

"We're glad we finally found out"

By: Andrew Witten
DMD, General Denistry and Forensic Odontology

Shirley Arnett of Russellville, Arkansas, lived and died in Jacksonville under the assumed name of Jody Dawn Dalton. She was one of the three murder

victims in the highly publicized Donut Lake murders. Her decomposed body was found floating in Donut Lake on the Westside. Her killers had shot the victim five times, tied cement blocks to her feet and thrown her in the lake. "We're glad we finally found out", her 74 year old father said in an interview. "We've been going crazy about her for the last two years". Ms. Arnett had been buried in a pauper's grave in Hillside Cemetery when she was unidentified and unclaimed from the Medical Examiner's office. After some tips, good leads and good police investigation, her remains were exhumed, positively identified, and returned to her parents in Arkansas. Ms. Arnett and Ms. Dalton were identified as the same person through dental records. William Forest Long was convicted of her murder over a \$50 drug deal. Long, and co-defendant, Elaine Parker, who pleaded guilty to 2nd degree murder, are both serving 30-year prison terms.

Accurate victim identification leads law enforcement to many clues, which often provide pertinent medical and social history. A busy medical examiner's office has a great potential for many dental identifications. The dentist should not be an outside consultant, but a member of the core team involved

in the functions of the office. Teeth are the hardest and most durable part of the body. They will withstand trauma, incineration, and decomposition to a greater degree than any other part of the human anatomy. Dental identification is scientific, reproducible, and can be verified by other investigators. Also, dental identification can be accomplished faster and with far less expense than fingerprint or DNA identification. Often, a dental identification is made when the deceased cannot or should not be viewed by family members. In these circumstances, ante-mortem (before death) dental records in the form of x-rays, charting, or models are supplied by the victim's families to the medical examiner's office. Despite the marvels of DNA identification and digitally stored fingerprint records, it is still the unique configuration of a person's teeth that experts look first at when trying to identify bodies.

Currently, there are 98,265 people listed as missing in the United States and 4,134 of those are in the State of Florida. There is an immensity of problems and issues involved in missing and unidentified persons

Dental Forensics...Continued on page 7

Your Vote Counts

By Lee Martin
"Voice for Victims"
Radio Host

In the grand scheme of things, it can be extremely easy to feel extraordinarily small. The planet now sustains 6 billion souls. Each soul is an individual with the same basic needs as all the others. However, each individual is unique. How ever small or insignificant you may feel, you COUNT and so does your VOTE!

Your vote is your DEAREST FREEDOM. Your vote DECIDES who leads and your vote DETERMINES the course of history. Your vote COUNTS.

Americans enjoy many liberties and freedoms of which the other people around the



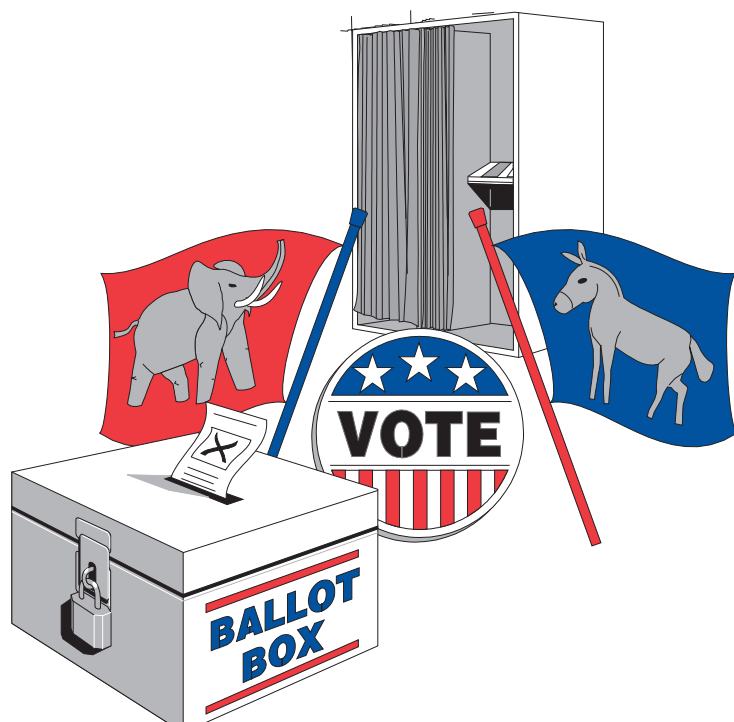
globe can only dream. The DEAREST freedom we enjoy is self-determination and that certainly includes the right to vote. We have choices. That is freedom.

Americans enjoy choices. "Have it your way" or "hold the pickles, hold the lettuce"...

are ingrained in the American lexicon and in the American heart. Your vote DECIDES who leads. You have choices and the choices are yours to make. Your choices have consequences.

Your choices DETERMINE the course of history. History is determined by those who rule, whether those who rule are tyrants or duly elected statesmen. We define ourselves by the people we elect. The people we elect set history in motion. YOU ARE SIGNIFICANT.

Your vote counts because it is your DEAREST freedom, it DECIDES who leads and it DETERMINES history. Go out on November 5th and change history. VOTE!!!



INDEX

Faith Corner	2	From the Desk of The Sheriff	6	Justice Jamboree	13
Protect & Serve	3	State Attorney's Notes	8	Florida Statutes	17
Know Your Rights	4	Special Thanks	9	Death Penalty Re-examined	18
Law & Order	5	Positively Outrageous Partners	10	Busted	19

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