

PUBLISHER'S Pen

Let's meet and get things going

The four scariest words in the English language are "let's have a meeting."

My dislike for meetings is no secret. I avoid them like the plague. Meetings transform ordinary, well-meaning individuals into bureaucrats who make a motion after discussion, or second a motion, discuss the motion further, amend the motion and then pass or defeat the motion. And that is simply to accept the minutes of the last meeting.



JIM PERRY

I've never been so bored watching so much motion.

I will rotate with the Rotary, meet in chambers with the Chamber, unite with the United Way and even occasionally club the Kiwanians. But, at least your publisher doesn't have to attend the umpteen weekly meetings that the loyal editorial staff attends to bring you your daily news. Some of the most productive meetings I've ever attended were the informal ones, over a cup of coffee.

I think meetings were invented in Rome, around the time of Julius Caesar, when Brutus said, "Let's have a meeting."

The rest is history.

Meetings have since developed into a structured gathering of people who are hoping to better organize things through a joint effort.

In the hope of further simplifying things, we have developed the agenda meeting. This is a special meeting held to discuss what should be discussed at the meeting. The agenda meeting is preceded by the pre-agenda meeting. This is where discussion is limited to what is to be ultimately discussed at the meeting and included on the agenda. Most likely, the pre-agenda meeting is where you'll hear the committee's report on its meeting to see if the report should be considered for the meeting agenda at the agenda meeting.

I wish Brutus would have just offered to buy Caesar a cup of coffee instead.

You rarely hear anyone speak in public like they do at meetings. If you were in a restaurant and said, "I wish to make a motion," somebody would probably interrupt you and say, "Down the hall, first door to the left."

The worst thing about meetings is their stepchild, the committee. Committees were also one of the ideas Brutus came up with. They are those groups that were appointed during a meeting and have the responsibility of meeting to discuss what they are to report back on at another meeting.

Politicians have given us one better with the advent of the subcommittee. Of course, they also have meetings but on a lower level.

I can't figure out how anything ever gets done with so many people in meetings listening to committees report their meetings and so forth. It's a vicious circle, a perpetual meeting. I'll bet my desk calendar that one of every three people you see in Howell County is going to a meeting.

The only solution is to get everybody that goes to meetings to set aside one day next week to get together and discuss the need to cut down on having meetings.

That's it - let's have a meeting!

Or better yet, let's get a committee on it right away.

Today in History

The Associated Press

Today is Monday, July 13, the 194th day of 2015. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

On this date:

In 1793, French revolutionary writer Jean-Paul Marat was stabbed to death in his bath by Charlotte Corday, who was executed four days later.

