

Republican assumptions were largely wrong. The under-vote ballots actually break down into two distinct categories:

Undervotes in punch-card counties. In the 22 punch-card counties in which BDO Seidman examined undervotes, 56% of the 35,761 ballots had some kind of mark on them.

The study found that punch-card undervotes correlated less to race of party affiliation than to machine maintenance and election management. Counties that maintain machines poorly—not cleaning out chads frequently, for example—have plentiful undervotes. The study shows that when undervotes are had counted, they produce new votes for the candidates in proportions similar to the county's official vote.

For example, in Duval County, where Jacksonville is the county seat, Bush defeated Gore 58%–41%. Among the undervotes, Bush defeated Gore 60%–32% under the lenient standard and by similarly comfortable numbers under all standards. Bush picked up a net of 930 votes, including 602 dimples.

Likewise, in Miami-Dade, where Gore hoped to score big gains, he received 51% of the marked undervotes, about the same as the 52% that he got in the official count.

Undervotes in optical-scan counties. In the 37 optical-scan counties in which BDO Seidman examined undervotes, one third of 5,623 ballots had discernible votes.

The most common was when a voter made an X or check mark, rather than filling in the oval properly. Other common errors included circling the candidate's name or using a personal pencil or pen that couldn't be read by the machine. Black ink that contains even a trace of red will not register on many vote-counting machines, even when the mark appears pure black to the human eye.

The study shows that these errors were disproportionately common among Democratic voters. For example, in Orange County, home of Orlando, Gore edged Bush 50%–48% in the election. But Gore won the undervotes by 64%–33%, giving him a net gain of 137 votes. That accounted for half of the 261 votes Gore gained in optical-scan counties, which Bush won overall by 53%–44%.

The study found that optical-scan counties are the only places where Gore actually picked up more votes than Bush: 1,036 to 775 for Bush.

In the punch-card counties, where Gore had placed his hopes, his chances of winning a hand count were washed away. On dimples alone, Bush gained 1,188 votes. When all the possibilities are combined—dimples, hanging chads, clean punches—Bush outdid Gore by 8,302 to 6,559.

USA TODAY's analysis is based on accepting Bush's official 537-vote margin. This figure includes hand counts completed in Broward and Volusia counties before the U.S. Supreme Court intervened.

The newspaper also accepted hand counts completed in Palm Beach, Manatee, Escambia, Hamilton and Madison counties, plus 139 precincts in Miami-Dade.

These hand counts, which were never certified, reduced Bush's lead to 188—the starting point for USA TODAY's analysis.

The newspaper excluded these counties from its analysis. However, BDO Seidman collected data in these counties, and they are available on USATODAY.com.

In the end, Florida's presidential election remains remarkably close by any standard: 2,912,790 to 2,912,253 in the official count.

In an election this close, the winner often depends on the rules and how they are enforced.

BATAAN IS SYNONYMOUS FOR BRAVERY

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today close to the 59th anniversary of Bataan Day, April 9, 1942, to recognize the brave soldiers who were captured on this day and forced into the infamous Bataan Death March.

I was honored to travel to the Philippines a few years ago to commemorate this day with then-President Ramos.

The fall of Bataan in World War II involved the surrender of 70,000 soldiers, 12,000 of whom were Americans and 58,000 Filipinos. Many died on the death march, and those who survived were imprisoned under inhumane conditions where countless more died.

These soldiers and their comrades foiled plans for a quick takeover of the region and allowed the United States the time needed to prepare for victory in the Pacific. We can recognize their courage and bravery by passing H.R. 491, the Filipino Veterans Equity Act, which would recognize the great courage and bravery of the Filipino veterans in World War II and specifically on Bataan Day April 9, 1942.

WE MUST MAKE SURE THAT THE FUTURE IS ONE IN WHICH ALL THE PEOPLE OF THE WORLD CAN SURVIVE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, recently the administration made the decision to set aside years of work of people from all over the world to deal with the problem of global climate change. All over the United States we have seen the evidence of change in a global climate. We have seen conditions of excessive heat in the South. We have seen tornados occur where they never occurred before. We have seen floods occur, 100-year floods occurring, every few decades and even more frequent than anyone could ever imagine.

We need to come together as a Nation and as a world to address the issue of global climate change. Man-made activities are forming and affecting our global climate, and we owe it to ourselves and to our children and to future generations to start now to do something about bringing down CO₂ levels and to do something about addressing global climate change.

It is a reality. We have to start preparing for the future, and we must make sure that the future is one in which all the people of the world can survive. America has a responsibility to the world to begin the work of cleaning up our environment.

IT IS TIME THAT CHINA LET THE CREW OF THE DOWNED EP-3 COME HOME

(Mr. CUNNINGHAM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I would like to cover real quickly the EP-3 incident with China. Some of my colleagues had questions. From the time the aircraft was hit, the EP lost 8,000 feet. I am sure the crew inside thought that those were their last minutes. They had 20 minutes to make a determination with a single-engine gone, another engine damaged and the entire front of the airplane off.

Some of my colleagues say, why did they not fly to other places? The chances for fire and explosion on that airplane were very high.

Secondly, we are in a non-Cold War situation. The rules of engagement dictated that they fly and land that airplane to save the crew.

Why not ditch the airplane? The EP-3 has probably got a minute and a half from the time it hits the water. It is not like pulling over to the side of the road and changing a tire. Half the crew is going to be lost.

Why not bail out? The closest rescuer or destroyer was over 12 hours away, which would have put them there about 11:00 at night. It was not an option.

Our crew did a good job. They had 20 minutes to get rid of all the classified material, which we think that they were able to do. I think they did a good job. I think we owe them a lot of our appreciation, and it is time that China let them come home.

