

# Opinion



## INSTIGATING LOGIC

By JARED PUTNAM  
Union Sentinel Editor

First let me say that ordinarily we do not print letters to the editor that are unsigned, but once in a while I will run one just to show readers examples of the many different opinions that people hold. In this case I'm having trouble agreeing with the majority of the complaints, but I will give credit for originality, as I don't think I've ever heard anyone else accuse us of being a carbon copy of any other newspaper.

In terms of running articles to "please the fundamentalists," I'm afraid you are mistaken. There is a lot of church related news in our paper because we make an effort to print information and articles that are relevant to the people of this area. Guess what? You live right in the middle of the Bible Belt! Would you move to Lebanon and complain about the amount of Islam there? It is silly to not take into account the culture you live in.

As for your comment about the young women of "this area," I find it hard to believe that the problem is only being experienced in "this area." But I do think it is good that we have an organization like the Women's Enrichment Center, as well as people that are willing to support it. Even though you do not seem to agree with their methods, at least someone is working towards tackling a growing social problem.

About our cartoonist, I can't say for sure, but maybe he is "Pro-Israel." I personally think he is

## Response to an unsigned letter

one of the funniest cartoonists I've seen, though that's just my opinion. But if you check around, I think you'll see that the "Pro-terrorist" cartoonists are in short supply these days. Go figure. I'll go out on a limb and say that it might have something to do with some lingering hard feelings over terrorists constantly trying to blow up...everything.

We have printed the "Alcohol in America" submissions because the author asked us to print his opinions on the subject. It is not uncommon for the same press releases and opinion pieces to be printed in more than one publication, but if you judge by the letters to the editor on the matter, this paper is the one people read it in.

Finally, I think our columnists each have their own flavor and appeal to different audiences. Its no different than a TV network that has different shows for different audiences. Daytime tv is heavily geared toward women, while other shows and time slots are designed to target men, young adults, etc. Still, a wide variety of entertainment appears within the same networks.

Likewise we have a variety of columnists. They may not all be your cup of tea, but they do put their names behind what they write. It is easy to take shots at people under the veil of anonymity, but it is a much different story when you put your name and reputation behind what you write.



BILL O'REILLY

## Baghdad Joe

The latest casualty in Iraq is Sen. Joseph Lieberman, an honest man who is the victim of an emotional vote against the chaotic situation in Saddamville. As you know, Lieberman lost the Democratic primary in Connecticut to Ned Lamont, a rich guy who wants to pull American troops out of Iraq right now and the consequences be damned.

Lieberman's defeat is a dangerous sign. Even though some people believe the far left that is currently dominating the Democratic party will ultimately lead it to another presidential defeat, I'm not so sure.

Everyday Americans are certainly frustrated with the war in Iraq—the polls prove that. Slightly more than a third of Americans believe the war is going well. And those folks are wrong—the war is not going well.

According to the private intelligence firm Stratfor, an excellent source of information, Iran now controls many Shia militias in Iraq and is encouraging the sectarian violence that is making true democracy impossible. As with Hezbollah in Lebanon, the Iranians are ordering up as much violence as possible, believing the United States and Israel lack the will to fight long term.

There is no question that Iran wants to dominate the Gulf oil flow, and it will if the USA withdraws from Iraq, allowing Iran to become the power

behind the scenes. China, especially, is dependent on Iranian oil right now, and if the Iranians begin to call the shots on Iraqi oil exports, Iran increases its power dramatically. With oil as a lever, there would be no stopping Iran's nuclear weapons ambitions.

I don't believe Ned Lamont and those who voted for him understand any of this. Geopolitics is complicated, it requires a sophisticated knowledge of how the world works and an acknowledgment of the evil that Israel, America and the West in general are facing.

The fog that is shrouding the big global picture is the coalition's failure to control terrorism in Iraq. There is no getting around this, the Bush administration has not been able to get Iraq under control, and Americans are sick of the whole thing. Thus, quick-fix political candidates get traction while the Bush people continue to look incompetent.

Iran is a true danger to the world. But the world will not confront that country, and now it is emboldened. The crazy mullahs of Teheran want to kill Jews and Americans and have thousands of thugs at their disposal to carry out that mission. The rise of Islamic fascism is

now centered in the Persian police state.

The United States needs a new strategy to deal with this ominous threat. Slugging it out in Iraq may be necessary, but there might be another way. President Bush needs to level with the American people and begin putting this country on a war footing. That means a limited draft and a major commitment to defense.

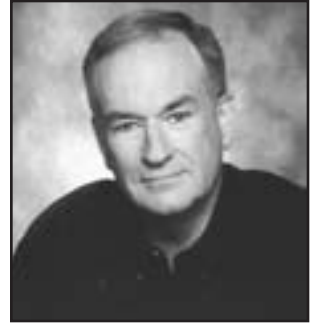
The president needs to shake things up and get people's attention.

Ned Lamont does not frighten the Iranians. He and his fellow travelers will not defend you and your family effectively. Those who

voted for Lamont over Lieberman made a major mistake. I suspect a lot more of those wrongheaded decisions are coming.

Veteran TV news anchor Bill O'Reilly is host of the Fox News show "The O'Reilly Factor" and author of the book "Who's Looking Out For You?" To find out more about Bill O'Reilly, and read features by other Creators Syndicate writers and cartoonists, visit the Creators Syndicate web page at [www.creators.com](http://www.creators.com). This column originates on the Web site [www.billoreilly.com](http://www.billoreilly.com).

