

October 2007



YOOPER SCOOPER

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COMMUNIST DESTROYING AMERICA!!!

They may not be card-carrying members of the American Communist Party, but they are contributing participants and supporters of the Communists' Manifesto. The Commies have infiltrated Congress, the White House, the Supreme Court, schools, unions, and every level of the working society in America.

The national "progressives" have been on their campaign to have the working class people work for the government elitists for 80 years. Please visit <http://www.cpusa.org/> We suggest you peruse the Website and learn about the Communist Party of the USA. As you read items on their web site, ponder on the similarities between their manifesto, the ambitions of environmentalist, the Democrat Party, internationalist/globalist ideologies, and the United Nations. Please also visit the UN Agenda 21 web site:

<http://www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/agenda21/index.htm>

The imposition of the graduated income tax, which garners a higher percentage of taxes based on income levels, has helped keep the middle classes in check. Lower middle class citizens may also get more money back from their taxes than they paid-in because of the graduated tax rates.

Middle and upper middle income families may give as much as 51% of what they earn toward various taxes. The tax liabilities that most middle class families endure results in ever-decreasing discretionary funds while the wealthy have sizable deductions to help keep them wealthy. Deductions are subjective.

The predisposition suggests the income

gap between the poor and wealthy is getting bigger. In reality the gap between the middle class and the wealthy has grown exponentially over the last decade, but the middle class has come a lot closer to those who are living near the poverty line. The reality is that the redistribution of wealth only goes two ways; to the poor and to the wealthy.

Generally, and incidentally, distributions are conducted through the government by way of hand-outs or through tax relief, the award of contracts, or other exchanges. The wealthy also enjoy tax loop-holes while the middle class has few obvious deductions.

At this point the U. S. economy is really booming. However, if you ask a person of modest means whether the economy is booming or not, the answer will be that it isn't. The perceptions are different; those who have investments in the stock market and oil have a perception that the economy is doing quite well while those who work from pay-check to pay-check are victimized the most at the gas pumps, which in turn affects the cost of food and utilities and has diminished middle-class discretionary funds by an average of 20 to 30% since gasoline prices went above \$1.50 per gallon.

Middle-income wage earners are targeted by insurance companies as well. Much of what middle-income workers pay for their insurances are based on their household incomes, which is not necessarily comparable with their ability to pay. Another obvious issue is the wage-earners privacy rights.

Most harmful to the economic situation is the minimum wage. Entry-level employees who work 40-hours a week in Michigan now earn \$7.15 and on July 1, 2008 they will earn \$7.40.

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/america.htm>

Small business owners with two or more employees are left with only two options; they may reduce the wages that could be earned through promotions or they may lay-off those extra hands. Most employers will opt to lay-off extra workers as the distance between what the entry-level employees and the supervisors earns become more narrow. The minimum wage has effectively done-away with two substantial work incentives; pay increases based on productivity and promotions based on performance.

Union workers also experience the staggering discrepancies as well. No matter how skilled and dedicated a worker is today, he or she won't earn any more than the most incompetent and lazy person among all of them; it's a system adopted by our government and has been adapted quite effectively by our politicians as well. Those who consider themselves progressives are far from being progressive, especially within our free-market based society. Paper mill union workers are told to vote Democrat by their union leadership. Environmentalists, who also vote Democrat, are working to keep the loggers out of the woods. None of this makes any sense to the common man or woman, but to progressives, it's a natural way of life.

More Illegal Immigrants, More Seats in Congress? By Candice Miller (R-Michigan)

The Sept. 6 editorial "Count Them In" played down the effect that illegal immigration has on congressional apportionment and the damage it does to fair representation for American citizens.

Every Election Day, non-citizens infringe on the right to proper and proportional representation for U.S. citizens as a result of the 14th Amendment, which requires that those in our country illegally be counted when seats are apportioned for Congress.

