

# The VOICE

is the quarterly  
newsletter  
of the

January 2006



The Bushes take a vacation.

## NPR's The Capitol Steps

coming live to the Madison-Morgan Cultural Center January 28.  
Great political satire from DC insiders!! Call 342-4743 for tickets.  
Download one of their hilarious new songs "I'm so Indicted"  
at: [www.capsteps.com/sounds/libby-indicted.mp3](http://www.capsteps.com/sounds/libby-indicted.mp3)

## Name-calling fires up Smock

"You bet I'm a bleeding heart liberal! My heart bleeds for the Katrina victims; my heart bleeds for the people of Iraq; it bleeds for the environment; and it bleeds for the soldiers fighting in Iraq or Afghanistan. Yes, I'm a bleeding heart liberal, and I'm proud of it!"  
*Emmie Smock, Madison*

## BUSH PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARY DESTROYED BY FLOOD

Crawford, Texas - A tragic flood this morning destroyed the personal library of Pres. George W. Bush. The flood began in the presidential bathroom where both of the books were kept. Both were lost. A presidential spokesman said the president was devastated, as he had almost finished coloring the second one. The White House tried to call FEMA, but there was no answer.

## A Message from the Chairman

*Where's the outrage?* Recently, President Bush went on national television and admitted he knowingly broke laws by authorizing secret investigations into private American citizens' lives. Back in the 1970s when the Nixon thugs were digging up dirt on everyday folks who opposed the Vietnam war, Congress passed laws to require secret investigations be approved by a special panel before any investigation could proceed. Bush admitted that he authorized secret investigations which avoided the special panel's approval - thus, HE BROKE THE LAW.

*Ted Arnold*

A few years ago, I remember President Clinton narrowly avoided an impeachment conviction. What See MESSAGE ..... page 3

## This isn't the real America

By Jimmy Carter

In recent years, I have become increasingly concerned by a host of radical government policies that now threaten many basic principles espoused by all previous administrations, Democratic and Republican.

These include the rudimentary American commitment to peace, economic and social justice, civil liberties, our environment and human rights.

Also endangered are our historic commitments to providing citizens with truthful information, treating dissenting voices and beliefs with respect, state and local autonomy and fiscal responsibility.

At the same time, our political leaders have declared independence from the restraints of international organizations and have disavowed long-standing global agreements — including agreements on nuclear arms, control of biological weapons and the international system of justice.

Instead of our tradition of espousing peace as a national priority unless our security is directly threatened, we have proclaimed a policy of "preemptive war," an unabridged right to attack other nations unilaterally to change an unsavory regime or for other purposes. When there are serious differences with other nations, we brand them as international pariahs and refuse to permit direct discussions to resolve disputes.

Regardless of the costs, there are determined efforts by top U.S. leaders to exert American imperial dominance throughout the world.

These revolutionary policies have been orchestrated by those who believe that our nation's tremendous power and influence should not be internationally constrained. Even with our troops involved in combat and America facing the threat of additional terrorist attacks, our declaration of "You are either with us or against us!" has replaced the forming of alliances based on a clear comprehension of mutual interests, including the threat of terrorism.

Another disturbing realization is that, unlike during other times of national crisis, the burden of conflict is now concentrated exclusively on the few heroic men and women sent back repeatedly to fight in the quagmire of Iraq. The rest of our nation has not been asked to make any See CARTER ..... page 4



## Traffic jam

A driver is stuck in a traffic jam on the highway. Nothing is moving.

Suddenly a man knocks on the window. The driver rolls down his window and asks, "What's going on?"

"Terrorists kidnapped Pres. Bush," said the man, "and are asking for a \$10 million ransom. Otherwise they're going to douse him with gasoline, and set him on fire. We're going from car to car to take up a collection."

The driver asks, "On an average, how much is every-one giving?"

"About half a gallon."

## PETTIS RESPONDS TO CONG. NORWOOD

Thank you for replying to my letter concerning Social Security. I am not at all concerned about my own security, although I do depend on my Soc. Sec. check coming each month as something I can count on. I AM concerned that this program will be available for future generations, without privatization.

I was disturbed that you said that Social Security's surplus is gone and all that is left is a drawer of IOU's that are going to be very hard if not impossible to pay back. Soc. Sec.'s 2005 surplus is expected to be \$178.6 billion. The program lends this surplus to the federal gov't. by purchasing Treasury Securities. These bonds have the full faith and backing of the United States Government. Do you not believe our government will honor these Treasury Bonds?

