



The Liberty Sentinel



DELIVERING REAL NEWS
AND COMMENTARY TO
NORTH-CENTRAL FLORIDA.



“No man’s life, liberty, or property is
safe while the legislature is in session.”
~ Mark Twain

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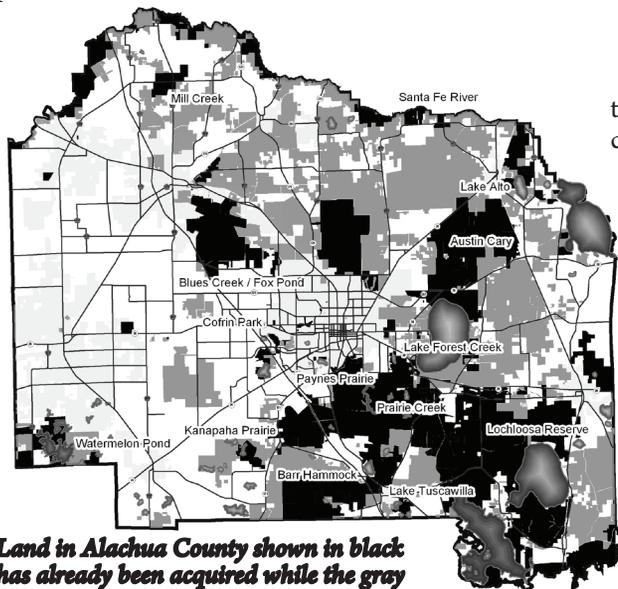
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Local land grab part of UN agenda

Massive land purchases in Marion and Alachua counties by all levels of government are part of a global plan to abolish property rights

ALEX NEWMAN & GARY R. SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writers

OCALA - A decades-old scheme to eliminate private ownership of land has been working quietly to snatch up thousands of acres in North-Central Florida and across the nation under the guise of environmental protection. The plan, formally known as “Agenda 21,” was originally outlined in a 1976 United Nations report called ‘Habitat I.’



Land in Alachua County shown in black has already been acquired while the gray areas have been ‘nominated.’ Programs like ‘Alachua County Forever’ and ‘Florida Forever’ were outlined in U.N. documents as part of ‘Agenda 21,’ a global plan to put land under ‘public control.’



United States and Florida law enshrine the protection of life, liberty, and property, but the U.N. condemns private property and goes on to state that “public control of land use” is “indispensable.” Private land ownership, according to Habitat I, contributes to “social injustice.”

The two ideologies are irreconcilable, but Agenda 21 marches on with the support of the U.S. government and even state and local governments.

“Agenda 21 is a comprehensive plan of action to be taken globally, nationally and locally by organizations of the United Nations System, Governments, and Major Groups in every area in which human impacts on the environment,” the U.N. Department of Economic and Social Affairs explains on its Web site.

In the final agreement after the U.N. Conference on Environment and Development, section H encouraged countries to “pursue these principles at the appropriate level of government,” recognizing
Continued on page 4

VOTE FRAUD

Problems plaguing the election and even recounts take center stage with countless reports from Iowa to Louisiana to Florida. Critics warn law-makers’ plan is a ‘false solution’ that will just federalize elections.

GARY R. SCHOR & PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

Did you vote in the January election? Was your vote counted correctly? It would be great to know the answers to both of those questions with absolute certainty, say elections watchdogs.

The process and manner in which votes and polls are tabulated is now calling into question the health of our republic and the democratic process that guides it.

Many looked to the introduction of electronic vote tabulation machines to eliminate the problems that plagued previous elections.

When asked which issues were the most important in the coming election, one Iowa voter commented, “The biggest issue I think is the voting machines and the progress that government has to make to get them up and going next year.” But,
Continued on page 14



Bev Harris founded Black Box Voting, an elections watchdog. Her HBO film ‘Hacking Democracy’ helped put vote fraud into the national spotlight by exposing rigged voting machines.

City approves costly ‘transgender’ law

Critics say the new ordinance is ambiguous and unnecessary. It could force many Gainesville businesses to construct new facilities.

LYLE KOSSIS
Sentinel Staff Writer

GAINESVILLE - The Gainesville City Commission just recently passed a new ordinance that, among other things, would force small business owners throughout Gainesville to construct new bathrooms, showers, and dressing rooms to accommodate transgender people.

The ordinance defines gender identity as “an inner sense of being a specific gender, or the expression of a gender identity by verbal statement, appearance,

or mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual with or without regard to the individual’s designated sex at birth.” This could, however, become very problematic.

The subjective criteria contained in the ordinance could be twisted or misconstrued to allow men to enter a women’s locker room or shower stall. Though this isn’t a threat that is likely to be encountered often, an amendment with such ambiguous wording is, as City Commissioner Ed Braddy put it, “ripe for abuse.”

“The Chamber is extremely concerned that the ordinance as written could result in businesses being required to make expensive alterations to existing facilities or construct new facilities in order to be in
Continued on page 8



Another concern among opponents is the possibility that the law could be misconstrued and allow men to enter a women’s changing facility or bathroom.

LOCAL GYM OWNER: “I would be very uncomfortable letting a transgender customer into our female restroom, and I think that would make our female customers very uncomfortable.”

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FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Our struggle against the mainstream media continues as we expose two key issues in this edition that threaten to undermine the America we love, yet which are entirely ignored by our local, nationally-owned media outlets.

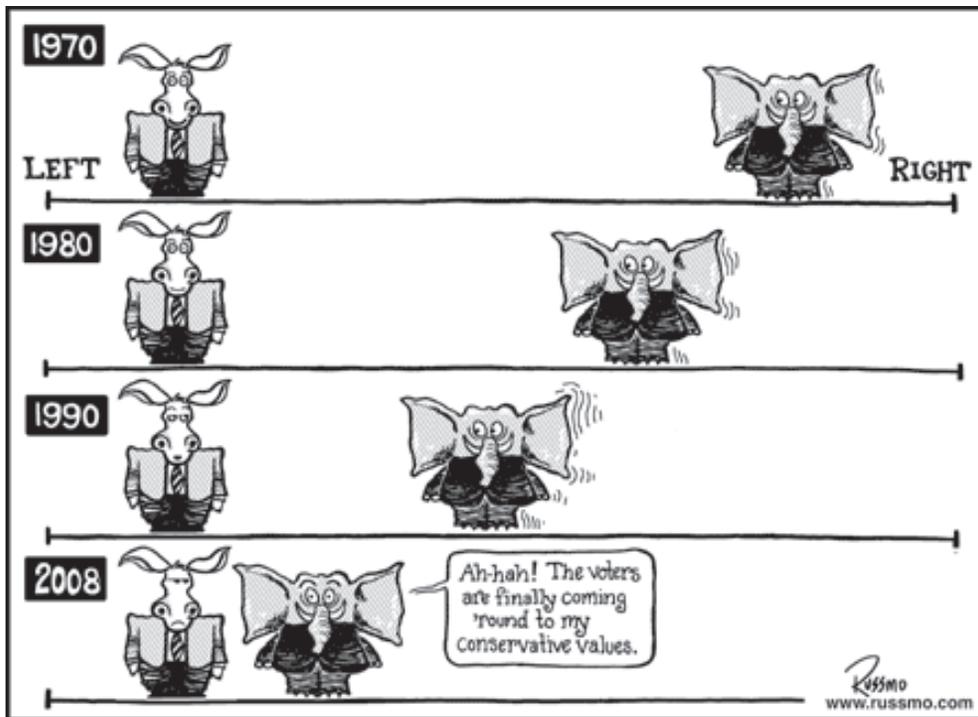
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About The Liberty Sentinel:

The Sentinel strives to provide information about current events from a freedom-oriented perspective to donors and readers in the North-Central Florida region.

We have a dedicated staff of volunteers and we operate on a budget provided by the generous contributions of our readers and business sponsors. With a combination of free-lance writers around the world, local reporters, and generous authors and publications who donate their material, The Liberty Sentinel contains a wide variety of information and opinions to encourage lively debate and discussion.

The Sentinel adheres to the highest principles of journalistic integrity and will always run corrections if something is reported inaccurately. We try to offer an assorted array of views so readers can hear about issues from several perspectives and form their own conclusions.

The goal of education and the principles enshrined in our Constitution guide our organization to do the job the press is supposed to do: guard liberty, expose corruption, and keep the public informed.

From the local level to Tallahassee and from D.C. to the international arena, the Liberty Sentinel covers

issues of importance to all citizens while steadfastly upholding the values of life, liberty and property.

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'Defending the American Dream' in Florida

Tax-relief advocates rallied against 'big government' and heard a panel of experts discuss the 'Taxpayer Protection Amendment' at conservative summit. Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee also stopped by and spoke out against the I.R.S.

ORLANDO — Over 400 people packed into the overflowing ballroom at the Florida hotel. The 'Defending the American Dream Summit,' hosted by the Americans for Prosperity Foundation, focused mostly on reducing the tax-burden being imposed by State and local governments, though the Federal government's spending habits did not escape notice.

Governor Mike Huckabee, House Speaker Marco Rubio, Congressman Tom Feeney, GOPAC Chairman Michael Steele, Minnesota Governor Tim Pawlenty, former Massachusetts Governor Paul Cellucci, and other legislators addressed the members, just three days before the critically important Florida Republican presidential primary.

In addition to the lineup of speakers, hundreds of participants received grassroots training from leading state and national experts in the field.

They also heard from a distinguished group of panelists on a Taxpayer Protection Amendment for Florida that, among other things, ties revenue and spending increases to inflation and population growth. It would also mandate that excess revenues be refunded or credited to tax-payers.

