

OPINIONS

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Glad when I was able to get rid of that weapon

Another minister and I once rode to Bloomington twice a week to attend philosophy classes while working on graduate credits for doctorate. Our professor had been lecturing on David Hume's idea that one could only know the relationship of ideas and could not understand hard matter. As we left Bloomington to return to our parish homes, my friend said he knew how to convince Hume of hard fact. For any Hume aficionada, he said, "I would put him to chopping wood, and he would know hard matter."

I know what my friend meant when I hear of the kind of thinking that is common among us today: that owning guns makes us safe. Well, I am one who thinks that since millions of people have guns and permits to carry concealed weapons that we should feel safe. Of that I am a big disbeliever. Let me say that I do not feel safe with that reality. I would like the whole world to know that I do not feel safe — especially when so many concealed arm carriers are also so angry.

So recently I was in a jaunty state of musing — I thought if I would put Harry's theory to work, I could do it by saying that the government could argue that we are so threatened by frog-like aliens, we should all carry an Army M-1 rifle, as I did for three years during World War II. I was so glad to get rid of that instrument of destruction. Everyone is safe from me. The problem with guns is huge. In the Wild, Wild West

YOUR TURN

Submit letters to the editor of 250 words or fewer to editor@jconline.com or to 823 Park East Blvd., Lafayette, IN 47905. Please include your name, town and phone number, for confirmation purposes.

they called the Colt .44 "The Peacemaker." They were when they were carried by sheriffs and policemen.

James Morin
Lafayette

Can you spare a half-hour for senior citizens?

A growing number of us are senior citizens. I don't know what the percentage is, since we are dying every day.

Unfortunately, many of us are living in assisted living or nursing homes. What is sad is the fact that once we go into these facilities, we become forgotten by the outside world. We can't get out like we used to, since we can no longer drive a car.

Recently, I heard that an assisted living facility here in this community sent out 50 letters to the churches in the area for someone to come one Sunday a year to provide a church service at the facility. Sad to say that no one responded. Aren't our senior citizens worth a half-hour of your time?

Remember that you will be one sooner than you think.

Deedra Kreager
Lafayette

YOUR TURN

Lesson in West Side Way was no surprise to us

I read Dave Bangert's June 2 column on the recent tragedy that took the life of West Lafayette High School student Christian Burns and injured three others. It underscored how short life really is and that often times we overlook how many of us are blessed to enjoy it longer than others.

I found the response by the West Lafayette students, faculty and community to be what I have learned and experienced about them, which is, they are a close-knit family. That itself is a rarity these days, as society has moved towards the seeking of notoriety as being a paramount focus, often at the expense of others or propriety.

Their response is not surprising at all. You see my son is a rising junior at West Side and one of Christian's teammates on the track team. In fact, the last time that I saw them both together was in April at the West Side Relays, where Christian passed the baton to William in the 4x200 relay. My sister pointed out to me how symbolic that picture was and is now in the light of this tragic event. I hope that the students at West Side take away the symbolism of the passing of the baton of the West Side Way, going the extra mile and the importance of a corporate family.

I know this sentiment, as it



COURTESY BILL REDDOCH

Christian Burns hands off to William Reddoch during a leg of the 4x200 at the West Side Relays on April 23 at Gordon Straley Field in West Lafayette.

was expressed to my son William back in January when it was his car during a driving lesson that was struck by a driver, who was texting and driving, killing his instructor. Bangert wrote an article on it, as well. The support of his schoolmates and staff and faculty was incredible.

Events like these are a lot for the families of those directly affected, not to mention young people to deal with. But to hear

the kind of leadership that Superintendent Rocky Killion espouses in talking about the importance of the school beyond academics and into the community as a family, tells me that these young people are being guided in the right direction.

Hope and healing will come in time. The West Side Way will continue.

Bill Reddoch
Germantown, Tennessee

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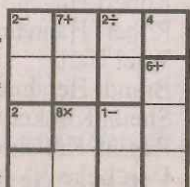
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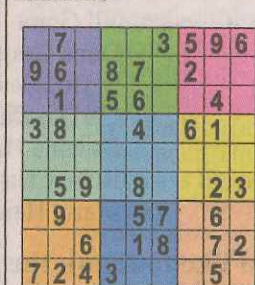
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