

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

The Membership has Spoken

The crowd at Anderson Music Hall on Saturday was vocal. Yes, they spoke their minds and didn't hold back.

Of course that was before they learned the results of the 2014 Election of Board of Directors for Union and Towns counties in Georgia, and Clay County, NC.

We're told the petition circulating to remove the EMC Board of Directors does not include its three newest members, Charles Jenkins, Steven Phillips and Chris Logan.

Yes, on Saturday at Anderson Music Hall, there was a clean sweep in the election that removed Brian Trout, Julie Payne and Lenny Parks from the EMC Board of Directors.

We feel for Trout and Payne, who have barely been on the board long enough to get their feet wet. Parks on the other hand was seen as a Board insider and members left him in third place in his race.

The message: "we want change." Prior to the announcement of election results, board member Jerry Nichols took to the podium and told the packed crowd at the Music Hall that the board was sorry.

GM Akins also apologized to the membership, asking for forgiveness and the opportunity to make them proud of their EMC.

Board members sat quietly as Karen Kelley, the wife of former EMC Director of Operations Chris Kelley spoke of the hardships her family has endured as a result of her husband's demotion for bringing to light the long-term debt of former BRMEMC Board President Terry Taylor.

Really, there was nothing that they could say. EMC Member Barbara Heimanson said it all when she demanded Akins' resignation and the subsequent resignations of the EMC Board of Directors.

"Terry Taylor would still be sitting up there on stage if it wasn't for the North Georgia News," she said. "You should be ashamed of yourselves."

Thank you Barbara, we're just doing our job.

Straight Shooting

Charles Duncan



The Middle Path

by Don Perry

When someone tells us, the modern, sophisticated, technologically savvy and politically astute people that we are, to "stop and smell the roses," we might just lift our noses instead, buoyed by the enlightenment of our worldly wisdom.

Those of us of a more idealistic nature lament the ascendancy of negativity in our civilization, but science tells us that we are hard wired to emphasize the negative.

Negative stimuli is registered immediately by the amygdala, whereas it takes at least 12 seconds for positive experiences to imprint long term memory.

"Hold on," says the optimist. "We are no longer hunter-gatherers trying to stay alive on a planet where everything wants to eat us.

"Perhaps," replies the realist, "but what about the predators of the modern world, from the government who wants to rob us with the law to the thug in the parking lot who wants to do it at gunpoint? Who wants to be hit by a bus, admiring the clouds while we cross the street? We

don't have to hunt for food or gather nuts and berries, but what about the life's savings we gather that can fall prey to a scam artist, a lying politician or a dishonest merchant?"

I must confess, as I attempt to balance this fictional dialogue with a reply from the "optimist," that it is much easier to write the negative viewpoint. Negative experiences linger longer, reinforced by our nervous systems programmed to recognize danger; reinforced by a marketing milieu constantly broadcasting bad news to compete for our attention in the pursuit of advertising dollars.

Yet, though we may be programmed to whatever extent science believes we are to emphasize the negative, the clinical trial and the statistical analysis seem to miss the most salient point in this discussion: We are beings of consciousness. We are creatures of choice.

It is much easier to be passive than to be alert and aware stewards of our own consciousness, but to surrender to the flow is to live fearful lives bracketed by drama and worry and subject to stress related disease.

There is a middle path between the cynic and the Pollyanna where alertness protects us from danger and where Faith and choosing allows us to embrace the good things in life, which are just as abundant as the bad.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

By the skin of my teeth

Here in these mountains we have numerous words, sayings, phrases and idioms that are only understood by folk who have grown up here. There are sayings and idioms that have originated in one locality but have been so expressive that they have gained widespread usage.

has a strange affect on some folks; it makes them want to go naked. I grew up being taught that there are some areas of the human anatomy that you don't expose to the sea, salt, sand and the sun.

If some folks believe that beauty is only skin deep, they must believe more skin shown, more beauty seen. I suppose that by now I have gotten under some reader's skin. Those of you who have a thick skin will keep on reading but those with a thin skin may take exception.

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen



Sometimes I get the distinct impression that it's helpful to rant occasionally. Not long ago I ran an aggressive column describing some of the destructive outcomes of pornography.

On June 6, 2014, Google, the most pervasive Internet site in the world, announced that it would cease all advertising for pornography including all ads that link to sexually explicit websites.

A delegation from Morality in Media, with some other groups, met with Google administrators. Chief concerns discussed were porn on YouTube (which Google owns), the Google Play store, and Google ads.

Interestingly, leaders in Australia also concerned about the decaying sexual morals in their country, took the occasion to launch a series of major

initiatives intended "to turn back the tide of evil (of pornography) in...our societies." Commenting on encouraging changes in their own country and responses from Google and other entities in the United States, Aussie leaders called it "the greatest single victory in the battle against pornography in the last 40 years."

What encourages me most about the Google decision is that these business titans were not bowing to federal mandates. No laws were passed that will be debated in the courts for the next ten years.

What also encourages me is the manner in which the changes came about. No angry riots. No burning down buildings. No posturing or politicking.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

"I assure you there's no need to worry about the impact of fracking on your water supply!"

"Say, I'm thirsty. Do you have any bottled water?"



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