

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 more hearts

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 can also 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

• Hearts to coaches Todd Lemmel and Sam Traina. The positive and caring way you led the seventh- and eighth-grade basketball team to an undefeated regular season and on to a Catholic Youth Organization championship victory was such a valuable life lesson for these young players.

Thank you for being such great role models.

Parents of Our Lady of the Greenwood seventh- and eighth-grade basketball players

• Hearts to Henderson Pharmacy and Home Health Care and Conva-Care franchise.

To previous owners, Joe and Jim Wertzberger and Bart Brettnacher, and present owners, Ann Gordon and Travis Richey, it is my pleasure to thank you for 10-plus years of employment and the opportunity to help expand the home health department.

To all my longtime customers and co-workers, I will miss all of you and wish for you the very best.

**Elizabeth "Libby" Burnell
Whiteland**

• I would like to thank all the emergency personnel who cared for our daughters Amber and Andrea Coryell as well as Jared Sebastian and Paul Denzio.

The accident that happened Jan. 28 was the most terrifying ordeal, and if not for the quick response of our town's emergency personnel, I don't know what would have happened.

I would also like to thank the bystanders who helped my girls and their friends. They are true heroes.

I would like the opportunity to thank them in person if I ever have that chance. You all are our heroes and angels. Thanks so much.

**Brenda and Mark Coryell
Franklin**

• I would like to send a special thank you to officer Joe Dillon of the Franklin Police Department. He was very concerned the night my girls, Amber and Andrea Coryell, were involved in an accident.

Mr. Dillon even came by our home to check on them. We found that very thoughtful.

Thank you again, Officer Dillon. You are an angel.

**Brenda and Mark Coryell
Franklin**

• A special thank you to Indian Creek FFA, area churches, sponsors, volunteers, family and friends. Without you, Carrie Clayburn's Memorial Scholarship Dinner would not have been successful.

It's helpful to know that Indian Creek High School students will benefit from the scholarship and that Carrie will be remembered. God bless.

**John and Sheila Heidenreich and Jenny Clayburn
Trafalgar**

• Hearts to Ashley Jones at The Color Cafe in Greenwood. After a home hair color disaster, I put a 911 call into Ashley. (My daughter recommended her after she stopped laughing at me.)

I am happy to say that my home hair color of purple and black was turned into a lovely shade of brown with golden highlights. (Oh, and I got a new style also.)

Thank you so much for your time and effort, Ashley. I feel like I need to write sentences on the chalk board now: "I will not color my own hair. I will not color my own hair. I will not color my own hair..."

**Stephanie Walker
Trafalgar**

• Hearts to Bob Evans Restaurant in Franklin. We want to thank you for your wonderful support on Feb. 12. It was very much appreciated.

**Jane Perkins and members of
Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church
Franklin**

• Special hearts to Franklin Mayor Brenda Jones-Matthews for taking time to present words of encouragement and certificates to students who participated in the Needham Presidential Luncheon.

In spite of her demanding schedule, our mayor found time to support these future leaders of Franklin. It is exciting to live in a community where academic achievement is applauded.

**Joyce Shook and Jayne Yount
Needham Elementary School fifth-grade teachers**

• A big heart to the staff at the Boys & Girls Club of Franklin for providing a safe and fun place for my kids to go every day after school. Thanks for caring about them and for giving them a positive place to go.

**Liz Sutton (Maggie, Christopher, Joe and Gracie's mom)
Franklin**

• Hearts to the Franklin College football team for moving the boxes of books for the Friends of the Library used-book sale.

We appreciate all the energy it took to get the books from the back building to the community room.

Also, hearts to the women from the Pi Beta Phi sorority for arranging the audio-visual materials on the tables. All of you made the setup for the sale a quick, easy task.

**Cathy Daily and Rosemary Stiffler
Friends of the Library**

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YOUR

VIEWS & COMMENTARY

Restrictions on wine sales would protect teens

To the editor:

A wine war is fermenting in Indiana. The sobering results could either make it harder, or easier, for kids in the state to get their hands on alcohol.

On one side, Indiana wineries purport they will all suffer great financial hardship if they are not allowed to ship wine directly to consumers, instead of working through distributors and retailers as everyone else is required to do. On the other hand, distributors and retailers say they are part of the system of alcohol-related checks and balances and vital to public safety.

House Bill 1190 is a good bill and deserves to pass to maintain a controlled, regulated system for Indiana alcohol sales. Under the bill, wine lovers can still order whatever they want from across the state or around the world, so long as it's delivered through the state's distribution system and picked up after a local retailer checks ID.

Other alcohol producers sell their products through state-certified distributors and retailers. While not perfect, it is the best process we have to ensure that alcohol is being sold responsibly to adults. We should improve the system, not eliminate it.

