Earle Bowden

Drawing From An Editor's Life

More than Forty Years of Editorial Cartoons, Caricatures and Illustrations, Pensacola News Journal, 1950s-1990s
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Solitude on Perdido Key
Illustration, Gulf Islands: The Sands of All Time, 1994
Books by Jesse Earle Bowden


When You Reach September: An Editor’s West Florida Essays and Other Episodic Echoes, 1990.


Pensacola: Florida’s First Place City (Photographs by Gordon Norman Simons and Sandra L. Johnson), 1989.


DRAWING FROM AN EDITOR'S LIFE

MORE THAN FORTY YEARS OF EDITORIAL CARTOONS, CARICATURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS,
PENSACOLA NEWS JOURNAL, 1950s-1990s

Text and Art
JESSE EARLE BOWDEN

A JEB Book
1996
For the Bowdens: Mary Louise Clark Bowden, a good loving wife of forty five years who has been with me when the lines were drawn; Steven Earle Bowden, our first son fertile with good ideas, including inspiration for the book, Gulf Islands: The Sands of All Time; and Randall Clark Bowden, our second son who gave us the gift of granddaughter Jessica.

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A Jesse Earle Bowden book
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Cover illustration
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"Thy Will Be Done"
Rejoicing in a Limited Palette

I never set out to be a newspaperman. These daily first drafts of history crafted on a newsroom deadline would be where I launched my star-studded destiny.

In a barefooted boyhood, squeezing my toes in the soft sand of pig trails threading through the small farm crossovers of Altha, hidden in pined, river-veined West Florida, my eyes and my aspirations were lifted toward the classic literary and art world.

Once there, fame would flower and endure. Grand, sweeping epics, they would be: books and graphic artistry. At fourteen, I dreamed I was a major league southpaw of baseball strikeout fame as I fantasized through Willard Mullin’s classic cartoons in The Sporting News. Already I could hear applause.

Then I was novelists Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner and Ernest Hemingway, pecking out best sellers on Daddy’s old upright Underwood typewriter. And when the Saturday Evening Post arrived, I was illustrator Norman Rockwell, executing sweeping Americana paintings that stared at hungry magazine readers from every newsstand in America.

Sometimes I was Willard Mullin drawing sports cartoons; sometimes my comics-page hero, Milton Caniff, the Rembrandt of the Comics, inking adventure for “Terry and the Pirates” and “Steve Canyon,” or Al Capp with “Lil Abner,” or another master I admired, soldier-cartoonist Bill Mauldin with “Willie and Joe” slogging through the infantry mud of World War II.

Yes, I wanted to draw like adventure strip artist Alex Raymond and write foxhole columns on a portable Underwood like the reed-thin, bald-pated little Ernie Pyle, the GIs’ beloved journalist who died of a Japanese sniper’s bullet on an obscure Pacific island in World War II.

Yes, a boy dreaming of the big leagues of bookmaking. Indeed, a small-town boy scratching out stories and drawings in Big Chief notebooks when he should have been figuring his arithmetic or executing English-class essays on eternal spring and the fate of humankind or bagging groceries in Jesse Walden Bowden’s grocery store.

Then, I inhaled the sweet smell of ink cranking the mimeograph machine in the school principal’s office after drawing the cartoons and writing the stories for the AlHi Gab, the Altha High School newspaper that Clyde Bailey and I invented, published and sold to students and faculty.

By seventeen, I smelled real printer’s ink as the starry-eyed editor of the weekly Altha Times, feeding an ancient flatbed press after helping an alcoholic printer-publisher handset the type. The addiction was inescapable.

I was drawn to the vineyards of newspapering, fascinated by words and images emerging from the ink smell, paper clutter and typewriter tapping in old country print shops and hearing the sweet thumping roar of presses. There was the joy of my stories and columns and cartoons in print. Still, my dreams harnessed the arts: I would write and illustrate my own books.

But wait—

Daily deadlines became a part of me.

I was destined to spend more than forty-three years as a newspaper editor/cartoonist for the Pensacola News Journal. Florida’s westernmost city—where I honed the love of history and worked to preserve a strong heritage—was only one hundred and fifty Panhandle miles west of Altha.

Besides my News Journal editorial work, I’ve written and illustrated eight books and edited and illustrated others, including the Emerald Coast Review, the anthology of the West Florida Literary Federation.

This sketchbook is a gathering of memories, politics, public issues, editorial campaigns and the interesting people, politicians and personalities I’ve drawn and caricatured since September 30, 1953, the day I began my News Journal adventure.
Word editorialists comment with the turn of inked phrases: strong verbs pushing concrete nouns into sentences and finally a work of commentary.

Cartoonists satirize the world they see with ink lines and symbolic images. Sometimes, when necessary, broadaxing hypocrisy and pomposity.

Since 1965, when I succeeded Marion T. Gaines as editorial page editor of The Pensacola Journal and Sunday News Journal, I've tried to combine the two art forms in my work on opinion pages. As cartoonist, I've tried to follow a grand tradition of the masters, inspired by English artist William Hogarth, and Americanized by first, printer-revolutionist Benjamin Franklin, and then Thomas Nast, the father of American editorial cartooning in the nineteenth century.

We cartoonists pepper sketchy, or unfinished images with wit, parody, satire and imaginative absurdities aimed at the political process or other calamities of human endeavor.

If we prose editorialists are persuasive, our readers react; action can result.

If we cartoonists are lucky, readers either laugh, cry, complain, applaud or remain boringly silent. With a powerful message, however, readers may be moved to action.

After all, unlike editorials—requiring the task of reading—we have only seconds to visually convey an opinion-page idea.

Yet behind the scenes, creating analogous images at the drawing board, we turn our own fun and mischief into ink-lined characters peopling the rugged terrain of politics, public affairs and social trends.

We like to think we hit human greed, political mismanagement and public lethargy in the marketplace of ideas and statecraft. We seek to shape public opinion, galvanize public action; sometimes we try to expose politicians too big for their britches.

Said Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist Bill Mauldin: "If it's big, hit it. You can't go far wrong."

As political commentators, we are illustrators—exaggerating faces in caricature, casting politicians and policymakers in strange, humorous and fantasy environments. The landscape of the editorial cartoon can be fantasy, farce, burlesque or stark sinister symbolism instantly recognized as heroes and villains and virtuous crusaders clashing with villainous corruption.

Yet the cartoon is mostly a morning chuckle; in time, if the issue is recycled enough with a powerful message, the cartoon can unleash a public outcry or arouse anger and protest.

The editorial cartoon can be a strong point drawn from complex information in a few simple lines, deeply biting, chillingly candid, somehow without being personally offensive—an artistic function making the reader suddenly see familiar facts with a new eye.

The cartoon can be the cocktail or salad before the main meal—words we editors write.

As editor-cartoonist, I create images of a smaller world—mostly centered on Pensacola and the Gulf Coast region of Florida I know: West Florida, the rooftop of the peninsula known as the Panhandle; sometimes—for those who see the state as Orlando, magic kingdoms, Palm Beach, Miami and Tampa—"Forgotten Florida."

And I've observed the region—Florida's westernmost city and Escambia County—as an editor and cartoonist for the News Journal since the 1950s: on sports pages as sports editor until 1958; news pages and the editorial section "Focus" that I developed for Sunday editions while serving as news editor of The Pensacola News until I became the editorial page editor in 1965; and since 1966 as editorialist, senior editor and chairman of the editorial board.

This collection is drawn from thousands published on News Journal pages—most illustrative of the people, events and public issues of the region. Moreover, I coupled them with millions of words as editorialist, columnist and writer of feature and interpretative stories.

These images, drawn for the topical moment, portray nearly four decades. In the early years they were drawn larger for the engraver's camera and reduced and etched on zinc printing plates; by the 1970s, when the old metallic process vanished, they were drawn smaller and filmed for page paste-up; in the 1990s they are drawn even smaller and electronically scanned into the computer for full-page pagination.

The cartoons depict community issues and arguments that seem never to end, bridging a continuity of Pensacola history and social and political change. Often the issues are historically redundant in their graphic plea for public action I've envisioned for community, regional and state improvement. And, compiling the drawings for this book of my life's work, the images represent endless arguments, peaks and valleys, trial and
error, victories and defeats. Many cartoons are
moods of reverence for history and patriotism and
their place and attitude in historic Pensacola, a
U.S. Navy town known as the “Cradle of Naval
Aviation” and “Annapolis of the Air” since
1914—the seaport sharing with St. Augustine the
origins of Spanish Florida in the sixteenth century.

Most days—especially Sunday—the cartoon
fortifies the lead editorial focusing on local or
regional issues, either written by me or the many
other editorialists who helped shape News Journal
opinion from the 1960s to the 1990s. In 1966, my
first year as editor-in-chief, Charles Daw,
managing editor of the Pensacola News, assisted
me in writing editorials until he left the News
Journal for other challenges, including a long
career as editorial writer for the Jacksonville
Journal.

Then I chose City Hall reporter Paul Jasper
as editorial page editor of both morning and
evening newspapers. Jasper was a writer
impatient with pretense, little interested in
ceremony or social gatherings; a student of
governmental policy and city and county politics.
His words were on News, Journal and News
Journal opinion pages for twenty-three years until
his fatal heart attack while on the job in October
1989.

Through the years Jasper was assisted by
editorial associates Tom Bell, Prevost (Doc)
Coulter, Mike Henderson, Jim Norman, Carlton
Proctor and Jackie Brooks. By 1990, five years
after we combined the evening News and the
morning Journal into the morning News Journal,
a new era began with Kentuckian Joedy Isert as
the opinion page editor and Pensacola native Carl
Wernicke as the assistant opinion page editor.

As chief editorialist of a John H. Perry
newspaper from 1965 until 1969, I was
responsible for developing the opinion policy with
the assistance of Jasper and other editorial
writers under the direction of Publisher Braden
Ball.

The policy continued after 1969 — the year
Gannett Co. Inc. purchased the Pensacola
newspapers—under publishers James H. Jesse,
Clifford Barnhart, Paul Flynn and Kenneth
Andrews.

Yet by the 1970s we had developed an
editorial board of editors and managers with me as
chairman.

By 1990, under Publisher Denise Bannister,
the board was formalized to bring more
voices—including community members—into
discussions for the shaping of editorial policy.

Yet our philosophy through the years has
remained the same: the closer to home, the greater
the impact of editorials and cartoons. And the
greater the News Journal responsibility to speak
forcefully and honestly and with thought-
provoking candor and commitment to public good.
We believe opinion can be effective when focused
on our own region; we try to avoid
Afghanistanism—a newspaper cliche for the
editorialist’s safety of offering editorial advice for
decision-makers far from one’s own realistic
influence. Other editorialists may aim their
arsenal at thought leaders and well-read
individuals more intrigued by academic debate
than issues affecting Main Street, the
neighborhoods, suburbs and the West Florida
heartland.

Unlike cartoonists with national
distribution—caricaturing instantly recognizable
figures—I focus mainly on the homefront. The key
players are lesser known and require more exact
 likenesses and labeling; city and county
government, state politics, regional issues and
controversies.

I’ve strived to avoid an ideological
straitjacket in the shaping of editorial policy. My
own views reflect the belief in individual freedoms
espoused by Thomas Jefferson; through the years
the News Journal has voiced a moderate-to-
conservative and liberal-on-human rights theme
while exalting progressive ideas for the growth of
the region and more efficient local and state
government. Indeed, striving for improving the
quality of life for Pensacolians and West
Floridians.

Nationally syndicated cartoonists we have
published—among them Herblock, Mauldin,
Ranan Lurie, Jeff MacNelly, Jim Borgman and
Gary Brookins—bring readers their personal views
on national and international topics. But as
Mauldin once said, local cartoonists are more
effective in causing action—an idea I’ve used for
Sunday pages and on other days when the News
Journal addresses major issues affecting readers
of our circulation region.

Editorial cartoons are mostly big-city
phenomenons. Small or medium-sized dailies too
long thought they couldn’t afford their own
political cartoonists. In my case—employed by a
newspaper of more than 65,000 daily and 80,000
Sunday circulation and relying solely on
syndicated cartoons—producing artwork was from the beginning secondary to editing and writing responsibilities. Yet with dual duties, cartooning is a pleasant challenge I crowd into a busy week as an editor and writer and a community activist. Drawing is rewarding therapy, partially satisfying my youthful yearning to be a writer-illustrator.

Moreover, through the years I’ve championed American liberty and patriotism with traditional symbolism; crusaded for preservation and promotion of Pensacola’s four-centuries-old historical heritage, and campaigned vigorously for protecting the natural environment, quality redevelopment of Pensacola’s bayfront and the continuing economic renaissance of the historic core of the city.

Whether it’s “dirt road politics,” better highways, saving historical landmarks, revitalizing downtown Pensacola or quality education, the cartoon images convey my conviction about the city and region where I’ve been privileged to live and work and draw pictures since arriving as a twenty-five-year-old sports writer.

I was an eager, energetic former U.S. Air Force second lieutenant when I drew my first News Journal sports cartoon. On the dining table of my mother-in-law’s Panama City home I used a crow quill pen, No. 3 Windsor and Newton brush and a lithographic crayon to draw the helmeted head of fullback Ed Sears, Pensacola’s leading schoolboy football hero, on coquille board and wreathed the portrait with smaller cartoony characters in the grand style of Willard Mullin. The cartoon was published October 4, 1953.

The Sunday cartoon became a regular sports page feature in the 1950s; I often drew sports personalities to illustrate a Sunday column or personality feature.

Sports cartoons as drawn by masters Mullin, Lou Darvas, Murray Olderman and Karl Hubenthal—shaded with a crayon, sometimes Ben Day—were still fashionable during my sportswriting days. The hand-drawn sports illustration has vanished, and today’s slick, almost-perfect computer-crafted graphics—like many other newspaper cartoon features and illustrations—lack the spark, spontaneity and versatility of the sure hand of superior craftsmen like Mullin, Darvas and Olderman and Hubenthal.

Across the years, I developed a fondness for Pensacola, Florida, American and Southern history—especially the Civil War. After age fifty, I began writing and illustrating books about the city and West Florida. More, I explored new techniques in cartooning. The ink lines, caricaturing and cartoon style evolved.

But not my unorthodox pattern of creating cartoons—mostly during quiet, less-pressured off-duty hours at home. Often I work at a small dining table in our den, a late-night habit causing mini-grief with the joy. My wife Mary Louise still complains of India ink blackening carpets or souring supper.

My art training was limited; cartooning has been self-taught. As a teenager, I completed two Washington School of Art correspondence lessons, drew horses, cowboys, soldiers and guns in my school notebooks and dreamed of enrolling in the Chicago Academy of Fine Arts.

I admired the every-wrinkle-must-show chiaroscuro style of Milton Caniff, and the superb pen-and-ink craftsmanship of Al Capp’s “Lil Abner,” Alex Raymond’s “Flash Gordon” and “Rip Kirby,” Burne Hogarth’s “Tarzan,” Hal Foster’s “Prince Valiant” and Walt Kelly’s “Pogo.” And the editorial cartoons of Herblock, Daniel R. Fitzpatrick, David Low and Vaughn Shoemaker and classic paintings of Norman Rockwell.

I was inspired by Mauldin, who won his first Pulitzer Prize in 1945 for his foxhole humor of two infantry GIs in classic cartoons that helped define World War II for the homefront Americans. The left-handed New Mexican cartoonist replaced the retiring Fitzpatrick on the St. Louis Post Dispatch and won his second Pulitzer Prize in 1962. Later syndicated as the Chicago Sun Times cartoonist, Mauldin wrote and illustrated fifteen books before his retirement in 1992, including classics Up Front, Back Home, Bill Mauldin’s Army and The Brass Ring.

Yet, torn by ambitions of becoming either an illustrator or cartoonist, and equally dreaming of a writing career, I studied journalism at Florida State University. Struggling through courses in art composition, lettering and beginning oil painting, I became disenchanted with abstract and impressionistic art then in vogue in the FSU fine arts department. I preferred realistic illustration. But, already drawn to newspapering, I earned a journalism degree and minored in political science.

As sports editor and then associate editor of the FSU Florida Flambeau, I drew cartoons for the student newspaper and supplied freelance sports feature stories and cartoons for regional weeklies and the daily Panama City News Herald.
Writer
Thomas
Clayton
Wolfe:
Master of Description

Author
William
Faulkner:
The Master

Novelist
Ernest
Hemingway:
Master of Dialogue
I developed a short-lived *Flambeau* adventure strip, "Rod Carson," a pipe-smoking, trenchcoat-clad international television journalist modeled closely on Caniff's "Steve Canyon." Yet dreams of syndication ended when I learned the rigors and discipline of creating continuity in a highly competitive field.

I found sports and editorial cartooning more realistic for pursuing my dream of becoming a writer-illustrator. In 1950 I wrote a sports column and drew sports cartoons regularly for the *News Herald* before entering the U.S. Air Force during the Korean conflict.

An Air Force journalist at Mountain Home AFB, Idaho, I helped launch the base newspaper, *The Planesman,* as the first editor I drew portraiture cartoons of base personalities as a regular feature. Later in Officers Candidate School at Lackland AFB Base at San Antonio, I was inspired by the work of talented cartoonist Dick Locher, an upper classman whose striking cartoons illustrated *Shavetail,* the 1951 OCS yearbook. A syndicated editorial cartoonist with the *Chicago Tribune,* Locher continues the tradition of "Dick Tracy" creator Chester Gould as illustrator of the detective continuity strip.

When the Korean conflict ended, I joined the *News Journal* as a $65-a-week sports writer and cartoonist. For cartoons, Editor Marion T. Gaines paid $10 extra that he drew by petty cash voucher. But the pay was secondary; my foot and drawing board were in the door; my sports cartoons on daily newspaper pages represented compensation not measurable by paycheck.

Across the years I've used pebble board and duo-tone Craftint before returning to the loose, sketchy lines and crosshatching of early pen-and-ink illustration.

I strive for textures with lines and stippling on bristol board, using a variety of instruments—watercolor brushes, crow quill and Speedball pens, inexpensive cartridge fountain pens filled with India ink and ballpoint pens and markers with waterproof ink. I begin with a graphite pencil sketch, then apply the ink; indeed, pencil lines strengthened by photocopying will reproduce with the boldness of ink.

I never thought much about style, although in the early years I drew large, necessitating heavily inked lines for reduction for sharper hot-metal reproduction. Heavier lines remain; I break all rules and recycle recognizable symbols—Thomas Nast's Uncle Sam and Republican elephant and the Democratic donkey in historical-scene analogy.

I'm more comfortable with the more symbolic elements from an earlier age when cartoons dominated pages with powerful messages rather than elevating biting, gag-panel humor above the editorial statement.

The illustrative impact and clarity of the viewpoint of local cartoons can be more effective for local topics than clever gags poking fun at national news makers.

Among many successful *News Journal* editorial and cartoon campaigns was establishment of Gulf Islands National Seashore, which I first suggested in columns, editorials and cartoons in 1965. More than fifty cartoons advocating the national park helped illustrate a six-year editorial campaign that pitched pro-beach development advocates against a rising grassroots environmental movement. In January 1971, President Richard Nixon signed the congressional act establishing the seacoast recreational and historical park stretching from Santa Rosa Island and Pensacola harbor west to the Mississippi barrier islands. By the 1980s and nineties the park became one of the nation's most visited national seashores.

In the 1970s and 1980s I turned more to caricature for humorous portraiture of local and state newsmakers.

Many of these cartoons now hang in homes and offices of Pensacolians and on walls of businesses.

Bill (McGuire) Martin, founder of the popular McGuire's Irish Pub, chose to decorate the walls of the Irish Politician's Club with my cartoons of Pensacola and West Florida and state politicians and personalities—many who became fun-loving members who continue the American tradition of gathering to talk politics and hear visiting politicians.

