

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Williams clarifies comment about library

To the Editor:

The article The VT-N, (West Point debates board appointment) contained a statement credited to Joe Downs which could be misleading. The statement "She (Deedee Williams) graduated from LaGrange College when she couldn't check out library books because of the color her skin" might lead one to believe that I could not check out books in the LaGrange College Library. That was not the case. I was a student at LaGrange College when I had the experience of

being asked to leave a library in LaGrange because of the color of my skin. It was not the LaGrange College Library.

LaGrange College is the oldest independent college in Georgia, founded in 1831. Like other organizations of the 19th century, LaGrange College has not always embraced diversity and inclusion, however, by the time I enrolled, integration of campus facilities, including the library had been accomplished. I just want to clarify that point as a proud LaGrange

College alumnae.

Additionally, I want to express my gratitude to council members Downs, Marshall and Thornton for their vote of confidence and support of my candidacy for the WPDA and especially for their appreciation of objectivity and diversity of thought on boards and committees serving the City of West Point. "Group think" without challenge is rarely the best option in any setting.

Blessings,
Deedee Williams

Liberals going crazy just need to get over it

To the Editor:

Can you believe how crazy the liberals have gone since November the eighth? I saw highlights from the crappy show "The View." I could not believe what I heard, it even made my face turn red. I'm not going to use the word they used, but it started with a V, so you can use your imagination to fill in the blanks. Anyway, they were talking about building a wall around that female body part, when Trump takes office. Well, I have to tell Joy Behart and Whoopie Goldberg, it actually made me want to throw up just thinking about being forced to look at their female body part, I actually did throw up in my mouth a little bit. I sincerely doubt if you guys would be able to pay a human being enough to get them to look at your disgusting body part, especially if it's any worse than your faces.

What is happening to these crazy liberals? The only thing I can say is, ladies of "The View," suck it up, Trump is here to stay, get over it. I had to endure eight years of a totally ignorant president, who tried every way to destroy this country while liberals like Cy tried their best to uphold his dictator-like ways. Cy even said that Obama was the best thing that happened to him in his lifetime, which I really do feel for him. I will never say that Trump is the best thing that happened to me, but will say he's the best thing to happen to this great country we live in. I feel a great confidence for the future of our children and grandchildren.

MSNBC has of all people getting the "fake news" story out, non other than Brian Williams, who should get a gold medal for the biggest fake news stories, derived to make himself look like a brave journalist, but were only lies which caused him to lose his job. And Chris Matthews is just going haywire. You remember him, the one who gets a thrill up his leg whenever he hears Obama speak, which I'm sure Cy had the same problem, but I don't know that for sure, I don't want to be a contributor to fake news. Rachael Maddow looks to be on the edge of committing suicide, which I couldn't be that lucky. The other guy on that channel, I don't know his name, but he wears outdated glasses which look exactly like the ones Clark Kent wore

in Superman, back in the sixties, he more than likely screams out Russia in his sleep.

And CNN is totally ridiculous, the hate that comes out of their mouths shouldn't be allowed on TV, every Trump's cabinet pick is just a total racist in their eyes. I just can't wait for a world with no Obamas, Reids, Clintons, Ginsburgs in it. You know it's weird, all the hype about Trump's connection to Russia but they fail to tell about the Podesta Group, which was created by non other than John Podesta, Hillary's campaign manager. It's a lobbying group with all kind of close ties to Russia and Saudi Arabia, I guess it just slipped their little liberal minds. If you have any sense at all you'd know all the Russia crap is a page out of the liberal play book "Rules For Radicals," if you don't believe me see if Cy will let you borrow his copy, so you can look it up.

And one more thing about the Russian hacking of Podesta's emails, everything that was revealed was factually correct. So my message to liberals is, don't say one thing on camera, and another behind closed doors. And don't bribe CNN for questions before a debate. And don't sabotage rivals of your own party, just to win the Democrat nomination. You know you guys had no problem with the Billy Bush tapes that came out against Trump, which to me was more damning than anything that came out about Hillary. Or remember Jimmy Carter's idiot grandson taping Romney behind closed doors, I don't recall you guys condemning that unlawful act. So like I said before suck it up, Trump won and elections have consequences.

Well, I see where Obama just put a law in place protecting wind farms against lawsuits for American eagles being killed. Where is PETA and all my vegetarian friends, total liberal hypocrites, they pretend to be worried about too many chickens in a cage. Why not worry about our birds of prey being killed by the tens of thousands, totally destroying the balance of our eco-system, that's why I have no confidence in you guys, you're only climate change nuts in my book.

And where are all the native Americans that protested the pipe line, they are nothing more than liberal paid hacks, totally disgusting. My grand-

mother was native American and I'm proud to have her genes, and have thousands of Indian artifacts that I will cherish until the day I die. I love and respect all the old generation of Native Americans, but the last several generations have been hand fed by the liberals to the point they have forgotten where they came from, much like some other races.

