

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor:

On Tuesday afternoon October 16th my wife was walking in Hi River Country on Big Pine Drive not too far from our home. She heard a yelping cry in the woods just off the road and decided to investigate. She found a tiny box that had obviously been thrown out of a vehicle with a little puppy stuffed inside. It was black with tan colored feet and couldn't be more than probably five weeks old. She took the little fellow back to our house where she fed it some canned tuna and gave it plenty of fresh water to drink. We have since taken it to Hiawassee Animal Hospital where it will hopefully find a good and permanent home.

This letter is to whoever decided this was the way to take care of an unwanted animal. You are worthless. You are trash. You have to be one of the most despicable human beings around this area. Plainly you belong in Hell and I hope that's the way the rest of your days on this Earth will be spent as well as in the afterlife.

Dexter Shook

### Letter to the Editor:

As we prepare to once again remove trash from the shoreline of Lake Chatuge, I am reminded of an article written several months ago by Don Perry who writes The Middle Path. He very eloquently described the sad state of the USA in terms of roadside litter, with Georgia in 7th place on the national scorecard. This litter is visible on every road and in every gully of Towns County, despite efforts by civic minded folks who support the State and County "Adopt a Mile" programs. So much trash, so little time! Equally important to all of us in Towns County is the issue of trash on the shoreline of Lake Chatuge, the source of our drinking water and other vital services, as well as the primary revenue generating machine for the County. I have heard it said the trash is left by tourists. The trash on the shoreline can only be left by our local citizens, as 95% of it is found in TVA primitive and unauthorized campsites around the Lake, places no tourist would know about, much less are able to locate. Last week, city workers removed an upholstered sofa and two armchairs from the filtration ditch at Lloyds' Landing, the public boat ramp east of the cemetery. A tourist? I think not.

In March of this year, the shoreline clean-up netted 3,500 pounds of trash, picked up by volunteers in just three hours. On November 10, we will once again pick up shoreline trash left by our neighbors and friends, people we know. For those of you who remember the comic strip POGO, I remind you of those immortal words of his, "We have met the enemy, and he is us."

Grace Howard

### To the Editor:

National School Bus Driver Appreciation Day! Thank You Towns County School Bus Drivers! You transport our Future, our Best & Brightest Resource, our Children!

Superintendent Melissa Williams & School Board



## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

America's 26,000,000 teenagers represent a huge, fat wallet. Last year they had a total estimated income of more than \$91 billion, an average of about \$300 per month per teen. A fourth of that came from allowance, 40% came from part-time jobs, the balance came as gifts from parents and other family.

About 40% of today's teens say they have a savings account and more of those who do, say they are saving to buy clothes rather than saving for college; just over a third are saving to buy a car.

Here's what parents need to know: An overwhelming majority of teens -- 87% -- admit they don't know much about personal finance but most of them wish they did. Parents think the school is doing it and the school thinks the parents are doing it and reality is that in most cases nobody is.

So, here's my take. Slender economic times can make for great learning situations. If your family is having to do some heroics to stay afloat financially, be sure to take your teens with you as you work through the decisions that need to be made. This is not the time for mom and dad to have a whispered conversation

in the corner.

Talk about the situation around the dinner table. Talk about the realities of your situation. Discuss places where the family budget is being pinched, and what you are doing about it. Ask your teens to help come up with ways to trim expenses and possibly even generate some additional income. This will be a great preparation for those times when they will face their own financial valleys.

But isn't a discussion like this apt to panic our kids and make them lie awake nights? Shouldn't we protect them from this stress? Well, we're talking about teens here, kids who are going to be on their own soon. These are the kinds of realities that help them prepare for that emancipation. If you were ready for difficult times, let them know what you did. If it caught you unprepared, talk about what you might have done differently. Assume them that though the situation is tight it's temporary and you will work through it.

What if they go share the discussion with their buddies? This is a good time to talk about Team Family and what loyalty looks like. Good teaching moments, all.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The Middle Path articles are guided by a philosophy, a defining notion that the truth can usually be found somewhere between extremes of opinion. In offering up these weekly observances I attempt to discern the difference between fact and interpretation, keeping in mind that what we all consider to be "reality" is always filtered through our own perceptions, distorted by the lens of our personal experiences. This, and nothing else, is my "political party." This is the mindset that informs my choices in the voting booth, choices that have supported democrat, republican and independent candidates.

I have been faulted by readers from time to time for harboring a liberal bias. I have been accused of harboring a conservative bias. Occasionally these accusations have been inspired by one and the same article, which I choose to interpret as an indication that I have been somewhat successful in following the chosen path.

Today, with the general election rapidly approaching, I will provide another opportunity for those who need to arrange people and opinions into clearly labeled pigeonholes by sharing an opinion on one national and one local election. Longtime readers are encouraged to decide whether I have successfully applied our stated principles in forming these opinions.

Four years ago I gave reluctant support to Barack Obama, weary, as many of us were, of choosing once again from the "lesser of evils." I saw John McCain as a somewhat mean spirited and reactionary candidate who had exceeded his shelf life. The thought of Sarah Palin being in line to assume the role of President of the United States was unpalatable. I thought that Obama, regardless of his left leaning aspirations, would govern from the center.

Let me pause here to say that party platforms have a minor influence on my vote. Party platforms are largely abandoned after an election and the hot button topics dredged up to polarize the electorate are not usually within the power of a president to change. Pundits habitually worry about Supreme Court appointments, but judges appointed for life usually discover a path independent of party politics, as Chief Justice John Roberts has recently demonstrated.

