The death of Habeas Corpus

Laura Cameron
The Clackamas Print

Osama bin Laden must be ughing his ass off.

George W. Bush (or "Shrubs- e-brains," as I like to call m), in his efforts to save us m those who "hate us for our eedoms," signed a bill that guts e Bill of Rights and goes com- etely against the Constitution for that matter, it goes against e Magna Carta as well.

This bill hasn't gotten much ss, probably because the rk Foley scandal exploded ber messily the day after it ssed Congress. So, for those o missed it, here's what hap- ned:

Congress, at the urging of rubs-for-brains, passed the ilitary Commissions Act, a l that sets up military hear- gs for suspected terrorists. d that doesn't sound too bad, ss it?

Unfortunately, the bill also minates habeas corpus. And at's the part that constitutes a e of the Constitution.

For those who don't speak tin, "habeas corpus" means resent the body." In legal rms, it means that a suspect s the right to appear in court d demand to know why he or e has been arrested. It's what eps people from being thrown prison for no reason. It's sort important.

To be honest, the Constitution esn't say very much about beas corpus – but what is does say speaks volumes. "The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless when in cases of rebellion or invasion the public safety may require it."

Is America being invaded? Is America in the middle of a rebellion? No and no! But I guess that doesn't really matter, because the bill doesn't "suspend" habeas corpus anyway. It *eliminates* it.

That's totally different.

That's treason.

Yes, I said it. *Treason.* Congress and Shrubs-for-brains have gone and done an end run around the Constitution. No attempts at an amendment, which would have made all this legal. They just decided to ignore the document that is the basis of our entire country.

And the best part? There's nothing to stop them from using this against innocent American citizens.

Think about it! Remember Brandon Mayfield? He was the Portland man who the Pentagon became convinced was involved in the Madrid train bombings. When the next Brandon Mayfield comes around, he or she will have, in effect, no rights at all and will become an un-person.

In the name of saving us from those who "hate us for our freedoms," Shrubs-for-brains and his friends have destroyed those same freedoms. Well done, Mister President. You have done precisely what you say the terrorists want to do.

Where is the outrage over this? Where are the protests? Where are the lawsuits? Why are we letting them get away with this?

Don't give me that crap about "national security." National security does not trump the Constitution. This is supposed to be the land of the free and the home of the brave! Have the Republicans succeeded in intimidating us into being the land of the chained and the home of the terrified? Have we forgotten the men who fought and died to create a free nation?

This is completely unconscionable. I am ashamed to live in a country where we allow our leaders strip us of our rights. Don't try to hide treason behind "national security." I would rather *die* than loose my rights. And I am not alone in this. There was a guy named Patrick Henry who put the same feeling into words:

"Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

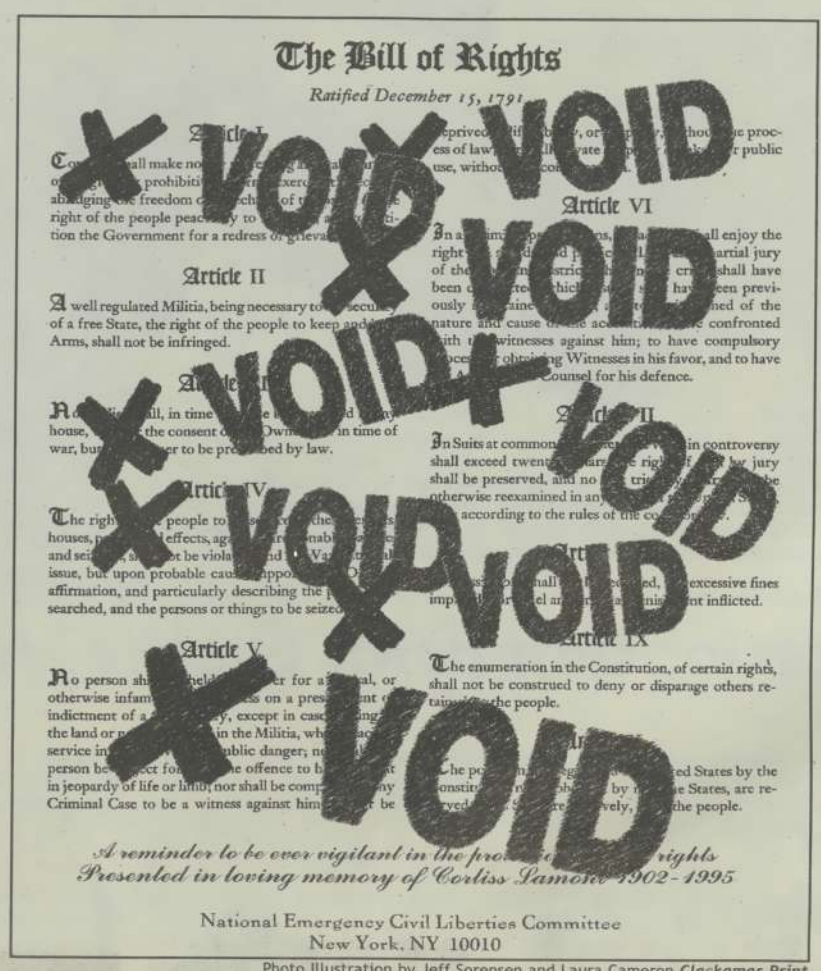

Photo Illustration by Jeff Sorensen and Laura Cameron *Clackamas Print*

by Tayo Stalnaker

There's a new plague at Clackamas Community College. No, not higher tuition; it's something worse: squirrels.

Squirrels should not be ignored. They pose a bigger threat to American society than the Bush Administration. In the past few weeks, there have been a number of reports from students who have fallen victim to the recent squirrel invasion.

"I was just walking along the path by the Art Center, when a squirrel suddenly dive-bombed me," said squirrel attack victim, and Clackamas student, Brad Wiliker. "It latched onto my face and bit my ear!"

Wiliker is just one of the many students who have been attacked by these rabid, psychotic squirrels.

Nursing student Victoria Chortov explains her encounter:

"Well, the other day, I was smoking outside of DeJardin, just talking to a couple of friends, when out of nowhere a squirrel with huge fangs jumped on my leg and bit my thigh," Chortov said.

So, what has caused these squirrels to act in such a vicious manner? After doing some digging, I found out about a chemical spill that occurred in mid-October behind the Pauling Center.

According to a Chemistry instructor, who wishes to remain anonymous, a large amount of dihydrogen monoxide was spilled by a chemistry student, who was transporting it to the chemistry lab.

I knew this couldn't be the case. Dihydrogen monoxide is water, and it is very unlikely that squirrels would start behaving badly after drinking some. So, I decided to continue my investigation.

I received a tip from a night janitor that strange noises have been coming from the old Smucker's plant by the Environmental Learning Center. My curiosity got the best of me, so I decided to sneak in last Friday after class.

Upon walking into the Smucker's plant, I was immediately hit with the stench of rotten bananas and cantaloupe. Covering my mouth, I ventured deeper into the plant, where I found a bunch of broken jam jars and jam all over the floor. Obviously, this was the source of the aroma.

I looked around the room some more, and I ran across a squirrel eating some of the jam, and reading a tattered Ayn Rand novel. It looked at me and ran out of the building. I quickly followed it out to the now-empty ponds behind the facility, where I witnessed something horrifying.

The squirrel started acting strange, jumping around and squeaking loudly. It began to foam at the mouth and grew large fangs. Then, it started running at a bird perched on a nearby rock and attacked it. The bird was dead within seconds.

Fellow students, please listen to me. I am asking for your help in solving this mystery. It seems that either Smucker's was creating some weird, new jam, or it was somehow tainted by a domestic terrorist of sorts. Perhaps a stoned, selfish libertarian.

Something must be done about these squirrels, and Ayn Rand, or else the entire state of Oregon might become infested and everyone will, inevitably, go nuts.

Genyva Laubach *Clackamas Print*

A crazed, objectivist squirrel hopped up on Smucker's protects his copy of Ayn Rand's "The Fountainhead" in front of Rook Hall.

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