

The Last Outpost

[Home](#) | [Video 1](#) | [Video 2](#) | [Video 3](#) | [Video 4](#) | [Audio](#) | [Reading Room](#) | [Pics](#) | [Media](#) | [Links](#) | [Site](#) | [Salmon](#) | [Donate](#) | [Log In](#)

[For Sale4](#) | [Room](#) > | [Voice of the White House 1](#) > | [November 10th 2006](#)

[The Voice of the White House for November 10th 2006](#)

The Voice of the White House for November 10th 2006

Washington, D.C.: “ My brother-in-law is a professional military officer, stationed in the Washington area and from him I learned over lunch today that Israel has finally determined to launch what they consider to be a preemptive military strike against Iran’s capacity to manufacture and, most especially, to deliver an atomic weapon against Israel.

I was told that Israel is desolated by the neutering of Bush’s ability to support this attack.

Congress is now seen as a block to Bush’s militant plans and so the decision is being formulated not only in Tel Aviv but also in Washington to “materially assist” an Israeli attack with satellite intelligence, very sophisticated weaponry and high level intelligence sharing.

American troops are not to be involved but Bush and Cheney are planning to do everything possible to “actively support” this action.

This sort of story has been circulating around the corridors of power here for years but now, I am firmly assured, it appears to be reality. Israel attacked once before on this sort of provocation and is now going to do it again. We have agreed to supply certain tactical nuclear rocketry capable of being launched from aircraft that have a miniature atomic warhead, capable of extensive localized damage.

Since Israel is in no position to launch a ground invasion, the aim is to so disrupt both the government in Tehran and the suspected areas where any possible missiles could be launched against Tel Aviv in the possibility of an Iranian attack against Israel when a fanatic supporter of Israeli ambitions like Bush is not in office.

In spite of his loss of Congressional power, Bush can still back such a move and nothing Congress can do could stop him.

Bush is livid with rage with the outcome of the midterms. He had to fire Rumsfeld and is desperate to pass the wiretap bill that would keep him from any legal problems. He also wants the odious bully, Bolton, to stay on as UN Ambassador but it is very doubtful if he can achieve either goal.

Whatever else he might be, Bush is petty, mean and terribly vindictive so his gleeful support of an Israeli hit is entirely within the scope of his bitter and vengeful personality.

Since the U.S. is not technically involved (*weapons shipments to Israel would be classified as Top Secret and any information them would not be available to a hostile Congress*) he sees a chance to give the finger to anyone and everyone who has challenged his fragile manhood.

The only riposte to this would be if Iran struck first. If they did, one would hope they nuked Tel Aviv and not Jerusalem. There are too many historical and valuable buildings in the latter and a fried Knesset would materially benefit the rest of the world.

Israel official: Strike on Iran possible

November 10th 2006

by Amy Teibel

JERUSALEM – The deputy defense minister suggested Friday that Israel might be forced to launch a military strike against Iran's disputed nuclear program — the clearest statement yet of such a possibility from a high-ranking official.

"I am not advocating an Israeli pre-emptive military action against Iran and I am aware of its possible repercussions," Deputy Defense Minister Ephraim Sneh, a former general, said in comments published Friday in The Jerusalem Post. "I consider it a last resort. But even the last resort is sometimes the only resort."

Sneh's comments did not necessarily reflect the view of Israel's government or of Prime Minister Ehud Olmert, said government spokeswoman Miri Eisin.

Olmert, who was arriving in Washington on Sunday, said he was confident in the U.S. handling of the international standoff over Iran's nuclear program. The Bush administration and other nations say it is a cover for developing atomic weapons, but Tehran says the program is peaceful.

"I have enormous respect for President Bush. He is absolutely committed," Olmert said in an interview on

NBC's "Today" show. "I know that America will not allow Iran to possess nuclear weapons because this is a danger to the whole Western world."

The United States and its European allies have proposed a raft of sanctions to try to curb the country's nuclear development.

Israel sees Iran as the greatest threat to its survival. Hard-line Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for Israel's destruction, and Israelis do not believe his claims that Iran's nuclear program is meant to develop energy, not arms.

Israel cripple Iraq's atomic program 25 years ago with an airstrike on its unfinished nuclear reactor. Experts say Iran has learned from Iraq's mistakes, scattering its nuclear facilities and building some underground.

Sneh's tough talk is the boldest to date by a high-ranking Israeli official. Olmert and other Israeli leaders frequently discuss the Iranian threat in grave terms, but stop short of threatening military action.

