



**EXCLUSIVE PHOTOS!**

# Death of Democracy

**Was Raymond Lemme, an investigator tracking down claims of electronic vote-rigging, a murder victim?**

**IN DECEMBER 2004**, as hundreds of scandalously under-reported Election Day “irregularities” piled up in the wake of John Kerry’s almost-inexplicable “loss,” a Florida software programmer named Clint Curtis filed a sworn affidavit that would send shockwaves through the post-election investigations into “what went wrong.”

Curtis’s explosive allegations, repeated in sworn testimony to members of the U.S. House Judiciary Committee, included the remarkable charge that he had been asked in 2000 by the Speaker of Florida’s Legislature, Republican Tom Feeney, to create an electronic vote-rigging software prototype.

Curtis and Feeney first crossed paths when, in a seemingly substantial conflict of interest, Feeney worked as corporate counsel and registered lobbyist for the software firm Yang Enterprises Inc. (YEI) in addition to being the House Speaker. Feeney insists there was absolutely no conflict of interest, even though YEI has had several multimillion-dollar contracts with the state of Florida.

Curtis saw a major problem with Feeney’s request that vote-rigging routines be invisible in the computer source code. (Routines are specific instructions for a program; for example, a routine could add an extra Republican vote for every two Democratic votes recorded.) Curtis says he was told by his boss—Mrs. Li-Woan Yang—that the program was needed “to control the vote in South Florida.”

Curtis, a registered Republican and a straight-shooter (at least according to those not implicated in his claims), was appalled at being asked to create software that could possibly fix a democratic election. While he felt certain at the time that any attempt to undermine electronic voting systems through computer code would be quickly discovered

by election officials, he still reported his concerns about Feeney and Yang to law enforcement officials.

The case would later take a turn toward the bizarre—and terrifying. In June 2003 Curtis was told by investigator Raymond Lemme of the Florida Inspector General’s office that the investigation into his allegations was almost complete. According to Curtis, the sleuth told him that he’d “be happy” with the results and that he should keep his ears open because he’d discovered the corruption went “all the way to the top.”

Lemme was found dead two weeks later. His bloodied corpse turned up in the bathtub of a cheap motel room in Valdosta, Georgia—about 25 miles from the Florida border.

The police report ruled the cause of death as suicide. In Georgia, unlike Florida, suicides don’t call for a mandatory autopsy. Lemme’s corpse (i.e. the evidence) was quickly cremated without any thorough medical forensic investigation ever having taken place.

The Valdosta Police Department (VPD) report claimed that photos of the decedent were taken at the scene, but that due to an unexplained failure in the “camera’s flash memory cards,” the pictures would not be available with the official report. Images that supposedly didn’t exist, however, eventually came to light.

In a statement released to HUSTLER by the VPD press office, the crime scene photos have been confirmed as authentic. The statement goes on to read: “We have no evidence at this point to indicate anything other than Mr. Lemme [having] committed suicide. When we received allegations that Mr. Lemme was murdered and that he did not commit suicide, the case was reopened. . . . The Valdosta Police Department welcomes any credible infor-

*Left: Original, unaltered Lemme crime scene photo. Right: Photo has only had the contrast increased to reveal what appears to be bruising on Lemme’s neck.*

mation reflecting [that] Mr. Lemme was murdered. At this point, all information still leads to our original conclusion that he committed suicide.”

It may well be that the photographs were intentionally “buried” since they reveal, when compared to the police report, a number of still-unexplained discrepancies. For example, what appears to be a massive bruise is clearly seen on Lemme’s neck, while the police report states there was no apparent discernible trauma, other than the two razor blade slashes to Lemme’s left arm. “Some of the pictures [posted online] have been darkened,” the VPD statement discloses, “apparently in an effort to show alleged bruising. . . . According to the crime scene technician, when the photographs were taken, there was no evidence of bruising noticed on Mr. Lemme’s body.”

The original police report also mentions a belt on a towel next to the bathtub where Lemme was found, but says there was *no blood* visible on the towel. The photos obviously show plenty of blood on the towel.

Programmer Clint Curtis left YEI in 2001 and took a job with the Florida Department of Transportation. Months after Lemme’s death in 2003, he learned from a news report that America’s voting machine companies had managed to convince those in power to allow them to keep the electronic software used to tabulate the upcoming 2004 election a “proprietary trade secret.” Consequently, the source code used to create the software on electronic voting machines for Election Day would be wholly uninspected by state election officials. Upon learning this startling truth from a news report, Curtis was stunned. Electronic votes would be tabulated on secret software created and operated by private companies with vested interests in the outcomes. Hidden or not, nobody would be allowed to see *any* of the routines used in that software’s source code.

