

## The WRITE STUFF

Letters from our readers

# I feel that I get every penny of my tax contribution made to the library system. — Margaret Van Horn, Tulsa

### The best place in town?

I sat down at a Central Library computer, the latest in technology that I could not afford on my retirement income. I don't have to worry about upgrades and maintenance. I have a free e-mail address and check it four or five times a week. I am allowed 90 minutes per day.

I entered through the south covered parking lot door and immediately got my parking ticket stamped so that I could have two free hours of parking. At no door do I smell urine as has been alleged by Dillon Dodge on KFAQ radio. I'm wondering how long it has been since he has been here. Since the Day Center for the Homeless has opened, the library doesn't have to be used by those seeking shelter from cold and summer's sweltering heat.

I am sorry that Dodge hasn't availed himself of the wonderful events sponsored by Friends of the Library. There is a series at noon on Mondays about music of past decades. Recently we swung to the music of the 1940s with local luminaries Vernon Howard, Mike Bennett, George Toumayan, and Sonny Gray and this was free! Next was music of the 1930s with Chuck Cissel and Pat Moore.

Among my favorite things here is to read magazines I could not afford to buy. I can also read newspapers from all over the country. I save money by checking out music CDs. I feel that I get every penny of my tax contribution made to the library system. I would like a new Central Library to solve the need for more parking. I love this library, but recognize the need for more space. A society that values knowledge will thrive. The libraries are the repositories of knowledge. Enjoy them instead of criticizing them, Dodge.

Margaret Van Horn, Tulsa

### Thanks for the kids

The Tulsa Chapter of the Public Relations Society of America made a major contribution to the health and well-being of all Oklahomans on May 12.

Presenting a private screening of the film "Super Size Me," and hosting Oscar-nominated filmmaker Morgan Spurlock for a luncheon and presentation, was an event of epic proportions.

Congratulations to PRSA for giving Oklahoma a platform from which to not only address the obesity epidemic, but to incorporate responsibility, nutrition and physical education and what America has unknowingly done to a generation of kids. By filling the DoubleTree Grand Ballroom with professional communications and health advocates from across the state, the impact of Spurlock's message is sure to have a ripple effect in our communities.

Allowing the Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition to benefit from the proceeds will also afford education and collaborative efforts to continue in promotion of positive and rapid change.

The Tulsa Chapter of PRSA is a special group — professional, committed, experienced. Tulsa is fortunate to have the energy of this organization and its demonstrated belief in the legacy of Oklahoma.

Cheryl Waldeck, Tulsa

Cheryl Waldeck is the Northeast Oklahoma director of Oklahoma Fit Kids Coalition.

### Judges are important

Some say that the struggle over a few judges is not so important, but nothing could be further from the truth.

If Democratic senators succeed in keeping conservative pro-Bible judges off the U.S. Supreme Court we are almost certain to see more rulings against the Bible and its values.

Senators know that if they openly voted against the Bible or to expel the Ten Commandments it would end



ROBERT S. CROSS/Tulsa World file

A pedestrian at the south parking entrance to the Tulsa City-County Central Library.

their political career, but when they do it through the courts they escape accountability.

Stan Severson, Claremore

### The other side?

In regards to "Race riot survivors speak up" (May 11), I have always wondered if there are any old white men still alive that helped perpetrate the riot.

Are they keeping silent because their family names might be on a building, park or road? Or are they afraid of prosecution? Would the district attorney, along with the survivors, offer these men and their families immunity from prosecution if they were to tell their stories of that day and what they or their family members did? If you believe like I do that racism is generational, then the older white people of Tulsa have some telling to do.

I am 42, born and raised in Tulsa. I grew up in south Tulsa and moved north as an adult. I think Tulsa has not come to terms with this horrible past. I think the new arena should be named in honor of all the race riot survivors. Let's call it "The 1921 Race Riot Arena," except that black people come out alive and are honored by whites. The best thing we all could do, and what I have done, is to be a neighbor to a survivor. Whites and blacks can live together and we are doing just that in Brady Heights. Move north, it's the best and most real part of Tulsa.

Scott Trizza, Tulsa

### Bring the troops home

A highly classified British intelligence memo leaked during Britain's recent election campaign confirms what a lot of circumstantial evidence has been pointing to, and that is that President Bush decided to invade Iraq a long time before any reason had been found to do so. When told there was no case for war, the American response was that "intelligence and facts are being fixed around the policy." Weapons of mass destruction and terrorism were manufactured to justify war.

