

Letters To The Editor

Ask God To Get The Best Person To Lead Nation

To The Editor:
There is an election coming up and anyone who knows God, knows that I Timothy 2:1-2 says "we are to pray for those in authority that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all goodness and honesty." Verse 3 says: "For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior."

Now there are those who know about God and there are those that know God personally, by praying and having prayer answered by God, when they pray because they are not a natural man. I Corinthians 2:14 says, "but the natural man receiveth not the things of the spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto Him. Neither can be known them, because they are spiritually discerned." So if your mind is fogged up, it is possible you have need be born again, in order to get your prayer answered or for you to even think about calling to God. James 4:2: "Ye have not because ye ask not."

I know so many are either a Democrat or a Republican and will continue to be one or the other until they die and never be able to select a man or woman for office by what they stand for, because they belong to so and so party, when they could be one that does not even believe in God and, sorry to say, the dictionary says they are a heathen.

In II Chronicles 20:22, two invading armies were coming up against people. They prayed to God what to do. God said, "March, sing and praise." And God set up an ambush and the two armies looked at each other and thought they were the one they were invading and they completely destroyed themselves.

Exodus 17:12, Moses hands held up during a battle won victory. Just

two stories of many others to give you some faith to pray that God be given to prayer, that He will have a part in our mind and the mind of others that have decided not to vote at all, to at least ask God how to vote. Someone will vote in the anti-Christ, possibly after all the ones in Christ have risen out of this world.

In case you do not believe in the heavens, you can tap in on a Web site on unexplained sounds and get the sounds of hell!

Now, do you think anyone and everyone should ask God to tell them who to vote for? When we take God out of our thinker, we are subject to stinking thinking.

We have need of God-believing and God-fearing people to vote into our government who put a stop to the killing of 5,000 babies a day by abortion who would be paying into our Social Security and growing up to be soldiers, if we had need of them.

But not a one of them say anything about the change of the using of our Social Security for a kitty jar, and all other purposes, and the murder of babies.

It would make you believe they do not believe the God of the Bible. So all we can do is call on God. The Bible says in Ephesians 3:20, "Not unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think according to the power that worketh in us."

So all we can do is ask God to use His all power to get the best ones He can work with to make our nation a God-trusting nation into office, by our votes and prayer.

Harold Hershey
McConnellsburg

Take A Look At The Real Issues This Election

To the Editor:

I'll be glad when this seemingly never-ending election cycle is over. It's divisive at a time when together we face such a lot of serious challenges. I hope we will be able to draw together as a nation under our new president. I still have high hopes that these two serious candidates can carry on a dignified substantive campaign and let the American people decide on the issues. Watching the debate last week at the Dott Store with about 40 people of both political parties was what I like to think this country is about.

Everyone was very attentive and respectful; we can and want to pay attention to real issues. April and Glenn Hiller provided a great opportunity to see the debate and the dessert was really good, too.

I have heard unbelievable attacks on Barack Obama's character. "He is anti-Christian and anti-American," "he supports sex education for very young children." Where do such blatant lies come from? Some from the campaigns themselves but the others, like the attacks on Obama's religion and patriotism, are more insidious. How can you prove or disprove what's in some-

one's heart? You have to look to a lifetime of service and commitment to nation and church to get a sense of what a man is about.

Make no mistake, these attacks are lies, they are bearing false witness, this is not telling your wife that her hair looks great, these are IX Commandment lies that have grave consequences. This is the future of our country at stake. Lying about the candidates to your friends, to people at work or your church is wrong. There are real reasons to support one candidate over another.

We really all need to step back, take a look at the real issues and leadership qualities that are most important to us and ask ourselves truthfully who is best equipped to lead this country in the difficult days ahead. Not who is too old or too dark-skinned or someone told me this or that about him or her.

Let's get through the next month or so with our dignity intact and then get behind our new president, whoever it is. By the way, my wife's hair looks great.

Mike Kligerman
Mercersburg, PA, 17236

Community Banks Are Safe And Sound

To The Editor:

During my 37-year banking career, I can't recall a time when our financial system has been under such severe stress. Our nation's economy and our financial system have been at the forefront of the news, with headlines about the "banking crisis." During the past few months, we witnessed the acquisition or failure of three of the five largest investment banking firms on Wall Street.

The reason that we are reading and hearing so much news that talks about the "banking crisis" is a real result of the words that are being used. When one word is used to mean several different things, it inevitably creates confusion. For example, most of us know what a bank is. But sometimes a business calls itself a "bank" even though it is not an insured depository institution.

Bear Stearns, the investment firm headquartered in New York City, was not a commercial bank. It was an investment "bank." The word "bank" has also been applied to mortgage companies like Countrywide. Their function, their purpose and their regulation differ dramatically from the federally insured depository institutions that most of us know as "banks."

From my perspective, our current problems arose on Wall Street

- not on Main Street. The reality is there are more than 8,400 banks in this country and only a tiny percentage of those institutions are under severe stress. The banking industry - traditionally federally insured, federally regulated depository institutions, including thousands of local community banks - is safe and sound.

