

## West Michigan Volunteer Militia

(Submitted by Pat Rohloff, Fruitport)

In response to the recent panic-driven news reports concerning the growth of “racist, anti-government right wing militia threats to the United States,” we offer the following:

It is easy to demonize someone with whom you disagree and label such as “nazi, racist, extremist, hate-monger, or anti-government.” It is especially easy to do so when you are employed by a discredited far left-wing organization whose very existence depends upon frightening people into sending donations.

Before taking the word of any of these people, one should ask the subject of these reports what they actually think. No free thinking person enjoys having his ideology or belief system assigned to him by anyone.

Readers are invited to visit our website at [www.michiganmilitia.com](http://www.michiganmilitia.com), and our social networking sites, so you can read all about our “ideologies,” for yourselves and make your own informed decisions about who we are, what we do, and what we represent.

We can appreciate the recognition of the recent growth we have experienced, but would like to clarify the reasons behind it. The left-wing media claims the growth is because of the election of the first African American president. This couldn't be farther from the truth. The fact is, militia groups that we know care little about what color skin our president has. All we care about is that he, along with every other government employee, upholds his or her oath to support, uphold and defend the Constitution.

However, when multiple branches of government seem to be acting in an effort to establish control over the productive energy of a free people, then said free people have cause for alarm. This is not an extreme view, it is a factual one. No American wants to be told what to drive, where to seek medical attention, how warm they can keep their house, or even how effectively their toilets are allowed to flush. No

## The record of the Federal Reserve

by Erik Voorhees

(Reprinted from a publication of Tech Central Station)

“Not a day goes by without talk of the Federal Reserve, whether by the organization itself or by its opponents. Chairman Ben Bernanke will be the first to tell you that the Federal Reserve is an utmost necessity to the smooth operation of the U.S. financial system. Some would disagree. And while ongoing events can be difficult to objectively examine, hindsight is usually much more prescient. Let's set aside what the Fed says for a moment and examine what it actually does.

“From 1776 to 1912 (136 years), the value of the dollar, relative to the Consumer Price Index, increased by 11%. A dollar could buy 11% more goods in 1912 than in 1776. Thus, if in 1776, you sat on your savings pile of \$1,000,000 for 136 years, it would then be worth \$1,110,000 in purchasing power. (It will have appreciated in value by 11%). A loaf of bread for Thomas Jefferson cost the same as a loaf of bread for Lincoln 50 years later, and again the same for J.P. Morgan 50 years after that.

“The United States Federal Reserve System was created in 1913. The stated purpose of the Fed, by the definition taken from its own website, is to ‘conduct the nation's monetary policy by influencing money and credit conditions in the economy in pursuit of full employment and **stable prices.**’ Note that ‘stable prices’ is another way of saying ‘stable dollar,’ and they are two sides of the same coin (couldn't resist the pun).

“After the Fed's creation, from 1913 to 2008 (95 years), the value of the dollar, relative to the Consumer Price Index, **decreased by 95%**. A dollar could buy 95% fewer goods in 2008 than in 1913. Thus, if in 1913, you sat on your savings pile of \$1,000,000 for 95 years, it would then be worth only \$50,000 in purchasing power (it will have depreciated in value by 95%). One would now need to pay about 20X more than J.P. Morgan for one's bread. Ask my mother how much the price of milk has increased in just the last ten years alone.

“In other words, the value of the dollar remained extremely stable for 150 years; the Fed was created in order to ‘stabilize the value of the dollar,’ and the result has been a 95% devaluation of the dollar in less than 100 years following its creation.”

## Northside Bible church presents the Brown Family

(Submitted by Northside Bible Church)

Back by popular demand, the Brown Family from Le-Mars, Iowa, will return to Northside Bible Church for a fall Southern Gospel concert. On Saturday, October 10 at 7 p.m., both lively and worshipful music will fill the church! Since their last visit, they have traveled throughout the United States sharing the gospel. This year, the Browns received the prestigious honor of Top 10 Mixed Group of the Year for the second year in a row by the *Singing News Magazine* fans.

They have several CD's which will be available for purchase the night of the concert.

Northside Bible Church is located at 1937 North Whitehall Road, just north of Tractor Supply Company in North Muskegon. No tickets are required. A freewill offering will be accepted. The event includes prize drawings as well as refreshments.

