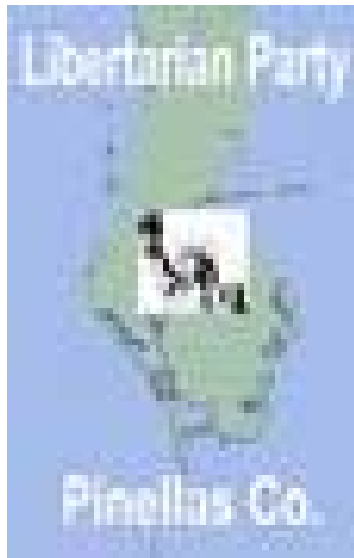


# *Speaking as a Libertarian...*

LPPC LTE Manual



## **LPPC LTE Manual**

Dear Pinellas Libertarian,

Thanks for your interest in writing to get the word out. Many thanks to the letter writers: and now here are some tips, content table, and samples to get you started:

LTE and Contact Tips:

- Always mention the L-word: Libertarianism, and/or the Libertarian Party
- Write on a regular basis. It takes several letters to be published.
- Keep letters within specifications, such as word limits.
- Be polite and encouraging of any mention of Libertarians by paper
- Stick to one topic, and try to keep to 3 paragraphs
- LP literature is filled with talking points you can use
- Don't neglect local papers
- Don't neglect TV and Radio stations
- Often, a few letters or calls are enough to change a legislator's mind
- Pass on your published letters for mention!

On the following pages are some successful local LTE's....

### **PART I: Libertarian Mention Page 2**

- Penny taxes
- Campaign corruption
- Nanny Government
- Truth on utility deregulation
- Libertarian Foreign Policy
- Cloning is a right
- Drug Laws make things worse
- What happened to States' Rights?
- Big Brother cameras
- Don't spin Lib success
- Lib Candidate thanks Public
- Bush, Join the LP!

### **PART II: General Page 11**

- Strange Police Lineups
- Government Fans and Bogus Second Amendment Research
- Arrest that 5<sup>th</sup> grader before he draws more!

Thank you for your effort!

Sincerely,  
LPPC

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# **PART I: Libertarian Mention...**

### **'Penny' surprise is worse than incompetence**

© St. Petersburg Times, published February 2, 2001

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/020201/Opinion/Penny\\_surprise\\_is\\_w.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/020201/Opinion/Penny_surprise_is_w.shtml)

Re: [Projects victim of penny shortfall, by Lisa Greene, Jan. 30.](#)

The article exposes the unabashed arrogance of our Pinellas County government officials. Apparently they surpassed their own projected spending amounts of county sales tax revenue by \$162-million. County officials admit that for years they approved the spending of our money without adding up the total cost of the projects. This exceeds incompetence and could be considered criminal in any line of work other than government.

The rest of the article is filled with their lame attempts to explain away their bungling failure. For example, interim County Administrator Gay Lancaster offered this preposterous rationalization: "It's like going through the cafeteria line. Sometimes your eyes are bigger than your stomach." As if that explanation can vindicate a \$162-million mistake with someone else's money.

The guilty parties must be held accountable. As a concerned taxpayer and Libertarian, I say fire the lot of them. The inept salaried bureaucrats involved should be summarily dismissed. But unfortunately for the real victims, the public must wait until the next election to exact its justice upon the true perpetrators.

-- Daryl Henegar, Pinellas Park

### **Cut the influence**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/041101/Opinion/We\\_should\\_treat\\_drug\\_.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/041101/Opinion/We_should_treat_drug_.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published April 11, 2001

Re: What should we do?, letter, April 1.

Regarding Robyn Blumner's March 25 column on campaign financing, a letter writer asks, "Does she have positive suggestions?"

With apologies to Blumner, I would like to offer one.

First, it is important to understand that it is not significant that moneyed interests can corrupt congressmen; anyone can be corrupted with enough money. The root problem is that someone might want to buy a congressman, and it is worth asking why this might be so.

When your disposable income is \$2-trillion, everyone wants to be your friend. When you have the power of life and death over entire industries, it is natural for both friends and foes of those industries to want to influence you.

