

kers at county meetings. g the real problem. ted, "We don't have the to reflect the need." that problem is, in part, ce that accurately repre- le his organization is ve. Hatch thinks the Hispanic population is a ty budget. But such fears Nearby counties with panic populations, like Duval and Leon have not preters. With the excep- , like Miami, Tampa and d for interpreters is inex-

wouldn't the tax dollars nts offset that expense? l by the immigrants only ort services for English

nty needs to establish in the community to help overcome the language f making laws that pro- tion, segregation and t of minority groups ssioners should revisit siness is done.

e census, 7.1 percent of residents speak Span- t might be a more accu- n. Hispanics in the U.S. s apple pie. Suwannee nbrace diversity. Wilfredo R. Melendez, President, Member of Hispanic Affairs Gainesville

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board reversed a 45-year precedent.

This new decision relieves employers of the burden of proving that employees they fired did not adequately search for work. Instead, the board has now placed the obligation to prove that fired workers actively sought interim employment on the workers. If the workers cannot prove they took reasonable steps to find work after they were illegally fired, the employer is not obligated to make restitution.

port. This decision undermines majority rule, protracts the transition from union recognition to contract negotiation, and invites disdain and contempt for orderly processes. Other precedent-reversing decisions issued by the board have stripped protections from workers exercising their rights to collectively bargain and strike.

These rulings, along with earlier decisions that threaten to deny as many as eight million American workers to labor law protection,

declaration remains the law of the land.

What has changed is the highly partisan behavior of the NLRB, as evidenced by these egregious recent decisions, decisions that impede and punish self-organization and discourage collective bargaining, in clear violation of the basic intentions of US labor law.

Robert H. Zieger is a Distinguished Professor of History at the University of Florida.

SPEAKING OUT

Save the armadillos

They are a symbol of a rich and special tropical environment.

On the second day of my arrival in Gainesville, I saw a weird animal lying on the road. I soon realized that this dead animal was an armadillo.

We do not have those kind of turtle-like mammals in Japan, so I was delighted to encounter this animal (even though it was already dead). I felt that I had indeed come to a new country.



RYO SAKURAI

However, I was much more surprised to see another dead armadillo on the road before traveling two more miles by car. This time, its shape was completely changed; it had been flattened by several vehicles! But I was still able to recognize that it was an armadillo.

It was then that I realized this is a very common phenomenon in Gainesville. Armadillos frequently get run over by cars.

Running down armadillos and other wildlife does not only have a critical impact on animals, but it also causes negative effect on vehicles and humans as well. According to Dr. Joe Schaefer, a

professor at the University of Florida, during 1990, 431 vehicle collisions with animals (wild and domestic) were serious enough to be reported to the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. These accidents resulted in four human fatalities and 380 injuries. The average estimated property damage for each accident was \$3,395 (edis.ifas.ufl.edu/pdf/FILES/UW/UW15800.pdf).

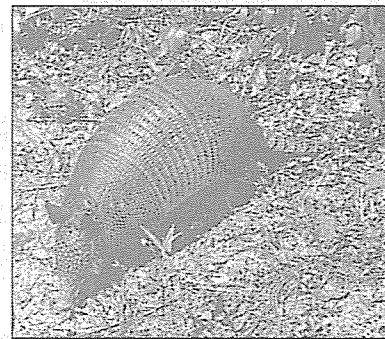
What do armadillos mean to you? Are they just poor animals that are quite often hit by vehicles? For me, because I am from Japan where no such mammals with shells exist, I feel armadillos are a symbol of a rich and special tropical nature.

Here are some things that we can do to prevent hitting armadillos.

First, be alert! The Humane Society of United States (www.hsus.org/) appeals to motorists to be especially watchful for wildlife at dawn, dusk and in the first few hours after darkness falls. That's when many wildlife are most active.

Second, try to slow down! Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (www.peer.org/) explains that countless animals become victims simply because people drive too fast to avoid hitting them. Or they drive too close to the car in front to see animals in time.

The good news is that by being



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careful on these two counts, we can reduce human traffic accidents as well. The Humane Society suggests that safe driving will not only help us to avoid harming or killing wildlife, but it will also make us more aware of others, such as bicyclists and children at play as well. So, watching out for armadillos and other wildlife create a safe society for humans, too.

And last, but not least, please be proud of having armadillos in your town. Armadillos are a symbol of rich nature and biodiversity. Let's start driving more safely today and make a better environment. Save the armadillos, our weird but charming neighbors.

Remember, gators are not the only wildlife that live here in Gainesville; we also have armadillos. Go Gators! Go Dillos!

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