

Ebony Dots & Dashes

by Katie Smith



Mrs. Georgia M. Jay called me Tuesday morning. She reported that Mrs. Edith Price was in the hospital in Miller County. Hope she is home now.

Watched the new President Barack Obama being sworn in. There were people from all over there to witness the event. It was a historic occasion, but I don't think I would have enjoyed being there in person. It was cold, and the chill here was more than I could have stood outside without heat. I sure hope everyone had on their long johns, and no one gets sick from the affair. But I thank God to live to see this historic occasion.

Black History will be celebrated at New Salem F.W.B. Church on Feb. 4, 2009.

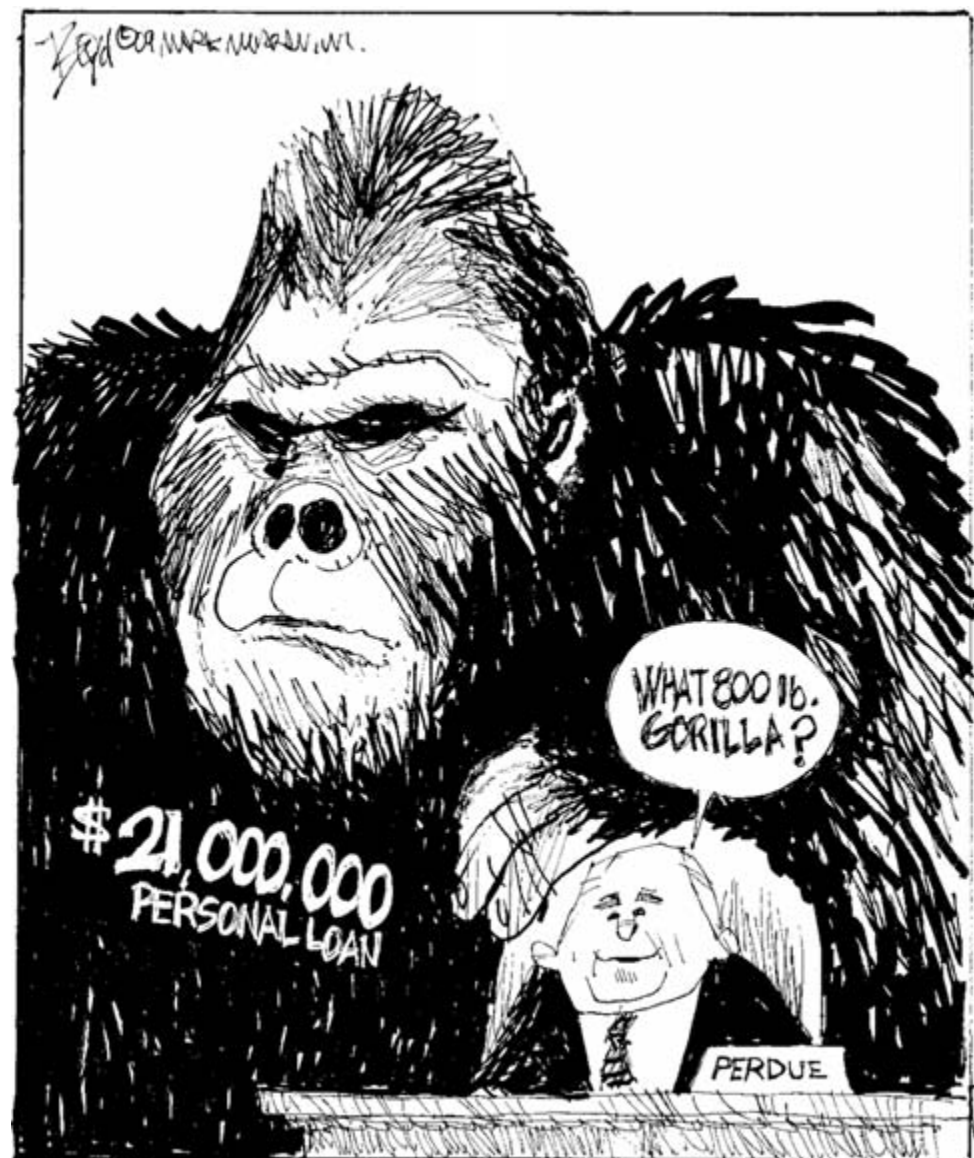
Had a call from my cousin, Mrs. Willie Mae Hightower, in New Jersey on Monday morning. We got caught up on family news. She was fine.