The amendment, introduced to the finance and taxation committee on Feb. 11, is drawing support from a broad coalition of individuals and organizations throughout Florida.

Many of the speakers endorsed their favorite Presidential candidates during speeches about the importance of reducing governmental influence in the economy. Marco Rubio, the speaker of the Florida House, told stories of Cuba.

"The teachers would tell the kids to pray to God for ice-cream, and obviously no ice-cream appeared," the popular Florida representative explained. "Then they were supposed to ask Castro, and they got their ice-cream."

Rubio also spoke about the high tax burden in Florida and the importance of the right to keep and bear arms. He received the AFP's 'Defending the American Dream' award.

Tom Feeney, a U.S. representative from Florida, also spoke at the event, despite his involvement in a vote fraud scandal after a former associate testified in the House that Feeney had requested a computer program that would flip the count on voting machines.

In discussing the economy with The Liberty Sentinel after the speech, Feeney said a "stimulus package" would be necessary to help avoid or dampen a recession. He said attacking the Federal Reserve wouldn't be productive because they are just "gamblers who sometimes make mistakes." But, The Federal Reserve has come under increasing scrutiny since CNBC's Jim 'Mad-Money' Cramer told viewers that the Fed should be investigated and that this secretive body was at least partially responsible for many of our most serious economic woes, including the current



Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio speaks at the Americans for Prosperity summit, where he won the Defending the American Dream award.

problems.

Huckabee stopped by and gave a brief speech about the 'Fair-Tax' proposal to create a national sales tax in place of the Federal income tax. A large chunk of the audience cheered at the prospect of abolishing the IRS.

Grover Norquist, the president of Americans for Tax Reform, also spoke. He called leftists "parasites" and said tax-payers should stop them from creating an even bigger government.

The Florida event was the first of 20 Summits in states across the country this year following the success of the national Defending the American Dream Summit, which attracted over 1,600 members from 35 states around the nation to D.C. in October 2007.



Hundreds of conservative activists listen to a panel discuss the Taxpayer Protection Amendment which could offer Floridians a chance for true tax reform.

LOCAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11, MON.

Planning the Future of Freedom in Florida

7:00pm, Gainesville, Hops Grill & Brewery (3770 SW Archer Rd.) www.RonPaulGainesville.com

FEBRUARY 12, TUES.

Federated Republican Women of Ocala/Marion

11:30am, Elks Lodge (702 NE 25th Ave, Ocala), \$9 fee includes lunch.

FEBRUARY 15, FRI.

Libertarian Party of Alachua County

7:00pm, Gainesville, Kazbor's Grille (4860 NW 39th Ave.) www.LPALachua.org (352) 327-3443

FEBRUARY 15-16, FRI.-SAT.

Olustee Battle Civil War Reenactment

Downtown Lake City festival & reenactment at Olustee Battlefield State Park, www.OlusteeFestival.com (386) 755-1097 for Festival & Craft Show, (386) 758-0400 for Battlefield.

FEBRUARY 18, MON.

Republican Executive Committee, Marion County

7:30pm, Ocala, Harvey Klein Republican Auditorium (4000 East Silver Springs Blvd) www.RPMCF.org (352) 236-8808

FEBRUARY 25, MON.

John Birch Society — 7:00pm, Gainesville, Lloyd Bailey's Scuba & Watersports (3405-B NW 97th Blvd) www.LloydBaileysScuba.com (352) 332-0738

FEBRUARY 28, THURS.

Republican Executive Committee, Alachua County

7:00pm, Gainesville, Fraternal Order of Police Lodge (3301 N. Main Ter.) www.AlachuaRepublicans.com

MARCH 1, SAT.

Veg-4-Life: Vegan Potluck Dinner

6:30pm, Gainesville, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (4225 NW 34th St.) www.Veg4LifeGainesville.com

MARCH 3, MON.

Taxpayers Action Group of Marion County

6:00pm, Ocala Public Library. All Marion taxpayers invited, but space is limited. Call Roy at 352-840-0009 to reserve a seat. www.TAGMarionCounty.org

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LAND GRAB: The global agenda for your property

Continued from front page

that in countries like the U.S., the power is supposed to be divided among different levels of government.

So, the 'Commission on Sustainable Development' was created in 1992 to "ensure effective follow-up" of the U.N. "conservation" treaties and "to monitor and report on implementation of the agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels."

According to the Department of Interior, the federal government alone owns almost 30 percent of the land in the U.S.

"The principles embodied in Agenda 21 present a framework for environmental action that should be pursued at all levels of society--in our schools, local communities, governments, and in our lifestyles," said Rep. Nancy Pelosi before urging fellow representatives to co-sponsor the implementation of Agenda 21 in America.

The law she was pushing, HR-353, called for "national and international actions to integrate environment and devel-

opment, negotiated and adopted by the United States and 177 other countries" and the U.S. "participating in a high-level U.N. Sustainable Development Commission."

It states in section B: "The United States Government should encourage and facilitate, at all levels of community and sectors of society, appropriate means for adopting individual Agenda 21 plans of action, including the establishment of local, county, State, business, and other boards and commissions for achieving sustainable development. Each member of the Congress should help initiate this process within their States or districts."

The law passed in 1992.

Florida's government has already acquired almost 6 million acres "that are managed for natural resource protection," according to James A. Farr, the environmental supervisor at the Florida Division of State Lands. When combined with local and federal government holdings, almost 30 percent of Florida is strictly "conservation land."

In an article titled 'Florida's Landmark Programs for Conservation and Recreation Land Acquisition,' Farr also discusses the establishment of "land acquisition programs" by local governments.

"We were often criticized, perhaps fairly, for purchasing more land than we were able to manage," wrote Farr, his department's chief, Greg Brock, and Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee in the report they collaborated on.

Critics point to government mismanagement of land as one of the many reasons why it is better left in the hands of private owners with a vested interest in the property. One example commonly cited in Florida is the federal government's waste of billions of dollars in an attempt to "drain" the everglades, then having

to spend billions more to attempt restoration.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection boasts on its Web site of a new program to transfer control of land from the people to the government using the people's tax mon-



Actual cover of United Nations Agenda 21 report from the 'Earth Summit.'

ey: the 'Florida Forever Program.'

It will replace the "highly successful," three-billion dollar "Preservation 2000 Program" which acquired almost two million acres over its 10 years.

"This new program is more than just an environmental land acquisition mechanism," it says before assuring readers that eminent domain will not be used in "most circumstances."

This is just one of Florida's many programs or departments busily buying up land across the state.

In Alachua County, where the City of Gainesville flies a U.N. flag at city hall to celebrate U.N. day every year, and where the Sheriff is the chair of one of the local U.N. ceremonies, a land buying program similar to Florida Forever was approved in 2000.

It will manage over 5,000 acres of land and was involved in acquiring over 10,000. The 'Alachua County Forever' used a property-tax hike to raise \$29 million which will fund the purchases, management and "improvement" of "environmentally significant lands."

In Marion County, more and more land is also coming off the tax rolls and entering the realm of what propagandists call "public-private partnerships," a union between big government and corporate interests that Mussolini appropriately

named "corporatism."

One of the immediate problems is that when this land is taken off the tax rolls, the burden is shifted by default to other home and business owners.

Just last year the state government took ownership of more than 1,700 acres in Marion County, the second and final phase of a purchase near Silver Spring of almost 5,000 acres.

The move is part of a partnership between Marion County and The Nature Conservancy, an environmentalist group funded by wealthy foundations and government grants that buys up land for "conservation" or to sell to a government, often times for a lot more than it paid. It is supposedly to "protect the water quality" of Silver Springs - this in addition to land "owned" by the Greenways projects, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, national forests, state parks, and associated preserves.

Private property is also under attack with outrageous fees, regulations, and fines - like those proposed in Marion County last year under the guise of "springs protection," say property rights activists.

The Fourth Amendment to The Bill of Rights protects Americans against unreasonable searches and seizures, yet lobbyists are hard at work to give the government the power to walk on to private property and demand that residents prove that they are in compliance with laws that many legal experts say are unconstitutional and ridiculous to begin with.

Though most don't realize it, very few states even allow property to be owned in allodial title anymore. Texas and Nevada are among the hold-outs, and the few that do possess an allodial title

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Report says Florida particularly easy target

Continued from opposite page

there are among the last true land owners in the world.

In Florida, tenants may own an interest or estate in land, subject to property taxes, zoning bureaucracies, and more. If an owner of what Florida statutes call "real property" or "real estate" can't afford the taxes, the land can be sold to pay them.

Two or more individuals who "own" their property in Florida are known as "tenants in common."

Throughout most of history, land available for true ownership by the common man has been rare, with property rights being reserved mostly for kings and nobles who could then charge the people rent.

America was founded on the principle that individuals have a right to own property, the fruits of their labor. But, at few times since Americans secured the right has it been more endangered than it is today, property rights activists say.

Most don't openly advocate the destruction of private property rights or a return to the systems of the past that kept the bulk of the human population as peniless slaves and serfs. That doesn't mean it isn't being discussed behind closed doors.

"Feudalism is coming back in a different guise," said John McCloughry, a property rights advocate and retired State Senator. "A growing body of legal theorists, allied with activist organizations and congenial political leaders, has been working very hard to replace the long-cherished concept of freehold property and land with the old feudal concept of social property. The essence of that theory is the contention that property and land cannot be owned by anyone."

