

Be thankful you are allowed to protest



Richard Andarkin
Editor
Mount Vernon
Signal

We have a letter to the editor this week from a Rockcastle resident.

He makes a good point in the fact that it is hard to look myself in the mirror at times because of some of the wrong decisions I have made, but Mr. Norton should also realize that he gets the right to criticize the war, me and the President because of where he lives.

The great United States of America! Freedom to choose is what we stand for.

And let me say I am certainly not placing myself in the same category as the President of the United States of America, the most powerful man in the world.

I may be wrong and I am a lot, but once this war started we should support our country. We should especially feel for the families who have already lost loved ones.

I sincerely don't think that our President would allow our young men and women to die for no reason.

In my opinion you have to wonder about the intelligence of people. 200,000 of them, who protested in New York over the weekend. They obviously take their freedoms for granted.

You say them protesting, but you certainly haven't seen one of them on CNN getting killed for their right to protest.

The crazies in this world would have you believe that the United States is a bully, when I believe that we are the type of people who enjoy freedom and who are willing to pay for the price of freedom.

We have also taken on the challenge of keeping world peace and we have spoiled a lot of countries. I personally think it is time to quit spoiling some of them. Especially France.

For what my opinion is worth, I can only imagine how horrible it would be to know that some of our troops have been killed, but you don't know if it were one of my family members, especially my son or daughter.

We may not always do things right, but we do things we feel we should do in the humanitarian way.

You dissenters should think about the fact that the President's father knows what it is to risk his life for his country and you know we all take advice from our parents - especially intelligent ones.



Points East

By:
Ike Adams

I was at the mall in Richmond last weekend wandering around because I knew I had gone in for a purpose but I went in the JC Penny Store entrance first and got to looking at pants and stuff they had on the clearance rack and as it turned out they had some 38 X 34 slacks for \$10.99 a pair and they had been \$89.99. Summer weight wool with plain fronts. Scarce as hens teeth, because even fat guys these days want double pants.

So I bought two pair because when I find something tasteful like that with a bit of quality about it on the clearance rack that will actually fit me, it's sort of like winning the lottery without having to buy a ticket.

Anyway, by the time I'd gone back into the fitting room and tried on the britches and found out they fit and settled up with the cashier and recovered from all the excitement of my glorious find, I found myself out in the mall without a clue about why I had come into it in the first place.

So I was out there in the no-man's land hall with my Penny's shopping bag tucked under my arm and thinking about how smart I was going to look in my new pants, wandering around and hoping that I would see a storefront entrance that would remind me about what I was really there for in the first place. I'm not the sort of fellow who just goes wandering into a shopping mall unless I have a purpose. But I'm getting prone to forgetfulness.

I was sort of agitated, due to sporting into the window of a seersucker goods place, eye-balling way-overpriced sneakers when all of a sudden somebody sneaked up behind me and put their hands over my eyes and said, "guess who". The voice was vaguely familiar and the hands so soft across my brow that I knew it was not a member of the UK Men's Basketball team.

So I said, "Bernadette Locke" and crossed my fingers because I really would love to kiss that woman good bye before she leaves the Lady Wildcates and this new coach goes down the NCAA sanctions tube along with

new UK Athletic Director, Mitch Barnhart who, so far, makes Jai Mummie look like a saint.

The voice behind the fingers over my eyes said, "None. Guess Again."

And I said, "You're too tall to be Meg Ryan and I don't think you're

Ashley Judd or Julia Roberts but if you keep hugging me like this I don't really care cause I have a big imagination.

She turned out to be one of my former high school students, now in her early 30's, from back in the 80's and would rather not have her name mentioned in the paper. Actually, I think she would have loved the recognition but she was accompanied by her 13-year-old daughter.

Daughter was a 13-year-old middle-schooler nearly 6 feet tall wearing jeans that only the imagination held on her hips and a hang-over took up on a chest that middle school girls didn't develop when I was growing up. She had a multi-colored octopus tattooed on her tummy so that the tentacles went up around her belly

button on the upper side and God knows where down. Both ears had more than half a dozen holes in them with studs and bangles dangling about. Her nostrils and one eye-lid were pierced and studded. She stuck out her tongue. More studs and rings and she banged them around her teeth. The kid is not even yet in high school.