We know that our financial system is being tested. But, it is important to remember that the system is also showing its resiliency. The vast majority of community banks have been and continue to be the safest and strongest financial institutions in our nation's financial system. Most community banks like F&M Trust are solid because they follow conservative business practices and procedures with local management and board oversight.

Our nation has weathered turbulent financial times in the past and we've persevered to come back better and stronger. Through it all, community banks have been serving consumers, businesses and local communities helping them build secure financial futures on Main Streets across this nation.

William E. Snell Jr.
President & CEO
F&M Trust

Presidential Debate Watch Held At Dott Store

The Dott Store in Bethel Township was the scene of one of many debate-watch get-togethers taking place across the country Friday night.

Owners Glenn and April Hiller extended a bipartisan invitation to the community, which resulted in a group of about 40 Republicans, Democrats and Green Party members as well as Independents gathering to watch and discuss the first of three presidential debates between John McCain and Barack Obama.

The Hillers said that folks came from not only the Warfordsburg and Needmore areas but from McConnellsburg, Mercersburg and as far away as Shade Gap.

The Nov. 4 presidential election is shaping up to be one of the most important presidential elections in U.S. history and possibly the biggest.

"This store has long been a central part of our community, and during this historic election with many

critical issues facing our country," Glenn said, "we feel it is important to provide as much information as possible about all of the decisions and candidates on the November ballot."

The Hillers hoisted a large screen television into place to accommodate their guests and served them coffee and dessert.

"Watching the debate together was informative and fun, and hopefully people are encouraged to learn factual information about the candidates, and encouraged to vote on Election Day," said April.

The Hillers will open their store again this Thursday, Oct. 2, for the highly anticipated vice-presidential debate between Democrat Joe Biden and Republican Sarah Palin. The debate begins at 9 p.m. and guests are welcome anytime after 8 p.m. Free coffee and dessert will be provided by Dott Store. For more information, call Dott Store at 717-573-2390.



Voters watch presidential nominee Barack Obama, Democrat, debate Republican nominee John McCain at a debate watch held at Dott Store in Bethel Township Friday evening.

Focus Less On The S.A.T., Study Tells Colleges

Exams tied to school curricula may be a viable alternative for admissions assessment, a year-long study says

By Stacy Teicher Khadaroo
STAFF WRITER OF
THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR
Colleges need to rethink their heavy reliance on students' SAT and ACT scores in deciding who gets in.

That's a key conclusion drawn by a group of high school counselors and college officials after a year-long study of admissions testing.

Rather than suggesting a one-size-fits-all approach, the group urges colleges to study how well such tests predict academic success of freshmen on their own campuses - and to consider dropping them if they aren't useful enough.

The 21-member panel, chaired by Harvard's dean of admission, will present its findings Friday at the annual meeting of the group that convened it, the National Association for College Admission Counseling. NACAC members include high school counselors and admissions officers from about 1,700 colleges and universities.

Admissions tests affect not only college applicants, but also everything from merit aid to college rankings. They're a growing source of controversy: Hundreds of col-

leges have decided to make the tests optional, but overall, the weight they're given has increased. According to NACAC surveys, 59 percent of colleges attributed considerable importance to admissions tests in 2005, compared with 47 percent a decade earlier.

"The admissions profession has been doing some soul-searching about what we're doing to these kids - and the inappropriate over-reliance on standardized testing is probably one of the easy ones we could fix," says Barmak Nassirian, associate executive director of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers in Washington, which did not participate in the commission.

In defense of the SAT

Not everyone agrees with the criticisms of standardized testing.

"It is still the single most reliable, comprehensive metric that one can find," says Peter Salins, former provost of the State University of New York system.

Expensive test-prep courses may give affluent students a marginal advantage, Salins acknowledges. But the unfairness "would be exacerbated in an SAT-less universe, because then the kind of schools they go to such as wealthy suburban or elite urban schools would get enormous preference in the admissions process," he says.

In suggesting possible alternatives, the commission says tests tied to high school curriculum, such as the College Board's Advanced Placement exams and Sub-

ject Tests, are useful predictors of students' grades during their first year in college. The group urges colleges to consider these tests when possible.

It also calls for the NACAC and other groups to help develop better achievement tests that could be used for admissions and at the same time give students greater incentive to do well in high school.

Currently, admissions test prep "takes up way too much emotional and intellectual energy," says Brad MacGowan, a college counselor at Newton North High School in Massachusetts and an NACAC member. "I'd say to students years ago, 'Did you do any test prep?' and now it's more, 'Where did you do your test prep?' ... It's almost like a rite of passage."

Families often believe test prep leads to larger score gains than research bears out, the report says.

Seppy Basili, senior vice president of Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions in New York, says, "We don't quote average score increases ... It's awfully misleading, and there was a time in our industry when it was rampant."

But if admissions officers relied on achievement tests instead of standardized tests, tutoring in that realm would ramp up as well, Basili says.