The land we live upon and the homes

The U.N. 'Commission on Sustainable Development' was created to "ensure effective follow-up" of "conservation" treaties and "to monitor and report on implementation of the agreements at the local, national, regional and international levels."

we reside in are much more than lines on a map, said a Marion County property rights activist concerned about Agenda 21.

"Property is the foundation of a free society, and the sacred heritage of any people who would dare lay claim to the right of liberty," he said.

Even local governments are participating in these violations of property rights, said the activist who asked not to be named, so "let this be your siren warning."

"Environmentalism, with all of its 'newspeak' code words, is just the means by which our new feudal lords are selling us on the idea that private property is detrimental to society," he explained.

The land use management concepts, according to the activist, come from a "pseudo-science" known as "conservation

biology."

"They use masterful public relations techniques," he explained before going on to cite some examples.

"The Wildlands Project" has a nice



sound, but it calls for the elimination of human presence on over 50% of the American landscape and heavily controlled activity on most of the rest. "Smart Growth" calls for dense human settlements subject to increasing controls on how we live and increasing restriction on our mobility.

The most damning evidence against this movement to people who support the right to own property comes right from the pages of its own founding documents. The "Habitat I" report that provided the blueprint for Agenda 21 openly states: "Private land ownership is also a principle instrument of accumulation and concentration of wealth and therefore contributes to social injustice. Public control of land use is therefore indispensable."

Property owners can only wonder, indispensable for whom?

"Since public property is a collectivist fiction, since the public as a whole can neither use nor dispose of its property, that

property will always be taken over by some political elite, by a small clique which will then rule the public – a public of literal, dispossessed proletarians," wrote Ayn Rand, a famous author renowned for her fierce

defense of capitalism and property rights.

In California, another state where these plans are relatively advanced, there are already laws on the books which call for the "decommissioning" of roads, homes, and businesses. This would mean the literal abolition of the communities that exist there. Roads, homes, schools, businesses, and churches will be "decommissioned," all in the name of the environment.

And what of the idea that we must sacrifice private property rights for the benefit of the environment? That argument doesn't stand up to even the most casual analysis, say defenders of property rights. China and Russia, two countries that have rejected the notion of private property for generations, are environmental disasters. Seventy percent of China's rivers are contaminated. In Dzerzhinsk, Russia, a former

Cold War-era center for making chemical weapons, the average life expectancy is 42 for men and 47 for women.

With no private entity or stakeholder to protect and value the land and natural resources, the state has had the freedom to do as "it" saw fit. Private property is not only desirable for economic reasons, say virtually all economists, it is the only means by which to ensure that the environment is protected. Polluted land is of no value to its owner, and a polluter is liable for polluting his neighbors land.

"It is important that every American citizen recognize the goal of this plan for what it is; a return to the ideas that ruled humanity throughout the dark ages and the system where men and women toiled on their land only at the permission of the aristocratic ruling elite," said the knowledgeable activist and property owner from Marion County.

The founders understood the concept of inalienable individual rights, rights that necessitate the ability to own property, rights that are derived from our Creator and are above the reach of government. They wrote the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution to secure and protect those rights.

The Statue of Liberty, Independence Hall and Thomas Jefferson's home, Mon-

ticello, are all proud reminders of America's heritage of freedom. Now, they're also all considered official U.N. 'World Heritage Sites.'

"Neither Congress, nor any state legislature, has ever voted to approve any of the 47 U.N. Biosphere Reserves in the United States. The management policy for millions of acres covered by these reserves is crafted by international committees of bureaucrats, none of whom is elected," said Henry Lamb, the executive vice president of the Environmental Conservation Organization and the chairman of Sovereignty International. "To comply with 'international obligations,' the United States conforms its management policy and in some cases its law to accommodate the wishes of bureaucrats that are completely unknown to the people who are governed by the policies."

The U.N.'s "declaration of human rights" states in article 29 that: "These rights and freedoms may in no case be exercised contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations."

Also, officials at the U.N.'s Commission on Global Governance "strongly endorse community initiatives to encourage the disarming of civilians," according to their report, 'Our Global Neighborhood.' The Liberty Sentinel did an extensive report on the matter in Issue II of Volume I, including an interview with the C.E.O. of the National Rifle Association, Wayne LaPierre, and a headline story about the U.N. flag flying at city hall. Both are available online.

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Freaking doomed by doubling power

Inflation is out of control and that means the economy is in big trouble, 'The Mogambo' says in this humorous piece about serious issues. He also explains why the 'stimulus package' will not be effective.

THE MOGAMBO GURU
www.dailyreckoning.com

Dave Gonigam at The Desdooru Saloon reports that it looks like the "economic stimulus plan" being formulated and enacted by the government will, "result in tax rebates of \$300 per person, \$600 per couple, just like when the same scheme was used in 2001."

The funny part is that Gonigam notes that, "\$300 per person did nothing to goose the economy in 2001, and it'll do even less now." Immediately, they were hooted down by non-believers who said, "Says who? You? If you are being quoted by that Lowlife Mogambo Idiot (LMI), then you must be an idiot, too!"

But good old Dave was cool, and just said, with the hint of a mocking smile in his voice, "Using the Minneapolis Fed's handy-dandy inflation calculator, just equaling that figure adjusted for inflation would take \$350." Hahaha! Thanks to the incompetence of government, the dollar has been devalued by 17% since 2001? Hahaha! We're freaking doomed!

"And," he goes on, "God only knows what it would be if the inflation numbers weren't doctored; the fearless John Williams says if the CPI were calculated the way it was back in Jimmy Carter's day, it would be close to 12%." Yikes! Inflation at 12%!

Hoping that they were wrong, because this rate of inflation would be horrendous, I went to Mr. William's ShadowStats.com

to find, sure enough, that inflation has taken a sudden spike to 12%, with no sign of stopping! Yikes!

Suddenly, I was surprised that people were clapping me on the back and congratulating me on actually looking something up for myself, instead of me always stealing the ideas and work of other people and other employees.

And it must have surprised Bill Bonner, too, who also had a wry take on the stimulus package, which, "is only \$145 billion. U.S. stocks lost more than twice that much in the first few seconds of trading (Monday)." Hahaha! Good point!

And when you plug this kind of loss into the Federal Reserve's precious little models containing the "wealth effect", then things get real gloomy, and pretty soon you are really getting scared, and you know it is only a matter of time before you pee in your pants out of sheer terror. I'll bet everyone at the Federal Reserve is wearing a disposable adult diaper under their clothes right now.

Mr. Bonner says, "And the whole idea of providing more cash and credit is the wrong strategy anyway. These efforts at Keynesian stimulus were designed to overcome a different kind of enemy... a case where consumer demand was low... or where consumers saved too much money. Keynes worried that people had

a 'propensity to save,' which needed to be corrected by reducing the returns to savers. But the real rate on savings now is less than zero. And the savings rate is down to minus 0.5% of disposable income."

"No," he says, "the problem is not that consumers spend too little, but that they spend too much they don't have. Nor is the problem that consumers save too much, but that they don't save enough."

True enough! And then I notice that all of this leads to the big freaking problem of falling tax revenues. As the American

rage (MSFOO) because these government weenies are going to be borrowing lots and lots and lots of money, creating money and debt like crazy during the long, ugly coming economic downturn, which means higher taxes at the exact wrong time of the cycle or less government spending at the exact wrong time of the cycle, too.

In fact, I was actually taking in a deep breath to really start the MSFOO in style, when I was saved from certain embarrassment by Mr. Sinclair, who says that the

problem is a lot worse than I think, because, "Lower Federal tax revenues in the face of increased Federal spending causes geometric, not arithmetic, rises in the US Federal Budget deficit. This is also true for

cities & States as it is for the Federal government."

And if you want to see what happens in a geometric rise, take a blank piece of paper and write down a 1, double it to get 2, double that to get 4, double that to get 8, double that to get 16, and keep doubling and doubling until the numbers reach a point where you suddenly leap to your feet and say, "Holy crap, Batman! That Stupid Mogambo Moron (SMM) is right; we're freaking doomed!"

Richard Daughy is general partner and COO for Smith Consultant Group, serving the financial and medical communities, and the editor of The Mogambo Guru economic newsletter - an avocational exercise to heap disrespect on those who desperately deserve it.

Hoping that they were wrong, because this rate of inflation would be horrendous, I went to Mr. William's ShadowStats.com to find, sure enough, that inflation has taken a sudden spike to 12%, with no sign of stopping! Yikes!

economy morphed into one that relies on government spending for over half of all economic activity, any drop in revenues is bad news at the federal level, but catastrophic news if you are a citizen in one of the states that spent every extra dime of revenue from the boom to create permanent spending programs. And most did! Hahaha!

Jim Sinclair at jsmine.com agrees with me, even though everyone is too polite to tell him so, and says that, "lower economic activity equals lower profits", which is bad enough for investors, but that, "Lower profits leads to lower Federal Tax revenues", which is even worse for the enormous, sprawling, rapacious system of government with which we have saddled ourselves, which is enough to send me into a Mogambo Screaming Fit Of Out-

What really backs the US Dollar?

A short and simple editorial about how America's money works and why it's the root of current economic problems.

HARRY P.
Sentinel Contributing Writer

It is a common assumption by those who try to explain the problems of our current monetary system and the Federal Reserve Board that our money is created out of "thin air" and is "backed by nothing".

I believe that these terms are too vague and cause a lot of confusion about the argument that the US Dollar is not sound money. Fiat Money is simply a paper currency made legal tender by law and not backed by gold or silver. What's so bad about that?

