

# Opinion

Gulf Breeze NEWS



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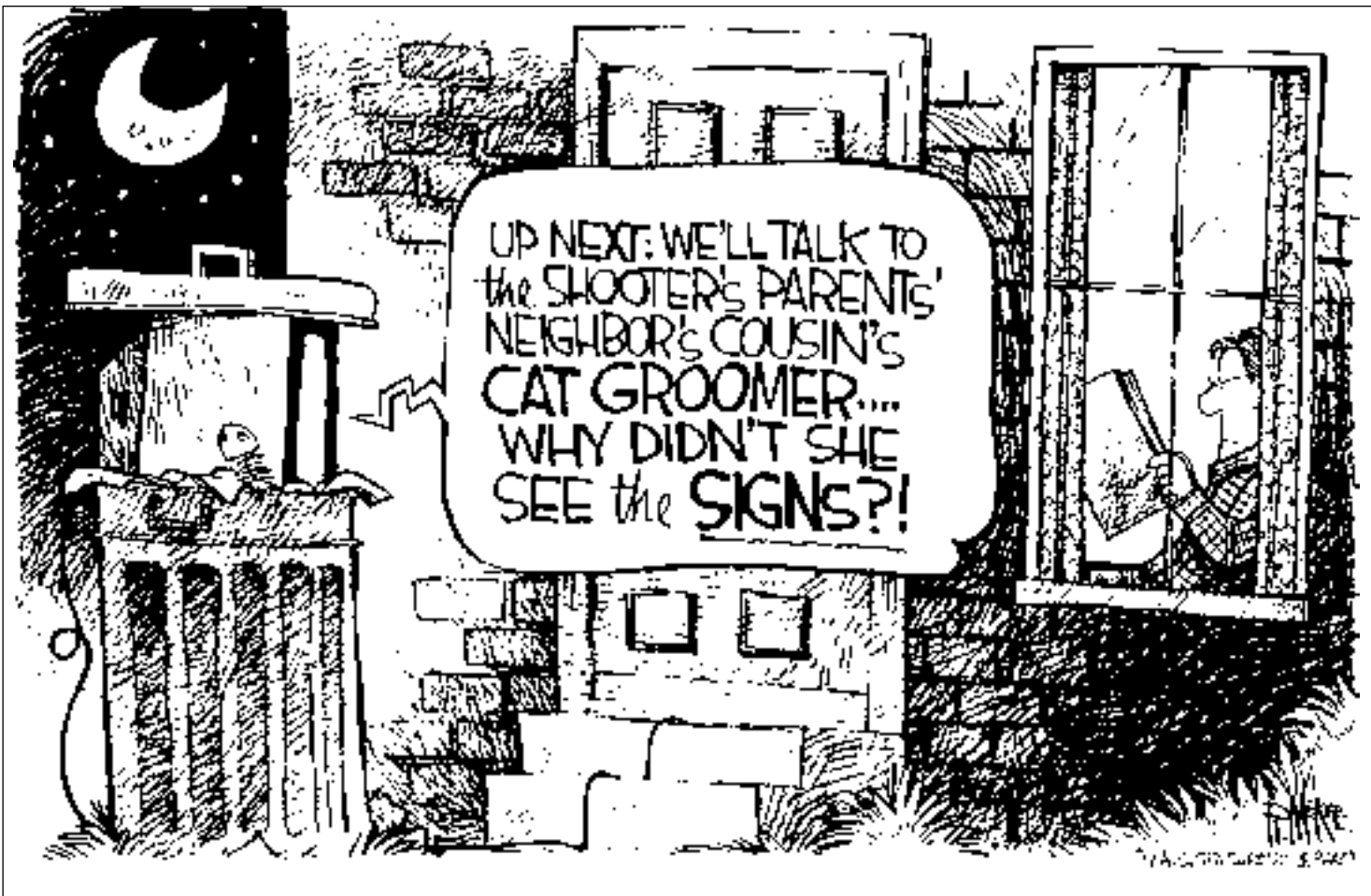
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## On the Spot:

WHERE WE PUT PEOPLE "ON THE SPOT" TO ANSWER A QUESTION "ON THE SPOT."

By Franklin Hayes

*Do you think it is more dangerous to live in tornado alley or along the hurricane prone Gulf Coast?*

## Nurses: the Backbone of Healthcare

Angels, saviors, and friends are just a few of the adjectives patients often use to describe nurses. Nurses are the healthcare community's unsung heroes. Day in and day out they commit their time, expertise and compassion to ensure quality of life and provide hope not only to patients but also the family members whose loved one is under their care.

May 6-12 is the one week out of the year that our nation turns its undivided attention on its modern-age Florence Nightingales. Nurses Week originated as Nurses Day when President Ronald Regan signed a proclamation proclaiming "National Recognition Day for Nurses" to be May 6, 1982. The American Nurses Association then expanded on the day to include a week long celebration that would commence on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

The nursing workforce is made up of registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), certified nurses aids (CNAs) and advanced registered nurse practitioners (ARNPs)-all providing direct front-line patient care. On a



broad scale, nurses assess patient needs, develop patient care plans, administer medications and treatments and provide personal care. When you examine a nurse's responsibilities more closely you will see that these essential healthcare professionals carry out a minimum of 30 different nursing activities. Along with direct patient care, nurses compose critical documentation, educate patients and families on conditions and collaborate with other healthcare professionals on interdisciplinary teams.

Nurses are also a strategic component of our communities' economic make-up. According to the Florida Center for Nursing, Escambia and Santa Rosa Counties employee nearly 7,000 nurses. Nurses are not only found in traditional hospital and outpatient surgery settings, but they are also part of

schools, long-term care facilities, as well as governmental facilities such as community health centers and jails.

