

## How to stick it to the man, man

**Grant Hutchinson**  
Contributing Writer

If you've ever had a car on the University of West Florida campus, you've probably experienced the pain of parking.

You buy the tag, and you stick it in exactly the right quadrant of your windshield. You walk three miles to and from class, uphill both ways, because all the close spots are painted a deadly shade of green.

But none of that matters.

When you return to your automobile, you see that yellow square underneath your wiper. You quickly try to fool yourself. "Maybe it's a flyer from 'Popular Fraternity/Sorority' inviting me to the annual Jello-wrestling party. Maybe it's a coupon for Bagel Bites. Maybe it's a note from that cute girl in psychology expressing her Freudian, unconscious, Id-fueled desire to do me."

But as you walk closer, the truth becomes clear: it's a parking ticket.

If you're lucky, the ticket is face down, exposing an address label — this way you can still convince yourself that maybe it's some sort of congratulatory postcard from the administration that they delivered to your car for some reason.

But for the rest of you unfortunate souls, you're left looking at a badly scrawled citation requiring you to pay \$25 you probably don't have.

A recent survey conducted by six drunken, sign language-speaking iguanas revealed that parking tickets are a \$17 bajillion-a-year industry for UWF.

That's right folks, not \$17 jillion, not \$17 million billion million, not even \$17 infinity — \$17 bajillion.

Well I, for one, am not willing to stand by and watch UWF pilfer away our hard-earned bajillions. So here's what I have done for you. I've designed this easy-to-follow guide that is absolutely, completely and unconditionally eight-percent guaranteed to get you out of a parking ticket.

I now present to you: Ways to get out of a parking ticket, or how to stick it to the man, man.

1. Become handicapped. Everyone knows that the handicapped get the best parking spots, and becoming one of these chosen few has never been easier. All you have to do is go up to one of UWF's many fine, muscle-bound roughnecks and say, "Rugby sucks." By the third or fourth try, you'll be able to wave that little blue hanging tag with pride. Note: Rugby is actually a very intellectual game that requires cunning strategy and is not in any way a stupid, barbaric pseudo-sport where big guys just run into each other. In addition, by "muscle-bound roughnecks," what I really meant was "charming, well-rounded old chaps." Please don't hurt me.

2. Leave an old ticket underneath your wiper. This way, when the safety patrol comes by, they'll think they already got you. However, it should be



Grant Hutchinson

noted that this is a good way to anger the safety patrol and get another ticket. Use with caution.

3. Never get out of your car. If you don't get out, they'll keep waiting for you to leave the car before writing you a ticket. The suckers will be waiting all day! Sure, you'll miss class and probably flunk out of school, negating any reason you ever had for parking on campus in the first place, but at least you didn't get a ticket!

4. Ride a bike. Of course, I'm just kidding. Only losers ride bikes. Rollerblades, however, are about the most "non-loser" transportation you can own, so you should definitely give those a try. Be sure to wear your spandex bodysuit under your safety pads though. You wouldn't want to tear the bodysuit if you fall.

5. Create an elaborate "Batcave" system of transport tubes under the nature trail. This one pretty much speaks for itself.

6. Schedule all your classes between midnight and 6 a.m. The safety patrol is off duty during these hours. If no classes are available during this time, then just sit in the computer lab and pretend. "Elements of TextTwist" and "A Survey of American Pornography" are both acceptable fake courses.

7. Transfer to a different school. This is the only truly effective method because as everyone knows, it doesn't matter what precautions you take. If you have a car at UWF, you will eventually get a parking ticket. And you will pay it. And the safety patrollers will laugh and count their bajillions all the way to the bank.

## Dean left spinning after political collapse

**Andrew Kilgo**  
Sports Editor

Going into the start of the Democratic presidential primary season, former governor of Virginia, Howard Dean was generating a tremendous groundswell of excitement among potential voters. Dean defied the traditional route of campaigning by using the internet as a major tool to gather support and campaign funding.

Dean's efforts were so powerful that he elected not to accept the federal funding presidential candidates receive under the new campaign financing reforms. Dean's campaign machine was also receiving lots of attention from college-aged supporters via the Internet campaign. This was the beginning of the end for Dean.

Many of the recent elections have proven that the youth of America are not the most devoted when it comes to going out to the polls.