The College Board, a nonprofit organization that administers the SAT, said in a written statement that it is "in complete agreement that the best preparation for college admissions tests is knowledge gained from an academic core cur-

riculum. The College Board has long advised parents and students against short-term, commercial preparation courses." It also affirms the importance of the SAT, partly as a guard against high school grade inflation.

Complaints about how the tests are used

Besides questioning the value of the SAT and ACT, the commission highlights what it considers misuse of test scores.

It calls upon U.S. News and World Report to stop using average test scores in its ranking formulas for top colleges, because it "creates undue pressure on college admission offices to pursue increasingly high test scores."

The commission also asks the National Merit Scholarship Corp. to stop using the PSAT/NMSQT, a test similar to the SAT, as the "initial screen" for scholarship eligibility.

Because lower scores are correlated with lower-income or minority status, such screening "basically says students who don't need the money are more eligible for it," says high school counselor MacGowan.

The National Merit Scholarship Program, in which students compete for academic recognition and scholarships, defends its approach. "There's really no other alternative for ... screening 1.5 million high school students" who compete for the scholarships, says spokeswoman Eileen Artemakis.

Jobless Rate

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of 6.5 percent to number 63 in August with a 7.9 rate. It is tied with Philadelphia County. Huntingdon County's unemployment ranking rose from 49 in July and a rate of 6.2 percent to 56 in August with a rate

of 7.1 percent.

In August, Chester County again posted the lowest unemployment rates in the state with a rate of 4.5 percent, but still up from 4.0 in July. Adams, Lancaster and Lebanon counties all tied for the number two spot.

Pennsylvania's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate rose four-tenths of a percentage point in Au-

gust to 5.8 percent. The nation's rate was also up four-tenths of a percentage point, rising to 6.1 percent. The state rate has been below the national rate for four consecutive months. Both Pennsylvania's and the nation's rates are up 1.4 percentage points from their August 2007 rates of 4.4 percent and 4.7 percent, respectively.

Pennsylvania's seasonally adjust-

ed count of total nonfarm jobs fell by 5,900 in August to 5,801,300. Only two sectors - education and health services, and natural resources and mining - showed employment growth in August of 4,300 and 200, respectively.

Pennsylvania's jobs count was down 3,000 from August 2007. Since January 2003, the state has added 175,600 jobs.

Upgrades

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tricts, Smith said the area will offer a perfect alternative to the districts' existing science curriculums.

Limited parking in that area will also be assessed and hopefully revised to accommodate use by multiple vehicles or a bus.

Welsh Road parking lot

In the southern most tip of Brush

Creek Township where parking is at a premium for sportsmen and hikers, an ongoing parking issue is slated to reach its final resolution this week. The creation of a parking lot began on Monday by converting a former log landing along Welsh Road, which connects to Spade and Rice roads.

Keiper said the lack of parking was addressed due to motorists having limited availability to off-road space as a result of the steep mountainside. In accordance with the new

parking lot that will be created with minimal disturbance to the area, an old trail will be reopened leading from the parking lot.

Eventually, the bureau plans to expand its existing recreational plan to link that area with bordering state gamelands.

Sideling Hill ATV trails

In other recreation matters, three existing all-terrain vehicles trails on Sideling Hill have been rerouted from areas that were eroded and rough for trail riders. By utilizing a

portion of a \$51,000 PA Recreational Trails Grant, the bureau is now providing a "safer and more enjoyable ride" to ATV enthusiasts, Keiper said. In addition, by reworking the trails utilizing their own employees, the bureau was able to save monies and will be able to return a portion of their grant funding back to the state. Furthermore, in responding to requests from trail riders, plans have been established to install a single-stall latrine for Sideling Hill ATV trail riders.

Tri-State Director

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and Pennsylvania, there has not been an official timeline set to se-

lect and name the new executive director.

Colbrese's leadership skills have come under fire since the medical director services of Dr. Matt Hahn were discontinued at the Hancock clinic last May. Hahn has publicly

maintained he was fired after complaints were logged about Colbrese and were in turn personally relayed to Tri-State's board of directors.

Fallout from the firing of Hahn included outraged patients using the media as a means to air their griev-

ances and multiple members of Tri-State's staff filing an official grievance about Dr. Hahn's firing and Colbrese's "management style." A sudden turnover in staff was also reportedly linked to Colbrese.

Food Basket

From Page One

son to local food banks and soup

kitchens since its creation in Pennsylvania in 1991.

In Fulton County any hunters harvesting a white-tailed deer they do not wish to keep may transport the deer directly to Strait's Meats

located at 304 Possum Hollow Road, Harrisonville, where it will be processed at no cost for eventual distribution by the Food Basket. Hunters also reserve the option of only donating a portion of their har-

vested deer to the program. Any residents in need of nutritional assistance or more information about the Food Basket is asked to contact Cubbage at 717-485-5688.

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Heart Attack Warning Signals

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

- Uncomfortable pressure, fullness, squeezing or pain in the center of chest lasting more than a few minutes
- Pain spreading to the shoulders, neck or arms
- Chest discomfort with lightheadedness, fainting, sweating, nausea or shortness of breath

(Not all of these signs occur in every attack. If some occur GET HELP FAST.)

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