I see where one state put a cap on abortions at five months, and liberals are going mad. I just can't see how a so called human being could kill a part of themselves. I remember seeing ultrasounds of my kids even earlier than five months. They already had my facial features, their little hands and feet were formed and so beautiful, how anyone could destroy that is beyond belief to me. How could you live with yourself, throwing these little bodies into the trash, with their little hands permanently clinched tight, from the pain they endured at time of death. You know the Bible says to forgive your enemies, but I haven't reached that point in my life, how could you forgive people that do these acts?

Another question I have is how could you vote for a party whose main agendas are later term abortion and climate change. That's their religion, and whoever votes for that party are partakers of that religion, in my book.

Well, I've got to go, in the country we are having trouble out of coyotes killing goats and calves. Ever who it was that told the people of West Point that coyotes are safe in their neighborhoods don't know what a risk they are taking. It's a good way of getting rid of all the cats and dogs in the neighborhood along with a few toddlers. It would be a great alternative to having a humane society. No wild carnivore should be allowed to live in neighborhoods, that includes raccoons also. Let me get it right, you can't have a bulldog in the city, but can have a coyote roaming the neighborhoods. You know they will only thrive there, like foxes did years ago to the point of the counties paying bounties for their tails, for fear of them going mad. Maybe we should require all coyotes to turn themselves in and get their vaccination shots, stranger things have happened.

Sincerely,
Danny Mitchell, Huguley

Governor race keeps Alabama politics alive

Historically speaking, Alabamians have been more interested in the governor's race than presidential politics.

For years, from 1876 to 1964, we were a totally Democratic state, more so out of tradition than philosophically. The hatred for the radical Republican Reconstruction shackles invoked on the South made an indelible mark on white southern voters. It was so instilled, that there are a good many stories told throughout the South where a dying grandfather would gather his children and grandchildren around his deathbed and gaspingly admonish them, "Two things I'm gonna tell y'all before I die — don't ever sell the family farm and don't ever vote for a damn Republican."

That all changed in November of 1964. Barry Goldwater and the Republicans became the party of segregation and the white southern voter fled the Democratic Party en masse. As the fall election of 1964 approached, the talk in the old country stores around Alabama was that a good many good old boys were going to vote straight Republican even if their daddies did turn over in their graves. Well folks, there were a good many papas turning over in their graves all over the South. The entire South changed parties on that day 52 years ago.

Since we were a solid Democratic state for 90 years, we really had no say in the presidential selection process. We are in the same position today, being a solid Republican state. Therefore, it makes sense that we would have more interest in gubernatorial politics than presidential rhetoric because we have much more of a say in that contest. In addition, all of our other offices are up for election in the



By
Steve
Flowers

race for governor year, including all 67 sheriffs, all 140 members of the legislature, and all other constitutional offices such as attorney general, agriculture commissioner, secretary of state and treasurer.

Indeed, for most of our past there were more votes cast in the Democratic Primary for governor of Alabama than in a presidential contest. Today, our voting proclivity runs more along the national percentage. We also have the same tendency to vote more against someone than for someone.

George Wallace used to always say give me a good boogeyman to run against. Well, lest you forget Hillary Clinton was the best boogeyman to vilify before Barack Obama. He was the hated villain for an eight-year interlude. Now Bill and Hillary have taken back their rightful place as the face of the despised national Democratic Party among white southerners.

Therefore, as this year began, I thought it would be a yawner, a sleeper year for good old Alabama politics. However, we have had some good theater. Not to be outdone by the colorful campaign of Donald Trump, who was a continuous circus or vaudeville act, our local Alabama characters have put on quite a show.

It began with the ethics trial of former House Speaker Mike Hubbard, which was a lengthy, detailed, fully vetted and well run process. Hubbard was found guilty by a Lee County

jury, which he represented in the legislature. He will ultimately go to jail, a state prison, which is woefully overcrowded and dangerous.

While the Hubbard story was anticipated and expected, the saga of good ole Dr. Robert Bentley has remained in the news continuously throughout the entire year. His former buddy, Spencer Collier, has filed a lawsuit against the governor and his girlfriend. Now comes a second suit and revelations by his former Security Chief Ray Lewis which is juicier and adds to and confirms Collier's story. This will probably keep the salacious story alive for another year or more.

Bentley has been relegated to an irrelevant punch line or joke. He would not have been so adversely ridiculed if he had not been perceived as a family values man, churchman, retired doctor and looked like an old grandfather.

There is an old saying in politics that if you ride a white horse you better not get mud on it because it shows up. Another truism is sex sells.

Ain't Alabama politics fun? Wow — what a year! Now we will get ready for the 2018 gubernatorial year, and to top it off, we have also got an open Senate seat up for grabs.