I do not believe that being "backed by nothing" is an accurate assessment of fiat money. If the Dollar was truly backed by nothing, I doubt it would have continued to be accepted as the "world currency" even after it was divorced from any redemption in gold or silver. It continued to be

accepted as such because the fiat dollar is actually backed by something even greater than gold; it is backed by the labor, wealth and property of the American people!

What does this mean? This may be great for the FRB bankers and their world banking counterparts. It may be great for governments receiving our dollars as "aid." But it has been and will continue to be at the expense of the property and freedom of every American.

The idea that the Dollar is created out of "thin air" is, however, partially true. The private FRB and our government central planners can indeed create new money anytime they want. But again, since the Dollar is actually a claim against the assets of the American people, "thin air" is not a good description.

Every new dollar creates new debt with our very livelihood as collateral.

I have changed my talking points about 'the establishment,' the arguments are simple.

Ever since gold was removed as the backing of our currency, your personal labor and property have taken gold's place as collateral for our national debt.

It's not a coincidence that the IRS was created in the same time as the FRB. It is their collection agency.

Without a sound monetary system, we become the chattel for our national debt (\$9 trillion and counting). This represents about \$30,000 for every man, woman and child in America.

That's \$120,000 worth of debt placed directly on the shoulders of a family of four. We have become property guaranteeing payment to the world's bankers and nations accepting our currency.

When a person, business or a country's debt goes beyond its ability to pay, it will sooner or later face bankruptcy. We are already seeing a huge rise in home foreclosures across the country caused by run-away inflation by new dollar creation.

The bankers are collecting on the debt



Local vampire slayer battling new foe in high-profile tax case

Wesley Snipes avoids felony conviction.

GARY R. SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writer

OCALA — Wesley Snipes has played many colorful parts in his acting career, but he is perhaps best known for his role of Blade the Vampire Slayer — a dark hero who battles the bloodsucking undead, even though he is himself half vampire. Lately, Mr. Snipes has been battling demons of another variety; more frightening than anything that could be cooked up in Hollywood or the pages of a comic book — the IRS!

Ask any American what they fear most in life, and an IRS audit will most likely top the list. Studies show, as Presidential candidate Mike Huckabee likes to emphasize, that people are more scared of an audit than they are of a mugging. Is it any wonder?

“The income tax code and its associated regulations contain almost 5.6 million words — seven times as many words as the Bible. Taxpayers now spend about 5.4 billion hours a year trying to comply with 2,500 pages of tax law,” Former U.S. Representative Rob Portman, now a chief trade negotiator and advisor to the president, said of the tax code.

As with any movie of the horror genre,

the really terrifying part of filing taxes is saved for the end, when the taxpayer is forced to sign (blood optional) that the information included in the return is correct. Given the size and complexity of the tax code, how can one ever know for sure if a return is accurate? There is nothing more frightening than the unknown.

But Mr. Snipes hasn't been a perfect hero in this role. Many eyebrows were raised when his attorneys originally motioned for a change of venue, saying Marion County was a hotbed of racist activities.

“There may be some of that around here,” said one local resident, “but apparently they don't know how much prejudice we have against the IRS.”

Indeed, Mr. Snipes was acquitted of the most serious charges against him, but was found guilty on three misdemeanor counts of failure to file a tax return, each of which carries a maximum sentence of up to one year in prison.

He will also be liable for all back taxes, interests, and penalties. His co-defendants were not so lucky. Eddie Ray Kahn and Douglas P. Rosile, the gentlemen who originally instructed Mr. Snipes on tax protestor theory, were both found guilty of conspiracy to defraud the IRS and presenting a fraudulent claim for payment to the IRS. Kahn never appeared in court, saying it had no jurisdiction over him, but

since his arguments against the IRS and the income tax are so long and complex, they will receive the coverage they deserve in a future Sentinel story.

Rosile and Kahn could both face a five-year prison term for each charge when sentencing comes around, but they still have time for an appeal.

That may seem like a pretty stiff sentence for violating a tax that was originally sold to the American people as “voluntary,” a tax that even federal judges have said was never properly ratified by the States. Commenting on the voluntary nature of the income tax, The Future Freedom Foundation said, “For years, the IRS has proclaimed that the great virtue of America's tax system is that it's voluntary. How does the IRS define “voluntary”? It says that the tax is voluntary because everyone computes his own income tax liability and sends the amount owed to the government.

In other words, if the government calculated the tax liability for the citizenry, the tax would be involuntary. But since

the people themselves are permitted to compute the liability, the tax is voluntary.”

Mr. Snipes' defense team seemed more interested in keeping their client out of jail than in breaking any new ground with the

IRS. Certainly no one can fault them for that, especially considering that he has children and a family to care for. But by ceding all righteous indignation to the oppressive tax system, Mr. Snipes and his counsel did nothing to contest the law itself or further the cause of valiant tax protester everywhere. Many legitimate questions about the nature, legality and constitutionality of the income tax still abound, but the IRS

refuses to answer questions or petitions.

U.S. Attorney Robert E. O'Neill stated, “Filing tax returns is not optional. It is a legal requirement. Mr. Snipes now faces up to three years in federal prison for his willful failure to comply with the law.” Of that, Mr. Snipes should be frightened. So too should we all.



Defendant Wesley Snipes as Blade in the blockbuster hit of the same name.

WORLD'S SMALLEST POLITICAL QUIZ

See where you stand on the new political spectrum!

How do you stand on **PERSONAL** issues? 20 10 0

- ➔ Government should not censor speech, press, media, or Internet. A M D
- ➔ Military service should be voluntary. There should be no draft. A M D
- ➔ There should be no laws regarding sex between consenting adults. A M D
- ➔ Repeal laws prohibiting adult possession and use of drugs. A M D
- ➔ There should be no National ID card. A M D

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: _____

How do you stand on **ECONOMIC** issues? 20 10 0

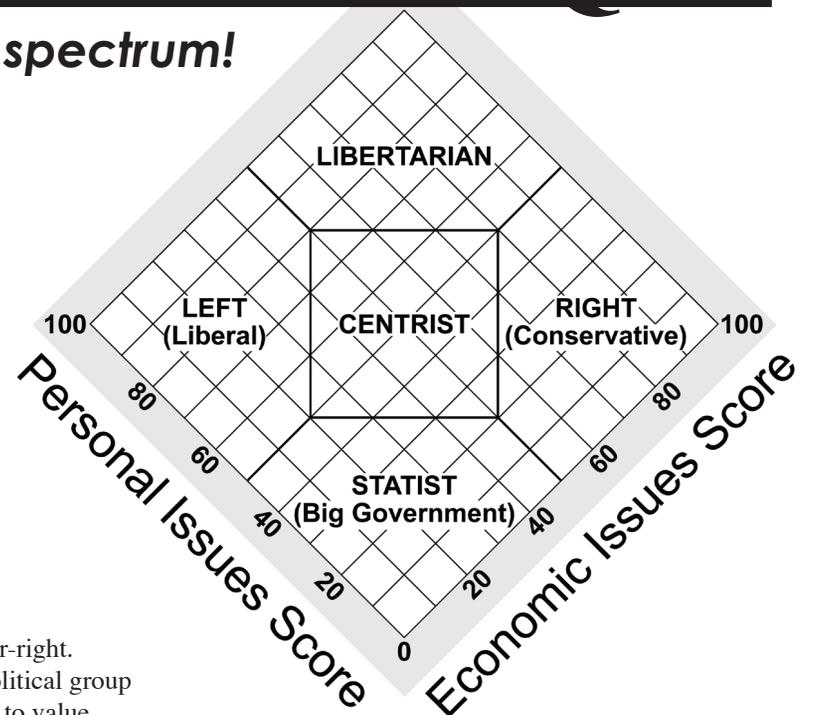
- ➔ End “corporate welfare.” No government handouts to business. A M D
- ➔ End government barriers to international free trade. A M D
- ➔ Let people control their own retirement: privatize Social Security. A M D
- ➔ Replace government welfare with private charity. A M D
- ➔ Cut taxes and government spending by 50% or more. A M D

SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D: _____

Mark your **PERSONAL** score on the lower-left scale; your **ECONOMIC** score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until they meet at your political position. The chart shows the political group that agrees with you the most. Liberals tend to value personal freedom. Conservatives tend to value economic freedom. Libertarians value both.

ARE YOU A LIBERTARIAN?

Libertarians believe in, and pursue, personal freedom while maintaining personal responsibility. Libertarians strongly oppose any government interfering in their personal, family and business decisions. Essentially, we believe all Americans should be free to live their lives and pursue their interests as they see fit as long as they do no harm to another.



SUGGESTED READING: *The Law* by Frederic Bastiat, *Free to Choose* by Milton Friedman, *Libertarianism: A Primer* by David Boaz, *Libertarianism in One Lesson* by David Bergland.

SUGGESTED WEBSITES: [The Cato Institute](http://TheCatoInstitute.org) - cato.org, [Reason Magazine](http://ReasonMagazine.org) - reason.com, DownsizeDC.org, FreeStateProject.org, [The Libertarian Party](http://TheLibertarianParty.org) - lp.org, [Republican Liberty Caucus](http://RepublicanLibertyCaucus.org) - rlc.org, [Libertarian Party of Florida](http://LibertarianPartyofFlorida.org), lpf.org

Business owners worried about new city ordinance

Continued from front page

compliance with the new law," said a statement from the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce.

Others who are concerned about the amendment's public accommodations section include Josh Alterman, owner of Alter Ego Fitness in Gainesville. Alterman is concerned that the new ordinance would force him to either spend a lot of money constructing new facilities for transgender people, or force him to allow a transgender customer into a female restroom.

