

Viewpoint

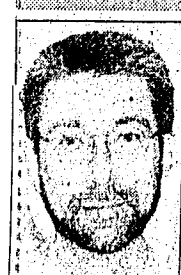
"Although I disagree with everything you say, I will defend unto death your right to say it"

Action against Coleman is a start

Sadly, the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education will probably suspend Supt. Howard "Buddy" Coleman tonight. It's sad because it's not enough.

Coleman, who has alienated employees and not publicly taken responsibility for the school system's fiscal fiasco, should be fired. Actually, he should have resigned weeks ago. The board likely doesn't feel it's on solid enough legal ground to fire him, so members are taking the only viable

Editor's Corner



Dale Gowing

suspension. Coleman, however, isn't the only one needing to take responsibility for the financial mess that has created nearly a \$3 million budget shortfall. Not a single school board member has stood up in a public meeting and said, "We screwed up. Our budget is a mess and, while we didn't directly cause it, the situation occurred on our watch." Granted, the mess was created by the school system's financial department, which has been terribly run over the past two years. But everybody in positions of authority—from Coleman to the school board—has taken great pains to distance themselves from the ugliness.

In recent weeks, the reputation of the Iredell-Statesville Schools has done a free-fall. Instead of the shimmering image of having top-rated schools like Lake Norman Elementary and Brawley Middle School, outsiders now regularly read about an Administrative Office staffed by buffoons.

The more conservative members of the Iredell County Board of Commissioners, who have traditionally argued that the Iredell-Statesville Schools should manage its money better instead of continually asking for more, now are saying "I told you so." Of course, the commissioners had no idea there really was poor money management going on when they were tightening the county purse strings, but I'll grant them their moment to gloat.

The losers in all this? Our students ... and teachers. Because nobody was watching the cookie jar while the coming year's budget was ravaged, Iredell-Statesville teachers won't get an expected 2 percent pay supplement increase, after all. Additionally, some highly touted advanced courses at South Iredell and Statesville high schools are being cut, as well as plans for 10 school

See EDITOR'S, page 11A

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 Mooreville Tribune, PO Box 300, Mooreville, NC 28115, or fax to 664-3614.



Adding zest to life

Sir Edmund Hillary, a celebrated mountain climber, was once asked why people wanted to climb unscaled mountains. He answered, "(Because of) the fact that there is a mountain you have not climbed, a challenge you have not met."

Mountains have always fascinated human beings. In our own North Carolina mountains and even more so in the Sierra Nevada and the Swiss Alps, as one peak is ascended, there is always another summit that lies beyond. What an accurate description of life, and it's worth another look!

In the book of Joshua, an episode from Israel's history is recorded—after forty years of travel in the Sinai Peninsula wilderness, Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land, Caleb, one of the original spies who explored Canaan forty years earlier, made a strange request. He asked Joshua for a major challenge, "Here I am this day, eighty-five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me. Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the LORD spoke that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fortified. It may be that the LORD will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the LORD said." (Joshua 14:11b-12, NKJV).

I greatly admire Caleb because, near the end of his life, he asked God for another mountain to climb. Remember that the Anakites were giants, perhaps descendants of Goliath, and they were ferocious warriors. They lived in cities protected by strong walls, so Caleb's request was an awesome and monumental one! There is a les-



Dr. Steve Gouge

Setting a fine example ... not!

A new state law that allows public schools to post the Ten Commandments will most certainly be invalidated because it violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It is an inevitability eagerly anticipated by those who are offended by any state attempt to impose a particular religion on its people.

The constitutional questions surrounding the law are so clear as to require little discussion: public schools are government institutions and are thus prohibited from advocating one religion over another, as well as any religion over non-religion.

More worthy of further consideration is the reasoning used by our state legislators to support the law.

Supporters of posting the Ten Commandments have said that the commandments are universal moral precepts, disagreeable to no one. As such, posting them will offer moral guidance to young people. They have also argued that the commandments are part of our nation's Judeo-Christian heritage and are deserving of recognition as such.

Of course, the Ten Commandments are not universally embraced. Four of them are immediately discarded by anyone who is not Christian. The other six, though perhaps containing moral principles by which most people live their lives, are rendered suspect to non-Christians because of their supposed source: the Christian God.

Though non-Christians may honor their

'It's Worth Another Look'

son here for us.

We never get too old for a challenge. We can compare life to a mountain climb—a series of obstacles arising one after the other. Just as mountain climbers don't scale a mountain in one gigantic leap, neither can a successful life be achieved overnight with ease. This life's journey can be a long, demanding climb, but hopefully a rewarding one.

Each mountain successfully navigated is preparation for the next one that will inevitably come. Since Caleb's confidence grew with each success he achieved in the wilderness, he then felt ready for a new and greater challenge. If we have a victory or two under our belts, we are better equipped for the next one that comes.

Every mountain climber learns to accept the terrain as he finds it. The climber carefully follows the seams of the steep earth and it becomes a path toward achieving the goal. Even when the steps are uncertain, human goals are achieved by following the path God gives.