Yet that's exactly what Indiana wineries propose: tear down the regulatory system for all, instead of working within it like all others have done for more than a century. Indiana created a verifiable system of safeguards to control the production, delivery, sale and consumption of alcohol. The Indiana House defended that system and overwhelmingly passed House Bill 1190. Now it's the Senate's turn to do the responsible thing and pass the bill today.

**Dee Owens
Indiana Coalition to Reduce
Underage Drinking
Bloomington**

WRITE A LETTER

Mail

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Lawmakers dedicated to improving Indiana

To the editor:

I read Jerry Wilson's column, "Legislature fight for religion waste of both time, money" (Daily Journal, Jan. 31) with great interest.

In his column, he states that Indiana legislators have been wasting time on religious issues instead of discussing more "important" issues such as education, full-day kindergarten and toll roads.

I would like to invite Mr. Wilson to visit the statehouse during this legislative session and see for himself what we really have been doing.

For the past two weeks, House members have been in session from 9 a.m. to midnight three or four days of the week.

We felt it necessary to stay late at the statehouse in order to discuss and vote on matters of importance, such as education, full-day kindergarten and Major Moves.

The passing of a historic bill such as Major Moves is a huge responsibility. The economic impact of leasing the Indiana Toll Road is not to be taken lightly. This issue is complicated and must be given an adequate amount of time to be heard and discussed on the House floor.

We spent more than four hours discussing Major Moves on Feb. 1 and countless hours before that. We have not been wasting any time, Mr. Wilson.

In addition to passing Major Moves, we have spent numerous hours debating and contemplating educational issues such as funding

for full-day kindergarten and moving the ISTEP exam. Both issues have been addressed, and we feel that we have reached the right decisions on each matter.

There was considerable information to be digested on both sides of the debates. We also have worked diligently to see that property taxes do not rise substantially in 2006. If this issue were not addressed in this legislative session, property taxes could have increased by 8 percent to 12 percent this year alone.

We have taken steps to ensure an open government process for this legislative session. Representatives conduct town hall meetings in their districts so the public can voice concerns and be given answers to their questions.

I conducted four town hall meetings this month in order to hear what my constituents are saying. On Feb. 4, I was at Clark-Pleasant Elementary School with Sen. Patricia Miller and also at the Greenwood City Building to answer questions and keep you updated on our legislative progress.

I was at the White River Library on Feb. 8 and at Franklin City Hall on Feb. 15.

I would like to state that I am responding to Mr. Wilson's column only because I respect his right to freely speak his mind. I believe freedom of speech is the most important issue we face in this country.

America's greatness was founded on the principle of freedom to express ourselves, especially our freedom of religion. When judges start legislating from the bench, taking away our rights to speak freely, something is wrong in this country.

I will continue to fight for all legislators and residents to maintain their freedoms of speech and religion. America is one of the few countries that give us that right; we must not take it for granted.

Again, I invite Mr. Wilson and any others who are interested in what legislators are doing this session to come watch one in progress and see for yourselves.

**State Rep. Woody Burton
Greenwood**

Move to shield classified information would turn journalists into criminals

Pat Roberts has a truly terrible idea. The chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee wants to revive a pernicious proposal, vetoed by President Clinton, which would make it a crime to receive or disseminate classified information.

If Roberts succeeds, half the reporters in town would turn into lawbreakers. Congressional staffers, scholars, lobbyists, trade association executives — they'd all be vulnerable as well.

At a time when the United States is trying to market its values of democracy and openness to the rest of the world, how can it make any sense at all to undermine those values here at home?

Reporters are always obligated to use leaked information responsibly, but Clinton got it right when he argued that the anti-leak provision he rejected "may unnecessarily chill legitimate activities that are at the heart of democracy."

That's exactly what this administration and its allies want to do, chill and suppress their critics, and Roberts' proposal is part of a wider campaign to accomplish that goal. In Washington today, the public's access to information about their own leaders is in serious jeopardy.

Says George Terwilliger, a well-connected lawyer who served in the first Bush administration: "The gloves are off in leak cases. New rules apply."

The New York Times reports that a "rapidly expanding criminal investigation" is trying to finger the source of the paper's blockbuster story revealing that the Bush administration secretly eavesdropped on American citizens without judicial oversight.

Porter Goss, the CIA chief, wants a show trial featuring the journalists who were brave and resourceful enough to uncover the program: "It is my aim and it is my hope that we will witness a grand jury investigation with reporters present



**Cokie Roberts
and Steven V. Roberts**

being asked to reveal who is leaking this information."

The Times itself, and not just its sources, could face criminal charges. Commentary magazine, a voice for pro-Bush neoconservatives, features an article this month entitled, "Has The New York Times Violated the Espionage Act?" The magazine's answer is clearly "yes."

Meanwhile, two former operatives of the pro-Israeli lobby American Israel Public Affairs Committee are facing trial in April for violating that same statute, which has almost never been used to prosecute civilians since its passage in 1917. The defendants, Steven Rosen and Keith Weissman, are charged with distributing classified defense information leaked to them by a Pentagon employee, Lawrence Franklin, who has pleaded guilty to espionage and faces 12 years in prison.