No amount of legislation can stop people from wanting to influence congressmen, and the McCain-Feingold bill doesn't even pretend to attempt it. It only deals with the

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financial shenanigans incident to an election -- all else is presumed to be not worth the attention. It is, however, everything else that we should be watching.

In fact, there is only one way to stop the flow of influence money and that is to remove the influence.

If we were to insist that all of our congressfolk limit their business to that which is strictly permitted in the Constitution, there would be far fewer laws, far fewer federal agencies, far fewer dollars sent D.C.-ward each April 15, and far fewer dollars sent Congress-ward the rest of the year. Influence-peddling would no longer be a problem because there would be too little influence to peddle.

How's that for a suggestion?

Frank Clarke, chairman, Pinellas County Libertarian Party, Oldsmar

### **A compassionate government is less oppressive**

© St. Petersburg Times, published March 8, 2001

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/030801/Opinion/A\\_compassionate\\_gover.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/030801/Opinion/A_compassionate_gover.shtml)

Re: [Rules test Bush's compassion, March 5.](#)

Once again, we have an article that equates government laws and rules with compassion. Sara Fritz writes of a woman who tried to lift a 250-pound disabled child onto a school toilet and now blames her employer for her disability.

Is it just me or has everyone checked their common sense at the door? Could not this woman determine by simply looking that the child would be too heavy to pick up and move? A child weighing that much would appear to most people to be too heavy for one person to move. What surprises me is that there is no mention of the parents suing the school for potential harm to their child by someone not competent to handle a disabled child.

What we all must understand is that sweeping, one-size-fits-all regulations aimed at "helping" people in the private workplace are far from helpful and lack common sense. As a Libertarian, I find it disturbing that the federal government somehow knows better how people should work more effectively than the people who are actually doing the job. Anything that is funded or regulated by government from our schools to our workplaces has been ineffective and has insidiously and incrementally eroded our basic right to be free from oppressive government. Public schools still rank below their private counterparts in academic excellence regardless of the amount of money thrown at them. A more common-sense solution: privatize all schools.

This would get the government out of what it thinks our children should learn and would put all schools on a competitive footing. If the product (ie: academic achievement of your child) is substandard, you pull your child out and take your money elsewhere. When enough people have done that, maybe the school will get the message that it needs to re-tool how it makes its product.

The same holds for government workplace regulation. Simply because a minority of people complain that their work environment isn't conducive to optimum output, we are all made to suffer with nonsensical and oppressive regulations (ergonomics, minimum

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wage). Libertarians, unlike Democrats and Republicans, favor the removal of government from our private and business lives and prefer a more common-sense, market-driven approach to our daily activities. Whatever government does, a private company can do better and cheaper and all without taking tax dollars from your wallet. Please visit [www.lp.org](http://www.lp.org). I urge President Bush to repeal the Clinton administration's last-minute, knee-jerk, liberal and oppressive OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) rules as soon as possible. The only way for him to be compassionate is to start by being less oppressive.

-- Joe Haynes, Seminole

### **A better example of power deregulation**

© St. Petersburg Times, published June 4, 2001

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/060401/Opinion/Casey\\_Martin\\_ruling\\_n.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/060401/Opinion/Casey_Martin_ruling_n.shtml)

Re: [Beware the power of deregulation](#), letter, May 22.

Abe Lincoln once asked a friend: "If we call a dog's tail a leg; then how many legs does a dog have?" "Five," his friend answered. "No, still only four," Lincoln responded. "Calling a tail a leg doesn't make it one!" And so it is with California's electricity "deregulation" story.

Contrary to the politician's excuses and widespread reports by the mainstream media; "deregulation" is not what caused the current electricity disaster in California. In reality, back in 1996 California lawmakers actually "restructured" the electricity industry. These meddling political lapdogs imposed retail price controls, dictated how and when utilities could purchase power, discouraged new competitors from entering the market, imposed difficult new regulations and created numerous barriers to building power plants and transmission systems. This intrusive use of governmental force can hardly be considered deregulation!

In contrast, the electricity industry in Pennsylvania was truly deregulated. As the Reason Public Policy Institute points out, this Libertarian model of deregulation has lowered prices 30 percent, allows consumers to select service from 130 different companies and resulted in 20 percent of the customers freely choosing environmentally friendly "greenpower."