There have been exceptions to the "rule," but

### GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

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Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\* Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.

generally I try to vote for the person and not the party or the platform. The person named Barack Obama was a personal disappointment from his first month in office when he acted as a paid asset of the big investment banks. It was disappointing to see the coercive powers of government, ramped up by George W. Bush and the "Homeland Security State," continue to grow under Obama. It was disappointing to see crony capitalism, democrat style, continue under the Obama Administration. Growing deficits, growing government interference in business and growing government in general were all disappointments. Obama inherited a bad situation from Bush, who inherited a bad situation from Clinton, but Obama's management of the economy has been too little, too late. The premise that you can stimulate an economy by removing money from one segment and then redistributing it to another is unsound, as if you could fill a swimming pool by taking a bucket full of water from one end and pouring it into another.

Mitt Romney, on the other hand, seems to have a working philosophy of business that is more in line with what the economy needs to regain health. At this critical juncture in our history, with 23 million struggling to find work and insurmountable debt spilling into future generations, I believe that we need a man of business at the helm more than we need an ideologue. Granted, my libertarian tendencies do not welcome some of the baggage carried by the Republican Party. Government mandated "national beliefs" on religion, on morality and on what constitutes life itself are no more welcome than government mandated shopping. Romney, however, based more on his track record than his party platform, will govern from the center. So given a choice between two centrists, my vote goes to the one more likely to improve the economy. My lesser of evils for 2012 is Mitt Romney.

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

### Crazy things spoken and printed

In this world of sadness, seriousness and really troubling situations, it does us good to laugh just a little. As was said in one of the political debates, "Sometimes things don't come out of our mouths just right!" Likewise, things printed often shock and surprise us. For instance:

Sign in London department store: Bargain Basement upstairs. In a Laundromat: Automatic washing machines - please remove all of your clothes when the light goes out. An office memo: Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please return it or further steps will be taken. In an office break room: After the break, staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board. On a farmer's fence: The farmer allows walkers to cross the field free, but the bull charges. A notice at a swap shop: We trade anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain? Sign in public restroom: Toilet out of order. Please use floor below. Posted sign at a church conference: For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day-care on the first floor. On the Reputable Repair Shop: We can repair anything (knock loudly, the bell doesn't work). Then there are daily newspaper misprints: Man kills self before shooting wife

and daughter. Expert says, "Something went wrong in jet crash." What about, Police begin campaign to run down jay-walkers. These are unbelievable: Miners refuse to work after death. Juvenile court to try shooting defendant. If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last a while. Red tape holds up new bridges. And man struck by lightning faces battery charge. These last three should bring a smile to the face of non-laughers - Local high school dropouts cut in half. Hospitals are sued by 7 foot doctors, and can you believe it, typhoon rips through cemetery; hundreds dead.

Just in case you haven't laughed or smiled yet, just think about some of the following: Why is the man who invests your life savings called a broker? Why do we put pictures of criminals up in the Post Office? Why don't they just put their pictures on stamps so the mail persons can look for them as they deliver the mail? Why isn't 11 pronounced onety-one? Did the Roman paramedics refer to IV's as "4's"? If a man wears a cowboy hat while mowing his lawn on a riding mower shouldn't he be called the "Lawn Ranger?"

Laughter is like changing a baby's diaper - it does not permanently solve any problems, but it makes things more acceptable for a while. Proverbs 15:15 says "He who is of a merry heart has a continual feast."

Let me encourage you to laugh more, pray often, serve faithfully and love fervently. What a privilege to serve the Lord with gladness and to use our gifts for His glory.

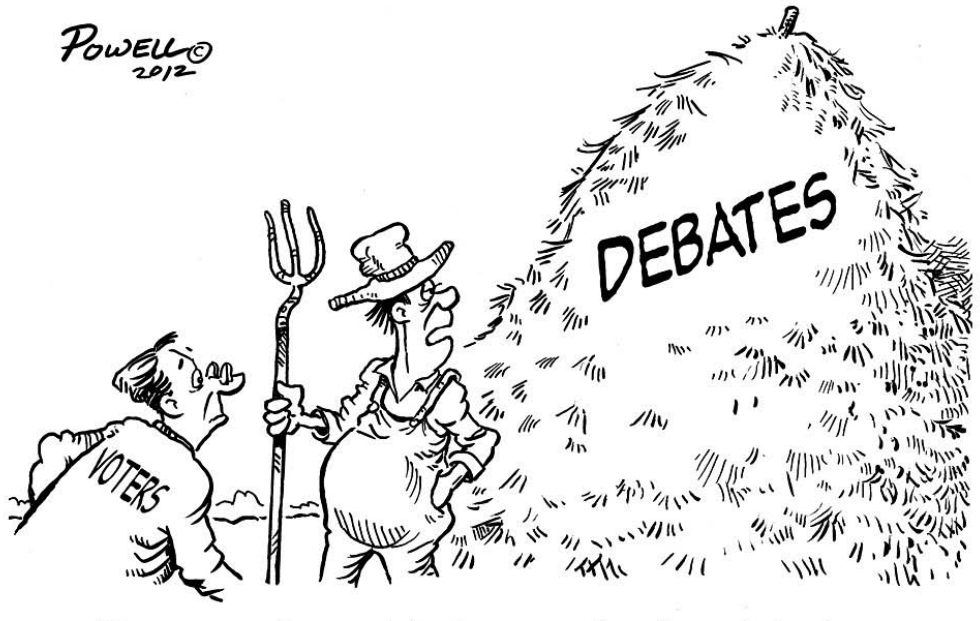
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"I suppose there might be a needle of truth in there somewhere, but I'm not rushing to get the first aid kit."

## Towns County Herald

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