

More Letters

Freedom Lost

To the editor:

The erosion of the freedom of speech, which is so apparent today, is in actuality an attack on truth, clear thinking and honest debate. Anyone who may retain traditional notions runs the risk of being labeled a racist, sexist or even subjected to judicial penalty. Stuart Chases' "Tyranny of Words" was among the first works to begin to undermine our traditions and values. This has continued today with the new reality of Constitutional conservative citizens being labeled extremists and radicals by the government and media. The manipulation of language to prevent dissenting thought is a rather totalitarian approach and a gross perversion of those freedoms we hold sacred. Whatever happened to the expression by Voltaire, "I disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it."

The use of our language is deteriorating to the point that we are losing our critical, analytical skills and the ability to honestly comprehend other ideas which aren't in agreement with current accepted beliefs and feelings. Our words are becoming merely the noise of our emotions and appear to have corrupted our ability to detect evidence to the contrary. Our traditions of hard work, determination, and morality are being ridiculed if not demonized to continually erode reason back to fear and emotions J.C. Fests' "The Face of the Third Reich", suggests that in Nazi Germany, the people demonstrated a complete disregard for reason and morality and had given up control of their actions to their feelings and not to their intelligence. We have all seen the slogans of today which indulge in prejudice and wishful thinking, "Hope You can Count On", "Fundamental Change", or even the Marxist notion of redistribution of wealth. Discarding reason and morality is also discarding intelligence and surrendering to chaos and poverty. Those who claim that the citizenry of this country lack intelligence or are bigots and racists are all a part of this social demolition attacking truth, clear thinking and plain speaking.

Once a society embraces this "tyranny of words", the penalties can only grow in severity for those expressing opposition. A modern day example is the use of a slogan, "we don't want to return to the failed policies of the last administration." This is simply to enshrine irrational fears as truth by using presumptuous words, when a critical analysis of the facts simply doesn't support such an absurd statement. It seems a bit comical that these enlightened people call themselves progressives and call dissenters enemies of the truth and blinded by prejudice. Their susceptibility to illusion is remarkable as well as their total lack of acceptance of free expression.

Don Bessler
Amherst

Beware of Gas Hydrofracking

To the editor:

Recently I saw a documentary movie called "Gaslands" which was deeply disturbing. It demonstrated the dreadful environmental devastation that natural gas hydrofracturing has imposed on parts of Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, and Pennsylvania—particularly in relation to irreversible ground water contamination.

Hydrofracturing for gas is a process whereby 600 to 700 often toxic chemicals and millions of gallons of water are forced deep into the ground in order to break up the rock that holds the natural gas. This causes the gas to be released to above ground containment silos where it is stored until treated and piped away for eventual energy use. There are tens of thousands of these gas wells spread every which way with no regard to human or animal habitation because there is absolutely no regulation or oversight of this industry.

During the Bush administration, Dick Cheney gathered wealthy oil and gas moguls to develop the Energy Policy Act of 2005. These men made sure that hydrofracturing would be exempt from any regulation or oversight. Therefore, the industry does not have to publicize what the chemicals are that they are using to contaminate the millions of gallons of water needed in the process.

Because there is no plan, regulation, or oversight, the energy companies sweep into an area; quickly buy or lease the mineral rights to the land under people's property; move in thousands of trucks hauling toxic chemicals and mining materials; extract the gas as quickly and cheaply as possible; pay off anyone to keep their mouths shut whose water has become toxic; and then move on to the next site. This has all happened within the last few years ever since Chaney's energy committee came into power, and it continues as fast as possible today.

The energy companies have now started fracking the Marcellus Shale deposit in PA and NY State with concomitant destruction of clean water supplies. The edge of the Marcellus Shale deposit borders NH. The hydrofracking companies are coming. If we don't prevail upon our legislators and senators in Congress to insist on oversight and regulation of hydrofracking, we too will have water we can't drink, dangerous air to breathe, and neurological health problems that come from exposure in the air and water from toxic hydrofracking chemicals. Some of those chemicals according to the EPA are benzene(cancer, bone marrow failure); lead (damages nervous system and causes brain disorders); ethylene glycol (antifreeze, causes death); methanol (highly toxic); boric acid (kidney damage, death); methane, lead, radiation and so on.

