



The Liberty Sentinel of Florida



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"The moment the idea is admitted into society that property is not as sacred as the laws of God, and that there is no force of law and public justice to protect it, anarchy and tyranny commence." —Thomas Jefferson



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Florida may restore rule of law

According to activists and researchers around the state who exposed widespread criminal activity at all levels of government, Florida's judges now seem to be making an honest effort to comply with State and Federal laws. The controversy surrounding their mandatory loyalty oaths to the Constitutions of Florida and these United States has been catapulted into the spotlight after documents revealed that many high-level officials were aware of the violations. Investigators say it's more than just judges—even current candidates don't have valid oaths.

PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

TALLAHASSEE — Chief Justice R. Fred Lewis of Florida's Supreme Court announced late last month that he will require senior judges to swear a loyalty oath at the beginning of each term from now on — a positive sign according to experts. The announcement came on the heels of a two-year push by Florida legal researcher Bob Hurt and others to force the state government to obey the law. While the findings in his book are allegedly causing panic amongst upper levels of government, activists hope to use the exposure as an opportunity to restore the rule of law in Florida and possibly elsewhere.

"May our Heavenly Father bless every grain of your goodness and give you courage to aspire to greatness in making ours the best state in America, THE state where all judges respect and obey the law," Hurt wrote in a letter to the Chief Justice Lewis thanking him for the recent announcement. "Now, what shall we do about the fact that all the judges are still felony impostors in spite of having sworn new oaths?"

Investigators who uncovered the felonies said the crimes could carry up to 10 year sentences according to



the law, but such a move would bring the state government to a standstill absent a deal. But according to some of the dedicated activists who pushed the issue into the spotlight, most officials now seem to be making a sincere attempt to obey the law and rectify the situation so such severe penalties may not be necessary.

"How do we solve this dilemma outside federal court?" Hurt wondered. "How about a deal with the legislature to do an emergency re-election of everybody now in office, or better yet how about negotiating with the People of Florida for all elected and appointed officials to accept a misdemeanor conviction voluntarily, spend 2 weeks incognito in jail sometime during the next year listening to prisoners and counseling them about their rights, and pay \$1000 fine — Nothing would show good faith better than a *Continued on page 12*

INSIDE THE SNIPES TRIAL

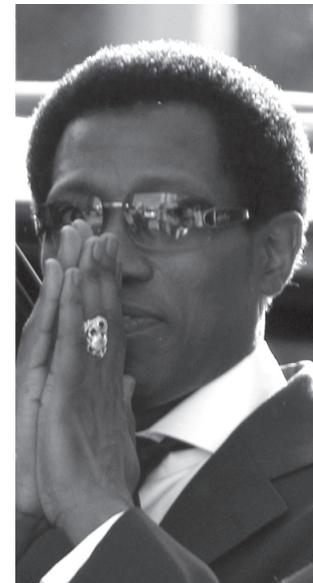
ALEX NEWMAN & GARY R. SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writers

OCALA, Fla. — With a landscape dominated by horse pastures and small town charm, Ocala seems an unlikely setting for ground zero of our governments latest crusade; a war on self-described tax protesters. Destruction is always greatest at the epicenter of an earthquake, but this being Florida perhaps the "eye of the storm" is a more fitting metaphor.

For years, tax protesters have been claiming that the income tax was illegal and that Americans were under no obligation to pay it. Now, with the trial and conviction of Wesley Snipes, Eddie Ray Kahn and Douglas P. Rosile, the U.S. government has had a prominent victory in the battle to prove these tax protesters wrong. Americans, claim the government, are indeed obligated to file taxes and pay for them — one way or another.

The three men at the center of this storm could not be more different. Wesley Snipes is a charismatic Hollywood actor who has worked with the likes of Robert DeNiro, Tommy Lee Jones, and Sean Connery. Eddie Kahn is the wiry and defiant man who founded American Rights Litigators and Guiding Light of God Ministries — the two organizations at the heart of this controversy. And Doug Rosile is a mild-mannered accountant, with all the gruff and intimidating stature one might expect from a man in that field.

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State lawmakers resist union with Mexico, Canada

State legislators and congressmen are taking aim at the proposed 'North American Union' being pushed by the executive branches in all 3 countries through treaties and agreements. Florida may join the dozens of other states that are standing up against the federal government to stop the creation of a regional government similar to the Europe Union.

PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

Elements of the federal government are engaged in the creation of what critics have called a "monster" that could override the Constitution and sovereignty of the United States. Florida has now joined other states nationwide in fighting back this constitutional encroachment.

Republican Senator Evelyn Lynn of Florida's seventh district introduced a measure in the state legislature to try and stop the proposed merger with Canada and Mexico that is being forcefully pursued by President Bush. The measure would urge Congress to stop the plan by attacking some of its key points. One target is the so-called "Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America," signed in 2005, which along with misleading and utterly destructive 'North-American Free Trade Agreement' (NAFTA), are widely cited as the key legal building blocks of this largely unpublicized effort.

Lynn is one of many legislators to express concern about the plan to create the North *Continued on page 4*



"Twelve other states have introduced such legislation, emphasizing the seriousness and anxiety that many states are feeling over this proposed nullification of the United States Constitution."

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Sentinel Staff
ALEX NEWMAN
 Executive Editor
 editor@libertysentinel.org
NEAL CONNER
 Publisher
 publisher@libertysentinel.org
GARY SCHOR
 Ocala Bureau Chief
 gary@libertysentinel.org
ERIK MACLEAN
 Associate Editor
 erik@libertysentinel.org
THOMAS PIORKOWSKI
 Associate Editor
 thomas@libertysentinel.org
KAYLA RENAUD
 Marketing Manager
 kayla@libertysentinel.org
TRAVIS EDEN
 General Consultant
 travis@libertysentinel.org
CORY NEWMAN
 Distribution Manager
 cory@libertysentinel.org
ROXANNE SCHULMAN
 Ad Design Manager
 roxanne@libertysentinel.org



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 The Sentinel is a non-partisan monthly newspaper dedicated to reporting the truth about current events from a patriotic perspective. We are an independent paper – we own ourselves. The staff of The Liberty Sentinel consists of a dedicated group of volunteers, and we operate on a budget provided by advertising and the generous contributions of our readers. With a combination of free-lance writers around the world, local reporters, and other authors and publications that offer 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 are guided by the principles enshrined in our Constitution to do the job the press is supposed to do: guard liberty, expose corruption, and keep the public informed. That's why it's protected by the very first amendment. 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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LIBERTY SENTINEL MEDIA, INC.
 P.O. Box 14973
 GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA 32608
 (352) 275-5876
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Dear readers,
 Whether this is the first time you've picked up a copy of The Liberty Sentinel, or if you've been with us since the beginning, you probably notice something different about this paper. We are independently owned and operated, but that alone does not set us apart. What does set us apart is the way that we approach news. While we do not champion any specific causes or candidates, we do have a philosophy that is very different from other news sources. We do not maintain a pretense of being unbiased on the great questions of our day. In the struggle between crime and civil society, we will always come down on the side of civil society. In the struggle between objective law and unconstitutional usurpations, we will always come down on the side of objective law. And in the struggle between freedom and tyranny, we will always stand proudly with freedom. Our name is The Liberty Sentinel, and we intend to earn that name by fiercely and passionately guarding your liberty. This is watchdog journalism – the kind of journalism our Founders intended. In his #1 bestseller "The Revolution: A Manifesto," Congressman Ron Paul states: "Every election cycle we are treated to candidates who promise us 'change,' and 2008 has been no different. But in the American political lexicon, 'change' always means more of the same: more government, more looting of Americas, more inflation, more police-state measures, more unnecessary war, and more centralization of power. Real change would mean something like the opposite of those things. It might even involve following our Constitution. And that is the one option Americans are never allowed to hear." Readers, this is the place where you will hear that option. Freedom isn't free, but tyranny extracts a price beyond the pale. Each and every one of you has the power to do something to help that cause – patron our advertisers, or if you have a business place an ad with us. This is the newspaper that stands for your liberty, should you choose to keep it. Sincerely, *The Ocala Bureau Chief*

State & local headlines at a glance

Florida Pastor Chuck Baldwin wins a place on the November presidential ballot

Floridan pastor Chuck Baldwin has defeated new member Alan Keyes to become the presidential nominee of the Constitution Party for the Presidency. Keyes, a Washington insider who had competed for the Republican nomination in 2000 and, most recently, in 2008, is criticized by many conservatives for his affiliations with Straussian philosopher Alan Bloom. Chuck Baldwin, the pastor of Pensacola-based Crossroad Baptist Church, ran as the Vice Presidential nominee of Michael Peroutka on the Constitution Party ticket in 2004 after criticizing the Republican nominees for their liberalism. Keyes received a respectable showing of 125 votes, while Baldwin received 383. "A John McCain Presidency will be no better than a Hillary Clinton or a Barack Obama Presidency," Baldwin stated.

DC Madam's "suicide" has many crying foul

Jeane Palfrey, aka "The DC Madam Deborah" died in what investigators are calling a suicide, but many think the circumstances surrounding her death are highly suspicious. Palfrey was convicted in April of running a call girl ring in the DC area that catered to Washington's rich and powerful. Among her clients was Senator David Vittor of Louisiana. She was found hung near her mother's home in Tarpon Springs on May 1.

Two weeks before, on the Alex Jones Show, she said that she would never commit suicide and if she were to die in an apparent suicide, then it was really murder. She had discussed the possibility of her staged suicide many times in the past for the last 17 years. In 1991 she wrote, "If taken into custody, my physical safety and most probably my very life would be jeopardized. Rape, beating, maiming, disfigurement and more than likely murder disguised in the form of just another jailhouse accident or suicide would await me." She also claimed she was being followed and under surveillance for some time.

Brandy Britton who worked as a prostitute for Palfrey was found hanged in a similar fashion in January, just days before she was to be sentenced. Palfrey said in March "I'm planning on going into court and defending myself vigorously and exposing the government." She had repeatedly threatened to release her list of clients if she was sent to prison.

Update: Marion Waste-to-Energy System

In the March edition of The Liberty Sentinel, we did a story on Marion County's proposal to install a "waste to energy" incinerator to meet the county's waste disposal needs. In doing the story, the Sentinel looked at the feasibility of "plasma-arch" incinerators, which are reportedly cleaner, but are a newer, less proven, and more expensive technology than traditional incineration methods.

At the April 21st meeting of Marion's Taxpayer Action Group, Covanta Energy gave an overview of the system they are proposing for Marion, which relies on more traditional incineration methods. While the Covanta representatives gave a somewhat rosy view of the environmental impact, it is also clear that Marion's landfill isn't the most environmentally friendly solution either.

But troubling from a free-market perspective was the fact that the regulation of the sale of energy produced at the plant would actually lead to higher waste disposal fees. The Covanta representatives suggested that if the energy produced by the plant were allowed to be sold at market value, the end cost to the consumer would be comparable to the cost of landfilling. Here we have a classic example of how regulations that are purported to protect consumers and the environment are actually standing in the way of a cleaner community, lower costs, and the ever elusive goal of energy independence.

