

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

AT ISSUE

A longtime Columbus tradition has been silenced.

OUR POINT

The unique music of the mechanical organ at Zaharako's will be missed.

Sounds of local history muted with organ's sale

The Daily Journal

One of the Christmas season traditions for many area families was a trip to Zaharako's restaurant in downtown Columbus.

Zaharako's is a turn-of-the-century diner, turn of the 20th century, not the 21st. Its marble breakfront, mirror panels and shotgun-style layout speak of a time when unique businesses were the rule, not the exception.

During the holiday season, the restaurant is decked out in 1950s era decorations and colored lights that in any other setting would be called at best garish and at worst tacky. But at Zaharako's they look entirely appropriate.

Visitors can enjoy a handmade ice cream soda, with the soda water jerked from a soda fountain that itself is a throwback to a bygone era.

A part of this festival of the senses was a 98-year-old self-playing pipe organ. Using paper music rolls like those used on player pianos, the machine would belt out holiday favorites during winter and circus and traditional German tunes the rest of the year.

The 185-pipe organ also included trumpets, drums, cymbals, triangles and flutes.

On Feb. 28, though, the organ was silenced. A crew removed it piece by piece, placing the parts in a moving truck and hauling it to an organ restoration firm. It since has been sold to a California businessman.

The cost of keeping the machine running was proving too expensive for the restaurant. It took too many ice cream sodas to pay for its upkeep. In addition, it was becoming nearly impossible to find replacement parts.

"I hope people will understand and not be too angry," said Lew Zaharako, who began working at the family business as a 14-year-old and now co-owns it with his brothers. "I know we've taken away something from people, but we felt like we had no real options."

So times have changed.

We'll still be able to sip the soda, but things won't sound the same. A piece of history falls silent, victim of changing times and the march of technology.

But this story ends on a note of hope. Zaharako and his brothers said they plan to replace the organ.

We can only hope it's not some 21st-century digital jukebox that plays the kind of music one hears as cell-phone ring tones.

If the replacement can capture even a fraction of the fun, style and pizzazz of the organ, then continued outings to Zaharako's will be in order.

Focus: Nukes

Bush action toward India reflects realities

Scripps Howard News Service

For 35 years, the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, with the occasional wink and nudge, kept a lid of sorts on the spread of nuclear weapons. It succeeded in its principal goal: preventing a worldwide nuclear arms race.

Last week, President Bush decided to make an exception and unilaterally lifted U.S. nuclear sanctions against India, which did not sign the treaty and went on to develop nuclear weapons, sparking a mini-arms race with its neighbor, Pakistan.



BUSH

India is a democracy, the world's largest. It is also stable and, outside of a long running dispute with Pakistan over Kashmir, at peace with the world. It is clearly not about to give up its nuclear weapons, which, to its credit, it never tried to sell elsewhere.

Basically, Bush ratified the status quo. We will sell civilian nuclear technology to India, and India will subject its civilian nuclear facilities to international safeguards and inspection. It recognizes India's status as a major power — "global power," as Bush called it, might be a little strong.

Bush made clear in Pakistan that India was an exception. Bush said he would not make a similar deal to provide civilian technology to Pakistan, and with good reason. Even though Pakistan is a U.S. "strategic ally," it is also a military dictatorship, politically unstable, battling a severe terrorist problem, and home to Osama bin Laden and nuclear scientist A.Q. Khan, who surreptitiously provided weapons technology to Iran, North Korea and Libya.

Libya voluntarily gave up its nuclear program, but the question now is: What will North Korea and Iran make of the Indian exception?

Both have nuclear weapons programs, and the United States is demanding that both give up their capacity to produce weapons-grade nuclear material. They may come away with this message: If they, too, hunker down long enough, maybe they will also one day shed their pariah status and be welcomed into the club of nuclear powers.

Some think that Bush's deal with India is the effective end of the nonproliferation treaty. But even though there are holes in the treaty — non-signer Israel is believed to have the bomb — the document is worth keeping in this sense: Over the past 35 years, a dozen or more countries that could have become nuclear powers did not.



YOUR

VIEWES & COMMENTARY

Developments affect more than local schools

To the editor:

This letter is concerning the article in the Feb. 11 paper, "Schools looking at special fees."

When I ran for the Center Grove School Board, an impact fee was part of my platform. Apparently it didn't fall on deaf ears. Center Grove School Board member Jim Copp is trying to figure how to make it work.

