

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

### Letter to the Editor

For 20+ years, my husband and I have been very satisfied customers of BRMEMC's email system. As of July 7, 2015, they are going to discontinue DSL service in our neighborhood. I've been told that it is too expensive to provide fiber optic in our subdivision. I'm curious. I wonder how many other DSL customers in Towns County and the surrounding area are losing their DSL as well?

Thank goodness that we have another option - another company to supply our email! After being without service for a week, we just got "hooked up" to DSL again. Maybe it's just me, but does one really how much trouble there is in switching over? It not only effects the desktop, but one's cell phone's email, tablet, laptop.

In the world's scheme of things (torturing and killing Christians, ISIS, Nepal's earthquake) losing our email connection is terribly minor. Nevertheless, this process has been an aggravation. Thanks BRMEMC for all the frustration you've caused!

*Thank you for letting me vent,  
Carmen Denton*



### RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

I get a lot of questions from parents about how they can raise kids who have genuine respect for others, especially adults. Seems as though that issue is on the minds of a lot of parents right now. I'm not much into formulas, but rather than try and answer the specific questions let me give you a formula. Money-back guarantee this will help.

1. Remember that respect is a two-way street. We all, kids included, tend to show respect to those who respect us. Treat your kids with the same courtesy as you do your best friend. You're the leader; you can afford to be nice.

2. As a parent you are the leader in your family. Not a tyrant but the leader. Not an indentured servant, but the leader. Few rules; obedience expected. The kids are free to disagree, but not to disobey. If they disobey there will be consequences. It's predictable. Life is like that and a family is a kid's preparation for life.

3. Your children will become like you, so be what you want them to be. No shortcuts here, no games. Kids are God's little spies - they'll know. Personal integrity from mom and dad is huge. No one can spot a phony like a kid and nobody respects a phony.

4. Engulf your kids in genuine affirmation. Not for the

accomplishments they achieve as much as for the effort they expend. Look for traits in them they may not notice in themselves. Not flattery but genuine appreciation. Don't exaggerate but look for genuine reasons to celebrate them.

5. Listening is a learned skill; some of us are slow learners. "I'd love to hear what your thinking is on this subject..." is a grand - and respectful - way to begin a conversation. Then listen. Don't argue or judge. Few things demonstrate respect more persuasively than downright heavy listening.

6. Take the lead in looking for people your family can help. Time has proven that if you make a difference in someone else's life your kids are more impressed than if you do something for the kids themselves. Bring them into the discussion. Around the dinner table describe a need you see and have everyone suggest ways to help. That often generates great discussion.

7. And one we talked about recently: Never argue with your kids. Never. Not ever. Not about anything. Leaders don't argue. They don't need to. They describe the outcome they're after, then expect positive compliance.

Submit your parenting questions to: [DrDon@RareKids.net](mailto:DrDon@RareKids.net).

## Thanks from Hospice Gala & Auction

On behalf of Good Shepherd Home Health and Hospice Agency and Murphy Medical Center, I would like to thank the many people in our community who helped make the April 25th Hospice Gala and Auction a wonderful success. Over 150 artists, craftsmen and woodworkers donated beautiful handmade items, and individuals and local businesses generously donated items for the silent and live auctions. The people in our mountain community have always been generous to charitable organizations, but the outpouring of kindness and goodwill to the Hospice Auction was truly incredible.

The generosity of the sponsors for the auction was deeply appreciated and helped to defray the expenses of the event. A heartfelt thank you to silver sponsors Robin and Mike Stevenson, bronze sponsors Mayor Bill and Barbara Hughes and McKesson Technologies, featured sponsors Pushpa Phillips, MD, Stephen Aft with State Farm Insurance, and Tee and Drew Tanney, supporting sponsors Bill and Marion Forsyth, Brian Mitchell, MD, Celia Larson in

memory of Dr. Jeff Larson, Jill Sonnenberg, MD, John Carringer, Ken and Toni Lovingood, and Rick Weisenburger, DO.

Volunteers worked extremely hard to make the evening a success. A special thank you to committee members Patricia Hembree, Sheryl Wiggins, Julie Schreiber, Celia Larson, Cathy Mulvey, Pam Howard, Mary Gonos, Lisa Dunn-Evans, Bob and Judy Grove, Barbara Hughes, Marilyn Ogden, Kim Williams, Kathi Van Hall and Julie Yonce. Additional gratitude goes to Morrison's Healthcare who catered the event, the volunteers who helped make incredible desserts for the evening, Ben Pierce and the staff of the Historical Hackney Warehouse, The Brassstown Big Band, auctioneers Tim Ryan and Bob Grove, and the many volunteers who helped throughout the evening to make this a very special event.

Thank you again to everyone who played a part in the success of the Hospice Gala and Auction. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are much appreciated.

*Mary Carol Campbell  
Hospice Gala Chairperson*

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

I sometimes wonder if this could possibly be the same planet I grew up on, or whether I and an undetermined number of friends and associates, mostly Americans, have somehow been transported into an alternative universe. Granted, the "old world" had a lot of problems, but there at least seemed to be a certain logic to the progression of events, and a lot more common sense afoot.

The old universe was diverse in its myriad expressions of humanity. It was remarkable both in its capacity for man's inhumanity to man as well as its consistent ability to produce heroes willing to make sacrifices in order to resist that inhumanity. In these respects the old universe was very similar to the one in which I now find myself, yet there are aspects of this one which are hard to explain.

OK, so alternate realities are a bit of a stretch, even within the domain of theoretical physics. Perhaps a more likely explanation would be a form of mass insanity.

