

"FLORIDA THIS WEEK"

JANUARY 11, 2008

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>>Announcer: FROM THE WEDU STUDIOS, THIS IS "FLORIDA THIS  
WEEK."

AND NOW, MODERATOR ROB LOREI.

>>> WELCOME BACK.

THIS WEEK, OUR PANELISTS ARE, WAYNE GARCIA IS THE POLITICAL  
EDITOR AT CREATIVE LOAFING NEWSPAPER.

VICKIE CHACHERE IS AN EDITORIAL WRITER AT THE "THE TAMPA  
TRIBUNE."

HENRY RAINES IS A RADIO TALK SHOW HOST AND A DEMOCRAT.

AND TERRY KEMPLE IS PRESIDENT OF THE COMMUNITY ISSUES  
COUNCIL AND A REPUBLICAN.

GOOD TO SEE, EVERYBODY.

THANK YOU FOR COMING.

WELL, NOW THAT HILLARY CLINTON AND JOHN McCAIN HAVE WON  
THE NEW HAMPSHIRE PRIMARY, AND THE FLORIDA PRIMARY IS A  
LITTLE MORE THAN TWO WEEKS AWAY, FLORIDA IS THE LARGEST  
STATE HOLDING A PRIMARY BETWEEN NOW AND SUPER TUESDAY  
FEBRUARY 5th.

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING

BUT WITH THE NATIONAL GOP CUTTING THE NUMBER OF FLORIDA DELEGATES TO THE NOMINATING CONVENTION IN HALF AND THE DEMOCRATS BARRING ANY DELEGATES FROM BEING SELECTED IN THE FLORIDA PRIMARY, IT RAISES THE QUESTION, HOW IMPORTANT WILL FLORIDA'S PRIMARY BE TO SELECTING THE EVENTUAL NOMINEES? VICKIE, HOW IMPORTANT IS FLORIDA?

>> I THINK FLORIDA IS ALWAYS IMPORTANT.

IT'S A HUGE STATE.

IT'S A DIVERSE STATE.

AND YOU REALLY CAN'T IGNORE A CANDIDATE WHO WINS IN A STATE LIKE THIS.

IT WAS KIND OF INTERESTING AFTER NEW HAMPSHIRE, YOU HEARD A LOT OF THE PUNDITS TALKING ABOUT THE UPCOMING RACE.

THEY KIND OF SKIPPED OVER FLORIDA AND FOCUSING A LOT ON SOUTH CAROLINA AND SUPER TUESDAY.

BUT FLORIDA LEADS RIGHT INTO SUPER TUESDAY, AND I THINK ANYONE WHO COMES OUT OF FLORIDA WITH GOOD NUMBERS, WINNING THE STATE IS GOING TO HAVE A HUGE BOUNCE GOING INTO THAT REALLY IMPORTANT DAY.

>> WITHOUT BREAKING THE BOYCOTT, HOW DO THE DEMOCRATS, HOW DO THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATS LIKE HILLARY CLINTON AND BARACK OBAMA AND JOHN EDWARDS, HOW DO THEY DO ANYTHING HERE IN FLORIDA WITHOUT VIOLATING THE RULES?

>> WELL, HILLARY HAS THE NAME RECOGNITION.

SO SHE DOES HAVE AN ADVANTAGE.

IT'S TOUGH.

AND THERE'S SPECULATION THAT ONE OF THEM WILL BREAK THE  
BOYCOTT, AND I THINK EVERYONE IS LOOKING TO SEE WHO IT IS,  
WHO IS MOST DESPERATE AND WHO'S GOING TO TAKE THE JUMP.

SO A CERTAIN EXTENT, SOME OF THE PEOPLE NOT BEEN PERFORMING  
AS WELL, HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE.

BECAUSE THERE'S REALLY OTHER THAN, YOU KNOW, THE BAD  
PUBLICITY OF BREAKING A PLEDGE, THERE'S NO DELEGATES TO TAKE  
AWAY FROM YOU.

>> YOU THINK SOME MIGHT BREAK OUT OF THE PACK AND COME DOWN  
HERE.

>> I DON'T KNOW.

I DON'T WANT TO PREDICT THAT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE PRETTY BAD  
PUBLICITY FOR BREAKING A PLEDGE.

>> TERRY, THE REPUBLICANS AREN'T SHY.

GIULIANI IS IN FLORIDA THIS WEEKEND, I GUESS IN TOWN, TOO,  
BUT THE OTHER REPUBLICANS ARE COMING HERE.

THEY DON'T VIEW THIS AS A PLACE THAT THEY'VE GOT TO BOYCOTT.

>> OH, NO, NOT AT ALL.

AS A MATTER OF FACT, YOU KNOW, WITH MICHIGAN, NEVADA, SOUTH  
CAROLINA, BASICALLY McCAIN AND ROMNEY AND HUCKABEE HAVE  
EACH WON ONE.

SO IF ONE OF THEM COULD WIN TWO OF THOSE AND THEN COME TO  
FLORIDA AND WIN FLORIDA, THEY WOULD BE ALMOST UNSTOPPABLE I  
THINK.