For directions or more information, please call (231) 777-1588 or (231) 329-1477.

American wants to be told that he cannot own the most effective means of protecting his or her own life, or the lives of his family. No American wants to be told that he must work longer hours to pay more of his check to support an over-bloated government bureaucracy.

No, Americans want to go to bed at night, after a day's work, and have some chance to enjoy the fruits of their own labor, confident that our government is doing the job of protecting individual liberty from aggression, theft, or fraud. Americans want the promise of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness restored and protected. We don't need every facet of our life micro managed down to the finest detail.

But there are people at every level of government who somehow think it is their divine right to interfere with, tax, regulate and confiscate every single aspect of working Americans' lives. This is shameful, and it doesn't have to be this way.

But this is not the only issue causing the very pleasure and expected growth of pro-freedom militia groups. The threat of terrorism or disaster will always loom over our heads. Crime is a constant concern of many Americans. And while the threat of invasion seems at best a very distant, remote one, we would like to keep it that way.

Americans are becoming more and more involved in militia and other preparedness training not out of fear or hatred, but out of sense of civic duty and responsibility. We are doing this not because we are angry, but because we care about this great nation, because we care about individual rights and responsibilities, and because we care about each other.

We, as freedom loving constitutionalists, uphold the rights of the individual to live free and for themselves. Our members and their families represent various cultural, religious and racial backgrounds. This does not sit well with white supremacists or racists.

Militia people across this country spend their own time, energy, and money supporting this cause : The cause of American liberty; the cause of personal rights; the cause of freedom — freedom for everyone, regardless of race, creed, color, tint or hue, religion, or political views. We don't get paid to do this.

You decide for yourself. •

## Martin and the media

by Clif Martin

I hope you keep your old copies of the friendly FAN around long enough to read all the good stuff that's in there and perhaps even pass them on to someone who has not seen a good, old fashioned, local hometown paper lately.

If you have your July issue handy, take a look at Richard Blackmer's article, “A Rebirth?” at the top of page six. He writes about what's happening to the newspaper business, especially the big city papers that are in deep trouble. He calls publications like the FAN “community “ newspapers. I like that word. And how do you become one of those? You do it by being local. That's another good word.

I never worked for a newspaper. I spent my professional life, almost fifty years of it, in the radio business. I care a lot about the struggles and changes going on in the newspaper business because I am a “media freak.” Anything that brings me entertainment and information fascinates me: Newspapers, movies, radio, TV, the internet, and the new technologies that are revolutionizing the way we receive information and entertainment. A very important part of my Saturday morning ritual is National Public Radio's “On the Media.” I listen to it live, sometimes tape it for reference later, and read the transcript online. There is a lot about the newspaper industry and its troubles.

Richard's title, “Rebirth?” is perfect. I watched it happen, first-hand, in the profession that I gave my life to. What is now known as old time radio, with its soap operas, live music shows and big dramatic productions died when millions of dollars of advertising revenue left radio and moved to television. Radio survived by becoming local. Disc jockeys were local stars. I was privileged to be one of them. I married one of my fans. There was local news. Your local station told you who died and who had a baby and who was running for dogcatcher. Local radio was important. It was community.

Then that kind of radio died. Or rather, it was reborn. Live deejays with turntables and records were replaced by automation systems that cranked out the music. Then those mechanical automation systems were replaced by a big dish behind the building that picked up a feed from some distant state. Drive by some radio station buildings and you'll see no cars in the parking lot. There's nobody there.

I was very disappointed that the manager of one of the radio stations I worked for demanded that I remove the word “local” from a station promotion that I wrote. “Too limiting,” he said. “We must sell advertising from Holland to Whitehall. We can't be just the Muskegon station.” That station no longer exists.

Without getting all theological or philosophical, I'm convinced that nothing really dies. It just changes. Some form of print media will always be with us, even if we read it on a hand-held screen. I hope Richard is right in suggesting that the potential jewel buried in the demise of the big papers is a return to the “hyper-local” approach that some of them are talking about. Sadly, the kind of local radio that I knew is not going to come back. Will it work for newspapers? Let us hope and pray so. We need some kind of truly local, community-oriented media. Maybe the big boys should check out the FAN. •

## Kurt Vonnegut and me

by Al Schneider

Kurt Vonnegut was a funny man. For some reason, I'm attracted to funny persons, especially writers.