Many of these cartoons and illustrations have been published in books, including six historical books I have written on Pensacola and the West Florida region and *The Write Way: An Editor's Guide for Students of Writing,* a textbook I wrote and illustrated for journalistic writing courses I teach as a faculty associate at the University of West Florida.

Together these drawings are an editor's thematic sketchbook in the fight for good government, preservation of heritage and belief in
The quality of life in a Florida region known as Florida's Last Frontier.

The word cartoon comes to us from the Italian and French words for “card” and “paper.” Originally, a “cartoon” was a preliminary, full-sized sketch for a work of art, but done on paper. This sketch was then transferred to the wall, ceiling, or large canvas where the final work of art was completed.

With the coming of the printing press, “cartoon” took on another meaning. It was a sketch which could be mass produced and transmitted widely.

Today, of course, the word cartoon usually connotes humor, almost synonymous with words “comics” and “funnies.”

The editorial cartoon has a marvelous factor of continuity with abstracted and emphasized likenesses becoming more real than photographs. Yet cartoons can be deeply biting and chillingly candid without being personally offensive.

The messages of editorial (sometimes called political) cartoons are meant to sway public opinion. Rather than restating the news in graphic form, a cartoon should depict a political, social, or an economic problem and, by implication, offer some solution. The power lies in its analogy. Rather than depicting the issue or problem in literal terms, the artist likens it to something else, reducing complex issues to simple if not simplistic terms, and invites readers to stretch their imagination.

The typical editorial cartoon attacks bumbling if not devious public officials. Or it deflates a stuffed shirt. Caricature is the technique—the art of making people look like them with humorous distortion. Once a high and dastardly art, caricature emphasizes telltale features through exaggeration that is often eminently unfair, but necessary to make a character instantly recognizable.

Originally developed for magazines (Thomas Nast, for instance, drew for Harper’s Weekly), editorial cartoons became more closely tied to newspapers after the development of metallic engraving in the 1890s. The woodcut process was too prolonged for cartoons. Besides, newspapers were divided into columns, and printers didn’t like to break the vertical lines (called rules) and run material across columns.

A staff of engravers copied the drawings on boxwood blocks, several engravers often working on the same picture. The wood blocks were bolted together to form the completed picture, taking as many as forty blocks for a double-page spread. From sketch pad to printed page often took more than four weeks.

Yet the woodcut in the 1860s demonstrated the power of graphic content. Called “special artists” who went onto battlefields, Alfred Waud, Theodore R. Davis and Edwin Forbes brought the Civil War to life for readers in the elaborate woodcuts in Harper’s Weekly and Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper.

Early twentieth century newspapers such as the Chicago Tribune, Milwaukee Journal and Nashville Banner—even the Orlando Sentinel and Tampa Tribune—ran cartoons regularly on their front pages.

Early newspaper publishers—typically William Randolph Hearst, Joseph Patterson and Colonel Robert McCormick—hired cartoonists to voice their strong political opinions. The Chicago Tribune, for example, started running its editorial cartoons on the front page in 1903. In the 1940s, Colonel McCormick published full-color cartoons to increase Tribune readership. The Orlando Sentinel ran page-one cartoons in color in the 1940s.

Similarly political magazines such as Masses and the Liberator took committed stands sharply illustrated by cartoon satire.

Traditionally the editorial cartoonist usually reflected the point of view of the editor and the publisher, or of an editorial board. Editors usually have final approval on cartoonists’ work before publication, but many who attain national syndication—such as independents Bill Mauldin and Pat Oliphant—are published for their own visual commentary. Indeed newspaper editorial pages in the last forty years have become more a palette of many hues and a blend of opposing views to sustain readership.

The English artist William Hogarth (1697-1764) is usually considered the first cartoonist in Western history. Hogarth went beyond individual caricatures, which the Italians had introduced, and drew general scenes of humor and biting satire. The classic Hogarth was, in a sense, the first political cartoon, and his narrative cartoon stories presaged the modern comic strip.

Thomas Rowlandson (1756-1827) and his contemporary, James Gillray (1757-1815), followed in Hogarth’s footsteps and created an ever-widening audience for the cartoon. Soon the
cartoon, as a form of social protest and political persuasion, spread throughout Europe and eventually around the world.

In Spain, Goya (1746-1828) established himself as a painter of great power. But he also drew cartoons which put him at odds with the monarch, Fernando VII. After repeated difficulties, Goya moved to France, where he died in exile.

In France, Honoré Daumier (1808-1879) raised cartooning to a fine art—and it landed him in prison. His caricatures of King Louis-Phillippe as a bloated monster were not appreciated by the monarch. After one prison sentence, Daumier ran into trouble again for his cartoon attacks on the French legislature.

When a stiff news censorship law was passed in 1835, Daumier turned to the general satire of social mores rather than continue his pointed political caricatures. He returned to his attack again, however, during the reign of Napoleon III. Today, Daumier is recognized as “the patron saint” of political cartooning. But he died in obscurity; his enormous contribution to cartooning was only recognized in retrospect.

To a large extent, the style and power of the political cartoon were set by Goya and Daumier. Their influence, both in subject and treatment, can be traced right down to the giants of the field such as Daniel Fitzpatrick, Herblock, Mauldin and Oliphant.

In colonial America, many anti-British cartoons were drawn by artists who—perhaps wisely—remained anonymous. But Benjamin Franklin’s “Join or Die” cartoon in 1754 is often reproduced as the first American political cartoon.

Thomas Nast (1840-1902) hacked away at Boss Tweed and Tammany Hall, setting a standard of bludgeoning political enemies.

“Stop them damn pictures,” demanded William Marcy Tweed to his henchmen. “I don’t care so much what the papers write about me. My constituents can’t read. But, damn it, they can see pictures.” Similarly, Homer Davenport (1867-1912) slashed away at President William McKinley and the political machine of Mark Hanna.

During the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln called Nast “our best recruiting sergeant.” Nast introduced many images still used today, including the modern Santa Claus and the Republican elephant. To a large extent, Nast showed the power and defined the potential of the American political cartoonist.

Nast’s most famous work appeared in Harper’s Weekly; late in life he published Nast’s Weekly. But with the emergence of giant metropolitan dailies, political cartooning split into two traditions: the editorial-page of daily newspapers and, eventually, the multi-paper syndicate; and political journals and magazines.

Stars among the newspaper cartoonists included John McCutcheon, Rollin Kirby, Jay (Ding) Darling, Nelson Harding, Daniel R. Fitzpatrick and Edmund Duffy.

Cartoonists who worked for political magazines reached smaller audiences, but they introduced issues and art styles which influenced succeeding cartoonists. Prominent in this tradition were Art Young, Boardman Robinson, John Sloan and Robert Minor. Minor and Robinson especially pioneered the use of crayon and massive solid figures, a style reminiscent of Daumier and Goya, and an approach followed by later masters such as Fitzpatrick, Herblock and Mauldin.

The post-World War II period was dominated by Herblock of the Washington Post, Bill Mauldin of the St. Louis Post Dispatch and later the Chicago Sun-Times, and Paul Conrad of the Los Angeles Times.

In the 1970s, a new generation of political cartoonists emerged, led by Pat Oliphant, an Australian, first with the Denver Post and then the Washington Star, and later syndicated worldwide.

Close in popularity was Jeff MacNelly, first of the Richmond, Va., News Leader; then the Chicago Tribune. MacNelly is considered conservative, a rarity among cartoonists. Others of the new generation include Jim Morin, Mike Peters, Tony Auth, Don Wright, Doug Marlette, Paul Szep, Dick Locher and Jack Ohman.

The trend toward rapier wit rather than broadaxe attack is underscored by Garry Trudeau’s Pulitzer Prize for editorial cartooning in 1975 for his comic strip “Doonesbury.” The trend was verified by the selection of Jules Feiffer’s offbeat satire for the 1986 Pulitzer and of Berke Breathed’s strip, “Bloom County,” for the 1987 Pulitzer.

In the 1990s Bruce Tinsley created “Mallard Fillmore,” a horizontal satirical strip that offers a conservative counterbalance to the more liberal “Doonesbury.”
Similarly, MacNelly moves easily from the editorial page to the comics page with his syndicated strip “Shoe,” Marlette created the southern-fried satirical strip “Kudzu” and Peters originated “Mother Goose & Grimm.”

There were fewer ideological cartoonists in the last years of the twentieth century, and almost none specifically Democratic or Republican. Yet, emphasizing humor rather than stark symbolism, the new generation’s light touch reflects the changing role of the daily newspaper in American life. By comparison, the heavier touch of practitioners in the 1930s, forties and fifties had less impact.

As the press barons passed from the scene, newspaper editorial pages were less the voice of a strong publisher and more the collective views of editorial boards. At the same time, the trend toward mergers created more and more one-newspaper towns, and more multi-newspaper companies like Gannett and Knight-Ridder. The city with one Republican and one Democratic paper, or one liberal and one conservative paper, became increasingly rare.

Yet I’m pleased cartoonists have moved away from the more vertical, crayon-solid figure and somber comment. Influenced by modern illustrators such as Ronald Searle, one of the best British satirists, they tend toward sketchy, fine-line caricature, approaching their targets with rapier wit rather than hammering symbolism.

Newspaper cartoons evolved by feeding the greater demand for humor and graphic illustration that crystallizes the complex events of the day. Still the editorial cartoon may inform, and may persuade, but above all, it must attract readers to the editorial page.¹

Let’s face it. Faces fascinate cartoonists. Often it’s the big-head, small-body—life bigger than life, parts stretched and contorted for humorous image—that sparks the humorous exaggeration we call caricature.

And, if we cartoonists are lucky, there is enough of a likeness to spark a chuckle, or “Yep, that’s him.” Or her.

More, in this sense caricature should not be to provoke or make fun or demean the person. Cartoonists painting the global canvas embellish faces so that, in time, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, Bill Clinton, Ross Perot and Saddam Hussein and other figures look like their own caricatures. But caricature is a tougher line to master when dealing with your Pensacola neighbors.

Their faces, while familiar, are not sudden, recognizable images. A truer likeness is needed, even though the big-head small-body personification is an effort to convey personality. Caricature has been romanticized as a powerful art form capable of affecting change, exposing corruption, and even toppling governments. Yet rarely does it produce such altruistic triumphs. The caricature does not have to be an offensive weapon, even though the likenesses should be rife with aesthetic appeal.

It can be pure entertainment for the cartoonist and for those whose faces emerge in humorous perception. And should be.

I’ve had fun drawing caricatures for Escambia County school classes, conducting cartooning workshops at the Pensacola Museum of Art and teaching caricaturing and cartooning at the downtown center of Pensacola Junior College.

My cartoons have been exhibited in two one-artist shows at the Pensacola Museum of Art, a Seville Square gallery and a retrospective show in the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum.

These cartoons and drawings—more than 1,250 from the thousands I’ve drawn for the News Journal—have been fun for this compulsive doodler. The faces on these pages are among hundreds that fill my sketchbooks and enliven my memories of the many nights I struggled to capture a facial likeness and generate ideas.

The left hand of an editor who draws his own cartoons is never still.

As far as I know, having researched the field and asked editors, working cartoonists and syndicate officials, I’m unique as a senior news executive drawing his own editorial-page cartoons.

Indeed, veteran syndicate cartoonist Jud Hurd, editor of Cartoonist Profiles, a national magazine published in Connecticut, asked me to write and illustrate an article about my dual profession.

Hurd said it was “an almost unheard-of situation when a newspaper editor also does his own cartoons.” The story, “An Editor as His Own Cartoonist,” illustrated with five of my cartoons, including caricatures of John Wayne and Ronald Reagan, was published in the September 1990 edition.
One News Journal wag, aware cartoonists usually work for editors and many still must clear artwork through an editor before publication, said, "He's the only cartoonist I know who approves his own work."

Maybe so.

I consider myself fortunate.

But as editor and cartoonist I've tried to illustrate policies developed by the editorial board rather than basing the cartoon solely on personal ideology.

Naturally, the cartoonist uses weapons—humor, satire, fantasy—not always suited to written arguments.

The publisher understands that when a cartoonist satirizes events and event makers, the graphic will often be more a needler than a cheerleader.

The effective cartoonist refines the material until only the ridiculous essence remains.

The publisher, as chief executive of the newspaper, and responsible for its content, has the final word.

None of the six publishers I've worked for has ever exercised veto power.

But I always heed common sense. I respect the freedom of expression granted an editor entrusted with overseeing the newspaper's institutional voice. Even though there may be philosophical disagreement, there should be no surprises for the publisher on the editorial page.

Yet these cartoons are my creations. They spring from my own convictions as an editorialist and, fortunately, as the chairman of the editorial board.

Some editors who work without cartoonists say they've never found one who could draw what they desire for their editorial pages.

At least since I became the editorial page editor in 1965, and for more than thirty years I've been the senior editor, I've not faced that problem.

The editorial cartoons in this book are clustered as a chronology from 1953 to the mid-1990s. Many unpublished faces taken from my sketchbooks—some unrelated to the flow of the editorial cartoons—are sprinkled throughout the book for graphic variety.

They include a gallery of News Journal personalities and other Pensacolians, politicians and community leaders, beginning of page 283.

The page narrative preceding each decade of drawings focuses on the issues covered in the cartoons. I hope the summaries give meaning and context to many of the drawings. They chronicle the events and the decision-makers of my long, rewarding adventure.

2. "Mauldin is retiring from editorial cartooning," Editor & Publisher, March 21, 1992, 52.
The first Bowden cartoon drawn for the Pensacola News Journal: Burly, hard-charging Ed Sears, Pensacola High School fullback voted Florida’s No. 1 Player in 1953. Sears was selected for the high school All-America team for his performance as the backfield star and defensive stalwart for Coach Jim Scoggins’ talented Tigers. The cartoon was published October 4, 1953.
The 1950s: A Hand in Sports

In the 1950s, as sports editor-cartoonist, I portrayed many superstars of a Pensacola decade dominated by high school and junior college athletics. I campaigned for the revival of the Pensacola Open golf tournament, which came in 1956, and the return of professional baseball, which followed in 1957.

I suggested Pensacola resurrect the Professional Golfers Association tournament, which offered a $12,500 purse at Pensacola Country Club, beginning a long tradition of the Pensacola Sports Association and Pensacola on the national tour.

Pensacolians cherished the baseball memories of Wally Dashiell’s Pensacola Fliers in the Class B Southeastern League, which had vanished after the Fliers’ championship 1950 season. I lamented summers without organized baseball, profiling baseball icons of a passed era, among them Dashiell and former Boston Red Sox outfielder Russell Scarritt, in nostalgic columns and cartoons.

Radio station owner Fred Davis invested in a Pensacola franchise for the Class D Alabama-Florida League; the city built Admiral Mason Park for the Pensacola Dons’ first season in 1957. The ball park—now the location of the Vietnam War “Wall South” Memorial—replaced Legion Field, home of the Fliers in the Depression ’30s and post-war ’40s.

Coach James A. (Jim) Scoggins filled Tiger Stadium with his dynastic Pensacola High School Tigers. Coach Shorty Sneed heeded his winning pace with PHS Tiger basketball champions. Coach Louis Ross’ Pensacola Junior College Pirates represented collegiate competition, sharing the matchbox gymnasium at the old Pensacola High School building at Lee Square with Sneed’s PHS Tigers.

Football coaches Bryant (Punk) Gorday as Scoggins’ PHS assistant and Ralph Chauldron at Tate High School were emerging in a new generation of schoolboy coaches in the 1950s, portending the coming of Escambia, Woodham and Pine Forest high schools. Radio personality Don Griffith, Pensacola’s melodic voice of sports, broadcast PHS football games and the Pensacola Dons on WCOA. The climactic event of the fall was the News Journal-sponsored West Florida Sports Banquet that Bodie McCrory, Pensacola News sports editor, and I developed to honor the region’s top stars. The first dinner in DeFuniak Springs and others in Pensacola and Fort Walton Beach began a tradition that continued under other sponsorships.

I drew baseball cartoons, including Casey Stengel, manager of the New York Yankees, and many Pensacolians: amateur golf champion Jack Colter, inspiring the Pensacola Sports Association to underwrite the comeback tournament for Pensacola’s return to the PGA national tour; witty, inventive Jimmy Hitzman, city athletic director, promoting youth sports and softball tournaments that dominated Pensacola summers; youth baseball coach Bill Bond, revered by generations of youngsters with a long and honored career as community activist before retirement in the 1990s. The Bill Bond Baseball League honors his name; in 1996 his life’s work was saluted with the Spirit of Pensacola Award.

Pensacola businessman John Paul Jones, who built PHS an athletic facility for track and field, was honored as the first PSA Sportsman of the Year in 1955, beginning a long PSA tradition.

At the city-built baseball stadium at Ninth Avenue and Romana Street—fronting Pensacola Bay—Tennessean Lou Fitzgerald began the first of his three years as manager of the Dons, competing with Fort Walton Beach, Panama City, Graceville, Dothan and Montgomery. The Dons later became the Angels, honoring the Navy’s Blue Angels; then the Senators. The AFL vanished after the 1962 season.

These images symbolize my cartoons of the ’50s, a prologue for later decades when Pensacola produced many champions, among them 1976 U.S. Open golf champion Jerry Pate, major league pitcher Don Sutton; Dallas Cowboys superstar Emmitt Smith and boxing champion Roy Jones Jr.
In the Fifties, James A. Scoggins earned his legend at Pensacola High School. A four-sports Vanderbilt University athlete and former assistant to the Commodores' fabled Red Sanders, Scoggins developed a college-quality football program at PHS. The Tigers were among Florida's high school gridiron giants, battling Miami, Jacksonvillle, New Orleans and Birmingham powerhouses in inter-sectional games before overflow crowds of 9-14,000 people in the PHS stadium that later would be named for one of Florida's winningest coaches. His football record—84 victories, 13 defeats and three ties—remains among Florida's best for ten or more seasons.
Stephen Russell Mallory Scarritt scrambled from Pensacola sandlots through the minors to play left field three years (1929-31) with the Boston Red Sox. He ended a fifteen-year baseball career in 1937. He was a Muldon Ford manager when I interviewed him for a cartoon-illustrated profile published May 1, 1955.
Pensacola's Mr. Baseball

Wally Dashiell,

Former owner of the defunct Fliers, says Southern Association ball could—under conditions—be brought to Pensacola!

Too bad them bones can't rise again.

Coulda sworn I heard a rumble.

The fan...

R.I.P.

Pensacola baseball—1950—

Rose
Sugar
Orange
Cotton

17
STRAIGHT-SHOOTING
Jim
TAYLOR
OF
PJC...

HE'S ALWAYS ON THE BALL!

...PATROLS THE ENEMY'S BOARDS WITH THE BALL-HAWKING PROWESS OF HIS PYRAMID-COUNTERPARTS OF OLD!

He's an ex-Tate Aggie!

Dickie Dunlap

THIS LAD'S GOT HIS GAME DOWN TO A TEE!

PENSACOLA HIGH'S GOLF SENSATION—THE STATE PREP CHAMP

Ralph Chaudron, Tate High School
College coaches joined area coaches and athletes to honor the stars at the annual West Florida Football Banquet sponsored by the Pensacola News Journal in the 1950s.
PLAYER OF THE YEAR
Jon Kachin

A TIGER... A SCHOLAR... A GENTLEMAN

Jimmy Hitzman,
City Athletic Director, 1954

COACH OF THE YEAR
THAT'S MARION CRAIG!

PORT ST. JOE
HE TRULY MADE ME WHAT I AM...

John Paul Jones,
First Sportsman of the Year, 1955

HIS SHARKS WON THE NORTHWEST FLORIDA CONFERENCE TITLE!
1956
THE PENSACOLA OPEN

TICKETS
ANYONE?