I have introduced H.J. Res. 6 to correct this technical error by replacing the word "persons" in the amendment with "citizens." This would give American citizens, both native born and naturalized, fairer representation. The Census Bureau would still conduct a complete count of all people in the United States, but only the number of citizens in each state would be used for apportionment.

States with large populations of illegal immigrants receive a disproportionate

number of seats in the House of Representatives because non-citizens are included with citizens. For example, Montana has one representative for a population of about 895,000 citizens. The 34th District of California has one representative but fewer than 420,000 citizens.

Policies emerging from the debate on illegal immigration must reflect the will of U.S. citizens and should not be affected by those here unlawfully.

~ U. S. Representative Candice Miller

PEACE IN OUR TIME!



Neville Chamberlain holding the paper containing the resolution to commit to peaceful methods signed by both Hitler and himself on his return from Munich. He is showing the piece of paper to a crowd at Heston Aerodrome on 30 September 1938.



WASHINGTON— An apparently botched message during a widely discouraged visit by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Syria this week (April 2007) has U.S. officials criticizing rogue efforts at diplomacy among U.S. politicians.

It certainly appears the 21st Century is running parallel to the 20th Century, in particular 1938. As the left-wing stumbles over itself in competition to determine who is in the most denial, plans are being formulated among evil people to overthrow citizens in various nations all over the world, which includes the United States and Israel. The liberals are known for not only promoting the destruction of their own nations, but for facilitating it as well.

The Democrats are fulfilling their duties as responsible communist sympathizers and it doesn't matter how much death and destruction awaits Joe Six-pack and his family. The benefit is complete control of the people through the suspension of the Constitution. If Al Gore had been at the helm on September 11, 2001, we would have already been under their control

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Peace_for_our_time
- <http://www.lcps-lebanon.org/pub/breview/br4/clinton.html>
- http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1584/is_nSUPP-1_v5/ai_15184099
- <http://thinkprogress.org/2007/04/10/clinton-pelosi-syria/>
- <http://www.heritage.org/Press/Commentary/ed101700.cfm>
- <http://www.heritage.org/Research/MiddleEast/EM700.cfm>
- <http://sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/n/a/2007/04/28/politics/p133158D29.DTL&type=politics>
- http://www.meib.org/articles/0103_11.htm
- <http://www.foxnews.com/story/0,2933,264334,00.html>

Carter backs Pelosi's trip, despite Bush's rebuke: <http://www.cnn.com/2007/POLITICS/04/04/carter.pelosi/index.html>

Granholm Continues to WOW Michigan

In Michigan the legislators are discussing an increase in the sales tax from 6% to 7%. They recently passed a higher income tax; from 3.9% to 4.45%. While the Republicans are emphasizing that those in Lansing live within their means, the progressive liberal Democrats are looking for excuses to raise more revenue to pay for pet programs and increase funds to buy elections. Michigan's progressive Democrats in the State House and Governor's mansion are doing all they can to increase the taxes in the State; the mass exodus of businesses, industry and their workers continues with vigor.

The reactionary policies of the progressives are costing Michigan and US taxpayers more than just their hard-earned dollars, which would have better spent putting gasoline in the tanks of the workers so they could go to work. It's also costing us socially through the constant decay of morality and loss of rights.

But the money they throw around isn't enough. On top of that they think American citizens are dumb enough to think government officials are more capable of running a health care system.

Our prediction is that the citizens around the nation are going to be conducting their own form of a cost-benefit analysis. As the bridges collapse, as border fences are not being built, and as our borders go unprotected, the citizens are mustering a quiet revolution. The irresponsible redirecting of public funds and malfeasance of office is going to cost the politicians in Lansing and DC next November, if not sooner.

No one seems to want to ask those considering the elimination of term limits a very simple question: "Why should we reward people who don't know the job going-in and evidently are too intellectually challenged to learn the job in less than six years?" If they're idiots, they need to be terminated by their employers.



