

American has great potential to do good

As we read by the fireplace on a chilly Michigan afternoon, we transport ourselves into the realms of those whom we study. While we physically exist in the same beautiful environment, we risk becoming so enchanted by personal adventures that it goes unappreciated. Our preoccupation blinds us to the marvels we encounter each day.

The same is true for our American identity crisis. Self-absorbed, we allow routine living to distort both the context we live in and the noble legacy that we share. While we expect America's existence tomorrow, we

overlook the patriotic heritage which guarantees its survival today.

Divided we become our greatest enemy, yet together we are an indomitable force for good. We have historically braved formidable odds with the sword of justice and armor of optimism. We are Americans. We must reaffirm our faith in what unites us as a people in order for our country to survive. Conceived through a shared faith in the idea that there is no greater force for prosperity on earth than spirit of free men and women, the United States rose to international supremacy. Immigrants who share this faith, including

my grandfather, flocked to American shores to seek a brighter future for their children. We are a people inspired by an idea that cannot be touched by our enemies: Absolute Truth.

Faith in this idea defines American patriotism. Critics who scourge such patriotism as so-called "blind nationalism" mistake the former for a hollow belief. Colin Kaepernick protested the American flag as a relic of "oppression," ignoring the fact that it represents much more than the dubious actions of several cops. The flag not only embodies American freedom, but it solemnly drapes the caskets

of those who gave their lives for it. While Kaepernick's disturbing protest is within his rights, it does not merit the praise, emulation, or attention that it has received. While we must acknowledge America's failures, we should not pessimistically define our country exclusively by its flaws. Instead we should appreciate the inestimable blessings that our American lifestyle affords us. American patriots are not blind nationalists. We are the opposite: knowingly grateful citizens who refuse to take our freedom for granted.

Patriotism is also essential for us to put our national motto, E pluribus Unum, into

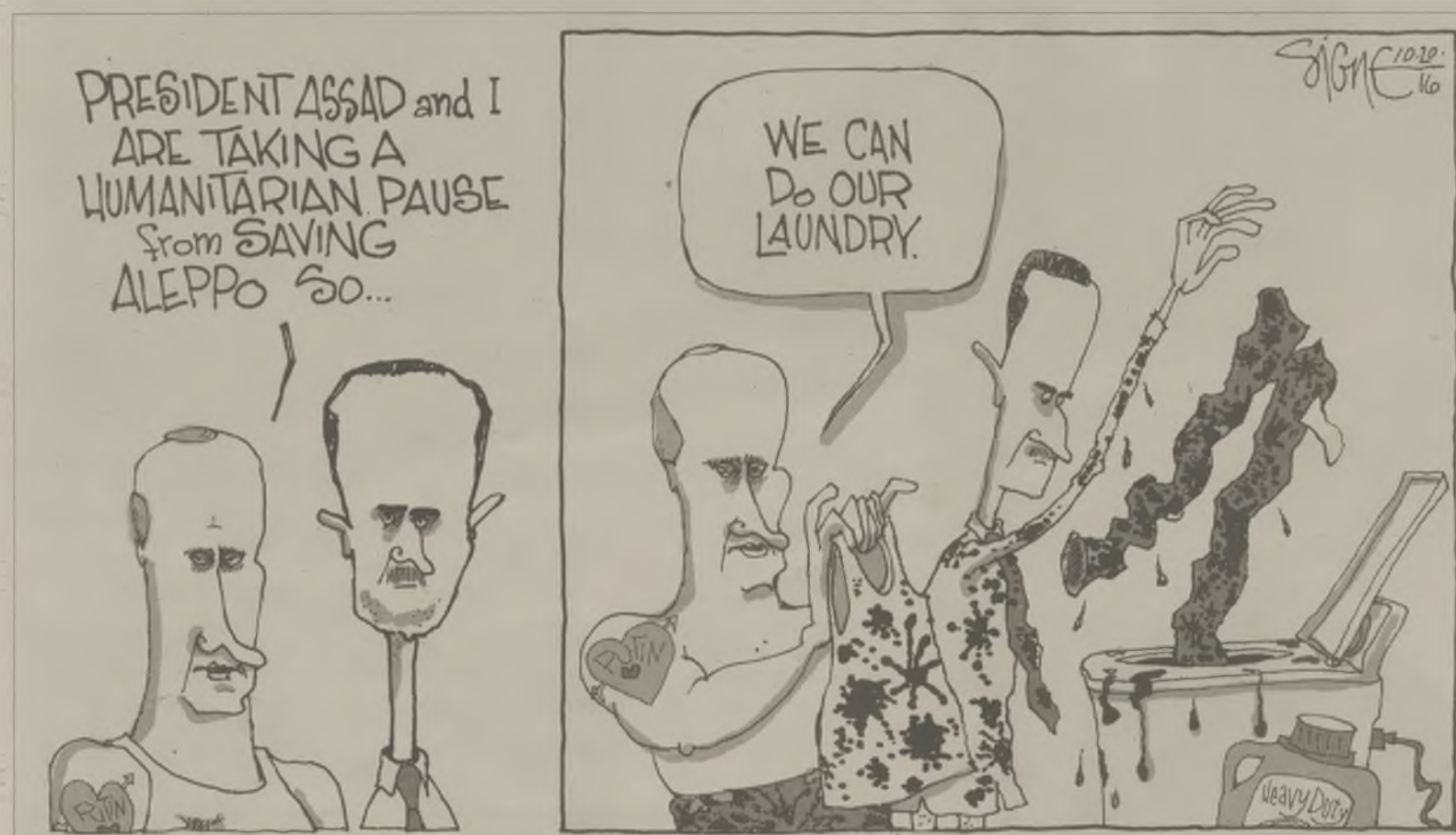
practice. Love of our country engenders love for our countrymen. When Captain Humayun Khan approached the Afghani vehicle that would detonate and claim his life, he did so selflessly and patriotically. He commanded his fellow soldiers to stay back because he loved them and willed their safety above his own. Captain Khan did not share their religion or race — only their American identity.

