

Can I make your Monday more difficult?

Ron Besser
Photo Editor

As I pulled into the Field House parking lot Monday morning for my weight training class, I noticed that none of the cars were pulling into the tennis court parking lot. A second look showed that a truck was blocking the road. Further investigation showed that there were men putting up a permanent barrier to block future access to the tennis court parking from the Field House parking lot. Several drivers showed their support by giving the "No. 1" sign, or explaining how many brain cells they have working.

I had seen that a gate had been recently installed, along with two posts, which I assumed would be part of another gate. Now we all know what happens when we "ass/u/me."

When I asked why access to the tennis court parking lot was being blocked, I was told it was because too many drivers run the stop signs, or drove the wrong way through the tennis court parking lot. OK, would someone like to explain why the security people haven't been giving tickets to these idiots? Oh wait, they're too busy looking for parking violations. Actually, I suggested tire shredders like they supposedly have on the Pensacola Bridge for wrong-way drivers, but a co-worker didn't like this idea. He figures he'd get stuck in traffic behind the idiot who had to be towed away after trying to run over them.

I pointed out that in addition to having lost many (about one-third) parking spaces in the Field House lot to faculty and staff parking over the last few years, commuting students had more recently lost spaces to handicap parking. Therefore, students taking classes in the Field House need to use the tennis court parking lot.



Photo by Ron Besser

A University cart by-passes the gate between Lot 13 and Lot 23.

The suggestion was that they could park across the street in the WUWF parking lot. Obviously, anyone who had that idea has never tried to cross the street at that location. As a volunteer for the recent WUWF fund-raiser, I left my car in the Field House lot and walked over to the radio station after class. At 9 a.m. it wasn't too bad. When I tried to return to my car shortly after noon, it was a disaster looking for a victim. I've been told it's even more hazardous at 4 p.m. If people ignore stop signs, imagine how much less respect they have for pedestrian crosswalks.

I measured the distance of the trip from the entrance of the Field House parking to the front of the tennis court lot and found it was .8 miles (8 tenths of a mile). The trip through the two parking lots is maybe 3 tenths, so that adds an unnecessary half-mile wear and tear each way to cars. At a mile a day, that's at least five miles or more added per week. Does someone own stock in an oil company?

I know that there has been no-through-traffic between the Field House and tennis court parking lot in the past. I believed the access was allowed to compensate for lost parking in the field house lot. Also, there was a gate that could be opened to allow overflow traffic into the tennis court lots during activities at the field house, the Natatorium, or when the University played host to the Corporate Cup games or tournaments on the intramural field.

I'm especially happy I won't have to listen to people from the community who use the tennis courts in the evening and have become used to the convenience of cutting through directly into the tennis court lot.

I'll miss the ability to avoid the extra drive when I attend activities or classes in the Center for Fine and Performing Arts. And it was much easier to get to Lot 24 where I usually park. But, I'm a big boy, and I have a vehicle that has reasonable gas mileage, so I will survive.

Oh yes, that lift gate is so the UWF trolley can get through. The drivers have control to open the gate.

One last point. It would have been a courtesy, and saved much gnashing of teeth if the cost of the gates had included signs posted at the entrance to the Field House parking lots that said "no through traffic."

Stay sober while behind the wheel

J. Bryant Roberts
Staff Writer

Dogwood and azalea blossoms signal the end of a typical winter in Florida. It's time to put the sled dogs out to pasture, and wax up the surfboard. Summer brings its own set of rigorous challenges to those escaping the stress of campus life.

Not the least of summer's worries will be how to avoid becoming an alcohol-related traffic statistic.

There are basically two types of alcohol-related traffic statistics to avoid. One way to become a statistic is to be hit by a drunk driver.

This is to be avoided at all costs. The other way to become a statistic involves more personal control and can easily be avoided altogether. Showing up in the police log for a Driving Under the Influence is a distasteful way to get your name published in the local press over the summer.

Here are a few ways to avoid this. The most obvious, and cheapest, is to not get drunk. You could buy all your books for next fall, and read them over the summer.

I was just kidding, put that gun down. Or, if you were to somehow find yourself descended into the depths of inebriation, you could decide to sit at home and write a really gripping letter to the editor delivering a scathing rebuke to some editorial writer you have come to loathe intensely. This could be fun.

If you will be traveling to New Mexico, you will be excited to know that the state Legislature has already taken steps to help in your quest to remain a non-statistic. It appears that these very learned and astute parliamentarians have passed a law requiring all new cars sold in-state to be equipped with a Breathalyzer hooked up to the ignition.

Wow, are they smart or what? Every time you get in your car, and periodically as you drive along, this thing will cut your engine off if you blow while intoxicated.

But there are some unanswered questions. If you are driving to Maine, do you have to puff this pipe all the way or can you just stick it out the window now and then? Are there two pipes, so passengers can puff too? Will it work if you make your dog bark into it? Do cops have these and if so can they turn them off during high-speed chases? Can this thing be hooked up to a bong?

Seriously folks, don't drink and drive this summer, or any other time either. Trust me, you are going to have enough problems in life without a DUI arrest following you around. Those kinds of statistics just don't go away.

I'll be leaving early this year. I am spending the summer in New Mexico marketing my latest invention. It's a miniature compressed air spray can to be sold in convenience stores. If someone had told me a year ago that I could sell air for five bucks a can, I would have thought they were nuts. Don't you just love this country?

Have a great summer, and be safe.

Corporations are taking over government

Bethanne Sevcech
Assistant News Editor

The giant of America is not the government — it is the corporations that control America. Government officials have lost the battle in the control over the nation's money.

