

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

My first memory of Ed was September, 1955, the beginning of our friendship as students at the University of Georgia Law School. I was impressed with his wonderful sense of humor, his down to earth personality, and we had much in common. Ed, being a product of the mountains, and me, a product of the red clay hills of Madison County and the cotton fields. Neither of us grew up with a silver spoon, as did some of our fellow classmates. Ed had served in the Coast Guard, and me, in the Army, and the GI Bill played a major role in our opportunity to attend college and law school. This was the beginning of a friendship that spanned 57 years. Later, Ed, the man, I knew so well, is the one who came home to his wife, Jo, and daughters, Jan and Amy, in Jasper practically every weekend while serving in Congress. The man who loved being with and attending to the needs of his two young grandsons on the weekends. The man whose word was his bond. The man who was responsive to those who requested his help concerning their needs; such as, Social Security Disability, Veteran's Benefits and many other issues presented by or on behalf of a needy person.

Ed Jenkins was one of the most unselfish persons I've ever known. I could relate many examples but will take the liberty of the one that involved me. When The Honorable Phil Landrum retired from Congress, I was invited to a cookout along with other supporters of Phil at a lake near Jasper. I arrived at Ed's home early that afternoon and helped him load food and some spirits into his pickup. Following the retirement celebration in honor of Phil, Ed and I loaded up the leftovers into his truck. We arrived at Ed's home around midnight, and sat in the truck talking till around 2 a.m. Ed told me that in Phil's opinion, Ed, me and a former legislator in Gainesville, could be elected to Congress. Ed then said, "I'm going to support you." I said, "No, I'm supporting you, Ed, and there will be no more discussion on the issue."

Sometime later, Ed announced his run for Congress. It was common knowledge that Lt. Governor Zell Miller was considering a run for Congress. I received a message to call Ed a few days later. When I called, Ed said, "Joe, I believe Zell is going to run and knowing how close you are to Zell; I'm releasing you from your commitment to support me." I said, "Who in the heck (or something like that) gave you the authority to release me of my commitments?"

I'll close with one of my favorite stories of Ed's humor and loyalty to his friends. (No names of persons or companies will be mentioned.) After the election, a group of businessmen, who supported another candidate, requested a meeting with Ed to solicit his support on a matter. Ed asked if they had contacted ----- concerning the matter. They had never heard of ----- and Ed gave them his phone number to get his approval for a meeting. ----- was a boyhood friend of Ed's and a truck driver employed in the region. He contacted Ed and during the entire campaign, he put up signs and was at many places of business giving cards and brochures to workers.

Shortly thereafter, Ed received a call from the "truck driver" saying, "Ed, a bunch of big shots want to know when I can set up a meeting with you. What's going on?" That was Ed Jenkins at his best.

For the past several years, Ed and Jo, Judge Penn McWhorter and Ilene, Judge Avant Edenfield and Mavis, and Carolyn and me have spent a few days together during the springtime at Charleston, SC. The four of us were in law school together. It won't be the same this year because my friend that I loved and respected will be with us in spirit only. And I already miss him.

Joe Sartain



ASK DR. DON
By Don Jacobsen

The fourth week of January 2012, ABC television's programming stooped to a new low. In its popular prime time evening show, Modern Family, 12½ year old Lily used the "F" word. Although it was bleeped from the dialogue this time, the word she used is unmistakable. That is hardcore inappropriate in my view. It is indecent in civilized conversation even between adults - in any setting. Although it doubtless spikes the program's ratings, it is patently indefensible on public media. To write it into the script for a 30-month old who herself is barely toilet trained should be a jailable offense. It gives new meaning to the term air pollution.

I was interested in the defense mounted by the producers of the show. Their response to early criticism was, "Well, that's real life in the American family; it's something every parent is going to have to deal with eventually."

So? So we model it because it's a reality? Garbage is a reality, too, but we don't pile it in the corner of the living

room and invite the family in to watch. What the producers miss here is the bigger picture: Intimacy handled in this crass setting destroys what it is intended to be. It cheapens what God purposed to be sacred and exclusive. Family is intended to be the cornerstone of our culture and when its closest ties are devalued we weaken the whole family structure.