Social Security pays for itself and can do so in the future. It will be adjusted in the future as it has been in the past to insure its long-term viability. Possibly in the future we will have to raise taxes or cut benefits. If we raise the taxable income as I believe we have done to above \$90,000, if we slowly raise the FICA tax we can insure the benefit short-fall will be filled in. We can also bring in more See PETTIS..... page 4

## GEORGE GALLOWAY on the Roots of Terrorism

*The following is a small part of an eye-opening speech Galloway, the author of "Mr. Galloway Goes to Washington," gave in September at Northwestern University in Chicago. For a transcript of the entire speech, email Patsy Harris at [patsyjudney@yahoo.com](mailto:patsyjudney@yahoo.com).*

...I was thinking the other day about the General (Pervez Musharraf). Remember him, the General? President Bush, just before he was first elected, was being interviewed on television. I don't know if they showed it See GALLOWAY..... page 4

# Just what ARE Moral Values?

Dr. Robin Meyers, minister of Mayflower Congregational Church (mayflowerucc.org) in Oklahoma City, has joined the “ranks of those who are angry, because I have watched as the faith I love has been taken over by those who claim to speak for Jesus, but whose actions are anything but Christian.

“We’ve heard a lot lately about so-called ‘moral values’ as having swung the election to President Bush. Well, I’m a great believer in moral values, but ...we don’t get to make them up as we go along, especially not if we are people of faith.

“When you start a war on false pretenses, and then act as if your deceptions are justified because you are doing God’s will, and that your critics are either unpatriotic or lacking in faith, there are some of us who have given our lives to teaching and preaching the faith who believe that this is not only not moral, but immoral.

“When you live in a country that has established international rules for waging a just war, build the United Nations on your own soil to enforce them, and then arrogantly break the very rules you set down for the rest of the world, you are doing something immoral.

“When you act as if the lives of Iraqi civilians are not as important as the lives of American soldiers, and refuse to even count them, you are doing something immoral.

“When you ignore the fundamental teachings of the gospel, which says that the way the strong treat the weak is the ultimate ethical test, by giving tax breaks to the wealthiest among us so the strong will get stronger and the weak will get weaker, you are doing something immoral.

“When you wink at the torture of prisoners, and See VALUES..... page 3

## Book Review

Don’t Think of an Elephant!  
Know Your Values and Frame the Debate  
- The Essential Guide for Progressives  
by George Lakoff

This short, but important, book describes how “framing,” or linguistic research, has been used to literally convince people of modest or poor income levels to vote against their own self interests!

This is a must read!

For example, the term “tax relief” frames taxes as a burden to be relieved from versus taxes as an investment in American infrastructure: the military, national and homeland defense, the national transportation system, the national treasury system, banking system, etc.

There are no self-made millionaires, says Lakoff, because this country established the infrastructure (e.g., banking, transportation, Internet, an educated workforce, etc.) to make it possible for men and women to achieve great things (including great wealth) in this country!

A great book!

Dianne Lively Yost

\*\*\*\*\*FYI\*\*\*\*\*

The Libertarian Party News of Nov. ’05 touted one of its own as in a winnable position in the city council race in Irwinton, GA. It said the “natural advantages” are “it is a non-partisan race in a small town.” The LP won, folks, on a platform of “reducing taxes, limiting spending and protecting private property”. Do they have a lock on the interests of small towns in the South?

## 9/11 Terrorists in Georgia in 2001

“After returning to Florida from their trips, (Mohammed) Atta (American Flight 11, World Trade Center) and (Marwan al) Shehhi (United Flight 175, World Trade Center) visited Georgia, staying briefly in Norcross and Decatur, and renting a single-engine plane to fly with an instructor in Lawrenceville. By February 19, Atta and Shehhi were in Virginia. They rented a mailbox in Virginia Beach, cashed a check, then promptly returned to

## If the Flu Becomes a Crime

...Government estimates assume that one out of every three Americans will fall ill during an avian pandemic, requiring travel bans and involuntary isolation. The overriding mood during such an episode would be martial, and the Department of Defense, “would assume responsibility for the situation,” explained White House spokes-man Scott McClellan -- adding that Donald Rumsfeld and company would “come in with an overwhelming amount of resources and assets, to help stabilize the situation.”