Blinding self-absorption often leads us to take the beauty of our country for granted. This characteristic breeds the complacency that, over time, causes us to forget who we are as Ameri-

cans. Once our identity is lost, so too is our country. Patriotism keeps faith in the American idea alive in our hearts. We will only make America great again by being stronger together.

The next time we shiver with Dante as he explores the unforgiving depths of the underworld or bravely accompany Odysseus on his harrowing voyages, let us not take for granted the story around us. Occasionally look up from your books. A legendary chronicle might be closer than you think.

Razi Lane of Tyner is a junior studying Politics and History at Hillsdale College. The Hillsdale College originally published this piece.



ADDRESSES

NC SENATE

Bill Cook (R)
N.C. Senate
300 N. Salisbury Street, Room 525
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 715-8293
Bill.Cook@ncleg.net

NC HOUSE

Bob Steinburg (R)
919-733-0010
NC House of Representatives
300 N. Salisbury St.,
Room 306 A2
Raleigh, NC 27603
bob.steinburg@ncleg.net

US HOUSE

Walter B. Jones Jr. (R)
202-225-3415
252-931-1003
2333 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515 cong-jones@mail.house.gov
G.K. Butterfield (D)
2305 Rayburn HOB,
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-3101
252-237-9816
216 NE Nash St., Suite B,
Wilson, NC 27893

Letters to the Editor

Salvation Army once again asks for community's help

Dear Editor,
It's that time of year again when the Salvation Army requests your help to make the Christmas season a little better for children in need. The people of Perquimans County have always demonstrated the true spirit of Christmas by generously supporting the Salvation Army and those it helps during the Christmas Season. Last year, a major portion of the Red Kettle collections never left the county. Money collected was applied directly and almost immediately to help needy families in Perquimans County by buying presents for children whose names were not chosen from the Angel Trees in Woodard's and Family Care Pharmacies. This year, due

to flooding caused by Matthew, the need is particularly acute. Flood waters targeted many including those who are most needy.

Our past success has been made possible by the numerous volunteers representing churches and civic organizations in the towns and county as well as the businesses that allow us to solicit in front of their establishments. We are now again asking for your help. This year the Red Kettle drive will start on the Saturday following Thanksgiving, Nov. 26, and continue until Saturday, Dec. 10. Our most faithful bell ringer, Eldon Winslow, is laid up again this year so we need all the extra help we can get. Please consider volunteering to ring the

bell with your church or a civic group. We ask people to ring for only one hour, but you are welcome to ring longer or more than once, if you wish. If your church, club, or civic group has not rung the bell before but would like to be involved, please contact Skip Matthews at 919-618-2308 or Todd Tilley at 252-331-3787. With your help we can surpass last year's record contributions. Let's do what we can to assure a bit of joy for those children and families in need.

And finally, the Salvation Army would like to stress that they are there to help the needy all during the year, not just during the holidays. If you are aware of a family or a person in need, please encour-

age them or assist them to contact the Salvation Army, 602 Hughes Blvd., Elizabeth City at 338-4129.

Skip Matthews & Todd Tilley

Hertford

(Matthews and Tilley are Salvation Army administrative board members.)

Support helped make Lobster Sale a success

Dear Editor,
I want to thank you on behalf of Holy Trinity Episcopal Church for advertising our annual Lobster Sale in the Perquimans Weekly this year. The sale was a great success due in

part to your weekly advertising. We sold a total of 480 lobsters of which 380 were cooked. The proceeds generated by the sale will go a long way to our support of Hertford and Perquimans County outreach programs. Thank you also for coming by and visiting our cooking, wrapping and distribution operation. We were blessed with perfect conditions; calm winds, mild temperatures and a sunny Carolina sky. Although tiring at times, the results are very satisfying and the fellowship was enjoyed by all. Next October we will celebrate our 10th annual Lobster Sale, see you then.