First of all when I was promoting that idea, it was intended that the fee (residential and commercial) be divided between the school corporations, the county highway department and the township fire departments.

Development is affecting more than just the county school districts.

The school corporations with their current income structure have put themselves in the trick bag. Through their lobbyists, the state public school's system did some "creative financial planning," i.e.: collect from the taxpayer via the state income tax plan and also nail them again in the county property tax plan.

Now Mr. Copp will have to retrace these steps convincing the representatives that the educators were misunderstood.

Flexibility has to be the name of the game, but downward adjustments are also part of the formula, i.e.: property tax.

Mr. Copp, we wish you all the luck in the world. On the other hand, county highway departments and township fire departments should not have a problem gaining income from the impact fee.

That is unless you're in Johnson County. Johnson County has a unique county council that always sees funding coming from the state. Under no circumstances will they ever enact a tax on the Johnson County residents. Johnson County will turn to dust first.

On Jan. 26, I wrote about a few things that bug me; one being the palace our township trustee thought we needed. On Feb. 3, we heard from the other side.

Basically when it comes to the township system of government, this is something that has to be removed or neutralized.

Two hundred years ago it had a reason for being around. But the 21st century is not the time to try once again to raise the phoenix. We already have departments in our county government that can easily handle what the trustee system is making a mountain of.

Across the United States, there are 21 states left that tolerate this excuse for government.

The writer reminded me that the palace came without any tax

WRITE A

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

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

GUIDELINES

- Letters published 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.
- Letters should be kept as brief as possible.
- Make sure the e-mail letter includes the writer's name, mailing address, telephone number and e-mail address for verification.

- Opinion columns for the community forum section of the editorial page also will be considered for publication. The article should be kept to a reasonable length and should include the writer's name, address and telephone number for verification.

- Because of space and legal considerations, the Daily Journal reserves the right to edit any letters or articles and to limit comments.

WHERE TO SEND THE LETTER

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increase. In good conscience I must reply, but it was taxpayers' money.

Also I was reminded that the trustee's office relocated from a breezeway, the office was computerized, at the same time bringing the township assessor from outside rental property to paying rent at the palace.

I've never been to the trustee's office, but apparently the breezeway setup must have been working. I have been to the assessor's office, and never did I see them cramped for space or crawling over one another.

As far as the facility being used by Center Grove for nature studies and cross-country track events, the land was there (I might add on the tax rolls).

No one would have objected to wholesome classes on nature study being conducted, and no one would have complained about a cross-country track team running through the brush.

What's the deal about a sheriff's substation at that location? They had facilities at the White River Township fire house. They never went there.

So why now is this used? I've said it before and I'll say it again: taking a cop off the road and fitting them to a desk does nothing but help crime.

The substation will protect the main campus of Center Grove? If you suggest that there is a reason for a full-time crime fighter to be at any Center Grove facility, then maybe Center Grove, similar to other districts, needs its own uniformed security force.

Regardless of your politics, the governor is correct in dis-

mantling the township system.

Across Indiana today, it is costing 90 cents in overhead to administer every dollar in assistance by the trustees. The state offices administer aid at about 10 percent on the dollar.

In White River Township, I have to feel that the palace is now part of that overhead expense. The assessor pays rent to the trustee for space. Is that sort of like double entry book cooking?

As for the township fire departments, that should be one county fire department. For the most part they are now paid professionals, similar to a sheriff's department.

Use of the palace for other activities; we need a new building for what? What was wrong with updating the Smith Valley community center? Who maintains that? Could it be made available? Would it house the trustee's and assessor's offices?

Trustee government is, as the governor says, archaic. The office of trustee has very little to do with most lifestyles. Let's get to the 21st century.

Ed Woods
Greenwood

Pet adoption centers could dot the county

To the editor:

I definitely agree with Chris O'Brien's letter (Daily Journal, Feb. 23) on the animal shelter. Pet adoption stores sound like a great idea.

People might be more inclined to adopt a pet if the location was safe and easy to get to. Mr. D's old store in Whiteland would make a

good location for the north side of the county, and I am sure that other locations could be found.

Another idea would be to build kennels near the agriculture building at Franklin Community High School.

It would give some kids the opportunity to learn about the care, grooming and training of animals as a high school or 4-H project.

As for the shooting range, that is a no-brainer. Maybe that is the problem.