Juniper Wayside closed to swimmers and pets

Public lands, as the name implies, are supposedly set aside for the public. That didn't stop the U.S. Forest Service from baring swimmers and pets from one of the few accessible unrestricted areas of the Ocala National Forest. For years

Juniper Wayside has been a popular hangout, especially for families with children because of the shallow waters, pristine water quality, and slow-moving current of the Juniper Creek. The creek runs 9 miles from Juniper Springs to Lake George, but swimming and wading is generally limited to the area immediately adjacent to HWY 19.

While the area "was" extremely popular and sometimes crowded, the vast majority of the people visiting Juniper Wayside were respectful of the environment and each other. A 2002 report on the area stated, "Juniper Creek is one of the streams used by Central District biologists as a 'best attainable condition' reference site for comparison with other streams in this portion of the state." That didn't stop the Florida Native Plant Society from claiming "Native vegetation has been virtually eliminated from the affected section of the Juniper Creek stream channel by the combined effects of physical disturbance and sedimentation as a direct result of the unauthorized recreational use at this location. There has also been extensive damage to the stream bank, which has served as the primary source of sediments deposited into Juniper Creek." But critics of the closure call this statement "hogwash," and point to the pristine condition of the water and the area. The fact that this closure was announced and finalized during the winter months, when use of the area was at a low ebb, suggests the that public input was not properly vetted.

Local candidate speaks at a March on the Capitol

On April 15th thousands of Ron Paul supporters from across the country converged on Washington D.C. for the Freedom Rally. Among the dozens of speakers was Greg Lewis who is running for the House of Representatives in Florida's 8th District. His speech, which took place on the West Lawn of the Capitol, was very well received by the thousands in attendance. Those who took time from their busy lives did so in order to promote the ideals that Lewis' campaign summarizes as "Less Government, Lower Taxes, and More Liberty". Lewis warned of loss of liberty and the drifting away from the founding ideals of the country. Among the causes of concern were the IRS and Federal Reserve.

"We are subject to an unconstitutional IRS - this entity robs us of our wealth. 100% of the Federal income tax we pay goes to the Federal Reserve. We are also subject to an unconstitutional Federal Reserve. They are the cause of, not the solution to all of our nation's economic problems right now. The Founding Fathers warned us that if we ever allowed private bankers to gain control of the issuance of our currency that they would control, manipulate, and bankrupt this nation, and that's what they've done. It's time to get rid of the Federal Reserve as well."

Lewis also spoke about the Patriot Act and unconstitutional spying capabilities. "The Patriot Act was given to members of Congress 15 minutes before they had to vote on it. It gives federal agents the right to write their own search warrants, if you are ever given one of these search warrants you can not tell your spouse, your pastor, lawyer, you can't even tell a federal judge in court, or else you will go to jail. This is not the way an open society should be run. It's time to end the Patriot Act also."

He inspired the audience to take action. "We are involved in an ideology battle for the future of America right now. Do we sit back and allow government to grow in size and corruption while our liberties are slowly eroded? Or do we stand up with one voice and shout that: 'Enough is enough — we want our country back!' It's time we stop being the subjects of government, and become the masters of it yet again."

Lewis, like Ron Paul used the Constitution as a guideline for government. "It's important to remember that the Constitution was not written on a whim, there have been thousands of years of civilization, every type of government has been tried before, and has failed. The Founders understood that government is the problem, and they wrote the Constitution to chain it down. We must remember that we do have a Constitution, it is the best guide book for a country ever written, we ought to actually adhere to it."

LOCAL EVENTS

MAY 8TH, THURSDAY.
'Overview of America' Movie Night
 7:00pm–8:30pm, Gainesville, Lloyd Bailey's Suba & Watersports (3405-B NW 97th Blvd.)

MAY 9TH, FRIDAY.
Charity Party for 'Friends Of Our Orphanages'
 6:30pm–9:00pm, Gainesville, UF Hilton Hotel, Main Lobby & Bar (1714 SW 34th St.) Join us for a fun-filled evening in support of a local charity for Ukrainian orphans. Desserts by Panera. Bring your friends and loved ones!

MAY 10TH, SATURDAY.
American Heroes Air Show
 9am–4pm, Santa Fe Community College overflow parking (9100 NW 39th Ave., Gainesville) A free air show focusing on public service helicopters and those who work with them. Law enforcement, fire, EMS, military and civilian participants. Helicopter rides too!

MAY 13TH, TUESDAY.
Liberty Republican Club
 7:00pm, The Thurow Residence, Morriston (west Marion) Please call 352-528-9352 for directions.

MAY 19TH, MONDAY.
Taxpayers Action Group of Marion County
 6:00pm, Ocala Public Library. All Marion taxpayers invited. www.TAGMarionCounty.org

MAY 19TH, MONDAY.
Republican Party of Marion County
 7:30pm, Harvey Klein Republican Auditorium (4000 East Silver Springs Blvd.) www.RPMCF.org

MAY 19TH, MONDAY.
John Birch Society (Trenton Chapter)
 7:00pm, Gilchrist County Public Library (105 NE 11th Ave.) The first meeting of a new chapter!

MAY 22ND, THURSDAY.
Greater Ocala Republican Club
 6:00pm, Sunset Room, Holiday Inn Ocala (3600 SW 38th Ave. — across from Sam's on Hwy 200)

MAY 26TH, MONDAY.
John Birch Society (Gainesville Chapter)
 7:00pm, Lloyd Bailey's Scuba & Watersports (3405-B NW 97th Blvd.) www.LloydBaileysScuba.com (352) 332-0738

MARCH 30TH, FRIDAY.
'Hacking Democracy' Movie Night
 8:30pm & 10:00pm, Belleview City Hall (5343 SE Abshier Blvd.) See ad on Page 19.

APRIL 2ND, MONDAY.
Hurricane Preparedness Meeting
 6:30pm, Belleview Worship Center (11764 SE Highway 301)

JUNE 9TH–15TH
2008 Porcupine Freedom Festival
 Gunstock Mountain Resort, Gilford, New Hampshire
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State senator joins fight for American sovereignty

Continued from front page

American Union. Last year U.S. Rep. Virgil Goode introduced H.C.R. 40 in the U.S. Congress "Expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) Superhighway System or enter into a North American Union with Mexico and Canada." Forty-three congressmen co-sponsored the bill including Ron Paul, Duncan Hunter, Tom Tancredo, and Cliff Stearns, representative for parts of Marion and Alachua counties.



EVELYN LYNN

Florida is not the only state in which an initiative opposing the North American Union has been introduced. Twelve other states have introduced such legislation, emphasizing the seriousness and anxiety that many states are feeling over this proposed nullification of the United States Constitution. The legislation in many of these states includes opposition to the lack of borders that would exist under the NAU treaty, as well as the Amero. The Amero is the potential currency for the super-nation and would be an amalgamation of the American, Mexican, and Canadian dollars.

The national bill opposing the North American Union decries the creation of the Security and Prosperity Partnership in 2005 as a foreshadowing of the future prospect of such a super-state. It mentions that reports by the SPP indicate that it has implemented regulatory changes among the three countries that circumvent United States trade, transportation, homeland security, and border security functions, and that the SPP will continue to add regulations and administrative rules in the future.

The bill recognizes that regulations and border security changes initiated by the SPP violate the nation's sovereignty. Also mentioned is the proposed building of a NAFTA Superhighway traveling through the countries and the planning of the Trans-Texas Corridor, which would eventually serve as a major route on the Superhighway. Such a corridor, the bill warns, will severely harm the American trucking industry due to the difficulty American truckers would have collecting insurance payments off of the claims of Mexican drivers. Unrestricted foreign trucking would also lead to grave security issues, namely human smuggling and terrorist activity. We must ask why an administration which often speaks of the need to prevent terrorism supports measures which would allow terrorists to enter the country largely unrestricted.

The North American Union was first discussed by the Council on Foreign Relations, in their report "Building a North American Community." In it, the Council argues that the North American Union is a proposal to create, by 2010, "a North American community to enhance security, prosperity, and opportunity." Much debate concerning the efficacy of this proposal, as well as the constitutional nature of such a proposal, has gone on behind closed doors. Bureaucrats and powerful businessmen have been the only ones privileged enough to orient the future course of our country. This raises serious issues concerning the freedom and democratic

tradition of the United States.

The Constitution Party of the United States has also come out as a strong opponent of the proposed NAU and NAFTA Superhighway. They have said: "It is the strong belief of the Constitution Party National Committee that the United States should not engage in the construction of a North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) superhighway system or enter into a North American Union with Mexico and Canada." Members of the Constitution Party have been supporting the few representatives in Congress who have been bold enough to stand up to this trans-national beast. Leading conservatives, as well as Cliff Stearns and Evelyn Lynn, have denounced the plans for a superhighway and chastised the Bush administration for being an active participant in diminishing the sovereignty of the United States. Howard Phillips, chairman of the Conservative Caucus, said at a news conference in Ottawa that Bush is trying to develop a 'New World Order' of central-

ized world government controlled by super-national bureaucracies. He also said some of the bureaucracies already exist, including the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, and the United Nations.

The proposed governing structure of the North American Union would be composed of a panel of 15 appointees, with 5 representing each of the three countries. This would give Mexico's population of 108 million, and Canada's population of 33 million an equal voice in the decisions made by over 300 million citizens of the United States. Critics claim a "North American Union" would be a paramount threat to our nation's sovereignty, as it would subordinate both federal and state governmental authority to the control of one super-national authority. Gone would be all of the democratic underpinnings of our republic, replaced with a ruling oligarchy of appointed bureaucrats. The Constitution would no longer be the supreme law of the land; the decisions of government elites would now hold that honor.



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National headlines at a glance

British Intelligence accused of torture

Officers in the British Security Service, also known as MIS, have been accused of collusion in the torture of terrorism suspects. According to The Guardian, MIS agents are suspected of transferring suspects to Pakistan, where the use of torture in interrogations is common. British terrorism suspects claim they had been brutalized by members of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence Agency. A London attorney representing the men remarked that evidence shows "that, at the very worst, the British Security Service instigates the illegal detention and torture of British citizens, and at the very best turns a blind eye to torture." Torture or aiding and abetting its practice is illegal in the United Kingdom and is banned by the laws of most nations throughout the world.

Lethal injection ruled legal

The Supreme Court has ruled that the state of Kentucky's implementation of lethal injection is Constitutional. The April 17 ruling stated that lethal injection did not meet the definition of "cruel and unusual punishment" as prohibited by the Eighth Amendment. "Simply because an execution method may result in pain, either by accident or as an inescapable consequence of death, does not establish the sort of 'objectively intolerable risk of harm' that qualifies as cruel and unusual," Justice Roberts stated in his majority ruling. Opponents of the death penalty ruling argue that all forms of execution inherently qualify as cruel and unusual punishment and that the state should not have the power to end life.

Government now the largest U.S. employer

12 years after President Bill Clinton declared that "The era of big government is over," bureaucracy is back with a vengeance. "The federal government employs more than 2,700,000 workers and hires hundreds of thousands each year to replace civil service workers that transfer to other federal government jobs, retire, or leave for other reasons. Average annual salary for full-time federal government jobs exceeds \$67,000. The U.S. Government is the largest employer in the United States, hiring about 2.0 percent of the nation's work force," according to Federal Jobs Net. And these jobs are full of pork, uh... we mean perks. "The average annual federal workers compensation, pay plus benefits, is \$106,871 compared to just \$53,288 for the private sector," says the United States Bureau of Economic Analysis. Second place goes to Wal-Mart, the largest private employer in the States, with just over 1.1 million employees.