Please be wary of all these Republican presidential candidates who want to abolish the EPA which is the only watchdog we have to assure some responsibility for the environment. Such Republicans are looking out for energy business interests—not the American people's health and access to clean air and water.

Nancy Iannuzzelli
Amherst

Amherst Area Newcomers "Breakfast with Santa"

To the editor:

On December 10th, the Amherst Area Newcomers Club held their annual "Breakfast with Santa" at the Amherst Congregational Church. The breakfast, along with music, crafts, and a picture with Santa, served over 140 adults and children from Amherst, Milford, Mont Vernon. We'd like to thank the following people and vendors for their generous contributions in making this a success: Harper Point Photographer Marsha Vandermay, Brian Donahoe, Second Avenue Consignment, piano students of Marie Mendelow, Emmy McGuy, Maggie Paul and student volunteers, Souhegan High School, A&E Roastery, Wal-Mart Superstore, Shaw's Supermarket, Stop N Shop, Market Basket. It was a pleasure to work with all of you.

Barbara Eriss
Amherst

Amherst Tree Lighting Was a Huge Success

To the editor:

Thanks to *The Amherst Citizen* for your consistent coverage, publishing every Tree Lighting photo and article we sent in to you!

This year, in switching the Tree Lighting from Sunday Night to Friday Evening, the biggest crowd in 20-25 years, gathered for the Tree Lighting Ceremony which was held on the NEW Reviewing Stand with the PA system donated by the Lions, Rotary, Bean Foundation, Quinn and Veillette families in an effort led by Charlie Vars! We are very, very grateful for this new stand! Thanks to The Garden Club for decorating village sites and the Memory Tree.

The weather was superb...and we note that even in past years when the weather was wonderful, the turnout kept dwindling.... until the night was changed from Sunday to Friday per request of young families who wanted a three day weekend rather than an all-Sunday event, because Sunday has become a big school night and week-planning night...as more and more families have 2 working parents...so Tree Lighting attendance was made easier...and much bigger! ... for young families by having it on Friday.

Friday Kickoff Thanks to the Amherst Fire Dept (AFD) Chief Mark Boynton and his firefighters for decorating the tree! Deep appreciation to our DPW: Bruce Berry, Marge Drobot, and Perry Day for setting up the Reviewing Stand. Huge thanks to Robert of Robert Daniel Photography, and of Glass and Gear for setting up, running, getting and returning our PA system! He was at the green, in the cold for four hours! Many thanks to his daughters Alison and Morgan Daniel for learning and memorizing The Amherst is My Home Song, and thanks to Peter Bergin, for serving his 36th year as the Tree Lighting Festival EmCee. More thanks to Sue Alger, Peggy Silva, Marilyn Peterman, Pat McMullen, the S. H.S. ACapella Choir and Santa and his Girl Scout Elves, Madison Thompson and Taylor Bardsley, Mary Eileen Indelicato, Karen Werner and Sherry Thompson! Thanks to Police Chief Lyon of APD and his Officer Anthony Ciampoli, and more thanks to Irene Alton and Paul Levesque for their girl and boy scout singers. Still more thanks to Mark LaFlamme, and to our refreshment folks, the Amherst 1st Baptist Church for popcorn and Roy deGrandpre and Boy Scout troop 22 for roasted chestnuts...and deep appreciation for Bob Petrella! Thanks to Town Manager Jim O'Mara and Donna Waterman for assistance. Thanks to all those who provided the Friday Supper: The Amherst Lions Club, and John Swanson who with the Congregational Church's Youth Group hosted a Village Community Supper at the church with desserts made by the Woman's Association, and the Jr. Women's Club. They served 200+ people and had a line of happy diners patiently awaiting Bruce Ribolini's home-made sauce!

