

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

This is a plea to the owners of the piece of land up on the ridge of Tusquitee Mountain and to the Nantahala National Forest Rangers. Please try to negotiate, again, to purchase this land and turn it over to the people. This should have been done years ago, as everyone agrees. The main problem with all of our local creeks is high turbidity. Any road that pushes up to this property would increase the turbidity of these tributaries by >1000%, since they are so crystalline now. This would irreparably damage a national treasure. Please make sure that anyone required by their duties to render a decision on this Access Road controversy has to personally inspect the affected creeks. A visit to this pristine area will make any ruling to put in a road very difficult for them.

Sincerely,  
John Bowen

### Letter to the Editor:

Why Hiawassee keeps going backwards instead of forward. Most other counties around the area have latched on the liquor bandwagon and have reaped the rewards. The city of Clayton is packing in the tourists and have events going on almost every weekend in the spring, summer and fall. Even little of sleepy Hayesville, NC has hopped on it with their great wine festival and oh let's not forget, because that is where you and I purchase all our liquor. I don't know about you, but I certainly do not like my tax monies going to North Carolina. And why is it that our top restaurants do not have Liquor licenses? Most of the people that come up here are amazed that we are still in the 19th century when it comes to our food and non-beverages in our food establishments. When will our so called leaders wake up and smell the lost revenue. I for one would love to see our tax monies stay here and our restaurants do even better than they are.

Dave Nugent

Editor's Note: Liquor is served at Cafe' Portofino and The Oaks.

### To the Editor:

All this discussion on the posting of official meetings and if they are readable through dark glass would be moot if the notice of meeting AND the agenda were printed in the *Towns County Herald*. That goes for our county commissioners meetings as well. It seems odd that our citizens would be required to drive into town just to get notices of meetings and what is on the agenda. If it is too much to put in the paper perhaps the notices can be posted on the appropriate websites. Or better yet on both. Just a couple of suggestions for improving communications between our elected officials and their constituents. If one person is having difficulty reading the notice then it is a safe bet many others are as well.

Stan Wruble

### Dear Editor:

Thank you, thank you to the Mayor and City Council for the weatherproof bulletin board with clear glass that they caused to be placed outside the front door of City Hall. This makes notices, agendas, announcements and such visible and accessible to citizens. The front door, not to be confused with the entrance, is located on the side of the building facing the city square, marked "use other door" and is always locked. The entrance is on the side of the building facing the Courthouse and is always open during business hours. Thank you again for your expedited attention to this matter.

Respectfully,  
Anne Mitchell



**RARE KIDS;  
WELL DONE**  
By Don Jacobsen

**Q:** Dr. Don, my spouse and I have totally different views on what disrespect is. Could you please define it for us and possibly give some examples of disrespect.

**A:** This is dangerous ground, you know. I once apologized to a lady for the rude way in which her husband had spoken to her during a conversation the three of us were having. She let me know she wasn't bothered by what he said and that I should stay out of it. Lesson: What is disrespectful to one person may be acceptable to another.

But there are some rules nearly everybody understands. To be respectful of someone is to show them courtesy, to hold them in high regard. Kindness is a word that comes to mind. When your conversation is over you want your son to feel good that he was part of it. You want your wife to know that you place a high value on her. You measure your words and your actions to make sure your daughter is not offended by what you said. The Good Book teaches that we should treat others as we would like to be treated.

Did you follow the news this week about the mother in Casper, Wyoming, who found out her freshman daughter was

skipping classes at school so she bought a video camera and followed her around the halls taking pictures. She followed her to class and when the teacher asked the class a question, the mother would volunteer that her daughter knew the answer. Mom needs to learn that it is possible to discipline a youngster without insulting her.

Just a few days ago a mother wrote to explain to me how her son often tells her she did something stupid. She wondered if it was alright to let him say that. As if to defend him she said that he doesn't call her stupid, he just says she did something stupid. Among other things I told her, "I urge you to help your son work away from the use of the word 'stupid' in any setting. It isn't a friendly or respectful word and is never the term of choice in healthy family communication."

When mom and dad use respectful language with each other, when they show courtesy and honor, the kids watch that. Name calling, bitter words, tongue lashings, the kids watch that, too. And they pretty much grow up to be what they saw at home.

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

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I'm going to preach to the choir today. It's an old sermon, very familiar to anyone who read "Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance" in their youth. I think it will be, in its various forms, a familiar story to all but the most recent generations. It is a lamentation, an expression of loss and sorrow. It is a rant, an expression of anger and frustration.

We gather here today to mourn the passing of Quality from the American experience. Quality, in Robert Pirsig's terminology, is something metaphysical. "Art is anything that you can do well. Anything that you can do with Quality," he wrote.

Most of us don't need a philosophical explanation of quality to recognize how irregular its appearance in our lives has become. Anyone over 30 can testify to the cheapening of goods and services we have experienced in the last 20 years and to the systemic incompetence that infects the way we conduct business all the way from the drive through window to the government agencies we depend upon to protect us from danger.

I think that the loss of quality, while it did not originate in the rapid rise of consumerism which occurred over the last few decades, was accelerated by that faux prosperity. Yes, I said "fake prosperity." We thought we were prosperous because most Americans could afford a house, a car, the latest in consumer electronics, a name brand and a designer label, and we bought a lot of that crap on credit.

We expected those things because every time we connected with the ever growing and pervasive matrix of information and advertising, all the things we were supposed to want were thrust in our faces. We were convinced that possessing those images was a sure sign of living the good life.

Unfortunately, the way that corporate America managed to give us the good life was through an acceleration of robotic mass production and outsourcing of jobs to parts of the world where cheap labor was still available. We didn't realize how cheaply made some of our toys were because we didn't keep them long enough. Many were soon replaced with the latest model, trend or fashion.

