

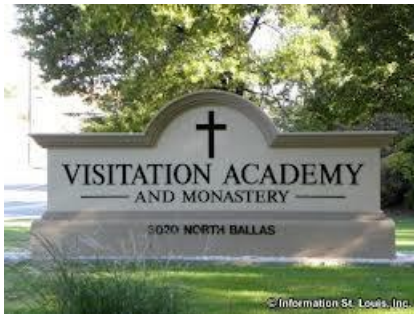
## EX ALDERMAN NEWSLETTER 96



September 10, 2013

By John Hoffmann

**BOARD OF ALDERMEN STILL TRYING TO STRIP CHURCHES OF CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS! THIS TIME FRED MEYLAND-SMITH GOES AFTER CATHOLICS!** We have been reporting for several years how the first amendment of the United States Constitution carries very little weight with the Town and County Board of Aldermen. Now apparently seven members of the Board of Aldermen somewhat understand the concept of “church rights.” However Fred Meyland-Smith went on the attack with motions and amendments this time against the Sisters of Visitation and Visitation Academy.



The proposed replacement sign would be north of this main monument sign next to the north driveway to the school. The school can no longer get replacement letters for the old activities sign.

Frankly it would be money well spent to send the aldermen to a constitutional law class, dealing with the Bill of Rights. Apparently the city’s law firm Curtis, Heinz, Garrett & O’Keefe are not up to the job.

Local governments cannot regulate signs, messages symbols of churches or religious groups. The only time local governments can enforce zoning laws against property involving religious groups is in cases of public safety. For example water runoff from a planned church parking lot that would flood nearby houses or planned church buildings that are unsafe would fall under city ordinances and zoning laws. Signs and symbols and safe construction doing no harm to the public would not fall under cities’ control.

Seven years ago the Board of Aldermen successfully badgered a church on the North Forty Road to lower the size of a planned cross in front of their building.

In 2010 21<sup>st</sup>-Century technology at churches was offensive to members of the Board of Aldermen. Fred Meyland-Smith got to sit this one out as it involved his Lutheran church on Clayton Road at Hwy 141. The church replaced an existing sign with a LED sign where the messages could be changed from inside the building and messages could rotate.

Yee Gods! Former Aldermen Al Gerber and Steve Fons had problems with it. The very idea of a LED sign! Of course neighboring communities had them in front of churches, city halls and police stations. But not Town and Country by God! Alderwoman Lynn Wright didn't want the church to be able to use red and green letters together. Phil Behnen didn't want electric signs in front of churches on Ladue Road.

Fons claimed any change of a message on the sign would cause an auto accident. Finally in a stupid compromise the church agree to, it would only change messages on the sign once every two hours.

After the Lutheran church, Fred and others on the Board of Aldermen wanted to make the Destiny Church jump through hoops to put up new signs on their church. Originally with only support from Ward-1 alderperson Skip Mange and Ward-2 alderman Chuck Lenz, who has been able to grasp the constitutional rights of churches, Destiny held firm and eventually put up exactly what they wanted.

Next was the St. Nicholas Greek Orthodox church on the South Outer Forty Road. Here the aldermen refused at first to give the church permission for a 40-foot flagpole. Again they cannot regulate signs or symbols used by religious groups. Lenz now joined by Phil Behnen stuck up for the churches rights from the beginning.

I wrote extensively about that in this newsletter. That apparently spawned a front page feature article in the Post-Dispatch by Religion Editor Tim Townsend. Fred Meyland-Smith did not like that one bit and announced how he does not care for the first amendment rights of press.

"I was out of town over the holiday, but I was quite disturbed to learn there was an article about this in the newspaper. That is no place to carry on our business."

He apparently did not think that it was proper for a newspaper to report what was happening at a public meeting of an elected local government.

Meyland-Smith from the dais referred to me by saying, “Then there is a resident who as a self-appointed reporter made a shameful attempt to sensationalize this,” he said.

Fred apparently is unaware that I was named the “Best Newspaper Columnist for 2012” by the St. Louis Riverfront Times.

[http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/spat-over-foot-flagpole-delays-flying-of-flag-at/article\\_a6508494-025e-51f3-a2c1-2f6267e55f79.html](http://www.stltoday.com/lifestyles/faith-and-values/spat-over-foot-flagpole-delays-flying-of-flag-at/article_a6508494-025e-51f3-a2c1-2f6267e55f79.html)

Now it is the Catholics in the crosshairs of Meyland-Smith, who must still be a big supporter of King George III or simply a tool of Lucifer in his constant hate of the first amendment rights of churches.



Fred Meyland-Smith and his role models: King George III

Lucifer

The 2012 senior class at Visitation Academy, a school run by an order of Catholic nuns, who still live on the campus, gave the school money to replace the old activities sign in front of the school with a new electronic LED sign. They didn't need permission from the city for a sign, but they applied anyway.

The school just wanted to use red letters on a black background. They only planned to change messages on the sign a couple times a week.

Rosalie Henry head of the school spoke at a public hearing and reminded the alderpersons that the school has been part of St. Louis for 181 years and has been at its current location on Ballas Road at Highway 40/I-64 for 51 years.

She also said that Visitation led the high school technology advances being one of the first schools in St. Louis to assign laptops to all students between grades 7 and 12.

Alderman Chuck Lenz asked if red wasn't harder to read than other colors on a LD sign. John Benigas was worried the school had restricted itself too much by saying they would only use red letters.

Joe Kelly of the Visitation Board of Directors said that red was the school color.

"You wouldn't take green away from Norte Dame, would you?" asked Kelly.

Meyland-Smith didn't make himself out to be a complete and utter jerk during the public hearing. He waited for the vote on the sign during the regular BOA meeting.

Meyland-Smith made reference to the church sign from a "year ago." (Actually two years ago) Meyland-Smith never mentioned the other church was the one he belonged to. He said the restrictions on that sign were different as there was less traffic (Clayton Road and Hwy 141!) and less chance of that sign being distracting than a LED sign at Visitation.

He then made a motion that the message on the sign could only be changed twice a day. Now it was okay for his church to change the message 12 times a day, but the Catholic school's sign could only change messages 2 times a day. Fred is a generous guy who believes in fairness...no, I'm getting him confused with someone who is not a pompous jerk.

Chuck Lenz spoke up. Unfortunately he didn't remind Fred how he was attempting to violate Visitation Academy's first amendment rights and was grossly un-American. Instead he said, "I don't see a need for a restriction. I think we are over legislating."

