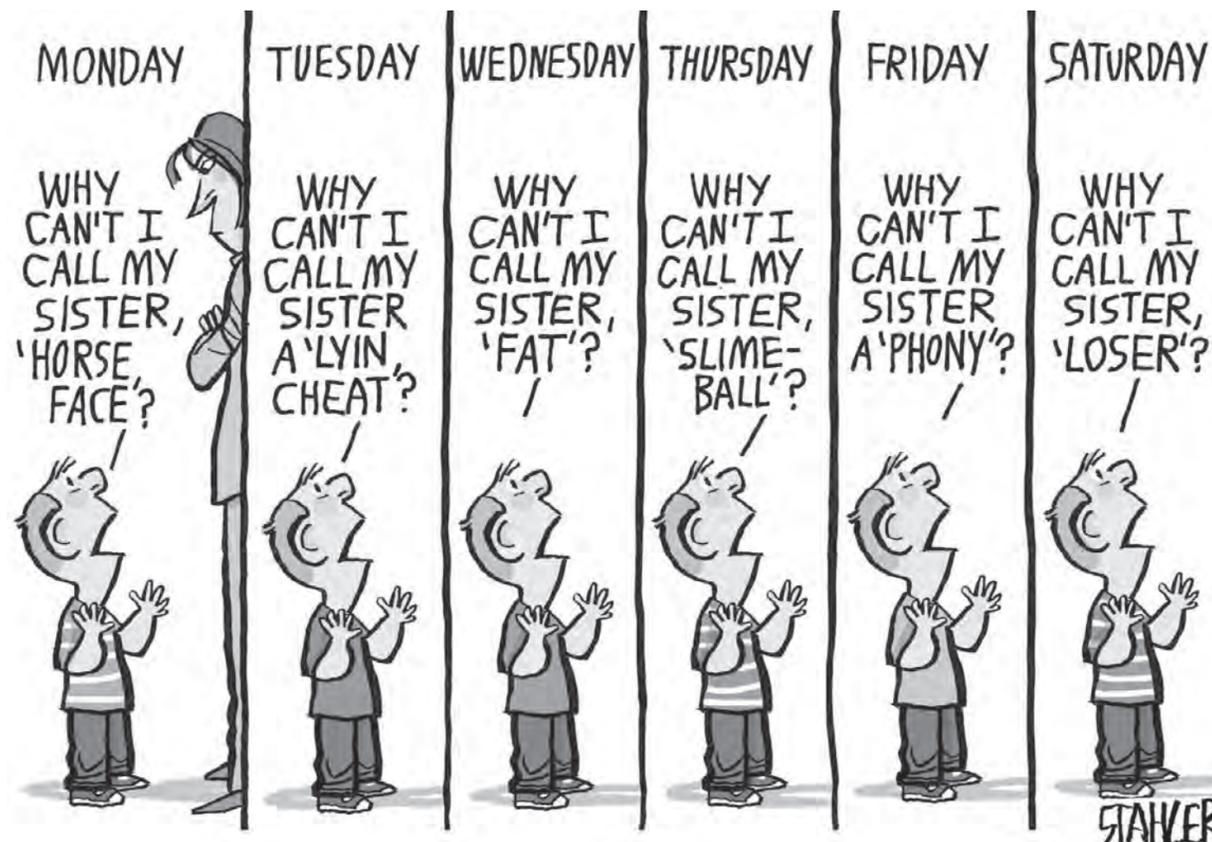


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SMITHVILLE REVIEW

Established 1892
 Publication No. 499280
 106 South First Street, Smithville, TN 37166
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Published every Wednesday in the year at Smithville, DeKalb County, TN Entered at the post office in Smithville as periodical mail. **POSTMASTER:** notify publisher on Form 3579, of undeliverable copies, Smithville Review, P.O. Box 247, Smithville, TN 37166.

Print Subscription Rates:
 (DeKalb and adjoining counties)
 \$45 annually · \$27 six months ·
 Senior Citizen \$39.75 annually ·
 \$25 six months
 Elsewhere: \$55 annually ·
 \$38.50 six months ·
 \$50.50 Senior Citizen annually ·
 \$34.50 six months

Online Only Edition:
 \$30 annually · \$17 six months

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Embracing my inner fairy

That's right, I'm a tutu-wearing fairy with a pink magic wand. Want to make something of it?

Not that it was my idea. It's this whole Halloween thing here at the *Review*. The ladies here are quite serious about winning first prize and as such they decided we MUST coordinate our dress (literally in my case) when it comes to Halloween.

"We are dead serious about this," General Manager Angie Meadows said sternly. "We want to win again."

Now, if it had been left up to me, we would have been all Game of Thrones or Zombie Apocalypse. But, if you're good with math, you'll notice I'm out-voted 2-1 here by the ladies, so fairies it is.

As a matter of fact, my little white tutu has already arrived and frankly, I think it's a little short and shows too much leg plus it makes my butt look

big. "Now you need a pink wand," staff coordinator Barbara Ann said as I modeled my new tutu. "And pick me up one while you're at it. A purple one."

Not one to make waves, I dutifully went to the Dollar Tree and tried to quietly buy the wands as ordered.

"Oh great," I said as I pulled one off the shelf, looking around to make sure no one was watching. "They come with matching tiaras."

Seeing I'm a grown man and had found the wands in the little girls section, I tried to slip away to the checkout counter before I saw someone I knew. Thankfully I'm still the new guy so I don't know that many people here.

"Sir. Where did you get those?" I jumped as a lady came around the corner with her little daughter and saw me holding the wands.

"Um, right there," I pointed, nervously clearing my throat.

