

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

One important aspect of managing the Office of Sheriff is having a basic understanding of the best accepted practices for recruiting, hiring, retaining, and promoting employees.

Applying this issue to our agency, we have studied the rates of attrition for the Towns County Sheriff's Office over the previous 16 years.

The previous administration had an average rate of attrition equal to 25.6%. During that administration there was a low of 15.15% and an all-time high of 48.48%.

These numbers are not surprising in light of several studies which have been conducted. To give example, the 1999 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) study showed averages between 14-20% during the first 18 months of employment.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Q: Recently when our son started Kindergarten I think he was the only one in the room who couldn't read. It made this dad and me feel really bad that we didn't work harder with him.

A: Well, I would need some more information before I can give you a really definitive answer about your son, but let me give you some encouragement. The research assures us that, other things being equal, by the time he is in the third grade he will read as well as his peers - or better.

Reading readiness is a tricky thing and often tells us more about mom than it does about the child. What mother doesn't love to watch her child's mind develop as he learns to recognize the cow in the picture or point to the tree when mom says the word?

For years we lived in

2003, the North Carolina Department of Criminal Justice found attrition in municipal agencies ranged from zero to 87 percent.

The bottom line is that law enforcement officers tend to move on with a lot of frequency. Over the past 16 years, officers who have left employment at Towns County Sheriff's Office have left on average 4.5 times from other agencies, as well, for a variety of reasons.

Recognizing the fact that attrition occurs is important to us because we need to be in a position to properly staff those positions as they become vacant with the best qualified personnel. In order to do so, it is important that an agency uses the best accepted practices to recruit, hire, retain, and promote individuals within the agency.

This is an area that we feel we have done an excellent job in. We have clearly defined professional standards that are a part of our recruitment and hiring of personnel. We use these same standards in evaluating employee performance and promoting employees.

Anyone who is interested in knowing more about your sheriff's office, please do not hesitate to call on us. We are here to serve you. We can be reached via phone at 706-896-4444, or online at www.townscountysheriffs-office.com.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

A few weeks ago we began a discussion of how we become addicted to our opinions and beliefs. Experience, thought and emotion create neural pathways in our brains. When these connections are reinforced and maintained they produce neuro-peptides that, in turn, cause brain cells to develop receptors specific to those particular chemicals.

The difference? Consider the demographics of the crowds throwing rocks at embassy grounds. They are predominately young. They have a high rate of unemployment. They have only in relatively recent times been exposed to the world stage through the Internet and are perhaps less aware than we that the world is full of inflammatory opinions and expressions.

Our reaction to their "over-reaction" has been sadly indicative of our own habitual thought processes as we once again divide into our accustomed two camps. On one side of our divide we find condemnation of religion and even race, even though the vast majority of Muslims condemn violent acts just as the vast majority of Christians condemn abortion clinic bombings.

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED

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it fails to acknowledge all the facts of the situation. No mention was made of the slain diplomats and the Marines who died for their country in Libya. No apology was made to their families.

There are multiple reasons why America has enemies in the Muslim world. We have blown up much of it; quite a bit before the attacks of 2001 and certainly a great deal afterwards. We maintain military bases there. We have supported brutal regimes there; all in the interest of maintaining our supply lines of energy and natural resources to support our affluent and energy intensive lifestyle.

In writing this column we have always tried to be an equal opportunity offender and today we appeal to our friends on the "left." It is easy to occupy the moral high ground necessary for apology from the air conditioned confines of the average American living room or coffee shop. It is easy to condemn capitalism by posting opinions on a high tech device manufactured in China, made with rare earths mined in Africa and transported by oil shipped from the Middle East on Greek tankers.

As for those who would abuse the right of free speech, take note also. You may have a legal right to throw a rock at a hornet's nest. If that hornet's nest is hanging in a public place, do you still have that right? The religious beliefs of a population under pressure from poverty, unemployment and overcrowding are in many ways just as volatile as that nest.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.." Danny H. Parris

Casting a shadow

You can certainly tell that it is fall of the year by looking at God's landscape. All of the trees, bushes, flowers and grass are changing garments. God's fall fashion show gets better with each passing year. Spring is spectacular, summer is a sight and winter is wonderful but I like fall best of all! Another sure sign that it is fall is revealed by shadows. In our den we have a large window that faces east. During the spring time, as the wife and I have our morning coffee and devotions, we have to close the curtains. As the sun comes up it shines directly into our den and we cannot see to read.

This phenomenon is caused by the rotation of the earth on its axis around the sun. Really, the sun hasn't gone anywhere but the earth has. When you think about it no two days are exactly alike. Because of the earth's rotation the shadows cast by the sun are different each day. The change is so minute you don't notice it, until there is a large variation in shadows. What is true of the earth, the sun and shadows is also true of life. Shadows are cast because light hits an object. The change that takes place in the shadow is caused by the position of the object. When the object changes position the light casts the

shadow differently. Our world and our lives cast shadows in relation to the position we are with The Son. In my short sojourn of life I have seen a lot of changes spiritually in our nation. Most of these changes have taken place so subtly that they have gone unnoticed for years. But suddenly in our generation we feel the full impact of accumulated change. God The Son, has not changed. James, the half-brother of Jesus said, "All good things come down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning" (James 1:17). Job said, "For we are but of yesterday, and know nothing, because our days upon earth are a shadow" (Job 8:9).

We are constantly changing but God changes not. I have heard of people who were afraid of their own shadow. That may have something to do with the kind of shadow we cast. It is beyond any shadow of doubt that our entire nation is casting some scary and grotesque shadows. When Hezekiah, King of Judah, was sick unto death, Isaiah the prophet gave him a sign that God would heal him by letting the shadow return backward ten degrees on the sundial (II Kings 20:8-11). Spiritually, we need to turn back the shadow on the spiritual Sundial. The Psalmist said, "He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty" (Psalm 91:1). The shadows of evening are falling. God help us to number our days. Inscribed on a sundial are these words: "I am a shadow so are thou, I mark time, doest thou?"

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"I wish I knew who was to blame for the mess this country's in. I'd like to give them a piece of my mind!"

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