

The WCYR Advocate

Williamson County Young Republicans

October, 2004

Joshua Edlin, editor

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Next Meeting

Due to the Presidential elections, the date of the next meeting has not been determined. Email notifications will be sent regarding the next meeting.

Announcements

- Please remember to notify Brandon of any volunteer work you do. No hours have yet been reported. Our goal has been extended to 250 hours. So far, we have performed 175 hours of work.
- The Republican Victory Party will be held Nov. 2 at the Embassy Suites at 7:00 PM.
- Marsha Blackburn has generously volunteered to host a combined Christmas party for the YRs from Williamson and Davidson counties. Details will be available after the Christmas committee finalizes the plans.

More YR Goals Met

At the October meeting, we met two of our stated goals for 2004, placing money in reserves and giving \$1000 to candidates.

With our finances at an all-time high, we wanted to place money in reserve for future use. We committed to placing \$500 in restriction, thus meeting this goal.

To meet our goal of \$1,000 this political season, we voted to donate \$100 to Janice Bowling's campaign, and \$100 to Phillip Johnson's campaign.

We've done a great job so far of meeting our goals for this year. Our next major goal is to complete the 250 hours of volunteer work.♦

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

The handling of the Republican headquarters on Saturday has been a great success. Thanks to all who have volunteered.

Other opportunities have been plentiful as the campaign nears. If you still haven't found somewhere to devote your time, Glen Casada is running a phone bank, the Bush campaign needs volunteers for door-to-door canvassing, Duncan Blount is looking for volunteers, and the Republican party is offering \$50 a day for volunteers in the final 72 hours of the campaign.♦

And Now For a Joke...

Submitted by Steve Outlaw

A teacher in a small Vermont town asks her class how many of them are John Kerry fans. Not really knowing what a John Kerry fan is, but wanting to be liked by the teacher, all the kids raise their hands except one boy. The teacher asks Johnny why he has decided to be different.

Johnny says, "I'm not a John Kerry fan."

The teacher says, "Why aren't you a John Kerry fan?"

Johnny says, "I'm a George Bush fan."

The teacher asks why he's a George Bush fan.

The boy says, "Well, my mom's a George Bush fan and my dad's a George Bush fan, so I'm a George Bush fan!"

The teacher is kind of angry, because this is Vermont, so she asks, "What If your mom was a moron and your dad was an idiot, what would that make you?"

Johnny says, "That would make me a John Kerry fan!"♦



Which would you choose?

Upcoming Events

- Oct 28 Early Voting Ends
- Nov 2 Election Day
Republican Victory Party
- Nov 9 November YR Meeting

Service Opportunities

Volunteers are needed for the following duties / events. Please contact Brandon Ryan if you are interested.

- The Bush campaign needs volunteers to help canvas neighborhoods door-to-door. Please contact Josh Edlin if you would like to help.
- Glen Casada is looking for volunteers to man phone banks on Thursday nights. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Brandon Ryan.

A number of positions with WCYR still haven't been filled. If you have an interest in any of the following positions, please contact Brandon Ryan.

- Fund-Raiser Chairman
- Liaison to U.S. Senator Alexander
- Media Chairman
- Constitution and By-Laws Chairman

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The Socialist Leanings of John Kerry

By Josh Edlin

A couple of times now, a liberal friend of mine has posited Sweden as an economic role model. Not wanting to be caught off-guard the next time, I researched Sweden. What I learned was shocking.

Easily the most socialist of the European nations, Sweden has long been held as a model of welfare state bliss by those on the left. The truth is less appealing.

After the Social Democrats came to power in 1932, Sweden appeared to be a Marxist utopia. The country was the fastest growing country in the world until 1950, due to their avoidance of World War II and low tax rates. However, during that twenty year period, tax rates inched up and social programs climbed. Sweden's economy peaked, and the downhill slide began.

Today, Sweden has an income tax rate of 52%, with employees paying 60% after other taxes. Unemployment reached as high as 8% in the 1990s, with no net gain in jobs since 1950. Small businesses abandoned Sweden, and no company founded since 1970 has climbed into Sweden's top 50 companies. By 2002, Sweden had dropped from 4th to 14th in per capita GDP, putting the median income below the median income of black Americans – the lowest income group in the U.S.

In terms of the workforce, 50% of Sweden's population either works for the government or accepts government subsidies. The average worker's productivity is 30% lower than his American counterpart. At any given time, 25% of the labor force can be expected to be on sick leave or disability.

The declining economy of Sweden has had its effects on social aspects as well. The health care system and the education system are failing. Over half of all children are born out of wedlock. Suicides are high, and the crime rate is far higher than similar nations.

Over the last ten years, Sweden has recognized its failures, and is slowly turning around. Small business are returning, thanks to relaxed tax laws. Social programs and expenditures have been cut, with more cuts expected. Sweden is on the road to recovery. However, many western nations continue to trod the path that Sweden mistakenly took.

Overall, my most frightening discovery about Sweden's economy is that no socialist government seized control in Sweden. No socialist agenda was adopted. Instead, good intentions and economic ignorance led Sweden down a slow path to destruction. Looking around me, I can see the same welfare measures, the same misguided intentions, and the same willful ignorance of sound economics, all embodied by the Democrat party.

Listening to the debates, I was horrified to hear John Kerry espouse principals strikingly similar to those held by Sweden's Social Democrats. If implemented, his programs would lead us farther down the path of the welfare state than any president since Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Senator Kerry wants to federally fund health care coverage. He wants to raise taxes on the wealthiest citizens, while cutting taxes for everyone else, a policy which would discourage small businesses much as it did in Sweden. John Kerry wants to subsidize college educations – a sure way to overburden the system while providing unequal benefits at taxpayer expense. He refuses to consider any changes to Social Security, a stance completely at odds with economists predictions and common sense. In total, John Kerry is dead wrong in his beliefs about economics, and what's even more frightening is that a large amount of the voting population is too.

Not much has been said about economic philosophy in this election, but it is an issue that could have effects lasting as long or longer than the security issues involving terrorism. John Kerry must be defeated, but there will always be another liberal ready to take his place. Until the voting public awakens to the dangers of bad economics, America will always be in danger of following Sweden, the victim of creeping socialism.♦