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Bill O'Reilly



## RAINER'S RAMBLINGS

By RAINER ARNOLD  
Union Sentinel Publisher

## Gas prices

Now, back to the story. Gas is higher here. Double what we pay for it, but I am getting more buck for my money since the gas mileage is so much better. AND, diesel is cheaper than gas.

So I asked people here and they told me that diesel is cheaper to make and so it is cheaper. I had asked people in the US and they had told me that diesel is more expensive to make. So, I think someone is not telling me the truth. But either way, diesel is cheaper here and more car's use diesel than in the US.

But after this experience I may actually have my next car be a diesel engine. This car runs great and gets fantastic mileage.

If I had this car in the USA I would be able to save 2/3's of what I pay for fuel. That would be nice.

Then you take this plan to a higher level and figure out how much we could save as a country on gas if we all drive diesel engine cars. The mid east oil crisis would be gone in a week. The oil companies would not make the profits they do now.

And to top it all off, the American consumer, for one, would come out on top.

When I left the US recently to go on a little vacation gas prices where about \$3 per gallon. Well, when I got to Germany to take possession of a rental car they had given me a Diesel Driven car. An Opel Astra to be exact. I was not real happy until I saw the gas prices. A gallon of gas was about \$6. A gallon of Diesel was about \$5.50.

Well, I immediately started to count my money and tried to figure out how I could save money by driving less.

Then I started to driving and the gadget in the dash of this car told me I could get 1,000 kilometers per tank. That is about 620 miles on about 12 gallons. You do the math. I will get about 50 miles per gallon. Wow! Compare that to my yellow truck at 18 miles per gallon.

So, you think this is a really small car that will only go 50 miles an hour. WRONG!! This is a 4 cylinder car that will actually fly. IN some places the speed limit in Germany is unlimited. Well, like any normal guy, I had to see what this car could do. So, let me tell you. It is fast. I went over 120 mph and then eased off since the BMW's and other fast cars flew by me. I guess you could say I got a little nervous.

## Union County Arrest Report

The following is the arrest report for the Union County Jail. This report is from the open records for the the period of August 7 to August 14, 2006. The following persons were arrested and charged with offenses, but have not been found guilty.

**8/8/06**  
Christopher Raymond Claffin, 55, of Blairsville arrested for failure of sex offender to register;  
Duane Cole Hyatt, 28, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

**8/9/06**  
Stacy Aaron Elliott, 23, of Morganton, Ga., arrested for failure of sex offender to register;

Michael Ray Davis, 35, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

**8/10/06**  
Willis Donald Smallwood, 24, of Blairsville, arrested

for obstruction of officer; pedestrian under the influence;

Casey Ryan Brown, 22, of Young Harris, Ga., arrested for probation violation;  
Jason Lee Pickelsimer, 24, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation; child support;

Martha Jens Ramsay, 55, of Young Harris, Ga., arrested for deposit account fraud;

Tommy Raymond Lovato, 37, of Morganton, Ga., arrested for speeding in excess of maximum limits; driving w/lic suspended or revoked 1st (city);  
Kimberly Michelle Owen, 26, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

Ronald David Holcomb, 21, of Blairsville, arrested for disorderly conduct (city);

Fernando Ramirez, 25, of Blairsville, arrested for driving while unlicensed;

speeding in excess of maximum limits;

**8/11/06**  
Brandi Elyse Holcomb, 18, of Blairsville, arrested for obstruction of officer; disorderly conduct (city); creating hazardous or offensive condition (city);

Robert Keith Cogean, 46, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation; child support;

Angela Dawn Ledford, 26, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation; serving time;

**8/12/06**  
Melissa Ann Pace, 42, of Dallas, Ga., arrested for possession of marijuana less than 1 oz.; failure to maintain lane; driving w/lic suspended or revoked 1st;

**8/13/06**  
Carolyn Beth Pennington, 27, of Blairsville, arrested for probation violation;

### Like an open-book test

This past weekend my friends and I went to have breakfast at one of our "fine" dining establishments here in Blairsville. We noticed looking around that the floor was littered with napkins and food scraps and the walls next to the tables were splattered with who knows what. Just when we were having second thoughts as to whether or not we wanted to eat there we over heard the waitress bragging at another table that the restaurant received a 100% cleanliness from the County Health Department during their last inspection. And we told each other, "well maybe at least the kitchen is clean." But then the waitress continued to say that the Health Department showed up on Monday, the day the restaurant is closed? Now tell me, what is wrong with this picture? When I worked at a restaurant, the inspectors always showed up during business hours! We got up and left without eating.

### I'll just drive

As if hijackers and shoe bombers weren't enough, we now have to worry about terrorists blowing up planes with a bottle of mouthwash or a tube of toothpaste? They say flying is safer than driving, but I've never had a passenger in my car try to blow me up with a bottle of Scope.

## VOICES

### Not willing to hush

I agree with the idea that people should be able to speak out about what they want, regardless of where they vote. None of us live in Iraq, but we still voice some pretty strong opinions about what is going on over there. It is hypocrisy to say that people can speak out about the stuff that goes on over there, but not get a voice in Blairsville. I own property here, I should have say whether I vote here or not.

### You can run, but you can't hide

What are those two things you can't escape? Oh yeah, death and taxes. I'm not sure which is worse.

### Squash the litterbugs

Litter is a problem here, and that's a shame considering what a beautiful area we live in. But I know plenty of people that don't think twice about slinging a styrofoam cup out the window or think that any patch of ground is their own personal ashtray.

### Disgruntled voter

Cynthia McKinney always wanted to have everyone's attention and managed to get it. My only complaint about the election is that I would have liked nothing better than to have been able to vote against her.