Local charities offer solutions

With more charities in North-Central Florida than almost anywhere on earth, locals are leading the way to help relieve suffering. One area man with a dream cares for orphans devastated by socialism while local students build homes for the poor here and in New Orleans.

ALEX NEWMAN & LYLE KOSSIS
Sentinel Staff Writers

GAINESVILLE -- As politicians continue clamoring for more money while patting themselves on the back for "fixing" problems, regular people across North-Central Florida labor voluntarily on everything from building houses for the poor locally and nationally to building orphanages and sending school supplies internationally. And nobody forces them to do it.

While most media outlets happily print taxpayer funded ads and help politicians pat themselves on the back, praise and recognition should really be going to the countless passionate individuals who do good because they are motivated by love - not votes, riches, publicity or power.

One of those people is Jote Thompson, the founder and president of Gainesville-based 'Friends of our Orphanages.' His charity cares for children in the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics whose parents died of starvation or left them at orphanages as the government that tried to solve everybody's problems failed - and ultimately crumbled. Because of Thompson's efforts and the voluntary contributions of donors around the state, some of those children now have a chance. Before him, they were living in miserable conditions and were almost surely destined to fail.

“The suicide rate over there for kids coming out of these places was at about 20 percent,” he told the Sentinel.

“Most of the girls ended up in prostitution ... it’s just so sad to see, it makes you really have an urge to do something.” The orphans inspired a dream; Thompson had to help. Today, his organization has shipped countless boxes of school supplies and other donated essentials from right here in North-Central Florida after getting started with one donation on Sept. 11, 2001. During one of his more recent visits to Ukraine he refurbished an orphanage and got desks for the children there to study on. Friends of our Orphanages also helped send some of the orphans to sporting events or competitions; Thompson even brought a few of them to visit Gainesville and see America in ’06. “They’re very good athletes, they just didn’t have the opportunity to travel,” he explained gleeful.

Are Florida’s judges for real?

A Florida lawyer armed with evidence of widespread criminal activity in the judiciary is finally bringing attention to the issue after making the accusations on national TV. The implications of the law could bring the state government to a standstill. Experts say the federal government may even need to step in.

PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

MIAMI -- Chief Judge Joseph Farina of Florida’s 11th Judicial Circuit has commissioned a criminal investigation of Judge Dave J. Tunis for allegedly having a forged loyalty oath filed on her behalf. Additionally, her oaths were not notarized as required by law, a crime that could carry severe penalties.

According to attorneys and legal researchers, the violation is actually a statewide problem. “There may be other judges in the state as well who have not complied with this crucial law, so this may be a scandal that engulfs Florida’s bench,” Attorney Jack Thompson said. “This thumbing of their noses by judges at the law and the Constitution is what we are increasingly seeing from judges at all levels, state and federal.”

The case against Tunis was brought to light by Thompson after a scuffle with the video game industry.

“Most of the girls ended up in prostitution ... it’s just so sad to see, it makes you really have an urge to do something.”

TOXIC WATER

Gainesville was the first place in Florida to “fluoridate.” Its water and mass-medicate the population without “informed consent,” but critics and researchers say the alleged benefits are outweighed by the adverse health effects.

GARY R. SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writer

OCALA -- Health care freedom advocates decry any attempts to limit the access to necessary medications by regulations, laws, or force. But what kind of society would force drugs on its population without consent? Lest you think such a society is an abstract fiction of some Orwellian nightmare, you should know that we are all living in such a place today. The medicine being forced on you and your loved ones is fluoride, and according to countless experts and studies, you and your family could be in danger.

Over 50 years into the practice of intentionally fluoridating municipal water with this industrial waste, the American Dental Association still maintains that it is both safe and effective; “The Association has continually reaffirmed water fluoridation as the most effective public health measure for the prevention of dental caries and strongly urges that its benefits be extended to those served by communal water systems.”

The Center for Disease Control touts, “Nearly all water on earth contains naturally occurring fluoride at levels below, equal to, or above those used in community water fluoridation. Investigation of the decay preventing effects of naturally occurring fluoride in water led to the start of community water fluoridation in 1945.” What they don’t mention...

Also in this issue:

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• Local law prof. challenges gov’t surveillance –page 12
• Being rested and renewed – page 13
• Letters from our Readers including the truth about stem cell research and Florida’s divorce laws - page 15
Dear readers,

As newspapers around Florida and the nation continue to flounder and slash budgets, The Liberty Sentinel of North-Central Florida is growing by leaps and bounds; and it’s all thanks to you, our readers.

This issue we explore a number of important topics that could threaten to your rights, your family and your health. We have some great stories coming along for the next issue as well, but to continue reporting the truth and doing the job that the press was protected for we need your continued support.

When you visit or contact our advertisers please make sure they know that the Sentinel sent you. They love to hear that and so do we!

Due to the volume of great of letters that poured in after our last issue, the newspaper now has two pages dedicated solely to your opinion. If we had more space I would have liked to publish them all. We’ve been itching to publish some angry letters but unfortunately we don’t seem to get any, so if you’ve been meaning to send us one I’d love to hear from you.

