



A Truly Political Football

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Green Dragon Gazette



Yeah! Let's Tax Internet Sales!

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Free Speech or Free Rein For

By Abigail Adams

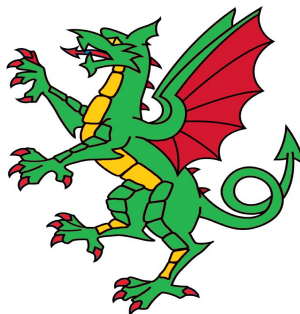
CORRECTIONS: Green Dragon Gazette, a digital newspaper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians, puts its corrections on the front page! **HOWEVER, WE MADE NO MISTAKES** in the last issue, so this issue we must sincerely apologize for our lack of errors!

TELL US your story! Here are the requirements: It must be written by a Missourian; it must have happened in Missouri; it must be information or news Missourians really ought to know; and finally, we must be able to verify the facts of the story from a minimum of two independent sources. Submit a short summary, best time to contact you, and your contact information to adamsabigail1800@yahoo.com--if we decide to use your story, we will be in touch.

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"I never, in all my life, had anything whatever to do with robbing any bank in the state of Missouri." *Cole Younger*

Missouri?



Green Dragon Gazette is a digital "e-newspaper of Missourians, by Missourians, and for Missourians. Monthly, we will fill these few pages with stuff you never knew about the goings-on in Missouri, about your economy, your health, your family-only matters, your privacy, your security, and your government, and the history of much of the above and the pickles we have let ourselves get into because of it all. It's news, it's truth, but with a twist.

MO, Did Ya Know?

MO, Did Ya Know? is a regular feature of each issue, and is a gathering of information and news not widely known around the state.



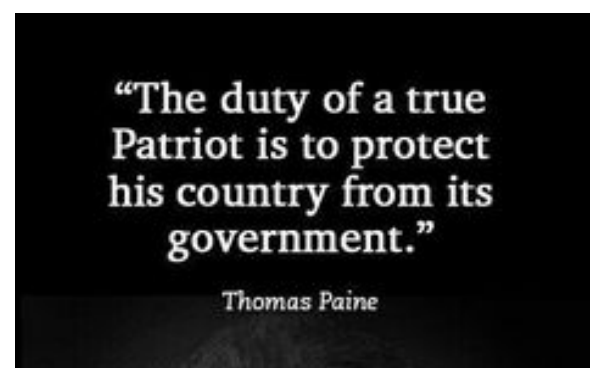
The Gateway Arch in St. Louis.

Looks like the MU School of Public Affairs is behind the taxing of Internet sales push in Missouri. See "**Online Shopping: A Small Business Owner's Perspective,**" Page 2.

MISSOURI STATS:

In 2010 Missourians overwhelmingly voted 71.07% against the adoption of 'Obamacare.'

In Missouri, the cost of undocumented aliens totals \$365,270,933 annually. (continued on Page 3)



In A Nutshell: Free Speech

By D. C. Smith

The first ten amendments of the U. S. Constitution are referred to as the Bill of Rights. These rights are the shield that protects Americans from governments that would attempt to curtail the freedoms found there. Considering current events, this seems like a good time to briefly explore the free speech element of the First Amendment:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press, or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

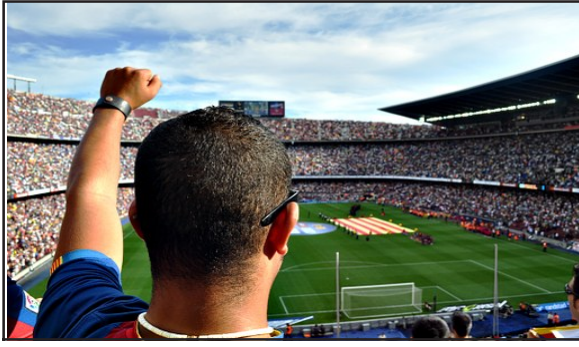
The language of the First Amendment explicitly states that "*Congress shall make no law...*" The U. S. Supreme Court has ruled that the amendment applies to all acts of the entire federal government, as well as state and local governments (via the Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment), not just Congress. States may grant citizens of their state greater protections than the U. S. Constitution provides, but they can not take away any rights granted by the U. S. Constitution. Contrary to popular belief, the First Amendment DOES NOT apply to private entities (with a few (continued on Page 3)

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A Truly Political Football

By James Coyne

Football use to be really fun to watch—something the whole country could enjoy together. It was an affirmation of our unity as Americans. But those days are over and that's a shame. What happened? And why?