Other candidates such as Senator John Kerry, focus their efforts at court-

ing the voting block that matters: the senior citizens. That is one of the main reasons behind his rapid ascent in securing the nomination for the Democratic Party.

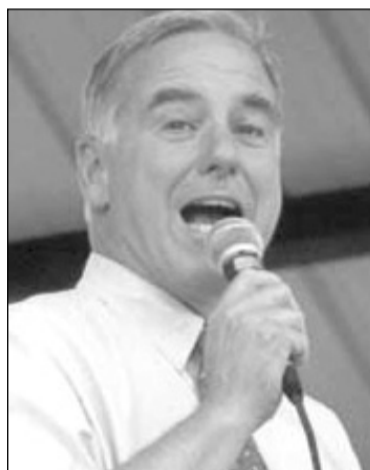
Many of America's youth have said they feel left out and the politicians don't care about them. This is a driving force behind younger people choosing not to vote.

It is a vicious cycle.

Young people don't vote because of they feel that politicians don't care about them, and then the politicians don't campaign to young people because they are not a reliable voting block.

Dean went into the Iowa caucuses as an early favorite, but was hit with allegations that negatively impacted voters away from choosing him. After his disappointing third place finish in Iowa, Dean took the podium in front of a room full of supporters to give an impassioned speech.

Many of you probably have seen the clips of that speech because they



Courtesy of www.google.com

**Howard Dean speaks at a rally early in his campaign.**

were the targets of late night comedians and other news programs. The clip was repeatedly shown for a couple of days, and Dean himself even showed a

sense of humor about his speech.

Unfortunately, the speech had dominated the news more than any political idea proposed by Dean. At this point, the Dean's downward spiral began.

Dean continued to loose primary after primary, his money and interest drying up faster than lemonade on a hot day. Many of the young people who were strong supporters of Dean abandoned ship after the start of his losing streak.

This week is the primary in Wisconsin, and many feel that if he loses there he will discontinue his attempt at securing the presidential nomination, perhaps refocusing his attention towards selection as a vice presidential candidate.

Dean has produced groundbreaking ideas, especially with the use of the Internet as a major tool in his political campaign.

However, relying on a large group of young supporters was a flaw. People like me don't have that great of an interest in going to the voting booth.

## Abortion: Freedom is an American right

**Megan Martinez**  
Commentary Editor

America is a country that is based on freedoms which are granted to all citizens regardless of race, religion or sex. America has served as a refuge for immigrants from all over the world seeking protection from oppressive and discriminatory regimes.

That is why it is hard to believe that Bush's administration is making so much head-way in an effort to ebb the flow of human liberties, specifically in the area of women's health and the right to choose.

There will never be an absolute answer when it comes to the right to choose. Some argue that religion says abortion is wrong, and therefore a sin. Others believe that it is our right, as women, to choose what is right for ourselves.

No one has the authority to tell a woman what to do in such a situation that would require her to make a choice, so why has legislation been passed that does just that?

The partial-birth abortion was banned, but anti-abortionists are not stopping there. They are attacking all forms of abortion, without regard to the possible need for it.

When a woman is raped, her choice is taken away from her. If she becomes pregnant from that experience, she deserves the right to choose what is going to happen next. There are instances where complications such as disease play a factor into the decision of a woman. But anti-abortionists are taking this choice away from women too.

The principle behind the formation of the United States is that each person has their own mind and their own beliefs, so isn't a contradiction that the government is trying to restrict that choice-making ability?

The New York Times reported that the Justice Department, through subpoenas, is trying to get their hands on the records of 300 people who had partial birth abortions in an effort to determine whether, "it is ever necessary to preserve a woman's health" through an

abortion.

Their tactics violate American's right to privacy, and the women involved in those procedures would be publically exposed. It also seems to be an admission by the government that their ban on partial-birth abortion could have been premature.

Another big issue that is being heavily debated is making the morning-after, or plan b pill available without a prescription. The Food and Drug Administration has postponed making its decision because of pressure from conservatives against it.

Opponents of the morning-after pill believe that it will promote promiscuity among girls at a younger age. Some believe that the morning-after pill is similar to abortion, killing the unborn baby. In reality, the morning-after pill doesn't promote promiscuity anymore than a condom would. The pill is a back-up measure for when regular birth control fails.

