

# BUSINESS AND FINANCE

## One Man's Opinion

By Gerry Chong

My wife and I are honored to be close friends with a family of heroes right here in El Segundo. One son is on active duty with the Navy, and the other with the Marines. Both men enlisted during a shooting war, knowing that they would probably be called upon to put their lives at risk. Yet, both are eager to do their duty in protecting us all. To say they are courageous and patriotic is a gross understatement.

In reflecting on these men, one cannot help but think about the approximately 100,000 U. S. and NATO forces currently fighting in Afghanistan. The war goes on for them every day, yet when their military leaders asked the President for the additional forces needed to win the war, he temporizes.....as the killing goes on. What must be on the minds of the forces on the ground? As the fighters make the ultimate commitment, the question must be asked as to whether or not the Administration has a similar commitment to the goals it had set out itself just six months ago, on March 27. Then President Obama identified Afghanistan as a war of necessity, and one needed to defeat the terrorists that brought us 9/11, but today he is weighing the politics of his Party against the unanimous advice of the nation's military leadership. For many people, anything less than a full-throated support of the troops would be viewed as a tactical withdrawal as a prelude to ultimate defeat. Such a result would stain his presidency and be a shameful part of our history forever.

Liberals have always derided Conservatives as being "values driven" as opposed to their

"clear eyed vision of reality." This question of whether or not to support the troops, who have supported the President with their very lives, is a "values" question. For the Liberals, they are tired of the war. Win or lose, they want "out." Which are you?

That reminds me of something that has been circulating on the internet, describing the differences between a Conservative and a Liberal:

If a Conservative doesn't like guns, he doesn't buy one. If a Liberal doesn't like guns, then no one should have one.

If a Conservative is a vegetarian, he doesn't eat meat. If a Liberal is a vegetarian, he wants to ban all meat products for everyone.

If a Conservative sees a foreign threat, he thinks about how to defeat the enemy. A Liberal wonders how to surrender gracefully and still look good.

If a Conservative is a homosexual, he quietly enjoys his life. If a Liberal is homosexual he loudly demands legislated respect.

If a Conservative is down-and-out he worries about how to better his position. A Liberal wonders which government program will take care of him.

If a Conservative doesn't like a talk show host, he changes the channel. Liberals demand that those they don't like be banned.

If a Conservative is a non-believer, he doesn't go to church. A non-believing Liberal wants to ban all mention of religion.

If a Conservative decides he needs health insurance, he shops for it or chooses a job that provides it. A Liberal demands that his neighbors provide it for him. •

## Teaching financial literacy,

By Jason Alderman

Suppose your teenager came to you needing help answering homework questions on finance – would you be able to answer correctly or know where to find help? Consider questions like these:

Which are the two most important factors when determining someone's creditworthiness?

- a. Payment history and amounts owed
- b. Length of credit history and amounts owed
- c. Types of credit currently used and payment history
- d. Number of credit inquiries made and amounts owed

When you buy stock in a company, you buy:

- a. A guaranteed profit from the company
- b. A certain quantity of the company's products
- c. A part of the actual company itself
- d. A piece of paper with the company's logo

Those are just two of the hundreds of questions found in Financial Soccer, a free, interactive and multilingual video game created by Visa Inc. and the Federation Internationale de Football Association (FIFA), which is the international soccer governing body that sponsors the World Cup competition.

Incorporating soccer's structure and rules, Financial Soccer is designed to teach children and young adults how to achieve personal financial literacy; that is, to acquire the knowledge and tools they will need to establish and maintain sound financial habits over a lifetime. A computer-based game, Financial Soccer can either be played online

or on CD-ROM.

Avid fans are drawn by soccer's rapid pace and the need for strategy and teamwork to win. They know that simple missteps can quickly change which team controls the ball. Financial Soccer replicates the game's "beat-the-clock" atmosphere, as questions flash on screen in rapid succession.

Players can choose among easy, medium and hard questions. The harder the question you answer correctly, the more ground you gain. But if you answer incorrectly or too slowly, however, the other team steals the ball, forcing you to answer the next question correctly in order to recapture it.

Players can compete either individually against the computer or on teams. There are three distinct game difficulty levels: children, teens and adults. Supplemental teaching modules are also included for parents and teachers who want to take the learning process to the next level.

Topics covered by Financial Soccer include:

Different types of interest. Advantages and potential pitfalls of overdraft protection. Consequences of having a poor credit rating. What to do in case of identity theft. Items covered under renter's or homeowner's insurance. Different types of banking and credit card fees. How mortgage points work. Ways to improve creditworthiness

Financial Soccer will be called Financial Football in other parts of the world, where the game we know as soccer is called football. The correct answers for the questions above are: Question 1 (a); Question 2 (c). •



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HOME MORTGAGE

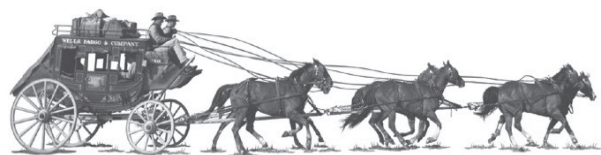
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