



The Tusk



The Official Newsletter of the...

BREVARD REPUBLICAN EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

www.brevardgop.org

(The pachyderm uses his ivory tusk to dig and bore for work and food. We use our Tusk to dig and bore to help Keep Brevard County red.)

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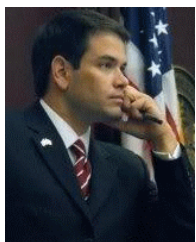
THRASHER ELECTED NEW RPOF CHAIR

The Republican State Executive Committee, meeting in Orlando February 20, elected State Senator John Thrasher of St. Augustine to head the Republican Party of Florida by serving the remaining 11 months of recently resigned Chairman Jim Greer.

Thrasher won 135 votes, while Broward National Committeewoman Sharon Day received 85 votes and there were two cast for Osceola Committeeman Mark Cross.

Thrasher said he was honored “to lead this great organization during this most important election cycle” and it was “time to move forward together with the understanding that our common adversary is the Democrat style of governing and that our shared mission to working tirelessly to elect Republicans at the local, state and federal levels.”

Hillsborough County Chairwoman Deborah Cox-Roush was subsequently elected to serve as RPOF Vice Chairman.



RUBIO WOWS BREC LINCOLN DAY DINNER

Excessive and wasteful spending in Washington “threaten to diminish our country for our children,” Gubernatorial candidate Marco Rubio

told a cheering crowd of 550 people attending the BREC Lincoln Day Dinner February 5. “That is what 2010 is all about,” he said.

Calling President Obama and congressional Democrats “noble elites,” Rubio said they are trying to convert the United States into a European-style form of socialist government.

Rubio, who easily defeated Governor Charlie Crist – his major primary opponent – in BREC’s non-binding straw poll, said the Democrats, who do not believe in the free enterprise system, wanted to transform our nation in 2008, “but we are not a nation in need of transformation.”

“Don’t abandon what is great to fix what is wrong,” he added. “Change, but do not transform.”

He pointed out that the way to reach out to minorities in our nation is to stress to them that their children will be better off than they are themselves through free enterprise, “which leads to liberty and prosperity,” while the way of the Democratic-controlled government leads to poverty.

“We are on the right side of this issue both literally and figuratively,” Rubio said. “This nation has sided with the individual over the state. We choose limited government. Other nations chose government over liberty, but they are not the United States of America.”

Rubio drew laughs and applause for these “sound bites” in his speech:

-- "The way the microphone is placed on the lectern here, my teleprompter doesn't fit."

-- "I've never been to any tea party that actually served tea."

-- "Why am I running? I wanted to win the Nobel Peace Prize."

-- "Were it not for my size, speed and talent, I would be playing in the NFL."

Rubio was introduced to the crowd by incoming State Senate President Mike Haridopolos, who said the candidate has "every passion and drive to turn around this nation."

"Change is on the way," Haridopolos said, because the GOP is the party of new ideas and new faces.

Welcoming everyone to the annual event, BREC Chairman Jason Steele said, "Your fundamental belief in smaller, more accountable government; lower taxes; and individual liberty provides continuous inspiration to our neighbors. Every day, the people of this nation are calling out for the kind of government that Republicans have held dear for generations, and it is due to your vigilance."



Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp was presented with a Howard Futch Appreciation Award, in the shape of an eagle, named in honor of the late BREC Chairman and State Senator from Indiatlantic.

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HIGHLIGHTS OF FEBRUARY 11 BREC MEETING

Chairman Jason Steele, opening the Brevard Republican Executive Committee meeting February 11, said the Lincoln Day Dinner was a huge financial success for the party and he thanked those who worked so hard to make it so. Steele also presented a Howard Futch Appreciation Award to Clyde Thodey, chairman of the Lincoln Day Dinner committee.

Other highlights of the BREC meeting included:

-- Field Coordinator Frank Montelione announced that grassroots training will begin soon for district chairs and precinct leaders in preparation for the 2010 election.

-- General Counsel Michael Kahn announced the reformation of the Rules Committee to put together standing rules for BREC.

-- Harry Santiago announced the formation of a new group – Space Coast Freedom Alliance of Palm Bay, an offshoot of the Tea Party. The group will meet the third Tuesdays of the month at Memaw BBQ in Palm Bay beginning at 6:30 pm.