>> I HAVE TO ASK YOU SOMETHING, IN IOWA, THE TURNOUT AMONG EVANGELICALS WAS ABOUT 60%.  
HERE IN FLORIDA, WHAT WOULD YOU EXPECT EVANGELICALS TO DO IN THE REPUBLICAN PRIMARY?  
>> ARE YOU GOING TO PAY ME FOR THIS?  
I THINK THAT THERE'S -- YOU'RE GOING TO SEE A LOT OF PEOPLE COME OUT.  
THERE'S A LOT OF GRASSROOTS EFFORT THAT'S BEING DONE RIGHT NOW, PARTICULARLY FOR HUCKABEE.  
JUST BECAUSE PEOPLE VIEW HIM, EVANGELICALS VIEW HIM AS PERHAPS THE BEST CANDIDATE.  
>> THE AUTHENTIC.  
>> THAT'S RIGHT.  
DEFINITELY CONSERVATIVE ON THE SOCIAL ISSUES.  
THAT'S THE PRIMARY THING, I THINK, FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF MOST EVANGELICALS.  
AND HE'S NOT REALLY LIBERAL, EVEN MODERATE ON THE OTHER ISSUES.  
HE MAY NOT BE AS FAR RIGHT AS SOME OF THE PEOPLE MIGHT LIKE ON IMMIGRATION, ECONOMICS, ET CETERA.  
BUT I THINK HE'S GOING TO BE PRETTY STRONG.  
>> WHO IS HIS CLOSEST COMPETITION AMONG THE EVANGELICAL COMMUNITY?  
>> IT'S INTERESTING YOU ASK THAT.  
IT'S HARD TO TELL REALLY FROM THE NUMBERS.

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING

BUT I WOULD SAY MANY PEOPLE WHO I TALK WITH ON A REGULAR BASIS WERE WAITING FOR FRED THOMPSON TO JUMP IN THE RACE, BECAUSE HE IS KIND OF LOOKED AT AS THE ACROSS-THE-BOARD CONSERVATIVE WHO CAN APPEAL TO PEOPLE OF FAITH WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE SOCIAL ISSUES.

I THINK THAT IT'S A SHAME THAT HE DIDN'T GET IN THE RACE EARLIER, BECAUSE EVERYBODY ELSE HAD POLISHED WHAT THEY WERE GOING TO SAY.

AND HE WAS STILL STUMBLING OVER WHAT HIS PLATFORM WAS.

I THINK HE KIND OF UNDERWHELMED EVERYBODY WITH THE WAY HE JUMPED IN.

>> WAYNE, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS RACE?

HOW IMPORTANT IS FLORIDA GOING TO BE?

AND DO YOU THINK THE DEMOCRATS ARE GOING TO LIFT A FINGER DOWN HERE OR HOW ARE THEY GOING TO EXERT OR HOW ARE THEY GOING TO TRY TO GET PEOPLE TO COME OUT TO THE POLLING PLACE?

>> WELL, I THINK THEY WILL LIFT A FINGER IF IT TURNS OUT AFTER THE NEXT THREE ELECTIONS THAT SOMEONE HAS TO.

FOR INSTANCE, IF EDWARDS WERE TO WIN IN SOUTH CAROLINA, LET'S SAY, AND IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S GOT A MAKE THE MOVE, SUPER TUESDAY MIGHT NOT BE A GREAT DAY FOR HIM, HE NEEDS A LITTLE MORE BUMP, HE MIGHT BE FORCED TO TRY TO DO SOMETHING IN THE STATE.

THE STATUS QUO, AS VICKIE SAID, IS HILLARY CLINTON.

BECAUSE SHE HAS THE RECOGNITION.

SHE'S AHEAD IN THE POLLING.

BUT, YOU KNOW, AS WE SAW IN NEW HAMPSHIRE, IT'S SUCH A FLUID SITUATION, AND FOR PUNDITS TO SAY, OH, THIS PERSON IS GOING TO WIN AND THEY ARE GOING TO WIN, THEY DO HAVE A PROBLEM.

I LOOK AT FLORIDA AS, FLORIDA MAY NOT PICK THE WINNERS, BUT IT CERTAINLY COULD PICK SOME LOSERS.

RUDY GIULIANI, IF HE DOESN'T WIN FLORIDA, IS GONE.

>> WHAT IF HE COMES IN SECOND HERE IN FLORIDA?

>> IF HE COMES IN SECOND IN FLORIDA, I THINK HE'S GONE.

HE'S PUT ALL HIS EGGS IN ONE BASKET.

SO HE HAS A BIG PROBLEM HERE.

IF BARACK OBAMA WERE TO WIN IN NEVADA AND WIN IN SOUTH CAROLINA, LET'S SAY, THIS IS NOW A MUST-WIN STATE FOR HILLARY.

SO, YOU KNOW, THERE'S JUST TOO MANY PIECES OF THE PUZZLE OUT THERE.

BUT WHAT HAPPENS IS, AND WHY IT'S IMPORTANT AND WHY YOU MIGHT SEE SOME OF THEM SORT OF BREAK THE PLEDGE IS THAT ALL OF THESE -- ALL OF THESE ELECTIONS ARE IMPACTING THEIR FUND-RAISING.

RIGHT AWAY YOU SEE AFTER NEW HAMPSHIRE, I MEAN, AFTER IOWA, BARACK OBAMA WAS RAISING A MILLION DOLLARS A DAY.

HE HAD \$8 MILLION RAISED IN THE FIRST EIGHT DAYS OF THE YEAR. AFTER THAT BIG BOUNCE FROM IOWA, HILLARY CLINTON HAD \$3 MILLION.

IT IS A DAY-TO-DAY SITUATION, AND WHETHER THERE ARE DELEGATES INVOLVED OR NOT, THEY CAN'T AFFORD TO DO IT. SO THE REPUBLICANS HAVE A GREAT ADVANTAGE IN THIS STATE. THEY'VE BEEN HERE. THEY CAN LEGALLY BE HERE. AND THE DEMOCRATS, WHAT A MESS.

>> YEAH.

HENRY, HOW WOULD YOU HANDICAP IT, LET'S SAY IF WE LOOKED AT EDWARDS, KUCINICH, OBAMA, AND CLINTON, IS IT A LOCK FOR CLINTON BECAUSE SHE'S HAD A LEAD IN FLORIDA'S POLLS FOR THE LAST FEW MONTHS?

