

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Professor Todd Kimsey

Actual letter:  
May 25, 1987  
T.K.

I don't think I will ever forget that first day in your science major biology class - I was intimidated in every way possible. After having had all my high school biology and chemistry courses under the same lady, I found myself sitting in a front-row desk in your class staring at a no nonsense man - I had a feeling that there wouldn't be much spoonfeeding that quarter.

After the initial shock wore off, I learned that it really didn't hurt to think for oneself. You pushed us hard right from the beginning and we never got a chance to look back, but most of us didn't want to look back anyway. You opened my mind to things I never even thought of, and I know you had the same effect on others.

I guess the reason we learned so much was because, above all else, we respected you - we will always respect you, T.K. You have been more than a teacher. You've been a dear friend, a substitute father, a counselor, and a confidante. What more could we possibly have asked of you? Maybe we could have asked you to have more love, selflessness, or patience, but that would have been in vain because we soon found out that you have more of those things than any of us have. Thank you for sharing with us. Thank you for loving, having patience, and wanting the best for us.

You are a remarkable man, Todd Kimsey!

*With much love, respect, and gratitude,  
A student - Class of 1987*

Mr. Todd Kimsey WWII US Navy Iwo Jima Veteran asked if he could share his memento with everyone. It is one of his most prized possessions, framed and hanging beside his original photo of his USS Pasadena.

Todd did his duty but never lost his desire to get back home to our mountain village, marry his wonderful Hellen and pursue his goal of teaching and education. This letter written by a lady who is now a working RN represents what many of our Veterans have done and can do, after coming home.

Todd was very humble when he asked me if we could publish this letter, thus sharing that which represents to him one of his life's greatest accomplishments. And Todd, like so many WWII Veterans is an icon of why WWII Veterans have been mentors to so many of us from our "baby boomer" generation. I don't believe any of his Navy ribbons mean any more to this fine American than this humble but serious letter written by and for his students. There is no scale to measure or quantify what something like this means to any Veteran who comes home and accomplishes that which may seem mundane to others. Todd's students from years ago would all agree he is their hero and by no means mundane.

Remember Honorably Discharged Veterans have something to share; something to teach, even if not in a classroom.

*Semper Paratus*

**The Veterans' Corner**  
*Scott Drummond*  
USCG Veteran



## Generations

"People try to put us down, just because we get around. Talkin' 'bout my generation." That was a hit song in 1965 and to this day, "My Generation" is still played on the radio, somewhere, every day. It's not one of my favorites. I'm too young to be a hippie, too old to be a millennial and too contrary to be told I have to like certain things because I was born in a certain time period. If I live long enough, the nursing home is going to rock to Pink Floyd, Jethro Tull and Carlos Santana, Steve Morse, Keb Mo and Heart and a variety of music we don't have room to discuss here. Sixties music is generally too "sad sack" for my taste, though I respect the intentions behind it and the volatile times that inspired it. At the moment I'm listening to Polish bass virtuoso, Wojtek Pilichowski. Earlier it was Waylon Jennings and before that, Anoushka Shankar. Good music transcends generations and all boundaries.

"Why don't you all fade away, and don't try to dig what we all say." Generations always poke fun at each other across the generation gap. Lately a favorite target of boomers, people born between 1946 and 1964, is the millennials who were born between 1981 and 2000. Millennials, so they say, are inept, self-absorbed latte drinking, safe space seeking, easily offended weaklings who don't know how to change a tire, but want a trophy for trying.

It never seems to occur to said boomers that if their millennial doesn't know how to change a tire, it's probably because they weren't taught how to do so by their boomer parents, who, by the way, were the ones who invented participation trophies. It could also be that the millennial doesn't know about cars because they can't afford to buy one. They have too much student debt. Their parents told them to go to the best schools so they could find a job with perks and benefits, but in the boomer created tapeworm economy, those jobs are scarce.

I know millennials who have seen battle serving their country, and not one of them would I consider weak in any way. They didn't create the problem that they were sent to fix. Their parents created that problem, and while they were at it, wiped out about a fifth of the rain forest and put three fourths of all animal species at risk of extinction. Maybe it's just me, but I think it's a bit rude to have a big party, hand someone a broom and then insult them while they try to clean up the mess left behind. It may not surprise you that some refer to baby boomers as the "me generation."