Be sure to see the list of some of our guaranteed distribution locations on page 3 so you can pick up the next issue or grab some extra copies for family and friends. Subscribers will start receiving extra material with each issue so if you’ve been meaning to get a subscription, now is the time. Also, if you’d like to read more from the editor pick up a copy of The New American magazine at Lloyd Bailey’s Scuba store or get one online. The Liberty Sentinel’s new bumper stickers will also be available in the shop as well, but supplies are limited.

Remember, if the people don’t know their rights, they can’t defend them. As the founding fathers said, freedom will surely perish if the people are not informed. Are your other news providers really reporting real news? Preserving America and the Constitution is the responsibility of every American.

With education and the Lord willing, liberty and righteousness will prevail.

If you have a story that should be told or if you’d like to find out how to get involved with the Sentinel, I am at your service.

Sincerely,
The editor
Half-a-dozen taxpayer funded lobbyists representing a variety of local governments and associations clashed with almost 50 activists who gathered in Tallahassee last month regarding the “Taxpayer Protection Amendment.” The plan would cap state and local government revenues unless voters approve of increases.

Both sides offered testimony before the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission which decided to delay the vote until April 4 due to the amount of testimony.

Seventeen commissioners have considered strengthening the proposal after everybody who spoke came out in favor of it, except one woman from Colorado and the lobbyists. Many speakers told horror stories about “out-of-control taxation” and most even urged commissioners to vote “no.” If 17 out of the 25 commissioners offer approval, the amendment will be automatically put on the ballot in November.

Rumors that the lobbyists hired by local governments lobbied to remove the state’s constitutional prohibition on taxpayer funding for religious organizations this November.

- Census Bureau: Florida’s real-estate markets worst in nation

Orlando is the worst metropolitan market for vacant homes in the entire nation, with a 7.4 percent vacancy rate. Next was the Tampa Bay area where more than one in twenty homes are vacant. The recent report issued by the U.S. Census Bureau also ranked Miami and Jacksonville among the bottom ten.

Many economists blame the housing bubble created by the Federal Reserve’s market manipulations for the crisis, and real-estate experts forecast a continued surge in foreclosures and further decreases in both prices and sales for 2008. Meanwhile the so-called “inflation-tax,” also a product of monetary policies, continues to rob people’s life-savings.

- Bank on public funds for religion could go

Florida’s new government has the chance to vote on an amendment to remove the state’s constitutional prohibition on taxpayer funding for religious organizations this November.

The amendment would allow the Florida Taxation and Budget Reform Commission to vote in March to approve the amendment and place it on the ballot.

If adopted by voters, it would remove from Florida’s Constitution 100-year-old language known as the “Blaine amendment.” State courts have cited the text in question to place it on the ballot.

- Local hospital to ask for more tax money

Steve Purves, president and CEO of Munroe Regional Medical Center, spoke with Marion County Commissioners on March 18th and signaled that the hospital may be looking to the county government to make up budgetary shortfalls the hospital has been suffering.

While “other local media” have reported that the hospital currently receives no taxpayer subsidies, a single phone call to the hospital confirmed that they do in fact take payments from Medicare, Medicaid, and other government subsides.

The high cost of operations is due, in no small part, to the fact that the emergency rooms of hospitals are mandated by the federal government to care for anyone who arrives, regardless as to whether or not the illness or injury is actually an emergency.

-_while local governments seek to cut budgets, water district goes shopping!

The St. Johns River Water Management District’s Governing Board voted today to purchase 137 acres bordering the District’s Neawns Lake Conservation Area. They agreed to spend $920,111 for three parcels that make up the property. It is anticipated that Alachua County will also participate in the purchase, pending legal approval.

The property is located about five miles northeast of Gainesville and borders the conservation area on three sides. The acquisition will also encompass almost a mile of Hatchet Creek.

- Property appraiser under scrutiny

Alachua County Property Appraiser Ed Crapo has found himself mired in controversy over $1.1 million in contracts he signed with companies tied to his outside consulting work.

Crapo has said he will seek an opinion regarding the possibility of a conflict of interest from the Florida Commission on Ethics, but weeks after his statement it had not received the request.

The ruling should come in April, but Crapo maintains he has done nothing wrong.

- Republican delegate selection process draws disgruntled conservatives

Around a dozen local Republicans hoping to become delegates to the national convention spoke about how they felt their party was losing its way at the caucuses for the 6th congressional district. None of the conservative activists were selected out of the 3 delegates and 3 alternates who were chosen last month despite making up a large portion of the applicants. They applied hoping to be able to push a more Constitution-oriented platform despite having to vote for a candidate that they were otherwise unhappy with.

Several applicants blasted McCain directly during their short speeches. Others accused Republicans of trying to “out-democrat the democrats” or criticized the “enormous bloating” of the federal government that has occurred under the current administration.

Party insiders and old-timers encouraged the disgruntled younger members to continue pushing for conservative principles; they’re time will come.
Investigation of Miami judge could reveal statewide corruption

Continued from front page

resulted in disciplinary proceedings against him under the judge in question – this is despite Thompson’s good standing with the Florida Bar for over 30 years. The law requires all public officers to swear notarized loyalty oaths to both the State and Federal Constitutions, so Thompson maintains that Tunis is not eligible to collect a paycheck or use the title “judge,” let alone make rulings.