October Surprise: 2007 and beyond

During regular political seasons it seems like one political party or another sits on some information until just before the election. During the 2006 election a media leak revealed Curt Weldon (R-PA) and his daughter were under investigation by the FBI. We're still waiting for the results of that investigation.

This year is an off-year. There are no real elections scheduled, just campaigns. So what can we expect from that political screwing known as an October Surprise?

The truths about the Clintons will be top priorities, but the media won't pick up those revealing stories about their Crown, such as the one about Hillary disabling a Secret Service Agent when she threw a crystal ashtray at Willy in a fit of rage. Instead of hitting Hubby Dearest, she hit a the Agent and put out his eye, permanently disabling him.

None of the media has picked up on the story about the Aide to the Chief of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers. The Major General went to the White House after hours to get a document signed by the President. Hillary met the General at the door and reprimanded him for wearing a uniform on that end of the White House. She "ordered" him to go home and put on something decent if he wanted that paper signed. The General did as he was told, but resigned the next day. Hillary is now on

the Senate Armed Services Committee. The Clintons are known for loathing the military.

Recently it's come to light that Hillary engaged in wire-tapping during her stint as White House director of Bimbo Control.

Publicity, whether good or bad, is still publicity. However, picking on the helpless little communist females has been out of vogue since one of our best national heroes, Sen. Joseph McCarthy, routed out the commies from D.C. and Hollywood in the 1950s. Since then we can only hope the GOP has learned not to pick helpless little Progressives like the Dems picked Gov. Granholm and Rep. Pelosi, et al.

As October 2007 winds down, the political storm is gaining strength and momentum as it prepares to emerge during the primary election season. As usual, the voter will have to suffer through all the whining, complaining, and accusations from a field of candidates that have no ethical obligations under the truth-in-advertising laws.

What ultimately may become an October surprise among Republican voters is that the GOP, like the Democrats, will have a group of Party elitists converge into a caucus to choose a candidate that best fits their political views; not those of the commoners. The steadily growing popularity of Dr. Ron Paul, and other true reformists of the future,

wouldn't have any benefit among any of the Party elitists. Voters would be stuck with those who put Party loyalty ahead of the people.

Since October 2007 is almost over, what will be an October Surprise in '08? We project that the biggest surprise will be the massive rejection of the two-party system by the voters. The outcome of the Primary Elections will be a major determinant of what will occur prior to the November General Election.

Americans are a lot more perceptive and gutsy than any of the party elitists realize. A large segment of the population of the United States recognizes that we cannot afford to allow any of our representatives the pleasure of playing politics—we are on the precipice of destruction from within, from our southern neighbors, and from abroad. Aside from Jesus, Himself, arriving on the scene, we have little hope for national salvation if we keep going down the same political road.

If Rudy Giuliani is the GOP nominee; the conservatives will vacate their support of the Republican Party. The same applies if Mrs. Bill Clinton is the Democrat nominee. While the extreme left-wingers will fall all over themselves with the thought that Willy will once again have the ability to paste some babes on the Oval Office carpet, the middle-of-the-road lefties will pass on casting a vote for America's Evita Peron reincarnate.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Evita_Peron—http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/authors/e/evita_peron.html

Congressional Flatulence; S-B-D



No matter how foolish and incompetent the next president will be, those in Congress need to be the group providing adult supervision. However, the current arrangement is questionable at best.

Congressman Bart Stupak, one good example of why Congress needs their own supervision, gave \$50,000 of our money for a grant to Drummond Island Laundry and Linen. The last census suggests only 992 people live on the remote eastern U. P. island.

Congressman Stupak secured small business loans of \$127,500 for Golf USA and \$562,500 for Mackinaw Golf Associates, LLC.

Not all US citizens are benefiting from the outstanding economy, but no matter which way the nation's economy goes, or the economy of individual households, the state and federal politicians will always manage to acquire any necessary and unnecessary money to conduct business as usual.

