

From the *Tallahassee Democrat*  
Letters to the Editor\*  
March 8, 2010

## **It's time to fight for education in Florida**

I survived the student rally [Thursday] in spite of the cold wind, which blew from the legislative leaders as well. The brave words from speakers like Frank Brogan, Al Lawson and others is falling on the deaf ears of the legislature who are asking all agencies along with K-12 and Universities to brace for a further 15% cut in budgets next year. They are offering a carrot of possibly recouping some of the lost funds if they can convince them that they will fund high tech areas more at the expense of others, the usual zero sum game.

The reason for their parsimony is not only the present economic crisis brought on by their federal colleagues over the past decade of mis-leadership, but also fear for their own jobs next election. They refuse to even consider any means to increase state funds and only think in terms of more cuts, and the fantasy of finding more efficiency in operations.

If further disaster is to be avoided we must overwhelm the legislators by a groundswell from irate citizens from all over the state to give them the support they need to face the public in November after raising the needed revenue.

One avenue for this is the alumni of all Universities as well as the parents of present and future students who are distributed around the state. Measures such as those by Representative Vasalinda for example to close some of the loopholes in tax law and level the playing field between our brick and mortar businesses and internet vendors are essential to pass.

While high tech subjects at Universities are useful to emphasize we must keep in mind that the "leaders of tomorrow" cannot be effective in our global arena without a background of understanding in the humanities: history, law, art and music as well. Otherwise, our ambassadors, presidents, and other representatives of our state and country would end up being ineffective in competing with the better educated worldwide.

Joe Cain  
[joecain1@comcast.net](mailto:joecain1@comcast.net)

*\*The final version that ran in the March 8<sup>th</sup> Tallahassee Democrat differs slightly. This draft was received directly from Joe Cain on March 5<sup>th</sup>.*