The Christian attorney is well known for his campaigns to stop the peddling of objectionable music or video games to children. He says that because of his successes, the “big money” of his wealthy opponents is being used to try and stop him from practicing law. The Florida Supreme Court assigned Tunis as the referee in Thompson’s disbarment proceedings, so he sought to have her disqualified because of her alleged prejudice against him.

He said his investigation led to an expert witness who will testify that Tunis allowed someone to forge her signature on the loyalty oath. Without the signature and seal of a notary, a public officer cannot legally prove that he actually swore the oath, so it is not recognized as valid, he said. Without being legally bound to the law which protects the rights of the people, Florida’s judges were allegedly running rampant.

“It could have been signed by a spouse or friend for all anyone knows,” Hurt explained. “So the people of Florida, through the legislature, require the proper, notarized oath,” he said. According to Hurt, the missing ‘jurat’ means none of the elected officials who swore the oath between 2000 and summer 2007 can prove it, and therefore did not even qualify for office.

The only notarized loyalty oaths on file for the judges in Alachua County and the entire 8th Judicial Circuit were all filed in late 2007 or early 2008 as well. No documents stretching back to 2000 were immediately available, supporting the allegations being made by a growing body of Florida activists, researchers and attorneys. Thompson might even be entitled to special compensation for blowing the whistle on Tunis, Hurt said. By accepting compensation while allegedly not being legally qualified for office, Tunis owes all that money back to Florida’s Chief Financial Officer.

Thompson has already asked Florida Attorney General Bill McCollum to file an action against Dana Tunis under the False Claims Act. McCollum will probably refuse to do it, Hurt expects, so Thompson may eventually file it himself. The False Claims Act entitles him to a 15% whistle blower reward.

“Jack lucked out by obtaining the evidence that her oath is a forgery,” said Hurt. “This puts Dana Tunis in a unique category of people with invalid oaths.”

Thompson, Hurt and many other attorneys and legal researchers in the state have suggested that the violation may involve more than just judges. “Now that elected or appointed since 2000 have a valid candidate oath. That includes the Governor, Attorney General, Supreme Court justices, legislators, State Attorneys, County Commissioners, Sheriffs, Tax Collectors – in short, everyone,” Hurt said. He claims that every elected and appointed official without a valid candidate oath, public officer’s oath, and public employee’s oath on file for the current term is guilty of violating Florida law.

Justice will “come down hard on the government of Florida for tolerating a judicial oligarchy and abuse the people and minimize the other branches of government,” he said. Thompson might function perfectly in bringing the issue to the DOJ and U.S. Supreme Court.

“Jack has the motivation, the professional need, and the raw lawyering skills to push this issue all the way to the top,” said Hurt. “He won’t do it now because he first has to oblitrate the efforts to disbar him. If and after he prevails, maybe he’ll accept the challenge.”

Another Florida attorney who spoke with The Liberty Sentinel said he considers Thompson somewhat eccentric, but that he raises very important points on this issue.

“Of the first ten amendments that compose The Bill of Rights, I can think of only one that hasn’t been explicitly or implicitly violated – that being The Third Amendment, which prohibits the quartering of soldiers in private homes,” said Miami Attorney and constitutional law expert Elaine McKillop.

The U.S. Supreme Court and the Attorney General of Florida have ruled that the loyalty oath is constitutional, and that it must be complied with strictly. Ignorance of the law is also not considered an excuse for violating it, so experts say penalties could be stiff.

Hurt runs an online group about legal issues at groups.google.com/group/Lawmen
National headlines at a glance

‘Dead’ man doing well

An Oklahoma man declared brain-dead by a team of doctors after an accident was about to have his organs harvested. Now, Zach Dunlap says he’s feeling “pretty good.”

The helicopter was on its way to transport the organs and his family was paying their last respects after giving their consent. Suddenly he moved.

He was put back on life support despite staff assurances that it was just reflexes. Five days later he opened his eyes.

“I heard it and it just made me mad inside,” Zach said during an interview on NBC’s dateline. He wanted to throw the doctors out the window. He returned home after 48 days in the hospital and what many call a miracle.

The Supreme Court is hearing a case regarding an oppressive gun ban in D.C. overturned by an appeals court.

National publications like U.S. News & World Report and U.S.A. Today have drawn sharp criticism for publishing cover stories wondering if people truly have a right to defend their lives, liberty, families and property. Anti-American bias has been cited as one possible cause of the industry’s decline.

In a ruling seen as a positive sign by gun rights activists, the court recently ruled that a ‘world court’ could not make Texas to comply with it.

-Gun rights activists hope Supreme Court rules properly

After a D.C. appeals court struck down the city’s oppressive gun laws as unconstitutional, the Supreme Court has taken up the case.

Defenders of the second amendment to the U.S. Constitution which prohibits the government from infringing upon the individual’s right to keep and bear arms are nervous as the case proceeds, saying the court seems to be willing to tolerate many existing restrictions that limit the people’s right.

Some lobby groups have tried to make the argument that “people” in fact refers to the state militias. The court has largely rejected that argument, especially considering that then only state militias would have the right to free speech, due process, etc.

Gun-rights enthusiasts are still hopeful that the court could “interpret” the language strictly so they can challenge laws that they say have relegated the unalienable right to a mere privilege.