By John Tayman  
Men’s Health Jan/Feb ’06

Georgia, staying in Stone Mountain. We have found no explanation for these travels. In mid-March, (Ziad) Jarrah (United Flight 93, PA) was in Georgia as well, staying in Decatur...”

The 9/11 Commission Report

## Prejudiced? Not me; I’m a Democrat!

Take a quick test, join the research, and see just what your hidden thoughts are on various subjects like prejudice. Go online to: <https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit> (Note the “https”). Project Implicit is a collaboration between three prominent universities which examines thoughts and feelings that exist either outside of conscious awareness or outside of conscious control.

It’ll force you to think about who you really are.

The primary goals of Project Implicit are to provide a safe, secure, and well-designed virtual environment to investigate psychological issues and, at the same time, provide visitors and participants with an experience that is both educational and engaging.

**Take one test now. Go back tomorrow for another. Then rent the movie “Crash.” It’s a fabulous, eye-opening study of bigotry and discrimination in good ole America.**

## Democratic State Rep. Alisha T. Morgan has THE VOICE on ‘Voter Suppression Law’

**Is this law about photo id?** The short answer is no. If it were about photo ID the authors of the bill would not have stricken two forms of photo identification from the original list of 17 forms of ID one can use to vote in Georgia. The two IDs I am referring to are the student IDs of those who attend private colleges in the state and work IDs. This means that a student who attends the University of Georgia can use his or her student ID to vote, but a student that attends Spelman, Morehouse or Agnes Scott Colleges cannot. This means that someone who works for Coca Cola or Delta could not use his or her work identification to vote if perhaps they have no drivers license or passport.

**Is this law about voter fraud?** I say no. Absentee voting is the one form of voting in which there have been hundreds of reported and proven cases around the state where voter fraud has taken place. While there has not been one reported case of voter fraud of ‘in person’ voting (using 1 of the 17 forms of id), the authors of HB244 have expanded absentee voting by 45 days. One can hardly cut down on the alleged voter fraud when you expand the one known form of voter fraud by 45 days. I should also mention that in many races across the state, Republicans would prevail if you count the absentee ballots alone.

See her entire statement soon on her website: [www.alishamorgan.com](http://www.alishamorgan.com)

## BOB BARR weighs in on Presidential power

“Accused of breaking the law in the current debate over electronic spying, President George W. Bush has, in his own way, dared the American people to do something about it. For the sake of our Constitution, I hope they will...”

“Alleged associates of al-Qaeda are today’s targets of that breathtaking assertion of presidential power. Tomorrow, it may be your phone calls or e-mails that will be swept up into our electronic infrastructure and secretly kept in a growing file attached to your name.

“Then everyone you contact could become a suspect, a link in an ever lengthening chain that would ensnare us all in the files of the largest database ever created through unlimited electronic spying that touches every aspect of our lives.”

Barr, a Republican, was a member of the House of Representatives from Georgia from 1995 to 2003.

by Avery Jackson, Madison, GA

The Preamble to the U.S. Constitution is the framework and the outline of how America should be governed. The laws enacted and public policy formulated should always stay within the parameters of the Preamble. Over the course of American history the Preamble has guided this country through crisis, such as the Civil War.

In the half century after the Civil War the U.S. prospered and grew. Many people labored to create that wealth, but many people did not share in the wealth. Rich people called robber barons held most of the wealth. Their tight control of the country's wealth put severe pressure on the Constitution's claim to "establish justice" and to "promote the general welfare" of the people.

To relieve the pressure on the Preamble, President "Teddy" Roosevelt, a progressive Republican, joined with progressive Democrats in Congress to pass the Estate Tax. This tax was levied on the estates of the excessively wealthy robber barons when their estates were passed on to their heirs. This indirect method of re-distributing the country's wealth at least got some of the country's wealth back to the people who labored to make it. This check on the undistributed wealth worked well throughout the 20th century.

However, it is now under attack from reactionary, conservative Republicans who want to fool 99% of the people to give a tax break to the wealthiest 1%. "T.R." is spinning in his grave. His beloved Republican party has been hi-jacked by tight-fisted conservatives.

The Estate Tax applies to people whose estates are valued at \$650,000 dollars or more. How many neighbors do you have with estates of that value?

Be a "trust buster" and don't let the Estate Tax be repealed. Fight to ensure that the country's wealth is fairly distributed amongst the people who have labored hard to make it.

