



# QUOTE OF THE WEEK

*"All the candy corn that was ever made was made in 1911."* — Lewis Black, comedian

## A decade into my AARP years, a new shock

Well it has happened. It was inevitable, I suppose. I've seen it happen to so many others over the years, but it never dawned on me that I would become a member of "the club."

I've seen it happen at movie theaters and local plays and eating establishments far and wide. I've seen it advertised on TV and in newspapers and magazines. It gets touted on social media, trying to lure those who go in for that kind of thing.

I'll never forget where I was the first time it happened. I was standing at the counter at Kentucky Fried Chicken in Worthington. The song "Brandy (You're a Fine Girl)" by Looking Glass playing on the oldies station that served as ambience in the eatery, luring me into a false sense that it was still 1972 and I was 14.

Kathy ordered chicken strips from the chronically bored girl behind the counter. I stepped up to the cash register and scanned the lighted menu behind the morose lump who was wearing the KFC hat.

I'll tell you right now that I'm a breast man. I don't crave thighs or wings or legs or butts or lips. I'm a breast man.

Regular—not extra crispy.

I decided there was only one way to go at KFC—the buffet.

I placed my order. It was at that point that Kathy tapped me on the shoulder and pointed out what my selective blindness had conveniently missed—the sign that said "60-plus senior discount."

I felt a short catch in my breath and the fear that comes

### Off the Mark

Mark Wilmes



to probably everyone the first time. I tamped down the queasiness that was building in my stomach. I dived right in, ripping the Band Aid off before I could lose my nerve.

"I guess I get a senior discount on that," I said with a nervous laugh.

The bubbly spark plug waiting on me stared blankly back at me, nonplussed, as if to wordlessly say, "Well, duh."

Another nervous laugh from me...

I paid my bill, leaving myself 50 cents richer than I would have otherwise been.

I was still a bit stunned when I approached the buffet table with eyes glazed over. It didn't take long to snap out of my stupor. I scooped the mashed potatoes onto my plate, covered them in gravy and added a slotted spoonful of corn. Then I moved to the chicken bin and reached for...A THIGH! There were regular thighs and extra crispy thighs. There were thighs that looked like they just had come out of the oven and thighs that may have been from Friday's buffet. When I grabbed thighs from the top layer, I uncovered more thighs of varying crispiness, mocking me from their barely-over-room-temperature nest. I spend a good 60

seconds holding up the impatient 20-something to my right, who had already reached over my desperate, still-empty tongs to grab himself a biscuit. I had to accept the reality; there was nary a breast to be uncovered, no matter how much foraging I would do.

It was shortly after noon, so it wasn't like it was the tail end of the noon buffet, but nevertheless, I trudged to our table with four thighs.

Mine, and the two on my plate.

Still undeterred, I made a return trip to the buffet 10 minutes later to find...thighs, thighs and more thighs. It turned out that the extra crispy ones were no more satisfying than the regular.

I talked my curmudgeonly, senior discounted-self down from going back to the counter and whacking someone with my cane.

We got up to go and as I was emptying the unsatisfying pile of thigh bones in the garbage, I glanced up, making contact with Smiley. She didn't show it outwardly, but somehow I think she enjoyed the heinous act of flashing those breasts at me before dumping them in the stainless steel buffet pan. Her glance at me lingered just a bit too long.

Fortunately for me, I'll always have the satisfaction of knowing they may have cheated me out of my favorite piece of chicken, but from here on out until the day I die, I'll always be able to get a modicum of old age retribution—50 cents at a time.

## Intolerance act in Iowa causes concern and fear

### Letter to the Editor,

The leader of a northwest Iowa pro-life, anti-homosexuality group on Friday made a Facebook Live video in which he checked out and burned several gay-tolerant books from the Orange City Public Library, during the city's OC Pride event last weekend. This makes me a little afraid. If I see other fundamentalist groups jump on the bandwagon, it will make me very afraid.

This outrage threatens us all. Five to ten percent of Americans are gay, lesbian, bi or transgender. We have families, friends, and communities who love us. We are you.

What are we becoming? What evil has been unleashed? I'm simply shocked at this abhorrent book burning! Intolerance raises its ugly head, yet again. These religious zealots want to dictate beliefs, behavior, and oppress to an extreme degree. What's next, pushing stone walls over on gay people? Who's next? Public

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flogging of women who don't stay in their place? Retribution for anyone who doesn't have and share their fundamentalist beliefs? They are a lot less fun and a lot more mental than I thought. Didn't we just spend a trillion dollars fighting the fundamentalist Taliban in Afghanistan over the same sort of bullying and intimidation?

If the rule of law and our constitution aren't enforced to protect all of us from such fundamentalist overreach, it will only end in violence and bloodshed. Our country has become much more divided and intolerant in the past three years. It's up to all of us Americans, religious or not, to stand up to this evil with our thoughts, words, and votes. If we don't, it's another win for Putin, not for God.

