

Viewpoint

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

Letters to the editor

To the editor,

Michael Roessler makes a valiant attempt to defend the lottery by attacking free market capitalism (Viewpoint, June 13). He makes several errors of logic and fact, however.

First, the Christian perspective is not the only basis for opposing a lottery. It is much more compelling to argue that a lottery, regardless of who participates, is just one more tax that will lead to bigger and more intrusive government.

Furthermore, free market believers know that monopolies lead to corruption, inefficiency and inflated prices. A lottery is a government monopoly and will certainly behave as one.

Mr. Roessler stretches again when he paints the tenets of Christianity as incompatible with those of business. Christianity, like

other major religions, does not hold itself out as an alternative to business but rather as a framework within which all life's business should be conducted. To claim otherwise is to believe that business must be amoral, a proposition that defies common sense and experience.

Finally, Mr. Roessler is sorely misled about the benefits of free markets. Many would agree that a few become obscenely rich in a capitalist system, but history teaches that even those at the bottom of the economic ladder are much better off in capitalist than collectivist societies. Free market capitalism is not the only economic system one can devise, simply the best we have yet seen.

Sonny Morton, MD
Mooreville



"I'M NOT TOO LOUD!"

Small-town boy makes good

Editor's note: This is part 91 in a continuing series on the "Recollections of Mooreville 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 Mooreville Enterprise newspaper. This series is compiled and edited by Fredell Stineson O.C. Stonestreet III.

April 24, 1935

One of your best citizens has left you, not having time to say "farewell" even to his loved ones. Sad, you say, to be called away so suddenly. I doubt not my good friend Watson Smith was glad to be relieved of the shackles that are the lot of all humanity, and to awake in glory.

It doesn't seem that so many years have been registered since we were children.

Mr. Smith's life, all lived in your midst, should be an incentive for right living to your youths, and should incite them to make the most of their surroundings. Not born in a palace nor reared in a home of wealth, he was early inured to hardships from which he learned the necessity of struggling against adverse fates, and the joy that comes from turning them to advantage. Little opportunity for studying book lore, but well did he learn in the school of experience.

In early puberty Watson found a home with his uncle, Fred Nesbit, who had climbed through adversity to success. Here the boy learned much as the years passed by. Then he won for a life companion a woman of rare worth—one of the wisest things any young man can do. Lula Patterson and I were school mates and classmates at Coddle Creek Academy. A warm bond of friendship has ever existed between us. She married quite young, but her husband, Captain Bell, was soon called away, leaving

her with a neat little home and an infant boy, Pat.

She and Watt made a well-matched team. A woman of rare beauty, culture and aspiration, having a mixture of the Patterson and Emerson blood strain. Time passed. Fourteen years ago it was a coveted privilege to visit them in their splendid home of wealth and refinement: to learn something of their material success. No longer Watt Smith, but rather the Honorable State Senator from Cabarrus County, one of the best counties in The Old North State.

Owner of farms and equipment, political honor aplenty, a leader in Christian activities and social advancement, with a large family of well-educated children, they were still the same genial, winsome friends I had known so long. Such are the fruits of right living.

A perusal of that quilting bee as William Kistler's carried echoes of long ago. Mrs. Cal Moore quilting at 80! Probably the envy of some of the younger ones. Mrs. Jeff Blackwelder of 70, and so many names familiar to me. Some of them were in school under the writer; other acquaintances and friends. Several new names transplanted from some where beyond. Such gatherings are productive of friendship and fellowship, but where did the young people fit in?

Formerly, a social for them came at night. Courting by moonlight; nothing like it. Away with your arc lights, cushioned sofas, entertaining radios. The auto speeds lightly over the paved roads, the moon still shines and has a seductive influence.

Instead of two hours in a parlor or on a front porch with the crickets as merry-makers, our youngsters have driven to Charlotte,

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Call it a setback... or a step forward

After all the pomp and circumstance accompanying the announcement last year that Mooreville's vacant Burlington Industries plant would be transformed into a vibrant NASCAR-related business center, we're told: Well, maybe not.

It's hard to know what to believe anymore, isn't it?

Burlington, which had planned to retain ownership of the building while contracting with Fluor Daniel to upfit it for racing industry businesses, now has sold the facility to another company. That company, Cherokee Investment Partners of Raleigh, says it will now evaluate potential uses for the Burlington site.

And while Steve Cadwallader, managing director of Cherokee, acknowledges that infusing a NASCAR theme on the building remains "a real possibility," he darkens that possibility by asking, "Is the market still there (for a racing-related commercial center)? That is being dictated by the market place."

All of which probably means another year or so of study, while the once-proud Burlington plant sits empty on South Main Street, a constant reminder of the recent downturn in the economy.

On the upside, I guess, at least something is happening with the old mill, even if it is just a shuffling of real estate papers. We'll hope that Cherokee Investment is as eager as we are to see new life pumped into the old plant.



Dale Gowing

Me: "Yes, a cement..."

Bryce: "A CEMENT MIXER! A BIG CEMENT MIXER! CEMENT MIXER! CEMENT MIXER!"

Me (to myself): "I think I have lockjaw. Is it possible he gave me lockjaw?" Fortunately, this exercise only happens about 18,000 times every hour. But he has his moments of quiet repose. Those moments are never at a restaurant. Restaurants bring out the best in him, because they are mildly exciting and the general panic my wife and I experience when dining out must seem awfully funny to him. We will let him rap the thick end of a butter knife directly upon our exposed skulls (our scalps having been blown off on the way over because he saw a tow truck) and not say anything because his reply, even in agreement, would be sure to disturb the other diners, much like a live grenade would.