-- State Committeewoman Carlie Rogers announced two new club presidents – J.B. Kump of the Republican Club of North Brevard, and Charles Steen of the Brevard County Young Republicans.

-- The committee took a non-binding sense-of-body vote for the soon-to-be-filled position of Republican Party of Florida chair and selected Committeewoman Sharon Day.

-- The committee elected James Marshal to the position of BREC assistant secretary.

-- Attorney Jessica Recksiedler of Lake Monroe asked committee members to sign petitions to place her name on the August 24 primary ballot to run for the non-partisan position of Circuit Court Judge for the 18th Judicial Circuit, Group 3.

-- Attorney Erin Grall of Vero Beach announced she is running for the State Legislative District 29 seat.

-- Vice-Chair Dave Isnardi swore in more than 40 new BREC members.

RUBIO, BECK, OTHERS ENERGIZE ACTIVISTS AT CPAC

Senate candidate Marco Rubio and television and radio talk show host Glenn Beck were just two of the dozens of speakers cheered at the 37th annual CPAC (Conservative Political Action Conference), held February 18-20 in Washington, DC.

Rubio opened the conference with a fiery assault on President Obama's economic policies and his administration's handling of national security. More than 10,000 conservative activists from across the nation attended CPAC, and those who were able to squeeze into the main ballroom – while others watched on closed circuit TV screens throughout the building – repeatedly interrupted Rubio's speech with standing ovations.

“2010 will not be just a choice between Republicans or Democrats. It will not just be a simple choice between liberals and conservatives. It will be a referendum on our nation's very identity,” Rubio told the energized crowd.

He spoke of lowering taxes and of putting terrorists on trial in a military tribunal rather than a civilian court, and he called the Tea Party movement part of “the single greatest pushback in American history.”

The recent snowstorm in Washington was “a boost to American society,” Rubio said, because it slowed down government action for a few days.

Regarding national security, he added, “We will do whatever it takes, for however long it takes, to defeat radical Islamic terrorism. We will punish their allies like Iran. We will stand with our allies like Israel. We will target and we will destroy terrorist cells and the leaders of those cells. The ones that survive, we will capture them. We will get useful information from them.”

There were non-stop sessions of speakers and panel discussions running simultaneously at CPAC, giving grassroots conservatives and activists plenty of opportunities to celebrate the rising political prospects for the 2010 elections. Speakers confidently predicted big Republican gains in the November congressional elections.

Beck, in closing out the conference, blamed progressivism for America's problems. He brought along his famous chalkboard to detail his thoughts on the subject. Rejecting the notion that the Republican

Party should expand its tent to include progressives, Beck said to laughter, “What is this? A circus? America is not a clown show. America is an idea that sets people free.”

Nearly 2,400 of the attendees took part in CPAC's traditional straw poll vote. On the list for who they preferred to be the 2012 Republican presidential nominee, Texas Congressman Ron Paul received 31 percent of the vote. Former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney had 22 percent, former Alaska Governor Sarah Palin had 7 percent, and the rest were split among eight other potential candidates.

Paul and Romney – who won the poll during the past two CPACs – addressed the conference, while Palin did not attend.

One question in the poll asked participants to choose their top two core beliefs, and 80 percent selected individual freedom and limiting the size of government.



ADAMS, CRISAFULLI ADDRESS RONALD REAGAN CLUBS

State Representative Sandy Adams of Orlando, a Congressional candidate in District 24, says if Republicans “don't take back Congress” this year, “our country won't be something we recognize anymore.”

Adams told the January meeting of the Ronald Reagan Clubs that it is time to put the seat, now held by a Democrat, “back in the hands of a conservative.” She is calling for spending control, limited government growth, an end to bailouts and bonuses, lower taxes and creating new jobs.

As a state legislator, Adams said, she actually reads every bill she votes on, and would continue that practice in Congress. A former law enforcement officer in Orange County, she worked in the State Legislature to pass landmark legislation relating to seaport and airport security, and hurricane preparedness.



State Representative Steve Crisafulli of Merritt Island, who also addressed the Ronald Reagan Clubs meeting, said the Legislature needs to do cost benefit analyses on appropriations so we can have the best possible use of our tax dollars. This is a measure for which he has been calling, and he added that more legislators are needed who understand the business aspect of it.