Went to Donalsonville after service at my church on last Sunday to a missionary meeting. Minister Selina Elijah was the speaker. Saw many friends that I hadn't seen in awhile. The day was a good day for me. Mrs. Margaret Grant carried me. Rev. and Mrs. L.E. Moore also went with us.

Gwen Lane was unable to attend church last Sunday. Mr. Arthur was her best friend. He visits whenever he desires. Be it Sunday or Thursday. He has no respect of time or person.

Mrs. Rachel Crankfield spent some time in the hospital at Donalsonville last week. She is home now doing very well. We hope she continues to be up.

Had a surprise on Monday, The Rev. Kenneth Cody dropped by to see me. It was a joy to see him. He is the son of Mr. Edward Cody. All was well at his house.



It's closer than you think

submitted by Linda

It is now closer to reality than you think.

You're sound asleep when you hear a thump outside your bedroom door. Half-awake, and nearly paralyzed with fear, you hear muffled whispers. At least two people have broken into your house and are moving your way. With your heart pumping, you reach down beside your bed and pick up your shotgun. You rack a shell into the chamber, then inch toward the door and open it. In the darkness, you make out two shadows.

One holds something that looks like a crowbar. When the intruder brandishes it as if to strike, you raise the shotgun and fire. The blast knocks both thugs to the floor. One writhes and screams while the second man crawls to the front door and lurches outside. As you pick up the telephone to call police, you know you're in trouble.

In your country, most guns were outlawed years before, and the few that are privately owned are so stringently regulated as to make them useless. Yours was never registered. Police arrive and inform you that the second burglar has died. They arrest you for first degree murder and illegal possession of a firearm. When you talk to your attorney, he tells you not to worry: authorities will probably plea the case down to manslaughter.

"What kind of sentence will I get?" you ask.

"Only 10-to-12 years," he replies, as if that's nothing. "Behave yourself, and you'll be out in seven."

The next day, the shooting is the lead story in the local newspaper. Somehow, you're portrayed as an eccentric vigilante while the two men you shot are represented as choirboys. Their friends and relatives can't find an unkind word to say about them. Buried deep down in the article, authorities acknowledge that both "victims" have been arrested numerous times. But the next day's headline says it all: "Lovable Rogue Son Didn't Deserve to Die." The thieves have been transformed from career criminals into Robin Hood-type pranksters. As the days wear on, the story takes wings. The national media picks it up, then the international media. The surviving burglar has become a folk hero.

Your attorney says the thief is preparing to sue you, and he'll probably win. The media publishes reports that your home has been burglarized several times in the past and that you've been critical of local police for their lack of effort in apprehending the suspects. After the last break-in, you told your neighbor that you would be prepared next time. The district attorney uses this to allege that you were lying in wait for the burglars.

A few months later, you go to trial. The charges haven't been reduced as your lawyer had so confidently predicted. When you take the stand, your anger at the injustice of it all works against you. Prosecutors paint a picture of you as a mean, vengeful man. It doesn't take long for the jury to convict you of all charges.

The judge sentences you to life in prison.

This case really happened.

On August 22, 1999, Tony Martin of Emneth, Norfolk, England, killed one burglar and wounded a second. In April, 2000, he was convicted and is now serving a life term.

How did it become a crime to defend one's own life in the once great British Empire?

It started with the Pistols Act of 1903. This seemingly reasonable law forbade selling pistols to minors or felons and established that handgun sales were to be made only to those who had a license. The Firearms Act of 1920 expanded licensing to include not only handguns but all firearms except shotguns.

Later laws passed in 1953 and 1967 outlawed the carrying of any weapon by private citizens and mandated the registration of all shotguns.