Lenz had a good point. A school like Visitation Academy could have multiple activities planned or occurring at the same time. It would only be fair for the sign to list them all.

No one else said anything. However the other six plus Lenz spoke loudly when no one seconded Meyland-Smith's motion for the stupid restriction and it died for a lack of a second.

Here are links to the two local cases that give churches and religious organizations freedom from many local laws. The first is the Temple Israel v Creve Coeur case and the second link is the Village Lutheran Church v Ladue case.

[http://www.leagle.com/decision/1959771320SW2d451\\_1763](http://www.leagle.com/decision/1959771320SW2d451_1763)

[http://www.leagle.com/decision/19961655935SW2d720\\_11563](http://www.leagle.com/decision/19961655935SW2d720_11563)

**MEYLAND SMITH WAS NOT DONE...HE ALSO WANTED TO SCREW WITH A GROUP HOME FOR YOUNG WOMEN WITH EATING DISORDERS:** Also on the agenda was approval of a group home for up to eight patients with eating disorders (likely young women with bulimia and anorexia nervosa) at a house at 13428 Conway Road. The bill stated the group home shall house no more than eight (8) persons and must include two (2) additional persons acting as house-parents or guardians...”

This was not good enough for Fred. In the work session, the bill was fine with seven alderperson, but Fred wanted to amend it to say, there “must have two house-parents on the premises at all times.”

Meyland-Smith was afraid the health care provider running the group home might allow one houseparent to go on vacation or call in sick. He wanted to ensure there was no wiggle room.

Alderwoman Lynn Wright asked Fred if they would need two house-parents if there was on two or only one patient at the group home. Fred said, “Yes...two at all times.”



Meyland-Smith wanting to change the language in the Group Home Bill. Lynn Wright not exactly excited about Meyland-Smith’s changes.

City Attorney Steve Garrett spoke up and said he did not think Meyland-Smith’s amendment was necessary as state statute already requires two guardians in the group

home. No other alderperson was willing to second the motion and Fred withdrew it after wasting 15-minutes of everyone's life.

Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton mentioned that there was no zoning issue as State law considers group homes, single family residences.

Retired physician Dorothy Cooke spoke about the bill. She read a letter from her daughter, a nurse at Cardinal Glennon Hospital.

"These patients for the group home already live in the neighborhood. Anorexia is usually a problem of young rich white girls," read Cooke from her daughter's statement.

The bill passed at the regular meeting.

**BRANCH CHIPPING FOR ALL...DAMN THE DEFICIT!** Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton asked the bill for branch chipping which would include just subdivisions south of Clayton Road due to budget shortfalls (like a \$6-million deficit) be continued to the next meeting because Dalton thought due to some savings there would be money for branch chipping covering the entire city.



Okay so we started the year with no money budgeted for branch chipping and a budget with a \$6-million deficit. Let's say we have saved \$150,000 on road projects. Instead of returning that money to a dwindling reserve fund...it is now okay to spend it on a non-budgeted item because it will be politically popular with some of the residents. That is an interesting way to run a business.

**GOOD COMPANY WAS LOW BID:** Gamma Tree Service won the bid for branch chipping. I have to say that we have switch to Gamma at our home. There prices are very good and they respond to emergencies without increase rates. For a company that

advertises on all the Cardinal baseball radio broadcasts, they have very competitive prices.

### **POST-DISPATCH CONTINUES TO BE A FOUNTAIN OF MISINFORMATION:**

**Wrong City:** It used to be at a large daily paper mistakes were rare. How do I know? I used to work at the Kansas City Star. That paper may have been boring at times, but it rarely contained wrong information. If a reporter made a mistake it would likely be caught by one or two editors who reviewed the story. There were six different editors on the late night sports desk.

Those days are gone. I have to confess that I like newspapers. When we lived in Kansas City I got the Post and the Globe-Democrat mailed to us and subscribed to the KC Times and KC Star, which we later got for free when I worked for them part time. We were recycling newsprint on a regular basis. It was unusual to find mistakes. Not anymore!

On Sunday September 1, Ken Leiser in his transportation column on page 2 of the Post-Dispatch by had placed the Motorist Assist office and the MoDot Traffic management Center in Chesterfield. This is an ongoing battle of local reporters not knowing where things are and people at MoDot who keep giving their post office address as an actual location.

Here is the email I sent Leiser:

**From:** John Hoffmann [mailto:johnhoffmann@charter.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 03, 2013 6:58 PM  
**To:** 'kleiser@post-dispatch.com'  
**Subject:** Did MoDot move?

Ken,

I could not help but notice in Sunday's paper you put the MoDot Motorist Assist Office in Chesterfield. I was shocked. How could they have moved out of Town and Country where they have been for years?

I went out and checked. Gee the Motorist Assist Office where the trucks are kept the drivers report to work is still on Salt Mine Road in Town and Country.

The Traffic Management Center is still on Woods Mill and South Forty Drive in Town and Country. Even the regional headquarters office where Ed Hassinger is located is in Town and Country.

I'm sure it is in Town and Country because I was an alderman in Town and Country from 2008 to 2010. But hey politicians are known dim bulbs. But wait I worked at the Traffic Management Center for 5 years for a media contractor of MoDot and dealt with Ed Hassinger and Holly Snodgrass. So yes I'm sure all those places are in Town and Country.

I have been tired seeing new reporters incorrectly report places in wrong towns in the Post-Dispatch, but I thought the transportation guy might know the area geography a little better.

Now all these buildings are in the Chesterfield zip code, but they are not in Chesterfield. Claiming they are would be like reporting something that happened on Manchester Road in Rock Hill was in Webster Groves because it has a 63119 zip code.

All these MoDot facilities are in TOWN AND COUNTRY...in the future could you perhaps properly identify them?

Thanks!

John Hoffmann

**Allowing a Known Liar on the Op Ed Page:** Over the last seven months articles in the Post-Dispatch have shown how Ellisville Councilman Matt Pirrello along with the former city attorney Paul Martin and city manager Kevin Bookout were behind the ridiculous impeachment of Mayor Adam Paul, apparently because Paul did not share views held by Pirrello on development projects. The circuit court immediately overturned the impeachment..

Pirrello was labeled a clown in a couple of columns by Bill McClellan. Several editorials lambasted Pirrello. Kevin Horrigan of the three person editorial staff wrote, "Mr. Paul, 32, who was elected mayor in 2012 with the help of anti-Wal-Mart voters, was threatening to [derail](#) the train. This did not sit well with Councilman (and former mayor) Matt Pirrello and city attorney Paul Martin, who began concocting reasons to railroad him instead."