"The more we see and hear this kind of language on television, the more acceptable and common it will become in the real world," warns Melissa Henson, of the Parents Television Council.

A question I'd like to ask the script writers is where are they implying that Lily learned the term? Not in school; she isn't in school yet. At nursery school, then? Not likely. They would probably argue that she no doubt heard it at home. Does that suggest they are creating a family where it is common for the language to contain this kind of coarse vulgarity? Now there's a great model.

If there is an upside to this disturbing television debacle it may be that it helps sensitize parents to a renewed awareness of the affect on kids - both positive and negative - of what they hear at home.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

As Congress was finishing up its legislative session for 2011, several watchdog agencies noticed that the term "do-nothing Congress" was actually supported by the numbers. By the end of November, President Obama had signed only 62 new laws, making 2011 a record low year for new federal legislation.

Have no fear. While Congress debated, delayed and dissembled, the 50 states stepped up to the plate with about 40,000 (yes, that's forty thousand) new laws. Georgia will have safer golf carts in 2012. New Yorkers will no longer be allowed to sell or possess bear gall bladders. There will be no happy hour in Utah and residents of Oregon will not be allowed to sell shark fins. In Nevada, fire performers and their apprentices will now have to register with the state fire marshal.

The role that government plays in the lives of its people is a determining factor in the life span of any civilization. Too little involvement results in anarchy. The powerful act with impunity as the rule of law is replaced by the law of the jungle. The history of the warring states of China is a classic example. Too much government intervention and civilization dies a slow, lingering death as innovation and free enterprise is strangled. The Soviet Union comes to mind in this example.

We do not know yet how the American experiment will turn out. As our republic has been gradually replaced by a form of oligarchy and the size of all forms of government has increased along with the coercive power of government, we are beginning to see signs that the results will not all be to our liking.

For those of us fond of free markets and the freedoms we still associate with our American heritage, less government is best. Government should provide for the common defense, but refrain from building financial and military empires. Government should level the playing field for business, but it should not protect favored enterprises from failure. In fact, after securing the basic needs of existence for those unable to provide their own, government should not protect anyone from failure.

Failure is natural and it is healthy. Failure informs bad decisions and inspires better ones. Failure improves society, but by adding 40-50 thousand new laws every year,

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO: 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.

many of which are designed to protect us from the consequences of our actions, a nanny state replaces a nation of pioneers and innovators.

So overall I am quite pleased that Congress failed to act in 2011. Rather than creating new laws and regulations I now prefer that if Congress (and every form of government right down to the local level) were to act at all, it would be to un-do much of what has already been done. For example, if Congress had failed to act in interfering with the pensions of post office employees, the post office would now be in the black instead of facing insolvency.

Government (including the executive branch) which does the least, is often in the long run of unintended consequences the best for the people who must endure those consequences. Every politician for the last 40 years has promised smaller government and less spending, but every year the size of government, the intrusiveness of government and the coercive powers of government have grown. Perhaps we should be grateful that Washington seems paralyzed by divisiveness. Until we are ready to make fundamental change, perhaps we should endeavor to change as little as possible.