NAMES OF SURVEILLANCE EP-3 CREW MEMBERS DOWNED IN CHINA

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, continuing on that theme, I want to read the names of the crew: Richard Bensing, Steven Blocher, Bradford Borland, David Cecka, John Comerford, Shawn Coursen, Jeremy Crandall, Josef Edmunds, Brandon Funk, Scott Guidry, Jason Hanser, Patrick Honeck, Regina Kauffman, Nicholas Mellos, Ramon Mercado, Shane Osborn, Richard Payne, Kenneth Richter, Marcia Sonon, Jeffrey Vignery, Wendy Westbrook, Rodney Young, Richard Pray and Curtis Towne. Twenty-four Americans, day four of their being held in China. It is time to bring them home, Mr. Speaker.

SALUTE TO SCOTT GUIDRY BEING HELD IN CHINA AGAINST HIS WILL

(Mr. WELDON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Scott Guidry of Satellite Beach. He is a constituent of

mine who is being held in China against his will.

The EP-3 military aircraft is sovereign U.S. territory. Under the 1944 Chicago Convention signed by China, that is considered sovereign U.S. territory and should be returned to the United States. China has chosen to ignore that agreement, along with many others over the years.

I would encourage every American who is going to go shopping over the next few days to look at the labels on the products they are going to purchase and see if it is made in the U.S.A. or it is made in China. I would encourage every American to stand in solidarity with all those servicemen being held against their will and send a message to our friends in China that they are doing something they should not be doing. We certainly join with all the families of all those airmen, naval officers, naval enlisted, who are being held overseas with our thoughts and prayers that we are with them. It is time that they be sent back.

□ 1600

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GRAVES). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

MENTORING FOR SUCCESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, a few years ago I ran across a study which was done on the Fullerton, California, public schools in 1940. It was kind of interesting, the number of the concerns that the teachers in the Fullerton, California, public schools had at that time. Number one was talking in class, number two was chewing gum in class, number three was not putting waste paper in the waste paper basket, and number four was getting out of turn in line when going from one class to another.

More recently I saw this study replicated when they went back to the Fullerton, California, public schools and asked the teachers what their main concerns were, and this is what the list read like. The number one concern was drug abuse, weapons in school, gangs, teenage pregnancy, teenage suicide, alcohol abuse, violence and so on.

So, in the last 50 to 60 years, we have seen an amazing shift in our culture. I guess over 36 years of coaching, I saw some of the same changes, the same dynamics in some of the young people I was dealing with.

So I guess I have asked myself from time to time, what has caused this shift? I think really two basic elements

that I can point to. One is family disintegration. Currently one-half of our children grow up without both biological parents, and back in the 1940s and the 1950s, this percentage was probably no more than 5 or 10 percent. We have 18 million fatherless children in our country today. When your dad does not care enough to stick around to see what you look like, it leaves a vacuum in your life, it leaves a hole that you are oftentimes trying to fill with all the wrong things. So fatherlessness is a huge problem. The out-of-wedlock birth rate has gone from 5 percent in 1960 to 33 percent today. So the family structure has definitely changed.

Secondly, I think there have been some things that I would refer to as the unraveling of the culture. I think almost everyone is aware of the fact that we are living in the most violent Nation in the world for young people. We have the highest homicide rate, the highest suicide rate for young people of any civilized nation or any nation anywhere.

Thirdly, drug and alcohol abuse has certainly become rampant and a very virulent problem in our society, and, of course, there has been a media influence that I think at times some of the music, some of the television, some of the movies that young people are exposed to has been a problem.

So, we may say that I have outlined a lot of problems. What are the solutions? We need some answers. I guess one of the things that I would point to that has proven to be effective is mentoring. A mentor is someone who supports, affirms, provides stability, provides a vision of what is possible for a young person. I guess in athletics I saw this very graphically borne out, because if you told an athlete or a player that he was not very good, that he did not have a future, that he was limited in talent, it would not be long before he would begin to play down to that expectation, and usually he would leave the team before very long. But on the other hand, if you said, I see a great deal of potential, I see some talent, I see some things where you could be a great player, many times that player will begin to perform in a way that he himself did not even begin to expect. So affirmation is critical.

Basically, that is what mentoring is. It is affirming. It is supporting. It is telling somebody they can do it.

So mentoring actually works. There are studies that have shown realistically that people who are mentored, who are in good mentoring programs, young people will be 52 percent less likely to skip school, 50 percent less likely to begin using drugs, 36 percent less likely to lie to a parent, 30 percent less likely to commit a violent act of any kind, and they are less likely to drop out of school, and have better relationships with friends and family.

So for that reason I am introducing today a bill called Mentoring for Success. What this bill does is it provides grants to expand mentoring through

new programs and existing programs throughout the country that supposedly, I believe, would probably reach about 200,000 young people in our country. It also would provide for training of mentors, background checks on mentors; and it would study the long-term effects of different types of mentoring programs. Right now there are a lot of them out there. We do not know exactly what is most effective, and this would provide for a study that would provide more data and more information.

Currently we spend billions of dollars on incarceration, on juvenile justice programs, and once someone is caught up in the juvenile justice system or the criminal justice system, oftentimes they just do not get out of it. So we need to spend more time on the front end of the process, and mentoring is certainly a very viable alternative and something that I hope that all people would certainly consider.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is very important. I think it is something that we really cannot afford not at this time to address.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR TAX REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives completed the third piece of President Bush's promised tax relief agenda. I have been proud to support President Bush with my vote in favor of all three of the components of this proposal.

But now that we have succeeded in the House with tax relief legislation, we must begin to turn our attention toward tax reform legislation. For that reason, I have come to the well of the House today to tell my colleagues that soon I will introduce in the 107th Congress my fair tax proposal. This proposal, which will be introduced as H.R.