Crisafulli also said that with the Federal government shutting down the space shuttle program, the use of commercial space is the “only hope” for the Kennedy Space Center. Unless Brevard County is prepared with new industries and jobs to take its place, the impact could be devastating, he added.

Regarding the controversial high speed rail system for Florida, Crisafulli said he voted for it in the Legislature for commercial reasons rather than commuter ones. This is an opportunity to move products throughout the state, especially to the ports, he said.

LEFFLER DISCUSSES ENVIRONMENTALISM WITH NEW MILLENNIUM CLUB



Environmentalism, says Chris Leffler, sod farm manager for A. Duda Company, “has gone from well-intended to unintended consequences.”

Legislation in support of environmental issues was supposed to help people, but instead caused long term problems, Leffler told the New Millennium Conservative Club. Today’s solutions, he said, are often tomorrow’s problems.

He gave as an example drainage projects that cover lakes and flowing water. Originally created flood districts became water management districts and they imposed rules to limit irrigation and control the timing of watering even if it is raining, he said, adding that the impacts of historic drainage projects and local watering ordinances are two different topics.

There is an unintended consequence of “nutrient loading” in drainage projects, he said, due to the oxidation of exposed organic, or muck, soils. This is the primary cause of eutrophic conditions of Florida’s surface waters, Leffler said, adding that state and federal governments have been responsible for draining the state but farmers have gotten all of the blame for nutrient loading.

Regarding watering ordinances, Leffler said “comprehensive plans” do not quantify target reductions in water use. For example, he said, if Orlando consumes 80 billion gallons of water a day, the ordinance should target a numeric reduction of about 20 millions gallons daily. The problem is that local officials draft ordinances that cripple certain industries yet do not address the fundamental problem of water abuse, he added.

He stressed that the main problem in both of these areas is that science is typically ignored by policy makers.

Leffler, who also is associated with the 9-12 Project, said state agricultural and rural leaders are mostly united in opposition to nutrient quality standards being proposed by the Environmental Protection Agency, which says they are necessary to meet the requirements of the Clean Water Act.

A resolution by the State Agricultural and Rural Leaders Legislative Agricultural Chairs Summit VIII states the EPA’s regulations would only apply to Florida and represent a de facto water tax that would impose major economic hardship on the state. The resolution states the proposed regulations show “no regard for the technical feasibility, the massive costs to the public, or the devastating effects they will create for Florida’s struggling economy.”

The EPA also mentions a “restoration standard” in the rule, Leffler said, that often implies “restore to pre-Columbian conditions.” The problem with that, he said, is that the government is responsible for adulterating the land in the first place, for example, straightening the Kissimmee River. He noted that it enticed farmers to develop their farms.

Later in the month, a statement by Congressman Bill Posey, read to the EPA at a hearing in Orlando, said the proposed water regulations would adversely impact Florida and its citizens. He said the proposal fails to recognize the positive steps the state has taken to support water quality improvement. “If allowed to be implemented, these regulations will cause serious economic harm to our state while having uncertain environmental benefit,” Posey’s statement added.

REACTION TO PRESIDENT OBAMA’S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Following are some examples of Republican reaction to the SOTU (State of the Union):



State Committeewoman Carlie Rogers:

“I was very disappointed but not surprised. He seems defiant and wants to push on. I don’t think he keeps his promises. He says he doesn’t want to increase taxes but wants to levy a fee on banks. The banks are then going to pass that on to the consumer. What we need is across the board tax cuts.”

County Commission candidate Clyde Thodey:

“He admitted some mistakes, to lessen the blow on his party. I heard nothing



about the space program, and that concerns me. I feel government spending is out of control. Health care is a mess, and he needs to sit down with the Republican Party. The real problem is that it is going to cost the seniors. It needs lots of tuning.”



Governor Charlie Crist:

“While the president has always been able to give a good speech, what our country needs right now are the right ideas to put into action. It is time for President Obama and Democratic leaders to change course, commit to true bipartisanship and set policies that are in line with the will of the American people.”