Michigan's 1st Congressional District has been hardest hit by the progressives' plans. In October 2001, the unemployment rate for the Upper Peninsula of Michigan was **4.4%. Today the unemployment rate fluctuates, but is predominately above the State-wide rate, which is currently 7.5%. This compares to the national rate of about 4.7%.

A lay-philosopher once quipped, "If you plant potatoes, you get potatoes." The saying applied to family lineage, not Congress, then.

Oh, but how times have changed. Despite our best intents to promote responsible people to the sacred ranks of representative, we don't have a crystal ball to see their skills in action, or inaction, whichever applies. But no matter how poorly they perform on our behalf, we are also reluctant to fire them; cases-in-point are Bill Clinton in 1996 and Jennifer Granholm in 2006.

There is no doubt that Stupak needs to be fired, straight-away. So far we have only two candidates stepping-up to challenge him in 2008; Tom Caspersen, fresh from the bowels of Lansing, and Don Hooper is returning for his fourth repeat performance. Don is intensely Constitutional and Tom is way too nice of a guy who prefers compromise and giving out accolades to the progressives. What to do?

More examples of outrages spending can be found at: <http://www.fedspending.org/> - http://votesmart.org/bio.php?can_id=26912

**UP Unemployment: 2001—<http://media.www.michigandaily.com/media/storage/paper851/news/2001/10/26/News/>

Attention Metro-Sexuals and all the other Ladies



"The Michigan health police have gone too far."

Real men don't wear Spandex®, eat tofu and they don't carry purses, even if you call them a man-bags. Men don't get facials, hair plucks and use hand lotion six times a day, unless they have a real problem with cracked hands from being out in the cold ice fishing or working; then men only use udder cream. Men don't pee sitting down except at 4 o'clock in the morning when a light would be impaling and aim cannot be observed. Men don't watch Oprah, the View or Lifetime. Real men don't beat women, tease kids or dogs and they don't need to have affairs to prove their manliness.

Men often smoke, drink alcohol, gamble, swear, wear flannel and spend more time playing than they do working; actually, that applies to real women as well. Men who see danger try to eliminate the danger; real men defend those who aren't able to defend themselves and real men join the military to fight for the oppressed and to ensure liberties for all. Other real men, who can't join for one reason or another, may have to just give their undying support for those who join the fight for liberty. Finally, real men drive SUVs, ORVs, snowmobiles and vehicles with more than 260 horsepower motors. Those with the most toys—win!

The Rules of Political Semantics

Politically speaking, whom-ever said what to whom isn't always reported exactly as it was meant by the person saying it, so they say. The message especially loses something in the translation when done by those responsible for reporting it. What that means is if a liberal politician orders toast they will say later when the toast comes out that they ordered French toast; the media will most likely backup their order claim.

What is most intriguing is that the liberal media and the liberal professors on university campuses across America espouse the whole Democrat Party philosophy, which is more controlling than all other communist manifestos. So, who gets whacked first when they're in complete control? Journalists and professors of course. That was also the first line of defense for the new Iranian regime. A liberal ally today is an enemy tomorrow.



Know Thy Enemy

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bill_Clinton
- http://www.newsday.com/news/nationworld/nation/ny-ushill224636775feb22_0.1447657.story
- <http://archive.newsmax.com/archives/articles/2001/2/21/181251.shtml>
- <http://www.cnn.com/US/9903/10/nuclear.secrets.02/>
- <http://www.cnn.com/ALLPOLITICS/stories/1999/05/20/china.spy/>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_Cox_Report_controversy
- <http://www.freerepublic.com/focus/f-news/940025/posts>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/White_House_FBI_files_controversy
- http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1282/is_n6_v49/ai_19254703
- http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1571/is_n4_v14/ai_20212849
- Top Ten Contributors to Clinton and Obama
- <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=21723&page=1>
- Contributions to Political Parties
- <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=22517>
- Highest Paid Union Bosses
- <http://www.humanevents.com/article.php?id=21533>
- http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/09/15/AR2007091501386_pf.html
- http://www.theodoresworld.net/archives/2007/09/bill_clintons_wife_ms_i_loath.html

Cuckoo for Conservation By C. J. Williams

DNR warns of cutbacks unless fees are raised: <http://www.mininggazette.com/stories/articles.asp?articleID=9147>

One of the front-page headlines greeting readers of the Oct. 12th edition of the Michigan Outdoor News screams in big, bold face print, "Legislature cuts tax hike for conservation".

