

# perspective

CONGRESS shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

(First Amendment to The U.S. Constitution)



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**In County:** 3 months \$15; 6 months \$28; 1 year \$50.  
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**Outside The Carolinas:** 3 months \$31; 6 months \$47; 1 year \$83.  
**Law Enforcement:** 1 year \$28.  
**Students:** 9 months \$36; Schools: 9 months \$41.

## LETTERS POLICY

1. Each letter submitted must be an original — no photocopies. E-mails are also accepted if a name and phone number is included: editor@gaffneylegger.com
2. Letters should include the writer's name, address and day and evening telephone numbers.
3. Letters should be submitted exclusively to this newspaper.
4. Letters are subject to editing for length and clarity.
5. Letters submitted in all-italic or all-capital letters will not be accepted.

We will not print letters:  
— That are unsigned;  
— That contain questionable or undocumented facts;  
— That contain inappropriate attacks on a person or persons;  
— Regarding disputes between the writer and other parties;  
— Endorsing a business.

Our mailing address is: P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

## IF YOU MISS YOUR PAPER

Here at The Gaffney Ledger, since 1894, our newspaper delivery goal has always been the complete satisfaction of our readers.  
Despite our taking exhaustive measures to prevent it, a newspaper delivery will occasionally be missed. Papers are sometimes picked up by the wrong person or by a dog, or they are missed due to some other unavoidable occurrence.  
With this in mind, we have developed the following standard policy for late delivery of your Gaffney Ledger.  
— We guarantee same-day delivery of your Gaffney Ledger if the problem is reported to us by 5 p.m.  
— You can call at any time after 5 p.m. to report a missing paper via our answering machine and your paper will be delivered the next day by noon.  
— We will deliver your Gaffney Ledger on the following business day by 11 a.m. if the missing paper is reported by 9 a.m. on that day.  
After that, you have the choice of:  
— Having the paper delivered with the next day's paper, or  
— Crediting your account for the cost of the missing paper.  
If you have any questions about this policy or if you have any problems with the delivery of your newspaper, please let us know. We are here to serve our readers.

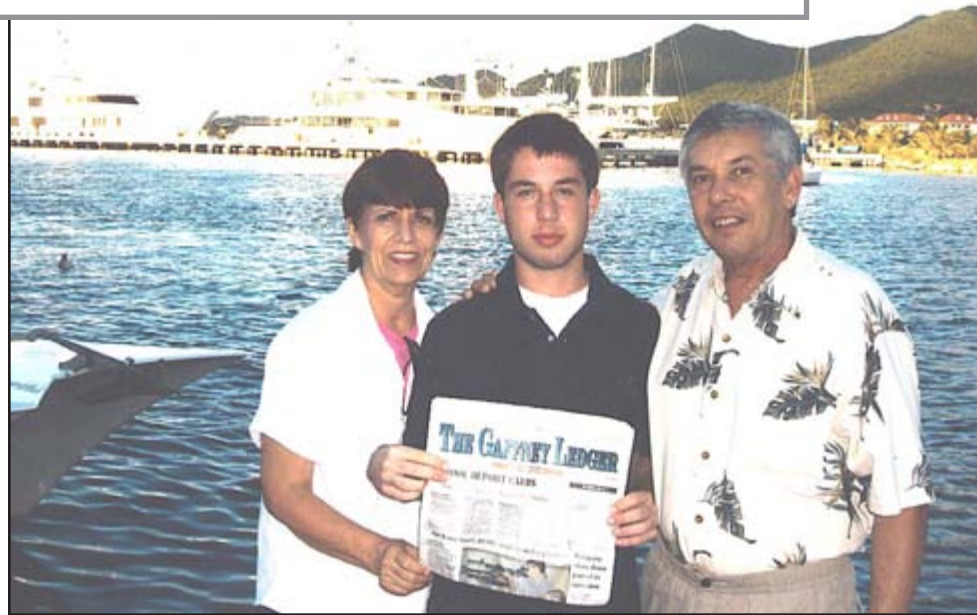
## CORRECTIONS

The Gaffney Ledger makes every effort to ensure all information in this publication is accurate and thorough. However, in the event an error is made, it is this newspaper's policy to correct the error as soon as possible.  
If you find a mistake, please notify the editor by calling 864 489-1131. Please be ready to tell us the page number and story in which the error appears.

## ATTENTION POSTMASTER

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## LEDGER READERS ON THE ROAD



Frances and Larry Mabry along with grandson Andrew Moss read The Ledger while waiting to board the Lagoon Cruise in Simpson Bay for a tour of the Caribbean Islands. On your next trip out of town, take a copy of The Ledger along and send a picture of yourself or your group reading the newspaper to: cody@gaffneylegger.com.

## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED...

