NewsBank
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The Herald-Times

The policy of this paper is to strive for accuracy. Like perfection, total accuracy may be unattainable; however, it will remain our primary goal and we will not feel satisfied until it is within our grasp. Should you see an error in our paper, please notify us by calling our Corrections Hotline at 349-1460, or e-mail corrections@heraldt.com.

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Editorials reflect the views of The Herald-Times editorial board. Other opinions on this page are solely those of the writer expressing them.

OUR OPINION

'AND ANOTHER THING...'

Roundup of short opinions from the H-T editorial board

The park formerly known as ....

Everyone calls it Third Street Park. And why not? That's its name. For now.

Its new name, The Waldron, Hill and Buskirk Park, will be legalized this weekend.

A deed restriction in the 1920s required it to be named after the families that donated the land for it. But apparently city officials back then fumbled the name in parks board minutes and Third Street Park emerged by default, to stand for more than 80 years.

It will be "renamed" Sunday in a 1:15 p.m. ceremony at the park. A debt of recognition for the generosity of several local families of benefactors will be paid up at long last.

But it's a good bet that everyone will still call it Third Street Park.

Banking on a continued tradition of service

Kudos to the new management at the combined Monroe Bank and Old National Bank for continuing a tradition of community service during this year's Day of Action (formerly called Day of Caring).

After Monroe Bank merged with Old National, the newly formed enterprise gave 90 employees the day off Tuesday to join the army of 200 or so volunteers.

Monroe Bank on its own had been one of the Day of Caring's biggest supporters for many years.

In bright blue T-shirts, the merged banks' people helped out with cleaning, painting, landscaping and other chores at not for profit agencies all over the county.

This example of generosity and engagement is worthy of emulation.

And, since next week is officially "Volunteer Week" there is another opportunity for others to step up and do the same.

Electronics good for kids, parents

Eighth-graders at Edgewood Junior High will be getting iPads next year to further their educations.

The digital devices will essentially belong to the students 24 hours a day until they must be turned in at the end of the school year.

It's presumed the next class of eighth-graders will get the iPads the next year.

It's a great way to make sure kids get familiar with the latest technology.

There is a temptation to speculate that it's the grown-ups who need such help as much or more than the students. But maybe that need will served at the homes of the kids, where parents might fiddle with the gadgets, too.

Meanwhile, it's worth hoping that the school has a really good insurance policy to cover damage.

And some software to block access to the sewers that run deep through the world of online information.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No traffic calming

To the editor:

It seems obvious that Mayor Kruzan is out of touch with reality. It's true we need an improved pathway for east/west traffic, autos not bicycles. The mayor seems to not realize this as he continues to build monuments to stupidity, disguised as traffic calming devices. West Third from Jackson to Buckner is nearly impassable from the latest installation.

Another monument is the trail bridge over Grimes Lane. It's big, beautiful, and in the wrong place. One of our most highly traveled streets, West Second, has a trail crossing that will have pedestrians and cars dodging each other forever. Serious accidents are sure to occur. Also, the left turn into Wendy's/Kroger is poorly designed, with the concrete median showing damage as many vehicles have already scraped over it.

Many of the "monuments" are reportedly being paid for with "federal funds." I remind the mayor that all funds come from one source: taxes paid by citizens.

I believe it's time we spend our funds to get rid of all "traffic calming devices." Also, I believe it's time we devote our efforts to identifying real Bloomington problems and figuring out the best way to solve them.

GIB APPLE
Bloomington

Parkinson's support

To the editor:

April is Parkinson's Awareness Month. Nearly one million Americans are living with Parkinson's. It's a chronic and progressive movement disorder. There is no cure. The local Parkinson's Support Group is rallying this month to raise awareness of the disease. Several of us will be writing about our experience with Parkinson's. (We meet twice a month. For more info, call 855-6251.)

In the 1980s I was working full-time as a travel agent, coaching youth hockey, playing competitive racquetball, and building a reputation as a fine arts photographer. In the 1990s I began to experience difficulty in walking and tremors. In 1997 a neurologist diagnosed Parkinson's. In 2002 I lost my job (couldn't work fast enough). By 2005 I had to stop driving. By 2009 I was using a cane. In 2010 I bought a wheelchair. I now have so much trouble with tremors and balance that even from a wheelchair, wielding a camera is very difficult.

We want a world without Parkinson's. The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research and the Parkinson's Disease Foundation need funds for research. Check them out online.

PAUL LIGHTFOOT
Bloomington

Keep Mayor Kruzan

To the editor:

Mayor Kruzan has built a team of intelligent and committed support staff and has brought positive change to Bloomington. We are in good financial condition and have one of the lowest unemployment rates in the country. We have a low crime rate. We have a growing trail system that provides recreation and contributes to our economic growth, and a bus transit system that rivals Indianapolis in the number of people it carries each year. And we have arts and culture programs that improve our quality of life and make our city vibrant.