>> I DON'T KNOW THAT IT'S A LOCK FOR CLINTON.

BUT WE'RE A POSTER CHILD FOR A BROKEN PRIMARY SYSTEM, FOR A BROKEN WAY OF PICKING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE, PLUS WE'RE LIKE THE UNAPPRECIATED LOVER.

YOU COME AROUND WHEN YOU NEED A LITTLE MONEY OR THE ELECTORAL VOTES, BUT WHERE ARE YOU WHEN I NEED SOME QUALITY TIME?

BY THE TIME -- WE'VE HAD ONE HALF OF ONE PERCENT OF THE ELECTORATE VOTE AT BEST, IF YOU GIVE IT A BENEFIT OF A DOUBT.

AND WE HAVE NARROWED DOWN 75% OF THE FIELD JUST ABOUT TO CLINTON, OBAMA ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE.

EDWARDS HAS ABOUT AS MUCH CHANCE AT THIS POINT IN TIME AS THE BUCS HAVE OF WINNING THE SUPER BOWL.

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING

I GUESS THAT ALREADY SAILED, HASN'T IT?

REPUBLICAN SIDE WE HAVE ROMNEY WHO HAS PULLED HIS ADS OUT OF FLORIDA.

WE HAVE GIULIANI ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT HIS UPPER STAFFERS ARE GOING TO GO WITHOUT PAY.

NOT EXACTLY HEALTHFUL SIGN.

>> GIVEN THE TREATMENT OF THE FLORIDA DEMOCRATIC PARTY,

WOULD YOU EXPECT LOWER TURNOUT AMONG THE DEMOCRATS?

I MEAN, WE'VE SEEN THE FIRST TWO -- THE CAUCUS IN IOWA, THE RACE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE.

WE SAW HEAVY, HEAVY TURNOUT ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE.

WOULD YOU EXPECT, THOUGH, THAT THAT'S GOING TO SLOW DOWN IN FLORIDA BECAUSE THEY WON'T BE SELECTING DELEGATES WHEN THEY GO IN AND VOTE?

>> I THINK OUR PROPERTY TAX INITIATIVE AND AMENDMENT IS A BIGGER MOTIVATING FACTOR THAN HURT FEELINGS ON THE DEMOCRATIC SIDE, REPUBLICAN SIDE, ET CETERA.

THERE'S A CERTAIN EXCITEMENT, BUT THE AIR HAS ALREADY BEEN LET OUT OF THE BALLOON HALFWAY WITH THESE EARLY PRIMARIES.

>> OKAY.

WELL, TWO SOUTH FLORIDA LAWMAKERS WANT TO MAKE FLORIDA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS TEACH MORE THAN ABSTINENCE IN SEX EDUCATION CLASSES.

THEY WANT TO INFORM TEENS ABOUT ABSTINENCE BUT ALSO EXPLAIN METHODS TO PROTECT THEMSELVES FROM DISEASE AND PREGNANCY,

INCLUDING THE USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES.

THE HEALTHY TEENS ACT WOULD REQUIRE THE APPROVAL OF THE  
REPUBLICAN CONTROLLED HOUSE AND SENATE IN TALLAHASSEE.

>> WE TELL 'EM, DON'T SMOKE.

BUT IF WE WENT OUT AND TAUGHT IT THE SAME WAY THEY WANT TO  
TEACH SEX EDUCATION, SAY, OKAY, KIDS, HERE IS WHAT YOU NEED  
TO UNDERSTAND.

THERE'S THE CLYDESDALE HORSE BRAND OF TOBACCO AND THERE'S A  
SHETLAND PONY.

NOW, YOU SHOULD BE USING THE SHETLAND PONY ONE WHICH IS  
SMALLER AND NOT AS MUCH NICOTINE AND NOT ALL THE CHEMICALS  
IN IT.

>> IT'S A TOPIC THAT'S BEING DISCUSSED IN MOVIE THEATER  
LOBBIES. THERE'S A POPULAR MOVIE OUT NOW ABOUT UNINTENDED  
PREGNANCY.

IT'S A TOPIC THAT'S BEING DISCUSSED IN THE MAGAZINES AND ON  
TV.

THE ONLY PLACE IT'S NOT BEING DISCUSSED RIGHT NOW IS IN THE  
PLACE WHERE IT REALLY MAKES A DIFFERENCE AND THAT'S IN THE  
CLASSROOMS.

>> TERRY, IS IT TIME TO DISCUSS CONTRACEPTION IN PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS IN FLORIDA?

>> WELL, I THINK WHAT YOU REALLY HAVE TO DO IS LOOK AT THE  
PEOPLE THAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT DEALING WITH.

TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE, GENERALLY TEENAGERS OR MAYBE A LITTLE

BIT YOUNGER, PRETEENS UP TO 17 OR 18, AND IF YOU GIVE THEM THE MESSAGE, WELL, LET ME BACK UP AND SAY, COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED, WHICH IS REALLY WHAT THEY ARE PUSHING GIVES LIP SERVICE TO ABSTINENCE.

SAYS ABSTINENCE IS PROBABLY THE BEST WAY TO DO THIS, BUT SINCE WE KNOW THAT YOU AREN'T GOING TO BE ABLE TO CONTROL YOUR ANIMAL URGES, WE WANT TO SHOW YOU HOW TO PUT CONDOMS ON BANANAS.

THAT'S BASICALLY WHAT THEY DO.

SO TO GIVE -- I MEAN, I WAS 13.

QUITE A WHILE AGO, BUT I WAS 13, AND I CAN REMEMBER HOW IT WAS WHEN MY HORMONES WERE RACING.