The managing partner of Harry Beckwith’s gun store in Micanopy said he feels like he is being legislated out of business, but that he hopes the Supreme Court will do the right thing and protect the right of law-abiding citizens to defend themselves, their families and their properties.

-Federal Reserve printing more money for banks, destroying the dollar and your savings

As the value of the dollar continues to spiral to historic lows because of an ever-increasing supply of money being pumped into the economy, the Federal Reserve has decided to print more.

They will help J.P. Morgan to buy Bear Stearns in a deal that observers have raised alarm over, especially as the increased liquidity continues to eat away at people’s savings and Americans’ purchasing power abroad.

Gold, which was at $250 per ounce in 2001, is now hovering around $1,000. Other commodities like silver and oil have seen similar trends as the dollar depreciates against other currencies as well. A bill to abolish the private Federal Reserve Bank and return to constitutional money that was introduced by Rep. Ron Paul is gaining support in Congress as the economy worsens.
Report card: Florida’s insurance market flunks

Analysts and lawmakers say the state preventing competition in the market is at fault for Florida’s dismal ranking as one of only five states nationwide to receive an ‘F’.

**MARY LYNN RICHARDSON**
Sentinel Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Florida’s insurance market flunked — it’s officially among the worst in America.

According to a recent study by several non-partisan think tanks that compared insurance environments in all 50 states, Florida earned its ‘F’ letter grade because of “massive risks” posed by the current system.

“Our property insurance market has become a real liability for Florida’s residents,” explained Representative Dennis Ross, one of the Florida lawmakers who presented the report. “Legislation enacted last year has created a system that stifles any opportunity to bring private insurers to Florida.”

Counter-productive regulations imposed by government have contributed to “one of the worst scenarios our taxpayers could face,” he explained.

Florida representative Don Brown who also spoke said that state efforts to resolve the issue over the past two years have failed.

“Most Floridians will eventually face huge and unbearable premiums due to a state-backed, heavily-subsidized property insurance corporation,” he said. “We need to figure out what kind of affordability Florida can afford before we bankrupt our state and its 18 million residents.”

The study - Restoring Florida’s Insurance Market - was a collaboration between Florida’s James Madison Institute and several other non-partisan public policy groups. It offers a variety of proposals to reform the insurance system and bring down prices.

“We know from experience that when Florida is in the path of a hurricane, we will suffer more damage than any other state,” explained Bob McClure, the president of the Florida Hurricane Catastrophe Fund’s role in providing backup coverage if claims exceed a certain “catastrophic” level.

Insurance experts and economists say these reforms have forced Florida’s taxpayers to assume all of the risk. Existing laws would even allow these entities to impose massive new taxes without legislative or voter approval.

According to the study, the system in place now could easily raise household premiums by $1600 a year.

The report concluded by arguing in favor of significant reforms, saying modest efforts just won’t cut it. Some of the recommendations outlined during a press conference would include property tax credits to help people purchase private wind insurance.

The consensus among the organizations and lawmakers who participated was that restoring free-market principles and allowing competition in the market would bring insurance costs down and help Florida’s economy across the board.

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A wide range of studies over 50 years have linked water fluoridation to a plethora of potential health problems.

After some years, you might ask yourself, what am I doing? No tooth decay. But is this safe? The real question is: is this a real or a placebo? The answer is: it is a placebo.

Water fluoridation is the practice of adding compounds to water “with the intended purpose of reducing tooth decay in the general population.” But the research that led to this radical idea of “mass medication,” has been called into question by numerous authorities that point to inconclusive results and the possibility of serious negative health effects associated with water fluoridation.

Toxic waste in local water to poison

Continued from front page...
I pledge allegiance to the flag...

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NORTH AMERICAN UNION?

Can you imagine combining the Canadian and Mexican flags with Old Glory and pledging allegiance to a North American Union (NAU)? In reality, the NAU process is already underway to erase our borders and form a new nation by merging the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

“Eventually our long-range objective is to establish with the United States, but also with Canada, our other regional partner, an ensemble of connections and institutions similar to those created by the European Union.”

– Former Mexican President Vicente Fox, May 16, 2002

“We are determined to forge the next generation of our continent’s success.... The Security and Prosperity Partnership that we are launching today is the road map to getting there.”

– Former Canadian Prime Minister Paul Martin, March 23, 2005

“As to what kind of [North American] union might there be, I see one based upon free trade, that would then entail commitment to markets and democracy, transparency, rule of law.”

– President George Bush
March 23, 2005

To learn more about the NAU, visit www.JBS.org/nau or call 1-800-JBS-USA1

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Proudly sponsored by your local JBS chapter.
Members of the Council on Foreign Relations include power brokers from government, media, education, defense, industry and more. Many of them openly support abolishing national borders and even instituting global socialism. But despite the involvement of everyone from Vice-President Cheney on the ‘right’ to Senator Hillary Clinton on the ‘left,’ the group is never scrutinized by the media.

Every American president elected since the end of WWII has been a member of the CFR, with the exception of Ronald Reagan. But even Reagan was forced to take CFR insider George H.W. Bush as his Vice President. “Make no mistake about it: the CFR has dominated every administration, Republican and Democrat, since World War II. They hold sway over most every critical Presidential appointment. Look carefully and one will discover that the Republican President George W. Bush has had as many CFR members in his administration as Democrat President Bill Clinton did in his,” said Florida Pastor Chuck Baldwin who has studied the organization. 

