

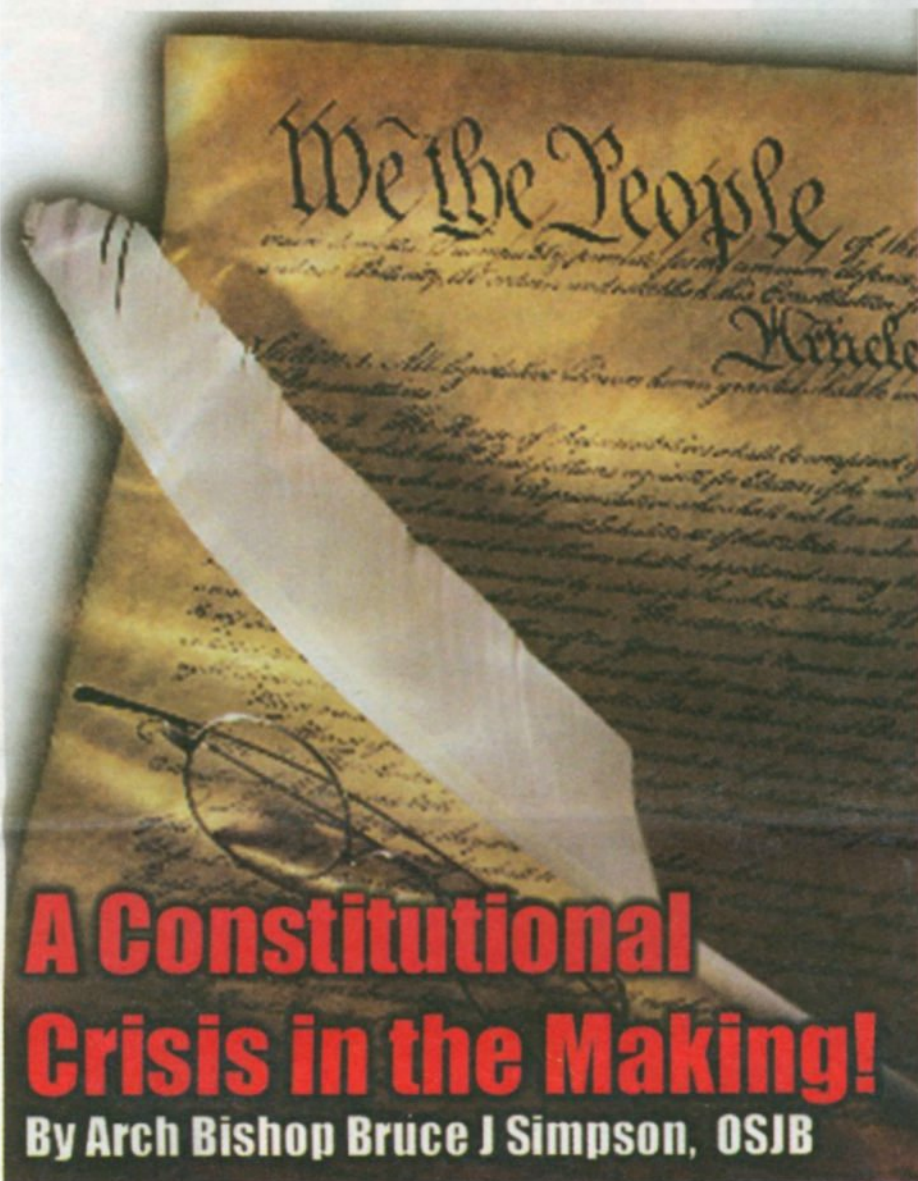
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A Constitutional Crisis in the Making!