IF SOMEBODY WERE TO TELL ME, WELL, GO HAVE SEX, JUST MAKE SURE YOU DO IT SAFELY, I WOULD HAVE DONE IT.

>> BUT WHY IS IT, TERRY, THAT SOCIAL CONSERVATIVES, WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT, LET'S SAY THE ISSUE OF EVOLUTION VERSUS INTELLIGENT DESIGN, WANT TO HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION OUT THERE FOR STUDENTS TO MAKE THEIR INTELLIGENT AND INFORMED DECISIONS, BUT WHEN IT COMES TO SEX, DON'T WANT TO HAVE ALL THE INFORMATION OUT THERE?

NOW, I CAN'T ARGUE THAT SOME OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAMS CERTAINLY IN THE PAST HAVE GIVEN WHAT MAY SEEM SHORT SHRIFT TO ABSTINENCE, BUT A WELL-ROUNDED, A TO Z EDUCATION ABOUT HUMAN SEXUALITY AND THE MANY, MANY CHOICES THAT YOU CAN MAKE REALLY CAN'T COME EARLY ENOUGH.

THESE KIDS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL.

IT'S ALARMING THE NUMBERS OF THEM WHO HAVE HAD OR ARE HAVING SEX.

AND BY HIGH SCHOOL, BY SOME ACCOUNTS, 50% OF THE STUDENTS REPORT HAVING SOME KIND OF SEXUAL CONTACT.

IF THAT MEANS WE HAVE TO SHOW THEM WHAT IT'S LIKE TO PUT A CONDOM ON A BANANA, THEN LET'S DO IT.

BECAUSE MOST OF THESE PEOPLE -- I MEAN, EVEN IF A PARENT HAS A SEX TALK WITH A KID, NOT MANY PARENTS ARE GOING TO FEEL COMFORTABLE GOING TO THAT LEVEL OF A DISCUSSION.

I THINK IT'S PERFECTLY APPROPRIATE FOR OUR SCHOOLS TO HAVE THAT DISCUSSION.

>> WHAT'S INTERESTING IS IT'S NOT JUST THE NUMBERS.

I MEAN, THE ABSTINENCE EDUCATION HAS BEEN HELPFUL IN REDUCING THE NUMBER OF KIDS HAVING SEX EARLY OVER THE LAST YEARS, BUT IT SORT OF PLATEAUED AT ABOUT 50%.

WHAT'S INTERESTING, SOME OF THE POLLS OF PARENTS, 60% OR MORE PARENTS SAY THEY WANT A COMPREHENSIVE EDUCATION.

AND YOU'RE DEALING WITH A GENERATION OF PARENTS, PARTICULARLY A GENERATION OF MOTHERS THAT GOT THEIR SEX EDUCATION FROM READING JUDY BLOOM BOOKS.

THERE'S A DIFFERENT VIEW AMONG PARENTS ABOUT WHAT SEX EDUCATION SHOULD BE.

AND I DON'T THINK THEY ARE REALLY TALKING SO MUCH ABOUT PUTTING CONDOMS ON BANANAS ANYMORE.

THAT'S KIND OF THE CARTOONISH EXAMPLE THAT WILL END UP  
TURNING THIS INTO A DEBATE THAT WILL WIND UP DISRUPTING THE  
LEGISLATURE FROM BUDGET AND TAXES.

IT'S SO EASILY DISTRACTING.

>> CONDOM REFERENCE -- BUT WE DON'T NEED A ONE SIZE FITS ALL  
EDUCATIONAL PLAN.

I CALL THAT HUMAN EXPERT JOE REDNER BEFORE THE SHOW.

AND HE MADE THE POINT THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF  
PEOPLE.

THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE, SOME CHILDREN THAT WILL RESPOND TO AN  
ABSTINENCE-ONLY EDUCATION, AND ACCEPT THAT.

THERE ARE OTHER CHILDREN THAT ARE IN A TOTALLY DIFFERENT  
DIRECTION.

YOU GOT TO REACH THEM ANOTHER WAY.

WE NEED A MORE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.

AND UNLIKE MY OTHER EXPERT SOURCE THAT I CALLED, MY  
17-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER IN THE MANATEE HIGH SCHOOL SYSTEM, SHE  
WAS, LIKE, WHAT SEX EDUCATION?

>> SHE GETS NONE RIGHT NOW.

>> NOT IN SCHOOL.

>> TERRY, WHAT ABOUT AN OPT-OUT PROVISION?

LET'S SAY FLORIDA WERE TO OFFER IT, BUT SAY THAT PARENTS  
THAT DON'T CHOOSE TO HAVE THEIR CHILDREN LEARN ABOUT  
CONTRACEPTION DON'T HAVE TO SEND THEIR KIDS TO THAT  
PARTICULAR CLASS?

>> WELL, FIRST OF ALL, THE ABSTINENCE PROGRAMS DON'T NOT TEACH ABOUT CONDOMS, BUT THE FOCUS IS ON ABSTINENCE, BECAUSE ABSTINENCE IS, IN FACT, THE ONLY 100% CERTAIN WAY TO AVOID PREGNANCY AND ALTHOUGH THERE ARE OTHER WAYS THAT YOU CAN GET DISEASES OTHER THAN SEXUAL CONTACT, SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES THROUGH SEXUAL CONTACT.

SO THAT'S WHY IT'S IMPORTANT TO PROMOTE SEXUAL ABSTINENCE.

AS FAR AS -- I SAW SOMETHING IN THE STORY ABOUT 60% OF PARENTS SAYING THEY WANT COMPREHENSIVE SEX ED.

I RAN A SEXUAL ABSTINENCE MINISTRY FOR THREE-AND-A-HALF YEARS.

