

# No Standing News

Since we have no standing, we stand with those left standing

Volume II

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## *C.O.R.E.'s fundraiser **Major D. Hammett II**, being sued for bank fraud*

*What can we say? When we're right, we're right.* Four years ago in a November 22, 2004 NSN article, "[C.O.R.E. is L.A.Z.Y.](#)," we exposed a fundraising scheme in the Rolla Public Schools by a company called **Major Saver Fundraising, Inc.** and **C.O.R.E.**, the Champions of Rolla Education. We Googled Major Saver Fundraising, Inc. (which obviously none of the CORE board members had bothered to do) and found was owned and operated by **Major D. Hammett II**, a lawyer from Independence. Our research turned up nothing specific at the time but something about the way the programs and his business was described on his web site was creepy. It just didn't seem right.

Our local C.O.R.E. group of elites had become weary from the effort of raising money themselves for the school district's C.O.R.E. Foundation, so with a remarkable lack of caution and regard for child safety, they signed a contract and turned this Major Hammett II and his minions loose on our grade school kids. Well after all why should CORE board members go out and make the effort to raise money from other adults when they can get just as much good PR from the newspaper, just as much status in the community and just as much public applause by having someone else do the work...even if the work is done by someone under the age of 7.

Major Hammett II's sales method consisted of holding six pep rallies in the schools – on school time – to get the kids all whipped up at the prospect of 'earning' cheap junk toys and the "Grand Prize" of a limo ride to a pizza party for the tot with the biggest sales of \$10 discount cards to the local fast food joints. Apparently the CORE board members and the grade school principals saw some educational value in the spectacle of the best little hustler in school driving away in a limo with a selection of his 'favorites' on the way to a private pizza party while the other 'losers' watched with envy but whatever the value may have been it escapes us. It's not exactly one of those core values the district claims to be teaching our children but what the hell, it's really the cash that counts isn't it? The CORE board members in 2004 who started this were: **Marla Stevenson, Julie Kaczmarek, Sandy King, Vicki Brown, Paula Lutz, Joni Stevens, Suzanne Vaughan, Caren Whites and Jon Wilsdorf.**

**When we smell a skunk...** On June 27, '08, the **Herald-Free Press** in Bolivar reported on that **Major Hammett II**, CORE's favorite fundraiser, is being sued by **Mid-Missouri Bank** in Polk County for \$5.5 million for "fraud and misrepresentation" and other scams involving a TIF deal

called Simon Square in Bolivar. The article said, "Simon Square Developers' articles of organization was filed with the Missouri Secretary of State's office Feb. 22, 2006, with *Major D. Hammett II as the registered agent* and Hammett and Michael Dean Atcheson listed as organizers. Atcheson said he became involved in Simon Square when he was introduced to Hammett, who already was working on the project and needed a partner. In March, the developers approached the city of Bolivar about using tax increment financing to fund infrastructure improvements for the shopping center. Bolivar Mayor Charles Ealy appointed members to a TIF commission that month, and the controversy began." [The whole article...](#)

Because the CORE Foundation Board was after all...CORE, and has been applauded for years by the newspaper merely because of the local illuminati on its board, they were not questioned by the grade school Principals or the School Board or the PTO moms when they opened wide the doors of our classrooms to Hammett's totally unknown and un-vetted salesmen who could have been charter members of Perverts Anonymous for all anyone in the district knew – or cared. The board members, principals and administrators who saw nothing wrong with this exploitation of children are the same board, principals and administrators who have policies that won't let parents go past the front door without signing in and standing in a corner to wait for your kid while being surveiled by squinty-eyed secretaries. These are the same PTO moms who howl for an ambulance if a child gets a splinter off a desk. None of these Champions of the Children protested this exploitation of their little darlings because CORE promised them a cut of the cash the little kids raised by going door to door to sell \$10 cards for 'fat' food to the registered perverts in their neighborhood or by begging their disgusted relatives to buy more tacky school fundraising crap.