Rev. Ed Mullins, Interim Rector
Hertford

Remember who tried to pass voting restrictions this election

Dear Editor,
This is why we don't have Voter ID in NC. The US Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit invalidated NC's discriminatory voter restrictions, including Voter ID. The court found that our state intentionally restricted the voting rights of blacks.

Beginning in 2000, our state passed a series of reforms that benefited all voters, particularly black voters. Black voter registration and election turnout increased significantly, and by 2013, had reached near-parity with white registration and turnout rates.

In 2013, our state turned back the clock and we lost the first week of early voting, same-day registration, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, and out-of-precinct voting (i.e., voting at the wrong precinct, but in the correct county). The new law also required photo IDs starting this year.

Before enacting the law, the legislature requested racial data on several voting practices. The court determined that the legislature used the racial data to "target African Americans with almost surgical precision." What did the Court mean by that?

Well, the racial data requested by the legislature showed that blacks disproportionately used the first seven days of early voting and used same-day registration.

The racial data requested by the legislature also showed that blacks disproportionately used pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds.

The racial data requested by the legislature also showed that blacks disproportionately voted out-of-precinct.

Finally, the racial data requested by the legislature showed that blacks disproportionately lack

the most common kind of photo ID, those issued by the DMV. The racial data also showed that blacks tend to use in-person voting, while whites disproportionately use mail-in absentee voting. The state claimed that the photo ID requirement was established as a measure to control existing fraud. However, the state failed to provide the court with any evidence of in-person voter fraud. And although there was evidence of mail-in absentee voter fraud, the legislature chose to exempt absentee voting from the photo ID requirement.

The court decision prohibits the state from requiring photo IDs in future elections, including the Nov. 8th election.

It restored the other pre-2013 voting policies. We got back the extra week of early voting, pre-registration for 16 and 17 year olds, same-day registration, and out-of-precinct voting.

Think about this on Nov. 8. Who passed the voting restrictions? A Republican-led legislature and a Republican Governor.

Nancy Theodore
Hertford

Ability to discern right and wrong is available

Dear Editor,
As this election cycle winds down I'm thinking acknowledgment is owed to the many participants who made it possible. Without the long running Trump and Clinton comedy show there's not a lot to talk about. But thanks to the mostly conservative Fox channel and kudos to the

kooks on the left-television has gotten more entertaining and real issues more relevant than ever.

And many thanks to the newspaper editors who make local commentary possible regardless where it originates. Serious commentators or Internet trolls who love sniping at those they disagree with all get

a fair shake. Actually, the name calling, allegations, inferences and innuendos reflect their character more than their intellect and that's a sad thing.

News analyst Brit Hume is due some love for coining the phrase, 'come to Jesus moment' and I think this 2016 campaign has been as much about religious liber-

ty and traditional American values as anything else. And the greatest irony is that the irreligious Republican candidate is supportive of Christian values where as The Democrat is all about destroying the Constitution and the American way of life!

This writer owes his all to one who introduced

him to the man I personally know as Jesus—the one who made me whole and now calls me his friend. He also made me a son of Abraham by adoption and has given me a message to relate to anyone who'll listen. In the words of the inimitable Brit Hume—this is your 'Jesus moment'. A renewed and sharpened mind

able to discern right from wrong will be yours for the asking. Party affiliation will no longer matter. Likely as not you'll become 'unaffiliated' and you will vote the 'values' party.

Remember *Romans*
10:13.

Calvin Lacy
Hertford

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

A PUBLICATION OF COOKE COMMUNICATIONS NORTH CAROLINA, LLC

ESTABLISHED 1934

111 W. MARKET ST.
HERTFORD, N.C. 27944 252-426-5728
PERQUIMANSWEEKLY@NCWEEKLIES.COM

MIKE GOODMAN, PUBLISHER/EDITOR
BEV ALEXANDER, ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
PETER WILLIAMS, NEWS EDITOR

CIRCULATION DELIVERY, CUSTOMER SERVICE, SUBSCRIPTIONS,
CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING: 426-1757

The Perquimans Weekly (USPS 428-080) is published each Wednesday by The Daily Advance, 215 S. Water St., Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

Subscription rates are \$27.00 per year plus sales tax in Perquimans, Chowan, Pasquotank, Camden, Currituck and parts of Gates counties; and \$31.50 per year mailed to all other addresses in the continental U.S. Sales tax is required for delivery to all North Carolina counties at the sales tax rate in that county. Single copy newspapers are 50 cents plus sales tax where applicable. POSTMASTER - Send address changes to The Perquimans Weekly, 111 W. Market St., Hertford, NC 27944.