"Ah, you must have little girls," she commented, seeing me holding the wands.

"Actually, no," I blushed.

The woman gave me an up and down. "Ooookay," she breathed, ushering her daughter away.

That's when I made my run for the checkout counter, grabbing a few more items to check out so as not to feature the fairy wands with matching tiaras. However, they didn't miss the gaze of the clerk as she scanned them.

"You have little girls, huh?" she said

as she rang them up. "How sweet. They're going to be little fairies."

"Actually, no," I sighed, my answer causing a change in her demeanor. "I'm going to be the fairy."

"Ooohhh," she averted my gaze as she handed me my receipt.

"Don't judge," I huffed as I left with wands in hand.

So, for Halloween I'll be putting all of it together. The tutu, the tiaras (hope I don't chafe), the wand, the matching tiara, the wings, the wig (since I do have a very small bald spot) and yes, the Tooth Fairy shirt. That's right, I'm not just going to be a fairy. Oh no. I'm going to be the Tooth Fairy. I have half a mind to book my cleaning for that day for 230 (get it, tooth hurty) and show up dressed like the Tooth Fairy.

Contact Duane Sherrill at news@smithvillereview.com



THAT NEW GUY
 by Duane Sherrill

Light bulb moments

When we suddenly realize something or have a good idea, we say that we have a "light-bulb moment". In October 1878, Thomas Edison began doing serious research into developing a practical electric light bulb, and he applied for a patent to improve electric lights. He and a team of researchers discovered that a carbonized bamboo filament could last over 1,200 hours. The Edison Electric Light Company began to sell commercially manufactured light bulbs. They truly had many "light-bulb moments" as they continued to make improvements on light bulbs.

In Genesis 1 we are told that God created the heaven and the earth, that the earth was without form and void, and that darkness was upon the face of the deep. On the very first day of creation, God created light, and he divided the light from the darkness. He called the light Day and He called the darkness Night, and it's been that way ever since.

The first artificial light was produced using fire, and this provided light for thousands of years until eventually electricity was discovered. Electric lights have dramatically transformed society, but there is totally different source of light that has been far more transformative, and we can read all about it in the Bible. In John 8:12, Jesus said, "I am the Light of the world.

He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

Jesus came to this earth for a number of reasons, and being a "Light of the World" is one of the most important. When Jesus was taken by Mary and Joseph to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to the Lord, they were met by a man named Simeon. The Holy Spirit had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah, who was Jesus. He held Jesus in his arms, blessed God, and said, "Lord, now let me depart in peace, for my eyes have seen your salvation, a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel."

Jesus has instructed His followers to also be "lights in the world", to show people the way to God. In Matthew 5, Jesus told His disciples, "You are the light of the world. Let your light so shine that people may see your good works, and glorify your father in heaven." As the Light of the World, Jesus gives light to us, and we in turn give light to others. He is no longer here on earth in person, so he is counting on us to be His representatives and to reflect His light to those around us. Let's not disappoint Him.

Larry R. Steffee is pastor of the Center Hill Brethren In Christ Church on Miller Road in Smithville. Everyone is welcome to attend. You may email lrsteefee@yahoo.com for information.



WORDS FROM ABOVE
 by Larry R. Steffee

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR TO THE POLICY

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Go eTeam, go!

Can you make money playing video games? Absolutely.

It was recently reported that during his seven-year career, 22-year-old Lee Young-ho, a South Korean video gamer, earned \$487,141 at 59 tournaments. (Meaning he was 15 when he started.) And Chen Zhihao, a Chinese national, has averaged about \$220,000 a year gaming for the last five years.

It's called eSports, and it's attracting big crowds and big money. In 2014, 45,000 people showed up to watch a "League of Legends" tournament in South Korea. 27 million people watched it online. The prize pool was over \$2 million.

So, should you really be worried that your kids are spending all their time gaming in the basement instead of practicing jump shots in the driveway?

Maybe you'll read a story like this on the sports page a decade from now.

"The defending champions from the Elon Musk School of Dramatic Arts are on the brink of winning the state championships in 'Defenders of the Ancients.' They have a chance to win it all: to take home the trophy and dance their victory dance on the heads of their cross-state rivals, the Disruptors from Jeff Bezos Tech. Tech's robot cheerleaders really know how to whip up a crowd. Because they are using real whips, and they are deadly accurate.

"Both teams have been training hard, but several of the best have been put on the DL with serious thumb trouble. There's been a real fear of injury this year,

but both teams have put an emphasis on player safety after one student broke a nail in last year's competition after slapping his game console after an error.

"Coaches' salaries have become an issue in states where eSports have become extremely popular. As with football in the days of yore, some parents wonder if it's right to pay a coach millions of dollars a year while teachers' salaries remain stagnant.

"Football," said one board member, 'is the fax machine of the 21st century.' And indeed, colleges are dumping expensive, money-losing football programs and giving free rides to the top gamers. Not bad when you think that tuition for the best schools just hit \$150,000 a year. High-tech employers want gamers, not jocks. All the colleges are sending scouts to this championship game.

"Another board member pointed out that eSports give more students a chance to participate.

"Most of the old big-money sports favored big and tall boys, and that's it," she said. 'All the hard work and practice in the world won't make you 6-foot-7. That's an accident of birth. But almost any student can compete in an online game -- boys, girls, kids with different abilities, they can all participate. They'll meet people from all around the globe, people that all speak the language of eSports. It's like an Olympics every single day.

"Besides," she added, "most kids are playing them in class anyway. If you can't beat 'em, join 'em."

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VILLAGE IDIOT
 by Jim Mullen