

1 HR1048  
2 111650-3  
3 By Representative Guin  
4 RFD:  
5 First Read: 15-MAY-09

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8 DESIGNATING THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2009 SHROUD AWARD.

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10 Let the 31st Annual Shroud Award Ceremony BEGIN;  
11 Proposing the deadest bill of 2009 is a major  
12 legislative SIN.

13 To this year's winner we say REPENT;  
14 As the time devoted to your idea was truly MISSPENT.  
15 You can't blame the lack of support on the  
16 RECESSION;

17 Luckily, your effort only caused mental DEPRESSION.  
18 Like the stock market, your offering started high  
19 but finished quite LOW;

20 After 30 days, it was a definite NO GO.  
21 Forget about a government bail out or friendly tax  
22 BREAK;

23 Any effort to stimulate this loser was a major  
24 MISTAKE.

25 Your legislative investment had a Madoff THEME;  
26 But no one brought into this statutory SCHEME.  
27 We fear your political portfolio may not SURVIVE;

1           And your credit rating will take a nose DIVE.  
2           Soon, we will audit your legislative RETURN;  
3           Don't worry, you will get everything you EARN.  
4           But first, without further ADO;  
5           The runners-up are subject to REVIEW.  
6           A Shroud consolation PRIZE;  
7           Is presented to each of the following GUYS:

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9           House Bill 268 by Representative Ron Johnson,  
10          regulating the sale of auto parts at a salvage pool. Usually a  
11          master mechanic, Mr. Fix It wasn't able to find the right  
12          tools to repair this jalopy. When he surprisingly lost the  
13          BIR, it was suggested that the gentleman from Coosa was losing  
14          his touch. Then it was decided that he should stick to health  
15          matters, where he never gets the NEEDLE. Isn't there a major  
16          medical crisis SQUEALING for your attention?

17          House Bill 338 by Representative Jack Williams,  
18          requiring the reporting of animal abuse. Even if a profession  
19          had nothing to do with animals, this mistreated proposal tried  
20          to bite them. Occupations covered by the reporting requirement  
21          included the clergy, surgeons, chiropractors, pharmacists,  
22          social workers, dentists, and podiatrists. In fact, about the  
23          only folks not sprayed by the sponsor's broad brush were  
24          lawyers and JOE THE PLUMBER.

25          House Bill 536 by Representative Joseph Mitchell,  
26          providing for the recording and preservation of the audio  
27          proceedings of the House of Representatives. Brother Joseph

1 claims he wants to ensure that future historians can study the  
2 scholarly debate of this body; but we wonder if he just wishes  
3 to provide ready-made political ads for our opponents. Either  
4 way, we suspect at the top of the hit list will be the  
5 sponsor's own distinguished discourse entitled "YOU KNOW  
6 YOU'RE POOR WHEN."

7 House Bill 412 by Representative Tammy Irons  
8 regulating individual tax preparers, aka The Contract Lobbyist  
9 Full Employment Act of 2009. On the first audit, this filing  
10 seemed to have wide support. But after being kicked around the  
11 H and R BLOCK a few times, the sponsor's initial deductions  
12 were challenged and there was no accounting for those  
13 demanding an exemption. When the Boards and Commissions  
14 Committee refused to grant an extension, you could forget  
15 about striking while the IRONS was hot. This return wasn't  
16 coming back. But not so fast my friend. After consulting her  
17 tax tables, the Lauderdale Lawyer tried to turn them with a  
18 similar Senate Bill. Everybody seemed to love this version ...  
19 so much they wouldn't stop talking about it. Bottom line, the  
20 Gentlelady's losses were carried over to next year.

21 House Bill 629 by Representative Craig Ford  
22 specifying a school start date. Proponents of this summer  
23 rerun were not HAPPY CAMPERS when their marshmallows were  
24 toasted by a sizzling BIR vote of 28 to 56. Hopefully,  
25 advocates won't be back for s'mores. Even though the sponsor  
26 has been a Shroud runner-up 3 out of the last 4 years, he is  
27 still considered a heavy hitter . . . on the softball field.

1           House Bills Containing the Governor's Ethics Package  
2           by various Representatives. Wearing a shirt that says "How can  
3           I help you?" our EVERY DAY LOW PRICE LEADER offered this gift  
4           at a local Wally World. Hoping for a real crowd pleaser, he  
5           only ended up with a legislative teaser that was deeply  
6           discounted, then discontinued. We suspect if enough customers  
7           complain, it will be restocked for another occasion. In the  
8           meantime, can somebody buy you a CUP OF COFFEE?

9           House Joint Resolution 91 by Speaker Pro Tempore  
10          Demetrius Newton, providing for an election to determine if a  
11          constitutional convention should be called. With dedication  
12          comparable to John Adams, the sponsor has doggedly pursued a  
13          new state charter. But after encountering major difficulties  
14          in committee and on the floor, the more appropriate analogy is  
15          to another founding father, Benjamin Franklin. After all, both  
16          men were basically told to "GO FLY A KITE."