Senator George LeMieux:

“The President needed to give us his plan for jobs today without debt tomorrow. The American people did not hear that. Instead, we heard more of the same agenda that has already proved unpopular. I hope the change we see in 2010 will be more like the change he promised in 2008 – Republicans and Democrats working together to solve the problems facing our nation. We have to return government back to Americans and reject the practice of making sweetheart deals behind closed doors.”



Congressman Bill Posey:

“One way to keep America competitive in the world is by maintaining America’s leadership in space and I’m disappointed that the President has not stepped up to provide the necessary leadership to close the space gap. It’s important to preserve our edge in science and technology, national security and an overall higher standard of living.”



U.S. Senate candidate Marco Rubio:

“Unfortunately, the President defiantly struck a course for more of the same with another spending bill disguised as stimulus, a government takeover of health care disguised as reform, and a massive new tax on Americans disguised as clean energy initiatives. The President also struck a curiously partisan tone while lecturing others about the evils of partisanship. He certainly didn’t move away from liberalism or to the center.”



U.S. Senate candidate Bob Smith:

“President Obama clearly demonstrated an arrogance by continuing to promote his reckless policies of increased spending, higher taxes, trying terrorists in the U.S. Court system, repealing the ‘don’t ask, don’t tell’ policy on gays in the military, building \$8 billion high speed trains, cutting key military programs and directly attacking the Supreme Court for protecting the free speech clause of the First Amendment. It has become clear to me that the battle to defeat these policies and save this country is going to have to be fought in the U.S. Senate, where knowledge of the rules and parliamentary procedures can block the President.”



RNC Chairman Michael Steele:

“President Obama said he wanted better solutions. Republicans have offered common sense conservative solutions. The people in Virginia, New Jersey and Massachusetts heard our better ideas and voted for them. If the President is serious, he will give Republicans a seat at the table. If not, then we know that this is just more spin, arrogance and a refusal to listen to the American people.”



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mar. 1 – New Millenium Conservative Club meeting, Charlie & Jake’s Restaurant, Suntree, 6:30 pm.

Mar. 3 – Melbourne Area Federated Republican Women meeting, Holiday Inn, Viera, 11 am.

Mar. 11 – BREC meeting, County Government Building, Viera, 6:30 pm.

Mar. 15 – Suntree/Viera 9/12 Project, Viera/Suntree Library, 6 pm.

Mar. 16 – Republican Women’s Network of South Brevard meeting, Eau Gallie Yacht Club, 11 am.

Mar. 18 – Brevard Young Republicans meeting, Fiesta Azteca Restaurant, 6:30 pm.

Mar. 18 – Brevard Republican Men’s Club meeting, Doubles Restaurant, 7 pm.

Mar. 24 – Space Coast Florida Republican Winners meeting, Cocoa Beach Holiday Inn, 10 am.

Mar. 25 – Ronald Reagan Club meeting, Jimmy’s Restaurant, Rockledge, 7 pm.

Mar. 26 – Republican Hispanic Club meeting, Piccadilly Restaurant, Melbourne, 7 pm.

POLITICAL JOTTINGS AND DOTTINGS

-- **Governor Charlie Crist and former House Speaker Marco Rubio** have agreed to hold a nationally-televised debate **March 28** in their race for the U.S. Senate. The debate will take place on the "**Fox News Sunday**" program. The two campaigns have not yet agreed to dates or venues for additional debates.

-- **When Justice Samuel Alito** responded to President Obama's State of the Union criticism of a Supreme Court decision by mouthing the words "not true," it proved to be a striking moment. The 5-4 court ruling had overturned decades of restrictions on corporations being able to use profits to finance campaigns for and against candidates. The president said the move would open the floodgates for special interests. Democrats applauded the comment and liberal blogs praised Obama for bringing it up. But the conservative Center for Competitive Politics said his swipe at the Supreme Court was a "breach of decorum," and Citizens United, which brought the original lawsuit, said it was a "woeful disregard for the fundamental First Amendment rights of American citizens."

-- **In an interview with Newsmax TV, Governor and U.S. Senate candidate Charlie Crist** defended himself against charges he is not a strong conservative, and vowed that if he were in the Senate now, he would vote against President Obama's budget and tax increases and oppose the Democrats' healthcare reform plan. He said the president's plan to eliminate the NASA moon program was "the wrong thing to do." But Crist defended his support of Obama's economic stimulus bill, saying it was needed to prevent the state from falling into an "economic abyss."

