

OPINION

DAILY JOURNAL

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"The Daily Journal is dedicated to community service, to defense of individual rights and to providing those checks upon government which no constitution can ensure."

SCOTT ALEXANDER
founding editor, 1963

Hearts and Darts

The Daily Journal

EDITOR'S NOTE — *Hearts and Darts* is published as space is available and each Monday in the Daily Journal. To submit an item, please call Editorial Assistant Kelly Boggs at 736-2712. Items also can be submitted by e-mail to kboggs@thejournalnet.com, by fax to 736-2766 or by mail to Hearts and Darts, P.O. Box 699, Franklin, IN 46131.

Items should include the writer's full name, street address and telephone number and the full names of all people mentioned in the item. Readers are asked to name no more than 10 individuals and/or five businesses per item.

Hearts

• We would like to congratulate all of our winners from the Johnson County Middle School Wrestling Team Tournament on March 4. We had several winners from Center Grove Middle School Central and Center Grove Middle School North.

A great big heart and congratulations to coaches Patrick Mallory, Keith Adams, Josh Sabik and Jamie Hays for working so well with all of the Center Grove Central kids and bringing home the first wrestling team county championship in 11 years. We are all very proud of you.

Center Grove Wrestling Club

• I want to send big hearts to the following for their support and sponsorship of me in the Indiana High School Rodeo: Kenny Young at Bradley Chevrolet; Joe and Michele Fox at RH Marlin; Dennis and Annette Henderson at Henderson Construction; Rick and Angie Lynn at Marion County Auction; and BG Graphics of Franklin.

Many hearts and thanks to all of you, and may I last the eight seconds.

Evan Patton
Franklin

• Lots of hearts to the staff of Community Hospital South and staff of Indiana Cancer Center on County Line Road for love and their caring treatment of my friend, Barbara Parks, in the last year of her life. Thank you.

Helen Payne
Greenwood

• I would like to thank Franklin police officers Kerry Atwood and Steve Stalets for helping my daughter with a lockout. It seems like we all lock our keys in a car once in a while.

Mike Logan
Franklin

• Hearts to Whiteland Community High School Rhythm Masters for their great season in the show choir competition. They competed in four competitions, receiving three grand champion trophies and one first runner-up trophy for their division.

They also received trophies for best vocals and best choreography. A special thanks to Mrs. Ann Conroy for her direction, dedication and persistence. Good job, everyone.

John and Karen Bultman
Whiteland

• Hearts to the Johnson County Highway Department for the quick action taken to replace a much needed warning sign on County Road 144 west of Bargersville warning of a sharp curve when coming into town. Several vehicles have missed the curve and ended up off the road.

The sign was installed just three hours after I called them about the problem. Keep up the good work.

Bob Nichols
Bargersville

• Hearts to coaches Brian Corey and David McDaniel for giving your time to help our children learn the game of basketball.

Patricia Morgan
Whiteland

• Sons of the American Legion Post 205 want to thank everyone who came out and supported the Daytona 500 party. Proceeds went to help the Christmas Angel Fund. It was a great success and a wonderful time had by all. Thanks again.

Sons of the American Legion Post 205

• Hearts to Scott Oughton and Franklin Memorial Christian Church. The church has a great basketball program, and we were blessed to have Mr. Oughton coach our son. Thank you for your time and dedication to our youth.

James, Julie and Evan Barker
Franklin

Darts

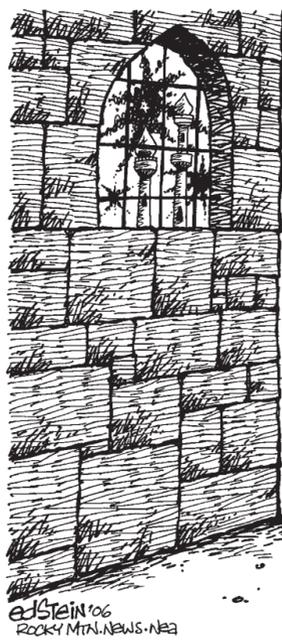
• A dart to the Daily Journal for covering the nonsmoking issue in Greenwood so much but neglecting to cover the how gasoline prices have gone up recently.

Steve Reeves
Franklin

• Darts to the New Whiteland Parks and Recreation Department. Children signed up with your organization to play basketball through March 31 to find out on March 10 for some of them that after three or four games and a \$40 sign-up fee that their season had come to an end. Parents were told it was because of a lack of gym space at Clark-Pleasant Intermediate School.

Why were no other options available? There are several schools in the area paid for by our tax dollars.

Patricia Morgan
Whiteland



Ed Stein '06
Rocky Mtn. News-Net

No. 1 on honey-do list: Fix wife's messes sans questions

Some people are just accident prone. They always have mysterious bruises from slamming into something gigantic and obvious, like a door or a coffee table.