Here is part of a Post-Dispatch editorial from April 1:

"The council ignored its constituents' pleas, so last April voters took matters into their own hands, electing a slate of anti-Wal-Mart candidates, including Mr. Paul, a 32-year-old political neophyte.

Shortly thereafter, Mr. Martin and city councilman Matt Pirrello [began scheming](#) to get rid of the new thorn in their side, Mr. Paul."



Later in the editorial the Post-Dispatch wrote: “**Here’s what** Ellisville City Council members Linda Reel, Michelle Murray, Dawn Anglin, Troy Pieper, Roze Acup and Mr. Pirrello must know before they continue this charade: There is no way this doesn’t end badly for all of you.

Then Pirrello on the McGraw Millhaven radio show said he would resign if Adam Paul was permanently reinstated as mayor. Pirrello then refused to resign when the courts permanently reinstated Paul, saying it was because of a technicality. The reason the courts gave was that rulings in the impeachment proceeding violated Paul’s constitutional rights. Apparently Pirrello thought the U.S. Constitution is a mere technicality. When this was pointed out to him Pirrello and he was asked again why he hasn’t resigned he said “Politicians have the right to change their minds.”

So how does the Post-Dispatch reward a person they have called a “schemer” who railroads innocent elected officials and who then goes back on his word?



Liar, schemer and railroader Matt Pirrello

On September 4, 2013 the Post-Dispatch gave Pirrello a lot of free space. On the top of page 3 of the Editorial section liar, schemer and railroader Pirrello had an op-ed column about the Manchester Road Improvement initiative. Ironically the mayors of Wildwood and Ballwin are trying to kick Pirrello off the Manchester Road initiate committee, but the Post-Dispatch is letting him represent the group that is trying to get rid of him. Why would you give someone who you have repeatedly identified as an untrustworthy rat a free platform?

The more time I watch Pirrello at meetings and here him in the media the more I’m convinced he is a flat out sociopath. But the Post-Dispatch editorial page thinks he makes a good public spokesman.

**REFUSUAL TO CORRECT WRONG INFORMATION:** On July 16 the Post-Dispatch Reported that “Construction had begun on the new Raintree School in Town and Country. It hadn’t. As of September 2 when I visited the site after returning from vacation, it still had not begun. I pointed this out early on to a Post-dispatch editor. They didn’t seem to care.



Here is the Raintree school site as of September 2 with not a blade of grass or a thistle disturbed let alone any dirt moved. The Post-Dispatch on July 16 reported that “construction was under way” at this location.

**Good News:** Construction actually began on September 4. The Post-Dispatch was only 50 days wrong. Of course Alderman Tim Welby had announced in April that the school would be open in August. At least now I can stop running updates

**ALLEGRO AND WIRTH PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PULLED FROM BOARD OF ALDERMEN PUBLIC HEARINGS:** The controversial Allegro Senior assisted care complex development has been withdrawn by the developer from the Board of Aldermen’s agenda for September 23 meeting.

The Allegro project was unanimously turned down at a Planning and Zoning meeting on July 24. The meeting saw an overflow crowd of 150 people descend on City Hall in opposition to the project next to Mason Village shopping center. Despite the 7-0 vote against the development the plans can still go before the Board of Aldermen where a super majority vote would be required for project to proceed.



**THE FINE SERVICE OF AT&T: Tuesday September 3** I confirmed an email to appear on a local radio show on Wednesday. When I do radio talk shows I prefer to use a landline as they don't break up. Later in the day someone trying to reach me by telephone emailed me writing that all he got when he dialed my home number was a busy signal.

I checked and my phones were dead. I spent 15 minutes on the computer trying to find a number to call for service. Finally I found one and made an automated report without talking to a live person. The recorded voice told me that my service would be restored by Thursday night at 8pm. My God that is 3 days!



Customer Service is apparently no longer a priority

with AT&T.

At 6pm I called again and reached a human. I was told the call was assigned to a service technician who tried to call a cell number I left and it wasn't answered so he went home for the day. This was reportedly at 4:30. I was home watching Jeopardy at 4:30.

A number of my neighbors had tried switching to U-Verse cable service and a lot of them switched back to Charter due to reception and service problems. Everyday AT&T technicians are at a junction box about two blocks from my house. I have been told that they are normally trying to fix U-Verse problems. On Tuesday when the phone stopped working there were four technicians at the junction box.

I now wonder if AT&T perhaps just wants to get out of the landline business all together.

**On Wednesday** morning at about 9 o'clock I received an automated call on my cell-phone from AT&T informing me that I had a service appointment on Thursday from 8am to 8pm. I was also given an "888" number to call if I had questions.

I called and reached the “Expedited Service Center” and spoke with “Miss Wallace.” I asked if AT&T wanted me to cancel my line on Thursday and wait at home from 8-to-8 to get my phone service back. She said that was simply the way the message is worded and they know the problem is outside of my house.

I jumped to the opportunity to ask if that was a case, why on Tuesday the service tech did not fix my phone and instead went home when no one answered his cell phone call if the problem was not at my home. Miss Wallace said she needed to check the notes in her computer.

She then said according to the notes I had asked the service tech to call. Okay, so he didn't reach anyone...if it is an outside line problem which they now admit it is, why didn't he fix it?

I responded by saying, “I did not say I wanted anyone to call. I just wanted my phone service fixed. You guys wanted a cell number,” I said. I asked Miss Wallace to please pretend this is 20 years ago, that my wife and I don't own a cell-phone. I have gone to a neighbors' house and called the phone company about not having phone service.

The Federal Government has a boondoggle program where it is paying to hand out free cell-phones in the inner city so anyone will have phone service. I live out here in the “land of the rich” and AT&T doesn't want me to have phone service for three days!

On Wednesday afternoon I got another call from AT&T on my cell-phone again telling me to wait for the service tech on Thursday sometime during a 12-hour window and be sure to have my dogs secure.

On Thursday morning my cell-phone rang waking me up at 8:25. Was it the service tech telling me he was on the way? No it was a recorded ad from AT&T.

Around 1pm on Thursday Keith, a longtime service tech with AT&T called and said he was on his way. As soon as he arrived and checked the phone connection box he said the problem was with the junction box two blocks away where there are a number of service techs on a daily basis trying to fix U-Verse problems.

Two trips back to the junction and box and finally 74 hours later I had phone service.

