

Viewpoint

"Although I disagree with everything you say, I will defend unto death your right to say it"

Letters to the editor

The writer is Postmaster of the U.S. Postal Service in Mooresville.

To the editor:
I want to thank the community of Mooresville for making this year's Food Drive such a tremendous success. Each year, it is so heartwarming to see such generosity when it comes to helping those less fortunate.

This is the seventh year we have participated in the Food Drive and this year we collected approximately 12,564 pounds of food. All the food collected will go to the Mooresville Christian Mission and the Mooresville Soup Kitchen.

I also want to thank all of our employees (rural carriers, city carriers and clerks) for the enthusiasm and hard work they provided in order to make the Food Drive a success. The Food Drive is one of the avenues in which our employees enjoy contributing to the community.

I also want to thank Judy Turner and her Girl Scouts for their assistance in boxing the food that was collected. Again, thank you, the community of Mooresville!

Tonda S. Gregory
Mooresville

To the editor,

I don't usually write letters to the local paper, but I came across some unusually good customer service that needs to be recognized.

Since buying our house about three years ago, we've had nothing but problems. In our efforts to correct these problems, we have had to deal with the various repairmen. Most of the time we have not been satisfied with the quality of work or the promises made, then broken. It's been a very frustrating ordeal.

In our efforts to fix an ongoing leak in our windows and roof, however, we contacted Exterior Solutions of

Mooresville. Shannon Lennington came out, gave us an estimate and warranty information, and told us when the work would begin. After calling on various other companies for estimates we felt that we would go with Exterior Solutions. With all the bad publicity about siding and roofing companies out there we did not know what to expect. But this company showed up on time as promised, were professionally, and did very good work.

It's nice to know there are still companies that deliver what they promise.

Kevin Leaderer
Cornelius

To the editor,

The Mooresville Women's Golf Association would like to thank the following generous local merchants and friends who donated door prizes to the member/guest tournament for 2001. Our special thanks and appreciation to the staff at Mooresville Municipal Golf Course:

All Star Golf, Betty's Florist, Brawley Co., Carolina Home Accessories, Jill Martin/Chick-fil-A, Chick-fil-A Mooresville, Chick-fil-A Statesville, Clipper's Flowers of Lake Norman, Forbes Office Supply/Beverly McCure, Golf USA, Harris Teeter, Highland Creek Golf Club, Kudu, Lakewood Golf Club/Libby LePeur, Landmark Galleries, Max & Erma's, Mooresville Golf Course, Mooresville Golf Center, Myers Custom Picture Framing, Skybrook Golf Club, Sweet Spot Golf, Thor-Lo Inc., Verdict Ridge Golf & Country Club, Warrior Golf Club, WBTV/B.J. Caldwell.

Sue Billings
President
Mooresville Women's Golf Association



Reveling in grandparenthood

Everyone told me how splendid it would be. But even assurances from trusted friends did not convince me. I assumed that all grandparents just exaggerated the exhilaration they felt upon the birth of a grandchild.

And, ooh, all those overstated stories. How could they be true? How can an infant's IQ really be over 200 anyway? Can you even measure the intelligence of a newborn? Nonetheless, I am yet to meet a grandparent who was not convinced and confident that their child's offspring was a whiz kid.

If that braggadocious attitude were not enough, every grandparent believes his or her grandchild to be the most beautiful baby ever conceived. Why to hear them tell it, the child is destined for a modeling or muscle man career in Hollywood or New York. In addition, to these prideful embellishments, they carry all those pictures around to show you their little darlings. If you let down your guard and in a weak moment ask about pictures, you are sunk. At the slightest invitation they rip out the photos and you become a captive audience for an unwanted display of baby beauties that only a mother could love.

However, because you are schooled in the courtesies of Amy Vanderbilt, you say all the right things — "Isn't she so pretty?" or "What a beautiful head of hair your baby has." Often you say the appropriate things, but they're usually a stretch of the truth. Right? No, in at least one situation, the above description of an adoring grandparent is right on target, and it's worth another look!



Dr. Steve Gouge

'It's Worth Another Look'

Recent events in my family caused me to accept the testimony of my friends, but not because they said it was true. I am now called "Papa" and have a new granddaughter named Alyssa Leigh Howie.