Where to begin? Let's start with the lowest common denominator, otherwise known as "pop culture." There may already be a clue inherent in the abuse of the language, since "fans" of "pop culture" are long past caring that "fan" is an abbreviation of "fanatic" just as "pop" is an abbreviation of "popular."

It has taken us decades to get here, but it was still a bit of a shock when I woke up one day to discover that *Time Magazine*, apparently willing to sacrifice credibility for circulation, considers Kanye West to be a "visionary" and Kim Kardashian to be one of the most influential people on the planet.

If this is true you can see where one might begin to question one's location in space-time. I have always marveled at the process by which hip-hop, which originated as an expression of a youthful subset of a minority representing less than 15% of our population, progressed like a virus into mainstream acceptance. How was it possible that an educated and civil society would embrace a form of expression (I cannot bring myself to call it "music") which consistently, though not universally, pro-

moted violence, promiscuity, profanity and misogyny? If you care to investigate the lyrics of Mr. West's body of work you can find all of these elements represented.

As for the influential Ms. Kardashian, what can you say about a culture which embraces a celebrity whose career was kick started by a sex tape; a woman who has helped to inspire an obsession with hips and buttocks not seen since the Stone Age? Influential? Well, I suppose so, judging from a quick perusal of one of my wife's celebrity magazines featuring the freaky "fashions" displayed at a recent awards ceremony. I think that every other pose featured someone looking over their shoulder to draw attention to how intimately their gown revealed their recently plumped posterior.

Leaving popular culture behind, no pun intended, let's move on to some issues which should be more important. Let's examine, for a moment, the insanity of politics. Are we truly so ill-informed, forgetful, easily persuaded and/or stupid that we would actually consider putting a third Bush or a second Clinton in the Whitehouse? Has the stink of scandal over a rare perfume to our overstimulated senses? Does our popular obsession with "the" royal family imply some deep seated urge to return to a time of monarchy and dynastic power? Is the responsibility of being an informed citizen of a democracy now too inconvenient?

Nevertheless, there are those among us who do try to be informed, who do take their responsibility as citizens seriously - but who are still "ready for Hillary" or otherwise willing to vote for another Bush to swing the pendulum back from where they think it moved during the Obama years. And so the pendulum always seems to swing, as it did last week in the UK where a conservative majority firmly re-installed Cameron, and where many of the young voters who helped him win are still too embarrassed to admit how they voted to the pollsters.

Is it insanity, or is it mass hypnosis? After all, only 6 corporations now control 90 percent of all media. Think about that...and then think about how much of our self-image, our concept of right and wrong and our cultural literacy is shaped by what is pushed into our collective consciousness.

## 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](mailto: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.*



## The Veterans' Corner

By  
Scott Drummond,  
USCG Veteran

### Announcement: Vietnam War Veterans!

In addition to the official documentation below, our VFW/American Legion Post 7803 has a "signed up" sheet for all vets who served during this VN era for group presentation, TBD. If you served, during the period 1954-1975 and are honorably discharged, please sign up, as Governor Deal wants to honor you and your service during this controversial period. Please take note, Governor Deal served our nation, honorably, like so many and did his best.

GDVS Announces Vietnam War Certificate of Honor Program March 31, 2015.

In conjunction with the 50th Anniversary Commemoration of the Vietnam War, the State of Georgia wants to honor every one of its 234,000 Vietnam War veterans.

To accomplish this goal, the Georgia Department of Veterans Service, in partnership with the Office of Governor Nathan Deal, has created the Vietnam War Certificate of Honor program.

Every Georgia veteran with honorable service during the Vietnam War is eligible to receive this certificate.

With the help of veteran's service organizations, word of mouth, and local media support, these Certificates of Honor will be ceremonially presented to every Vietnam War veteran in Georgia.

Each certificate is personalized with the Vietnam War veteran's name, rank, branch of service, and dates of service printed over the Seal of the State of Georgia and include the official U.S. Department of Defense's Vietnam War Commemorative Partner logo.

Group (VSO) Application Procedure: Members of veteran's service organizations are encouraged to apply to receive their certificates together.

For information on making a group application, email [certificates@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:certificates@vs.state.ga.us) or call 404-463-3080.

Individual Application Procedure: To apply, please send your name, rank, and branch of service, dates of service, and a copy of your DD Form 214 to [certificates@vs.state.ga.us](mailto:certificates@vs.state.ga.us) or Georgia Department of Veterans Service, Attn: Certificates, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive SE, Atlanta, GA 30334, or call 404-463-3080 for more information.

Official presentation: The State of Georgia would like veterans honored by this program to receive their certificates during a formal presentation. The Georgia Department of Veterans Service will work with VSOs and individual veterans to coordinate these presentations wherever possible.

Also! Humbly speaking for all of our Veterans, Patriots, and Christians, I believe sincere thanks are in order for Commissioner Bill Kendall, all the ministers and county officials, the many kind volunteers, Towns Fire Department, Towns County Sheriff Department, Clay County Sheriff Department, school officials, those wonderful students and all others who planned and put a lot of effort into the National Day of Prayer, flag and flagpole dedication which transpired 7 May 2015, from around 0700 till about 1015. Referring to this wonderful event as inspirational would be an understatement.

God's grace, blessings and sincere tears of joy and endearment for our fellow Americans were present for all to share our true faith and love of our North Georgia homes and our USA. Our nation could be quickly healed from within with more leadership, love and pure fellowship as was done this day!

*Semper Paratus*

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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  
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