

AdChoices 

The Miami Herald Politics Wires

Friday, 11.02.12 Welcome Guest Login Register

 **Current: 75°**
82° / 64°
Weather | Traffic

GET Sunday's Miami Herald 
SUBSCRIBE - 77¢ PER WEEK!

HOME | NEWS | SPORTS | ENTERTAINMENT | BUSINESS | LIVING | OPINION | JOBS | CARS | REAL ESTATE | SHOP | CLASSIFIEDS |

Miami-Dade | Broward | Keys | Florida | Nation | World | Americas | Cuba | Haiti | Politics | Schools | Obituaries | WLRN

The Miami Herald > News > Political Currents > Politics Wires

Posted on Tuesday, 10,30,12

[email](#) [print](#) [comment](#)

Nasty campaign tactics: Phony voting instructions Like 0



This handout photo provided by Joel Gilbert, taken Sept. 19, 2012, shows Mr. Gilbert at the film screening for his movie "Dreams from My Real Father" in Bellmore, NY. With a week until Election Day, the nasty campaign tactics are coming out. The film was mailed for free to some seven million homes. The film claims that Obama's real father was Frank Marshall Davis, a communist agitator, author and poet who lived in Hawaii, not the former Kenyan goat herder who share's the president's name. Both men are deceased. JOEL GILBERT, HO / AP PHOTO

Related Content

- <http://twitter.com/Miamicurt>

BY CURT ANDERSON
ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI -- With a week to go until Election Day, the nasty campaign tactics are coming out.

People in Florida, Virginia and Indiana have gotten calls falsely telling them they can vote early by phone and don't need to go to a polling place. In suburban Broward County, Fla., a handful of elderly voters who requested absentee ballots say they were visited by unknown people claiming to be authorized to collect the ballots.

And there's a mysterious DVD popping up in mailboxes that purports to be a documentary raising questions about the true identity of President Barack Obama's father.

It's one more indication of just how close this presidential election is. Voting rights advocates say reports of political deception and underhandedness are on the rise.

"Unfortunately it seems like the shadowy individuals that want to prevent people from voting are doing things earlier," said Eric Marshall, legal mobilization manager at the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. The organization is part of a coalition called Election Protection that is monitoring voting access and rights nationwide, including a toll-free hotline set up to take complaints.

"Each American's vote matters. It's important to them and it's important to the community," Marshall said.

Indiana's secretary of state launched an investigation of the phony voting instructions being phoned to homes in that state, and Virginia officials issued a warning to voters there asking them to report any such calls.



In the Broward County, Fla., case, elderly voters "were told, 'I'm an official and I'm here to pick up your absentee ballot,'" said Alma Gonzalez, a senior Florida Democratic Party official working on voter protection efforts. "There is no official who picks up your ballot."

In addition to those cases, garish billboards warning that voter fraud is a crime punishable by jail time and fines were put up in minority neighborhoods in Ohio and Wisconsin. They were recently taken down amid complaints they were aimed at intimidating African-American and Latino voters. The people behind the billboards have not come forward.

"It's hard to believe that these were just public service announcements," Marshall said. "Those neighborhoods were specifically targeted."

"It doesn't pass the smell test."

Independent Florida voter Jane Bowman smelled something bad, too, when she recently discovered a DVD in her mailbox questioning the identity of Obama's father.

 MamiHerald  Web Search powered by **YAHOO!SEARCH**

Search: Horoscopes | Comics & Games | Data Sleuth

The Vote's in YOUR COURT
Ensure your voice is heard on November 6th.
Judicial merit retention.
Know the facts.
Paid for by The Florida Bar

Get the Deal!

\$10 for \$20 of food & drinks at OMG! Burgers - South Miami



\$10.00

Buy Now!

