

# Opinion

Gulf Breeze NEWS

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## On the Spot:

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

By Franklin Hayes

*Should the 10 Commandments be posted in schools?*

## Democratic congress full of pork

In November 2006, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi assured the American people that she would "make this the most honest, ethical, and open Congress in history" and "will give the American people the leadership they deserve."

The "leadership they deserve?" Is that leadership a broken promise to the American people as the Democrats change the rules to allow earmarks to be stuffed into spending bills behind closed doors after the bill has passed the House.

Taxpayers work too hard for their paychecks to be frivolously spent by the federal government on the "bridge to nowhere" type of earmarks. With more than 32,000 earmarks turned into the Appropriations Committee, we can only imagine how many more earmarks were requested of Congress that



were never submitted.

I believe in transparency of the process, of people taking responsibility for the requests they make. I would like to see not just a handful, but every member of Congress publish the appropriation requests that they made so that the taxpayers are made aware of how their tax dollars may be spent.

Members of Congress who choose to fund Trout Genome Mapping, the Please Touch Museum, Women's World Soccer Cups, Rock n' Roll

museums, and other pork projects are choosing to put their political gains before the best interests of the American people. A true representative of the people will work tirelessly to cut the wasteful discretionary spending and reduce the deficit; thus strengthening the national economy and creating jobs.

Americans are not taxed too little; Washington just spends entirely too much. The best way to get Congress to stop wasteful spending is to let those who earn it, keep it.

While the Democratic controlled Congress is going back on their pledge of openness and transparency, their underhanded attempts at passing pork-filled spending bills for the upcoming fiscal year must be stopped.

Now more than ever, Congress must work diligently to craft appropriation bills for the next fiscal year that not only enable us to carry out our missions abroad but also maintain and improve the lives of our citizens.

Either we tie the hands of Washington or it will tie the hands of our children and grandchildren. That is an easy choice for me to make. Now is the critical time for Congress to step up to the plate and do what is necessary to control earmarking that has gone awry. If not now then when?



"I believe they should. They're the basic rules to live by."

-Alf Olsen  
 Pensacola

## Post the 10 commandments in schools

A recent headline points out why it wouldn't be a bad idea to post the Ten Commandments in our schools.

"Theft Rising at U.S. Wal-Mart Stores" noted a recent Associated Press business story. The article pointed out that the retailing giant is being hit by a tidalwave of shoplifting. Employers and customers alike are hauling out goods without paying for them.

Now, the AP report says that Wal-Mart is not saying much on the record about the thefts. However, its inventory is getting smaller and smaller. The AP surmises that the shrinkage has been caused by "shoplifting, employee theft, paperwork errors and supplier fraud."

Last year, Wal-Mart decided it was not going to prosecute minor shoplifting cases. Instead, it chose to concentrate on major shoplifting rings. While the AP



claims that Wal-Mart has cut security force, the news organization also reports that the company denies it has reduced security staff.

Of course, Wal-Mart, just like any other company, has a right to decide how best to police shoplifting and fraud. However, the real issue is this: some people walking through Wal-Mart's doors believe that they are entitled to steal.

While it may seem astounding to think that entitlements now include theft, it only makes sense, given the permissiveness

of our society. If schools, court-houses, and municipal buildings don't post the commandment, "Thou Shalt Not Steal," it stands to reason that children would grow up believing that stealing isn't all that bad.

One union-backed group has apparently indicated that worker discontent is playing a part in employee theft — a truly mind-boggling claim. If I'm unhappy with my boss, does that give me the right to steal from him? Also, it should be noted that Wal-Mart officials say that employee morale is actually on

the rise, which blows a hole through the theory that staffers are trying to steal their way to happiness.

Many of us — customers and employees alike — disagree with some of the things that the world's largest retailer does. But the moral response is not to give tacit approval to stealing from the store aisles. Because, in the end, stealing from Wal-Mart doesn't just hurt the big executives. It hurts the senior citizen trying to earn extra spending money as a greeter. And it hurts the family of four down the road trying to buy enough groceries to keep going. And it hurts the kids who are looking to us adults to provide some moral compass for their lives.

I would hope that the lesson to be learned from this is: thou shalt not steal from Wal-Mart — or anyone else.



"No. I believe in the separation of church and state."

-Courtney Winstead  
 Gulf Breeze



"Sure, why not? I think it's a good idea to get morals back in schools."

-Lee Gelman  
 Pensacola

## Government cover-up is bad judgment

It blows the human mind to think how we American people are allowing George W. Bush to lie to us and cover-up all his mistakes. He started hiding the truth when he first decided to run for president. He never came clean about his alleged use of illegal drugs and alcohol, and the AWOL allegation.

Bush and his administration have made a mess in almost all the areas that is important for good government. We know why he wants to keep the administration records private. Impeachment procedures would start immediately.

We need to know who has been a part of all the bad decisions. Was anybody in opposition or did Bush become a dictator making decisions. The

### Letters to the Editor

American people have a right to see the decision-making documents. Our country cant afford to repeat the Bush administration's mistakes.

Reportedly, the Bush administration had hundreds of thousands of documents and email messages lost. Many of these documents were classified as top secret. The buck stopped with Bush, and this is only one of many impeachable charges. Bush and Cheney must go.

I keep pondering this question: What has Bush done right for our government in seven years? Bush's approval rating

by Americans is 32 percent. www.SemperFidelisNoah.com

Noah H. Belew  
 Gulf Breeze

### NAFTA should be repealed

Americans should be very disturbed about the federal government's plans to have the United States join the Security and Prosperity Partnership (SPP) that will merge the U.S., Mexico, and Canada into one nation with open borders by year 2010. The federal government also is quietly working to

entangle us in a North American Union (NAU) similar to the European Union.

In 1993, Congress entangled us in the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) that is now being used as the basis for the SPP and NAU. We must repeal NAFTA if we are to remain a free and independent nation. Concerned citizens need to tell their U.S. Representative and both U.S. Senators to support H. Con. Res. 22 to withdraw the U.S. from NAFTA, and H. Con. Res. 40 to Stop the NAU! Go to www.thenewamerican.com for more details.

Sincerely,  
 Nancy B. Brennan  
 Camarillo, Calif.



"I wouldn't take offense to it personally. It puts a moral compass out there. I think it's appropriate that the commandments be put in schools."

-Terry Goodwin  
 Gulf Breeze