

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Metal detectors would bolster school security

TO THE EDITOR:

I certainly don't want to take credit for this idea, but it's worth passing along. The idea comes from the internet site bigthink.com.

Basically the idea is to put a metal detector in every school in the U.S. (cost \$500 million), a security guard to operate the machine (\$7.2 billion per year), and a full-time police officer (\$6.1 billion a year).

Those figures are based on national averages from the Department of Labor, and are for schools with 2,000 students. Costs would be less or more depending on community cost-of-living and school size.

So after the initial start-up cost of the metal

detector, annual costs would be \$13.3 billion per year. It seems to me that everything the national government does costs more than that. And this is an issue that everybody has a stake in and could support.

On the local level, we haven't had a county tax increase in a long time. The county commissioners are proud of that record. But I bet they could get behind an idea like this.

Somebody in the county government should run the numbers for our school system and come up with a price tag.

Bill Williams  
Lakeland Drive  
McMinnville

### School shootings leave one question: Why?

TO THE EDITOR:

Why are there senseless shootings in our blessed USA and especially in our schools that hold our most wonderful blessings ... our children?

The laughter and giggles have been replaced with the loud gunshots and screams of anguish. The halls have become desolate because the teachers and children have barricaded themselves behind the walls of learning that have now become a fort for survival.

Reading, writing, and arithmetic have become replaced with intruder drills. The once "happy go lucky" children have become terrified and full of "what if" questions.

The teachers who have been trained to teach are now feeling unqualified for the new job of physically protecting students from foreign objects ... bullets from guns.

The parents are wondering if school is a safe

place anymore and are often turning to other ways of educating, not for fear of children not learning but for fear of possibly having their child die at school at the hand of a crazy person.

The principals feel so responsible because all of the children and teachers who have been put under their care.

We ask the questions: Who? What? Where? When? How? And why? We seem to get the answers to all of the questions except for why.

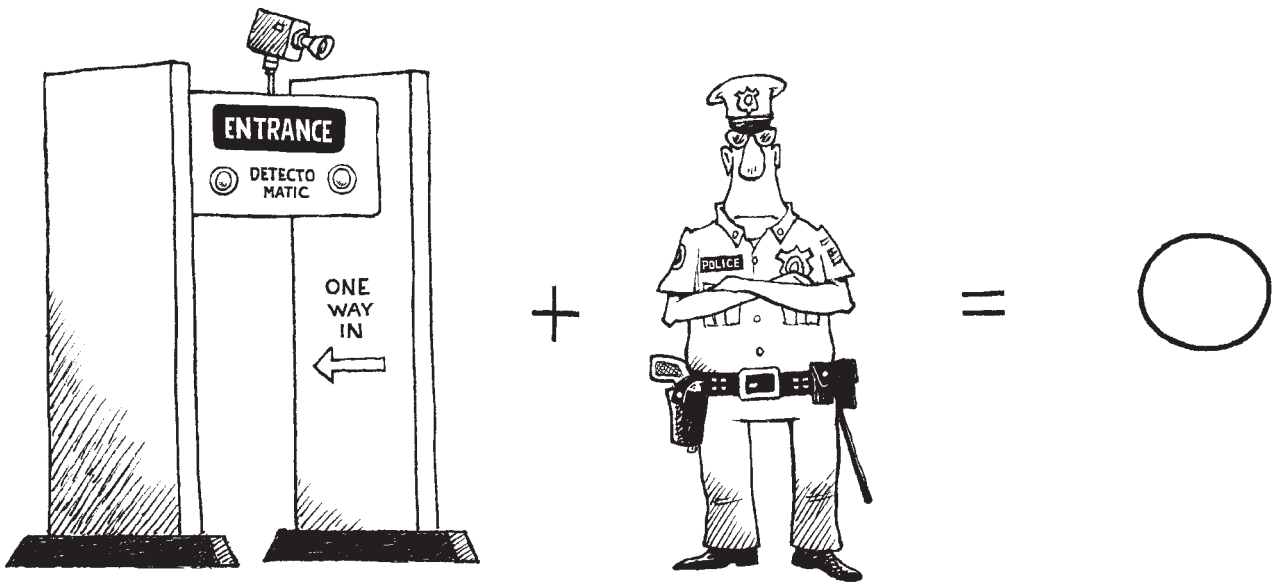
As my son said, "The people who do these things didn't turn to the Lord."

