to cultivate and make it bloom.

Yah, that's all a myth man, but you can believe it, and maybe even make it come true. Just make sure you get your share right here on earth, because that pie in the sky ain't never been eaten by no mother's son.

*Aaron Ararat*





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***In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 8***

carried hundreds left empty when city officials declined the aid, apparently too busy to mobilize an evacuation.

The Superdome and the Convention Center, that had no supplies at all to accommodate anyone for even one night, became destinations for capacity crowds for two weeks, who had to provide their own supplies. Convoys of aid were parked outside the city's perimeter, waiting to give aid to people once they got out of the city, but no buses were going in to bring out the stranded people. When Governor Blanco directed buses from other counties to drive into New Orleans to ferry out evacuees from the two stadiums, they sometimes refused on grounds of safety. More than three weeks after the storm hit, people are still trying to get away from the two stadiums, which have turned to miserable pits of privation, filth, and violence.

Once the FEMA disaster orders went into effect, local authorities were empowered to seize any property needed, but ironically, they most often used that power to prevent the entry of food and water to the drowning city, ostensibly in order to "discourage people from staying." This is perhaps a new form of "tough love" being dispensed by compassionate conservatives, because heretofore, it has not been government policy to induce compliance with evacuation orders by threat of starvation.

A flotilla of private rescue boats five miles long was turned back by Louisiana law enforcement, leaving hundreds stranded who could have been saved by volunteers. The message seemed to be, "Go home, these folks are supposed to die." And die they did. While platoons of physicians and vast stocks of medicine were blockaded outside the city, for the many sick and aged in the city's nursing homes and hospitals, death came in hundreds of gruesome ways as life support equipment failed, food ran out, medicines couldn't be administered, and all hope faded away. Doctors became the comforters of the doomed. No one had thought to attempt to provide an avenue of escape for these helpless people.

**We Have Met The Enemy, And He Is Us**

Perhaps the military character of the rescue operation handicapped the mission. The transfer of disaster management authority to the Department of Homeland Security seems to have given the whole FEMA effort a draconian, military character. The good parts of the military were left out of the project.

FEMA rejected an offer from the Captain of the USS Bataan, an aircraft carrier anchored offshore from the drowned city and equipped with physicians and surgeons, six operating rooms, 600 hospital beds, food and water supplies, and the ability to produce 100,000 gallons of clean, fresh water per day.

By refusing to deliver aid to people trapped in New Orleans, FEMA effectively put the city under siege, a cruel and bizarre tactic that would only be used against an enemy. However, when we realize that the Iraq-trained National Guardsmen have been applying these very tactics against cities like Mosul and Fallujah, ostensibly to aid the residents, perhaps this is just the face of government aid to come.

Still, I haven't heard that the US forces in Iraq present Iraqis who are forced from their homes with blockades that simultaneously prevent them from leaving. That would be needlessly cruel. Yet many stories were told by African-Americans who tried to pass over into neighboring areas to get away from the flood, and were driven back by armed, white lawmen who sometimes held, searched and terrorized them before releasing them to

*continued on page 11*

***In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 10***  
fend for themselves in the doomed city.

### **What Insurrection Did You Have In Mind?**

Of course, it's always possible that the crucial ingredient in the delay of relief was Gov. Blanco's skittish reaction to what looked like a Washington power grab. As the waters rose in New Orleans killing more by the hour, the administration repeatedly invited Gov. Blanco to ask the President to suppress an insurrection under the Insurrection Act, 10 U.S.C. Section 331. If Gov. Blanco had believed herself to be dealing with a revolt, she presumably would not have resisted the invitation, because the act allows the President "to call into Federal service such of the militia of the other States" to "suppress the insurrection." But unless the attack of the wind and waves was some type of weather-war attack by terrorists, it is hard to understand what forces were in rebellion against the State of Louisiana. Still, the governor seemed pleased when FEMA sent in battle-hardened National Guard just returned from Iraq to quell civil unrest, and got rid of the notion that Democrats are soft on crime with her comment that the soldiers "have M-16s ... locked and loaded. These troops know how to shoot to kill ... and I expect they will." Notably, for those watching the race issue, Mayor Nagin, an African-American and a Democrat, also demanded that soldiers shoot looters. Clearly, big city politicians, used to shouting about being tough on crime, overmatched by Katrina, an omnipotent, non-human enemy, turned their aggressive power on the only adversaries they could defeat – other people.