Value: **\$20**
Discount: **50%**
You Save: **\$10**

dealsaver.com

Sign up for the daily deal email:

MORE POLITICS WIRES

- Romney seizes on uptick in unemployment rate
- Fall back: Set clocks back an hour this weekend
- Bill Clinton pushes Obama's case in Florida tour
- GOP redistricting, money give N.C. Rep. Ellmers edge in race
- Timeline of events surrounding Libya rescue effort
- Out of reach today, minorities a key to GOP future

More

"I think it's just a dirty trick. It just astonished me," said Bowman, a Jacksonville resident who says she plans to vote for Obama as she did four years ago. "I think they're doing everything they can to win Florida. It's a sorry situation."

The DVD's director, who says he has mailed some 7 million copies to homes in swing states, says that he is unaffiliated with political campaigns or their supporters and that the film reflects his own painstaking research into Obama's family background.

The DVD, "Dreams from My Real Father," posits that the president's true father was a communist agitator, author and poet living in Hawaii named Frank Marshall Davis - not the Kenyan man who shares the president's name. Both men are now dead.

The title is a reference to Obama's book about his family history. That book does mention a poet named "Frank" who was a friend of Obama's maternal grandfather.

In an interview, DVD director Joel Gilbert described himself as a nonpartisan independent who seeks only to tell what he views as an extremely important story. Gilbert said he did not coordinate distribution of the DVD with any political entity and also took no political contributions to finance it. Yet the DVD was targeted at voters in key battleground states, including 1.5 million in Florida and 1.2 million in Ohio, according to Gilbert's website.

Follow Curt Anderson on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/Miamicurt>

Full Story 1 | 2 | Next »

Like 0 1 0

READ MORE POLITICS WIRES STORIES FROM THE THE MIAMI HERALD

Romney seizes on uptick in unemployment rate

Fall back: Set clocks back an hour this weekend

ADVERTISEMENT

	The Wall Street stock wizard drops the next bombshell picks for 2012...		Homeowners in may be eligible for 2.00%(2.21% APR) refinance rate for most credit types
	Oaks - New rule allows many Pennsylvania residents to get car insurance at half-price.		Stores across U.S. selling out of this new 'miracle' fat fighter.

Get the Miami Herald's Politics News VIA EMAIL

Enter email address

Register to WIN in the \$2,500 Gas Giveaway!  dealsaver.com

Join the DISCUSSION

The Miami Herald is pleased to provide this opportunity to share information, experiences and observations about what's in the news. Some of the comments may be reprinted elsewhere in the site or in the newspaper. We encourage lively, open debate on the issues of the day, and ask that you refrain from profanity, hate speech, personal comments and remarks that are off point. Thank you for taking the time to offer your thoughts.

We have introduced a new commenting system called Disqus for our articles. This allows readers the option of signing in using their Facebook, Twitter, Disqus or existing MiamiHerald.com username and password.

Having problems? Read more about the commenting system on MiamiHerald.com.

HIDE COMMENTS

0 Comments

ADD NEW COMMENT

 Type your comment here.

Real-time updating is paused. (Resume)

SHOWING 0 COMMENTS

Sort by oldest first


VIDEOS

VIDEO FROM OUR PARTNERS











NDN VIDEO

ON FACEBOOK

Find us on Facebook

 **The Miami Herald** Like





38,927 people like **The Miami Herald**.

				
Pamela	Tammy	忠澄	Narelle	Aaron
				
Agustin	Greg	Karim	Exequiel	Lynn

Facebook social plugin

Recommendations

Login You need to be logged into Facebook to see your friends' recommendations.

-  **Manti Te'o, Notre Dame shining light onto greedy, tarnished sport - State Colleges**
240 people recommended this.
-  **Timeline of events surrounding Libya rescue effort - Politics Wires**
315 people recommended this.
-  **A one-size-fits-all morality fails - Leonard Pitts Jr.**
206 people recommended this.
-  **Manti Te'o, Notre Dame shining light onto greedy, tarnished sport - State Colleges**
240 people recommended this.

Facebook social plugin

QUICK JOB SEARCH

Enter Keyword(s)

Enter City

Select a State

Select a Category

Search