"I would be very uncomfortable letting a transgender customer into our female restroom, and I think that would make our female customers very uncomfortable," Alterman said.

More small business owners are still concerned because even if they have unisex facilities already set up, or accommodations that could possibly be used, those may end up being adjudged "unequal" by the new ordinance's standards, and would then be forced to begin construction on other facilities, which would deter customers from frequenting those stores.

Commissioner Braddy sums up his distaste with the ordinance by saying that "It makes a claim on other people's property." Others seem to be worried that a man dressed as a woman, who claims to feel and act as a woman, could now be legally allowed to enter a woman's restroom or changing area.

Proponents say this ordinance is an-

other attempt at helping curb the discrimination of a particular minority in a community. While the intentions for such an ordinance could be seen as good, supporters acknowledge that they have already inflamed some anti-transgender senti-

"It makes a claim on other people's property," said Gainesville City Commissioner Ed Braddy.

ment throughout the community, and will probably continue to do so. By bringing this minority into the public limelight, they are now all the more vulnerable to attacks and criticisms by the community.

Nora Spencer, director of the Uni-

versity of Florida Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Affairs, said that "Trans people are using bathrooms now and have been forever. People probably didn't even realize they were in there." This is all the

more reason to question why the city feels it needs to implement city-wide rules that will force small business owners to modify their establishments when things seem to have been working fine.

This ordinance is an example of legislation that seeks to classify people in groups, or categories, and assign them rights, privileges, or special status based upon collective characteristics. True rights belong only to the individual and are not conditional.

Bush proposes \$134.6 billion in new spending

ALEXANDRIA, Vir. — A large request for additional military funding pushed the total amount of new spending proposed in Bush's State of the Union address to over \$134 billion.

This represents the biggest single-year amount of his Presidency, according to a line-by-line analysis conducted by the National Taxpayers Union Foundation (NTUF).

The study, NTUF's ninth examination of these Presidential speeches, also found that Bush is advocating the third-highest

This makes his 2008 spending agenda the largest in his Presidency.

non-military spending hike of his two terms.

"After several years of relatively modest recommendations in his State of the Union address, President Bush's speech last night seemed to suggest his 'legacy year' could involve significantly bigger outlays," said the organization's Senior Policy Analyst Demian Brady. Among the findings:

President Bush outlined items whose enactment would increase federal spending by a net of \$134.6 billion per year — about 10 times higher than what he called for in 2004, 2005, or 2007. This makes his

2008 spending agenda the largest in his Presidency. Bush's lowest total, in 2006, was a scant \$91 million. The highest overall level NTUF ever reported for this nine-year project was in Bill Clinton's 1999 speech (\$305 billion).

Of the 23 items with a possibly quantifiable budget impact that were identified in Bush's speech, 12 would increase federal spending while three would reduce outlays. The remaining eight items, which mentioned policy initiatives with a currently unpredictable cost, could have sizeable budget impacts (such as increased use of renewable energy and nuclear power).

The single largest spending hike Bush offered last night was in connection with "fully funding our troops" — at \$109.4 billion. Bush's HIV/AIDS initiative ranked a distant second in cost (\$6 billion).

Even though military policy comprises 80 percent of the cost behind the agenda Bush described, his non-defense/non-homeland security proposals would still add up to nearly \$25 billion — the third-highest in Bush's seven State of the Union



President George W. Bush proposing the huge spending boost during this year's State of the Union address in Congress. Behind him are Vice President Cheney and Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Addresses and the highest in his past five speeches.

Brady noted that Bush's biggest spending-cut item — \$18 billion from reductions or eliminations in 151 programs — will be a part of the budget he will submit to Congress.

Historically, these recommendations have met with stiff resistance from lawmakers. In addition, Brady spotted several other proposals that have appeared in past Bush speeches yet have not been adopted, including medical liability reform and increased incentives to allow individuals to purchase health coverage outside their jobs.

"Taxpayers hoping to see significant reductions in outlays over the next 12 months may have to look beyond the cost-specific items in the President's speech," Brady concluded. "Instead, they may have to focus on his pledge to nullify many earmarks and issue vetoes on Fiscal Year 2009 bills that exceed his request — both ambitious goals in a town where special interests often prevail in setting spending levels."



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— Declaration of Independence, 1776

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— Fred D. Marshall

PRESERVING INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS & NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE

"These united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States ... We hold these Truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness."

— Declaration of Independence, 1776

The Declaration of Independence established the independence of both the original 13 American colonies and these united States of America that they together formed a decade later.

The Declaration proclaimed that our personal rights come from God, not from government.

The John Birch Society endorses the timeless principles of the Declaration of Independence. The Society also labors to warn against and expose the forces that seek to abolish U.S. independence, build a world government, or otherwise undermine our personal liberties and national independence.

"THANK GOODNESS for those, such as members of the John Birch Society, who are unashamed to advocate love of country, defense of our nation, and an abiding commitment to our Constitution."

— Former Congressman Helen Chenoweth-Hage of Idaho

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Local students 'March for Life' in DC

Though media coverage of the eventful day was scant, turnout was impressive.

ALEX NEWMAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

About 30 students from the University of Florida's Pro-Life Alliance made the trip to the capital on the 35th anniversary of the controversial Supreme Court decision that gave America some of the least restrictive abortion laws in the world, Roe vs. Wade. Activists that couldn't make the trip to D.C. walked silently around Federal court houses praying.

Though little media coverage is given to the March for Life, hundreds of thousands of activists still march through the frigid temperatures to the Supreme Court building every year.

Last year the crowd was estimated at around 225,000 people according to the president of the Pro-Life Alliance, Katherine Schinn.

This year there were even more, she said, and many of them were young. There are no official estimates but other reports have estimated the crowd in the hundreds of thousands as well.

"Even the most pro-choice of lawyers admit that Roe vs. Wade was a terrible legal decision," said Katherine Schinn, President of the Pro-Life Alliance.

"Every person is entitled to the right to live," Schinn said. "Nobody has the right to take that away."

The student group, which traveled to D.C. from Gainesville in a caravan of vans and trucks, carried signs with messages like "I vote pro-life" and "Defend Life."

"It was a really good experience," said the group's chairman of activism, Mark LaBelle. "Raising awareness about respect for life is very important and many of our new members had a chance to step it up in terms of leadership."

Nellie Gray, the president of the actual March for Life, gave a speech and lamented what she called genocide.

"We have a genocide because, after 35 years, it's estimated that 48 million pre-born children have been killed," she said. "So we're coming together at the nation's capital once more to petition Congress to enact legislation to stop the genocide here."

President Bush told organizers before the march that he was proud to stand with them. But, despite helping stop U.S. tax-payer money from being spent on abortions overseas and a veto on federal funds for stem cell research, which are unconstitutional anyway, critics question Bush's pro-life record. Many point to his approval of the over-the-counter "abortion

pills" in 2006 which experts say is one reason the number of surgical abortions dipped in 2007.

Critics also point to Planned Parenthood, America's largest abortion provider, which still receives millions of tax dollars. In addition to the hundreds of thousands of abortions per year, the money is also used to teach children about "safe-sex" (estimates say about 60%



Members of the University of Florida chapter of the Pro-Life Alliance weather the cold in D.C. holding signs during the annual March for Life.

of women getting abortions were using birth control) and to give them "free" condoms.

Opponents of these abortion programs say the government is not authorized by the Constitution to fund such projects, while others oppose it simply because they're pro-life.

The Pro-Life Alliance at U.F. helped make the case last year holding up posters as big as chalk boards exposing the racist founder of Planned Parenthood, a eugenics supporter named Margaret Sanger. The signs showed a picture of her speaking to the Ku Klux Klan and several quotes from her books which they had rented from the library and laid out on a desk next to plastic fetuses and some leaflets.

"Colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated." read a quote in huge letters attributed to Sanger. "The most merciful thing a large family can do for one of its infant members is to kill it," read another, also attributed to her.

The organization Sanger founded uses tax dollars for influencing government as well, including its recent battle to overturn a law against partial-birth abortion. The costly case went all the way to the Supreme Court, where the ban was upheld.

Bush finished by discussing pro-life efforts in Washington D.C., citing the ban on "the cruel practice of partial-birth abortions" as a sign of progress.

But many activists and Constitutional scholars say these actions don't even scratch the surface of the problem; they question the validity and legality of the 1973 case itself.

"Even the most pro-choice of lawyers admit that Roe vs. Wade was a terrible legal decision," said Schinn, the president of the Pro-Life Alliance. "This stuff about privacy

giving somebody the right to abort their child is ridiculous."

Norma McCorvey, formerly known as 'Jane Roe' from the infamous court case, also gave a speech at the march. After the decision that struck down state abortion laws, McCorvey ended up giving birth to the child and becoming a pro-life activist. She said she was used as a pawn by her lawyers 35 years ago and now runs a pro-life non-profit organization called Crossing over Ministry.

"As the signor of the affidavit that legalized abortion 35 years ago I appreciate Ron Paul's action to restore protection for the unborn," she said after endorsing the Republican doctor's presidential campaign.

She also discussed legislation Paul introduced in Congress that would overturn Roe vs. Wade, recognize that life begins at conception and restore the states' right to regulate abortions.

The Washington Post reported online that "several small clusters of counter-demonstrators" were in D.C., but that



Hundreds of thousands of pro-life activists marched through the capital to the Supreme Court building on the 35th anniversary of Roe vs. Wade.