### **A Free Reality Show**

Perhaps it was inevitable that in a media age where "Survivor" was a big hit, that the people of New Orleans would be drafted into starring, non-paying roles in a feast of TV coverage that hovered over the agony but delivered no relief, like the news and military helicopters that mocked the residents who pled for salvation, for food, for water, for humanity, and received only pointed guns and the staring eyes of video cameras in response to their cries. Certainly it was real, all too real, for the participants, who were told to be patient, and they would get prizes – free debit cards, lotteries to own real estate. And so in modern America in 2005, before the eyes of the world, thousands of Americans suffered needlessly, and uncounted hundreds died wretched, horrible deaths, while the mightiest nation in the world stood with its hands at its side. But then again, disasters have always been a spectator sport.

### **Different Strokes for Different Folks**

It is well known that people see different things looking at the same scene. When large numbers of people with dark skin suddenly dominate the TV for days, this is of course not some movie with a cast of thousands, because there is no such thing as a cast of a thousand black people. It's clearly some sort of racial event, as if someone scheduled a nightmare, and invited mostly African-Americans.

Barbara Bush, audiotaped in a candid moment at the Astrodome filled with evacuees, said that, since most of "these people" were "underprivileged already, it was all working out rather well for them." She sounded like a financial executive remarking that a rival had scored an exceptionally good deal, as she followed her quip with an avuncular chuckle. On television, African-Americans who scavenged for goods in stores were called looters, while Caucasians doing the same thing were said to be hunting

for supplies. Yes, different people see things differently. Where some saw hardworking people flooded from their homes, the former First Lady saw lucky freeloaders.

Some think that FEMA's poor response in Louisiana, compared with its response in Florida in September 2004 when the President's brother's state was hit by Hurricane Ivan, shows partisanship in the administration of benefits. When Florida was hurting, the declaration of emergency came immediately from the White House, and 2,000 National Guard and plenty of money poured into Florida. By the time the election rolled around a mere three months later, things were better in Florida than before the disaster, one often heard. Louisiana has also fared less well than Mississippi, which has not received standoffish treatment like those suffering in New Orleans.

Finally, analyzed purely in terms of procedure, the evacuation of New Orleans applied the following priority, when evacuation was attempted: (1) sick people, (2) hotel occupants, who had access to some stored supplies, and (3) Superdome evacuees, who were receiving a tiny trickle of food and water, starving and dying of thirst. When we count the numbers, groups one and two were of mixed racial composition, while group three was preponderantly composed of African-Americans. How is this significant?

### **An Unequal Allocation of Benefits**

The terror of drowning lies deep in the human soul, and each victim had to face it. Many committed suicide before the last moment came. For each of them, a national debt has been assumed, and a national resolve should be undertaken.

It is sad to perform the counting of white bodies and black bodies to figure out the percentages, but people will do it, each for their own purposes. An Internet posting from a white supremacist attempted to sort through the complex muddle of his bigoted feelings by expressing sorrow for the trapped white people, but finding satisfaction in the disaster nonetheless, because the hated blacks were suffering in such larger proportion. Thinking through that tangled web of cruel motivation, we see the madness of trying to judge things based on race. On the other side, African-American leaders must emphasize the imbalance in the body count and the numbers of homeless evacuees. It is impossible to deny a racially imbalanced outcome here, although the significance can be debated, as the white supremacist viewpoint makes clear.