President Bush is not the first president to lie to the American people, but seldom have the consequences been so high. The butcher's bill to date is more than 1,600 Americans killed, 10 times that number wounded, more than 100,000 Iraqi civilians dead

and the country trashed.

The president is calling for \$106 billion in new tax cuts for the rich. To pay for the tax breaks to the wealthy basic social programs, such as Medicaid, crime prevention, Head Start and hunger and nutrition programs for the neediest Americans, will be cut. And, as if those who serve us in the armed forces haven't sacrificed enough, veterans' benefits will also be cut.

We are complicit in this lying if we say our troops are fighting in Iraq to protect us or further freedom in the Middle East, the latest rationales. No good comes from fraud and we do not show support for our troops by deceiving them. Our security is jeopardized and democratic institutions are weakened when intelligence and facts are manufactured to further a politician's foolish policy. Support our troops by telling the truth and working to bring them home.

Russell L. Bennett, Tulsa

### Good stories

The two continued stories, "The Secret School" and "Hank the Cow Dog," are outstanding. My grandkids and I love these stories. I especially enjoyed Hank's case of the runaway windmill. When will there be other stories of similar quality appearing in the Tulsa World? I sincerely pray it will continue to be a regular feature in your fine newspaper.

Richard Chapman, Tulsa

### Where were the city leaders?

On May 7 there was a ceremony at the memorial at the Tulsa Police Academy. The ceremony was reverent and respectful to the officers who have lost their lives. I attended this ceremony, along with other Tulsa citizens.

Also in attendance was former Gov. Frank Keating from Washington D.C., state Rep. Lucky Lamons and various friends and family of fallen officers. What I want to know is where was the mayor of Tulsa, along with the all-so-important City Council members?

This was a ceremony to honor Tulsa's best who have given their lives for the citizens of Tulsa. The least that the leaders of our city could have done was to be there to show their support and to let family members know their loved ones did not die in vain.

I am appalled that city leaders could not take the time to show respect. I don't even live in Tulsa but I know how important the police are. The next time you are in the area of the Tulsa Police Academy — Mayor Bill LaFortune and the Tulsa City Council — take the time to walk to the memorial and then remember these officers the next time that you need a policeman.

Karen Apker Myers, Glenpool

### Give us real news

What has happened to our network TV news programs? In a time when our country has soldiers fighting overseas, our government has record budget deficits and our Congress is at a standstill, our TV news teams are obsessed with run-away brides, who got booted from which island and the fate of a mallard nesting in front of the Treasury Building.

Is there so little news of importance that we need to fill the news broadcast, both nationally and locally with these types of stories? What about news regarding who's responsible for the nuclear arms in Iran and North Korea? Or maybe something about why we can't create new energy

sources so we won't have to depend on foreign oil? We've been trying for decades.

I understand that without tales of ducks, survivors and brides with cold feet the news would be a bit more somber, but I for one have had enough of this nonsense news.

After hearing the national news teams, the local news teams and then the Hollywood news team tell virtually identical stories about something as mundane as a reality show judge supposedly sleeping with a contestant, I'm ready to turn off the set altogether. It's a total waste of time.

It's good for business, however. Ever notice that the network news teams only give you news about the reality show that appears on their network? I for one want news that's important to us all and not just the bottom line of some corporation.

Kevan Judah, Broken Arrow

### Stop slamming Coburn!

The Tulsa World recently complained about U.S. Sen. Tom Coburn's limited continuation of his medical practice. I was not surprised at the criticism, but I was disappointed about the logic and the laziness in not researching the subject matter.

The World's position is, as I take it, that Coburn should be a full-time senator or a full-time doctor. Trying to be a senator and part-time doctor is in your judgment neither fair to the voters nor his patients. This overlooks the fact that the voters made their decision knowing he intended to practice on his trips back to Oklahoma, as he did while a member of the House.

If his patients are not demented they realize that he can only devote a few hours of his time each week to their care. I find it amusing that the World finds it must step forward to protect these constituents and patients.

The World's position is logically flawed and demonstrates shoddy journalism for two reasons:

1. Every U.S. senator who intends to stand for re-election has two full-time jobs from the beginning. Each must attend to official duties while also spending a great amount of time and attention to the business of being re-elected.