By Arch Bishop Bruce J Simpson, OSJB

An all too apparent trend has developed in the United States over the last five years which when examined closely leads one to conclude that the Constitution of the United States is under full frontal assault by forces opposed to freedom

and to the ideals this country was founded upon. Religion plays a large part in this current condition of America.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay is under investigation for multiple ethics violations involving overseas travel and ties to lobbyists. Last year

the House Ethics Committee voted three times to admonish DeLay for his role in illegal fundraising related to a redistricting plan that DeLay helped push through the Texas legislature. A civil law suit is underway against the political action committee begun by DeLay for improperly spending around \$600,000 in corporate contributions to implement the redistricting and thus unseating the democratic office holders in those districts.

The Republican House leadership responded to DeLay's legal and ethics problems by circling the wagons by changing rules and putting the ethics committee under their thumbs. Membership on the committee saw an increase in friends of DeLay and Dennis Hastert, the Speaker of the House. By doing this, they hope to derail any further actions aimed at either DeLay or any other Republican.

In fact, one of the new members of the ethics committee was previously a co-host of the 2002 fundraising breakfast that fed money into the same political action committee that is currently the subject of a grand jury investigation in Texas. The substance of the investigation is whether or not the committee improperly used corporate funds to affect the outcome of the state legislative races. Further reports indicate that two other members of the Ethics committee have made donations to DeLay's legal defense fund. Obviously, any real purpose to this committee has since evaporated, at least in appearance if not in fact.

DeLay continues to answer the charges that have been lodged against him by classifying them as political attacks instigated by the Democrats. Conflicts between the two parties have led to an ethics

committee that can no longer function as it cannot agree on operational rules.

Recently much of the United States watched in disbelief when Congress led by the Republican leadership passed a bill to allow Federal Courts to intervene in the Terry Schiavo case. To begin with, DeLay had the unmitigated gall to state, "God has brought to us Terri Schiavo to elevate the visibility of what's going on in America." This perverted sense of the culture of life that is espoused by these men, is at the center of their most recent cultural skirmish. The Congress and President can write and pass a law and get it signed on two days notice to interfere in a private family matter, while at the same time defend executions by the State and loudly complain about the Supreme Court decision to limit executions to adults who are mentally sound. The reason for this conflict on the philosophy of life is that in both cases, the issues appeal to the republican base: the fundamentalist conservative Christian element of the electorate. This is why George Bush who ran an execution mill as Governor of Texas has no problem with his position on Mrs. Schiavo.

The issue of conservative Christian beliefs is at the very core of all that is transpiring now in the Congress of the United States as well as the White House. God is brought up more now in these political institutions than he is in some churches. The line of separation between Church and State is gone. No longer is there any pretense that one's personal faith is separate and apart from their obligations as elected officials. They wear God on their sleeves and have attempted to mold God into their own image.

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Remaking Taylor Dane

By Ross von Metzke



All anybody needs to do is speak the name Taylor Dayne and nearly every guy I know can bust into the chorus of one of her countless catchy hits. Whether its "Tell it to My Heart" or "Love Will Lead You Back", "Don't Rush Me" or

"With Every Beat of My Heart", for five priceless years, Taylor Dayne was a queen atop the dance/pop throne.

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27th Annual International Mr. Leather

CHICAGO (April 14, 2005) - The world's hottest leathermen will once again come together to compete for the title of International Mr. Leather, Thursday, May 26 through Monday, May 30, 2005 (Memorial Day Weekend) in Chicago at Chicago's Navy Pier, Grand Ballroom, 600 E. Grand Ave. Also, the 2005 competition will begin at 5 p.m., 90 minutes earlier than previous years. The Hyatt Regency Chicago, 151 E. Wacker Drive, is the official host hotel for IML 2005.

This year, IML is changing its annual Salute! Party to create an official Clos-

ing Ceremonies celebration following the Contest at the host hotel. This new event will include a special "parade of colors," celebrating leather clubs from around the globe. Clubs worldwide are invited to send a representative for what organizers hope will be the largest color presentation ever! Club representatives should sign-up at the IML Registration Desk by 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, May 29. The



new Closing Ceremonies will also include a special new IML tradition, to be revealed the night of Opening Ceremonies.

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