But the law also takes an interest in the numbers, when lawsuits are filed. The Supreme Court has said in race discrimination lawsuits that, where there are consistently unequal outcomes in the allocation of benefits, and those unequal outcomes fall along racial lines, the burden shifts to the party defending against accusations of prejudice to show that the unequal result was not in fact the result of racial bias. Imagine if Chertoff were on the witness stand, defending his inaction in the face of Katrina's destruction. What would he say if asked to compare his non-response to Katrina's devastation with the job done by Tom Ridge, who oversaw the September 2004 FEMA response to Hurricane Ivan in Florida? What explanation besides politics or race would he provide for the difference in treatment of Louisiana and Florida? Perhaps he would plead, as he has, that he was just reading the papers to find out what his job was. Perhaps, like President Bush, he'd admit he was at fault. But what explanation could he possibly provide for withholding food, water, medical care and transportation from hurricane victims, an unprecedented

*continued on page 12*

**In the Wake of the Flood, continued from page 12**

disaster remedy that killed hundreds and saved no one? It would be interesting to hear his answers, but he is not offering any because he isn't on the witness stand.

**The Boondoggle That Is Yet To Come**

It seems that the time for speeches has come again, and after initially not rising to the occasion, the President has apologized for the fumbles, which are once again now all in the past, and promised an all new plan for the future that will require vast expenditures of federal funds. The spigot is open, and the financial press is abuzz with estimates of how much money there is to be made in the rebuilding effort. Municipal funds gurus are declaring this the largest funding opportunity in history. Saudi Arabia and other oil nations have been quickest to write the checks our national government has requested to pump the money engine that will have to be stoked up to power out of this mess.

A thousand Mexican soldiers are apparently coming to help out, the first time that many Mexicans have been allowed across the border at one time for over a hundred years. Although Cuba, a little over a hundred miles away, offered to send 1,500 doctors and medicine to aid Katrina's victims, the administration has rebuffed the offer, while officially stating that it was under consideration.

There are some clouds on the horizon. Delta Airlines, a major southern employer with its hub in Atlanta, and Northwest Airlines, already on the ropes financially before the storm, pulled the ripcord together and filed for bankruptcy in New York during the first week of September. On the other hand, Wall Street knows bankruptcy can free a company from union contracts and pension fund obligations, and thus will look forward to buying airline debt and equity at fire-sale prices, and cashing in on another wave of government bailout money. In further good news for employers on the labor front, the President suspended operation of the Davis-Bacon federal prevailing wage law that would otherwise have required federal contractors to pay employees the prevailing wage in the region for their type of work, thus eliminating an obvious hindrance to reconstruction. In other words, in Washington and by implication, everywhere else in the nation, it is business as usual and full speed ahead.

**My Superfund Site Is Missing, Sir**

In the rush to pour money into the next round of industrial subsidies, the officials are hiding one crucial fact – New Orleans is a gigantic Superfund site – a toxic waste dump so severe it that has been designated to receive federal cleanup funds. There were four Superfund sites in New Orleans, and they all were flooded and blown together into one toxic stew by the hurricane. A total of 153,000 barrels of oil are confirmed to have spilled into New Orleans. At 50 gallons per barrel, that's approximately 7,650,000 gallons of oil adrift on the waters. The Exxon-Valdez spilled 11,000,000 gallons, so we are clearly dealing with one of the largest oil spills in history, and it is going unreported. Also unreported are the final resting places of countless barges and railcars filled with toxic reagents and used as "temporary" storage locations for toxic waste. These gigantic containers were bounced around like Dixie cups by the storm, and have been leaking for weeks, creating a brew that is biotoxic in the extreme. The owners of toxin-filled railcars and barges thus disposed of by providence would certainly have cause to observe that it is an ill wind indeed that blows no good for anyone.