So why isn’t this all over the news? Unless you are reading The Liberty Sentinel or some other alternative source, you are most likely getting your information from CFR controlled media. Walter Cronkite was a member, and he was the so-called “most trusted man in America.” He was congratulated by Hillary Clinton for receiving the “global governance” award. Katie Couric is a CFR member too. Other prominent members include David Brinkley, Barbara Walters, Tom Brokaw, Dan Rather, Diane Sawyer, George Stephanopoulos and Jim Lehrer, along with the editors and publishers of virtually every major “mainstream” news organization. Most of this information is available right from the CFR’s own Web site. With the media as part of the CFR, the group had free reign to pursue its goals unhampered by public scrutiny.

“We are grateful to the Washington Post, The New York Times, Time Magazine and other great publications whose directors have attended our meetings and respected their promises of discretion for almost forty years,” explained David Rockefeller. “It would have been impossible for us to develop our plan for the world if we had been subjected to the lights of publicity during those years. But, the world is now more sophisticated and prepared to march towards a world government. The supranational sovereignty of an intellectual elite and world bankers is surely preferable to the national auto-determination practiced in past centuries.”

Global socialism under a one-world government is the unapologetic goal of the CFR – even the current president of the organization has written articles calling for an end to national sovereignty and for the rise of an all-powerful United Nations. U.S. Presidents declare it proudly as well, though former CFR director Dick Cheney mentioned on C-SPAN that it isn’t something he told voters about.

“We have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order. It is a vision of the U.N. as the successor to the League of Nations. He was also the driving force behind the establishment of the income-tax and Federal Reserve.

Resistance to the agenda was strong in America. The league faced fierce opposition by non-interventionists like Senator William Borah. Considered one of the great orators of the 20th century, Senator Borah reminded Americans of “the great policy of ‘no entangling alliances’ upon which the strength of this Republic has been founded.”

While House was plotting the creation of the League of Nations in Europe, Senator Borah took the case against it directly to the American people. “America has arisen to a position where she is respected and admired by the entire world,” he said. “She did it by minding her own business...the European and American systems do not agree.”

With membership in the League of Nations as a vote after vote, House and the cabal of internationalists who worked with him realized that their dream of creating what they called a “new world order” might not succeed. The fundamental power structure of America would have to be changed, so according to historians, they created the CFR and used the vast fortunes and resources at their disposal to shape the next generation of American leaders.

A list of the board of directors of the CFR reads like a virtual ‘who’s who’ of early 20th century: John Foster Dulles (older brother to CIA Director Allen W. Dulles), Herbert H. Lehman (Governor of New York and founder of Lehman Brothers investment banking firm), Averell Harriman (son of railroad baron Edward Henry Harriman), Paul M. Warburg (architect of the U.S. Federal Reserve system), as well as insiders from the J.P. Morgan and Rockefeller families like John W. Davis, Alexander Hemphill, and Paul Cravath.

The organization today has infiltrated virtually every aspect of American life in its quest to fulfill its founders’ agenda.

Every American president elected since the end of WWII has been a member with the exception of Ronald Reagan. But even the promise and vision of the U.N.’s founders

Bill Clinton told the world on C-Span that every president since Truman has been working towards the creation of this so-called “new world order.” After the Sept. 11 attacks the co-chair of the CFR and former senator Gary Hart said it was time for Bush’s vision. Former vice-president Dan Quayle agreed on CNN, saying it was “the best chance to establish the new world order.”

Countless officials have attempted to publicize the intentions of the organization, but the media refused to help.

Dan Smoot, a former member of the FBI Headquarters staff, summarized as follows: “The ultimate aim of the CFR is to create a one-world socialist system, and to make the U.S. an official part of it.”

Navy Admiral Chester Ward was a member for 16 years. Upon resigning from the organization in disgust, he warned the American people.

“The most powerful clique in these elitist groups have one objective in common – they want to bring about the surrender of the sovereignty of the national independence of the United States,” he said. “A second clique of international members in the CFR comprises the Wall Street international bankers and their key agents. Primarily, they want the world banking monopoly from whatever power ends up in control of global government.”

Some reporters have written about the subject as well. William Blase of The Courier explained, “If one group is effectively in control of national governments and multinational corporations; promotes world government through control of media, foundation grants, and education; and controls and guides the issues of the day, then they control most options available. The Council on Foreign Relations, and the financial powers behind it, have done all these things, and

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Local charities help here, nationally, abroad

Continued from front page

fully. “Lots of them even won medals.”

His next big project will be to actually start an orphanage there. An abandoned building has already been selected, so he’ll be heading back to Ukraine soon.

“It’s hard to even tell people what it’s like to go there and see all those suffering children, it’s definitely a life-changing experience,” he said. “There is nothing in the world like the feeling you get from helping them; it’s just the best feeling in the world, nothing can compare to it.”

Thompson said he encourages everybody to follow their dreams and help make the world a better place.

“If I believed in government force, I would say it should be mandatory,” he chuckled. “It really makes you a better and stronger person.”