Bruce Meyer  
Florence

## Women need support, not abortion

### Dear Editor:

October is Respect Life Month in churches across the United States. Making people aware of the horror of abortion and the destruction it brings with it is not the only way to stop it. We all know how one decision "in the heat of the moment" can change our lives forever.

Please take time to view these two short films. Both are on Youtube: "I lived on Parker Ave" 30:13 min. and "Crescendo" 15:04 min. Do you believe God

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is creator of every conception, both planned and unplanned? You will after watching these films. He loves us so much and has a plan for each one of us. The world is a sadder place when we are not allowed to live. Enjoy the films.

Joan Wiering  
Tyler

## Impressed with Nafziger's qualities

### To the Editor:

I am writing to encourage my friends and neighbors across Lincoln County to vote for Nathan Nafziger as our next sheriff. I have served on the Tyler City Council for the better part of the past twenty years. During that time I have had the opportunity to employ and work with a number of law enforcement officers. Mr. Nafziger is one of those who impressed me most.

Nathan Nafziger is an officer who believes in enforcing the laws firmly but fairly, regardless of favoritism or his personal opinions. He is objective and logical in his work. He does not seek attention for himself, but prefers to do his job quietly and competently.

### Letter to the Editor

I have nothing against the current sheriff, Mr. Meester. Perhaps he is doing a fine job. However, I have often said that if I ever had the chance to hire Mr. Nafziger again, I would do so. Now, I have that chance, and so does every voter in Lincoln County. I encourage them all to vote for Nathan Nafziger. He is an outstanding officer, and the opportunity to hire him as our sheriff is one we should not miss.

Erick Harper  
Tyler

## Time is running out; make your voice heard

Time is running out on us. At least that is what my calendar tells me every morning. There are only about 60 shopping days left until Christmas. That means there are only about nine weeks left in our year. And there are only two weeks left, just under, to make your decisions before the 2018 General Election.

The peons of the world don't often have a voice in big decisions, but casting your vote gives you the chance to make your voice heard. As Mark put it a couple of weeks ago, if you don't like what is happening in our country, you have the ability to complain with your vote. If you think everything is wonderful, your vote makes that clear as well. Your vote is your voice.

Historically, the United States was unique in giving their populace a voice in who ran their country. In fact, according

### Thoughts along the way

Shelly Finzen



to *The Economist*, "In the 18th century only the American revolution produced a sustainable democracy." We were the first to allow our common citizens a chance to have a say.

Okay, I can't say that the system the United States uses for voting isn't flawed, and I would really rather that everyone remember that there are more than two political parties to choose from, but these points don't invalidate the importance of our voices. Even if you don't like any of the candidates, you can write someone who would do better in their spot. While write-ins aren't often named

the winners, it does happen. Look at the mayoral election in Lake Benton a few years ago. Mike Carpenter wasn't running for another term of mayor, but enough Lake Benton citizens wrote him in that he remained in the seat.

Citizens of Lincoln County have some big choices to make this year. There are mayoral races in Lake Benton and Arco. The county sheriff will be decided upon. City council and school board members will be elected. There will be several judges' positions filled, and the attorney general will be chosen. Even if President Trump's fate won't be decided for a couple more years, this is not a year to stay home on Nov. 6!

Make your voice heard and vote this year.

*Finzen is the news editor of the Lake Benton Valley Journal*

## Letters to the Editor policy

The Tyler Tribute encourages readers to participate in the editorial page of this paper. Original and diverse opinions through the form of letters to the editor are encouraged. Due to limited space the Tyler Tribute asks that letters be limited to 300 words or less. Tyler Tribute reserves the right to edit or reject letters that include:

- Crude or profane language
- Personal attacks
- Comments that are disrespectful of individual's race, gender, religion, culture, sexual orientation or ethnicity
- Endorsements or complaints about commercial products or services
- Fiction, short stories or poetry
- Issues that don't relate to or impact the region
- Letters signed "anonymous" or those we are unable to contact will not be printed

The Tyler Tribute will not knowingly publish inaccurate information. Letters intending to address previously published letters should identify the previous letter and address the issues it presented.

All submitted letters should be signed and include a phone number the writer can easily be contacted through, the writer's street address for verification purposes. That information will not be included in the published letter.

Letters must be received by noon Friday for consideration of publication in the Wednesday edition of the Tyler Tribute.

Additional questions can be directed to the Tyler Tribute at 507-247-5502.

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# Tyler Tribute

— Established in 1972 —

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**Publisher** — Charles R. Hunt

**Editor** — Mark Wilmes

### Subscriptions

\$36.00 - Lincoln, Pipestone, and Lyon Counties

\$42.00 - Residents with 561 or 562 zip codes

(excluding the above named counties)

\$46.00 - All other subscriptions

A "Snow Bird" rate is available for \$3.00 per month extra

50¢ off to Senior Citizens 62 or older

POSTMASTER: Address changes to:

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The Tyler Tribute is the official newspaper of Lincoln County, City of Tyler and the Russell-Tyler-Ruthton School District

Published Weekly on Wednesdays  
by Buffalo Ridge Newspapers, LLC  
124 North Tyler Street  
Tyler, MN 56178



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