

# OPINION

DAILY JOURNAL

JEFFREY W. OWEN

PUBLISHER  
E-mail address:  
jowen@thejournalnet.com

SCARLETT SYSE

EDITOR  
E-mail address:  
syse@thejournalnet.com

"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 can also be submitted by e-mail to [kboggs@thejournalnet.com](mailto: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 the Nineveh, Trafalgar and White River Township fire departments for prompt response and kindness during our loss and to all the neighbors and friends for providing groceries and gifts. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.

**The Betty McKnight family**  
Trafalgar

• Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County thanks the following Franklin businesses for their recent donations in support of Partnership's Stop Smoking 2006 Program: Quizno's, Bob Evans, Benjamin's Coffeehouse & Deli, and Johnson Memorial Hospital's business development department.

Congratulations to the many Johnson County residents who are now living a smoke-free life because of their participation in this free stop-smoking program. Partnership encourages smokers who would like to become smoke-free to take advantage of Stop Smoking 2006. Remember, everybody loves a "quitter."

**Cathy Bailey**  
Program support specialist  
Partnership for a Healthier Johnson County

• Youth Connections and the Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Johnson County would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the following area businesses for their support and contributions to a successful All School Kick-Off recently held at Scott Hall at Johnson County fairgrounds: Franklin Skate Club, Mi Pueblo and Grand Rental Station.

**Youth Connections and Youth Philanthropy Initiative of Johnson County**

• A big thank you to all of the parents, teachers, Franklin Community High School Student Council members and especially the custodial staff who helped make Northwood's Family Fun Night a huge success.

**Becky Skeel**  
Northwood Elementary School PTO

• I would like to bring it to the attention of people that they missed a very good show at the Artrcraft Theatre on Feb. 4. It was such a good, fun show for the children and the adults. The stage show was put on by Cowboy Bob, Harlow Hickenlooper, Janie Hodge and Barry Krauss, retired NFL linebacker, as a fund-raiser for Becca Lanham.

**Betty Fahrner**  
Franklin

• I would like to give J.D. Long at Long's Furniture World in Amity a heart. With his kind donation of two recliners to the Whiteland Veterans of Foreign Wars post, we were able to raise money for our scholarship fund at our Super Bowl party. Thank you very much.

**Steve Dickey, Trustee**  
Whiteland Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6978

### Darts

• Darts to the person who stole our company sign from a customer's yard on U.S. 31 South last week. It reflected our quality tree work and was hand-painted by my father. If anyone has information regarding this matter, please contact Arbor Experts at 738-3024.

**John P. Hawkins**  
Arbor Experts, Franklin

• Darts to the Hoffman, Admire and Newcomb law firm. To cover the east side of the Sibert House with that big, ugly sign is almost criminal. Why not a stylish, 19th century-type sign instead? Sarah Sibert's house is a charming part of Jefferson Street. Let's keep it that way.

**Sue Christiansen**  
Franklin

## Focus: Flag-burning

Inflammatory protests not so spontaneous

Scripps Howard News Service

Even in a flag-bedecked city like Washington, D.C., it would be tough on short notice to come up with enough Danish and Norwegian flags to burn at a spontaneous demonstration.

So how, in an impoverished, isolated place like Gaza, do demonstrators come up with a seemingly unlimited supply of Danish and Norwegian flags — how do they even know what they look like — to burn and trample on?

Thanks to Reuters, we have an answer. In Gaza, and probably elsewhere in the Muslim world, canny merchants try to anticipate demand for something to desecrate. Said Reuters, "When Gaza shopkeeper Ahmed Abu Dayva first heard about the Danish cartoons of Muhammad, he quickly ordered 100 Danish and Norwegian flags."

He is selling them for \$11 each, and since the flags are burned or shredded, there's built-in repeat business. What Abu Dayva can't get locally, he orders from Taiwan. The Israeli flags for burning come from an Israeli supplier.

