

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## News from the Principal

Roy Perren  
Principal  
Towns County High School



Congratulations to our Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) for their great job representing our school and our state at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in Orlando, Florida. Three of our students placed among the top in the nation. Ali Bleckley placed 2nd in the nation in Word Processing II, Ryan Tallent placed 6th in the nation in Spreadsheet, and Katie McConnell placed 7th in the nation in Client Service.

We welcome our new school superintendent, Melissa Williams to Towns County. We look forward to working together with Mrs. Williams as we seek to continually make our school a better place for our students.

While it is hard to believe, we will be back in school a month from now. I hope that all of you are having a restful summer. It has been a busy summer here. We think you will be pleased with the remodeling we have done to the high school science labs.

The beginning of school is always an exciting time. We look forward to the new school year and great things happening at Towns County High School. We welcome approximately 100 students who will be new to our high school. Most of these are students entering the 9th grade from Towns County Middle School. These rising 9th graders will be the class of 2015. We will be having orientation

for parents of rising 9th grade students on Thursday, July 28, at 7 PM in the auditorium.

Open House will be Wednesday, August 3, from 5 PM to 7 PM. Students will be able to pick up their 2011 - 2012 schedules at Open House. We look forward to seeing you there.

The first day of school will be Thursday, August 4. For those parents who drop off students in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon, our procedures will be the same as last year. We ask that those dropping off or picking up students not leave their cars unattended on the curb in front of the high school. If you have to come into the building, please park in a parking spot.

We truly want to know what you think about our school. We want your input into our school and programs. We are looking for representatives for our local school council for this year. The school council meets four times over the course of the school year. We would like at least one parent representing each grade 9 - 12 at our high school. If you are interested, please let me know.

If I may be of assistance to you please do not hesitate to call on me. You can reach me by phone at (706) 896-4131 ext 1017 or by e-mail at rperren@towns.k12.ga.us

Roy Perren, Principal  
Towns County High School

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Good government is a balance between anarchy and despotism, and the balance, if it is achieved at all, is made on such a razor's edge that the times in human history when government might be considered to be enlightened, benevolent or even competent, are rare indeed. The problem is that human organizations such as governments and corporations or even churches, little league teams and ice cream socials, become lenses which magnify human nature along with human effort. Human nature, along with all the compassionate and altruistic impulses of which it is capable, is also capable of greed, lust for power and a brilliant capacity for rationalization and the justifying of one's dubious deeds.

Recent polls indicate the continuation of a longstanding dissatisfaction with government among the governed. We are generally unhappy with Washington and also with our state and local governments. Our unhappiness is exacerbated by the return of that traveling circus of politics and punditry which seems, like the hot weather now, to extend well beyond its appointed season. A President has about two years to get something accomplished before he has to start running for re-election; a Congresswoman, about six months. With a presidential election due next year, we will get to hear from our two perennial parties for the next year and a half just how miserable we are and why our misery is directly attributable to that other party.

As voters we will likely do again what we have done so many times before. We will skim the surface of the speeches and the arguments looking for clues that our candidates are just like we are, and they will offer us ample material to convince us of just that fact via slogans and key words. If we voted for Coke in the last election and are dissatisfied with the results, many of us will vote for Pepsi this time around. If the polls indicate that the elections might be close, look for our tried and true polarizing issues to be hauled out and hoisted up the flag pole: abortion, gun control, immigration reform. The candidates will make impassioned speeches and promise reforms that they have no means to deliver. Very little will change, but our anger will be assuaged for another few years while business as usual continues.

The real issue behind our general dissatisfaction is, in fact, that "business as usual." It is the business which, like a tapeworm, extracts wealth from the economy without producing

wealth. It is the uber-bank borrowing money from the Fed at 1% interest and then purchasing bonds that pay 4 percent rather than lending that money out. It is the continuing favoritism by the rule of law for the corporate rather than the individual as corporate profits soar to all-time highs. It is the continued disenfranchisement of labor in favor of management.

Let me elaborate on that last statement. It was not a political endorsement of unions, although unions do serve a useful purpose in our economy when they are not, themselves, tapeworms feeding on productivity. The statement about labor and management is an attempt to illustrate the growing problem of the shrinking middle class. The problem with every democracy and with every society which attempts to be egalitarian is that, at some point, those who manage a society's institutions learn how to use those institutions to leverage personal benefit. In a society such as ours where honor and morals have been replaced by relativism, it is easier to rationalize those benefits. Consider the local company where the managers have special privileges unrelated to productivity: They come and go as they please while regular employees are chained to their cubicles. Managers go to meetings and conferences at company expense, attend luncheons and benefits during working hours and they use company time to pursue interests unrelated to business under the guise of "reaching out to the community." Regular employees are monitored for productivity throughout the day. They are limited to strictly enforced break times and lunch breaks. They make the widgets, sell the widgets, provide the customer support for the widgets, but they make a fraction of the salary as the corner offices which may never have seen a widget - or a fraction of the money made by someone in an office a thousand miles away trading stock of the widget making company.

