

# Opinion

## Rudeness and unhappiness seem to go together

Are we becoming ruder? Over the weekend I saw a columnist forward the sentiment that we in America are getting ruder. I don't know whether that is the truth or not, but I did almost accept that statement as fact before I caught myself. I have occasion to have contact with a few people that don't seem to have a sweet, empathetic corpuscle in their entire body. I realized that a couple of unhappy people are not a majority or even a ripple in the consciousness of the 340.1 million people who currently take up space here in the US.

Rude people, on some days, are like fleas on a hound. But I don't necessarily think they are rude every day, or even re-



**Northwest Passage**  
By Loyd Ford

alize they are being rude sometimes. Sometimes rudeness is a by product of falling inside yourself, if it looks like too much is going wrong in the world, we have a tendency to withdraw and only reflect on our own problems. Not seeing how thing affect others because we are too focused on our own problems, I

believe, is this is one of the causes of rudeness.

We are facing many problems here in the United States today, the first one being that we aren't all that united right now. Our political differences, cultural and lifestyle differences, which should not be anywhere nearly so abrasive as they are, contribute to rudeness and a great deal of unhappiness.

It seems like anymore the first thing we do is perform a litmus test on people to be sure they fit within our political persuasion and our ideas about gender, race, and sexual identification. I am pretty sure I flunk a lot of these kinds of test. But I have made a commitment to myself to not like or dislike anyone

because of what kind of ball cap they wear. I can disagree with someone without looking for a way to punish them for their political views.

This doesn't mean I extend tolerance for misinformation and views that are just plain wrong. I believe that we as Americans have too much to lose to let people continue to push false information. We have too much to lose to allow people to continue to parrot propaganda designed to disable the news media and the free flow of factual information.

Here again I don't have any numbers or scientific data to support a conclusion either way, but I do wonder how much the decades of political programs with people

shouting at each other constantly has set the stage for the situation we are in now? Certainly, rudeness oozes from all the screaming, shouting and divisiveness that comes from political theater. Televised wrestling has more credibility than some of the people who participate in these talk shows.

Rudeness is pretty commonplace, but right now in America our biggest problem is a general feeling of unhappiness and a deep concern for what may happen next. I admit I am concerned too. But down inside myself I just know the people in this country will do the right thing.

In a democratic republic like the United States the laws we make

ourselves through our elected representatives are supposed to be the framework for how we do things. The constitution and the laws are supposed to protect us from those in power. That is how it is supposed to work, but there are those who are constantly looking ways around the law, so they can do what they want. There have been times when both the constitution and the law have been subverted, but America righted itself, and I believe it will again. We will always have rude people, and sometimes I might be one of them, but I will always chose to follow the constitution and the law.



## Our View

### There is something you can do about the weather, be prepared

Our region is expected to receive a historically unprecedented amount of rainfall over the next week or so. This prediction has already impacted one of the major annual events in Marshall County. The fireworks program for "Tater Day" has been cancelled. Heavy rain is expected to fall over all of the coming weekend and into the coming week.

While, yes everyone does talk about the weather, there are things you can do about it. First be prepared. Tuesday morning Marshall County Road Department had set up a sandbag filling operation that also enlisted prisoners from the county jail.

Heavy rain always produces flooding in our region. Staying off the roads and certainly not driving through flood waters is something each of us can do.

Our area is still not fully recovered from a historic tornado and eastern Kentucky is still dealing with deadly floods that hit that area the same year.

Having extra food, batteries and other items you depend upon in your home and at your place of employment are things you can do despite having no control over the weather.

We may not be able to change the weather but we can be prepared for it.

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## The Lake News

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#### Letters to the editor policy

The Lake News welcomes and encourages original letters to the editor about issues of community interest. Letters should be limited to 400 words or less. Letters must be signed and contain the name and address of the author. The Lake News reserves the right to edit letters. The Lake News also reserves the right to reject letters for publication.

**Kentucky Press Association Member**

## Spring cleaning do overs for a fresh start

One of my responsibilities at school is getting kiddos ready for and administering tests. While giving a computerized assessment to a kindergartener recently, I got tickled while listening to the directions for how to use the tools built into the test. "Tap the trash can to start over," the cute little monster characters guided their listener to reset the built-in math tools.

All I could think was,



By Emily Morrison

"Man, I think we could all use a trash can and a chance to start over."

Sometimes, life is messy,

and we just need to clean up our own mess in order to start fresh. As I survey my own challenges, I realize, I more often than not, did most of the messing about. I sign on for more commitments than I am able to fulfill. I start things and leave them unfinished. I procrastinate, a lot. Then I am astonished to look up and see the mess of my calendar, office and house.