However, we can turn to the Lord for everything. If we do so, our light will shine so brightly that all others see it and decide to put down their gun and put on the armor of God. Amen!

Jana K. Sparboe  
Westwood Drive  
McMinnville

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DO THE SCHOOL SHOOTING MATH :



### Who's tougher on Russia?

Recently, President Trump tweeted, "I have been much tougher on Russia than Obama, just look at the facts. Total Fake News!"

The tweet was greeted with incredulity in some press circles. CNN called it "simply false." "The facts suggest the opposite," said the *Washington Post*. "Mostly false," declared Politifact. In a text exchange, I asked one GOP lawmaker: If you believe Trump has been tougher on Russia, what is the best evidence? He quickly came back with a list. The U.S. is, he said:

- 1) Bombing Syria, Russia's main client, and generally unleashing the U.S. military in Syria, including against Russians when necessary.
- 2) Arming Ukraine.
- 3) Browbeating NATO allies to increase defense spending.
- 4) Adding low-yield nukes to our arsenal.
- 5) Starting research and development on an INF non-compliant missile.
- 6) Shutting Russia's San Francisco consulate.

To clarify some of the less-obvious references, on the "arming Ukraine" front, the lawmaker noted the Trump administration's decision to supply Ukraine with Javelin anti-tank missiles. *The Washington Post* called Trump's decision "a worthy application of the 'peace through strength' principle" that will help Vladimir Putin understand that "his aggressions ... will be resisted."

The "low-yield nukes" reference is to developing a new generation of (relatively) small nuclear weapons that, *The New York Times* noted, "advocates say are needed to match Russian advances."

The "INF non-compliant missile"

refers to U.S. work on a new missile that does not comply with the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty and is "a direct response to Russia's deployment in recent years of its own treaty-busting missile," according to *Time* magazine.

So why do so many believe Obama was tougher on Russia? Some journalists cite the measures the lame-duck Obama took in December 2016 in retaliation for Russian attempts to influence the presidential election as a case-closed argument Obama was tougher. "Thirty-five diplomats were expelled," explained CNN's Tom

Foreman. "They imposed sanctions on Russian businesses and agencies that were involved, and they closed two Russian compounds here in the United States."

Some Trump critics appear to think of Russia only in terms of countering online election interference. They don't seem to think that real, physical-world actions, like blowing up Russian mercenaries and building new missiles and bombs, constitute a tough policy toward Russia.

It's an attitude that baffles some Republicans. That said, there are Republicans who would like to see the Trump administration be tougher still on Russia. Long before the 2016 election, they urged Presidents Bush and Obama to take a harder line against Putin. There's still much Trump could do. But when it comes to comparing Trump and Obama, those Republicans ask Americans look at the whole picture, and not just a fight over Facebook ads.

Byron York is chief political correspondent for *The Washington Examiner*.

#### COLUMNIST

BYRON YORK



### The best day of your life

If you ask my friend Robert how he's doing, he always gives the same answer.

"Best day of my life!"

Even though the chances that today is really the best day of his life are slim, at least he's acting as if it will be.

It's such a positive message that even a morose, whiny moron like me would like it to be true. If he's having such a great day, maybe some of it will rub off on me. It's such a great response to "How are you?" that I've started using it myself. Before, when people would ask me how I was, I'd usually say, "Another drug-free day!" It did turn heads, but I'm not sure it improved anyone's life, including my own. Robert's answer may not be any more true than mine, but at least he's aiming so much higher than I was.

Robert's greeting is a gift. And people seem to like it: He has tons of friends, gets invited everywhere and everyone likes him. It's not because he's so brilliant or funny or great-looking, but because he's so happy to be alive, so happy to see the sun again, so happy to spend another day on this side of the grass. If he has problems, you are not going to hear about them.

How does he do it? He has the same problems we all have: needy children, problematic friends, family tension, work stress, traffic jams, hangnails, long lines, rude people, we're out of milk, the washing machine is broken. So how does Robert make that all add up to "Best day of my life?" Why does his two-plus-two equal 10?

