

Opinion



INSTIGATING LOGIC

By JARED PUTNAM
Union Sentinel Editor

High stakes tee-ball

In Pittsburgh a tee-ball coach has been ordered to stand trial after allegedly paying a \$25 bribe to an 8-year-old boy so that he would hit another boy with the ball.

Oh but wait, it gets worse.

The coach allegedly did not want to have to play the boy in the playoff game because he is autistic and mildly mentally handicapped and not as good as his teammates. League regulations stipulate that each player must play at least 3 innings.

Here's my question. If you're this guy, how in the world do you ever do worse than allegedly bribing one kid to injure a mentally handicapped kid, just so you have a better chance to win a tee-ball game? What would you have to do to top that? Push an elderly lady into traffic? Maybe drown some kittens? Luckily the man's attorney approached the situation with tact and grace, explaining that the young autistic

boy only got hit because he is a terrible player and can't catch. Classy.

A great week of sports

The past week was a great week to be a sports fan, at least, here in Union County.

The Lady Panthers softball team had an unforgettable finish to their matchup against Dawson (the first subregion game of the season) and the varsity football team appeared to be firing on all cylinders in the season opener.

On the college scene Georgia Tech's Calvin Johnson continues to prove that he is the most formidable wide receiver not yet wearing an NFL uniform. I wouldn't be surprised if the team that drafts him ends up with another Terrell Owens. That is, in terms of ability, not attitude.

Then there is Matthew Stafford, the next big thing at UGA, who has been thrust into the role of starting quarterback. Football analyst Mel Kiper is

already predicting that Stafford is a future number one pick in the NFL. Not just a first round pick mind you, THE number one pick overall. Whether that turns out to be the case or not remains to be seen, but Georgia fans wouldn't mind seeing a national championship or two along the way.

Finally, we have the Atlanta Falcons, who have to be breathing a sigh of relief after getting more out of the John Abraham trade in the first game of the season than they did from the Peerless Price trade in his entire time in Atlanta.

The Falcons looked good in all areas, two of the most important being the upgraded defense, and a turnover free performance from Michael Vick. I'll let slide the one that he put right in the hands of Julius Peppers...since Peppers dropped it. Is it too early to starting thinking Superbowl?

Yes, it was a good week to be a sports fan.



BILL O'REILLY

The return of lethal fascism

Seventy years ago this month, Adolf Hitler began seizing the assets of German Jews. He had waited until the summer Olympics in Berlin were finished and the world had seen the might of the Third Reich. Already, Hitler had established concentration camps for "undesirables" and forced many Jewish professionals out of their jobs. He had also harassed Catholics and Protestants who dared speak against his racist policies.

The parallels between the rise of fascism in pre-World War II Germany and the rise of Islamic fascism today are startling. And just as it was in the 1930s, the world is refusing to confront the growing danger.

Iran, a nation committed to wiping Israel off the map, is defying the United Nations by refusing to obey the nuclear disarmament treaty. Hitler defied the League of Nations and rearmend, creating a fierce military threat while openly advocating the diminishment of Jews and "Aryan racial purity." If Iran manages to obtain nuclear weapons, it, too, will become a menace to the entire world.

But many do not believe that. In fact, a recent Harris Poll taken in Europe shows that 30 percent of the 10,000 people surveyed believe the USA is the world's greatest threat to stability. Just 26 percent think Iran is the greatest danger to world peace.

But the most unsettling situation is here in the United States. According to polls taken in the 1930s, as many as 80 percent of Americans were against confronting Hitler at that time. Only Pearl Harbor caused public opin-

ion to shift.

But today, five years after 9/11, many Americans still do not understand the worldwide jihad and buy into the false premise that there is no linkage between what is happening in Iraq, the policies of Iran, the murderous actions of al Qaeda, and the lethal anti-Jewish strategy of Hamas and Hezbollah.

While there are certainly rivalries and differences among all the Islamic fascists, their goals are very similar: Kill Jews and damage America.

So why is history repeating itself? Why can't we Americans wise up and see the Islamic fascist threat? I blame the news media first, and irresponsible politicians like Howard Dean second. The hatred the committed left-wing press has for President Bush is almost unprecedented. The liberal media is obsessed with Bush and devalue him 24/7. This means that even when the president is correct on policy, the Bush haters will not admit it. They have succeeded, especially overseas, in convincing millions of people that Bush is the world's greatest threat, not the fanatical Muslim jihad.

How dangerous is that? Then you pour Governor Dean on the fire. He and his far-left cadre actively undermine the war on terror. I can't read his mind, but if Ms. Cleo is still in business, I'm asking her if Dean actually wants

the United States to lose in Iraq. I am betting he does as long as Bush is in power.