Soon after her birth, I clearly heard her call my new name — "Papa." No one else seemed to hear the sounds she produced in the hospital nursery for newborns, but that doesn't bother me in the least. Her IQ must be off the scale. And you talk about beautiful! Everyone agreed with grandmother "Nana" and me that they had never seen such a gorgeous child. Unquestionably, she is beauty queen quality.

What about pictures, you ask? Well, the first Sunday back in the pulpit after her birth I had a portrait-sized picture of Alyssa in the church foyer with two guards stationed on either side. Their job: Not to protect the picture from theft, but to make sure that every person filed by and admired the picture. Violators edict were to be punished by listening to a repeat of my morning sermon. And by the way, if you are fortunate enough to see a picture of my granddaughter, be sure you say the appropriate things.

On a more serious note, it's great to be a grandparent. Now I know through experience the unconditional love that others have described. This episode in the adventure of life has caused me to understand God's unconditional love in a new and fresh way. I have been reminded by this precious new life to always remember how much God loves people. His love is unconditional, much like a parent or grandparent's love for a new baby.



Michael Roessler

The lottery and the free market

The prospect of a state lottery in North Carolina has brought about charges of moral deterioration from opponents of such a lottery.

Encouraging people, especially the poor, to dump money into a one-in-a-million chance of getting rich discourages an honest work ethic and teaches the wrong lessons about how to succeed in

life, some claim. Others think a lottery is contrary to the will of God. Still others think that such get-rich-quick schemes give a sense of false hope to those who put their trust in them.

Perhaps all of those arguments contain some validity. Perhaps a lottery would prey on the poor, distract from the proper ends of human living, and provide a false sense of hope to those most in need of a more dependable path to a better life.

So the argument against the lottery

See LOTTERY, page 11A

Too few teachers: 'Old' news

With the teacher shortage infecting public schools across the nation, I thought you might find the following item interesting. It's an excerpt from a column written in the Tribune on Aug. 17, 1994 by the late Cliff Allred, whose missives appeared during the war years from 1944-45. His daughter, Miriam Allred Todd of East Bend, N.C., sent the column to me, and it proves that today's teacher shortage is nothing new.

Wrote Allred:

"We are all familiar with the shortage of workers in all fields of work, but have you thought seriously about the shortage of teachers confronting all public school systems in the United States?"

"Right here in Mooresville, we are critically short of teachers for the coming year. Seven different state teacher's headquarters have been contacted in an effort to get sufficient teachers for our system, yet we are still short. Asking another state for teachers nowadays is like asking a man that has only fifty cents to let you have a dollar."

"Frankly, if we didn't have any teachers at all, we couldn't blame them after the booting around they have taken for so long. Those of you who read the 'Saturday Evening Post' will know that my thought on this is far from being original. An article on school teachers at this time will not get those teachers we need for the coming year."

And, in honor of Father's Day this Sunday, here's an item Allred wrote on March 1, 1945 about his father:

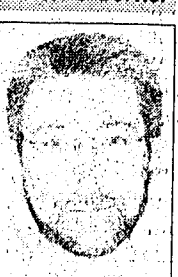
"In 1865, Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. In the next year, 1866, a baby boy was born in a little log cabin near Ashbury, N.C. During the 78 years this gentleman lived, he saw many great changes in these United States. He saw the differences straightened out between the North and South. He saw the forming of Democratic and Republican parties. He saw the development of the electric light. He saw the first roads that were built from state to state. During this time, he saw the automobile for the first time as well as the airplane and countless inventions."

"Last Saturday night, as I stood by the bed on which lay his lifeless body, these great things that have happened during his life seemed of very little importance."

"He was not a wealthy man, and the world had not known him as a great man. I was glad that he had lived a simple, Christian life, because in doing so, he was now truly a great man. Not in the eyes of the world, perhaps, but in the eyes of God."

"My greatest hope is that I may live my life on earth so that someday I'll receive as hearty a welcome from the creator of this earth as I know was received by my father."

Editor's Corner



Dale Gowing

Of ghostly encounters and the good undertaker

Editor's note: This is part 90 in a continuing series on the "Recollections of Mooresville in the 1880's," as chronicled during the 1930's by the Rev. J.I. Goodman of Fleming, Colo. in a weekly column in the old Mooresville Enterprise newspaper. This series is compiled and edited by Iredell historian O.C. Stonestreet III.