Marijuana Decriminalization moves to floor of House

The long-ignored issue of cannabis legalization has emerged in the form of a bill that could significantly alter American drug war policies. The bill, as proposed, would allow responsible adult possession of up to 100 grams of cannabis. According to Reason Magazine, a liberty-oriented publication, the law is similar to that proposed by a commission established by the Nixon Ad-

ministration. Representative Barney Frank believes that such a change in cannabis laws is justified on the basis that responsible adults should not be prevented from actions that some may be considered unwise, but do not harm others. Critics cite theories linking cannabis use with the use of harder drugs and warn against what they see as abandoning an important battle in a broader drug war. Aiming support in Congress as the economy worsens.



Charlton Heston was a passionate activist in the civil rights movement. Here, he (left) is seen during a 1961 picketing of a whites-only restaurant.

Former NRA president dies

American actor and gun rights advocate Charlton Heston died on April 5 after a long battle with cancer. Heston served as the President of the National Rifle Association from 1998 until 2003, famously echoing the challenge, "... From my cold, dead hands!" Admirers said he will also be remembered for his early advocacy of the Civil Rights Movement, which included picketing segregated restaurants and accompanying Martin Luther King in his 1963 March on Washington DC. "We salute Heston for his promotion of causes that embody the American way of life," said one mourner.

Hostile proposal against head of energy provider considered

A campaign to undermine the authority of ExxonMobil's Chief Executive Officer Rex Tillerson was announced by 66 members of the Rockefeller family in a statement released on April 30. Aiming to divide the top position into two by adding the "independent" position of "chairman," the Rockefellers also hope to use the company's vast resources for "a taskforce to study global warming," among other things. According to Rockefeller Goodwin, some of the billions also "should go towards looking to the future and to the kind of energy this world might need."

Despite the fact that global warming research sponsored by Rockefeller family fortunes has been called "deceptive" by scientists not influenced through their grant-making, the descendants of the founder of ExxonMobil's predecessor Standard Oil claim that the company's leadership was "failing to address the future of energy" and should focus more on energy independence and climate change. An Exxon spokesman said the board has "met members of the Rockefeller family on many occasions over a number of years." But in spite of criticism over its strategy, Exxon's shares have surged by 20% in the last year under Tillerson's leadership.

"You should hear him talk about how

the principals of scouting are what guides his life," the nation's top scout said about Exxon's C.E.O. The best part of being 'Chief Scouting Officer' for the Boy Scouts of America: "I can sit in the office of the chairman of Exxon Mobil and talk about scouting," Robert Mazzuca told Forbes Magazine. "I mean how cool is that?"

He also noted that "people who come through scouting know that the principles we work with are really valuable principles" and that they teach leaders the value of being personally involved. "These are corporate giants who understand the value of a workforce that has integrity."

Paul O' Neal who is heading the Rockefeller committee on this affair said "they are fighting the last war and they're not seeing they're facing a new war." While it is not known how much of ExxonMobil is owned by the 66 Rockefellers out of the 78 who own shares, the vast state government pension funds

of California and Connecticut have pledged their support as well. Just Connecticut's state pension holds \$300 million worth of shares.

Many Rockefellers are known for their extensive ties to policy makers around the world, and critics say their affinity for global

warming is part of a push for global laws. David Rockefeller in fact admitted in his autobiography that he was promoting world government, but he labels those who criticize him for it as "extremists."

The Rockefeller's shareholder proposals are not binding, but they will be considered by the company's leadership as it decides how to proceed.

Chinese Police on patrol in California

Members of the Chinese "People's Armed Police" from China were in San Francisco, Calif., on April 9 to "guard the flame" of the "Olympia ceremony," reported the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. In effect, this means that foreign police were exercising authority on American soil. The foreign law-enforcement officers, who one Olympics official referred to as "thugs" after the event was held in London, have been accused of using heavy-handed tactics against protesters. Among those harassed in other nations: a British journalist and a French torchbearer who attempted to wear a headband supporting Tibetan independence. Protesters opposed to China's hosting of the games have clashed with the police in London and Paris and were able to disrupt the ceremony. But critics say foreign police should have no authority on American soil under any circumstances and that "the lack of accountability of these foreign police is a fundamental danger to freedom."



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Actor Wesley Snipes loses against latest sci-fi fiend, the IRS

Continued from front page

Yet all three men were together, accused of the same offenses, and brought here to this Ocala courthouse to be sentenced for the crimes of which they had been convicted — almost.

While the jury went right along with the state's case against Mr. Kahn and Mr. Rosile, they were much more tepid in their judgment of Mr. Snipes. Unlike his two codefendants, Mr. Snipes was acquitted of the felony charges against him, and convicted of only three misdemeanor charges of "failure to file a tax return" for the years 1999, 2000, and 2001.

Whatever one's opinion on the legal and ethical considerations of the income tax, the jury might have been on to something. Kahn and Rosile were operating a business, openly — with hundreds of clients, to whom they were selling the same "advice" they sold to Mr. Snipes. He was their client. As a client, Snipes was the recipient of what could be best described as bad advice.

Why was Mr. Snipes put on trial with the very same tax experts who authored the scheme? The answer to that question delves into one of the more controversial aspects of criminal procedure, and that is the matter of deterrent.

While the actions of Wesley Snipes were no different in substance from any of the other many clients of American Rights Litigators, there was something different about him and that was his fame. By specifically targeting a celebrity, the prosecutors could make a bigger splash with fewer resources.

This raises important ethical and legal questions that we should be asking. While celebrities should not get lesser sentences than members of the general public, is it fair to make examples of them by target them specifically?

This question was brought up repeatedly and passionately by defense attorney Carmen Hernandez, who took the defense's lead in disputing the government's 37 page Sentencing

Memorandum. Sentencing Memorandums are documents which help provide a numerical score to a defendant, and were designed to add a layer of objectivity to the sentencing process and prevent disparages in sentencing. Her objections to the document were numerous, but most of them centered around one issue.

The core of Ms. Hernandez's objections to the document centered around the fact that many of the issues raised in the document were directly related to the felony charges which Mr. Snipes was acquitted of. The question she repeatedly asked the court was "Doesn't that acquittal mean something?"

Judge Hodge's answer to that question was that the acquittal did mean something. Instead of facing 16 years, Snipes was facing 3.

After the wave of objections were heard and for the most part dismissed, a parade of character witnesses took the stand. Easily the most flamboyant of these witnesses was Judge Joe Brown, the former judge with his own TV show. A powerful orator, Judge Brown went on about the good character of Mr. Snipes, something the prosecution could not let go unchallenged. "Do you think that someone who has benefited so greatly from the American system, yet avoids paying taxes has good character?" asked one of the prosecutors. Like a batter being pitched the throw, Judge Brown quickly hit back, "Big companies like Boeing often don't pay taxes and they have certainly benefited from the America system." The spectators could not contain their laughter.

Another thing that should have elicited

laughter was the repetitious statements by the prosecutors lauding the benefits Americans see from the income tax. Those statements were laughable for the very reason that they aren't true.



Popular TV judge Joe Brown testified in defense of Snipes, pointing out that companies such as Boeing and Lockheed Martin don't pay their "fair share" in taxes either, drawing cheers from the gallery. (Photo credit: Matt Tripp)

(although many tax protesters dispute both its ratification and the powers granted under it). The thousands of pages of Internal Revenue Code enforced today dwarf this single sentence.

Every consumer economics class teaches of the nefarious advertising tactic known as "bait and switch." "Bait and switch" is a form of fraud wherein a customer is lured in with the promise of one good or service, only to be sold on another, less desirable product. If the income tax was indeed passed legally, then surely a tax which initially applied to only 4% of the nation's population, with an initial rate of 1% and a maximum rate of 7%, yet morphed into a tax that applied to virtually every wage earner and reached as high as 94% at its maximum rate was the greatest example of "bait and switch" style fraud ever perpetrated in human history.

But all of that is academic. The purpose of

the Snipes prosecution was not to decide law, but to enforce it. Even the ability to submit exculpatory evidence was denied to Eddie Kahn. The state maintained that matters concerning the validity of the income tax were "frivolous." Indeed they were. There were dynamics at work, which held logic and legality as second-class status. What mattered here was power, the government had it, the defendant's didn't.

By the time the sentencing hearing had come, Kahn refused to even acknowledge the authority of the court over him. He cited the Judge Hodge's lack of a loyalty oath - a matter which the judge quickly remedied by producing not just one, but three oaths.

"I don't acknowledge the authority of this court over me and I don't accept the sentence," said Kahn defiantly. "You may not accept it, but you will serve it," responded the Judge Hodge.

The questions of who is or isn't required to pay income tax weren't open for discussion or debate.

After the sentencing, nothing was seen of the defense team except for a brief exit from the building into an awaiting SUV. Wesley Snipes made a quick turn and waved to the crowd before the vehicle drove off.

The prosecutors however were taking full advantage of the media spotlight. Like a voices in a canyon, they all echoed the same lines. "This was the first case in a new national initiative," and the fact that Wesley Snipes was going to prison meant an unmitigated victory for the state. With this sentence, a message has been sent to tax protesters everywhere that their defiance would not be tolerated.

The government holds the sole monopoly on the use of force. The legal theories of tax protester's are mere supposition when faced with the overwhelming force of a government determined to collect taxes at any cost. In the face of such odds, the best advice to those who seek to challenge the system seems to be compliance, even as the democratic process is used to change the system. Resistance is futile.

Food supply, bio-diversity threatened by agro-giants

GARY SCHOR
Sentinel Staff Writer

The most beautiful thing about life is that it is self-perpetuating. One needs not be a religious person to see that the ability of life to recreate itself crosses the border between the mundane and the miraculous.

The problem with that beautiful cycle of self-replication is that it isn't very good for business — if your business happens to be selling seeds. Never to let a little thing like epochs of evolution or divine providence (take your pick) stand in the way of profit, agro-business are working hard to make sure that they are the gatekeepers of life's cycle. In doing so, they seek to corner the market of world food supplies with an array of genetically modified seed-lines and chemical cocktails that are custom made to go with them.

Genetic manipulation is nothing new. Throughout recorded history, mankind has used selective breeding and cross-pollination to create animals and plants with desirable characteristics. If you've ever tasted an "heirloom" tomato or an "angus" steak, you've known the benefits of this process firsthand.

Natural laws always placed limits on what could be done with selective breeding. You could selectively breed smaller and longer dogs to end up with a Dachshund. But there was no way to breed the characteristics of a dog with a cat — they simply weren't genetically compatible. Modern methods of gene-splicing have obliterated that limitation.

While "transgenic" or GMO (genetically modified organism) foods are marketed to the public and farmers with a variety of possible benefits including insect resistance, drought resistance, and enhanced taste and quality, there are also many potential pitfalls that such as unintended transfer of "transgenes" through cross-pollination and the unknown effects of mixing genes among species.

These new advances in genetic manipulation and engineering have opened a whole Pandora's box of possibilities that were unthinkable just years ago.

For example, scientists who wanted to harvest the super-strong proteins found in spider's webs, yet found that spiders produced too little of the protein to make harvesting it practical, have implanted the gene that makes the protein into domestic goats. The result sounds like something right out of a 1950's B-grade science fiction movie; the spider-goat — a goat who produces spider-silk in its milk-glands.