We have been asked to accept continuous on-air protests against our common bond: the nation itself, and all it stands for. Make no mistake, protesting the national anthem and the unfurling of the flag is indeed protesting America.

What exactly is wrong with America as a whole that requires we dislike it so, or tacitly participate in demonstrations against it? This is where it gets a little murky. Football announcers talk about protests against "social injustice". No one likes injustice, including me. But how is the country as a whole unjust, and to whom is it being unjust? No one is really saying.

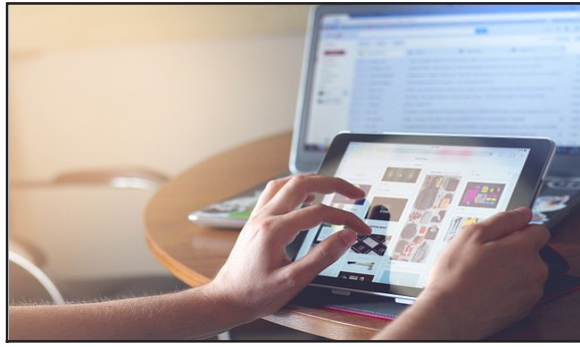
Allow me to take a shot at what they are talking about. Our nation is unjust to African-Americans because they are not treated equally by our nation's government? If so, that would be something worth protesting—a racist America. But is it actually true?

A nation is governed by laws and those who carry them out. Those laws reflect values—for good or for bad. One of the most basic values that form our laws is that "all men are created equal" and therefore have equal standing, equal treatment, under the law. This is something we all believe in.

Are the laws the same for people of different races in America? Yes, they most certainly are. The right to vote, own property, trial by jury of your peers, freedom of speech, of religion, and of association, a right to keep and bear arms, and so on. It is all the same, no matter your skin color or station in life.

This a very good thing, and it is a rarity everywhere else in the world. Apparently we are not protesting our system of

(continued on Page 3)



Online Shopping: A Small Business Owner's Perspective

By Mark and Susan Taylor

In Part One last issue, a more than "level playing field" existing between brick-and-mortar and online stores was exposed, and shoppers aiming only to avoid sales taxes was shown to be a myth. In Part Two, only one real way to accomplish a tax on Internet sales is possible.

Part Two

The proposed structure for collecting a tax is impractical and burdensome. Our store would be required to track taxes for every location where a purchase is made, bill the customer for that tax, and remit it to that state on a regular basis. In 2014, we were just 2 jurisdictions shy of 10,000 different sales tax jurisdictions in the United States. Just 2 years later, we have over 12,000 U.S. sales tax jurisdictions. Further, Internet companies would be subject to an audit from any, or from all, of the 50 states. Many states require expensive registration for EACH tax jurisdiction, a crippling burden for a small company selling products in many jurisdictions. Companies would need to hire additional workers just to handle the new paperwork required.

At brick and mortar stores, the point-of-purchase and the point-of-sale happen at nearly the same place. But when you talk about Internet sales, the point-of-purchase (where the buyer is located) and the point-of-sale (where the seller is located) could be 3,000 miles apart.

Some have suggested using a point-of-sale tax, as if each customer were coming to our physical store and paying tax in our state. Online stores would then pay sales tax only to the state where it resides. But this way would require the writing of new law. At the moment, it is not legal for a state to charge tax on a purchase made in, say, Illinois, by buyers residing in Missouri. While it would take time to get such laws on the books and into effect, we believe this to be the best solution in this age of online shopping. Instead of crippling online businesses, it could even create competition among states to lower their sales tax rates in order to attract new online businesses to their states.