**The Problem:** I have been told by installers and by neighbors who are retired from AT&T that there is a huge problem of AT&T trying to stuff the U-Verse cable TV system

down existing telephone lines instead of installing cable lines. This results in poor quality TV reception. Apparently to keep the company costs down AT&T is not willing to install the proper cables. Now their failure with U-Verse has knocked my regular phone service out for three days. This is an odd way to run a company based on customer service.

My wife is ready to sell our AT&T stock and buy Verizon Wireless which while having lower dividends than AT&T has been increasing in value while AT&T is stagnant.

**THE ST LOUIS COUNTY POLICE BOARD FIASCO:** First it was a call from the FBI suggesting that it might be a good idea if 78-year-old Floyd Warmann resign from the County Police Board. Then there was the crime lab HVAC subcontract going to the President of the Police Board's new company, which after denials of any conflict of interest from County Executive Charlie Dooley and his appointed County Counselor Pat Reddington, Police Board president Gregory Sansone resigned. His resignation was followed by the resignation of Congresswoman Ann Wagner's husband.



Former County Police Board president Gregory Sansone, whose company got a large chunk of HVAC work at the County Police Headquarters prior to Sansone's resignation.

**ILLEGAL MEETINGS:** If that wasn't bad enough, then came the news of the pre-police board meeting- meetings at local Clayton restaurants. Now normally such appointments as to the police board don't include a guarantee of free food. KSDK's investigative reporter Lisa Zigman did a piece on how the lunches only cost taxpayers about \$17 per person which was not much.

However everyone apparently missed the big picture. The Police Board was holding secret meetings that excluded the public at area restaurants! If an elected or appointed public body is going to have a quorum and meet and discuss government business it supposed to be an OPEN PUBLIC MEETING. In other words, the County Police Board is breaking the Missouri Sunshine Open Meetings and records law.

This of course does not surprise me. The police department on advice from Ms. Reddington's County Counselor's office was violating the Open Records law and forced

me to file a complaint with the State of Missouri to obtain County Police DWI arrest reports. Basically it appears as if the County Police Do Not feel they have to follow the law when it comes to meetings or records.

In the case of the Police Board lunches, the Police Board needed to post in advance that a meeting (lunch) was going to be held and what may be discussed. Then they had to make seating available for the public.

**WHAT WAS THIS GUY DOING ON THE POLICE BOARD IN THE FIRST PLACE?** I was not even aware that Floyd Warmann was on the police board until this story broke about the FBI call and Warmann's resignation.

Floyd's name has been connected with past police scandals.

Back in the 1970s the command staff of the Highway Patrol's Troop C was famous for fixing traffic tickets received by politically connected people. It was a tradition that the lieutenant, who was the deputy troop commander, would go out and get the tickets fixed or court cases dropped. He was basically the "bag man."

In the early 1970s John Kiriakos was a sergeant with the Highway Patrol. He became well known through newspaper accounts of investigations he conducted into criminal rings. He was quickly promoted to lieutenant.

In 1976 as a cop in Rock Hill I was dispatched to come to the station and see the chief of police. When I arrived there was then Lt. Kiriakos in the chief's office. I was told that I had written a speeding ticket to a "friend of the highway patrol" and the chief asked that I take the ticket and write across it that it was improperly issued so it would be dismissed.

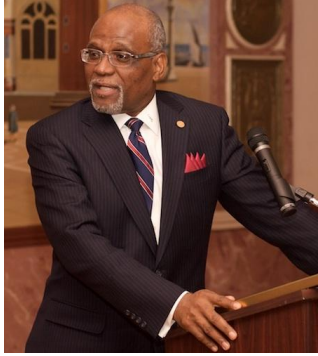
Kiriakos told me how the driver had done several favors for the highway patrol. I knew he was a well-off business man and not some undercover informant. I refused to fix the ticket much to the dismay of Kiriakos and the police chief. I said I didn't know how that would be fair to the other people cited who were not "friends of the highway patrol." Besides at the time some troopers had the reputation for not letting cops off they stopped for speeding. I was thinking, "Why should I do these guys any favors?" Three or four years later the ticket fixing scandal broke in the media when troopers complained of their commanders trying to fix tickets issued in a DWI case and another in a case involving Warmann. The scandal resulted in Kiriakos, who had now been promoted to captain and his lieutenant being forced to resign and the Troopers across

the state forming a labor association to provide legal services to protect them from such activities by the patrol's command staff.

<http://news.google.com/newspapers?nid=191&dat=19800805&id=yolwAAAAIBAJ&sjid=t0QDAAAIBAJ&pg=6675,2525347>



Floyd Warman



Co. Executive Charlie Dooley

That ticket fixing scandal alone is enough reason why you would not want Warmann on a police board. However, if you were doing a background check to hire Warmann as a rookie police officer he could never pass it. Warmann has seven pages in one computer database of lawsuits, mostly against him. Many are from banks suing him. Do you think it is a good idea to have someone with a history of severe financial problems on a police board? Apparently that is no problem for County Executive Charlie Dooley.

With both current members resigning and new nominees withdrawing their names, a logical candidate for the Police Board of course would be me, since I have 30 years experience in law enforcement including command experience, I have been an elected official, and a regular critic of government. And of course such a suggestion proves that this newsletter also includes humor whenever possible.

**WAS ANYONE ELSE THINKING WHAT I WAS THINKING WHEN I SAW THE COVER OF TOWN AND STYLE MAGAZINE?** There it was...a cover story of the upcoming (in October) Dan McLaughlin charity golf tournament at Norwood Hills. I immediately wondered if there was going to be alcohol served.



The Cardinal TV broadcaster was arrested twice in 2010 and again in 2011 in Chesterfield while driving drunk on the way home to his Town and Country residence from a golf outing. The first time McLaughlin had pee'd in his pants, offered the arresting officer a bribe and refused to take the breath test. In the second incident McLaughlin had two accidents in his SUV about 50 feet apart, got the GMC SUV stuck on a high curb, was so drunk he could not figure out how to open the vehicle's door and later at the police station could not dial the phone.

The good news this year is the route home from the golf tournament does not include going through Chesterfield.

**THE ELLISVILLE SAGA MAYBE COMING TO AN END:** Last Wednesday's Ellisville City Council meeting may have mark the beginning of the end of dysfunctional politics in the West County suburb. Here are a few of the things that happened.

**THE T-FED PLEA DEAL AND THIS NEWSLETTER GETS LOCAL PROSECUTOR FIRED:** The Ellisville City Council meeting on Wednesday September 4 started with Mayor Adam Paul using a power point presentation of the latest arrest of Theodore Federer by the Ellisville Police and how the case was handled by the city prosecutor, Paul Martin.