Taxes are becoming more frequently abused by corporations. According to the General Accounting Office, during the booming years between 1996 and 2000, only 60 percent of U.S. corporations paid taxes.

One reason why these companies can get away without paying taxes includes a variety of loopholes. These loopholes include tax shelters, credits, and exemptions.

A loophole that has gained popularity in the past decade is that of inverting.

This inversion allows U.S. businesses to move their headquarters to other countries, so taxes are lowered or no taxes are imposed at all.

As it stands, the United States has one of the most complex and highest tax rates for corporations.

U.S. global corporations must pay taxes on all its profits, even if the sale is in an entirely different country.

If a company decides to move its headquarters, it will only have to pay the hosting countries taxes. One "haven" of sorts is Bermuda, where corporations have no taxes to pay.

Corporations in the U.S. may think that they have solved their tax problems, but hopefully this is not the end.

With help, the government can

better control corporations and shorten the list of loopholes.

As of right now, there are too many ways corporations can short change the government. Regulations of certain tax breaks can better control the amount of corporate taxes being paid.

The nation has hit one of its highest deficits in years. It is time for the government to step up, and get the money they are owed.

The giants of America are on their way out, and taxes are going to be paid.

Letters to the Editor

Reader responds to commentary

I'm writing in response to J. Bryant Roberts' article "U.S. government retains traces of roots," wherein the said author states "rarely in human history has the totalitarian rule of a monarch produced anything but misery for the people governed."

In that one sentence the author waves away centuries of examples to the contrary. Either the author is placing on display the shocking deficit in his education, or he is simply too busy to be bothered with facts.

History is replete with examples of rulers who brought safety, stability and modernity to the people they governed and through their foresight literacy, medicine and governmental structure has been given to places such as India, Africa and the Americas. These benefits far outweigh the evils relentlessly harped upon by historical revisionists. By refusing to view monarchism in the light of historical facts and extant examples, Roberts is simply proving once again that liberalism is blind to common sense and fairness.

His argument would be better served by paying due homage to those kings and queens whose guidance has so greatly contributed to modern society, though it appears he has chosen not to allow factuality to impede his argument. Hopefully, the editor of this publication will in the future require contributors to base their articles on a more universally agreed-on version of reality than what was presented in this editorial.

— Caleb Sutton
Baker, Fla.

lend themselves to the problems that she addressed.

There are several severe problems present in the school system that she ignores.

One of the main problems is a total lack of parental involvement in some cases.

It's very difficult to teach a child whose only nourishment comes from the school cafeteria, hasn't had a bath in several days, has either one parent/no parent/or grandparent at home, whose parent/guardian refuses to answer the school plea's for assistance in controlling an unruly child, refuses to even sign a report card, moves the child from district to district during any given semester and is the first one to show up at the school board meeting demanding more accountability from teachers.

Despite poor benefits, over-crowding and almost non-existent support, teachers and staff soldier on anyway. Teachers and staff in THIS county, and especially in the inner-city and mostly black and overpopulated school system, are grossly underpaid, over-worked and under-appreciated by almost everyone.

— J.E. McMillan
Pensacola

SGA president-elect thanks student body for turn-out

To UWF's Student Body,
Thank you all for getting involved with the election! Aaron and I cannot wait to get behind the wheel! We are determined to bring the community feel back to the students of our great University.

We also vow to keep the University of West Florida student body on the mind and in the ears of our

Legislators in both Tallahassee and in Washington.

We thank everyone who came out to the polls to perform their civic duties and congratulate all new members who were elected into office.

This election showed that the student body really cares about issues affecting them on campus.

It was one of the largest voter turnouts ever reported in a student election.

We hope everyone carries on this new-found passion for University issues over the next year! Thank you again, and please do not be a stranger in our SGA office.
— President-Elect Steven Russell
University of West Florida SGA

SGA election process flawed

First of all, I would thank everyone for the large voter turnout we had in the recent SGA election. This was a big step in the right direction for UWF. Unfortunately, this election has been marred with many problems that I feel need to be public.

The largest of these problems was with the voting system in place.

There was a flaw in the ballot box that would allow users to vote multiple times, sometimes by accident and other times on purpose.

During the election, I had brought up the possibility of this occurring but my concerns were dismissed. Another flaw in the ballot box gave students who had already graduated the ability to vote even though they were not fee-paying students. There was also a problem with one of the computers in the polling place that made some names on the ballot impossible to read.

I also feel as if the election had a severe bias. An

example of this was the Presidential Debate. The format of this debate was changed twice, and one of these changes was made only minutes before the debate in order to accommodate one of the candidates.

I had inquired as to the format one week before the debate and one hour before, and both times I was told that there would not be an introductory speech and that it would be strictly question and answer.

Then right before the debate started, I saw one of the candidates discussing the fact that he had prepared a speech. I was then told that there would be 5 minute-introductory speeches. I feel as if this was a reflection of the entire election.

I have also come across other information that will be presented in an appeal of this election. Until now, I have refrained from saying anything to keep from being called a sore loser.

The information that I know have requires me for the good of UWF to say something. This is not an attempt to change the Presidential election because I have no idea if it would.

This is an attempt to make sure everyone's vote counts and to give confidence to those voting that they are making a difference.

Currently, many people feel as if they are wasting their time by voting or by running for office. This has to change, and I will put every ounce of effort I have into making sure it does change.

If anyone has any information regarding the election, please e-mail me at rmk3@students.uwf.edu or call me at 324-1614.

— Robert Kelley
SGA presidential-candidate

VOYAGER

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