Why I Shop The Internet

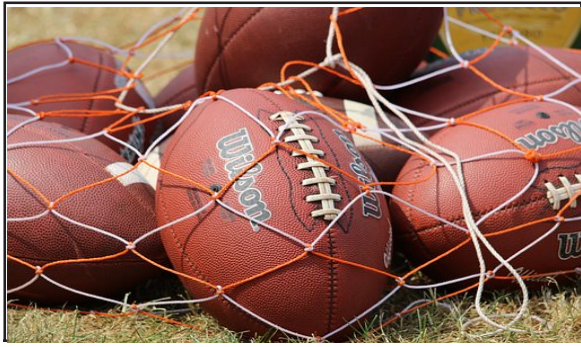
By Debra Sprenger

There is a lot of discussion these days about how Internet shopping is hurting businesses. I'm still trying to figure out how, because I shop the Internet for just 2 reasons: I cannot find something anywhere in town, like the plastic caps I needed to be able to use my glass milk bottles again; or else I cannot afford to pay the kind of price asked for by "brick and mortar" stores. Now, when I say brick and mortar store prices, I'm including places like Wal-Mart and Sam's Club even when what I need is on sale! I do not worry about the 8 cents or so on the dollar in taxes that I'm supposedly saving by shopping online--I worry about the 8 extra dollars I might have to spend if I have to buy something locally.

Most Americans these days, and particularly Missourians, are suffering financially, thanks to the tax and spend policies of both political parties, from the national level all the way down to our own Jefferson City city council. Until there is real and honest relief from that at all levels, people like myself will shop the internet to get just what we need to live day to day—and will buy nothing more than what we just can't do without. So go ahead and tax Internet shopping if you want. That will just give us more reason to pinch pennies, further reducing our available income and any ability to buy goods beyond what we can't get by without. Great strategy. Not.

So, Mr. or Ms. Politician, what are you going to do with all that money you think you will get from taxing Internet sales? Finally build your holy convention center/temple you've been after for 3 decades now? And why do we need that again? Are you going to leave the buildings vacated by K-Mart, Sears, Hastings, Barnes and Noble, and many more way smaller businesses, vacant? Don't we need those buildings filled with new businesses and providing new jobs a lot worse than convention centers and bridges to flooding islands? Our town is on a downhill slide and potholes and bad streets still remain. Oh, wait--unless there's federal money involved

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A Truly Political Football

(continued from Page 2)

laws or the values behind them. So what are we protesting then? Is it the unequal application of the law? True, sometimes laws are applied unequally, for a variety of reasons. Not being able to afford a good lawyer, a crooked or vindictive prosecutor, or just bad luck—it all happens. But on the whole, can we truly say the laws are applied differently to one race over another? No they are not. Most people get a relatively fair day in court and you get an open trial whether you are white, black, or green.

Could it be argued that in certain cases, in certain jurisdictions, race may influence the outcome of a trial? Perhaps. But if that is true, is that the fault of the American system as a whole? Corrupt people always have and always will exist. They should be exposed and punished. But that is not America's fault. Our laws are just and the application of them is about as good as it gets in an imperfect world.

Charges of racism have been used to stir up strife in a number of recent high profile cases. These false accusations have caused great harm to our unity as a people. Months later, when the *facts* of the case finally come out, it turns out our laws and our courts did their jobs exactly as they were intended. But the damage has already been done to those who had nothing to do with any of it.

Where is this social injustice that compels someone to protest our national anthem, our flag, and our nation as a whole? It is a manufactured issue, put forward with the intention to damn America itself—and to divide us from one another for political and political party purposes. That is a truly evil thing.

Losing the chance to watch football will be a shame, but I can get over it. Losing our great America, and all it stands for, would be catastrophic. Let's not allow that to happen.

"Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority, it is time to pause and reflect."
Mark Twain



The Word Corner

By Merryman Wagnel

This regular feature is dedicated to the idea that words can truly mean something, and that there actually is right and wrong--not relativism only.