At first glance one thinks, "Uh-oh, what did the dirty beggars do now?" But, after a couple read-throughs and a little common sense, comes the understanding that it's most likely a good thing that not all of the Michigan lawmakers are cuckoo for conservation or they'd have driven the tax knife even further into state residents' pockets.

The informative article written by Editor Bill Parker explains that when the legislators were hunkered down at the 11th hour, deciding how best to stick Michigan citizens with tax hikes on Oct. 1st, they elected to remove a "conservation amendment" to the income tax increase proposed by Rep. Matt Gillard, D-Alpena.

Gillard's amendment would have fattened the state's Game and Fish Protection Fund to the tune of \$42 million annually, and, according to Parker, it's that fund, which legislators are constitutionally forbidden to raid, that provides much of the DNR's operating budget.

Had it survived, the earmark would have directed 0.025 of 1 percent of the tax hike into the Game and Fish Protection Fund that's tapped to pay for conservation officers and wildlife management, making all taxpayers liable for some of the MI-DNR's budget instead of just sticking hunters, fishermen, and trappers with the financial onus.

But, stick us they will and since someone has to make up the projected \$8 million deficiency in the DNR's fiscal year 2008 budget, which began Oct. 1st, the state's olive drab clad agency plans to cajole our lawmakers into approving a 50 percent incremental hike for sportsmen's license fees over the next four years.

That's right, folks, as yours truly types this article on Oct. 23rd, the State of Michigan already has another budget crisis, and I don't mean just with the DNR, even though the tax-alcoholics haven't yet completely resolved the one for FY 2007.

DNR spokesperson Mary Dettloff told Michigan Outdoor News that Gillard's earmark would have eliminated the need for a license fee increase and that the DNR's budget for 2008, which was approved by the Governor and Legislature, is based on some sort of incremental license increase.

Clearly, the Governor and lawmakers put the cart before the horse when approving the DNR's 2008 budget with an already known \$8 million shortfall, and rather than sending the DNR budgeteers back to the drawing board, they opted, instead, to give a nod of approval and let the chips fall where they may.

As of FY 2003, the State of Michigan had a surplus of at least \$10.13 Billion in taxpayer money that the government wasn't using, and unless the Granholm administration has blown it all away,

most should still be there, particularly the seed money that's been salted away in restricted funds.

According to information found on the CAFR Network Website at carfman.com, "the budget only covers a small portion of the State's financial condition. There are a group of funds not part of the budget process. The complete list of funds and budgetary requirements are found in the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). This report depicts the complete financial status of the State. The actual budget covers only a portion of the financial resources of the government."

In other words, when Gov. Granholm and the Lansing legislators were publicly crying the blues because they'd blown their wad through overspending, and were threatening to shut down necessary services to resolve the '07 budget crunch, they kept mum about other revenue. And, instead of making a "tough" decision to come to the taxpayers with a request to get at that other revenue, they opted to get tough with state citizens and tax the heck of them.

As of 2003, there were a total of 81 government funds that had cash and investment reserves that weren't being used. Since then, additional funds have been set up, including the Fire Protection Fund padded with excess "Driver Responsibility Fees".

Some examples of the '03 funds posted on the CAFR site are:

The Game and Fish Protection Fund, a Special Revenue Fund and part of the budget, had net expenditures of \$8.5 million, but also had cash and investment reserves of \$37 million.

The Bottle Deposit Fund, also part of the budget, had net expenditures of \$3.3 million and reserves of \$125 million.