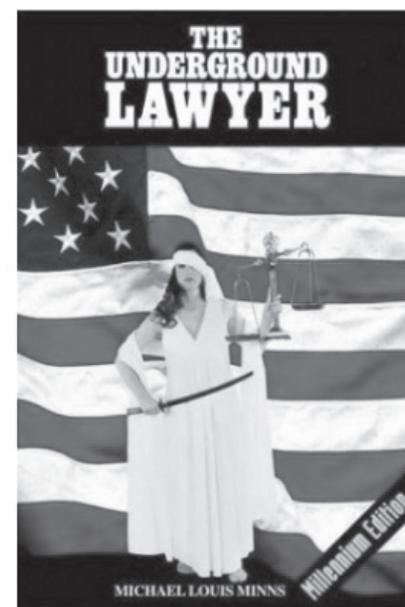
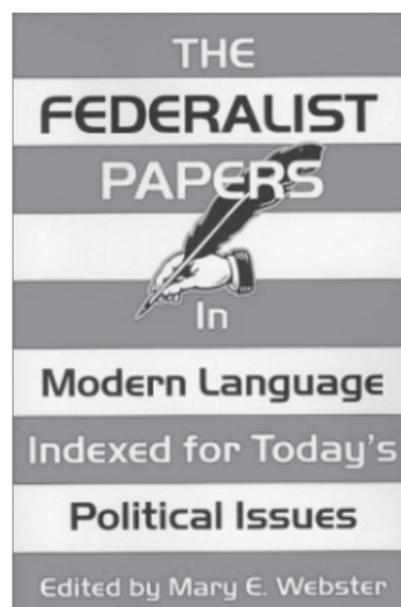
there weren't many confrontations. No arrests were reported.

Pro-life activists who gathered at Federal courts in Florida and around the country weren't always as lucky.

"They chanted and screamed at the top of their voices while we walked around the block and prayed," said Jackie Sikes, the coordinator of pro-life activities at her church who was outside a Federal courthouse in Florida on Jan. 22 with about 200 other activists. "They clogged the sidewalk so we had to squeeze by, and made it as difficult as they could for us."

She said that all around the country her fellow activists joined in prayer to help stop the "violent crime" that is abortion.

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Bloggers mobilize under Communist thumb

Local media experts explain the power of the internet, even in places like China

JESSICA WARSHAVER
Sentinel Contributing Writer

Fingers were flying after a man died in early January at the hands of city officials in China. Despite efforts to censor the internet in the communist country, word got out.

Wei Wenhua, a construction company executive, was photographing villagers being beaten by city inspectors when he was seen and beaten to death himself.

The event triggered an alarming response: 8,000 bloggers posted comments in one day alone.

The response from bloggers emphasized the power that the Internet holds in today's world. Even in China, a nation that recently imprisoned a man on charges of "inciting subversion of state power" for writing about government corruption online, people were able to express their outrage towards the government and rally for a common cause.

Blogs and the Internet hold a similar power in the United States. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, as of 2007, over 70 percent of our country's population has access to the internet, and many of these users log in and share their opinions.

Melinda McAdams, a local journalism professor who teaches at the University of Florida, said the increase of Internet users' responses to government has much to do with a younger generation of politically active citizens who are unwilling to physically protest.

"A lot of people in their 20s are totally disconnected from everything but their video games," McAdams said.

"There are also those who are going to Washington and carrying a sign on the street, but they might be on a lot of e-mail lists and discussion forums where they plan their various political actions."

The Internet has improved the communication between people and their government to an extent, McAdams said.

"You can send an e-mail to your congressman instead of a letter on paper," she said. "But does the congressman pay more attention to the e-mails today than to the letters ten years ago?"

According to McAdams, we live in a place where people are relatively free to speak their opinions, but there are a lot of countries where people are afraid to do so.

"In a place where the government is very careful about what they allow to appear in the media, somebody will be arrested, locked up, or, in extreme cases, killed," she said.

Shaun Ajinkya, a UF student and an expert on political blogs, said the Internet makes it more difficult for a centralized government to control the flow of media and information, even in a strict society like China. It also allows people in America to by-pass the mainstream media.

The Internet gives citizens a larger

forum to voice displeasure to their government, making the flow of information easier than at any time in human history, he said.

"Blogging has probably made people more active and as a result more willing to discuss matters of government," he said.

Ajinkya said blogs can be more effective than traditional means of protest since it is more likely that a blog will be catering to a group of more uniform or political views, such as liberal, conservative and libertarian blogs.

Since the purpose of the mainstream media is to make money, its news broadcasts are probably more toned down, he said. In this way, a blog might be more accurate.

"It's really incumbent of the person reading the blog to use their own judgment to determine if the media source is biased," Ajinkya said.

In a country like China, he said, blogs are very useful because of the heavily oppressive nature of government. In the United States and other countries with free speech, blogs are just one of many free largely unregulated media sources.

Matt Hunt, a local student and activist who was arrested recently for protesting the circus at Oaks Mall, relies heavily on the Internet to get his message out to readers. Two years ago he became an Internet personality through the social networking Web site Myspace, where he posts his beliefs on a daily basis for almost 30,000 "friends."

"I try to have word for word in writing what I believe," Hunt said. "That's very important to me."

He is currently writing a book about how to have a voice on the Internet. To create an audience, he said, it's critical to be very biased in everything you say.

The Internet makes the diffusion of activist messages possible, Hunt said. Since it's available to almost everyone, fame, money or power isn't required to express an opinion.

As for the effectiveness of blogging over traditional methods of protesting, Hunt said the answer lies in the incessant nature of the Web.

"A protest is only temporary, but the Internet is a continuum," Hunt said.





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Public money brings 'Dr. Death' and controversy to UF

ERIK MACLEAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

Over 5,000 people attended a controversial speech at the University of Florida by Dr. Jack Kevorkian, known to critics as "Dr. Death" after being convicted of second-degree homicide in '99 for helping people commit suicide.

The \$50,000 speech was paid for by the public University and drew plenty of activists on both sides, even some from out of state.

"Planned Parenthood kills kids. Dr. Kevorkian kills parents," read a banner flying in the sky behind a plane paid for by the Center for Bio-Ethical Reform.

The Terry Schiavo Foundation gathered over 5,000 signatures for a petition to cancel the speech while thousands of e-mails protesting the event flooded the University.

"Death not welcome," read signs carried by anti-euthanasia protesters barricaded off in "free-speech zones" outside of the O'Connell Center.

Kevorkian spoke about the growth of government and the loss of liberty more than anything, saying his "first amendment right to discuss euthanasia" had been stripped by "unelected parole officials."

He explained that it was not the government's role to regulate health-care while saying he thought euthanasia was a "medical procedure."

Despite his conviction, he said, help-

ing the at least 130 patients to commit suicide was not murder because it was a voluntary contract.

"My aim in helping the patient was not to cause death," he said. "My aim was to end suffering. It's got to be decriminalized." When he was released on parole, euthanasia was only legal in Oregon.

Kevorkian asked the audience who knew the 9th Amendment, and few people raised their hand.

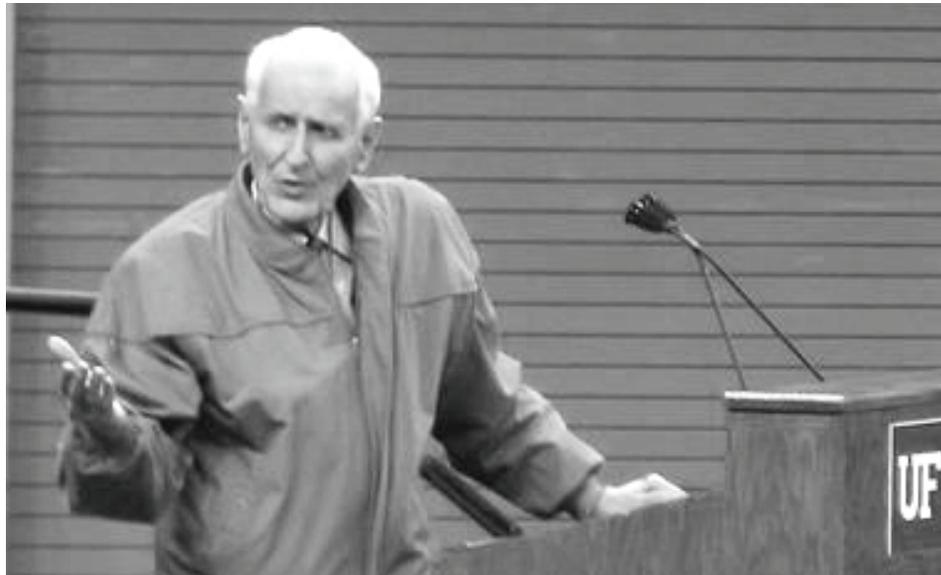
"The tyrant knows what he's doing, he keeps you in the dark," he said talking about how schools and the media allegedly don't educate people about the loss of freedom. "He keeps you dumbed down with silly things to keep your mind off of what's important."

He also said the government had been taken over by criminals.

"The Supreme Court is full of liars and tyrants," he exclaimed. "We are a dumb country, half republicans and half democrats, but the only reasonable people are libertarians."

During his speech, Kevorkian enumerated the 14 defining characteristics of fascism as determined by Dr. Lawrence Britt who studied historical fascist regimes. He then explained how he felt the US had adopted each, even discussing fraudulent elections.

He also said a person should have the right to take cocaine if they aren't misusing it, and the right to carry an Uzi if they



Jack Kevorkian speaks to University of Florida students about what he perceives to be government tyranny. The euthanasia advocate who was convicted of murder for helping over 100 people commit suicide was paid \$50,000 by the University of Florida.

aren't threatening anyone.