The most outrageous and potentially harmful use of genetic manipulation is found in the proliferation of sterile hybrid seeds. These seeds are great, if you happen to be in the business of selling seeds. Although they will produce a bountiful crop for one season, the seeds from their offspring will be sterile. This forces the farmer to purchase another batch of seeds again for next year — sacrificing the "circle of life" on the altar of profit.

But sterile hybrid seeds are just the beginning. Sterile seeds containing what are referred to as "terminator genes" were developed back in the 1990s. These genes would "terminate" the life cycle of the



"Seed diversity is dropping, as Monsanto and its allies aim to eliminate seed saving, and development of new crop varieties is slowing," claims the editor of the Multinational Monitor. "Contamination from neighboring fields using genetically modified seeds can destroy farmers' ability to maintain biotech-free crops."

plant using Genetic Use Restriction Technologies or "GURT".

There are two types of termination gene technologies currently under development. One type called "V-GURT" would simply breed sterile seeds after the initial harvest. Another called "T-GURT" would prevent the seeds from growing until they were treated with a special chemical that is sold by the biotechnology company.

The seriousness of this fundamental change to life's cycle cannot be understated. "Sustainability" is a modern buzzword in much favor today. How can we have sustainable agriculture if the ability of crops to perpetuate themselves is being turned off?

This goes far beyond the simple matter of being forced to return to Monsanto or another agro-giant every year to purchase new seeds. According to Atlanta writer Linn Cohen-Cole, "Monsanto's Terminator genes make plants sterile after one season, posing apocalyptic risk of breaking out into nature."

David Ehrenfield, Professor of Biology at Rutgers University states, "Genetic Engineering is often justified as a human technology, one that feeds more people with better food. Nothing could be further from the truth. With very few exceptions, the whole point of genetic engineering is to increase sales of chemicals and bio-engineered products to dependent farmers."

Professor Ehrenfield's statement rings true for many farmers in India, where glossy Bollywood ads touting the advantages of GMO crops have encouraged local growers to run up huge debts for GMO seeds and the necessary accompanying pesticides and herbicides. But the ads left out the fact that these GMO crops also required extensive irrigation, something Indian farmers were sorely lacking. This led to an economic calamity that sparked an equally morbid human tragedy.

"Due to economic pressures leading to irresolvable debt associated with continually failing crops, many farmers have been committing suicide by drinking the very pesticides that no longer work on their crops. In 2006 in the Vidarbha region of Maharashtra alone, there were 1,044 reported suicides — one every eight hours," reports Amma.org, a faith based human

rights organization.

In Iraq, where spreading democracy was the stated goal, Paul Bremer seemed to be just as interested in spreading Monsanto's seeds. Writer Nancy Scola stated, "(Bremer's) Order 81 generated very little press attention when it was issued. And what coverage it did spark tended to get the details wrong. Reports claimed that what the United States' man in Iraq had done was no less than tell each and every Iraqi farmer — growers who had been tilling the soil of Mesopotamia for thousands of years - that from here on out they could not reuse seeds from their fields or trade seeds with their neighbors, but instead they would be required to purchase all of their seeds from the likes of U.S. agriculture conglomerates like Monsanto."

But Order 81 wasn't that draconian. It didn't need to be. "In short, Order 81 was Bremer's way of telling Monsanto that the same conditions had been created in Iraq that had led to the company's stunning successes in India," she added.

And what of the safety of GMO crops? How does adding new genes, sometimes animal genes, affect the edibility of the crops? "The very first crop submitted to the FDA's voluntary consultation process, the FlavrSavr tomato, showed evidence of toxins. Out of 20 female rats fed the GM tomato, 7 developed stomach lesions, the type of stomach lesions linked to the tomatoes could lead to life-endangering hemorrhage, particularly in the elderly," reported Source Watch.

So who is really benefiting from the proliferation of genetically modified crops? In his award winning book *The Omnivore's Dilemma*, Michael Pollen interviewed an Iowa farmer named George Naylor. Mr. Naylor had some strong reasons for avoiding GMO crops - "Sure, you might get a bump in yield, but whatever extra you make on the corn goes right back to cover the premium for the seed. I fail to see why I should be laundering money for Monsanto."

Mr. Naylor is not alone in his criticism of Monsanto. In a lawsuit filed in Texas, the American Corn Growers Association alleges broad antitrust violations by Monsanto, related to the sale of genetically modified crops and the herbicides designed to be used with them. The suit alleges that Monsanto acted to deprive farmers the benefit of a free and open market, forcing farmers to pay inflated prices for brand-name glyphosate herbicides

that should be available generically.

F. William Engdahl, author of the book *Seeds of Destruction*, wrote an alarming article last December describing a plan underway by Monsanto, The Gates Foundation, and the Rockefeller family to build a "Doomsday Seed Vault" on a remote island in the Arctic Ocean, and linking the vault to "... a brilliant Rockefeller family scheme to develop a globalized agribusiness which they then could monopolize just as they had done in the world oil industry beginning a half century before. As Henry Kissinger declared in the 1970's, 'If you control the oil you control the country; if you control food, you control the population.'"

"If you control the food, you control the population." Those words speak for themselves, and what they say is that starvation is a valid weapon of control.

Global food shortages are not some distant fantasy. Just last month American warehouse wholesalers Costco and Sam's Club began rationing rice sales to consumers in The U.S. because of spiraling prices do to global inflation and the falling dollar.

"Many farmers have been committing suicide by drinking the very pesticides that no longer work on their crops."

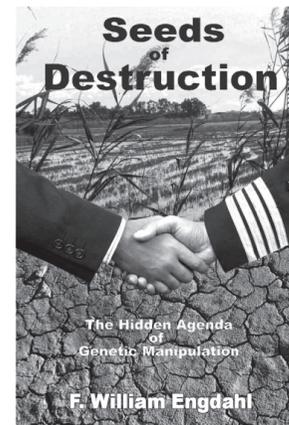
And what of farmers who reject GMO foods outright? They aren't safe either. Cross-pollination

with a patented GMO crops from an adjacent farms could leave them liable for growing a proprietary strain and violating the intellectual property rights of the invading pollen's designers. "I can't believe it," said one farmer. "It's like throwing a rock through the window of my car and suing me for having their rock."

Robert Weissman, editor of the *Multinational Monitor* goes even further, "Seed diversity is dropping,

as Monsanto and its allies aim to eliminate seed saving, and development of new crop varieties is slowing. Contamination from neighboring fields using genetically modified seeds can destroy farmers' ability to maintain biotech-free crops. Reliance on a narrow range of seed varieties makes the food system very vulnerable, especially because of the visible problems with the biotech seeds now in such widespread use."

Albert Einstein once said, "The hardly bought achievements of the machine age in the hands of our generation are as dangerous as a razor in the hands of a 3-year-old child." Surely, the genetic technologies that Monsanto and others are experimenting with are potentially more dangerous than the machines of Einstein's day. And let's be clear about what the goal is — GMO technology has little to do with feeding the world. It has much to do with protecting profits — not the profits of the family farmer, but the profits of agro-giants who want guaranteed returns for minimal investment, as they seek to monopolize world food supplies and blur the line between God and man.



The book describes how a "small socio-political American elite seeks to establish control over the very basis of human survival."

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Taxpayer-funded abortion provider battles proposed Florida bill

America's largest abortion provider Planned Parenthood continues using public money to fight legislation in Florida that would make doctors give women the choice to view an ultrasound before choosing an abortion, even in the first trimester. After ironically labeling the bill "anti-choice," the organization has suffered heavy criticism — especially after the racist founder was exposed on national TV last month by an activist who said minorities were being specifically targeted.

MARY LYNN RICHARDSON
Sentinel Staff Writer

After seeing an ultrasound image of their unborn child, 75 percent of women who were "strongly considering abortion" decide against it. To pro-life activists, this 2006 study surveying over 400 centers provides evidence that women usually choose life if shown an ultrasonic image. But as Florida lawmakers look to act on this information, subsidized abortion providers are resisting.

Last month, the State House of Representatives passed the "Informed Choice Act," which guarantees women of Florida a chance to see the fetus before the abortion is performed. But Planned Parenthood (PP) has labeled the bill "anti-choice" in its expensive lobbying battle to prevent Florida from joining more than a dozen other states with similar laws already in place.

Pro-life activists and taxpayer watchdogs are wondering why an abortion provider funded by public money would oppose giving women the choice to see the ultrasound — especially when it has been found to reduce the number of abortions. According to critics of the organizations, a clue may be found on its web site where it explains why the "Choose Life" license plate program for cars is also "anti-choice." It provides funding for Crisis Pregnancy Centers that try to "dissuade women from obtaining abortions" by providing them with information that the site admits is "medically-accurate." Critics have been saying for some time that PP is attempting to limit the options presented to pregnant women, but their message of choice and having access to "the truth" finally seems to be catching on.

"Providing an ultrasound to a young lady is the only way she can make a truly informed decision," said Tracie Loftis, the executive director of Emergency Pregnancy Services. "A woman has a right to accurate information about what's going on inside her, so I don't understand what they are trying to hide."

Emergency Pregnancy Services is a non-profit crisis pregnancy center in Jacksonville that provides testing, information, counseling, and assistance — not abortions — for needy mothers-to-be. Loftis said that over 3,000 women per year are provided assistance at the center. Like other pro-life activists, she opposes pro-abortion organizations like Planned Parenthood, and was especially saddened to learn that its activities are subsidized by public money.

"As a taxpayer, it's very disheartening to know that money we trust our government with is going to the largest abortion provider

as it fights against offering women all the facts and options that are available," Loftis lamented. Her organization is building new locations in a quest to increase the opportunities for women seeking help with a pregnancy.

But while Planned Parenthood rallied its lobbyists, pro-life activists across Florida mobilized to pressure legislators to pass the bill. "This vote is being closely watched," said Jacqueline Sikes, the Respect Life Coordinator for Our Lady of Consolation in North Florida. She has been fighting for the pro-life cause for over 22 years. "I have seen the government do a lot of ridiculous things with our money, like sending it to foreign countries to facilitate abortion ... but funding an organization like Planned

Parenthood to abort children and fighting to stop women from seeing their unborn child is preposterous. Why should taxpayers pay for abortion lobbyists and abortionists?" Sikes also quoted Mother Theresa who said: "It is a great tragedy that a child must die so that we might live as we please."

After describing a partial-birth abortion in detail and discussing the benefits of adoption, Sikes told the Sentinel that she has been "dealing with the grim results of Planned Parenthood's help and counsel for many years now." Sikes decided to visit the PP web site, and was "amazed and distraught all at the same time," she said.

"They masquerade as a resource center and teach kids that "safe-sex" is alright. Yet when the condoms and birth control fail, they say not to worry, Planned Parenthood is there to mislead them and abort their child," she sighed. "It's just so frustrating."

In addition to coming under increased scrutiny for the hundreds of millions in public dollars it receives per year, as well as its controversial programs like abortion and abortion lobbying, critics have started to expose the organization's history — which isn't too pretty.

According to a press release by The National Leadership Network of Conservative African-Americans, Planned Parenthood's founder Margaret Sanger began the "Negro Project" in the late 1930's. The supposed goal was allegedly to "improve public health and welfare by encouraging abortions in the black community." The agenda was promoted partly through befriending corruptible community leaders, but Sanger wrote publicly in her books that "colored people are like human weeds and are to be exterminated," and that "the most merciful thing a large family can do for one of its infant members is to kill it."