Years of diplomacy have failed to persuade Iran to modify its nuclear program so it can't develop weapons.

Palestinians: Israel's Gaza strike kills 18

Tank fire killed civilians, officials say; Israeli says military investigating

November 8th 2006

AP

GAZA - Israeli tank shells crashed into a residential neighborhood, killing at least 18 people, including eight children, in their sleep early Wednesday, Palestinian witnesses and officials said.

Palestinian Prime Minister Ismail Haniyeh said efforts to form a national unity government were suspended because of the attack. Israeli Defense Minister Amir Peretz ordered the army to halt artillery attacks in Gaza.

But a government spokesman said Israel will continue its operations in Gaza aimed at halting Palestinian rocket attacks.

Spokeswoman Miri Eisin said the army is still investigating Wednesday morning's deadly incident, and that Israel will take full responsibility if mistakes were made.

But, she said: “The Israeli operation throughout the Gaza Strip will continue as long as Qassam rockets land in Israel, as long as the smuggling of weapons into the Gaza Strip continues, as long as the Hamas government chooses for the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip to continuously provoke Israel.”

Palestinian security officials said that five tank shells landed in the area near the town of Beit Hanoun within 15 minutes. Most the casualties were in a row of homes belonging to members of the Alathamna extended family, officials said.

Khaled Radi, a health ministry official, said 13 of the 18 dead belonged to the family. He said at least 40 more people, all civilians, were wounded.

Four Gaza hospitals were treating the casualties.

Rocket attackers targeted

The attack came after Israeli forces ended a weeklong offensive Tuesday aimed at halting rocket attacks from this northern Gaza town, leaving behind wrecked homes, uprooted trees and sewage-covered streets. But hours after the pullback, the Palestinian rocket fire resumed.

Israel kept up its onslaught from outside Beit Hanoun, killing at least 15 Palestinians in airstrikes, gunfire and tank shelling before the tank attack killed 18, Palestinian officials said.

Haniyeh’s Hamas movement had been in talks with moderate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to form a coalition government in a bid to get international economic sanctions lifted.

Haniyeh made the announcement that they had been called off at an emergency meeting of his Cabinet.

“In a protest of this awful massacre, the prime minister’s office is announcing the suspension of discussions to form a national unity government,” Haniyeh said.

Abbas strongly condemned the attack.

“This is a horrible, ugly massacre committed by the occupation against our children, our women and elderly in Beit Hanoun,” he said in a statement. “We urge and call the security council to convene immediately to stop the massacres committed against our people and to uphold their responsibility to stop these massacres.”

The Israeli army said its preliminary investigation indicated it had fired from a far away toward the area that was struck. The army said it was targeting areas where rockets had been fired in recent days at the Israeli cities of Sderot and Ashkelon.

However, the army would not yet confirm or deny whether it had struck the civilians, saying further investigation was necessary.

Hamas warns of suicide bombings

The Hamas-led Palestinian cabinet convened for an emergency meeting. Hamas spokesman Ghazi Hamad called for Israel to be expelled from the United Nations, saying it was an “animal, brutal state.”

In a huge demonstration outside the morgue at the Kamal Adwan hospital in the northern Gaza Strip, thousands called for revenge.

“We are going to fight against the so-called Israel. We are going to launch our rockets, our martyrs are going to sacrifice their lives in the depths of our occupied land,” said Nizar Rayan, a Hamas leader in northern Gaza. “They will strike in Jaffa, in Haifa, inside Ashdod. The battle will continue. The rifle is not going to be set down. All of us are martyrs in waiting.

Revenge is coming.”

The militant group Islamic Jihad also called for revenge.

“Martyrdom is coming,” it said in a statement, referring to suicide bombings. “The response will not take long, because the time is ready for punishment, and the time is ready for revenge.”

Thousands gathered outside hospitals weeping as the bodies arrived. Witnesses said that many of the dead arrived in their sleeping clothes. Schoolchildren swept out to the street to protest the attack as mosques broadcast angry speeches on the street.

Dozens of schoolchildren threw stones and bottles and tried to storm an empty European Union mission building in Gaza City, according to witnesses. Palestinian security is trying to prevent them from entering the building.

Rahwi Hamad, 75, said he was awoken by the sound of explosions at about 5:15 a.m. and emerged from his home to find body parts and pools of blood in the streets.

