

TABOO OPINIONS #103

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4-12-08 **Something is fishy ... again ... in Texas**

My antennae quiver and come alive when I read a news story in which the reporters/editors describe the targetted group as a 'sect' and the location as a 'compound'.

Especially when major news media (AP, ABC, CBS, NBC, CNBC that I heard) suddenly use those terms after first reporting the group as a church and the location as a 1700 acre ranch.

I'm sure we all remember that Randy Weaver's few acres and plywood mountain shack were called a 'compound' by the ATF and FBI after they shot his son and wife, and he was called a 'white supremacist' instead of his real orientation: white separatist.

And who can forget the media bias and government slanting and lies and crimes in the Waco horror? [For instance, the FBI used tear gas canisters that fatal conflagration day with the primary danger warning stenciled on the side which said: 'May Cause Fires.' The warning, 'May Be Dangerous To Children' was fourth or fifth down the list.]

The Spin Signal must have gone out nearly immediately this time, since The Oregonian had a page A3 story, 31 column inches long, on April 9, written by Michelle Roberts, datelined Eldorado, Texas, for Associated Press.

The headline is '**Abuse allegedly rampant in Texas sect**' and the subheading is '**Compound** | Girls were married at puberty to older men, child welfare officials claim'

The Oregonian editors did their 'sect' and 'compound' propaganda duty to the establishment, but they must have detected the smelly innards of the story and protected somewhat their "integrity" with 'allegedly' and 'claim'.

A key paragraph is:

'The documents released Tuesday also gave details about the hushed phone calls that broke open the case by a 16-year-old girl at the West Texas ranch who said her 50-year-old husband beat and raped her. Days after raiding

the compound, officials still aren't sure where the girl is.'

So, the Texas authorities, apparently, took the word of an anonymous girl using someone else's cell phone, calling from who knows where ... And as of 4-13-08 they still haven't found her.

This story dutifully uses 'raid' and 'compound' repeatedly, but note that no man at the ranch was arrested and no weapons were reported found.

An arrest warrant has been issued for church member Dale Barlow. (Barlow, as reported on TV, denies ever being in Texas.) And a subsequent TV news story (CNN 4-12-08) reports Barlow has been found in Utah, but not arrested. Huh? Probably because authorities can't prove he left his home and because they are disturbed by the failure by Texas law enforcement to find the now notorious 16-year-old accuser. This story gets smellier every day.

Another report tells that local Texas authorities had an undercover agent in the church for four years but couldn't 'act' until this unnamed and unfindable girl called.

I smell a setup...or a fraud. Is it possible this whole 'raid' was triggered by a teenager's prank call? And I would not be surprised if this story melted away to almost nothing in the weeks ahead, for lack of evidence and witnesses. Will the mysterious 16-year-old girl ever be produced as required by law? Don't hold your breath. But we may be treated to the spectacle of multi-million-dollar lawsuits filed by the hundreds of children and women taken from the ranch against their will. Oops!?

There was no story about this polygamist/sex abuse story in the newspaper today, 4-11-08. We'll see what Sunday has to offer.

Sunday: No story in The Oregonian.

The full name of the church, as given in the AP story, is Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. A Mormon church.

I guess this kills Mormon Mitt Romney's hopes for the Vice Presidential spot with John McCain. Conspiracy-minded folk might think the sudden 'raid' on this fundamentalist Mormon church is a move to eliminate Romney forever from politics.

Monday, 4-14-08: Story in The Oregonian, about 18 column inches, by AP writer Jennifer Dobner, datelined San Angelo, TX, which details the raid and medical exam trauma of the 400+ children seized by the authorities and of the 100+ mothers/women who voluntarily accompanied the children.

Significantly, the words 'sect' and 'compound' are not used in this story. The location is always called a ranch.

The women speak of their shock and mistreatment and of the 'ransacking' of their rooms/apartments/homes. And they describe how horrified some of the children were at the kinds of physical exams they were subjected to. Claims several children were sent to a hospital as a result of agency mistreatment.

Could be AP is having second thoughts.

No word still about that mysterious 16-year-old girl whose several 'hushed' cell phone calls triggered this situation.

4-14-08 THE END OF THE WAR IN IRAQ ---

--- might be announced as an 'October surprise' by Bush to save McCain's effort to win the election. The surprise would be that the sovereign nation of Iraq (we gave their elected government sovereignty about a year ago as I recall) has asked the United States to leave asap, and we have accepted their order.

Thus in one swell foop Bush's reputation is salvaged, the war is justified, and the Republicans are rejuvenated by having the Iraq albatross taken from their neck.

It would be a bitter pill for Bush to swallow, but he might just do it.

A far more serious October (or sooner) surprise would be for Bush to push every chip into the pot and play the Iran Sequence in a risky gamble to save his ego, his world view and his future. Many people think his post-election future is a War Crimes trial and prison.

To avoid that shameful fate he might ---

- Bomb the bases in Iran where Iraq Shiite militias are trained and equipped to fight our American occupation forces in Iraq.
- He would hope the Iranian leaders would take that bait and attack from Iran some American bases/ships in the Gulf area.
- This mistake by Iran would give Bush all the excuse he needs to escalate to bombing Iran's nuclear facilities and possibly even to the use of deep-penetration tactical nukes.
- Iran would then (in this Iran Sequence) begin all-out retaliation with

its thousands of missiles against American ships and bases in the Gulf and in the Gulf States and Saudi Arabia (unless those nations instantly ordered American forces out of their territories).

- This attack and re-orientation would cause a worldwide economic collapse, crude oil would reach at least \$500 per barrel, and in this chaos Bush would (in a frenzy of national, knee-jerk patriotism) instantly declare a national emergency, impose martial law and rule by decree and 'executive order' if congress didn't obey. The election would be postponed. The nation would be mobilized, the draft imposed, and rationing required.

I sincerely hope the armed forces and their generals and admirals would refuse to obey these Bush madman orders, and that riots and revolts in this nation would stop him. But it would be a lot of fun to watch.

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