**Ignoring a Chemical Chernobyl?**

Innumerable toxic materials are now loose in the city, being

spread everywhere by the flood. The floodwaters in some parts of the city cause toxic burns. The sludge that will remain after pumping is completed will be loaded with matter that should not be touched, inhaled, or ingested. The floodwaters being pumped out of the city are not being processed, and are going raw into Lake Ponchartrain, that was already polluted, and now will simply become the nation's largest petroleum byproducts leachpit, a dead lake impounding billions of gallons of industrial refuse. Not something you'd want to live downwind from.

Quite possibly, civic leaders will ignore these unpleasant facts just as studiously as they ignored both the risk of catastrophic flooding and the need to evacuate people who didn't have cars or were marooned in hospitals and nursing homes. Perhaps the human cost of repopulating the site of a chemical Chernobyl will merely be measured as an uptick in the already high levels of cancer that distinguish Louisiana in the national health statistics. Perhaps the affected people will never learn about the dangers, and will once again trust the assurances of their leaders that it is safe to work and live in New Orleans after the flood. Perhaps the disparity in life expectancies in our country will become more extreme, as some Americans live in safe, healthy places, and some can't get out of unsafe, unhealthy places. That is certainly how it was in New Orleans before and during the flood, and so far there is no reason to think that it will be different in the future.

***Lo-Fi Nikita***

**Power To The Oil Pumps, Not The People!**

It would be wrong to think that in the midst of disaster, no one was thinking with a clear head. On occasion, the White House acted decisively, as when Dick Cheney's office yanked Mississippi electrical workers off their job restoring power to Mississippi's major hospitals, to work in a hazardous location amidst broken power lines and flaming trees to restore power to an installation of national security importance – the pumps at Colonial Pipeline Company that feed the oil pipeline to the northeast. Restarting the 5,000 horsepower generator was also hazardous, as it threatened to blow out the grid entirely, taking down power to the one remaining Mississippi hospital that wasn't already dark. Without explaining the purpose for their work, Cheney's office forced the engineers to take the risk. Thus, the vital flow of oil to Washington and New York was resumed without widespread disaster in Mississippi, although the distraction delayed restoration of power to Mississippi hospitals for twenty four hours. Deflecting criticism that Colonial was the benefactor of a gruesome exercise in cronyism, Cheney's office referred questions about his action to DHS, which of course can't answer its phones at all, even the 800 number they set up to aid victims.

***Creed***

**Idyll**

*by Charles Carreon*

The lazy boy is in love  
with the milkmaid.

Her skin is as fresh as cream,  
her laughter is enchanting,  
her hair hangs down in beautiful strands.

She is laughing at something  
he said.



The Wild Goose Café & Bar thanks  
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### **Did Warlock Aid Katrina?**

How do you stop a bomb from going off if it will be triggered by a single call from a portable cellphone? Don't let the bomb pick up the phone. That's the principle behind Warlock Blue and Warlock Green, technically known as IED jammers, for the Islamic Explosive Devices they're directed at thwarting. They work well, too, and a cell phone jammer is credited with thwarting an assassination attempt on the life of Pervaz Musharraf, the Friend of America and Pakistan's Ruler for Life in 2003. Warlock Blue is an upgrade from Warlock Green, that allows defensive jamming across a broader range of frequencies, to thwart sneaky channels who switch frequencies and thus get through to their friend Mr. Bomb despite our best jamming efforts. The Warlocks are small, portable units, but larger ones are available, for other uses, including "communication control during riots." As this ad for the TRJ-89 SERIES TACTICAL RESPONSE JAMMER shows (see below), this unit will tow behind your vehicle and block cell calls in or out up to a radius of five miles. That's helpful when law enforcement are required to deploy "a blanket of radio frequency silence."