Thompson’s orphans in Ukraine represent only a fraction of the victims created by a phenomenon witnessed throughout history: When government is allowed to “solve” all problems, it inevitably creates more. The tragic results of Ukraine’s centrally-planned economy under the Soviet Union is exactly the same story: the less fortunate need to care for the less fortunate. Excessive taxation and government interference even become mandatory. Excessive taxation and government interference was probably responsible for over 100 million deaths since. The American people remain the most charitable, according to economists, this also keeps government spending much longer. Historically, it has always failed and led to a ruined citizenry, both financially and emotionally.

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Florida law professor challenges ‘pervasive’ gov’t spying

- Government surveillance has expanded dramatically in recent years but a new book written by a University of Florida professor at the Levin College of Law says courts and lawmakers need to enforce the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution.

GAINESVILLE - From the increasing use of closed-circuit televisions and global positioning systems to an array of sophisticated technologies that can access personal records without even a warrant; out-of-control government surveillance represents an insidious assault on the freedom of Americans. According to the University of Florida law professor who just wrote a book explaining the issue, the law is failing to respond.

"The Supreme Court of the United States and the court system generally are of the opinion that the Constitution; the Fourth Amendment is pretty much a dead letter," said Christopher Slobogin, the author of 'Privacy at Risk: The New Surveillance State,' the author of 'Privacy at Risk,' the author of 'Privacy at Risk,' the author of 'Privacy at Risk,' the author of 'Privacy at Risk.'

The Supreme Court has held that, in essence, we don’t have privacy in public so the cameras that watch what we do in the streets aren’t governed by the Constitution, Slobogin said. "It has also held that any information that we give to third parties such as banks or schools or businesses or even doctors is no longer protected by the Fourth Amendment or the courts; the court says that we’ve essentially waived our Fourth Amendment protection when we agreed to give information to a third party. So in both of those areas the Constitution is pretty much a dead letter.

In addition to the controversy over the legality of the increasing surveillance in the first place, it is often counter-productive. Despite governments’ arguments for the cameras at intersections, a recent study by the University of South Florida published in the ‘Florida Public Health Review’ determined that they weren’t just expensive and ineffective - cameras actually increase the number of crashes and injuries.

"People see a yellow light and normally they would drive through it, but at camera intersections they do the quick stop," said Barbara Langland-Orban, one of three co-authors of the study and an associate professor in USF’s Department of Health Policy and Management. "They slam on the brakes and that means everybody else behind them slams on the brakes." At the federal level more than 120 government data mining programs gather personal information that can be connected to a particular individual, Slobogin says. These programs troll through financial, travel, and medical records; all with the goal of identifying patterns of behavior that might reveal criminal activity.

"Privacy concerns seem to be very secondary to the government when it’s engaging in these kinds of surveillance programs,” Slobogin said. "While Congress or the executive branch has ended some efforts, there always seem to be new programs that crop up to take the place of the previous program. So until the government runs out of money, I think we’re going to continue to see these data mining endeavors, even though they tend to be very ineffective, and even though they can potentially gather huge amounts of personal information about people.”

Harvard Law School professor Carol Steiker said Slobogin’s book could not be more timely.

"In the years since 9/11, the growing power and incentive of the government to collect information about its citizens has posed new and increasingly difficult questions. Scholars and students of these questions, as well as legislators and law enforcement officials, will find this book both a wide-ranging analysis of the implications of technological developments for the scope of personal privacy and enormously helpful conceptual framework for regulating the government’s surveillance power under the Constitution.”

Critics of the so-called "out-of-control" surveillance say these flagrant violations of the people’s rights are exactly what the enemy actually wants. The 2001 attacks on liberty and the American way of life should never serve as an excuse to extinguish the very foundation of America's freedom: the U.S. Constitution.

How do you stand on PERSONAL issues? How do you stand on ECONOMIC issues? How do you stand on PERSONAL and ECONOMIC issues?

A = Agree  M = Maybe  D = Disagree

MARK YOUR PERSONAL score on the lower-left scale; your ECONOMIC score on the lower-right. Then follow the grid lines until you 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.


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As we begin preparing for income-tax deadline time, the end of school (when the kids will be home), our summer vacations and so on, it just adds more to our already hectic days of soccer practice, ballet lessons, church functions, work obligations and appointments and whatever else may be piled on our plate at the time.

It seems our days get filled with more “to do” stuff than we have hours in the day to actually do them. During daylight savings time I was running around crazy because in my busy schedule I … forgot to set my clocks.

When it’s all said and done it seems we simply wind up at the end of our day feeling overworked, over exhausted, and overwhelmed. Sometimes we get so busy we don’t even stop to eat. Ever pull up to the drive-through and call it dinner? Well guess what? You are not alone. There were times when even Jesus himself had simply had it also! He told his disciples “because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat… ’Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest’” (Mark 6:31).