The morning after pill doesn't cause implanted eggs to be aborted, it prevents them from being implanted in

the first place.

But whether you use this is your own choice, or is it?

Recently in Texas, a pharmacist was fired from Eckerd's because he refused to fill a woman's prescription for the morning-after pill based on his moral beliefs.

Since when is it ethical for pharmacists or anyone else in the medical field, to judge their patients?

If a pharmacist was against homosexuality and was faced with an openly gay patient with a prescription, would it be any more right for them to refuse that customer based on their sexual orientation?

There is a distinct separation of church and state in our government, but the line between the two institutions seems to grow fuzzier each and every time more rights are restricted because of 'religious' reasons.

It is time to reclaim our individual rights as American citizens. Protect your right to choose, or not to choose, and remember that tolerance is a cornerstone of American society.

## Homosexual marriage: Who cares?

**J. Bryant Roberts**  
Contributing Writer

As Massachusetts legislators struggled last week to hammer out laws banning the marriage of homosexual couples, Boston Archbishop Sean O'Malley urged Catholic lawyers and judges to use their profession to defend the traditional view of marriage.

Meanwhile in San Francisco, thousands of homosexual couples, male and female, lined up to apply for marriage licenses. Because of a statewide referendum in 2000, marriage of homosexual couples is not recognized in California.

O'Malley's pleas may fall on deaf ears. The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in November that same-sex couples have a right to marry. The court gave the Legislature six months to draft legislation addressing the issue.

San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom defied his state's ban on homosexual weddings by ordering the city to issue marriage licenses to the couples. Flocking to San Francisco from other cities and other states, homosexual couples are taking advantage of his offer to tie the nuptial knot.

From sea to shining sea, this issue has pre-empted other news by thrusting itself into the national limelight. Do most Americans really care whether or not these people marry? Why should we?

Homosexuals have been around for a long time. Rarely have they been afforded a status equal to that of the heterosexual population. Notable exceptions have been the Roman Empire, which fell in to oblivion and the ancient city-state of Sodom and Gomorrah, which, according to biblical accounts, was vaporized. Traditionally, historians have attributed Rome's demise, as well as that of Sodom to pervasive, entrenched cultural immorality (these cultures were rife with homosexuality) and corruption.

Estimates of the number of homosexuals in America range from 10 to 15 percent of the population. Many of these people work in the entertainment industry, using their access to mass media to promote their cause as if it were of grave importance to the rest of us. Most Americans, as evidenced by the California referendum in 2000, do not feel compelled to sanction their behavior. In America, as in other cultures throughout history, homosexuality is not a practice most people want to engage in or even think about.

The "couples" who flooded into San Francisco last President's Day have a perfect right to do whatever they please in the sanctity of their own homes — this is America.

However, as a minority, they do not have the right to force the majority of Americans to accept their behavior — this is America.

The institution of marriage carries with it considerable legal clout. How will homosexual couples be viewed in adoption proceedings? Will a married, same-gender partner be able to contest a will leaving assets to children? These are a sample of serious questions, the answers to which will have a lasting effect on our culture and must be considered in the context of society as a whole. Massachusetts lawmakers are in a precarious position on this issue.

The homosexual community, like other subcultures in America, has its own set of values, beliefs and traditions. They are free to live where they please and to pursue a lifestyle that pleases them. Marriage, or the lack of it, will neither change their behavior nor how that behavior is viewed by other Americans.

Archbishop O'Malley has reason to be concerned. The institution of marriage is in danger of becoming irrelevant in America.

Allowing homosexuals to marry will only exacerbate this trend. The archbishop, however, should realize that in an open society, homosexual men and women are free to satisfy their sexual appetites as they please. If this leads them to the fate of the Sodomites, they are free to go there too. But they should not be allowed to force their lifestyle on the rest of us by demanding the legitimacy that comes with marriage.

There are many pressing issues facing Americans today: employment, health care, a costly and deadly war. Homosexual marriage is a low priority in the daily lives of the majority of Americans, and rightly so.



Courtesy of www.cnn.com

**A same-sex couple say their vows during a ceremony in San Francisco.**

## VOYAGER

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