## Nominees sought for Roy Lambert Public Service Award

The Morgan County Democratic Committee is currently seeking nominations for the 2006 Roy Lambert Public Service Award. This award was established in 2005 in honor of long-time legislator and civic leader, Roy Lambert. The first presentation was made at last year's inaugural Jefferson-Jackson Dinner, and the recipient was Morgan County's

volunteer archivist and noted historian Marshall (Woody) Williams.

The public is invited to nominate deserving citizens who have given their time and efforts to benefit the community. The award, a handsome silver bowl engraved with the recipient's name, will be presented at the 2006 Jefferson-Jackson Dinner later this year.

Nominations can be very informal and do not have to be wordy or extensive. Send them by letter, phone, or email to the JJ Dinner Committee, c/o Ruth Bracewell, 611 N. Main St., Madison 30650, (706) 342-4959, rbracewell@bellsouth.net. The only requirement is that they cannot be anonymous.

Deadline for nominations is Feb. 1, and the winner will be announced by Feb. 5.

**Grandmothers off their rockers!**  
www.grandmothersforpeace.org

**For one of these lovelies on a bumper sticker, button, etc., visit**  
[www.cafepress.com/bettybowers/466271](http://www.cafepress.com/bettybowers/466271)



## UP FOR GRABS in 2006

### Local, State, Nat'l Races

#### Morgan County Commission

- Dist. 1 - Currently held by Walter Curtis Butler Jr. (D)
- Dist. 2 - Currently held by Ricky McGinnis (R)

#### Morgan County School Board

- Dist. 4 - Currently held by Bob Prior (D)
- Dist. 5 - Currently held by Sally Stephens (R)

#### State of Georgia

- House Dist. 112 - Currently held by Doug Holt (R)
- House Dist. 113 - Currently held by Bob Smith (R)
- Senate Dist. 25 - Currently held by Johnny Grant (R)
- Governor - Currently held by Sonny Perdue (R)
- Lt. Governor - Currently held by Mark Taylor (D)

#### United States House of Representatives

Currently held by Charlie Norwood (R)

**VALUES** ..... from page 2  
deprive so-called "enemy combatants" of the rules of the Geneva Conventions, which your own country helped to establish and insists that other countries follow, you are doing something immoral.

"When you favor the death penalty, and yet claim to be a follower of Jesus, who said an eye for an eye was the old way, not the way of the kingdom, you are doing something immoral.

"I'm tired of people thinking that because I'm a Christian, I must be a supporter of President Bush, or that because I favor civil rights and gay rights I must not be a person of faith. I'm tired of people saying that I can't support the troops but oppose the war."

---This is only a small part of this amazing speech---  
See the rest at:  
[www.venicedemocrats.org/MoralValues100805.html](http://www.venicedemocrats.org/MoralValues100805.html)

## PROCLAMATION

- Now ! -

Pledge or contribute to your Morgan County Democratic Party.

Write or email:  
Treasurer Emmie Smock  
642 Billups Av, Madison, GA 30650  
[nsmock@bellsouth.net](mailto:nsmock@bellsouth.net)

### MESSAGE ..... from page 1

did he do to incur the wrath of those self-righteous Congressmen and Senators? He couldn't keep his pants zipped.

Where is the indignant Press today? Amazingly, Republican Bob Barr has weighed in: "Accused of breaking the law in the current debate over electronic spying, President George W. Bush has, in his own way, dared the American people to do something about it. For the sake of our Constitution, I hope they will." See more of his statement on page 2.

We are knee-deep in an unjustified war. We have the largest national debt in the history of the planet. We have religious fundamentalists directing Supreme Court nominations. The FEMA debacle showed that cronyism is more important to this administration than helping people in need. And, we have a sitting President who admits he knowingly breaks the law.

Who cares?

## CURL UP with a good, borrowed book or DVD

THESE FRIENDS HAVE SOME TO LEND!

- Living Faith*, Jimmy Carter
- The Trouble With America*, Michel Crozier
- Moralities of Everyday Life*, Sabini & Silver
- In an Uncertain World*, Robert Rubin
- The West Wing* DVD, Seasons 1 & 2
- Patsy Harris - 342-1011

*God's Politics - Why the Right Gets it Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get it*, Jim Wallis  
Robin Ferst - Email: [Robin1st@mindspring.com](mailto:Robin1st@mindspring.com)

- The Truth (with jokes)*, Al Franken
  - Losing America, Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency*, Sen. Robert C. Byrd
  - The 9/11 Commission Report*
- Morgan County Library

