

In Case You Missed It

by Del Coffee

The War For Our Minds

FCC Chairman Kevin Martin has spearheaded the most recent drive to overthrow the "cross ownership ban" in the interest of big media. His effort to fast track the process is designed to sidestep opposition to media monopoly. This change is essentially the same one forwarded by Michael Powell in 2003 which went down in defeat due to strong public protest. If the change wins approval this time it will allow media conglomerates to control virtually all major media outlets in a given region. This means a Rupert Murdoch type could control the news papers, radio and television outlets in any given area. Rupert already has a pretty tight grip on New York. The magnitude of this much control is huge! I see it as the next thing to State control, if indeed it isn't. This is the battle to control the retina of the mind's eye.

Tell The Truth

An Appeals Court recently dismissed a suit filed by whistle blowers against Fox News Network. The whistle blowers, Fox News reporters, claimed the network falsified a report on growth hormones. The court dismissed the case saying that it is not against the law to falsify the news. Ten days later the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA aired a fake news conference, where laymen posed as journalists, falsely reporting their response to the wildfires in LA.

Dirty Laundry

Halliburton claims a 19% increase in 3rd quarter profits this year. Sighting tax breaks and new international contracts, the company is

boasting \$727 million in net profits. It is also reported that Halliburton is moving its headquarters from Houston, Texas to the United Arab Emirates, a move that will allow Halliburton to dodge US income taxes, while profiting from all those lucrative US contracts. Cheney is no doubt still pulling the levers for that company. Did Cheney ever divested himself of his Halliburton shares and options?

But Baby It's Cold Inside

30 million households that qualify for the nation's Home Heating Assistance Program will go cold this winter as Bush cuts the program in favor of big energy interests. Only 16% of the 38 million homes that qualify will receive assistance this year. Wonder what the thermostat is set for in the Oval Office?

The Fake War On Drugs

Bush recently asked Congress for \$1.4 billion to fight the war on drugs in Mexico. This is an amazing request as drug related prosecutions under this administration have fallen by 36%, and organized crime prosecutions are down 38%. This reminds me of Columbia's war on drugs, another war waged against the people for their oil and other resources. Columbia, where George Bush Senior, then head of the CIA, sanctioned the smuggling of cocaine out of that country to fund an illegal war in Central America during the Reagan administration. Cocaine is out pacing the US stock market this year, the price of coke is up 24%, while the purity is down.

The Real War On Drugs

Bush recently named Doctor Susan Orr as Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Population Affairs. Susan is an out spoken zealot who vehemently opposes the use of contraceptives and abortion. Susan *does* support the right of pharmacists not to fill a woman's lawful prescription on the grounds of *their own* religious beliefs.

In Maryland recently a court ordered 1600 families to appear in a case where a School District is demanding that students be immunized against Hepatitis. The parents of these kids are being threatened with jail if they refuse to allow the vaccinations. Forced immunization of unproven drugs is in the air here. I remember Bush, after he stole the 2000 election, granting the Eli Lilly Pharmaceutical Company, a big donor to his election campaign, immunity from prosecution in the event that any of their inadequately tested drugs caused illness or death. Think of all the soldiers getting shots! Think of the very young and the elderly getting shots. Think of the HUGE profits posted by the pharmaceuticals. Then think of what they could be shooting us with.

On The Water Front

Soft drink giants Pepsi and Coca Cola have cashed in big time on the bottled water craze. It is estimated that 1 billion bottles of the stuff are sold weekly. Recently it was brought to light that the water used by these industry leaders, Pepsi's brand Dasani and Coke's brand Aquafina, was nothing more than glorified tap water. 70% of the plastic bottles used for this water are not recycled. Each year 38 billion of them find their way into landfills ... or somewhere else.

For the past 10 years marine biologists have been following and monitoring a heap of trash floating in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of California and north of Hawaii. The floating mass is estimated to be twice the size of the state of Texas, weighing some 3.5 million tons, and is made up of 80% plastic. Marine life, unable to distinguish the plastic particles from the small marine animals they usually feed upon, are dining on the stuff. I've heard of folks flying to Hawaii on plastic, soon they'll be able to walk there on it.

Suggested Reading

Ghost Plane

by Stephen Grey

A book that looks at "extraordinary rendition"

The Shock Doctrine

by Naomi Cline

A book about the emerging market of "disaster capitalism"

Beyond the Green Zone

by Dahr Jamail

This book is by a "citizen journalist" who went to Iraq to report the truth.

Fighting for Air

by Eric Luxenberg

A look at corporate media and the public airwaves

The Weather Makers

by Tim Flannery

The renowned Australian climate scientist looks at our warming planet.

Overcoming Zionism

by Joel Kovel

This book explores the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories.

Understanding the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

by Phyllis Bennis

Blackwater

by Jermei Shahill

This book reveals "all" about the founding and the rise of the private mercenary army, Blackwater.

The End of America

A letter of warning to a young patriot.

by Naomi Wolf

The Power of the Powerless

by Vaclav Havel

"The message of Havel moved Eastern Europe to stand up, and to stay standing, until dictators toppled and armies lowered their weapons".

Quote taken from book jacket.