21-year-old "T-Fed" was arrested by the Ellisville cops for Speeding, DWI, Driving on a Revoke License, Failure to Show Proof of Insurance, Open Container of Alcohol and Possession of Marijuana.





City Prosecutor Paul Martin accepted a plea deal resulted in T-Fed pleading guilty to DWI, but being placed on a “no-record” SIS probation, with the marijuana and Open Container charges dismissed and the speeding and revoked license charges reduced to “Illegal Parking.” This was despite the fact that he was already on probation for DWI in a drunk-driving injury accident in Camden County. The Plea deals also came in less than a year after T-Fed had a Stealing (Till Tap) charge, a Give False Info to Police charge and another Stealing charge that also include an assault plus a destruction of property all either dismissed or reduced to “littering” in Chesterfield.



Mayor Paul pointed out that the Ellisville charges could have resulted in 26-points on T-Fed’s license and instead he left the court with NO points against his driver’s license.

Paul Martin

Mayor Paul credited our newsletter with uncovering all this information. The city council then voted unanimously to fire Martin as soon as they could hire a replacement city prosecutor.

While Mayor Paul credited this newsletter with uncovering the facts resulting in the firing, in fact Martin was going to get fired. He had already been fired as City Attorney for being in the conspiracy with the city manager and Councilman Matt Pirrello in putting up bogus information to impeach Mayor Paul, with the impeachment being overturned by the Circuit Court.

When they fired Martin as city attorney they basically forget to hand him a pink slip as prosecutor. The mishandling of the T-Fed case gave the council grounds to fire him as prosecutor.

Councilman Gary Voss correctly commented before voting to fire Martin that the council needs to talk to city judge Donald Anderson and express their displeasure for allowing such deals on DWI cases.

After the vote city manager Kevin Bookout made a statement that the police and court use a computer data base called REGIS and not a statewide database called MULES

and did not know about Federer being on probation. It might have been one of the last comments Bookout will make at a city council meeting.

Now of course I can enter Federer's name in the "case.net" data system from my house and find this information but this is too difficult for Ellisville officials to do. Also before giving anyone probation on a drunk driving charge, shouldn't a prosecutor and judge ask the defendant if he had ever been arrested before, place on probation in the past or are currently on probation? Apparently that is also too difficult for the court officials in Ellisville.

**SECOND FIRING OF THE NIGHT:** Well actually it was the start of the second firing. At the end of the regular agenda of the Ellisville City Council meeting, newly elected councilman Mick Cahill made a surprise motion. He moved that the city begin the procedure to fire city manager Kevin Bookout. Bookout had assisted Councilman Matt Pirrello and former city attorney Paul Martin in bringing the impeachment charges against Mayor Adam Paul. The impeachment and three-day hearing cost the city close to \$100,000 and it was promptly overturned by the Circuit Court.

The only suspense in the vote was when Councilwoman Linda Reel paused before joining Cahill, Voss and Mayor Paul with an "aye" vote to carry the motion 4-to-3.



Mick Cahill reads a motion to begin procedures to fire Ellisville City Manager Kevin Bookout. Bookout has his eyes closed as City Clerk Leigh Dohack records the 4-3 vote to oust him.



Bookout not looking too thrilled immediately after the vote.

Prior to the vote after the citizen comment section of the meeting, Councilman Gary Voss made his unhappiness with Bookout known after learning from citizen Elizabeth Schmidt that some landlords had begun to improperly force residents from their apartments in sections of the Clarkchester Apartments the prior weekend and boarded up units. While some apartment owners do not want to sell to Sansone for the Wal-Mart project others are trying to sell as soon as possible even if they have to break leases.

“I’m not being informed! We are just now hearing about people being unlawfully evicted and I don’t know about it. It’s ridiculous,” said Voss directing his remarks toward Bookout.

**THE END OF THE WAL-MART CONTROVERSY:** At the time it appeared as if the firing of Bookout would be the big news. However a quick vote at the Ellisville City Council meeting 40 minutes prior to the vote to fire the city manager ultimately was the biggest of the night. The council voted to instruct the new city attorney George Restovich to investigate if the city council could terminate the agreement with Sansone Companies for the development of the property west of Kieffer Creek on Manchester Road for the new Wal-Mart store.

Sansone had not started construction or even acquired all the land within the require time per the original development agreement.

Late on Friday Wal-Mart announced they no longer would be considering building a new store in Ellisville.

The political issue has never been Wal-Mart. It has been the TIF tax break the former city council had granted to Sansone, after it was voted down by the County TIF Commission.

The whole Ellisville City Council began to reek of corruption or general malfeasance when they impeached Mayor Paul to eliminate his vote when a new Council with two more anti-TIF votes was to be sworn in. The Circuit Court overturned the impeachment declaring it violated the mayor's constitutional rights. With mayor and Councilperson Linda Reel plus having two more anti-TIF votes with Gary Voss and Mick Cahill, Wal-Mart could clearly see nothing but problems in the future.

**A DEMAND FOR A NEW ELLISVILLE COMMISSION:** Bob Dalton, a Ballwin resident, spoke during the public comments part of the meeting. Dalton demanded that a commission or a committee be formed to bring a Hooters restaurant to West County. He said he was tired of having to drive all the way to South County or Florissant to eat at a Hooters. (Dalton apparently forgot about the Hooters in Maryland Heights during his rant.)



Bob Dalton after his demand of a West County Hooters.

**NEW MEMBER OF PLANNING AND ZONING:** I'm always amused when I see the residents at Town and Country or Chesterfield meetings in the audience wearing normal clothes, while some of the elected officials show up in their \$2,000 suits.

That is not the case in Ellisville. While Sociopath/Councilman Matt Pirrello always has the most expensive suit on and Mayor Adam Paul wears a suit, I have never seen Mick Cahill or Gary Voss with a tie on. In Town and Country Alderman Fred Meyland-Smith always overdresses, but is usually outdone by Mayor/Cigarette Lobbyist Jon Dalton with French cuffs and collar, plus shiny cufflinks. Then there is Tim Welby trying to look like

Dalton, but missing the mark by a wide margin. In Chesterfield it is as if there is strict dress code.

So I had to enjoy the other night in Ellisville when two new members of the Planning and Zoning Commission were sworn in and one showed up in a pair of shorts, a shirt that was completely open and a t-shirt.



The person in the middle is the newest member of the Ellisville Planning and Zone Board. Compare him to T&C Mayor Jon Dalton...I think the guy in Ellisville is missing the handkerchief and collar stay.