“I saw people coming out of the house, bleeding and screaming. I carried a girl covered with blood,” he said. “Inside the houses, we evacuated dismembered bodies ... Everything was disgusting. this is the worst, bloody scene I have ever scene.”

Stunning Religious Revelations

The Constantine Document: Publishing The Only Contemporary Account of Jesus' Life

November 9th 2006

by Brian Harring

Very recently, a most fascinating manuscript appeared, and has been shopped around to various publishing companies and other outlets, entitled '**Jesus and the Constantine Documents**' by Reinaar Thorvaldsen, DD, PhD and Guidobaldo Calcanti, PhD.

This work concerns the translation of a First Century document obtained by Helena, the mother of the Byzantine Emperor, Constantine I, during a visit to the Holy Land in 326-328. She brought back with her to Constantinople what were then considered as fragments of the true cross and a scroll containing the only known contemporary (c. 50 AD) description of Jesus which covered his origins and activities in Judea. Because of her discoveries, Helena became a saint in the Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic Churches. Her feast day in the eastern church is May 21st and in the western church August 18th .

Constantine had the scroll sealed in a gold box covered with various enameled Byzantine religious figures such as a dove.

Byzantine gold and silversmithing, enamel-work, jewellery and textiles were the equal of anything done in ancient times. In mosaics and icon-painting they developed major and original art forms of their own. In architecture they achieved masterpieces such as Hagia Sophia, a building of superior scale and magnificence to anything in the ancient world

The gold casket remained in the treasury at Constantinople until May 29, 1453, when the city fell to the troops of the Ottoman Empire under Sultan Mehmed II. It was taken at that time by one Ciriaco de Pizzicoli, also known as Ciriaco of Ancona, traveler and collector of antiquities, who had accompanied Mehmed's soldiers and was attendant at the sack of Constantinople.

It went to Italy and was subsequently taken into the treasury of the Duomo in Milan in northern Italy , remaining there until Napoleon made Milan the capital of his Cisalpine Republic in 1797 and his Italian Republic five years later. The Milanese Duomo hosted his coronation as King of Italy in 1805. 1796

Milan's most outstanding museum, Brera is recognized as one of the major art collections in the world. It was initially founded by the Hapsburgs in the late 18th century, as a small collection of paintings, sculptures and plaster copies to be used by the Accademia's student body.

Its patrimony came from churches and the estates of Catholic clerical orders that had been suppressed not long before (the building which housed the Accademia had formerly been the Milanese headquarters of the Jesuit order).

The art collection was dramatically enlarged during the Napoleonic era between 1799-1815, when it received an extraordinary number of art works confiscated from all over the North of Italy. This was a direct consequence of Napoleon's policy towards the city. In Napoleon's view, Milan was destined to become a capital, albeit subject to Paris, and therefore needed to consolidate a conspicuous art collection of its own. Literally thousands of paintings were therefore indiscriminately confiscated from churches and private collections in all of the French-occupied Northern-Italian regions: Lombardy, Veneto (and of course Venice), a large chunk of Emilia Romagna and the Marche. In 1809 the great new museum opened its doors to the public.

The so-called Casket of Constantine eventually ended up at the Louvre in Paris where Napoleon sent most of his looted art.. No one had ever opened it and it was only a small item in an immense warehouse of art from all over Europe that Napoleon amassed for the glory of France and himself.

Following the German invasion and occupation of Paris in 1940, it vanished from the Paris museum, allegedly stolen by German art historians working for the Einsatzstab Rosenberg, a German agency that gathered a vast trove of art intended for Hitler's Linz museum project.

At some point, early in the 1990s, with the liquidation of a Swiss art collection, it surfaced again and this time, the casket, which obviously had something sealed inside, was carefully opened and the scroll removed for evaluation and study by scholars and technical experts.

The scroll, written on papyrus in ink, was carefully unrolled, photographed and subjected to in-depth forensic studies. These indicated that the scroll was dated to between 45-55 AD by a number of experts, using the same

techniques that earlier had proven the so-called Shroud of Turin to be a 13th Century production. The writing was in Hebrew or Syro-Chaldaic, the vernacular language of the Jews of Palestine at the time.