In Pennsylvania, neither the power industry conglomerates nor the intrusive government sets the standards; consumer freedom does. This exemplifies the difference between the unconscionable use of government force and allowing people the right to exercise free will over their own lives.

Floridians should insist that our elected officials and their cronies adopt the Libertarian model for successful deregulation of our electricity industry. Freedom rules! (And it works, too.)

-- Daryl Henegar, Pinellas Park

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## *A Libertarian View*

<http://tampatrib.com/News/MGAY1UJMMRC.html>

© Tampa Tribune, published September 15, 2001

**Libertarians** believe a foreign policy that minimizes U.S. intervention in the affairs and disputes of other nations will significantly reduce the possibility of further terrorist strikes against America. We must actively pursue free trade and peaceful relations with all other countries. At the same time we must avoid entangling ourselves in coalitions and alliances with some nations at the expense of alienating others.

It's not difficult to understand why terrorists have never threatened Switzerland and other countries that historically have minded their own business. They have no reason to. Maybe there's a lesson in there somewhere. The **libertarian** answer can give us the America we've always dreamed of - an America that is finally at peace with the world.

DARYL HENEGAR Pinellas Park

### **Choose cloning**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/080801/Opinion/In\\_debate\\_over\\_use\\_of.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/080801/Opinion/In_debate_over_use_of.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published August 8, 2001

Last week the House of Representatives voted to ban human cloning. My best friend Rex is a human clone. He and his brother have identical DNA, having been cloned "in utero." We call clones of this type identical twins. Rex and brother have identical DNA expressed physically in two separate bodies with two separate minds and two separate souls.

Frankly I do not see the harm in this type of cloning. I also do not see harm if this expression of identical DNA were to be separated by a period of years. Certainly there is no harm in either Rex or Ellis. They are two wonderful gentlemen. This gives the lie to the idea that there is something wrong with cloned human beings. I would also like to point out that the first "test tube baby" recently reached adulthood and, contrary to the controversy at the time, is no "Frankenstein's monster."

She is a lovely young woman.

Cloning, like in vitro fertilization (test tube babies) is just one of the many ways God has given us to "be fruitful and multiply" through the fruits of our God-given intellect. Originally members of Congress threatened to outlaw "test tube babies." Thank God they did not! Too bad they did not show reasonable restraint regarding cloning. Libertarians have a general guideline to determining what should be legal and what should be illegal.

The guideline is "who is harmed?" If no one is directly harmed who is not a willing participant, then whatever the activity is, it should be legal. If infertile couples try cloning to produce offspring, no one is harmed.

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On the other hand, when infertile couples take fertility drugs and "cull" (destroy) excess embryos to prevent multiple births, potential human beings are killed.

This is common practice and is not illegal. I submit that on the basis of the relative immorality of killing potential humans versus the totally benign practice of producing a human being whose DNA happens to be identical to another person's DNA, cloning should be not only legal but encouraged over the use of fertility drugs.

Choose life! Choose cloning!

-- Michael K. Barnett, St. Petersburg

### **Drug laws only make things worse**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/080701/Opinion/Sound\\_balanced\\_polic.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/080701/Opinion/Sound_balanced_polic.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published August 7, 2001

Re: [U.S. versus them](#), July 29.

The Libertarian Party's principle-based position on the war on drugs has not changed in more than 30 years. Like most Americans, Libertarians demand to be safe at home and on the streets. Libertarians would like all Americans to be healthy and free of drug dependence. But drug laws don't help; they only make things worse.

The professional politicians scramble to make names for themselves as tough anti-drug warriors, while the experts agree that the war on drugs has been lost, and could never be won. The tragic victims of that war are your personal liberty and its companion, responsibility. It's time to consider the re-legalization of drugs.

Some Americans will always use alcohol, tobacco, marijuana or other drugs. Most are not addicts; they are social drinkers or occasional users. Legal drugs would be inexpensive, so even addicts could support their habits with honest work, rather than by crime. Organized crime would be deprived of its profits. The police could return to protecting us from real criminals, and there would be room enough in existing prisons for them.

It's time to re-legalize drugs and let people take responsibility for themselves. Criminal laws only drive the problem underground and put money in the pockets of the criminal class. With drugs legal, compassionate people could do more to educate and rehabilitate drug users who seek help. Individuals have the right to decide for themselves what to put in their bodies, so long as they take responsibility for their actions.