**MUSIC:** It was sad last Saturday night. A Grammy nominated nationally known jazz singer was in town and played to an almost empty house. Roseanna Vitro was part of a memorial to jazz broadcaster Ross Gentile at South Illinois University-Edwardsville on Sunday. A friend arranged for her to do two sets at Robbie's House of Jazz (the old Cookie's Jazz club) in Webster Groves.

The first set was to begin at 8pm. I was there at 7:45 and was the only person there besides musicians and staff until a little after 8 o'clock. Rosanna did not start until about 8:20 where there were 21 people scattered around the club.

When she finished her second set there were only 11 people left. Just a few years ago a performer like Vitro would have had over 100 people per set at the former Finale nightclub in Clayton.



Roseanna Vitro singing at a nearly deserted Robbie's Jazz club.



**ESTATE SALE FIND:** I photograph an interesting piece of music history I saw in the dusty basement of a house in the Claymont subdivision off of Clayton Road.



This photo is from Harry S. Truman's 1949 Inaugural Ball at the National Armory. On the back of the photo at first I thought it said "Tommy Dorsey Orchestra" But I don't remember Tommy Dorsey have a large string section. The leader clearly is not Dorsey. I looked at the handwritten note on the back of the photo and I thought it might be "Tommy Downey Orchestra." Still it was an interesting piece of history.

These article and commentaries originally appeared in the Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter #42  
**PATCH FIRES CHESTERFIELD EDITOR... IS SET TO CLOSE ST. LOUIS SITES ON OCTOBER 15** Patch.com laid-off the third editor of the Chesterfield Patch site two weeks ago. The entire St. Louis region of patch.com sites is scheduled to close on October 15.

Frank Johnson, one of the newest hires at the struggling Patch.com for St. Louis was in charge at first of the Chesterfield site and then given several more sites as editors quit or were fired.



Former Chesterfield Patch editor Frank Johnson.

Johnson got his walking papers with four others. Frank was likeable, but I had a problem with him when he wrote a filler article on the most read stories in 2012. I wrote several of the most read pieces in 2012 including the most read story, but Frank did not list those due to my ongoing feud with the Patch managing editor. When I asked him about it directly, he said he didn't list my columns in his "most read" feature because he had not meet me. Another publication lying to the readers!

Everyone else in the St. Louis Region of patch.com were given their federally mandated 60-day termination notice on August 15. Patch had reduced payroll so much the only writers and reporters were the editors. Then they started to get lobbed off one by one. The end is closer than just "near" as it will be just 42 days before Patch.com will join the

Suburban Journals, the Globe-Democrat and the St. Louis Sun in the graveyard of providers of local news.

(Originally appeared in the September 3 2013 Unapproved Chesterfield Newsletter)

**VACATION PHOTOS:** Here are some photos from our European vacation.



An Icelandair flight attendant handing out the first class dinner menus before takeoff in Boston. Our advice is to order the fish

My wife and I refused to fly to Europe squeezed into the coach section of a US carrier. However, the only way we could afford to fly to Europe first class was with Icelandair. It meant flying Southwest to Boston (or NY or DC) then catching Icelandair to Reykjavik and then changing planes to Heathrow in London. It was worth it.



The Pig in the Wall Hotel. The wall is about 700 years old. The hotel is a little newer.

Our hotel in Southampton England was the Pig in the wall Hotel. We were on the third floor. Our room was small but the bathroom and shower were huge. It was a three floor



walk up. The staff was all British unlike the nearby super luxury hotels where the staffs seemed to be from Eastern Europe or Latin American.



In Northern Germany I could have gone with a photo of a town square built in 1350, but I preferred the tree line highways not far from the ocean. In Copenhagen I was amazed to see two huge McDonald's flags flying over downtown. It was as if Denmark had fallen to the boys from Des Plaines, Illinois and their battle flag of the golden arches. In St. Petersburg, Russia there seemed to be a McDonalds every three blocks with a line going outside the door.



In St. Petersburg, Russia everyone tells you how you have to go to the Hermitage. Forget it. The Hermitage is too crowded to even see the art work. Go to the Russian Museum that features art work only by Russians. It is spectacular. One room has fantastic paintings on the ceilings (left) while others have huge paintings covering entire walls with no crowds.



My wife preferred the impressionist paintings while I liked the action paintings.



The winters are long and cold in St. Petersburg. The titles of these two paintings of a snow covered town and village are "First Day of Spring" and simply "Spring."



Cruise ship entertainment at times can be questionable...however these two are the exceptions on the Queen Elizabeth. At the piano is Graham Wellard from London who played in the bar on the top deck every night. His knowledge of the American Songbook was amazing as was his singing. Next to him is "Laura" who is part of the entertainment staff. I have to admit due to her accent I was only understanding about 70% of what she was saying, but her timing and delivery of observation humor while she conducted

a "Pub Quiz" was amazing. She is not what you would expect on a stuffy Cunard Liner, but she was a pleasant surprise.

It was sad to find out that three hours after we got off the Queen Elizabeth David Frost got on to give several lectures on the way to Venice. Eight hours later Frost died of a heart attack. Many remember Frost from the Nixon interviews. For me it was from 1965 when he hosted That Was the Week that Was. As a 12-year-old I watched that political satire show every week. Maybe it was more for the opening that feature singer Nancy Ames singing a political song parody

