

# EDITORIAL

Editorial Articles Do Not Necessarily  
Reflect Or Represent The Views Of  
The Portland Observer

## Not all bombs are planted by terrorists

BY RICHARD E. SINCERE, JR.

**Without a doubt, the bomb that exploded in Centennial Olympic Park in Atlanta early on July 27 was the work of an evil person with malicious intentions.**

Two people—an African-American businesswoman and a Turkish journalist—were killed, with 111 others injured. Law enforcement officials are justified in using all legal means at their disposal to find and prosecute the murderer.

It is, however, troubling that both law enforcement agencies and the news media are treating this crime as a terrorist event. Not all mass murders are acts of terrorism. Not all bombs are planted by terrorists.

Terrorism is fundamentally a political act. Terrorists act to advance a cause. They mean to create tyranny, either directly or indirectly, so that the political order that they prefer can take the place of the current one. Terrorists can be either rebels seeking to overthrow a state, or states seeking to overthrow the international order, or states to maintain privilege for rulers and stifle dissent among the people. In every case, the motivation for terrorism is explicitly, without an exception, political.

Terrorism has a long, if tainted,

pedigree. Aristotle recognized it, even if it had no name at the time, when he wrote that "the first aim and end of tyrants is to break the spirit of their subjects." What we know as terrorism can be traced to the Russian nihilists and anarchists of the 19th century, who gave a name to

movement or arouse admiration, (2) secure funds and build up the movement's moral or prestige, (3) discredit and demoralize the authorities, (4) provoke the authorities to take excessively harsh repressive measures, designed to alienate citizens and force a large-scale opposi-

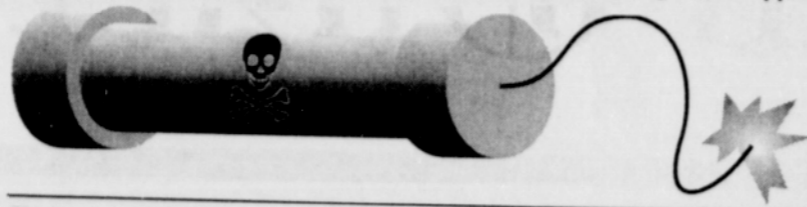
tion act reported on television and in the newspaper. He was no more a terrorist than Jeffrey Dahmer, whose murderous and cannibalistic behavior was disgusting and uncivilized, but had no political content.

The danger of elevating the tragedy at the Olympics to terrorist status is that it will give the U.S. government more excuses to erode our constitutional liberties. Already this year a new terrorism law took effect, which limits the rights of foreign nationals to appeal deportation proceedings, which grants the FBI and other government agencies broad new authority to listen to our telephone calls, which limits the right of habeas corpus for those accused of capital crimes.

In short, it shrinks the Bill of Rights to a skeleton of what is should be. Another new law, "justified" by the Atlanta bombing, may rip the guts out of our freedoms of association, dissent, and privacy.

It ill-serves us to redefine simple crimes as terrorism when the result is expanded government power and shrunken human liberty. Such redefinition also, in perverse sense, glorifies the criminal when our goal should be shame and punishment.

Let's not over-react to the Atlanta bombing. If we do, far more than 113 people will be harmed.



**"Whoever planted the bomb in Atlanta was most likely a 'lone wolf' who was seeking some sort of personal affirmation by seeing his morbid act reported on television and in the newspaper."**

what would otherwise be considered "random acts of violence" that were performed to advance their revolutionary cause. They elevated terrorism to a high moral plane. One of them, Mikhail Bakunin, exclaimed: "The passion for destruction is also a creative passion."

British military analyst Brian Crozier wrote in his 1974 book, *A Theory of Conflict*, that terrorists have several aims, falling into two categories. Through "disruptive terrorism," they try to (1) gain publicity for their

tion to counter-terrorist measures. "Coercive terrorism," is similar but complementary. It attempts to demoralize the civilian population, weaken its confidence in the government, and instill fear of the revolutionary terrorists. It also, by making examples of well-publicized victims, tries to enforce obedience to the terrorist movement leaders.

Whoever planted the bomb in Atlanta was most likely a "lone wolf" who was seeking some sort of personal affirmation by seeing his mor-

and should be made available for proper medical care that the elderly need and deserve. A July 1995 survey by Citizens Against Government Waste shows that the elderly population felt that acute medical care, inpatient/out-patient hospital services and doctor visits were the most important services which should be covered and they were willing to pay a greater share for—psychiatric and mental health services ranked last. More than 40 percent of those surveyed said that if Medicare had to be reduced, psychiatric and mental health services are what they would like to have reduced or eliminated.