They make messes without realizing it. And the messes get bigger somehow, even as they struggle to clean them up.

I am one of those extremely messy, bull-in-the-china-shop kinds of people.

And it's nearly impossible to hide that character flaw when I happen to be married to Mr. Plowboy Perfect.

He happens to be the king of organization. He folds his socks and underwear, for heaven's sake, and neatly places each item in its designated space in the drawer.

His desk is cleared, except for one pen and a nice little notepad. His vehicles are spotless.

And he rarely makes a mess. As of yet, I've never seen him stir up a disaster.

I toss my clothing in piles on the closet floor. I have to shovel junk from the floorboard of my car. My desk is piled high. And I can never, ever reach into my purse and simply remove my wallet without also pulling trails of Kleenex, notes, ink pens and candy wrappers with it.

Recently, I reminded myself that old Plowboy and his perfectionist tendencies will likely require sedatives now that I'm living with him.

The first little issue occurred when I hurriedly mopped the kitchen floor, poured the mop water into the toilet and flushed.

Only afterward did I discover



Sherri Eastburn

that I forgot to remove the mop rag from the bucket.

So the toilet overflowed. So I called him in and showed him the problem.

"Why did you flush the mop rag?" he asked.

"How do I know?" I snapped. "It's not like I did it on purpose."

Instead of being mad at myself for plugging the toilet, I was suddenly honked off at him for asking me why I did it. ... As if I had an answer for the question, anyway.

The very next day, I'm flying through the house like a tornado, trying to pick up my junk and clean.

"The vacuum cleaner won't suck," I said irritably. "I don't have time to deal with that kind of crisis. I've got three thousand things to do today."

"What's wrong with it?" Plowboy asked.

"The hose," I pointed and demonstrated. "It won't suck anything up."

"Did you check the hose for blockage?" he asked.

What? Suddenly, my blood was boiling. I do well just to remember how to turn on the dumb thing.

"They didn't show me about those blockages when I attended vacuum cleaner school," I growled.

Plowboy stuck his left eye against the hose and turned it in my direction. It was filled with yuck.

"See?" he said. "That's why it won't work. You clogged it up again."

I wanted to turn into Satan's spoiled sister and yell about how I should be fired from vacuum cleaner duty. Perhaps only Mr. Perfect should do the sweeping.

But I held my tongue because, occasionally, I can identify my brat attacks and stop them, mid-trantrum.

Plus, I'm still trying to adjust to being a wife, which means I'm still trying to hide my laundry list of flaws.

Plowboy took the clogged hose outside and beat it half to death on the deck railing. I watched from the window, wishing that had been my job. It looked like a pretty darn good stress reliever.

He brought the clean hose in and reattached it.

"I have a new rule," I said. "What is it?"

"Don't ask me anymore why I tore something up," I said. "It makes me mad."

"You want me to just fix it after you make a mess of things?"

"Yeah, I think that would be best," I said with a nod.

"Okey doke," Plowboy said.

Feature writer Sherri Eastburn writes this weekly humor column for the Daily Journal. Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.

'Remarkably strange' report shows that for Bush, ends justify means

President Bush's new, 19,322-word national security report is a stunning document that parents should not permit their children to read.

It does not square with what schoolchildren learn about the principles for which this country has stood.

Here are a few examples:

• "Under long-standing principles of self-defense, we do not rule out the use of force before attacks occur — even if uncertainty remains as to the time and place of the enemy's attack." This is a restatement of Bush's remarkable and central doctrine of pre-emption: This country now chooses to go to war against countries suspected of plotting to do us harm, even if the threat is not imminent, or if facts aren't known or clear.

• "This diplomatic effort (with Iran) must succeed if confrontation is to be avoided." This says to the world that the United States has different strokes for different folks. It's OK for India to refuse to abide by the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, but the United States will go to war against Iran, which also scorns nonproliferation. With the war in Iraq still raging, Bush says it is now Iran that may pose our biggest challenge.

• "Regional cooperation offers the best hope for a peaceful, diplomatic resolution of (North Korea's determination to get nuclear weapons)." Unlike Iran, Bush has no intention of using force against North Korea despite its efforts to get nuclear weapons.

• "The United States must expand the circle of development by opening societies and building the infrastructure of democracy." Bush argues that the answer to terrorism is to push every nation to become a democracy, even though it may not work out (Palestinians now are led by a terrorist group, Hamas).

Through the deaths of thousands of Iraqis and Americans, Iraq has conducted elections and has a con-



Ann McFeatters

stitution. But the United States just spearheaded the largest air assault since the war in Iraq began, in a country ripped apart by sectarian violence.

Even as the Bush administration seeks another \$91 billion to fight in Iraq while piling up a \$9 trillion national debt, 60 percent of Americans tell pollsters that Iraq was not worth going to war over, and 55 percent say civil war and more chaos in Iraq are the likely outcome. Only 40 percent agree with Bush that Iraq soon will have a stable government, the first domino leading to Middle East democracy.