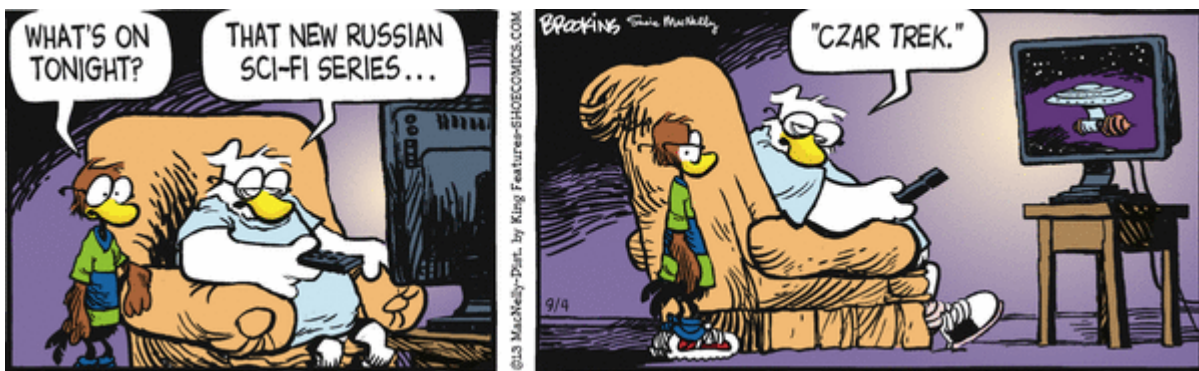


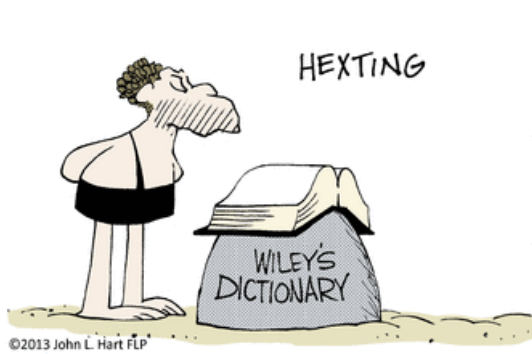
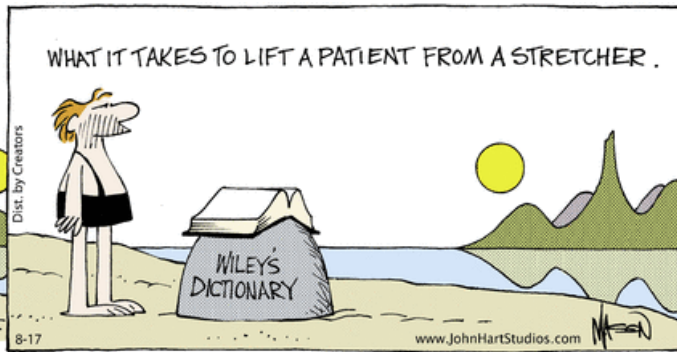
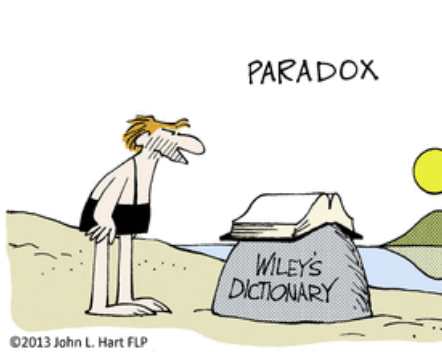
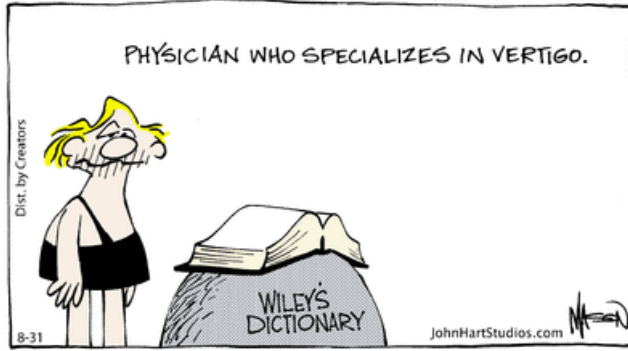
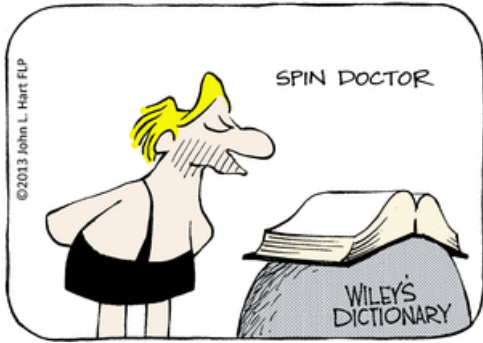
David Frost in recent years.

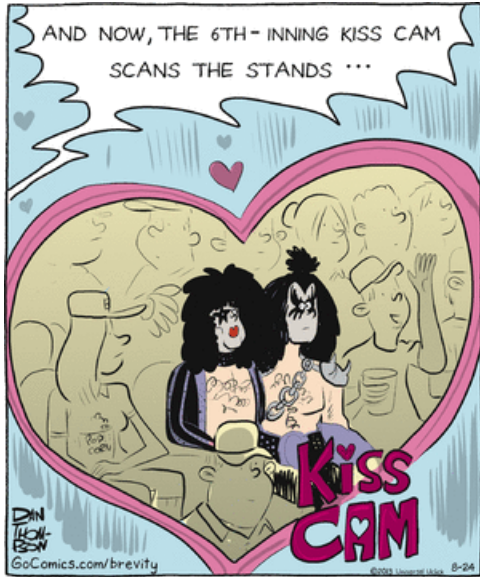


Nancy Ames from TW3 in 1965

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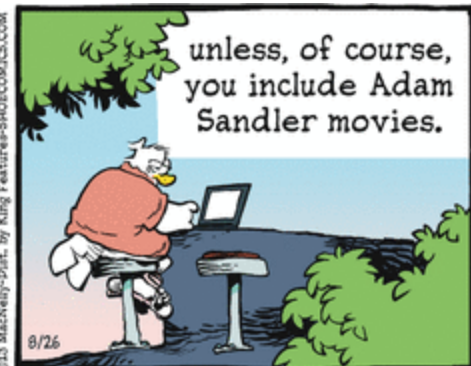
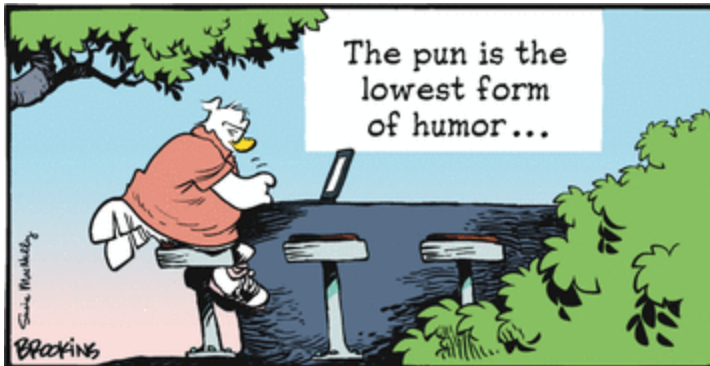




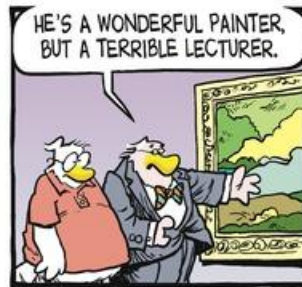
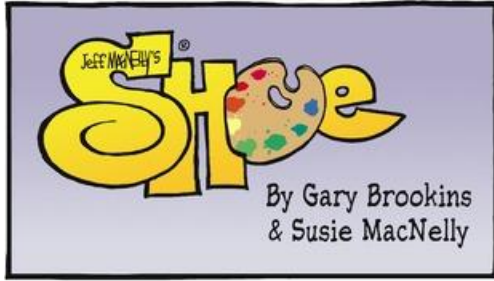