Which only underscores that these demonstrations are hardly spontaneous and barely about blasphemy. The cartoons were published in Denmark last September and now that the blogosphere is on the case, we find that an Egyptian newspaper printed them on its front page last October to no discernible reaction.



## Guys romance with actions, not with lovey-dovey talk

Lots of men, maybe millions of them, don't express their feelings the way we females want them to.

In fact, men wear themselves out trying to get away from us when we decide it's time for heart-to-heart talks.

By the way, guys, we women are on to you. When we pour our hearts out and you pretend to be comatose in the recliner, we know you're playing possum.

"Sit up, buddy. Open your dang eyes and act like you give two hoots about what I'm saying," we snap. "Or I'll drop your beloved remote into the blender, and I mean it."

On those rare occasions when a woman traps her man with an emotional headlock, the guy will participate, but only with one-syllable responses.

"Why don't you ever tell me you love me?"

"Tired."

"Are you bored with me?"

"Nah."

"Do you still find me attractive?"

"Sure."

"I tell you constantly how much you mean to me. Why can't you do the same?"

"Uhh, lazy?"

With Plowboy, it's no different. He's such a tender-hearted but nonverbal guy. I patiently plot when I'm going to force him into romance.

"Come on, we're going to hold hands," I say.

Plowboy groans like he's being punished.

"Knock it off, or I'll make you serenade me with something by Barry Manilow," I growl.

After a few minutes, I begin the



Sherri Eastburn

say-it-on-cue approach to getting my emotional needs met.

"OK, ready? Say, 'Sherri, I can't believe you came into my life.'"

"Yeah," Plowboy says. "That's how I feel."

"Say it," I push.

"You already said it for me," he says.

"Tell me I'm the reason your heart beats," I say.

"That's a little bit overboard," Plowboy says.

"All right then, tell me how much you love me."

"A lot," he says. "Now, leave me alone. You're getting on my nerves."

"Write me a beautiful love letter," I say. "Then tell me your life just isn't complete without me."

At that moment, Plowboy darts out the backdoor like a bullet.

"Goin' to the barn," he yells over his shoulder.

All right, I admit it. I aggravate Plowboy to death occasionally (on purpose) with my "talk-sweet-to-me" demands.

But the truth is that I don't really need that gush of sweet nothings as much I did when I was young and stupid.

Recently, I figured out why that's so different now.

I have discovered something very simple: I don't need to hear it if I can feel it. Does that make sense?

I don't need to listen for what Plowboy won't say to me (unless, of course, I'm twisting his arm off).

I think the secret of his love is hidden in his actions.

When we were dating, for example, I told Plowboy that I am very afraid of the dark.

When I visited him at the farm a week or so later, a large light had been installed above the barn to illuminate the entire barn lot.

Plowboy never said a word to me about the light. But he didn't really need to.

I heard his heart talking to me long before the first "I love you" ever erupted from his very quiet mouth.

There are lots of women in the world who married quiet, closed-up men like my Plowboy. It is a challenge sometimes, to sift through what isn't verbally relayed to us. And sure, we females can get honked off and be big brats about the silence.

The truth is that sometimes, no, most of the time, what these types of men say with their eyes and hearts and actions is much sweeter and more intimate than what they could ever say with words.

And the challenge for the woman? To listen with the soul instead of the ears.

Feature writer Sherri Eastburn writes this weekly humor column for the Daily Journal. Send comments to [letters@thejournalnet.com](mailto:letters@thejournalnet.com).

## Champions of free speech missing opportunity to challenge oppressors

"Barbarism begins her reign by banishing the Muses." — Philip Dormer Stan-

hope, Earl of Chesterfield, 1749

The past several days of mayhem throughout the Muslim world, thanks to a handful of mild cartoons depicting the Prophet Muhammad, have provided a clarifying moment for those still uncertain about what the West faces from radical disciples of the Islamic faith.

