

WMNF with Kate Bradshaw - Palast on BP's OT...

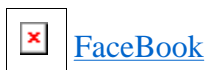


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• [Smart Pig:](#) [BP's OTHER Spill](#)

by Greg Palast for [Buzzflash.com](#)

With the Gulf Coast dying of oil poisoning, there's no space in the press for British Petroleum's latest spill, just this week: over 100,000 gallons, at its Alaska pipeline operation. A hundred thousand used to be a lot. Still is.

On Tuesday, Pump Station 9, at Delta Junction on the 800-mile pipeline, busted. Thousands of barrels began spewing an explosive cocktail of hydrocarbons after "procedures weren't properly implemented" by BP operators, say state inspectors. "Procedures weren't properly implemented" is, it seems, BP's company motto.

Few Americans know that BP owns the controlling stake in the trans-Alaska pipeline; but, unlike with the Deepwater Horizon, BP keeps its Limey name off the Big Pipe.

There's another reason to keep their name off the Pipe: their management of the pipe stinks. It's corroded, it's undermanned and "basic maintenance" is a term BP never heard of.

How does BP get away with it? The same way the Godfather got away with it: bad things happen to folks who blow the whistle. BP has a habit of hunting down and destroying the careers of those who warn of pipeline problems.

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Jeremy Scahill, Greg Palast & Big Noise: From Blackwater to White Power

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Dispatches #6 follows Jeremy Scahill's latest investigation into Blackwater's role in the Nisur Square massacre, Greg Palast's hunt of American debt speculators in Liberia, and Big Noise Films' inside account of the resurgent white power movement in America. It also includes a special report: a warning from the heart of East St. Louis.

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Emperor Hickel: The Man Who Invented Alaska ... and Sarah Palin

by Greg Palast

Wally Hickel invented Alaska and told me he regretted it. He also invented Sarah Palin, and I was hoping, when I travel to Alaska next month, to ask him whether he also regretted that second creation.

Hickel wanted to be President; of what nation, well, that changed. First, he wanted to be President of the United States. That required that his home, Alaska, become united with the States, a task he accomplished in 1959 with the help of his buddy, and later enemy, Richard Nixon.

"That was a mistake," he said, referring to US Statehood. "We should have been our own nation," which, I pointed out, would have made him President instead of Governor.

Hickel grinned and took me over to a globe. As he massaged and caressed the planet's crown, he talked about his long-held dream to create a circumpolar resource cartel linking Siberia, Alaska, sub-polar Scandinavia and northern Japan, tied together by a rail tunnel under the Bering Sea. Alaska was too small; his plan was for a Confederation of the North, an Arctic Empire that circled the top of the planet. Benevolently ruled, he made clear, by Emperor Wally.

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Slick Operator: The BP I've known too well

by Greg Palast for Truthout.org
May 5, 2010

I've seen this movie before. In 1989, I was a fraud investigator hired to dig into the cause of the Exxon Valdez disaster. Despite Exxon's name on that boat, I found the party most to blame for the destruction was ... British Petroleum. That's important to know, because the way BP caused devastation in Alaska is exactly the way BP is now sliming the entire Gulf Coast.



Horizon in flames before sinking. Photo provided by D.Becnel

Tankers run aground, wells blow out, pipes burst. It shouldn't happen but it does. And when it does, the name of the game is *containment*. Both in Alaska, when the Exxon Valdez grounded, and in the Gulf over a week ago, when the Deepwater Horizon platform blew, it was British Petroleum that was charged with carrying out the Oil Spill Response Plans ("OSRP") which the company itself drafted and filed with the government.

What's so insane, when I look over that sickening slick moving toward the Delta, is that containing spilled oil is really quite simple and easy. And from my investigation, BP has figured out a very low cost way to prepare for this task: BP lies. BP prevaricates, BP

fabricates and BP obfuscates.

That's because responding to a spill may be easy and simple, but not at all cheap. And BP is cheap. Deadly cheap.

To contain a spill, the main thing you need is a lot of rubber, long skirts of it called "boom." Quickly surround a spill or leak or burst, then pump it out into skimmers or disperse it, sink it or burn it. Simple.

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Report from the Inferno

Palast on BP "The master of disaster".

Report from Anchorage Radio with Shannyn Moore - [Listen](#)



Photo of the Deepwater Horizon taken soon after the explosion in the Gulf. Provided to us exclusively by D. Becnel. Stay tuned to this space for our investigative report.

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Behind the Arizona Immigration Law: GOP Game to Swipe the November Election



Our investigation in Arizona discovered the real intent of the show-me-your-papers law.

by Greg Palast for Truthout.org

[Phoenix, AZ.] Don't be fooled. The way the media plays the story, it was a wave of racist, anti-immigrant hysteria that moved Arizona Republicans to pass a sick little law, signed last week, requiring every person in the state to carry papers proving they are US citizens.

I don't buy it. Anti-Hispanic hysteria has always been as much a part of Arizona as the Saguaro cactus and excessive air-conditioning.

What's new here is not the politicians' fear of a xenophobic "Teabag" uprising.

What moved GOP Governor Jan Brewer to sign the Soviet-style show-me-your-papers law is the exploding number of *legal* Hispanics, US citizens all, who are daring to vote -- and daring to vote Democratic by more than two-to-one. Unless this demographic locomotive is halted, Arizona Republicans know their party will soon be electoral toast. Or, if you like, tortillas.

In 2008, working for *Rolling Stone* with civil rights attorney Bobby Kennedy, our team flew to Arizona to investigate what smelled like an electoral pogrom against Chicano voters ... directed by one Jan Brewer.