THE FIRST HOLE (PAR #15,000)

GOLFSOM'S BEST

PENSACOLA OPEN

WHOW!

SIXTEEN TONS

JACK "COLTER AND THE SPORTS ASSOCIATION" BOWDEN

EARLE BOWDEN
Lou Fitzgerald
First Manager, Pensacola Dons, 1957
WCOA Radio's Don Griffith

...Enthusiastic Word Slinger is Pensacola's Sports Voice!

RARE? HE GOES ON LIKE THAT 24 HOURS A DAY!

Grif's in Rare Voice!

Doug Sanders' Celebrity Golf Match Today

Bob Hope

Coach Punk Gordy Phsy
As sports editor of the FSU Florida Flambeau in 1948, I had called for the brash new Florida State University Seminoles to battle the University of Florida Gators. My rival on the Florida Alligator retorted: “How dare that little girls school in Tallahassee, challenging the mighty Gators!” The 1958 cartoon marks the beginning of the long state rivalry. The Gators won 21-7.
The 1960s: Editor as His Own Cartoonist

As news editor of The Pensacola News at the beginning of the 1960s, I focused on the Cold War, The Bomb, President John F. Kennedy and East-West tensions, with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev and Chinese Premier Mao Tse-tung as the Communist menace. So too was Cuban revolutionist Fidel Castro, who embraced Soviet communism and imported Soviet missiles aimed at the United States.

There was Kennedy, assassinated in Dallas in 1963; the sweeping butter-and-guns Great Society programs that mired Lyndon Baines Johnson in the Vietnam quagmire; Barry Goldwater conservatism; Alabama populist George Wallace trying to be president; the comeback and Watergate downfall of Richard Milhous Nixon, who we endorsed twice; then after Watergate we called for his resignation.

By 1966, as editor-in-chief, I hit more state and Pensacola-area issues: better West Florida highways; completion of Interstate 10 as promised by Governor Haydon Burns (1965-67); the turbulent, comedic years of Governor Claude Roy Kirk Jr. (1967-71), shaking up the Tallahassee Democratic establishment, trying to be Nelson Rockefeller’s presidential running mate; and defying educators during the devastating 1968 teachers’ strike that would eventually open the door to collective bargaining. Dubbed Claudius Maximus, Kirk ignored cabinet members and throttled legislation. Senator Goldwater, speaking at Pensacola Junior College, symbolized West Florida’s growing Republicanism; many Pensacolians bemoaned big government but feared Pentagon military cutbacks.

One-man, one-vote reapportionment drained the Pork Chop Gang power from the more urban Florida Legislature. The 1968 Constitution allowed Escambia County to validate home rule, but in 1970 voters rejected consolidation of city and county government and an appointed school superintendent. The bitter defeat foreshadowed two more failed efforts to enact charter county government and and change to an appointed school administrator.

The University of West Florida (1967) began the promising era for preserving Pensacola’s historical landmarks, developing the cultural arts, building a tourism industry with the new Escambia Promotion and Development Commission that the News Journal advocated as a city-county expansion of the Municipal Advertising Board. The new Westinghouse plant at Laura Point in 1967 heightened hopes for more industrial expansion.

I pushed for the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board (1967) and the creation of the Pensacola (Seville Square) Historic District. More than forty cartoons on Gulf Islands National Seashore supported preservationists against developers and anti-government opponents who preferred local control of Santa Rosa Island. We pushed for city beautification and preserving heritage trees after the Cervantes Street oaks were removed amid loud protests. Cartoons emphasized port and bayfront development, the governmental center, arts council and a modern cultural center.

Student violence of the 1960s boiled into a climactic community confrontation at Escambia High School in the 1970s; the school nickname Rebels and the school’s Confederate battle flag were abandoned in a healing compromise. Discontent and student unrest stained the nation’s college campuses as Vietnam war protests seized the emotions of the ’60s generation.

Polluted Pensacola Bay and Bayou Texar and overbuilding along Carpenter’s Creek fed appeals for an environmental cleanup. The News Journal exposed Escambia commissioners taking free meals daily at the county prison camp—a “dirt-road politics” caricature prevalent into the 1990s.

The county administrator became a precarious position in the uncertainty of ever-present Pothole Politics.

Selection of popular Reinhardt Holm as mayor in 1967 lessened City Hall friction between progressives and others influenced by the strong city employee lobby. The respected Holm, advocate of the national seashore and a leader for historic preservation and economic expansion, died of a heart attack his first year as mayor.

Long a civic leader and city councilman, Holm set a high standard for dignified leadership that would be upheld by future leaders like Eugene Elebash, Warren Briggs, Barney Burks and Vince Whibbs, who served fourteen years and was designated mayor emeritus.
Nikita Khrushchev chose Berlin, in Soviet-controlled East Germany, as his flash point of the Cold War. In August 1961 the Russians erected a concrete and barbed-wire barrier down the middle of the city, cutting the Western sector from the Eastern zone. Only war would remove the symbol of the West's helplessness. And East and West played the deadly spy game.
Nikita Khrushchev, Premier, Soviet Union

Mao Tse-tung
Communist China

Jawaharial Nehru
of India

Peace and Prosperity
In 1963 President John F. Kennedy visited the Berlin wall, supporting the freedom seekers, declaring "Ich bin ein Berliner" ("I am a Berliner").
Revolutionary Fidel Castro toppled Cuban dictator Fulgencio Batista in January 1959; the Soviet threat haunted the last days of the Eisenhower Administration.
HIS SERENADE SOUNDS GREAT BUT THE SERVICE IS LOUSY
By 1960 the situation in Cuba deeply troubled President Kennedy. Castro seized American property, nationalized the nation's major industries, cozied up to the Soviet Union and turned the island into a police state. Cuban refugees flooded into South Florida. The Communist hammer and sickle symbol began casting a shadow over Florida, only ninety miles north—right on America's doorstep.
Even Nikita Khrushchev and the Soviets were unsure about the mysterious Mao Tse-tung in the 1960s.
YOU CAN TEASE HIM BUT DON'T RILE HIM!

MAO

U.S.A.
President Eisenhower had secretly ordered the training of anti-Castro refugees living in Florida for an assault on Cuba. In March 1961, CIA Director Allen Dulles urged the new president, John Kennedy, to set loose the clandestine force on the island nation.

The Bay of Pigs invasion was a fiasco. While eight Cuban-­piloted B-26 bombers fired on Castro's airfields, the dictator rounded up thousands of suspected dissidents, ending hopes for an uprising. On the night of April 17, 1961, fourteen hundred troops landed on the island. But Castro sent 20,000 Cuban regulars to block the drive inland. By nightfall of the third day, the Cuban exiles were still trapped on the beaches; Castro had won, embarrassing the Kennedy administration.
November 22, 1963 was a date Americans can never forget. The assassination of President John Fitzgerald Kennedy in Dallas shocked the nation. These cartoons reflect the ever-present evil that can strike a nation. On that day, after the 1:00 p.m. bulletin of the President’s death, I replated the first four pages of the first edition of The Pensacola News for an Extra. In less than two hours after his death, more than 5,700 copies of the News extra were sold on the streets of Pensacola.
Following theDallas tragedy, Texan Lyndon Baines Johnson, former majority leader of the Senate and President Kennedy's vice president, assumed the national leadership. Kennedy's New Frontier turned to LBJ's Great Society and a mountain of social legislation with massive spending programs that echoed into the 1990s.
President Johnson deftly used his persuasiveness on Congress to enact his sweeping Great Society programs—despite opposition from conservatives, including Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater. One outspoken opponent to his aggressive civil rights policies was George Corley Wallace, who had become governor of Alabama in 1962. Known as the "Fightin' Little Judge," the Clayton, Alabama populist was chiefly known for his strident, stand-in-the-schoolhouse-door resistance to school integration. The onetime Golden Gloves boxer was a law-and-order disciple who promised to restore states' rights.
Harry S. Truman

WATCH IT, CHARLIE, YOU'RE PLAYING YOUR OWN TUNE

Charles de Gaulle of France

Dwight D. Eisenhower
Lyndon Johnson was determined to achieve a victory in Vietnam, but the more he tried with more troops the deeper the southeastern Asian quagmire, the longer the American casualty list and the louder the protests on college campuses and elsewhere across America.
Increasing criticism over Vietnam led President Johnson on March 31, 1968 to announce to a surprised nation that he would not seek re-election.

Senator Everett Dirksen (R-Illinois)
COME! LET US REASON TOGETHER

U.S. BUILDUP IN VIETNAM

Robert McNamara
At Cape Canaveral, the American space program boosted the Florida economy and rocketed the American spirit in the 1960s. By 1969, the many space adventures reached a record success. From the moon on July 20, 1969, came strong and historic words from American astronaut Neil Armstrong: “Houston. Tranquility Base here. The Eagle has landed.” Americans took justifiable pride in the towering technical achievement.
Senator George McGovern

THE NUT FRINGE LEFT AND RIGHT

HASTY LEGISLATION RACIAL EXTREMISM

ANARCHY RIOTS

CRITICS

THOSE WHO REALLY BELIEVE IN AMERICA

U.S. CONSTITUTION
DEMANDS OF THE AUTOMOBILE

POLITICAL PROMISES

ESCambia ROADS

FOUR-LANE HIGHWAYS

NORTHWEST FLORIDA
Jacksonville Mayor Haydon Burns served only two years as governor (1965-67), often talking about building West Florida roads. His shortened term began the new cycle of gubernatorial elections separated from presidential election years. Constitutionally Burns was eligible to run for a second term; he lost to Robert King High. Republican Roy Claude Kirk Jr. was on the horizon.
In 1968 the Florida Legislature submitted and the voters ratified three amendments which combined to give the state an almost new Constitution. The first lieutenant governor since 1889 was appointed, the Legislature would meet annually and a significant package of conservation laws led to Florida’s environmental policies in the 1970s.

By 1972, judicial reform had unified the courts into a state system, ending Justices of the Peace and municipal judges. Judges ran without a party label. Governor Reubin Askew became the first governor elected to successive four-year terms; by 1974 the Legislature enacted collective bargaining for public employees and created the ethics commission to oversee public officers and employees. Reapportionment under the one-man, one-vote ruling would end the tradition of North Florida rural counties dominating the Legislature.
The image contains a cartoon that features various characters and symbols. One character appears to be a medical figure with a stethoscope, while another character is holding a barber comb. The text elements in the cartoon include "REvised CONSTITutioN," "FLorida GOVERNMENT," "CONsolidated GOVERNMENT," "ESCAMBIA GOVT STUDY COMMISSION," and "FLorida GOVERNMENT." The cartoon seems to be about political or governmental issues, possibly related to the revision of the constitution in Florida.
The Many Images of Governor Claude Kirk (Claudius Maximus) 1967-71
"Running? Naw, just selling orange juice!"
During the 1969 legislative session, the issue of inadequate funding began plunging Florida’s school system into a crisis of factionalism, triggering the nation’s first statewide teacher strike in February 1968. Governor Claude Kirk battled the education lobby; protestors denounced the Republican governor. No event during the turbulent Kirk administration excited more passion. The aftermath of the crisis was chaos. Student radicalism and federally mandated school desegregation in the early 1970s led Florida Governor Reuben Askew and legislative leaders to repattern Florida’s educational leadership.
Even though the News Journal always vigorously supported public education, including property tax millage increases to provide quality education, the striking Escambia County teachers met daily to condemn the newspaper for its opposition to the walkout. The News Journal opposed the unionism that would follow in the continuing chaos.
University campuses in the 1960s and early 1970s, including Florida State University, were targets of disruptive student protests and rebellion, centering on the political quagmire of Vietnam that brought down President Lyndon Johnson and troubled the administration of Richard Milhous Nixon.

Escambia county was spared the major disruption that plagued many southern school districts over racial integration, but Escambia High School became a potential powderkeg over its southern nickname, the Rebels, and the use of the Confederate battle flag as its school banner. The News Journal joined with community leaders, black and white, to defuse the controversy. I was part of a team that urged legislative leaders, including Senator W.D. Childers, to step aside and allow the Escambia school board to seek a compromise; a new school spirit came with a new name.
Richard Nixon achieved one of the most startling political comebacks in American history in the turbulent campaign of 1968. Defeated by John F. Kennedy in 1960 and a failed candidate for the governorship of California in 1962, Nixon resurrected himself by helping rebuild the Republican Party after the Goldwater loss to Johnson. He and Spiro Agnew emerged victorious over Democrats Hubert Humphrey and Edmund Muskie and the American Independent candidate George C. Wallace. The News Journal endorsed Nixon, then called for his resignation after Watergate.
THE AMERICAN TRAGEDY

U.S.S. WATERGATE

LOSS OF FAITH
GOT ANYTHING FOR LITTLE OL' ME?

OUR NEGLECTED HISTORIC LANDMARKS

PENSACOLA

Earle Bowden

May 6, 1965; editorial first suggesting Gulf Islands National Seashore.
Pensacola History

Growing Preservation Interest

Pensacola's Neglected Historic Landmarks

Quina Restorations

Earle Bowden

A New Economic Asset

Historical Commission
ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

ECONOMIC ASSET

PENSACOLA HISTORICAL MOVEMENT

PENSACOLA ESCAMON Elected OFFICIALS

EARLE BOWDEN

HISTORICAL PRESERVATION

EARLE BOWDEN

75
More than twenty thousand people enjoyed the first "An Evening in Old Seville Square" on August 25, 1966, beginning a proud Pensacola tradition. Planned by the Junior League of Pensacola and the Pensacola Heritage Foundation as a "picnic on the green" to support Pensacola's historic preservation program, the popular evening was a major cultural event of the sixties and seventies as the Seville Square Historic District evolved. Seville Square became popular for festivals, including the Great Gulf Coast Arts Festival. Revived for the Galvez Bicentennial Celebration in 1981, the "Evening" continued on the Fourth of July. The Fiesta of Five Flags adapted many of the "Evening" features in the eighties and nineties.
AN EVENING IN OLD SEVILLE SQUARE July 4
In 1968, I began a *News Journal* editorial campaign to persuade Florida legislators to designate Scenic Highway as a state scenic parkway. Legislation in 1973 made the roadway officially Scenic Parkway, but its preservation remains a constant crusade, like retaining the city’s natural beauty, especially its many heritage trees.
The four-laning of Cervantes Street in the late 1960s threatened the many oaks that partially canopied the major traffic corridor (U.S. Highway 90). The protest failed to save the endangered trees, but Mary Turner Rule and other preservationists helped inspire the city’s first heritage tree preservation ordinance.
The old county politics in the 1960s permitted environmental mistakes on Santa Rosa Island and the Escambia county mainland, and fed the resistance to Gulf Islands National Seashore by developers and elected politicians.
PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL SEASHORE

Desires of the community

Gulf Islands National Seashore

RESTORATION OF PENSACOLA HARBOR FORTS

ESCambia's elected officials

Gulf Islands National Seashore

Interior Dept.

Earle Burden

Earle Burden
While the Escambia County Commission and the Santa Rosa Island Authority endorsed the national seashore when the National Park Service announced its plans in 1968, officeholders refused to transfer any county land on Santa Rosa Island to the National Park Service. The State of Florida offered Fort Pickens State Park and the Navy agreed to transfer its land on Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key. But the seven and one-half miles of county land between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach were essential for Congress to authorize the national seashore.
The 1968 Congressional hearing on Gulf Islands National Seashore in Pensacola galvanized a small but vocal and an influential group of seashore opponents, including WCOA radio station owner J. McCarthy Miller, chairman James Lay and the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce seashore task force, lawyer and chairman George Rourke of the Santa Rosa Island Authority, land developers and political conservatives—all charging “federal land grab.” They stymied local action for another year.

Commissioners had 22,000 pro-seashore petitions by 1969; they voted to transfer the seven and one-half miles of Santa Rosa Island to the National Park Service. But the Santa Rosa Island Authority objected, claiming jurisdiction.
In June 1970 the Florida Legislature restructured the Santa Rosa Island Authority, and gave Escambia commissioners the authority to transfer the seven and one-half miles of Santa Rosa Island to the National Park Service. And to clarify Escambians' wishes on the seashore, commissioners authorized a straw vote on the national park for the November 3, 1970, general election.
Escambia County voters, who rejected a charter for consolidating city and county government, an appointive school superintendent and a seven-member school board in the November 1970 general election, voted overwhelmingly for the transfer of seven and one-half miles of Santa Rosa Island to the National Park Service. The official vote was 22,264 for transfer, 12,619 to retain the land in local control.

“This is for the American People! The seashore will put us on the national map!”

The House of Representatives passed the seashore bill on November 10, 1970; the Senate unanimously agreed on December 22. And during Christmas week, in one of the dying Congress’ last acts, the 91st Congress passed the GINS bill on December 28. President Nixon signed Public Law 91-660 on January 8, 1971.
By the twentieth anniversary of Gulf Islands National Seashore in January 1991, the park was attracting from five to nine million visitors in Florida and Mississippi. In less than a decade, the National Park Service had restored and stabilized Fort Pickens, Fort Barrancas, the Spanish water battery San Antonio and the Barrancas redoubt in Pensacola harbor and Fort Massachusetts on Ship Island in the Mississippi Sound. The first visitor center on Davis Bayou at Ocean Springs, Mississippi, alarmed Floridians who had to pressure Congress for the Florida headquarters and visitor center at Naval Live Oaks Reservation, delayed until 1988 due to the cost-saving tactic of Reagan administration Interior Secretary James Watt. The park service built the Santa Rosa day-use beach facility between Pensacola Beach and Navarre Beach and improved Rosamond Johnson Beach on Perdido Key. Seashore opposition vanished, but not political controversies over SRIA leasing policies and less-than-quality development of Pensacola Beach.
As northeast Pensacola developed with new housing and commercial development in the 1960s, the once pristine Carpenter's Creek flowing into Bayou Texar suffered from declining water quality. The pollution-choked waterways fueled appeals for an environmental cleanup.

In the county, Escambia commissioners stubbornly resisted the increasing needs for county zoning and land-use management.
When the News Journal reported that Escambia County commissioners had their own table for daily lunch at the county prison camp in the 1960s, the freeloading ended. Such abuse of public stewardship fed the News Journal's editorial appeal for home-rule reform —first, supporting consolidation of city and county governments; then, charter government.
Despite political resistance, the city's Municipal Advertising Board became the Escambia Promotion and Development Commission to broaden efforts to recruit new business and industry and build a tourism economy. And county commissioners finally saw the benefit of hiring a county administrator.
THE ARTS WORLD

PENSACOLA CULTURE

APATHY AGITATORS
NO COORDINATION
EMPIRE-BUILDERS
PENSACOLA'S FUTURE

INDIFFERENCE

PENSACOLA CULTURE AND THE ARTS
LACK OF FACILITIES
LACK OF MONEY

PENSACOLA CULTURE

UNITED APPEAL

PENSACOLA ARTS COUNCIL
Kirk, says, 'GOP on the go.'

Conservatism in northwest Florida.

You know who.

Florida Democrats.
Boxing gloves symbolized the often-divided Pensacola City Council that conducted the "midnight firing" of progressive City Manager Homer Reed and argued over placing fluoride in city water. Councilman Kenneth Kelson, later chairman of the Escambia County commission, became known as "Dr. No" resisting municipal progressives. I editorially described the council as a "Comedy of Errors" after the Reed firing.