The author, one Thaddeus, an Essene, had been a close associate of Jesus and his group of Essenes, active on the political scene in Jerusalem

The Essene sect originated about 150 B.C. (the first-named Essene is Judas, 110 B.C.) and disappeared towards the end of the first century A.D, destroyed by the Roman military in AD 70

According to Roman historian Pliny, the Essenes were settled "on the west side of the Dead Sea, away from the coast ... [above] the town of Engeda"

The Essenes flourished at the time of Jesus and counted both Jesus and John the Baptist among their numbers. They believed in the divinity of a Messiah who they called the "Teacher of Righteousness", and who had died a violent death at the hands of the sons of darkness. They called themselves the "elect of God", and their religious community the "New Covenant".

The Essenes lived in communal homes and had their meals in common and in silence. They chose their leaders by a general vote, mingled their goods and earnings in a common treasury, and obeyed the Chasidic motto, "Mine and thine belong to thee.". They saw the nation as apostate, themselves as the only true believers, and the desert as the place to await the day of judgment when God would break in to throw the Romans into the sea, uproot the wicked Sadducean priests, and put themselves into the leadership of the nation.

Like a number of the early Christian sects, the Essenes made male homosexuality a condition of spiritual perfection and totally abstained from wedlock, but chose other people's male children, while they were pliable and fit for learning.

In summation, the Essenes were an agricultural community, that was inherently communitistic and homosexual in nature. In this they bore a strong resemblance to the earlier Spartan and later Zulu communities who were also homosexually oriented. Unlike the latter, the Essenes were not military or warlike in nature, strictly avoided any kind of violence and did not carry weapons.

The scroll contained detailed historical material, easily verified, of the religious and political life in Judea of the first quarter of the first century and is far more accurate than the Christian Gospels, all of which were written many years after the events and subject to constant rewriting. It is also an explosive document which presents a

picture of Jesus that is not consistent with his subsequent image.

In our next issue, we will be quoting here a number of significant passages from the translation which will show this very clearly and it is obvious that trying to find a publisher for this has proven to be monumental. There is no question it will be published but where and when is not yet determined. Since book publishing and the print media are rapidly losing readers to the internet, would it not be possible to use this media for an e-book?

The next article will cover Jesus as a religious and political rebel against both the Roman authority and the Jewish religious communities of Jerusalem and his arrest and execution as a rebel, rather than as a religious leader.

Rumsfeld departure shakes Bush administration

November 8th 2006

by Paul Reynolds

World Affairs correspondent, BBC News website

The resignation of the US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld shows how much the Bush administration is in disarray about Iraq.

The president made it quite clear at a news conference after the election that he had decided beforehand that a "fresh perspective" was needed at the Pentagon.

This means that, win or lose the election, Mr Bush had decided that things were going badly enough to remove one of the architects of the war.

In fact, when Mr Bush told reporters last week that Mr Rumsfeld would be staying on, he had already spoken to Mr Rumsfeld about leaving. He said to the news conference that "win or lose, Bob Gates was going to become the nominee."

Whether Robert Gates, an ex CIA director, is the kind of man to provide much of a fresh perspective remains to be seen. Until now he has always been an establishment figure. But he seems to be about to be one of the pegs on which new hopes will be hung.

Significant moment

The departure of Donald Rumsfeld is a major moment in the history of the Bush administration and the war in Iraq.

His resignation is a sign and an admission that the policy in Iraq has not worked, so far.

Apart from Vice-President Dick Cheney and President Bush himself, there was nobody who symbolised the administration's determination to wage the war on terror and to get rid of Saddam Hussein.

"We know they have weapons of mass destruction," he announced of the Iraqis at one stage. "We don't need any debate about it." His confidence and brusque dismissal of dissent was typical. For some, it amounted to arrogance.

Ambitions

Rumsfeld brought to the Pentagon years of ambition to stir up a department he had run as a much younger man under President Ford.

The recent book about the administration at war by Washington Post reporter Bob Woodward, *State of Denial*, tells of the blizzard of handwritten memos known as "snowflakes" with which he bombarded his officials.

He was determined to break what he saw as the old guard and to get control of policy himself, which he felt was too much in the hands of the generals and admirals.

He wanted a slimmer, more mobile military, one more capable of waging war on international terrorists and governments that supported them and less concentrated on the massive weapons systems that were being developed as if the Cold War had not ended.

Donald Rumsfeld felt himself to be the right man, in the right place, at the right time.

His direct, irascible, sometimes even folksy style appealed to many when things were going well. His famous dictum about there being "known unknowns" and "unknown unknowns", made pre-Iraq, was seen as quirky and "Rummy" at his most idiosyncratic.