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, a Permanent Fund and not part of the budget, made a profit of \$37 million in '03 and had reserves of \$321 million.

The Michigan Unemployment Compensation Fund, an Enterprise Fund, had net expenses of \$665 million, but also reserves of \$1.7 billion.

All totaled, in 2003 there was a collective surplus of a little over \$361 million in just the eleven conservation, environmental, and recreation related funds alone, and that's in addition to surpluses of \$321 million in the Natural Resources Trust Fund, \$141.5 million in the State Park Endowment Fund, and \$20.5 million in the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps Endowment Fund.

It's interesting to note that on Sept. 27, 2007 Sen. Michael Switalski (D-Dist. 10) proposed Senate Bill 799 to appropriate \$20 million from the Michigan Civilian Conservation Corps Endowment Fund to the General Fund as a measure to close the gap between expected FY 2007-2008 revenue and spending in other areas of state government. Though this would essentially have had the effect of ending the

depression-era program that still pays some 18-25 year olds a minimum wage to help out at state parks, an amendment to require the DNR to find other ways to fund it, such as corporate sponsorships, was added before the legislation passed in the Senate two days later on Sept. 29th.

So you see, there are ways to get at the hoarded surplus of taxpayer money purportedly earmarked to pay for this program and that project. And, since everything government does is supposed to be done by law, it is the legislature that can change those laws having to do with money hoarded in cash and investment funds if the lawmakers really want to make a tough decision instead of taking the easy way out by sticking it to taxpayers, many who are also sportsmen who'll get a double whammy once license fees go up.

In his Outdoor Observations column in the Oct 12th Michigan Outdoor News, Bill Parker wrote that "of the DNR's \$288 million annual budget, only about 9 percent (\$25.3 million) comes from the state General Fund, and half of that is designated specifically for payments in lieu of taxes to local units of government.

Well, cry me a river and sing the blues til you're hoarse, but a simple fix is to require the Natural Resources Trust Fund board to cease and desist with buying more state land to make PILT payments on and quit with the grants for more conservation easements on property somebody else owns. Put some money from the fund toward the DNR budget when the state is strapped.

Considering that in 2003 there was about \$682 million in surplus dollars sitting in various and sundry "cuckoo for conservation" funds, perhaps it's time to use the interest generated and/or part of the capital for something other than Gang Green's agenda. Perhaps now is a good time to put surplus state revenue toward necessary services like funding schools, police and fire departments, and prisons, and not toward yet another special fund such as the "Wildlife Action Opportunity Fund", which the Michigan United Conservation Clubs is now proposing.

At this point, when there isn't enough money to steer the Ship of State off the shoals of financial ruin without stabbing taxpayers in the back and/or increasing sportsmen's license fees, the citizens of Michigan simply can't afford to be cuckoo of conservation. ~CJ

<http://www.michiganoutdoornews.com/articles/2007/10/11/news/news4.txt>
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov/documents/publications/Constitution.pdf>
<http://cafrman.com/>
<http://cafrman.com/Articles/Art-MI-S1.htm>
<http://www.michiganvotes.org/2007-SB-799>
<http://www2.eli.org/pdf/research/openspace/michigan.pdf>
<http://www.wcs.org/wildlifeopportunity>
<http://www.michiganoutdoornews.com/articles/2007/10/11/news/news4.txt>
<http://michigan.gov/driverresponsibility>

Contact us:
editor@yoopscoop.com

Subject Line: YOOPER

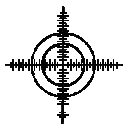
RECOMMENDED LINKS

DISCLAIMER—KOA STATEMENT

The Yooper Scooper is a private newsletter to be exchanged among friends and like-minded individuals via the internet or through a hard copy printed at personal expense. Even though Democrats can campaign from the pulpit while Catholic Priests have to remain silent with threats of being removed from their non-profit status by the Democrats, the freedom of speech still has meaning and relevance among the people. We would like to take this opportunity to stress that if you take offense to the content of this newsletter you are probably indeed a descendent from monkeys. As for the rest of us, we hold the truths of God, Creationism, Free Will, the Ten Commandments and the Constitution close to our hearts and within our souls.