Santa Saturday Thanks go to Barb Eriss, and the Amherst Newcomers Club, The AFD, and elves Angelina Boynton and Kasey Leonard, Bob Petrella, Dan Bonenfant, and the Amherst Police Dept for their Open House and Kids ID program.

Pancake and Concerts Sunday Thanks go to the AFD, The Amherst Town Band, and the Souhegan H.S. ACapella Choir, the Congregational Church-UCC Choirs, Refreshments by Team Earley, Kricky the Clown, and the Souhegan Valley Chorus.

All-weekend Long Thanks to Linda Ribolini, the Lions and SHS for Collecting New and homemade kids' hats, mittens, scarves, socks, coats, snow/ski pants and blankets for the needy; Bins are still at AFD, Cong'l Church, and Library.

Daily Thanks to all family members of Amherst residents who serve in harm's way at home and abroad, and cannot be with their families on the holiday that they celebrate. They serve in the Military, in the Foreign Service, and in the Police, Fire and EMS Departments everywhere.

Peace on Earth to Women and Men of Goodwill! May all have a wonderful season of holidays...from Thanksgiving to the Jan. 6 Epiphany, there seems to be at least one holiday for all who wish to celebrate a holiday!

Ann C. Bergin
Amherst

PS! Always looking ahead! Next year, the Amherst, NH Village Tree Lighting Festival will kick off on the Friday before the Second Sunday of December....FRIDAY December 7, 2012. Amherst residents who have a song/poem for a holiday they celebrate, can talk about possibly performing at the 2012 Tree Lighting Ceremony.

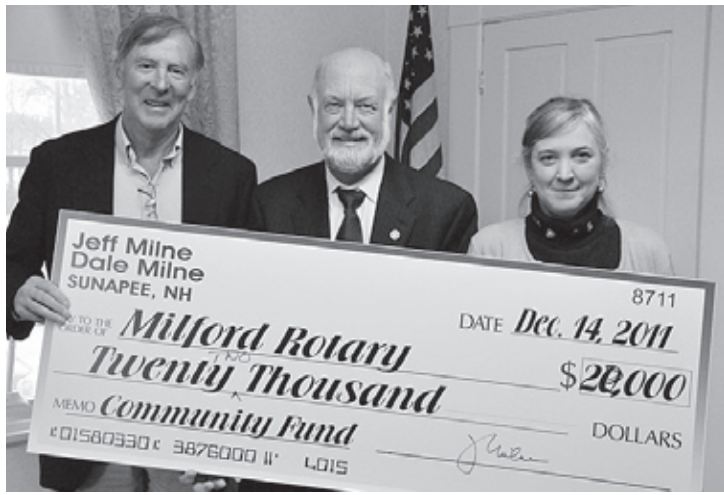


PHOTO BY DR. STANLEY KANKOWSKI

From the left, Jeff Milne, Bob Jackson's cousin, presents Rotarians Alec Buchanan and President Julie Whitcomb with the "official check" establishing the Robert F. Jackson Community Improvement Fund.

Rotarian's Legacy of Service Lives On

The late Bob Jackson of Amherst was a devoted Rotarian whose legacy of Service Above Self lives on through a generous donation by his family establishing the Robert F. Jackson Community Improvement Fund. An accomplished architect by profession, Bob was a very active community volunteer and served as an Amherst selectman, a member of the Amherst Planning Board, and a member and past president of the Milford Rotary Club. In recognition of his contributions to community service and faithfulness to the Rotary motto of Service Above Self, Bob was honored during his lifetime as a Paul Harris Fellow, one of the highest honors in Rotary.

Jeff Milne, Jackson's cousin, officially presented the donation during a recent Milford Rotary meeting. As an added surprise, Jeff increased the original donation in honor of Bob by \$2000 for a grand total of \$22,000. These funds will allow the Milford Rotary Club to enhance their community service and improvement projects.