Bush is not wrong in seeking to spread democracy. But his assumption it could be done on the cheap and his sending mixed messages about America's strategies have inextricably undermined this nation's goals.

Bush went to war in Iraq ignoring warnings that victory would be more difficult than he expected. He ignored the military's warning that more troops were needed, underestimated the strength of the insurgency and has refused to admit any mistakes.

His remarkably strange new national security report makes clear that if he had it all to do over again, he would do the same things, in the same order, on the same scale.

Even though weapons of mass destruction have not been found in Iraq, which is disintegrating, Bush insists he was right. His new report accordingly demands the world go along with all U.S. goals,

whether they involve war or peace.

A few years ago, Bush was full of praise for Russia, raising his glass in tribute to Vladimir Putin and Russia's path to democracy and capitalism despite signals Russia was straying from that path.

Now Bush is not so certain: "Strengthening our relationship (with Russia) will depend on the policies, foreign and domestic, that Russia adopts. Recent trends regrettably point toward a diminishing commitment to democratic freedoms and institutions. We will work to try to persuade the Russian government to move forward, not backward, along freedom's path."

Bush warns China that its leaders cannot stay on a path toward peace "while holding on to old ways of thinking and acting that exacerbate concerns throughout the region and the world." He defines "old ways" as expanding China's military, expanding trade and supporting resource-rich countries without regard to misrule at home or misbehavior abroad.

That, of course, is exactly how the United States became the world's superpower, amassing the world's most impressive military force, expanding trade and extracting resources at home and abroad no matter what the local politics were.

To read Bush's 19,000 words is to experience an us-against-them fear: his fear that in the past six years the world has become a far more dangerous place, that he trusts few, that old allies are no longer reliable in following our lead.

Bush's message to our children in this surreal document is that situational ethics is right. Increasingly, that is how the rest of the world perceives us — as believing that the end justifies the means.

Scripps Howard columnist Ann McFeatters has covered the White House and national politics since 1986. Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com

YOUR VIEWS

Bans finally giving back rights to nonsmokers

To the editor:

For the past several weeks I have been reading editorials concerning the ban of smoking in public places.

Smokers and nonsmokers alike have argued that a smoking ban takes away the rights of the smoker. A nonsmoker, according to this way of thinking, always has the option not to patronize the establishment that allows smoking.

I have some difficulties with this "logic." The way I see it, smokers are the only ones who have any options when public places allow smoking to occur. Nonsmokers have one choice. They cannot frequent the establishments where smoke fills the air without it affecting their health to some degree.

There are few nonsmoking bars, so meeting someone for a drink is not usually an option for a nonsmoker.

Smokers, however, have two choices. They can visit these smoky places, or choose to abstain for an hour or two and eat and drink in a smoke-free environment.

Whose rights are being taken away? Who has more choices? Nonsmokers' rights have been neglected for years in our society, and, in my opinion, it is time to change that.

Autonomy has a long tradition in our country; that is, people have the right to make decisions concerning their own life so long as those decisions do not hurt other people. For example, freedom of speech is a constitutional right, but people are not allowed to slander others, or yell "fire" in a theater.

People older than 21 are allowed to drink alcohol, but not when driving a motor vehicle.

A person older than the age of 18 has the right to choose to smoke but should not be allowed to take away another's right to breathe clean, healthy air. A smoking ban is not taking away smokers' right, but is returning the rights of nonsmokers who choose to be in any establishment allowed to them without worrying about the effects of secondhand smoke.

People are concerned about loss of business. California, New York, Washington and many other places have decided to become smoke-free. If these cosmopolitan areas can make it, I have no doubt that we can too. Perhaps, with creative marketing, business in nonsmoking establishments could even increase.

Young people are often amazed to learn that there was a time when people were allowed to smoke in movie theaters and airplanes. I hope their children will be equally surprised to learn that there was a time when people could not choose to eat or drink at all available places because a few people were allowed to harm the environment of everyone.

Lynnette Browder
Franklin

WRITE A LETTER

The Daily Journal invites readers to submit letters, opinion columns and e-mail comments for the opinion page.

GUIDELINES

- Letters published in the Daily Journal must contain the writer's name and city or town.
- Letters sent to the Daily Journal must be signed and must include a daytime telephone number for verification to be considered for publication.
- Because of space and legal considerations, the Daily Journal reserves the right to edit any letters or articles and to limit comments.

SEND IT

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THE QUESTION

Should the teens police said were involved in a plot to take guns into Center Grove High School and take a principal hostage be tried as adults?

PICK AN ANSWER

- Yes
- No

HOW TO VOTE

Vote and offer comments on the Daily Journal's Internet edition — www.thejournalnet.com. This is an unscientific poll. Readers who don't have access to the Internet are welcome to mail or fax comments.

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