

sending terror suspects to be interrogated by other countries including some where respect for human rights is nonexistent and interrogation can involve beatings, electric shock, and other torture. The CIA says it always gets an assurance in advance that a prisoner will be treated humanely. But of what value are such assurances when they come from places like Syria and Saudi Arabia?

Of course the United States must hunt down terrorists and find out what they know. Better intelligence means more lives saved, more atrocities prevented, and a more likely victory in the war against radical Islamist fascism. Those are crucial ends, and they justify tough means. But they don't justify means that betray core American values. Interrogation techniques that flirt with torture to say nothing of those that end in death cross the moral line that separates us from the enemy we are trying to defeat.

The Bush administration and the military insist that any abuse of detainees is a violation of policy and that abusers are being punished. If so, why does it refuse to allow a genuinely independent commission to investigate without fear or favor? Why do Republican leaders on Capitol Hill refuse to launch a proper congressional investigation? And why do my fellow conservatives—those who support the war for all the right reasons—continue to keep silent about a scandal that should have them up in arms?

[From the Boston Sunday Globe, Mar. 20, 2005]

#### Why Not Torture Terrorists?

(By Jeff Jacoby)

(Second of two columns)

The Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which the United States ratified in 1994, prohibits the torture of any person for any reason by any government at any time. It states explicitly that torture is never justified—"no exceptional circumstances whatsoever . . . may be invoked as a justification for torture." Unlike the Geneva Convention, which protects legitimate prisoners of war, the Convention Against Torture applies to everyone—even terrorists and enemy combatants. And it cannot be evaded by "outsourcing" a prisoner to a country where he is apt to be tortured during interrogation.

In short, the international ban on torture—a ban incorporated into US law—is absolute. And before Sept. 11, 2001, few Americans would have argued that it should be anything else.

But in post-9/11 America, the unthinkable is not only being thought, but openly considered. And not only by hawks on the right, but by even by critics in the center and on the left.

"In this autumn of anger," Jonathan Alter commented in Newsweek not long after the terrorist attacks, "a liberal can find his thoughts turning to—torture." Maybe cattle prods and rubber hoses should remain off limits, he wrote, but "some torture clearly works," and Americans had to "keep an open mind" about using unconventional measures—including "transferring some suspects to our less squeamish allies."

In March 2003, a few days after arch-terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed was captured in Pakistan, Stuart Taylor Jr. acknowledged that he was probably being made to feel some pain. "And if that's the best chance of making him talk, it's OK by me," he wrote in his National Journal column. In principle, interrogators should not cross the line into outright torture. But, Taylor continued, "my answer might be different in extreme circumstances."

By "extreme circumstances" he meant what is often called the "ticking-bomb" scenario: A deadly terror attack is looming, and you can prevent it only by getting the information your prisoner refuses to divulge. Torture might force him to talk, thereby saving thousands of innocent lives. May he be tortured?

Many Americans would say yes without hesitating. Some would argue that torturing a terrorist is not nearly as wrong as refusing to do so and thereby allowing another 9/11 to occur. Others would insist that monsters of Mohammed's ilk deserve no decency.

As an indignant reader (one of many) wrote to me after last week's column on the cruel abuse of some U.S. detainees, "The terrorists . . . would cut your heart out and stuff it into the throat they would proudly slash open." So why not torture detainees, if it will produce the information we need?

Here's why:

First, because torture, as noted, is unambiguously illegal—illegal under a covenant the United States ratified, illegal under Federal law, and illegal under protocols of civilization dating back to the Magna Carta.

Second, because torture is notoriously unreliable. Many people will say anything to make the pain stop, while some will refuse to yield no matter what is done to them. Yes, sometimes torture produces vital information. But it can also produce false leads and desperate fictions. In the ticking-bomb case, bad information is every bit as deadly as no information.

Third, because torture is never limited to just the guilty. The case for razors and electric shock rests on the premise that the prisoner is a knowledgeable terrorist like Mohammed or Abu Musab al-Zarqawi. But most of the inmates in military prisons are nothing of the kind. Commanders in Guantanamo acknowledge that hundreds of their prisoners pose no danger and have no useful information. How much of the hideous abuse reported to date involved men who were guilty only of being in the wrong place at the wrong time?

And fourth, because torture is a dangerously slippery slope. Electric shocks and beatings are justified if they can prevent, another 9/11? But what if the shocks and beating don't produce the needed information? Is it OK to break a finger? To cut off a hand? To save 3,000 lives, can a terrorist's eyes be gouged out? How about gouging out his son's eyes? Or raping his daughter in his presence? If that's what it will take to make him talk, to defuse the ticking bomb, isn't it worth it?

No. Torture is never worth it. Some things we don't do, not because they never work, not because they aren't "deserved," but because our very right to call ourselves decent human beings depends in part on our not doing them. Torture is in that category. We can win our war against the barbarians without becoming barbaric in the process.

#### RECOGNIZING ERIN ROBNETT, WINNER OF TEXAS VALUES VISUAL ARTS COMPETITION

#### HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Erin Robnett, an eighth grader at Crownover Middle School of Cornith, located in the 26th Congressional District of Texas, for being one of the three winners of the Texas Values Arts Competition.

This is truly an outstanding accomplishment for Erin. More than 250 students from Plano,

Denton, Lewisville and surrounding communities entered the contest. Over Time is the name of Erin's piece which represents changes that have occurred during Texas' history. With Erin's win, she received a savings bond from Huffines Auto Dealerships.

Erin's piece had the pecan tree, mocking bird and the bluebonnet. It also features the Alamo and a soldier standing where the head piece would be. The head piece is half complete representing Texas' past and present.

Erin Robnett's talents are not only a testament to her artistic skill but also a stellar example of how parents and teachers efforts are rewarded when combining a core curriculum with study in the arts. I am proud of the education system in Texas, especially our students, and involved parents and teachers at Crownover Middle School, who commit their lives and time to fostering growth of our communities. And I wanted to extend a special thank you to Huffines Automotive for their generous contribution to these aspiring students.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF JEAN ALLARD

#### HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 5, 2005*

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jean Allard, a lifelong servant to the agricultural industry and to Larimer County, Colorado.

Jean was born in Alamosa, Colorado. She came to Fort Collins at the age of five where she grew up on a farm and graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1938. She attended the Colorado State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, (today it would be known as Colorado State University). She studied home economics and was a textile major. Jean was active in sports such as basketball, field hockey, softball and swimming. She graduated in 1942.

Jean made all of her own clothes during high school and college, which is evidence of her creativity and willingness to work hard. She comes from a family with a strong work ethic. Her grandparents, James and Jane Ross, homesteaded in Fort Collins when they came from Scotland in 1887. Jean's family grew grain, hay, and raised purebred Hereford cattle. Their original homestead remained on 1600 Horsetooth Road through the 1980's.

Jean met Amos Allard at Fort Collins High School and they married on July 18, 1941. Their time together as a newlywed couple was short-lived as Amos was soon drafted into the Navy during World War II in 1944.

After Jean graduated from Colorado A&M, they moved to the Allard family ranch in Jackson County, Colorado where they raised Hereford cattle. In 1962 they sold their ranch and moved back to Larimer County.

The Allards bought a 297-acre farm in Loveland, west of the current Hewlett-Packard facility.

On their property, Walt Clark Middle School was built, 3 churches, a private park and a public park, as well as 830 homes in Loch-Lon (Lake Meadow Land). Jean was instrument in the development of Big Thompson senior housing in Loveland. She also sold the lots at