According to an associate of Project 21 — an initiative of The National Center for Public Policy Research — Planned Parenthood is actually a part of a broad agenda that has a negative impact on minority communities in particular. Mike Green argues that the growth of big government has led to programs that

consistently undermine the traditional family structure among African-Americans. This has fostered an increased dependence on government, and in essence what he calls a "return to the plantation."

"Planned Parenthood clinics that perform abortions were built in impoverished black communities," wrote Green in a piece for The National Leadership Network of Conservative African-Americans and Project 21. "While the socialist welfare state flourished, so did a system of genocide within the walls of abortion clinics."

One woman on Fox News sharply criticized the organization for allegedly promoting abortions, particularly among minority communities. Alarming estimates show that at least 17 million of the almost 50 million unborn children aborted since 1973 were black, illustrating the disproportionate effect abortion has on the black community. Other controversies that made headlines nationwide include charges that PP doesn't properly inform women about all options available.

"Floridians want health care to be provided, not politicized," stated Stephanie Kunkel, a lobbyist for Planned Parenthood. While fighting Florida's proposed ultrasound law, she noted that 95 percent of abortions in the state of Florida "would be affected by the bill." An abortionist in Ocala was also quoted as saying that the legislation that supporters claim gives women the opportunity to be more informed actually "limits access to abortion in Florida."

Though some abortion proponents concede that forcing Americans and Floridians to pay for abortion through taxation is wrong, Gainesville City Commissioner Jack Donovan doesn't. After serving on the board of directors for the local branch of Planned Parenthood, he told the Sentinel that he believes taxpayers should support the organization's "important work," especially if the majority of voters agree with it. The County government sympathizes with his position, and even awarded Planned Parenthood of North Central Florida over \$35,000 recently just as part of the Community Agency Partnership Program. The purpose: "To provide sexual health/behavior-related health-care, counseling and education services to teens."

In English: county taxpayers will pay for teen abortions. Planned Parenthood also receives funding from a variety of non-profits and corporations. Even unrelated organizations like the Susan Komen foundation, which purports to be racing for a breast cancer cure, gave almost a million dollars to PP in only one year. Frustrated activists tired of battling pro-abortion lobbyists paid for by their own taxes are suggesting that people boycott companies funding PP, which has led to over 160 success stories so far. Wachovia, Nike, Marriot Hotels, Forbes Publishing, Midas Mufflers, Bank of America, Chevron, Texaco, Hooters and many other companies have been among those highlighted by activists, but the list is long.

"Since we can't seem to influence our



representatives, we might as well try voting with our dollars," said Florida pro-life activist Mrs. Sikes after commending State Senator Ronda Storms and other pro-life legislators for their efforts. The Republican from Florida's 10th district helped lead the charge to stop government funding of abortion at the state and local level. Sikes recommends voters find out how their representatives stand on PP and on the ultrasound bill.

A group of women who suffered from an abortion experience in the past gave a speech at the University of Florida last year. They discussed the emotional trauma many of them have to deal with each and every day. One had named her daughter. Another still had constant nightmares. As information spreads like wildfire online through sites like www.klannedparenthood.com and by activists speaking out nationwide, many are hopeful that simply exposing the truth will end government subsidies. No more tax dollars would make it much more difficult for PP to operate. It would also end the government subsidized opposition to common sense legislation by PP lobbyists.

Unfortunately, at the time of printing, the vote was successfully delayed again in the Senate. Whether Floridian women will have the guaranteed option to see an ultrasound before their abortion is still unclear. But if abortionists and their lobbyists get their way, information that experts and activists say could save lives will continue to be withheld. How many women would have avoided the anguish that often comes with abortion if they simply had access to medically-accurate information?

The recovery process is often long and hard, but according to the Priests for Life in an article titled 'Repentance and God's forgiveness after abortion,' it is possible. "Because consent is involved, true healing can only begin when the wrong is acknowledged and forgiveness is sought ... the pain must be honestly acknowledged, brought to the surface, and released in order for the wound to be healed." While Christian activists do believe that God will always forgive, supporters of the ultrasound law say the availability of accurate information would stop most women from getting abortions in the first place. Opponents insist it's "anti-choice" and are fighting it on the people's dime.



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— Declaration of Independence, 1776

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The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America

When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

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. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the

people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislatures.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their Acts of pretended Legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial from punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing Taxes on us without our Consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws and altering fundamentally the Forms of our Governments:

For suspending our own Legislatures, and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large Armies of foreign Mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & Perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

Nor have We been wanting in attentions to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have conjured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the united States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these united Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States, that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. — And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.

Bill of Rights

Article the fourth . . .

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article the fifth . . .

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article the sixth . . .

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be

THE Conventions of a number of the States, having at the time of their adopting the Constitution, expressed a desire, in order to prevent misconstruction or abuse of its powers, that further declaratory and restrictive clauses should be added; And as extending the ground of public confidence in the Government, will best ensure the beneficent ends of its institution.

Article the first . . .

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article the second . . .

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article the third . . .

No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article the seventh . . .

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article the eighth . . .

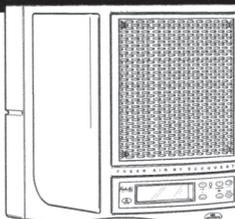
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article the ninth . . .

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article the tenth . . .

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



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Citizens seek solution for judges who didn't take oaths

Continued from front page

little jail time." While Hurt believes this is the best solution, some activists hope to see all of the penalties enforced uniformly, insisting that ignorance of the law is no excuse. Others just want to see the state government move into compliance and are more than willing to waive any jail time if guilty individuals cooperate.

Public records obtained from the Office of State Court Administrators show that the judiciary has been aware of the problem since at least last year — along with the criminal penalties for the violations. Gary Phillips, the chief of personnel services for the state's courts, requested that all judges make sure to sign the oaths and have them notarized back in October of 2007. He also noted that the law provides "criminal penalties" upon any governing authority for "knowingly permitting an employee to continue employment after failing to execute an oath of loyalty." According to the memo, "the law also requires discharge of employees in addition to prohibiting payment to employees and officers who refuse or fail to execute the oath."

Hurt discovered that the first Jeb Bush administration removed the required notarization from election forms in the year 2000, but even though they have since been corrected, researchers say this doesn't solve the problem.

On top of the violations involving judges' oaths, legal researcher Tayra Antolick, a paralegal in Florida, discovered that "no one on Florida ballots has qualified to have his/her name printed on them because the Loyalty Oath the Secretary of State is distributing to the Supervisors of Election is not compliant with the criminal code requirements where the oath is found."

In 2006 Antolick filed an action with the Florida Supreme Court, seeking an order to force the Secretary of State to disqualify all candidates because of their defective candidate oaths.

Referencing the Florida criminal code's chapter on criminal anarchy and treason, Antolick also discussed law suits she has filed against 13 Florida officials including Charlie Crist. She also said that the current Secretary of State for Florida has knowledge of the law that contains the correct wording for the oaths — yet the oath listed on the Web site is still the wrong one.

Even the Attorney General says the text of the oath can not be altered and

is mandatory, but a conversation with Deputy Counsel Sharon Larson at the Secretary of State's office revealed that in 1996 "somebody" without legislative authority decided to change the oath, according to Antolick. She also said that attorney Gary Holland at the Secretary of State's office told her the current oath would not be corrected because it states that the candidates are receiving public funds.

"The executive branch of government does not have the power and authority to change the text of any statute at any time," she said. "Even if the statute does not make sense for qualifying those running for public office, 'Somebody' in the Sec. of State's office exercised power and authority not delegated to the executive branch."

She said that the Secretary of State could have "dropped a hint" to the Legislature back in 2006 to lawfully change the text, but he didn't.

"If they do this type of change behind closed doors with a criminal code, who

"If they do this type of change behind closed doors with a criminal code, who is to say that they would not do the same with any other law that affects our rights to life, liberty, and property?"

is to say that they would not do the same with any other law that affects our rights to life, liberty, and property?"

As Antolick calls them, have been receiving public funds. She says this translates to an illegal misappropriation of public funds.

"We should not be nonchalant about one branch of government exercising power and authority not lawfully delegated to it," she explained.

Though a former judge in Duval County expressed concern about the potential repercussions of these issues reaching the public; Hurt, Antolick and others across the state disagree.

"I consider this a huge win for the People of Florida," explained Hurt in comments about the two year campaign and the results it produced. "For many years the attorneys, judges, and others in government have suffered confusion and misunderstanding about the loyalty oath laws. Now the confusion has begun to dissipate, and the Chief Justice leads the way for others in government to follow to ensure that all public employees have loyalty oaths sworn and notarized prior to starting their jobs."

Hurt claimed jokingly that he wouldn't let his grandmother govern him without swearing a loyalty oath. "Judges have to swear at least 6 oaths before We People allow them to serve us," he explained.

"That's because we simply don't trust anybody to govern us, particularly as a judge, unless they have firmly convinced us that they will support the Constitutions. Remember that judges have an army of Sheriffs and deputies to enforce their orders at gun point, and a renegade judge who abuses people by denying their constitutional rights commits treason and works to overthrow the government of the US and Florida.

In fact, you could say he already has committed armed rebellion against the government when he denies a litigant's due process rights or issues an unlawful order. Judges find it so easy to become tyrants that we have to make sure they will obey those loyalty oaths because they are the ultimate guarantors of respect for our constitutional rights."

Despite the spectacular success, the project has not yet come to an end according to Hurt. "We still have a glaring problem and no easy, lawful solution in sight," he said. "All the people elected and appointed between 2000 and last fall do not have valid loyalty oath — as a result, all of those people function as impostors because they never qualified for office and therefore they do not actually hold the office. This amounts to a full-scale destruction of the Florida republic. It also means that all judicial acts constitute nullities, and that gives a path of remedy to all people abused by bad judicial rulings, bad sheriff actions, bad County Commission actions, and bad legislative Acts. Even Governor Crist's gubernatorial Acts have no legal force or effect," Hurt alleges. "I have to work to bring this reality to the attention of the public so they can demand a negotiated solution or the discharge of all elected and appointed officers." Under the law, he claims, all of them are "imposters" committing a third degree felony.

Even though all of them, particularly the judges, should have known and obeyed the law," Hurt said, "most of the elected and appointed officials are just hapless, feckless victims of their ignorance coupled with trusting administrators to tell them what to do. In this case, the administrators



"We still have a glaring problem and no easy, lawful solution in sight," Hurt said. "All the people elected and appointed between 2000 and last fall do not have valid loyalty oath — as a result, all of those people function as impostors..."

went terribly wrong and constructively led those officials to violate loyalty oath laws. We need to have a little mercy on them and not send them all to jail where they might send us if we committed felony crimes. Also, it is impractical and costly to call in the federal marshals to force new elections. They would merely appoint the same people to continue running the government unless public outrage and massive political activism pressured them to replace the old leaders."

The main problem, according to Hurt, boils down to a lack of proper written procedures. "As CEO of a computer test products company in the 90's I learned that defective products come from defective designs and defective procedures," Hurt said. "The Governor, Supreme Court, OSCA, and Chief Judges throughout the state do not have a practical, written policy and procedure to guide them in verifying the credentials required by law in order for people to become judges, sheriffs, state attorneys, and so on. Each manager of personnel or human resources in the government should have a written checklist that requires them to lay eyes and hands on certified copies of all the credential documents needed to qualify for office, and then refuse to authorize pay for any employee who does not have all of them in place. That should apply from the governor to the man who mows the grass at the governor's mansion — in short, everybody who works in any form or fashion for government."