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was

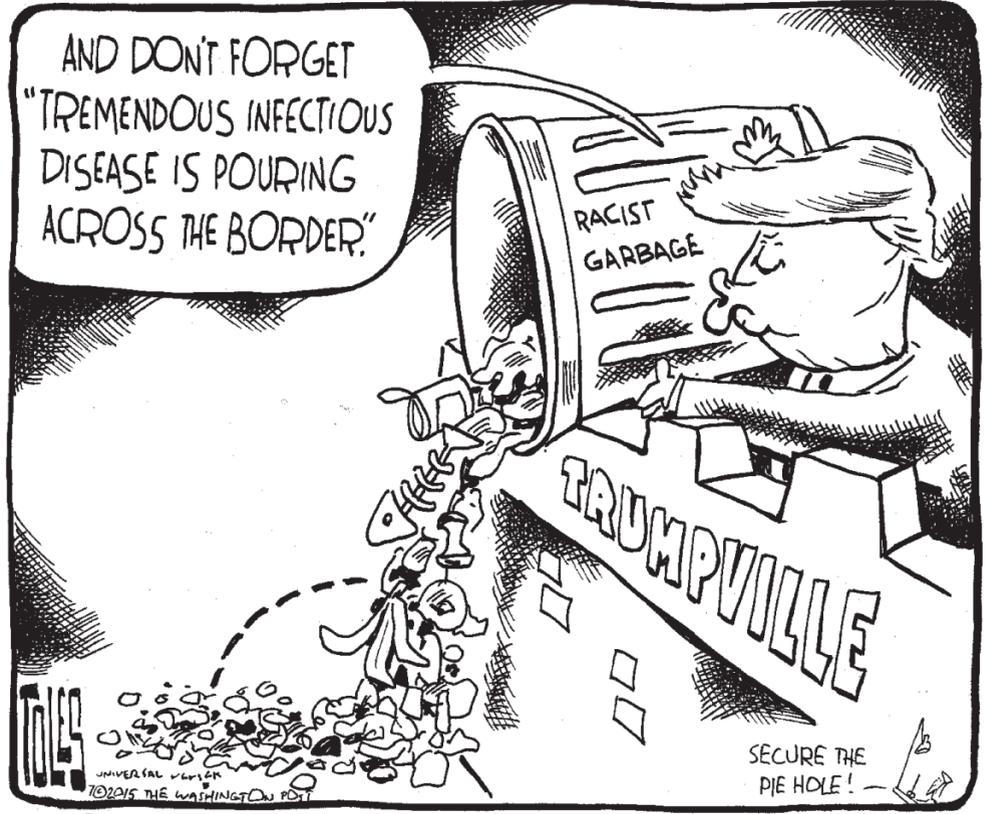
dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1939, Frank Sinatra made his first commercial recording, "From the Bottom of My Heart" and "Melancholy Mood," with Harry James and his Orchestra for the Brunswick label.

In 1955, Britain hanged Ruth Ellis, a 28-year-old former model and nightclub hostess convicted of killing her boyfriend, David Blakely (to date, Ellis is the last woman to be executed in the United Kingdom).

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1972, George McGovern received the Democratic presidential nomination at the party's convention in Miami Beach.



Letters to the editor

Discussing lawmaker, Supreme Court, EPA

To the editor:

A recent missive with Congressperson Jason Smith's name attached attacks the Supreme Court Justices for being unelected. But unlike the way Smith was appointed to his position by a small cabal of Republican officials instead of by voting citizens, the Supreme Court was designed to not be selected by popular vote. This was an attempt to reduce the influence of the prevailing public opinion and be able to follow the Constitution in order to protect minorities against the majority.

The ACA (Affordable Care Act) decision was consistent with the intent of Congress as is obvious when reading the debates during that time. Even Justice Roberts, a staunch supporter of corporation rights, expressed disbelief that Justice Scalia took the minority position by taking the four words out of context. (Scalia is infamous for being an "originalist" when it comes to interpreting the Constitution, i.e. he bases his opinions on what the original writers meant at the time, but in this case he ignored the written record of what Congress intended.)

The marriage decision of the Supreme Court is consistent with the Constitution. It does not force anyone to get married to someone of the same sex, nor force anyone to get married at all, as Smith knows. Smith is free to believe what he likes about marriage, but it is not Constitutional to force others to follow his religious views on marriage. Our country was founded by people who knew the ills caused by having state-sponsored religion and we have a Constitution that gives freedom of religion and freedom from religion. It is unconstitutional to have a religious test to run for office.

It is not true that the EPA did not take into account the cost versus benefits of the rules they were developing. What the Supreme Court ruled is that the EPA should have taken into account the cost of the rule before they developed them. Of course that is an absurd expectation. How can you know the monetary costs of implemen-

tation before the rule is developed. This decision is another example of this court ruling in favor of corporations at the expense of the health and economic well being of ordinary citizens. It is unfortunate we have a congressperson that holds similar beliefs. Fortunately, in the future he will run in an election and not be appointed.