We will have a governor's race and an open U.S. Senate race in the same year. Those races have begun. Since winning the Republican primary is tantamount to election in Alabama, we elect a new governor and new U.S. Senator in June of 2018, which is less than 18 months from now.

See you next week.

Steve Flowers is Alabama's leading political columnist. His weekly column appears in over 60 Alabama newspapers. He served 16 years in the state legislature. Steve may be reached at www.steveflowers.us.

ATRIP-2 better way

If the mountain won't come to Mohammed, Mohammed will have to come to the mountain.

Alabama counties are taking this bit of folk wisdom to heart when it comes to funding road and bridge work in the state.

They face an uphill battle in a state where raising taxes is considered sacrilegious and where newspaper columnists might be accused of being anti-Christian for using a name like Mohammed in a column.

Alabama is wrapping up a successful road and bridge construction program called ATRIP (Alabama Transportation Rehabilitation and Improvement Program). The state bonded future federal highway funds to pay for a massive program of road and bridge improvements in the state. Chambers County got about \$11 million in projects, although the county had to put up 20 percent of that total.

Alabama counties want to produce an ATRIP sequel — ATRIP-2 — that would share little more than the acronym and the end result with the original ATRIP.

ATRIP-2 would require an increase in the state gasoline and diesel tax, three cents per gallon. The Alabama county association estimates that would provide sufficient revenue to fund a \$1.2 billion bond issue. Based on the distribution formula, that would mean an estimated \$12.7 million in new road and bridge money for Chambers County.

Statewide, that would mean enough money to resurface 12,320 miles of roadways and build 450 new bridges.

The state would not be involved in the program, beyond the legislative authorization required to trigger it. The bonds would be issued by a special district comprised of Alabama counties. The dedicated motor fuel tax would be used to repay the bonds. Once the bond issue is paid off, the three-cent tax would end.

ATRIP-2 is a completely different, and arguably better, program than the original ATRIP, which is viewed positively by most observers.

The biggest difference is the original ATRIP didn't provide new revenue for roads and bridges. It simply accelerated the flow of federal highway dollars down to local governments. The federal money used to repay the bond issue that made the ATRIP program possible will be money that won't be available in future years to pay for current road needs.

For example, Chambers County officials like to say ATRIP enabled them to do road and bridge work in the county in less than three years that would amount to 20 years' worth of improvements with just traditional funding in place.

ATRIP-2 provides a new revenue source for roads and bridges. That means Alabama counties will be able to make more transportation improvements, not just make the same improvements sooner.

Counties will have more flexibility in how they spend the ATRIP-2 funds. Each county will decide its own priorities, and use its share of the bond issue as it thinks best for the people of the county. That means ATRIP-2 funds could be used to pave dirt roads and would not be limited to projects on major roadways.

ATRIP-2 also includes municipalities in the program. Twenty percent of each county's allocation will be earmarked for municipal projects. That doesn't mean cities and the county won't cooperate on projects, but it does mean cities will have the final word on how their share of ATRIP-2 funds are expended.

Although the motor fuel tax is a tax increase, it's a modest one. At three cents per gallon, it would cost someone who drives a thousand miles a month in a car averaging 20 miles per gallon \$1.50 per month. People who drive more or get worse gas mileage would pay incrementally more, but it's a reasonable amount for what they get in return.

This is an effort by local governments to take care of local needs. All that the initiative requires from the state level is approval for the motor fuel tax increase. Chambers County residents who want better roads and bridges should be willing to pay a little more to get them. As should residents of the rest of the state.

Sizing It Up By Cy Wood Publisher/Editor



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Started publication as a daily newspaper March 2, 1950 as the result of combining three weekly newspapers, THE CHATTAHOOCHEE VALLEY TIMES, THE VALLEY TRIBUNE and THE WEST POINT NEWS. Published Monday through Friday by Valley Newspapers, Inc. 220 N. 12th Street, P.O. Box 850, Lanett, AL 36863. SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: Home delivery by carrier and motor route: \$8.00 per month. Office Prepaid 3 months \$24.00, 6 months \$45.00, 12 months \$88.00. Periodical Postage paid at the Post Office in Lanett. All prepaid subscription checks must be made to The Valley Times-News. POSTMASTER: Send address change to P.O. Box 850, Lanett, AL 36863.



WEST POINT
TIMES-NEWS

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West Point Times-News started publication as a daily newspaper October 6, 2008. Published Monday through Friday by West Point Times-News LLC, P.O. Box 658, West Point, Ga. 31833. SUBSCRIPTION PRICES: Home delivery by carrier and motor route: \$8.00 per month. Office Prepaid 3 months \$24.00, 6 months \$45.00, 12 months \$88.00. All prepaid subscription checks must be made to West Point Times-News.

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