But the City Hall climate changed; a new council of business leaders selected councilman Reinhardt Holm as mayor in 1967. President of Pensacola Home and Savings Association, Holm supported Claude Kirk for governor and Barry Goldwater for president and was chairman of the Escambia County Local Government Study Commission that developed the city-county consolidation proposal.
The death of Mayor Reinhardt Holm (1967) saddened Pensacolians. The Escambia School named a school for the son of a Norwegian immigrant and one of the city’s most popular civic-minded leaders.
Pensacola's Crisis Planning or Lack of Planning

Crackdown on Illegal Dumping
LACK OF COORDINATED PLANNING

DOWNTOWN PENSACOLA

CITY-COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

THE POLITICAL CROWD

PENSACOLA'S COMMUNITY NEEDS AND DESIRES

NEW SPIRIT OF PENSACOLA
The 1970s: Citizens Act for Action '76

The 1970s thrust Escambia County and Pensacola into a red-white-blue decade of Bicentennial. Celebrating the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution, Pensacolians in 1971 launched Action '76, a pivotal community goals-setting program. For the first time the grassroots citizenry helped set an agenda for Escambia County's future.

News Journal editorials in 1970 called for bold objectives for the Bicentennial and orderly community planning for the twenty-first century. Mayhew (Pat) Dodson, Florida chairman of the state Bicentennial Commission, inspired the idea for Action '76; he heard the Dallas, Texas mayor explain how Goals for Dallas that had invigorated the city in the aftermath of the Kennedy assassination.

Warren Briggs, president of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce in the wake of Pensacola’s bitter divisiveness over Gulf Islands National Seashore, adapted the Dallas model.

Briggs and the Action ’76 planners reached out across the county for a citizen’s agenda radiating bold projects that would become reality in the 1980s. The News Journal led the crusade: downtown rebirth, master plan for urban and rural land use and economic development, a county-wide recreation program, completion of the governmental center, restoration of the Saenger Theatre as a community performing arts facility, a four-year curriculum for the University of West Florida, airport renovation, quality public education, Bayfront Parkway, historical preservation, civic center, Ellyson Industrial Park, a unified water and sewer management program that would become the Escambia County Utilities Authority.

Florida Bicentennial planners chose Pensacola’s community redevelopment program as the state’s pilot program; Action ’76 programs sprang up across Florida.

Voters in 1971 defeated consolidated city-county government, an appointive school superintendent (by one vote), but elected Reubin O’Donovan Askew governor and overwhelmingly approved transferring seven and one-half miles of Santa Rosa Island to the National Park Service for Congress to establish Gulf Islands National Seashore.

In 1971 Pensacolians commemorated the 150th anniversary of the transfer of the Spanish Florida provinces to the United States with Jackson Day ceremonies that recognized the many ancestral Pensacola families whose roots sprang from the last Spanish colonial period and the coming of the Americans in 1821. The Jackson celebration was a prelude for the July 1976 Bicentennial birthday party that saluted the reconstruction of the British Fort George and other civic improvements. Preservation moved from Seville Square to North Hill when residents asked the City Council to establish a preservation district.

In 1972 oil deposits became black gold drained from Jay peanut lands of north Santa Rosa County; resistance to zoning and land-use planning was a sound argument for Florida’s inevitable growth management process; and downtown planners groped for what became the heritage theme of Palafox Place and the Palafox Historic Business District.

Georgia peanut farmer Jimmy Carter, often a Pensacola Beach visitor, defeated President Gerald Ford, and the White House turned Southern.

Escambia commissioners wanted to build a new courthouse and—fearing backdoor consolidation—resisted pressure for the governmental center for city and county and judicial facilities. The still-uncertain post of a county administrator sizzled with firings before commissioners chose innovator Joe Mooney, whose professional management fueled stubborn resistance from veteran Escambia Comptroller Joe Flowers. Mooney helped the commissioners craft a charter proposal they placed on the ballot reluctantly, but Flowers—upholding political tradition—was a vocal and successful opponent as voters rejected charter for the first of three times.

Rodney Kendig became county administrator after commissioners fired Mooney in 1978; Steve Garman became city manager, portending the Pensacola Renaissance of the 1980s by targeting downtown Pensacola as the county’s tax zone with property taxes focused on public improvements. After 1976, Action ’76 continued as Citizens’ Goals for Escambia-Pensacola and would continue into the 1980s as Progress ’90.
'Let's face it. It will take both of us—working harmoniously!'
First major observance of the Bicentennial decade was the July 17, 1971 Sesquicentennial Celebration of Andrew Jackson’s acceptance of the Spanish Floridas for the United States during flag exchange ceremonies in the Spanish plaza and at Fort San Carlos de Barrancas. Besides heightening interest in Jackson as Florida’s provisional governor and helping accelerate the city’s historical preservation movement, the Andrew Jackson Committee led by Mayhew W. (Pat) Dodson III honored Pensacolians whose ancestors were the first American settlers at the conclusion of the last Spanish colonial period in 1821.

The Jackson Week in July 1971 triggered a years-long campaign to honor Andrew Jackson with the bronze likeness and monument now standing in Plaza Ferdinand VII. Sculpted by Spanish artist Eduardo Anievas, who also created the bronze of Bernardo de Galvez at Fort George on Gage (Palafox) Hill, the Jackson bust symbolizes his three Pensacola excursions. Jackson captured Spanish Pensacola in 1814 and 1818; three years later the general returned as American provisional governor, accepting the Spanish East and West Florida provinces as American territory. He created Florida’s first two counties, Escambia (West Florida) and St. Johns (East Florida), and established the government of the City of Pensacola.
"A Masterpiece in Oils"
Santa Rosa Island leaseholders saw the menace of "Jaws" when Tax Collector Matt Langley Bell proposed property taxes in 1975. But Florida courts defanged the threat.
NEED FOR CIVIC ARENA

TOURISM DELIVERY ROOM

PAPA?

ESCAMBIA

GOTTA GET MOVIN'

PALAFOX PLACE
HISTORIC RESOURCES
GROWTH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
BAYPORT CIVIC ARENA
SAYSOM FIELD

EARLE BOWDEN

EARLE BOWDEN
CHARTER GUVMINT? TELL 'EM THE RUSSIANS ARE COMING? USE HALF-TRUTHS? PLAY ON THEIR FEARS? THEY WON'T READ IT ANYWAY. IF THAT DON'T KILL IT, WAIT FOR OUR USUAL APATHY ON ELECTION DAY....

THE OLD PARTY LINE

CHARTER GUVMINT? WHO NEEDS IT?

THAT OLD APATHY

ESCAMBAI POLITICS

ESCAMBAI REFERENDUM
Forty thousand American flags flying in Escambia County for the 1976 Bicentennial was the goal of William E. (Bill) Bond, who rallied patriots for the 200th anniversary of the American Revolution.
On Memorial Day and Veterans Day and other American heritage holidays I use traditional visual reminders of the honored millions who served, fought and died in defense of American liberty and freedom across the world—from the American Revolution to Desert Storm and other peacekeeping missions of the 1990s.
"...GOVERNMENTS ARE INSTITUTED AMONG MEN, DERIVING THEIR JUST POWERS FROM THE CONSENT OF THE GOVERNED."  JULY 4, 1776
"If Ever There Was a Time, It Is Now!"
—Motto of Action '76 when program began in 1971
'What the hell you mean you want an elected board and a professional administrator to run our Escambia school system?'

The News Journal pushed for an appointive Escambia County school superintendent again in 1976 because of the emphasis on political survival that diminished the needed professional management of the school system. Too, there was the perennial hope good government would remove the cobwebs.
Ralph Nader's Common Cause put a torch to the He-Coon, fueling charges of conflict of interest that led to Rep. Bob Sikes' censure by the House of Representatives. But Sikes said the He-Coon walks before the light of day. Despite the verbal reprimand, and diminished power, loyal Florida First District voters reelected Sikes. He served until 1978, retiring after representing West Florida in Congress for thirty-eight years.
'We're finally getting somewhere'

'I guess it's time for another school year'

'Get lost, kid!'

August 15, 1976

August 29, 1976

August 1, 1976
Lucille Ball
cover illustration
Image Magazine
Pensacola News Journal
1970s.
President Gerald Ford battles Georgia peanut farmer Jimmy Carter
Charter Government Proposals

Demands for Better Gov't

Escambia Dirt Road Politics

Escambia County

Escambia's Dirt-Road Politics

Greed
President Jimmy Carter, down home on the porch of the Old White House Plantation in 1977.
WE'RE ON THE MAP?

WEST FLORIDA

THE TOURIST INDUSTRY

GULF ISLANDS NATIONAL SEASHORE

A DUD MAYBE?

CHEMICAL POLLUTION

WEST FLORIDA
Joe Mooney jolted the Escambia courthouse with what I described as "Mooney Beams." And the county administrator experienced the lightning of his political enemy, Comptroller Joe Flowers, who proved a superb tackler in the charter game.
The bitter battle between Escambia County Administrator Joe Mooney and County Comptroller Joe Flowers in the courthouse marked the continuing resistance to changing county government in the 1970s. Mooney led commissioners to recommend a charter for voter consideration, but Flowers and others led opponents who prevailed.

John Wayne
cover illustration
Image Magazine
Pensacola News Journal
U.S. Judge Winston Arnow, ruling on a civil rights lawsuit, ordered Escambia County governments to align single member districts to give minorities more opportunity to share in decision-making. The court order brought many African-Americans into local government but voting by districts also returned the county to a new form of “ward politics” and diluted interest in elections.
When a storm sank the *Buccaneer*, one of the last snapper fishing smack on the Gulf Coast that had been preserved as a Palafox pier exhibit by the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board, the loss was a metaphor for the lack of bayfront development.
Perennial arguments over public use versus commercial development of Pensacola Beach drew the scent of bloodhounds of a grand jury in 1977. The Santa Rosa Island Authority, trying for a compromise while promoting a tourism economy, still had critics of its beach plan into the 1990s.

Censure by the House of Representatives for conflict of interest was an embarrassment and a loss of political power for Congressman Bob Sikes, but voters in his "First and finest" District returned him to Washington to complete his 38-year career. His political roots were planted deep in West Florida.
RETIREMENT!

ROAD BOARD POLITICS

CHARTER GOVT PROPOSAL

YOU'VE EARNED IT!

MAH KINDA COUNTY MANAGER?

ESCAMBIA COMMISH
The Mooney-Flowers feud ended when the Escambia commissioners put the controversial county administrator's head on the chopping block. But the firing was a loss to Escambia; Mooney's progressive ideas, including charter government, was a threat to the political status quo.
Retirement of Bob Sikes from Congress in 1978 set the woods on fire with candidates who studied the winning characteristics of the man who called himself the “He-Coon.” Earl Hutto, Bay County state legislator who began his Florida career as a Pensacola television sportscaster, emerged victoriously from the field of candidates, defeating Pensacola Mayor Warren Briggs, who ran as a Republican.
BACK TO TALLAHASSEE, W.O.?

RIGHT ON, OL' BUDDY!

PENSACOLA'S FINANCIAL PREDICAMENT

THE 80s
THOU SHALT BE HARMONIOUS

ME?

ME?

PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL
ESCambia COMMISH

20-YEAR GARBAGE FRANCHISE

ESCambia COMMISH

IT'S FOR THE BIRDS!

ESCambia COUNTY COMMISH

DIRT ROAD POLITICS

LOOK, HE'S DAID!
In the 1970s, Pensacolians realized the economic potential of tourism and growing convention business. But facilities were limited. The bayfront municipal auditorium, built in the early 1950s, proved inadequate, as did the aging and endangered Hotel San Carlos. The *News Journal* continued to push for a civic center.
Although partially renovated, the old Pensacola Regional Airport terminal drew criticism in the 1970s. Many called it embarrassing for a city marketing its economic potential. In the 1980s, City Manager Rod Kendig and the City Council convinced the airlines to commit to helping underwrite new terminal facilities. The airport opening was a source of pride during a community celebration on July 22, 1990.
While Hurricane Frederic sliced west into Mobile in 1979, heavy damage to Santa Rosa Island and Perdido Key demonstrated again the crucial need to observe the state’s setback line—preserve the primary dune line—for beach construction. But the will to rebuild was so strong the mistakes against the natural rhythms of the coastline remained the same.
The Ellyson Field Industrial Park was Escambia County's major effort as a partner with the private sector to create new jobs. The commissioners were fortunate: the former Navy flying field was a gift from the State of Florida, which loaned the county the money and then forgave the debt.
Political comedy, magic tricks and indecision are not limited to the Escambia Courthouse and City Hall. The Escambia school board was so depicted in 1979, especially the antics of Frank Biasco, a University of West Florida professor of psychology who enlivened the proceedings. He later became a perennial candidate for political office as a Republican.

Escambia County dusted off the much discussed and cussed Pensacola Beach redevelopment plan in 1979. The Santa Rosa Island Authority, not sure of the final plan, prepared for the growing tourism demands of the decade of the 1980s.
With the defeat of the charter referendum in 1979, Escambia commissioners entered the decade of the 1980s still dependent on the Florida Legislature rather than the more desired home rule. But another ghost, charter government, would reappear.
The 1980s: Decade of Renaissance

Streetscape and skyline changes brightened downtown in the 1980s. Bayfront Parkway, civic center, Governmental Center with a new City Hall and the new heritage theme of downtown Pensacola that included the T.T. Wentworth Jr. Florida State Museum marked Pensacola’s Renaissance and public-private partnerships devised by City Manager Steve Garman.

Popular Mayor Vince Wibbs and Pensacola leaders prepared for homeporting an operational aircraft carrier at Pensacola Naval Air Station, but the dream of stationing warships in Gulf Coast harbors vanished along with Navy Secretary John Lehman’s dream of a 600-ship Navy with the demise of the Soviet Union.

Senators W. D. Childers broke with his friend and ally, Dean of the Senate Dempsey Barron of Panama City, in a test of Tallahassee power. Barron was later retired by Fort Walton Beach lawyer Vince Bruner.

A fifteen-story Hilton Hotel fronted the restored L&N railroad station, the civic center was financed with state funds and enactment of the tourist tax, Port Royal residences and Pitt Slip marina and the Gateway Redevelopment District changed the old industrial bayfront, and Plaza Ferdinand VII was redesigned. The Judicial Center and Daniel (Chappie) James state office building and a new City Hall gave life to the Governmental Center.

County Administrator Rodney Kendig followed Steve Garman as city manager in 1985, opening the door for annexation and financing the renovated Pensacola Regional Airport. County provincialism symbolized by self-designated King of the County Grady Albritton resisted zoning and land-use policies and other efforts to reform county government, including another failed effort to appoint the school superintendent.

Rep. Earl Hutto, successor to Bob Sikes, finally produced congressional funds for the Naval Live Oaks headquarters and visitor center at Gulf Islands National Seashore. Pensacola’s own Bicentennial, the 1981 Galvez Celebration, triggered community improvement projects and special recognition of Pensacola’s ethnic pioneers. The Spanish training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano joined the H.M.S. Bounty for the May 8 celebration. Seville Square was renovated, and building contractor Jim Cronley led voluntary efforts to build a new Seville Square gazebo and the Tourist Information Center. Restored Fort Barrancas and Spanish water battery San Antonio was dedicated; a bronze bust of Bernardo de Galvez came with a Fort George facelift.

Tensions over merging the two senior universities like UWF into the older established universities faded; UWF became a four-year school. The West Florida Railroad Centennial in 1982 marked a century of L&N opening the Panhandle to the Apalachicola River. Push Pensacola began new priorities for tourism and convention business with the theme “Pensacola Has It All.” And the Committee of 100 emphasized economic development. The Clean and Green community cleanup set the stage for Pensacola’s 75th anniversary celebrations of naval aviation and Pensacola NAS, and Bob Hope and Elizabeth Taylor headlined celebrities who honored the Navy golden jubilee.

Governor Bob Graham, who followed Reubin O’Donovan Askew, inspired environmental protection, purchase of endangered lands and coastal and land-use growth management. Environmentalist Muriel Wagner enlivened the Escambia Commission, advocating wetlands protection.

A federal court decision on a voter’s lawsuit finally released the county and School Board to allow district elections guaranteeing minority representation. A new foundation tried to solve the long-nagging dilemma of preserving and maintaining historic St. Michael’s Cemetery.

A bronze memorial honored Andrew Jackson in Plaza Ferdinand VII; the Martin Luther King holiday led to a bronze King bust and memorial on Palafox Street. And odor from the Main Street sewage disposal plant inspired cartoon remedies. Morris Marx became the third UWF president. Two years work by charter government advocates was buried in Tallahassee. The USS Lexington made its last home at the Port of Pensacola; port advocates galvanized to pressure City Hall to reject Jim Kennedy’s bayfront destination resort idea. Need for a second bay bridge and quality redevelopment of Pensacola Beach stirred debate.
Derrell Packwood Bowden is the politician of the family—a first cousin who served as mayor of Altha, my birthplace, and chairman of the Calhoun County Commission. Pack is a student of West Florida folklore.

Wyon Dale Childers of Pensacola, following Reubin Askew to the Florida Senate, quickly won the reputation as the “Banty Rooster.”

Steve Garman
Pensacola City Manager
In 1980, West Florida senators W.D. Childers of Pensacola and Dempsey Barron of Panama City represented the power in the Florida Senate. Barron, then the dean of the Senate, would help Childers become Senate President.
In 1980, cartoons hailed the approaching Year of Heritage and the Galvez Celebration, planned with a $250,000 legislative grant obtained by Senator W.D. Childers. Governor Bob Graham endorsed the bicentennial observance that would recognize Florida's role in the American Revolution. Seville Square and Fort George park improvements and other heritage projects commemorated the 200th anniversary of the Spanish conquest of the British forces at Pensacola during the American Revolution on May 8, 1781.
Many developers discovered Scenic Highway in the 1980s, lessening the protection for the tree-lined historic state parkway atop Pensacola’s unique Escambia Bay clay bluffs.
Escambia County Administrator Rod Kendig and City Manager Steve Garman worked harmoniously in the early 1980s.

Garman found himself in the same boat with City Councilman James J. Reeves, battling for finances to underwrite Pensacola's Renaissance.
While the University of West Florida lobbied for junior and senior students in 1980, a political firestorm erupted over a higher education task force’s bold recommendation to merge Florida’s regional universities with the four-year schools at Tallahassee and Gainesville. Panama City Senator Dempsey Barron did transfer UWF’s Panama City campus to Florida State University, but eventually UWF became a four-year university.
LET'S GET CRACKIN'

COMPLETION OF GOV'T CENTER

COUNTY CITY

PUBLIC HOUSING

PEDC

SEX SHOPS

ZONING

ESCambia COMMISH

KENDIG

HIT TH' DIRT!
The Escambia sheriff's race, producing for the winner one of the most powerful political bases in the county, dominated election rhetoric in the 1980s.
Voter approval of the tourist (bed) tax in the 1980s was a threshold for political decisions to build the Pensacola Civic Center and begin seriously promoting Pensacola’s potential for tourism and conventions. And the Spirit of Pensacola turned into a new face for Palafox Place, including the Crawford Rainwater family’s purchase of the historic Brent Block at Palafox and Garden Streets and the restoration of the 1925 Saenger Theatre.