The achievements of today are largely the result of what we invested in life up to the present. Regardless of our age, whether a child, youth, young adult, or senior adult, life now depends on what you have tried to make it in the past.

What mountain remains for you to conquer? With God's guidance you can be a Caleb who experienced victory even in the waning years of life.

Rev. Steve Gouge is the senior pastor at Southside Baptist Church in Mooreville.



Michael Roessler

parents and avoid lying, stealing, and killing, they do none of these because the Christian God told them they should. Thus even the basic morality contained in the commandments is rejected by non-Christians in form, if not substance.

And what of the idea that the commandments should be posted because they play an important role in America's heritage? Supporters of the law have been hurrying about trying to find justification for the new law in the words of the Founding Fathers, hoping to provide conclusive evidence that James Madison or George Washington would support their efforts to inject religion—the particular religion of Christianity, not religion generally—into our public schools.

While engaging in this search, the law's supporters have overlooked the Founders' most widely available commentary on the relationship between church and state—the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion."

Furthermore, the same people who think the commandments should be posted as a reflection of sound historical understanding are themselves ignoring an important historical lesson: when governments attempt to impose a particular religion on their people, the result is often discrimination, oppression, and violence.

But all is not lost. Our legislators' historical ignorance, as well as the inherent arrogance they display in calling a particular religion's beliefs universal, can still achieve their goal of instilling moral guidance to young people. Indeed, our lawmakers have given all people, both young and old, a fine example of how not to act.

Letters to the editor

To the editor,
I want to thank the Mooreville community for supporting The First Baptist Ecuador Mission London Broil. It was a true success. We cleared over \$4,000 that will pay for the medicines and supplies that the team will take to Ecuador to minister to the people of Quito in our Lord's name. We are grateful to each person that helped.

Most of the groceries, turkey, and beef came from K&D, which gave us a super price. Randy Marion Chevrolet bought 20 tickets. The Mooreville Tribune sold us two ads at a great price and then included our event in several other places in the paper. Absolutely Signs did a great job on the signs, charged us a fair price, and gave us a very fast turn around.

One person made five sophisticated desserts that happily made it to the dessert table before someone grabbed them. Involved and concerned church members donated all the desserts. We sold about 360 carry out orders and 275 eat-in plates. The silent auction earned about \$575 and people got terrific buys on some neat items.

I'm sorry we sold out before some who wanted to eat had the chance. I'll order another 100 pounds of meat next time if they will come back.

One loving individual arrived to learn that we had already sold out. That didn't stop her from making a significant donation, though. When I said, "You don't have to do that," she said, "You're not going to rob me of my blessing. I want to do it." She helped me remember why we were working so hard. It's easy to forget the reason for the work when you are extremely busy and about tucked out.

It is nice to live in such a good community.

Mike Holcomb
Mooreville

To the editor,
Regarding the editorial "Reading Between the Lines" (Viewpoint, Aug. 1), I must respectfully, but wholeheartedly disagree with Jaime Gattion on her perceptions of the Promise Keepers. Her inferences that men who attend these rallies contribute to the need for battered women's shelters are false and offend me greatly.

As part of a family who in general validates the position of Promise Keepers, I must tell you Ms. Gattion's concern for supportive wives is completely unnecessary. In fact, we are some of the happiest, most loved, most secure, and most honored women around. Because our husbands are called to love us as Christ Jesus loves His church, we, as a whole, experience more support, more peace, more freedom, and more respect on issues that concern us. Though I realize not every Christian house-

hold will experience the kind of Christ-like love we seek to attain, the men who attend Promise Keepers rallies are at the very least committed to that goal.

Judy Ratchford
Mooreville

To the editor,

As a Christian wife and mother of four girls, I was saddened by the hurtful words of Jaime Gattion expressed against the Christian man and the Christian family. There are many of us in the community that strive to follow God's model for marriage shown in the Bible.

I am a full-time mom by choice and my job is one of the most difficult in the work force. I do this while my Christian husband is outside the home in the work force, earning money to financially support our family. I can proudly state that he is the head of our household because he is the spiritual leader of our family, and he makes sure that we are all provided for in all ways we may need. He makes us his priority in life, understanding that it is one of the best ways he can serve God. Now this is a godly man.

Christians don't "candy-coat" anything. You either agree with God or you don't. And, as I thought much about it, what would men the world be like if more men followed the Biblical model of a Christian man? There wouldn't be single mothers struggling for lack of child support payments. There may not be teenagers dealing drugs on the street for lack of a male role model in their lives.

The teen pregnancy rate would drop because fathers would be loving their children and making them feel valuable. Domestic violence would drop drastically, as men and women loved each other as we Christians have been commanded. Violent crime rates would drop because men would be honoring God instead of their selfish desires. In a nutshell, the world would be a much better place.

Do I feel somehow abused with a husband who is head of our household? The mere idea is preposterous! I find a lot of power in my "role" as a Christian wife and mother. I find so much security in my Christian family. I takes a real man to be a Christian husband, and it takes a real woman to be his wife.