From the mayor of Baltimore, Kurt Schmoke, to conservative writer and TV personality William F. Buckley Jr., leading Americans are now calling for repeal of America's repressive and ineffective drug laws. The Libertarian Party urges you to join in this effort to make our streets safer and our liberties more secure.

-- Daryl Henegar, Pinellas Park

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### **Let states tackle election woes**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/072301/Opinion/Election\\_debacle\\_will.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/072301/Opinion/Election_debacle_will.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published July 23, 2001

Re: [Another good idea for election reform](#), by Philip Gailey, July 15.

In a timely reminder, editor Philip Gailey references a report out of the Brookings Institution regarding election reform in which author Thomas Mann "warns against seeking a federal solution to a problem that is ... primarily a state and local responsibility."

Mann also suggests "the federal government should create a new independent agency to assist states" seeking solutions to electoral problems.

As a Libertarian, I flinch from suggestions that the federal government should take on more tasks -- there is nothing in the Constitution that allows the federal government to do so. On the other hand, there is nothing in law or the Constitution that prevents the states, whether two or 50, from forming the Interstate Cooperative Committee on Ballot Technology and doing precisely what Mann suggests.

If there is to be a nationwide dialogue on how to run an election, let it be managed by the states rather than by Washington's bureaucrats. The Interstate Cooperative Committee won't be able to force a one-size-fits-all solution on its members, but the Federal Ballot Technology Administration might.

-- Frank Clarke, chairman, Pinellas County Libertarian Party, Oldsmar

### **Beware the "cop mentality"**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/070601/Opinion/Ybor\\_cameras\\_let\\_gove.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/070601/Opinion/Ybor_cameras_let_gove.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published July 6, 2001

I read with outrage that Tampa is now using the same face-recognition technology used at the Super Bowl to scan the city's streets for people wanted for crimes.

It was 225 years ago that our libertarian Founding Father's pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor so that they -- and now we -- could live free of arbitrary power. Specifically, they laid everything on the line in opposition to taxes that by today's standards would seem minuscule -- hardly worth fighting or dying over. The result was the world's first free and open society, based not on the "divine right of kings" but on the inalienable rights of individuals.

Today we face not only high rates of taxation, but now general public surveillance. And instead of patriotism, there is a kind of "cop mentality" prevalent, a mentality that says that only criminals have reason to fear their government. It perverts our Founding Fathers' legacy (if not logic) because it is used to justify every manner of intrusion into our lives and forces us to ask again and again, "Where do we draw the line?"

-- William Gene Cole, Riverview



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[http://216.239.39.104/search?q=cache:tF-0SRPLN0J:www.saintpetersburgtimes.com/2004/08/09/Opinion/Who\\_cares\\_about\\_polit.shtml+%22st+petersburg+times%22+%2B+%22gilson+%2Bde+lemos%22&hl=en](http://216.239.39.104/search?q=cache:tF-0SRPLN0J:www.saintpetersburgtimes.com/2004/08/09/Opinion/Who_cares_about_polit.shtml+%22st+petersburg+times%22+%2B+%22gilson+%2Bde+lemos%22&hl=en)

### **Libertarians keep plugging away**

Re: This time, Libertarians put force in few, Aug. 2.

Thank you for your article on the Libertarian Party of Florida. In 2002 the public made clear it wanted more Libertarian candidates. LPPF is working to meet this need.

It is important to make comparisons based on what Libertarians said they would do, not what pundits believe. They aimed at 1 percent of the vote on low-budget campaigns, to alert the public to overall Libertarian choices. They received more than 400,000 votes, over 14 percent where they ran, and half the Democratic total. In 2004, perhaps Libertarians should aim at 2 percent! They ran no passive candidates and a survey showed that by key indicators Libertarians were more active than candidates surveyed except in one area - soliciting donations from special interests.

LPPF didn't "learn" its lesson from 2002 except to keep at it: It created the largest third-party petition effort in Florida history based on a long-term plan set years earlier. It continues to develop candidates and activists to provide Libertarian choices and activism in each district - and encourages candidates to do door to door petitioning. Much of the reduced candidacy is due to this focus, and delays caused by post-9/11 caused funding delays in developing the internal infrastructure needed to service all the Floridians who voted Libertarian.