What's clear is that East and West are not just cultures apart, but centuries, and certain elements of the Muslim world would like to drag us back into the Dark Ages.

What is also clear is that the West's own leaders, both in Europe and the United States, as well as many of our own journalists, have been weak-spined when it comes to defending the principles of free expression that the artists in Denmark were exploring.

Instead of stepping up to passionately defend freedoms won through centuries of bloody sacrifice, most have bowed to ayatollahs of sensitivity, rebuking the higher calling of enlightenment and sending the cartoonists into hiding under threat of death.

Many U.S. newspapers have declined to reproduce the cartoons out of respect for Muslims, setting up the absurd implication that an open airing of the debate's content constitutes disrespect.

Both the U.S. State Department and the Vatican have declared that Muslims were justified in being offended, while former president Bill Clinton, speaking in Qatar last month, called the cartoons appalling.

Of course, one can always justify being offended because taking offense is always a subjective act of volition.

What is appalling, meanwhile, is appeasing crazed radicals in betrayal of moderate Muslims courageously trying to speak truth



Kathleen Parker

to insanity. Appalling is our official genuflection to an irrational horde that has no interest in compromise or reason but only in submission. Ours.

While our government is issuing sanctimonious sympathy notes to the hysterical mobs, a Jordanian editor is arrested for publishing three of the cartoons and urging Muslims to "be reasonable." While Presidents Bush and Clinton were feeling the pain of religious fanatics, marauders were burning Danish government buildings in Beirut and in Damascus, Syria, and promising Londoners a Sept. 11 of their own.

The controversy that should have been a "digest" item on a slow news day — rather than heralded as a clash of two civilizations — surrounds 12 cartoons that Danish artists drew to illustrate a newspaper article in September in the center-right daily Jyllands-Posten.

The cartoons, more prosaic than provocative, are deemed blasphemous to the Muslim world for reasons that aren't clear. Some believers of Islam forbid any depictions of the prophet, while others tolerate certain images.

If lampooning Muhammad is forbidden, then certainly devout Muslims should refrain from drawing images of Muhammad. But exactly what does this have to do with the rest of us? One does not have to be Islamophobic to resist submitting to the vicissitudes of Islamic law.

By Western standards, the cartoons fall short of wildly controversial. One shows Muham-

mad wearing a bomb-shaped turban. Another has Muhammad telling suicide bombers he has run out of virgins with which to reward them. Non-literalists understand the sentiment at play. The cartoonists' art highlights how fanatics have hijacked religion and used Muhammad to advance nefarious ends. Surely, modern Islam has no stake in defending bombers who praise Allah while killing innocents.

The history of political cartooning is a history of satire and outrage. We arrived at this level of fragile tolerance not by caving to the demands of every sensitive soul, but by struggling with principles, ideas rather than emotions.

The French master Honore Daumier, for instance, was jailed for his caricatures of King Louis-Phillippe. Boss Tweed, the 19th-century political boss of Tammany Hall, offered Thomas Nast, the father of American cartooning, a bribe to cease and desist what Tweed famously referred to as "them damned pictures." Hitler reportedly put British caricaturist David Low on a death list.

Thanks to this heritage of healthy irreverence, today self-deprecation and parody are favorite ingredients in the volatile, spicy stew we call freedom.

That's why we roast our most powerful in tribute — and why politicians collect, frame and display cartoons that lampoon them. The ability to laugh at oneself, or to shrug off insult, is a sign both of a mature ego and a mature society.

Unfortunately, much of the Arab and Muslim world enjoys no such legacy, much to its cultural impoverishment and to our potential peril.

It might help us to win this war of ideas if we properly understand our own.

Kathleen Parker is a syndicated columnist for the Orlando Sentinel. Send comments to [letters@thejournalnet.com](mailto:letters@thejournalnet.com).