**Only 350 shopping days 'til Holiday!**



**Check out these websites:**

- [www.afterdowningstreet.org](http://www.afterdowningstreet.org)
- <http://giveemhellharry.com>
- [www.airamericaradio.com](http://www.airamericaradio.com)
- [www.aclu.tv/flash/justicematch.html](http://www.aclu.tv/flash/justicematch.html)
- [www.hearusnow.org](http://www.hearusnow.org)
- [www.yeeguy.com/freefall](http://www.yeeguy.com/freefall)
- [www.alternativeradio.org](http://www.alternativeradio.org)
- [www.truemajorityaction.org](http://www.truemajorityaction.org)
- [www.cis.org](http://www.cis.org)

**Executive Committee  
Of the Morgan County  
Democratic Committee**

- Ted Arnold** Chairman
- Chris Hodges** 1st Vice Chair
- Avery Jackson** 2nd Vice Chair
- Lindy Burnett** Secretary
- Emmie Smock** Treasurer
- Ruth Bracewell** Previous Chairman

*The Voice is the official publication of the Morgan Co. GA Democratic Committee for its members, subscribers and friends.*

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**GALLOWAY** ..... **from page 1**  
here, but it was endlessly shown, to the mirth of the people of the world. Mr. Bush was being asked about all these foreign leaders he was going to have to deal with if he got elected as president of the United States. The interviewer asked him, it was quite bold of the interviewer, I must say, "Do you know who the leader of Pakistan is?" Bush answered, "Sure. The General." The interviewer said, "Could you be a bit more specific? Maybe a name?" And Bush thought for a moment, or five, and he said, "We just call him the General." Don't act so surprised. This is a man who thinks the people who live in Kosovo are called Kosovarians, the people who live in Greece are called Grecians, who thinks the main problem with imports in the United States is that most of them come from overseas. ...But let me tell you about the General, because the General is the leader of a country of 150 million people, moreover, who now possess nuclear weapons, a fact which doesn't seem to have caused any consternation in the United States administration at all. They go to the ends of the earth to stop other people even dreaming of having nuclear power, but the General, hey, he can have nuclear rockets if he likes. But the General came to power in a military coup; he seized power in a military coup. So much was this an offense against propriety that the British government immediately suspended him from the British Commonwealth and put him on an arms embargo list. But that was until the day after 9/11. Then he ceased to be called the General; he started to be called the President. And Mr. Bush then knew his name, and he gave him everything that he wanted—not because he had become any more legitimate, any more democratic, but because he was now an important ally of Bush in his so-called war on terror. So when the Pakistanis and the Egyptians and the Saudis and Muslims around the world hear our governments talking about democracy and liberty and human rights, they don't know whether to laugh or cry. But more and more of them are crying. And of the many more who are crying, some are crying tears so bitter that they're ready now to support others who want to hurt us, want to give their lives for many of ours...

**PETTIS** ..... **from page 1**  
workers into the system, and **ROLL BACK THE RECENT TAX CUTS**. Even a one-third rollback of the tax cuts - more than half of which went to taxpayers with income of more than \$1,000,000 - would produce enough revenue to close the 75-year deficit completely.  
Congressman, you have shown your concern for the low-income citizens by your support of food stamps, and preservation of Medicaid dental benefits for low-income children, for which I commend you heartily! May we continue to work for "the least of these."  
Sincerely yours, Dollie Pettis, Madison, GA 11/11/05

**CARTER**..... **from page 1**  
sacrifice, and every effort has been made to conceal or minimize public awareness of casualties.  
Instead of cherishing our role as the great champion of human rights, we now find civil liberties and personal privacy grossly violated under some extreme provisions of the Patriot Act.  
Of even greater concern is that the U.S. has repudiated the Geneva accords and espoused the use of torture in Iraq, Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay, and secretly through proxy regimes elsewhere with the so-called extraordinary rendition program. It is embarrassing to see the president and vice president insisting that the CIA should be free to perpetrate "cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment" on people in U.S. custody.  
Instead of reducing America's reliance on nuclear weapons and their further proliferation, we have insisted on our right (and that of others) to retain our arsenals, expand them, and therefore abrogate or derogate almost all nuclear arms control agreements negotiated during the last 50 years. We have now become a prime culprit in global nuclear proliferation. America also has abandoned the prohibition of "first use" of nuclear weapons against non-nuclear nations, and is contemplating the previously condemned deployment of weapons in space.



391 S. Main St.  
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