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

Hindered or helped by habits

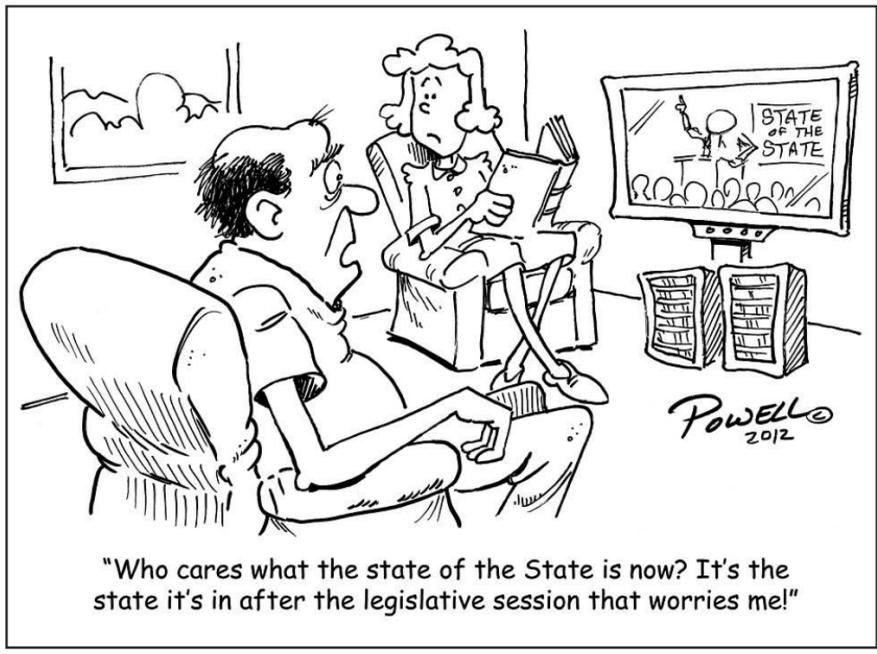
There are good habits and there are bad habits. The success and happiness of life depends on which habits dominate your life. While the New Year is still young, it would be good to evaluate your life to see if you have picked up any bad habits this past year. It could be that you have been hanging on to some bad habits for many years. If you have just picked up some bad ones this past year the best way to break them is to drop them quickly. Those you have been hanging on to, you should turn them loose immediately. Practicing bad habits not only makes you feel guilty, depressed and a loser, but they convince you that you are a weakling and a wimp. They will harm your self-esteem and limit your potential to be all you can be and drag you down to the depths. Good habits will elevate your self-esteem and build your confidence. You will have an attitude to believe that you "can do all things through Christ who strengthens you" (Phil. 4:13).

A good example is Tim Tebow. It doesn't matter what the nay-sayers may blurt out,

Tim just continues practicing his convictions. Some of these wanna-be-sportscasters, media mongers and celebrities want to dampen Tebow's enthusiasm but he has shown fortitude to embarrass these blabber mouths. Tebow reminds me of Daniel who prayed three times a day, as his custom was, no matter what laws were passed (Daniel 6:10). Some of these media people get hold of a microphone and proceed to get their tongue in high gear before they get their brain working. They try to impress listeners by running off at the mouth. I am losing interest in some sports just because of loud-mouthed, opinionated sportscasters who interject too much of their dumbness rather than just call the game as it transpires. (Oops, I just picked up a bad habit.)

All my life I have been taught by parents, teachers and friends that if you sow an act, you reap a habit; sow a habit, and you reap a character; sow a character, and you reap a destiny. As someone has said, "A habit is like a comfortable bed, easy to get into, but difficult to get out of." Bad habits deteriorate life but good habits build up life.

I read a statement recently that said great people have great habits. If you are hobbled by bad habits, slay them and birth some good habits in 2012.



Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building.
Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6: 30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.
Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.
Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.
School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.
Hiawassee City Council 1st Monday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.
Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.
The Hiawassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.
The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.
Stephens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.
Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.
Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections

Office (Old Rock Jail).
Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.
Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.
FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.
Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome. www.ngatu692.com.
Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call

the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.
Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.
Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.
GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours: Mondays 9 AM-1 PM, May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.
The Humane Society Mountain Shelter Board of Directors meets the last Thursday of every month at 5:30 p.m. at Cadence Bank in Blairsville.
The Towns County Alzheimer's Support Group meets the first Tuesday of each month at 1:30 PM in the Family Life Center of McConnell Memorial Baptist Church. Caregivers or family members of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, call Carol at 706-896-6407.
The Appalachian Shrine Club meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM at the Allegheny Lodge in Blairsville. For more info call William 706-994-6177.
Georgia Mountain Writers Club meets at St. Francis of Assisi Church the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 AM.

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