(Putnam, 12). If you are unable to talk to or trust your neighbor (let alone know her name), then really whom can you trust? Out of all of the people Columbus knew, the first one to ever try and kill him lived only mere feet away.

Even among the film's four main characters a lingering sense of distrust takes a long time overcome. In their initial grocery store encounter, Wichita and Little Rock manage to hold up the other two men and steal their car, an action they repeat after the first car breaks down. Even after relationships begin to form between Little Rock and Tallahassee and Wichita and Columbus, there are occasions where the girls still sneak out in the middle of the night, taking the car and numerous supplies. At this point there are knowingly only four people left on the planet, and yet there is still a major trust gap between all of them.

In a deeper sense, all four characters embody Putnam's contention that American citizens are bowling by themselves rather than in leagues, losing out on "civic conversations over beer and pizza" (Putnam, 6). All four are relatively loners. Columbus is self-described as a shut-in who does not leave his home and seemingly does not have any friends. Wichita and Little Rock are dependent only on each other and do not make any long lasting ties with people outside of themselves. Finally, Tallahassee makes absolutely no mention of any people that he associated with other than his son (now deceased), and his harsh attitude towards strangers combined with Columbus's commentary seems to deter anyone from wishing to spend time with him. Like Putnam's Americans, they lack any sort of consistent social interaction prior to the zombie attack, and even after they first meet, there are still moments where no one speaks. There are scenes where all four survivors (who could be the last four people on the planet) are sitting in a car with no music on without saying a word. Initially all of these people embody the "loner" persona that is sweeping the nation; however, that all changes as they begin to form relationships to help them actively become engaged in deciding their futures.

Despite the fact that the main characters begin to form a "family," there is still one area of the film that provides a look at living alone. In what could be the greatest celebrity cameo scene in modern film, the survivors stumble across Tallahassee's idol, Bill Murray, living in his mansion. Murray is the perfect example of someone who is still socially active (even after a zombie apocalypse) as he still attends social events

and walks around in public even though as far as he knew he was all "alone." In a way, Bill Murray is representative of a politician (without showing any party ties). The way that he walks around blending in with the zombies is similar to how a politician is able to "empathize" with the public, something very important to voters at election time. Thus, Bill Murray attends public events such as the Hollywood Ball to maintain his public image, similar to how the president every year like fills in a March Madness bracket for the NCAA Basketball Tournament. If Bill Murray is representative of a politician, then the main survivors of the film effectively fill in other parts of the American political system.

Tallahassee and Columbus take on the roles of ideologues from opposite sides of the political spectrum: a liberal and a conservative. Interestingly, in a reminder of the benefits of bi-partisanship, it is not until they start working together that they are able to do the most good for their small community. Tallahassee, the character with the second-most screen time, is a seemingly conservative character. He is incredibly tied to his past and lifestyle before the zombie invasion, evident by his continual flashbacks about his past with his now-deceased son. His inability to let go is shown in the Monopoly scene in Bill Murray's mansion where the audience realizes that Tallahassee would rather constantly remember the past than move forward. Later in the film, Tallahassee reassumes his fatherly role in the group of survivors and demonstrates his paternal instincts when he teaches Wichita's sister, Little Rock (Abigail Breslin), how to correctly aim a rifle. His ties to family fit in with how political scientist Nancy Love describes neo-conservatism, as "tending to be respectful of traditional values and institutions: religion, the family, and the 'high culture' of Western civilization" (Love 68). Among those treasured values is a "traditional concept of family" (Love 69). Tallahassee also has quite the appetite for Twinkies and is constantly on a quest to find what he believes could be the last box in the country. Twinkies were his favorite snack before the zombie apocalypse, and his deep ties to the tradition of eating what he has always loved relates to the conservative emphasis on respect for tradition in a quirky way. After the climax of the film when Columbus, Wichita, and Little Rock are all ready to leave, Tallahassee says he will follow but only if he can continue his hunt for Twinkies in Mexico. Twinkies are Tallahassee's only physical tie to the "old world" and it is shown that his character does not undergo a major fundamental change as he continually wishes