Only Taylor, Bryson's 9-week-old brother, can even mildly tolerate Bryson's volume, and that is because Taylor was born into the havoc. He must assume that the outside world is just a constant barrage of deafening truck names and the piercing word "WHY?" Amazingly, he can even sleep while Bryson is in the same hemisphere.

My greatest fear is that Taylor will believe this is normal and will speak at volumes that can stop continental drift when he learns to talk. Bryson may learn to control his voice soon, but to be honest, I hope it is not too soon. I will miss the ringing in my ears and the convenience of the informal tracking device that is his speaking voice. And how will I be able to replace sound of "I WANT MY DADDY!" short of a jet engine with lips?

No. The quiet can wait. For now I'll listen and wince — and pay the noise ordinance fines.

Lake Norman-area resident Corey Walcott's column appears every other Wednesday on the Tribune's Viewpoint page.

Bryce: "Look daddy, a cement mixer!"

Me: "I see."

Bryce: "A CEMENT mixer, daddy!"

N.C. still ranks low in draft registration

The writer is North Carolina's director of the Selective Service System.

By DONALD SWAY

North Carolina men who were born in 1981, now aged 19 and 20, are registering with Selective Service in greater numbers than did the same age group who registered last year, and that is true of many other states.

Nationwide, registration of young men, who are required to sign up with the Selective Service System when they become 18 year old, improved with the Selective Service System when they become 18 years old, improved by an average of 4 percent, which was also true in North Carolina.

In North Carolina, 88 percent of those born in 1981 have registered, according to just-released figures about North Carolina from the national headquarters of the Selective Service System, up from 84 percent compliance by the same age group last year. However, North Carolina is ranked 33rd among the states and territories in terms of successful completed registration of eligible young men.

Each year, the Selective Service System provides a report card on the states according to how many young men have registered. Registration can now be done on the

Internet at www.sss.gov, as well as Post Offices. Most North Carolina high schools also have registrars to assist young men.

North Carolina's ranking is a source of concern for a state with a long tradition of support for the military and nation. The goal, obviously, is 100 percent registration of 18 through 25 year old men. Women are not required to register with Selective Service.

There has not been a draft since 1973, and it would require Congressional action for a call up of young men, but Selective Service remains a third leg in the defense structure, after the Active and Reserve military forces. A small number of Reserve officers annually train civilian local board volunteers who would assist if the Congress decided a draft was needed in a national emergency.

To qualify for some federally-guaranteed educational loans and job training benefits, applicants need to certify they have registered as required by federal law. That also is true of certain North Carolina educational and job training benefits.

Nearly all young men are required to register, whether they are citizens or not, and if they do not register before they reach age 26, they are excluded from some educational and job training benefits for life. Registration with Selective Service is required for citizenship for immigrant young men.

Child's hearing can be tested early

Healthy communication

This is another in a series of question-and-answer columns dealing with physical communication problems experienced by area residents. Answers are provided by a panel of three professionals in the medical and speech therapy fields — Dr. Danielle Rose of Growing Up Pediatrics, Dr. Anne McIntosh of Communication Connection, and Brenda Hawkins, CCC-SLP, of SpeakAbility.

By DANIELLE ROSE

How old does a child have to be to get his or her hearing tested?

Actually a child's hearing can be tested at any age. There are several different tests that can be used to test a child's hearing even if they are unable to tell you when they hear a sound. Currently, North Carolina has a Universal Newborn Hearing Screen Test required of all newborns. N.C. hospitals provide this screening to help identify hearing loss early. Studies have found that early (before 6 months) identification of hearing loss and intervention can greatly improve the child's ability to communi-

cate when they are older.

These screening tests are also available at certain audiologists' offices.

It is wise to call ahead, though, because not all audiologists have the proper equipment or training to test hearing in small children.

How can hearing be tested in babies when they cannot respond?

There are actually several different tests that can be used. There are two methods used to screen newborns and infants. One is the Automated Brainstem Response (ABR) test and the other is the Acoustic Emissions Test. Neither of these requires any response on the part of the patient. The ABR measures the brainwave produced when the ear receives a sound and sends it to the brain.

The pattern of the brainwave produced is different if the sound is perceived normally than if there is a hearing problem. The Acoustic Emissions Test is a microphone placed in the ear that

picks up the sounds that the ear makes.

The sounds the normal hearing ear makes and those that the hearing impaired ear makes are different and can be used to determine whether or not a hearing problem is present. There are some other tests that are based on startle reactions and eye movements that different aged infants make when they can hear sounds. These require a soundproof booth and audiogram equipment as well as some visual distraction devices.

Audiologists skilled in testing children use these in conjunction with the ABR and Acoustic Emissions testing to help more closely determine just how much a

child can or cannot hear. If you feel your child needs testing it is recommended you consult with your primary care physician about a referral to an audiologist skilled in evaluating young children.

Reach Dr. Rose at 895-9060 or via email, at: Drose2d@aol.com

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McCrory said, "You're going to have to decide how much you're going to commit to it."

"I should have been an architect," Mooreville has budgeted \$400,000 for architectural fees for a new community center and gymnasium.

Gimme a pencil, a slide rule and a large poster board, and I'll do it for, oh, \$40,000.

Architectural fees notwithstanding, judos to the town for its plan to spend some big money on recreational facilities in the coming year. It certainly won't cover all that we need in this growing community, but it's a nice chunk.

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