2. I do not believe that the World keeps track of the amount of time that each senator spends on official duties. They don't keep time records as do employees in the private sector. Based upon the abysmal attendance record of certain senators such as John Kerry, perhaps we should insist that our public servants keep such records.

David W. Jackson, Broken Arrow

### A good deal

Most likely, one reason people have cell phones is so they can call 911 in an emergency. But unless they can give the 911 operator their specific location chances are the fire, police or medical attention they need may not get to them in time.

Most 911 systems across Oklahoma do not have new technology to determine a cell phone caller's location. Compounding the critical problem is the fact that hundreds, if not thousands of people every year move into apartments and houses without installing a land-line telephone because of expense and inconvenience. In many of these cases, there is a lack of understanding that 911 emergency services may not be available in a situation where the victim is unable to give their location.

There is an answer, but it will cost each cell phone owner 50 cents a month, the same charge they now pay on their land-line phones, to upgrade 911 systems to give the cell phone user's number and location.

Is the security of knowing 911 can find them or a loved one at a critical time worth \$6 a year? If so, they need to contact their state senator and representative and tell them they support House Bill 1751.

The Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police strongly endorses and supports HB 1751. We are fortunate to live in a time when the technology is available to have the capacity to save a life for as little as \$6 a year.

Richard Mask, Del City

Richard Mask is president of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police.

### Neighborhood charm

In response to Chuck Ayers' (Letters, May 12) objection to real estate being 20 percent higher in Brookside as compared with property east of LaFortune Park: Brookside is a community within Tulsa. I do almost all my shopping here and I do not find the shops "cute." There is also the advantage of not getting in traffic congestion.

The residents come from all walks of life and this is reflected in their homes. The diversity is refreshing as well as educational. No one has a need to keep up with the Joneses.

I prefer not to live amidst high rise office building and shopping centers. Brookside has charm.

Jane Livingston, Tulsa

### Tell the story

I have been a subscriber to your paper, the best in the state, since moving here seven years ago. There have been regular stories, almost daily sometimes it seems, about the memories, tragedies and horrors of the Tulsa race riot of 1921.

Yet none of the stories has explained to those of us who were not even born until long after that what precipitated the riot. We hear constantly about the atrocities. How about a complete story on what caused it for us younger folks. I'll be 74 next month, who see it as history much like the Boston Massacre.

Bob Penick, Perkins

### Just the facts, please

I used to read the Tulsa World editorials for the facts of what was happening, but since we have had some friction in town the person writing the editorials seems to want to make slurs and call names of people that he or she does not like, especially my counselor.

I don't care who the World likes or dislikes but I don't appreciate this ugly tone in my editorials. If the World can't write without slanting things its way it should let someone write who can report just the facts of the editorial.

Millie Winningham, Tulsa

### No endearments

Ann Douglas (Letters, May 13), is spinning the news when she claims that conservatives "pounded" on Barbara Santee (Letters, April 17), because Santee objects to a litmus test for professors. The truth is that Santee was called to account because she implied that only the ignorant are Republicans.

I read Santee's letter but did not respond because I thought Santee was doing what kids on the Internet call "trolling" or that perhaps that part of her letter was an attempt at humor.

Santee and Douglas are simply following the liberal playbook when they denigrate those who disagree with them. Such terms as "poorly educated," "infant fascists" and "brain damaged" are not words of endearment. One should take such tactics into account when evaluating the writers' opinions.

Charles M. Sturm, Porter

### Remembering polio

I met Betty Boyd in person through an appearance on her TV show in Tulsa. In the '50s Maggie Fry of Claremore arranged my appearance on "The Betty Boyd Show." I had polio in 1940 when I was 6 years old.

There were no vaccines at the time. In fact, it was a mysterious disease that brought on immediate paralysis. I agree with her wholeheartedly in her references to Dr. Jonas Salk and all others who were eventually able to eliminate polio. And a great big "Thank you, Betty!"

Nellie Glover Serino, Claremore

Letters to the editor are encouraged. Each letter must be signed and include an address and a telephone number where the writer can be reached during business hours. Addresses and phone numbers will not be published. Letters should be a maximum of 200 words to be considered for publication and may be edited for length, style and grammar.



JAMES GIBBARD/Tulsa World

Former Gov. Frank Keating speaks during the Tulsa Police Officers' Memorial Service at the Tulsa Police Training Center.