

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



T.C. Herald Editor
Sheriff's Office to be proud of
By Charles Duncan

Diane "Dee Dee" Adams-Donaldson was laid to rest on Saturday on the same road where she visited her Papa and Grandmother in her youth.

While her family mourns the tragic ending of her life, they can rest assured that her killers are in the place where they belong thanks to the Towns County Sheriff's Office.

Sometimes we're speechless when it comes to acknowledging a job well done. It's time to make sure that the men and women who spin on the badges at the Towns County Sheriff's Office know they have their community's support and admiration.

Sheriff Chris Clinton and the men and women that make up the Sheriff's Office methodically pieced the case against Brittany Elizabeth Ledford and Rebecca Ann Stokes together, gained a confession, and brought closure for Dee Dee's family and friends by recovering her body from a well on Turner Turnpike in rural Towns County.

Though I hadn't seen Dee Dee in several years, I remember her from my child-

hood growing up on Fairview Church Road in Union County. She and her siblings came to visit her grandparents, who lived just across the hill from my house.

She always was a sweet girl, she loved her family and they loved her back in return.

We'll miss Dee Dee dearly, she left this earth way too soon. But, we can be proud of our Sheriff's Office for bringing her killers to justice.

I'm amazed at the professionalism of Sheriff Clinton's department. It's one of the smallest in the state in terms of manpower, however, the officers in place are top notch professionals.

Sheriff Clinton continues to do wonders managing his budget, and at the same time, providing such a trained professional staff. Their ultimate goal: To serve and protect.

Sheriff, we tip our hat to you and Towns County's finest. We're proud to have you watching over our beloved community. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Roderic Scott is a 46 year old black man who lived in a crime infested suburb of Rochester, NY. In April of 2009, Scott was awakened at 3AM by a disturbance outside as three teenagers were trying to break into his car. Scott confronted the group with his 40 caliber pistol and ordered them to stop. He was rushed by Christopher Cervini, 17, white, who yelled that he was going to "get" Scott as he ran. Cervini was shot and killed.

Roderic Scott was tried for murder and found not guilty. There were no national protests and no "Justice" rallies. The President did not comment on the case.

If you get your information from television or by scanning headlines on the Internet, you may be under the impression that the country is coming apart at the seams, considering the reports of protest and calls for "justice" after the acquittal of George Zimmerman by a Florida court. Black leaders are calling for a "conversation about race and violence." Celebrities are attending rallies; the President is adding his own personal reflections to the stream of opinion and the call has gone out for a federally sanctioned prosecution of Zimmerman for civil rights violations.

Racism is a topic almost guaranteed to capture attention. It is a profitable subject for media. Race is a favorite political football, used by the left and the right alike to score points with voters. A scan of today's headlines shows The Drudge Report fanning the flames of fear, reporting on flash-mob crimes perpetrated by black gangs in Los Angeles while the Huffington Post laments the lack of equality in America and the lack of understanding among white people.

A closer look at the facts might support the contention that this latest "conversation" on race is being promoted more by the opportunistic entities that seek to forward their own agenda than it is by any indication that the tragedy of the death of Trayvon Martin was a hate crime. George Zimmerman had a black great-grandfather and was raised in a mixed-race home. He dated a black girl in high school. He had a black business partner. He tutored black children as a volunteer. He launched a campaign to help a homeless black man beaten up by a white teenager. He voted for Barack Obama. These are not signs of an individual motivated by

racism. Perhaps this conversation should include a look at some of the crime statistics which suggest that the greatest threat to black people in America is not white people or Hispanics with guns living in gated communities. In New York, for example, in 2008, 83% of all gun crimes were committed by blacks, though only 24% of the population was black. FBI statistics show that nationally in 2007 there were 433,934 crimes committed by blacks against whites and 55,685 crimes committed by whites against blacks - eight times the number of crimes in a country where whites outnumber blacks five to one.

Perhaps the conversation should also include a discussion of the accountability of media in encouraging and profiting from the glorification of violence and sexism that suggests a means to an end for young people desperate to escape poverty and powerlessness. Hip hop music and video, embraced by young people of all races, does not produce and distribute itself. Corporate media provides a constant supply of material that is violent, profane and degrading. Murder and brutality are celebrated. Women are referred to in the most derogatory of terms and the infamous "N" word is commonly used by black "artists" when they refer to black people.

It is ironic that Paula Deen is vilified for admitting to racist comments decades ago while every day young people are steeped in the most vulgar and racist language imaginable - and this multi-million dollar market is defended as an exercise in free speech.

No one would argue that racism does not exist in America. The vast majority of Americans would agree that judging someone because of their race is simply wrong. Many would also realize that the racial component of crime statistics is not a reflection of race, but a derivative of poverty and desperation. Some would see beyond the numbers to realize that lingering attitudes about race still contribute to that poverty and desperation in an ongoing vicious cycle.

The shooting of an unarmed teenager of any race is tragic and we can certainly benefit from any discussion that advances our understanding and compassion for all people. Nevertheless, to protest and to demand that those who fear the image of a young black man in a hood should simply stop fearing that image - is unrealistic when that negative image has been groomed so relentlessly by so many of the sources of information people habitually use. To involve the federal government, which cannot balance a budget or patch a pothole, in any effort to mandate the end of fear would guarantee the worst possible outcome. The only way to stop the fear that breeds racism is to change the meaning of the images that inform our prejudices. The hip hop culture which currently dominates the character of what young people are processing on a daily basis is promoting the most fearful and violent associations imaginable. Perhaps that is a good place to begin to change.