Hurt writes almost daily to his "Lawmen" mailing list that has hundreds of readers in Florida and elsewhere in the USA, and he welcomes new subscribers. You may subscribe by sending email to lawmen-subscribe@googlegroups.com

'Fair Tax': Step Forward or Oxymoron?

KATHERINE VILLACIS
Sentinel Contributing Writer

GAINESVILLE — When local student Matthew Gardner lands his first job as a mechanical engineer, he hopes he will be able to take home his whole paycheck.

Gardner, a junior at the UF College of Engineering, is an optimistic supporter of the Fair Tax Act — a nonpartisan bill introduced in Congress in 2007 that would nix the IRS and replace all federal income and payroll taxes with a proposed 23 percent national retail tax on new goods and services.

Not to mention it's 67,367 pages shorter. As it stands, the federal tax code is longer than the Bible.

While some critics contend that even the phrase 'Fair Tax' is an oxymoron, enthusiasts have marketed it as a simple and "voluntary" tax, one that would allow Americans to control how much they give Uncle Sam through their lifestyle choices. Supposedly without cutting federal revenue from current levels, another portion of the proposal would send each household a monthly check for taxes paid on necessities up to the poverty line.

Gardner works part time as a math tutor at SFCC and doesn't make enough money to owe taxes — yet — but Tax Day is an ominous reminder to the 21-year-old that when he does, the IRS will want its share. So rather than being taxed at different "brackets" based on earnings, he believes Americans should be taxed as a fixed percentage of what they spend.

And he is not alone. So far, over 150,000 people have signed the petition urging Congress to act. It was presented to lawmakers at the Capitol on April 15 by Americans for Fair Taxation, the grassroots organization behind FairTax.org.

Republican candidate Ron Paul attracted millions of supporters with his proposal to end the IRS entirely and replace it with "NOTHING." But the group still plans to make its case for the Fair Tax to presidential front-runners, none of whom currently support the legislation. It lost one of its most visible advocates when Mike Huckabee, who made the proposal a centerpiece of his campaign, dropped out of the GOP race.

Backers of the idea don't understand why throwing the 67,500-page tax code out the window wouldn't appeal to economically anxious voters. It makes hefty promises: to bring jobs back home by wiping out the corporate income tax, and to make U.S. products more competitive by removing embedded taxes.

Douglas Luthanen, a columnist and business man, began voicing his support for a consumption-based tax system in the late 1990's.

"A tax on income says, 'Hey! We're gonna take away some of what you've earned. Pay us again — on top of what you contribute as a worker,'" he wrote. "It is the wrong place in the sequence to tax us."

Luthanen believes a tax on spending would also decrease tax evasion. "Money earned illegally would be taxed," he explained. "A sales tax doesn't

care how the money is earned — only how it's spent."

FairTax.org published an open letter from 80 independent economists who endorsed the reform, but not all professionals in the field are rallying behind it.

University of West Florida economics and marketing professor Richard Hawkins doesn't think the Fair Tax would live up to its title in practice.

Such a dramatic change in the tax system would "create arbitrary winners and losers," he said.

Americans who are retired and living off of savings would lose, he said. They would be using money that has already been taxed to pay a consumption tax. People who are "fed up with

materialism and cutting back on consumption" would win, he said.

As with Social Security and Medicaid, he said, the monthly rebate could create dependency on government funds. "If we were starting from scratch, I would be in favor of it."

He believes a "dual transition" — from income tax to flat tax, and from flat tax to Fair Tax — would be more "politically palatable and less of a shock to the economy."

Jonathan Hamilton, professor and

chairman of the economics department at UF, said the Fair Tax also has the potential to increase tax evasion among otherwise law-abiding citizens.

He says the 23 percent rate quoted in the legislation is deceiving because it was determined on a tax-inclusive basis. This means that the amount of tax paid was calculated as a proportion of the after-tax value.

In reality, he said, Americans will pay upwards of 30 percent.

"The fact we don't have rampant sales tax evasion today is because the risk/reward trade-off is in favor of compliance. If you jack up the rates to 30 percent, those calculations will change for a lot of people."

Hamilton said that cash transactions, which are difficult to track, would allow retailers to do "clever things" like collect the tax and not report the sales to the government. They could even offer a lower tax rate as an incentive to customers to pay in cash, he warned.

He also said the monthly rebate for taxes paid on necessities could drive people to commit fraud, especially those in desperate financial situations.

"We don't currently have a system where it's good to have five Social Security numbers. If every Social Security number was getting a monthly rebate, how many Social Security numbers would you think about getting?"

Hamilton pointed to a history of failure among countries that have tried to implement a sales tax of 10 percent or higher, and he doubts that the outcome would be any different for the U.S.

"If you want a law that will make criminals out of ordinary people who could get tempted into a life of tax evasion," he said, "you couldn't come up with a better idea."



A Gainesville resident creatively protested on April 15th, taping signs to the Post Office trash bins reading: "Drop Tax Dollars Here: It's Where They're Going Anyway." The 'Fair Tax' would repeal the Income Tax, but only to replace it with a national sales tax. The overall level of government taxation and spending would not change.

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

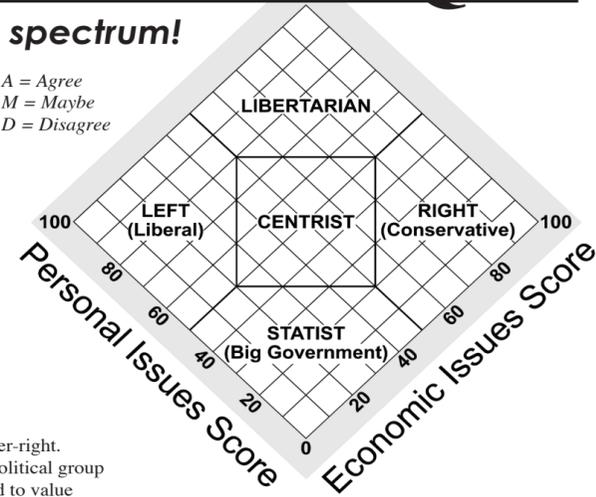
SCORING 20 for every A, 10 for every M, and 0 for every D:

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:

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 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* - cato.org, *Reason Magazine* - reason.com, *DownsizeDC.org*, *FreeStateProject.org*, *The Libertarian Party* - lp.org, *Republican Liberty Caucus* - rlc.org, *Libertarian Party of Florida*, lpf.org

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Interview with candidate Lonnie Scott



ERIK MACLEAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

Lonnie Scott is a captain in the Gainesville Police Department and is running for Alachua County Sheriff. He has over 20 years of experience in law enforcement and is running against the incumbent Sadie Darnell. The election will be in November.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: How long have you been in law enforcement?

SCOTT: I have been working for 23 years in every position. I have worked as a Patrol Officer, Patrol Supervisor, Corporal, Sergeant, Lieutenant, Special Operations Supervisor, Internal Affairs Commander, Assistant Chief.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: Why are you running for sheriff?

SCOTT: I would do a better job in motivating people. The community is in a need of someone who respects them. Right now the community is not given the respect it needs. I think the concept of public service has been lost and needs to be brought back. I want a Sheriff's Office that works with the community. We need to

work with the people and businesses in the community to solve problems. Right now we just respond to crime. Those problems need to be identified and prevented before they happen. We should be focusing on reaching kids and keeping them out of trouble to reduce crime in the future. We need to communicate with the community. My experience in law enforcement would help in reaching the community.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What are some ways you would reach kids?

SCOTT: We need a method to reach parents and work with them. We could

"Take a long, hard look at the current Sheriff's Office and ask why the deputies that work there are asking for a change in leadership..."

set up a hotline or a program so we could work with parents and help them manage

their kids.

I deal with kids all the time as a father and understand what parenting is like. We could be working more with schools. Kids should be rewarded for good grades and conduct in schools. They need something to work towards. We need to reach kids when they are young. When they are 18 it's too late. We need to reach them when they are 8 or 10 years old.

"I think the concept of public service has been lost and needs to be brought back."

I would take money we are using for fighting drugs and use that to fund new programs to keep kids out of trouble and work for a better future.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: How would you get the police to work more with the community?

SCOTT: I would get rid of high ranking officials in the Sheriff's Office and get them to work in the community. I would put captains in locations accessible by the community. Instead of having them all in a central office we can have them in offices closer to different areas of the community, like Newberry and Archer. Officers should also be volunteering time toward the community. They should volunteer in

organizations to help the community and understand their needs better.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What would you do to change the current system?

SCOTT: The current administration doesn't respect citizens or employees. That's why we have so many complaints and lawsuits against the Sheriff's Office from its own employees. The Sheriff's Office needs to respect the people they work

with and the community. It is intimidating when personal friends are given special attention above the rest of the department. People are getting

money for new programs that the county already has and are given special attention. That kills morale.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: Do you have any additional comments?

SCOTT: I would encourage the average citizen to take a long, hard look at the current Sheriff's Office and ask why the deputies that work there are asking for a change in leadership and what's motivating them. When you have 80% of an agency that wants change there is something wrong. Law enforcement employees aren't being respected or valued, coworkers are being fired and special interests are being given priority.

Lonnie Scott can be found online at <http://electlonniescottforsheriff.com/>

Interview with candidate Lorraine Sherman

Lorraine Sherman is a family law attorney and is running for Alachua County Judge. Sherman is an accomplished charity leader and a graduate of UF's College of Law. The primary will be in August.



ERIK MACLEAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

LIBERTY SENTINEL: How long have you been practicing law?

SHERMAN: I have been in law for 12 years. Right now I practice family law and have done criminal dissent and been a family law mediator in the past.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What inspired you to run for office?

SHERMAN: Fifteen years ago I was working on a teaching degree in Texas but had to move to Florida and couldn't finish my degree. I didn't know what to do and went to Santa Fe Community College and decided I wanted to pursue law. I decided I wanted to become a judge from the beginning more than a lawyer.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What do you want to accomplish as judge?

SHERMAN: The most important thing for a judge to do is follow the law. It is against the Constitution and separation of powers to legislate from the bench. It is also important for the judge to listen to

all the evidence in order to make a good decision. The judge should be neutral and base decisions on the evidence. The judge doesn't always know what is going on. Most of the time lawyers make agreements among themselves and the judge doesn't have all the evidence.

It is also important to be respectful

"The most important thing for a judge to do is follow the law. It is against the Constitution to legislate from the bench."

to the courtroom. I have been in over 30 courtrooms in Florida and have seen good and bad judges. Court is a scary place for people to be and the judge needs to keep order in the court room and be respectful.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What do you think of the judges in Alachua?

SHERMAN: I have spent time in third and eighth circuits in Alachua and they had excellent judges.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: Tell me about your community service.

SHERMAN: From 1987 to 1992, I lead a free food program in Dallas. I would deliver meals to shut-ins, the elderly, and the handicapped. This was funded by myself and my husband and was completely self sufficient. We had over ten volunteers and delivered to over 175 people.

In Alachua from 2000-2003 I ran the team court which is a program for juveniles and first offenders. I was the judge. The jury members, prosecutors and defense were volunteers and children. This helped reach young offenders and gave kids an opportunity in community service.