Karen Mauney
Mooreville

To the editor,

Ms. Gattion is ill-informed on her topic. As a born-again Christian, it is not necessary to read between the lines when you read the Bible. It is very clear and answer every question. The ones who twist the meanings are the ones who do not want to live by

See LETTERS, page 11A

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Constant change: The nature of civilization

Editor's note: This is part 97 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 Iredell historian O.C. Stonestreet III.

August 21, 1935

Your last Mooreville "Enterprise" reports two golden weddings in your city. One with a plus of nine years, the other of eight. Remarkable, I think. Congratulations and good cheer to both families.

Mrs. Guder and I were in the same school about 65 years ago. Said school was taught by Miss Caroline Deaton, aunt of Agnes Kerr. The

schoolhouse stood where Cordie McNeely Brown now resides. Mrs. Guder was thoughtful enough to write me a letter of sympathy recently, which was much appreciated. Others were kind enough to do likewise. Some have been acknowledged gratefully; others will be.

Winslow Guder is another proof of the verity of the ancient adage, "As the twig is bent, so shall the tree be inclined." Hounds were his obsession in youth, and still are. He might have worse friends. Their faithfulness to a master is hard to excel, and they find no fault with him, so long as they have food and kind treatment.

As for Joe Goodman, he appears to be "every man's friend." A praiseworthy title which he has justly won. May his usefulness long bless your community.

Human progress is remarkable. Within the space of my own short life, modes of travel have changed.

In early life foot travel was common—men and women thought nothing of walking on journeys of even several days. Some moved behind oxen. Occasionally, someone was seen driving the asses of Abraham's day. First there was the rudely constructed carryall, then the buckboard, followed by the high-wheeled sulky, then the buggy, the carriage, steel rails, and now autos and airplanes. Each one had its part in civilization; each one had good and bad points, served its allotted time, and like all human things, had or has an end.

Nothing enduring, continual changes. Sometimes forward, sometimes backwards. Such is civiliza-

tion. All of which leads us to desire a better Country, whose builder and ruler is the unchangeable Jehovah.

The passing of Watts Goodman has grieved me no little. I nursed him in infancy, watched him and ministered to his childhood and youth, and saw him grow into splendid manhood. I visited him fourteen years ago when I was in Mooreville, enjoyed his hospitality and heard cheerful reports of his personal life and his citizenship—especially of his devotion to his church. All these things cheer me now. His smiling countenance will long be recalled, his influence for good will continue. The good man dieth, but "his works do follow him."

J. I. Goodman
Cheyenne, Wyo.

Letters

Continued from page 10A

the Bible. Her connecting the rally and march with battered women's shelters is ludicrous. I am not a battered, young wife; however, I was one. If there had been a Christian man as head of the household, many lives would have been different.

I was one of the women cheering and praying at the march. I saw no submissive women—only proud, loving women praying for husbands, sons, fathers, grandfathers, brothers, nephews, and friends. These men were saved by grace and that's why they stood up for the Lord.

I say to you Christian men, "March on, brothers, march on! We appreciate you."

Glenda Helms
Mooreville

To the editor,

I provided a succession of hamsters with well-ventilated, spacious cages in which they enjoyed climbing, treadmills, wholesome food, regular cage cleanings, and frequent out-of-cage time.

Nevertheless, they all died far short of normal life span.

After adopting two mice, I learned about the pine shavings I had used for the hamsters' bedding. Softwood shavings, particularly cedar and pine, have been linked to respiratory, liver, and skin diseases in animals constantly exposed to them. This has been confirmed by veterinarians, and people report improvement in animals' conditions after switching to other bedding. One study found that when given a choice, animals reject softwood shavings in favor of other types of beddings.

My mice are doing well with a non-toxic bedding made from reclaimed wood pulp waste. They also like soft tissue paper. Other safe beddings include those made from pressed paper pellets, alfalfa, grain by-products, aspen, straw, or recycled newspaper printed with soy ink.

Joel Freedman
Canandaigua, N.Y.

(Mr. Freedman chairs the public education committee of the Animal Advocates of Upstate New York.)

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Editor's corner

Continued from page 10A

buses. And a number of full-time substitutes, as well as custodial workers, will likely be furloughed.

That's not all. Another \$300,000 still needs to be whittled out of the current year's budget. Executive salaries would be a logical place to get much of that, but contracts are signed and those employees haven't volunteered to give any money back. Even firing Coleman doesn't do much, because his contract guarantees his salary. And remember, last October he signed an extension for four more years.

So what have we got? A nasty mess. How do we fix it? We make the cuts that are necessary for the current budget, then carefully begin to retol for next year. We hire competent people. And, yes, county commissioners—additional money is going to be needed next year, whether we like it or not. After all, it's not the kids' fault that we adults have screwed

accountability.

What has occurred in the Iredell-Statesville Schools is horrendous. But you can help make sure it never happens again.

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