In a resignation appearance with President Bush and his own successor in the Oval Office, Mr Rumsfeld

referred. almost as if he had not been appreciated, to "this little understood, unfamiliar war, the first war of the 21st century... It is not well known, it was not well understood, it is complex for people to comprehend."

Downfall

However the very confidence that allowed him to make his mark on the Pentagon also led to his downfall.

It became overconfidence.

He ignored warnings that his reliance on hard-hitting, relatively small units would win the ground war in Iraq but would not win a guerrilla war.

Like most US policymakers, he simply did not believe that Iraqis would not welcome the invaders and take care of events for themselves from then on.

He was not a man of patience and did not in the end have the necessary patience for a long drawn out counter insurgency war. Nor did he show the flexibility of tactics needed to demonstrate to his commander-in-chief that he was going to deliver the victory the president believes is so necessary.

He had to go, whatever the results of the elections

Bush's Beloved Turd Blossom Wilts

Rove fails to blossom as Republicans stumble

November 8th 2006

by Julian Borger

Guardian

Karl Rove, it appears, is mortal after all. Ever since the Bush-Rove partnership surprised the American political world by conquering the Texas governorship in 1994, his name has evoked dread in every Democratic heart. Even safe Democratic seats seemed in danger when Mr Rove came to town.

"Just because you lose one ballgame, you don't lose your genius," the former House majority leader, Tom DeLay argued today. But it is clear Mr Rove has lost more than just an election. His plan to build a permanent majority by solidifying the Republican base and wooing social conservatives among Hispanics and black people, lies in ruins. Hispanics voted Democrat by a margin of almost three to one. And stirring up the culture war with

contests over abortion, stem cell research and gay marriage, may still have helped win a few seats, but the constant polarising of American politics ultimately alienated centrists, whose importance Mr Rove had scorned in his focus on mobilising hardliners.

Independents voted 60% for Democrats yesterday. Paul Begala, a Democratic consultant noted that Mr Rove had overseen the decline in the president's popularity from over 90% to under 40%, and the erosion of the solid congressional majority established by Republicans in 1994.

"So where's the genius, Karl," Mr Begala asked.

John Bolton joins endangered list

November 10th 2006

by Mark Tran
Guardian

Having dumped Donald Rumsfeld as his disastrous defense secretary, George Bush may be forced to jettison America's man at the UN, John Bolton.

The president still wants the lame-duck Senate to confirm Mr Bolton, who was installed as ambassador to the UN during a recess, a procedural move that got round Democratic opposition.

But the Senate foreign relations committee has already turned down the White House's resubmission of Mr. Bolton as US ambassador. Should his nomination ever reach the floor of the Senate for debate, the Democrats have threatened to stretch out the debate to kill it.

If Mr Bush is calling for a new spirit of bipartisanship, why is he pushing for the nomination of a self-avowed UN-basher, wonders Steven Clemons at the Washington Note.

Mr Bolton is not the only one on the endangered list.

Karl Rove, the Republican party's much diminished "brain", must be wondering about his future.

Asked what role Mr Rove would now play, Tony Snow, the White House press secretary, yesterday could only reply.

"That's a good process question for which I don't have an answer."

Apart from personnel changes, Mr Bush may have to drop some pet projects, including his controversial surveillance bill.

The administration wants the power to conduct wiretaps without obtaining warrants as required by the 1978 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. Now that control of the House has passed to the Democrats, chances of the bill getting through are pretty slim.

A religious view

U.S. churches sharply divided on Iraq war

November 4th 2006

by Ed Stoddard

Reuters

DALLAS (Reuters) - America's churches are still sharply divided on the war in Iraq as their flocks prepare to go to the polls, although backing for the conflict has dimmed even among the once solidly supportive evangelical community.

Public opposition to the war -- polls show a solid majority of more than 60 percent of Americans opposed -- is seen as a major reason President George W. Bush's Republican Party is battling to retain control of the U.S. Congress in Tuesday's elections.

And with far higher church attendance rates in the United States than in other parts of the rich industrialized world church stances on the war, as on other issues, loom large in politics.

Among mainstream Protestant denominations, leaders of the United Methodist Church have been vocal in their criticism of Iraq.

"As general secretary of the United Methodist General Board of Church & Society, I have continued to speak against the war in Iraq," said Jim Winkler, who also heads the church's social justice and public policy wing.

"It is my opinion that religious-based antiwar activities have been essential to turning the tide of opinion in the United States against the stupid and ill-conceived invasion of Iraq," he told Reuters by e-mail.