Momentum for total handgun confiscation began in earnest after the Hungerford mass shooting in 1987. Michael Ryan, a mentally disturbed man with a Kalashnikov rifle, walked down the streets shooting everyone he saw. When the smoke cleared, 17 people were dead.

The British public, already de-sensitized by 80 years of "gun control," demanded even tougher restrictions. (The seizure of all privately owned handguns was the objective even though Ryan used a rifle.)

Nine years later, at Dunblane, Scotland, Thomas Hamilton used a semi-automatic weapon to murder 16 children and a teacher at a public school.

For many years, the media had portrayed all gun owners as mentally unstable, or worse, criminals. Now the press had a real kook with which to beat up law-abiding gun owners. Day after day, week after week, the media gave up all pretense of objectivity and demanded a total ban on all handguns. The Dunblane Inquiry, a few months later, sealed the fate of the few sidearms still owned by private citizens.

During the years in which the British government incrementally took away most gun rights, the notion that a citizen had the right to armed self-defense came to be seen as vigilantism. Authorities refused to grant gun licenses to people who were threatened, claiming that self-defense was no longer considered a reason to own a gun. Citizens who shot burglars or robbers or rapists were charged while the real criminals were released.

Indeed, after the Martin shooting, a police spokesman was quoted as saying, "We cannot have people take the law into their own hands."

All of Martin's neighbors had been robbed numerous times, and several elderly people were severely injured in beatings by young thugs who had no fear of the consequences. Martin himself, a collector of antiques, had seen most of his collection trashed or stolen by burglars.

When the Dunblane Inquiry ended, citizens who owned handguns were given three months to turn them over to local authorities. Being good British subjects, most people obeyed the law. The few who didn't were visited by police and threatened with 10-year prison sentences if they didn't comply. Police later bragged that they'd taken nearly 200,000 handguns from private citizens.

How did the authorities know who had handguns? The guns had been registered and licensed kind of like cars.

Sound familiar?

Wake up, America. This is why our founding fathers put the Second Amendment in our Constitution: "...it does not require a majority to prevail, but rather an irate, tireless minority keen to set brush fires in people's minds."

--Samuel Adams

"Modern Medicine"

by Ren Summerlin



This past year I read a very startling and dramatic story.

According to the story, a new instrument has come on the scene. It is called a gamma knife. With this new tool doctors can now operate on the brain without an incision. To me, that is advanced medicine.

The story also read that they could work on tumors, scar tissue, and lesions without opening the scalp or the skull. Amazing and wonderful. And there are only 68 of these in the country. The closest was Orlando or Atlanta. Now there is one in Thomasville.

We have come a long way in medicine. But nature will not stand a vacuum.

As soon as we discover the cure for one thing, there will be others.

But my Mama had a cure for just about anything.

Castor Oil.

If you had a cold, then castor oil was the

cure. If you just felt bad, then a good dose of oil was forthcoming. She called it a good cleaning out. We got what she asked for, a good cleaning out.

There are many products that claim to do things and don't. But Castor Oil did not have to apologize to anyone for anything. It did the job. And you had better be ready for it. For time, tide and castor oil wait on no man or child.

I've heard it said people were healthier years ago than now.

No! They were not. They had come to appreciate the stamina of Castor Oil.

A body soon learned that to complain was a sure way to get cleaned out.

Modern medicine? You bet. I like it.

I wonder if in my childhood, having bad dreams were linked to Castor Oil. I did not dare ask, I was afraid of a good cleaning out.

Exception to correction

by Terry Toole

It is our hope that all of our readers learn something each week from the *Liberal* that they did not know. I know I do.

It is not very often that we take exceptions to corrections. We make enough errors on a regular basis, each week to go by the old saying, "Those who do not do anything, don't make mistakes." That's not a cop-out. There is much truth in it.

It seems that the big bold print on the front of last week's edition just didn't look right.