Republican Senator Marlene Woodson Howard, who tried (unsuccessfully) to unseat Governor Bob Martinez in 1990.
The Gateway Redevelopment District was established as an eastern threshold into the city from the Pensacola Bay Bridge along Gregory and Chase streets and Bayfront Parkway—the area of the Gulf Power Company corporate office building at Hawkshaw and the Pensacola Civic Center.
Iran freed American hostages after 444 days in captivity in 1981 as President Ronald Reagan began his presidency. Cartoons reflect freedoms that American cherish. The Bomb, east and west, still cast a shadow over Americans' remembrance of the fortieth anniversary of the infamous December 7, 1941.
JUST WHERE DID WE COUNTY FOLKS GO WRONG?
Dr. Churchill Roberts
Chairman, Department of Communications Arts,
University of West Florida

Faculty meeting sketch,
August 16, 1988
Urban growth in Escambia's unincorporated areas in the 1980s demonstrated the necessity for mandatory garbage collection. Many county residents resisted the unified method, preferring independent disposal methods. But eventually, by the 1990s, commissioners had weathered the wrath of those who claimed the government was an intruder.
When W.D. Childers tried for a second term as Senate president, his friend and ally Dempsey Barron resisted in a classic power play. The West Florida senators clashed in an angry confrontation on the Senate floor—now part of Florida's political folklore. The power fight ruptured the long political friendship.
The training ship Juan Sebastian Elcano in Pensacola waters gave an authentic Spanish flavor to the climax of the Galvez Celebration on May 8, 1981, two hundred years after Bernardo de Galvez and his Spanish army defeated the British forces at Fort George on Gage (Palafox) Hill. The Spanish victory ended the British presence on the American Gulf Coast during the American Revolution. The centennial celebration of the 1881-83 building of the West Florida railroad followed in 1982.
Fund-raising for the Saenger Theatre restoration began in 1975 after the city accepted the 1925 movie-vaudeville house as a gift. In 1980, after an uphill struggle to raise the funds—$500,000 from the University of West Florida; $240,000 from two community fund drives—the $1.6 million project began; on September 26, 1981, the grand reopening featuring the Duke Ellington orchestra began a new era for the performing arts.
Thomas Clayton Wolfe (1900-1938), novelist

Tom Wolfe
Writer,
Social Critic
In 1982, the Pensacola Historical Society celebrated the 150th anniversary of Old Christ Church (1832), one of Pensacola's best known historical landmarks and Florida's oldest protestant church building still standing on its original site.
While Senators Dempsey Barron and W.D. Childers battled Governor Bob Graham over the budget and the Equal Rights Amendment, President Horace (Ed) Hartsell of Pensacola Junior College and President James A. Robinson of the University of West joined in a campaign for unification of the two Pensacola schools. Tallahassee politics stopped the ERA effort and ended unification.
PENSACOLA HAS IT ALL!

TOURISM MARKET

CIVIC ARENA FUNDING

INADEQUATE PENSACOLA PROMOTION AND FACILITIES

TOURISM POTENTIAL

Sandra Mortham
Florida Secretary of State
YOU GUYS

NEEDS OF THE FUTURE

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

VOTING

POLITICS

ESCAMBIA COUNTY

BURY TH' HATCHET!

POTHOLE POLITICS

YASSUH!

WELCOME BACK, OL' BUDDY!
A RAY OF SUNSHINE!

THE NATIONAL BUSINESS CLIMATE - NO. 1

AMERICAN KNOW-HOW

FOOD CRISIS

TENSIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS

PENSACOLA FUTURE
T. T. Wentworth Jr., revered as Pensacola's Mr. History, made history when he presented one of the largest private collections of historical materials ever given the people of Florida. The city of Pensacola provided the state ownership of the city hall building on Plaza Ferdinand. With state financial assistance, Pensacolians would honor Wentworth with a historic setting for his "Gift of a Lifetime."
'I've been good to you, my son. Now, you're showing respect for your heritage and providing an understanding for future generations'
The long-awaited Andrew Jackson monument for Plaza Ferdinand VII—a bronze bust by Spanish sculptor Eduardo Anievas—was unveiled on May 19, 1984. The goal of an equestrian statue—sparked by Mayhew (Pat) Dodson in 1971—had proved too ambitious and costly. But after Anievas sculpted the bust of Bernardo de Galvez for Fort George in 1981, members of the Pensacola Preservation Society led a fund-raising campaign for the $7,000 likeness that was created in Anievas' studio in Spain.
When Gulf Islands National Seashore celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Fort Pickens on August 4, 1984, featuring a moving lecture on the Pensacola fort’s Civil War history by Chief Historian Ed Bearss of the National Park Service, the fate of the headquarters and visitors center at Naval Live Oaks Reservation still was unknown. But with congressional leadership from Earl Hutto and Trent Lott in the House and Lawton Chiles in the Senate, the $1 million project was completed and dedicated May 13, 1988.
NEEDED: QUALITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

PENSACOLA AREA

YOUNG ADULTS

THE PEOPLE

ESCAMBIA CITIZEN GOALS
BATTLE STATIONS!

PENSACOLA

STEADY!

PORT MARINA SLIP

BAYFRONT

PENSACOLA'S DEPRESSED NEIGHBORHOODS

MEDICATION: PRIVATE INVESTMENT

'84 EARLE BOND

'84 EARLE BOND
By designating the traditional downtown core of Pensacola for tax increment financing, City Manager Steve Garman sang a happy tune for his Direction '85 redevelopment program. He also smoothed the path for building a new City Hall: old City Hall would house the T.T. Wentworth Jr. historical collections.

Leadership Pensacola (LEAP) brought a needed dimension to training voluntary community activists in the 1980s. Selected class members spent a day each month for a year learning the community and its government. I was pleased to serve on the charter LEAP Board of Directors.
The Spanish training ship *Juan Sebastian Elcano* returned to Pensacola in 1984 for the Fiesta of Five Flags; festival sponsors needed to stress quality for tourism development.

George Firestone
*Florida Secretary of State*

George Firestone said the T.T. Wentworth Jr. historical collection was the largest ever presented to the people of Florida by a private citizen. This 1984 caricature marked the Secretary of State's presentation of the first check for the state museum in Pensacola's old City Hall.
Ronald Reagan and George Bush
versus Walter Mondale and
Geraldine Ferraro

Barbara Bush

Mikhail Gorbachev

George Bush

Dan Quayle
Development of the Pitt Slip Marina demonstrated the need for new boating and people-oriented activity on Pensacola's bayfront in the 1980s.

Growth of Northeast Pensacola led the City Council to expand the city limits in the 1980s.
Martin (Trader Jon) Weissman, who opened his popular south Palafox Street bar in 1954, became one of the best known Pensacolians and an unabashed cheerleader for the U.S. Navy, especially the Blue Angels Flight Demonstration Team. For more than forty years, celebrities of all kind have shared TJ’s hospitality—among them John Wayne, Prince Andrew, astronauts, hot pilots; even the Secretary of the Navy. Trader Jon, like comedian Bob Hope, holds a special place among Navy pilots—he’s lifted by his own wings of gold as an honorary Blue Angel. And TJ, born in New York City in 1915, turned his bayfront bar into his own Blue Angels Museum.
CITY MANAGER'S BAG OF IDEAS

KENDIG

PENSACOLA FUTURE

I'M READY!

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

WEST FLORIDA YOUTH

Earle Bowden

Journal '85
Popular City Councilman Howard Rein, who served as mayor pro tem and had a long, productive career of leadership, joins Mayor Vince Whibbs in a high wire act over the city's financial shortfall in 1985. Again, city and county problems showed the need for a truce, peace and harmony—an often stated goal of Mayor Whibbs.
Whether it would be the USS Kitty Hawk or the USS Forrestal, Pensacolians had high hopes for replacing the retiring training carrier USS Lexington with an operational carrier for the Gulf homeport. But in the end, after the Florida Legislature helped dredge Pensacola harbor, the picture was bleak.
Pensacola engineer Fred Donovan, who served as president of both the Pensacola and Florida state chambers of commerce, was among the planners for West Florida coastal management in the 1980s.

UWF President James A. Robinson helped realign the senior school for its four-year expansion in the 1980s; then returned to UWF classrooms as a professor.
Heritage So Proud

75th Anniversary U.S. Naval Aviation 1911-1986

AMONG BASEBALL’S IMMORTALS

Bob Hope '86

Elizabeth Taylor

Earle Bowden '86
Gulf Power Company executive Jake Horton and Pensacola Mayor Vince Whibbs helped rally the Pensacola community for the first Clean and Green community cleanup for the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of Naval Aviation in 1986. Entertainer Bob Hope, who brought other celebrities and his NBC television show to the deck of the USS Lexington and to the stage of the Pensacola Civic Center, was chosen an honorary Blue Angel.
STENCH... THE MENACE OF MAIN STREET

MONSTER STRIKES

ODOR

"NOW LET'S BUILD A NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY..."

FERDIDO SAFETY CODE VIOLATIONS

IT STILL SMELLS

ESCAMBIA BUILDING INSPECTION

...NOW LET'S BUILD A NEW DOWNTOWN LIBRARY..."
REVENUE SQUEEZE
PALAFOP
PIER
MUSEUM DISTRICT
CITY
AIRPORT
PENSACOLA SPIRIT OF RENAISSANCE
ALL TOGETHER GANG!
CHANGING MARKET
FLORIDA MEDICALLY NEEDED COVERAGE
INTO THE TRENCHES!
BATTLE FOR JOBS
COMMITTEE OF 100
HELP, DOC!
IT'S Gotta
LOCAL GOVTO
WEST FLORIDA INDIGENT CARE
"86 CONDO"
Unpleasant odors from the Main Street Sewage Disposal Plant—viewed as a hindrance to bayfront redevelopment—let to many suggested remedies. By the 1990s, the Escambia County Utilities Authority had spent more than $1 million to lessen the discomfort.

Pensacola industrialist Marvin Kaiman was chairman of the Appeals Review Board in the 1980s, shouldering the heavy task of bringing order to the stampede of fund-raising campaigns. Kaiman served as president of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce, advocating economic development, marine commerce and international trade.
Again, in 1986, the News Journal supported a study commission that would write another charter for home rule reform. Oyster shells symbolize a comedic turf battle: commissioners protected their own individual piles of shells for road repairs in their districts.
"We must learn to live together as brothers or perish together as fools."
—Martin Luther King Jr.

A DREAM LIVES...
Circuit Judge Lace Collier, a former naval aviator, was chairman of the 1986 Pensacola Revenue Study Committee that suggested bold and innovative change in a series of recommendations known as the Collier Report. Collier was appointed U.S. District Judge by President George Bush in 1991.
Senator W.D. Childers and his West Florida band stage their Tallahassee hoedown in 1986: Tom Tobiassen, Virginia (Ginger) Bass and Grover C. Robinson III of Escambia County and Boley (Bo) Johnson of Santa Rosa County.

News Journal editorials called for a more history-based, people-oriented Fiesta of Five Flags to support tourism in 1986. Fiesta sponsors accepted the challenge.
Absentee ownership of Hotel San Carlos and neglect of its maintenance prompted many city efforts to rescue the Pensacola landmark that was once Florida's largest hotel. Mayor Vince Whibbs chose E.W. Hopkins and a committee of business leaders to seek a solution in 1986. But it was doomed to demolition.
AWRIGHT! PENSACOLA, CLEAN AND GREEN!

STEADY, PITT-SUP! AHEAD!

GET LOST, YOU DIRTY RAT!

THESE ESSORS BLIND!

...
WE REALLY DO NEED A NEW LIBRARY!

PLEASE, READ OUR NEED!

WHY DO YOU THINK YOU NEED A NEW MAIN LIBRARY FACILITY?

WEST FLORIDA REGIONAL LIBRARY

TALLAHASSEE
I campaigned for years to make July 17 a state historic day that recognized the transfer of the Spanish Floridas to the United States in Plaza Ferdinand VII in 1821. It was even more important in 1987—I served as Pensacola's Chairman for the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution.

Westinghouse plant manager Bill Griffith was a popular civic leader in the 1980s. He served as president of the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce; in retirement he became a member of the Santa Rosa Island Authority.
BEN, IMAGINE...

LIBERTY... FREEDOM

TWO HUNDRED YEARS

AND MORE

SEPT. 17, 1787

RALLY PATRIOTS!

KEEP ESCAMBIA BEAUTIFUL

TOURISM DESTINATION

244
Former Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez, who defeated Democrat Steve Pajcic of Jacksonville in 1986, became the second Republican governor in the twentieth century. Retiring Governor Bob Graham was chosen U.S. senator, displacing one-term Paula Hawkins.
Mayor Vince Whibbs seemed a likely Benjamin Franklin, encouraging Pensacolians to recognize their own history as celebrants for the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution in 1987.
The future of Hotel San Carlos troubled Pensacolians in 1987. They hoped it would be restored. But despite valiant efforts and negligence of the absentee owner, the decaying landmark that had stood at the corner of Palafox and Garden streets for most of the twentieth century was doomed.
OKAY, CALL ALABAMA! WE'RE UNDER SIEGE!

CHARPER

Pothole News

ZONE

Water supply

ESCAMBIA UTILITIES AUTHORITY

CONTAMINANT DANGERS

HAVEN'T YOU FORGOTTEN WHERE IT ALL BEGAN?
In 1987, builder-developer Jim Cronley rallied Escambia County's construction professionals to build the Tourist Information Center near the Pensacola Bay Bridge. The new push for an expanded tourism economy included the goal of developing quality resort facilities at Pensacola Beach. Sheilah Bowman, popular tourist director, campaigned for more tourism promotion dollars.
When former Governor Reubin Askew considered a race for the U.S. Senate in 1987, his Republican critic, former Governor Claude Kirk, flirted with the idea of running for president. Askew finally withdrew, citing a dislike for soliciting campaign funds. Kirk knew how quickly ex-governors are forgotten.

Brad Butcher, retired Pensacola Naval Air Station commander, was the Pensacola Area Chamber of Commerce's military liaison to bring the USS Kitty Hawk and homeporting to Pensacola in 1987.

In the 1940s, Santa Rosa County leaders dreamed of dredging a boat canal across Santa Rosa Island at Navarre. By 1965, the county commissioners tried. Nature quickly filled the narrow, nine-foot cut. Boat canal advocates revived the idea in 1987, enlivening arguments between Escambia County, which owned the land, and Santa Rosa County, which held a ninety-nine-year lease. Environmentalists prevailed in the '80s, knowing a cut across Santa Rosa Island could be disastrous.
Gus Ellis, Escambia County administrator, had the same headaches as his predecessor, Rod Kendig, in 1987—fixing potholes in the county budget and cooking up new revenues. Kendig, who followed Steve Garman as Pensacola city manager, faced a revenue squeeze while trying to convince the airlines to help underwrite new terminal facilities at Pensacola Regional Airport.
Republican Governor Martinez and the Democratic Legislature quarreled over a previously agreed-to obligation to fund the dredging of the Pensacola Bay ship channel for homeporting an operational carrier in 1987. Martinez finally agreed to the funding, ending what I saw as a "Tallahassee Mutiny."

Pensacolians where proud they lived in what had been designated an All America City in 1987. But riding the same old slow county mule toward the 1990s lessened the pleasure.
THE POLLUTION ISSUE
THE 1990s
PENSACOLA BAY AREA

WE'RE IN THIS ONE TOGETHER!

OKAY, CHAMP!

PERDIDO BAY

ON YOUR FEET! THE PEOPLE ARE STILL IN YOUR CORNER!

TOGETHER, WE SHOULD HAVE MANY GREAT LABOR DAYS!

PENSACOLA SEARCH FOR INDUSTRY
COMMITTEE OF 100

by Condeé
Morris Marx, a mathematician and a University of Mississippi administrator, who chosen as the third president of the University of West Florida in 1988. He became a community activist, recognized UWF's role in regional economic development and began expanding campus programs. Dr. Morris served on the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board and promoted the archaeological successes of Dr. Judith Bense. He worked with the Florida legislature to establish the archaeology institute at UWF.
The long and powerful Senate career of Dempsey Barron of Bay County was shot down in flames in 1988 by young Fort Walton Beach lawyer Vince Bruner. The Dean of the Senate, who had finally reconciled with his old friend and ally, W.D. Childers, was defeated in a brutal campaign underwritten in part by Florida's trial lawyers. Absence of the Red Barron elevated Childers to dean of the Senate, and the senior legislator continued his magic for West Florida voters.
CLEAN AND GREEN

THE WAR ON LITTER IS ON!

HO! HO! HO! AT LONG LAST!

REDEDICATION FOR A PROUD HERITAGE
THIS NEW MODEL REALLY MOVES, KENNY!

CAP'N KELSON, WE GOTTA PUT THIS SHIP DOWN SOON!

FIRST BIG-leap TOWARD ECONOMIC GROWTH!

ANNEXATION PENSACOLA
While politics enlivened 1988, Warren Briggs kept up his crusade for what would be the last phase of the Escambia citizens' goals program he launched in the early 1970s. Tom Marshall was his strong ally for Progress '90.
Once again, the five kingdoms of Escambia protected the status quo in 1988. After two years of preparation by an Escambia Study Commission, Senator W.D. Childers ended the county warfare by burying the charter proposal in Tallahassee.
While commissioners Phil Waltrip, Willie Junior and Grady Albritton fiddled dirt-road ditties in the Escambia County courthouse, the City Council and the Downtown Improvement Board focused on the downtown Renaissance. Maryland planner Cy Paumier was the main architect for Pensacola's many face-changing streetscape projects in the 1980s.
LET'S WORK TOGETHER,
LET'S BUILD TOGETHER,
LET'S SHOW THE WORLD
ESCambia BELIEVES
IN HARMONY!

I'M AGAIN
PROGRESS

DAMN DOWNTOWN
CROWD'S AT IT
AGAIN!

CONSPIRACY

GEORGE
BUSH

YOU!

COMMUNIST
PLOT!

NUTHIN LIKE
DISCORD TO KEEP
US HARMONIOUS!

"READ
MY LIPS!
VOTE
TODAY!"

"MAYBE WE
CAN LIGHTEN
THE LOAD
AND GO
WITH THE
FLOW!"

TOGETHER!

ALL OARS IN THE
WATER!

ECONOMIC
GROWTH!
EAST GOVERNMENT PROPERTIES

NOW, MY CHILDREN...

WE Await THE MAGIC OF THE
AMAZING MARTINEZ!

NOW THE TECHNIQUE OF LOCAL DEL egATION COOPERATION!

WEST VIRGINIA INSTITUTE OF HARD-KNOCK POLITICS
While Escambians prepared for the arrival of an operational carrier, they also debated the merits of voting to appoint the county school superintendent. The USS *Kitty Hawk* was replaced by the USS *Forrestal*, but like the appointed superintendent and homeporting, the ship never sailed.

Senators Bob Dole and Al Gore and Vice President George Bush played "Dixie," seeking presidential support in the Florida primary of 1988. Only Gore visited Pensacola; the Tennessee Democrat met with the *News Journal* editorial board.
The Bob and Weave Road Building Company led by Governor Bob Martinez ran into many roadblocks in 1989. While the Martinez road-making machine sputtered and rattled, Escambia County faced delays in completing Blue Angel Parkway, one of the promises for homeporting.
Muriel Wagner, activist in the Pensacola Bay Area League of Women Voters and many state environmental organizations, brought a new sensitivity to the Escambia county commission in the 1980s. She crusaded to protect county wetlands, enact an effective county growth management plan and meet state mandates for waste management and recycling.
Charlie Johnson, a Republican and a retired Florida Highway Patrol trooper, defeated incumbent Sheriff Vince Seely, but soon learned the real battle was with county commissioners over budget priorities. County Administrator Wayne Peacock, like Gus Ellis before him, tried all sorts of magic tricks, seeking county revenues in 1989.
THE SMILE, THE SMILE! GOTTA WORK ON THE SMILE!

WE REALLY DO NEED LEONARDO DA VINCI!

...AND WE WERE LOOKING FOR A NEW, MORE STABLE BRIDGE!

KEEP MOVING, FIDO! YOU GOTTA FIND YOUR OWN BREAD!

FLORIDA GROWTH MANAGEMENT MANDATE

LOCAL FUNDING
The USS Lexington left the Pensacola Naval Air Station for its last active-duty station, the Port of Pensacola, on April 28, 1989. Pensacolians welcomed Captain Flack Logan and the crew of the Lady Lex with a nostalgic 1940s party.