Many African-American churches have also come out in opposition to the war, and the message is heard loudly in countless services every Sunday.

"I think that the contempt of many of the churches regarding the conflict is because there were no weapons of mass destruction discovered," said Pastor Robert Earl Houston Sr. of the Westwood Baptist Church in Nashville, Tennessee

And I think that after 9/11 we went after the wrong people," he told Reuters by telephone, referring to the September 11 attacks, and to the administration's pre-war stance that Iraq possessed weapons of mass destruction.

Black church opposition may also have roots in the high exposure of African-American families and communities to the war. African-Americans make up about 13 percent of the U.S. population, but according to the U.S. Defense Department, they account for around 18 percent of military personnel.

Pacifism runs deep in other U.S. churches, such as the Quakers, Mennonites and Anabaptists.

EVANGELICAL SUPPORT

On the other side of the divide are the largely white evangelical Protestants, who have been a bedrock of support for the Republican Party.

Evangelicals also are reeling from a scandal after Ted Haggard resigned as president of the National Association of Evangelicals and admitted on Friday that he bought the drug methamphetamine and sought a massage from a gay male prostitute. He denied using the drug or having sex with the man.

Many conservative evangelical Christians view the Iraq conflict as it is presented by the administration -- as an essential part of the war on terrorism declared by Washington after the September 11 attacks.

"If people see we are taking the war to the terrorists instead of fighting it on U.S. soil, then there is more support for it (*among social conservatives*)," Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, a conservative lobby group with strong evangelical ties, told Reuters.

Other conservative Christians go far beyond the administration view, with a stance that sees the Iraq war and war on terrorism as part of a "clash of civilizations" or unfolding Biblical prophecy

"The present day events in the Holy Land may very well serve as a prelude or forerunner to the future Battle of Armageddon and the glorious return of Jesus Christ," Jerry Falwell, head of the Moral Majority Coalition and a supporter of the war, said recently in a newsletter on his Web site.

But although as a group they remain more committed to the conflict than most Americans, there are signs that socially conservative evangelicals' support for the war is flagging.

A poll published last week by the Pew Research Center found that 58 percent of white evangelical Protestants surveyed felt the United States made the right decision in using force in Iraq to oust Saddam Hussein, below the 71 percent in a previous poll in September.

"As the war has drawn on and the price has gotten higher we begin to ask questions that we didn't 2 or 3 years ago. Like 'is this a just war?'" said Gary Ledbetter, director of communications for the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

Additional reporting by Michael Conlon in Chicago

Losses on ballot measures jolt religious right

November 8th 2006

By David Crary

AP

From the country's heartland, voters sent messages that altered America's culture wars and dismayed the religious right — defending abortion rights in South Dakota, endorsing stem cell research in Missouri, and, in a national first, rejecting a same-sex marriage ban in Arizona.

The verdict on abortion rights was particularly clear. Oregon and California voters defeated measures that would have required parents to be notified before a girl under 18 could get an abortion, and South Dakotans — by a margin of 56 percent to 44 percent — rejected a new state law that would have banned all abortions except to save a pregnant woman's life.

The verdict on abortion rights was particularly clear. Oregon and California voters defeated measures that would have required parents to be notified before a girl under 18 could get an abortion, and South Dakotans — by a margin of 56 percent to 44 percent — rejected a new state law that would have banned all abortions except to save a pregnant woman's life.

This was really a rebellion in the heart of red-state, pro-life America — the heart of the northern Bible Belt," said Sarah Stoesz, head of the Planned Parenthood chapter that oversees South Dakota. "It sends a very strong message to the rest of the country."

South Dakota legislators had passed the law in expectation it would trigger a court challenge and lead to a possible Supreme Court reversal of the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. Abortion-rights leaders said Wednesday that such strategies should be abandoned.

"Voters in every corner of the country made it clear they are tired of divisive attacks on a woman's right to choose," said Nancy Keenan, president of NARAL Pro-Choice America.

Anti-abortion leaders said the GOP shared some of the blame for the defeat. The Rev. Thomas J. Euteneuer, president of Human Life International, said President Bush and other top Republicans failed to campaign strongly for the South Dakota abortion ban and against the Missouri stem cell measure.

"While South Dakotans fought valiantly to defend their babies, we once again witnessed an almost total lack of support from the national leadership," Euteneuer said.