Fascism, as an economic description is: Private ownership of production and State determination of what is produced. Fascism has political/social ramifications as well. It is a totalitarian state in which political dissent is abolished in any number of ways. It adheres to a strict class structure. Webster defines Fascism thus:

1: a political philosophy, movement, or regime (such as that of the Fascisti) that exalts nation, and often race, above the individual; and that stands for a centralized autocratic government headed by a dictatorial leader, severe economic and social regimentation, and forcible suppression of opposition. 2: a tendency toward or actual exercise of strong autocratic or dictatorial control

The current U.S. Antifa block those from speaking with whom they disagree. They themselves exhibit many traits of Fascism. They may be anti-Fascist, but are also anti-freedom-of-individual-speech.



Notable Missouri Quotes

"In Missouri where I come from, we don't talk about what we do - we just do it. If we talk about it, it's seen as bragging." *Brad Pitt*

"For the past seven years we have been cracking down on crime in Missouri, passing tougher laws for drug crimes and sex offenses and requiring prisoners to serve more time." *Mel Carnahan (D) Missouri Governor, 1993-2000, head of the Carnahan dynasty: father of former Secretary of State Robin Carnahan, 2005-2010, father of former U.S. Congressman Russ Carnahan, 2005- 2013. After the Governor's death in a plane crash before the 2000 election, Missouri went on to elect a dead man, and his wife Jean was appointed his unfilled U.S. Senate seat.*



In A Nutshell: Free Speech

(continued from Page 1)

narrow exceptions). Freedom of speech generally means the ability to express oneself free of any burdensome governmental restriction or interference. Just because the speech may be offensive or might hurt someone's feelings does not mean that such speech can be banned.

There is no First Amendment right to be shielded from speech or other expressions you disagree with or that offend you.

More "MO Did Ya Know?"

Missouri elected President Trump with 56.4% of the vote.

Lots of anger towards the national GOP at their training session here in Jefferson City last month. The previously "Party-faithful" 85 or so attendees now want to know why the Republicans that Missourians elected are unresponsive to such crises as repealing the ACA, tax cuts, and in general, not playing nice with the true head of the Republican Party, President Trump, and the members of the Freedom Caucus. The new state director of the GOP-Missouri (not to be confused with the MO GOP) didn't want to talk about it--just about rallying the troops into more free labor and money for the national GOP's to-do list in Missouri. Not likely to happen considering the ire they have raised here in the Show-Me State. No wonder they had to send in a state director...MO Republicans are positively out of control!

Julie Nordman, of Wentzville, told the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee during a hearing on "lax immigration enforcement" back in March how she hid in her attic, "scared out of my mind," as her husband was murdered by a Mexican immigrant in the U.S. illegally. "In the 18 months before...this killer had been in custody on 3 occasions, yet federal officials failed to detain or deport him," she said. She went on to say that four other innocent victims were brutally murdered by this same illegal immigrant.



Why I Shop the Internet

(Continued from Page 3)

like the Jefferson Street/Stadium Drive round-about. Are you REALLY going to go build your \$3 million bridge over the Missouri River slough and Union Pacific railroad tracks to a river island that frequently floods to build that new park YOU can't live without? Wow. That's a great idea!

I probably won't be able to afford the gas to drive over to that \$3 million bridge so I can walk to that park, or have the time to ride my bike there, because I'll be looking for my third job (probably in vain because of all the closed businesses in town) just to make ends meet thanks to all the additional taxes I have to pay on everything I buy on the Internet AND to build your stupid bridge on top of that. So much for "fiscally conservative" city politicians.

If complaining businesses were really concerned about losing business to the Internet, they'd figure out a way to market to us ON the Internet at a better price! Nobody propped up livery stables when they were dying off because of all the "horseless carriages" starting to drive on the dirt roads. Some livery owner probably went into the road building business instead. If you can't stay current and viable in that business anymore, find a new one. And if you city politicians and chambers of commerce aren't about the job of bringing new and viable businesses to town, why do we need to pay your salaries? I'd say you're not doing your jobs and should be fired.