At the end, Kevorkian was asked pre-screened questions written by students. All of them were about euthanasia.

The speech was originally scheduled for October of last year but it was delayed after a U.F. student was Tasered at a speech by John Kerry.

Some attendees noted that Kevorkian's assertions about people giving their rights up seemed to be accurate, with one making angry remarks about the searches before the speech.

"Even I myself waived my 4th Amendment right as I entered by allowing security to search me," he said.

The University also received heavy criticism for the speech from a group of students that organized online under the banner: "Just Say No To Dr. Death."

"Mr. Kevorkian is promoting a cul-

ture of death and wants to send the message to students that suicide is a legitimate option," said a statement from the group that also quotes the Hippocratic Oath. "To please no one will I prescribe a deadly drug nor give advice which may cause his death."

Students lambasted Kevorkian in their discussions while expressing anger that their money would pay for the speech despite his criminal conviction.

Even among libertarians there was disagreement, with one saying that while he agreed with parts of the message, suicide is still morally wrong. Other libertarians complained that their taxes would be spent on the event.

The Jan. 15 speech was Kevorkian's first since he was released from prison in 2007.

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Country legend Willie Nelson challenges official account of 9/11

Polls show many Americans agree with Nelson's controversial views, but a University of Florida law professor and author says conspiracy theories could just be a reflection of anger about the Iraq war and doubts about Bush's credibility.

PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

Country music singer Willie Nelson said he thought the World Trade Center towers were "imploded" during a Feb. 4 interview on the nationally-syndicated Alex Jones Show, making headlines around the country and drawing fire from critics.

"I saw those towers fall and I've seen an implosion in Las Vegas - there's too much similarities between the two, and I saw a building fall that didn't get hit by nothing," Nelson said, referring to WTC Building 7, which collapsed in the late afternoon of September 11. The 9/11 Commission Report made no mention of the building or the collapse, but in later reports the government said the building sustained damage from the Twin Towers' and ultimately fell due to fire.

While controversial, his theories may actually be more widespread than expected. A scientific Scripps Howard poll conducted in 2006 showed that almost 40% of Americans believe U.S. government officials either participated in the attacks or knew about them and purposefully let them happen. Another poll by New York Times/CBS claimed that over 80% of Americans doubt what has come to be known as the "official" story.

But, the findings may just be a reflection of public anger at the unpopular Iraq

war, the realization that there were not weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, and growing doubts of the veracity of the Bush administration, said University of Florida law professor Mark Fenster, author of the book "Conspiracy Theories: Secrecy and Power in American Culture."

"What has amazed me is not that there are conspiracy theories, but that they didn't seem to be getting any purchase among the American public until the last year or so," Fenster said. "Although the Iraq war was not directly related to the 9/11 attacks, people are now looking back at 9/11 with much more skepticism than they used to."

Nelson, who did criticize the war, joins the ranks of celebrities who have questioned the official 9/11 story on the Alex Jones Show, including Charlie Sheen, Ed Asner and rapper Paris.

"They're trying to tell me that an airplane did it and I can't go along with that," Willie Nelson said during the interview.

"The way I heard it, the 15 people from Saudi Arabia hit us in New York and we go jump on Afghanistan," he said. "I never could figure that one out in Iraq."

Nelson's controversial interview with Jones went out to over two million listeners on more than eighty AM and FM sta-

tions across the country, putting Nelson back in the spotlight after he made headlines in 2006 for his marijuana arrest.

Bill O'Reilly, one of the "Truth" movement's biggest foes, called Nelson a "pin-head" on his Fox News show. He has also been heavily critical of other national figures that make "dangerous" claims about what happened on 9/11.

The official report concluded that a group of Islamic extremists headed by Osama bin Laden orchestrated the attack in retaliation for what they saw as American "aggression" in their Holy Lands. According to the government's story, heat from the fire compromised the towers' structural make-up, causing the floors to "pancake" on each other and collapse.

But academics, engineers and physicists in Nelson and Jones' "9/11 Truth Movement" have joined forces with high-ranking government, military and intelligence officials to create Web sites like PatriotsQuestion911.com, which seem to be adding fuel to the fire as the theories spread through the internet.

President Bush has warned that "we

should never tolerate outrageous conspiracy theories." But "truthers" like Nelson point out that even some former members of his administration have seemingly joined forces with them.

The former Secretary of Transportation testified that he heard Vice President Cheney ordering jet-fighters to stand down on 9/11. Morgan Reynolds, Bush's chief economist at the Department of Labor, calls 9/11 an "inside job."

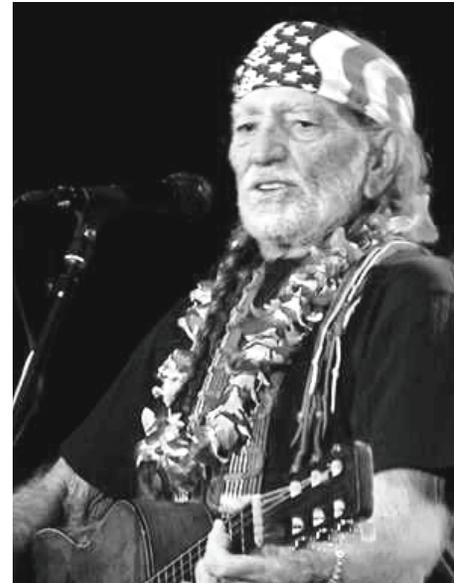
A Time magazine article titled "Why the 9/11 Conspiracy Theories Won't Go Away" by Lev Grossman concludes by explaining that conspiracy theories are part of a

"national mourning process" and that the "Feds just aren't that slick."

Nelson just doesn't believe it.

"The day it happened, I saw one fall and it was just so symmetrical," he claimed in the interview. "I said, 'Wait a minute, I just saw that last week at the casino in Las Vegas,' and you see these implosions all the time, and the next one fell and I said, 'Hell, there's another one.' They're trying to tell me that an airplane did it and I can't go along with that."

Nelson's publicist refused to comment on the interview.



Local woman will have to hope for more primaries

GARY R. SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writer

OCALA - Women didn't have the right to vote when Leona Harper was born back in 1911. That had changed by the time she was old enough to vote in her first presidential election - Hoover versus Roosevelt. Who did she vote for? Don't bother to ask!

"I have been a Republican for over 70 years," she says. "I'm a Republican through and through."

Leona Harper is undoubtedly one of the oldest Republicans in the county, but not according to The Marion County Supervisor of Elections.

It's not her age in dispute, but her party. When Leona showed up to vote in the Presidential Preference Primary Election on January 29th, she was told that she couldn't vote because she was registered as a member of the Reform Party.

"That's not possible," Leona said. "I have always been a Republican."

Two calls from helpful election staff to Dee Brown's office yielded the same results, a firm but polite "no". A trip over to the Supervisor of Elections office for clarification and remedy yielded only

more of the same.

"We can have you registered as a Republican again by tomorrow, but you can't vote today," said the office staff. "There will be more primaries."

Leona was on the verge of tears when she quipped, "Young lady, I am ninety seven years old. When do you think I'm going to have another chance to vote in a primary election?" The sympathy and concern of the Department of Elections staff was genuine, but that sympathy didn't come with any compromise attached to it. They didn't even offer a provisional ballot.

The staff at the Supervisors of Elections made it clear how easily and quickly they could have changed Leona's party; "It's only a matter of pressing a few buttons." The only thing stopping them from changing her party immediately was a law that states political parties' books are to be closed 30 days before an election.

Given her beauty,

strength, and character, it would be a good bet that Leona Harper will be voting for many years to come, and hopefully there won't be any discrepancies when she votes again in four years.

Leona Harper, 97, stands outside the office of Marion County's Supervisor of Elections after discovering she would not be allowed to vote in the 2008 primary.



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FRAUD: Voting problems reported nationwide, critics blast proposed solution

Continued from front page

detractors say these “closed source” proprietary systems have introduced more complications than they have solved.

Iowa was the first in the nation to caucus, and that is where the first criticisms of the 2008 election began.

“Instead of counting in public, they had the public leave the room before the counting and things are being sorted out of view and counted under chairs and in corners, with no public view of the data,” said Bev Harris, founder of Black Box Voting, an organization devoted entirely to the problems of election fraud presented by electronic voting machines. David Allen coined the term “Black Box Voting,” which is described as “Any voting system in which the mechanism for recording and/or tabulating the vote is hidden from the voter, and/or the mechanism lacks a

“What we need is a system where the votes are counted in public... What we got was a magic show,” said the founder of Black Box Voting.

tangible record of the vote cast.”

“What we need is a system where the votes are counted in public, and where we can check the precinct results against the reported precinct results,” she said. “What we got was a magic show.”

Harris went on to state that there is “absolutely no reason” to consider any of the Republican caucus results to be credible.

If Iowa was a magic show, some might call New Hampshire a three-ring circus.

“We had internal polls that showed Ron Paul up near 30%,” said one of the thousands of volunteers who flocked to New Hampshire to work on the 10 term Republican Congressman’s campaign. “Then comes Election Day, and we end up with eight percent.” Another New Hampshire anomaly that raised questions was exit polls showing that many voters who listed opposition to the war as their “most important issue” voted for John McCain, perhaps the most ardent supporter of the war. He suggested those voters should have gravitated strongly towards anti-war candidate Ron Paul.

But the Republican congressman wasn’t the only candidate whose polls didn’t match the outcome, and he wasn’t the only one to feel the elusive specter of vote manipulation.

The Boston Globe reported that, “Campaign volunteers for Barack Obama and Ron Paul have been kicked out of precincts from Concord to Swanzy for not having the proper credentials.”