-- **The Benjamin Rush Society**, a San Francisco-based organization of doctors and medical students, supports a seven-step Small-Bill Proposal for Sensible Health Care Reform. The steps are 1) cut costs by preventing runaway malpractice lawsuits, 2) allow Americans to buy health insurance across state lines, 3) allow lower premiums for healthier lifestyles, 4) end the unfair tax on the uninsured and self-insured, 5) increase federal support for state-run high-risk pools, 6) convert federal funds into block grants to states, and 7) implement additional reforms from the House Republican health bill. The society is named for Benjamin Rush, a

physician and signer of the Declaration of Independence.

-- **Since senior citizens in Great Britain** are burning books in their fireplaces to keep warm this winter, the Washington-based grass-roots political group Freedom Action is sending copies of Al Gore's books to the town of Oxfam. It's appropriate, says the group's director, Myron Ebell, because "burning Gore's otherwise worthless books to keep people from freezing is their highest and best use."

QUOTABLE QUOTES

Congressman Bill Posey, writing an open letter to President Obama in The Hometown News:

"Absent sufficient funding in your fiscal year 2011 budget, NASA will end space shuttle flights at the conclusion of the space station assembly missions either late this year or in early 2011. At that point the United States will cede its leadership in space to other nations and lock itself into a sole reliance on the Russians to fly U.S. astronauts to the International Space Station until a new U.S. vehicle comes on line – a process that could take as many as six years. The gap threatens to grow to six years or more if bold decisions are not made soon. As you weigh competing priorities and requests for the budget, please bear in mind that space is an exceptionally beneficial as well as an affordable investment. In addition to the obvious national security implications, space exploration generates high skilled jobs, creates countless inventions and spinoffs that improve our lives, and inspires upcoming generations to study science and math. By investing just \$1.5 billion more per year, we can reduce the gap by safely flying additional shuttle flights, likely less considering the money saved by not paying the Russians to meet our launch obligations."

Political analyst Rich Galen, writing on the year ahead on CNSNews.com:

"The Congress has not – and, it appears now, will not – pass anything near the massive overhaul of the nation's health care system which Obama envisioned and which has taken up nearly all the time of the U.S. Senate since Labor Day. The list of legislative failures is pretty long: No climate bill, no energy bill, no card-check, no health care to name but four major initiatives...It was one thing for the Obama spinners to say that the results in Virginia and New Jersey last November were the result of in-state issues which had nothing to do with the White House. But the election in Massachusetts was for a federal office and the thud of the Democratic message is still echoing up and down every hallway of

each Senate and House office building on Capitol Hill. The general reaction to the whole thing has been Obama is attempting to re-set, re-boot, or re-establish his presidency. “

Publisher Alfred Regnery, writing on suicide prevention in *The American Spectator*:

“Poll after poll tells us that the public finds little to like in the broad goals of the Obama-ites, and even less to like in the doings of Congress. Yet, undeterred, they proceed to do things one would think no politician in his right mind would consider...To be sure, not all Democrats are liberal ideologues. But those accomplices who succumb to Rahm Emanuel’s rubber hose and shock treatments, and who believe that one can somehow sweet-talk his way past the voters in November, are as guilty as the true believers and deserve whatever the voters hand them. What an opportunity we have....It is incumbent on us to see that 2010 goes down in the record books as the year that turns the liberal suicide mission into reality. Or to put it another way, let’s make the Gingrich revolution of 1994 look like a close call.”

Executive Editor Fred Barnes, writing on the Brown Effect in *The Weekly Standard*:

“If a Republican can win in Massachusetts, a Republican can win anywhere. That’s the new GOP mantra....The only question about the (Scott) Brown Effect is whether it has legs. I think it does. His near-flawless campaign is an example for Republican candidates to follow, especially in Democrat-leaning states. He was skillful in encapsulating an anti-Obama message: ‘Raising taxes, taking over our health care, and giving new rights to terrorists is the wrong agenda for our country.’ That’s a mantra conservatives, tea party people, moderates and independents can embrace. The Brown Effect leaves them nothing to fight about and much to fight for.”