The candidates are taking pot-shots at Mayor Kruzan and saying they can do better. It's up to us voters to decide what's real and what's speculation. Seeing positive change in this community is the key to winning my vote, and I've seen it during Mark Kruzan's two terms in office. I'm hearing nothing but rhetoric from the other candidates — how things will be better under their management — and precious little about their real qualifications for the job.

Do we vote for the candidate with credibility and a proven track record or someone who simply says he can do better? Mark Kruzan wants to carry on. Let's let him.

JACK BAKER
Bloomington

UN Resolution

To the editor:

I'm confused.

The purpose of the recent UN Security Council resolution creating a no-fly zone over Libya is ostensibly to protect civilians from Gadhafi's bombers.

Wait a minute. Aren't the rebels also civilians? Isn't Libya in the throes of a civil war? Doesn't grounding Gadhafi's air force by outside powers amount to interventionism?

I'm no fan of Gadhafi and history is replete with examples of foreign governments helping rebels overthrow regimes, but I wish the language of the resolution and reportage would state its purpose unambiguously: helping the rebels to throw Gadhafi out.

HUGH HAZELRIGG
Bloomington

Conservative doctrines

To the editor:

What do "conservatives" conserve?

Our planet? They've opposed every piece of environmental legislation since 1901.

Liberty and justice for all? They've supported every form of oppression from slavery and segregation to state-sanctioned torture.

Peace? They never met a war they didn't like.

Education? As long as it's religious.

The working class? Only Third-World slave labor.

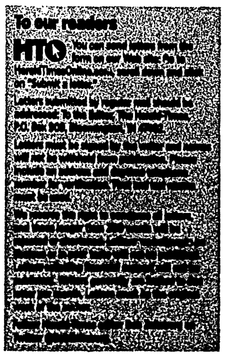
Your money? Not with corporate welfare, military waste and tax support for private schools.

Freedom of speech? As long as you agree with them.

Religious freedom? For themselves alone.

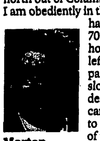
You can always tell when "conservatives" are lying: Their lips are moving. If they try to write it down, you may need a "tea-bonics" interpreter.

MICHAEL NEWTON
Nashville



COMMENTARY

Politicians ignore real needs



Morton Marcus
H-T COLUMNIST

Nothing stirs imagination like a near-death experience. Last Saturday, I am driving north out of Columbus on I-65. I am obediently in the right-hand lane at 70 miles per hour. On my left is an SUV passing me slowly. Suddenly a blue car is passing to the left of the SUV. There is no third lane and only a minor shoulder on the left.

The SUV driver avoids being rammed by pulling sharply in front of me. Now, with a vehicle directly in front of me, I look into the rearview mirror to check on the tractor-trailer right behind me.

I pull sharply to the right onto the right shoulder before pulling just as sharply left, straddling the rumble strip. The SUV does the same and then eases back into the travel lane. I also return to the travel lane. The blue car is far ahead of us. No physical damage. No deaths.

This outcome is not unusual. Automotive and highway engineers design cars and roads to protect us. Each time we drive on a two-lane Hoosier road at 55 miles per hour and see another vehicle traveling toward us at the same speed, we witness the miracle of survival.

Those who drive recklessly are roadway terrorists. They speed through red lights and ignore stop signs. They contributed to 43,000 American highway deaths last year.

Yet, we must wonder how many of those deaths are caused by potholes and our fellow citizens who believe virtue lies in cutting government spending by cutting taxes.

Thus far this year, I replaced three tires destroyed by Indiana potholes. What other damage have potholes caused? There are no records kept of accidents resulting from swerving to avoid a pothole. Damage to the steering mechanism is not obvious, and a pothole may cause a death many miles from its location.

There are streets in my town I no longer drive. I avoid certain direct routes because of horrendous road conditions. I will not accept, however, the excuses of my mayor that this was a bad winter.

Politicians insist on ignoring our roles as citizens and thinking of us only as taxpayers. It is not the cold of winter that withholds funds from fixing streets. It is the cold in the hearts of voters who deny our communal responsibilities.

We live or die because others are careful or reckless. The tragedy is a growing number of Americans, including Hoosiers, believe we are or should be independent of each other. Elected officials pander to this view and do not act responsibly.

When government cuts services to the disabled and ignores potholes it claims insufficient revenue. But why is revenue insufficient? The blame rests on those who will not support the primary functions of government with higher taxes at the expense of less consumer spending. Instead, they focus on an agenda to appease the radical fringe passionate about abortion and gay marriage.

Killing people with potholes is not a sin to these enemies of liberty. Destroying the lives of afflicted families by withholding assistance is not a social virtue. How do we rouse our fellow citizens to understand the linkages of modern life and the need to be our brother's keeper?

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