

## What is in a name, is it your true identity?

The curious case of a Canadian rogue who made a new life for himself in this country before his girlfriend turned him in to the government demonstrates how much has changed in our nation and how many layers of "identity" law our government has spun.

The threat may seem esoteric, like most of the so-called Patriot Act, but it illustrates another way our government chips slowly away at our liberties.

The man, Wayne Bradley Camick, left behind a checkered past when he secured a copy of his younger brother Leslie's birth certificate and fled to the U.S. in 2006: past-due child support, back taxes, a 20-year suspension of his driver's license for drunk driving and "other legal issues." At the border, he assumed the identity of Leslie, who died at age 3 1/2 months, the government alleges.

Since then, he apparently had kept his nose clean until recently, working as a telecommunications engineer, being granted at least three patents, running a business with the girlfriend.

In a civil suit, he charges that the woman and others hoped to acquire his assets, including the company the couple founded together, and patents he claims to have developed alone.

He describes himself as "an industry innovator in fiber optics," working with Google, AT&T and Comcast. Another claim is that a patent for a locking manhole cover developed with AT&T could be worth \$5 billion.

You'd think the government would be happy just to deport the guy for lying on his immigration paperwork and leave him to the tender mercies of the Canadians. However, the U.S. attorney has filed a laundry list of "identity theft" felony charges ranging from mail fraud to making false statements to a bank, immigration officials and the patent office.

He's accused not only of violating the Orwellian Patriot Act, but of "undermining its very purpose," to ensure the true identities of foreign nationals to prevent terrorist acts.

We're certainly not going to stick up for Mr. Camick, but he's no terrorist. His case illustrates how far down the road to "true identity" thinking we've traveled.

And that runs counter to the Anglo-American legal tradition which holds that a man is who he says he is, and may go by whatever name he chooses - his "real" name, a stage or business name, a nickname, whatever one desires - so long as his purpose isn't to defraud someone, especially the government.

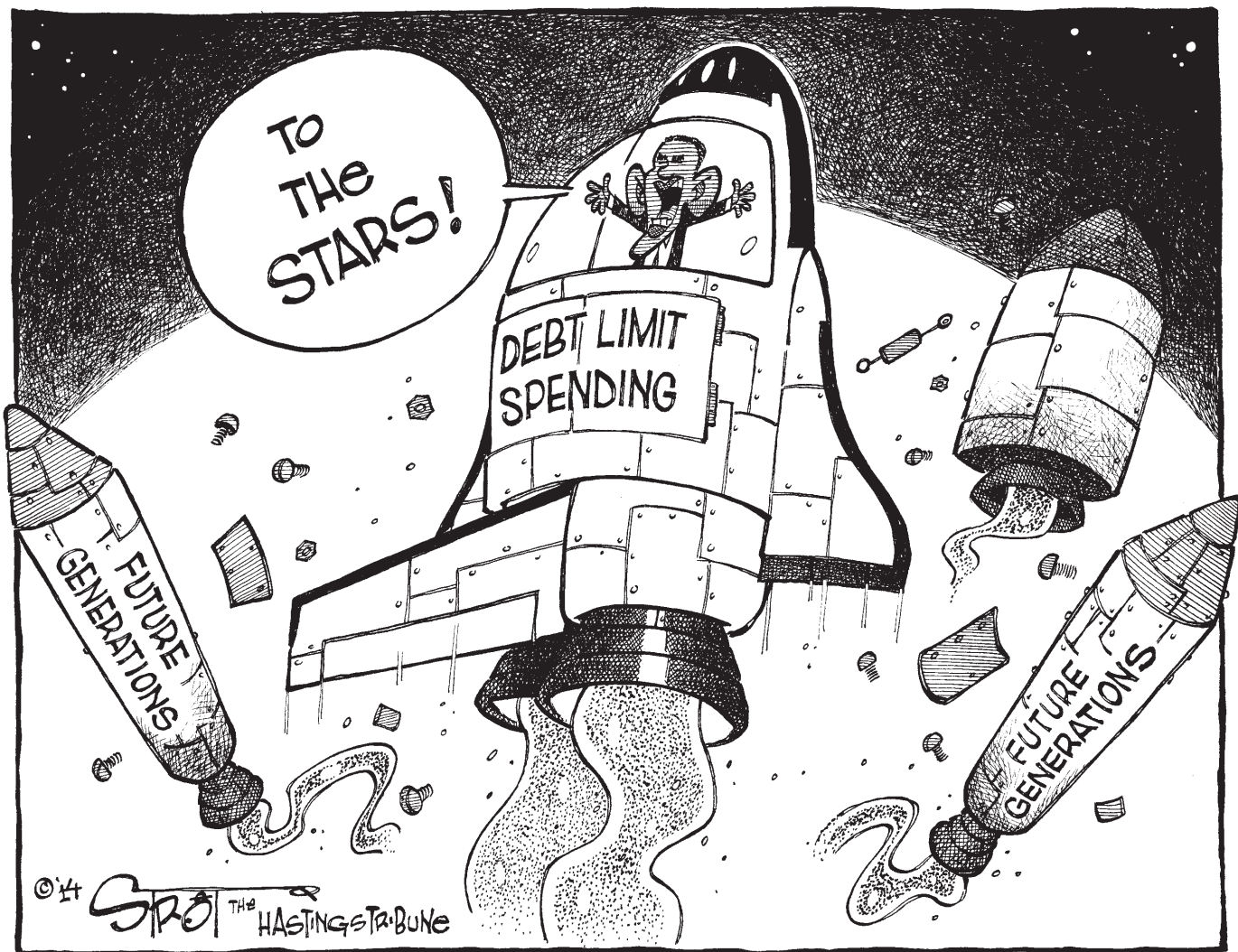
In fact, it's been said, in the old days, the only person who couldn't change his name at will was one who's gone to court and had a judge change it.