March 21, 1935

"The Enterprise," disseminator of news for those afar, chronicles some shameful brutalities betimes, and sometimes delves in matters more salubrious. There's your story ghostly and ghostly, of Harry Brown and his hearse on a good mission to care for a reported corpse in Cornelius.

A truck made havoc of an auto driven by some man. There lies his body among the debris, dead as Hector's pup. Mr. Brown rushes to the scene, drags out the body and the hearse is ready for its reception.

Faint signs of vitality are noticed. The eye lids open, and the dead comes to life in sight of that unique vehicle. His tongue begins to move and the living dead man states that he refuses a free ride in that nice funeral car.

Who would blame the victim, and who would not pity Mr. Brown? His experience is not allowed to many men. He must have felt creepy, and doubtless left the scene of the comedy pronto, feeding gas to the throttle.

What a subject for your poet laureate! Do your best, Colonel Harvey. Uncle Sidney Dixon would have gloated over his effusions. Can't you behold him as his mind created the rhythmical verses, while tobacco spitte

Echoes of the past

stained his whiskers? His story of the Rowan ghost was not a circumstance as compared with this mild event in our undertaker's life.

Pat McNeely is no more with you. A good many moons have passed since Cam McNeely led to the altar our neighbor girl, Agnes Kilpatrick, daughter of David and sister of Leroy, who gave birth to little Pat, herself soon passing into eternity. The father nursed and cared for the child. At church every Sunday the two were seen; always and everywhere father and son.

This condition gave the father a chance to mold the boy as he would, and he did a good job. Pat was a husky, industrious lad when Miss Hattie Brantley, a fine type of womanhood, became a mother to him. The young man later chose wisely as a helpmeet the third daughter of Cyrus and Mary Neel Johnston. Of a splendid ancestry came he and a good training was his. Also an auspicious marriage. Not strange that his life was a success. May his children imitate his virtues. To his wife, whom I knew from her birth to womanhood, allow me to commend her to Jehovah, the source of all real comfort.

William L. Troutman, recently deceased, married my cousin, Regina Wagner, daughter of A. L. Wagner and Mary Cook. A fine little girl when I knew her. My sympathy and prayers are hers.

J. I. Goodman
Fleming, Colo.

Lottery

Continued from page 10A

could be compelling. But it's not.

And it's not because the people who decry a lottery is the latest step in the moral decline of our civilization are the same people who regard the so-called free market with the same devout belief with which they hold Christ. But the free market is simply not compatible with Christianity, just as they claim the lottery is not.

Consider the argument that a lottery would prey on those who are most disadvantaged. Is this not what our system of free market economics does?

Is our economy not built on the backs of workers who are compensated for their labor at a disproportionately low amount? Is it not common for the working poor to remain poor? Is our capitalist form of economics not built upon the assumption that the few will get much, while the many will get little? It is — to the detriment of the poor and contrary to Jesus' directive to place, in more modern language, people over profit.

The question is thus begged: Is the very nature of our economic system not incompatible with a professed belief in Christianity?

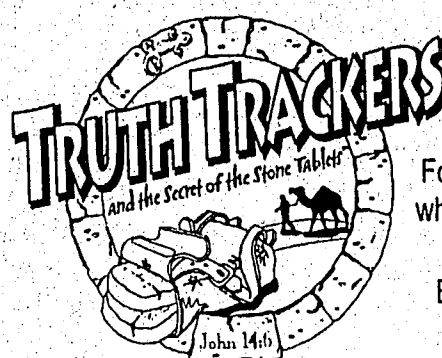
Also consider the argument that a lottery would distract people from the proper ends of human living and separate them from God and his will. How is a lottery any different from the stock market in this respect? The stock market — the driving engine in our economy — is essentially a lottery, though the odds for success are somewhat better on Wall Street than in the smoke-filled lobby of a convenience store.

Write us a letter!

The Tribune welcomes your letters. We prefer letters dealing with local issues. All letters must be signed, list a full street address and telephone number. We reserve the right to edit for brevity. Deadline is noon Monday. Mail letters to: The Mooresville Tribune, P.O. Box 300, Mooresville, NC 28115, or fax to 664-3614.

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