The case against Rosen and Weissman includes the charge that they passed the information on to journalists. But receiving leaks of classified material is absolutely essential to investigative reporting. A lawyer familiar with the prosecution's case told The Washington Post that the real aim of nailing the lobbyists was to intimidate the press.

The government wants "this case

as precedent so they can have it in their arsenal," the lawyer said. They see it as a weapon that can be turned against the media.

We have never believed that freedom of the press is an absolute right. The right to know has to be balanced against legitimate concerns of national security, and the best journalists do exactly that.

The New York Times held the eavesdropping story for a whole year at the administration's request before finally deciding that growing questions about the program's legality changed the calculation and argued for public disclosure.

The key question is, who decides what is the proper balance between knowledge and safety? If the government seizes that power, through stiffer statutes and more strenuous prosecutions, then the impulse to impose censorship and secrecy is very tempting.

And very dangerous. Can this White House, or any White House, for that matter, really be trusted with one of democracy's most precious principles, the right of the public to know how its elected leaders are performing? Fully and fairly? Good and bad?

The answer is no. A far healthier system gives the media that power. That's what the First Amendment is all about. We're all better off with a press corps that's free to pry and probe, investigate and irritate.

But that press corps must also act responsibly, it must take national security seriously, it must understand that the greater the right, the greater the obligation to exercise that right carefully and wisely.

Cokie Roberts is a political commentator for ABC News and senior news analyst for National Public Radio. Her husband, Steven V. Roberts, is a contributing editor to U.S. News and World Report and a TV and radio commentator. Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.



**Sherri
Eastburn**

Marriage is a fridge full of groceries

You can tell a lot about a person just by looking at what's in their grocery cart. Or if you get a chance, take a quick peek in their refrigerator. That really tells the tale.

For several years, I could spot single people in store aisles based solely on what was in their cart.

Cheap bread, since half of it will go to waste. Frozen dinners. Chips and dip. And small bundles of cold cuts from the deli.

"I'll take a quarter-pound of turkey," I said to the deli clerk when I was single.

"Anything else?" she asked. "Maybe a spoon of ham salad, a spoon of tapioca pudding and four slices of Colby cheese," I said.

When she looked at me with a frown, I quickly said, "I live alone. I won't eat a half-pound of anything. It will go to waste."

I depended on my married friends to invite me for dinner so I could enjoy a meal other than peanut butter and jelly with corn curls for an appetizer.

I geared up to gobble married people food: meatloaf, fried chicken, mashed potatoes, spaghetti, ham and beans. Those are delicacies you don't get in a single-person's kitchen.

Not just because they would go to waste, but also because there's something extremely depressing about boiling one potato and frying two lonely chicken legs, all to be munched on, alone, in front of the TV.

Much of the time, I chose drive-through windows. It was more economical to buy a couple of tacos one night (a cheeseburger another night, maybe a frozen pizza or a bowl of popcorn on other evenings) than it was to buy married people food, spend all that time preparing it, and then throw half of it away.

Looking into my refrigerator could actually bring tears to my eyes. I saw the mini carton, big enough for only six eggs. That little baby, pint-sized box of milk. Two slices of forgotten, green bologna, curled up like it was crying, all alone in the nearly empty fridge.

And I was constantly reminded, every single time that I opened the fridge, that I was alone. In fact, the items on those shelves inside that lonely, nearly empty white box symbolized my chest cavity: cold, damp, curled up and somewhat moldy.

When I married Plowboy, I happily leafed through my cookbooks and flitted out the door to the grocery store.

Every time I opened the refrigerator door, I wanted to see fresh meat, waiting to be prepared and produce waiting to be chopped.

I had to have a whole gallon of milk, which, to me who is not a milk drinker, was the best way to remind myself that a man was in my life.

Well, here's the problem. I have now developed, well, an addiction, maybe, to going to the grocery store.

"Can you stop by the store today and only get a loaf of bread?" Plowboy said recently.

"Sure," I said, secretly thrilled that the bread was nearly gone after three days. "Only bread?" he asked.

"Yes," I nodded. "We don't need anything else, do we?"

"Nope."

But I came home from the grocery with a lot more than bread.

I hauled in three pounds of ground beef, a plump package of hot dogs, buns, bread, celery, an onion, some tomatoes and all the fixings for a roast. Plowboy stood there, scratching his head.

"We already had enough food in there to feed an army," he said as I stuffed and shoved and rearranged my new purchases on the refrigerator shelves.

"While I was there, I thought of a few more things I needed to buy," I said happily.

Then I closed the refrigerator door, opened it again and fell in love with how crowded and busy it was, with all kinds of colorful choices.

"Look how married we are," I said. "Look at the grocery bill," he said.

"But look at how happy the refrigerator is," I insisted. "Just look at it. You can almost see it smiling."

"I'm goin' to the barn," Plowboy said.

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