The anti-abortion group Operation Rescue said the election results meant any legislation from Congress restricting abortion would be "virtually impossible" for the next two years.

"America has voted and the bloody results have placed the most vulnerable among us, the pre-born, in the crosshairs for continued extermination," said Operation Rescue President Troy Newman.

Janice Shaw Crouse, a conservative analyst with Concerned Women for America, suggested that Republicans — some of them entangled in corruption and sex scandals — had lost some of the selling power of the "family values" themes they had pushed in recent elections.

"Families had such high hopes when conservatives were in power; they ended up discouraged, disappointed and disillusioned," she said.

In Missouri, anti-abortion groups, evangelical Christian clergy and the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of St. Louis campaigned hard against the stem cell measure, contending it would condone life-destroying embryonic research.

Debbie Forck, a Catholic from Jefferson City, Mo., was among those giving the measure a narrow victory.

"I've had several family members that have had debilitating illnesses," said Forck, 50. "It goes against my church, but to eliminate pain in my life, I thought it was worth it."

Liberal groups did have some setbacks. Michigan voters approved a ban on some types of affirmative action programs, Colorado and Arizona passed measures targeting illegal immigrants, and seven states approved gay-marriage bans, joining 20 that had done so in previous elections.

However, gay-rights supporters took heart at the relatively close results in some of the seven states, notably in South Dakota, where the ban received only 52 percent of the vote.

In Arizona, the defeat of the ban stemmed in part from its scope. It not only would have reinforced an existing state law against same-sex marriage, but also would have barred any government entities from recognizing civil unions or domestic partnerships in providing benefits to employees.

"We knew all along that once voters were informed about the true impact. ... they would oppose this hurtful initiative," said Steve May of Arizona Together, which opposed the measure. Gay-rights leaders said the election results would likely shelve any serious push for a federal ban-gay-marriage amendment. They also were pleased by the defeats of several Republicans whom they considered archenemies — notably Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and Indiana Rep. John Hostettler..)

"It's the end of an era for divisive, gay-bashing politics — at least in the minds of the American people," said Joe Solmonese, president of the Human Rights Campaign.

Similarly, abortion-rights groups welcomed the defeat of Kansas Attorney General Phill Kline, a Republican who had touted his efforts to seize women's medical records from abortion clinics.

"It is time to end the abortion wars," said Frances Kissling, president of Catholics for a Free Choice.

One election subplot was a campaign led by New York City real estate investor Howard Rich to promote ballot measures in numerous states seeking to rein in state and local government.

Of nine Rich-supported measures, only one succeeded — a property-rights measure in Arizona that would

require state and local authorities to compensate property owners if land-use regulations lower the value of their property. Similar measures lost in California, Idaho and Washington, while Oregon and Colorado rejected term-limit bills, and Maine, Nebraska and Oregon rejected proposals to cap state spending.

"Falsehood is an amorphous monster, conceived in the brain of knaves and brought forth by the breath of fools. It's a mortal pestilence, a miasmatic vapor that passes, like a blast from hell, over the face of the world and is gone forever. It may leave death in its wake and disaster dire; it may place on the brow of purity the brand of the courtesan and cover the hero with the stigma of the coward; it may wreck hopes and ruin homes, cause blood to flow and hearts to break; it may pollute the altar and disgrace the throne, corrupt the courts and curse the land, but the lie cannot live forever, and when it's dead and damned there's none so poor as to do it reverence."

~**William Cowper Brann**

And all the sons of Congressmen! And the two adorable 100 Proof Bush daughters! (*Ginna and Tonic*)

"As democracy is perfected, the office of president represents, more and more closely, the inner soul of the people. On some great and glorious day the plain folks of the land will reach their heart's desire at last and the White House will be adorned by a downright moron." ~**H.L.**

Mencken

"That we are to stand by the president, right or wrong is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public." ~**Theodore Roosevelt**

"Actions are held to be good or bad, not on their own merits, but according to who does them. There is almost no kind of outrage, torture, imprisonment without trial, assassination, and bombing of civilians, which does not change its moral color when it is committed by our side. The nationalist not only does not disapprove of atrocities committed by his own side, he has remarkable capacity for not even hearing about them." ~**George Orwell**

"Under the Bush administration, openness and accountability have been replaced by secrecy and evasion of responsibility. They abuse their power, conceal their actions from the American

people, and refuse to hold officials accountable." ~**Senator Edward M. Kennedy**

"George W. Bush is deeply interested in Deep Space Exploration. His next project will be to circle Uranus and search for Kingons....."

