

Statesboro Herald

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Letter to the editor

Golden Dome Carry

Editor:

The ominous "Terminator-like" response "I'll be back" of Georgia legislators to Gov. Nathan Deal's veto still doesn't address why no concealed carry is allowed under the Golden Dome itself.

Why can't law-abiding legislators carry when they vote on campus carry?

The trope that the 2nd Amendment is "under siege" ignores the large number of gun-owners, including campus police chiefs who opposed campus carry. It's not the 2nd

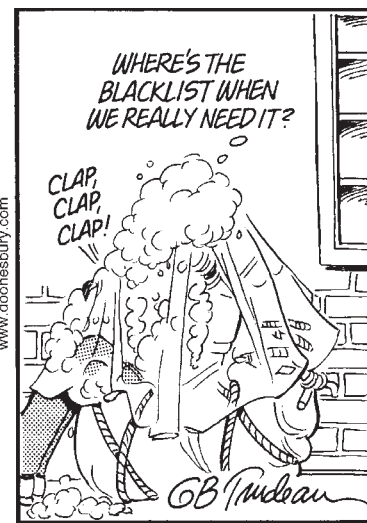
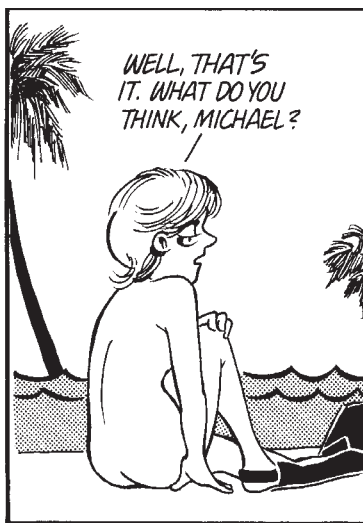
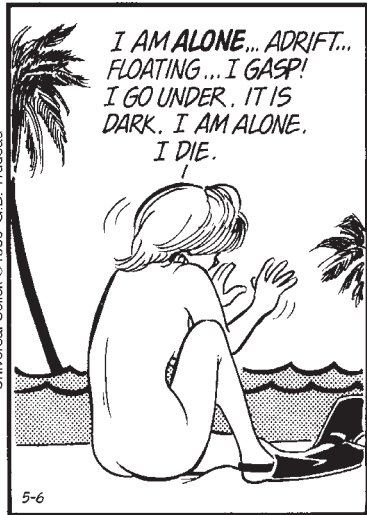
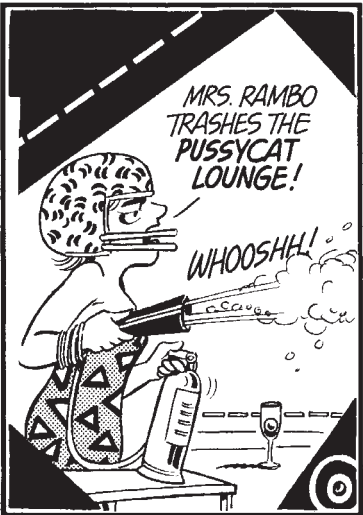
Amendment right that is being questioned, but the reinterpretation of the 2nd Amendment for the past 30 years to something those who wrote it never intended.

No coincidence that the reinterpretation coincided with the "war on drugs" leading to what should be bipartisan public safety issues (see Australia's gun laws) becoming partisan. Australia has mental health problems like us, but not the gun violence.

Greg Brock
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Letters to the editor

The Statesboro Herald welcomes letters to the editor. We require that you limit your words to 500 or less. The Herald reserves the right to edit or reject any letter submitted for publication. The opinions and ideas expressed in submitted letters reflect the views of the writer, not necessarily those of the Herald or staff members. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address and phone number to be considered for publication. Letters may be mailed to P.O. Box 888, Statesboro, GA 30459; faxed to (912) 489-8181; or emailed to heraldnews@statesboroherald.com.