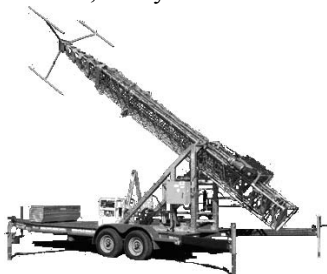
The TRJ-89 model was designed specifically for TACTICAL RESPONSE units required to deploy a blanket of RF silence during the following situations:

- a. Explosive device location(s) (bombs)
- b. Hostage situations (campus environments)
- c. Communication control during Riots
- d. Military intervention

The TRJ-89 can be easily towed behind most vehicles, is electrically self sufficient, and has a maximum jamming radius of up to five miles.

According to Wayne Madsen, ham radio operators said communications of specific frequencies were intentionally jammed during the flooding of New Orleans from an "intermittent frequency jammer operating south-southwest of New Orleans aboard a U.S. Navy ship. A former Department of Defense source says the U.S. Army uses a portable jammer known as Warlock in Iraq, and the jammer may be similar to the one that is jamming the emergency frequencies." Whether Madsen is right about the cause of all the cell phone dysfunction in the New Orleans area is difficult to know, unless more disclosures occur. What we do know is that on August 29, 2005, Howard Melamed, CEO of CellAntenna Corp. of Coral Springs, Florida, urged Congress to change the law and let not only the federal government, but also state, county and city law enforcement, buy CellAntenna's cell phone jammers. In Europe and elsewhere, in fact, small jammers are becoming ubiquitous. They're in the Greek subways, Mexican churches, Indian temples, and Tokyo theaters and commuter trains. Could one have been deployed by FEMA and the military in New Orleans? Well, duh. But why would they? Given what we know they did – standing around watching people die while sitting on a mountain of supplies – you'd just have to answer, "Why not?"

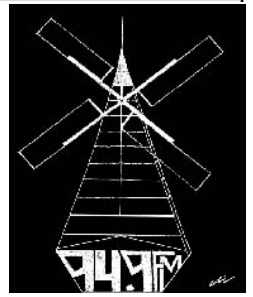
*Lo Fi Nikita*



### **We Want the Airwaves**

*Volunteers Power Up 30-watt LPFM in Astrodome*

In Houston, Texas, relief volunteers, Independent Media organizers, and Katrina evacuees got FCC and Houston city administrators to allow construction of a 30 watt Low Power FM (LPFM) radio station to serve the families currently living at the Houston Astrodome and adjacent buildings. Volunteer engineers and radio techs worked through Prometheus Radio Project, a not-for-profit organization that builds Low Power FM radio stations from all over the country, to get the station on the air during the first weekend of disaster recovery operations at the Astrodome. Prometheus organizer Hannah Sassaman reported, "Families are putting up notices on the walls to find lost parents and children, and then crying themselves to sleep at night, as they start to let the weight of the past week bear down on them," said. "This station will provide critical information for families putting their lives back together, as well as the comfort of programming made by refugees and volunteers in Houston, just for them."



### **Sen. Walden Needs To Get Onboard With LPFM Legislation**

Call Democratic Senator Greg Walden 776-4646 and tell him that you urge him to cosponsor House Bill 3731, the Local Community Radio Act of 2005. The bill was introduced in the House of Representatives the second week of September to support and expand Low Power FM radio! The FCC knows the LPFM rules need changing so that this uniquely local medium can grow. Let's get the FCC can change the rules to facilitate LPFM service! Public reply comments are due September 21st. Comments about the good work at the Astrodome would make timely sound-bites. Make your voice heard!

### **1000 Members Will Take KSKQ Live – Fund Drive**

Katrina reminds us that community access to the airwaves is essential to emergency response, in addition to providing local news and creative expression on a regular daily basis. We have our FCC license through the Southern Oregon Multicultural Association, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We have plenty of excited volunteers, and lots of important community media clamoring to get on the air, so let's get KSKQ 94.9 LPFM going! We plan to buy equipment and start broadcasting early in 2006. To help, for \$35 you can become a member, and for \$94.90 you get the cool KSKQ t-shirt to show your support.