Curtis was concerned, and he made his voice heard. Aside from the allegations of vote-rigging, Curtis’s affidavit reported on alleged illegal Chinese aliens who worked at YEI, a top-level security-clearance company. Curtis claims these employees were inserting “wire-tapping modules” into software written for their clients. The data mined from the taps would then be sent via the Internet back to YEI. This is chilling, considering that some of the software development contracts held by YEI include those with the Florida Department of Transportation and (far more troublingly) NASA.

Shortly after blowing the whistle, Curtis lost his job at the Department of Transportation. Despite continued denial from Feeney’s camp and YEI, many of Curtis’s charges have been confirmed as true. He has even passed a polygraph test! At least one person who Curtis blew the whistle on has been busted. YEI employee and illegal Chinese alien Hai-Lin “Henry” Nee was indicted and pled guilty in 2004 to espionage charges related to shipping anti-tank missile chips to China.

The Lemme case, however, is still shrouded in secrecy. Was the investi-



*The alleged suicide tool.*

*The spatter doesn’t lie: Valdosta police deny there was blood on the towel found near Lemme.*

gator murdered in the course of analyzing Curtis’s claims? Did Lemme’s “all the way to the top” investigation lead to a hit meant to cover up Curtis’s vote-rigging allegations? Was he offed by members of the Chinese Mafia protecting their technology spies at YEI? We may never know. The VPD re-closed the case after speaking to an unidentified person “at the Florida Department of Transportation.”

In the wake of the scandal, whistle-blower Curtis has abandoned his Republican roots to run as a Democrat for U.S. Congress in Florida’s 24th District. (See “Vote for Clint” below.) His GOP opponent? None other than Congressman Tom Feeney, who now fills the seat and is up for reelection.

Curtis has his work cut out for him—Feeney will undoubtedly use every trick in the book, and he knows a lot of tricks. A recent fund-raising letter from Feeney has preemptively accused Curtis of “complete lies.” Despite Curtis’s challenge, Feeney refuses to take a lie detector test.

Feeney, Jeb Bush’s 1994 gubernatorial running mate, also served the Bushes in the 2000 Presidential election fiasco, when—as Florida House Speaker—he announced his intention to certify the state’s Republican electors before it was clear who’d actually carried the state. Feeney is now under fire for his relationship to indicted former House Majority Leader Tom DeLay and his patron Jack Abramoff. Feeney took one of the infamous golf trips to Scotland paid for by lobbyist Abramoff—a clear violation of House rules.

Although Curtis is a budding politician, he *was* once a Republican himself. He understands the uphill battle he now faces running against a GOP heavyweight in a conservative district carved out by Feeney himself. Still, Curtis seems undaunted by the task. “I was a Republican for 40 years,” Curtis says, “but the values of that party have ceased to exist.”

## VOTE FOR CLINT!

**CLINT CURTIS**, 48, has ditched the Republican Party after exposing a high-level, GOP election-fraud scheme in Florida. The one-time computer programmer is now a self-described “conservative Democrat,” ironically running against Republican Congressman Tom Feeney in Florida’s 24th District. Feeney is the same corrupt vote-rigger Curtis blew the whistle on last year.

Curtis plans to show Feeney and his ilk that voters are the ones who matter, not the vote counters. The Curtis campaign promises

to uphold the democracy we once took for granted. “My vote will not be for sale,” Curtis pledges. “I will not take trips on lobbyist money.” Feeney, on the other hand, is closely tied to indicted superlobbyist Jack Abramoff. New to the political game, Curtis is the obvious underdog running against a well-connected, two-term incumbent.

Curtis has now become the victim of a smear campaign. He was fired from his job at the Florida Department of Transportation and labeled a disgruntled ex-employee by software company YEI Inc. after he took his vote-rigging information public. Despite Curtis passing a polygraph test regarding his

claims, Feeney has called Curtis’s allegations “ridiculous” and says they never met.

Curtis says he needs to raise at least \$300,000 and assemble 300 volunteers to mount a successful challenge against Feeney—modest targets for a campaign that size. In an act of good faith, Curtis promises that if he fails to meet his goals and is forced to withdraw his bid for office, he will return all available contributions.

In other words, even if you aren’t a 24th District Floridian voter, you can always write a check. For more info, go to [ClintCurtis.com](http://ClintCurtis.com).

—Mark Johnson