

Our Mailbox

Scott Maxwell did an excellent job serving up the Moms for Liberty as the hypocrites they are (“Moms for Liberty: Are they hiding in school board races this year?”). Even if their popularity is waning (and that may be only until the next well-known title is kidnapped), their campaign for a religious-based, anti-democratic public education is still viral.

Right now, Florida students are learning distorted versions of African American history and civics and studying literature devoid of many of our greatest authors.

As a writer, editor and former teacher, I have made the fight against censorship a big part of my life’s work. Contrary to beliefs within the MFL crowd, I do not advocate assigning books for classroom discussion that are sexually explicit for the sake of being so. Any mandatory reading must be literature first, not a test case for cultural debate. Many students will tell you such specificity makes them uncomfortable. At the same time, this is why we must not ban Shakespeare, Toni Morrison and other authors whose inclusion of sexuality is a necessary part of the literary narrative.

However, all books should be available to students in the school libraries where they have the freedom to read what they choose.

Until we end this assault on education, we are graduating students with honors in propaganda.

June S. Neal, *Orlando Sentinel*, August 15, 2024

Florida’s junior U.S. senator, Rick Scott, must be getting worried.

Scott’s three consecutive razor-thin wins have all come in off years (2010, 2014 and 2018), and this is not only a presidential election year, but Kamala Harris is closing in on Donald Trump in Florida.

Scott has also never run against anybody like Democratic former U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel-Powell, which is why he’s trotted out the socialist bogeyman. Sorry, Rick, it won’t work this time.

It’s also why he recently introduced his “Homeowners Premium Tax Reduction Act.” Scott claims it “will provide direct relief for families in Florida and across the nation with a deduction of up to \$10,000 in homeowners insurance premiums paid on their primary residence.”

That’s nonsense. He may be too ensconced in the top .01% of the ultra-rich to realize it, but the vast majority of Americans will reap no benefit from the bill. That’s because, to take advantage of the deduction, you have to itemize your returns, something that only 10% of Americans do.

Those who itemize tax deductions generally are among the wealthiest Americans (like Scott, the wealthiest member of Congress).

They are the principal beneficiaries of Scott’s bill. That sounds a lot like socialism — for the rich.

Michael K. Cantwell, *Sun-Sentinel*, August 22, 2024