Vonnegut left us in 2007, but not without a trail of delightful reading. He was 84. I have just completed the final chapter in his last book, *Armageddon in Retrospect*. It's true to form, possibly even more hilarious than the author envisioned. I say that because the story involves the United Nations, an organization that, in my view, has long deserved consignment to the world's ash heap.

In Vonnegut's story, an intruder sets up office in an Oklahoma psychic clinic. The new doctor is of the opinion that the Devil is at the root of all psychic illnesses and treats his patients accordingly. The new approach gains such popularity that before long there is a nationwide movement to exterminate the Devil. Since the Devil operates on a global scale, responsibility for his disposal is shifted to the United Nations.

We might wish Vonnegut had continued with this absurdity. My guess is that he was laughing so hard that he couldn't. Well then, allow me to finish the story.

Expecting the U.N. to solve even a simple problem requires a mind-numbing faith; expecting them to solve a problem involving control over a superhuman entity along with his loyal minions is beyond comprehension. This is raw comedy at its finest. So the matter was brought before the general U.N. body, which promptly referred the project to the World Health Organization (WHO), which, in turn, delegated the matter to its Eastern Pacific Delegation which convenes in Manila. Here, a committee of six, chaired by Filipino Senor Ramon Garcia, were given full responsibility. Chairman Garcia read the dispatch to the committee members.

“Noting that a serious health issue has been brought to the attention of the United Nations, that of ridding the world of Satan, a personage deemed chiefly responsible for psychic disorders throughout the world, and that owing to the global nature of that person's activities, the responsibility for ridding the planet of this person lies within U.N. purviews.

“Noting further that the Western Pacific office has in the past unsuccessfully undertaken other issues of a serious nature, we count on your committee for a timely resolution of this matter.”

Chief,  
World Health Organization

Garcia looked at the five stunned faces convened in the room. They said nothing, just stared at the speaker.

“We are to get rid of Satan? What about Mara?” It was the Cambodian delegate who broke the silence.

“Who the blazes is Mara?” Garcia wanted to know.

“He is the spirit that tempted Guatama Buddha.”

“All right, let's get him, too.”

“How about Kroni?” asked the Sri Lankan.

“And Tenga?” added the Malaysian representative.

“You guys are making these names up. We've been commissioned to go after Satan, but if it makes you feel better, we'll go after the whole kit and caboodle.”

“But these evil forces are everywhere,” pointed out the South Korean representative. “How could we ever capture them?”

“Why us?” asked the Malaysian member. “Why not the United States? They have all the weapons and all the money. And they think they have all the brains.”

“An impossible task. Totally ridiculous. It doesn't make sense,” said Sri Lanka's representative.

“What a bunch of pessimists!” declared Garcia. “How long have you guys been in the organization? This will be a piece of cake.”

“A what?” asked the Cambodian.

“It will be easily resolved,” said the chairman.

“Well then, you catch him and we will tie him up.” That came from the Sri Lankan chair.

“That might be funny if you guys weren't so stupid,” said the chairman. “You remind me of a bunch of Laurels and Hardys.”

“Who?” asked the Cambodian.

“Exactly how do you propose to solve this?” came from the Singapore chair.

“Listen up!” said the chairman. “We don't actually solve it. The U.N. never solves anything. I would think you'd know that by now. We simply produce a resolution condemning Satan's activities. We make the resolution known to the entire world and everyone will be pleased.”

The South Korean representative asked, “But what about the millions of people who suffer from psychotic illnesses?”

“Why should we care about them?” asked the chair.

“Mr. Chairman, you're brilliant,” said the Cambodian.

“It's a good thing the world has the United Nations,” said the South Korean.

“I'll work up a resolution. Meeting is adjourned.” announced the chair.

Resolution 2822a To the World at Large:

Let it be known that the United Nations hereby condemns Satan and all his aliases for his evil activities, particularly those affecting human health. This August Body hereby demands that this personage refrain from any further contact with the human race. Further, let him be warned that any violation of this resolution (2822a) will be met with serious consequences both to his person and to his image.

Ramon Garcia, Chairman  
Eastern Pacific Delegation  
World Health Organization

That night, the entire world rested peacefully. •