Oh, and don't forget the abandoned Missouri State Penitentiary. Since the Missouri taxpayers have now ceded the property to the City of Jefferson taxpayers, do we state taxpayers get our taxes back that paid for that? With interest? Yeah. I thought so.

"The people I'm honored to represent in Missouri, and all over the country, want leaders to address their kitchen table everyday problems." *Dick Gephardt (D)*
U. S. Congress 1977-2005



Is Claire Right For Missouri?

By *Mart Staggs*

Healthcare and immigration are two very important issues affecting the daily lives of every Missourian. Senator Claire McCaskill is seeking a third term in the 2018 election. How will she represent Missourian these issues if re-elected?

Healthcare:

"McCaskill was the deciding vote on Obamacare, and now that it is a proven failure, she refuses to participate in the conversation that is crucial to fixing it," said Austin Stukins, Executive Director of the Missouri Republican Party.

"Prem-iums are up 145% in Missouri —there is no doubt people are hurting, but McCas-kill continues to ignore that and choose obstruction over solutions," Stukins con-tinued. "This just reaffirms that she will always choose petty politics over the people of Missouri."
<https://tinyurl.com/y9m6795l>

Immigration:

As we know, President Trump gained a great deal of support with his stance on building the border wall, and in general, reducing the number of undocumented immigrants into our country. What is the cost of open borders? The impact of illegal aliens is \$30.4 billion nationally. States and cities bear the burden for costs of education, city and county infrastructure and local courts and jails. The illegal alien is not a typical worker. Many receive unreported salaries in cash and therefore pay no income tax, nor withholding taxes, Social Security or Medicare. The small amount they do pay in fuel, property, and sales tax does not cover the costs Missouri must pay in services provided to immigrants. In 2006, McCaskill was a "surprise" Demo-crat winner of the U.S. Senate race, and seems to have gotten there partly by running as a strong proponent of enforc-ing immigration laws. Back in 2006, she paid a pollster to find out that Akin had a strong stance on enforcing immigra-tion laws and crafted her platform ac-cordingly. She admits to all that in her book, *Plenty Ladylike*.

If [my daughters] make a mistake, I don't want them *punished with a baby*."
Then-Senator Barack Obama



BREAKING NEWS:

Representative Dan Stacy (MO District 31) will be speaking this month on his 2 bills from the 2017 session (which he intends to introduce again in 2018) regarding the closing of the currently open primary elections. For those in the Columbia area, Rep. Stacy will be at the VFW Post 280 Friday, October 13 at 12:00 - 1:00 pm. A lunch will be served at 11:30. The cost for lunch is \$10. The VFW is located on I-70 Business Loop behind the power plant at 1509 Ashley Street, Columbia, MO 65201. For those in the St. Charles/St. Louis area, Rep. Stacy will be at the Schnucks meeting room, 1950 Zumbuhl Road, St. Charles, MO 63303 later that same day from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m., and the next day, Saturday the 14th, at The Pillar Foundation, 15820 Clayton Road, Ellisville, MO 63011 from 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Cigna Health and Life Insurance Company will be coming to Boone County but will not work with nor compensate agents. The 2018 rate increases they have filed for on medical individual rates, whether on or off the exchange: 41.97% increase. Healthy Alliance Life Insurance Company (bought by Anthem Blue Cross/Blue Shield) for their individual PPACA will have a 36.31% increase. Anthem will no longer be on the exchange in Boone county or in the St. Louis area.

Former representative and deputy chief of staff to Governor Eric Greitens, Caleb Jones, is the new vice president of the Association of Missouri Electric Cooperatives. No word yet as to what his duties will be or why he is leaving the employ of the governor after only 8 months. Also no word on who Governor Greitens might tag to replace him.

Regulations requiring abortion clinic doctors to have admitting privileges at nearby hospitals and making it illegal for ambulances responding to 911 calls to arrive at clinics by the clinics' request without sirens and lights has been reversed by the 8th U. S. Circuit Court of Appeals this month.