Pensacolians gathered in the Pensacola Civic Center on November 12, 1989 to celebrate the seventy-fifth year of Pensacola NAS.
Kitty Hawk's a-coming!
A new Navy age!

But first, some memories
And a wing-ding
Of a birthday party!

Nancy, take 'em to California!

Oops! We need only one!

There may be more than one culprit...

We've met the enemy and he is lots of us!

Increasing class
Conserving gas
Cleaning up:

Farm runoff
Industrial waste
Septic tanks

Overbuilding '89

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FACE IT, YOU'VE GOT A STRONG CASE FOR THE JURY!

50,442 STUDENTS

$180 MILLION NEEDED FOR SCHOOLS

LOCAL BOND ISSUE

OVER CROWDED

STABLE CHAOS

BUILDING DECAY

1990s

WITH HARD STUDY, WE MUST COMMUNICATE FOR THE FUTURE!

DR. PETE PAYTON'S ECONOMICS 101

ESCambia SCHOOL DISTRICT

BOND ISSUE

OPERATE LIKE A BUSINESS, AND WE'LL DO SOME BUSINESS!

BUSINESS CORPORATE SUPPORT

ARTS COUNCIL FUND DRIVE

THE OLD WAY
MAYBE WE'RE FINALLY COOKING ON THE SAME BURNER!

NEW BAY BRIDGE
MAYOR HIGHWAY
CULTURAL ARTS
RECREATION PED
ESCAMBIA

FLORIDA COLUMBUS JUBILEE '92

YEAAH! WHERE'S PANZACOLA, THE FIRST PLACE CITY?

MOST CITIES ARE ABOARD! WHAT ABOUT WEST FLORIDA?

WE NEED HELP!

PRIORITY 

69"'S GDENDOR

ESCAMBIA VOLUNTEERISM
The Pensacola Little Theatre, needing a new facility, finally stepped forward to rescue the abandoned Court of Record building. Arts organizations joined the cause, acquiring state grant money to complete the Pensacola Civic Center.

Jim Kennedy, a New York City entrepreneur, stirred debate in City Hall and elsewhere in 1989; he wanted the Port of Pensacola property and the bayfront auditorium area on South Palafox Street to develop a tourist destination resort, convention center and festival marketplace. But port proponents rallied; the City Council finally rejected the bold project, but recognized the need for bayfront redevelopment.
Debate over the route for the proposed second bridge over Pensacola Bay went in all directions in 1989. In the 1990s it became "Bo's Bridge," for Santa Rosa Rep. Boley (Bo) Johnson, and remained deeply mired in controversy and environmental opposition. The toll bridge was projected from the Santa Rosa peninsula east of Gulf Breeze to Garcon Point in Santa Rosa County.
THIS TIME, LET'S TRY PUTTING THIS PLACE...

...ON THE MAP!

PENSACOLA BEACH

ISLAND AUTHORITY

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

HEY, MAN, MAY I HAVE YOUR ATTENTION!

WEST FLORIDA COASTAL BUILDERS

ECHOES OF CAMELLE AND HUGO

IT'S A SLOW SUMMER, BUT WHAT ABOUT BLUE ANGEL PARKWAY, I-110 EXTENSION, CITY-COUNTY RECYCLING FACILITY, STORMWATER, BEACH REDEVELOPMENT, WETLANDS, NAVARRE BEACH, NEW JOBS...

...AND NO MORE TAXES.

LOCAL GOVT.

ISSUES FOR THE 1990s

THE PEOPLE

'S89

'S89
GET RHYTHM, STEP LIVELY, AND SELL, SELL, SELL!

NEW JOBS!

YEAH, JOBS, PLANTS, PAYROLLS, PEACE, HARMONY!

ESCAMBRAS IMAGE MAKERS

BE ALIVE, MAN, WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

ECONOMIC POTENTIAL

PENSACOLA 1990s

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

THE TRICK IS GETTING AWAY WITH IT!

YOUR STUDIES

COLLEGE SPORTS

ACADEMICS

WATCH IT, HOSS!

'89

THE REAL FAN

PENSACOLA RENAISSANCE
A charming story teller and John H. Perry newspaper pioneer in a forty-seven-year career, Braden Lee Ball began as an advertising salesman in 1929 with the News Journal. He pioneered the daily publication of the Panama City News Herald and returned to Pensacola in 1943 as publisher of the News Journal. Known as “Mr. Panhandle,” Ball began WDLP radio in Panama City and founded the weekly Playground News that became the Northwest Florida Daily News at Fort Walton Beach. He retired in 1976.

Elbert Wilson (E.W.) Carswell, News Journal Bureau Chief, Chipley; and West Florida folklorist, historian and author
Maurice F. Harling
*News Journal*
governmental reporter (1945-70);
press assistant
to Governor Askew

Paul Jasper,
editorial page editor, *News Journal*

Jackie Brooks,
reporter, editorial associate and
editor, Gulf Breeze Sentinel

Marion T. Gaines
*News Journal*
Editor, 1939-1965
Journal columnist Patricia (Pat) Lloyd became a legendary newspaper personality during a forty-one year career, covering fashions, social activity, politics and people with "Around the Town" and the popular page-one column, "Tony Knight." Pat died in 1987.

_Gannett CEO Allen H. Neuharth chose Today Publisher James Henry (Jim) Jesse to succeed the retiring Braden Ball as News Journal publisher in 1973. Jesse was chairman of the Pensacola-Escambia Bicentennial program in the 1970s._
Kenneth Andrews, a native Pensacolian who began his *News Journal* career as credit manager in the 1960s and served as advertising director before becoming a Gannett publisher in Monroe, Louisiana in the 1970s. He moved to Jackson, Mississippi, as publisher for ten years before returning as *News Journal* publisher in 1987. Andrews retired in the early 1990s.

New Englander Paul Flynn, veteran Gannett publisher who helped establish *USA Today*, moved from the *Fort Myers News Press* to become *News Journal* publisher when Cliff Barnhart retired. The Massachusetts-born Flynn supervised the 1985 consolidation of the evening *Pensacola News* with the morning *Journal* into the *News Journal*. 
NOW WE ARE TRULY ONE... EVERY MORNING!

THIS IS NOT THE END OF THE STORY!

1889 TO MAY 31, 1985...

YOU NEVER LOSE YOUR TOUCH!

DR. J JULIUS ERVING

SEE YOU AROUND GULLIVER

YOU NEVER LOSE YOUR TOUCH!

DEAR OL' BAD

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Denise Hassell Bannister, who grew up on a dairy farm in West Texas, launched a new News Journal era in January 1991 when she succeeded retiring Ken Andrews as publisher and president of the Pensacola News Journal. The certified public accountant was the publisher of the Gainesville, Georgia Times and the Huntington, West Virginia, Herald Dispatch and a Gannett regional vice president before coming to Pensacola. With the News Journal as the flagship newspaper, Bannister administers Gannett's Gulf Coast newspapers.
Kentuckian Joedy Isert, who joined the News Journal as metro editor, became Opinion Page Editor after the death of veteran editorialist Paul Jasper. Pensacola-born Carl Wernicke, who had been a News Journal reporter and city editor and columnist for The Pensacola News, became Assistant Opinion Page Editor and newspaper columnist. Isert and Wernicke reflected the new era of an expanded editorial board and more reader participation under Publisher and President Denise Bannister in the 1990s.

Anne Saul, News Journal reporter who covered the 1968 teacher strike, became a Gannett editor who helped establish USA Today and develop Gannett computer systems; in the 1980s she was the first woman to become News Journal executive editor.
Novelist Leon Odell Griffith (1921-1984), a native of Crestview who grew up in Bagdad and Milton, was a U.S. Marine Corps combat correspondent in the Pacific during World War II who became one of the region's literary figures. He wrote Long Time Since Morning (1954), Seed in the Wind (1960), poetry, short stories and two biographies, John Holliday Perry: Florida Press Lord (1973), and Ed Ball: Confusion to the Enemy (1975). The former News Journal reporter edited manuscripts for the University Press at Gainesville, became a Pensacola public relations professional and published a weekly Pensacola political newspaper.

Poet, historic preservationist, businessman and Republican political leader, Mayhew Wilson (Pat) Dodson III (1929-1975) was Pensacola's renaissance leader in the 1960s and early 1970s. He served on the University Board of Regents, chaired Florida's Bicentennial Commission and was a top administrator for the Florida Department of Transportation. An inspiration for Pensacola's historic preservation movement, Pat was charter chairman of the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board in 1967. The Pat Dodson Complex at the University of West Florida honors his life and career.
Early Johnny Cash
Cover illustration,
Image Magazine,
Pensacola News Journal

Nelson K. Hamilton,
Singing Suwanee Man
Rosie O'Grady's

Robert (Bob) Snow
creator-owner, Seville
Quarter, Pensacola;
Church Street Station,
Orlando
Film/television actor Leif Erickson married a Pensacolian and adopted the city where he had served in the U.S. Navy during World War II as his second home. His many film roles date from the 1930s; he portrayed Big-John Cannon in the TV western series, “High Chapparal.” The tall, strong-voiced actor autographed this drawing published on the cover of Image Magazine, Pensacola News Journal.

Southern comedian/philosopher Dave Gardner appeared on the NBC Jack Paar Show in 1957; the preacher of down-home mirth and topical political humor electrified the South. His “Rejoice, Dear Hearts!” was the first of his many classic comedy recordings. He played Pensacola and other Gulf Coast cities, including Biloxi; his 1964 Pensacola Municipal Auditorium appearance prompted this illustration for my affectionate profile of Brother Dave, “We Shall Come Rejoicing” (When your Reach September, 1990).
Democrat Spessard Lindsay Holland of Bartow (Florida governor, 1945-49) served four six-year terms in the U.S. Senate, retiring in 1971. Democrat Lawton Chiles of Lakeland was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1970 by walking from Century to Miami, 1,033 miles, earning the reputation of “Walkin’ Lawton.” After retiring from the Senate, Chiles defeated Republican Bob Martinez for governor in 1990 and won re-election by fending off Republican newcomer Jeb Bush to become a surviving Southern Democrat of the GOP avalanche of 1994. Caricature of Claude Kirk (Republican governor, 1967-71).
Moderate LeRoy Collins defused racial unrest by counseling progress under law. He gained national stature as permanent chairman of the Democratic National Convention and President Johnson’s communications official dealing with Martin Luther King Jr. and other civil rights leaders in the 1960s. He later was defeated in his bid for the U.S. Senate. Reubin Askew, like Bob Graham after him, followed the Collins tradition. The Bob Sikes caricature from the News Journal was published in the First District congressman’s 1984 autobiography, He-Coon: the Bob Sikes Story.
A Republican, of Spanish ancestry, Tampa Mayor Bob Martinez became governor but lost a second term to Democrat Lawton Chiles.

Claude Pepper, legendary U.S. Senator, Congressman

Florida Senator Dempsey Barron of Panama City (Dean of the Senate)

Florida Governor Fuller Warren (1949-1953)
Escambia County Rep.
Virginia (Ginger) Bass
(later, Virginia Wetherell, wife of House Speaker T.K. Wetherell, and Secretary of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection)

Tom Tobiassen:
Elected 1968; served twenty four years in the Florida Legislature
In the 1960s, Pensacolians worked out disagreements over expanding Pensacola Junior College or accepting a senior state university; the Florida Legislature established the University of West Florida on Riverview land purchased by the Escambia commissioners. Pensacola Circuit Judge and University of Florida law school professor Harold Bryan Crosby became founding president. The opening of UWF in 1967 triggered high expectations for promoting education and attracting industry and business.
Woodward B. (Woody) Skinner, historian

Gordon Norman Simons, museum curator and archaeologist who helped rediscover Pensacola history from the 1960s until his death in 1989

T.T. Wentworth Jr.  
"Mr. History" of Pensacola
Pensacolian Daniel (Chappie) James, first African-American to wear the four stars of general (U.S. Air Force)

Reubin O'Donovan Askew

Escambia Commissioner Willie Junior
From 1959 to 1965, I wrote and illustrated the *News Journal* Sunday Centennial Series, "The Civil War One Hundred Years Ago This Week." I was fascinated by the great Confederate cavalry leader General Nathan Bedford Forrest. The Tennessee "Wizard of the Saddle" rode into legend, having twenty-nine horses shot under him. He masterminded the classic cavalry victory of all time at Brice’s Crossroads in Mississippi. He said, "I just . . . got there first with the most men. Shoot at anything blue. Git 'em skeered and then keep the skeer on 'em."
Pensacola City Manager Steve Garman

"...DON'T FORGET THE WORLD WAS MADE IN SIX DAYS!"

EARLE BOWDEN '82

JAMES M. SHEFFER

IM JUST A HIRED HAND!

EARLE BOWDEN

MAYOR BARNEY BURKS, 1973-1977

Joe Mooney
Escambia County Administrator
Joe Oldmixon, Escambia County Supervisor of Voter Registration

Engineer, Advocate for Pensacola economic development

Kenneth Kelson, dubbed “Dr. No” as a Pensacola city councilman, said “no” as an Escambia commissioner
ECONOMIC GROWTH

A legend of Fisher-Brown Insurance; noted speaker and Pensacola storyteller

TOMMY TAIT
Banker Tommy Tait helped pioneer Pensacola's Committee of 100

Once an Escambia member of the Florida House of Representatives, Roy Hess was afloat as one of Penscola's best known entrepreneurs in the 1990s.
Since 1960, Massachusetts-born Don Priest has been the news and sports director of WCOA Radio. The caricature was for my *Pensacola Magazine* profile, "The High Priest of Pensacola Radio" (November 1992). His WCOA associate, Dave Pavlock, served four years as Escambia county commissioner in the 1990s. The drawing of John Hodges, Gulf Power executive and community activist, illustrated my Hodges profile, "Man of Energy at Hawkshaw" (*Pensacola Magazine*, January 1993).
Last commanding officer of the USS Lexington; Pensacola City Councilman

Sister Irene Kraus
CEO, Administrator Sacred Heart Hospital Pensacola Magazine October 1993

Captain C. Flack Logan

Max Dickson Escambia County Commissioner

Senator W.D. Childers Dean of the Senate
Gordon Towne
Pensacola radio personality and WCOA manager

Grier Williams
Pensacola Symphony

Captain Don Parker
Sheriff's deputy, humorous speaker, writer, playwright

Professor James Witt
political scientist, University of West Florida

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The 1990s: Storms Before a New Century

Economic growth accelerated in the 1990s, but storms came: Santa Rosa County claimed Navarre Beach, a federal courthouse replaced beleaguered Hotel San Carlos, the USS Lexington sailed for Corpus Christi as a ship museum, Pensacola lost homeporting and its aircraft carrier and West Florida’s largest industry—the Navy aircraft repair depot. Then Hurricane Opal, deadliest storm since 1926, followed the strong winds of Hurricane Erin, ravaging Panhandle beaches.

Yet Pensacola finally had its cultural center in the renovated Court of Record building. Navy technical training from Memphis began a new mission for Pensacola NAS, and success of Ellyson Industrial Park and Marcus Pointe Commerce Park led Escambia commissioners to seek other enterprise areas.

Governor Lawton Chiles denied Bob Martinez reelection, then defeated Republican Jeb Bush in 1994 for reelection. Mayor Jerry Maygarden replaced retiring Vince Whibbs, then became a Republican Florida House member. The City Council chose former Blue Angel John Fogg as mayor. Ed Hinkle succeeded City Manager Kendig; the city projected a master plan for bayfront redevelopment.

Steve Del Gallo, Buck Lee, Dave Pavlock, Mike Whitehead, Mike Bass, Tom Banjamin and Johnny Reading joined Willie Junior as commissioners; the county faced a cleanup of the Perdido landfill, state mandates for comprehensive planning and solid-waste recycling, budget deficits and battles with the Escambia County Utilities Authority over landfill operations. County Administrator Wayne Peacock, successor to Gus Ellis, resigned by become judicial administrator. Bob Koncar, Peacock’s successor, served briefly before Barry Evans became the county administrator.

Citizens approved a penny sales tax for public projects, rejected charter government for the third time, and School Superintendent Bill Maloy, who defeated Pete Payton and asked voters to abolish his job for an appointive administrator, found voters preferred the elected position.

A proposed Pensacola Beach golf course was buried in shifting sands. Alleged UFO sightings enlivened Gulf Breeze, attracting national attention; and Rep. Jim Kerrigan talked to the ghost of John Wayne and advocated public hangings for Florida criminals.

The Soviet Union and the Berlin Wall crumbled; nostalgic 50th anniversary observances marked the end of World War II. American and allied forces ejected Saddam Hussein’s Iraqi invaders from Kuwait in the Gulf War but the victory didn’t help President George Bush, loser to Bill Clinton with a nudge from intruder Ross Perot. Clinton faced Bob Dole in 1996, with Perot posing a third-party threat.

Warren Briggs and Clark Thompson launched the Save the Lex crusade, but city officials and the Naval Aviation Museum foundation leadership sank the dream of converting the decommissioned aircraft into a ship museum on Pensacola’s bayfront. The ship sailed to Corpus Christi as a museum. Homeporting of the USS Forrestal became a memory; refurbished Allegheny Pier and Pensacola remained shipless.

Governor Chiles advocated downsizing state government. Terry Busbee and Billy Tennant faced grand jury critics over ECUA operations; ECUA members were embarrassed by charges of personal use of county cellular telephones.

U.S. Rep. Earl Hutto retired; Republican Joe Scarborough rode the GOP tide to Congress, defeating Vincent Whibbs Jr. for Hutto’s seat, and allied with Newt Gingrich’s Contract with America. With Congress under fire over House scandals and climbing debt, Clinton talked of shared sacrifice. Pensacola leaders pushed for a Defense Finance Accounting Services Center (DFAS) but the concept was downsized.

The county enacted mandatory garbage collection; Jim Lowman defeated Sheriff Charlie Johnson. House Speaker Boley (Bo) Johnson (D-Santa Rosa) brought home “Bo’s Bridge” in a flood of controversy. Childers turned Republican. Governor Chiles ended Comptroller Joe Flowers’ career after heavy financial losses from questionable investments. Floridians rejected casino gambling. Gulf explorations for natural gas ten miles from Pensacola beaches angered coastal promoters, and painful, devastating Erin and Opal taught a powerful seacoast lesson.
The long-simmering political storm over the control of Navarre Beach, which Escambia County leased to Santa Rosa County in 1956, reached a tidal surge in 1990.

Rep. Boley (Bo) Johnson (D-Santa Rosa) joined with Senate dean W.D. Childers for legislation to transfer the four-mile beach area at Navarre to Santa Rosa county—even though Escambia County owned the land on Santa Rosa Island by an Act of Congress. Escambians appeared helpless to resist.
Tom Pelham, originally from Chipley, held the reins of Florida’s growth management planning in 1990. Often he was in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, fighting the fears of property owners and county politicians. Growth in the two West Florida counties in the 1990s signaled the need to save wetlands and enact an effective comprehensive plan that had been mandated by state government.
Rep. Bo Johnson and W.D. Childers demonstrated raw legislative power, convincing the Florida Legislature to transfer Navarre Beach to Santa Rosa County. Childers blasted Escambia commissioners on the floor of the Senate.
The election of Escambia commissioners Steve Del Gallo and Buck Lee brought new, youthful leadership to county government for the 1990s. And Pensacola Mayor Jerry Maygarden and Escambia commissioner Dave Pavlock once again promised the often elusive cooperation between city and county leaders without the feared Big C word—Consolidation.
Escambia property appraiser John R. Jones had a long political career of independence, often frustrating the county commission and county administrator with low appraisals. But he prevailed, even though the state sometimes forced a reappraisal.