### **Urge Congress to Enact LPFM Legislation HB 3731.**

For Democracy to work, citizens need to reclaim the media. The "fourth branch" of our beloved Democracy has been hoisted out of our reach by commercial interests. Making access to good, well-substantiated information not easy. In right and justice, and according to the original Federal law that gifted the media barons with free slices of the electromagnetic spectrum worth billions, the airwaves belong to the public - as public space. The remedy is to take the airwaves back. We can make good on the original promise of democratic access to media that Congress made to all U.S. citizens back when radio was first born, and return the airways to the people!

*Suzia Aufderheide*

*We Want The Airwaves is a regular column by all-volunteer radio KSKQ 94.9 LPFM, the Rogue Valley's only Community Owned and Operated Radio Station.*

## Skating News

Sunday, September 4, 2005

Local skateboarding enthusiasts of all ages gathered at the water street park for a skate contest and to raise money for the Jacksonville skatepark. People enjoyed an eclectic mix of rap and heavy metal music provided by local DJ Matt Dotson. There were free product and sticker tosses, and prizes for the top 3 competitors in each age group, including skateboards and gift certificates. The only things missing were the huge sponsor banners emblazoned with corporate logos, which were not missed.

There was a petition being circulated by locals who hope to raise money to complete construction on the unfinished Jacksonville skate park, which is currently at risk of being torn down, according to local sources. Volunteers and donations are needed to complete the park. To get involved, contact Joel at Lowdown Boardshop (541) 488-8969.

Sponsored by local businesses "Lowdown" and "Skateguard", the competition was a great way to spend the day downtown. The crowd was treated to all kinds of skate trickery, responding with shouts and applause. After the contest, most people left except for some kids who kept skating until the sun set.

*J. Carreon*

## Music Reviews

### The Jan Michael Vincents

Never say the Wild Goose crowd can't rock, and that includes the bartenders. I frankly never expected to see Dennis headbanging, but last Thursday night the Jan Michael Vincents brought the surf punk out in him. I lived in LA during the days when Black Flag, the Circle Jerks, the Dickies, Suicidal Tendencies, and all those bad boys were learning how to crank out irresistible noise, and the melodic hardcore JMV's took me right back to those days when I used to snuggle behind the wheel of my turquoise-blue Dodge Swinger, listening to KXLU radio in the West LA sun, waiting for the Starbucks to invigorate my eyebrows. Talk about power chords, the JMV's were pluckin' 'em out of the smoke-smeared air, commanding hearty ovations from the normally-sedate denizens of the Goose. Guitarist and singer-songwriter Corey Christensen's voice patiently ascends the gentle dissonance of a monolithic heap of minor chords, working his way up one Sisyphean crescendo after another. He encapsulates emotion, then hangs it all on a closing chord rich with decaying crunch. Just how it's s'poted to be done. Bass player Pat Harris McClellan plays the fretless bass sensitively, fattening up the sound without steal-



ing thunder from the lead. Drummer Dave Hampton, usually seen peeling licks elegantly off the neck of his snakeskin-covered Stratocaster behind the wheel of the always-wildly-careening New Autonomous Folksingers, pulled a Tommy Ramone and learned to play drums just to become, for a few nights, one of the Van Michael Vincents. At one point, Pat passed Dave the mike because he needed to say something. Once he had the mike, Dave said "Something." We may not see this band again for awhile, because Corey's off to Evergreen College for a year, but wish real hard, and maybe they'll be back for Christmas.