Jesus knew the importance of getting away and taking a breather. Taking a break is not a waste of time or energy. It is a time to refuel. Refuel your mind, body and soul - a time to reconnect. I was recently on a two night women’s retreat where I found it interesting that several of the women could not part with their cell phones. Still attached to their ears or hips, they just could not relinquish that cellular connection to their families. Could they not surrender the control of their lives and families to God, if even for a few hours? All he wants is to show us that he could and would take care of things when we allow ourselves to get away. He wanted these ladies to simply trust Him and take a few days to soak on Him - just for themselves without the cares of the world clouding their one on one time. We get so involved in doing, especially for others, that we forget to do for ourselves, and especially for God. I took my cell phone on the trip, mind you, but I left it in my room and only twice the entire weekend, during free time did I briefly check in, only to be reassured that God really was in control. He truly did want me to rest.

Whatever is going on in your world, believe me it will still be there when you come back from your quiet place of rest and regrouping. The agendas and schedules will be the same, but you will be different - drastically different. When you return you’ll be renewed, refueled, invigorated and refreshed. You’ll probably be more productive too.

So I challenge you, the next time you’re feeling overwhelmed ask yourself, (WWJD?) What would Jesus do? Take time today to rest, really rest. Find a quiet place. Feed the birds at the park, walk on the beach, take a stroll through the woods or simply lie on your hammock and see what shapes the clouds look like. Let your mind wander. For today, even for a few moments, forget about deadlines and day planners. Simply go by yourself to a quiet place… and get some needed rest.

c. Michelle Bryant is a writer for the Liberty-Sentinel and the author of the devotional book “God, are You listening?” www.godareyoulistening.com

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Adult and embryonic stem-cell research.

There seems to be a lot of confusion on the issue of stem-cell research today. I'm not sure if it's the fault of the media, but they never tell the public about adult stem-cell research and the cures that have come from it.

President Bush announced in 2001 that federal funding for stem-cell research would be restricted to lines of embryonic stem-cells derived from embryos (read pre-born children) that were created for reproductive purposes (people wanted these babies to be implanted). They were supposedly set to be thrown away. Informed consent from the “owners” of the embryos had to be secured without offering money.

What this means in layman terms is that prospective parents who “own” unneeded or unwanted “surplus” pre-born children could “donate” them. This is all takes place, of course, without the consent of the child who is to be destroyed in the name of “science.”

All this happens when there is absolutely no moral, ethical or religious objection to the issue of stem-cell research today. It should invite! Hearing the views of the “other side” is what makes people get out of their box and think…right?

I'm not sure if it's the fault of the media, but they never tell the public about adult stem-cell research and the cures that have come from it.

There are a number of issues regarding the University of Florida that have occupied me for months now; the nature of the guest speakers that are invited and the amount of money they are paid are among them.

Firstly, if one were to look at the nature and caliber of the people that are invited to speak not only at UF, but at all universities in this country, one would find that they hold overwhelmingly liberal views. That's OK, we are in America where we have the first amendment. But the universities in this country state that the reason for hosting such speakers is to expose the students to “controversial” people that will provoke thought.

However, if the people who frequent such presentations already understand and agree with the speaker, no thought is provoked.

Examples of such people include John Kerry and Dr. Death. It was recently brought to my attention that Ron Paul was invited to speak at UF and the invitation was dismissed by the university. That action speaks for itself! They line liberals up around the block to speak about their views, but when a conservative is invited, they wouldn't allow it. Isn't this America today? Don't we all have the right of free expression? If that's true, then why aren't conservatives allowed to speak at universities?

If the university wants to invoke thought, conservatives are exactly the kind of people it should invite! Hearing the views of the “other side” is what makes people get out of their box and think…right?

The universities are quick to invite murderers, holocaust deniers and enemy dictators to spread their views under the guise of “tolerance,” all while they deny conservatives an invitation.

I know that not all of you agree with my “moral question” as to why we shouldn't invite these types, so I’ll move on to what these people have cost us monetarily.

Apparently the “university” doesn’t invite people to speak about “extremist government” does. Fair enough... but who funds student government? Isn’t it the university? And who has to approve or deny the speakers the SG chooses? The standard “speakers’ fee” is $50,000! They pay this while they warn that they may not be able to hold summer classes and that they may have to cut admissions for financial reasons. And yet, they have $50,000 here and there to waste on student government. With the money that they use for speaker fees they could hire teachers, or fund research.

To conclude I will say this: the speaker fees are too high, and the universities clearly show a liberal bias when choosing who they invite, and more importantly; who they deny. Why not make it fair? Why not invite an equal number of both? A fair guess would be that the universities are liberal strong-holds! If you are a liberal in student government, heed my words! If I am wrong, then prove it! Allow people that don’t agree with you to come to UF.

Anthony Gray
Gainesville, Florida

War on the family.

It took great insight and courage to publish constitutional law attorney Shelby Sharp’s expose on no-fault divorce. The battle he describes is truly World War III. The battle front spread rapidly from California in 1969 to each of the American states, taking out 42 million families in the US before extending to every nation across the globe.

This is a war that pits fidelity against brokenness. It infiltrates every institution and every facet of a nation’s life corroding the human core along the tributaries of the nervous system into the soul. Unlike any World War in history, it is waged internally by citizens fighting their own country, county by county, attacking their own children, spouses and other family members with the full support of their communities, legislators and other office holders, judges, police, mental health professionals and members of the clergy. Americans, through their government operations, even attack their own soldiers as they defend the nation externally, by dismantling their families in their absence.