AND I NEVER -- I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT BEFORE.

ALL OF THE SURVEYS THAT I'VE SEEN HAVE SAID SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGES AND MAJORITY OF THE PARENTS WANTED THEIR KIDS TO BE TAUGHT ABSTINENCE UNTIL MARRIAGE BECAUSE THAT IS, AGAIN, THE ONLY 100% CERTAIN WAY.

BUT IN THE ABSTINENCE UNTIL MARRIAGE PROGRAM, THEY DO GO INTO OTHER FORMS OF PROTECTION, IF YOU WILL.

BUT THE FOCUS IS ON ABSTINENCE AND GETTING KIDS TO MAKE THE PLEDGES TO BE ABSTINENT UNTIL MARRIAGE.

>> IN MANATEE COUNTY, YOU HAVE AN ABSTINENCE ABSTINENCE SEX EDUCATION, ABSENT WITHOUT LEAVE, AND MAYBE WE SHOULD MAKE OUR AUDIENCE AWARE THAT IN TAMPA BAY, AS I ASKED WENDY GRASSY FROM SARASOTA PLANNED PARENTHOOD, PINELLAS, SARASOTA COUNTIES, IT'S UP TO THE SCHOOL AND THE TEACHER, CASE BY

CASE.

HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY DOES NOT EVEN INTERACT WITH PLANNED PARENTHOOD.

AND SO WE HAVE A VERY DIVERSE SITUATION HERE, AND I WOULD URGE PARENTS TO TALK TO THEIR CHILDREN AND FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON IN THEIR SCHOOL SYSTEM.

>> GIVEN THE MAKEUP OF THE FLORIDA LEGISLATURE, IS IT LIKELY THAT THIS WILL EVEN MAKE IT OUT OF COMMITTEE, THAT THIS COMMITTEE IS GOING TO MAKE IT OUT OF COMMITTEE?

>> NOT A LOT OF CHANCE.

THEY TRIED IT LAST YEAR.

NAN RICH INTRODUCED SOMETHING THAT WASN'T EXACTLY THE SAME BUT STILL THE SAME CONCEPT TO INTRODUCE -- SEE, THE STATE STANDARD IS ABSTINENCE.

THERE ARE SEVEN STATUTES, I THINK, IN FLORIDA LAW GOVERNING THIS THAT SAY THAT THE EDUCATION IS SUPPOSED TO PROMOTE ABSTINENCE AND THE BENEFITS OF MONOGAMOUS HETEROSEXUAL MARRIAGE.

SO THIS IS SOMETHING THAT WILL CONTINUE TO COME UP.

THEY'LL CONTINUE TO TRY AND PUSH IT OUT OF THE WAY OR CHANGE THE FOCUS.

BUT I REALLY BELIEVE FROM WHAT I'VE SEEN WITH THE KIDS THAT I WORK -- I MEAN, I WORKED WITH -- NOT PERSONALLY, BUT WE'VE HAD 45,000 KIDS COME THROUGH THE MINISTRY IN A THREE-AND-A-HALF YEAR PERIOD.

AND MIXED MESSAGES ARE PROBABLY THE BIGGEST PROBLEM THAT THE KIDS HAVE, BECAUSE IF THEY ARE NOT ABSOLUTELY -- CAROL SAID IT CORRECTLY.

IT'S LIKE WITH ALCOHOL.

YOU HAVE A ZERO TOLERANCE PROGRAM.

YOU DON'T TELL KIDS, WE DON'T WANT YOU TO DRINK, BUT IF YOU DECIDE TO DRINK, DRINK 3.2 BEER SO YOU DON'T GET QUITE AS DRUNK.

>> ARE KIDS GETTING MESSAGES?

>> THEY ARE GETTING MIXED MESSAGES FROM OUR POPULAR MEDIA. THEY ARE GETTING MIXED MESSAGES FROM THEIR FRIENDS.

THIS IS A CHANCE FOR US TO AT LEAST HAVE A SET CURRICULUM AND SOME UNIFORMITY ACROSS THE BOARD THAT COULD HAVE AN OPT-OUT, THAT COULD HAVE INFORMATION GOING HOME TO PARENTS WHO MAY NOT KNOW HOW TO TALK TO THEIR KIDS, WHO MAY NOT REALIZE, MY KID IS 12, I NEED TO TALK TO THEM.

A LOT OF PARENTS, IT SNEAKS UP ON THEM AND THEN YOUR KID IS 17, AND YOU DON'T THINK, WELL, GOD, THEY CAN'T BE SEXUALLY ACTIVE.

>> I'M CURIOUS, AFTER A PREMARITAL ABSTINENCE ONLY PREMARITAL SEX EDUCATION PROGRAM, IS THERE A POST-MARITAL SEX EDUCATION NOW THAT YOU'RE NOT ABSTAINING ANYMORE?

[ LAUGHTER ]

>> WE HAVE TO MOVE ON.

THE FIRST OF WHAT'S BILLED AS DOZENS OF PUBLIC MEETINGS WAS

HELD THIS WEEK TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE USES OF

ST. PETERSBURG'S TROPICANA FIELD.

THE MEETINGS WERE SPONSORED BY THE RAY'S BASEBALL TEAM AND

THE CITY OF ST. PETERSBURG.

ORGANIZERS TOOK GREAT PAINS TO SAY THE MEETING WAS ONLY A

"WHAT IF" SPECULATING WHAT IF THE RAYS WERE TO MOVE TO A NEW

OUTDOOR STADIUM IN DOWNTOWN ST. PETE, WHAT WOULD BE DONE

WITH THE 86 ACRES NOW OCCUPIED BY THE DOME AND THE PARKING

LOT.

WELL, WAYNE, YOU WERE THERE.