"Psychiatrists use life's natural cycle for their own ends. They claim that old people who refuse to remain cheerful in the face of their progressive loneliness, uselessness, and helplessness, are 'mentally ill' or 'senile,' that watching their partner or their peers die around them are not causes for sadness and that their own mortality is staring them bluntly in the face if no

cause for concern either. And in doing so, psychiatrists have created one of the most disgraceful hoaxes of the 20th century. Many elderly are merely suffering from physical problems related to their age."

And CCHR's message to the elderly? Government insurance should not be lent to this hoax. The aged person needs to be treated with respect and proper care, not be subjected to psychiatry's brutalities—mind altering drugs, electroshock and other psychiatric practices. This is not medicine, it is at best victimizing the elderly; at worst, euthanasia.

CCHR was established by the Church of Scientology in 1969 and investigates psychiatric violations of human rights; it has an impressive history of helping to obtain criminal investigations into psychiatric fraud, government inquiries into psychiatric abuse, and having several psychiatric treatments banned.

*Written by the Citizens Commission of Human Rights*

The CCHR booklet adds fuel to the growing argument that Medicare should not cover psychiatric services

## Drugging the elderly—a parody of help

**Eighty-eight year old Verda Broome, was billed more than \$25,000 for a two week stay in an Orlando, Florida psychiatric assessment center.**

According to her daughter, Ms. Bonnie Broome, the only treatment she received was psychiatric drugs which "zonked her out." "I consider it a complete pretense used by the psychiatrists to extract more than \$25,000 of my mother's Medicare funds," Ms. Broome stated.

A 65-year-old woman was admitted to a New Jersey psychiatric facility suffering depression following the death of her mother. She was taken into a room, strip searched and drugged. She was then kept locked in a ward where she was roughly thrown into a chair and shackled. She sustained a torn ligament and had to receive extensive medical treatment for this abuse, her insurance company was charged and continued to be billed until her coverage had run out. Then she was released.

## State park pride

**If we allow 63 of our state parks to close on September 3rd, we will be cutting off public access to waterfalls, beaches, and forests.**

This is unacceptable! Oregonians are proud of our state, and with good reason. We decided a long time ago that our beaches and scenic areas would remain public domain. Reducing access to our natural places attacks the one thing about Oregon that most often inspires us.

In an era when each successive

economic crisis is more pressing than the last, will we ever regain public access to our state's natural places once we lose it?

What can we do right now that make a difference? Contact our legislative representatives, volunteer time for park cleanup, or make a tax-deductible contribution to our favorite park. We must stand up for what is important and fight to keep our parks open. The Oregon State Park Trust (503)362-1905 has additional information.

*Sincerely, Teresa Spillman*

## "No Hounding & Baiting"

**In 1994, Oregon voters approved Measure 18, banning the cruel and unsportsmanlike practices of baiting bears and hounding bears and mountain lions.**

The measure did not ban the sport hunting of either species, and it even allows state and federal damage control agents to use bait or hounds to kill individual bears and mountain lions threatening livestock or public safety.

Now, less than two years after the vote, a small group of unsportsmanlike hunters have qualified ballot Measure 34 to overturn Measure 18 and to repeal all rules and regulations affecting wildlife that have been promulgated by executive agencies other than the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission dating back to July 1, 1975.

The Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition opposes Measure 34 for the following reasons:

◆ **Baiting and high-tech hound hunting are cruel and unsports-**

**manlike methods of trophy hunting.** Hunters can kill bears and cougars without bait or dogs. Trophy hunters killed 31 cougars and 624 bears in the first year without bait or dogs—providing unmistakable evidence that skilled hunters can succeed.

◆ **This initiative is a deceptive measure,** failing to state that it repeals a voter-approved initiative and failing to indicate that it repeals dozens of executive agency rules and regulations.

◆ **Baiting and hounding cause more bear and mountain lion interactions with people.** Bait habituates bears to human food sources, producing garbage-raiding and campground-invading bears.

◆ **This measure is so poorly drafted** that it repeals dozens of rules and regulations affecting wildlife adopted by state agencies and other local authorities through a legitimate public process.