Last week we talked about changing times and the experiences some of us had growing up that will not be available to those who come after us. Some of those experiences touch the memories of the last century and even hear echoes of the century before that. But the rate of change in our world is accelerating, and what is familiar now may not be even 20 years from now.

Recently I went to a place that held a lot of memories for me growing up. It's called a "mall," and they are disappearing rapidly from America. When I was the age of our youngest millennials, the mall served many purposes. We couldn't afford to do much shopping in a mall, but just about anyone who was willing to work could manage to buy some kind of car to get there, or knew someone who had a vehicle. There was a theater and an arcade and numerous places to eat, but these were all ancillary to the mall's main function for us, which was to serve as a center for social life. It was a place to be, to hang out, to spend time together under the same roof, face to face, engaged in conversations in real time without any electronic aid.

One of the first things I notice about malls these days is the fact that young people don't often go there. On my recent mall visit, I spent most of my time at a bookstore inside (another place that sees fewer visitors each year).

There is a coffee shop at the bookstore and I was talking with a young lady who works there as a barista. I commented that when I was her age, there were a lot more of my peers in the mall. I asked her where her friends gather when they get together. She thought about it for a moment, and gave me a very thoughtful reply. What she said also supports what I have read of current demographic trends.

Apparently young folk don't gather in person as much as their parents did. They still visit at someone's home or go to events together, but much of their socialization now is electronic. My young friend also believed that spending so much time in virtual reality has made her generation somewhat lacking in self-confidence in traditional social situations. We've all seen a group of young people leaving a restaurant together, silently, phones in hand and engaged with the small screen. I've also seen couples my age at the same restaurant, waiting for their order, phones engaged and no one talking. If smart phones had existed in the 70s and 80s, does anyone believe that they would have been scoffed at by the generation that now condemns their use (but still drives with a phone in one hand)? I didn't think so. So meme on, if you wish. Everything on this page is painted with a broad brush. It's all in good fun, right? We're carrying on a tradition as old as humanity when we poke fun. But lately it seems that some of the humor has developed a sharp edge. If our younger generations are somehow lacking in any way, I think some of us may be in denial as to who is responsible. The young do not spring from the earth fully formed.

We like to talk about how much better things were back in our day. If that's true, is it the fault of our children? We had one of the greatest opportunities any generation has ever had for a better life. We took full advantage. We partied hard. Perhaps we should be a bit more understanding of the people to whom we're handing the broom - and the bill for the damage.

## The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

## Composting

Composting is a popular and effective method to improve the quality of your soil. It can also help you get rid of lawn debris such as grass clippings or leaves as they are beginning to fall. Composting is not difficult to do, but here are some tips so that you can start your own compost pile.

Firstly, what is compost? It's rich, dark humus (not humus that you eat) that is the end product of the natural decomposition of plants or plant products. Using a compost pile will speed up the natural decomposition of plant material. Once the compost pile has finished decomposing you can use it on your garden as a nutrient rich source of organic matter.

You can use just about any organic material for composting. Leaves, grass clippings, twigs, old annual or perennial flowers, old vegetable plants, straw, and sawdust can all be thrown into the compost pile. Try to avoid using insect or disease infested plants to reduce the spread of those plants the following season. You can put things like kitchen peelings and coffee grounds into the compost pile too. However, be careful because adding too many of those things will attract animals. Avoid using highly processed foods because these will take longer to break down.

When making a compost pile, it's helpful to have something to contain it. A lot of different materials can be used from wire, fencing, wood pallets or concrete blocks. Leave some open spaces on the sides for ventilation. Good air circulation is important for successful compost. The bottom of the pile needs to be open to the soil to allow good drainage. Construct your pile in an out of the way place in your yard, in full sun. You can make the compost pile as big as you need. Just remember that bigger piles will be more difficult to manage even though they'll decompose faster.

Once you've constructed your container for the compost pile, start adding organic matter. Smaller pieces will decompose more quickly than large pieces of organic matter. So try and break down big chunks into smaller chunks before adding them. Once you have a layer of organic matter in there add in some garden soil or animal manure. These will add fungi, bacteria, insects, and worms to the pile. They're the critters responsible breaking down the plant material into the humus that you add to your garden. You'll want to keep the pile moist, but not soggy.