### Impressed by this call to prayer

Is there an award for Governor of the Year? Probably not. If there was, my choice for 2007 would be Gov. Sonny Perdue of Georgia.

What he did on a Tuesday in November 2007 is enough to win my vote. With an epic drought threatening his state's water supply, he called Georgians to gather on the steps of the Capitol for a PRAYER SERVICE. With he and his wife, Mary, participating, the governor clearly stated the purpose: "We've come together here simply for one reason and one reason only: To very reverently and respectfully pray up a storm."

I was deeply impressed and encouraged by this action of Gov. Perdue as all Christians should be. Was everyone pleased? Of course not. Many were and expended great effort to attend the service. Others, who couldn't attend, paused in their homes and work places to voice their prayers in response to the governor's call.

Were there protesters? Of course. Some 20 from the Atlanta Freethought Society protested having a prayer vigil at the seat of state government. But, then today what faith-related public event is not accompanied by protesters?  
All the regional and national media did not consider it of news value. But gratefully some did and the event was known nationwide.

Personally, I consider it a significant event and applaud Gov. Perdue for his courage and boldness. I find it tremendously encouraging. Why? Let me share my reasons.

It gives me new encouragement and hope when a notable elected public official:

- Places public acknowledgment of his/her personal faith over political popularity;
- Recognizes that some crises can only be solved by God's, not man's, intervention;
- Considers bowing before the altar of



Dr. French O'Shields

prayer more important than bowing before the altar of political correctness;

— Puts the good of his people above an erroneous interpretation of the "separation of church and state" that seeks to totally remove God from our national life;

— Seeks guidance to governor from God rather than political polls or strategists.

We have been blessed that some previous leaders were men of God, sought wisdom from the Bible and governed believing a blessed nation is one whose god is the LORD.

I am impressed and grateful that our current President Bush in six years in office has called our nation to a day of prayer 44 times. Who can ever forget after the tragedy of 9-11 seeing the members of Congress, Democrats and Republicans, conservative and liberals, praying together standing arm in arm on the steps of our nation's Capital.

Nor can I forget the 1989 presidential debates when vice presidential candidate Dan Quayle was asked, "As president of the U.S., in a severe crisis, what would you do first?" Without hesitation he humbly replied, "PRAY."

Remember the response? The media and late night show hosts ridiculed him as a joke; the pseudo-intellectuals called him a simpleton; the atheists jeered; but true Christians CHEERED!!!!

I was among those who cheered. Still am and for good reason. I believe God-fearing public officials who can lead our nation to return to our spiritual roots and to truly be "One Nation Under God" are essential to our nation's survival. May Gov. Perdue's tribe increase. We dare not accept anything less. Otherwise, the nation we lose may be our own.

Dr. French O'Shields is a Gaffney native and a retired Presbyterian minister.

## INSIDE REPORT

### HILLARY'S INEVITABILITY

WASHINGTON — Old pro Democrats who had been in awe of Sen. Hillary Clinton's perfect campaign believe she made her first serious blunder last Monday by indicating to CBS's Katie Couric that her election as president is inevitable.  
When Couric inquired "how disappointed will you be" if she does not win, Clinton replied: "Well, it will be me." "Clearly," the CBS anchor persisted, "you have considered" the "possibility of losing?" "No, I haven't," said the senator. "So you never even consider the possibility?" "I don't. I don't."

A footnote: Bill Clinton, campaigning for his wife in Iowa the next day, stunned Democratic insiders when he claimed he had opposed the Iraq war "from the beginning." In fact, shortly after the U.S. invasion of Iraq, the former president declared: "I supported the president [George W. Bush] when he asked the Congress for authority to stand up against weapons of mass destruction in Iraq."

### HUCKABEE'S RISE

Strategists for Mitt Romney's Republican presidential campaign were actually pleased that fast-rising Mike Huckabee moved ahead of Romney in the Rasmussen poll in Iowa, eliminating surprise if Romney finishes first there in the Jan. 3 caucuses.

A Huckabee victory in Iowa would kill Romney's plans to win the first two 2008 tests in Iowa and New Hampshire, followed by sweeping the board in all other primary states. Instead, the contest for the nomina-

tion could extend through the Feb. 5 primaries, with Rudy Giuliani given a chance in the high-population state primaries that day.  
The consolation for Romney strategists is that a Huckabee win in Iowa would no longer be a shock that could stampede the process.



ROBERT NOVAK

### DELISTING KOREAN TERROR

The new Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, a polite gentleman of the old school in contrast to his recent predecessors, on his recent visit to Washington did not urge President Bush to keep North Korea on the terrorist list as the Japanese Foreign Office recommended.

The state department's attempts to dissuade North Korea from developing nuclear arms involve possible removal of Pyongyang from the list of nations that support terror. Tokyo opposes that because of North Korea's abduction of Japanese citizens.