His lawyers claim Mr. Camick "gained no advantage from any person based upon his use of the first name Wayne," though admitting that Canada might be sore.

We suppose you still can adopt a new name, if you don't want to get a driver's license or a patent or fly on a commercial airline. Centuries of legal practice, it seems, have been scrapped in the name of security.

It's such a small thing. Perhaps it's a fair trade. Or perhaps we'll all wake up one day and realize that we've given away far more than we thought. Our phone calls are logged, our lives are on tape, our phones track our every movement. What next?

Ah, well, it's all for our own good. - Steve Haynes



## Sweetness that comes with Valentines

Valentine's Day is fun time at our house. We don't get too mushy, but I tried to surprise Jim. The big surprise was me getting out of bed before he did. Since we're semi-retired, we get up when we wake up, and he normally wakes up before I do.

Friday, however, I set my "internal" clock and rolled out while Jim was still snoozing. I had the kitchen set up so I wouldn't forget, with the skillet already on the stove. A dollop of butter into the heating skillet and I was ready to start.

I took two slices of bread, and with all the artistic skill I had, cut hearts out of each one. Next, I smeared them around in the butter and cracked one of our eggs into the heart-shaped hole. After buttering the heart, I placed it on top of the egg and cooked until the back side was set. A flip to the front, wait a couple of minutes, and it was done.

By this time Jim was up, dressed and in his recliner, where I had told him to wait. After arranging his meal on a tray and adding a sweet card, I carried his breakfast to him with all the flourish and style I could muster while still in my pajamas.

Just as I was leaning over to set

### Out Back

Carolyn Plotts



the tray on his lap, he whipped out a Valentine from behind the bib of his overalls. So we both had the same idea - sweet surprises.

-ob-

This nice weather has me itching to get outside. I took a walk about the yard and noticed that the trees are forming buds. Oh, Lord, please don't let it come a hard freeze. Last year, we lost all our apples, and I sure would like to make a few pies.

-ob-

"You're not cut out to be a landlord," Jim said. "You're too nice."

I'm not sure he meant it as a compliment, but that's the way I'm going to take it.

He's probably right. I have a hard time setting rules.

In our years of being landlords, we

have had many incredibly good tenants, ones who actually made improvements while they lived in one of our houses, or at least, did no harm. And were good neighbors to boot. Young Daren, for instance, would gladly help me carry groceries if he was home or give Jim a hand with a project. When he moved out, the house fairly sparkled. I didn't have to do a thing, and the new occupant moved in the next day.

We're between renters right now and are taking the opportunity to do some improvements. The carpet is gone and new floor coverings have been selected. I'm washing all the walls before painting, and cleaning the appliances is next on my list. A new front door will be ordered and within a couple of weeks, it should be available again. It will be pretty labor intensive, but in the end, the house will be better than it was before.

I will still probably seal the deal with a handshake and leave formal contracts to someone else. Jim is saying, "No pets." So if you have a cat or a dog, don't even ask. A turtle or goldfish, maybe.

## The question of animal care in agriculture

Farmers and ranchers have always adhered to sound principles of animal care for their livestock.

Society's views on animal welfare, on the other hand, continue to evolve.

Today, people are becoming more concerned for the animal's quality of life.

While there are fringe groups, "activists" if you will, many people have honest questions and concerns about the quality of life for food animals.

Who are these people? Some are like you. Others may be like me.

They are not opposed to eating meat. They just want to know that while that sow is going through the production cycle she has a reasonable quality of life.

Consumers want to know animals are not abused, or subjected to inhumane conditions. They believe animals should be well cared for and the people

### Insight

John Schlageck



who care for them honestly care for them.

Farmers and ranchers cannot single out anyone and place blame for these changing societal views. Instead, the agricultural sector must view this as our culture and society coming to terms with new types of social issues. It just so happens that animals have become integrated into this process.

One reason for this new interest in animal welfare may be that Western European, Japanese and U.S. consumers do not have to worry about where their next meal comes from.

U.S. citizens have time to contemplate the quality of life for animals in this country, but few of us want to change our own lifestyles.

Farmers and ranchers - those people who provide our food - will have to continue to accept and use sound animal husbandry practices. If agricultural producers honestly show they are putting effort into meeting a standard of care that's beneficial and conducive to a healthy living standard, the public will accept and embrace those who raise and care for livestock.

Agricultural producers must stay tuned to societal and consumer concerns and be responsive industry wide while enhancing the well-being of their livestock.

That said, today's consumers will continue to regard agriculture highly and embrace a food which they enjoy and feel good about.

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