

# 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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Col. Ed H. DeCamp 1865-1952  
F.W. Sossamon, Sr. 1887-1979  
Louis C. Sossamon 1921-

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Larry Hilliard: Sports, Government  
Laura Parker: Lifestyles

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

**In County:** 3 months \$15; 6 months \$28; 1 year \$50.

**NC & SC:** 3 months \$25; 6 months \$41; 1 year \$75.

**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@gaffneyledger.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

The Gaffney Ledger, established Feb. 16, 1894 (USPS 212-760) is published three times weekly by The Gaffney Ledger, Inc., 1604 Baker Blvd., Gaffney, S.C. Periodicals postage paid at Gaffney, S.C.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: The Gaffney Ledger, P.O. Box 670, Gaffney, S.C. 29342.

## LEDGER READERS ON THE ROAD



Nila and Wally Conover of Worcester, N.Y., are shown here with their daughter Sally Schwab with a copy of The Gaffney Ledger on a frosty St. Patrick's Day. 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@gaffneyledger.com.

## THEIR VIEWS

### Lights, camera, action

Everyone likes a good movie, and at least one South Carolina legislator wants to keep the reels rolling on the production end.

The anticipated resurgence of filmmaking in South Carolina hasn't emerged as some thought following the Hollywood writers' strike. State House Speaker Bobby Harrell, R-Charleston, wants to entice the industry by expanding wage rebates for in-state and out-of-state workers and to create an apprenticeship program for residents to gain experience in the industry. ...

We agree with the governor's office that it doesn't make a lot of sense to offer huge incentives to hire people from outside the state. If anyone needs a break, it would be South Carolinians. ...

The legislature has offered some ill-advised incentives in recent years to well-heeled companies that some South Carolinians don't embrace. ...

Harrell's ideas about creating crews and a supplier base are on target, and we would hope the filmmakers would hire them.

Creating a competitive edge is difficult, and it must have the right balance of incentives. Other states also are on the trail of the entertainment industry business. Everyone wants to create jobs, but lawmakers should take a close look at the return.

*The Beaufort Gazette*

### Welcome to the Upstate

Tourism is South Carolina's No. 1 industry, and it's only fitting the Upstate do what it can to increase its share of that pie.

Those efforts include a planned ad campaign that would be aired on the Golf Channel during the BMW Charity Pro-Am, and are aided by the Upstate's prominent mention in a South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation and Tourism advertising campaign aimed at tourists from Chicago.

These are both worthy efforts that will help position the Upstate as a quality vacation destination and a great place to live. Our state already is wildly popular among tourists from all over the nation, although many tourism dollars stay at the coast. And this state is recognized as a great place for families to relocate. ...

Our state is known nationwide as a tourism destination and a great place to live and work. There's no reason that the Upstate cannot continue to build its stake in our state's No. 1 industry, and there's no reason the Upstate shouldn't use its already plentiful assets to bring people here so they, too, can be "blown away" by what the area has to offer.

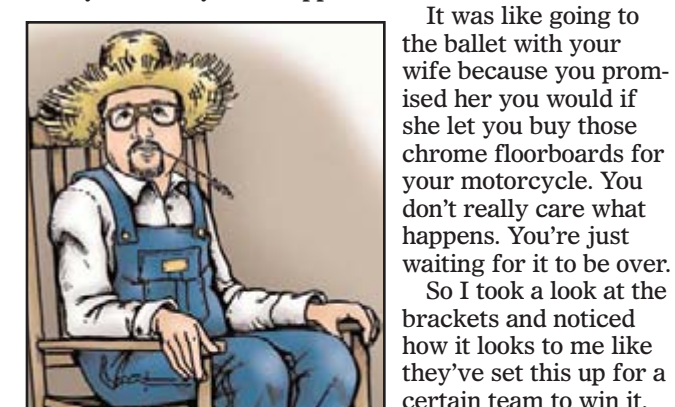
All of us who live and work in the Upstate know what a wonderful place it is. To capitalize on that, all we need to do is tell the rest of the world.

*The Greenville News*



## If y'all need me I'll be under the house

So I was sitting there watching this NCAA Basketball Tournament thing Saturday and I wasn't really all that interested in it. I think I was just watching it out of habit, watching it just because I have been watching 'em for all these years and you're supposed to watch 'em.



Klonie JORDAN

It was like going to the ballet with your wife because you promised her you would if she let you buy those chrome floorboards for your motorcycle. You don't really care what happens. You're just waiting for it to be over.

So I took a look at the brackets and noticed how it looks to me like they've set this up for a certain team to win it. After reviewing this and glancing at the screen one more time, I said to myself, "this is nuts. I'm not watching this nonsense anymore."

Now I know what you're saying. You're saying, "you're just mad because your Dukies lost." You're saying, "you've GOT to watch the tournament, man, it's Americana, it's tradition."

I'm not mad because Duke lost because they've been a classic bunch of overachievers all year. They got off to a hot start and rode the momentum until it ran out. They weren't supposed to be very good this year. They were supposed to pretty good next year. Coach K is the only coach in the nation who could have taken this bunch of freshman point guards and won 28 games.