Sometimes a concern with compost piles is that there might be an odor. If you turn the pile with a shovel about once a month this will reduce the smell. A good functioning compost pile will heat up from the activity of the microbes decomposing organic matter. The heat produced will kill off the odor causing bacteria. If you add manure to your pile there will be some initial odor, but as the pile matures the smell will go away. A well maintained compost pile should not have a strong odor.

Once the compost has a crumbly earth look and you can no longer recognize the plant material it's ready to be added to the garden. If you add the organic material over time the compost will become ready a little at a time. Compost can improve soil drainage, structure, and help hold water and nutrients. The nutrients in compost will not be enough to replace fertilizing, but it will improve soil health.

If you have questions about creating or maintaining your compost pile contact your local Extension Office or send me an email at [Jacob.Williams@uga.edu](mailto:Jacob.Williams@uga.edu). Happy composting!

UGA Extension  
**Watching and Working**  
*Jacob Williams*



## Letters to The Editor

### Response on Commercial Seaplane Operation

Dear Editor,  
We do not oppose recreational seaplane use on Lake Chatuge to visit, eat, shop and enjoy the area. It is the commercial seaplane problem we want to solve. While it is true that boaters may not receive training like pilots, particularly inexperienced boaters or jet skiers who are renting for the day, that is precisely why a commercial operation of eight or more flights per day is not reasonable at times of high boat traffic on the single small portion of the lake where the flight operator concentrates. Some boats try to get close to the plane out of curiosity. Others change course quickly to avoid it, which may cause accidents with other boats. The area where the seaplane concentrates is not a "main channel" suitable for commercial flight operations and, for the record, the water planes fighting the forest fires used a much bigger area further out on the lake. On an Army Corps of Engineers lake this abuse by a commercial operation would not happen. There would be careful review of the lake before allowing seaplane access to determine which areas are safe for seaplanes and which are not, as well as noise effects, and any necessary limits for busy weekends. Neither the FAA, the TVA, nor the DNR have done this on behalf of Chatuge residents and boaters, and the TVA recently told us in a letter that it does not have any authority whatsoever to act. ("TVA does not regulate seaplanes, boats or other water vessels.") No sound study has been conducted to ensure FAA noise standards are met.

This is where the concept of respect comes in. The Seaplane Pilots Association in its advocacy to allow recreational seaplanes on Lake Lanier tells residents that "[m]any of us have homes on Lake Lanier, we have close friends and family that live on Lake Lanier, and we want to ensure that Lake Lanier is enjoyed by everyone and that all pilots operate responsibly on this great resource." Further, they say "[u]nlike the Gainesville airport with 2 runways for all traffic to land on, with approximately 39000 acres of lake surface seaplanes can pick an open area to operate from and not concentrate any activity in one area of the lake." And the FAA admonishes pilots to "always avoid creating a nuisance in any area, particularly in congested marine areas or near swimming or boating facilities." (Seaplane, Skiplane, and Float/Ski Equipped Helicopter Operations Handbook, Chapter 3, page 3-4.) Unfortunately, we on Lake Chatuge are not being shown the same respect seaplane pilots afford residents elsewhere.

Even car and boat guys recognize that some reasonable guidelines are needed for safety and consideration of others, particularly for commercial operations. That's all we're asking for seaplanes. ([respectlakechatuge@gmail.com](mailto:respectlakechatuge@gmail.com)).

**Christina and Douglas Nelson**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:** Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: [tcherald@windstream.net](mailto:tcherald@windstream.net). Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.\*

*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*



"I give up. No matter how I carve them, they aren't nearly as scary as the election campaigns!"

## Towns County Community Calendar

	Every Monday:	
Bridge Players	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday	
	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday:	
Free GED prep.	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday:	
Alcoholics Anon.	Sundance Grill	8 am
	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	
	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alzheimer's Supp.	First Tuesday of each month:	
American Legion	McConnell Church	1:30 pm
Hiaw. City Council	VFW Post 7807	4 pm
Young Harris Coun.	City Hall	6 pm
	YH City Hall	7 pm
Quilting Bee	First Wednesday of each month:	
	McConnell Church	10 am
Stephens Lodge	First Thursday of each month:	
	Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month:	
	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	
	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Hiaw. Writers	Fourth Thursday	
	Hiaw. Pk. Comm. Rm.	10:30
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month:	
	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm

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