We pointed out in the article that aside from exploiting the labor of children and taking up class time for the required six fundraising pep sessions, letting Major Hammett II have 50% of the sales for doing little more than printing cards and handing out junk prizes was a very bad business deal. The least the CORE board could have done was negotiate a better percentage but they weren't even competent enough to do that.

**School Board has no policy to control commercial fundraisers.** The School Board annually pays a lot of our money to the **Missouri School Board Association** to get a blizzard of policies that the board rubberstamps. It's an administrator's paradise because no matter how unlikely the 'crime' that someone may commit they've now got hundreds

of policies against whatever it is and the policies all say it wasn't administration's fault. However, there's nothing on the subject of letting commercial hucksters have access to our children for profit. For those guys they've just left a big Welcome mat at the door.

There is no school board policy that limits the number of fundraisers (as many as five a year which is four too many) the PTO moms can initiate nor is there a policy that bans commercial fund-raising companies from our schools nor is there even any requirement for these commercial pitchmen like Major Hammett II's salesmen to register with administration so someone can check their backgrounds. The state requires background checks on all teachers and other personnel for obvious reasons but not these total strangers that they're letting into any and all classrooms. The city even requires peddlers register and buy a license but these peddlers swoop in from Independence, sell hundreds of thousands of dollars of junk and are gone without even a peddlers license. The only gatekeepers between our children and these money-grubbing commercial companies are the school principals but with the name "CORE" as their passkey, hucksters like Major Hammett II have the run of our schools. With CORE VIP's such as the wife of the school board president, **Superintendent Giger**, a board member and all the other local swells on the CORE board no principal has the guts to ban these people from the premises – assuming any of them thought of doing it.

CORE annually gets a big pat on the back from the school board, the newspaper and the public for handing over the money raised by their underage slave labor so some teachers in some schools can take their classes on a field trip to the Pumpkin Patch or have Cocoa Nite at the Middle School – activities of dubious educational value which some teachers complain are handed out only to "pet" teachers. The little children who actually sold the junk and raised the money aren't necessarily the ones who get to go on any of the field trips or get so much as a sip of cocoa because the money is passed out by the CORE board on a very subjective 'patronage' basis calling it a "grant" or "scholarship."

**Time to ban commercial fund raisers.** It's time the Rolla School Board yanked in the welcome mat and banned such commercial fundraising-for-profit firms from exploiting our schools and our students as many good school districts did long ago. Grade schools are supposed to be for education not for sales training. If someone offered CORE 50% of the sales if they would send the children out to sell truck tires would that be OK too? What's the difference between selling discount cards to market for the local fast food joints and doing marketing for Firestone? Any school that needs five fund raisers a year to buy equipment for the school needs a principal who can do a better job of lobbying the Superintendent at budget time to get the equipment they need. The dotting PTO parents who seem to always need more bells and whistles for their kids should to learn to go address these pressing equipment needs to the school board at budget time – that's what we pay taxes for – to buy school equipment. What they do not need to do is to use the kids to sell junk food for Major Hammett II just to get a swing set or some bleachers for the gym. (We paid \$8.5 million to build those gyms, why didn't the \$8.5 million include the bleachers?) The small amount of money CORE provides every year isn't as important as the safety of our children who should either be doing their homework, playing or doing their chores not going door-to-door selling 'fat' food tickets to raise money for school equipment the school board should have provided and to support a lawyer in Independence and his TIF schemes.

If the Champions of Rolla Education want to get credit for raising money to be the Champions Of Rolla Education they can go back to doing it the old-fashioned way, they can get off their...couches and do the fundraising themselves. They should be able to do at least as well as a bunch of little third graders don't you think?