Kenneth Kelson, known as “Dr. No” as an independent Pensacola city councilman, also colored a long career as an Escambia County commissioner by sometimes venting disagreement with Tallahassee mandates by proposing the annexation of West Florida to Alabama.
Former Democratic Congressman Bill Nelson of Melbourne, wanting to be governor, rode a slow mule that trailed an early Republican reelection money blitz by incumbent Governor Bob Martinez in 1990.

Nelson’s shootout with Martinez was interrupted by the surprise Democratic entry Lawton Chiles, who had retired from the U.S. Senate and politics. Buddy MacKay, former congressman from Ocala who had lost a narrow race for the U.S. Senate to Connie Mack, convinced Chiles to run and he agreed to be No. 2 in the race to unseat Martinez.
Lawton Chiles, in defeating incumbent Bob Martinez, began his governorship as a New Democrat, promising to streamline and downsize (or rightsize) state government. The task would not be easy. He faced a Florida Senate that would be controlled by Republicans.

The Escambia legislative delegation in 1990: Senator W.D. Childers and House members Tom Tobiassen, Tom Banjanin and Buzz Richie.
BOTTOM OF THE BARREL?
CAPITAL PROJECTS

PENN FOR YOUR THOUGHTS?
TAXPAYERS: MR. KENDIG!

FORECAST FAVORABLE, BUT WE'VE GOT WORK TO DO!

ECONOMIC HEARTACHE
RATHER TAKING PERHAPS!

HIGHWAY ACHES
STATE MANDATE ACHES
POLLUTION PAIN
REVENUE ANEMIA

PENSACOLA ESCAMBAIA
Escambians, facing a referendum for a local-option one-cent sales tax in 1990, also faced a bitter campaign of complaints and fearmonging. But the tax passed; no one went to the poor house.
Escambia commissioners Dave Pavlock, Willie Junior, Kenneth Kelson, Muriel Wagner and Wilson Robertson faced trench warfare in 1990; county administrator Wayne Peacock was always looking for new revenues. A golf course targeted for Pensacola Beach ran into a storm; golf promoters never got to the first tee in the fragile, shifting sands.
Gulf Breeze became known across the nation with strange reports of Unidentified Flying Objects dotting the skies in 1990. The only UFO most people ever saw was the one I drew in this cartoon.

When a state investigation probed the management of the St. Augustine board, Florida legislators mistakenly allowed the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board to sunset in 1990. But Pensacola board members transferred state holdings to Historic Pensacola Inc., a nonprofit support organization, and kept the program operational. The historic preservation boards were reconstituted in the next session of the legislature.
ADMIRAL, SIR, KEEP YOUR STEAM UP!

AND HOPE!

AND PRAY!

EASY! WATCH IT! PENSACOLA, BE ALERT ON YOUR PORT SIDE!

WASHINGTON POLITICS

GULF COAST HOME PORTING

WILL GRAMMS RAB FOR ALL AIR TRAINING

THE HAMMER'S GOIN' DOWN!

BUILD BAYOU CHICO BRIDGE!

EXTEND INTERSTATE 110!

COMPLETE BLUE ANGEL PARKWAY!

GRID NATIONAL HIGHWAY UNLIMITED

ESCambia (2000)
LONG SHALL WE REMEMBER.

Americans still remembered on December 7, 1991, the fiftieth anniversary of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor that began American mobilization for victory in World War II. In the 1980s, Uncle Sam fell victim to a new kind of war—terrorism—that claimed American lives.

General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, Pacific commander, symbolized American determination to defeat Japanese aggression in World War II and repel communist invaders of South Korea.
FRANKLY, DEAR SCARLETT, I THOUGHT WE'D NEVER RETURN!

AFTER ALL, RHETT, TOMORROW'S HERE!

Scarlett: the Sequel to Gone With the Wind is finally published
U.N. U.S. AIR \MIGHT ALLIES

THE WEEK THE WORLD WAIVED NO MORE

I-WHACKED

'91 EARLE BOWDEN

ARABIAN NIGHTS AND THE BUTCHER OF BAGHDAD

'91 EARLE BOWDEN

THE HONT WITH THE INFIDEL!

Huh?

JOHN BOWDEN
WORLD'S GREATEST ENVIRONMENTAL TERRORIST

PROPAGANDA

THE AMERICAN WILL

DESSERT STORM

PEACE PROTESTS

EARLE BOWDERS '91
NOW, ONE FINAL WITNESS, JIMMY SWAGGART!

THE SENATE SLEAZE COMMITTEE

WARNING: X RATED
THESE PENSACOLA WATERS ARE TOUGH TO NAVIGATE!

KEEP PADDLING!

WARREN BRIGGS

SAVE THE LEXINGTON CREW

CLARK THOMPSON

Earle Bowden '91

FULL SPEED AHEAD!

Earle Bowden '91

KEEP PULLING FOR PENSACOLA!

Lady Lex Museum

Earle Bowden '91
THE OLD MAN
PENSACOLA
AND
THE SEA

COME TO THINK
OF IT, WE DO
NEED A BIGGER
BOAT!

LEXINGTON
INVESTMENT
FOR FUTURE
WE Gotta GET GOVERNOR CHILES ON BOARD SOMEHOW!

PENSACOLA PUSH FOR STATE FUNDS

TALLAHASSEE
LEX FOUNDATION

NEW SUITES FOR LEASE:
• DERELICT DUO
• DELUXE • VIP
• VAGRANT • LOW RATES

LOOK!

JUST FER US!
LET US GO AMONGST THEM, OL' BUDDY!

SHARPLY WE MUST, LAWTON!

THE 1991 LAWTON CHILES BUD-CUTTING MISSILE LAUNCHER

'91 EDDIE BOWDEN

VUUVUD 'UUNNN!

FLORIDA

'91 EDDIE BOWDEN
WALKIN' RAMBO
AND THE
TALLAHASSEE
CHOP

EARLE BOWDERS '91

GOVERNOR,
YOU RANG?

EARLE BOWDERS '91

FLORIDA CUTS

CHILES' RIGHT SIZE
PUT THE HAY DOWN FOR THE GOATS THE RIGHT SIZE!

RIGHT ON!

TOM T.

WHICH SIZE IS THE RIGHT SIZE STATE GOV'T LAWTON?

TOM B.

RIGHT, GUV!

60 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

CHILES

MACKAY

BY THE ETERNAL, WE GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS SWAMP BEFORE TALKING ABOUT TAXES!

FLORIDA GOV. REFORM

MACKAY

16 GOV. CHILES

CARLE BOWDER '91
SIR, WE 'BOUT OUTTA AMMO... I MEAN REAL MONEY!

FLORIDA BUDGET CRISIS

TRICKLE-DOWN ECONOMICS!

STATE OF FLORIDA
SCHOOLS
COUNTY
TAXPAYER

EARLE BOWDEY '91
THEY SNATCH NAVARRE BEACH! WHAT'S NEXT FROM TALLAHASSEE?

ESCambia County DirTROad Defense Force

'91 Earle Bowden

KEEP FISHIN!
WE GOTTA CATCH THE BIG ONE!

PAVLock COUNTY BUDGET
PEACOCK

ESCambia Revenue Search

Earle Bowden '91
MR. COMMISSIONERS,
WELCOME TO OPERATION
SUMMER STORM!

HOLD ON! WE
GONNA TURN
THIS OL' BUCKET
AROUND!

EARLE BOWDEN '91

ESCambia
COUNTY
REVENUES

EARLE BOWDEN '91

348
SEARCH FOR A NEW VINC WIBBS...

NAVARR FIGHT

HEY, MAYBE WE OUGHTA HIRE THAT GUY!

PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL

COMP PLANT FIGHT

ESCambia COMMISH

MIKE, LET'S GIVE IT A TRY...

PENSACO WESTERN GATE TO THE SUNSHINE STATE, WHERE THOUSANDS LIVE THE WAY

DUM DE DUM DUM!

MAGGRAND

EORLE BOWDO '91

MILLIONS WISH WHERE WE BETTER LEARN TO SAY THIS RIGHT OR IT MIGHT BE COLD, COLD HEARTS AND A CLOUHY DAY!

DE SORBO DE PLUCK

PLUCK DE PLUCK!
IS THAT THUNDER?

WELCOME TO OPERATION BEACH STORM!

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT

WE GOTTA KEEP THIS SURF UP!
Escambia Growth Management Plan 1991

Naw, none them big-city problems round here!

Drugs Violent Crime

Apathy as usual
EEE EK! A SCUD!

PENSACOLA'S APPOINTED CEREMONIAL MAYOR

ELECT THE MAYOR
BANJANIN BALLISTICS CO.

OR A DUD?

SUNSET! LEGISLATION FOR ESCAMBIA UTILITIES AUTHORITY

TERRY, PRETEND YOU DON'T SEE IT, AND KEEP RUNNING!

CHAIRMAN BUSBEE

BILLY TENNANT

EARLE '91 BOWDEY
NO NEW TAXES!
MORE SCHOOL MONEY!
CUT YOUR HIGH SALARIES!

SAVE THE LIBRARY!
KICK THE RASCALS OUT!

ESCAMBIA POLITICIAN'S NIGHTMARE

TAKE TWO ASPIRIN AND CALL THE COURTHOUSE IN THE MORNING!

UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

CARL BOWDEN '91
THE BATTLE OF ESCAMBIA SCHOOLS...

ERIC EGGEN

PROPOSES BOUNDARY CHANGES

ED STANFORD

OPPOSES "91

HARD TIMES, COME AGAIN

HARD TIMES, NO MORE

ESCAMBIA BOTTOM DOLLAR BAND

EARLE BOWDEN "91
BEATS ME, MR. LEE, BAG'S 'BOUT EMPTY!

THE BUCK STOPS HERE

LET US GO AMONGST 'EM!

GIDDAP!

ONE CENT SALES

...HERE WE GO AGIN!

YEAH...
CAPT. LEE!
WE GOTTA'
BAD LEAK
IN FRANCHISE
FEES!

ESCAMBA BUDGET
CRUISE LINES

WE'RE OFF TO SEE THE WIZARD

YEAH,
GOVERNOR...

WE'RE LOOKING FOR HIM, TOO!
WHEN YOU BOMB, YOU AIM...

GOV. CHILES

$1.3 BILLION NEW TAXES

...FOR FLORIDA'S FUTURE!

WE BEGIN WITH AMPUTATION, THEN...

FLORIDA SALES TAX

GOV. CHILES

EXEMPTION

EXEMPTION

EXEMPTION

Earle Bowden '92
WHAT'S OL' ESCAMBIA... TO DO?

BUDGET DEFICIT

ESSENTIAL COUNTY SERVICES

YOUR COUNTY'S GOING BROKE... YOU NEED INFRASTRUCTURE... AND TALLAHASSEE COULD TAKE OVER!

A PENNY MAYBE?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

C.P. BOWDEN '92
GOVERNOR

JUST WHERE, SIR...

DO YOU FIGURE YOUR COMP PLAN WENT AWRY?

GROWTH MANAGEMENT RESISTANCE

STATE COMP PLAN CRISIS

JUST KEEP MOVING OR...

TALLAHASSEE MIGHT BE GAINING ON US!

Earle Bowden '92
HOLD TIGHT, SENATOR.

WEST FLORIDA REAPPORTIONMENT.

WILD ELEPHANT ON YOUR FLANK!

RELAX! THE COURTS WILL RESCUE YOU TAXPAYERS!

GERPY MANDER

LEGISLATIVE

FLORIDA

G.O.P.

Earle Bowden '92
THIS COMES EASY...

RUBBERGATE

FOR

U.S. HOUSE

DATE: JULY 1994
$2,000.00
Rep. Spends Freely

...DEFICITS ARE MY WAY OF LIFE!

EARRLE BOWDEN '92

OOPS! SORRY!
SOMETIMES WE DO GET OVER-ZEALOUS!

CONGRESS AND WASHINGTON DEFICIT SPENDING

TAXPAYER

EARRLE BOWDEN '92
CARLE BOWDEN ’92
...and the envelope please!

CARLE BOWDEN ’92
HE COULD SPOIL IT FOR ALL US POLITICIANS!
THIS COULD BE RATHER TAXING!

CHILES/FLORIDA REVOLUTION

DOWN, DOWN SIZE!

ERARLE BOWDEN '92

DEVELOPERS

ENVIRONMENTAL PURISMS

PROPERTY RIGHTS

YEAH, THE BUDGET!

STATE VIOLATIONS

PLANNERS

COMMISH

ESCAMBIA GROWTH PLAN

RELAX! THE SIEGE COMES LATER!
COULD IT BE A MIRACLE FROM CITY HALL?

SAN CARLOS SEA OF UNCERTAINTY

ESCambia MONEY SEARCH

COUNTY OPERATIONS

WHOA, BOSSIE!

URBAN GROWTH

CONSTITUTIONAL OFFICES, EXPENSES
GOOD GRIEF, MS. BROWN!

FAMILY VALUES

WE, THE PEOPLE

REFORM OR ELSE!

PSSST! WAKE UP!

BANKRUPT WASHINGTON

SPECIAL INTERESTS

RE-ELECTION

PAC MONEY

SPEND

'92 CROOK BOWDEN
ALAS, AT LAST WE'RE FAST...

GOING FOR DFS

JOBS, JOBS!
DUM DE DUM DUM!

PENSACOLA CHAMBER MUSIC

EARLE BOWDEN '92

...AND THEN THERE'S THE COMING ELECTION!

ESCAMBIA FINANCIAL COOKER

EARLE BOWDEN '92
WHAT'S NEXT?
ENA
ESCAMBIA REVENUE SHORTFALL
BUDGET CUTS

THE COURTHOUSE,
IF WE'RE NOT
CAREFUL!

EARLE BOWDEN '92

WE NEED MORE
BALING WIRE OR A HEART
SURGEON!

EARLE BOWDEN '92

COMMISSION
AUTO REPAIR

ESCAMBIA
BUDGET MODEL
"DON'T LOOK BACK. SOMETHING MAY BE GAINING ON YOU."

SADDAMMIT! SHUT UP AND SIT DOWN! LET ME FINISH!
WHADDA YEAR! CLIMBING DEFICIT...JOBS LOST... SCANDALS ON THE HILL... NOW, RE-ELECTION! AMERICANS MUST LEARN TO...

...TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS!

HOUSE SPENDS $700 MILLION ON ITSELF...
KICK BUTT!

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN!

KICK BUTT!

IT'S A LONG, LONG TIME 'TIL...

WEST FLORIDA AUTUMN STRUT

MULE HEAD!

NOVEMBER

BREAK A LEG!

'92

CARLE BOWDEN

'92

CARLE BOWDEN
EARLE BOWDER '92

FACE IT, OL' BUDDY, I'M STILL WITH YOU!

OOPS! GHOST FROM MY PAST!

NO, BUCK! LAWSUITS AGAINST THE COUNTY!

KILLER BEES, STEVE?
EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS!

MANDATORY GARBAGE PICKUP

IT COULD HAPPEN TO US!

WE WILL REBUILD
NO! NO! NOT ANOTHER ONE!

Bo, keep looking for Florida’s rainy day fund!

House Speaker B. Johnson

$1.3 billion state costs for Andrew rebuilding.
BO, WE'LL MISS THE GOOD OLD DAYS!

REPELAGOS

SENATE GRIDLOCK

TALK ABOUT GRIDLOCK

FLORIDA GOP

GOV. CHILES

DON'T WORRY, I'M PONDERING BETTER WAYS TO DOWNSIZE!

S.O.S. FLORIDA STATE SPENDING
EMERGING FACES IN ESCAMBIA POLITICS

WHADDA YEAR! WHO COULD POSSIBLY...

...WANT THIS JOB?

OH, MR. LEE!

CHAIRMAN
THE BUCK STOPS HERE

ESCAMBIA HEADACHES '92

ESCAMBIA HEADACHES '93
HEY, GOTA IDEA FOR HOTEL SAN CARLOS!

YEAH - WHAT'S THAT?

'T93

DFAS PAYROLL CENTER

PENSACOLA FUNDING AUTHORITY

THIS BABY OUGHTA FLY WITH THE BEST OF 'EM!

'93

CARLE BOWDER
FRESH MEAT!

U.S. DEFICIT

SHARED SACRIFICE

AND MORE TAXES
MENTION RAISING TAXES, BO, AND HE GETS JUMPY!

FLORIDA LEGISLATURE '93

BUSH WAS INDEED PROPHETIC!

PARDON ME, THIS IS SHARED SACRIFICE!
WHAT YOU MEAN, A SHIP MUSEUM IDEA IS ALL WET?

PROBABLY GO TO TEXAS, TOO!

OR MOBILE!

NAVY'S SEA OF UNCERTAINTY

CLINTON CUTS

HIT THE DIRT!

GAYS

PENTAGON

OR ARKANSAS!
TERRY, THE PROBLEM WITH POLITICS IS TOO MUCH POLITICS!

SMELLS LIKE 'EM OL' BOYS AT IT AGAIN!

GRAND JURY NO. 4

POLITICS

ECUA PROBE
PROFESSOR MALOY'S SCHOOL MANEUVERS

PRINCIPALS

SETTLE DOWN, CLASS! CHECK YOUR SEAT BELTS!

ESCambia DISTRICT

IT'S JUST A MANNER OF HOW ONE SEES HIMSELF!

Ye Ole School DISTRICT

SUPER MALOY

'93 EARLE BOWDEN

UP, UP AND AWAY!

'93 EARLE BOWDEN
GREAT SHIPWRECKS IN PENSACOLA HISTORY

BASE CLOSURE COMMISSION

NEW CHOPPER FROM FORT RUCKER?

NO! WASHINGTON! WATCH YOUR HEAD!

WEST FLORIDA MILITARY
WE NEED SOME HOME RULE OR A NEW MODEL!

WHAT ABOUT A CHARTER?

TAXPAYERS

ESCAMBA COUNTY GOV'T

'93 EARLE BOWDEN

WILLIE, WE'VE GOT THAT 'OL BOY KICKING AGAIN!

ESCAMBA GOVMINT

Dirt Road Politics

Buck

WILLIE
TRY THIS BEAUTY! YOU'LL NEVER GO BACK TO THAT OL' DIRT ROAD CLUNKER AGAIN!

THE NEW CHARTER

HOMERULE

CARLE BOWDER '93

THEM 'OL CHARTER FOLKS FACE A TOUGH JOB...

...US 'OL COURTHOUSE CROWD'S ROOTS RUN DEEP!

DEADWOOD

ESCAMBIA GUYMINT
FOR YOU POLITICIANS
WE'D LIKE TO OFFER
A NEW SERVICE—
INSTANT RECALL!

ESCAMBIA TAXPAYERS HOT LINE
Florida GOP Targets Chiles

Running Again, Governor?

Florida Tourism Image

Violent Crime

You thief! We're peaceable folks here!
**BRITISH FORT AT PENSACOLA**

**Judy Bense**

**COlONIAL ARCHAEOLOGY**

They're putting this Old Town on the map!

**Bo's Bridge over Troubled Waters...**

**Bay Bridge Advocates**

**State Political Clout**

Earle Bowder '93
HILLARY, YOU GOT ANY MEDICINE FOR THIS?

DAVID, WHERE DID I GO WRONG?

THE LEFT

GERGEN
OFF THE WALL!

394
LIKE OL' MAN RIVER!

LOCAL GOV'T COSTS

THE BAD NEWS IS IT'S BUDGET TIME!

THE BIG BAD NEWS IS WE'RE $8.5 MILLION SHORT!

NOT AGAIN!

STEVE
Even Kenny Rogers would come up short in a high-stakes game to avoid raising taxes!

Buck, this gonna balance the books? For a while!
PARDON ME, SIR! THIS IS DANGEROUS WORK!