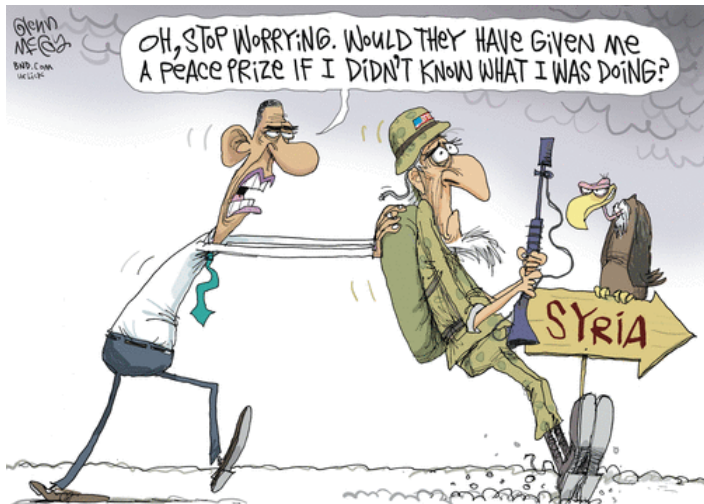
**CLOSE TO HOME**

**BY JOHN McPHERSON**

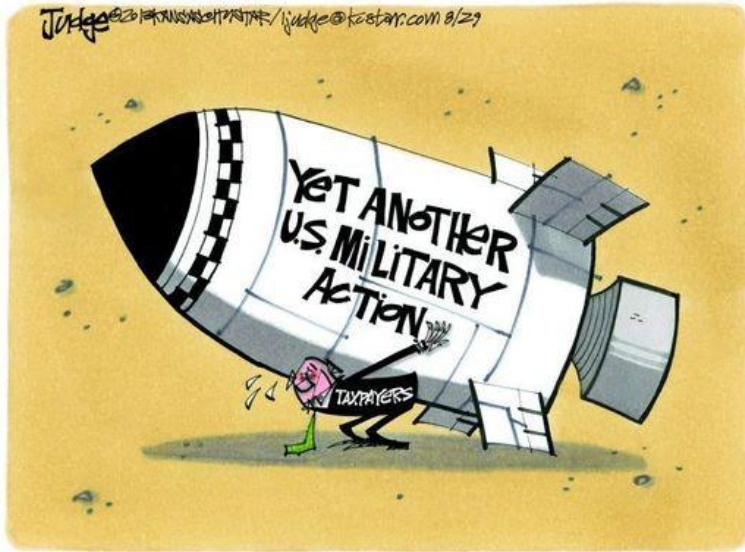




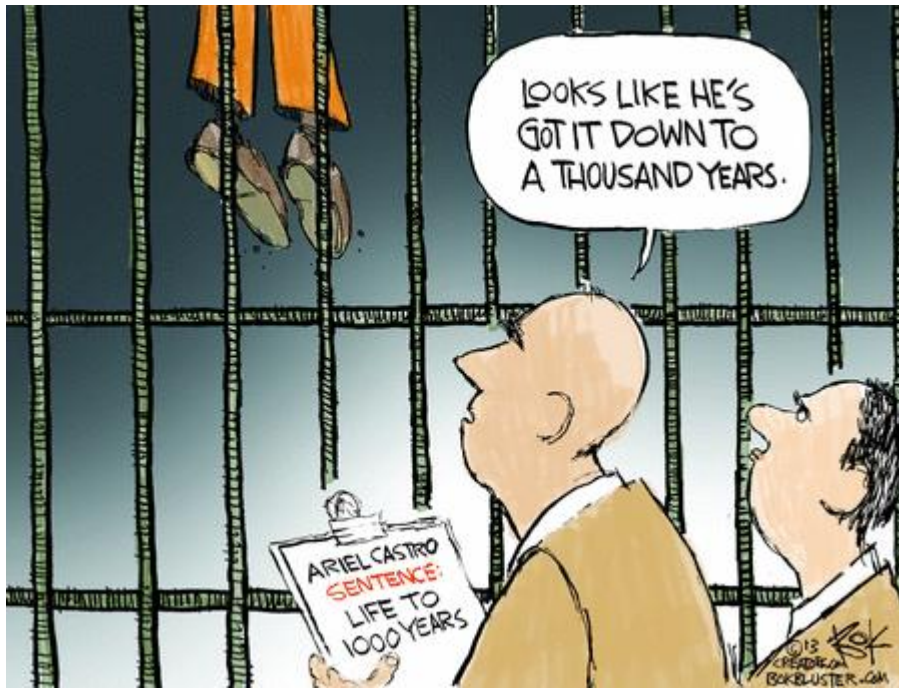




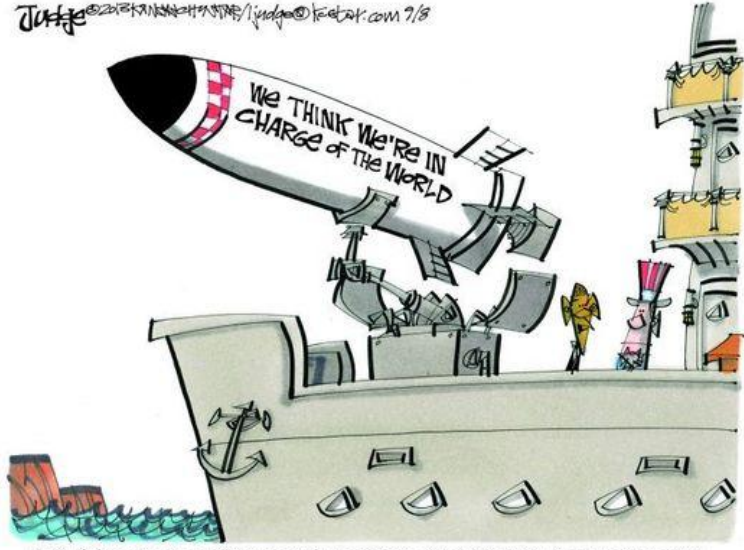




HOW YOU PUNISH SYRIA



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"AN ATTACK ON SYRIA WOULD SEND EVERYONE A MESSAGE."