WHAT DID YOU THINK OF THE MEETING?

>> WELL, I COULD HARDLY STAY AWAKE.

FROM AN URBAN PLANNING STANDPOINT, I'M SURE THAT THE URBAN

PLANNING GRADUATES LOVED IT.

BUT, YOU KNOW, I THINK THE RAYS -- I REALLY DO BELIEVE THE

RAYS ARE TRYING TO GO ABOUT THIS THING IN THE RIGHT WAY.

AND IT'S A VERY DIFFICULT SELL AT A VERY, VERY BAD TIME TO

TRY TO BE SELLING A NEW STADIUM AND THIS REDEVELOPMENT.

AND YOU'VE GOT SORT OF A VERY ANGRY POPULATION OUT THERE

THAT ARE STILL ANGRY ABOUT TROPICANA FIELD AND THE HISTORY

OF HOW THAT GOT DONE AND WHAT IT HASN'T DONE FOR

ST. PETERSBURG.

AND SO THIS EXERCISE REALLY BROKE EVERYBODY UP INTO THESE

LITTLE TABLES OF TEN AND HAD THEM SORT OF DO LAND USES AND

THINGS.

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING

AND IT WAS VERY DISARMING.

PEOPLE CAME LOADED FOR BEAR, AND THEY GOT NOTHING.

>> WHAT I'M WONDERING IS, WHEN WILL THE QUESTION BE ASKED,  
DO WE NEED A NEW STADIUM?

>> WELL, YOU KNOW, AND HERE IS THE THING, I UNDERSTAND THEIR  
POINT, BUT I DON'T THINK THE PUBLIC IS GOING TO BUY IT.

THEIR POINT IS, YOU CAN'T EVEN GET TO ASKING WHETHER WE NEED  
A NEW STADIUM UNTIL YOU FIND OUT IF THERE'S ENOUGH MONEY  
THAT CAN BE RELEASED FROM THE SALE OF TROPICANA FIELD AND IT  
GOING BACK ON THE TAX ROLLS.

AND YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT CAN BE DONE WITH THAT UNTIL YOU  
REALLY PUT OUT AN RFP AND FIND OUT WHAT THE HIGHEST BIDDER  
WOULD PAY FOR IT.

HAVING SAID ALL OF THAT AND WHAT'S SORT OF LOST IN THE  
COVERAGE IS, THE RAYS SAYING THAT, YOU KNOW, WE'RE PUTTING  
AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF MONEY INTO MAINTENANCE FOR THIS  
FACILITY.

IT IS AGING.

IT'S BEHIND THE SCENES, IT LOOKS OKAY INSIDE.

IT'S NOT A GREAT BALLPARK.

LOOKS OKAY INSIDE, BUT IT'S REALLY AGING.

EVERY DOLLAR WE PUT INTO THIS FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS WE COULD  
BE PUTTING INTO SOMETHING ELSE THAT CREATES THIS GREAT AND  
COOL THING.

THAT'S THEIR CASE.

THE PUBLIC IS EXTREMELY SKEPTICAL.

LIKE I SAID, THIS HAS SUCH A CHECKERED PAST AND HISTORY AT TROPICANA.

IT'S HARD TO SORT OF WIPE THE SLATE CLEAN AND SAY, BOY IF THIS WAS THE OWNERSHIP GROUP IN THE BEGINNING AND THIS WAS THE PROJECT IN THE BEGINNING, MAYBE WE WOULD HAVE A DIFFERENT CITY.

>> VICKIE, DO YOU THINK THEY ARE GOING ABOUT IT THE RIGHT WAY --

>> THEY HAVE TO SELL THAT LAND TO A DEVELOPER TO GET THE MONEY FOR THE NEW BALLPARK.

I MEAN, THEY ARE NOT ASKING THE STATE FOR MONEY ANYMORE.

SO THEY HAVE TO DO THAT AND THEY HAVE TO GET TOP DOLLAR FOR THAT.

AND, YOU KNOW, THAT'S THEIR FINANCING SCHEME IS TO SELL THE TROPICANA FIELD SITE TO A DEVELOPER.

>> DO THEY NEED A NEW STADIUM?

WAYNE SAID IT'S NOT A GREAT PLACE FOR BASEBALL, DO YOU VIEW THAT?

>> WHETHER THEY NEED A NEW STADIUM OR NOT, I THINK PROFESSIONAL BALL CLUB OWNERS ALWAYS THINK THEY NEED A NEW STADIUM OR THE LATEST, GREATEST STADIUM OR SOMETHING BETTER THAN ANOTHER TEAM THAT'S DRAWING BIGGER CROWDS THAN THEY ARE.

THEIR IDEA OF CREATING BASEBALL IN DOWNTOWN ST. PETERSBURG

IS REALLY ENTICING.

IT'S REALLY INTERESTING.

I THINK IT'S COMING FROM A PLACE OF SOME PEOPLE THAT REALLY VALUE THE GAME AND WANT TO BUILD A FOLLOWING, A MULTIGENERATIONAL FOLLOWING FOR THAT TEAM.

THAT SAID, CAN YOU ONLY DO THAT IN A BRAND-NEW STADIUM? NOT NECESSARILY SO.

YOU COULD DO THAT BY PUTTING A REALLY GREAT TEAM ON THE FIELD, EVEN IN A STADIUM THAT'S NOT EXACTLY THE BEST PLACE TO WATCH BASEBALL.

>> TERRY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF WHAT'S GOING ON?

>> WELL, YOU KNOW, I THINK THERE ARE TWO QUESTIONS AT LEAST THAT I'VE SEEN THAT CONTINUE TO COME UP THAT I HAVEN'T SEEN ANSWERS TO.

ONE IS, IS IT NEEDED?