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Safety in the wings of God

It was a stormy day. Fierce winds and heavy rains made the windows of his office shake intensely. Suddenly one of the panes came loose and the wind and rain came rushing in and soaked the desk and papers of the great hymn writer, Charles Wesley.

Suddenly, he was startled by the sounds of a bird chirping. He looked around and discovered that a small bird had been carried into his room with the wind and the rain and had taken refuge in his coat that he had laid across a chair near his desk.

Noticing that the bird was frightened, he silently made his way to the chair and began to softly stroke the feathers of the bird to calm its fast-beating heart. But he noticed that the bird did not respond to his gentleness. Then he noticed that a hawk was perched on a bookcase, carefully watching the proceedings. He walked from his office with the bird and when

Seeds of
Hope

the rain ceased released it into the sky. He went back to his desk and wrote the beloved hymn, "Jesus, lover of my soul, let me to Thy bosom fly."

David had fierce "storms" in his life. There were many times in his life when he had no place to go or any person he could turn to for help. But he had God and he knew that he could turn to Him at any moment in any of the storms of his life.

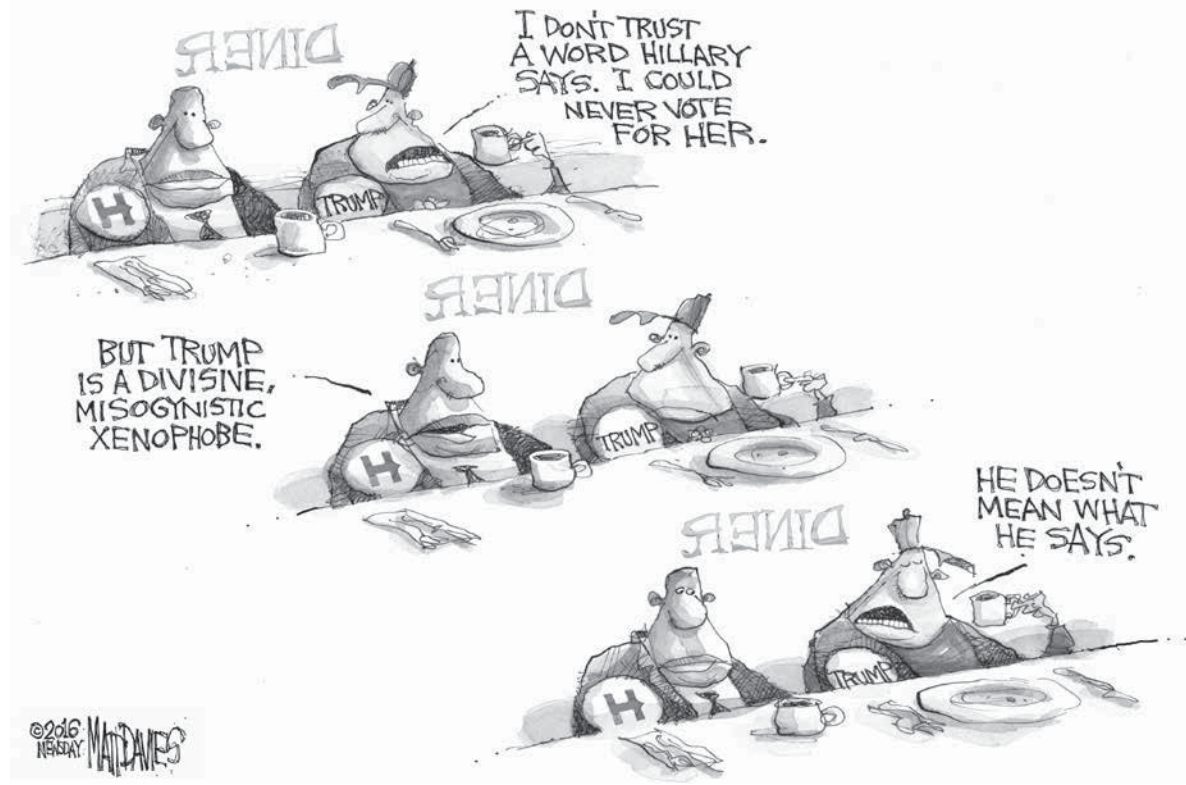
"Have mercy on me, O God, have mercy on me," he wrote. "For in You my soul takes refuge. I take refuge in the shadow of Your wings until the disaster passes."