ESCambia COMMISH

PERDIDO LANDFILL INVESTIGATION

U.S. GRAND JURY

1993 EARLE BOWDEN

OKAY, NEIGHBORS, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

OK, NEIGHBORS, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

PENSACOLA

LATIN TRADE
NEW INDUSTRY
NEW BUSINESS
TOURISM
APATHY

SHRINKING MILITARY SPENDING

EARLE BOWDEN '93
DR. MENGE, WHAT KIND OF NEW ESCAMBIA GOVERNMENT?

HOME RULE CHARTER, MR. BURKS

THAT IS, MY DEAR PEOPLE, IF WE CAN SELL IT!

COUNTY CHARTER COMMISH

ESCAMBIA POWER FIGHT

IT JUST GOES WITH THE TERRITORY!

BOB KONCAR
STEVE, WHAT'LL IT BE?

CLINTON SPIN? PEROT PREEN? DOLE DIP?

ESCAMBIA BUDGET DEFICIT

OOPS! THIS COULD BE TAXING!

ESCAMBIA BUDGET MIRACLES

...OR POLITICS AS USUAL?

EARLE BOWDER 93
INVINCIBLE, GENERAL THOMAS! JUST LIKE GETTYSBURG!

WE'RE BACK, W.D.!

CIVIL SERVICE
FRANCHISE FEE

OH, W.D., BUZZ!

ESCambia LEGISLATION

STATE GRANT S.O.S.

Florida Senate
REMEMBER, STEVE? THE ILLUSION DOESN'T LAST LONG!

COUNTY AGENDA

THIS GIFT COULD BE YOUR BRIGHT FUTURE!

CHARTER GOVERNMENT
LET'S SEE. ESCAMBIA'S SEEK HOME RULE, MORE EFFICIENT COUNTY GOVERNMENT, POWER TO THE PEOPLE.

BUT BEWARE SPECIAL INTERESTS SPREADING FEAR IN THEIR QUEST TO KEEP POWER FROM THE PEOPLE!

JUST WHAT WE NEED... OPEN MIND, EASY TO PERSUADE, AND NO BAD BUDGET NEWS!

ESCAMBIA POLITICAL SYSTEM COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
WATCH FOR LAND MINES!

TALLAHASSEE
YOU ARE ENTERING A BATTLE ZONE

SEN. PAT THOMAS
W. D.

CARLE BOWDER '94

FLORIDA CRIME

GO GET 'EM, PODNER!

LEGIS
"Saddle up, Jim, you Pilgrims gotta save the guns!"

JOHN WAYNE
*The Shootist*

"When the Duke speaks, we ride!"

FLORIDA CRIME SOLUTION

"Hang 'em high in public!"

—REPUBLICAN, FLORIDA
Hey, we're on the map sometime!

It's time we solved the map crisis!
MR. MAYOR, WHICH WAY OUTTA THE SWAMP?

PENSACOLA PORT FINANCING

MEXICO MAYBE, ROD?

WOW! IT'S A KEEPER! DON'T LET IT GET AWAY AGAIN!

ESCAMBIA CHARTER
AT LAST! AN APPLICANT WHO CAN PLEASE ALL FIVE COMMISSIONERS!

EMERGENCY DOOR

ESCAMBIA COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

YOU KNOW, NEWCOMERS MUST LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE HEAT OF THE PANHANDLE!

BARRY EVANS COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
MARATHA! REUN SANDS HAVE BEGUN!

VOTEB JAMMIN BUREI COMMISSION POLITICS HEAT UP

EARLE BOWDER '84

NO LANDSLIDE!

WHAT'S THAT?

FEDERAL MANDATES

$8 MILLION CLEANUP

PERILS OF PERDIDS

EARLE BOWDER '84
YES, BOB, LIFE CAN BE SAFE AGAIN!

MAYBE I SHOULD CONSULT DR. HILLARY!

FLORIDA
SOCIAL WELFARE COSTS

ILLEGAL ALIENS
HEALTH CARE

DR. CHILES
ALTOGETHER NOW!

PENSACOLA TOURISM

WEST FLORIDA

IT'S A NEW STRATEGY—WE POOL OUR FIREPOWER RATHER THAN TAKING POTSHOTS AT EACH OTHER!

WEST FLORIDA TOURISM/ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
THE REPUBLIC'S SAFE NOW, RIGHT, GEN. MAPOLES??

YEAH, BUCK...

...EAST OF ESCAMBIA BAY!

I DON'T THINK THIS IS A WAY TO CONVINCE WASHINGTON WE NEED A CONNECTOR!
WILLIE, YOU THINK, FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW, THEY WILL REMEMBER OUR BUDDIES ON D-DAY?

LET'S SEE... GREAT NAVY TOWN, GREAT BEACHES, GREAT HISTORY, GREAT ARTS PROGRAM, GREAT CLIMATE, GREAT PEOPLE, GREAT COLLEGES, GREAT QUALITY OF LIFE... AND YOU'RE SUFFERING AN IDENTITY AND IMAGE CRISIS...

PENSACOLA BAY AREA
FORGET POLITICS, CONTINUE THE CUSTOM!

THE CUSTOM OF APPOINTING OUR MAYOR HAS SERVED US HONORABLY...

PENSACOLA CITY COUNCIL

THIS OL' MARINE PILOT HAS GONNA GET THIS BIRD OFF THE GROUND!

PENSACOLA MAYORSHIP

VOTE
CITY COUNCIL

CARLE BOWDEN '94
BUDDY, NOW YOU SEE WHY WE NEED OUR OWN HEALTH CARE PLAN!

'94
EARLE BOWDEN

YOU SEE, AFTER THE LAST BOAT LEFT, I GOT SO LONELY I WANTED TO SEE MY PEOPLE!
This thing just keeps coming back, Matt!

SAY IT AIN'T SO, JOE!

CHARTER FOR HOME RULE

COURTHOUSE CROWD

BE PATIENT, WE'RE GETTING THERE!

CHARTER
ESCAMBA

HOME RULE
GOV'T FOR THE FUTURE

CHARTER

'94 BOWDETS

'94 BOWDETS
LITTLE GAME OF CHANCE, PENSACOLA?

DO WE REALLY NEED THIS?

FORGET SUN, WEATHER, BEACHES, TOURIST ATTRACTIONS, QUALITY OF LIFE, THERE'S GOLD IN FLORIDA!

CASINO GAMBLING.
THIS OUGHTA PUT US BACK ON THE MAP!

E.C. HOME RULE CHARTER

POLITICS OF OLD

WATCH YOUR MOVE, MATT!

'D94 EARLE BOWDEN

DID YOU SAY YOU'RE BETTING THE COURT HOUSE?

JOE AUDITS

BELLS \ STATUS \ CHARTER \ ESCAMBIA FUTURE
WEST FLORIDA CANDIDATES VOICE THEIR DIFFERENT VIEWS

I'M ANTI-CRIME, ANTI-VIOLENCE, PRO-PRISONS, ANTI-TAXES, ANTI-DRUGS, PRO-FAMILY VALUES, PRO-HEALTH CARE, PRO-QUALITY EDUCATION, PRO-NEW JOBS, AND I NEED YOUR VOTE!

...ONTO THE WEST FLORIDA SCENE COMES THE NEW-AGE POLITICIAN!

WHO NEEDS PEOPLE?

GOVERNMENT BY VIDEO

PUBLIC PULSE

TREND'S POLLS

GUN TALK

WOOX TALK

PUBLIC IMAGE

CRIME

GOVERNMENT BY FAX
GO GET HIM, JEB!

SMITH
BUSH
GALLAGHER

G.O.V. CHILES

TOM FADES, JIM FOLDS, AND THEY ARE STILL COMING!

HEAR THAT BELLOW, GUY?

FLORIDA ELECTORATE

YEP, JEB, THE NATIVE'S SURE ARE RESTLESS!
Earle Bowden '94

Joe, you're no Hutto!

Vinnie, you're no He-Coon!

Earle Bowden '94

Oh, no! It can't be that day yet!

Florida candidates

Nov. 8 election

Next!
UNCLE NEWT SURE OFFERS HANDY GIFTS TO US FRESHMEN!

TO KEEP HIS FEET ON THE GROUND!

THE HE-COON'S SMART ENOUGH...

SOUTHERN DEMOCRATS
Martha, remember when Scenic Highway was Scenic?

Where's the bay?

Where we going this time, W.D.?

Buzz, smile and keep paddling!
MY CONTRACT SAYS LEAD, FOLLOW OR SHIFT INTO OVERDRIVE!

SURE, MR. PRESIDENT, WE WILL WORK TOGETHER!
...BUT IT WILL COME BACK IN A DOZEN OR SO YEARS!

MAYBE, I HOPE!

OOPS!

EARRIE BOWDER '95

WHEN IN THE COURSE OF HUMAN EVENTS, GO FOR IT!

EARRIE BOWDER '95

CONGRESS '95
AHM...1995...NEW YEAR, NEW CHALLENGES!
YEAH, MIKE, SOME FOLKS SURE ON EDGE!

WILLIE, SURE LOUTA GARBAGE GOING ON!

EARLE BOWDER

EARLE BOWDER '95

LEGISLATION ON ECUA COMPTROLLER

MAY BE HOME-RULE CHARTER AIN'T SO BAD, AFTER ALL! OOO...

ESCAMBIA COMMISH
YES, SUH, THE OL' HE COON SHO' KNOWS...

FLORIDA NEEDS WELFARE REFORM, LESS GUMMINT, MORE JAILS AND NO NEW TAXES!

RIGHT, NEWT, OL' BUDDY?

FLORIDA GOP

ONCE MORE INTO THE TRASH WAR! CHECK YOUR AMMO!

Trash is right!
NOW THAT LIBRARY AND ECUA ISSUES ARE BEHIND US, LET'S TURN TO ANOTHER BURNING ISSUE!

AMERICAN VALOR

Mount Suribachi
Iwo Jima
February 1945
GOVERNOR TRADED MY PICKUP FOR A FASTER MODEL!

SAY, PO'NER, THAT THE WAY OUTTA THE NINETEENTH CENTURY?
THAT OL' CHARTER GUVMINT AGIN, HUH? I TELL YOU, POD'NER, I'M RIGHT PLEASED WITH TH' OL' WAY 'SCAMBY'S BEEN SINCE GRANDPA TAUGHT ME TH' COMFORTS OF GOOD OL' DIRT-ROAD POLITICS!

ESCAMBA ECONOMICS 101

ACADEMIC QUALITY
ADVISORY COUNCILS
PERSONNEL COSTS
PTAs

$10.3 MILLION SHORTFALL

...SO, CLASS, WE ALL GO BACK TO SCHOOL!

Earle Bowder '95
HOME RULE CHARTER FOR ESCAMBIA

FINALLY, WE'RE RACING FOR THE FUTURE!

SOMETIMES I WISH WE HAD SOME HOME RULE!

...RATHER THAN ALWAYS RUNNING OVER TO ASK TALLAHASSEE!

COMMISH

ESCAMBIA FINANCIAL AUTHORITY

EARLIE BOWDEN '95
Our American Spirit.

MUST SO MANY SIT HOME AND LET SO FEW DETERMINE YOUR FUTURE?

CITY COUNCIL ELECTION

PORT FUTURE DEBATED

ECONOMIC GROWTH NEEDED

TOURISM

STATE SCENIC HIGHWAY

BAYFRONT DEVELOPMENT PROJECTED

PENSACOLA FIRE POLICE NEEDS
Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what...

AH, SHUT UP, WILL YOU!

Wait! Wait!
Give us Escambia taxpayers a chance!

June 6 Special Election

Home-Rule Charter

Strategy for Political Survival

County Officials
DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST, LACK OF QUORUMS AND REPEATED ABSENTEEISM, OUR REGIONAL PLANS HAVE BEEN TRAMPLED BY INCREASED TRAFFIC!

WHANNA YOU SAY, JOE?

FOUR SCORE DAYS AND LESS THAN TWENTY MORE NEWT BROUGHT FORTH THE CONTRACT AND WE FRESHMEN HAVE A NEW BIRTH OF FREEDOM!
THE TRUTH IS IT'S HARD TO ARGUE AGAINST HOME RULE, MORE POWER TO THE PEOPLE, REDUCED SALARIES, RECALL, LIMITED TAX-AND-BORROW POWERS, CODE OF ETHICS...

YEAH, VOTERS MIGHT READ THE WHOLE DOCUMENT!

RELAX! TRY FEAR, HALF-TRUTHS, INNUENDO!

DIRT ROAD POLITICS INC.
EST. 1885

HIGHER TAXES, DIRT ROADS! DO-NOTHING COMMISSION PUTTIN' US IN THE PO'HOUSE!

HOMERULE CHARTER IS A SOCIALIST PLOT! TALLAHASSEE WILL TAKE OVER OUR...

CALL THE GUVMER MAL CONTENT (YESTERDAY) MAL CONTENT (TODAY) ESCAMBIA COUNTY!

CALL THE MILITIA SAVE US, LEGISLATURE!
RECYCLING? WE TAXPAYERS MUST BEGIN SOMEWHERE!

KEEP DIGGING, FELLERS! THE BOSS SAYS COUPLE OF DAYS MORE AND WE GO BACK TO FILLING POTHOLEs!

HOME RULE FOR ESCAMBIA
NOW THAT THE CHARTER STORM HAS PASSED, IT'S BACK TO POTHOLES AS USUAL!

INVESTMENT CRISIS
RECYCLING MANDATE
CAUTION! BUMPY ROAD AHEAD

JUST WHEN OUR CITY COUNCIL COMES UP WITH A QUALITY PROPOSAL...

...THE SAME POLLUTION RETURNS!
CLEAN AIR, CLEAN WATER...

COASTAL FLORIDA

PROTECTED BEACHES, BUT WATCH OUT FOR SHARKS IN CONGRESS!

Yeah, remember JAWS?

RUSH LIMBAUGH REPUBLICAN SCHOOL OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

WHAT'S A FEW TARBALLS, OIL SLICKS, OILY BIRDS AND STAINED BEACHES?

EASTERN GULF GAS AND OIL SPECULATORS

FLORIDA
WE'VE GOT BALANCE, RHYTHM, REVENUE...

PENSACOLA RHAPSODY

BUDGET

CITY MANAGER FINKLE

LET'S BOOGIE!

BAYFRONT

NATURAL GAS

EXPANSION

'95 EARLE BOWDER

EARLE BOWDER '95

OKAY, GUYS, LET'S BUILD IT RIGHT THIS TIME!

BEST PORT IN THE INDIES!

SÍ, SEÑOR!

TRISTAN DE FLEMING

CITY OF PENSACOLA

CRA PLANS

PENSACOLA BAYFRONT

445
SHOW OFF
MAKING US LOOK LIKE
SOME KIND OF
JACKASS!

INCREASING
FLORIDA GOP CLOUT

REP. BUZZ RITCHIE MOVES HIS NERVOUS BURRO THROUGH A HOSTILE HERD, SEEKING FLORIDA'S SPEAKERSHIP...

THIS AIN'T PEANUTS!

CARLE BOWDEN 95
KEEP Firing!

...Til Tallahassee Sends The Asphalt!

Widen State Road 87

SANTA ROSA

Earle Bowder '95

Bayfront Redevelopment Projects Since the 1970s

Onward, Maybe!

Port of Pensacola

Earle Bowder '95

449
Onward, Troops, to The Valley Forge Bookstore!

We're cutting! We're cutting... to the bone!

Legislative Budget Cuts
"CLEAN, PRISTINE, UNIQUE, AND VITAL TO TOURISM AND ECONOMIC GROWTH...

WEST FLORIDA BEACH

OIL/GAS COMPANIES

WELL, HOW DO WE BUILD THIS TIME?

THE NEW EMERALD COAST

VERY HIGH, VERY CAREFULLY, VERY EXPENSIVELY!
FEED MONSTERS AND STARVE OUR STUDENTS!

THE FLORIDA ELEPHANTS SURE ARE RESTLESS!

G-O-P SWAMP
For years we've leveled island dunes, building condos, hotels, houses...

Now, we're good guys, helping mother nature put them back!

Yeah, too bad!

Yeah, costly payback time!

Santa Rosa Earth Movers

Wonder what Colin Powell would do?

U.S. budget battle

Bosnia
THIS IS AS TRICKY AS...

PEACEKEEPER

CONGRESS

AMERICAN PEOPLE

BOSNIA

...RUNNING THE RAPIDS OF WHITESTONE!

WILLIE, REMEMBER THE RUSH, THE POWER, THE ILLUSION?

YEAH, THEN THE REAL HARD ROAD!

AMBIA BOARD CHAIRMAN

MIKE
STEADY, JOHNNY, LET'S RISE ABOVE IT!

WE MUST PROTECT PEOPLE'S PROPERTY RIGHTS AND KEEP BIG GOVERNMENT OUT OF OUR FOLKS' LIVES...

...AND IF THEY BUILD IN FLOOD-PRONE AREAS FEMA SHOULD BAIL 'EM OUT!
MARTIN, THEY MARCHED AGAIN, BUT ALL CITIZENS SHOULD HEED YOUR CLASSIC MESSAGE OF 1963!

I HAVE A DREAM

WHOA!

FLORIDA WELFARE SYSTEM

DRINK UP!

CHILES' "WORK FIRST" REFORM
NOW CLASS, THE REAL MEANING OF TERM LIMITS!

WE'RE GETTING THERE!

WE'RE GETTING THERE!
Hey, guys, we have a future you can't miss! We want you!

Now, the big trick is making them vanish!
...But how?
PAT! PAT! PLEASE, WE ARE THE PARTY OF RONALD REAGAN!

Ah...C'MON, ROSS!

THUMP THUMP

THOMP THUMP
IF THE STATE WON'T FOUR-LANE, AT LEAST WE CAN HAVE AN EFFECTIVE WARNING SYSTEM!

...NOW, ANOTHER COSTLY STORM HITS TALLAHASSEE!

FIRST, ANDREW, THEN, OPAL...
SHALL WE TRY THE E.C.U.A.?

ESCAMBIA LANDFILL

THIS WAY! NO, THAT WAY! BACK UP!

STOP ESCAMBIA FINANCES LANDFILL
"Politically this is a work of fiction."

Eddie Bowder '96

Build here and here!

Eddie Bowder '96
Just think... I once had this place mostly to myself!

WEST FLORIDA
POLITICAL SEASON

VOTE '96

Quarterbacking's a snap, chief! Just keep your eyes on your little old blocking back!

DOLE
A SHAME!
A SHAME!

JUST THINK, THIS GREAT STATE PARKWAY, UNIQUE FOR FLORIDA, SOON WILL BE ALL CONCRETE AND STEEL, BLOCKING THE VIEW!

WHO NEEDS TALLAHASSEE?

PERDIDO KEY

GROWTH MANAGEMENT PLAN

ECHAMBI COUNTY

PREMIUM WHITE OUT
PLANNING DEPARTMENT
WHADDA I DO NOW, KING GRADY?

WELL, IT SEEMS TO WORK FOR HILLARY!

BEYOND THE TURBULENCE, WE SEE BLUE SKIES ... I HOPE!
MAYBE PENSACOLA'S SHIP IS FINALLY COMING IN!

PALAFOX PIER AND MARINA
J. FLEMING, CAPTAIN

BAYFRONT

COULD BE A WINNER!

LOSE IT!

CLOSE IT!

KEEP IT!

MAKE IT PAY!

SELL IT!

467
...A UNIQUE CARNIVOROUS ENDANGERED PLANT! WE MUST SAVE THIS HABITAT!

PROTECTING 7,000 ACRES OF WETLANDS FOR THE PEOPLE!

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

LISTEN CLOSELY, HEAR THE DEEP GRINDING SOUND!

WEST FLORIDA BEACHES

Yeah, scary!