Can a person simply decide to be happy? In a way, yes. If you've ever bought a lottery ticket, you'll know

what I'm talking about. Let's say you buy a ticket on a Thursday for the \$500 million jackpot. The drawing will be on Saturday night. All day Friday and Saturday, in your daydreams, you think about all the things you'll do with the money. You'll quit the job you don't like. You'll buy Mom a new house. You'll give some to your church, you'll give some to the animal shelter, you'll help out your family and there will still be plenty for you to buy whatever your wildest dreams can come up with.

It will be the best day of your life.

All your days will be the best days of your life from now on.

Saturday night finally arrives, the numbers fall, and you go back to real life. Someone else is having the best day of your life. But for two or three days, you really had a good time spending that money you didn't have. Too bad that feeling couldn't last.

But it can. Pretend you bought a ticket. And the drawing is not this Saturday, but Saturday two years from now. Still, you are holding the winning ticket, so you may as well start acting like a winner right now. Are you really going to wait two years to quit that job you don't like?

Are you really going to wait two years to get Mom a new house? We can at least start fixing up the one she has now. You can volunteer at the animal shelter so you'll know where to spend the money when you get it. And while you're there, you might meet somebody who works there you really like. It could turn out to be the best day of your life.

Contact Jim Mullen at [mullen.jim@gmail.com](mailto:mullen.jim@gmail.com).

#### VILLAGE IDIOT

JIM MULLEN



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Patricia Zechman, Publisher  
James Clark, Editor

Phyllis Vanatta, Business Manager  
Jeffery Simmons, Advertising Director

Phone: 473-2191  
105 College St., McMinnville, TN 37110  
FAX: 473-6823  
Email: [standard@blomand.net](mailto:standard@blomand.net)  
Website: [www.southernstandard.com](http://www.southernstandard.com)

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#### JUST A THOUGHT

LISA HOBBS



### 'The Alienist' has my full attention

If you haven't watched it, I'm going to attempt to refrain from spoiler alerts while I urge you to watch "The Alienist" on TNT.

That show has my full attention on Monday nights at 8 p.m. This Monday was the sixth episode. I believe the show has 10 altogether.

The synopsis: Newspaper illustrator John Moore and psychologist Dr. Laszlo Kreizler attempt to find the person responsible for gruesome murders of young boys in New York City. The two are soon joined by a newly appointed police commissioner, his secretary, and two police detectives to conduct an investigation in secret.

People with psychological issues were believed to be alienated from their true nature. Therefore, people who treated them were called Alienists.

One thing that fascinates me about the series is it's set in the late 1800s. I watch the episode at least twice: once to watch the actors and see what's happening and once to check out what's going on behind the actors. Someone spent a lot of time on those sets and those outfits. If it's not historically accurate, it's close enough for me.

Another thing I like about the series is it's the dawn of psychology. I have an interest in psychology. Kreizler, who's primary interest is children with psychological issues, is looked at more like an outlandish individual and his beliefs are challenged on a regular basis by parents, police officers and spiritually devout individuals. He's always spot-on with his comebacks. I like him, but he can be rude and crude.

Finally, I like the women's dilemma. The secretary, Sarah, is the first woman to hold a position in the police department. I have zero doubt that was difficult for the first woman that actually gained that position. This was a time before there were any guidelines to dictate how they could be treated by men. She endures situations that would get a man in deep trouble these days. Sarah is very headstrong, absolutely, and she must be.

The back story for the others is very interesting as well. This show has my attention. I don't have very much time to dedicate to watching TV, except when I'm sick, which doesn't happen but every few years, so I'm picky about what shows I start watching. I hate getting into the middle of a series and bam, work prevents me from watching a few episodes. Then, I'm lost and give up.

I think I've figured out on episode five who the killer is, but I must wait and see. Maybe not. It could throw me a curveball that I'm not expecting. Even if it doesn't, it has still been a good series to watch so far.

I am going to add a warning to my suggestion that you watch "The Alienist." Please do not allow young children to watch it. It isn't appropriate for them, in my opinion. It's meant for mature audiences. If my children were young, I wouldn't allow them to watch it. Period.

Standard reporter Lisa Hobbs can be reached at 473-2191.