### The Bluesdusters

I caught the Bluesdusters show on August 19th at Alex's and was glad I did. The Bluesdusters are John O. Nelson and Leonard "Grif" Griffie, two remarkable axe-men with piano and drums delivered by a variety of artists who are all listed on the band's website at Bluesdusters.com. John, a big, tall rugged-faced guy I knew only as the man behind the counter at Silk Road, is one hell of a musician. John's voice is warm and rich, and he softens the edges of many songs with skillful slidework on his guitar. Grif unreels sustained blues riffs with ease and precision. The two work together smoothly, trading off rhythm and lead so easily that they had me studying fingers to figure who was playing what. Then I realized it didn't matter, and I just had to get up and dance. Our next chance to catch the Bluesdusters live is October 21st, 9 p.m. at the "A" Street Marketplace (at the junction of Pioneer and "A" streets). There's no cover, and if I know these guys, no limits on how hot the dance floor will get.

*Carlos Ramone*

# A DUI arrest doesn't mean you are guilty.

**Peter Carini**  
**PJC Law Group**



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## You Drink. You Drive. You Lose...Another Government Lie?

It is legal to drive a car after drinking alcohol. That said, you may be arrested anyway because of the factual distortions and omissions taught to our local police by mandatory training and testing on the written materials provided by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). When truth and science gets in the way of the agenda of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, NHTSA yields. MADD definition of drunk driving is driving after drinking any amount of alcohol...period. In essence, this is what our police are instructed to believe, and why you will probably be arrested if you admit to drinking alcohol...even though you are fine! To that extent you do lose, but you shouldn't.

DUI is considered by some to be the witch-hunt of the new millennium. If you thought that the public had been riled up against citizens accused of being communists during the McCarthy era...think about what the governments "public service announcements" have done to strip us of the presumption of innocence in DUI cases? You Drink. You Drive. You Go To Jail! If You Drink And Drive You Will Lose More Than Your License! You Drink. You Drive. You Lose! These government paid for, MADD endorsed, advertisements are pure scare tactics and have an insidious, subconscious effect on potential jurors. This increased hysteria and the "dumbing down" of the definition of what is an "impaired" driver to include responsible social drinkers has logical yet absurd ramifications. Based on the current police officer (MADD endorsed) definition of the term "impaired", some people (logically) are asking why it isn't a crime to drive while fatigued, or ill, or old, or on the cell phone, or with screaming children in the car, or animals in the car, or eating, or drinking, or smoking, or taking allergy medication, or taking prescribed medications even when your doctor says it is O.K. to drive, or speeding...because each one of those driving factors cause the same if not more "impairment" than the social drink. Should those folk go to jail? THINK IT OVER. Do we have to drive with the precision and coordination of Air Force fighter pilots on pure, military grade, methamphetamines in order to be deemed "safe" drivers by law enforcement?

*"Mother Against Drunk Driving may soon have to change its name to Mothers Against Any Drinking Whatsoever - that is if it wants to avoid false advertising." Washington Times.*

*"At the forefront of the neo-prohibitionist movement is MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving)," Dr. Thomas J. DiLorenzo of Washington University and Dr. James T. Bennet of George Mason University.*

*"Mothers Against Drunk Driver 9has) decided to wage war on social drinkers." Radley Balko, Fox News Columnist.*

*"MADD has morphed from an anti-drunk-driving organization into an anti-alcohol organization." Jim Reynolds, writer.*

*Mothers Against Drunk Driving "engages in a form of neoprohibitionism." Christian Restifo, Carnegie Mellon University.*

*Although Prohibition ended 70 years ago, "a new agenda of temperance is alive and well today at Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)." Charles V. Penna, MADD's former North Virginia Chapter Executive Director and now Director of policy studies at The Cato Institute.*

*Mothers Against Drunk Driving's "ongoing push to compel states to adopt ever lower standards for being legally drunk, is becoming a prohibitionist jihad driven by hysteria, not medical reality. Washington Times.*

*A "prohibitionist movement (is) propagated by MADD." National Motorist Association.*

*"We believe their (MADD's) true agenda is prohibition." Talk Left.*

*MADD has become "overzealous." Candy Lightner, founder of Mothers Against Drunk Driving.*

By Peter Carini, PJC Law Group.  
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