LIBERTY SENTINEL: What makes you qualified to be judge?

SHERMAN: I feel like I have lived two lives. First, while I went to school I was a

full time home maker and mother raising four children. I volunteered in the community while I went to school. I have handled over 1000 cases. I have done many

"Like a parent, a judge needs to be nice, but also needs to know how to keep order in the court room."

custody cases, alimony cases, and some jury trials. Most of it was family law. I have done some immigration law. I am experienced in the court room and as a parent. My experiences as a parent would help in the court room. Like a parent, a judge needs to be nice but also needs to know how to keep order in the court room.

Lorraine Sherman can be found online at <http://www.shermanforjudge.com/>

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New research shows true price of state divorce laws

Study claims 'no-fault' divorce costs Florida taxpayers almost \$2 billion per year as an intramural team charges that the state's laws violate Constitutional protections and due process.

PAUL SYMONS
Sentinel Staff Writer

While some in society view marriage as a contract in God's name, the large state apparatus that exists today has destroyed any semblance of sanctity in modern marital relations. Getting a marriage license is now assumed to allow the state unbridled interference in a couple's most intimate decisions. Before the implementation of 'no-fault' divorce laws, a reason was needed to officially dissolve a marriage.

Dr. Kathy Garcia-Lawson, a clinical psychologist in Palm Beach, Florida, says "No-fault" divorce laws violate constitutional protections and individual rights. She is part of a team of experts that began calling for state and federal investigations after documents revealed the costs and agenda behind these worn out laws. "Every divorce filed is granted; none are judicially denied," Dr. Lawson explained. "In 1971, when state legislators changed the laws, they decided to nullify the existing defenses and leave the accused party without any means of rebuttal."

Dr. Lawson was motivated to do more research into the effects of 'no-fault' divorce laws after learning about a similar project in Texas. Constitutional Law attorney Shelby Sharpe conducted a study where she sent surveys out to over one hundred counties in Texas, asking for information regarding the amount of divorces filed and granted. The surveys found the same results as in Florida: the defendant always lost.

"The evidence shows that the plaintiff wins every time. That's not how it's sup-

posed to work in our courts," Dr. Lawson said.

In light of the growing body of research documenting the harmful effects of



divorce laws - on children in particular - Dr. Lawson has taken her concerns to top state officials. Her authoritative report entitled "The Effects of Divorce on America," co-authored by team member Patrick Fagan, presents statistical evidence of the harm caused to five core institutions: family, Church, school, government and the economic market place. Another facet of her research has highlighted the increasingly large financial burden that divorce rates have created for taxpayers.

Top Florida officials have denied that any real problem exists and have been hostile to further inquiries, Dr. Lawson said. But officials in other states have been more receptive.

Working with members of the interdisciplinary team in Michigan, state legislator Fulton Sheen recently introduced a bill that would limit 'no-fault' divorce laws to couples without children, a move celebrated by activists nationwide. Despite the lack of immediate success in Florida, activists are still applying pressure.

Further evidence supporting the need

for an investigation was released on April 15th, at the National Press Club in Washington, by David Blankenhorn, president of the Institute for American Values. He presented a report called "The Taxpayer Costs of Divorce and Unwed Childbearing: First-Ever Estimates for the Nation and all 50 States." The ground-breaking study estimates for the first time the enormous economic costs per year of this problem - \$112 Billion nationwide, and almost \$2 billion for the State of Florida alone.

"Even a small improvement in the health of marriage in America would result in enormous savings to taxpayers. For example, a 1% reduction in rates of family fragmentation would save taxpayers nationwide \$1.1 Billion," he said. "This report provides the basis for an acceptance of the overwhelmingly negative policy implications that 'no-fault' divorce laws have had."

According to a study released by pro-family organizations, high divorce rates and unmarried childbearing have cost American taxpayers over \$1 trillion at all levels of government throughout the last decade.

"In addition to the negative emotional impact on children, we now have quantifiable and reliable data that proves the staggering financial impact divorce and unwed childbearing have on taxpayers as well as the ripple effects this can have on the communities they serve," said Eric Garcia, Co-

Guns vs. property: new FL law stirs debate

THOMAS PIORKOWSKI
Sentinel Staff Writer

Gun-rights activists in Florida won a landmark victory last month with the passage of a law protecting gun owners with concealed-carry permits from busi-



nesses that would disarm them. But was it at the detriment of property rights? Critics say property must be respected first and foremost, but many of them believe the potential backlash by customers against businesses instituting anti-gun policies would discourage such rules anyway.

The "Preservation and Protection of the Right to Keep and Bear Arms in the Motor Vehicles Act of 2008" would protect the interests of gun owners by barring "a public or private entity from prohibiting a customer, employee, or any invitee from possessing any legally owned firearm that is lawfully possessed and locked inside or locked to a private motor vehicle in a parking lot."

"No citizen can or should be required to waive or abrogate his or her right to possess and securely keep firearms and ammunition locked within his or her motor vehicle," the legislature decided. The protection, however, would not be abso-

lute. Among workplaces exempted from the regulation include prisons, schools, and companies "whose businesses involve homeland security." Places like the Post Office where the right to keep and bear arms is infringed upon by the federal government will also remain exempt from the new law.

Only gun owners who possess "concealed-carry permits" are covered, and the "licenses" require training, a criminal background check to prove one's innocence, fingerprints and more. The bill was approved by a supermajority of the Florida Senate, which passed it 26 -

13. It was sent to Governor Charlie Christ who signed it into law on April 15.

"This is an attempt to trample upon the property rights of property owners," Florida Senator Ted Deutch of Boca Raton said. On the other side of the spectrum, some supporters of the measure argued that the government already imposes countless mandates on property owners and that a "common-sense" rule like this should be a "no-brainer." A Florida Senator from Crestview who supported the bill cited the Second Amendment and the Founding Fathers.

"The second thing they wrote about

in that constitution was the right to bear arms," said Sen. Durell Peaden. "It was what was dear in their hearts."

Such a law is not a new idea though; gun rights advocates have secured the passage of similar ones in Alaska, Kentucky and Mississippi. Oklahoma lawmakers passed a similar bill, but an appeal court barred the state from enforcing the law, as it ruled it to be in violation of Oklahoma's constitution.

Supporters of the measure argue that it represents true fulfillment of the founder's vision of the Second Amendment, guaranteeing gun owners the right to protect themselves in the face of ideologically hostile employers. Among the arguments used by gun rights proponents is that concealed carry permits decrease violent crime by sending a message to criminals that violating the rights of others has its risks.

Critics are still arguing that the law should be reconsidered to protect the rights of property owners, but with almost no businesses instituting such a policies anyway, the issue might fade to the background with time according to observers.

Among those who value both property rights and the Second Amendment, there is room for principled debate. The true argument is about the protection provided by the Second Amendment not ending at the workplace parking lot vs. those who say the rights of property owners should prevent the government from intruding on their decisions.

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'Porcupines' make annual 'Free State' pilgrimage



ERIK MACLEAN
Sentinel Staff Writer

Over three-hundred 'porcupines' will descend upon New Hampshire this summer as part of the fifth Annual Porcupine Freedom Festival, known by its attendees more affectionately as 'PorcFest.'

Each year, members of the Free State Project gather to camp in the woods of the Granite State and experience its scenic beauty. Participants go on hikes, have sports, outdoor concerts, cookouts and other recreational activities. They also

have an opportunity to meet other Free Staters and those who have already moved to New Hampshire. Last year's PorcFest attracted three hundred people and it grows every year.

The Free State Project is an organization of self-described liberty-lovers who have chosen to move to a single state. The goal is to have 20,000 pro-liberty activists move to New Hampshire, the state motto of which is "live free or die." The state was chosen for a number of reasons, but most of all because it already has one of the least intrusive state governments in the country.

"We call ourselves 'Porcupines' because they're individualistic, mind their own business and don't hurt anyone unless stepped on, and they overall reflect the principle of 'live and let live,'" said Rich Goldman, an organizer and long-time member.

"PorcFest is a week long party that showcases New Hampshire and the FSP community through bus tours around the state, group hikes, shooting range trips, team sports, outdoor concerts by local bands, vendor/exhibitor tables, pub nights, camping, bonfires, and a variety of other planned and spontaneous activities. Regardless of whether you plan or decide to become an FSP participant, you'll have a great time, make new friends, and leave with countless memories and stories to tell."

Goldman says that he plans to move once he graduates from college. "Not only did I see why New Hampshire has been objectively selected as the best state to live 5 years straight, I was blown away by the people, community, energy, and activism of the early movers and NH natives."

He's not the only one. Over 8,300 others have pledged to do so, and the organization expects that 1,000 will have already moved by the end of the year. Those who have already moved to New Hampshire have already begun engaging in activism. Some have been elected to offices. Others have started up organizations and their own newspapers, radio and television shows. The Free State Project has been influential in ending the Real ID Act - New Hampshire was one of the first states to opt out of the legislation which establishes a national id card and many states followed after them.

To join the Free State Project, members are required to take the following pledge:

"I hereby state my solemn intent to move to the State of New Hampshire. Once there, I will exert the fullest practical effort toward the creation of a society in which the maximum role of civil government is the protection of life, liberty, and property."

However, that is the only political stance the organization officially takes. Members describe the FSP as the bus to get 'liberty-oriented' activists to the state. After they move, the activists choose their own causes, pursue their own goals, get themselves elected, publish newspapers, engage in civil disobedience, and help the state become a "shining city upon a hill."

The Free State Project can be found online at www.FreeStateProject.org and can be reached by phone at 1-888-532-4604.

The Ron Paul Moment Has Only Begun

THOMAS E. WOODS, JR.
Sentinel Contributing Writer

Whatever your expectations for Ron Paul's book *The Revolution: A Manifesto*, I can say with confidence that they have been exceeded. By a mile.

Ron Paul has produced the kind of book that changes the person who reads it. It is one of the most persuasively argued and beautifully written defenses of the free society I have ever encountered. No president, no presidential candidate, indeed no American politician has ever written anything like this. But that is such faint praise, and such an unjust understatement, that I almost regret uttering it.

From the first page of this book to the last, Ron Paul tells his fellow Americans things that - if the usual political and media fare we are offered is any indication - they are not supposed to hear. As I've said in another context, Ron Paul's *The Revolution: A Manifesto* is, to the establishment, rather like the man who shouts out in the middle of the show how the magician is really sawing the woman in half.

What does it cover? Oh, just the Constitution, war, terrorism, the economy, trade, civil liberties, the war on drugs, the dollar, gold, abortion, executive orders, taxation, the housing bubble, the Federal Reserve, education, health care, the environment, conservatism, entitlements, foreign aid, regulation, and presidential war powers.

In order to make progress toward lib-

erty, economist and libertarian Murray Rothbard used to say, the benign façade of the state has to be dramatically torn down. The people must be made to understand that this institution, which they've been taught to venerate since elementary school as the expression of the popular will, is ripping them off.

Well, this is the book Murray was waiting for.