~**Dallas Herald**

"A government official is a man who has risen from obscurity to something worse." ~**Pat Robertson**

"The voters decide nothing. Those that count the votes decide everything." ~**J.V. Stalin**

"The Senior White House staff is living proof that Pentecostal mongoloids regularly cohabit with chimpanzees, frogs and Norway rats"

~**Dr. Myron Kalbfuss, Biology Department, Stanford University**

America's Enemies!

There are four entities who represent the most dangerous enemies to American liberties since George III.

They are:

1. The Neocons or Likudists who owe their personal allegiance to another country and now completely control our foreign policy. They lied and deceived us into the Iraq war and are demanding that more and more American soldiers die to preserve their own country and ideals.

2. The Christian Evangelical right who is trying to force the United States into becoming a theocracy under their rule. They know in their hearts that they alone can restructure a secular humanist America into their idea of Heaven on Earth.

3. An element of American society that call themselves Patriots and are obsessively militaristic and great admirers of the corporate or fascistic state. Many of these have been very minor members of the American military and as a counterbalance to their reserve or rear area tours

of duty, are rabidly in favor of draconian military action, the bloodier the better. Usually these drumbeaters are too old or too fat to fight and have no sons of draft age.

4. George W. Bush, who is the worst president in the history of the United States and directly responsible for the huge death tolls in Iraq, is determined to rule the United States until God puts a stop to him and is even more determined to force the American people into becoming obedient, Christian and self-sacrificing lemmings who worship at his shrine and march in step.

Recommended reading

We gather information, on a daily basis, from many websites. There are a number of publications that are well worth viewing for their intelligent reporting of national and international news. All of those sources, listed below, are daily newspapers with the exception of the Asia Times. The latter is a very well written site with in-depth articles that are worth reading.

The New York Times: www.nytimes.com

The Washington Post: www.washingtonpost.com

The Christian Science Monitor: www.csmonitor.com

The Guardian: www.guardian.co.uk

Seattle Post-Intelligencer: www.seattlepi.nwsources.com

Asia Times www.atimes.com

Note: Very little of the information in this edition of TBR news has come from the mainline American media. It is just not there. Most of it has come from foreign sources and the Internet. Most of our sources can be seen on the main page.

I remember an old British saying: 'Treason doth never prosper/What's the reason? Why if prospers, none dare call it treason!' Apt. Or as a Greek writer once said, 'Boys kill frogs for sport but the frogs die in earnest.' Good morning, frogs, and be sure to die in earnest

"People whose lives are barren and insecure seem to show a greater willingness to obey than people who are self-sufficient and self-confident. To the frustrated, freedom from

responsibility is more attractive than freedom from restraint. They are eager to barter their independence for relief of the burdens of willing, deciding and being responsible for inevitable failure. They willingly abdicate the directing of their lives to those who want to plan, command and shoulder all responsibility ~Eric Hoffer "The True Believer"

NEVER, I say, had a country so many openings to happiness as this. Her setting out in life, like the rising of a fair morning, was unclouded and promising. Her cause was good. Her principles just and liberal. Her temper serene and firm. Her conduct regulated by the nicest steps, and everything about her wore the mark of honor. It is not every country (perhaps there is not another in the world) that can boast so fair an origin.

To see it in our power to make a world happy - to teach mankind the art of being - so to exhibit, on the theatre of the universe, a character hitherto unknown, and to have, as it were, a new creation entrusted to our hands, are honors that command reflection, and can neither be too highly estimated, nor too gratefully received.

She is now descending to the scenes of quiet and domestic life. Not beneath the cypress shade of disappointment, but to enjoy in her own land, and under her own vine, the sweet of her labors, and the reward of her toil. In this situation, may she never forget that a fair national reputation is of as much importance as independence. That it possesses a charm that wins upon the world, and makes even enemies civil. That it gives a dignity which is often superior to power, and commands reverence where pomp and splendor fail.

It would be a circumstance ever to be lamented and never to be forgotten, were a single blot, from any cause whatever, suffered to fall on a revolution, which to the end of time must be an honor to the age that accomplished it: and which has contributed more to enlighten the world, and diffuse a spirit of freedom and liberality among mankind, than any human event (*if this may be called one*) that ever preceded it. ~Thomas Paine: *The American Crisis* New York, December 9, 1783

"Once a Republican, always a coprophile..." ~Mother