Visit us at: SowerMinistries.org.

Prayer of the Day

"Lord, when my voice is heard by none other, you always hear and respond to my cry! When my troubles weigh heavy upon my soul, you bring to me that sweet, refreshing Spirit. Grant your Spirit unto me this day that I may rise from my sorrows and be more than a Conqueror through You. In thy blessed and holy Name I pray. AMEN."

— The Rev. Dr. Charles E. Cravey, retired. Please submit your Prayer of the Day to him at drrev@msn.com.



Trump: Bluster and myth

For argument's sake, let's say you ran into this Trump character in a bar. First off, he's boasting about how incredibly smart, rich and good-looking he is. He's a big, big winner. He's even got his own TV show, and you don't.

Next he starts in on what a HUGE success he is with the ladies, partly because of his, ahem, prodigious masculine endowment. American Pharoah, the racehorse, has got nothing on The Donald.

Trump says you wouldn't believe how many supposedly happily married wives he's debauched. Top women, trophy wives, not that flat-chested specimen with "the face of a dog" sitting with you.

Next he tells you about his hot daughter, the one with the amazing body whom he'd probably date if his supermodel wife wasn't even hotter.

OK, enough. In actual life, most people couldn't get away fast enough; they'd flee the orange-haired ape as if he had Ebola. And yet millions are thinking about voting for Trump for president — essentially because television news networks now depict U.S. political contests as the biggest "reality TV" show of them all.

And the last thing people expect of reality TV is well, realism. What's wanted is spectacle, illusion and melodrama. Less C-SPAN than pro wrestling. And in that arena, a figure like Donald J. Trump can be made to appear almost normal.

On CNN, MSNBC, Fox News and the rest, there are now only three big news stories: the 2016 presidential election, terrorism, and sporadic natural disasters — tornadoes, floods and earthquakes. It's been that way pretty much since Trump declared his candidacy last June.

It follows that broadcast ratings, broadcasters' careers and many millions of dollars depend upon keeping people entertained. That, in turn, depends upon suspense. To keep viewers watching, the elec-

Gene
Lyons

tion needs to be depicted as a cliff-hanger. So far, so good.

If nothing else, the man gives good TV. His exaggerated mugging and insult-comic act can even be funny. As long as people can be persuaded that his enemies are also their enemies, he's their man.

However, there should be limits. Also in everyday experience, people who brag a lot also tend to lie a lot. What then if large numbers of voters figured out that Trump's proudest boast of superior political judgment turned out to be pure fiction — the one about how he alone among Republican presidential candidates recognized the folly of the Bush administration invading Iraq in 2003, and spoke vigorously against the war?

The mythmaking began during a televised GOP debate last September.

"I have to say something because it's about judgment," Trump said. "I am the only person on this dais, the only person that fought very, very hard against us ... going into Iraq. Because I said going into Iraq — that was in 2003, you can check it out, I'll give you 25 different stories — what I said was you're going to, you're going to destabilize the Middle East, and that's what happened."

Blogger Bob Somerby checked it out on LexisNexis. No evidence of a single story, much less 25, could be found. Trump alibied that the press failed to record his opposition because he wasn't then in politics.

Yeah, well neither were the Dixie Chicks. Many of the same people currently attending Trump rallies were busy burning the group's CDs back then. Had Trump said a single word against

George W. Bush's folly, torch-bearing mobs would have marched on his casinos like Transylvanian peasants in a vampire movie. His TV show "The Apprentice" would never have gotten off the ground.

If you recall, France's ambassador did say in the United Nations essentially what Trump now pretends he said. As a result, French fries temporarily became "Freedom Fries." Indeed, I cherish a photo of an Arkansas truck stop vending machine offering "Freedom Ticklers" for 50 cents.