2008 CORE board members are: **Nancy Strassner, Caren Whites, Jon Wilsdorf, Wendy Young, Suzanne Vaughn, Joel Burken, Mark Calvert, Joe Gorman and Joni Stevens.** Ex. Officio members are: **Jerry Giger**, Superintendent, **Molly Malone**, school board member, **Vicki Gorman**, district finance officer, and **Sandra King.**



Bank sues Hammett, others for fraud

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When Springhill Falls apartments was foreclosed upon in April 2007 by Mid-Missouri Bank for **\$5.5 million**, it was the largest foreclosure in Polk County's history.

It involved **Major Hammett II**, who was the original registered agent for the firm developing Simon Square in Bolivar and **is now part of a lawsuit filed by Mid-Missouri Bank asking for more than \$2.1 million in damages on six counts that include fraud and misrepresentation.**

Other defendants in the suit are **his wife, Lisa Hammett**, and Wendy Green, an attorney with Renkemeyer, Campbell and Weaver LLC in Overland Park, Kan.

The bank's petition was filed Tuesday in Polk County Circuit Court and alleges that Major Hammett II of Independence obtained loans from the bank **"through misrepresentations and fraud perpetrated on the Bank in receiving the credit and renewing the credit transactions."** The petition states Prentice Hancock, then an officer of the bank, handled the business transactions through the Bolivar facility.

The bank is asking for the following monetary awards for each count:

- \* Fraud (with Brett Horn LLC) - Against Hammett and Wendy Green, an attorney with Renkemeyer, Campbell and Weaver LLC in Overland Park, Kan., for \$102,915.
- \* Misrepresentation (Horn) - Against Hammett and Green for \$102,915.
- \* Negligent misrepresentation - Against Hammett and Green for \$102,915.
- \* Fraud (with PEH Construction) - Against Hammett for \$572,798.
- \* Intentional interference with business relations - Against Hammett for \$675,704.
- \* Suit on the guaranty - Against Hammett and Lisa Hammett for \$572,789.

These charges stem from the bank's allegations that Hammett failed to disclose his relationship to the bank in Brett Horn LLC, claimed to hold a second deed of trust that did not exist on the Horn properties, diverted sale proceeds from the PEH Construction account (also owned by Robert Parson and A.J. Ellis of Bolivar) to Hawk Construction LLC (owned by Hammett) and violated contractual terms between the bank and the entities when he made a dual pledge of the real estate securing the PEH loans.

[Click here to download court petition.](#)

### **Simon Square connection**

A group of developers from Lee's Summit announced in November 2005 their plans to build a \$90 million mixed use development of residential, retail and office space at the intersection of Rt. T and Mo. 13 in Bolivar. The center would be known as Simon Square.

Simon Square Developers' articles of organization was filed with the Missouri Secretary of State's office Feb. 22, 2006, with Major D. Hammett II as the registered agent and Hammett and Michael Dean Atcheson listed as organizers.

Atcheson said he became involved in Simon Square when he was introduced to Hammett, who already was working on the project and needed a partner.

In March, the developers approached the city of Bolivar about using tax increment financing to fund infrastructure improvements for the shopping center. Bolivar Mayor Charles Ealy appointed members to a TIF commission that month, and the controversy began.

The TIF commission voted 6 to 2 in favor of the plan at a June 6, 2006, meeting, and the Bolivar Board of Aldermen sealed the deal with a unanimous vote for the TIF plan July 17, 2006.

The registered agent for Simon Square Development was changed to Atcheson July 20, 2006.

Hammett's interest in the property is being disputed, Atcheson said, and has not affected Simon Square.

"We're going on down the road," Atcheson said. "It's all irrelevant to the Simon Square project."

Progress is being made at Simon Square. Construction would already be under way on 28 homes built by Affordable Homes, but rain has hindered street construction. Once construction begins, the homes should be completed in about three months.

Atcheson also said Thursday he is in the final stages of completing a contract with a major retailer.

"That will be what we've been waiting for all along," he said, adding that attracting smaller businesses and restaurants will be a natural progression after securing a major retailer.

"I am committed to this project," he said. "It's starting to take off." ###

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