FreedomWorks chairman Dick Armey, writing on the radical spirit in *The Washington Times National Weekly*:

“Voters remember the years of overspending, the earmark explosion and bailouts. To prove they are different and to earn the grass-roots support, Republicans will have to be bold on policy that will get to the heart of the problem: Americans think the government has grown too big and spends too much. One of the best ideas comes from Ryan Hecker, a tea party leader in Houston. Mr. Hecker has launched a Web site called spiritof94.org to gather ideas for a new

contract, a Contract From America that will be written by grass roots activists. Republicans would do well by listening to him and embracing this project. Not surprisingly, the most popular issues are shrinking government, restoring constraints to the budget and transparency. The Contract From America will be completed by April 15 and promoted by 2010 tea parties to be held in hundreds of cities across the country.”

Staff reporter Joseph Curl, writing on tea party activists in *The Washington Times National Weekly*:

“The tea party movement is amorphous and, in many ways, not a party at all. It’s a grass-roots movement that caught fire across America shortly after President Obama took office, fueled by opposition to the massive economic stimulus bill and to Mr. Obama’s signature health care reform initiative. A dozen or more groups sprang up almost overnight, and now there are hundreds of local and state-level groups, some with leaders in every county of a state. In theory, that could be a major plus for Republicans, who proved unable to match the national outreach Mr. Obama orchestrated in winning the 2008 presidential election....Some Republican leaders, like (Newt) Gingrich, say the GOP need not take over the insurgent movement, but must instead simply focus on common goals. ‘They can be allies without being identified as Republicans,’ the former speaker said....But a failure to persuade the tea party movement to join forces with the Republican Party or at least not to war openly with Republicans could be disastrous, he said.”

Comedian Jay Leno, speaking on Obama’s first anniversary in office during his TV show:

“You know, it’s hard to believe President Obama has now been in office for a year. And, you know, it’s incredible. He took something that was in terrible, terrible shape, and brought it back from the brink of disaster – the Republican Party.”

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Without Jimmy Carter, there might not have been a Ronald Reagan. Without Ronald Reagan, there probably still would be a Soviet Union. So in a funny kind of a way, all of us owe a debt of gratitude to Jimmy Carter for having defeated the Soviet Empire.”

-- Former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich, speaking at CPAC 2010

CONSERVATIVE INSTITUTIONS

(Each issue we will focus on a different national organization that is making a difference for the conservative cause.)

David Horowitz Freedom Center

Beginning life as the Center for the Study of Popular Culture, the organization's board of directors changed the name to the David Horowitz Freedom Center in 2006.

The mission of the Sherman Oaks, California-based center is to defend America's free society through educating the public to preserve traditional constitutional values of individual freedom, rule of law, private property and limited government.

Horowitz, a writer and policy advocate, turned conservative in the 1970s after growing up in an avowed communist family. His latest booklet is "Barack Obama's Rules for Revolution: The Alinsky Model." He considers the Freedom Center a "battle tank" rather than just another think tank.

The Center's programs include Students for Academic Freedom, whose goal is to end the political abuse of universities and restore academic integrity; the Wednesday Morning Club, where conservative intellectuals and political figures meet with members of the entertainment industry; the Individual Rights Foundation, where attorneys fight against political

correctness; Jihadwatch, which traces the efforts of Islamic radicals to subvert Western institutions and civic life; and Restoration Weekend, at which supporters meet with top conservative policymakers and opinion leaders.

For additional information or to contribute, visit www.horowitzfreedomcenter.org.

COMICAL CLOSER

A Republican and a Democrat, walking together down the street, came to a homeless person. The Republican handed him his business card, told him to come to his work place for a job, and then gave him \$20. Impressed, the Democrat then decided to help the next homeless person they saw. He gave him directions to the welfare office and reached into the Republican's pocket for another \$20. But the Democrat kept \$15 for administrative fees and gave the homeless person the remaining \$5.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We intend to reach as many Republicans in the county as possible to keep them informed. And we need constant input – information from clubs, from district chairs, from committees, from state and local party officials, even from the average Republican-in-the-street that we can include in each issue. There are numerous Republican and Conservative events taking place in Brevard County, and we need the information in order to cover them. Also, let us know what you like about the newsletter, and what you would like to see different. E-mail stuartgorin@bellsouth.net.