Sometimes we just

need to pull out the heavy-duty trash bags and roll up our sleeves. We have to survey the things we've done and left undone. A good old fashion life spring-cleaning session will do wonders to provide for a fresh start. 2025 hasn't exactly gotten off to a promising start for many of us. So, let's just use that trashcan and get ourselves a chance to start over.

## Disciples of Jesus are known by their love

"Jesus loves the little children, all the children of the world. Red and yellow, black and white, PUT THEM TOGETHER AND WATCH THEM FIGHT. Jesus loves the little children of the world."

This is not how Sunday School teachers of my generation taught the song, but the lyric change is often accurate. And, evidently, people have always tended to be antagonistic toward each other.

Like children fighting on the playground, Jesus's disciples quarreled about who would be the greatest. I can imagine the thoughts that went through their minds.

How come Judas gets to be in charge of the money? Don't play with Matthew. He's a



#### Tales of Grace

By Leigh Ann Northcutt

tax collector. Don't talk to Thomas. He won't believe anything you tell him. Peter, you are not the boss of us!

During their last meal together, not long after the disciple had bickered once again about which of them was the most important, Jesus got up and took off his outer robe. He wrapped a towel around his waist, filled a bowl with water,

and began an act of service that was considered so revolting even Jewish servants of that time were not required to perform it. He took the feet of each disciple in his hands, washed away the layers of dirt and dung, and dried them with the towel He wore. The hands that created the earth and set the sun in the sky washed the feet of those He loved.

Then He taught the disciples for the last time, speaking again of humility and servanthood, and He gave them a new commandment.

"Love one another. In the same way I loved you, you love one another. This is how everyone will recognize that you are my disciples - when they see the love you have for each other."

(John 13:34-35, The Message)

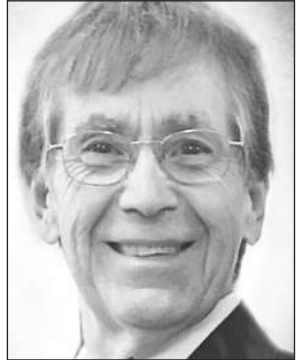
That love has made Jesus's disciples different from the rest of the world throughout the ages. Love that leads to humble service. When others fight about personal rights, his disciples wrap towels around their waists. When others attack each other over unfairness and injustice, they fill a bowl with water. When others strive to stand in a place of power and greatness, those who follow the ways of Jesus wash feet.

No matter who we are or where we come from, the world can see that we are followers of Jesus by the love we have for each other . . . and perhaps by our dishpan hands.

## Kentucky is hard for many people to pin down

Well, here we go again. As I sit here thinking it is Déjà vu all over again, so to speak. I certainly hope the storms pass by and are like Shakespeare's play, "Much Ado About Nothing". I did put the car in the garage to hide from possible hail, if not from all the pollen. But here we go again!

Watching the various weather people, I don't think some of them know where Kentucky is located. Where do they say Kentucky is located? I was shocked to see where "some people that are supposed to know" put us. Here is the list, hang on. We are the Heartland, Midwest, Mid Atlantic, Appalachia, Greater Ozarks, Ohio Valley, Appohzarka (whatever that is) Midland, Atlantic Coastal Plain, Great Lakes, Upper South,



**My Side of the Fence**  
By Mike Harrell

the South, Deep South, East South Central and Sorta the South. So again, where do you put us? I can actually agree with some of these...but.

I ran across an article that gave me cause to pause and think. There have been, give or take, 117 billion people that have lived on our planet. About 10% of all humans in history are alive today. Half of all humans lived

before the year 0. Birthrates were higher with 6-9 children compared to our 2.3 children.

Disease, famine and war kept the population down. Even with more people, death still out paced life. If you are 20 years old you have already outlived most of humanity. More than half died before adulthood (60 billion). We live longer, experience more and shape the world in ways billions of people before never could. Half of all humans never knew clocks, engines or even books.

You've met thousands of people you will never see again. Every Era (us too) think they were the most modern. One day was the last time you picked up a toy or played with your friends and you didn't know. Each

breathe you take contains atoms that have passed through millions of other people.

Those earlier people never had the time we do. What will you do with the time that they never had?

So now I want to wish these people a very Happy Birthday. Lyle Evans, Chaz Lents, Andy Todd, Lindsey Smith, James Conn, Jason Sheridan, Kaye Travis, Cathy Hart, Ann Beth, Janice Lampkins, Kellie Harrell, Rebecca McKee, David Elliott, Christina Haton and James Knoth. Celebrate your special day and eat the cake.

Happy Anniversary to Mr. & Mrs. Bob Futrell, Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Sheridan and Mr. & Mrs. John Purdue. Take time to celebrate and remember.

Stay safe, stay well and as always, stay in touch.