Bonnie Prochaska

Franklin

Smoking ban example of trend toward socialism

To the editor:

I personally would like to thank the politically correct social police and lawmakers for bulldozing through the new anti-smoking laws. Thank God I have people like you looking out for me. As a taxpaying adult, obviously I'm incapable of making the correct decisions on my own, at least the ones you'd have me make.

You already had nonsmoking areas and nonsmoking establishments, but instead you chose to come where smoking was allowed and whine and complain about it.

Any business owner has the right to make his establishment smoke-free, and smokers respected that right. We simply chose not to frequent such places.

I notice none of you hesitates to accept the tax revenue generated by cigarettes. Would that be the high moral ground? I also notice there was never a public vote on the issue.

A high number of nonsmokers have spoken up and clearly do not support the erosion of personal choice and government-mandated restrictions we see repeatedly and increasingly. It might have been interesting to see the results. We'll never know.

I was born in a free country. Freedom of speech was guaranteed by our Constitution.

How many public figures have we seen lose their jobs or become social outcasts because they expressed an opinion others disagreed with? Probable cause?

The government now has the right to burst into our homes and listen to our private conversations. Police set up roadblocks and stop drivers indiscriminately; and the courts tell us that's okay, they're protecting us.

All that is needed for evil to succeed is for good men to do nothing.

I just pray to God, oh wait, I can't do that in public, either. Welcome to the USSA, United Socialist States of America. It is what we are becoming.

Tony Abbott
Greenwood

It's not easy being green, but it's easier in March

Between bouts of rain last weekend, we took a walk through the woods where we got up close and personal with some beautiful, bright green moss growing on the side of a tree. The color said it all: Green means spring is coming.

In my class, I have a book with ideas for journal writers. One of the suggestions for March is to write about green things.

What a great idea. And what better spot in the calendar is there to think about green things? After all, March contains the first day of spring (the 20th this year), and green is the color of spring.

March is also the birthday of Dr. Seuss (the 2nd) who wrote "Green Eggs and Ham," while Friday (the 17th) we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day, when everyone will be Irish (from the Emerald Isle) and wearing o' the green outfits while drinking o' the green beer and perhaps, after hoisting a few, getting a little green around the gills.

Although green is associated with the ideas of birth and newness, not all green references



Norman Knight

are positive. The rather derisive term greenhorn means someone is a rookie, although maybe the person using the term is just filled with jealousy, which is the green-eyed monster.

And beware of people wearing green eyeshades because they are usually a bit, well, shady.

Many green terms are more neutral. If you are an immigrant to this country, you will need a green card if you want to get a legal job and get paid in greenbacks, which is an old term for "long green," which means money, which is the root of all evil and causes some people to get green with envy, which is one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

If you consider yourself green

in the political sense and maybe are a member of the Green Party, your concerns are with how government can be used in a more ecologically friendly way: protecting green frogs, for example, which are disappearing at an alarming rate.

In Indiana, we have an extensive relationship with green. You can bike, run or walk many miles in downtown Indianapolis on the Greenways Trails.

You also can visit the cities and towns of Greencastle, Greendale, Greenfield, Greensburg, Greentown, Greenville and Greenwood as well as Greene County, which shows us that a final "e" is not a hindrance to pronouncing that spelling of the word green as it would be, for example, if you added it to rat and made rate.

When I was a kid, I watched Mr. Greenjeans on "Captain Kangaroo" then walked to Greenwood Elementary School, where I learned about the Green Mountain Boys' exploits during the Revolutionary War. When I got home from school, my mom cooked green beans, which, if you

have a green thumb, you are probably good at growing.

She, however, didn't grow them. She opened a can of green beans from the Green Giant corporation whose mascot is the Jolly Green Giant, which is also the title of a popular song back in the 1960s along with others of that era such as "Green, Green Grass of Home," "Green River," "Green-Eyed Lady" and "Green Tambourine."

Green Day is a band on the current music scene that probably doesn't do any of the above songs in their act. But I do like meditating on the meaning of their moniker.

A "green day" would be what? A new day? A day full of possibility? An envious or jealous day?

I'm looking forward to following my students' green streams of consciousness as they write about green things. Sometime this week I will give them the green light to get started.

Norman Knight, a teacher at Clark Pleasant Middle School, writes this weekly column for the Daily Journal. Send comments to letters@thejournalnet.com.