And this tournament is not as much Americana as it used to be. It reeks of favoritism and entertainment more than anything else. Collegiate sports is as much about politics, merchandising and TV contracts as it is about competing. It's big business. Its Hollywood-esque is more glitz than substance.

So I changed the channel. There was a movie about a guy who filled a bunch of balloons with helium and tied them to a lawn chair just to see if he could get off the ground in it.

HOW COOL IS THAT? Tell me you wouldn't rather watch a guy floating off in a balloon-powered lawn chair than some goofy basketball game.

DUDE, IT WAS BALLOONS TIED TO A LAWN CHAIR! YOU GOTTA WATCH THAT!

I know it sounds great, but DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME. This poor guy actually got airborne and all was well as he was floating past the high-rise office buildings waving at the surprised people sitting at their desks, but then it got frightening when he was blown into a thunderstorm. And the journey ended when he floated over a small town festival and got shot down by fireworks.

He survived and the plot deteriorated from there. I think it might have turned into some kind of silly love story deal, so I turned it off.

Then I sat there thinking, "what can I do that would be more fun than watching this college basketball fiasco?"

Then it hit me. I needed to replace the filter in our HVAC unit. Now this involves getting down on one's hands and knees and crawling for several feet under the house. Then you have to lie there in the dark with a flashlight in one hand and try to unscrew three rusty wing nuts with the other hand while heaven-knows-what might be slithering or crawling around next to you or over you. It's a dirty, slightly scary process.

It's not very Hollywood and not much of a merchandising opportunity. I mean who's going to buy a T-shirt that reads, "I CRAWLED UNDER A HOUSE AND CHANGED A FILTER?"

But it was still more fun than what they call a college basketball tournament these days.

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

## INSIDE REPORT

### MCCAIN'S MISTAKE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Even before Sen. John McCain got mixed up by saying Sunni al-Qaida terrorists have been brought out of Iraq to be trained in Shiite Iran, Republican insiders felt he was in the wrong place at the wrong time on his visit to the war zone.

GOP critics disapproved of McCain even making the trip to Iraq accompanied by two of his closest Senate colleagues, Republican Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Independent Democrat Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut. They felt that no political purpose was served by the prospective Republican presidential nominee going halfway around the world to praise President Bush's troop surge.

Democrats, disheartened by the bitterness of the Clinton-Obama struggle, seized on McCain's mistake as good news. They say he messed up a key play in his strong suit.

### UN-VETTED OBAMA

While Sen. Hillary Clinton's campaign could not actively join in the attack on the radical rhetoric of Sen. Barack Obama's pastor, the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, her aides stressed their familiar theme that Obama had not been sufficiently "vetted" to be the Democratic presidential candidate.

Tuesday's conference call between Clinton aides and reporters was mostly about her campaign's demands for primary election re-votes in Michigan and Florida. But senior adviser Harold Ickes briefly changed the subject to say "the past two weeks have cast more doubt" on "whether Sen. Obama is going to be able to stand up to the Republican attack machine."

Ickes added that the Republicans "may not be able to run a country, but they can sure run an attack on the opposition candidate." That fit the Clinton campaign tactic, sounded for nearly a year, of claiming that an un-vetted Obama will be easy prey in the general election.

### MCCAIN'S LIBERAL

John McCain's team that is taking over the Republican Party has decided on Bobbie Greene Kilberg, a liberal Republican from Virginia long detested by conservatives, to run the party's national convention in St. Paul, Minn., in August.

Kilberg, as an aide to President George H.W. Bush in 1990, promoted White House overtures to gay activists. She won an internal power struggle over gay politics with fellow Bush assistant R. Douglas Wead, who was fired as White House liaison to religious conservatives.

When Kilberg appeared on television by McCain's side the night of Feb. 12 after he won the Virginia primary, her presence was resented by conservatives as a sign of contempt for them.

### JINDAL FOR VP

The latest possible Republican vice presidential prospect pushed by Washington-based conservative activists is newly elected Louisiana



ROBERT NOVAK

Gov. Bobby Jindal, fresh from a triumphant six-day special session of the state legislature.

In Baton Rouge, Jindal won approval of several tax cuts and funding for transportation, hurricane protection and higher education. He was elected last October in a landslide.

Jindal, the son of immigrants from India and a Catholic convert, is at age 36 the nation's youngest governor. He has been praised by conservative activists, including Rush Limbaugh and Grover Norquist. The major argument against him for vice president is that he should not be taken from Louisiana so soon after assuming office.

### POLL ON PORK

In the face of a continuing quest for pork-barrel spending by most of Congress, pollster Frank Luntz in a recent survey found that the public disagrees with their lawmakers.

On tax policy, Luntz found that 40 percent of a national sample of swing voters are opposed to higher taxes and prefer "fewer earmarks and no more bridges to nowhere." The compromise proposal of making earmarks "transparent" received 23 percent backing. Only 14 percent supported a rollback of President Bush's tax cuts.

With Congress in recess, the Capitol Hill newspaper Roll Call reported, the demand for earmarks by more than 90 percent of House members required the House Appropriations Committee to extend its March 19 deadline for requests to March 24.

To find out more about Robert D. Novak and read his past columns, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com).