Academics who opine without having done field research and met with the involved Libertarians, or Republicans who feel justified because "only" one fifth of the electorate voted for a Libertarian opponent who took no lobbyist money, only demonstrate the Libertarian case.

– Michael Gilson De Lemos, Past Secretary, LPPF, St. Petersburg

[http://216.239.39.104/search?q=cache:kpoZPQVZV00J:www.sptimes.com/2002/11/02/news\\_pf/Opinion/Candidate\\_replies.shtml+%22st+pete+rsburg+times%22+%2B+%22gilson+%2Bde+lemos%22&hl=en](http://216.239.39.104/search?q=cache:kpoZPQVZV00J:www.sptimes.com/2002/11/02/news_pf/Opinion/Candidate_replies.shtml+%22st+pete+rsburg+times%22+%2B+%22gilson+%2Bde+lemos%22&hl=en)

### **Michael Gilson-De Lemos, Libertarian candidate for state House District 53**

Thanks, Pinellas, for your positive response in all community forums I attended, for the hundreds of citizens who contacted me and for comments of "Libertarians pay attention," "You listen" and "It's nice to see some choice." The season's more than 20 percent rise in local Libertarian registration -- and 70 percent Libertarians in government statewide -- speaks for itself.

During this campaign I:

- Raised awareness of detailed programs of proven Libertarian nongovernmental, more voluntary solutions: homestead exemptions, removing caps on charter schools.
- Worked for the district, not special interests. The 73 thrifty low-campaign budget Libertarian House candidates -- far more than Democrats or Greens -- have apparently spent less than one Green candidate.
- As a disabled home-schooling dad in local government -- campaigning with dignity and issues -- I was praised by child-centered fathers, neighbors and the disabled for the inspiration against hype and subtle discrimination.
- Kept Libertarian promises to show up and improve DOE processes made when

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- Libertarians fought for open primaries and ballot equalization.
- Listened positively to community leaders.

Mr. Justice praised me and Mr. Feck Monday for serious, gentlemanly, positive campaigns. Libertarians are serious, active and detailed in ways the Times may not approve -- no big money or meaningless PR. In contrast more citizens see that, statewide, unserious is really parties that don't field candidates in more than 40 districts - or incumbents who admittedly only campaign to answer Libertarian challengers.

Showing up's Job One.

We're going to Tallahassee -- soon

### **Governor favors freedom**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/062501/Opinion/Vetoed\\_crib\\_bill\\_woul.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/062501/Opinion/Vetoed_crib_bill_woul.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published June 25, 2001

Re: [Crib safety bill gets veto](#), June 20.

In his first inaugural address, Thomas Jefferson said it best, "... a wise and frugal government, which shall restrain men from injuring one another, shall leave them free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement, and shall not take from the mouth of labor the bread it has earned. This is the sum of good government, and is necessary to close the circle of our felicities."

Too bad the Democrats in the Florida Legislature have chosen to overlook this most basic tenet of representative and libertarian government. Thank you, Gov. Bush, for having the insight to realize that it is not the constitutionally mandated job of government to rein in the daily activities of its citizens. Bush has shown restraint and fiscal responsibility in the face of those who believe that his vetoes are somehow going to cause the collapse of civilization. However, more can be done. What Democrats and their lobbyists fail to understand is that we will vote them out of office for their arrogance and attempts to micro-manage our lives. Their job, as our representatives, is to ensure that our rights are protected and that we are able to pursue our dreams without infringement. Government has no compelling interest in what crib I use; whether or not I wear seat belts; what substances I may ingest, inhale or inject; what automobile I drive and whether or not I use a cell phone in said automobile. These activities, as well as many others, do not violate the rights or property of my fellow Floridians. Simple possession or use of a legally produced product evokes no moral or ethical dilemmas so long as I am not violating the same rights of my fellow citizens.

Gov. Bush, it is time to stop straddling the fence. I urge you to join the Libertarian Party and make your journey to the side of freedom complete. It is your destiny.