James Vokac
Willow Springs

"God's judgment"

To the editor:

Most Americans, including those of us in the so-called Bible-belt here in southern Missouri, will claim to be Christian, or at least, "believers" in God. If, in our own words, we declare we are or are not, or do or do not, or believe or believe not, then we should honor our words. God Himself will hold us accountable to our words. Jesus says that we shall give account for "every idle word" which we have ever spoken (Matthew 12:36). Are we speaking idle words when we claim to be Christians or when we claim to "believe" in Almighty God? Are we being hypocrites when we claim to know God, or fear God, or love God yet we not prove it in our every day lives?

God believes in accountability. He will hold us accountable for what we say and what we do. Most of us don't like to think of this truth, but it is there and it is real. The most recent U.S. Supreme Court decision regarding so-called sodomite marriages is an example. Those justices who voted in favor of that wicked decision were mocking God. If you are familiar with the Bible, God's Holy Word, then you know that God will not be mocked (Galatians 6:7).

You also know of the biblical principle of sowing and reaping found in that same verse. A man, or a woman, will reap the very thing which he (or they) sow. If we sow mockery toward God, then we will reap God's derision (Psalm 2:4). Further, we, America, will reap God's judgement. We cannot stand before God, shake our fist in his face, and expect to get away with it. That's exactly what the Supreme Court

did last week with their abominable decision to give Constitutional legitimacy to the sin of sodomy.

Stand by, fellow Missourians, for God's judgment. It's on its way. The latest Supreme Court folly is merely the capstone of our national repudiation of God and His word. What makes this coming judgment more grievous is that those charged with the responsibility of showing the people their transgressions and of warning them of God's displeasure (the pastors of our churches) will remain sitting closed-mouth on their fat haunches. They are described accurately in God's word by Isaiah the prophet (Isaiah 56: 10-12). Think about it.

Les Goss
Mtn. View

Quill thanked for support of music festival in June

To the editor:

Please accept our sincere appreciation for the significant part you and the staff of the West Plains Daily Quill have played in the continued success of the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival. Your unconditional and long-time support of the festival ensures that we are able to present our unique Ozark culture to an international audience.

We appreciate the special festival tab that the West Plains Daily Quill sends to over 10,000 households as well as the coverage before and after each year's event. Additionally, having professional staff cover events as they transpired was of great benefit.

Once again, we thank you for all your help, and look forward to the West Plains Daily Quill's continued support of the Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival.

Sincerely,
Paula Speraneo
Old-Time Music, Ozark Heritage Festival Board
West Plains

West Plains Daily Quill

www.westplainsdailyquill.net

125 N. Jefferson Ave. • West Plains, MO 65775

Phone: (417) 256-9191 • Fax (417) 256-9196

Jim Perry, Publisher

Lillie Lundry, Assistant to Publisher

Carol Bruce, City Editor

Vicki Johnson, Advertising Manager

Judy Collins, Business Manager

A LOCALLY OPERATED PUBLICATION OF
Phillips Media Group, LLC

"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."
- U.S. Constitution, Amendment 1

Editorial Letter Policy

The West Plains Daily Quill encourages readers to express their views. Viewpoints expressed in letters to the editor are those of the writer and not the viewpoints of The West Plains Daily Quill. Letters are limited to 400 words, about one page typed or two pages hand written. Longer letters will be condensed. Frequent writers should limit submissions to one letter per month. The West Plains Daily Quill reserves the right to accept or reject letters based on content and reserves the right to edit letters for space and clarity in order to conform to good taste, readability, the laws of libel and space considerations. Writers may address local political issues but specific candidate endorsements will not be published as a letter. Political letters will stop seven days prior to election day. All letters must include a single name of one author, complete address and phone number for verification purposes (address and phone number will not be published). Personal attacks on private citizens or businesses will not be published. Unsigned letter, multiple signature letters and third-party letters or letters requesting that the writer's name be withheld will not be published. Submitted letters will not be returned.

Letters may be brought to our office at 125 North Jefferson Ave., downtown West Plains; emailed to news@wpdailyquill.net or mailed to us at P.O. Box 110, West Plains, MO 65775. Letters may be faxed to 417-256-9196.