What is truly remarkable is that the nuclear device responsible for this conflagration was launched by the guardians of law, the American Bar Association (see www. uniformdivorce.com) not long after Soviet Premier Khruchev swore from the United Nations podium in 1960 that he would “bury the US without firing a shot.” America’s top attorneys, member’s of the ABA’s Uniform Law Commission, quietly designed and detonated this social weapon in stages beginning in 1965 and culminating in 1974 with the publication of the Uniform Marriage and Divorce Act. The key leadership of this project proceeded with full awareness of how Vladimir Lenin implemented no-fault divorce in Russia after the Bolshevik Revolution to topple the social order, eliminate opposition and install a dictatorship to control the masses.

Michael T. Ross, MD
President,
Family Rights Coalition of Michigan
Troy, Michigan

Continued on next page
Sometimes I wonder. Is this still the America that we live in today? the people? By the people? For the people? “Of government, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Of the Gettysburg Address; “govern ment of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Does that sound like a free society? Of our hard earned money goes to paying tax, property tax and income tax, about half about this, after gas taxes, utility taxes, sales tax, property tax and income tax, about half of our power and freedom. Think about this, after gas taxes, utility taxes, sales tax, property tax and income tax, about half of our hard earned money goes to paying taxes! If we want to fish, hunt, drive, or even get married we need government permission! Does that sound like a free society? I’ll end with this very famous excerpt from the Gettysburg Address: “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Of the people! By the people! For the people! Is this still the America that we live in today? Sometimes I wonder. Shannon Walker, Ocala, Florida

Democrat infighting helps Republicans. The country and its political parties are in shambles. Democrats want to ensure that they win the White House, but the mean-spirited nature of the campaign is going to leave whoever comes out a bloody mess, even though most of the accusations only scratch the surface. McCain is already unpopular among conservatives, but at least his battle for the nomination seems to have been won with just Ron Paul still left holding out.

I think democrats have a choice: either the party will be torn asunder by this infighting, or the candidates can run an honest, issue-based campaign. The media should focus more on the issues than on whether or not Senator Clinton was the first First Lady since Eleanor Roosevelt to visit a war zone.

It’s ridiculous. When was the last time the media honestly told people what the differences in any of the candidate’s economic policy proposals are? Senator Obama gave a speech on the economy on March 26th. He attacked Senator McCain and everything.

If the democrats were to have a brokered convention, I really think the issues could be the deciding factor in this one. It may not be over for Clinton; she has won very important states that democrats will need to win in order to get into the White House in November.

As of now, I don’t think that what the media calls a “dream ticket” is possible. Because of the veracious nature of the debates and campaigns, it would be very hard at least for them to work together. But again, they are very similar on most of their policies and beliefs.

If the Democrats were to come together and unite around the so-called “dream ticket,” I don’t believe McCain could beat it. However, if the Democrats keep tearing at each other apart and doing the Republicans’ work for them, it will be almost impossible for either of them not to come out looking weak.

Matt Kovarsky Orlando, Florida

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Mail from our readers

Continued from last page

Founding fathers and small government, the more I talk to people the more I realize there is a universal sense that America is in trouble. Citizen’s are frightened for the future. We’re at war, economic problems are on the horizon, social security is bankrupt, inflation is on the rise, and the list goes on and on.

Republicans blame the Democrats. Democrats blame the Republicans. Some blame the religious right, others blame the liberal media. We may differ in who we point the finger at, but we all know in our hearts that something is wrong. This country is way off track.

Recently I realized that what we are seeing is not a failure of the Republicans or a failure of the Democrats. It’s a fundamental failure of government. Our system isn’t working anymore - government is too big. We have lost sight of our founding fathers and their vision. They would be horrified at what we have done with the free society they created.

While buying my groceries the other day I spoke to a very smart cashier. She was able to sum it up in one short statement: “I cannot believe how civilly ignorant people are. They don’t realize what this country is supposed to be like.” She was talking about the Constitution and what a society based on it should look like.

Our founders knew the evils of a large oppressive government. They fought a revolution to escape from its clutches. A system of checks and balances with a separation of powers and even a Bill of Rights were all adopted to ensure the limitation of government power. Thomas Jefferson once said “My reading of history convinces me that most bad government comes from too much government.”

Do you feel that there is a concentration of power in Washington that you and I are not part of? Do you really have a say, or do special interests run the show?

Over the years we have turned our small government based on constitutional principles into a monstrous mess that continues to grow. Every time there is a problem we turn to government to fix it. But, we know that this is ridiculous. When has government ever fixed anything? Every time the government gets involved there are more laws and regulations written, huge amounts of taxpayer money spent, and often no resolution to the problem. Examples include the war on drugs, the war on poverty, and No Child Left Behind.

A brilliant bumper sticker I saw said- Government; getting nothing done expensively. Doesn’t that sum it up? Each time we allow our government to grow we sacrifice a little more of our power and freedom. Think about this, after gas taxes, utility taxes, sales tax, property tax and income tax, about half of our hard earned money goes to paying taxes! If we want to fish, hunt, drive, or even get married we need government permission! Does that sound like a free society?

I’ll end with this very famous excerpt from the Gettysburg Address: “government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Of the people! By the people! For the people! Is this still the America that we live in today? Sometimes I wonder.

Shannon Walker, Ocala, Florida

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- 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.”