

Eye on World & Local

Joe Stack: Hero or Troubled?

By: Daniel J. Taylor -Lion's Eye Editorial Editor - Djt5036@psu.edu

On February 18th, 2010 a Piper PA-28-236 fixed wing aircraft crashed into the outer wall of an Austin, Texas IRS building. Quickly national news had caught wind of the story and images of billowing black smoke were being shown throughout the country. What many feared may have been an expertly planned, tightly woven terrorist attack reminiscent of those on September 11th, was discovered to be a solo event executed by a criminal amateur.

Though relief was to be found in the fact that terrorists were not to blame for the episode, many felt uneasy in learning that Joseph Andrew Stack, a 53 year old Austin resident, was motivated by a similar three-decade build up of anti-government resentment and emotional torment. Shortly after the crash, word of a "Stack Manifesto" added a unique twist to story. It allowed commentators and those following the story to see the thought processes which compelled the pilot to action.

The manifesto, according to CNN, was uploaded to the website of his software company Embedded Art. It was vehemently condemned by many broadcasters as the rant of a madman and cited as evidence of his lunacy. In the two weeks since the event transpired, blogs and Facebook groups throughout the internet have been dedicated to the memory of the controversial figure. Stack's angst is, for some, just cause in his endeavor against the U.S. government. Many, arguably on the fringe, agree with his assessment that "violence not only is the answer, it is the only answer."

Stack's note addressed what he saw as the many faults with the American government and tax system. His daughter, Samantha Bell, who lives in Norway thinks that change will happen because of her father's actions, she even calls him a hero. In an article from the Austin Statesmen she says, "His last actions, the suicide, the catastrophe that caused injury and death, that was wrong." While his daughter was in Norway, Stack's wife and stepdaughter were luckily safely in a hotel and away from the house that he torched prior to the plane crash.

The effects of this suicide crash, also, are not to be disregarded while pursuing the path of rationalizing Stack's actions. Thirteen people--a number which could have been much higher--were treated for small injuries at a local hospital. An employee named Vernon Hunter was killed as a result of the crash's impact. The Joseph Stack affair shines light on several issues uniquely American and, thus, is uniquely American itself. Stack's manifesto highlights the popular Revolutionary War phrase "no taxation without representation" and portrays what he believes to be a government which disregards its citizens claims. He suggests that holy American idea of revolution as the only course of action and uses his freedom of speech to speak out harshly against the government of his disgust. He closes his thesis, however, criticizing the American economic system, by quoting Marx and partially quoting essayist Henry Fairly stating:

"The communist creed: From each according to his ability, to each according to his need.

The capitalist creed: From each according to his gullibility, to each according to his greed. "

Tragedy Strikes Twice in Chile

By Nancy Perone -World & Local News Editor-nip5014@psu.edu

Nearly six weeks after the Haiti earthquake of 7.0 magnitude, on Saturday, February 27, 2010 an even more powerful quake rocked Chile with a magnitude of 8.8 on the moment magnitude scale. The massive quake hit at 3:34 AM on Saturday approximately 70 miles from the town of Concepcion in the country's Maule region. Roadways, electricity towers, and most of Chile's poorer region's adobe houses crumbled to the ground while most of the more urban buildings stayed intact because of strict building codes made to endure all earthquake magnitudes.

The destruction did not stop there. CNN reports that barely an hour passed when an enormous tsunami ravaged Chile's shores, which were just coming to the end of its vacation season. ABC News reports that approximately three waves ranging from 6-50 feet high and over a mile wide swept away coastal communities who had little to no warning unless they looked out their windows. The fishing village of Constitucion was completely destroyed as 350 of the 800 people living in the village were killed by the giant wave.

Over 1.5 million people are displaced in Chile, the New York Times says, but aid is slowly rolling in. The country's military communities, being one of the first to receive aid, left room for looting and crime in the streets of Chile's poorest communities. The President of Chile, Michelle Bachelet, urged "not to point fingers" during such a time of national emergency. As of Tuesday, March 2nd, 13,000 of their own soldiers were starting to be deployed in order to keep peace and administer aid. Tremors and smaller quakes gave residents a scare on Sunday, February 28th as they thought another major earthquake or tsunami would occur.

The Chile earthquake has set records besides being the second of two powerful earthquakes to wreak havoc in 2010. New York Times says that it is tied at being the fifth largest earthquake ever since 1990. Since the tremors and aftershocks were just as huge as the quake itself, tsunami warnings were release all across the Pacific Ocean just as a precautionary measure. NASA scientist Richard Ross believes that 1.26 microseconds were cut from Earth's day as a result of the Chile earthquake, the BBC reports. American Idol's finalist, Elliot Yamin, kept in touch with his family and fans from Chile via Twitter updates. Yamin is a diabetic and not having enough insulin was of great concern for him but as of Wednesday, March 3rd medical supplies were being made available.

More information regarding the Chile earthquake can be acquired on the U.S. State Department website at www.state.gov/p/wha/ci/ci/earthquake/index.htm. Google has also created a donation page in alliance with Habitat for Humanity, UNICEF, and others at this web address www.google.com/relief/chil-earthquake/.

Shaping Up Philly...One Menu At A Time

By Nancy Perone -World & Local News Editor-nip5014@psu.edu

Looks like Philly's gonna be watching their waistline! As of February 1st all Philadelphia restaurants have to show calorie content clearly for their customers to see. If area establishments don't post how many calories the food items they sell contain on their menu boards, they could be pinching their wallets. The health department in Philadelphia will issue a \$150 fine to violators.

Beginning next month—trans fat, saturated fat, carbohydrate, and sodium content must be posted alongside caloric information. The law that was first passed in City Council back in November of 2008 is trimming fat in the home of the cheesesteak. According to the Philadelphia Inquirer, Americans get one-third of their calorie intake from meals they eat while they are out. So, like it or not Philly, you have a big decision to make the next time you eat out.

Item	Cal	Price
590 THE FEAST	590	5.29
520 BIG PHILLY CHEESESTEAK	520	5.29
580 PASTRAMI	580	5.29
DOUBLE' Turkey Breast	330	4.99
DOUBLE' Sweet Onion Chicken Teriyaki	480	5.49
DOUBLE' Subway Club	420	5.29
DOUBLE' Italian B.M.T.	630	5.29
DOUBLE' (660-1260 cal) A FOOTLONG Add		3.00

Image courtesy of sun-sentinel.com