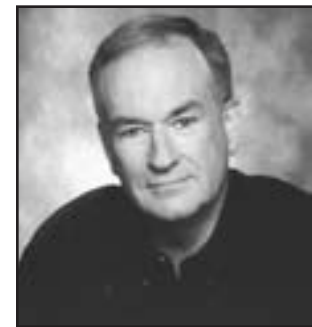
The Iranian mullahs, bin Laden, Hezbollah and the rest of the racist killers well understand that America is a divided nation. In the new book "The Looming Tower," it is well documented that bin Laden preached openly about America's lack of resolve. Time after time, the Islamic fascists have attacked; time after time the USA and world have failed to respond with a knockout punch.

And that is the crux of this matter. Americans are certainly entitled to debate the wisdom and effectiveness of the current campaign to defeat Islamic fascism, but defeat it we must. For if we don't, it is just a matter of time before more of us lie dead in the streets. Like Hitler and his evil ambitions of seven decades ago, the jihadists of today are not going to stop until we make them stop.

Somebody tell Howard Dean.

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. This column originates on the Web site www.billoreilly.com.

COPYRIGHT 2006 BillOreilly.com.



Bill O'Reilly



RAINER'S RAMBLINGS

By RAINER ARNOLD
Union Sentinel Publisher

Spoiled children and countries

Recently the North Koreans got the whole world in an uproar with their testing of missiles. Some short, medium and long range. Some of them capable of hitting the US did not do well, but the others did.

The entire world is upset. But, dialogue is warranted and everyone wants sanctions against North Korea. Well, there are already as many sanctions as possible. The UN will not do any more. The member countries could, but won't. Then analysts started saying that the North Koreans are doing this to get foreign aid from other countries throughout the world.

Then the Iranians broke off their talks about their nuclear ambitions to wait and see what the world is going to give the North Koreans. Then they will have talks again and likely tell the world that since they are bigger and stronger than North Korea plus they have a lot of oil, they want more than what North Korea is getting.

If that is the case, and like-

ly it is, these two countries and the world in general, are like that of children of a divorced couple, playing one against the other in order to get what they want. And, both parents wanting to outdo the other will gladly submit to the child and give in order to have the love of the child.

Well, I don't think the world wants the love of the North Koreans or the Iranians, but I do think we want them to be with us instead of against us. Thus, the game goes on.

Now, my thinking is that if the Iranians watch what we do for the North Koreans and then follow suit, maybe we ought to spank them and send a message to the Iranians to not try to extort us. I am not saying lets blow up their facilities because that might entail a war in the Far East, but let us send them to their room like bad children. It is obvious that the North Koreans do not produce enough food and the government does not have any money. So, let us simply cut off the food supply

and the people of the country will rise up. History has taught us that hungry people will not work. Also, let us stop the foreign aid and thus cut off their money supply. After all, I do not know of anything that North Korea has that the rest of the world is standing in line to get.

So, lets put pressure on these people. Then I read that China sells them millions of pounds of rice a year. So, China, a neighbor, ought to support the rest of the world and cut the food supply. After all, how would you feel if your neighbor interfered with the disciplining of your children.

Thus, the issue could be resolved if everyone would do their part. However, North Korea and Iran is counting on the fact that not everyone will do their part and thus they continue with their spoiled children tactics.

Maybe someone ought to write a book about how similar diplomacy is to trying to raise spoiled children in a divorced home.

Better photography. Better writing.
The Union Sentinel: A better newspaper for Union County.



VOICES

Think before you speak

It is amazing how many misunderstandings, misinterpretations or myths are accepted as truths and handed down through the generations. We all should read, ask questions, see, and find the truth—especially before we make public statements of "fact" or opinion!

Seems like an easy fix

The article on The Turning Point was very interesting. It really makes me wonder why we open places like the meth clinic here in town. Seems like we should take the money used to

run such a place and just supply all the junkies with Methodone. I am so tired of all the problems drugs cause.

Watch your backs

Crime is on the rise in our "sleepy little town." I keep hearing reports of things being stolen from cars in parking lots downtown. I'm sure that's just the beginning. It won't be long before we are the mirror image of Atlanta. We just can't have anything nice, can we? These losers just want to take what other people work so hard for.

LETTERS AND VOICES

All letters and Voices should be received by Monday noon to be considered for that week's publication.

Send Letters to: Editor, Union Sentinel, PO Box 1996, Blairsville, GA 30512. Or you may e-

mail them to unionnews@attel.net

Letters should be signed and a phone number included to verify authenticity. The Sentinel reserves the right to edit or refuse to publish letters that are potentially slanderous.