AND DO WE REALLY NEED ANOTHER STADIUM?

AND THE OTHER IS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

I'VE BEEN SEEING A NUMBER OF ARTICLES THAT, YOU KNOW, ALLUDED TO THAT OR SPECIFICALLY STATED IT.

AND I HAVEN'T SEEN ANYTHING THAT WOULD REVOLVE THAT OR AMELIORATE THAT ISSUE.

SO IF THEY CAN -- IF THEY CAN SATISFY THOSE TWO THINGS, AND SO THAT THE PEOPLE FEEL COMFORTABLE, YES, WE SHOULD GO AHEAD, I THINK THEY COULD PROBABLY PUT THE CURRENT STADIUM ON eBAY AND GET ENOUGH MONEY TO BUILD A NEW STADIUM, IF

THEY WANTED TO.

>> MORE BAD NEWS ABOUT STATE REVENUE, IT'S FALLING AGAIN. FLORIDA LEGISLATORS LEARNED THAT THEY MAY HAVE TO FURTHER REDUCE THE CURRENT YEAR'S BUDGET BECAUSE OF AN ECONOMIC DOWNTURN TIED TO SLOWING POPULATION GROWTH, FALLING HOME PRICES, HIGH OIL PRICES AND THE POSSIBILITY THAT WE'RE ENTERING A RECESSION.

THE STATE ALREADY SLASHED A BILLION DOLLARS IN SPENDING AND IS LOOKING TO MAKE AT LEAST TWO BILLION IN CUTS IN THE NEXT FISCAL YEAR.

HENRY, ARE WE CUTTING FAT NOW, OR ARE WE CUTTING NEEDED SERVICES?

>> WELL, SOME OF BOTH.

WE'RE DEFINITELY CUTTING NEEDED SERVICES, AND WHAT WE ARE SEEING IN REAPING WHAT WE SOW IS THE FACT THAT AS THE ASCENDANCY OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY IN THE STATE OF FLORIDA, WE FOUND THAT IT'S ALL ABOUT TAXES, WE'LL TALK ABOUT THE PROBLEMS LATER.

WE NEED TO HAVE A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION, THIS QUICK FIX THAT CHARLIE CRIST PROMISED -- AND, BY THE WAY, DOESN'T HE LOOK SHARP ON THAT BILLBOARD OUT THERE ON I-275?

BUT ANYWAY, HE STAKED HIS REPUTATION ON THIS AND HIS FAVORABILITY RATINGS.

YOU KNOW, WE HAVE IN MANATEE COUNTY A SEVERE PROBLEM WITH HOUSING, AS FAR AS THE MARKET COLLAPSING ON US.

WE JUST GOT AN ANNOUNCEMENT THIS WEEK THAT WELLCRAFT IS  
CLOSING, LONGTIME MANUFACTURER IN MANATEE COUNTY.  
CHRIS-CRAFT DECIDED TO EXPAND TO NORTH CAROLINA INSTEAD OF  
HERE.

WE CAN'T EVEN HOPE FOR THE BUDGET PROJECTIONS THAT HAVE BEEN  
SAID LATER.

AND I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT THE SOLUTION IS.

MAYBE JUST A FREEZE ON PROPERTY TAX.

NOT A CUT OR PORTABILITY OF YOUR HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION.

>> TERRY, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF HENRY'S POINT?

THAT IS THAT REPUBLICANS ARE TOO FIXATED ON TAX CUTS AND NOT  
ABOUT SOLVING PROBLEMS?

>> FIRST OF ALL, I DON'T NECESSARILY AGREE WITH THAT.

BUT I THINK A LOT OF THE PROBLEM IS THAT THERE'S JUST BEEN A  
LAYER ON LAYER OF FINANCIAL PROBLEM THAT'S COME UP.

FLORIDA IS NOT THE ONLY PLACE THAT IT'S TAKING PLACE.

IT'S TAKING PLACE WHERE DEMOCRATS ARE IN CHARGE AND TAKING  
PLACE WHERE REPUBLICANS ARE IN CHARGE.

BACK IN SEPTEMBER, BOB GRAHAM IS NOT SOMEBODY WHO I  
GENERALLY AGREE WITH ON SOCIAL ISSUES, BUT IF I COULD READ A  
QUOTE, BECAUSE THIS WAS REALLY SOMETHING, HE SAYS THAT  
HISTORY SAYS THAT FLORIDA WILL EVENTUALLY SNAP OUT AT ITS  
CURRENT -- OUT OF ITS CURRENT DOLDRUMS.

SNAP OUT OF ITS CURRENT DOLDRUMS.

SORRY, THAT'S MY TYPING.

IF LEADERS DO NOTHING BUT SWING A MEAT AX AT KEY PRIORITIES,  
THEY WILL SOON FALL PREY TO SNAKE OIL SALESMEN WHO PROMISE  
EASY AND PAINFUL SOLUTIONS LIKE CASINO GAMBLING.

I THINK THAT'S WHERE WE ARE.

I'M SORRY, BUT I'M A REPUBLICAN, BUT I THINK THAT'S WHERE WE  
ARE.

THAT'S NOT THE SOLUTION TO OUR PROBLEM.

>> YOU DON'T LIKE THE IDEA OF CASINO GAMBLING.

>> ABSOLUTELY NOT.

>>> FINALLY, EACH WEEK, WE ASK OUR PANEL ABOUT ANOTHER STORY  
FROM THE WEEK OR ON THE HORIZON WHICH AFFECTS PEOPLE HERE IN  
WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA.

WAYNE, YOUR OTHER BIG STORY OF THE WEEK?