~ J. C. Powers, Editor

editor@yoopscoop.com



Must Reads for Michigan Residents

<http://www.mackinac.org/>

<http://www.mackinac.org/article.aspx?ID=9023>

http://nostalgia.wikipedia.org/wiki/Upper_Peninsula_of_Michigan

Reductionism

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Reductionism>

Stupak's Stance on Illegal Immigration

<http://grades.betterimmigration.com/testgradescategory.php?District=MI&Category=9&Status=Career&VIPID=403>

Weather Modification Experiments

<http://www.newswithviews.com/Peterson/rosalind6.htm>

Keep up with Congress

<http://www.youtube.com/rnc>

White House Pets 1992—2001

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Socks_%28cat%29

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buddy_%28dog%29

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Monica_Lewinsky

<http://lqblog.com/category/humor/>

Michigan Videos

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y6Ty6qe7bkA&mode=related&search=>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2Ac5EUhA&NR=1>

Tokyo Rose

http://womenshistory.about.com/library/bio/blbio_toguri_iva.htm

What's UP by J. C. Powers

1-800-680-7289

90-Day Protection—FREE!

Fraud is rampant, even here in the Upper Peninsula. Theft of identity is on the rise. The problem is that it isn't really a local issue, but a world-wide problem. Your information is stored on computers owned and operated by the government and businesses.

In one case scenario a US citizen's Social Security number had been stolen and used 42 times—the Social Security Administration had not noticed the various transactions.

Your government is quite capable of taking a photo of a license plate from 120 miles up in space and listening to multiple telephone calls at once. Yet, even though some private businesses like FedEx and UPS can track millions of packages all at once, your own government isn't capable of keeping an eye on 900 FBI files or tracking visa holders who overstay their welcome.

The wife of a friend of ours received a Sears credit card bill. She hadn't used the card in nearly 20-years. The charges were for

about \$12, but she immediately called Sears.

The company went out-of-its-way to rectify the situation and handed her case over to a fraud agency. A private company sponsored by the Citi Identity Theft Solutions, handled the case very professionally. The toll free number at the beginning of this article will get you started with a monitoring and check-up of your credit report; it's free for 90 days.

In an earlier fraud case through Radio Shack, a physician in the UP ended up with over \$200 worth of charges. Radio Shack was hell-bent on making the doctor pay the charges. Two companies; two different approaches. The doctor had to hire a lawyer to fight Radio Shack's incompetence.

Although we aren't thrilled that Citigroup has provided over \$300,000 to the top two Democrat presidential candidates, the company does serve a purpose. Identity theft is very real and a few companies are growing by leaps and bounds by simply offering credit monitoring. They also monitor Social Security numbers, which really shouldn't be their job since the SSA is the agency that issues the numbers and oversees their use. And, if you think we have problems with ID theft now, wait until the feds

takes over your health care system.

Remember the information that was on the laptop computer that a VA employee took home and then had stolen from his home?

Recent discoveries also indicate that the communist Chinese have been infiltrating our governments' computer networks, including the FBI. Like the Clintons, they could easily extort a citizen through manipulations and the same types of threats of public disclosure.

Telephone scams are also a reality here in the UP. Senior citizens are targeted mostly because they're too trusting; they also think that the FDR democrats are alive and well. Some telephone services provide a blocking of unknown callers. Those who don't like the idea of getting insolicited telephone calls should sign-up at:

<https://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>

Another rule-of-thumb is to never give your personal information to anyone who calls you; let's iterate that point—NEVER provide anyone who calls you with your personal info! You should also tell them to take you off of their call list and only conduct their business through the mail. By-the-way; the worst violator of privacy issues is LendingTree.com. Never go on-line to borrow money. ~JCP