Brewer, then Secretary of State, had organized a racially loaded purge of the voter rolls that would have made Katherine Harris blush. Beginning after the 2004 election, under Brewer's command, no less than 100,000 voters, overwhelmingly Hispanics, were blocked from registering to vote. In 2005, the first year of the Great Brown-Out, one in three Phoenix residents found their registration applications rejected. ([Show me more...](#))

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Heart of Coal

by Greg Palast
from *Armed Madhouse*

WMNF with Kate Bradshaw - Palast on BP's Oil
 We've seen this dreadful movie before. In 2005, another coal mine in West Virginia imploded. We wrote about it then



War is hell, especially class war. Just ask the Sago mine workers. Billionaire Wilbur Ross purchased Sago of West Virginia in November 2005 through International Coal Group.

In the first six weeks under Ross' company's ownership, the Sago mine suffered two roof collapses. Ross said that, "We were comfortable, based on the assurances from our management that they felt that it was a safe situation." Safe financially, maybe, but a third roof collapse in January 2006 caused twelve miners to suffocate.

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[Vulture Financier Attacks Banned in Britain](#)

by Greg Palast

April 8 - London - Update for [In These Times](#)



We've stuffed the bird and nailed it to the wall: Today, the British Parliament effectively banned financial vulture funds from the British Isles. The law, merely awaits the expected touch of the Queen's scepter.

"Vulture funds" are international re-po men who buy up old debt of the world's poorest nations for pennies on the dollar, then sue for ten to a hundred times what they paid for these old loans. The new UK law, passed unanimously, would

would bar financiers from using UK courts to collect more than the sums authorized by the International Monetary Fund. In effect, this stops American predators - such as financiers Eric Hermann, Michael Straus, and Michael Francis "Goldfinger" Sheehan, from siphoning tens of millions of dollars of aid money the US and UK treasuries had earmarked for Liberia, Zambia, Congo and other desperately poor countries.

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[Stop Feeding the Vultures](#)

by Greg Palast for [In These Times](#)



I get the idea that Eric Hermann doesn't want to talk to me. When I came to his

WMNF with Kate Bradshaw, Palast on BP's Oil office suite, his hedge fund's name plaque had been unbolted from the building's wall, the suite number removed and all the employees locked in.

I'm not surprised. Hermann is a vulture, not the carrion-eating type, but the kind that prey on the financially wounded. "Vulture" is a hedge fund industry term for the financiers who buy up the right to collect old loans of the world's poorest nations, and then use every trick in the book — from lawsuits to bribery to hiring Henry Kissinger's lobby firm — to muscle destitute countries into turning over their meager foreign aid funds.

Vultures, whether of the feathered or speculator species, don't like to talk to reporters.

On February 25, the day after BBC Television's *Newsnight* ran my report from in front of Hermann's locked office door, Britain's Parliament voted to bar vulture funds from using Britain's courts to grab the assets of poor nations. ([Show me more...](#))

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[Getting into Massa's Drawers: Truly Creepy Details about the Congressman](#)

Exclusive for [Buzzflash.com](#)

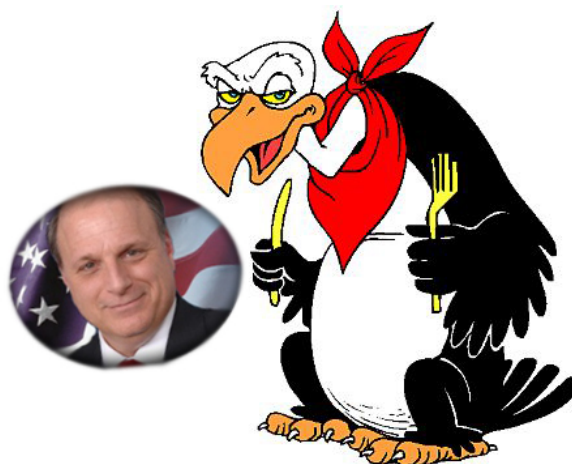
by Greg Palast

For the two weeks before tickle-and-grope charges busted open on him, and before his resignation from Congress, our BBC Television investigations team was hunting for Representative Eric Massa.

We wanted to know what he had hidden in his drawers. Not his knickers, which have captivated America's peep-show media, but Massa's file drawers where he keeps his dirtier secrets.

Frankly, I don't give a rat's ass about Massa's creepy little peccadilloes. But I care an awful lot about creeps that quietly backed him.

Massa plays himself as a two-fisted Progressive Democrat, telling the President to jam his fake health care bill where the Rahm don't shine, and he gave the Iraq war his middle finger. I mean, the guy was on Rachel Maddow.



That's the *television* Massa. But what about the *Congressman* Massa? And why was he ducking us?

I specifically wanted to ask the New York Congressman about Paul Singer: "Swift Boat" Singer, the guy who funded the vile attacks on Presidential Candidate John Kerry. "Swift Boat" Singer — reportedly the biggest funder of the Republican Party in New York. Our information was that the demi-billionaire Singer was backing Massa.

WMNF with Kate Bradshaw - Palast on BP's QT
Singer's nickname isn't really Swift Boat. It's "*The Vulture*."

Singer is a speculator, the predator-in-chief of the flock of financiers, collectively known as "vultures," who buy up the right to collect on old loans made to the world's poorest nations. Vultures use law suits, political muscle, and in some cases, bribery ([Show me more...](#))

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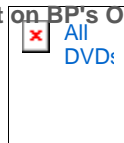
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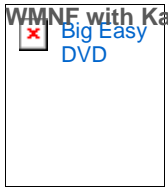
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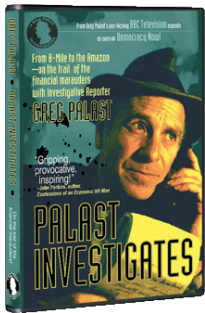


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