If you want to understand Washington and what is wrong with our government, look no further than your local institutions of business and government. The deck is stacked, legally, socially and systemically against those who produce wealth in favor of those who extract it. The system will not change until our dissatisfaction exceeds the ability of those who hold power to distract us from the real issues. Keep this in mind while you enjoy the political season.



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

**A whole bunch of this and that**  
Sometimes I feel like writing about this and sometimes about that, but today I feel like writing about this and that. There are times when you just can't decide whether to write on this or write on that which results in a lot of anxiety. But when you zero in on both this and that you experience a lot of peace. If you stop and think, it's a wonder that anyone writes anything. We are told that communication involves only 7% words, 38% the tone of our voice and 55% facial expression or body language. Since my picture in this paper is always the same and you don't know my tone of voice the odds are that I communicate very little. A man once approached Edward Everett, who was an outstanding orator and statesman of the nineteenth century, complaining that he had been libeled in a newspaper. He asked Everett for advice. Everett said, "Do nothing! Half the people who bought the paper never saw the article. Half of those who saw it did not read it. Half of those who read it did not understand it. Half of those who understood it did not believe it. Half of those who did believe it are of no account anyway." Communication is not easy. A lady wrote Dear Abby, she said, "I have been engaged to this man for sometime, but I've just discovered that he has a wooden leg. Should I break it off?" A speaker was introduced as "a multi-millionaire from Texas who made over \$100,000,000 in oil." He responded by saying, "It wasn't

oil, it was coal. It wasn't Texas, it was West Virginia. It wasn't \$100,000,000, it was \$1,000,000. It wasn't made it was lost and it wasn't me it was my brother." Can't you imagine the raised eye brows at the following headlines: Escaped Leopard Believed Spotted, Babies Flood Hospital, Nine Volunteers Put in New Church Furnace, Man Found Dead in Cemetery, Dead Policeman on Force Twenty-three Years.

Once when I was preaching, I attempted to quote II Cor. 6:14, which reads, "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers..." The first time I said, "Be ye not unyoked yoked together." I tried a second time and said, "Be ye not unyoked yanked together." There was no third time and never will be. I read that verse verbatim. Of course, there are and have been great communicators like Yogi Berra and Casey Stengel. Casey was once asked about a player who had been sent to the minor league. The reporter asked "Can he field?" Casey said, "Fairly good." The reporter asked if he could hit. Casey said "that fellow couldn't hit the ground if he fell on it out of an airplane!" It was Yogi who said, "Always go to other people's funerals, otherwise they won't go to yours." We say, "I feel all alone." God says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Heb. 13:5). We say, "No one really loves me." God says, "I love you" (John 3:16). We say, "I can't go on." God says, "My grace is sufficient" (II Cor. 12:9). We say, "I can't forgive myself." God says, "I forgive you" (I John 1:9). We say, "My situation is impossible." God says, "All things are possible" (Lk. 18:27). Aren't you grateful that God communicates clearly and emphatically with His creation!

## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen



Will Rogers, one of my favorite theologians, once said, "There ain't nothin' basically wrong with all of us, except we're selfish."

That doesn't apply to you and me of course, but it sure does fit a lot of folks, have you noticed? Including our kids. Well, not our kids, but most of the neighbor kids. Truth is, we're all born crying to have our wishes met and unless something happens to sweeten that mindset it's likely to stay with us to the grave.

But the event that comes along to "sweeten that mindset" is called parents. And the strategy used by those loving parents begins when the youngster is about the age of two. The technical term for it is chores. You want your kids to learn respect and good manners? Here is where it begins.

I'm not a fanatic about much of anything, but I come close when I talk about chores. Beginning between the second and third birthdays the little ankle biter (Kevin Leman's term) needs to experience a growing awareness that life is no longer a free ride. They are

part of a family and being part of anything means that you help pull the load.

Understand, kids don't just wake up one morning and "get it." It's gradually impressed on them as they see their chore list on the refrigerator, as they see dad and mom helping each other - and others, as they are taught to look for ways they can be helpful to anyone who needs it.

It takes a while to unselfish the human heart. You and I didn't catch it by the age of three, either. But we live it before them and wear them down. It's both caught and taught. Did you see the TV commercial recently where a soccer coach is coming into a motel with a bunch of his middle school soccer players? The students are each carrying their own little bag and the coach is carrying all the sports equipment. They may win soccer games but they're not learning about life. If I was the principal, I'd have a chat with that coach; he's missing the big stuff.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net. (N0113.F)SH

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## 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, Hiawasse, 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.\*  
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"That story about the growing obesity rate upset me so much I almost dropped my double bacon cheeseburger!"

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Sen. Saxby Chambliss, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510, 202-224-3521  
U.S. Congressman Paul Brown, 10th District, Washington, DC 20515, 202-225-4101  
Rep. Stephen Allison, Georgia House of Representatives, 404-656-0177 or 0185  
Sen. Jim Butterworth, Georgia State Senate, 404-651-7738  
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