We can all think of examples of cheaply made Chinese goods, but China is not to blame for the rapidly evolved sophistication of manufacturers determined to cut costs. Plastic replaced metal and wood; metal and wood became thinner. Fewer stitches held thinner cloth; fewer screws and welds held flimsier construction.

Last week I had to replace the fan/limit thermostat on the gas furnace at our old family home, built in 1957. The old thermostat had been in service for over 45 years. The majority of that thermostat was composed of metal and glass. All the electrical connectors

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were heavy duty brass. Every component was reinforced and it actually had an intrinsic beauty for something sturdy and reliable and built to last. It was a thing of quality.

The replacement for that thermostat looks like a cheap toy in comparison. A thin aluminum housing covers mostly plastic parts and cheap connectors designed to be used once and then discarded. The new thermostat is made by the same company that made the old one.

Except that it is not the same company. It is a company, like so many others, that made a decision somewhere along the line that its main goal was profit, not quality, and that its mission was to serve stockholders rather than customers.

I'm sure that you can all think of numerous examples of things that are just not made as well as they used to be. I have a 25 year old television in my shop that so far has outlasted every plasma and LED model that came after it. I have a 45 year old refrigerator we use for produce that has outlasted two units less than half its age. The roof of our 1957 house is made of actual planks of wood and some of those boards are stained from a leak or two in 55 years of shingles. The roof of our mountain home, by comparison, was built thirty years later from OSB, a computer designed layering of wood chips and glue. I have personally replaced two sections of that roof when pinhole leaks caused total disintegration of the OSB. My grandparents' last home, by the way, was built by hand in the 1930s and it is still standing and dry with its tin roof.

We could fill up the rest of this newspaper with theories about the decline in quality of our goods and services without scratching the surface of the opinions out there. Let me leave you with one: Our ancestors struggled to succeed. In the process they developed a work ethic and an appreciation for quality. They found quality through hardship and sacrifice. Our generations, on the other hand, have lost touch with quality through soft indulgence and an irrational sense of entitlement. As the wheel of time comes full circle, our indulgence may create the very hardships that will introduce future generations to the idea of quality once again.



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

### Longhorn rhetoric

During these final days before the election most voters are as confused as a termite in a yo-yo. The closer to Election Day the more muddled the messages become. It is hard to pen down some politicians on any issue. Could it be that most of them are afraid to speak straight forward?

It reminds me of an old story that has circulated for years. The author is unknown but the story goes like this: "There was an old fashioned lady who was very modest and very delicate in her language. She and her husband were planning a vacation to Florida, so she wrote to a camp manager for a reservation. She wanted to make sure that the campground provided full facilities, but she didn't know how to inquire about bathroom facilities. She was so shy that she could not bring herself to write the word "toilet" in her letter. She considered several words and finally settled on the term "bathroom commode." However, when she read her letter aloud she thought bathroom commode was too forward so she rewrote her letter and just wrote "BC" to refer to bathroom commode. When the campground director received the letter he was stumped by the question which read, "Does your camp have its own "BC"?" This was a real mystery to him. He could not determine what the lady was referring to. After sharing the letter with other campers and mulling over

it for several days he finally concluded that she was asking about the location of the Baptist Church. His reply read as follows: "I regret the delay in answering your letter, but I now take great pleasure to inform you that a BC is located nine miles north of our campground and is capable of seating 250 people. It is situated in a beautiful pine grove and is open only on Sundays and Wednesdays. I realize that's quite a distance if you are in the habit of going regularly. I understand that a number of people carry their lunch and make a day of it. In fact, our daughter met her husband at the BC. I would advise you to arrive early because the last time my wife and I went; it was so crowded we had to stand up the whole time. Sometimes there are so many people they have three to a seat. However, they do have a supper planned to raise funds to buy more seats. Additional seating would provide a lot of relief. It pains me very much that I am not able to go as much as I would like, but as we grow older, it seems to be more of an effort, especially in cold weather. If you decide to come to our campground, I will go with you the first time you go and sit with you. This will allow me to introduce you to all the other folks sitting around you. We will try to get a seat up front where you can be seen by everyone. Remember, we are a friendly community." Signed, the Camp Manager.

It is difficult to make an intelligent response to vague, nebulous and un-intelligent promises and politicians. There is too much longhorn rhetoric, that is, a point here and a point there, with a lot of bull in between.

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"Hey, it may not be fine art, but I know what I like!"



Powell 2014

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U.S. Congressman Doug Collins, 9th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-9893	Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185	Sen. John Wilkinson, Georgia State Senate, 404-463-5257
Towns County Commissioner Bill Kendall, 706-896-2276	Clerk of Superior Court Cecil Dye, 706-896-2130	Tax Commissioner Bruce Rogers, 706-896-2267
Magistrate/Probate Judge David Rogers, 706-896-3467	Sheriff Chris Clinton, 706-896-4444	Coroner Tashina Eller, 706-489-9519
Enotah Circuit District Attorney Jeff Langley, 706-896-6489	Board of Education: 706-896-2279, Michael Anderson, Donna Hedden, Jerry Taylor, Bob Gibby, Emily Phillips. Superintendent: Melissa Williams	Hiawassee Mayor Barbara Mathis, 706-896-2202
Hiawassee City Council: Janet Allen, Jay Chastain, Joan Crothers, Steven Smith, Pat Smith	Young Harris Mayor Andrea Gibby, 706-379-3171	Young Harris City Council: Terry Ingram, John Kelley, Hilary Martin, Matthew Miller, Stuart Miller, Sam Leslie

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