Confession time. I had it wrong. Many of you, some of which are educators, along with a bunch of us not-so-educated, thought the 60 point headline across the front page was wrong. I had put "Trustees charged," but thank goodness higher edu-

cation caught the error before it was printed and changed it to "Trustees charged." That higher educated proofreader is Dr. Debra Jones, who comes in each Monday night and corrects a good portion of our errors. Thank goodness for Debra.

Here are a few dictionary definitions of the word.

trust-y (trust)

adj. trust-i-er, trust-i-est

Meriting trust; trustworthy.

See Synonyms at reliable.

n. pl. trust-ies

1. A convict regarded as worthy of trust and therefore granted special privileges.

Noun

1. trusty - a convict who is considered trustworthy and granted special privileges convict, yard bird, yardbird, con, inmate - a person serving a sentence in a jail or prison

trust-tee (tr-st)

n.1. Law One, such as a bank, that holds legal title to property in order to administer it for a beneficiary.

2. A member of a board elected or appointed to direct the funds and policy of an institution.

3. A country responsible for supervising a trust territory. See Usage Note at -eel.

v. trust-tee, trust-tee-ing, trust-tees

v.tr. To place (property) in the care of a trustee.

v.intr. To function or serve as a trustee.

trustee

Noun 1. a person who administers property on someone else's behalf

2. a member of a board that manages the affairs of an institution or organization

We really don't mind corrections. That just shows that you are reading the *Liberal*.

BIRTHDAYS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28

Birthdays: Gennie Cook, Daphne Spence, Gary Davis, Rita D. Smith, Sarah Taylor, Kyle Thomas, Robert Tully, Jo Mock, Colby Gilbert, Rickey Stuckey, Gwendolyn Bush, Andrew Gordon

THURSDAY, JANUARY 29

Birthdays: Deanna Cook, John B. Grant, Terri Lawrence, Glen Lovering, Isaac McVey, Hays Bowen, Barbara Blankenship, Georgia Burr, Charlie J. Cook, Leon Daniels, Wanda Miller, Tabitha Marshburn, Tony Wyatt, Eric Phillips, Kay Chandler, Erick Whitaker, Susan Williams, Travis Pickle, Leon Widner, William McKinley (1843); **Anniversaries:** Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Watson

FRIDAY, JANUARY 30

Birthdays: Tammy Richardson, Heather Lovering Curles, Wynelle Cutchen, Angela Hand, Jan W. Brown, Josh Cowart, Wayne Roland, Jennifer Cox, Brandi Hynes, Norma Hornsby *Franklin Delano Roosevelt (1882)*;

SATURDAY, JANUARY 31

Birthdays: Nicole Cook Horn, Alice Martin, Jane Roland, Susan Henley, Janna Cox, Erin Stuckey, Chrishona Williams; **Anniversaries:** Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Wells Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Steve Bush

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Birthdays: Verna Daniels, Libby Roland, Joel Josey, Brenda McNease, Wylene Newberry, Rob Nash, Sue Williams, Addie Lou Wade, Rodger Bass Jr., Carleen Wyatt, Tony Josey

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Birthdays: Joyce Ard, Clint Cleveland, Ashley Mock, Preston Messer, Jerry Smith, Betty Smith, Benji Turner, Joy Burrell, Mitch Alday, Valencia Bush; **Anniversaries:** Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Smith

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3

Birthdays: Tomi Lynn Duncan Heard, Betty McVey, Brandon Bass, Jimmy Harrelson, Mary Kitchens, Beverly Richardson, Elvin Runnels, Maxine Summers, Wendell Cox, Ledon Williams, Spence Gay, Randy Hall, Robin Roland, Alacia Lovering, Zariyona S. Bryant, Leslie Bush, Helen Elrod, Bernice Miller, Bruce McMillian, Ledon Johnson, *Norman Rockwell (1894)*; **Anniversaries:** Mr. and Mrs. Buren Womble

If you would like to add your name or some family member's name to our calendar, please mail or e-mail it to us. If you see anything that needs to be corrected, such as a death, a divorce, marriage or error, please call us at 229/758-5549, or it may stay in our master file forever. We at the Miller County Liberal wish you all much happiness on your very special day.