

1991

## Iannone, Carol: News Articles (1991): Letter to the Editor 02

R. D. Fulk

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**WARNING:** Smoking can result in lung cancer.

**WARNING:** Transplanted organs can result in AIDS virus.

May 25, 1991

### Opinion

#### Outstanding priorities

To the editor:

I agree with your May 11 editorial question about the spending of billions of dollars to build a new highway from Bloomington to Nashville rather than upgrading and expanding existing ones.

It is my understanding that Greene and Monroe counties, where the proposed new highway would run, would be responsible for repair and maintenance of their sections. At present these counties are not adequately repairing existing roads because of lack of funds. It appears naive to suggest that there would be funding for the maintenance of a now more expensive road even if separate federal funding or tolls. Or would the money be taken away from state education and social programs?

As a health educator I am concerned about the current inadequate funding for social programs. I understand that money for this proposed highway might come from lottery profits. When I voted for the lottery I thought I was voting for funds earmarked for health, education and welfare needs and the money to build a new highway. In the counties of Greene and Monroe counties there are many working poor who do not have health insurance and who are functionally illiterate. Profits from the lottery should be used for adequate health care and educational programs to help people pull themselves out of poverty. A new highway is unlikely to help in this process. It may temporarily produce a few construction jobs but in the long run would only increase a limited number of low paid service positions.

There are alternatives to a billion dollar highway and the current underfunding for education and health care needs. Upgrade highway 37 south of Mitchell to connect with highway 64 and upgrade highway 11 to Evansville which connects with 24. Move the lottery funds back to their original purpose of aid for education and health care programs and not new highways.

Ruth C. Engs

#### Neighbor a hero

To the editor:

In my humble opinion, my neighbor Donnie, of the Southcrest Mobile Home Park, is every bit as big a hero as General Norman Schwartzkopf.

As a former member of the Women's Army Corps, Army Air Force, I have seen my share of heroes and maladjusted Army personnel. In fact I worked under one in the JAG office who happened to be a disgruntled attorney who could not get into Officer's Candidate School, probably because he was such a good clerk. He made my life miserable. He was guilty, in my opinion, of female harassment, even back then. We did not have that criteria to complain about, but believe me, we had all the other misfortunate circumstances of living in close quarters with 60 females from the New York-New Jersey area.

I was overwhelmed with amazement when I heard of the circumstances dealing with my neighbor's courage in going into a blazing trailer to rescue a fellow neighbor. Greater courage hath no man — the general is surrounded with combat troops and war machinery, but this gallant person went in alone and saved a life.

He, in my opinion, warrants not only the gratitude of the population of Bloomington, but a cash award from whatever source is ready to give it.

He is a true human being, and I give him four stars.

Jessica Siefert Kruh

#### Why Tyrrell?

To the editor:

If you've got to add yet another conservative political columnist, why R. Emmett Tyrrell? Unlike George Will, who at least is intelligent and writes well, for persuasion Tyrrell substitutes innuendo, exaggeration, and extremism.

Tyrrell's attack on the Modern Language Association of North America is especially regrettable. He calls it the academic equivalent of a left-wing Ku Klux Klan. With more than 30,000 members, the MLA is the main professional organization for scholars who

teach language and literature. Most professors of English and foreign languages at IU, and at other universities across the nation, belong to the MLA, and many present academic papers at the annual MLA meeting. This is not simply "an association of university scholars that patrols standards of scholarship in Academe, particularly in comparative literature," as he defines it. It's hard to believe that a newspaper in a college town would publish such distortions.

When Carol Iannone is appointed to the council of the National Endowment for the Humanities for her political views, Tyrrell perceives no double standard in accusing the MLA of political motives in opposing her appointment. If reasonable people ever had any sympathy with the ill will that's been generated over the issue of "political correctness," it's been vitiated by writers like Tyrrell, who use the issue as an excuse to flog any opposition to the Buckleyite agenda in the academe. As proof of the frivolousness of the MLA he offers the example of a linguistic paper on North Italian dialects read at the last MLA meeting, whose only fault, apparently, is in being too remote a subject for his palate. And yet Tyrrell sees no irony in accusing the political left of dictating what is and is not worthy of study.

Never mind the impression he gives of conservative thought in general; but you might at least care about the effect of his methods on the political process. For him there is no middle ground: those who disagree with his political agenda he characterizes not as people who might have understandable reasons for their beliefs, but as "nitwits," "Knights" of a left-wing Klan, and promoters of "slander" and "infantile revolution." He is a provocateur of the sort who have robbed American political life of its vitality by making moderation and cooperation rare and difficult to achieve. As long as you publish columns like Tyrrell's, your readers don't need to hear complaints from you about the sort of unreasoned partisanship that has brought the state legislature to a standstill. It's what you've asked for.

R.D. Fulk

# ...and, but spear will be strictly cash

right now, there is a family goal out there: to get back to work without catastrophe brings

of fantasy last summer by picking up a real bullwhip and a "Genuine Australian

And there's nothing that'll take the fun out of something you can't afford to pay for