After describing the income tax as merely a species of forced labor, for example, Dr. Paul concludes: "Strip away the civics-class platitudes about 'contributions' to 'society,' which are mere obfuscations designed to engineer the people's consent to the system, and that is what the income tax amounts to." The word "exploited" appears several times in the book - to refer to government's treatment of its subject population. He

likewise writes, after having shown how the so-called distribution effects of inflation hurt the middle class and the working poor, that "the average person is silently robbed through this invisible means, and usually doesn't understand what exactly is happening to him. And almost no one in the political establishment has an incentive to tell him."

One of the things that frustrated me most during 2007 was the way Ron Paul's enemies employed predictable "anti-American" and "appeasement" rhetoric against his foreign policy views. Dr. Paul gets the last laugh here: his chapter on foreign policy is the most persuasive short statement of the non-interventionist position I have ever read. It turns the tables

completely: suddenly it is the neoconservatives who are on the defensive, and Ron Paul the knowledgeable and wise statesman steering his country to safety. As a former neocon myself - who knew my enthusiasm for this book would elicit that awful confession? - I can confidently say that I would have changed my mind a lot sooner if I had been exposed to arguments like these.

This book will change minds. Of that I am absolutely certain. That's why our chief task right now is getting it into people's hands.

This is the next major grassroots mission: thinking up creative ways to distribute this book, in the process making it an unavoidable part of current-day political discourse. Nothing would be more satisfying than to disrupt the lead-up to the establishment's November bore-athon with - gasp - a discussion of things that actually matter, aimed at the non-catonian segment of the population.

In the short run, buy copies for yourself and your friends. Of course, lending the book also works, but actually buying them copies serves two useful purposes: 1) boosting Ron Paul's bestseller status (dare we hope for a debut at #1?) and 2) guilting your friends into actually reading it, since they know you put down your own money on it.

The prospect that by means of this book hundreds of thousands, perhaps even millions, of Americans may be exposed to these ideas - which this book explains and defends more compellingly than any other book of its length I have ever read - is among the happiest and most exciting developments I can recall in years. I'd say more about the book's potential, but everything I write comes out like a cliché. This time, though, believe the

clichés. Ron Paul has taken the gloves off, and the result is a thing of beauty.

Toward the very end, Dr. Paul writes: "Ours is not a fated existence, for nowhere is our destiny etched in stone. In

"The American Revolutionaries did the impossible," Dr. Paul writes. "So can we."

the final analysis, the last line of defense of freedom and the Constitution consists of the people themselves. If the people want to be free, if they want to lift themselves out from underneath a state apparatus that threatens their liberties, squanders their resources on needless wars, destroys the value of their dollar, and spews forth endless propaganda about how indispensable it is and how lost we would all be without it, there is no force that can stop them."

The book's dedication page is striking, and fitting:

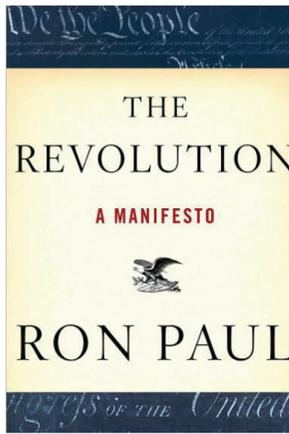
"To my supporters: I have never been more humbled and honored than by your selfless devotion to freedom and the Constitution.

"From the first page to the last, Dr. Paul tells his fellow Americans things that they are not supposed to hear."

"The American Revolutionaries did the impossible. So can we."

The Revolution: A Manifesto makes one thing abundantly clear: anybody who thought Ron Paul's moment was over is sorely mistaken. He's just getting started.

Thomas E. Woods, Jr. (<http://www.thomasewoods.com>) is senior fellow in American history at the Ludwig von Mises Institute and the author, most recently, of *Sacred Then and Sacred Now: The Return of the Old Latin Mass* and *'33 Questions About American History You're Not Supposed to Ask*. His other books include *How the Catholic Church Built Western Civilization*, *The Church and the Market: A Catholic Defense of the Free Economy* (first-place winner in the 2006 Templeton Enterprise Awards), and the *New York Times* bestseller *The Politically Incorrect Guide to American History*.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

McCain unites Liberals and RINOs

I went to the Abraham Lincoln – Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial with high hopes of listening to an intelligent, articulate and conservative speaker. I was to say the least underwhelmed. She spent time talking about how horrible the Democrat candidates for president are. I already knew this. She spoke of how the nation is divided and needs to be united. Well, most folks want to unite us on the LEFT. I'm not good with that.

When it was time for Q&A, I asked a simple question. I asked for one reason to vote for McCain. I didn't ask why I should vote against the Democrats. That should be self-evident, given whom we have as Democrat candidates. The speaker couldn't do it. Later, I asked again why. It did not good. The best I could get from our speaker was that McCain is a uniter and we are a divided nation.

Eventually she gave up and told me I had to do my own research. Except that I have done my own research – and I don't like what I see. That's why I asked the question in the first place. I haven't met Senator McCain. I haven't looked him in the eye. Our august speaker had.

McCain unites with Democrats only to produce Liberal legislation. He supports amnesty for illegal aliens and has said that as president he will sign any such bill that crosses his desk. He worked with Democrats on abridging our freedom of speech in the political arena. What I love most about the last one is that he is sans money because of his own legislation. Limiting freedom of speech is not limited to political speech he also has attempted to limit electronic speech and of course he co-sponsored a bill to force drug companies

to cut their evil profits on the drugs they produce.

Just a note for those who think profit is a dirty word. Without profit you wouldn't have a job. Even government jobs need non-government jobs to finance government activity. The Soviet Union came as close as it could to a completely managed infrastructure and it no longer exists because it wasn't self sustaining.

So when McCain unites us with the Democrats it is to weaken America and the Republican party. That kind of unity I do not need.

Now here are the reasons to vote for McCain that were given to me by other folks at the event and they are valid and excellent.

1. Our next president is likely to be putting justice(s) on the Supreme Court. McCain has vowed many times (so I'm told) to nominate Very Conservative justices.

2. Every Liberal who gets into office assails our second amendment rights. McCain having been in the military and served with distinction will almost certainly protect our rights to gun ownership.

3. McCain's military record speaks of a man that will continue fighting to protect America from Islamic terrorists, radicals, fascists (take your pick).

4. McCain has promised to lower taxes (or at least keep the Bush tax cuts). I'm not to certain about this one but I do remember something about it on the news.

Now the disclaimer. All I know about Angela McGlowan our august speaker is she works for FOX and that she was a lobbyist. I have never seen her on TV so she may not be the RINO (Republican In Name Only) she impressed me as being. She seems like a nice enough person, but

she's a disappointing speaker.

I did think it was very nice that she spent time talking to some young men about the importance of staying out of trouble and I do hope the one young gentleman does decide to run for President when he grows up. I'd look forward to voting for him if he's conservative.

Richard Newbold
Hawthorne, Florida

Editor's Note: Sen. John McCain's voting record on gun rights will disappoint many conservatives. You may be interested in an article by Dr. Chuck Baldwin of Florida on this issue: <http://libertysentinel.org/links/baldwin/>

PETA Patrol to the rescue in Alachua County?

Earlier this year a terminally-ill retired police dog was euthanized by its owner, Alachua County Sheriff Deputy Thomas Wilcox. Kozar was blind, deaf and had trouble walking; and Deputy Wilcox further reported to Alachua County Sheriff Sadie Darnell that "it was his time to go." Many people in the United States own pets and have a tremendous degree of affection and compassion for their pets; and Deputy Wilcox is no different. It is commendable that he cared enough about his animal, which was his property after all, to not allow the animal to continue suffering.

What raises concern for our county is the amount of attention and the response from misguided activists towards the incident. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) and other local animal rights activists plan to make Kozar's death a pivotal issue in Sheriff Darnell's re-election bid in August. For all the effort and time being spent on an animal who has been dead four months, these same groups do not put the same passion into protecting our children from sexual predators, women being sexu-

ally assaulted, or crimes against property.

Our local law enforcement is charged with keeping our community safe and for these activists to imply that our local Sheriff would condone animal cruelty of any kind is appalling! The Sheriff's office has not committed a crime and should be commended for their professionalism in how they have dealt with this matter. Sheriff Darnell has stated "It is a done deal, I'm not going to change my mind," and she is correct, at least in the matter of Kozar's death. I may not be a fan of Sadie, but her decision not to pursue this matter is the only logical conclusion.

It is truly sad that some citizens of our county make a terminally-ill animal the pivotal part of the newsday, placing the issue on the front page of our newspapers and acting as if there's even a controversy, when there are so many other greater problems that beset our county. We need our law enforcement to focus all of their attention on serious matters and not petty issues such as these.

Groups such as PETA have tunnel vision and are focused on events that value animals over the existence of human beings. Alachua County has a litany of issues to be addressed and I can assure you that most voters will not be thinking about Kozar the Dog when they go to the polls this Summer and Fall to vote out our current Sheriff. It is my hope that these groups will work and think equally as hard about supporting our law enforcement so that they can be there to protect our rights to life, liberty, and property – protecting us from real crime.

Ramon C. Medina
Gainesville, Florida

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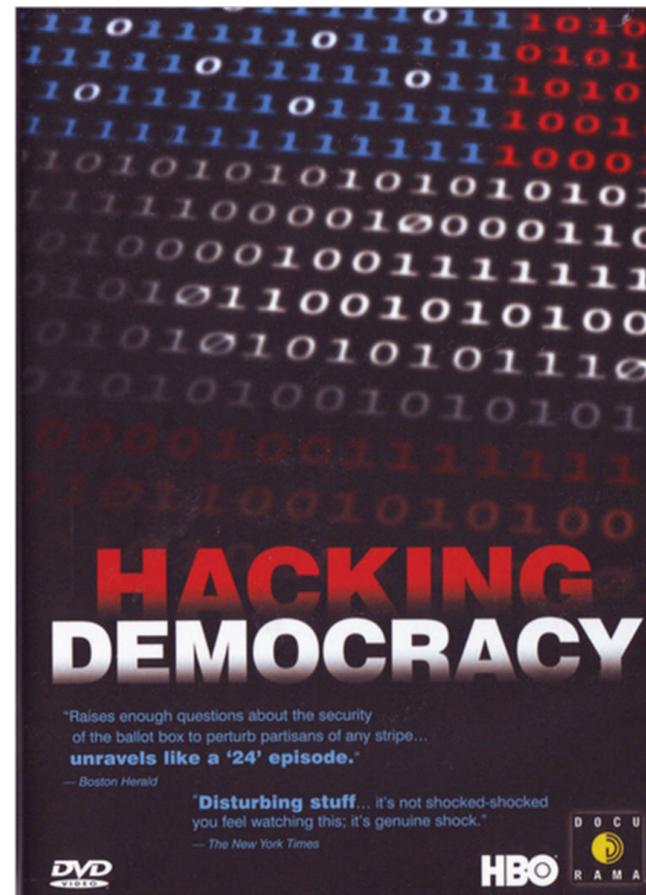
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"Hacking Democracy" uncovers incendiary evidence from the trash cans of Texas to the ballot boxes of Ohio, exposing secrecy, votes in the trash, hackable software and election officials rigging the presidential recount.

Ultimately proving our votes can be stolen without a trace "Hacking Democracy" culminates in the famous 'Hursti Hack'; a duel between the Diebold voting machines and a computer hacker from Finland - with America's democracy at stake.

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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.

Please mark your calendar on August 26th to Vote for Ray!

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**.

Refuses to accept the State of Florida Pension Plan, as he believes in the "Citizen Statesman".

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