-- Joe Haynes, Seminole

## **Part II: General....**

### **Digital lineups violate rights of the innocent**

© St. Petersburg Times, published December 29, 2000

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/122900/Opinion/Digital\\_lineups\\_viola.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/122900/Opinion/Digital_lineups_viola.shtml)

Re: [All drivers may appear in digital lineups, Dec. 22.](#)

Denis deVlaming is to be commended for his principled stand against using digitized driver's license pictures to be examined by a computer to produce a criminal suspect. If implemented, this plan will mean innocent people will have to defend themselves against mistaken identity, and some of those will be wrongfully convicted.

Sheriff Everett Rice is wrong to compare this program to DNA evidence and automated fingerprint matching. As I understand, there have never been two different people with the same fingerprints, and DNA can be expressed as to how likely the probability is that it matches a particular person. Also it can definitely exclude someone. But eyewitness identification is notoriously inaccurate. Just because they drive, people will be drawn into lineups where they can be wrongly identified as a criminal. Then full and awesome power of the state will be used to try to convict them.

Sure, it will boost the sheriff's investigative capabilities. So would kicking down doors and invading people's homes uncover crime that is not now being detected, but do we want to live like that? I sure don't.

This is a terrible idea, and it should not be used here or anywhere else. We should remember Benjamin Franklin's words: "They who give up essential liberty to purchase a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety."

-- J. B. Pruitt Jr., Clearwater

### **Fiction posing as research**

© St. Petersburg Times, published February 4, 2001

<http://www.sptimes.com/Archive/020401/Today.shtml>

The main thesis of Michael Bellesiles' *Arming America* has been thoroughly debunked, notably by Joyce Lee Malcom of Bentley College and MIT and attorney Stephen P. Halbrook, a recognized expert on Second Amendment issues.

In Carl Bogus' article, we find repeated such nonsense as "Guns were wildly inaccurate beyond 10 yards, while the longbow had an effective range up to 300 yards."

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In fact, the current world record for accurate archery is in the range of 100 yards, this with modern compound bows; the venerable Kentucky rifle favored by the American colonists was accurate to twice that.

Then professor Bogus treats us to the story of the 1,200 "frontier probates" labeled "highly reliable," showing only a 14.7 percent incidence of firearms ownership. When professor James Lindgrin of Northwestern University replicated that research, he found that there were more guns listed than knives, more guns than books and more guns than Bibles (this despite the fact that in Colonial times probates were done mainly for debtors).

As to the colonists' ability to handle their weapons, Bellesiles scoffs at the Minutemen because at Lexington and Concord, 3,763 Minutemen only shot 273 Redcoats. For comparison, the British regulars hit their marks just 95 times, still fine shooting when one considers that U.S. forces in Vietnam expended 50,000 rounds per confirmed Viet Cong casualty. The personal diaries of Gen. John Burgoyne, in fact, have him complaining that the rebels are deliberately "firing upon the officers' persons," something one doesn't do without considerable practice with an accurate firearm. Arming America is the worst kind of research. It's fiction.

Frank Clarke, Oldsmar

### **What are we teaching our children?**

[http://www.sptimes.com/News/051501/Opinion/Hysteria\\_seems\\_to\\_be\\_.shtml](http://www.sptimes.com/News/051501/Opinion/Hysteria_seems_to_be_.shtml)

© St. Petersburg Times, published May 15, 2001

Re: [Student's drawings lead to his removal.](#)

An 11-year old fifth-grader is arrested (he was handcuffed -- that constitutes arrest) and removed from his Oldsmar school because he drew pictures of weapons. Let's hear what principal David Schmitt has to say: "The children were in no danger at all. It involved no real weapons."

Nancy Zambito, a school district director of operations, suggested the incident was a "threat" and that it's "not unusual." Really? It's usual for elementary students to be led away in handcuffs for felonious crayoning? Is she serious?

Now, despite the fact that he understands no one was in any danger, the principal gives us his learned opinion on the First Amendment: "We just need to get it through kids' heads that there are certain things you don't say and there are certain things you don't draw."

With people like this in charge of our schools, we should not wonder when our children grow up to be mindless little drones devoid of the ability to make rational judgments and unaware of our nation's tradition of individual freedom. We should, instead, be startled when they don't.

-- Frank Clarke, Oldsmar