## YOUR VIEWS

### Editorial's take on prayer in statehouse misguided

To the editor:

I'm responding to the editorial opinion of the Daily Journal in reference to the issue: A federal judge has ruled that the opening prayers in the Indiana House cannot make a reference to Jesus. The Journal's point: The ruling points out a lack of diversity and efforts should be undertaken to make people of other faith traditions feel welcome (Dec. 8).

Is diversity the issue? It's actually a subversive attack by the American Civil Liberty Union of Indiana's militant soldier Ken Faulk to plunder our individual First Amendment freedoms to exercise free speech in any forum regardless of faith issues or any other subject matter. Rep. Woody Burton pointed the freedom issue out in his submittal that you reiterated in your column as well.

The ACLU of Indiana and its parent organization the ACLU will always align with any punk bleeding-heart issue or organization it feels it can use in their mission to destroy all of our American freedoms by attacking all of our core values that keep us safe and free. Research the ACLU's mission from their beginnings and see for yourself.

There haven't been any restrictions barring other faiths and denominations to equally give the opening prayer in the House. But senselessly, a liberal activist, federal Judge David F. Hamilton, ruled that our legislators cannot mention the name of Jesus Christ or advance a particular religious faith in the opening prayer as part of the official business of the House. Hamilton must have forgotten there is a Christian majority in our nation, logically making Christian prayer more prevalent.

Most all of our legislators have recognized equality and have respected all faiths in the House. Rep. Woody Burton echoed that per his statement: "I don't believe in forcing my religion on anyone else or having anyone else force their religion on me, but I feel that I should be able to express my views without going to jail." The minority few who are complaining and have initiated this attack on our freedoms have always had equal opportunity to invite those they would like to give the opening prayer as well. Did they make an effort or exercise their right to contribute before they took this unwarranted action?

Apparently not, as for the lack of it not being discussed much before legal action was taken. The Journal feels Rep. Burton is missing the point. It's the Journal that misses the point per common sense.

You mention "the issue is not about the freedom to pray, it's about where is an appropriate place to pray in a public way," and "When those prayers carry the appearance of endorsement by the government, it becomes inappropriate."

I ask you Journal, when has that happened? Have you thought to consider that there would always be more Christian-orientated prayers due to the fact there is a Christian majority represented in the House and our nation? Why is it that it is always Christianity that is discriminated against or used as the spearhead to abolish more and more individual freedoms? Discrimination hasn't happened in the past in the Indiana House of Representatives.

As an American citizen and a Christian, or if I was of any other faith, why is it that I can't have the freedom to express my faith freely in any forum public or otherwise? Why does a government that was established on Christian principles in a country that still maintains an overwhelming practicing Christian majority keep discriminatorily establishing laws specifically aimed at abolishing Christianity in all forums public and private?

Why are these lawsuits being brought up by a minority few other faiths or the non-practicing, who still enjoy the same freedoms Christianity used to have regardless of the forum?

The core issue isn't about diversity or a leading to diversity. It comes back to our freedoms.

It comes back to how a minority of diabolical men of the ACLU and ACLU of Indiana mentality want to play the many faiths of our nation legislatively against each other as to have faith in God destroy itself into obscurity. They know it's our faith in God that binds our nation together as a whole regardless of the color of our skin, ethnicity, culture, etc., that has allowed us to peacefully co-exist together and be united.

They know it's the mores, values and the components of our faiths when respected, growing and exercised freely in God, are what they can't overpower that saves us from subscribing to the socialist, communist dictatorship they are hell-bent in seeking.

It is a sad day when we have un-touchable activist judges such as U.S. District Court Judge David F. Hamilton who freely oversteps his U.S. Constitutional boundaries as to just interpret laws and to put his flawed social-engineered spin on the backs of all of us, thus denying our First Amendment Constitutional rights to free speech, which is the key component to exercise and express our faith freely in any forum.

To the State of Indiana, U.S. government, U.S. citizens and corporate America: Don't be fooled or bullied by the ACLU, the like-minded Daily Journal or other media. This is your country.

**Darrell G. Walton**  
Greenwood