Il Giornale, an Italian newspaper, reported that all Democratic candidates except Hillary Clinton made gains when the New Hampshire ballots were manually tabulated, while Clinton made inexplicably large gains where ballots were tabulated by computerized scanners. The same article went on to claim that Ron Paul should have finished third in the Republican primary rather than fifth, and that both Barack Obama and Ron Paul were

the primary targets of vote-rigging operations in New Hampshire.

For Obama, at the time fresh off his win in Iowa and looking forward to a strong showing in South Carolina, a win in New Hampshire would have been a major victory that would have seriously damaged the campaign of rival Hillary Clinton, possibly beyond repair. That didn’t happen.

“When you examine the Diebold AcVote Optical-Scan voting machine count for each candidate, you discover that Hillary took 52.95% of the votes compared to 47.05% for Obama,” said reporter Jon Ryter comparing the results for just the two candidates. “However, when you examine the paper ballots, Obama took 52.93% of the votes compared to 47.07% for Hillary.”

Sutton, a New Hampshire township, confirmed that Ron Paul received 31 votes. When the final amount was transferred to a summary sheet and sent out to the media, the total was listed as zero. This was only admitted after a group of citizens returned to demand a recount at the precinct after they noticed that their votes did not appear in the official count. The head clerk cited a “human error.”

The recount in New Hampshire that began after the massive irregularities were reported is not complete more than a month later. Election watchdogs say even the recount has been a disaster with more irregularities and stonewalling than during the election. Now most other states have held their primaries and people’s votes were influenced heavily by the results in early States, which could still turn out to be inaccurate.

The blame seems to be primarily falling on the Secretary of State, William Gardner, who continues to request delays. Activists are calling for him to resign along with his “cohorts.”

“The performance of the machines used in New Hampshire is of vital importance,” said Albert Howard, the candidate who paid more than \$50,000 for the recount after the discrepancies and irregularities were reported. “The sooner the results are known and available to the People and to other units of government charged with conducting Primaries and General Elections, the better for the nation.”

Barack Obama went on to win the South Carolina primary, and again the voting was not without its issues. According to South Carolina voter R.E. Sutherland, “The GOP primary in South Carolina was apparently totally controlled via the Election Commission and others to promote one candidate over all of the others. The computerized vote system was used to make that happen.”

Election watchdogs also raised questions about the secret voting process, noting that the South Carolina Constitution calls for votes to be counted in public.

The Louisiana Caucus was held on January 22, and the election process there was perhaps the most problematic to date in this election cycle. The problems with

Louisiana were legion and included; rules that changed as the process went along, confirmed voters who were forced to cast “provisional ballots,” and no official way to track, count, or even understand the vote.

One Florida precinct in Broward County even reported 109 percent voter turnout.

At the time of the January 10 deadline, Ron Paul had the largest number of delegates sworn to him. Then the Louisiana State GOP changed the rules at the eleventh hour to allow other candidates to file more delegates, even though there were plenty of delegates to compose full slates in each congressional district.

Each voter at the 11 districts could vote for 15 delegates and 15 alternative delegates. So each voter had 30 votes, 15 for delegates and 15 for alternatives. But the voters had no way of knowing which delegates supported which candidates. There was no master list telling voters which delegate would support which candidate or in what order. If that seems confusing, that’s because it was.

Instead of using the list of GOP registered voters from November 30, 2007 – the last date to either register or change parties, the Louisiana GOP used a list from November 1, 2007. This meant that eligible caucus goers who registered within a month of the deadline could only vote provisionally, including many Paul voters and even some delegates sworn to him.

“The failure of the Louisiana GOP to properly determine who was and wasn’t eligible to vote threw this entire process into disarray,” said Ron Paul campaign manager Lew Moore. “The party needs to correct this mistake by counting all the votes immediately, and releasing the results.” ABC News picked up the story, but as of this writing, the process in Louisiana is still in disarray.

Here in Florida, where voting issues vie for parity with orange juice and pristine beaches on the center stage of the state’s notoriety, The Orlando Sun reported that on Florida primary day, voters were “reporting problems across Central Florida from Daytona Beach to Hunter’s Creek.”

“Among the precincts experiencing glitches was one in Orange County where voters were told by poll workers early on there was no Democratic primary today,” the Sun reported.

One Florida precinct in Broward County even reported 109 percent voter turnout, possibly drawing inspiration from Al Capone who once said, “Vote early and vote often.”

Keen to the possibility of election shenanigans, attorney Mark Adams led a team of dedicated Sarasota patriots in one of the largest efforts of citizen exit polling in Florida history. Florida law demands that precinct results are supposed to be posted at the end of the Election Day, before the memory cards and other election materials are packed up and returned to county location for tabulation. Because precinct workers do not follow this law, and because the state is citing “other problems” as cause for further delay, these modern American heroes still have no numbers to compare their data to.

Thomas Jefferson said, “I could think of no worse example for nations abroad,

who for the first time were trying to put free electoral procedures into effect, than that of the United States wrangling over the results of our presidential election, and even suggesting that the presidency itself could be stolen by thievery at the ballot box.”

The New York Times Magazine actually ran an in-depth story saying the 2008 election could be decided by fraud and the compromised machines that have been exposed by almost every media outlet. Could it be that the worst has come to pass?

Now, Congress is proposing a bill that claims it would solve these massive problems in the election system by establishing more standards and helping to institute paper ballots throughout the states, which would then be counted by machine.

But, groups mounting opposition to what they call a “false solution” warn that this is also another unconstitutional federalization of elections, saying the wording could even bring in United Nations

Groups mounting opposition to what they call a “false solution” warn that this is also another unconstitutional federalization of elections, saying the wording could even bring in United Nations inspectors.

inspectors.

The United States of America is the nation that split the atom to bring World War II to a screeching halt and went on to put a man on the moon. Certainly it can devise a means by which to cast votes and know with confidence that they have been counted accurately. It must.

This is just a scratch on the surface of the issue of vote fraud. The convergence between big media and big government is the front-line in the struggle for fair elections, and the Sentinel will bring more light to the subject in the months to come.



LETTERS FROM OUR READERS:

"JUST THE BEGINNING"

Thank you folks at The Liberty Sentinel for telling the people about Ron Paul

because I noticed that the TV. and other newspapers did everything they could to ignore him or trivialize him.

His message of freedom and obeying the Constitution and not invading other countries and securing the border and having real money and less taxes is exactly what this country is desperately yearning for. I know you saw the signs and the bumper stickers. I'll tell you folks right now that the Revolution his campaign has started is just now beginning.

They may have succeeded this time by rigging the election and manipulating the polls and the news people get to see, but they're scared, I can tell.

I just wanted to tell you all how great it is to have a newspaper in town that tells the truth. The only news I could stand to read was on the internet, but there isn't much locally, so keep up the great work.

Jeff Dobson
Ocala, Fla.

"HARD-WORKING INDIVIDUALS SHOULD GET A TAX BREAK"

I begin by saying it infuriates me that

we live in a society so blinded that the term 'like sheep to the slaughter' echoes in my head. What I am referring to is the way many citizens are buying into the notion that 'we' would lose many essential services by voting in favor of cutting property taxes.

Allow me to enumerate certain basic facts:

More and more responsible and concerned parents are sending their children to private schools or are home-schooling.

Besides seeing police officers in middle class neighborhoods ensuring that we drive within the speed limit, our law enforcement is inundated with trips to low-income housing districts in order to keep peace and civility amongst them. Hard-working, tax-paying citizens need to purchase homes that exceed their income affordability in order to have amenities such as decent play areas and neighborhood watch committees even though our taxes pay for public parks.

Why? As usual, thugs and vandals take command of such facilities and decent folks once again get shafted.

It seems to me that hard-working individuals should get a tax break. It is about time, in fact. We have always bore the responsibility of negligent and lazy individuals upon our back only to have more and more of the things that we may benefit from eliminated.

My parents were born in Puerto Rico and taught us this valuable lesson: "He who does not work, does not eat."

If our elected officials were to stop pouring OUR money into programs that only benefit sectors of our population that believe that it is society's responsibility to pay for their irresponsibility, then hard-working citizens can finally enjoy an earned and due tax break.

Milly Taylor
Gainesville, Fla.

"EVENTS SECTION"

Your newspaper is certainly a breath of fresh air around these parts, and thus is well appreciated.

I was wondering if you'd have a section for events in your future issue. I've got an organization that I believe would appeal to your audience. We'd love it if we could have our meetings listed in your paper.

Thank you!

Daniel McKinnon
Gainesville, Fla.

Please send letters to the editor via e-mail to editor@libertysentinel.org

Mail can be sent to P.O. Box 14973, Gainesville, Fla., 32604.

Letters may be edited for brevity, grammar and spelling.



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- ★ Provide tax incentives to encourage existing businesses to stay in Marion County.
- ★ Reduce impact fees for businesses that create jobs in Marion County.
- ★ Provide funding to assist entrepreneurs to develop their ideas to create quality jobs in Marion.

Once Ray entered the race his opponent changed his vote and took Ray's positions by voting to fund the EDC and a permanent plan for economic development in Marion County.

The election is a year away, and we are sure that the politicians will change many votes to get re-elected. Ray wants to make Marion Better, but he understands that not all good ideas come from politicians.

Making Marion Better is Ray's goal and he would like to hear your ideas.

Go to www.runray2008.com and share your ideas for **Making Marion Better**.

**Ray Strickland, (R)
for County Commissioner**



"We must compete in a global economy. The American worker is the most productive in the world if given the opportunity."