Then last fall, Trump began claiming that the Bush White House had actually dispatched emissaries begging him to tone his criticism down. Washington Post fact checkers could find no evidence that ever happened, either.

Quite the opposite. History records that Trump was an Iraq war hawk, full stop. BuzzFeed's Andrew Kaczynski obtained an audio recording of a March 21, 2003, Fox News interview where he declared the invasion "a tremendous success from a military standpoint." As a result, Trump predicted, "Wall Street's just gonna go up like a rocket." He was eager to see Saddam Hussein's mighty arsenal.

In short, Trump made the whole judgment thing up. Unless, that is, you read the increasingly laughable New York Times, where the candidate's fantasies drew the attention of Clinton-hating columnist Maureen Dowd. She invited readers to envision "a foreign policy debate between Trump and Clinton that sounds oddly like the one Obama and Clinton had in 2008, with Trump playing Obama, preening about his good judgment on Iraq."

So the question becomes, can he get away with it?

Arkansas Times columnist Gene Lyons is a National Magazine Award winner and co-author of "The Hunting of the President" (St. Martin's Press, 2000). You can email Lyons at eugenelyons2@yahoo.com.

Realizing our shortcomings

Most of us believe we are pretty tough folks and can take it as well as dish it out — sometimes. I still remember the time when I was at the front door of the church and most everyone was rushing out to beat the Baptists and Methodists to the lunch lines. A little lady stopped and said, "Today's sermon was so much better than last Sunday's." I was crushed.

Lately, thanks to our ever going and endless TV coverage of the primaries, I wonder how these candidates can make it when the verbal attacks swing from amusing to downright slander. Some of the worst political language I have heard came from my growing up years in West Virginia. I would hear such stuff as, "Now I don't mean to say anything embarrassing about my opponent since we went to school together, but he happens to be a bum, a crook and slaps babies."

The other candidate would reply, "Yes, I know old Fred, and that's why I must tell you that he drinks, smokes, cusses, is a Communist and kicks puppy dogs."

In the Gospel of Matthew, those uppity Pharisees ask Jesus, "Why don't Your disciples wash their hands before eating?"

Go online and read the ritual required for washing. By today's

Rev. John
Bressler

standards, it was not much more than wiping one's hands on a used washrag.

Anyway, Jesus and His men were more concerned with eating than going through some endless rituals. Let's not debate the tradition today, because I want to concentrate on the Scripture. "You hypocrites!"

Some of Jesus' followers take him by the sleeve as if to guide him to a private corner and say, "Do you know that you have just offended those righteous men?"

Jesus replied, "That is not important. They are blind guides, and if a blind man leads a blind man, both will fall into a pit."

Simon Peter was not very receptive, "Lord, I haven't the slightest idea what you're talking about!"

Hang on Simon, this will knock your socks off!

"What you eat, Simon, and whether or not you have washed properly won't defile you. What will defile you is what you do and what you say."

The righteous men of Jesus' time

believed that worshipping God meant to follow a myriad of rules and regulations all dealing with a long list of dos and don'ts. We need to re-theologize our relationship to God. A religion that deals with ritual and regulation is misleading. Let me digress just a tad. Christians believe that we are sinful and cannot stand before God in our state of being. The Jew believes that he is without sin and can only commit sinful acts. In other words, I cannot do enough good to make God love me or live a perfect life to show God how deserving I may be. The other side of this argument is that I am a good person, and if I fall short, I can work to stay worthy by my deeds and obedience.

There is no question that Jesus may have stirred up a lot of anger and hostility for His remarks. However, Jesus always taught that God loves us but expects us to realize our shortcomings. God loves us but wants us to put aside religious requirements and focus on loving our neighbors.

It's time to come to the table! Watch your mouth, eat what is on your plate, thank your host and hostess, clean up your mess and get to work. God will take care of the details.

Thanks, God!