>> MY BIG STORY OF THE WEEK IS THAT REPUBLICAN VOTERS IN  
HILLSBOROUGH COUNTY RECEIVED A SAMPLE BALLOT THIS LAST WEEK  
THAT LED OFF WITH THE NAME OF RUDY GIULIANI SPELLED R-U-D-I,  
NOT Y.

SUPERVISOR OF ELECTION, BUDDY JOHNSON TOOK FULL BLAME FOR  
THE ERROR.

IT WAS INCREDIBLY SILLY, BUT TRUST IT WILL BE ONE OF THE  
LONG LITANY OF THINGS THAT A DEMOCRAT SUCH AS PHYLLIS  
BUSANSKY COULD RAISE IN A RACE AGAINST THEM.

IT ALSO RAISES THE ISSUE, IF YOU'RE A REPUBLICAN VOTER AND  
YOU HAVE TROUBLE TELLING THAT'S RUDY GIULIANI EVEN THOUGH  
IT'S SPELLED WITH AN "I," THEN MAYBE YOU OUGHT NOT TO BE

VOTING.

>> VICKIE, YOUR OTHER BIG STORY?

>> I THINK THE ONE I WOULD BE WATCHING FOR ARE EARLY FINDINGS IN THE TERRIBLE HORRENDOUS FINDINGS ON INTERSTATE 4 AND SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT CONTROLLED BURNS AND HOW WE CAN KEEP OUR HIGHWAYS SAFER AND SORT OF UNDERSTANDING WHAT'S GOING ON.

I-4 IS A VERY DANGEROUS ROAD EVEN WHEN IT'S NOT FOGGY.

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR PEOPLE TO START PAYING ATTENTION TO IT.

>> DOES IT LOOK LIKE THE STATE RIGHT NOW WITH WHAT WE KNOW HAS ANY CULPABILITY?

>> I THINK IT'S TOO SOON TO TELL.

OBVIOUSLY A BAD COMBINATION, SMOKE FROM A BURN AND A VERY FOGGY AREA.

THAT'S PART OF THE GREEN SWAMP RIGHT IN THROUGH THERE.

VERY FOGGY.

THEY NEED TO START PAYING ATTENTION TO MAYBE PARTICULARLY EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS, WHEN THERE'S LOW VISIBILITY OUT THERE.

SPEED LIMITS, TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENTS.

WE KNOW THAT OUR HIGHWAY PATROL IS REALLY NOT UP TO THE FORCE THAT IT SHOULD BE SO THAT IT CAN ENFORCE THE SPEED LIMITS ON SOME OF THESE INTERSTATES.

AND THOSE ARE THE THINGS THAT I THINK THEY SHOULD BE TALKING

ABOUT.

>> HENRY, YOUR OTHER BIG STORY?

>> THE STORY I'M TALKING ABOUT BROKE IN THE TIMES OF LONDON THIS SUNDAY AS A FRONT-PAGE STORY, BUT IT'S A STORY THAT EVERY AMERICAN AND EVERY WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA PERSON SHOULD BE OUTRAGED ABOUT.

IT'S THE ALLEGED FACT THAT THE NUMBER THREE PERSON IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION SOLD THE MOST DEADLY NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY, NUCLEAR WEAPONRY INFORMATION TO TURKEY, TO ISRAEL.

IT HAS BEEN A FRONT PAGE ON THE SUNDAY TIMES OF LONDON.

NO NEWSPAPER IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NO TELEVISION NEWS HAS COVERED THIS.

IT'S BEEN COVERED IN ISRAEL, ACROSS EUROPE, ASIA, CENTRAL ASIA.

BETWEEN 2001, 2005.

EDWINS TRANSLATED FOR THE FBI.

OVERHEARD THIS.

SHE TESTIFIED BEFORE CONGRESS, BEFORE THE 9/11 COMMISSION.

IT WAS CLASSIFIED TO SHUT HER DOWN.

SHE'S FINALLY GONE PUBLIC.

I COMMUNICATED WITH HER RIGHT BEFORE THIS SHOW.

THERE IS A FOLLOW-UP ARTICLE COMING THIS WEEKEND THAT IS EVEN MORE EXPLOSIVE.

>> TERRY, I'M SORRY TO SAY, WE HAVE ABOUT 15 SECONDS.

UNEDITED REALTIME CLOSED CAPTIONING

>> THAT'S FINE.

I THINK THE EVOLUTION CURRICULUM WILL BE A BIG DEAL.

SECULAR HUMANISM HAS BEEN TAKING CONTROL OF OUR SCHOOLS.

IF IT CONTINUES TO HAPPEN, I THINK WE'LL SEE CHRISTIAN KIDS  
MIGRATING OUT OF THE SCHOOLS.

>> THAT'S A TOPIC SURE TO COME UP IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.

THANK YOU, HENRY RAINES, VICKIE CHACHERE, WAYNE GARCIA, AND  
TERRY KEMPLE.

THANK YOU FOR WATCHING "FLORIDA THIS WEEK."

WE WELCOME YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THIS PROGRAM, YOU CAN SEND AN  
E-MAIL TO [FTW@WEDU.ORG](mailto:FTW@WEDU.ORG) OR CALL OUR TOLL FREE LINE,  
800-335-9338.

OR LEAVE A MESSAGE ON OUR WEB SITE, [FTW@WEDU.ORG](http://FTW@WEDU.ORG), ONLINE AT  
[WEDU.ORG](http://WEDU.ORG) WHERE YOU CAN VIEW THIS AND OTHER FINE LOCALLY  
PRODUCED WEDU PROGRAMS.

"FLORIDA THIS WEEK" RETURNS NEXT FRIDAY NIGHT AT 8:30 AND  
SUNDAY AFTERNOON AT 12:30.

FROM ALL OF US AT WEDU HAVE A GREAT WEEKEND.