Traditionally foreseen as a profession that is female dominated, nursing is a career being chosen by more men especially in Northwest Florida. Nationally, men make up about nine percent of the nursing workforce. At Baptist Hospital alone, men count for 19 percent of the nursing staff.

Projections from the Department of Labor Statistics show positions for registered nurses through 2010 will experience fifty percent faster growth than average employment growth for all other occupations. But the demand for nurses created by an aging U.S. population is outpacing the supply. By 2015 it is estimated that 114,000 RN positions will go unfilled throughout the country

## It's time to bring the troops home from Iraq

A new strategy has emerged among Republican candidates for president who appeal to the party's huge conservative base. Frontrunners Mitt Romney and Rudy Giuliani, as well as several lesser candidates, have chosen to hearken back to the Reagan era. Identifying with the man whose name is virtually synonymous with conservatism evidently makes a lot more sense than tying oneself to either George W. Bush or his father.

The current occupant of the White House, of course, is adamant in his continuation of the increasingly unpopular Iraq war. Now four years old with no end in sight, the struggle has already cost 3,200 American lives, wounded over 20,000, and destroyed whatever positive attitude for our nation existed in the Muslim world. Instead of deciding that the U.S. goals have been accomplished and ending the conflict, Mr. Bush is pouring more troops into the fray, even sending some units back for a third tour. No GOP political aspirant wants to be identified with such a record.

I think that any candidate who says forthrightly that it's time to bring the troops home would receive strong support.

Please also visit <http://www.jbs.org/node/3235> regarding my concern.

Matt K. Davis  
Henderson, NV

### Sharks deserve to live in the Gulf

Dearest Frank,  
I'm not a tree hugger, but I am a shark lover. I was bitten by a shark while surfing, but I'm not bitter. The shark was just being a shark, and mistook my foot for a mullet. It was a blacktip about five feet in length and caused a little permanent nerve damage as well as 60 stitches. I have no bad will toward sharks, and will be surfing again as soon as I'm able. I understand the risks of entering the water. I am also an avid fisherman, and have seen many sharks over 10 feet in length. If one of these bit me I would probably not be here to tell about it. THAT DOES NOT GIVE ME THE RIGHT TO KILL ONE OF THEM!!! As someone who greatly enjoys and appreciates nature I understand the risks of entering the water. As a kayaker so should you. To put it into simple terms for you:

Intruder into your home - intruder dies

You intrude into someone else's home - you die

The fishermen were in the shark's home, yet the shark died.

I don't expect to change your view on the subject; it would be like arguing with a wall. Just understand that when you launch your kayak into the water, you are in nature's house, and nature's rules apply. If you

can't handle that, then sell your kayak to someone who does, get a rubber ducky bath toy, and enjoy the public pool.

Larry Olson  
Port St. Lucie, Fla.

### Armed citizens answer to crime

To paraphrase a musical lament of yesteryear: "Where have all the good people gone - gone to the graveyard everyone? - killed by the armed criminals the police protect - by disarming citizens the criminals attack."

Could this become the funeral dirge for our great Christian Civilization of America that our ancestors sacrificed and died for? It very well could in view of the depraved and psychopathic efforts of our bureaucratic defacto commissars and their police lackeys to disarm and persecute Americans who exercise their God-given constitutional right to own and bear firearms to protect themselves and families.

The result is the reducing of our nation to disarmed "sheeple" blindly marching toward the slaughterhouse of the planned Police State. The strategy being employed by our party-line political bosses and police sycophants is to deliberately release criminals into our neighborhoods to create an ever escalating crime rate to justify ever increasing taxation for ever expanding bureaucratic empires

(1). The training of new nurses at our local educational institutions is vitally important for our region to continue to attract new nurses. Our area's teaching programs have teamed up with our local hospitals to provide clinical experiences that enable nursing students to receive excellent training at home. As a result many area graduates are opting to work locally.

When people are hospitalized, in a nursing home, having a baby or learning to manage a chronic condition in their own home, nurses are the health care providers people are most likely to encounter; spend the greatest amount of time with; and depend on for recovery.

Bottom-line: nurses are the backbone of healthcare.

(1)Lubin Vian H., *Environmental Scan: The New Nursing Shortage. June 1999*

Dr. David DiLoreto is Chief Medical Officer and Senior Vice President of Baptist Health Care. Diane Wilbanks, R.N., is Vice President of Patient Care Services, Baptist Hospital, Inc.



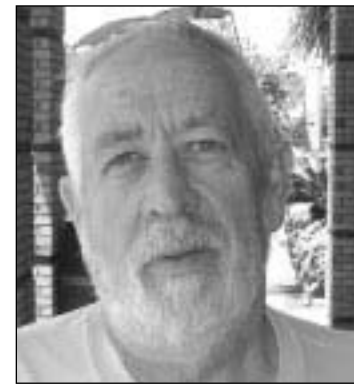
"Probably the hurricane prone Gulf Coast. Hurricanes are so much bigger and more powerful than tornados."

-Eric Keasler  
Gulf Breeze



"Tornado alley. Tornados are more fierce, much faster and more dangerous."

-Tyler Peklo  
Gulf Breeze



"I think one's about as bad as the other. If your house is destroyed it doesn't matter what did it."

-Lloyd Hess  
Pensacola Beach



"I think tornados are more dangerous. There's usually no warning. We usually have days to prepare for a hurricane."

-Sharon Schomer  
Gulf Breeze