But, her Mama told me, "She has never been drunk or taken drugs or been in trouble with the law and we have that to be proud of."

"You better get your boots on girl. Next year she'll be fourteen and when she's sixteen, I hope you're ready to be called Grammy!"

And the Lord knows I hope I'm wrong.

Our Readers Write

Dear Editor,

How do you look yourself in the mirror in the morning? I would assume you are an educated man and that now you have seen with your own eyes just how dangerous Iraq is, you must be scared for your family.

That old Toyota pickup with the machine gun mounted in back could take Sand Springs, or even Mareburg in one night! Bush hasn't ruled out making this truck. But, as we know, he exhausts all efforts of diplomacy.

I still believe we could have avoided war by putting Bush in charge of the Iraqi economy. This would have brought Saddam to his knees in two short months.

Jim Norton
Lake Linville

Dear Editor,

I would like to thank all the staff and students at Mt. Vernon Elementary School who gave food to the House of Agnes Mission for their food drive.

A special thanks to the principal for allowing us to place our barrel there. This has really touched our hearts at the Mission. This was the first time we ever had an actual food drive and to know that even the children helped blessed our hearts.

May God bless all who participated in any way. Again, thank you. Sincerely, Kathy Bretz.

Dear Editor,

The Key Club from Rockcastle County High School was very instrumental in the organization and advertising for the Pie Auction held at the Quail Firehouse on Saturday, March 22, 2003. This is an exceptional group of young adults. We are very proud of you for the wonderful job you did.

The Broadhead Rural Fire Department would like to take this opportunity to thank the following people who donated their time and extra effort to make the Pie Auction a huge success: Members of the RCHS Key Club, Danny & Sue Ford, Brittany Darnell, Stormy Bullock, Kathy Staton, Ms. Shirley Martin, Kiwanis Club, Terry & Cindy Burton, Young's Pharmacy, Verl & Geraldine Robbins, Jack & Betty Whitaker, Mary Jane Randolph, IGA of Broadhead, Broadhead Alumni, Martha Hann, Paul & Janet Blevins, Virginia Hansel, Christine Taylor, Artie May Thompson, Clarice McKinney, Clarice Kirby, Ruby Thompson, Darnie & Stelene Adams, Paula Allen, Norma & Russell Houk, Carolyn & Bill McKinney, Clara Lunford, Lois Kirby, Lucille Poon, Willene Burton, Sandy & Donald Bullock, Mabel Cash, Wanda Burton, Toolite Bullock, Regina Burton, Bobby & Jane Taylor, Ruby & Willis Thompson, Inness Asher, James Reppert, Ronnie & Kaye Payne, Shawn Brown, Donna Brown, Edna Ender, Jackie McKinney, Bob Lunford, Trina & Carl Busch.

All proceeds from the Pie Auction went to the Broadhead Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

Thank you for your continued support.

Members of the Broadhead Rural Volunteer Fire Department

Dear Editor,

As a student at RCHS, I am highly disappointed at the recent policy drafted by the Site Based Decision Making Council which limits students at the school to only four clubs. I don't feel the council took their students' opinions nor future's into consideration when implementing this policy.

The previous policy allowed for a "club day," once a week that allotted eight blocks throughout the day, spreading 24 clubs across the eight 45 minute blocks. The new policy leaves four 45 minutes. The council justified this by saying the new policy would add 45 minutes of instruction time per class.

As of right now, I am a member of five clubs at the high school. In all of these clubs, I've gained expe-

riences that will remain with me forever. These are experiences that I gained from personal acquaintances or hands-on projects that can never be relayed in the classroom.

Ms. Diana Singleton, Mrs. Connie Riddle, Mr. Paul Abney and Mr. Travis Brenda, I write this letter of protest for the betterment of my underclassmen classmates. I want them to be able to have these experiences. The students here realize what it is belt for them. In a survey of my Senior English class, 21 of the 21 students surveyed, opposed the new policy.