The Foreign Office had wanted Fukuda to raise the abduction issue with Bush. However, the president pre-empted the prime minister as their bilateral meeting began by expressing U.S. concern about the abductions.

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## LEDGER COLUMNIST

### Things I don't know very much about

There are a lot of things I don't know much about. For example, sports programming. I have my own personal theory about how you can tell if something is a sport.  
From my way of thinking, for something to be a sport, two things have to be present.



Klonie JORDAN

1.) There has to be hand-eye coordination;  
2.) There has to be a ball.  
If either of these is missing, what you've got yourself is a contest, or an activity, or a board game. But that's just me. I know not everyone shares that viewpoint. Which is fine with me. Believe what you want to believe and I will still hope that we can be friends.  
Besides, ESPN televises a lot of things that don't involve hand/eye coordination and any type of ball. For example, they show people playing poker, and I think they even show that national spelling bee thing (whatever that's called) and they televise hockey, and swimming, and cheerleading, the supporters of which could all make legitimate arguments for sports status. Which, being a wise and ancient sage (I used to be handsome and clever instead of wise and ancient, but I have evolved) I believe that sports is, after all, a personal preference. If you like bocce ball, more power to you. I don't know what a bocce is or why they would turn one into a ball, but that's beside the point. If you enjoy it, go bocce it up.  
And speaking of evolution, that's another thing I apparently don't know much about. Some folks believe we got to where we are today after converting ourselves from some sort of micro-organism that once lived in the sea and one day (I think it was a Thursday) we dragged ourselves out of the water, started breathing air and then went through various stages of transformation until we became modern men.

Of course, some people also like to spike their eggnog. I don't know much about evolution because I don't believe in evolution. I don't buy the whole big-bang theory. I was talking to a preacher about this the other day and he made a good point (he's a really smart preacher). He said, paraphrasing now, "If there was a big bang that we can credit for creating the planet, how come we don't see things banging together out there now? I don't see anything banging together up in the sky and things magically appearing."

Ha-ha. Guess he told them. Which brings us to fashion (OK, I know that wasn't a smooth segue, but I'm not a talk show host here; I'm just trying to get from Point A to Point B; try to keep up, will ya) and the notion that baggy britches (you know those saggy pants that some folks wear down around their hips, sometimes so low that their underwear shows) are cool, let me just say two things:

- 1.) Nobody wants to see your underwear; And
- 2.) I would love to have seen you try to convince my dad that the notion of wearing your britches like that was an acceptable fashion statement.

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN: "Good day sir. We represent the 'Baggy Britches Are So Cool Company' and we'd like to offer you a real deal. Today – and today only – we are offering three pairs of baggy britches for the price of two."

MY DAD: "You're what? What are you selling?"  
DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN: "Baggy britches, sir. They're the latest and greatest fashion craze. Everybody is going to be wearing them. Here, I'd like you to meet Lester. He's wearing a pair of them. Turn around there Lester so he can get a good look at these wonderful britches."

Lester twirls like a ballerina.  
MY DAD: "Let me ask you something. How do you keep them things from falling down? I can see his drawers already. If he drops his wallet and bends over to pick it up, he's going to have a real problem."

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN: "Oh, I can assure you sir. These britches are snug-fitting and do not present a potential wardrobe malfunction disaster."

MY DAD: "Uh-huh, I see. Well then, I reckon I've just got to get me a pair or two of them britches (HEAVY SARCASM HERE). You boys wait right here while I go get my wallet."

DOOR-TO-DOOR SALESMEN: "Thank you sir. We'll just wait right here and ..."  
DOOR SLAM!

But seriously, if you want to wear baggy britches, well, I reckon that's entirely up to you.

And finally, speaking of things I don't know much about, let's talk Christmas decorating. I have no sense of what looks good in a room. If it were up to me, we'd have 20 high-def TVs at our house and a few bean bag chairs scattered around to sit on. Oh, and one of those big wooden cable spools to use as a coffee table.

But thankfully, my wife does the interior decorating. I went to bed Saturday night and woke up the next morning and there were Christmas trees, and a wonderfully decorated mantle, and little holiday things all over the place. It was like Santa had already been there. I got so excited that I rushed right out and bought myself a gift.

Yes sir, nothing says holiday spirit like buying yourself a nice gift.

What?  
Hey, at least you'll know you get something you really want. I don't want to be sitting around the tree on Christmas morning and open a box full of socks.

So, if you're having difficulty getting in the holiday spirit, buy someone (for example – me) a nice Christmas gift. You'll feel so much better. If you're having trouble deciding what to get someone (for example – me), well, money is always a good choice.

I've got to run now. Hey, you boys there in the back — pull them britches up. Ain't nobody wanting to see your drawers.

Klonie Jordan (editor@gaffneylegger.com) is executive editor of The Gaffney Ledger.