17          House Bill 676 by Representative Marcel Black,  
18          regulating certain bingo facilities. OK, all together now,  
19          "Sweet Home Alabama." As if license tags and tourism  
20          promotions weren't enough, some willy Gilley P.R. guy thought  
21          that this was the perfect name for the state bingo bail out  
22          bill. However, it appears that this version wasn't written by  
23          Lynyrd Skynyrd, but LEONARD'S LOSERS. Confusing a political  
24          campaign with the People's Choice Awards, a band of twangy  
25          troubadours repeatedly sang the refrain "Let the Voters  
26          Decide." Trouble was, viewers are more trusting of these  
27          crooners when they are hawking sausage and itch ointment, not

1 government policy. You could call the fans' betrayal a COUNTRY  
2 CROSSING. In the end, the sponsor's pull on his slot machine,  
3 opps, we mean bingo device, just wasn't strong enough.

4 House Bill 569 by Representative Jamie Isom,  
5 requiring teachers and public employees to pay increased  
6 health insurance premiums. They say "No Guts, No Glory," but  
7 this offering had an overgrowth of intestinal fortitude.  
8 Apparently, the sponsor's own health insurance covers  
9 ATTEMPTED POLITICAL SUICIDE. When Doctor Paul and his state  
10 employee associates advised that this patient wasn't worth  
11 examining, it was ruled that this was an obvious case of  
12 VOLUNTARY HOMICIDE. From introduction, there was never any  
13 doubt that this corpse was DEAD ON ARRIVAL.

14 House Bill 245 by Representative Cam Ward, banning  
15 cock fighting. We would wager the sponsor didn't count his  
16 chickens before they hatched when he started to feather this  
17 nest. Obviously, not the Sport of King's, this blood-letting  
18 involves a BAND of BELLIGERENT BOOSTERS and a FLOCK of MEAN  
19 ROOSTERS. We wouldn't want to meet any of them in a DARK  
20 BARNYARD. Efforts to scratch out these fowl bantam bouts  
21 involving coked crazed cockle doodle doers never flew up the  
22 PECKING ORDER. Making a major squawk, the humane folks ruffled  
23 the feathers of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee.  
24 Indeed, some blamed the chair, who unquestionably rules that  
25 roost, of being more interested in FREEING THE HOPS than  
26 SAVING THE COCKS. Clearly, the avian advocate can't be called  
27 a CHICKEN, but didn't he realize that this "for the birds

1 battle" would surely cause the poultry poop to hit the fan? We  
2 ought to wring your neck, but we will just crow, "WARD, My  
3 LORD. You Gotta Be Out of Your GOURD. WHAT THE CLUCK WERE YOU  
4 THINKING?" and

5 WHEREAS, having dispensed with the ALSO-RANS;

6 Its time to get on with our recovery PLAN.

7 Due to opposition that was fast and STEADY;

8 The winning project is definitely shovel READY.

9 The final resting hole has been DUG;

10 And its time to give the deadest bill a departing

11 HUG.

12 So allow us to pluck from the remaining CROWD;

13 The winner of the symbolic SHROUD.

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15  
16 The deadest bill of 2009:

17 Had as much chance of passing as there being a  
18 100-year flood on Float Hill.

19 Caused all sides to seek higher ground, but in the  
20 end everybody was all wet.

21 Stimulated emotions if not the economy.

22 Concerned classes and appealed to the masses.

23 Involved a lot of partying but little fun.

24 Gave some food for thought.

25 Taxed the patience of all.

26 Is a repeat repeat repeated.

1           Of course you know who it is. Ever since the chair  
2 of Government Appropriations rolled his shopping cart of  
3 controversy down the aisle he had this award in the grocery  
4 bag. Innocently looking for the ingredients needed to prepare  
5 the Democratic Caucus' Number 1 agenda item, a recipe he  
6 picked up at the Farmers' Market in Birmingham, his efforts  
7 set off a battle of each caucus that caused a major raucous.  
8 Let us relive the Food Market Massacre of '09. Denied its  
9 first choice, the proponents, including the BLACK CAUCUS and  
10 other Democrats refused to accept any substitute. Flying their  
11 JOLLY ROGERS, this diverse ship of procedural pirates  
12 masterfully highjacked the process and plundered the  
13 proceedings. Not your typical "Pillage Idiots" this crew  
14 broadsided the opposition and proclaimed all alternatives were  
15 a NO SAIL. Quickly joining the food fight was the REPUBLICAN  
16 CAUCUS who didn't consider the issue just small business. They  
17 tried to span the divide by offering their own brand, which  
18 would allow them to take CREDIT by giving one. This compromise  
19 proved to be a BRIDGE TO NOWHERE. Meanwhile, the DEMOCRATIC  
20 CAUCUS, respecting Long John's SILVER, stayed with the guy who  
21 pays the bills. But to be honest, they seemed equally  
22 concerned about getting to the cash register before their  
23 FRESH PORK SPOILED. And then there was the newest group, the  
24 SPORTSMAN CAUCUS, each of whom boldly asserted his position by  
25 declaring, "I'D RATHER BE FISHING." Undeterred, the sponsor,  
26 like a frugal homemaker, constantly called for a price check,  
27 losing a record four BIRs. Last time we checked, those letters

1        didn't mean BETTER IF REPEATED. Sometimes, its wiser NOT TO  
2        LIGHT A CANDLE, if everybody's fingers are going to be burned.  
3        When all the days were spent, the COWS had not returned to  
4        Capistrano. WHERE'S THE BEEF? Still in that battered buggy  
5        along with all the other taxable items; now therefore,  
6                    BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF  
7        THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, That the winner of the 2009 Shroud  
8        Award is House Bill 116, which would remove the sales tax on  
9        food items. It's far past time for the sponsor, Representative  
10       John Knight, to return his shopping cart and check out.