Another aspect of the policy that I found aggravating was the way it was "discretely" discussed and voted on. In knowing what the students' opinions on this subject would be, the administration opted not to notify the students. Only the teachers were notified. The meeting took place on Tuesday night. I wasn't aware of the implemented policy until I was notified by a fellow classmate that the meeting had been held and the policy passed.

And, the one student council member who realized what was happening and attempted to represent the student body at the meeting, voiced his opinion at the meeting without any consideration by the council.

To the SBDM, I think I speak for the majority of the student body when I say that while we can't have any input into the policy now that it is passed, you will still experience bitter resentment towards this policy and your actions in passing it.

For future reference, I encourage you to take the students at RCHS, toward whom the educational process is geared, and their opinions seriously.

I hope that when the underclassmen apply for college admission and scholarships, their desired college realizes the flaws in this school policy. This is considering the fact that colleges encourage extracurricular involvement and like well-rounded students.

This policy could also minimize the number of clubs you can participate in, in less than four. If certain clubs are placed within the same block, then you will have to choose. For example, a student wants to join two clubs that happen to be scheduled in the same block, thereby limiting the student to one club.

In conclusion, as a senior at RCHS embarking on a college career, I hope that the SBDM Council realizes the opportunities they have to enhance the lives of students in the future and resist implementing policies such as this, which directly affect the student, without some student input and refrain from lessening the few privileges they already have.

With great concern,
Aaron Andarkin

Dear Editor,

We would like to thank the following businesses, community leaders, parents and individuals for their support on Project Graduation 2003. We greatly appreciate each and everyone for helping to make this a huge success.

Adams Feed & Supply, Appalachian Medical Equipment, B&H Tool Works, B&L Grocery, B&M Liquors, Britton Chevrolet-Olds, Broadhead Christian Church, Broadhead Lion's Club, Mark's Hardware, Jeffery T. Burdette Law Offices, Carter's Market, KMD Carpentry, Jennifer Chadwell, DMD, Citizens Bank, Clifford Collins, Climax Christian Church, D&S Computers, Dairy Mart of Broadhead, David's Tire Center, Danny Dooley, Dowell & Martin Funeral Home, Dr. Kim Cornelius, Ford Brothers, Hayes Furniture, Hilltop Market Produce, Hogg Enterprise, Inc., Hometown Cafeteria, J&D Cabinets, J&L, Inc., Kentucky Utilities, K.W.M., Livingstone Homecoming, Livingston Market, Lumber King, McKinney's Tire, Mt. Vernon Car Wash, Mt. Vernon Drag, Mt. Vernon Automotive (NAPA), Mt. Vernon Plumbing, Mt. Vernon Scrap, J.C. Newland

Construction, Owens Funeral home, Preston Parlier, Perry's Body Shop, Roberts' Barber Shop, Rockcastle Health & Rehabilitation Center, IGA (Shoptree) of Broadhead, Sipple & Sipple Chiropractic, Sparks Flowers More, Sylvia's Hair-Salon, Taylor's Produce, Tobacco Barn, Tokico, Town & Country Cheung, Town & Country Motors, Young's Pharmacy, Kentucky Depot, A&D Market, S&M Lumber Company, Hall's Print Shop, Snyder Market, Tobacco Shed, Alan Sanctinson, Tolle Gallery, Sand Gap Holistics Church, Morning View Holiness Church, Wal-Mart (London), Brookhaven Christian Books, Joseph Howard, Handcrafted Furniture.

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If we accidentally left someone out, please feel free to call and let us correct the error.

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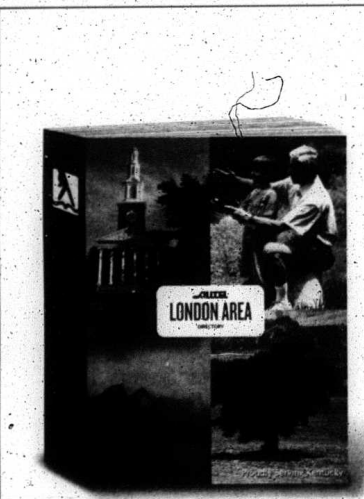
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