*From, Nancy Perry, Director, Oregon Bear and Cougar Coalition*

## perspectives

### Gathering up the pieces

**First off, let me complete last week's statement about the columnist and TV personality, Tony Brown. At his 'Chataqua' speech given last week, Tony launched into an ebullient description of his new and latest concept. He promises to have six year-old geniuses doing anything a 35-year-old can do."**

Promises, promises, promises! Remember when the educational establishment swore that the "New Math" would make geniuses of all our children and would place American in an unassailable position as the scientific and intellectual leader of the entire world?

And do you remember the "metric system"? We were told that without a comprehensive grounding in the European parameters (continental), American workers and industry would be hard put to compete in the technological world that would be on hand by the 1980's and 1990's. There were assurances that the country would be relegated to an economic dung heap if immediate and massive funding were not brought to bear.

"Ebullient" is the term I used earlier, "the quality of lively or enthusiastic expression of thoughts or feelings." Doesn't that sound nice? But such an approach to the educational process in this particular case brought no measurable progress in the nation's faltering school systems. Many hundreds of millions of dollars were spent in light-hearted abandon for the development of curriculum and learning systems whose remnants lie today at level 13 of some rural land-fill (right above a lot of "model cities" paraphernalia).

These reflections were brought to mind by reflections on the growing financial problems of Oregon's school districts (more on that next week) and by a media headline, "National Review Team Praises Oregon's Academic Standards". After plowing through reams of glowing and "ebullient" praises and hosannas, you get to the 'bottom line'.

First, we are told, "Oregon is on the right course to set the highest

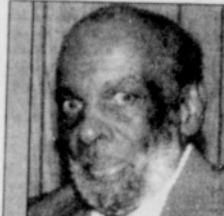
standards in the country... Edward Roerber, a testing expert with the Council of Chief State of School Officers said "Oregon's standards are equal to any being developed anywhere... Oregon is the only state in the nation that places equal importance on employability and a college education." Well whoop-de-doo, but hear this!

"Mr. Roerber warned the State Board of Education that Oregon's standards will be so high that a substantial number of students will not meet them... getting the standards implemented will be the greatest challenge... he said state and local educators need to ask themselves how they will respond when this happens."

A better question would be "Why didn't many of these people 'respond' when other of us taxpayers asked questions or sought to make input early on in the development of this process?" That is the feeling of a number of my fellow members, "Association of Oregon Industries", and many parents and teachers with whom I have contact. Madison Avenue hype is one thing, but a well-structured delivery system is something else again; industry people know.

Speaking of "avenue" and "response" it is always so rewarding when you get positive feedback from the readers and community. My recent articles on the importance of well-structured language development and phonics in early childhood developments has once again inspired a host of enthusiastic practitioners ("ebullient" smiles).

One teacher has made a doll to represent the concept I introduced of a "Norma Loquendi" (the people's parlance) and in the process of writing some 'phonics-articulation' curriculum made a discovery of her own. The word "avenue", a 'principal way or path' came out a-venue, but she was quick to perceive a relationship that escapes most: "a-venue", "Venue" as we use it outside of its legal meaning is used generically to refer to 'ways' of doing things; and what else is a street but a venue to get somewhere?



By  
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## "Say what you mean"

Dear Editor,

**Recently, Congresswomen Furse found it provident to issue a press release challenging Candidate Bill Witt to join her in a pledge to conduct a clean, positive campaign.**

She added that she and Mr. Witt should talk only about what they stand for, not what they are against.

Actions speak louder than words, and, frankly, too many politicians sign too many pledges that are later rendered meaningless.

As a voter I want to know what issues candidates support and oppose. But, I find it odd that Congresswomen Furse should think it improper for candidates to reveal what issues they are against.

I want to know if a candidate is against bigotry, press censorship,

constitutional exceptions and knee jerk bureaucracy...to name just a few.

Mr. Witt has articulated his positions in these areas. Congresswomen Furse has demonstrated her positions, and Congressional effectiveness, by her votes and the lack of success in her legislative agenda.

If Congresswomen Furse is serious about an even handed campaign, she should give back the thousands more in out of state dollars she has accumulated over Mr. Witt. Then she could issue a press release to make a real pledge: to not outspend her opponent.

If that's a pledge too far, I'd at least like to see her seriously address Mr. Witt's earlier challenge to public debates. To date she's not publicly responded.

*Barry Babin, Newberg OR*

*Letter To The Editor*  
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