The Milford Rotary Club serves the communities of Amherst, Milford, Mont Vernon, Wilton and Lyndeborough. For more information, please visit www.MilfordNHRotary.org.

Give a Gift and Support Cates Scholarship Fund



KIMBERLY CATES SCHOLARSHIP FUND
Night With The Monarchs!

**SATURDAY
MARCH 24
@ 7:00 p.m.**

TICKETS:
\$25 **\$20**
GOLD LEVEL SILVER LEVEL

To order tickets or for more information, contact
Dave Osterberg at (603) 626-7825 ext. 6134 or
dosterberg@manchestermomarchs.com, or visit
www.monarchsjungle.com/nhmi.

f /monarchshockey t @monarchshockey Text MONARCHS to 84328 (603) 626-7825

WWW.MANCHESTERMONARCHS.COM

The Kimberly Cates Scholarship fund and the Manchester Monarchs have teamed up to raise money for the scholarship fund and show our thanks and appreciation for all that our local EMS, Police, Fire, and military personnel do to keep us safe and healthy.

If you have a friend or relative who serves in the military or serves your local Police EMS or Fire Department, here's a chance to show them how much you care and at the

same time raise money for the Kimberly Cates Scholarship fund.

March 24, 2012 is Operation Appreciation night at the Verizon Wireless Arena in Manchester.

If you go to the link dosterberg@manchestermomarchs.com and order your tickets online for this event, you will not pay anything extra for your tickets but part of the proceeds from your ticket purchase will go the Kimberly Cates Scholarship Fund.

ADVERTISERS: Find out how easy and cost-effective it is to reach every resident and business in Amherst and Mont Vernon. Call 603-672-9444 TODAY!

Think Jeffrey Scott Fine Jewelry for Last Minute...
Hassle-Free Holiday Gifts!
Service. Selection. Price.

No other jewelry store at all the malls, or even those close to home can offer you more than Jeffrey Scott Fine Jewelry! And, now with the gift-giving countdown closing in, why not go to your neighborhood jeweler, right here in Amherst? As Amherst residents themselves, owners Jeff and Irene are here to help you maximize your shopping experience! Let them show you bright new ideas with cutting edge styles, and the old world tradition of personalized service found nowhere else.



With unique and beautiful jewelry from all over the world to Jeff's own artfully crafted pieces – you'll never go wrong at Jeffrey Scott, and you'll NEVER OVER-PAY... We'll beat our competitors' prices EVERY DAY! Come see our wide selection of Reflections beads – comparable quality and compatible with other leading brands at about half the price. Get more value for the money at Jeffrey Scott. Enter as a stranger, leave as a friend.

Old World Traditions ♥ Bright New Ideas
Heritage Place, 141 Route 101A (next to Casual Cat), Amherst • 521-7481
www.jeffreyscottjewelry.com • Open daily until Christmas, call for extended holiday hours



TULLEY BMW YEAR END SALES EVENT



2012 X3 xDrive28i
\$499 / mo
Cold Weather package. Navigation.

Nashua
147 Daniel Webster Highway
Off Route 3 at Exit 2

Manchester
Certified Pre-Owned Sales and Service Center
170 Auto Center Road
Off I-293 and South Willow St.



2012 528i xDrive
\$549 / mo
Premium, Cold Weather & Technology packages.

Tulley BMW
Satisfaction in motion.

www.TulleyBMW.com (603) 888-5050

528i xDrive: MSRP \$12198, 36 month lease, \$1,000 miles/year, \$3,500 down payment, X3 xDrive28i: MSRP \$12197, 36 month lease, \$1,000 miles/year, \$2,500 down payment. Acquisition fee, tax, title, license and registration fees extra. Financing available through BMW Financial Services upon approved credit. Offer ends 12/31/12. See Tulley BMW for details. Photos for illustrative purposes only.