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

Fear

Please understand that a certain kind of fear is God-given. It warns us of danger.

Elijah, that great prophet of God was not afraid to challenge hundreds of Baal's prophets, but he let one ugly woman, namely Jezebel, run him clean out of the country. I believe David, unlike Elijah, did not let fear make his decision. Neither should fear make our decisions. Jesus said in the last days, "there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: For the powers of heaven shall be shaken" (Matt. 21:25-26). Fear will cause you to modify your behavior and do things that will make you look insane.

When Israel left Egypt they made it fine until they came to the Red Sea. Abruptly, their journey came to a halt. This was the first crisis of fear, but it would not be the last. They must have thought: this is it, our future is over. With the Red Sea before them and the armies of Pharaoh behind them, the future really looked bleak. The people were sore afraid and jumped on Moses with all four feet. "You have brought us out

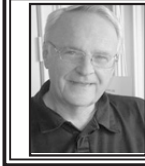
here to die." "Didn't we tell you to leave us alone?" "It would have been better to serve the Egyptians than to die out here in the wilderness." Moses knew they were talking out of fear and he said, "Fear ye not, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord," (Ex. 14:11-13). Israel probably thought, "What salvation?" Standing still or standing firm requires that we wait. Sometimes we are tempted to go back or lunge forward into trouble. Remember God is never caught off guard. We must allow God time to put His plan into action before we substitute our plan.

Abraham got scared. He and Sarah substituted their plan for God's plan. Their plan only brought more trouble and sorrows. "See the salvation of the Lord": means to give the Captain of our salvation a chance to finish. We are to live and act, not out of fear, but in the confidence of God's ultimate victory over every thing that arouses fear.

Dear child of God, do not fear, God will take care of you. David said, "I was young, but now I am old; but I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread" (Psalm 37:25).

As a believer I am not looking for the mark of the beast, nor for the Anti-Christ, but I am looking for the Christ, The blessed Hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ" (Titus 2:13).

Jesus could come at any time, so be ready all the time.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

I used to golf a lot though I haven't been out for several years. Recently some friends invited me to go golfing with them. It wasn't pretty.

After a couple of embarrassing rounds I went into the clubhouse to shower and clean up. While I was standing at the mirror drying my hair a young man - maybe ten years old - came in to use the facilities. After he finished he came to the sink area next to mine and washed his hands - with soap and water. He dried his hands on a paper towel, then he took the towel, wiped off the counter where he had dropped a few drops of water, wiped the sink dry, and tossed the towel in the trash. When he walked away, the area was spotless.

I was impressed. I thought to myself, this kid has had some fetchin' up. I'd like to meet his dad and mom. I'd like to ask them to tell me their strategy. I talk to parents who would pay dearly for that kind of behavior in their ten-year old. In fact, I'd like to get his name and send it to a bunch of ten-year old girls I know and tell them to watch this guy over the next ten years; he's worth keeping in your little black book. (I'm assuming

here that girls have little black books, too.)

Was that really that big a deal? It was. Let me tell you why: Respect. Nobody likes to be blogging along and suddenly be accosted by the mess someone else has left. So folks who are respectful of the feelings of others don't leave a debris field behind. To have picked up on that already by the age of ten bodes well for his future. People who demonstrate respect are usually honest, generous, and kind. Good folks to have for friends.

The second issue here is self-worth. (Please don't put the word self-esteem in there. Esteem means worship or adulation, and self-worship isn't what we're trying to help develop in our kids; a sense of self-worth is.) To discover that they can make things better for others, that they can be a help to others, that they can bring joy to others means that they have begun to grasp a life-changing fact: They can help change their world. It's in that realization that visions are launched and leaders are born.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net. N00124.A2)SH

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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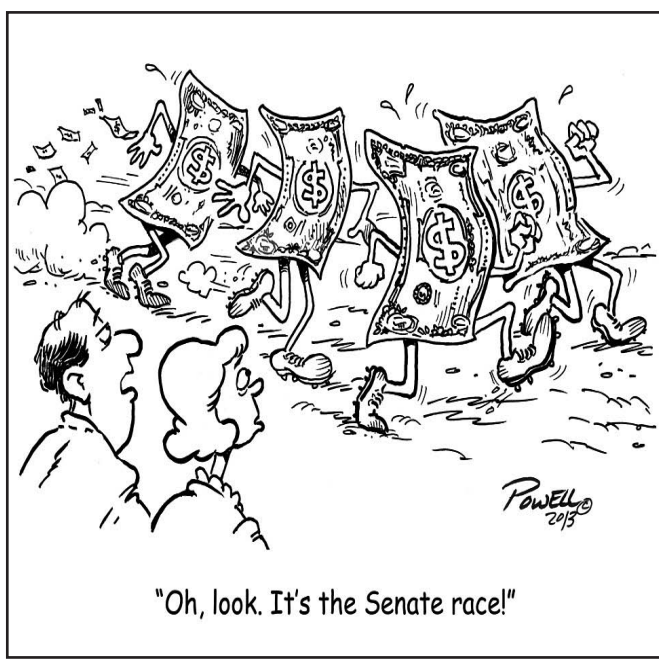
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